

## Project to monitor tremor lies neglected

SHEHAB AHMED

A Tk 18.17 crore project to procure equipment to monitor earthquakes lies neglected with no one taking any initiative to place it to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

Competent sources said the project was taken in 1999 under the defence ministry to set up four seismic observatories in the quake-prone zones to monitor tremors and detect epicentres.

Currently, the country, which is situated on a quake belt with a history of some devastating tremors including the 1897 Assam-Bengal earthquake, has only one observatory with vintage equipment.

Located in Chittagong, the observatory was set up in 1952. It can only record the magnitude of quakes, but cannot pinpoint the sources.

To properly monitor tremors, at least three seismic observatories

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## Simi suicide Culprits still roam freely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local hoodlums at Bhuiyapara in Khilgaon thana of the city, wanted in connection with Simi's 'suicide' on December 23, are roaming in the area threatening to take revenge on her brother Sumon.

Some residents of Bhuiyapara said four of the hoodlums -- Mofazzel, Ripon, Doel and Khalil were seen in the area several times. Another person, Enayet Chowdhury, who had told of Simi just before her suicide is also escap

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Here she goes..Pakistan century-maker Abdur Razzak pulls one for six on his way to 114 not out at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday.

## Participation in Janatar Mancha

# Govt serves notice on 100 staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has served show cause notices on some 100 officials and employees, asking them why they should not be sacked for taking part in the so-called 'Janatar Mancha' organised under the aegis of the Awami League in front of the Jatiya Press Club in March 1996.

They have given two weeks to

respond to the notices.

Some of the known officials served with notices are Obaidul Mukhtar Chowdhury, Abu Alam Shahid Khan, Ibrahim Hossain Khan, Fazlul Ahad, Abul Kalam Azad, Alauddin Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman, Ansar Ali Khan and Obaidul Haq.

Sources said more lists are being drawn for serving similar

show cause notices after proper verification. Over 1000 officials and employees might lose jobs within a few months under the process.

Meantime, panic prevails in the Secretariat as many fear losing jobs without any valid reasons.

Already over 100 officials who had completed 25-year service have been given forced retirement for their alleged bias towards the Awami League.

According to sources, over 1000 officials and employees of different administrative cadre services, government offices and autonomous bodies participated in the 'Janatar Mancha'.

Former bureaucrat turned state minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir led the so-called revolt of government officials and employees at the fag end of the BNP rule in early 1996. Besides, a section of officials and employees at district levels also revolted against the BNP government from similar platforms.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 11		5-30 pm
Jan 12	6-44 am	

Prayer Timings		
Jan 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-34	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## PM stresses pry education for human resource development

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government is determined to improve the standard of education in the country.

Terming primary education vitally important for development of human resources in the foundation of all education. Only our concerted efforts can bring the desired success in the primary and mass education programme, she added.

The prime minister was speaking at the closing ceremony of the National Primary Education Week-2001 at the Osmany Memorial Hall

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# Group to promote local governments launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An organisation named "Local Government Promotion Group" (LGPG) comprising economists, educationists, development workers, local government experts, public representatives and media persons was launched yesterday to help make local governments 'effective, responsive, self-supporting and vibrant.'

"Strengthening the local government system is essential for achieving the goal of accelerated poverty reduction and ensuring broad-based economic momentum. Unfortunately, local governments remain the weakest links in our governmental chain," Convenor of the LGPG Professor Muhammad Yunus told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The renowned economist and Managing Director of Grameen Bank said the group formed following a series of informal meetings and discussions would work for

creating sustained interest in local government agenda.

The group's strategy will be to focus on and actively support all steps to transform local governments into vibrant, self-supporting, effective and responsive institutions, he said in a written statement.

Prof Yunus said the government has little interest in local governments, as is evident from the allocation in development budget. The annual allocation for all local governments municipalities, union parishads and upazilas stands at only 1.36 per cent.

He also said local governments have failed to become dynamic centres of local life. And this has been a direct outcome of long neglect on the part of the government.

There is no lack of enthusiasm when it comes to papers, seminars, speeches and manifestos, but loud

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## 6 killed in Bagerhat road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six people were killed and four others injured in a road accident in Tayerbe Bata area under Fakirhat thana of Bagerhat district yesterday.

According to witnesses and police, the accident occurred when a Rupsha-bound passenger bus (Dhaka-Cha-3352) collided head-on with a Fakirhat-bound tempo (Dhaka Metro-Tha-02-0583) on Rupsha-Mollarhat road at about 10.30 am, killing the six on the spot.

The dead were identified as Farida Begum, 30, Asia, 55, Shahana, 3, Bishwanath, 35, Ratan, 40, and Shaikh Ebadat Ali, 20.

Farida, Shahana and Asia are members of the same family. The injured persons, identified as Shahana, 7, Monir Halder, 18, Ujjal Howliadar, 25 and Rashama, 18, were admitted to Fakirhat Health Complex.

According to police, the tempo was completely damaged and all the dead were travelling in it.

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## Get ready to topple govt, AL urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday asked people to prepare to launch a movement soon to topple the government.

It said the movement will be launched in response to what it said the ruling coalition's unabated repression on the opposition and infringement of all democratic and political rights in the country.

Presiding over a discussion meeting in the city, Acting President of the AL Abdus Samad Azad announced that the party would declare the agitation programmes after the return of party chief Sheikh Hasina tomorrow from the US.

The AL organised the meeting on the Bangabandhu Bhaban premises in observance of the homecoming day of Bangabandhu.

The announcement came just a day after two former ministers and senior party leaders were indiscriminately clubbed by police in the city during an AL-sponsored hartal on Wednesday.

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