

# 'Follow bldg code to minimise quake casualties'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the people to follow Bangladesh National Building Code with a view to minimise the casualties following an earthquake. They also called on the authorities concerned to give the building code a legal status so that the

people are forced to follow it while constructing buildings. The seminar on 'Earthquake preparedness with special reference to Dhaka City', was organised by BCS Administration Academy in collaboration with Bangladesh Human Development Centre (BHDC) at its auditorium. In his keynote paper, BHDC

General Secretary Mohammed Saifur Rahman said if earthquake occurs, urban areas will be worst affected due to faulty building structures and narrow roads. "Two thousand buildings in old part of Dhaka city need demolition as these are highly risky for earthquake," he added. Saifur Rahman also alleged that

many high rise buildings in the city are being constructed without the provision of fire-fighting arrangement. Emdadul Haque, additional chief engineer of public works department (PWD), said construction of buildings must be free from engineering faults and good materials have to be used to make the building earthquake-tolerant. Presided over by Mohammad Abdul Kader Mia, director general of BCS Administration Academy, the seminar was participated by MM Mozharul Haque, secretary of the disaster management and relief ministry, Badiur Rahman, secretary of the planning ministry and Dr M M Khan, member of the Public Service Commission.

## JUTA to seek prime minister's intervention in removing VC

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) will seek the prime minister's intervention to meet their demands, including removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmed. The association took the decision at a general meeting yesterday with Prof. Amin Mohammad Ali in the chair. About 110 teachers attended the meeting. The JUTA leaders decided to meet the prime minister and inform her about what they call 'illegal activities' of the VC. In the last 21 months since the VC took over, the JUTA has enforced agitation programme three times to press its demands. The teachers withdrew their last agitation programme on April 8 after the high-ups in the government assured them of meeting their demands. But they did not take any initiative in this regard so far.

## Australian Edn Exhibition begins

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday urged the Australian government to increase facilities for Bangladeshi students to study in Australia. The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day Australian Education Exhibition. Deputy high commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh Dr Michele Forster, senior commercial representative of Australian High Commission Minhaj Chowdhury and director of education Sharif Rahman were present. The Minister also inaugurated the exhibition. He underscored the need for strengthening the existing cooperation in education sector between Bangladesh and Australia. A total of 17 universities and educational institutions of various levels of Australia have been taking part in the exhibition opened to the visitors from 10am to 5pm today.

## AL presidium meets today

UNB, Dhaka

A meeting of the presidium of the opposition Awami League will be held at party's Dhanmondi office at 11am today. Acting President Abdus Samad Azad will chair the meeting. General Secretary Abdul Jalil has requested all presidium members to be present at the meeting. A special extended meeting of AL Dhaka City unit will also be held at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office at 7pm today.

## HC stays govt notification on age limit of deed writers

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court on Saturday stayed for three months a government notification issued on May 31 regarding age limit of deed writers. The court also issued rule asking the government to show cause in three weeks why the notification published in the Bangladesh Gazette Extraordinary on May 31, 2003 which amends the rule of 1973 and inserts the words "and whose age does not exceed 65 years" should not be declared illegal. A division bench comprising Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice Shameem Hasnain passed the order upon a writ petition moved before the court. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, convenor of Bangladesh Dalil Lekhok Samity filed the petition. Advocate Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan moved the petition on behalf of the petitioner.