

# AL-Beruni Hall risky for living

## JU students launch agitation from today

**JU CORRESPONDENT**

Resident students of AL-Beruni Hall of Jahangirnagar University have been living in great risk as the building of the hall may collapse at any moment due to lack of renovation work since it was constructed in 1971.

Almost every room of third and ground floor of the hall has developed cracks through which water oozes in during the rainy season causing a damp atmosphere in the rooms.

The university authorities did not take any steps despite students' repeated demand for renovating the hall.

At least five students were injured when plasters from the roof fell on them in last few years.

In anticipation of their sufferings in

the coming rainy season, the residents of the hall are launching an agitation programme from today.

As part of the programme, they will submit a memorandum to the VC demanding immediate renovation of the hall.

They have also published a wall magazine titled "AL- Beruni Hall, a death trap" containing photographs of the cracks.

A survey of the students of geological science department has revealed that the hall is very risky for life and ATM Shakawat Hossain, a teacher of the department has declared the hall unfit for living.

"The tragedy of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University may repeat here at any time," said Noor Siddiqui.

"We don't have the money required for the renovation of the

hall," said JU Chief Engineer AKM Nesaruddi Chowdhury.

"We have applied to University Grant Commission (UGC) for fund to renovate the hall and I am aware of the hall condition," said JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman.

"We have informed the university authorities several times about the deplorable condition of our hall and they only assured us of taking proper steps," said Prof Lutful Hai Jami, provost of the hall.

## Jewellery shop looted in N'ganj

**BSS, Narayanganj**

Armed dacoits looted Tk 3.5 lakh in cash and gold ornaments over 1,200 gms from a jewellery shop at Bandar rail gate area under Bandar Police Station in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said, a group of dacoits numbering five to six entered Nila Jewellers by cutting the iron shutter.

## Fire accidents have decreased, claims BGMEA

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday said fire accident in garment factories has decreased significantly in last two years due to preventive measures and training programmes.

A press release of the BGMEA said they have trained as many as 12,638 persons about the way of tackling fire accidents with the help of fire service and civil defence department since 2001.

Besides, they have been conducting an awareness campaign among the workers about the fire accidents, it added.

The BGMEA said they have formed a permanent safety cell with a 17-member vigilance team to check out the fire extinguishing system. They are also very cautious about the fire prevention arrangement in new factories.

The BGMEA also conveyed sympathy to the family members of seven workers who died in a stampede on May 3 and said they have been providing Tk 100,000 to each family of the victims and medical expenses for the injured, the release added.



PHOTO: STAR

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad took out a procession at Motijheel to protest the killing of labour leader and lawmaker Ahsanullah Master.

## ATACK ON STUDENTS

# Punishment to NU VC, proctor demanded

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

Second year (honours) students of different colleges affiliated with National University (NU) yesterday demanded punishment to vice-chancellor, proctor, assistant proctors, officials and employees of the university for the attack on the demonstrating students on May 5.

At a press conference at the Madhu's Canteen of Dhaka University, they also demanded compensation and proper treatment of the wounded students.

At least 50 students of different colleges were injured when the employees of NU allegedly attacked the students who were demonstrating in front of the vice-chancellor's office to press their demands.

The five-point demand include allowing students under 2001-02 academic session to sit for part-two exam and retake exams only for the subjects failed in part-one exam, and introduction of 4-year course taking opinion from the teachers of the affiliated colleges.

Their demands also include cancellation of new rules and regulations regarding promotion, launching of tutorial and assignment systems in every departments and its evaluation in the final exams, publishing of result within three months and preparation of questions papers and evaluations of answer sheets by the teachers of the affiliated colleges.

The Dhaka College students will stage a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar from 11:00 am to

5:00pm today.

They also threatened to go for tougher programmes if their demands are not met soon.

Salman Nurullah of Dhaka College read out a written statement at the press conference.

Earlier, the second year students of Dhaka College observed a token sit-in programme on May 8 where representatives from Eden College, Badrunnesa College, Jagannath College, Titumir College, Tejgaon College, Govt. Bangla College and Bhawal Badrey Alam College expressed

# PEER launched

**BSS, Dhaka**

Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), a regional training programme initiated by the US Agency for International Development and Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), was launched yesterday to strengthen disaster response capabilities in Asia.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf launched the programme at a function at the IDB Bhaban.

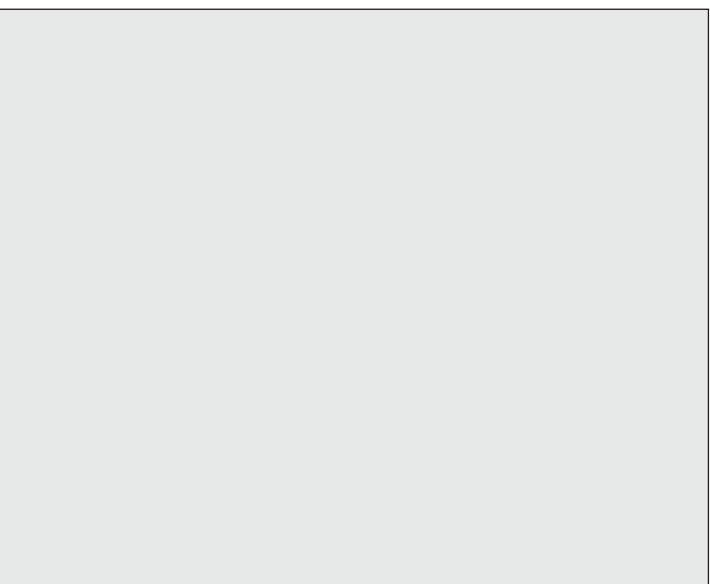
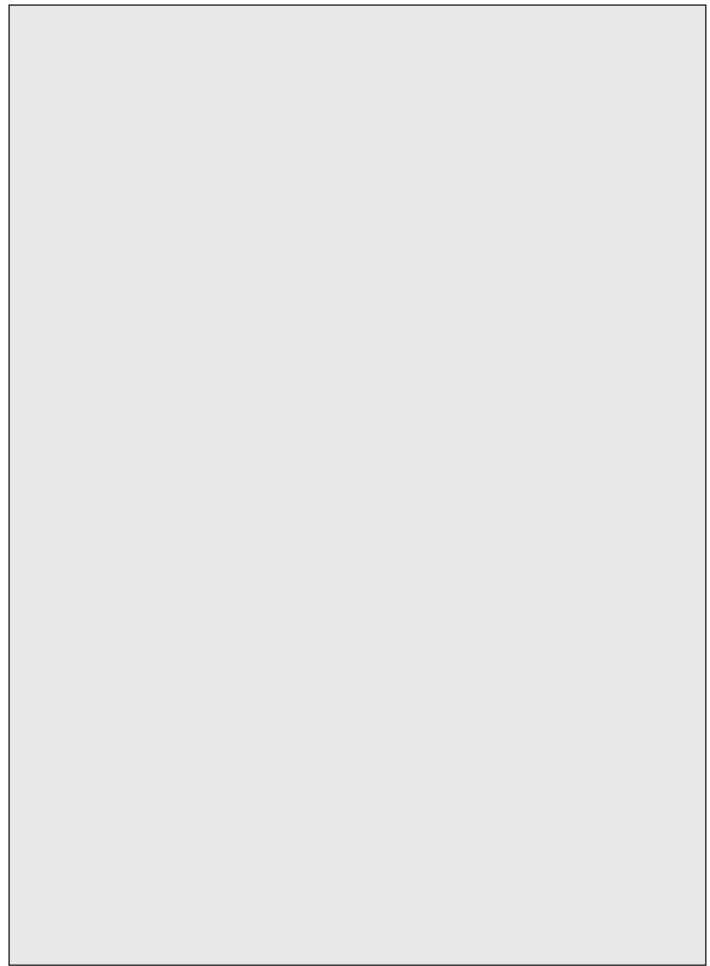
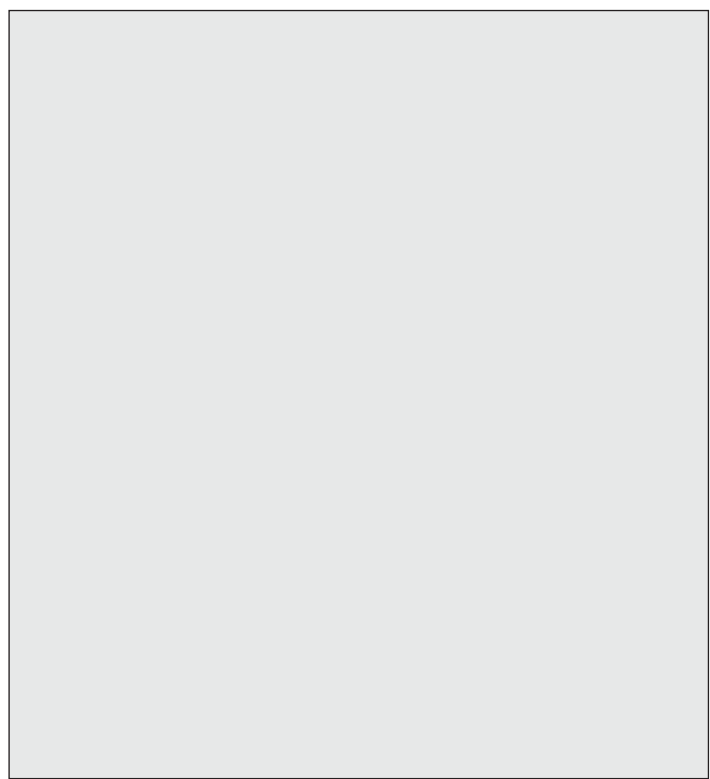
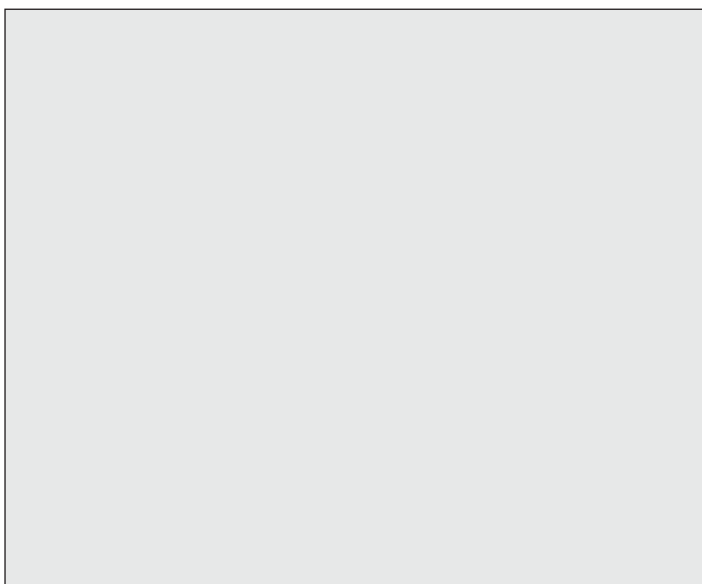
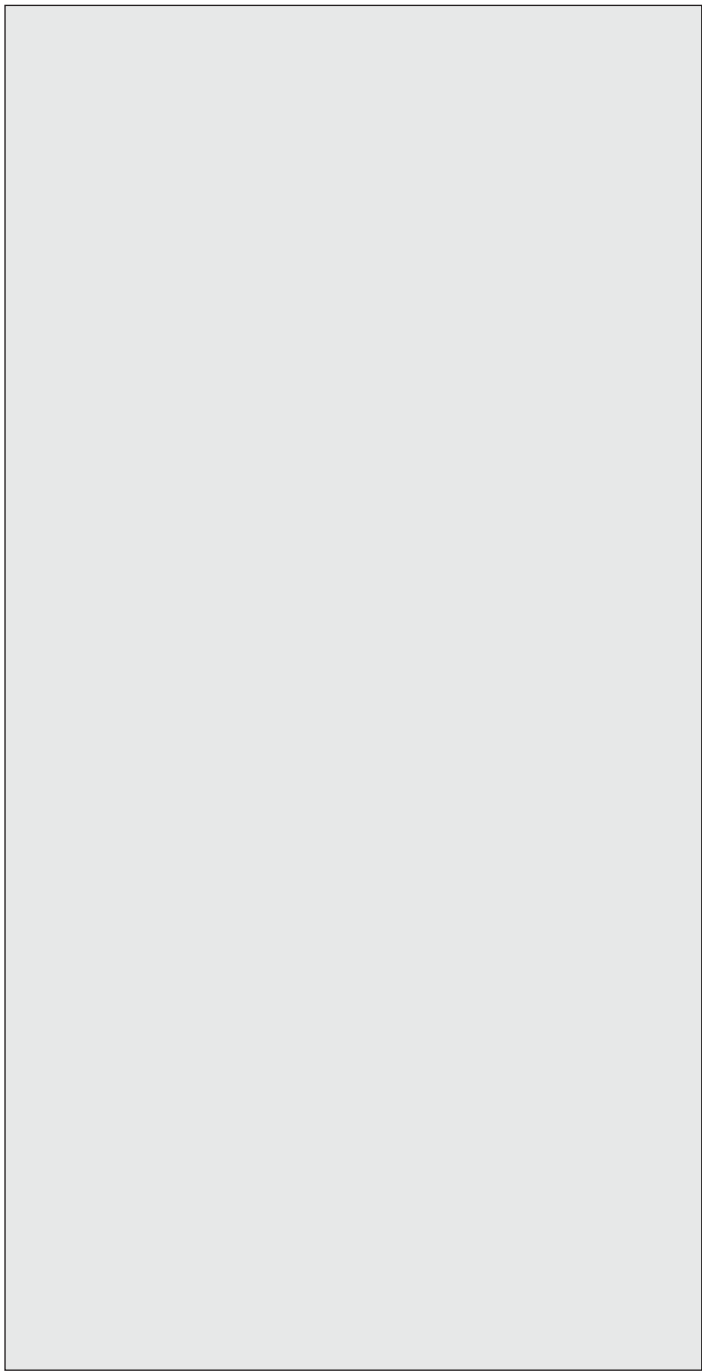
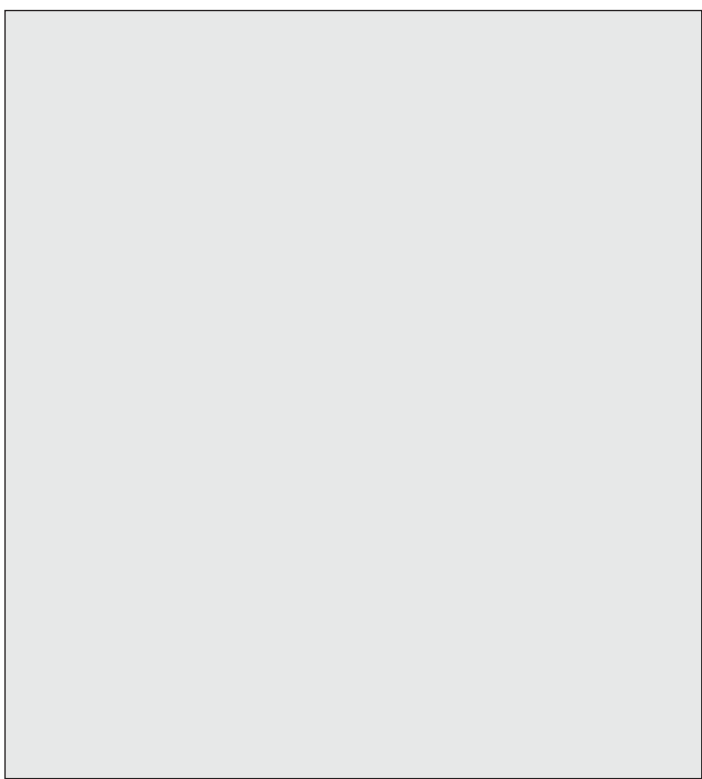
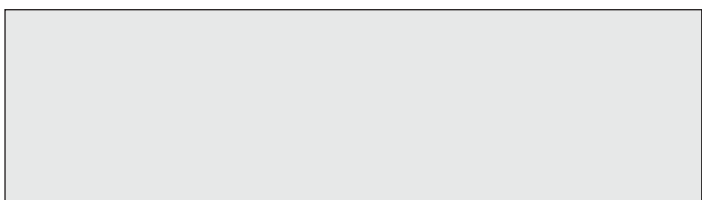
The purpose of the programme is to strengthen and institutionalise the capacities of five participating Asian

countries Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines in emergency disaster response.

It also aims at reducing mortality in mass casualty events and increase the survival rates of disaster victims.

All the five countries have a high risk of seismic vulnerability that needs for improved disaster response readiness and keen governmental and civil society interest in the programme.

The PEER is managed by the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), in partnership with International Resources Group, Johns Hopkins University, and Safety Solutions Inc.



## Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Sufia Begum, wife of freedom fighter Israt-uddin Ahmed Babul, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers today at her residence at B/9, Block-E Zakir Hossain Road in the city.

