



Winners of this year's Ekushey Padak pose with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the award giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID

## Call to ratify local govt commission ordn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for ratifying the Local Government Commission (LGC) Ordinance in parliament to strengthen local government.

Addressing the seminar at the National Press Club, they said the democracy will not be established without strengthening the local government system.

"Democracy can have a strong foundation when the local government system is strengthened. As Bangladesh does not have a strong local government system it has no stable democracy," said Prof

Salauddin M Aminuzzaman of

Office Secretary of BNP

Dhaka University at the seminar organised by Equity and Justice Working Group.

He said local government is a nursery for building national leadership and democracy has to be institutionalised from grassroots level.

Central government, bureaucracy and financial control are the main obstacles to strengthening local government, he said, adding that if the government does not strengthen the local government it will be a violation of their election pledge.

Joynal Abedin Faruk, opposition chief whip in parliament, said they also want a strong local government system.

Office Secretary of BNP

Rizvi Ahmed said uniformity of the policy is necessary to maintain a balance in the allocation of government fund for local government.

If both the lawmakers and the UP chairmen think about the development of people of their area then there should be no difference of their opinion, said Badiuzzaman, UP chairman of Hatibandha upazila.

Probin Haldar, UP chairman of Moralganj upazila, said a controlling body is necessary for monitoring the activities of local government.

UP Chairman Hafizul Islam of Parbatipur upazila said although they are going to take oath shortly but they still do not know about their responsibility and working area.

### Moderate tremor felt in city

BSS, Dhaka

A moderate earthquake felt at 9:48 am yesterday at the Seismic Centre of Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Agargaon in the city.

The epicentre of the tremor was in India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir region, said a press release.

The magnitude of the tremor was 5.7 on the Richter Scale.

The distance of the epicentre of the earthquake was 1,936 kilometre northwest from Dhaka Seismic Centre.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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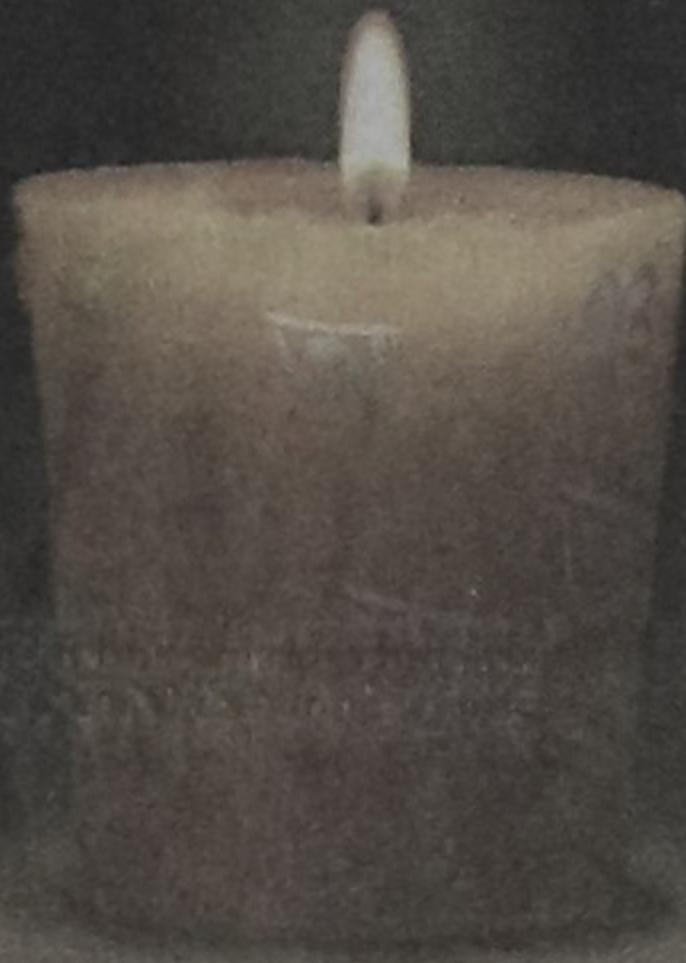
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