

# 'Local govt should be autonomous'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday said the local government should be autonomous so that it can provide necessary services to the people.

"Participation of the people in the local government and its accountability have to be ensured," he said

and termed the report recently submitted by the local government commission formed by the interim government 'incomplete'.

Autonomy of the local government will depend on its financial independence. Besides, the local government should be considered as an instrument to eliminate discrimination from the society, he said.

Prof Muzaffer also suggested forming several municipalities consisting few wards within the city corporation, as it would be tough for the city corporations in the future to provide services for all the dwellers.

Nagarik Adhikar Sangrakkhan Forum (NASAF) organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters'

Unity. NASAF Convener Sajeda Begum made a few recommendations to strengthen the city corporation at the press conference.

Kartik Chandra Mandal, coordinator of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Abul Haseeb Khan, director of Resource Integration Centre (RIC), were also present.

They also underscored the need

for 'self-governed city corporation' and 'independent city corporation commission' to ensure good governance.

Government should form a local government commission consisting five members, including urban planning and local government experts and researchers, NASAF also recommended.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a press conference at DRU yesterday. On his right are NASAF Convener Sajeda Begum and MJF Coordinator Kartik Chandra Mandal.

## Get-together

The Alumni Association of the Department of Philosophy of Dhaka University (DU) will organise a get-together at Teacher Student Centre (TSC) on January 4, says a press release.

Former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will be present as the chief guest while journalist Ataus Samad will be the special guest. Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz will inaugurate the function with Prof Azizun Nahar Islam, chairperson of the department, in the chair.

## CA leaves Mina for Arafat

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed left Mina yesterday morning for Arafat Maidan to perform the main rituals of Hajj, which took place later in the day.

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed and other members of the CA's entourage also left for the

main venue of pilgrimage in the morning, according to a message received in the city yesterday afternoon.

The CA and his entourage as well as the army chief will stay at Arafat until evening.

Fakhruddin and his entourage will leave the pilgrim place for Moudalehah to spend the night.

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