

# 'Form watch bodies to observe local govt activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Civil watch bodies' will have to be formed at all levels of the local government with a view to strengthening the local government institutions and infusing dynamism into their activities, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They also called on the caretaker government to focus on ways to ensure transparency and accountability of the local government institutions.

Samajik Paribesh O Manabdhikar Bastabayan Sangstha organised the roundtable on 'The barriers to local government elections at the grassroots level: Our responsibilities' at the National Press Club in the city. Speaking as the chief guest, Prof

Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said 'civil watch bodies' should be formed from union level to the divisional level so that common people can become aware of all activities of the local government.

These bodies will observe the activities of the local government, he added.

He also said the local government institutions should develop an open budget process in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

Dr Badiul Alam Muzumder of Sujan and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon also spoke at the roundtable presided over by Sangstha Chairman HM Ibrahim Bhuiyan.



Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

# BIJOY TV CASE CCC chief engineer surrenders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

CCC Chief Engineer Mokhter Alam, an absconding accused in the Bijoy TV scam case, surrendered before a Chittagong court during a hearing on framing of charges yesterday and prayed for bail.

But the court of Chittagong Divisional Special Judge SM Solaiman rejected his petition and sent him to jail.

Mokhter had been at large since the charge sheet was submitted on November 22, sources said.

The court also fixed January 13 as the date for further hearing on framing of charges in the case involving Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, CCC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Imtiaz Hossain and Mokhter Alam.

Mayor Mohiuddin and CEO Imtiaz Hossain were present at the court during the hearing.

Responding to a prayer, the court gave an order to send the mayor to Dhaka for his eye treatment scheduled

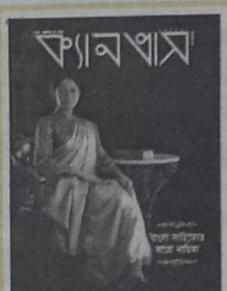
for today on condition that he would be produced at the court on January 13, said the sources.

Meanwhile, two officials of BG Press and Bangladesh Form and Publishing Office who were asked to show cause regarding the delay in publishing gazette notification about the absconding accused have been exempted from appearing before the court.

The show-cause notice was served on Deputy Controller of BG Press AKM Rafiqul Islam and Deputy Controller of Bangladesh Form and Publishing Office Akhter Hossain on January 1.

The court exempted them from appearing before the court as they made apologies in writing, said lawyer for Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Adv Jahurul Hoque.

The ACC filed the Bijoy TV case on May 27 and the charge sheet was submitted against Mayor Mohiuddin, Mokhter Alam and Imtiaz Hossain on November 22 for launching the private TV channel without prior permission from the government.



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