



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Condemning the murder of yet another blogger, Oyasiqur Rahman, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal affiliated Bangladesh Chhatra League; and Imran H Sarker-led Gonojagoron Mancha, *inset*, bring out separate processions at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday.

DHAKA CITY POLLS
Many councillor aspirants petition EC for accepting late applications

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Many councillor aspirants, who failed to file applications by the deadline, appealed yesterday to the Election Commission and returning officers (ROs) requesting them to accept their applications for contesting Dhaka city corporation polls.
They claimed that they had to stand in long queues to submit the applications at the ROs' offices for hours before the deadline expired.
Later, the officials refused to receive those when it crossed 5:00pm, alleged the councillor aspirants of both Dhaka South City Corporation, and Dhaka North City Corporation.
Election to the bifurcated Dhaka city corporations, and Chittagong city corporation will be held on April 28 and the deadline for filing applications expired on Sunday 5:00pm.
Nirob Hossain Masud, who claimed to be a BNP-backed councillor aspirant from ward-30 (Mohammadpur-Adabor), said

Is ACC free from corruption

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed raises the question at anti-graft watchdog's award ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Expressing his concern about the presence of corruption in every section of society, educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed yesterday questioned the integrity and freedom of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).
"The ACC talks about prevention of corruption. Is the ACC free from corruption?" he asked, while speaking as chief guest at an award giving ceremony for the corruption prevention committees of the anti-graft watchdog at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital.
"For the last 25 years, the governments have wasted most of their energy to stay in power," the founder of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro said, adding, "Unbridled freedom is being given to corruption, injustice and crime."
He said, "If the state is unsteady, then it is difficult for any commis-

sion or independent institution to work."
Observing that no words of hope about the ACC are seen in newspapers and magazines, Prof Sayeed hoped that the commission would bring the real criminals to justice in at least 10 cases next year.
ACC Chairman Md Badiuzzaman said it was a shame that corruption pervaded all development works.
ACC commissioners Md Shahabuddin and Md Nasiruddin Ahmed were also present.
The ACC has 493 corruption prevention committees across the country at city, district and upazila levels. Of these, 28 committees from Chittagong, Khulna, Rangpur, Dhaka, Barisal, Sylhet and Rajshahi were awarded for their successful awareness campaigns, on the occasion of the "corruption prevention week" being observed by the ACC since March 26.

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