

## 'Increase seats for women in JS for political empowerment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for increasing the number of reserved seats for women in parliament from 45 to 100 to ensure their political empowerment.

They said these seats should not be fixed for any particular constituency, rather these must rotate by turn in all the 300 constituencies.

The national workshop styled 'Democratic state, women's political empowerment and role of media' was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Biam auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the programme Deputy Editor of the Samakal Mozammel Hossain Manju said the system of reserved seats has gone against the empowerment of women.

"However, if the number of reserved seats for women is increased and these seats rotate throughout the country, then political parties would prepare their female candidates for those constituencies in their own interest," he added.

While speaking on the independence of judiciary and women's rights, Barrister Sara Hossain focused on different verdicts of the High Court (HC) during previous governments and expressed her concern over its current state of affairs.

"Movement for protecting the independence of judiciary is not only the lawyers' movement but also the movement of everybody," Sara observed.

She also accused the fundamentalist forces of omitting the issue of equality of women with men from Bangladesh Women Development Policy.

"Everybody should work from one's own position for total emancipation of women," said BMP President Hena Das.

BMP General Secretary Ayesha Khanom and its Vice-President Selina Khaleq also spoke on the occasion.

## Four women commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four women and one man committed suicide in the city by hanging from the ceiling fan yesterday.

Moni Begum, 22, wife of Shahadat Hussain of Mirpur Section one, Block C, killed herself around 10:30am at her house.

Helena Begum, another woman, also hanged from the ceiling fan on Friday night following a feud with her husband, Mohammad Siraj.

Taslima Akhter, 12, a domestic help at Firoza Alam's house at Rana Bhoola area at Turag, died by hanging from the fan.

Hasna Akhter, 32, wife of Abdul Karim of Uttar Ibrahimpur, was also found dead at her house around 2:30pm.

Police said Hasna committed suicide after talking over telephone to her husband, who lives abroad.

Monir Hussain, 35, of Dhaka Match Factory, Rail Line Basti at Shyampur area was found dead at 7:30am at his house.

Family sources said Monir killed himself out of frustration failing to go abroad.

All the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

## British Council closed from Dec 24 to Jan 2

UNB, Dhaka

British Council offices, libraries and teaching centres will remain closed from December 24 to January 2 for Christmas, New Year and Eid-ul-Azha.

However, examinations scheduled during this period will be held as usual.