

Make provision for direct election to reserved seats

Elected women representatives, activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elected women representatives of union parishad (UP) and other women activists yesterday urged the government to make provision for direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament.

Taking part in a discussion in the city, they said if a woman is not elected through direct election, she will have to act according to the wish of the party neglecting the hopes and aspirations of the common women.

The discussion on 'Direct election to reserved women seat in parliament' was organised by Narigrantha Prabartana.

"As I am elected through a direct election, I find no justification in seeking a nomination from a particular political party to become a member of parliamentarian," said Sheuli Begum, a UP member of Kushtia district.

"I wonder being a woman our prime minister or the leader of the opposition in parliament is doing nothing for direct election to reserved seats for women," she added.

Sheuli said it is better to abolish the system of reserved seats for women in parliament if they fail to arrange direct election to those seats.

Shuktara Yasmin, a UP member of Chapainababganj district, said the provision for indirect election would not serve any interest of the women community.

"The political parties will nomi-

nate their like-minded women in the reserved seats depriving the candidates who are able to uphold the cause of women," she added.

Shuktara said under the nomination system, the voters would have no choice to elect their own representatives.

Roushan Akter Lucky, a UP member of Noakhali district, said there is little chance of selecting a suitable candidate under the nomination system.

"Besides, a selected women parliamentarian has no accountability," she added.

Dr Naila Khan, coordinator of the Sammilita Nari Samaj, said the major political parties had shown no interest in direct election to reserved women seats.

"The parliament has virtually turned into a club of businessmen who do not want true representation of women in parliament," she said.

Farida Akter, also of Sammilita Nari Samaj, alleged that no political parties launched any major movements for direct election to reserved women seats.

"It is better to delete the provision of reserved seats for women in parliament if direct election could not be arranged in those seats," she said.

Presided over by Prof Latifa Akhand, the discussion was also addressed by Afroza Parvin of Nari Unnayan Shakti, Quazi Shahana Sharmin of Nari Uddog Kendra, Jesmin Ara, UP member of Kushtia, Hasna Begum, UP member of Tangail, and Rahima Akter.

UP member of Pabna districts.

Case against Prof Mostafa Chy, 4 others dismissed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka dismissed the corruption case against five persons, including former Chairman of the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Dhaka University teacher Prof Mostafa Chowdhury, on March 31.

In the case petition, it was alleged that the accused appointed a candidate at Foreign Service through BCS examinations without any freedom fighter's application or relevant certificates.

The court said that Kafrul police investigated the case and the investigation officer submitted the final report, but the allegations brought against them were not proved.

"Though the case against me has been dismissed, it has tarnished my image and social status," Prof. Chowdhury said. "I may file a libel suit against the government after discussing the matter with my lawyers," he added.



UNB, Dhaka

Members of Bangladesh Diploma Engineering Chhatra-Shikkha-Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad observe a token hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to press their four-point demand.

'Ensure poor's access to resources'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for concerted efforts, land reforms and putting an end to corruption to ensure the poor's access to resources.

Globalisation has been posing a potential threat to economy, politics and society of a country like Bangladesh, said economist MM Akash in his keynote paper at the closing session of the two-day workshop in the city.

Prof. Mohammad Anisur Rahman said globalisation was an evil means of exploiting the world's cheap labour.

Beneficiaries of the system

propound the existing definition of poverty, which does not have room for the issue of social security of the people, he said.

"Social security and right to aesthetic aspects of life should come within the purview of the definition of people's basic rights," Prof. Rahman said. "It should encompass man's helplessness and sorrow while defining poverty."

Executive Director of the Alliance for Development Support Shamsul Huda summed up suggestions and observations made during four sessions of the workshop, organised by Nijera Kori, an NGO.

Report on Nat'l Library Commission finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A report on the formulation of National Library Commission has been finalised with 22 recommendations including introduction of library cadre service in the public library.

The committee assigned to formulate the commission submitted the report to State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman at her office yesterday.

The 13-member committee was formed with Dr Wakil Ahmed as convenor on November 20, 2002.

aiming at overall development of the library.

The report also recommended modernisation of the libraries providing email and internet services in all libraries of the country. Other recommendations include conducting research, survey and evaluation of library and introducing Library and Information Science Course at college and university level.

Cultural Secretary Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury, Director of Library Department Anisuddin Mia, committee members and other senior officials were present.

Four injured in blast near police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bomb went off in front of Mohammadpur Police Station in the city yesterday, injuring four labourers who were digging out telephone cables there.

The four -- Abdul Hakim, 45, Kokila, 30, Jarina, 30, and Hosna, 26, -- received first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

They said a bomb went off suddenly when they were digging out telephone cables.

Police suspected that someone might have left the bomb there and it exploded when the labourers hit it with picks and shovels.