

'Ensure health rights of women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday urged the government to ensure health rights of women.

Speaking at a press conference the parishad leaders also demanded free treatment for repressed women.

They also called for separate hospitals for acid survivors and forensic department in every district hospitals.

The BMP organised the press conference to observe the International Fortnight Protesting Violence Against Women 2005

with the slogan 'Violence-free women's health rights are the precondition to women's human rights'.

In observance of the fortnight, the parishad has taken up an elaborate programme including discussions, rallies and view sharing meetings with the teenagers.

Advocate Masuda Rehana in a written statement at the press conference said the number of repressed women increased in the country this year comparing to that of the last year.

She said health right is the basic pat of women's human rights which

is yet to be established in the society.

Pointing to government's commitment to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in health sector within 2015 Advocate Masuda said massive awareness is needed to build a culture void of repression on women to ensure women's health rights.

BMP General Secretary Ayesha Khanam said although many steps have been taken to resist violence against women, the incidents of repression are increasing day by day.

"The main reason of repression on women lies in our culture and this

is the time to organise the women community even in remote areas. We also need to re-evaluate our programme to take further steps to resist violence against women," she added.

Presided over by parishad President Hena Das, the press conference was also attended by its Vice-president Bela Nabi, Nargis Zafar, Hasna Banu, Khaleda Mahbub, Selina Khalek, Edlin Malakar, Golam Osman, Advocate Maksuda Laily and Dipti Rani Saha.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.