

In-service faculty dev programme at Presidency University

A three-day in-service faculty development programme began at the Presidency University in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairman of the Presidency University Foundation, inaugurated the programme organised by the Department of English.

International experts Dr Patrick Dougherty, Dr Steve Cornwell and George Mamo are conducting the programme attended by the faculty members of the university.

This faculty development programme is the first of its kind in Bangladesh and it is part of series of faculty development programmes being planned by Presidency University.



Chairman of the Presidency University Foundation Rokia Afzal Rahman, *third from right*, inaugurated in-service faculty development programme yesterday.

'Electoral reforms a must for free, fair election'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speakers at a roundtable here yesterday emphasised the need of electoral reforms to hold the next general election in the shortest possible time in a free and fair manner.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Electoral reforms: A meaningful election' organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujon) Rangpur unit at Rangpur Police Line auditorium.

The speakers also said black money holders and social criminals should be barred from all elections to accelerate democracy as well as good governance in the country.

Reforms in the major political parties is also a must for the sake of the

greater interest of the nation, they observed.

Akbar Hosen, secretary of Rangpur unit Sujon, said the parliament almost remained defunct in the last 15 years and people did not observe the development they anticipated after the fall of Ershad in 1990 because of a few corrupt politicians.

The major political parties of the country must reform themselves. Otherwise, their acceptance among the people will diminish sharply, observed Hosen.

Honest, intelligent and competent leaders should have access to the policy making level in their respective political parties, he added.

Whatever the present caretaker government did was for the good of the majority of people and that's why they are being welcomed by people, said Prof Bimal Kumar.

"But we must remember that there is no alternative to political parties than to run a democratic state. Hence, they should immediately declare the time frame of the next general election."

Reminding the past experience, Dr Mafizul Islam Mantu said a delayed free and fair election is better than an immediate one with several faults. What the people want right now is a time frame from the caretaker government, he added.

Khairul Alam, Wadud Ali, Merina Lovely, a number of businessmen and politicians from Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Gaibandha districts also attended the roundtable moderated by Sujon Secretary Dr Badiul Alam.