

Call to bring structural reforms to PSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members yesterday demanded structural reforms in the Public Service Commission (PSC) and formation of a supreme judicial council to investigate the allegations against its chairman and members.

The successive governments since the 90's have taken the political identity of candidates into account during the recruitment process, which resulted in the politicisation of bureaucracy, they said at a press conference organised by Nagorik Sanghati, a citizens' forum.

They said accountability and transparency should be ensured in the PSC to restore its credibility that was destroyed in the last five years.

Reading out a written statement, Assistant Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Curzon of Dhaka University demanded amendment to the provision of the constitution that allows the President to appoint the PSC chairman and members.

"Instead, a selection committee comprising Chief Justice, two other senior judges next to him, secretary to the establishment ministry, five educationists and five former secretaries should be formed to appoint the PSC chairman and members," he said.

The committee should finalise the list of the chairman and members and send it to the Prime Minister's Office which, in turn, will forward it to the President for final approval, the law teacher added.

The committee should also meet every three months to review the overall activities of the PSC and investigate the specific allegations, he said.

Nagorik Sanghati also suggested restructuring the PSC by dividing it into three commissions -- Public Service Commission to recruit people in the general sector;



Nagorik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif speaks at a press conference at DRU in the city yesterday. On his left are Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Curzon, Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Justice Golam Rabbani, ASM Atiqur Rahman and Hamidul Hossain Tareq Bir Bikram.

Education Commission to recruit teachers in the public universities and colleges; and Technical Commission to recruit doctors, engineers and agriculturists.

It also proposed abolition of traditional viva voce system in the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations and introduction of a 30-minute presentation by the candidate prioritising their skills in English language instead.

A ten-member panel comprising the university teachers, military officer and Foreign Service officials should evaluate the presentation, it suggested.

The citizens' body also demanded abolition of the quota system in the BCS exams such as quota for the children of the freedom fighters and district quota. It, however, said limited quota for women and indigenous people could be continued.

"The constitutional provisions of the quota system has been an

enlightened aspect, but after 35 years of independence, we must think anew," said Hafizur Rahman.

Emphasising transparency, secrecy and accountability in designing question papers, their preservation and distribution, Nagorik Sanghati said there must be procedural reforms so that none can manipulate the results.

There should also be arrangements to re-examine the answer scripts and tabulation sheets, it added.

"This government should restructure the PSC the way it recast the Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission," said Justice Golam Rabbani.

Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Hamidul Hossain Tareq Bir Bikram, Barrister Sadia Arman, Prof Robayet Ferdous, Nagorik Sanghati President ASM Atiqur Rahman and General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif also spoke.