

Persuade political parties not to nominate 'unwanted' persons

Speakers urge civil society members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said Bangladesh would face a serious setback in future, if the next elections are not held fairly and acceptably to all.

Urging the civil society members to persuade political parties not to give nominations to 'unwanted' persons for contesting the polls, they said the political leaders will have to be corrected to vie for the next elections in a free and fair manner.

Pointing to Jamaat-e Islami, the speakers said if the particular political party further comes to the power by winning the next elections, all achievements of the anti-corruption and reform campaign launched by the government would be damaged.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Proposed Jatiya Sangsad and upazila elections and civil society' organised by Sammilita Samajik Andolon (SSA) at the National Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city.

Presided over by SSA President Ajoy Roy, the meeting was addressed by Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Rangal Sen, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Prof Ajoy Roy and Syed Abul Moksud.

Dr Hayat Mahmud presented a keynote paper at the meeting.

Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said the present government could not implement most of the expectations of the nation after assuming the state power.

"There was a psychological war in the country's politics for a long time. In the war, Khaleda Zia smoothly gained the victory and the government was defeated," he said, adding that most of the cor-



Prof Ajoy Roy speaks at a discussion at the National Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

rupt suspects were released on bail.

He further said the next election government will have to continue the anti-corruption campaign spearheaded by this government for the welfare of the nation.

"The political parties should give priority to the opinions of their local representatives in respect of giving nominations to the persons for contesting the next elections. If the unwanted persons are nominated and then elected, the security of the nation will be hampered," he added.

The US government declared that it would provide financial support to Bangladesh after the next elections in spite of its financial crisis. It indicates that it knows very well what the results of the

elections would be, said Rangal Sen.

"The procedures for holding the next elections are not plain till now. Jamaat has been sitting in the lap of BNP and a spirit of Pakistani nationality is belonging to the four-party alliance," he added.

Dr Syed Anwar Hossain said the country is going to witness a farcical election since no qualitative change has been occurred in the political parties and even the government cannot give any guideline to the nation about holding a free and fair election.

It would be seen some days later that political parties had started nomination business, he added.

He further said, "This government came to the power with a view to offering a sound politics to

the nation by cleaning and correcting spotted politics, but it has totally failed. It also wanted to make the politics of the country adopting the minus-two theory, but later tried to bring an equilibrium in this regard."

Syed Abul Moksud said the dates for holding upazila elections should be deferred for some days, since some holy festivals, including Christmas, would be celebrated between December 20 and January 1.

Hayat Mahmud hoped that the next government would establish a human resources ministry for making the country's manpower scientifically creative and organisationally entrepreneurial for economic, social and cultural development of the nation.

'Hasina's permanent release demanded'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad demanded permanent release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and withdrawal of all cases against her.

They made the demand at a meeting of the parishad at Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city with AL Law Affairs

Secretary Advocate Sahara Khatun in the chair, says a press release.

They also demanded removal of Additional Attorney General Monsur Habib for his objectionable remark on the bail of Sheikh Hasina.

Advocate Syed Rejaur Rahman, Adv Kamrul Islam, Adv Abdullah Abu, Adv Khandakar Abdul Mannan, and Adv Abdur Rahman Hawlader spoke among others in the meeting.

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