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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka on Sunday for a day's visit to Bahrain.

Pro-people administration must for country: PM

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday said that strengthening democracy was the prerequisite for the establishment of a meaningful, effective and pro-people public administrative system in the country.

Inaugurating as the chief guest the three-day international seminar on "administrative reforms for development of Bangladesh" held at Hotel Sonargaon, she also emphasised the need for making Parliament effective and strong to set up a pro-people and effective public administration in the country.

Presided over by the Chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) Dr ATM Shamsul Haque, the inaugural function was also addressed by UNDP Resident Representative David E Lockwood, Executive Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof Rehman Sobhan and the Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) Dr Qazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad. The BARC organised the seminar in cooperation with CPD and BUP.

The Prime Minister said, "It is also necessary to strengthen the supervision of the people's representatives or the National Parliament over the administration..

With this objective, she said, her government had restructured the Parliamentary Standing Committee on different ministries by amending the Rules of Business. She said, now the non-minister member of Parliament has been made Chairman of a Parliamentary Standing Committee in place of the respective minister.

She said that an efficient, accountable and honest public administration was necessary for the implementation of country's development activities.

For the efficient, accountable and honest public administration a reform of the public administration was necessary.

was no alternative to such reform for expediting socio-economic development of Bangladesh and alleviating poverty.

"Our goal is to take the administration to the door-step of the people. From highest to the lowest strata, let our commitment be an administration for the service of the people", she added.

The Prime Minister said that the government had taken measures to strengthen the local government institutions in a bid to strengthen democratic process in the country. She added that decentralised and democratic local government system had already been introduced.

She said that Union Parishad and Municipal elections had already been held smoothly with the spontaneous participation of the people and that arrangements were also being made for holding polls of City Corporation and Upazila Parishad.

She said that for the first time provisions had been made for the election of women to all these local government institutions through direct vote. "This has resulted in the empowerment of women and an unprecedented awakening of the society.