

Election will be held under marking system

Allocation of symbols to parties on Dec 21

By A Staff Reporter

The Election Commission on Wednesday published 55 symbols for use by the candidates contesting the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on January 27.

In order to specify the reserved symbols the political parties may apply to the Election Commission indicating their preference of symbols they want to have for their nominees. The applications should reach the Election Commission office at Block Nos. 5-6, gazetted Officers' Hostel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dacca by December 20, the Commission said in a Press release on Wednesday.

The reservations of symbols for the candidates of political parties will be finalised on December 21. The representatives of the political parties, as are willing, may remain present at the time of finalisations of the allocation of the symbols at 10 a.m. on the day at Election Commissions office, the Press release said.

The symbols are aeroplane, apple, bicycle, boat, book, bottle, bridge, bucket, bullock, cart, bus, candle, chair, clock, cow, cup and saucer, deer, dholak, elephant, fez cap, flam-

ing torch (mashal), fish hook, kah, horse, hut, inkpot, with pen, key, kite, knife, ladder, lamp, lantern, lock, lotah, mango, pineapple, pitcher, plough, radio (transistor), railway engine, rose, scales, scissors, sheaf of paddy, spade, spectacles, sword, table, tiger, tonga, tree (date palm), turban, umbrella, violin, walking stick and wheel.

PROCEDURE

The Election Commission will follow the following procedures while allocating the symbols:

- (a) the symbols will be reserved for the candidates of the political parties according to the preference indicated by the parties.
- (b) in case two or more parties indicate their choice for the same symbol, they would first be allowed to settle the issue amicably among themselves.
- (c) when the political parties fail to reach any amicable settlement, the Election Commission will decide the issue by applying the principle that a party may select a new device or em-

blem for each successive election, but it has the right to the use of the device used by it at the last election. Where the aforesaid principle is not applicable and the parties concerned fail to reach any settlements the issue will be decided by drawing lot.

MARKING SYSTEM

The Press release said as provided in the law, the ensuing election of parliament will be held under marking system of voting.

Under this system, the names of the contesting candidates together with their symbols will appear on the ballot paper and the voter will cast vote by putting a mark with a rubber stamp within the space containing the name and symbol of the contesting candidate for whom he wishes to vote.

Article 20 of the Representation of the People Order, 1972 provides that if there are more contesting candidates than one in respect of any constituency, the Returning Officer shall allocate subject to any direction of the Election Commission, one of the prescribed symbols to each contesting candidate, and in doing so, shall so far as possible, have regard for any preference indicated by the candidate.

It will be seen from the legal provisions referred to above that it is the duty of the Returning Officers to allocate one of the prescribed symbols to each contesting candidate subject to such directions

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