

AGP hustings begin for hot seat



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Guwahati: Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) begins its hustings on Thursday to elect its new president even as the sitting chief Brindabon Goswami seeks reelection saying he contributed a lot to bring back the party's lost glory.

Disclosing his readiness to seek reelection, Goswami says, "I left no stone unturned to revive the party. We do have a strong regional party if do ignore the conspiracy of a section of my partymen to malign my image."

He says, "I still enjoy support from several district bodies and a good number of central committee leaders who want my re-election. I am ready to prove my strength".

Speaking to Assam Times, party's senior leaders here say Goswami's vie for reelection makes voting an inevitable one as his one time aide Phanibhushan Chaudhory is ready to sit in the top chair.

A few leaders say if the majority of voters of the electoral college comprising 470 voters are averse to the reelection of Goswami, the Goswami lobby could have field MP Arun Sarma.

Goswami is backed by Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Joseph Toppo, Dilip Kumar Saikia, Hitendra Nath Goswami, Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee, Jatin Mali, Nurul Hussain, Atul Bora (junior), Hiranya Konwar, Arup Kumar Phukan and others.

Similarly, Phani Bhushan Choudhury is banking on support from Banendra Mushahary, Bhupen Roy, Keshab Mahanta, Chandra Mohan Patowary, Robin Banikya, Padma Hazarika, Birendra Prasad Baishya, Dr Kamala Kalita, Gunindra Das, Manoranjan Das, Sushila Hazarika, Pradip Hazarika.

The party's executive body, which ended at the dead of the night, failed to elect a consensus candidate for the hot seat. Also it failed to draw up strategies to regain its strength.

Brindaban Goswami's term comes to an end on August 31. More than 500 delegates from across the state have already arrived in the city to attend the meeting. The party opened its session by the opening of the delegates camp at 3 afternoon.

The party begins its day of the session with the hoisting of the party flag by the sitting president Brindabon Goswami.

The open session of the party will hold on Friday at 10 in the morning. Former Gauhati University vice chancellor Dr Debo Prasad Barooah is scheduled to attend the meeting along with the new president and other executive members.

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