

## Resignation of CEC demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad yesterday demanded immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other election commissioners with a view to holding a free, fair and impartial parliamentary election scheduled to be held in 2007.

They said a free and fair election a must to continue democratic process in the country.

They urged the government to reform Election Commission to make it independent, impartial and

effective one.

The Parishad leaders made the demands at its central committee meeting at Bangladesh Bar Council Bhaban in the city.

For consolidating democracy, they urged the government to meet their 21-point demand, including reforms in caretaker government.

Convener of the Parishad Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Agriculturist Abdur Razzaq Mia and Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan spoke at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

A daylong Ikebana exhibition by Rina Rahman was held at the BNCU conference hall in the city yesterday. The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh organised the exhibition.

## Health workers submit memo to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Health Sector Field Level Employees Association, an association of 26 thousand field level health workers, yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister (PM) and Director General of Health Directorate to press its 5-point demand.

Their demands include increasing travel allowance of the health assistants, assistant health inspectors and health inspectors, declaring technical status of the health workers, establishing a professional training institute and arranging training at home and abroad to upgrade the health services.

The leaders warned that they would go for tougher movement, including work abstention from vaccination programme, if their demands are not met by July 31.

Five leaders of the associa-

tion went to the PM's office and submitted the memorandum.

The health workers also held a brief rally in front of health directorate at Mohakhali in the city.

Addressing the rally, the leaders said through their hard work, it has been possible to control the deadly diseases like chickenpox, malaria and diarrhoea but the fate of the health workers has not been changed yet.

"We only get Tk 50 to 165 as travel allowances and there is no arrangement for our promotion," they said adding the salary they draw after being promoted is not higher as it should be.

"We get assurances from the successive governments, but nothing has been done so far," they said.

They urged the government to meet their demands for the sake of the health workers' future.



PHOTO: STAR

Field-level employees of health directorate stage a demonstration in front of the directorate office in the city yesterday to press their five-point demand.

## Ruling party trying to avoid electoral reforms Says Badruddoza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the BNP-led ruling alliance is preparing for a 'blueprint' election without bringing reforms to the caretaker government system and Election Commission.

The BNP-Jamaat is trying to avoid reforms and wasting time on very flimsy excuse with regard to the reforms, he said at a programme where a number of leaders and activists from Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dai, Jubo Dai, Chhatra League, Jubo League and Swechhasebak League joined the BDB.

Badruddoza said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government is appointing their men to the EC and the administration so that it can go to power again through vote-rigging.

The present crisis over dialogue on reforms can be resolved easily if it is held between the chiefs or the general secretaries of the ruling party and the opposition, he said, adding that but the ruling party is dillydallying on the issue of reforms.

But the people will not accept any elections without implementation of reforms, he warned.

Secretary General of BDB Maj. (retd.) Abdul Mannan, Joint Secretary General Dr Nurul Amin Bepari and other leaders were present.

## 1,481 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,481 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers also recovered eight firearms and three other weapons, said an official handout.