

Reforms a must for free, fair elections

Says Badruddoza

UNB, Dhaka

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission are a must for holding the upcoming election in a free and fair manner.

Talking to reporters at Zia International Airport on his return from the UK, he said the demand for reforms is now a demand of the masses, which the government cannot ignore. People would not accept a 'stage-managed election', he added.

Badruddoza called on the ruling party to hold talks at the secretary general level without wasting time.

He also said all expatriates should be included in the voter list. The views of Bangladeshi expatriates spread all over the world cannot be neglected. They send home foreign exchange triple the amount the government receives in aid every year, he added.

During his six-day visit to the UK, Badruddoza attended a luncheon meeting at Brick Lane aimed at raising funds for Bikalpa Dhara.

CU students robbed at shuttle train

CU CORRESPONDENT

Muggers looted cash and cellular phone sets worth Tk 40,000 from the students of Chittagong University (CU), injuring two people yesterday afternoon.

The incident occurred in the shuttle train near Sholoshahar Rail Station at around 4:00pm yesterday when the resident students were going back to their dormitories.

The injured were identified as Rezaul Haq, a second year student of Institute of Marine Sciences, and an unidentified staff of Chittagong Medical College (CMC).

The students however caught three muggers and later handed them over to police.

Sources said about 10 to 15 muggers suddenly swooped on the students and others after the train just left Sholoshahar Station and looted mobile sets and cash at gun point.

When the students chased them, the muggers stabbed Rezaul and a CMC staff. The students held three members of the gang while others managed to flee with the booty.