



Children flip through books at the Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Obaid refutes Tarique's claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the ruling BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman's claim of success in education sector during the coalition rule, opposition Awami League's Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday termed it 'baseless'.

He said no progress in education sector has been achieved during the coalition rule, rather they have established a reign of terror in educational institutions.

Simultaneously, the alliance government has destroyed the education sector through immense corruption and politicisation, he added.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, Obaid said Tarique gave some false information at a programme organised by the ruling party lawmaker Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu at the city's Lalbagh area.

He said Tarique's claim that the AL occupied all educational institutions during its regime, is not true, rather a congenial atmosphere had prevailed in all institutions.

Terming Pintu a godfather of criminals, Obaid said Pintu, the then president of BNP's student wing Jayyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), occupied all the dormitories of Dhaka University immediately after the coalition government came to power.

On Tarique's claim that copying has been stopped during the present regime, the AL leader said, "When questions are leaked out before examinations, then copying is not needed. Questions of all BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) examinations were leaked out and political affiliation is the main criteria for getting jobs under the coalition rule."

The JCD cadres attacked the female students of Eden College under the leadership of Pintu, he said, adding that they also attacked the female students at the Institute of Fine Arts last year.

Besides, a brilliant female student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) was killed by the JCD cadre, he added.

Obaid said police entered a DU female dormitory at midnight and assaulted a number of students. The JCD cadres attacked the students who were demonstrating on the campus to protest the police atrocities the next day.

He also alleged that a number of teachers were killed and others received death threats during the period.

## Bangladeshi, Japanese kids share experiences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japanese children like summer most as they can swim in the pool and take bath in the beach during this time, said the students of a Japanese school while talking to a group of Bangladeshi students at a video conference in the city yesterday.

The video conference was organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at its office in Gulshan for an exchange of views between the primary students of the two countries on their lifestyle, culture and education.

A total of 21 students of Abdul Gafur Shikkha Shibir School of Bangladesh and another 21 students of Kitakoshigaya Primary School of Japan took part in the

conference that began at 10:30am local time.

Introducing one after another, the Japanese participants performed their traditional fishermen's dance while the Bangladeshi children rendered songs and dance on the video.

The cultural exchange programme continued till 11:40am. Then a question-answer session was held to know more about one another.

The Japanese students said besides study they like to play in the park and go out for picnics while the Bangladeshi students said they like to play games and watch TV alongside their study.

Replying to a question of a Japanese student, a Bangladeshi student Ashiq said, "I like patriotic song most."

Then he was requested to sing a line of a song, Ashiq sang a line from the national anthem 'Amar Sonar Bangla, Ami Tomai Valobashi (My Golden Bengal, I Love You).

Japanese students appreciated the song with great applause.

"We don't like study," said almost half of the Japanese students adding, "We like biscuits."

On the other hand, the Bangladeshi students said they like sweetmeats.

The video conference came to an end when Bangladeshi students said good bye to Japanese students uttering Jane Ma Ta Ne (See You) in Japanese language.

Teachers of respective schools and JICA officials in Bangladesh and Japan conducted the conference.



Bangladeshi students pose for photograph after the video conference at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office at Gulshan in the city yesterday.



## Khairul Kabir's anniversary of death today

Today is the ninth death anniversary of journalist and banker Khairul Kabir, says a press release.

Founder-editor of the daily Sangbad, Kabir died of old-age ailments in Singapore on this day in 1997. He was also the founder-first life member of the Jatiya Press Club.

He was also the first chairman and managing director of Janata Bank and a fellow of the American Bankers' Association.

Khairul Kabir was one of the authors of the historic six-point programme which was the basis of the demand for autonomy for the then East Pakistan.

Khairul Kabir hailed from the illustrious Kabir family of Ghorasal. A milad mahfil has been organised at his ancestral home in Ghorasal to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## KHALEDA'S PAK VISIT

# Two MoUs to be signed likely

Bss, Dhaka

Two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed between Bangladesh and Pakistan during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's 3-day official visit to Islamabad from February 12, a well placed official source said yesterday.

The MoUs will be signed between Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and between Export Promotion Bureau of Bangladesh (EPB) and Export Promotion Bureau of Pakistan (EPP), the source said.

Once the MoUs are signed, the source said the two Saarc member countries will be benefited in the field of agriculture and through enhanced trade and commerce. Under the MoU between EPB and EPP, both Dhaka and Islamabad will seek free of cost space in each other's country for holding single country fairs, it said.

When contacted Additional Foreign Secretary (AFS) Touhid Hossain said Dhaka and Islamabad have been trying to

reach an understanding to harmonise the standard requirements of both the countries. Trade and commerce between the two countries will increase if such understanding is reached, he said.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Foreign Secretary Hemayet Uddin and AFS Touhid Hossain will be in the Prime Minister's entourage. Besides, a business delegation will accompany her.

The official meeting between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Pakistan counterpart Shaukat Aziz will take place on February 13. During the meeting cooperation between Dhaka and Islamabad is expected to figure prominently. She is also scheduled to address a meeting of the Pakistan business community.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will call on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on February 13.

Khaleda Zia, who is the current Saarc Chairperson, is also scheduled to make a 3-day visit to India from March 20 at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Dr Manmohan Singh.

## CITY SLUM FIRE Body of child recovered after 5 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a child from under the debris of a burnt down Rayerbazar slum yesterday five days into the fire incident.

Razia Akhter, 7, was missing since the fire incident on Wednesday.

Earlier on Saturday, charred body of garments worker Razia, 22, was retrieved from the debris.



Wearing shrouds, members of the Community Primary School Teachers Association stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

PHOTO: STAR

## Community pry teachers begin hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary school teachers wearing shroud yesterday began an indefinite hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital demanding hundred percent salary of the national pay scale.

Under the banner of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association, around one hundred teachers from different remote areas of the country are taking part in the hunger strike.

Association President Habibul Ahsan Bablu said they will continue their strike until their demands are met.

"We teach the underprivileged children in remote areas while our children are being deprived of education as it is impossible to maintain our family with only Tk 750," he said while speaking at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Leaders of the community primary teachers also submitted a

memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to press their demands that included equal opportunities enjoyed by the teachers of the registered non-government primary schools.

There are about 100,000 teachers in 3,500 registered non-government primary schools and around 13,000 teachers in 3,778 community primary schools across the country.

## CPC team in city

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) arrived here yesterday on a friendly visit to Bangladesh, sources said.

The delegation, led by head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee Wang Jiarui, is paying the visit at the invitation of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

They will also visit Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistani government.