



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Sajed Kamal speaks at a seminar on 'The solar revolution: the scope of renewable energy technologies in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

## WW2 consensus eludes Japan 61 years after defeat

REUTERS, Tokyo

Makoto Koga was 2 years old when his father, a soldier in the Imperial Japanese Army, died in battle on the island of Leyte in the Philippines.

After visiting the island a few years ago, Koga — now 66 and head of a powerful group of relatives of Japanese war dead — spoke of how his father must have felt facing certain death.

"We have no food. We have old guns, but we have no ammunition. Why am I here and why must I die?" Koga imagined his father thinking as he waited to die.

More than six decades after Japan's defeat in World War Two, its people have yet to agree on an assessment of who was to blame for the nation's role in the conflict, which killed millions in Asia and wrought devastation at home.

That lack of domestic consensus — as much as outraged reactions by China and South Korea — lies at the core of a debate over politicians' visits to Yasukuni Shrine, where 14 wartime leaders convicted as Class A war criminals by an Allied tribunal are honoured with the nation's 2.5 million war dead.

"In the post-World War Two discourse on history and Japan's identity, the issue of war responsibility has been one of the most difficult issues about which there is no answer, no consensus and even no direction," Kazuhiko Togo, a former diplomat and grandson of wartime foreign minister Shigenori Togo, wrote recently.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has paid his respects at the Shinto shrine each year since taking office in 2001.

## Students lock

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The students held a rally in front of the administrative building later. The students urged Prime Minister and Chancellor Khaleda Zia to take immediate steps to resolve the crisis.

They said if resumption of classes and examinations was dependent on the appointment of a new VC then the government should do it immediately in the interest of 9,000 students of the university.

Sources in the administration said the acting VC called for a syndicate meeting to discuss the prevailing situation in the university.

Student organisations also extended their support to the movement.

On July 19, Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) in an urgent meeting declared a programme of non-cooperation with the acting VC suspending all classes and examinations. Their demand was to appoint a new VC to the university.

On July 18, Karim was appointed acting VC to the university much to the teachers' disliking.

The teachers aligned with different political ideologies were demanding appointment of a new VC since Prof Rafiqul Islam, 8th VC of the university, resigned on June 22 in the face of unrelenting agitation by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP.

Rafiq left the university after the JCD men declared him 'unwanted' at the university.

The VC, however, had appointed 162 people at the university from the ruling BNP and Jamaat men. The JCD's demanded appointment of 200 people.

On contact, IUTA President Faez Mohammad Serajul Haque told the Daily Star, "We are looking forward to the PM's intervention and hopefully she would resolve the current deadlock."

Meanwhile, the IUTA leaders met with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Asaduzzaman, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and Education Minister Osman Faruk over the situation.

