

## Quality of primary education better

Speakers tell second educational researchers' conference

**BSS, Dhaka**

The quality of primary education in terms of enrolment, attendance, promotion and repetition were found better in Bangladesh during 2000-2002 than in the previous two years.

It was observed in different research studies, which were made public at the second educational researchers' conference at the Islamic Development Bank Bhaban auditorium here yesterday.

Bangladesh Forum for Education Development (BAFED) in cooperation with UNESCO organised the conference.

The researchers, however, expressed their confidence that the current trend of education being given in the primary schools would help the country score a sustainable rate of literacy up to 80 per cent in the next six to seven years from the present 41 per cent.

With three separate sessions, the conference was participated by eminent research fellows, educationists, policy makers, government officials and the NGO representatives concerned with primary education. They discussed five study papers on primary education.

Chairman of the University Grant Commission (UGC) Prof Dr M Asaduzzaman inaugurated the conference with BAFED chairman Prof Dr Abu Hamid Latif in the chair. UNESCO representative to Bangladesh Wolfgang Vollman gave the address of welcome.

Senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Atir Rahman chaired the first working session. Samir R Nath, Momotaz Jahan and Dr Siddiqua Rahman represented separate study papers in the first session. Dr Kamrun Nessa Begum, Dr Munjur Musa, Shaymoli Akbar and Arijit Roy presented their papers in the second working session with former director of UNESCO Dr Monzoor Ahmed in the chair.



PHOTO: STAR

Kuwait Ambassador Abdullah Masoud Abdullah called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

### US official lauds govt's role in democratisation

**BSS, Dhaka**

The US State Department official on Bangladesh Affairs, Osam Tat, called on Prime Minister's Political Secretary M Harris Chowdhury at his chamber at the Prime Minister's Office here yesterday.

Bilateral interests and cooperation between the two countries in different fields were discussed during the meeting.

The US official praised the government's role in democratisation and socio-economic development of the country.

Harris Chowdhury apprised the US officials of various reforms and development activities of the government and hoped that the US cooperation for implementation of the programmes would continue in future.

He also hoped that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and the USA would consolidate further in the days ahead. First Secretary of the US Embassy Michelle LaBonte was also present at the meeting.

## Kuwait to continue cooperation

### Ambassador meets Hasina

**UNB, Dhaka**

The Kuwaiti will continue its cooperation for overall development in Bangladesh.

Kuwait Ambassador Abdullah Masoud Abdullah said this when he called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

"Kuwait will do everything possible for Bangladesh's overall development," the ambassador was quoted as saying by Jawadul Karim, Press Advisor to Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina said the Kuwait

Development Fund that has been extending financial support to Bangladesh was formed during the state visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Kuwait in 1974.

She hoped that the excellent brotherly relation between Bangladesh and Kuwait would be strengthened and mutual cooperation in different areas, particularly in infrastructure development, would be increased in future.

AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah MP and International Affairs secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP were present.



PHOTO: ISPR

Myanmar military delegation leader Lieutenant General Aung Htwe paid a courtesy call on Defence Secretary K M Ehsanul Haq at Ministry of Defence at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on Saturday.

### Myanmar military team visits naval base, BMA in Ctg

**BSS, Dhaka**

The Myanmar military delegation led by Lieutenant General Aung Htwe visited a few military installations in Chittagong yesterday.

The delegation members visited Bangladesh Naval Base at Patenga and Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) at Bhatriary.

They witnessed the training and academic activities of the BMA with keen interest, says an ISPR press release.

Earlier, members of the team paid a courtesy call on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba at the Naval headquarters at Banani yesterday morning.

They exchanged views on military training and other academic activities of the armed forces of both the countries.

The delegation members later visited Rangamati in the afternoon.

### President assents to three bills

**UNB, Dhaka**

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to three bills passed in the 9th session of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad. The bills are: The President's (Remuneration and Privileges)(Amendment) Bill, 2003, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003.