

High quality primary education a challenge

Educationalists tell Campe discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's education sector's biggest challenge is achieving high quality primary education and students' cognitive and behavioural skills are needed to be improved from early childhood through high-quality teaching methods, educationalists told a discussion yesterday.

The Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) organised the discussion on World Bank's "Bangladesh Education Sector Review" in the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

"One key requirement to achieve quality education is improving quality of teachers," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

Expressing frustration over the education system that centres on exams, he said the number of school exams could be reduced if Bangladesh had better teachers.

He also commended Bangladesh "achieving gender parity in primary and secondary schools well ahead of the 2015 millennium development goal".

Moderated by eminent educationist Rasheda K Choudhury, the discussants included Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government; Amit Dhar, sector manager, education, World Bank; MA Mannan, state minister for finance ministry; and Arastoo Khan, additional secretary to the finance ministry.