

## Education fair begins Plan to raise number of girl students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has a plan to raise the number of girl students equal to boys by 2005 in line with the commitment made at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit.

The ratio of boys to girls in primary schools currently stands at 51:49, said Prof. Tahmina Hosain, secretary at the Primary and Mass Education Ministry.

She was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day education fair that began at National Press Club yesterday.

The Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organised the fair as part of its week-long programme on global action week.

Books on primary and adult education, training manuals, magazines, education materials and research papers have been put on display.

Organisations working in the non-formal and mass education sector and government primary schools are taking part in the fair.

Prof. Jahanara Begum, advisor to Primary and Mass Education Ministry, inaugurated the fair, calling on NGOs, civil society and people to make the mass education programme a success.

"The government will provide all cooperation to the organisations working to promote mass

education programme," she said.

ANM Yusuf, advisor to the CAMPE, said about 115 million children around the globe are still deprived of education and most of them are girls.

The fair will remain open from 11.00am to 8.00pm today.