The Daily Star

METROPOLITAN



FROM STREET CHILDREN TO HAIR STYLISTS: A street child, who has got her hair styled by another, at a special programme at CBCB auditorium in the city yesterday. Padakkhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra and Marjan Van Lier organised the programme where street children, who participated in a weeklong workshop on hair styling, demonstrated their skills.

Law minister's remark protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several religion-based organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami, yesterday condemned the remarks of the law minister that religion-based politics would be banned if cancellation of the fifth amendment to the constitution is finalised by the Supreme Court. They also threatened to

launch a movement to oust the government. In a statement, Jamaat

Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami said such a move is illegal and undesirable. The remarks of the law

minister have shocked the religious-minded people, he said, adding that no government has the right to ban politics based on Islam.

Meanwhile, Islam Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) at a press conference announced two-day protest programmes, including a rally at Muktangan at 3:00pm today.

Styling the lives of street children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Walking along the streets with gloomy faces, they have to search for food in the same dustbin they collect waste papers from. The street children themselves had resigned to losing the dream of a decent life, so had we.

Well, Marjan Van Lier had other ideas.

Today, five of the street children, who attended a workshop on hair styling arranged by Marjan in June, 2008, work for different herself. salons in the capital. A Dutch citizen, Marjan

had been working with the street children of Bangladesh for a couple of years.

This year Marjan brought celebrity Dutch hair stylists Manfred, Edwin and Michael Star.

to Bangladesh, who conducted another workshop on hair styling for 32 street chil-

After completion of the weeklong workshop, the participants staged a fashion show at CBCB auditorium at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday, where few street children had their hair styled by fellow participants.

The programme was jointly organised by Padakkhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra and Marjan

"At first, I only wanted to entertain the underprivileged children in a different dimension and that's why they were taught how to dance. It was back in 2005," said Marjan while talking to The Daily

"As dancing was mere an entertainment, we gave it a second thought and tried to teach them something more practical."

"By learning hair styling, these children can acquire a sense of professionalism and may get employed," she

Jasmine Akhter, one of the participants of last year's workshop, has already made her mark in the profession. "I might become a salon

owner someday as I know how to style hairs," said a beaming Jasmine after the programme.

The Dutch hair stylists were also impressed with the participants.

The street children are ready to learn and they are very innovative, said the Dutch experts.

EDUCATION UP TO DEGREE LEVEL FREE

Reduce backbreaking volume of school syllabuses

PM tells National Primary Edn Week inaugural ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked for reducing the backbreaking volume of school syllabuses and enhancing the standard of textbooks contents to ensure easy but effective quality education for students.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the National Primary Education Week'2009 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, she directed the authorities concerned to think out how the syllabi could be downsized and the quality upgraded.

This year, the Primary Education Week is being observed with the slogan 'Din Badaler Boichhe Hawa, Shikkhai Amar Prothom Chawa' reflecting the government's focus on building a well-educated population as an effective instrument of all-round change in society.

Hasina also declared that her government would make education up to degree level free to facilitate poor sections of people to achieve higher education.

"Only big-sized syllabus and numbers of books do not ensure good education for kids. They need interesting and effective contents. By giving many books, we cannot expect children will be all pundits," she told the gathering of educationists.

Hasina directed the minister and the state minister for primary and mass

education not to do office in Dhaka only but also to go for field visit across Bangladesh to know about the real picture of the schools, teachers and students.

The PM said allocation to the education sector will be increased next time.

"We all say education is the backbone of a nation. But in our society, education and teachers are neglected. Such a situation must end," she said.

The prime minister directed authorities concerned to increase quality of books in terms of both content and paper. "We want to see students happy with their textbooks," she said.

Hasina expressed satisfaction over arrangement of class-five terminal examination, saying that such exams will remove discrimination among the students and increase competition of talents among themselves.

She sought cooperation of all in achieving its target for cent percent literacy rate by year 2014. She said a process is underway to

appoint 22,315 new teachers while some Education Dr Afsarul Amin in the chair. 1,000 headmasters are going to be the opening function was also addressed appointed this month.

"Every school of the country is suffering from lack of adequate number of teachers. If we want to increase quality of primary education, adequate teachers must be appointed," she said.

Hasina also laid emphasis on imparting modern training to the teachers for

increasing teaching quality.

"By beating or scolding, you cannot teach someone. The students have to be allowed to pursue their studies with joy and entertainment," she said, stressing the need for a change.

Later, the prime minister distributed certificates and crests among the winners of various cultural completions held among the primary students on the occasion of the education week' 2009. Various schools and their teachers and

members of managing committees also received awards from her for their outstanding results, performances and hard Sadia Shikder of Monohordi Model

Primary School in Narsingdi, Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shibnagar Model Primary School in Jhenidah, and Hasin Tanvir of RK Primary School in Tangail, were given the best three awards for their outstanding results in the maiden primary terminal education' 2009. With Minister for Primary and Mass

by State Minister Md. Motahar Hossain, acting secretary of the ministry Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan and Primary Education Department Director General Shyamal Kanti Ghosh.

The opening session was followed by a spectacular cultural function presented by primary students and teachers.



Successful students and best teachers pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the opening ceremony of the National Primary Education Week 2010 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ELECTORAL SYSTEM

More discussions underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday came up with different opinions about the issues of proportional representation electoral system and shortening the tenure of parliament, saying that the issues deserve to be discussed widely.

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan), a platform for civil society members, organised the roundtable on 'Proportional representation and tenure of the parliament' at the National Press Club. Shujan President Prof Muzaffer

Ahmad said the issues should be discussed to create public opinion and that the political parties will take the decision in this regard.

He also said a confrontational situation between the members of parliament and the representatives of the local government exists due to the present electoral system. "The primary duty of the lawmakers is

to formulate laws, but we are witnessing that they are meddling in the affairs of the local government institutions," he said. About 88 countries are using propor-

tional representation, he said, adding that Shujan has no stance on these issues, which deserves to be discussed among the people. Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Nazrul Islam said the five-year tenure of



Prof Nazrul Islam speaks at a roundtable on 'Proportional representation and tenure of the parliament' at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Syed Abul Maksud and Badiul Alam Majumder and on his left are Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, M Hafizuddin Khan, Golam Murshid and Zainal Abedin Farroque.

the government is quite long and it should be shortened to four years.

He also said that the political parties should get seats in parliament as per the total number of votes cast per party.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, however, disagreed with the proposals, saying that these systems do not fit in the current context of the country.

Rather, the existing systems should be strengthened further, he added.

"What we need is to ensure a free and fair election, remove corruption and strengthen the constitution through amendment," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainal Abedin

Farroque said problems would not be resolved even if the tenure of the government is shortened to four years.

"We [political leaders] have differences of opinions and maybe we could not unite, but it does not mean that democracy is at stake," he said. "We need to be honest, have trust on each other and be faithful to democracy."

Awami League leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna said proportional representation has many problems in practice.

Moderated by M Hafizuddin Khan, the roundtable was also addressed by Badiul Alam Majumder, Inam Ahmed Chowdhury and Golam Murshid.



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9 new JOCVs arrive in city

METRO DESK

Nine new Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) arrived in Bangladesh on Wednesday to extend cooperation in different sectors such as infection control, primary education, machine tools and karate, says a press release.

They will work in public organisations or NGOs for the

next two years. The new JOCV members called on Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Ambassador of Japan, yesterday at the Chancery.

Pari-8-8 Areezé Jointly present their 2010 WINTER COLLECTION

at CLUB AMAZON, House 2, Road 80, Gulshan-2 on 8th & 9th January, 11am - 9pm.

Check out warm winter fabrics, like karandi & bosky linen shalwar kamiz with matching shawls, crepe w/ crepe dupatta & printed shalwars in exquisite colors & paisley, polka, floral prints.





