

Jaago shows street children day of fun in 32 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to promote children's right to quality education and to give street children a day of fun and frolic, Jaago Foundation held awareness campaigns and cultural events in 32 districts yesterday.

About 10,000 youngsters from the foundation's youth wing, Volunteer for Bangladesh, took street children to amusement parks and carnivals organised by the foundation marking Universal Children's Day.

The aim is to give the street children a day of childhood they never had, Muntaka Khan, a young lawyer and volunteer, told The Daily Star at a carnival in the capital's Banani Society field.

Several hundred children, who sell flowers, candies or simply beg for food in the capital's traffic intersections, received yellow shirts, food, medical checkups and necessary medication provided by Renata and Beximco pharmaceuticals while The Daily Star provided strategic partnership.

Visiting the event, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Gibson said he was "deeply impressed by what Jaago has been doing for the children across the country. The volunteers are doing amazing work and I believe these young people will bring more positive changes to the country."

Founder of Jaago Korvi Rakshand Dhruvo said, "We have been working on providing quality education for children for nine years. I am glad that the United Nations has included quality education as the fourth sustainable development goal."



Street children have fun on a merry-go-round yesterday as Jaago Foundation gave them a chance to have a day filled with playing and frolicking, in a bid to promote children's right to quality education. The photo was taken at Banani Society Field in the capital.

ADIVASI WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Demilitarisation of hills must for providing support

Speakers tell Pugobel discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord of 1997 and demilitarisation of the hills are required to ensure greater legal aid and support for survivors of violence against indigenous women, speakers said yesterday.

Concerted efforts of the government and non-government bodies providing legal aid in the hills would not be possible as long as the militarisation of the daily life of its citizens was not stopped, said Prof Mizanur Rahman, chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He said the accord's full implementation became indispensable to resolve any other dispute as pockets of unrest in the region would only increase incidents of violence against indigenous women.

"Durable peace can never be achieved through the use of force by state agencies," he added at a "National level discussion on violence against indigenous women and their legal support in CHT".

The programme, organised by Rangamati-based NGO Pugobel and funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands, was held in the capital's Cirdap auditorium in the morning. Revamped in 2014, the organisation works in education

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EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

22 U-loops to dot Gazipur to capital's Satrasta road

Officials tell Dhaka North City Corporation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will build regulated traffic turning facilities along a 32-km road from Gazipur to the capital's Satrasta aiming to reduce congestion by one-third by June, said high officials at a views-exchange meeting in the capital yesterday.

There will be 22 U-loops along the road to replace the 69 traffic crossings including 20 major intersections, said Annisul Huq, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation that organised the meeting on the proposed design of the

loops.

"It is the best short-term traffic solution measure," he said adding that the U-loop construction would require 37 bigas of land belonging to five government organisations including the railways, roads and highways, and civil aviation authority.

Though not yet decided, DNCC will most likely implement the scheme, he said.

A U-loop is meant for regulated traffic turning in a segregated and systematic way for signal-free motor vehicle movement, said Dr SM

Salehuddin, deputy team leader of the design consultants.

The capital city incurs a financial loss to the tune of Tk 1.5 thousand crore every day due to traffic congestion while mega projects like rapid bus service (BRT), metro rail and elevated expressway will take long to resolve the horrendous traffic problem, he said.

The U-loops will be of two kinds -- one with 144 to 160 feet width for turning of buses and small vehicles and the other with 104 to 135 feet width for only small vehicles, said

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INCREASING VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY

Political trend, financial despotism reasons

Hunger Project, The Diversity Centre roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current political situation and financial despotism are hindering harmonious coexistence in the country leading to social violence, said eminent citizens at a roundtable yesterday.

If a harmonious coexistence could be achieved then disputes arising from people belonging to different religions, caste, race and gender would be less, they added. The programme titled "What Must We Do to Achieve Social Harmony" was organised by The Hunger Project and The Diversity Centre at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said stories of social

harmony achieved at grassroots level should be spread in the society.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud said politics, rather than religion or race, was more responsible for conflicts and social disharmony prevailing in the country.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, global vice-president and country director of The Hunger Project, said prejudice based on identities is also a major reason for conflicts in the country. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, former advisor to a caretaker government; Haminda Hossain, a human rights activist; and Rana Dasgupta, secretary of Bangladesh Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian Unity Council also spoke.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE



New ship for navy arrives from US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A new ship for Bangladesh Navy "BNS Somudra Avijan" arrived at Chittagong Naval Base from the USA yesterday, and was welcomed there by high officials of the navy including Rear Admiral Akhter Habib.

The ship, a cutter, had started its journey on November 16, 1968 under the US Coast Guard and, was decommissioned on February 3 this year. It was handed over to Bangladesh Navy on May 5 this year and has been added to the 9th frigate squadron. Capt M Wasim Maksud, commander of the ship, said it would be used for patrolling the country's maritime boundary. A total of 178 navy personnel, including 21 officers, took training in the US in three phases this year in operating the ship.

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