

The Daily Star

Disability is no barrier

Published: Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Cultural programme for special needs students
Mintu Deshwara, Moulvibazar

Some of them can't hear, can't talk, can't walk, can't see but nature has given them the ability to feel and enjoy everything.

Meet a group of joyous special children who are young and capable students as well. This gives them the feeling that they are able to participate in activities that were once unthinkable. Most speech and hearing impaired, physical disabled and visually challenged persons believe that they can contribute to the society with adequate support.



A normal life is all that they need. Photo: Star

This was in ample evidence when some special needs students displayed their prowess at a programme held at the village temple field in Kaliti tea garden of Kulaura Upazila in Moulvibazar yesterday.

Awed spectators marvelled at the excellent performance of the children at a football match, art, dance and poetry competitions. The spectators included government officials, journalists, teachers, students, NGO representatives and locals.

The 'Cultural programme for special needs students' was organised by Moulvibazar Area Office of Light house Project, Caritas Sylhet Region.

Organisers Sajal Rozario and Mahmud Ali, education supervisor of Lighthouse project said that they were elated with the excellent performance of the special needs students.

A speech-impaired student of class two, Kartik Robidas, 13, said that he loved studies but found immense joy in playing football as well. He also dreamt of becoming a footballer when he was older.

“We are special needs students, but we are no less than others. We want to exercise our rights in any form we can. Like other aspiring students, we need support and proper direction”, said differently abled student Ramzan Ali of class three.

Regional manager of Lighthouse Project in Caritas Sylhet Region Pius Nanuar, said that he oversees all the special need students in the 101 education centers. He said “We should give priority to special children. I hope generous people would extend help to strengthen the position of such children. We support 220 special needs students at the primary school level.”

Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsul Islam said that he was impressed by the children’s performance at the cultural programme and football match. “They are very good at games, and also bright in studies,” he said.