



37

Raushan's call to ensure working children a better life

First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad on Sunday called upon the conscious, educated and well-off section of society to ensure 'pathakalis' (working children) a better life, reports BSS.

She said, "Their presence in Dhaka today in such a large number should encourage all to provide them with education, treatment, food and shelter so that they could participate in our endeavours to make a prosperous Bangladesh."

The First Lady was addressing a large gathering of Pathakalis to mark the 13th founding anniversary of Kochi-Konther Asar here. This was the

Contd. on page 8 Col. 3

Raushan

Contd. from page 1

first such gathering of Pathakalis, organisers said.

Begum Ershad said only words were not enough for ensuring their proper build-up and added atmosphere conducive to the healthy growth of children was necessary. "The neglected and distressed children should be given equal social status", she said.

The function, presided over by the Dhaka city Kochi-Konther Asar President Haji Muhammad Shahabuddin, was addressed, among others, by Pathakali Muhammad Hashem Ali, Mr. Hemayet Hossain, Central Secretary General and Dr. Mizaur Rahman Shelly, President of the Asar.

The First Lady said society has responsibilities in making the lives of the helpless and poor children happy. Children are like flowers and they should be brought up with love and care to make their lives worthy and meaningful, she said, adding that it required a kind heart and an open mind.

Begum Ershad was presented a crest of the Asar.

Later, she distributed prizes among 14 Asar members and 14 Pathakalis who came out successful in an art competition. She also distributed food among the Pathakalis.