Students of secondary level schools and madrassah stand in queues to cast their votes at Student Cabinet Elections. The photo was taken at Motijheel Girls High School in the capital on Monday.   -- New Age photo

Students elect cabinets in 18,133 schools, madrassahs

Staff correspondent

STUDENTS of over 18,133 secondary level schools and madrassah cast their votes amid festivity to elect their cabinets on Monday.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid, while visiting Motijheel Government High School, said such elections and cabinet at schools were introduced to facilitate development of democratic norms among the students.

About 97.44 laksh students from Class VI to X exercised their voting rights from 8:00am to 1:00pm simultaneously.

About five lakh students vied for 1.83 lakh seats of the cabinets in the election, education ministry officials said that they did not have news of any untoward incidents.

The tenure of the eight-member cabinets will be one-year.

After the election, one of the members of the cabinet will be elected head of the cabinet on voice vote. He or she will distribute portfolios of cabinet colleagues following the norms of parliamentary democracy.

The cabinets will have ministers for maintaining educational environment on campuses, toilet and waste, teaching materials, health, cultural affairs and sports, midday meal, water resource, tree plantation and gardening, for observing and celebrating special days and for ICT.

Election to the cabinet of 4,858 educational institutions will be held on March 31.

The government introduced school cabinet for secondary level educational institutes last year when students of 1,043 educational institutes elected their representatives.

In 2010, schoolchildren chose their leaders - members of student councils - at some 100 government primary schools later and it was held in almost all the government primary schools across the country.