

# Moanoghar News Bulletin

Special Edition  
(Eye Camp – February'09)



*A doctor checking up the patients*

The Eye Camp was organized by:

- **Rotary Club of Dhaka, Kawran Bazar**
- **Moanoghar**

With medical assistance by:

- **Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds (BNSB)**

And other relevant assistance by:

- **Rotary Club of Wrexham-Riddig**
- **Rotary Club of Chittagong Midtown**
- **The Moanogharians**
- **Rotaract Clubs of Dhaka Kawranbazar, Chittagong Midtown and Chittagong Metropolitan**

**Date: 19 – 22 February, 2009**

## Notes from the Editorial Board

Exactly how many suffer from the debilitating 'blindness' in the Chittagong Hill Tracts? There is no exact information.

But one can make some reasonable guesstimates. And the total number should be quite huge; at least this was our experience at Moanoghar. We expected no more than 300-400 patients. Instead, more than 800 registered for treatment and at the last moment, we had to tell many others to come again when we are able to organize another camp.

The patients had all sorts of eye-sight related problems; some are quite serious and need expensive treatment such as glaucoma. But most are with cataract which is fairly easy to treat. And yet, they became blind because of lack of treatment as they can not afford the expenses.

We are indeed very glad to be able to organize this 'eye camp'. We shall strive to organize it every year.

In this regard, we are very much grateful for all those who supported us in organizing the camp. Without them, it would have been simply an impossible task. We particularly express our thanks to Rotary Clubs of Wrexham-Riddig and Dhaka Kawran Bazar. Very special thanks also to the guests who honoured us with their presence on the opening day. Most particularly we would like to mention **Mr. Dipankar Talukdar**, hon'ble State Minister of Ministry of CHT Affairs and MP, Rangamati who graced the ceremony as Chief Guest. Our grateful thanks also to **Mr. Aminuzzaman Bhuiyan**, and **Mr. Abdur Rob**; respectively former District Governor and current Assistant Governor of Rotary International in Bangladesh, for being present with us on the opening day.

The eye camp was organized in commemoration of the National Martyr's Day and International Mother Language Day'09 on 19-22 February'09.

The camp is formally inaugurated on 20 February by *Mr. Dipankar Talukder*, Honourable State Minister of Ministry of CHT Affairs, and MP, Rangamati. *Mr. M. Aminuzzaman Bhuiyan*, former District Governor of Rotary Club graced the ceremony as Guest of Honour. Others who attended as Special Guests in the ceremony are; *Mr. Golam Hossain*, Chief Executive Officer, Rangamati Hill District Council, *Bishwajit Bhattacharya*, ADC General, Rangamati Hill District, *Moniruzzaman Mohsin Rana*, Honourable Member, Rangamati Hill District Council and *Dr. Md. Abdullah*, Civil Surgeon, Rangamati.

The camp was organized in CHT after a gap of 3 years. More than 800 patients from all over the region registered for treatment. After scrutiny, in total 65 patients with cataract were operated. In addition, over 225 patients received free spectacles. All the patients also received free medicine (e.g. eye drops, anti-biotics, etc).



Honorable guests at the opening ceremony. 3<sup>rd</sup> from left is *Dipankar Talukdar*, Hon'ble State Minister of Ministry of CHT Affairs and MP, Rangamati.

**A few testimonies.....**

*Raj Mohan Chakma* from Alutila village, located at the outskirts of Rangamati is 102 years old. For the last 25-30 years, he was suffering from blindness due to cataract problems. After the operation when the bandage was opened and he first could see the surroundings, his first comments was; "Thank you doctors and Moanoghar. I now wish I could live many more years". Similar thanks and gratitude was also profusely expressed by all the others; to Rotary Club, Moanoghar and the doctors. One such example is *Dulal Barua* (Age: 90 years) from Vedvedi, Rangamati. He found his lost eye-sight after more than 10 years. 65 years old *Mrs. Salita Chakma* came to Moanoghar all the way down from Atarakchara, Langadu upazilla – a journey that took her more than 1 day. She became blind from cataract more than 12-14 years ago and could not afford the expenses for treatment.



*Patients after operation*

**Special thanks.....**

Moanoghar and the organizers of the eye camp express their utmost thanks and gratitude to **BNSB** and particularly to **Dr. Shams Mohammad Noman** and **Dr. Sumedh Dewan** and their team, for their voluntarism and service to the poor patients in the camp.