



# Moanoghar News Bulletin

(July – September '12)

(Founders: Ven. Bimal Bhikkhu, Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero, Ven. Sraddha Lanker Mahathero)

## Editorial Board

- Kirti Nishan Chakma
- Borendra Lal Tripura
- Ashok Kumar Chakma
- Biplab Chakma
- Chanchu Chakma
- Udvasan Chakma

## **MRHS champions in Inter-School Sports**

Moanoghar Residential High School (MRHS) team becomes champion in the Inter School Football Tournament held from 7 to 9 September 2012 at Rangamati Stadium. 10-Upazila Champion Schools – one from Upazila of Rangamati district - participated in the tournament. By beating all those schools MRHS team went up to the division level. On 14 September the MRHS team played in Chittagong.

MRHS teams gained success in other events as well. In Kabadi, both girls' and boys' teams became the district champions and played at the Divisional level in Chittagong.

In the Swimming Rebot Chakma and Sonamuni Chakma bagged the championships under the Big Boys and Medium Boy categories. They also participated in the swimming completion at the divisional level.



Varveer Melanie, Special Envoy of the US President with Moanoghar children

## **US President's Special Envoy visits Moanoghar**

The US President's Special Envoy for Global Women's Affairs Ms. Melanne Verveer visited Moanoghar on 8 September, 2012. She spent about two hours there and enjoyed cultural performances by the children of Moanoghar. Ms. Verveer was accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Dan W. Mozena, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, and senior officials of the US Embassy during her visit to Moanoghar.

Moanoghar children in traditional dresses received the guests with floral bouquets at the Moanoghar main entrance gate, while Kirti Nishan Chakma, General Secretary and senior staff members of Moanoghar were present there.

Guests were shown around Moanoghar campus. They visited some of Moanoghar's activities such as Sales and Display Center for handicrafts, Resource Center, Computer Lab, and Weaving and Handloom Center. They also visited the office for Eco Project, which is being implemented with the funds of US Embassy. They expressed their happiness to see the Moanoghar school and education services to the poor children – both boys and girls from different ethnic communities in the far-flung areas of CHT.

At Bishakha Bhavan (girl's section) a short briefing session was organized followed by a cultural function in honour of the guests. Kirti Nishan Chakma briefly presented the history of Moanoghar and its present activities. He said, "Moanoghar, as a child charity, has been providing education to the orphans and underprivileged children since its establishment in 1974". Among others Md. Mostfa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati; Dr. Manik Lal Dewan, former Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council; Nirupa Dewan, Commissioner of Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission; and Ahmed Farooq of Rotary spoke on the occasion.

Later children presented traditional songs and dances of different ethnic groups in the CHT.

Addressing the children H.E Mozena says that he sees the future of CHT in them. He advised them to study hard to be good citizens like their predecessors at Moanoghar.

H.E Verveer in her speech expressed her deep happiness of visiting Moanoghar School. She said that she was very impressed by the performance of children and rich combination of cultural diversity. She assured the children that she would tell about Moanoghar in her country [the US].

Nirupa Dewan on behalf of Moanoghar expressed thanks to honourable guests for visit to Moanoghar. "This visit will inspire the tender minds of our children" – she added.

## Quiz Competition

A joyful inter-class quiz competition was held in Moanoghar on 12 - 14 September 2012. The competition was facilitated by current college students from Moanoghar. The students Class VII & VIII participated in the completion by several groups named as Jamrul, Hasnahena, Mohabodhi, Jui and so on. Jamrul group became champion from 'A' group, while Mohabodhi became champion from B group.

**Sports and games:** Events for sports and games were organized at the Moanoghar Campus from 11 August to 10 September 2012 with the students. Items included football, ludu, chess, pillow passing and plate winding up. Moanoghar residential students participated in all these events with great enthusiasm.

Later a prize giving ceremony was organized with Dr. Manik Lal Dewan, former Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council and former Dean of Bangladesh Agricultural University, as the chief guest in the function. He handed over prizes to the winners for various items of the sports.

In the end of the prize giving ceremony a cultural event also was organized with participation by Moanoghar children.



RHDC Chairman Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma delivers inaugural speech

## Chakma Language Course launched at Moanoghar School

"I assure all out support from the Rangamati Hill District Council to establish the Chakma Language Research Centre at Moanoghar" Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) told the audience while he was delivering his speech as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Chakma Language Course at Moanoghar Residential High School (MRHS) on 2 July 2012. Supported by RHDC, MRHS started teaching basic Chakma language to primary level students on pilot basis. Brisha Ketu Chakma, Councilor of RHDC, Jhimit Jhimit Chakma, Principal of MRHS and Ashok Kumar Chakma, Executive Director of Moanoghar spoke on the occasion with Venerable Shradha Lankar Mahathera in the chair.

Jhimit Jhimit Chakma, pointing out the importance and challenges of teaching children their own mother languages, said that Moanoghar could be a centre of excellence for teaching and doing researches on indigenous languages in the CHT. Ven. Shradha Lankar Mahathera said that teaching Chakma language was started in the early 1985 at Moanoghar, but the course could not sustain due to lack of financial support. He said that he himself was an author of a Chakma primer, which was published in courtesy of Venerable Prajnananda Mahathera, then General Secretary and now Chief Adviser of Moanoghar.

Jhimit Jhimit Chakma and Ashok Kumar Chakma drew the attention of the RHDC Chairman and the Councilor to the three crucial issues towards ensuring a smooth functioning of the Chakma language course and quality education to Moanoghar children. The issues were: establishment of language research centre, construction of an academic building for MRHS and maintenance of the playing field.

RHDC chairman Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma and the councilor Mr. Brisha Ketu Chakma promised for RHDC's all out support to Moanoghar. "Despite the fact of financial constraints, RHDC along with all his Councilors was always positive towards Moanoghar. If in this [financial] year is not possible, I promise RHDC's support for the construction of the academic building of Moanoghar Residential School next year" - Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma assures the Moanoghar authority.

In the concluding speech, Ven. Shradha Lankar Mahathera thanked the RHDC Chair and his Council for supporting the Chakma language course, and Moanoghar. He also thanked all distinguished persons and media people who were present at the inaugural ceremony.





Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal is giving away books

### The Asia Foundation donated books

On 1st August, the Asia Foundation donated books to 23 high schools and libraries in Rangamati. Each institution was given away 100 books on various subjects suitable for school students.

On this occasion, a ceremony was organized by Moanoghar in cooperation with the Asia Foundation. The ceremony with Mr. Sukumar Dewan in the chair was graced by Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner, as the chief guest; while Mr. Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, District Education Officer, and Ms. Saima Anwer, Country Representative of Asia Foundation, Bangladesh were present as the guests of honour in the program.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Chakma, Executive Director of Moanoghar delivered the welcome speech. Underlining the importance of reading books he quoted the Lord Buddha's last sermon, where He uttered "attadipa viharatha", meaning 'be the lamp of your own'. The fundamental teaching of this saying is self-enlightenment. Mr. Chakma thanked the Asia Foundation for donating books, which could provide students with one of the means of attaining self-enlightenment in their lives.

Ms Saima Anwer in her speech said that the Asia Foundation has been distributing books to schools and colleges since long ago. She said one of objectives of this program - 'books for Asia' - is to empower people by providing the right information.

Mr. Fazlur Rahaman, District Education Officer called upon the teachers not to keep their schools' libraries under lock and key. Libraries must remain always open so that students can easily grab books for reading.

Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner and chief guest said that students usually follow their teachers and guardians. Therefore, they should be the role models for students in reading books. He requested the teachers and guardians to encourage their students to develop their reading habit from the very their early of their students' life.

In the end of the discussion session, about 2400 books were distributed to as many as 23 schools and libraries in Rangamati. Books were both in Bangla and English.

Distribution of books was followed by a cultural function performed by the students of Moanoghar.

### Upcoming Events

- ❖ Bakery installation in October
- ❖ Ven. Mujin Sunim's visit to Moanoghar on 12 October
- ❖ Eid vacation for the school in October
- ❖ The Moanogharians re-union on 20-21 October
- ❖ Annual Exam of Moanoghar Residential School starts on 14 November
- ❖ Training on bakery management in November
- ❖ Training on Child caring in December
- ❖ Training on bee-keeping in December
- ❖ Sponsorship Forum Meeting in December
- ❖ Admission Test for the year 2013 in the last week of December.

### Guest's Visit

\* An undergrad student Mr. Kostia from France visited Moanoghar from 2 to 8 September. He was conducting a research on education system of Bangladesh. As part of his work he visited Moanoghar School to see the teaching methods in the school.

### Training/Workshops

- A Child Caring Training Workshop for House Tutors and other staff members held from 20 to 21 July at Moanoghar Conference Hall. 27 participants attended the training.
- Moanoghar Resource Center Assistant Suborna Jyoti Chakma attended a 4-day training course on *Advocacy and Human Rights* in Dhaka organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) from 17 to 20 September 2012.
- Guardians' meetings held guardians for three consecutive days on 22, 25 and 26 July 2012.
- An orientation session on hygiene with the cooks of Moanoghar.

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