



# Moanoghar News Bulletin

(January – March'15)

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

## Editorial Board

- Kirti Nishan Chakma
- Ashok Kumar Chakma
- Biplab Chakma
- Borendra Lal Tripura
- Chanchu Chakma
- Anumodarshi Dewan
- Ushamoy Khisha
- Nanda Kishore Chakma

## **'Moanoghar Support Group' formed to raise funds for the Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)**

Following the celebrations of the 40 Anniversary, a sharing was organized on 13 March in Rangamati with the local civic leaders. Kirti Nishan Chakma, General Secretary, presented the key facts and figures about the current activities, including the budget and finances, of Moanoghar. At the end of the meeting, a local support group – Moanoghar Support Group – was formed with Dr. Parash Khisa as Convenor and Mr. Bitu Chakma as Co-Convenor with 9 other members;

The Group was setup with the objectives of mobilizing public support to Moanoghar's activities in general and raise fund for the Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP), in particular. Currently, about 60 students are supported under HELP.



*Inauguration of the Moanoghar 40 Anniversary Ceremony*

## **Moanoghar Celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Moanoghar was founded in 1974. No one recorded the formal date of its foundation, yet everyone involved in the endeavour still vividly remembers how it all came into being. It was a long arduous journey, often made treacherous in the vortex that is the social, economic and political setting of the contemporary Chittagong Hill Tracts.

40 years is a milestone by any yardstick in the history of any institution. In Moanoghar's case, this is an all the more remarkable feat given the tumultuous past decades that the peoples in the region lived through.

The 40 anniversary were duly celebrated on 16 & 17 January 2015. The programme (see also in the following pages) was comprised of rendering homage to the founders and as well as individuals and organizations who have taken Moanoghar to this day.

The occasion was also the moment for reunion of the former students and residents and as well as the supporters and donors whose collaboration has been crucial to Moanoghar for this journey of 40 years. Together, they decided on a number of targets for the next 5 years for Moanoghar (see next page).

On the closing session, a number of distinguished persons were honoured for their contribution to CHT in various fields; namely, (1) Arts & Culture, (2) Education, (3) Women's rights and empowerment (4) Civic awareness and environmental conservation

## **The Key Targets for Next 5 Years**

The following targets were decided for the next 5 years for Moanoghar in the reunion of the Moanogharians (alumnae of Moanoghar) during the 40 anniversary;

1. Improvement of the standard of education in Moanoghar School to make it among the top 5 schools in the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts.
2. Scale up the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) to reach the target of at least 300 students over the next 4-5 years under its coverage.
3. Set up a Technical Vocational Trade School. This is considered most urgent to impart key skills to students who (indeed most) would not be able to pursue higher education under HELP.
4. To continue with and expand Moanoghar's activities on the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the region's indigenous minorities.
5. To launch various income generating activities with the objective of achieving at least 15-20% of the budgetary expenses from its own income sources over the next 5-6 years.
6. To expand outreach activities in 3 key areas across the 3 Hill Districts; education, environmental conservation and regeneration, and women's empowerment.

## **Moanoghar Honours Individuals and Institutions for their Distinguished Achievements and Contributions to CHT**

Moanoghar is honoured to award, on the occasion of the 40 anniversary, distinguished persons and institutions in recognition of their achievements and contributions to Chittagong Hill Tracts in various fields. They are;

### **A. Education**

- *Dr. Manik Lal Dewan*, Former Dean, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh
- *Kya Shwe Prue (Khoka)*, Educationist, Former Assistant Teacher, Don Bosco High School, Bandarban
- *Ms. Anjulika Khisha*, Education, Former Head Teacher, Rangamati Girl's High School and Former District Education Officer, Rangamati

### **B. Women's Rights and Empowerment**

- *Ms. Madhabi Lata Chakma*, Member, CHT Regional Council, Rangamati
- *Ms. Manjulika Chakma*, Founder, Bain Textile, Rangamati
- *Shefalika Tripura*, Founder Executive Director, Khagrachari Mahila Kalyan Samity (KMKS)

### **C. Civic Awareness and Environmental Conservation**

- *Raja Devasish Roy*, Chakma Circle Chief

### **D. Arts and Culture**

- *Jhum Aesthetics Council (JAC)*, Rangamati
- *Pravanqshu Tripura*, Renowned Author

## **Snapshots of the 40 Anniversary Programme**

### **Founders honoured during the Ceremony**

- Ven. Jnanashree Mahathero
  - Ven. Bimal Tissya Bhikkhu\*
  - Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero\*
  - Ven. Sraddhalanker Mahathero
  - Pierre Marchand
  - Mr. Sajjan Chakma\*
  - Late Mr. Suvash Chakma\*\*
- \*Could not attend the ceremony. In the case of Late Suvash Chakma, his wife, Rakhi Dewan, received the crest.*

### **Individuals and Institutions Honoured for their Contributions to Moanoghar**

- **Raja Tridiv Roy**, late Chakma Circle Chief
- **Rajmata Rani Arati Roy**, Mother of the current Chakma Circle Chief
- **Ms. Arati Chakma**, Former President, Moanoghar Executive Committee
- **Mrs. Latika Talukder**, Founding Head Teacher of Moanoghar School
- **Ven. Tilokananda Mahathero**, Founder, Kassalong Shishu Sadan
- **Bhoirab Chandra Karbari**, Chief of Rangapani Village
- **Kara Ratan Karbari**, Chief of Rangapani Village
- **Nila Ratan Chakma**, Vedvedi village, Rangamati
- **Late Jogendra Dewan**, Rangapani village
- **Late Hocchoy Chakma**, Rangapani village
- **Belakka Chakma**, Rangapani village
- **Late Kanta Chakma**, Rangapani village
- **Late Golaram Karbari**, Rangapani village
- **Late Motturu Chakma**, Rangapani village
- **Late Huloram Chakma**, Rangapani village
- **Late Dr. Bhagadatta Khisa**, renowned physician and played key role in setting up Moanoghar Mini Hospital
- **Sugata Chakma (Nonadhan)**, Writer of Moanoghar anthem
- **Nirmalendu Tripura**, Former Vice President, Moanoghar Executive Committee
- **Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma**, Former General Secretary and President, Moanoghar Executive Committee
- **Ahmed Farooque**, Founding Member, Rotary Club Dhaka Kawran Bazar
- **Dr. Kali Prasanna Das**, Member, Afzalunnessa Foundation, Dhaka
- **Partage**, French NGO ([www.partage.org](http://www.partage.org))
- **Philip Crabtree**, Educationist, UK
- **Dr. Graham Arthur**, Founder, Children of Bangladesh, UK
- **Late Suhrid Chakma**, Poet, Writer and Former General Manager, Moanoghar
- **Kalpa Ranjan Chakma**, Former Minister, Ministry of CHT Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
- **Mani Swapan Dewan**, Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of CHT Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
- **Bir Bahadur U Shwe Shing**, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of CHT Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

## Other News

- **Denis Wright Scholarship**

This year, the Denis Wright Scholarship was awarded to the following;

- Sumi Tanchangya, Class IX (Academic Excellence),
- Deshi Chakma, Class IX, (Academic Improvement)
- Anni Prue Marma, Class V, (Academic Inspiration).

They were selected by a panel comprising of members from Moanoghar, Moanoghar School and an external educationist. The awards were handed over to them in a ceremony on 4 March where the Deputy Commissioner, Rangamati Mr. Shamsul Arefin attended as Chief Guest.

- **Annual Sport Day**

The Annual Sport Day of Moanoghar School was celebrated on 28 February 2015. The prizes were distributed to the winners in a ceremony in presence of the Deputy Commissioner, Rangamati Hill District and Chairman, Rangamati Sadar Upazilla, respectively as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour (See above also), held on 4 March 2015.

- **New Admission in 2015**

This year, in total 203 new children were admitted at Moanoghar as residential students. Because of lack of room in the residential hostels and school classrooms, more than 550 children were refused admission in Moanoghar. This was a very difficult situation for Moanoghar; all these children come from remote areas across the region where there are no functional schools and from its past experiences Moanoghar knows that, in most cases, these children will not be able to continue further schooling.



*Annual Sports Prize Distribution and Denis Wright Award giving Ceremony*

## **An Appeal**

Moanoghar makes **URGENT APPEAL** to its generous individuals, organizations and its friends and allies to help us in the following initiatives;

- **Installation of LED bulbs**

Moanoghar has recently made an estimate to install LED bulbs in all the residential hostels (12 in total), School Building complex (3 buildings) and other assorted buildings and installations e.g. administrative office, mini hospital, library building etc. (in total 6 buildings). The total cost is about 3.5 million taka. Although the initial investment may seem relatively high, Moanoghar will be able to recoup the amount in about 6 years, with a monthly savings of 50% on its electricity bill. The bulbs come with a warranty of 12 years. At present, Moanoghar pays a monthly electricity bill of 100,000 taka – 120,000 taka.

- **Computer & IT Equipments**

Moanoghar runs a computer lab for teaching the children IT skills. The current equipments are, however, almost obsolete with most of the PCs more than 6-8 years old. We appeal your support to procure 35 PCs, 2 laptops, 1 printer and 1 multimedia projector. The total budget is 1.6 million taka.

- **Sponsorship of Children**

Moanoghar is making an urgent appeal to the generosity of its donors and supporters to find **sponsors for 17 children**, all whom are orphans (do not have both or one of the parents) or come from very poor and remote areas of the CHT region. Only your generosity can help these children to continue their schooling. Please help us.

You also can help us by **SPONSORING** a child or with a one-time donation. Please contact us at;  
MOANOUGHAR, Rangapani, Rangamati, Bangladesh, Tel: 880-351-62796, Email: [moanoghar@gmail.com](mailto:moanoghar@gmail.com)