



Moanoghar News Bulletin

(January – May 2020)

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Orchard plantation work on Moanoghar land

Covid-19 Strikes Moanoghar and Chittagong Hill Tracts

The global pandemic Covid 19 has recently in the region of Chittagong Hill Tracts too. The overall reported case, as of now, are still relatively small: 26 in Rangamati, 7 in Bandarban and 5 in Khagrachari and no case of deaths till now. Bangladesh now has a total of about 21,000 cases.

Around mid-March, the government declared closure of schools and all educational institutions. From 26 March, the government declared general lockdown on the entire country to stop the spread of the disease. However, the restrictions have so far produced only mixed results as the total number continues to climb.

The Covid 19 is bound to be an unmitigated disaster for Bangladesh, as is also all over the world. While the number of fatalities seems to be low (less than 2 percent) in Bangladesh, the social and economic impacts will be colossal. For the region of Chittagong Hill Tracts, the impacts will be particularly severe. With its mountainous topography most people in the region depend on fruit orchards for livelihood and the months between April to mid-June is the season where they earn between 60-80 percent of their annual income. The Covid 19 lockdown means that most could not sell their produces which are currently rotting in the orchards.

In March, following the government's order, Moanoghar closed the school and the children went home with the parents, although a few who don't have parents/home still are in Moanoghar. This is a good news that none at Moanoghar and also the children at home with their family have Covid 19 case. Moanoghar continues to keep regular contacts with the children and their families as the situation evolves. As of no one can tell when the schools in Bangladesh will open. But for the children and their families, the economic toll will be colossal and **for Moanoghar, the coming months and years could very well prove to be an existential crisis. We appeal to all for helps.**

New children admission at Moanoghar

The admission for the academic year 2020 was carried out on last 26 and 27 December 2019. In total 337 students have been given admission in the school from class 1 to class 9. Out of this 207 are boys and 130 are girls; and 199 children are taken as residential while the remaining 137 will attend the school as non-residential students. There are in total 1080 students in Moanoghar this year.

Admission at Moanoghar

Concert for Education Held

A fundraising “Concert for Education” was organized in Rangamati on 29 February 2020 in support of Moanoghar HELP initiative. All the renowned artists of the Chittagong Hill Tracts performed in the concert. The event was attended by, among others, Raja Devasish Roy, the Chakma Circle Chief.

The Chimbuk band of Bandarban in particular travelled from Bandarban to perform *gratis* on the occasion. Moanoghar expresses deep gratitude to Mr. Thui Thui Prue, the founder of Chimbuk band for this generous gesture. Moanoghar is equally grateful to Kalayan Chakma, Koel Chakma, Kanak Baran Tripura and all the other singers and performers to their continued support to Moanoghar.

Annual Price Giving Ceremony

Student Cabinet Election of Moanoghar School

Miscellaneous News

- Moanoghar has started a Fruit Orchard Plantation project from April 2020 on moanoghar’s hilly land. The initiative will be carried out by the Moanoghar children.
- The “student cabinet” of Moanoghar School was elected on last 25 January 2020.
- Moanoghar has launched a “tree planting and afforestation” program in commemoration of the centennial birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh.
- The annual sports of Moanoghar was held on 6 February 2020. The prizes were given on 18 February in presence of Ms. Fatema Tuz Zohra, UNO of Rangamati Sadar.

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