



Moanoghar News

April- June 2017

(Founders: Ven. Shaddamaditya Jnanasree Mahathero,
Ven. Bimal Tissya Mahathero,
Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero, Ven. Sraddha Lanker Mahathero)

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Catastrophic Landslides Hit Rangamati and Moanoghar

HELP! Help! HELP!

Moanoghar and Rangamati Hill District as a whole, witnessed unprecedented natural disasters that have wrecked havoc in the area killing more than one hundred people. Rangamati town was particularly affected and the area surrounding Moanoghar saw large-scale devastation with several dozen deaths.

Fortunately, no-one from Moanoghar was harmed. All the children and families who live inside the campus are safe. However, four people related to Moanoghar died in this disaster. They are: Ms. Mili Chakma (56 years), Princie Chakma (4 years), Suchona Chakma (15 years) and Priyatosh Chakma (12 years). Mili Chakma was the wife Mr. Sudarshi Chakma, a recently retired teacher from Moanoghar School. Princie Chakma was the daughter of a former student of Moanoghar. Their families live in the vicinity of Moanoghar. Suchana Chakma and Priyatosh Chakma used to attend Moanoghar School from nearby villages. In the catastrophe of the landslides, all 4 were buried inside their homes. The dead bodies were subsequently found and given proper cremation.

We deeply mourn their deaths. May they all find eternal peace in the after life!



The landslides are an unprecedented disaster in the CHT. A total rainfall of about 1,000 millimetres in 3 days - from 11 to 13 June - came after the serious devastation that cyclone Mora had caused barely 1 week earlier on the night of June 6. The total financial amount of repairs needed is estimated at more than 6 million Taka.

We appeal to all our friends and well-wishers to extend their help to Moanoghar for this purpose.



Landslide at the school



Victim shelter center at the school

Moanoghar Opened Shelters for the Landslide Victims

Following the devastating landslides, Moanoghar opened 2 shelters to receive the victims who lost everything in the disaster. The coaching classes specially held by the HELP students in the school during Ramadan vacation, were stopped immediately and the victims were welcomed into the school complex. At the same time, a second shelter was opened at the Meditation Centre.

In the 2 centres, a total of 93 families came to seek shelter. The families in the shelters received relief from the Government of Bangladesh; the School centre from the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Meditation Centre from the Bangladesh Army.

At the time of drafting this news bulletin (end-August 2017), many families have moved from the shelters to their original homes or with relatives. However, about 60 families still continue to live in the Meditation Centre.



Dining Hall and Kitchen

Students under HELP return to teach during Ramadan vacation

Moanoghar students who are studying in various universities came to teach at school during the Ramadan vacation in June 2017. However, their classes were interrupted with the landslides on 13 June when Moanoghar opened the school complex to shelter landslide victims.

Special Farewell Ceremony for to the Retiring Teachers

A special ceremony was held at Moanoghar school to bid farewell to six teachers who have retired in recent years. The teachers are; Ms. Dipta Dewan, Mr. Khokan Bikash Barua, Mr. Shantimoy Chakma, Mr. Mihir Kanti Chakma, Mr. Ranjit Dewan and Mr. Sudarshi Chakma. The honourable Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, Mr. Brishaketu Chakma was present on the occasion as Chief Guest.

Also, the annual sports day awards was held on April 28, 2017 with a colourful cultural function in the evening.

SSC Results of Moanoghar School

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) under Chittagong School Board came out on May 4, 2017. This year, in total 217 students took part. Out of this total, 164 students passed and 2 students obtained GPA 5. The percentage of pass rate is 76% which is closer to the pass rate in the Chittagong Board (83%).

Profiles of Moanoghar Students



Lelong Khumi was born in 2002 in Longthaw para, Raongchari Upazilla in Bandarban to Hokhlaw Khumi and Hoikheng Khumi. The parents are fringe Jum farmers and extremely poor. (The Khumis are one of the smallest indigenous groups in CHT and also one of the most socially and economically marginalised).

Lelong is the sixth of his 5 sisters and 2 brothers. Because of poverty none of his brothers and sisters have been able to attend school. There is no school in the village nor in the surrounding area.

Lelong was admitted to Moanoghar in 2008 in class II. This year he passed SSC with a commendable grade of GPA 3.41. Now he is going to attend Rangamati Government College in HSC. He would like to have a government job in future.

His younger sister, Lahoi Khumi, is in Moanoghar in class VIII.



Amitava Chakma was born in Fakirachari, Jurachari Upazila - one of the remotest villages in CHT - in 2001. His parents are landless Jum farmers. He is the second child and has 1 brother and 1 sister.

His elder brother could not attend school due to poverty and Amitava was on the same road. However, one day his father heard some talk about Moanoghar in the local bazaar. People said that free education is offered to poor children. So he took Amitava to Moanoghar and he was admitted in class VII in 2013.

This year, Amitava has passed SSC with the highest score of GPA 5.00. He is going on to study science in Rangamati Government College. His younger sister will be admitted to Moanoghar next year.

Amitava wants to be a scientist in future. He would like to be the Bodhisattva Amitava who bestows compassion on people, through his contribution in science.

BRAVO!



Dennis Wright Memorial Scholarship Awarded

This year the recipients of the Dennis Wright Memorial Scholarship are; **Annie Prue Marma** (Class VIII) for academic improvement; **Bishaka Dewan** (Class VIII) for academic excellence; and **Pinki Prue Marma** (Class V) for academic inspiration.

They were selected through a panel comprised of Moanoghar School teachers, administration staff and external educationists from Rangamati. The scholarships were awarded to them in a small ceremony.

Acknowledgement: THANK YOU!

- We are very grateful to the outpouring of support following the catastrophic landslides in Rangamati. Firstly, we acknowledge the support of the **Government of Bangladesh**, the office of the **Deputy Commissioner in Rangamati** and in particular, the **Red Crescent Society of Bangladesh** and **Bangladesh Army** for providing relief to the landslide victims sheltered at Moanoghar. Their support was very precious in relieving the hardship of the families who lost everything in the disaster.
- We also wish to thank the following from the bottom our hearts. Their continued support of Moanoghar students and for the desperately needed repairs of the extensive damage is essential to us.
 - Peuples des Collines, France
 - Ms. Diep Nguyen-van Houtte and her friends at the World Bank
 - BODHI, Australia
 - AJHA, France
 - Les Amis des Jummas France
 - Buddhist Global Relief, USA
 - Emil Wolter and his friends with Comgest (www.comgest.com)

You also can help us by SPONSORING a child or with a one-time donation.

Please contact us at;

MOANOGHAR, Rangapani, Rangamati, Bangladesh, Tel: 880-351-62796,

Email: moanoghar@gmail.com

URL: www.moanoghar.org, Facebook group: Moanoghar