

Moanoghar News Bulletin

(January – December'08)

Editorial Board

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Moanoghar children with the Delegation of Rotary Club of Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

EDITORIAL

Moanoghar was established in 1974 to serve the poor, deprived and the destitute, particularly the children. Since its establishment, its service has been extended to thousands of children and destitute. They are the most vulnerable in society; they suffer the most, but they, particularly the children, also hold the promise of the future.

Moanoghar was founded with the vision of social activism and service, rooted in the Buddhist concept of universal love, compassion and peace, with non-violence as the key instrument. Moanoghar strongly believes that all social and developmental activism must be guided by one's conviction in non-violence.

The region of Chittagong Hill Tracts prides itself in the rich cultural, social and ethnic diversity of its people. Moanoghar aspires to be the image of this rich diversity, social harmony and peaceful coexistence of the peoples of diverse backgrounds in the region.

This edition of Moanoghar News Bulletin captures the key events and news of the institution for the year 2008. However, in future, we plan to bring it out on quarterly basis. We expect it to be a key tool in informing our members, friends and well-wishers about us, effectively serving as a bridge between Moanoghar and its residents and the external stakeholders.

• Secondary School Scholarship Project Launched

A three year “**Secondary School Scholarship Project**” was launched at Moanoghar by Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar. The agreement was formally signed on 19 July between Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar and Moanoghar Authority at Moanoghar; Dr. Sirajul Islam and Mss. Arati Chakma signed the **Agreement** on behalf of respective sides. 50 residential poor indigenous students will receive scholarship under this scheme for three years from July 2008 to June 2011.

The Agreement Ceremony was presided over by Mr. Nirmalendu Tripura, the Sr. Vice President of Moanoghar Executive Committee. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries of Rangamati; among others were, Mr. Moni Swapan Deawan, former Deputy Minister for the Ministry of CHT Affairs, Mr. Manik Lal Dewan and Mr. Ching Khiew Roaja, both former Chairmen of Rangamati Hill District Council, and Mr. A. K. Nurul Huda, President 2008-09 of Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar. A team of the Rotary Club that included both the Treasurer and the General Secretary also came down from Dhaka on the occasion.

The ceremony was followed with a cultural performance by the Moanoghar children.

• Reunion of the ex-students held and alumnae association ‘Moanogharians’ formed.

The students who have passed their studies from Moanoghar in the past, reunited in 2008. The objective was to form an alumnie association.

The first reunion was held on 27 March at Moanoghar. A seven-member ‘Convenor Committee’ was formed with Kirti Nishan Chakma as Convenor. The Committee was tasked with forming a full-fledged committee in the ensuing months.

A follow-up meeting was held on 8 August’08. The meeting decided to call on a General Assembly of the ex-students on 17 October’08. A 13-member Executive Committee was formed in that meeting with Kirti Nishan Chakma as President and Chanchu Chakma, General Secretary.

Decision was also taken in that meeting to form sub-committees of the ‘Moanogharians’ at Upazilla level in all the 3 Hill Districts, i.e. Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. The sub-committees will work for mobilizing support and donations for Moanoghar. It was further decided to appeal for support to the Moanogharians who are currently living abroad.

Considerable funds have already been raised by the Moanogharians, with many coming forth with voluntary contribution.

• Guest visits

Throughout the year Moanoghar received numerous guests, many of whom are renowned personalities. Some of the most notable are;

*The former member of Bangladesh-Norway Friendship Association **Anne Kummen** came to visit Moanoghar in April. This was her 2nd visit of Moanoghar. In 1982, she came first to Moanoghar. During her visit, she was briefed about the activities of Moanoghar and she assured to do her best to support Moanoghar.

*A 15 member visitor team headed by **Ric Wood** from New Zealand visited Moanoghar in March. The visitors heard of Moanoghar from travel guide and felt interested to visit it. Hearing about Moanoghar, they became very interested to visit it.

After the visit of the campus, they sat in a meeting with Moanoghar authority at Temmang Shala (Meeting Hall). Ven. Pranjna Nanda Mahathera explained the previous and present history as well as the future activities of Moanoghar.

*Prominent writer and the Head of Computer Science & Engineering Department of Sylhet Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SUST) **Dr. Jafar Iqbal and his colleagues** had a visit in Moanoghar in May 2008. They spend an entire day with the children. He assured his support in the future in case any students from Moanoghar come to seek admission at SUST. He also promised his personal support to Moanoghar.

• Special Thanks....

Moanoghar expresses its grateful thanks to **Dr. Graham Arthurs** for his generous support. We are very happy to have him amidst us in December'08.

Special thanks also to the following individuals for their particular support in 2008.

- **Ahmed Farooque**, Rotary Club of Kawran Bazar, Dhaka
- **Dr. Nezam Uddin Ahmed**, General Secretary, Afzalunnessa Foundation
- **Prof. Haroon Er Rashid**, Independent University of Bangladesh

Moanoghar is also particularly grateful to two individuals who each donated 100,000 taka but wish to remain anonymous.

• Emergency General Meeting (EGM) of Moanoghar General Assembly Held

An emergency meeting of Moanoghar General Assembly was called on 23 May 2008. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Nirmalendu Tripura, the Vice President of Moanoghar Executive Committee. Almost all of the general members, including all EC members, attended the meeting and opined on various issues relating Moanoghar. Many observers were also present in the meeting, including the Honourable Chairman of the CHT Regional Council.

The EGM deliberated on various relevant issues to Moanoghar. It also elected a new General Secretary in the place of the Ven. Pranjna Nanda Mahathero. Subsequently, Ven. Mahathero was given life membership of Moanoghar and inducted as member of the Advisory Council.

• Moanoghar Advisory Council Formed

A 5-member Advisory Council of Moanoghar was formed with the following member;

- Honourable Chairman, CHT Regional Council
- Honourable Chairman, Rangamati Hill Districts
- Honourable Chakma Circle Chief
- Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero, Founding General Secretary
- Ms. Kalyani Dewan, Headman of Manikchari and President, Moanoghar Pre-cadet School.

The Advisory Council will provide expert advice and support on the relevant policy issues and direction of Moanoghar.

• New members of Executive Committee Co-opted

In last November, Four new members have been co-opted in Moanoghar Executive Committee. The positions became vacant following resignation of the incumbents on personal and family reasons. The new members are:

- Ushamoy Khisha, as General Secretary
- Ranjit Dewan, Member
- Durgamoni Chakma, Member
- Rebaty Ranjan Chakma, member

All four new members are known for their social commitment and have long association with Moanoghar.

• Sponsorship Programme Explored with French NGO

A sponsorship programme with French NGO AJHA is being explored at present. A certain number of children (exact number is still to be determined) will be sponsored under the programme.

A team of AJHA visited Moanoghar for this purpose in last April'08.