



Moanoghar News Bulletin

(April- June 2017)

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Landslides in the School Area at Moanoghar

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), Ms. Princie Chakma (4 years), Ms. 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 millimeters 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 6 June. 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.**

Special Awards Given to Girl Students by Moanoghar SSC Batch of 1993

The students of Moanoghar who passed SSC in 1993 gave special awards to 3 (three) girl students; Ms. Bipasha Dewan (class VIII) for academic excellence; Ms. Annie Prue Marma (Class VIII) for academic improvement; and Ms. Pinki Prue Marma (Class V) for academic inspiration. They were selected through a panel comprised of Moanoghar School teachers, administration and external educationists from Rangamati. The scholarships were awarded to them in a small ceremony.



Damages by Clyclone Mora at Moanoghar

Students under HELP come to teach at School during Ramadan vacations

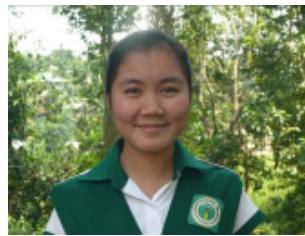
Moanoghar students who are studying in various universities came to teach at school during the Ramadan vacation in June 2017. However, their classes were interrupted with the landslides on 13 June when Moanoghar opened the school complex to shelter landslides victims.

SSC Results of Moanoghar School

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) under Chittagong School Board came out on last 4 May 2017. This year, in total 217 students took part in the SSC examinations. 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%).



Annie Prue Marma



Bishakha Dewan



Pinki Prue Marma

Special Ceremony Held at Moanoghar School for Farewell to the Retiring Teachers

The special ceremony was held at Moanoghar school to give farewell to six teachers of Moanoghar who have gone into retirement in the 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.

The occasion was also held to give the annual sports day awards to the students on last 28 April 2017. The occasion was also organized. The children performed a colourful cultural functions after the ceremony.



House of a Moanoghar staff
After landslides



Victim shelter centre at Moanoghar School

Moanoghar Opened Shelters for the Landslides 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 vacations, were stopped immediately and the victims were welcomed in the school complex. At the same time, a second shelter was opened at the Meditation Centre.

In the 2 centres, in total 93 families came to seek shelter. The families in the shelters received reliefs 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.



A section of Moanoghar campus



Moanoghar dining hall and kitchen

Profiles of Children at Moanoghar

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 the CHTs and also one of the most socially and economically marginalized).

Lelong are 5 sisters and 2 brothers and among the brothers and sisters, he is the sixth. Because of poverty none of his brothers and sisters have been able to attend school. Aslo, the village where he was born, there is no school in the nearby areas.

Lelong was given admission in Moanoghar in 2008 in class II. This year he passed SSC with a commendable grade of GPA 3.41. Subsequently, he has taken admission in Rangamati Government College in HSC. He would like to have a government job in future.

His younger sister Lahoi Khumi also studies in Moanoghar at present in class VIII.



Lelong Khumi



Amitava Chakma

Amitava Chakma was born in Fakirachari, Jurachari upazila – one of the remotest villages in the CHT – in 2001. His parents are landless Jum farmers. He is second among the 2 brothers and 1 sister of his parents.

His elder brother could attend school due to poverty. Amitava was also destined to be alike. However, his father one day heard some rumours in the local market (bazar) about Moanoghar, that Moanoghar provides free education to the poor children. Immediately, he took Amitava to Moanoghar and he was given admission in class VII in 2013.

This year, Amitava has passed SSC with the highest score of GPA 5.00. He has taken admission in science in Rangamati Government College since in HSC. His younger sister at present is in class VII and will be admitted in 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.

Acknowledgement

- We are very much grateful to the outpour of support following the catastrophic landslides in Rangamati. At first, 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 reliefs to the landslide victims sheltered at Moanoghar. These support were precious in relieving the hardships of the victim families who lost everything in the disaster.
- We also acknowledge the support of the following for the continued helps to the Moanoghar children and for reparings of the landslide damages;
 - Peoples des Collines, France
 - Ms. Diep Nguyen-van Houtte and her friends at 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)
 - Fondation Luciole, France

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