



Moanoghar News Bulletin

(January – March 2017)

(Founders: Ven. Shaddamaditya Jnanasree Mahathero, Ven. Bimal Tissy Mahathero,
Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero, Ven. Sraddha Lanke Mahathero)

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"Concert for Education" in Rangamati for raise funds for HELP

Admission of New Children in Moanoghar

Admission of new children for the academic year 2017 was held on 7 January. At present in 2017, there are 1380 children at the Moanoghar Residential School from Class II to Class X, out of which 722 are boys and 658 are girls.

This year, new admission for residential hostels are given to children from class III to class IX. In total 179 students were taken, out of which 83 are boys and 96 are girls.

The admission of more girls is consistent with the organizational policy of Moanoghar to provide opportunities of education to more girls. Currently, there are 676 residential children at Moanoghar from class I to HSC. Students in HSC attend the nearby Rangamati Government College from Moanoghar.

New Scholarships for HELP Launched

4 (Four) new scholarships for Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) were launched on last 26 January 2017. The 4 scholarships are;

- Monika Chakma and Rabindra Lal Chakma Memorial Scholarship
- Chitta Ranjan Karbari Memorial Scholarship
- Supravat Memorial Scholarship
- Amalendu Bikash Chakma Memorial Scholarship

The scholarships were created by an endowment of the relatives and family members. They handed over the cheques to Moanoghar for each scholarship. Lt. Col. (retired) Parimal Chakma handed over the cheque for Monika Chakma and Rabindra Lal Chakma Memorial Scholarships. Dr. Sudhin Kumar Chakma did it for Chitta Ranjan Karbari Memorial Scholarship which he created in memory of his late father. Ms. Mamdira Chakma and Ms. Shahana Dewan handed over the cheques, respectively, for Amalendu Bikash Chakma Memorial Scholarship and Supravat Memorial Scholarship.

Ven. Sharaddhalankar Mahathero, one of the founders of Moanoghar, received the cheques on behalf of Moanoghar.

A cultural function was followed after the cheque hand-over ceremony, performed by the children of Moanoghar.

Anniversary of Parbatya Chattal Bouddha Anath Ashram and Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara

The roots of Moanoghar's activism for education of the children from the indigenous minority communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts can be directly traced to Parbatya Chattal Bouddha Anath Ashram, founded in early 1960s in Boalkhali, Dighinala, Khagrachari Hill Districts. Although the orphanage does not exist anymore, it was destroyed in 1986 in the turmoil of the unrest in the region, its mission continues through Moanoghar and many other similar institutions in the region.

The 100 anniversary of the Buddhist Temple, Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara, around which Parbatya was founded, was celebrated over 3 (three) days on 15-17 March 2017 in the compound of the Temple in Boalkhali, Dighinala, Khagrachari. The ceremony was initially scheduled on 10-12 March 2017 but was shifted to the later date, as a local cyclone wreaked havoc on the preparations a day before the scheduled ceremony.

The anniversary ceremony was Mr. Kujandra Lal Tripura, Member of Parliament, Khagrachari through a solemn ceremony. He was also the Chief Guest. The ceremony was also graced by Ven. Sadharmaditya Jnanashree Mahathero who founded the Parbatya orphanage in 1963 when he was the Lord Abbot of the Dashabal Bouddha Raj Vihara. Ven. Tilokananda Mahathero, Upa-Sanghanayaka of the Buddhist Monks' Association of Chittagong Hill Tracts presided over the ceremony. Ms. Shatarupa Chakma, Convenor of the Anniversary Organizing Committee and Member, Khagrachari Hill District Council gave the opening speech.

On the second day of the ceremony, Mr. Jatindra Lal Tripura, Chairman, CHT Refugee Task Force attended as chief guest and on the 3rd and final day, Brigadier General Mir Mushfiqur Rahman, PSC, Regional Commander of Khagrachari Zone was the chief guest. The ceremony was also attended by other notable dignitaries and personalities of Dighinala and Khagrachari such as Mr. Naba Kamal Chakma, Upazilla Chairman, Dighinala.

The anniversary was the occasion for the former students and others to reflect upon the achievements of Parbatya and they all took a solemn pledge to re-start the institution as soon as possible.



Inauguration of Parbatya Anniversary

"Concert for Education" Held

Moanoghar re-launched the Higher Education Programme (HELP) to provide interest-free education loan to poor but meritorious students to pursue tertiary level education. The programme is exclusively funded by the Moanogharis and public donations as mentioned on page 1 of this news bulletin.

To raise funds for HELP, a charity concert was organized in Rangamati on 10 February 2017 in collaboration with the 'Moanoghar Support Group, Rangamati'. The event was titled, "Concert for Education" and a group of local artists and musicians performed free for the occasion. They included; Rupayan Dewan (Ranga), Dripta Dewan (Bappi), Koel Chakma, Suzanna Chakma and Parky Chakma. Besides them, Sourav Dewan and Fifa Chakma performed a number of their own dance choreographies. The cultural troupe of the Moanoghar children also performed a number of dance scores on the occasion.



A Dance performance by the Moanoghar Cultural Troupe During "Concert for Education"

Miscellaneous Events

- In conjunction with the CHT diaspora community in Australia, the 'Australia Day' was observed at Moanoghar on 26 January. The observation of the day coincided with the cheque hand-over ceremony of scholarships for HELP.
- The Annual Sports Day of Moanoghar Residential School was held on 9 February 2017 in the sports ground of Moanoghar. All the students of the school attended the event. The prizes won by the students in various competitions will be distributed in a specially organized ceremony at a later date.
- Moanoghar organized a 'drawing competition' in collaboration with the District Anti-Corruption committee on the occasion of the International Mother Language Days on 21 February 2017. The theme of the competition was 'Stop Corruption at Every Level of the Society'.
- Moanoghar children won the second prize in the display organized by the Deputy Commissioner on the occasion of the National Independence Day on 26 March 2017.
- Moanoghar School students elected the 'student cabinet' through secret ballot on 30 March 2017. In total 9 student representatives were elected in the Student Cabinet.
- On 10 February, Moanoghar students held a 'anti-corruption' march along the Rangamati-Vedvedi road in collaboration with the Rangamati district Anti-Corruption Committee.



Moanoghar children participating in the Display March on National Independence Day

Moanoghar Wishes a Happy Sangrai (Marma), Bishu (Tanchangya), Biju (Chakma), Boisuk (Tripura), Chankran (Mro), Sanglan (Khyang), Khum Lu Kum (Pankhua) to All



Vote by the students for the election of Students' Cabinet

Profiles of Children at Moanoghar

Van Ram Thlir Bawm was admitted at Moanoghar in 2001 in class IV. His father died when he was a very young. His mother Pensum Bawm continues to eke out livelihood on Jum cultivation in Ruma upazila, Bandarban, one of the remotest areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

He passed SSC from Moanoghar School in 2008. Subsequently, took admission for HSC in MEA College, Chittagong. Following this, he was admitted in the Department of Fine Arts, Chittagong University. The admission in the Department of Fine Arts is the fulfillment of his life-long dream. Since his young age was good in drawing/painting and he always wanted to pursue a career in this field.

Upon his admission, he received a tertiary education loan from Moanoghar under HELP. At present, he is the final year of Master and at the time of writing this news bulletin, he is participating his paintings in a group exhibition in Dhaka.



Van Ram Thlir Bawm



Nyangam Mro

Nyangam Mro comes from Bandarban Hill District. They are 3 sisters and 1 brothers. She took admission at Moanoghar in 2012 in class III. She was barely 8 years old.

Both her parents are illiterate and landless Jum cultivators. Her mother died when she was very young. She has little memory of her mother. Her father, after the death of her mother took the responsibility of raising Nyangam and her 3 siblings. One day, one villager informed her father of Moanoghar and the villager helped him to bring Nyangam to Moanoghar for admission.

Because of poverty none of her siblings could go to school. Her eldest sister was married off soon. Her elder brother had to stop to go to school and the other sister also was compelled to stop her education.

Nyangam at present is in class VIII and she wants to be a teacher so that she can educate the future generation of her people, the Mro community.

Upcoming News

- Another 'Concert for Education' is planned in Khagrachari on 6 April 2017 to raise fund for the Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP). The event is organized in collaboration with Moanoghar Support Group, Khagrachari. We express our heart-felt thanks to the organizers (in particular, Jiten Chakma, Prof. Bodhisatta Dewan, Sumedh Chakma and Jawahar Lal Chakma) and the artists for their support and collaboration.
- A raffle draw will be held on 9 April 2017 in Rangapani, also to raise funds for the Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP).

Acknowledgement

- We gratefully acknowledge to support by Mr. Emil Wolter and his friends at Comgest (www.comgest.com) for supporting us to build a dormitory of the girl students at Moanoghar.
- We thank Peoples des Collines for helping us to procure high and low benches for the new 6 classrooms of the Moanoghar School Building, constructed with the support of CHT Development Board, government of Bangladesh.
- We also deeply remain grateful to the French Association "AJHA" "Les Amis des Jummas", and BODHI from Australia for their continued support to the children's education at Moanoghar.

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