



# Moanoghar News Bulletin

(January - December 2022)

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

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*Ven. Mujin Sunim at Moanoghar (November 2022)*

## **A Recap of Moanoghar Activities for 2022**

As the world slowly emerged from the dark days of the Covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of the year, Moanoghar also started to fully resume its activities for the education of its children. The year started with 1468 students in the school, out of which 860 staying in the residential hostels. Forty-seven percent of the students in the school are girls whereas in the residential hostels, this ratio is 49 percent. The children come from the different ethnic minority groups from across the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh.

The SSC (school final) examination results came out in November. The overall pass rate is similar to the previous years: 79 percent. Overall, more than 200 students appeared in the SSC examinations.

The annual examinations of the Moanoghar School were held in end-November to the first week of December. After the exams, the children have gone to home to spend the year-end holidays with their parents and family. The school will resume from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January 2023 by which time the children will all return to their hostels.

However, a number of children have had to stay to Moanoghar as they don't have family/parents. The Moanoghar authority has made special programs for them including spending times with families of the Moanogharians.

As this news bulletin is being prepared, Moanoghar is starting the admission of new children for the next calendar year. The admission tests are slated to take place on 30 and 31 December.

## News about Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)

At present 112 students are studying under HELP in various disciplines at tertiary level in different higher academic institutions across Bangladesh. Since its re-launch in 2012, 67 students have completed their education so far and are currently employed in various public or private institutions. During the year, Moanoghar received donations from a number of generous persons to create endowment scholarships to support students under HELP. This includes as many as 9 (nine) scholarships:

1. **Kali Ratan Khisa and Panchalata Khisa Memorial Scholarship**, created by their son Col. (retired) Dibakar Khisa. The cheque hand-over ceremony was held on 7 January 2022, in presence of Mr. Khisa and their extended families. Ven. Shraddhalankar Mahathero, President of Moanoghar Executive Committee received the cheque.
2. **Founders' Memorial Scholarship**
3. **Pierre Marchand and Dipti Marchand Memorial Scholarship**  
Both scholarships are set up to preserve the memory of Moanoghar founders: Ven. Jnanasree Mahathero and his disciples; Ven. Bimal Bhikkhu, Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero and Ven. Sraddhalankar Mahathero, along with Pierre Marchand, founder of Partage and his spouse, Dipti Marchand. The scholarships have been established as part of fund-raising drive with an overseas resident from the CHTs, who would prefer to remain anonymous, donated an equal amount of money to funds raised by the Moanogharians. From the funds thus raised the above two scholarships have been created. Moanoghar remains deeply grateful to this anonymous donor.
4. **Tilak Chandra Chakma - Suroja Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, created by Nikhil Kumar Chakma  
This scholarship was created by Mr. Chakma in memory of his beloved parents. Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma currently holds the office of Chairman of the CHT Development Board and is a well-known public representative in the CHT region.
5. **Suro Raj Chakma – Mangal Mala Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, created by Sumitra Chakma  
The scholarship is set up by Mr. Chakma in memory of his beloved parents. Sumitra is a Moanogharian and the first to set up an endowment scholarship under HELP. Sumitra Chakma has an illustrious career with international organizations in Bangladesh and abroad.
6. **Mohendra Lal Chakma - Jhumka Lata Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, Paban Kumar Chakma and his siblings  
The scholarship is dedicated by Mr. Chakma to the memory of his beloved parents. Mr. Chakma as an agronomist and has retired from government services as Head of the District Agriculture Extension Services, Rangamati under the Ministry of Agriculture.
7. **Kamal Krishna Chakma and Khetrapati Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, by Mrs. Priti Chakma and Right Honourable Sharadindu Shekhar Chakma
8. **Mahendra Lal Chakma and Ira Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, by Ms. Oisharja Chakma
9. **Nilotpal Chakma & Puspa Mala Chakma Memorial Scholarship**, by Ashoke Kumar Chakma and Nipa Chakma  
The last three scholarships are created in memory of their respective parents by the above-mentioned individuals. The formal cheque hand-over ceremony of all the three scholarships/endowments will be held in the first quarter of 2023.



*Kali Ratan Khisa and Panchalata Khisa Memorial Scholarship Ceremony*

*Pierre Marchand and Dipti Marchand Memorial Scholarship Ceremony  
(Mrs. Dipti Marchand and their son, Thibault Marchand in the check hand-over photo)*





*Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma in the launching ceremony of the Tilak-Suroja Memorial Scholarship*

*Paban Kumar Chakma handing over the cheque for the Mahendra Lal and Jhumka Lata Memorial Scholarship*





*Sumitra Chakma and family handing over cheque to the Suro Raj – Mangal Mala Memorial Scholarship*

*Bizu-Sangrai-Boisuk-Bisu-Chankran Festival celebrations at Moanoghar.*





*Concert for Education, 6 April 2022, Khagrachari*

### **HELP Fund Raising with Moanoghar Support Group and Moanogharians**

Two "Concerts for Education" were organized by the Moanogharians and Moanoghar Support Groups, respectively in Rangamati and Khagrachari in May and April, 2022. The vents were organized to raise funds for HELP. Moanoghar expresses deeply felt gratitude to Mr. Pratap Chandra Biswas, (then) Deputy Commission, Khagrachari for special donation from the his official fund for HELP.

In addition, a raffle draw was held on 13 May in the Rangapani play ground to raise funds for HELP.

*Concert for Education, 5 May 2022, Rangamati*



## The Moanogharians and its 5<sup>th</sup> RE-UNION

The Moanogharians continued its activities in support of Moanoghar, in particular HELP, throughout the year. Several batches of Moanogharians as per the school year completion (SSC), held their re-unions at different period of the year. At present, three SSC batches have mobilized funds to support education of as many students under the HELP.

The Moanogharians held its 5<sup>th</sup> reunion on 9 April 2022. Three of the founders of Moanoghar – Ven. Jnanasree Mahathero, Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero and Ven. Sraddhalankar Mahathero graced the occasion and gave their blessings to the children and residents of Moanoghar including the Moanogharians.

The day-long program included prayers and Sanga Dana in the morning, followed with reception to the founders along with others whose contributions have Moanoghar as it is today. This was followed by a lively cultural performance by the children.

*Ven. Tilokananda Mahatheero and Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero at the reunion ceremony*





*Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero receiving crest from Ms. Rupa Chakma, a class 7 students as homage from the Moanogharians*

*A Group Photo of the Moanogharians during the 5<sup>th</sup> Renion*







*Mr. Dipankar Talukdar, Honourable, MP, Rangamati, unwrapping the school Magazine "Pratyasha"*

### **Bizu, Sangrai, Boisuk, Bisu, Chankran Celebrated at Moanoghar**

It is the most popular and important festival for the indigenous minority communities in the CHT region. Moanoghar along with the Moanoghar School prepared a 2-days long program on 7-8 April that included: (a) competition of the traditional sports by the children; (b) Launching of the school magazine; (c) Reception to renowned personalities in cultural and educational fields; (d) Preparation of traditional means and competition among the children's teams; (e) Traditional Water festival (Ree Laung Bwe); (f) Drawing competition and (g) Cultural performance by the children.

*Reception to personalities in cultural and educational fields*





*Opening of the Traditional Indigenous Sports by Akbar Hossain Chowdhury, Mayor, Rangamati Municipality*

*Water Festival (Ree Laung Bwe) by the children*





### **Rezaur Rahman Building at Bishakha Bhavan (Girls' Section) Inaugurated**

The Building was inaugurated on 8 October 2022 by Mr. Nurul Alam and Ms. Khushi Kabir, honourable Trustee of A.F Mujibar Rahman Foundation. The building was constructed at a budget of about 9.35 million taka and accommodates 70 girl students. It is named after Mr. Rezaur Rahman, a well-reputed businessperson and renowned philanthropist in Bangladesh who set up the Foundation in memory of his late father, AF Mujibar Rahman, the first only Bengali-speaking ICS officer in British India.

The Foundation has agreed to fund the construction of the second storey of the building which will accommodate additional 70 girl students, in total 140 students, in Moanoghar. The AF Mujibar Rahman is also currently funding the educational expenses of 50 children at Moanoghar: 40 girls and 10 boys.





### **Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Moanogharians and Moanoghar Held**

The AGM of the Moanogharians was held at Moanoghar on last 7 October 2022. The activity plan for the upcoming year approved in the AGM along with the financial and audit reports. The new activity plan includes: (1) Mobilization of the Moanogharians to support Moanoghar, particularly the HELP; and (2) To celebrate the 50 years Anniversary of Moanoghar, to be held by the end of 2024. Upon expiration of the tenure ongoing executive Committee, a new executive committee was elected for accomplishment of the decided mission with Mr. Shyamal Mitra Chakma (Principal, Ghagra College), as Chairperson.

The AGM of Moanoghar was held on last 10 December. A second session of the AGM for election of the executive committee will be held on 27 January 2023.

*Moanoghar AGM*





*Science Fair and Math Olympiad at Moanoghar School (March 2022)*

*Moanoghar School Students Celebrates the Birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman, Father of the Nation*



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*Orientation Session to the Moanoghar Vocational Trade School (MIT) in January 2022.*

*Education Tour of the Moanoghar School Students (Class 10) in Cox's Bazar*





*Moanoghar School Team (class 8) win 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize at Divisional Level on their design against Road Accidents.*

*Visit of the US Embassy Delegation in Moanoghar (12 September 2022)*



### Miscellaneous News

- *"No more fear, let's win over math and science"* this was the slogan for the Math and Science Olympiad of Moanoghar School, organized in March. The event was held over 2 days and opened by Mr. Aung Sui Prue Chowdhury, honourable Chairman of the Rangamati Hill District Council. The event is supported by Comgest Foundation (Germany) and Fondation Luciole (France).
- A delegation, led by Mr. Joyshanto Barua and Mr. Sushanta Barua, respectively, President and General Secretary Bangladesh Buddhist Youth Association, Chittagong (Nandan Kanon) visited Moanoghar and distributed food, clothes and educational materials to the children of Moanoghar.
- The honourable Deputy Commissioner, Rangamati, Mr. Md. Mizanur Rahman, distributed winter clothes (blankets) to the children of Moanoghar on 10 February 2022.
- A one-day workshop was held by UNMESH, at Moanoghar on the occasion of celebration of their 10th anniversary. They carried out diagnosis of blood groups of the children, organized sessions about raising awareness of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. UNMESH is one of the well-known voluntary associations in the CHTs. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Nikhil Kumar Chakma, honourable Chairman of the CHT Development Board.
- The Moanoghar school students participated in the National Children Award Competition of Rangamati district on 24 May. They won 5 trophies while taking part in 4 categories of competition.
- Ms. Nazma Binte Amin, Upazila Nirbahi Officer distributed sports materials to the students of Moanoghar School on 30 May, on behalf of the honourable Deputy Commission, Md. Mizanur Rahman.
- Tanzhang Chakma, Class 8, won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at National Children Award at Chittagong divisional level.
- The Australian Adivasi Scholars' Association of Bangladesh (AASAB) organized a workshop for the Moanoghar School students on 6 April on the theme "how to achieve success". Raja Devasish Roy, Chakma Circle Chief and President, AASAB led the discussion.
- In June, 12 students of Moanoghar School completed the course "Building Bridges through Leadership Training", carried out by Bangladesh Leadership Center.
- The students in the courses of (1) Dress making and Tailoring; (2) Computer Graphics and Outsourcing and (3) Food and Beverages at Moanoghar Vocational Trade School (MIT) received their course completion certificate and an award on 18 July. The course was funded by the SID-CHT project of UNDP, Bangladesh. Mr. Aung Sui Prue Chowdhury, honourable Chairman, Rangamati Hill District Council and Mr. Supradip Chakma, Project Management, SID-CHT and former Ambassador of Government of Bangladesh, were respectively present as Chief Guest and Special Guest in the ceremony.
- Moanoghar organized a three-day long workshop, titled "digital khichuri (porridge)" on cybercrime and cyber abuse with support from UNDP, Bangladesh. Moanoghar students and participants from other institutions participated in the events. The participants particularly drew attention to the following topics in the cyberspace: (1) Rumours and how to stop it; (2) How to strengthen and disseminate religious and cultural harmony and (3) Enlarging the space in support of mutual tolerance and co-existence in the digital world.
- A workshop on 2-8 July was organized for the teachers of Moanoghar School. The workshop aimed to build the skills of the teachers on Science, Math and Languages, particularly English. Moanoghar School has undertaken the initiative over 5 years to build the capacity of the school teachers, to improve the educational quality of the school, with support from Comgest Foundation (Germany) and Luciole Foundation (France).
- Moanoghar School participated the National Sports Competition, 2022 on 8 September. The school handball team won the first prize at district level. Also, Namro Chakma, a student, won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for 100 meter and 200 meter swimming.
- Moanoghar paid homage to late Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma, first Vice Chancellor of Rangamati Science and Technology University with a special prayer on 18 August. He was a long-time benefactor of Moanoghar.
- The HELP students took special tuitions of the Moanoghar School students in 4-15 July when the school was closed on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.





*Mr. Pratap Chandra Biswas, Honourable (former) DC, Khagrachari with his family at Moanoghar (July 2022)*

*Religious Ceremony in homage to late Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma*





*Visit of team from Ministry of CHT Affairs (14 July 2022)*

*Ven. Mujin Sunim visiting the students teams in the Science Fair of Moanoghar School*



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