



Moanoghar News Bulletin

(October – December '12)

(Founders: Ven. Bimal Bhikkhu, Ven. Prajnananda Mahathero, Ven. Sraddha Lanker Mahathero)

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Admission Test for the 2013 session held

The admission test for classes from I to VI held on 29 December 2012. A large number of applications were received from across the CHT. A total of 296 students were finally allowed to take admission in Moanoghar. Among them 175 were residential and 121 non-residential students. Among 175 residential children, 95 were boys and 80 girls.

The admission test for classes from VII to IX was scheduled on 6 January 2013.

Results of PSC and JSC Exams out

The results of Primary School Certificate (PSC) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) exams had been out. Overall passing rate in these exams for Moanoghar students was satisfactory. A number of them achieved highest GPA.



The 2nd Re-union of the Moanogharians held

The re-union of 'The Moanogharians', alumni association of Moanoghar was concluded with assurance and hopes of strong support from the alumnae. Attended by some 180 former students this reunion was held for two days on 26-27 October. Some of the participants attended the program along with their families. This was the 2nd reunion since the first reunion was held in March 2008 at Won Myung Meditation Center of Moanoghar.

The occasion was a landmark event in many ways for Moanoghar and for the Moanogharians. It was a great moment of inspiration to the current students to find their seniors among them, but much more importantly the occasion provided the opportunity to ponder over and to come up with concrete ideas as to how to strengthen Moanoghar and how and where the Moanogharians can bring.

Since its establishment in 1974, more than 3000 students have completed their studies from Moanoghar. A further number of students have come out from its affiliate sister institutions which include Parbatya (now defunct), Kassalong, Giriphoool and Bonophool. Many of these students received the highest level of education in various educational institutions in Bangladesh. Many of these former students – the Moanogharians – are now well-recognized in society and professionally well-established both at home and abroad. By one count, the Moanogharians now live in as many as 18 different countries!

To keep the unity and mutual contact among the Moanogharians, the Moanoghar Students' Welfare Association (MSWA) was established in the late 1980s. Later MSWA was transformed into 'The Moanogharians' with the vocation of maintaining mutual contacts and building bridge of support between Moanoghar and the Moanogharians.

At the reunion a good number decisions were taken such as: to mobilize all the alumnae to support Moanoghar and its activities; in particular, to support the resumption of the Moanoghar Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) with contributions from the alumnae. Currently more than 40 college and university students are being supported with the contributions from the Moanogharians.

The re-union was followed by an annual general meeting (AGM) of 'The Moanogharians' to approve new plans and programs. The whole reunion was marked with so many events like the football tournament between old and current Moanogharians, and a cultural show, which was the most attractive and memorable.

A short-term vocational course kicked off

A life skill development training course was started in Moanoghar on 13 December with support from Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) and CHTDF-UNDP. Md. Irfan Sharif, Chief Executive Officer of RHDC inaugurated the course. In his inaugural speech, Mr. Sharif appreciates Moanoghar for spreading education and thereby contributing to human development in the CHT. He assures all possible support from RHDC to set up a vocational school in Moanoghar.

Ven. Shraddha Lankar Mohathera, Vice-president, Jhimit Jhimit Chakma, Head Teacher, Ashok Kumar Chakma, Executive Direct of Moanoghar and Dharendra Lal Chakma, Councilor of Rangamati Municipality Council were present on the occasion.

20 women were enrolled in two trades: tailoring and dress-making; and beautification for 3 months. The trainees, who successfully complete the courses, will be provided with necessary tool boxes and equipments.



UN Goodwill Ambassador Ms Midori performs at Moanoghar

Internationally recognised violinist Midori Goto along with her ensemble performed at the Moanoghar Central Dinning Hall on 25 December. They played Verdi, Mozart, List, Ravel and Stravinsky followed by a cultural show by the children of Moanoghar. A huge gathering of distinguished guests, high officials of UNDP, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati and music loving people along with the Moanoghar children enjoyed the music concert.

Since her debut at the age of 11 with the New York Philharmonic over 25 years ago, the violinist Midori has established a record of achievement which sets her apart as a master musician, an innovator, and a champion of the developmental potential of children. She has been named a Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2007.

This year Ms. Goto with her ensemble was visiting Bangladesh to perform in hospitals, orphanages and schools in Dhaka and Chittagong. In Rangamati she chose Moanoghar to perform for children thereof with different ethnic backgrounds in the CHT.

In the beginning, Kirti Nishan Chakma, General Secretary of Moanoghar, briefed Midori and her team about Moanoghar and its activities. He also introduced the distinguished guests who were present at the concert. Among others, Md. Mostafa Kamal, Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati, Dr. Manik Lal Dewan, former Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, Councilors of CHT Regional Council and Col. Nurul Huda, BGB Sector Commander of Rangamati, attended the music concert. Mr. Chad Cannon, Coordinator of International Community Engagement Project (ICEP), who coordinated the whole Bangladesh tour for Midori, was also present at the concert.

In the end of the concert Prasenjit Chakma, Vice-President of Moanoghar accorded a vote of thanks to Midori and her team for selecting Moanoghar to perform. He also expressed hope that the concert thanks to Midori would create an opportunity for furthering exchange of music and cultures between Moanoghar and outside world.

In the evening, a dinner party was jointly hosted by Moanoghar and the Moanogharians at a local restaurant 'Sabarang' in honor of Midori. During the dinner party, two local folk singers (ballad singer) locally called '*Genkhuli*' – one from the Bawm community and other from the Chakma community, were invited to perform for the guests. The two *Genkhulies* entertained the guests with traditional music instruments.



Ven. Mujin Sunim is seen with the children



H.E Dr. Albrecht Conze, Germany Ambassador at the Moanoghar premises

*** Guests Visits**

- Ms Emina Bajra and Nem Bajra of Samasource visited Moanoghar on 7-10 November.
- UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Neal Walker and the CHTDF Project Director Mr. Henrik Fredborg Larsen visited Moanoghar on 14 November.
- A delegation of Thai nationals led by Dr. Paulsilpa Rattana Chudech visited Moanoghar on 24-25 November. They performed religious function and donation ceremony.
- His Excellency Dr. Albrecht Conze, Germany Ambassador and his wife madam Veronique Le Lay visited Moanoghar on 28 November.
- Dr. Robyn Lui, Social Change Strategist and Founder of Braveheart Project, Australia, visited Moanoghar on 29 November–5 December.

Ven. Mujin Sunim visited Moanoghar

Ven. Mujin Sunim from Switzerland visited Moanoghar on 13-18 October 2012. She visited Moanoghar last year too.

Apart from being a Buddhist nun, Ven. Mujin leads Douglas A Campbell Foundation, USA, through which she has been supporting to repair two boys hostels in Moanoghar. If these two hostels get completed, at least 90 boys will get proper accommodation facilities. In addition to the hostels, she supported to construct steps on hill slopes for easy walk of the boys, and rubbish bins to keep the whole Moanoghar campus neat and clean. She also helped to set up IT Centre for Moanoghar.

During her visit to Bangladesh, she stayed at Moanoghar guest house. She participated in different events. She had a meeting with the administrative staff and teachers of Moanoghar Residential High School. At the staff meeting, we had an opportunity to share views and ideas with her about various issues including how to strengthen management systems and future hopes and vision for Moanoghar and its children.

Mujin gave Dhamma talks to the children and staff of Moanoghar and participated in the daily activities of the children such as chanting in the evening.

She also participated in drawing competitions, which aimed at ensuring children's participation in designing the 'desired' school uniforms for the children of Moanoghar. By the way, it was notable that Moanoghar authority was considering re-designing of school uniforms for its students.

On the last day of her visit, a cultural show was organized by the children in honour of Ven. Muiin.

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Annual Sports on 30 - 31 January 2013
- ❖ Inauguration of the New hostel for boys (2nd February 2013)
- ❖ *Denis Wright Memorial Scholarship Award Giving Ceremony* (1st Week of February 2013)
- ❖ *Launching Moanoghar Niroda Bala Memorial Scholarship in February*
- ❖ SSC Exam starts from 3 February
- ❖ Guardians' Meeting in February
- ❖ International Mother Language Day (21 Feb)
- ❖ International Women's Day (8 March)
- ❖ National Child's Day (17 March)
- ❖ *Training on Child Care for Hostel Staff* (March)
- ❖ *Sponsor's Forum Meeting in Feb/March*

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