



SKS & its Sister Concerns Observed International Mother Language Day



The students & teachers of SKS School & College are placing floral wreaths at the Shahid Minar.

SKS Foundation, SKS School & College and other sister concerns of SKS Foundation observed International Mother Language Day 2023 in a befitting manner. On 21 February 2023, followed by a morning procession (*Prabhata-pheri*), staffs of SKS Foundation and its social enterprises paid respect to the language-martyrs placing a wreath at the Central *Shaheed Minar*, Gaibandha. A discussion forum & cultural program was also organized by SKS School & College at its premises followed by the placing of a wreath at its *Shaheed Minar* on the campus. SKS Officials and teachers of SKS School & College took part in the discussion underscoring the significance of the Day. The students performed a cultural program attended by teachers, students and staff of SKS and its different enterprises.

ANDHERI HILFE's President Visited SKS Foundation



Elvira Maria Greiner is attending a discussion session with program participants.

Elvira Maria Greiner, President, ANDHERI HILFE, visited SKS' Program in Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha on 1- 4 February 2023. The visit covered the activities under several projects supported by ANDHERI HILFE and relevant development initiatives of SKS Foundation. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation and other senior officials from SKS Foundation and ANDHERI HILFE accompanied her during the visit. (see page 3)

Managing Director- PKSF Visited SKS' Programs

Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, Managing Director (MD) of *Palli Karma-Sayahak Foundation (PKSF)* visited SKS' development drives in *char* areas and the ethnic Santal people in Gaibandha. From 14-15 March 2023, she visited SKS's MF initiatives in *char* areas at Fulchari and Saghata upazila, and also the *Santal* area in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive and other senior officials of SKS Foundation accompanied Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, during the visit.

The visit included SKS's MF group members' farms & households at Nilkuthir *char*, *char* farmers' crop storage at Fulchari Bazar, Food Bank operation at Gobindi in Saghata union of Saghata upazila, and the ethnic Santal people's participation in SKS Foundation's Socio-cultural development and Microfinance Program at Vutgari village, in Kamdia union, Gobindaganj, Gaibandha. The MD observed the farms & households, joined in the courtyard meetings, spoke to the *Samiti* members, and heard their development stories.



Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, flanked by the Chief Executive & other senior officials of SKS is visiting a farm of a program participant.

The members talked about the improvement of their financial condition by cultivating various seasonal crops and rearing cows, goats, poultry birds, etc., getting soft & easy loans, awareness & capacity building, and marketing support, etc from SKS Foundation. Pleased by seeing the change, Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, said, "You've changed your condition with the support of SKS Foundation, and SKS is supported by PKSF. Thus, we all stand side by side. In the same way, every woman, besides every man, in *char* should become an entrepreneur and besides economic development, child marriage and dowry should be stopped to make the community stable with the economic upliftment."

Sushanta Kumar Mahato, ADC-General, Gaibandha also joined a courtyard meeting with the ethnic Santal people directing them on the availability of their services. (see page 3)

Annual Sports Competition of SKS School & College Held

Amidst great enthusiasm & excitement, SKS School & College's Annual Sports Competition was held on 12 February 2023 at its playground. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chairman of SKS School & College, and Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, graced the Event as Chief Guest. With Md. Abdus Sattar, Principal, SKS School & College in the chair, and Dr. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, Deputy Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, joined as Special Guest while a large number of parents and the crowd attended and cheered in supporting their children.

There were 84 sports events including 100m & 200m Races, Javelin Throw, Sack Race, Long Jump, Marble Spoon Race, and Fancy-Dress Completion, etc and some 268 students participated in the Competition. Also, the teachers, parents, staff, and invited dignitaries took part in their respective sports events.



Rasel Ahmed Liton is addressing the audience and girls' 100-meter race is taking place (Inset).

Appreciating the efforts and enthusiasm and terming the Event a Festival, the Chief Guest said, "It is an annual festival in which the students, teachers, school staff, and parents all gather, share, and enjoy. And their participation makes the day festive." He then handed over the prizes while 144 students won in different sports events.

Flood Early Warning System

(from page 4) To observe this system under SKS's *Scaling-up Flood Forecast-based Action and Learning in Bangladesh (SUFAL-II)* Project in Gaibandha, Manish Kumar Agrawal, Country Director, Concern Worldwide, visited the intervention sites on 15 February 2023.

The visit included a river gauge of which reading is being taken by BWDB, at Saghata point, an inland gauge, holding a meeting with community people at Chinirpotol village at Ghuridah union of Saghata upazila, meeting with the Management Committee of Saghata Technical BM Institute which had been used a flood center, meeting with Saghata Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC). The community group members and Committee members said how the Flood Early Warning System is helping them take measures on harvesting crops early and minimizing the loss of flood.

SC Country Director Visited

(from page 4) Onno Van also joined a view exchange meeting with a caregiver group at Dhakkin Saghata village of Saghata union of Saghata upazila where the parents of the children showed a play session with their children.

Khondaker Zahid Shorwar, Assistant Director of SKS Foundation, and Dr. Golam Mothabbir, Senior Technical Advisor- Health & Nutrition, Save the Children in Bangladesh, and the project staff accompanied the Country Director during his visit.

International Women's Day Observed



Gender, Child Protection & Safeguarding Coordinator of SKS Foundation is speaking in the Discussion Forum.

SKS Foundation observed International Women's Day 2023 with due importance. As part of the observance, SKS organized a Discussion Forum at its Head Office, Gaibandha on 7 March 2023, on the eve of the Day. Alongside, SKS published a Special Supplement in the daily newspaper and made a presentation highlighting the theme of the Day in the seminar organized by the district administration.

With Dr. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, Deputy Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, in the chair, the Discussion Forum was organized with the physical participation of SKS Head Office staff while the Dhaka Office and all other field office staff joined virtually. In line with this year's IWD theme "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality," the speakers upheld the significance of the Day and the importance of digital technology, which is regarded as an essential asset in modern-day to explore the potentiality and ability of a person. The discussants said that like men the participation of women in innovation and technology is much more needed to achieve the sustainable goal following the principle of sustainable development- no one is left behind. SKS has incorporated digital technology in its programs wherein the women, with men staff, are working and proving their abilities and potentialities.

Ishrat Nishat Natya Puraskar

(from page 4) In a greeting speech, Rasel Ahmed Liton said, "A good culture is the prerequisite of all development. So, SKS Foundation, being a development organization, considers its involvement with theater as a part of its development drives."

The Award was given in 8 categories and the awardees are- AKM Yusuf Hassan Orko (Best Music & Set Design); Amlan Biswas (Best Lighting Plan); Sukarna Hassan (Best Actor – Male); Monami Islam Konok (Best Actor – Female); Badruzzaman Alamgir (Best Playwright); Sanjoy Sarker Muktonil (Best Director); and Batighor (Best Production). The awardees were given a crest, certificate, and a monetary honorarium of BDT 25,000 each.

SKS Gold Cup Football Tournament

(from page 4) Hosted by the Bharatkhalia union, the Football Tournament is being held by a total of 16 teams from 15 districts of Bangladesh, including 2 teams from Dhaka. The districts are Gaibandha, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Sirajganj, Rajshahi, Tangail, Bogra, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Narayanganj, Jamalpur, Naogaon and Dhaka.

SRHR Learning Sharing Workshop Held

A Learning Sharing Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) was organized to gather a wider viewpoint from relevant stakeholders under the *Improving SRHR-Service of SKS Hospital and its Satellite Clinics in Bangladesh* project. The project delivered sexual and reproductive health and rights services to the people of Gaibandha's *char*. The Workshop was organized by SKS Foundation on 21 January 2023 at SKS Conference Hall, Gaibandha.

Dr. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, Deputy Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, inaugurated the workshop, and Kamrul Hassan, Director of Consiglieri Private Limited, moderated the Workshop. Wilco Visscher, Education Training Consultant, CINOP, and Saiful Alam, Director, Development Programs, SKS Foundation. SM Shaikat, Executive Director, SERAC-Bangladesh, were also present.



The participants are sharing their learnings on SRHR in the Workshop.

The Workshop upheld that although many men and women suffer from sexual and reproductive health problems, they feel shy discussing the issues due to social and religious reasons and hide the issues. And this causes a major problem. They don't have a proper idea of sexual & reproductive health and difficult SRHR terminology. These all are leading to lagging SRHR in *char* areas. So, special education & awareness in families are needed.

Managing Director, PKSF Visited

(from page 1) Dr. Nomita Halder, ndc, concluded the 2-day visit by observing the services & performances of SKS School & College, SKS Hospital, SKS Eye Hospital, and other social enterprises of SKS Foundation and exchanging views with the SKS officials in a meeting at its Head Office, Gaibandha. She appreciated the endeavors in development and urged SKS Foundation to discharge its commitments in a bid to reach the benefits of its programs & services to the doorsteps of the common people to have a better society.

ANDHERI HILFE's President

(from page 1) The visit covered Folimari village of Moghalhat union and Kalmati village of Khoniagach union of Lalmonirhat Sadar, Kalurpara *char* of Haldia union, and Bashata village of Saghata union of Saghata upazila of Gaibandha. Elvira Maria observed the field-level progress i.e. plinth raising, cattle raising, and income-generating activities, organic farming, solar electrification, and overall livelihood development of the vulnerable people of the river bank.

Alongside, Elvira Maria visited the services under the *Prevention of Avoidable Blindness* program at SKS Eye Hospital at Masterpara, Gaibandha Sadar and SKS Vision Center at College Road, in Bonarpara union of Saghata upazila of Gaibandha. She spoke to the eye patients and the doctors and appreciated the type and quality of services.

SKS Helped 3000 Families to Combat Cold



The UP Chairman of Kamarzani is distributing the winter kits among the recipients.

SKS Foundation, with the support of its development partners, helped 3000 vulnerable families to combat cold this winter by distributing winter kits and cash. With the support of Save the Children, SKS helped 1950 families, of which 1500 families each got winter kits including sweaters, body sheets, blankets & bags, and 450 families each got Tk. 3,000. From 31 January 2023 onward, the relief operations were carried out in Fulchari, and Uria unions of Fulchari upazila and Saghata, Bharatkhalai, and Kamalerpara unions of Saghata upazila of Gaibandha.

Alongside, with the support of Muslim Aid, SKS helped 1050 families, of which 625 extremely vulnerable families got both cash & kit support. Among the supported families, 500 families were in Saidpur Municipality of Nilphamari and 550 families were in Kamarzani union of Gaibandha Sadar.

SKS Foundation observed the National Disaster Preparedness Day organizing different events. As part of that, a Special Supplement was published in the daily newspaper.

ক্র.সং.	সংস্থা	সহায়তা
০১	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০২	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৩	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৪	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৫	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৬	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৭	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৮	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
০৯	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১০	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১১	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১২	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৩	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৪	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৫	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৬	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৭	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৮	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
১৯	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২০	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২১	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২২	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৩	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৪	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৫	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৬	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৭	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৮	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
২৯	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩০	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩১	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩২	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৩	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৪	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৫	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৬	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৭	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৮	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৩৯	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪০	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪১	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪২	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৩	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৪	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৫	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৬	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৭	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৮	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৪৯	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০
৫০	স্ব.স্ব.সে.স.স.	১০০০০০০০

SKS Gold Cup Football Tournament Launched



Mahmud Hasan Ripon, MP, flanked by other dignitaries, is inaugurating the Tournament.

"There is no alternative to sports to get youths in society building. But unfortunately, the youths are now away from sports. This's indirectly leading to many awkward incidents in society. We must get them back into sports and engage them in society building."

Mahmud Hasan Ripon, MP, made this statement while inaugurating the SKS Gold Cup Football Tournament 2023 as the Chief Guest. Md. Abu Bakar Siddique, Chairman, Gaibandha Zila Parishad, graced the inaugural ceremony as an honorable guest, and Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation, was present at the Event as patron-in-chief of the football Tournament with Sushanto Kumar Mahato, ADC (General), Gaibandha, in the chair. The Tournament launched on 24 February 2023 at Bharatkali High School premises in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha. (see page 2)

Flood Early Warning System Benefiting the Local Community

The Flood Early Warning System, which sends a warning voice call message to the phone of the locals, is bettering the locals on flood preparedness. There are 3100 Voice Call Message recipients in 5 unions of Saghata upazila namely Saghata, Goridha, Bharatkali, Holdia, Jumarbari, and Gozaria union of Fulchari upazila across the bank of the Jamuna River. SKS Foundation, Concern Worldwide, Care Bangladesh, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), and the Flood Forecasting & Warning Centre (FFWC) have jointly set up this Flood Early Warning System. (see page 2)



Manish Kumar Agrawal (wearing vest) is listening to a courtyard meeting at the community.

Ishrat Nishat Natya Puraskar Handed Over

SKS-sponsored *Ishrat Nishat Natya Puraskar 2022* was handed over on 19 January 2023. The Award was presented in memory of the late noted thespian Ishrat Nishat, centered on the stage drama of Bangladesh. KM Khalid, MP, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, graced the award-giving ceremony as the Chief Guest. Alongside the famous theatre organizers & activists, Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation attended the event presided by the legendary actress Ferdausi Majumdar. The event took place at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh *Shilpakala Academy*, Dhaka.



Nasiruddin Yousuff Bacchu and Rasel Ahmed Liton are giving the crest to an awardee.

Upholding the role of the Award, the Chief Guest said, "To introduce such an award in the field of stage drama is praiseworthy. This award will play an important role in the promotion of stage drama in Bangladesh." (see page 2)

Save the Children's Country Director Visited SKS' Program



Onno Van Manen is watching a child playing with his mother in a playing session.

Onno Van Manen, Country Director, Save the Children in Bangladesh, visited SKS' programs on 8-9 February 2023 in Gaibandha. The visit covered the programs supported by Save the Children relating to child development with 1675 pre-primary and primary children in Saghata upazila through setting up 45 Catch-up Clubs, 50 Early Year Pre-Primary (EYPP) Centers, and 45 Community Action Groups (CAG). Onno Van Manen observed one of the Catch-up Clubs and EYPP Centers' sessions at Patilbari, an IGA support at Goubari, and he had a view exchange meeting with CAG at Digolkanti village of Haldia union of Saghata upazila. Alongside, he visited Union Health & Family Welfare Center, Haldia, by which SKS Foundation, under its *MAMOTA* Project, is rendering maternal and newborn health in the regions. (see page 2)