



Annual General Meeting Held

SKS Foundation's Annual General Meeting 2022-'23 (AGM) was held on 29 September 2023 at SKS Inn, Gaibandha. The 23 members of SKS Foundation General Committee attended the Meeting with Murshed Alam Sarker, the Chairperson in the chair. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation facilitated the Meeting.



Murshed Alam Sarker, the Chairperson is talking to the members in the AGM.

The AGM reviewed the last 1-year performance of SKS against the Annual Budget and Work-plan 2022-'23. The AGM also discussed and approved the Work-plan & Budget for the year 2023-'24. The Meeting especially emphasized SKS' policy implementation, and research, use of ICT, and innovations in program implementation in line with its Strategic Plan. (See Page 3)

Workshop on Safeguarding Held



The participants of the Workshop are taking part in an exercise.

SKS Foundation in partnership with Concern Worldwide Bangladesh organized a Workshop on Safeguarding at SKS Head Office, Gaibandha on 19 September 2023. The senior-level staff of SKS participated in the day-long Workshop.

Mst. Parvin Akter, Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Anamika Shaha, Treasurer, of SKS Foundation were present and spoke in the Workshop while Manish K. Agrawal, Country Director, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh inaugurated the Workshop. Azahar Ali, Assistant Country Director, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh and Mausumi Sharmin, Safeguarding Focal Person, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh, moderated the Workshop.

The Workshop discussed the idea of safeguarding and upheld that organizations' workplaces must also have a plan in place to ensure all staff is looked after appropriately. Safeguarding brings growth, progress, and success to an organization, where everyone including employers, employees, and clients feels safe and outpours his or her best for the success of the organization.

SKS Observed National Mourning Day



Director- Development Programs and a student (Inset) are speaking in their respective Discussion Forums.

With due respect and solemnity, SKS Foundation observed the National Mourning Day and 48th Martyrdom Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. To mark the Day, SKS undertook various programs, including placing wreaths at his portrait, keeping the national flags half-mast, hoisting black flags at its offices, organizing discussion forums, and offering special prayers. On 15 August 2023, officials & staff of SKS Foundation and its sister concerns paid homage to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his portrait in Gaibandha Pouro Park, Gaibandha. Recalling Bangabandhu, and seeking eternal peace for departed souls, SKS organized a discussion forum and special prayer at its Head Office, Gaibandha. (See Page 3)

Women Oriented on WASH Rights

Women must be trained and ready for a Smart Bangladesh. For that women must be educated about contemporary concepts. They should also be provided with the facilities i.e. Safely Managed Sanitation Services (SMSS) and Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) to be strategically prepared. The dignitaries stated these in the orientation titled *Women's Leadership and Professionalism in Claiming WASH Rights*. They focused that the faster women become accustomed to knowledge and become comfortable with contemporary concepts & services, the sooner their professionalism and leadership are established. Thus, Bangladesh will gain from the health benefits that come with women's involvement, leadership, and professionalism in WASH promotion as change agents. (See Page 3)



Ang Maching Marma, Assistant Commissioner, Barishal is inaugurating the Orientation.

Employable Youths Got Skills Development Training

Employable youths from Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha and Bogura district received a 5-day long Life Skills Development Training organized by SKS Foundation. In 2 batches, the youths including 30 females & 20 males received the Training held from 23-27 July and 30 July to 3 August 2023 at the Conference Hall of SKS School & College, Gaibandha. Under SKS' *'Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE) Project*, the Training provided the youths with knowledge and information on customer dealings, behavior control, and orientation on how to run a business.



Director-MF is addressing the youths in the Training Session.

Inaugurating the Training, Imran Kabir, Director– Microfinance, SKS Foundation said, “This is a complete package in which youth can thrive without being worried about monetary issues to their entrepreneurship. This’s an opportunity that an unemployed can avail here.”

Earlier, the youths, under 25 master craft persons, completed a 6-month training course covering 15 trade-based issues including motorcycle servicing, refrigeration, air conditioning, mobile servicing, welding, tailoring, hosiery, beauty parlor, auto workshop, boutique, etc. The youths were supported by a stipend while the trainers got an honorarium.

CBO & CSO Leaders Trained

(from page 4) Inaugurated by the dignitaries and facilitated by WASH experts, the Training emphasized that sanitation is a right, not a privilege, and sanitation is closely interrelated with water & hygiene. In cities, the WASH situation is deteriorating as the waste & fecal sludge management is poor. Taking that into consideration, the authority needs to take action sooner. A total of 123 Trainees 65 males and 58 females attended the Training at the 4 respective areas while the courses covered the topics i.e. present sanitation situation of the city/town, importance of SMSS & CWIS, the role of CSOs & CBOs in sensitizing the community & the duty bearers in promotion of SMSS & CWIS, etc.

AVAS along with other local FANSA-BD members organized the Training on 4-5 September 2023 at its training center with the presence of 30 participants. SKS Foundation in collaboration with local FANSA-BD members organized the Training on 21-22 August 2023 at SKS Inn, Gaibandha wherein 36 trainees attended. FANSA-BD local member WDP organized the Training on 30-31 August 2023, at SKS Resource Center, Bharatkhal, Gaibandha with the presence of 27 participants. MAC Bangladesh along with other local FANSA-BD members organized the Training on 16-17 September 2023 at the Conference Hall of Sreemangal Municipality with the presence of 30 participants.

Bou-Shashurir Mela Held

(from page 4) Mahmud Hasan Ripon, MP inaugurated the Fair as Chief Guest. Prosenjit Pronoy Misra, DD, Directorate General of Family Planning, and Md. Mosharroof Hossain, Sweet, Chairman of Saghata Union Parishad was the Special Guest with Md. Farooq Hossain, Army, Chairman of Bharatkhal Union Parishad in the chair.

The Chief Guest said, “There is no alternative of mass awareness to stop child marriage and mortality of mother and child. In this regard, the government and development partners are working side by side to make mass awareness, especially among mothers and adolescents. This should be continued having proper awareness.”

DD, Directorate General of Family Planning, said, “Targeting SDG, we expect zero home delivery and 100% institutional delivery. For this, we all have to put extra emphasis on the hard-to-reach areas in sensitization of risk of home delivery.” The Chairman of Saghata UP said, “The 24/7 institutional delivery services are available at nearby Union Health and Family Welfare Centers. We must avail the services to minimize the risk of home delivery.”

Among others, Dr. Shamima Bilkis, Technical Manager, Save the Children in Bangladesh, and Khondakar Zahid Shorwar, DD, Development Programs, SKS Foundation, spoke in the Fair. The Fair was organized under SKS' *Promotion of Maternal and Newborn Health (MAMOTA) Project* with support from Save the Children, KOICA, and the Health Department of the Government of Bangladesh.

Talents Got Stipend

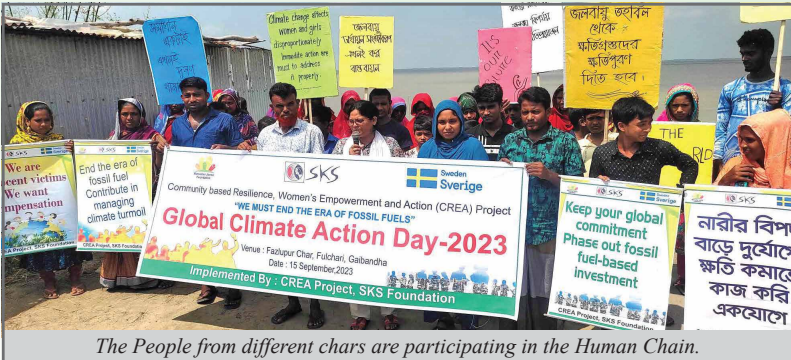
(from page 4) In the ceremony, Rasel Ahmed Liton urged the students to be patriotic and serve the nation with patriotic zeal. He said, “This initiative has been taken to prevent the dropout of any talent from their studies. So that the nation can have a patriotic and dedicated citizen for its development.”

Relating studentship and study, Addus Sattar said, “As education is the backbone of a nation, every student must focus on study. And if you want to serve the country, you have to be responsive to your responsibility.” Among others, Khokon Kumar Kundu, Director– Finance, and Imran Kabir, Director– MF, SKS Foundation were present at the event.

Global Climate Action Day Observed

Through the active participation of the climate victims, SKS Foundation observed the Global Climate Action Day 2023 on 15 September 2023. Centering the theme “We Must End the Era of Fossil Fuel”, SKS Foundation organized a Human Chain at Khatiamari char under Fazlupur union of Fulchari, Gaibandha. The event was organized under SKS’ *Community-Based Resilience Women’s Empowerment and Action (CREA) Project* with the support of *Manusher Jonno Foundation*.

People from different chars participated in the Human Chain holding placards and banners inscribed with the negative impacts of climate change. Led by Moktar Hossain, Panel Chairman of Fazlupur UP, the members of different Climate Action Groups including men, women, youth, adolescents, and representatives of civil societies participated in the Human Chain. Among others, Beauty Aktar, a female member, Belal Hossain, Secretary, Fazlupur Union Climate Action Group, Aminul Haque, President, Upazila Press Club, member of Climate Action Group and Lovely Khatun, Project Coordinator, spoke at the event. They said that they are losing their lives & livelihoods because of climate change. And the incidents are happening more often than previous that is hugely costing them. They demanded the government take necessary measures to save their lives & livelihoods and also demanded greater adaptation support from the rich countries who are the greater contributors to climate change.



The People from different chars are participating in the Human Chain.

SKS Observed National Mourning Day

(from page 1) Chaired by Md. Saiful Alam, Director- Development Programs, the discussion forum upheld Bangabandhu’s personal & political lives and leadership on the country’s independence and nation-building. Among its sister concerns, SKS School & College organized a discussion forum where the teachers & students focused on the lives of the great leader.

Alongside, the *Danik Madhukar* published special coverage, *Radio Sarabela* 98.8 f.m. broadcast special program and different projects brought out varied initiatives i.e. tree plantation and free health check-ups to mark the Day.

Annual General Meeting Held

(from page 1) SKS’ Annual Report 2022-’23 upheld that 34 development projects were in operation during the year covering 2,312,763 people. Among them, 281,378 were served under Social Empowerment, 1,442,394 under Economic Development, 229,091 under Environmental Justice, and 664,921 under Social Enterprising Sector. SKS Microfinance Program covered 51,370 new program participants and it targets to cover around 280,200 program participants more in 2023-’24. Finally, the Meeting approved the budget of Tk. 32,870,000,000 and the Work-plan for the FY 2023-’24.

Trained Youths Provided with Machines & Toolsets



The Mayor, 2nd from left, is handing over swing machine to a youth.

SKS provided machines and toolsets to 50 marginalized youths trained in tailoring and electrical mechanics under its *Urban Resilience for Marginal Inhabitants (URMI) Project*. The machines and toolset distribution ceremony was held on 26 September 2023 at the Conference Hall of Sirajganj Municipality, Sirajganj. Sayed Abdur Rouf, Mukta, Mayor of Sirajganj Municipality handed over the machines and toolsets to the trained youths as the Chief Guest. Among the total trained youth, 40 were trained in tailoring who received sewing machines and 10 were trained in electrical mechanics who received toolsets. Each Toolset contained a measuring tape, screwdriver, hammer, neon tester, cutting and nose plus, grinding machine, drill machine, heavy gloves, safety belt, and helmet.

Women Oriented on WASH Rights

(from page 1) The Orientation of female leaders was held under the “*Rising for Rights for Strengthening Civil Society Network in South Asia to Achieve SDG 6*” project initiated by the FANSA-BD. FANSA-BD members SKS Foundation, AVAS, MAC Bangladesh, and WDP organized the Orientation at the project catchment areas. SKS Foundation, Secretariat of FANSA-BD, organized the Orientation on 29 August 2023 at SKS Head Office, Gaibandha with participation of 30 women from Gaibandha Municipality.

MAC Bangladesh organized the Orientation on 12 September 2023 in Sreemangal Municipality of Moulvibazar attended by 30 women from the Municipality. In Barisal, AVAS organized the Orientation on 24 August 2023 at its training center attended by 30 female leaders from Barisal City Corporation. WDP organized the Orientation in SKS Resource Center, Bharatkhal, Saghata, Gaibandha, on 26 August 2023 attended by 31 female leaders of Saghata upazila.

A total of 121 female leaders across the 4 Orientations oriented on the significance of their leadership in the promotion of SMSS & CWIS targeting to meet SDG 6. The women leaders got acquainted with CWIS & SMSS, and committed to play their roles in the promotion of WASH focusing CWIS in their respective areas. The female leaders included councilors of city corporation, municipalities, NGO representatives, teachers, civil society & community leaders.

Bou-Shashurir Mela Held



The Chief Guest is addressing during the Inaugural Session of the Fair in the presence of a huge gathering (Inset).

With support of SKS Foundation, the Management Committee of Union Health and Family Welfare Center (UHFWC), Bharatkhal, Saghata, Gaibandha, organized a fair titled *Bou-Shashurir Mela* (Daughter & Mother-in-law Fair) on 30 August 2023 at the Center. With around 500 people, 60 pregnant & lactating mothers labeled as daughters-in-law participated with their mothers-in-law in the day-long Fair. The Fair featured a range of programs including fun games, stall exhibitions, showcasing, debates, tree plantation, sapling distribution, etc. (See page 2)

Teachers Orientated on Child Protection



The Upazila Education Officer is addressing the teachers in the Orientation.

To create an enabling learning environment for the pre-primary children, SKS Foundation organized a day-long orientation titled *“Pre-Primary Teachers’ Orientation on Child Protection”* covering the assigned pre-primary teachers on 19 September 2023 at SKS Resource Center, Bharatkhal, Saghata, Gaibandha. Under its *Integrated Child Development Program– Shishuder Jonno (ICDP)*, supported by Save the Children, SKS provided orientation to 60 assigned pre-primary teachers of 60 government primary schools from Saghata upazila. The officials of Upazila Education Office and Save the Children facilitated the Orientation. Md. Abdul Hil Safi, Upazila Education Officer, Abu Taher, Technical Specialist– Field Operation, Save the Children, and Md. Abdul Latif, Upazila Assistant Education Officer facilitated the Orientation. The Orientation focused on child protection and safeguarding, and how to make classrooms child-friendly to enable the children to learn from their teachers and classmates.

Talents Got Stipend

SKS Foundation, in partnership with *Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)*, supported 39 underprivileged talents with a stipend. The Stipend Distribution Ceremony was held on 13 August 2022 at SKS School & College, Gaibandha. Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive, SKS Foundation handed over the stipend cheques among the students as Chief Guest with Abduds Sattar, Principal, SKS School & College in the chair. A bank cheque of Tk. 12,000 was given to each of the selected Higher Secondary level students from Gaibandha. (See Page 2)



Rasel Ahmed Liton is speaking at the ceremony.

CBO & CSO Leaders Trained on SMSS & CWIS

Leaders from CBOs and CSOs of Barisal City Corporation, Gaibandha Municipality & Saghata Union of Gaibandha, and Sreemangal Municipality of Moulvibazar attended a Training on Safely Managed Sanitation Services (SMSS) and City-wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS). To strengthen the capacity of the leaders on SMSS and CWIS, FANSA-BD members AVAS, SKS Foundation, WDP, and MAC Bangladesh organized the Training titled *Training on Strengthening Capacity of CBOs/CSOs for Raising Their Unified Voices on SMSS/CWIS*. The 2-day long training course was held at the respective area under the *“Rising for Rights for Strengthening Civil Society Network in South Asia to Achieve SDG 6”* project. The CBO & CSO leaders of the respective city/town including male & female councilors, officials of city corporation, municipalities, union parishad and the women leaders, sanitation workers, journalists, and development practitioners participated in the Training. (See Page 2)



The Mayor of Gaibandha Municipality is addressing in the Training.