

## 2nd Anniversary of SKS School & College Observed

SKS School & College celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on 1 December 2019 with much joy & enthusiasm. The celebration began with a joyful rally covering Gaibandha town. Following the rally, a discussion session was held at the School premises. The Deputy Secretary of Dinajpur Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board Md. Abdur Razzak inaugurated the celebration as the Chief Guest. With Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chairman of SKS School & College, and Chief Executive, SKS Foundation, in the chair, Md. Altaf Hossain Sub-Inspector of Dinajpur Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board; Jasmin Ara Haque, Assistant Education Officer; and Md. Hossain Ali, District Primary Education Officer were present as Guests of Honor in the day-long program.



*The dignitaries are showing the school magazine Nabodoy in the event*

In his speech, the Chief Guest said, 'there is no alternative to advanced education to create social values for a better nation. Without advanced education no nation can move forward. We need to work towards giving better education to our future generations. I believe, SKS School & College is well-ahead setting this as its goal.' He wished, 'one day this Institution will hold the lead position in Gaibandha and across the country through promotion of 'right and quality' education.' (See page 3)

## Festival of Cooking by Men Held at Fulchari

A Festival of Cooking by Men was held at Fulchari Upazila Parishad premises, Gaibandha on 4 November amid much enthusiasm. SKS Foundation organized the festival under its POWER project, supported by Foreign Affairs Ministry of Netherlands in technical cooperation with ActionAid Bangladesh. Total of 18 food stalls were arranged by the male members of the community in the Festival.

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangshad Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, addressed the function as Chief Guest. Civil Surgeon Dr. ABM Abu Hanif, Upazila Chairman GM Selim Parvez, UNO Abu Raihan Dolon and Project Coordinator Israt Jahan Biju, ActionAid Bangladesh were present as Special Guests with Suruj Ali Sarker coordinator, Field Operation, SKS Foundation in the chair. (See page 3)



*Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangshad Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, addressing the festival as Chief Guest.*

## Nabanno Utshab Celebrated in Gaibandha

**Nabanno Utshab**, a festival of harvesting new Aman paddy, was celebrated in all the 7 upazilas of the district amid much zeal and festivity. On 23 November, a colorful rally was arranged at Gaibandha town by the district administration in cooperation with SKS Foundation and different NGOs. Whip of the Jatiya Sangshad and local lawmaker Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP, addressed as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the rally. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin made a speech welcoming all in the rally and other programs marking the Nabanno Utshab-1426 on behalf of the district administration.



*Whip of the Jatiya Sangshad Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP, led the Rally as the Chief Guest.*

Mahabub Ara Begum Gini, MP, Whip of the Jatiya Sangshad said, 'the Nabanno Utsab is celebrated all over the country by the rural people. The people of towns and cities also gather to join the village people to have the taste of rural atmosphere and know the Bengali culture and heritage. This is a joyous time in the village as the farmers return home with loads of golden paddy and the women make different types of home-made cakes with rice flour.'

(See page 2)

## Tribute to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed



We deeply mourn the immense loss of your physical departure. However, you are immortal in your personality and the innovations you have developed in building the nation. We, as a development organization, will follow the way of your leadership you demonstrated in changing the fate of the of the poor & marginalized.



**SKS Foundation**



## SKS Conducted Cleanliness Campaign

Under its Socio-Cultural Development & Sports program, supported under Enrich program of PKSF, SKS conducted Cleanliness Campaign in Gaibandha. Centering the theme 'Clean Institute, Clean Country', the Cleanliness Campaign was held in 3 schools namely, Newton Preparatory School, Suknagar, Narayanpur, Gaibandha; Chandia Girl's School & College, Fulchhari, Gaibandha; and Naya Bandar High School, Padum City, Saghata, Gaibandha respectively on 12, 13 & 14 November 2019.



The Campaign was conducted in 2 parts. At the beginning, a discussion session was held on the topic of personal cleanliness, cleanliness at family level, and institutional cleanliness.



The school students, teachers and SKS officials attended the discussion session with the respective Principal in the chair. The Principal, respective Teachers and SKS officials spoke on the importance of cleanliness.

In the second step of the program, an awareness rally was organized which covered the main streets around their school with participation of the students & teachers. Following the rally, cleanliness activities were carried out practically while the play grounds and surroundings of the respective school were cleaned with participation of the students and teachers of the school.

## Nabanno Utshab Celebrated

(From page 1) Relatives and near and dear ones come from one village to another to enjoy the happiness of the farmers, the Whip said adding that for centuries, the celebration of this festival of bringing new crops home has been an inseparable part of the tradition and the culture of the eternal *Bangla*.

The rally was followed by a cake festival. A cultural function was also held marking the *Nabanno Utshab*. Finally, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the paddy cutting on the land at Nashratpur village under Boali union of Sadar upazila in the district as the Chief Guest.

A large number of people including district and upazila level officials, sub assistant agriculture officers, and farmers participated in the events.

## SKS Organized the Women Entrepreneur Product Fair 2019

SKS Foundation organized a 2-day Women Entrepreneur Product Fair on 20-21 November 2019 at Sundarganj Upazila Chatter, Sundarganj, Gaibandha under its Making Market Work for Women project. Total of 23 stalls were set in the Fair demonstrating different intervention of the Project.

Md. Soleman Ali, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Sundarganj inaugurated the Fair as the Chief Guest while the Mayor, Sundarganj Pourshava, government officers, media persons, local allies and huge gathering of mass people made the Fair festive. Nine union associations and 9 agro-entrepreneur groups



Md. Soleman Ali, UNO, Sundarganj inaugurating the Fair as the Chief Guest.



participated in the Fair. Alongside, the Student Cabinet of Belka Majidpara Girl's High School, 3 Community Volunteers, one Block & Batik Women Entrepreneur participated in the Fair. The Fair also demonstrated cooking of nutritious food items. A folk song team performed their drama and *lokoj sangeet* on sexual & reproductive health & rights (SRHR), women market promotion, prevention of violence against women, etc in the Fair.

With the demonstration of different interventions, the Fair helped disseminating project information to mass people and stakeholders and increasing awareness on SRHR, nutrition & nutritious food items and marketing issues by the women. The Fair has also created room for establishing linkage with different market actors, government and private organizations relating to promotion of women entrepreneurs.

## SKS Organized Free Eye Camp

SKS Foundation organized an Eye Health Care Camp on 8 November 2019 under its health care and nutrition component of Enrich Program, supported by PKSF. The Camp provided free health care services to the poor needy people of Kamalpara union of Saghata upazila, Gaibandha. Dr.S.M. Barat-ul-Islam, Ophthalmologist and Faco Surgeon and Dr. Afreena Khanam, MBBS, Medical Officer of SKS Hospital provided treatment at the Health Camp. Through this Camp, 277 poor eye patients received free treatment facilities while some other patients were also identified for free Cataract & Eyeball treatment.



A patient is taking eye treatment in the Camp



## SKS Celebrated International Day for Rural Women

Centering the theme “Rural Women and Girls Building Climate Resilience”, SKS Foundation celebrated the International Day of Rural Women on 15 October 2019. The Day was observed in Sadar, Gobindaganj and Shaghata upazila of Gaibandha under the program support of Manusher Jonno Foundation.



In the Sadar upazila, a rally led by the UNO Uttam Kumar Roy was brought out in the district town. Later, a discussion meeting on the significance of the Day was held at the hall room of Upazila Parishad. The UNO addressed the function as the Chief Guest and Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr. Abu Mohammad Al-Mamun, Upazila Youth Development Officer Nazmul Hasan and Chairman of Boali union parishad A.M Mazed Uddin Khan were present in the event as the Special Guests. A large number of people including members of the groups, NGO activists and media men participated in the programs.

The UNO said, ‘rural women and girls are playing a significant role in agriculture, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management and unpaid and domestic care work. In fact, globally, one in three employed women works in agriculture and women collect biomass fuels, and manually process foodstuffs, 80% of households rely on women and girls.’ He underscored the need for evaluating the works and the contributions of rural women and girls in local and national levels.

The members of the women groups presented their 10-point demands like taking the voices of the rural women to national level, taking necessary measures to remove violence on the women, upholding the women contribution to national level through publicity, increasing land fertility using organic fertilizers and keeping navigability of the river through dredging for its quick implementation.

## 2nd Anniversary of SKS School

(From page 1) Rasel Ahmed Liton said, ‘the key to success of the SKS School & College is, we are not compromising on the quality of education. With the joint effort of our teachers and guardians, we want to develop our children as worthy people in the country and in the world.’ The 2nd edition of the school magazine *Nabodoy* was unveiled by the Chief Guest and copies were distributed among the guests and guardians. Crest were given to the brilliant students, who got GPA-5 in Class-V & VIII. The celebration ended with a pleasant cultural program performed by the students of SKS School & College.

## Youth-friendly Business Information Center Opened at Palashbari

Md. Masbaul Hossain, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Palashbari, Gaibandha opened the joint VSO and SKS sponsored Business Information Centre at Palashbari on 11 December 2019. Mizanur Rahman Milon, President of the local Citizen’s Committee, and Colin Cooper, VSO Bangladesh Business Development Advisor were present as the Guests of Honor. The Presidents of the surrounding 18 Youth Clubs to be benefited from the opening of this Center were present in the opening ceremony.



UNO, Palashbari, is opening the Center

In his speech, Md. Masbaul Hossain said, ‘this’s very time-fitting development initiative. The Center will create room for the local youths to get useful information for their business.’ He welcomed the Business Centre initiative and offered his full support towards its success.

Colin Cooper said, ‘this new Business Information Centre is an essential component of VSO and SKS’s Youth, Entrepreneurship and Employability Project that offers skills training and entrepreneurial business support to Gaibandha youth club members. The Centre combines commercial development with the opportunity for computer skills training leading to sustainable employment and income stream.’

Md. Jahangir Alam, the Centre’s proprietor and graduate of SKS’s Youth Employment Project, supported by VSO showed the range of facilities available to youth club members and the general public. These include 2 computer work stations with full program availability plus internet access; a color printer and a mobile phone repairing service. Jahangir also told about his business plan offering a broad range of mobile phone and computer services that will meet his community’s needs.

## Festival of Cooking by Men Held

(From page 1) Deputy Speaker Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, in his speech, said, ‘there is a significant role of women to take the nations ahead in the developed world; so an emphasis should be put on value of labor of the women to advance the country. The present government has adopted and implemented many welfare projects for the women aimed at empowering them and changing their socio-economic condition.’

The Special Guests emphasized that a woman is to do household works for seven hours more than a male in the family in a day side by side with giving birth to child and taking care of them. But they are not evaluated as their works are unpaid. The rights of the women should be established anyhow, their domestic works should be evaluated and recognized through empowering them in the family and society.



## Radio Sarabela Won the 15<sup>th</sup> Meena Media Award-2019

The Community Radio Sarabela 98.8 fm, a sister concern of SKS Foundation, was awarded the **15<sup>th</sup> Meena Media Award-2019** for its outstanding contribution to innovation in media and protection of child rights. Sarabela Children Volunteer, Sejuty Hasan Adity received the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her report on *Insufficient Contents for Child in the Electronic Media* while Zarin Tasnim Bipa received the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her report titled *Children Go to Madrasha Just to Meet Their Parent's Will* in under 18 radio report category in Chotoder Sangbad of Radio Sarabela.

UNICEF Bangladesh organized this award giving ceremony on 27 October 2019 covering all the mainstream media in Bangladesh. Tommo Hozumi, Representative of UNICEF Bangladesh; Actress Arifa Zaman Moushumi, UNICEF Bangladesh Goodwill Ambassador; Magician Jewel Aich, cricket star Shakib Al-Hassan



Sejuty Hasan Adity (2nd from left) is receiving award from Tommo Hozumi, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh.

and renowned novelist Selina Hossain handed over the crest, certificate and award money to the winners in the ceremony.



Zarin Tasnim Bipa (1st from left) is receiving award from Tommo Hozumi, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh.

## SKS Celebrated International Female Oppression Prevention Fortnight

SKS Foundation celebrated the International Female Oppression Prevention Fortnight-2019 from November 25 to 9 December 2019 with a call to stop sexual violence across the country. To mark the Fortnight, SKS chalked out and organized assembly, brought out rally, distributed posters, hanged banners, and staged drama against the sexual violence including female and child rape under its development projects including POWER, REECALL, ASSR for EMDG, SAMOTA and YEP ones. A large number of women and female leaders coming from far flung areas of the district took part in the programs.



DC Abdul Matin addressing the Discussion Meeting as the Chief Guest

As part of this celebration, a Discussion Meeting was held on 28 November 2019 at Central Shahid Minar, Gaibandha. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin addressed the function as the Chief Guest with Suruj Ali Sarker, Coordinator, Field Operation, SKS Foundation in the chair.

The Deputy Commissioner said, 'the women-folk and the children of the country would have to be saved from any sorts of violence including sexual one and ensured their safe environment in all spheres of the society.' He emphasized the need for building social movement severely against the sexual violence and rape through active participation of all the stakeholders to build a peaceful country.

The Meeting was also addressed by cultural personality Jahurul Qaiyum, Advocacy Coordinator of SKS Foundation Ashraful Alam, human rights activist Anjali Rani Devi, leader of Nari Federation, Bithi Akter, and woman leader Yaran Begum. They pin pointed that sexual harassment and violence including rape incidents are taking place in the country repeatedly in recent years making the women-folk more worried and panic. They demanded to ensure exemplary punishment for all the violators so that they could not dare to do such types of crimes any further. The speakers also said, without the participation of the women-folk, the country cannot reach its desired goals and it is quite impossible to build a happy and prosperous nation.