

SKS Foundation Elected its New Executive Committee



The Chairperson is addressing the members in the Meeting.

SKS Foundation elected its new Executive Committee for the 2026-2029 term. The election was conducted at a Special General Meeting held on 14 March 2026. A total of 23 members from the General Council attended the Meeting at SKS Inn, Gaibandha.

As part of the election process, Murshed Alam Sarker, Chairperson of SKS Foundation, formally dissolved the existing Executive Committee and requested the Election Commission to proceed with the election process.

With the facilitation of the Election Commission, the members unanimously proposed a 7-member panel of the Executive Committee and formally approved the new Executive Committee. The newly elected 7-member Executive Committee is: Murshed Alam Sarker- Chairperson, Md. Ayub Ali, Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Anamika Shaha- Treasurer, Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, Sanjida Akter and Md. Khairul Kabir- Executive Member, and Rasel Ahmed Liton- Member Secretary (Ex officio). (See Page 3)

Storm-Affected Communities Got Emergency Support

SKS Foundation, in partnership with Start Fund Bangladesh, supported 300 storm-affected families in Rajahar union of Gobindaganj upazila, Gaibandha, targeting households that did not receive government support. Mohammad Shamim Kaiser Lincoln, MP, launched the support at a distribution ceremony as Chief Guest, held at the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) conference room on 27 March 2026.

The support was given under the “Rapid Response for Storm-Affected Communities” project, in which each selected family received Tk. 6,000. An additional Tk. 20,000 was provided to 40 severely affected households for house repairs, disbursed through mobile financial services. In addition to cash support, the project includes technical guidance for housing reconstruction and mental health support to the families to address disaster-related stress and ensure overall well-being. The support covers affected families in Kukrail and Dublagari villages under wards 3 and 6 of the Union.

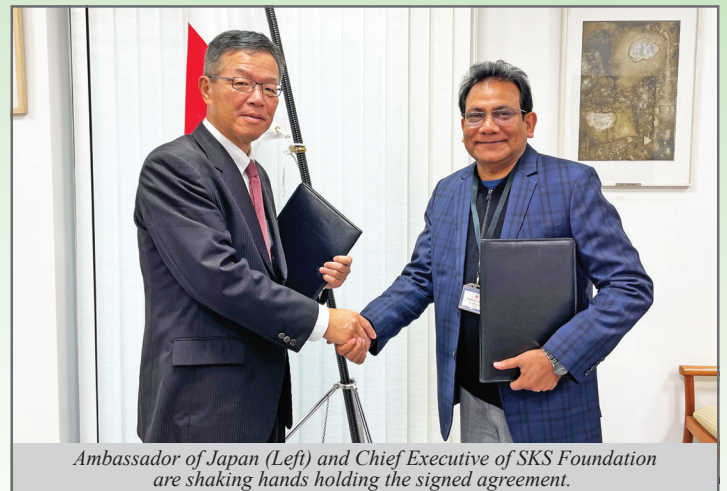


One of the MPCG recipients is receiving the grant from the Chief Guest.

SKS Foundation Received a Japanese Government Grant

SKS Foundation received a new grant under its ongoing cooperation with the Government of Japan. The support was provided through the *Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGHSP)* to help ensure safe and easy access to education for children in remote areas of Gaibandha.

H.E. Mr. SAIDA Shinichi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Rasel Ahmed Liton, Chief Executive of SKS Foundation, signed the grant agreement on behalf of their respective organizations on 6 January 2026 at the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka. (See Page 3)



Ambassador of Japan (Left) and Chief Executive of SKS Foundation are shaking hands holding the signed agreement.

Speaking at the event, Mohammad Shamim Kaiser Lincoln said, “The damage caused by the storm accompanying the hailstorm in Rajahar union on 15 March 2026 was significant and required coordinated efforts to recover.” Syeda Yasmin Sultana, UNO, chaired the event. Jindar Ali, PIO, Rafiqul Islam, Chairman, Rajahar Union Parishad, and officials of SKS Foundation, were present at the event.

International Women's Day Observed



International Women's Day rally with participation of community people.

SKS Foundation observed *International Women's Day 2026* on 8 March 2026 through a series of programs like rallies, discussions, and youth gatherings across its

working areas. Local administration officials, community allies and program participants attended these events and collectively advocated for women's rights and gender equality. Aligned with this year's theme, *"Today's steps, tomorrow's justice; let the rights of women and girls be protected,"* SKS Foundation also participated in government-led programs while also carrying out its own grassroots activities in observance of the day.

In Lalmonirhat, SKS' *Expanding Livelihood and Increasing Resilience (ELIR)* project conducted a discussion session in 4 flood-prone unions of Sadar upazila. Meanwhile, the *WASH System for Health (WS4H)* project organized a separate discussion session at Lalmonirhat Municipality. In Gaibandha, the *Community-based Resilience, Women's Empowerment and Action (CREA)* project, in collaboration with the Fulchari Upazila Women Affairs Office, organized a rally and discussion in the Upazila Parishad. The *Pathways to Prosperity for the Extremely Poor People funded by the European Union (PPEPP-EU)* project, organized rallies and discussion sessions in Padumshahar, Ghuridah, and Kachua unions of Saghata upazila. The *Promotion of Maternal and Newborn Healthcare and Family Planning (MAMOTA, Phase II)* project hosted youth gatherings at Union Health & Family Welfare Centers in Haldia (Saghata Upazila), Kamarjani (Gaibandha Sadar Upazila), and Erendabari (Fulchari Upazila). In the youth gathering, the youths discussed their potential role in promoting gender equality and raising awareness within their communities.

The events highlighted women's struggles, achievements, future aspirations, and their contributions to promote gender equality and encourage community engagement in addressing persistent social and economic barriers faced by women.

SKS Hosted a Field Day

(From Page 4) Emran Kabir, Director- MF, SKS Foundation, chaired the event. "SKS Foundation is working to make agriculture more profitable, particularly for marginal farmers with small landholdings who often struggle to secure adequate returns," he said. "Through crop diversification and the promotion of high-value crops, SKS Foundation supports and the support includes access to credit, technical guidance, and linking farmers with government agriculture services."

As a showcase of diversification and high-value crops, a gladiolus flower cultivation plot was demonstrated to the attendees of the program. The plot developed with project support and farmers' initiative, includes about 3,000 saplings in only 5-decimal land, and is expected to generate an income of around Tk. 60,000.

A Workshop on Inclusive Sanitation Held

Lalmonirhat Municipality organized a workshop on promoting the participation of educational institutions and youth clubs in implementing inclusive sanitation on 27 January 2026 at the Lalmonirhat Municipality conference hall in collaboration with the *"Wash Systems for Health"* project implemented by SKS Foundation, with technical support from WaterAid Bangladesh. Md. Rajib Ahsan, Administrator of Lalmonirhat Municipality, inaugurated the day-long workshop.

Headmasters and 2 other teachers from each of 5 secondary schools in the municipal area, and 2 executive members from each of 4 youth clubs, along with municipal officials, attended the workshop. The participants identified key challenges in line with education and youth instructional roles in implementing inclusive sanitation in Lalmonirhat Municipality. They highlighted a shortage of adequate sanitation facilities, while existing facilities were often unsuitable for women and people with disabilities, falling short of inclusive standards. To address these



Participants are engaged in the Workshop.

challenges, the participants chalked out an action plan outlining the roles of schools, youth groups and the municipality.

Dialogue on Stakeholders' Role in MHM

(From Page 4) The panelists noted that although menstrual hygiene management mainly concerns women, active participation from men is also essential. They noted that society still feels uncomfortable accepting menstruation as a natural process, which is why families often do not allocate any budget for it. They also mentioned that menstruation is now being observed among girls at the primary school level. Therefore, menstrual hygiene management should be given importance, and pads should be distributed to schoolgirls in the same way that textbooks are provided to students. They emphasized that menstruation should not be treated as a matter of shame but should be accepted socially as a normal physiological process.

Forty participants including representatives from the district administration, health and education departments, municipality, Department of Public Health Engineering, various development organizations, teachers, students, women, youth, and Union Parishads, attended the Dialogue.

SKS School & College Awarded in the National Wall Magazine Contest



The team leader is receiving a crest & certificate from the Secretary of the Secondary & Higher Education Division.

SKS School & College won second place in the Group-B category of the National Wall Magazine Competition held in National Education Week 2026. A 6-member student team from SKS School & College earned the recognition for their wall magazine titled “Under One Sky.” Under this title, students highlighted the culture and lifestyles of Bangladesh’s ethnic communities while also portraying the struggles of street children.

Professor Dr. Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar, Education Adviser, presented the award as the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of National Education Week 2026 on 20 January, at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

SKS Foundation’s Special

(From Page 1) A 3-member Election Commission conducted the election process. Md. Sazzad Hossoin, Executive Director and Member Secretary, CDF, acted as Chief Election Commissioner. The 2 Election Commissioners were Abu Mohammad Sufian, an Ex-Officer of the Social Welfare Department, and Md. Abdus Sattar, Principal, SKS School & College. As no other panel contested the election, the Election Commission, following due process, officially declared the members’ decision and handed over responsibilities to the newly formed Executive Committee. Md. Nasir Uddin, Social Service Officer-1 (Registration & Control), Department of Social Welfare, was present as the observer.

SKS Foundation Received

(From Page 1) Under the agreement, SKS Foundation received a grant of \$51,981 to implement the *Project for the Procurement of School Buses in SKS School & College in Gaibandha District*. The funding will add 2 new school buses to SKS School & College’s transportation fleet of 6 existing buses, providing safe and reliable travel, particularly for primary-level students from underprivileged areas. The initiative is expected to improve access to education and support regular attendance.

SKS Trained 100 Apprentices in Life Skills

SKS Foundation trained 100 apprentices in life skills. The apprentices are currently undergoing a 6-month hands-on technical training in various trades. The 5-day training session was conducted under the *Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE)* Project, supported by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

A total of 100 (61 male & 39 female) took part in the training. This Life Skills training was designed to complement participants’ technical skills and prepare them for their employment. The training focused on key personal and business competencies, including communication, negotiation, conflict management, leadership, and positive thinking. The sessions were held in 4 batches on 1-12 March 2026 at SKS Resource Centre in Bharatkhal, Saghata, Gaibandha.



A role play in the Training session.

Consultation on Heat Wave Anticipatory Action Held



The community people are engaged in the Consultation.

SKS Foundation, with support from Start Fund Bangladesh, organized a consultation titled *Heat Wave Anticipatory Action Community Consultation* on 14 March 2026, in Shabrul and Olahali villages

under Malancha union of Shahjahanpur, Bogura. Villagers from diverse occupations and social groups took part in the consultation. The community members exchanged experiences of extreme heat, pointed out warning signs and key support they need in the consultation.

They said heat waves have grown more intense and longer-lasting in recent years, affecting daily life & income. Day laborers, farm workers, children, and elderly people were identified as the most at risk. They stressed that heat waves should be recognized as a major hazard, similar to floods & cyclones. They also emphasized the need for clear & simple early warning messages so communities can respond quickly.

Dialogue on Stakeholders' Role in MHM Promotion Held



The participants are sharing opinion in the Dialogue.

FANSA Bangladesh through its secretariat- SKS Foundation organized a dialogue titled “Dialogue on Stakeholders’ Role in MHM Promotion” on 11 March 2026 at SKS Inn, Gaibandha.

In the Dialogue, the participants highlighted that menstruation is a natural process directly linked to the existence of humankind. Without menstruation, human birth would not be possible. Equally, menstrual hygiene is closely connected to the WASH system; without adequate access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities, maintaining menstrual hygiene becomes extremely challenging. Yet the issues continue to be neglected.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Dr. Md. Nazmul Huda, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer of Gaibandha Sadar Upazila (UH&FPO), said, “Although menstruation is an essential natural process for the existence of humankind, social taboos still prevent open discussion about it. Therefore, raising awareness on this issue is very important.”

Special guest Md. Ataur Rahman, District Education Officer (DEO), said, “Health education and awareness activities have been strengthened in schools. However, providing materials alone cannot change people’s habits without proper awareness.”

Presenting the keynote paper, Pulak Kumar Charoborty, Senior Health Education Officer of Gaibandha Civil Surgeon’s Office, stated that in Bangladesh, only 1 out of every 9 women has access to sanitary pads or napkins, while nearly 90% of women in rural areas use pieces of old cloth. At the same time, many adolescent girls do not have adequate knowledge about menstruation before experiencing their first period. During floods or other disasters, the situation becomes even more complicated, and women with physical or mental disabilities face greater challenges in managing menstruation.

The panel discussion featured Dr. Harun Or Rashid, Medical Officer, Gaibandha Civil Surgeon Office; K.M. Rezaul Haque, Editor of the *Dainik Madhukar* and President of the Gaibandha Press Club; Dr. Anamika Shaha, Vice Principal of SKS School & College; and Nasrin Sultana Rekha, Writer and Former Professor. (See Page 2)

SKS Inn Won ‘Leading Hotel in North Bengal’ Award

SKS Inn won the ‘Leading Hotel in North Bengal’ Award at the Bangladesh Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Awards 2025. The award was presented at a ceremony held on 29 January 2026, at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka, organized by The Bangladesh Monitor. Samuel Hilary, General Manager, SKS Inn, received the crest & certificate from Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser, Information & Broadcasting, who was the Chief Guest of the event.



SKS Inn’s General Manager (extreme right) is receiving the Award from the Chief Guest.

SKS Hosted a Field Day

SKS Foundation hosted a Field Day on 18 February 2026 in the village of Krishnopur of Bhatgram union of Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha under its *Small and Marginal Sized Farmers Agricultural Productivity Improvement and Diversification Financing (SMAP)* Project. Local farmers, agro-product buyers, and government agricultural officials attended the program, which featured a briefing on agriculture and a visit to a high-value crop plot.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Apurba Bhattacharjee, Upazila Agriculture Officer, highlighted the link between agricultural sustainability & profitability. “Sustaining agriculture depends on its profitability, and profitability depends on adopting crop diversification and high-value crops,” he said. “Flower cultivation can be an important part of diversification and a high-value option, offering strong income potential for farmers.” (See Page 2)



The Chief Guest of the event is addressing the audience.

