



NEWSLETTER

● Newsletter ● July–August Issue 2023 ●

Message from the Moderator ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to correspond with you once again and provide you with an update on the Church of Bangladesh. Your unwavering support and prayers continue to be a source of great strength for our ministry. Over the past two months, during July and

August, our focus has primarily been on implementing the ten ministries outlined in the Church of Bangladesh's approved Strategy Plan for 2021-2030. To facilitate this process, we convened a Synod Executive meeting via Zoom, where we decided to initiate meetings of the Synodical committees associated with the strategy plan. The primary objective was to identify the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, aligning our efforts with the overarching goals of the COB strategy.

I am pleased to report that we successfully conducted these committee meetings, which led us to organize a summer class and consultative gathering for all our Bishops and clergy in Savar (RPG) from September 3rd to 9th. The Clergy Summer Camp and Consultative Meeting of the Church of Bangladesh commenced with a warm welcome by three Bishops, setting a gracious tone for the event. The Moderator then delivered an address on the chosen theme that revolved around the Church of Bangladesh's Strategy Plan for 2021-2030. In this insightful talk, the Moderator emphasized the importance of aligning the event's discussions and actions with the strategic goals outlined in the plan. These ministries are pivotal for the church's growth and mission. These ministries primarily fall under the purview of Bishops and Priests, with the crucial support of relevant committee conveners/directors and committee members. The Moderator emphasized that collective ownership and active involvement of

all participants are essential to ensure the success and fulfillment of these ministries. The daily morning devotions and a remarkable retreat led by the Taize brothers. The spiritual enrichment and guidance received during this time were truly invaluable. Bishop S. Pholia addressed the vital issue of inclusivity by discussing the role of persons with disabilities and COB's responsibilities to them. He also discussed matters such as marriage, divorce, and second marriages within the church. Furthermore, Bishop S. Pholia, alongside Mr. Paul S. Malakar, focused on the issue of human trafficking and the church's commitment to combat it. Bishop Hemen Halder encouraged perseverance in the journey of discipleship within the church. Revd. John P. Hira conducted enlightening workshops on strengthening leadership in theological education, covering various leadership perspectives, Level Five Leadership, and 7 Habits for Effective Leadership. Revd. Suchitra Behera addressed the importance of the Women's Ministry within the Church of Bangladesh. The skill development opportunity was present also. Mr. Francis Bala led the hymn-learning session. Rev. Martin Hira Mondol taught how to conduct the liturgy professionally. Mr. Suvojit Mondal spoke about ICT. The event also featured a Holy Communion Service, with the Word of God delivered by Rev. Mridula Baidya. The Clergy Summer Camp provided a platform for fruitful discussions, enhancing understanding and cooperation among all the Clergies. This event proved instrumental in clarifying our roles and responsibilities as the primary stakeholders in this endeavor. Moreover, it enriched us with a deeper understanding of our mission. We are thrilled to share some visual highlights of our ongoing ministries within the Church of Bangladesh in this special bulletin. We hope that these images and updates provide you with a deeper insight into our work. Your continued prayers and support are crucial to our mission, and we are immensely grateful for your unwavering presence by our side.

Thank you for standing with us in our journey of faith and service.



Dear all in Christ,

We hope this letter will find you all in good health and sound mind. This year the Barishal Diocese is concentrating on the Theme- “Jesus Shaped Life.” In these ever-changing times, it’s essential to reflect on how we can live a Jesus shaped life that aligns with the needs of our current world. The wisdom of the Bible provides us with guidance and inspiration for this journey.

Jesus’ command to “Love one another as I have loved you” (*John 13:34-35*) remains at the heart of our faith. In a world filled with division and strife, our love for one another is a powerful testimony to Christ’s transformative power.

Just as salt enhances flavor and light dispels darkness, we are called to be a positive influence in the world. (*Mt. 5:13-16*). Let our actions and words bring hope, healing, and reconciliation to a broken world.

The prophet Micah reminds us to “Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” (*Micah 6:8*). In a world marked by injustice, let us stand up for the marginalized and extend mercy as Christ did.

In times of uncertainty, prayer is our lifeline to God. Let us cultivate a habit of constant communion with God, seeking guidance and strength to navigate the challenges of our world. In *1 Thessalonians*, St. Paul asked us to pray without ceasing.

In a self centered world, the humility of Christ is a powerful witness. Let us put the needs of others before our own, following the example of our Savior. In *Philippians* we are asked to serve others humbly. (*Phill. 2:3-4*).

Living Jesus shaped life in today’s world may be challenging, but it is precisely what the world needs. May our lives be a shining example of Christ’s love and grace.

In God’s service –

Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia.

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Dear all in Christ,

On behalf of Kushtia Diocese, I would like to express my profound gratitude and deepest thanks for your prayers and kind support.

This year climate and weather changes have had a devastating impact. I was thinking, how helpless we are today, helpless towards people, helpless towards nature. Because people are destroying this nature and nature is changing and finally harming people. Therefore, it can be said that man is bringing his own death.

July August is the monsoon season, but only 40% of the rainfall is observed. Throughout the monsoon season without rainwater farmers depended on irrigation only. Jute farmers are in great danger. They harvested a lot but could not extract ash from jute due to lack of water. This effect of nature has affected the livelihood of people. Especially this year the price of foodstuff has increased so much in the market that the life of the common man has become miserable.

It is a good thing that the Bangladesh Government as well as NGOs have been very active in this regard and are conducting awareness campaigns among the common people. One thing we have learned from this change in nature is that nothing else is responsible for it, but we are. We have also learned that if we do not take care of nature, consequently we will perish one day.

The past two months have been very busy months for the Kushtia Diocese. A good thing is that we have a tree planting campaign in every parish. Everyone is planting trees as much as possible. There are some plans going on with the youth. A deanery based football tournament was held in Bollovepur Parish on 25th August. Besides the youth, hundreds of people turned up to enjoy the game. The aim was to keep the youth free from drugs and focus more on sports and study.

Evangelization efforts continued in the Rajshahi Deanery. But the truth is, there are fewer people working than we need. Therefore we also pray as Jesus did, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (*Matthew 9:37-38*).

May God bless us all that we may take care of our nature and please Him by following His directions. Amen.

Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder



Foundation work of new church building at Idilpur



On August 24th, a momentous event unfolded as the St. Thoma's Church, part of the Madhupur Deanery, gathered to lay the foundation stone for their forthcoming church building within the Idilpur Parish. The occasion was graced by the presence of The Most Reverend Samuel S. Mankhin, the Honorable Moderator, along with the Dean of Madhupur Deanery, Rev. James Duke Baroi, the Parish Priest, and esteemed local church leaders, including Reverend Jonarson Dio and other clergy.

The members of Idilpur Parish had long awaited the construction of a new church building, recognizing it as a necessary step to replace the aging and deteriorating worship place at the same location. This momentous occasion marked the realization of a cherished dream held by the faithful Christians of Idilpur Parish, as construction officially commenced for their new church at this sacred site.

KUSHTIA DIOCESE

Plantation Campaign



On July 11, 2023, Right Reverend Hemen Halder, the Bishop of Kushtia Diocese, embarked on a visit to all the parishes within the Bollovepur Deanery to inaugurate a tree-planting campaign. During this event, Bishop Halder personally planted litchi and mahogany saplings while leading prayers. The Dean of Bollovepur Deanery, Parish Secretary, Parish Committee members, and Bishop's wife, Mrs. Jessica Suparna Halder, graced the occasion with their presence.

During the ceremony, Bishop Halder reminded us of the message from John 3:16, emphasizing that God's love for the world entrusts humanity with the responsibility of serving and safeguarding it. In this spirit, we should actively contribute to the preservation of our environment and God's creation. Through tree planting, we not only help protect the environment but also work towards making the church self-sustainable.

Youth Football Tournament



A youth football tournament was held at Bollovepur Deanery on Friday, August 25, 2023. Youth teams

from all the parishes within the Bollovepur Deanery enthusiastically participated in this tournament. The primary objective of this football tournament was to foster peace, joy, motivation, and encouragement among the youth while promoting a drug-free society. The opening ceremony of the tournament was presided over by the Right Reverend Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese. Mr. Animesh Biswas, the Mujibnagar Upazila Executive Officer, graced the event as the chief guest. Dignitaries from the community and society were also in attendance.

The Nityanandpur Parish emerged as champions, with the Ratanpur Parish team securing the runner-up position. Youth teams from six parishes participated in the championship. The football tournament attracted a multitude of spectators from neighboring parishes and beyond, representing diverse age groups and nationalities, all coming together to enjoy the exciting matches and cheer on the youth.

Teachers Training in Kushtia Diocese



On August 5, 2023, a teacher training program was held as part of a special initiative led by Right Reverend Hemen Halder in Kushtia Diocese. This training aimed to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills required to implement the new curriculum, emphasizing both academic excellence and character development. Teachers from various schools within Kushtia Diocese actively participated in the training.

The training sessions were conducted by specially trained trainers from the Education Board. Notable trainers included Maruf Hasan (English teacher, Kushtia Zilla School), Md. Rezaul Karim (Mathematics Teacher, Kushtia Government Girls School), and Ms. Rezwana (History and Social Science Teacher, Kushtia Government Girls School).

The training sessions were highly successful, benefiting all participating teachers and ensuring the effective implementation of the new curriculum.

Golden Citizen (Person with disability) Ministry Activities



A seminar was organized for the “Golden Citizen” individuals at St. Mary’s Church in Jobarpar on August 4th. The theme of the seminar was “God Will Lead and Guide” (Isiah 42:16). The honorable Bishop of Barishal Diocese Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia was the chief guest and spoke on the theme. The program began with morning devotion, followed by a brief welcome speech by Mr. Francis Mistiri and Mr. Daniel Folia. They expressed gratitude to the diocese for arranging this program for Persons with Disabilities (PWD). In the main part of the event, Golden Citizen participants engaged in cultural programs and indoor games. They also joyfully participated in action songs led by Sister Agnes, Rev. Santi Mondol and Rev. Albert Halder. Mr. Jim Clinton Mollah, a therapist from

CRP, Mirpur, Dhaka, conducted a session. He provided consultation and demonstrated therapeutic techniques to the caregivers of PWD participants individually. This session was very helpful for the caregivers of PWDs. We are thankful to Mr. Mollah on behalf of Barishal Diocese. Rev. Santi Mondol, the chair of the seminar, concluded the program with a vote of thanks. A total of 40 participants attended the program. On the 12th August, the “Golden Citizen Ministry” of Barishal Diocese organized a Bible study at St. Joseph Church, Kashipur. Mr. Prantosh Boidya, a “Golden Citizen” and a volunteer of the ministry led the Bible study. A short video related to the study topic was shown

on a projector screen. This activity foster a connection between PWDs and the church, and offers them religious knowledge in areas they were not previously involved in. In addition to this Bible study, the “Golden Citizen Ministry” is conducting a family visit program for PWDs. Mr. Luke K. B. Sarker, Coordinator of the ministry and Mr. Prantosh Boidya visited a person with disability Mr. Francis Karmokar’s family on August 17th. They attended an evening devotional prayer meeting with his family and gained insight into their current situation and challenges.

Awareness on Human Trafficking



On July 30th, all churches in Barishal Diocese focused on preaching about “Human Trafficking” to raise awareness among lay people. Special prayers were offered for those affected by human trafficking. On behalf of the diocese a service order was prepared and was followed in all the churches of the diocese. Rev. Richard Uttam Biswas prepared the order for the diocese with the support of Bishop Shourabh Pholia. Rev. Jhon Amrita Mondol spoke about “Human Trafficking & Church Response” at St. Mark’s Church, Bisharkandi. Rev. Biliam Sarder addressed the same topic at St. John’s Church, Pingalakathi. Discussions and special prayers regarding human trafficking held at St. Mary’s Church, Jobarpar.

All the churches in Khulna and Jobarpar deaneries arranged special devotional services on that day.

Creation Care

As part of Creation Care, tree plantation programs are being carried out in many churches across the Barishal Diocese. Various fruit trees have been planted at Holy Cross Church, Chourkhuli and St. Luke’s Church, Kandi. Hundreds of Burmese betel nut trees are planted at St. Palu’s Church, Dhamshar. The honorable Bishop of Barishal diocese consistently encourages clergy and youth to participate in tree planting activities.



Anti-Human Trafficking Project Planning Workshop



We are delighted to provide a brief report on the successful completion of the Writeshop on Anti Human Trafficking (AHT), which took place from 21 to 23 August 2023 at RPG Savar. This program was a significant milestone in our collective efforts to combat human trafficking and foster collaboration among the participating Deaneries. We were privileged to have Mr. Raja Moses from India (CNI) and our esteemed Consultant, Mr. Binod Hira, as key contributors to this event. The primary objective was to promote knowledge-sharing and collaboration among participants. Each Deanery brought a team of four individuals, and one outstanding contributor who played a pivotal role during the baseline survey. Mr. Raja Moses, the Program Director from the Diocese of Durgapur, India, brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience gained through years of working on Anti Human Trafficking. His valuable insights provided a roadmap for collaborative efforts moving forward.

Theology and Liturgical Committee and Committee for Mission and Evangelism

We are pleased to present a brief report on the successful Special Meeting held from 24 to 26 August 2023 at RPG Savar Dhaka. The meeting brought together the members of the Theology and Liturgical Committee and the Committee for Mission and Evangelism to discuss the Strategy Paper 2021-30 of the CoB and various other important matters. The primary agenda of the meeting was centered on the CoB's Strategy Paper 2021-30, ensuring that participants could



delve deep into its details, share feedback, and plan strategic actions for the Theology and Liturgical Committee and Committee for Mission and Evangelism. We conclude this Special Meeting with a renewed commitment to advancing the objectives outlined in the Strategy Paper 2021-30.

Synod Bible School & Bridge Teachers Training

The Synod Bible School & Bridge Committee successfully organized a comprehensive training program for Bible School Teachers from August 17th to 20th, 2023, at RPG in Savar. This program aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of Bible School teachers to better serve their respective dioceses. The training program saw active participation from a total of 50 dedicated Bible School teachers, representing three dioceses. This diversity contributed to a rich exchange of ideas and experiences. The curriculum included a wide range of topics, including biblical interpretation, teaching methodologies, pastoral care, and leadership skills.

Conclusion of the Church of Bangladesh's One-Year English Language Course



CoB marks the end of an incredible journey as we conclude the Church of Bangladesh's one-year English Language course 31 August 2023. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a vital role in making this experience possible and successful. We extend our sincerest thanks to the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh for their visionary leadership in creating this opportunity. This course has been a remarkable avenue for the development of CoB clergy and congregation members at all levels, and it wouldn't have been possible without the Moderator's vision. To all the participants who actively engaged in the course over the past year. A special acknowledgment goes to Mrs. Marcia P. Sarker, the program executive, for her tireless efforts and unwavering dedication. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Bishops of Barishal and Kushtia Diocese and everyone who contributed their efforts to make this program a reality. Lastly, we appreciate each and every one of you for your prayers and support.

St. Andrew's Theological College



TIA Theological Consultation

I also attend another Theological Consultation of TIA (Theological Institutions in Asia) organized by USPG from 4-7 August in Sri Lanka. About 20 Institutions attended in that Consultation from various countries of Japan, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It helps to create a platform to share resources and enriching from their expertise and learnings.



ATA Refresher Course



We have sent two Priests for two weeks to Sri Lanka to attend ATA Refresher Course 1-15 August 2023. Priests are Rev. James Duke Baroi and Rev. Ajoy Ritchil. It helps them to refresh and renew themselves and deep into theological issues facing in Asia. It helps them to learn English and exposure to various religious traditions and faith communities.

ATA Board Meeting

Our Honorable Moderator and myself joined the Board Meeting at Sri Lanka for 3 Days from 1-3 August. It was a Partnership Consultation between ATA and USPG to Review the Strategy and Various Programs, Activities of ATA.

BTh First Semester: The semester has started from August 2023 and Regular Classes are going on for BTh First Year Internal Students.

Thanks God for all blessings for SATC and CoB.

In Christ,

Rev. John P Hira
Principal, SATC-COB

Brief Report of Christa Sevika Sangha (CSS)



By the grace of Almighty God, we four sisters (Sister Superior, Sister Dorothy, Sister Agnes, Sister Margaret and Sister Shalomi) got the opportunity to go to India. We went at the invitation of Bishop Paritosh Canning and his team. On the 7th of July we arrived in Calcutta, then on 8 July, we attended Bishop Canning's 4th Episcopal Anniversary and performed a song. We stayed there for 6 days and attended various parishes, schools and other events, then on 13 July Bishop Subrata took us to the Diocese of Barrackpore where we also had the opportunity to visit various parishes and schools and participated in a number of functions and Sister Agnes sang her beautiful hymns.

.Special thanks be to God that we had the opportunity to go to the village of Maliapota, where those few ordinary farmers received the Holy Spirit and from where the Dhanyo Budhbar

Mahasabha (Holy Wednesday) began. Then we returned to Bangladesh on July 19. Our trip to India was very enjoyable, all our expenses were covered by Bishop Canning and Bishop Subrata from their Diocese. We are sincerely grateful to all of them. May God bless them in all their endeavors.

Our boys and girls 2nd term exam start on 14 August and end on 21 August and result was given on 24 August, their results are fairly good, on 25 August 2023 all girls and boys have gone home for Rainy Season Holiday and will come back on 15 September 2023 after their vacation. Please pray for them.

May God Bless and protect all the people!

Sister Dorothy CSS



Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

Basic Disaster Management Training held at Barishal and Kushtia Diocese



Shalom arranged two days basic disaster management training for Barishal diocese and Kushtia diocese. Shalom staff, MFA staff, Catechist, Deacon, Priest attend the training session. Mr. Senoy Sarkar, Program Coordinator of Shalom facilitated the training in both the diocese. Now Priest Catechist, Deacon can aware people about disaster in their sermon in Churches and actively involve in emergency response in any crisis. After the training program Honorable Vice Chairman Rt. Revd. Sourabh Pholia and Rt. Revd. Hemen Halder gave certificate to the training participants.



Self Help Group (SHG) Approach is implementing at SHALOM



Regarding Community Development Self Help Approach involves working together to build a

stronger community through increasing community engagement. Self Help efforts are seen mainly in solving the economic problems of the poor population. In the group environment, poor village women mainly are given training for self-employment and income generation, education, health, and other services.

Kerk in Actie arranged a training to introduce the Self-Help Approach (SHA) for the staff of its partner organizations SHALOM, SERP and BERC at BERC Training Center, Ghoraghat, Dinajpur.

Shalom exited KIA funded project from Haluaghat and Rajshshi and started new area Nalitabari and Natore. Honorable Chairman of Shalom and Moderator of CoB inaugurated the new office building at Panihata.



CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth



CMCY Workshop 2023 held

CMCY's Annual Workshop and Budget Orientation Program 2024 was held on August 28-31, 2023 at the RPG Center, Anandapur, Savar. The most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin- Moderator- Church of Bangladesh and Chairperson- CMCY, Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder- Vice-Chairperson- CMCY, Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia- Deputy Moderator- COB, Mrs. Monita Mankhin- Education Director-COB, Rev. Simson Mazumder- (Hon) Treasurer- CMCY, Mr. Shyamal Sarker- Director- CMCY, and other CMCY officers and Project heads participated at this Workshop. Rt.Rev. S. Pholia and Rev. Simson Mazumder jointly spoke at the keynote. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10-11. Both the speakers delivered very much appropriate advice and suggestions on the children care. The most Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin, Moderator, in his speech, narrated the miserable childhood of the late Indian President Abul Kalam Azad and RK Narayan and also from his own part, who are now established and famous in life receiving the grace of the Almighty and supports and care from the generous supporters. The Moderator urged that as we are ignorant about God's plan for a child, we must have to carry on one's duties with much sincerity and joy to help a child to flourish his/ her God given potential. Rt Rev. Hemen Halder- Vice Chairman, CMCY urged participants' to serve children from the hearts. Mrs. Monita Mankhin- Education Coordinator, COB delivered her valuable insightful speech on Child Education & Management. Mr. Shyamal Sarker, Director- CMCY, Mr. Harun Mondal-

Sponsorship Liaison Officer, Mrs. Ruth Sebika Raksam- Accountant and Ms. Shila Kisku- Program Monitoring Officer gave guidance on office management, child protection and preparation of budget for the financial year 2024. To the participants, the 3 days seminars were full of information and inspirations to carry on one's duties effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, it was also a meeting-fair full of fellowship and joy.

Prayer Requests for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Students

The HSC examination started from August 17, 2023 and from CMCY a total 84 students have appeared at this examination. CMCY urges kind prayers for these students so that they may complete their examinations with good health and spirits.

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC)

Result 2203

In Bangladesh, the SSC examination is the basic gateway to college or university level studies. CMCY supported projects 59 students took part and 46 got success with the pass rate of 77.97%. On the other hand, from the Compassion International Bangladesh (CIB) funded CDSPs 179 students appeared at this exam. and 136 became successful with the pass rate of 75.98%. CMCY is extremely thankful to the foster parents of these students, whose generous support have helped these students to come up in life.

CoB Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi



Medical Board Meeting of COB held

Medical Board Meeting of COB held on 28 July 2023. During this meeting, esteemed members and senior committee leaders emphasized the paramount importance of securing the long-term sustainability of the hospital. It is imperative to ensure that the Church's crucial mission remains uninterrupted, allowing us to bear witness to Christ and foster the aspiration of producing high-quality doctors from our institution. Our role in shaping the future of the Christian society in this country cannot be overstated.

Currently, our hospital operates as a 100-bed facility with 16 cabin accommodations, serving the patients in the greater Rajshahi district. Remarkably, we are tending to an average of 3,000 diverse patients every month, including the delivery of over 400 newborns in the last two months— probably a historic milestone. Among these births, an average of 63 mothers have experienced normal deliveries each month, which is truly uplifting news. While we celebrate this achievement, it is essential to state that societal attitudes toward childbirth have evolved even though opportunities and cooperation from the patients' attendants remain limited.

Thanks to your continuous prayers and support, we have been able to maintain sound financial management locally. We are utilizing surplus funds to acquire essential medical equipment and needful renovation time to time.

Our current team consists of 70 doctors (including contractual, part-time, short-term, and long-term), 57 dedicated nurses, and 74 administrative, management, and support staff members. We firmly believe that the pursuit of

enhanced service quality, even with associated risks, aligns with our mission, and thus, we deem it a success, attributed to God's blessings.

With best regards

Prodip Chand Mondal
CEO, Mission Hospital

Prayer request for Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi

Over the past two months, there have been significant developments worth noting. The Chief Executive Officer actively participated in two crucial meetings representing the hospital at the Diocese and Synod levels. Furthermore, we've extended our organizational reach by becoming members of the Christian Medical Association Bangladesh (CMAB). A notable event took place on July 28, 2023, when a special meeting of the Medical Board of the Church of Bangladesh convened at Rajshahi Mission Hospital.

We humbly request your prayer and support for this endeavor.

CoB-Nursing Institute, Rajshahi



I would like to share with you all the joys and sorrows of our Nursing Institute (NI). This year, NI enrolled a total of 60 students for the New 1st Year Course for Diploma in Nursing Science and Midwifery. Among them, there are 48 female students and 12 male students. The New 1st year class commenced on July 9, 2023, as per the notice from BNMC.

On the evening of August 2nd, we received distressing news that one of our 2nd-year students had passed away at Dhaka Mohakhali Cancer Hospital. She had been battling blood cancer and had traveled to CMC Hospital Vellore in India in search of better treatment but unsuccessful and came to Dhaka Mohakhali Cancer Hospital, where she sadly succumbed to her illness while under treatment. She had hoped to survive and attend her 2nd-year final examination scheduled for September 14, 2023, but, regrettably, she couldn't make it back to her Nursing Institute. May her departed soul rest in peace.

On the same day, in the evening, we received some positive news: the results for the NI 3rd-year final

examination were announced. Out of 49 students, 45 passed successfully, while only 4 students faced failure. These 4 students have challenged their failed subjects with the Examination Board of BNMC. The 45 successful students have commenced their 6-month Internship at Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.

NI's Old 1st-year and 2nd-year students are scheduled to sit for their final examinations on September 14, 2023. Additionally, some of our students recently participated in an awareness program against Dengue Fever, with the aim of eliminating the spread of the disease. This program also targeted scholarship recipients from the Rotary Club who provided mosquito nets for dengue protection.

We extend our gratitude for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Sulota Drong
Principal, CMHR, Rajshahi

CoB Bollobhpur Hospital



July and August 2023 have been routine months for us at Bollobhpur Hospital. The class room open again for classes after the June examinations.

The group of 12 girls who completed their three-year training and left us at the end of June, have been speedily replaced by seventeen new students, arriving mid-July with bedding and boxes, eager to start training with us.

And now six weeks into their three years preliminary training school, it is good to be able to report that all but one who decided that nursing was the wrong choice and returned home, have settled in well, and have resolved to complete their training together.

On the ward tiny babies have been arriving for care in the incubators, enhancing the students experience in caring for them.

And in the labour ward case nurses were thrilled be able to deliver two mothers of twins, and another mother of triples. Deliveries are far less than in the days when Bollobhpur was the only hospital in the area, now there is great competition from the new gov't hospital a couple of miles away, and five private clinics touting for women to come for caesarian operation- a huge problem now in the country as a whole. But those who choose to come to Bollobhpur Hospital for a normal delivery receive the care they need.

And this week a mother of 3 daughters from a nearby village arrived for delivery, a last chance for a son. We were happy to receive her. She was soon delivered and lo she also had twin babies, and not only that, but both were girls! She went home two days later with a smiling face & her 5 daughters. Actually large families are now rare in Bangladesh. Family planning is used and most couples aim for a two children family, which is good.

In our last letter we were hoping for a new water supply, as the water level has dropped and many wells are not supplying water any more. We are grateful to report that thanks to our wonderful Prime Minister, everything has been supplied free by the government, and a team camped here with us, and in 5 days & 24 hours hard labour, sunk the well and provided the motor to pump the water up. We are grateful indeed and await the water tank and the full running system.

Please keep our small hospital, our students, staff and patients in your prayers, and thank you for keeping alongside.

G M Rose

Director, Bollobhpur Hospital.