



The Church of Bangladesh Newsletter

● Newsletter ● September–October 2024 ●

Volume 29

Warm Christian Greetings from the Moderator



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In times of trial and challenge, we find strength in the Word of God. Scripture reminds us, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains; where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121). Just as God watched over Israel, He watches over us today, guiding and shielding us every step of our journey. In our daily lives, let us embody the love, humility, and peace that Christ calls us to, even when we face adversity. As it is written, “By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud... and by night in a pillar of fire” (Exodus 13:21). May we always remember that His presence and wisdom guide us, both day and night, and let us strive to live with kindness, understanding, and compassion toward one another.

Today, Bangladesh is at a crossroads, facing complex political, social, and economic uncertainties that test our patience and unity. Amid these challenges, let us take comfort in the words of scripture: “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31). We are reminded that patience is a virtue that allows God to work in His timing, and as His faithful, we are called to trust Him deeply in these times. We must continue to act with integrity, empathy, and unwavering hope, encouraging each other to uphold justice and understanding in our society.

The Church of Bangladesh, by God’s grace, continues to flourish in faith and ministry. With nearly 30,000 members, we are blessed with a devoted community across our seven deaneries. However, like any body of believers, we face difficulties. Only a small number are spreading false information, attempting to harm the Church’s reputation by misusing digital platforms. Their efforts to create and share misleading content aim to weaken our community’s unity. In such moments, we must respond not with anger, but with compassion, always aiming to foster reconciliation. As Christ reminds us, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). In this era of digital technology, let us be discerning, avoid letting these distractions cloud our mission, and remain committed to the principles of honesty, transparency, and mutual respect.

Some of our elderly members sometimes feel adrift, and some of our youth are led astray, mirroring the betrayal of Judas Iscariot. Yet, amid these hardships, the majority of our congregation remains steadfast, committed to faith, hope, and unity. We are called to be a church of inclusivity and forgiveness, helping one another through life’s challenges. Let us respond to these challenges with forgiveness and trust in God, who calls us to love even when others fail us. We must seek to listen, guide, and support each other, nurturing a community where every person feels valued, respected, and loved.

In these times, your prayers are our strength. We believe in the power of forgiveness and seek His guidance to stay true to our values, as together we walk in His light. May we continue to uphold the virtues of compassion, integrity, and kindness as we move forward.

May God bless you and keep you, guiding you in all your ways.

In Christ’s Love and Peace,

The Most Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin



My sisters and brothers in Christ,

We realized our churches are not safe yet; there are many issues within our churches, and we, the Church of Bangladesh, also have many challenges. Therefore, we all agreed that we must make the church safe and free from all evil. To make the church safe, we must have proper policies to practice what is right and perfect.

I thank our Moderator and the church for allowing me to represent the Church of Bangladesh in the Safe Church Commission of the Anglican Communion. I had an opportunity to attend a conference of the Safe Church Commission in September. It was a great learning experience for me as more than 200 participants worldwide participated, shared thoughts, and discussed how we can make the Church a Safe Church. The province's Bishop representatives were also there, and we all had Bible studies and discussions on the Safe Church issue. We found that in every church, we have problems that raise the question of whether our church is safe. We realized our churches are not safe yet; there are many issues within our churches, and we, the Church of Bangladesh, also have many challenges. Therefore, we all agreed that we must make the church safe and free from all evil. To make the church safe, we must have proper policies to practice what is right and perfect.

In our church, we are grappling with profound questions about Safe Church. There are indeed many challenges, doubts, and uncertainties. However, our shared responsibility, guided by our faith, is to steer us towards unity, accountability and a safe church.

Our unity is our strength. The Church of Bangladesh is a rich tapestry woven from diverse threads, each with a unique story and experience. Yet, our shared faith in Jesus Christ, our commitment to His teachings, and our love for one another bind us together. Let us not allow the challenges we face to divide us, but rather, let us use them to strengthen our bonds and reaffirm our commitment to each other and the safety of our church.

Secondly, our leadership style must insist on transparency and accountability. We must hold them to the highest ethical standards, demanding honesty and integrity in all our actions. This is to foster open communication and mutual responsibility. We must be ready to speak the truth, even when it's hard, and to hold each other accountable for our actions.

Third, in the church, we need to focus on the core of our faith. Remember that our faith is not defined by any individual's actions but by our Lord's love and grace. Let us draw strength from Jesus' teachings, from His example of humility, forgiveness, and service. Let us strive to live out these values daily, becoming beacons of hope and light in a world that desperately needs them.

My sisters and brothers, remember that we are not alone in this journey. Our faith, the strength of our community, and the love of our Lord support us. Let us face these challenges with unwavering courage, unity, and faith. Together, let us work to rebuild trust, strengthen our church, and be a shining example of God's love.

May God bless you all.

Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia

Deputy Moderator & Bishop of Diocese of Barishal



We are expanding our pastoral ministry in many ways. With the help of our moderator and according to the direction of his secretary, we are conducting meetings and seminars on various contemporary issues for children, women, and the elderly people in each parish. It can be said that everyone in the church is happily spending a busy and meaningful time compared to previous years.

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ.

By the grace of Almighty God we have reached the end of 2024. We are most thankful and grateful to God for the many favors He has bestowed upon us. However, as we look back, the current year has been challenging for us in many ways.

We are expanding our pastoral ministry in many ways. With the help of our moderator and according to the direction of his secretary, we are conducting meetings and seminars on various contemporary issues for children, women, and the elderly people in each parish. It can be said that everyone in the church is happily spending a busy and meaningful time compared to previous years.

Moreover, as a bishop, I have organized fasting prayers in every parish of Kushtia Diocese. The purpose is twofold. The first one is that the common people of the Church should not lose courage and remain faithful to the Lord. The second one is to increase the practice of spirituality in every congregation. More emphasis is placed on the Bible study in each parish each week. As a bishop of the diocese every month I used to go to a parish and conduct the Bible study and followed by the Holy Communion Service. The tree planting drive in every parish is progressing well.

Considering the overall aspect, I have selected two beautiful Bible verses for the whole congregation of Kushtia Diocese, namely Isaiah 57:15 and 16.

“The Mighty God is far higher than all others. He rules from above and he lives forever. His name is holy. He says, ‘I live in a high and holy place. But I am also with anyone who is humble and who is sorry when he does wrong things. I will comfort people who are like that, and I will give them hope. I will not always speak against my people. I will not be angry with them forever. I do not want them to lose hope completely. I myself gave life to them.’”

May the loving God protect us and keep us faithful to his work. Thank you to all the friends of the Diocese and partners who have helped us with prayers and other support.

Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder.

Floods in Haluaghat



I have never seen floods like this in my life, said Abdul Jalil (65).

Severe rainfall and flash floods from the hills flooded approximately 53 villages in Haluaghat and Nalitabari, Sherpur District, affecting about 70,000 people.

I have never seen floods like this in my life, Abdul Jalil (65) said, from Bharailkona village of Bhubankura Union.

of poultry and livestock perished. Additionally, waterborne diseases have begun spreading in the area.

Report prepared by: Nathaniel Mrong

In early October 2024, severe rainfall and flash floods from the hills flooded approximately 53 villages in Haluaghat and Nalitabari, Sherpur District, affecting about 70,000 people. Floodwaters severely damaged several areas of Haluaghat Deanery, including Jhaljhalia, Telekhali, Haluaghat, Monikura, and Katolmari parishes; St. Andrew's High School, St. Mary's High School, Telekhali Primary School, Katolmari Lower Secondary School, the boys' and girls' hostels in Haluaghat, as well as all Shalom centers and programs. Roads and homes, including around 180 families' homes in the deanery, suffered extensive damage.

According to Haluaghat's Department of Agricultural Extension, 12,800 hectares of crops were destroyed, and thousands



The victims used St. Mary's Junior High School as a shelter.



During the Holy Communion Service held at 8:00 a.m. on October 18, nine people received blessings, administered by the Honorable Rt. Revd. Samuel S. Mankhin, Bishop of the Dhaka Diocese. Mrs. Monita Mankhin, Education Director of Synod preached God's word at the service.

The special highlight of the Spiritual Revival Meeting was the Healing Service, led by Dr. Florence Lipika Samaddar. Additionally, 10 sisters from the Christo Sevika Sangha Jobarpar, Barishal, and Haluaghat St. Mary's Sisterhood participated. Their worship, songs, meditation, and prayers added deep spiritual enrichment to the meeting.

The Spiritual Revival Meeting was held in the Chattogram City Pastorate

On October 18, 2024. This was the 33rd Spiritual Revival Meeting of the Chattogram City Pastorate. The theme of the meeting was, "Know that each person will receive from the Lord the reward for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free." (Ephesians 6:8) The main speaker, Honorable Moderator, spoke on this theme and presented various information on slavery through a projector. He encouraged everyone to live out Jesus' example of service.

The guest speaker was Honorable Archbishop Lawrence Subrata Howlader (C.S.C) of Chattogram Diocese. His message was based on the verse, "But flee the desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." He analyzed the context of Saint Paul's message to young Timothy and explained how easily youth can be tempted by negative influences that lead to harmful behaviors.

Other speakers included Sister Kalyani, who spoke on "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." Revd. Hubbard Ajay Mitra talked about, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Sister Agnes shared, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)



Dhaka Deanery's 6th Annual Spiritual Inspiration Gathering Held



On Friday, October 11, 2024, Dhaka Deanery's 6th Annual Spiritual Revival Gathering took place at the St. Thomas Church in Moghbazar, starting with a worship service and the Lord's Supper. Following the service, Dean Rev. Immanuel Mollick inaugurated the event alongside other priests and guest speakers. Mr. Thomas Shankar Biswas, Secretary of Dhaka Deanery, and Mr. David Probir Halder, the local parish secretary, gave welcome speeches.

In the first session, Rev. David Aniruddha Das, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh, spoke on the theme of unity based on John 17:11: "That they may be one, as we are one."

The final session was a healing service conducted by the priests, focusing on Luke 8:50: "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." During the service, priests offered blessings with oil and prayed for the sick.

The event saw a solemn gathering of Dhaka Deanery members and was marked by great success and blessings.

KUSHTIA DIOCESE

Bollovepur Parish Women's Fellowship Seminar held



September 28, 2024. A day-long seminar was organized by the Bollovepur Emmanuel Church Women's Fellowship, where 120 members participated. The theme of the seminar was, "The steadfast love and faithfulness of the Lord will remain with those who fear Him, those who follow His commands, across generations." (Psalm 103:17). Reverend Mrityunjoy Mondol delivered a speech on this theme. Mr. Subrata Tudu discussed the dangers and negative effects of debt, while Advocate Ruth Shobha Mondol talked about ways to prevent divorce in marriage. During this time, members of the Women's Fellowship presented a play on the burden of debt. The seminar concluded beautifully.

Bible Study Seminar at Karpasdanga

On September 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM, a Bible study session was held at Karpasdanga Christ Church under the guidance of the Bishop. The theme of the Bible study was, "Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, and with grace, sing to God from your hearts." (Colossians 3:16-17). The session was conducted by the honourable Bishop of Kushtia Diocese, Right Reverend Hemen Halder. The purpose of the Bible study was to spiritually enrich believers through regular Bible study sessions in each parish. The Bishop highlighted that God's Word is the presence of Christ, meaning that to have His Word in one's heart is to have Christ within. He emphasized the importance of songs, hymns, and worship in the church, encouraging all parishes to prioritize Bible study. Approximately 50 believers attended the session.

Day-long Bible School Seminar Held

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, a day-long Bible school seminar was held at St. Barnabas Church in Paitapukur, Rajshahi Deanery. The theme of the seminar was, "The Advantages and Disadvantages of Technology from a Biblical Perspective." The chief guest was Right Reverend Hemen Halder, Bishop of Kushtia Diocese, along with Mrs. Suporna Halder Rimi, Women's Fellowship Convenor of Kushtia Diocese; Reverend Simson Mazumder, Convenor of Synod Bible School; and Reverend Mikail Soren, Dean of Rajshahi Deanery, along with other clergy. A total of 130 children and young attendees were present with their Bible school teachers.

Day-long Youth Seminar in Rajshahi

On Monday, September 30, 2024, a day-long youth seminar was held at Trinity Church, Nimgutut Parish, with the theme "Transformed Christian Leadership." Bishop Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese spoke on this theme, addressing the youth and emphasizing that transformation can be achieved through humility, moving away from negative pasts. He referred to the story of St. Paul's transformation, highlighting how he, filled with the Holy Spirit, became a devoted follower of Christ and achieved many accomplishments as a transformed individual. A total of 80 young participants from various parishes attended the seminar.

258 Confirmations in Rajshahi



On Sunday, September 22, 2024, a confirmation service was held at St. Barnabas Church, Paitapukur, where 258 candidates from Rajshahi Deanery were confirmed by the honorable Bishop of Kushtia Diocese, Hemen Halder. The service began at 9:00 AM with an offering by the local parish girls. Notably, this was the largest confirmation service held in the area. Following the confirmations, the Holy Eucharist was shared among the participants.

Safe Church



The Safe Church Commission of Anglican Communion conference was held at Matabeleland Diocese in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from September 5th to 10th. The

Honourable Bishop of Barishal Diocese, Shourabh Pholia, joined the conference as a safe Church Commission team. Member The conference's main theme was how a church could be safe.

Following the theme, Bishop Shourabh Pholia led a session on "Safe Church" to build our church as a safe church at the opening ceremony of the "Introduction of Six Policy Guidelines" workshop held from 19th to 21st September at Oriental Retreat Centre, Barishal. The bishop highlighted that members and the wider community consider the Church safe and trustworthy. This trust is predominantly placed in church leaders, who hold significant power and influence. While most leaders use this power responsibly, some abuse it, causing devastating harm to individuals, their families, and the church community.

To prevent this, churches must implement Safe Church/safeguarding measures, with church leaders playing a crucial role.



WCRC and CWM organised the "Women War Empire: Gender and Militarization" Conference in Juba, South Sudan. Rev. Suchitra Behera was invited to attend. She shared the present context of Bangladesh with the participants, and the stories shared by the sheroes enriched her.

Women Ministry

On October 5, 2024, a women's seminar was held at St. John the Baptist Church, Maheshwar Pasha, with 30 women participants. The seminar theme was, "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10). The women led the prayer at the beginning of the seminar. The women were encouraged to grow spiritually and become virtuous wives. This women's seminar successfully promoted women's spiritual development and



the importance of being a virtuous wife.

Also, St. Peter's Church Barishal hosted a women's seminar, engaging and inspiring attendees. Women from St. Joseph Church, Kashipur, and other significant women, leaders, and clergies participated. The Diocesan Bishop discussed women's role in making a Church Safe and their contribution to church and community life.

CCT program



The diocese's Church and Community Transformation (CCT) program organised a one-day program for family members of Christ The King Church, Jessore. In the program, Rev. Suchitra Behera and Rev. Mridul Boidya spoke about the importance of family in transforming the local church. To have a flourishing church, it is essential that the church transform spiritually and materially. The Honourable Bishop Shourabh Pholia graced the occasion and spoke about leaving everything to receive greater miracles in life.

Response to Needs

On 1st October, Diocesan Bishop and Dean of Khulna Deanery Rev. Monindra Boidya visited Paikgacha. They distributed daily needs to eight families in a flood-affected area caused by the breaking of a river dam, a new church ministry started recently here. The churches of the Barishal Diocese displayed profound unity and collaboration and sent help to the new church. We are thankful to those churches, priests, and catechists for this contribution, which truly reflects the strength and unity of our diocese.

Recently, a flash flood caused severe damage to a vast area of Mymensing and Haluaghat. Barishal Diocese responded by sending daily needs to the flood-affected regions through Taize Brothers.

The Church of Bangladesh has actively engaged its youth in ecological awareness and Christian stewardship through two recent events under the Kushtia and Barishal Dioceses.



Kushtia Diocese Youth Program on Ecology (10th-12th September 2024): Held at the Rupantor Center in Kushtia, this three-day event educated youth on topics such as climate change, plastic pollution, and the role of forests in ecological preservation. Key speakers, including Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder, emphasized the connection between leadership, ecological responsibility, and biblical teachings. The event encouraged participants to adopt sustainable lifestyles and become active in environmental conservation.

Barishal Diocese Consultation on Ecology (22nd-23rd September 2024): This two-day program at the Oriental Centre in Barishal focused on ecological issues, consumerism, and social justice. Led by Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia and others, the event also connected

environmental responsibility with anti-human trafficking, highlighting holistic ethical approaches. Participants were encouraged to promote ecological justice within their communities.

Both events aimed to empower the next generation of Christian leaders to advocate for environmental stewardship, intertwining faith with care for creation. Through these initiatives, the Church of Bangladesh and CWM continue to foster a future grounded in justice, faith, and sustainable living.





SYNOD Women's Fellowship Training Program

The SYNOD Women's Fellowship Training Program was held at the Retreat and Prayer Garden in Anandapur, Savar, from September 5 to 8, 2024. The program began on September 5 at 7:00 pm with evening prayers.

On September 6, after the Lord's Supper, the honorable Moderator Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin delivered a welcome address, emphasizing the Church of Bangladesh and Jesus Christ as the head of this congregation. He stated that, like a nation governed by its constitution, the Church of Bangladesh is led by its own constitution. Currently, the Church of Bangladesh operates across 19 districts with 119 parishes, comprising approximately 25,000 members. Finally, he discussed the importance of living lives as salt and light.

Mrs. Monita Mankhin, the Education Director and Secretary of SYNOD Women's Fellowship, spoke on the topic of "Christian Ideal Family," explaining the contrast between worldly and Christian family values. She emphasized that the role of mothers is essential in sustaining Christian family life, encouraging families to embody Jesus' ideals.

Rev. Suchitra Behera led a discussion on "Women's Leadership and Empowerment." She highlighted the qualities needed for strong leadership, including independence, self-responsibility, self-awareness, moral values, and the ability to accept criticism.

Mr. Marshal Anik Halder, the SYNOD Coordinator for the Church of Bangladesh, spoke on "Environmental

Pollution and Remedies." He stressed the responsibility of individuals to raise awareness of environmental issues, as people are often the cause of environmental degradation.

Mrs. Matilda Tina Baidya, Program Coordinator of KIRK in ACTIE, addressed "Economic Self-Reliance," noting that women who earn become self-reliant, which builds their confidence and strengthens their ability to make decisions.

Bishop Hemen Halder spoke on "Raising Awareness Against Human Trafficking," describing human trafficking as an unrestrained problem. He encouraged vigilance in families and communities, later showing a video on human trafficking.

Rev. Mridula Baidya discussed the "Proper Use of Technology," pointing out that while technology can enhance life, its misuse can undermine moral values. Mrs. Kalika Biswas also spoke on "Spiritual Self-Sufficiency," analyzing the differences between worldly hunger and spiritual hunger, encouraging all to pursue spiritual nourishment.

Mrs. Jessica Suparna Halder reflected on Matthew 9:21, sharing insights on physical, mental, and spiritual well-being through Jesus' presence and touch. She emphasized the importance of faith, peace, and freedom from illness.

The program concluded with evaluations and a vote of thanks by SYNOD Women's Fellowship Secretary, Mrs. Monita Mankhin.

St. Andrew's Theological College



KIA Partners Visit: Last July 2024 SATC visited by the Mr. Marten VanDen Toren, PO-KIA Netherlands and Mrs. Matilda Tina Baidya Portfolio Coordinator KIA-BD. We have bilateral meeting about the self-sustainability and they focus on how we can run this College in the long run. It was really gracious presence of our partners and blessed time for our college.

Sustainable Plan of SATC to the Boad Members. Boad members also give guidance and suggestions for the future plan. Ecemenical leaders also showed their interest to send their students for the higher studies BTh and BCS under Senate of Serampore College and University.



Managing Committee or Board Meeting: The Managing Committee held on 26 July 2024 at 3:00pm on Friday at the Library of the College. Two ecumenical leaders Bishop Simon R Biswas and Rev John Karmaker was welcomed in the meeting as Boad Member. One of the Consultants, Mr. Paul S Malaker presented the Document and Road Map of



Reception and Honor to Rev. Dr. John P Hira: Kaligram St. Peter's Church organized to show honor to Rev Dr. John Probhudan Hira as his Mother Church/Parish, as he has successfully completed his Doctor of Ministry (DMin) from Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentakuy USA. On 16 October 2024 the National Council of Churches (NCC) also showed their honor to Rev Dr. Hira for this Doctoral Degree in the Annual General Meeting of NCCB.

CoB Education Department

Workshop on the SYNOD Education Policy



On September 24-25, 2024, a workshop on the SYNOD Education Policy was held. The Right Reverend Sunil Mankhin, Moderator; Right Reverend Sourabh Follia, Deputy Moderator; Right Reverend Hemen Halder, Bishop of Kushtia; Reverend Dr. John Provudan Hira, SYNOD Secretary; and the honorable Education Director, Mrs. Monita Mankhin, along with education committee members, school principals, and other guests, attended the workshop on preparing the education policy. Detailed discussions and feedback on the newly prepared education policy were conducted. This policy will enable better management of schools in the future.

Schools are being regularly monitored. In addition, regular updates and exchanges of information are maintained via mobile phone. The schools continue to provide quality education to underprivileged students in both urban and rural areas. While progress in rural schools is slower, urban schools are advancing with a good reputation.

Notably, the Church of Bangladesh currently operates a total of 35 schools in the country. This includes 6 high schools, 21 primary schools, 5 pre-primary schools, and 3 junior high schools, serving approximately 8,223 students with a teaching staff of





Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

New Director of Shalom



Mr. Senoy Sarker has been appointed as the new Director of Shalom, a development organization of the Church of Bangladesh, effective from November 1, 2024.

Mr. Sarkar first joined Shalom in 2015 as an intern in the Central Office Monitoring and

Evaluation Department. After successfully completing his internship, he worked as Acting HR for six months. He was then appointed as a program officer. Later he was promoted to the post of Program Coordinator at the Central Office, where he performed his duties with dedication and efficiency.

Having been closely associated with Shalom for many years and demonstrating strong leadership as Program Coordinator. Later he served as Acting Director for one year. On 25 September 2024 the EC has approved his appointment as director.

We invite all stakeholders, partners, and well-wishers connected with Shalom to extend their support to him and pray for his success in this new role.

May God bless his work and life.

Communities of Bangladesh” from June 2024 to May 2027.

Upazila Executive Officer and Executive Magistrate Afia Sarmin was the chief guest, Mrs. Shampa Baroi, CCT Coordinator of Tearfund was the special guest and Shalom Acting Director Mr. Senoy Sarkar, Rt. Reverend Shaurav Folia, Department Moderator COB is the chairperson of this meeting and representatives of local GO and NGO representatives attended this inaugural meeting.

The new project will include 2 Unions and 1 Municipality of Mongla Upazila of Bagerhat District, 3 Unions of Dakop Upazila and 6 sites of Khulna City Corporation and will work with 1500 families and cover a total of 12690 direct and indirect project participants.

MCC representative from Canada visited Shalom



MCC Canada visited Shalom ‘Integrated Food Security for Aboriginal Communities’ project Haluaghat, Mymensingh. Ms. Miriam Teresa Harder, Mr. Stephen Henry Deunk from Canada and Mr. Gregory Allen Vanderbilt, country representative and Mr. Arifur Rahaman joined from MCC. Mr. Senoy Sarkar welcomed the valued guest and visited different places of the implemented programs.

The Leprosy Mission International visited Shalom Meherpur

Executive Director, The Leprosy Mission International visited Shalom Meherpur on 23rd September 2024. Shalom welcome Mr. Solomon Sumon Halder, ED for his first time visit of the Meherpur. Mr. Noyel Tappa, Project Manager of the AEP project and Acting Director was present the meeting. Mrs. Sondha Mondol presents a PowerPoint presentation in the meeting and some leprosy patient was participated in the meeting. Leprosy Partners Meeting was held at Kuakata and all partners ED and responsible staff was attend in the meeting.

New project launch at Mongla



Shalom Mongla project organized a new project launch meeting on 21st October 2024 at the Upazila Executive Officer’s office. Project Manager Mr. Saurendro Mandal presented the 3-year project “Resilient Coastal



CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth



The CMD- Germany supported St. Andrew's Boys and St. Mary's Girls Hostel, Haluaghat with 150 children and staff were victimized with up to 3 to 5 feet flash floods for a week

St. Andrew's and St. Mary's hostels are inundated with flash floods. The Flash floods of October have ravaged many parts of Bangladesh, but the Mymensingh division was greatly affected. Unrelenting rain and rushing water from the Indian state of Meghalaya have fuelled this natural calamity. The victims incurred heavy losses as the flood washed away numerous mud made houses and over 800 hectares of paddy fields and 338 hectares of vegetable fields. Flash floods inundated major education institutions of the area. Flood damaged many bridges and caused much pain to the communications and affected the fishes and cattle farms a lot.

The CMD- Germany supported St. Andrew's Boys Hostel and St. Mary's Girls Hostel, Haluaghat with 150 children and staff were greatly victimized, too, as their campuses were inundated with water for a week up to 3 to 5 feet of water and caused untold damages to the vegetables, ponds, flower garden and infrastructures. For this, until another harvest, they will have hardships to maintain basic needs with the approved income. We urge your loving prayers for these children and staff.

CMCY Officers visited the CMD-Germany

From September 21 to October 4, 2024; Mr. Shyamal Sarker-Director and Mr. Harun Mondal-Liaison Officer-CMCY visited the CMD-Germany office at Meirendorf for the first time of their long services. In those days, they met with the staff and elite members of the CMD-Foundation and discussed office matters and had fruitful outcomes. The CMD office arranged different visits at the famous churches of the St. Paul's cathedral, St. Thomas's church and Stiff Church and also at some famous monasteries. At the St. Paul Church and at the Senior Citizens Home, run by Mr. Bernd Bareis, both



the Director and Liaison officer there delivered motivational speech on how the vulnerable children come up in life enjoying CMCY support. Honorable Mrs. Sabine Eller-Chairwoman, CMD provided 4 days warmer and kind hospitality at her flat. Furthermore what a praiseworthy family care and warm hospitalities were offered by the Chairperson of the CMD Foundation Mr. Thomas Plitz, Mrs. Easter Piltz, Treasurer Mr. Willy Foel and Mrs. Easter Foel, and Mr. Herbeit Griesser and Mrs. Jutta Griesser will be forever remembered! We are extremely thankful to the Most Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin - Moderator, Church of Bangladesh and Chairperson-CMCY, and the honorable Board Members and also to the concerned authorities of CMD- Germany for blessing this visit.

This visit has acknowledged friendships and strengthened the mutual trust and respect between the two organizations by which vulnerable children and their families will have more support in the coming years

CoB Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi

In mid-October 2024, I had the opportunity to represent the Church of Bangladesh at the Anglican Health and Community Network's Steering Committee meeting in Hong Kong. The discussions centered around enhancing mutual support and capacity enhancement, particularly on actions aligned with the World Health Organization and the local church's vision and needs. Emphasis was placed on mental health, malaria, and engaging local resources and communities in church-led healthcare initiatives.



Besides three bishops and eight doctors from various countries, five health officials, including myself, were present on behalf of the church.



New outlook of CMHR 2024

This month's update from the Christian Mission Hospital is that patients from all backgrounds are coming here for treatment. This hospital is a favored choice for many—some were born here, and others have parents who were born here. However, due to a shortage of cabins relative to the demand, we have had to turn away some patients who wanted to be admitted. Recognizing this need, the committee decided to add 12 new cabins on the first floor of the existing building, with the engineer's approval, and the work is nearly complete. With your prayers, we hope to finish all processes and preparations by November 15, 2024.

CoB Nursing Institute Rajshahi



The Nursing Institute (NI) is currently home to 214 nursing students.

The Nursing Institute (NI) at Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi, is currently home to 214 nursing students. Students in the first, second, and third years are preparing for their final exams scheduled for November 28, 2024. The form fill-up process for the exams is ongoing, signaling the approaching end of their academic year.

In recent news, 49 students who completed their internships sat for the Licentiate/Comprehensive examination, with impressive results: 45 passed, while 4 did not meet the passing criteria. The administration and faculty have expressed pride in the students' achievements and are working on further supporting those who did not pass.

Meanwhile, NI is expanding its facilities with new classrooms, laboratories, and a library. Construction is

expected to be completed by mid-November, aiming to enhance the learning environment for current and future students. In addition to infrastructure improvements, NI has introduced essential skill-development training through the MCC project. This includes programs such as Helping Babies Breathe (HBB), Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), Basic Adult Resuscitation Techniques (BART), and Medical Ventilation and Vital Signs (MVV), designed to equip students with vital, hands-on medical skills.

The staff and students for their commitment to quality education and ongoing development, saying the improvements will benefit both students and the local healthcare system.

Reported by Sulota Drong, Principal, Nursing Institute, Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.

CoB-Bollobhpur Hospital Nursing Centre

September and October brought several exciting and enjoyable events, alongside the daily work at witness and caring for the patients at Bollobhpur Hospital.



Bollobhpur Deanery football tournament, with our Laboratory training students making up a team with our doctor as the Goalkeeper!! and spurred on by enthusiastic onlookers. and then the team returning as darkness fell with the cup they had won.

And then to celebrate a picnic (feast) for everyone, in the hospital grounds with huge cauldrons of rice, lentil's and goat's meat curry, being cooked over wood fires, and everyone coming to eat together, students and staff alike.

A week later, in our hospital chapel, during the Friday morning Holy Communion service, our youngest laboratory student, Samuel, was baptized into the Christian family by Rev Dipty Kirtonia our hospital chaplain. Samuel, an orphan boy, knowing neither father nor mother, and brought up in a children home, before coming to us for training. Please pray that he may find secure employment on completing his course here.

And in the classroom the new group completed their three months preliminary training, sat the final examination obtained good pass marks, and are now preparing to receive their new uniform and nurses cap in the hospital chapel, next Friday, November 1st.

The hospital wards are full of small children and babies with coughs and colds and pneumonia as the exceedingly hot summer gives way rainstorms and falling temperature's.



The state of the country is volatile, with unrest in every quarter, but here in our quiet corner we keep well and at peace, with everyone, regardless of religion or political background use our hospital and schools, and work at peace with each other.

Thanks to be God.

G M Rose
Director
Bollobhpur Hospital.