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**HELP Bangladesh**

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Health  
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**H.E.L.P NEWS**



Dear All,

We want to take a moment to reflect on the hope and renewal that this special time of year brings, reminding the boundless hope and new beginnings Here at the children's home, we witness this transformative power of hope and new life each day, providing a nurturing haven for children who have faced the loss of their families.

Through this monthly newsletter, we are privileged to share with you the abundant joy and blessings that our children experience, made possible through the unwavering support of our valued donors, dedicated volunteers, and esteemed partners in our work.

### **Samaritan School Operation During Summer Heatwave:**

Bangladesh finds itself in the grip of an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring to unprecedented levels across the country. The scorching heat, exacerbated by dry winds and almost no rainfall, has led to challenging conditions for residents, particularly those in urban areas. The prolonged exposure to high temperatures poses significant health risks, including heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and dehydration causing 2 deaths so far. Authorities have issued advisories urging people to take precautions, stay hydrated, and seek shelter from the sun during peak hours. Over the last seven days,

temperatures in the capital and other heatwave-affected places have been consistently four to five degrees Celsius higher than the corresponding seven days in the last 30 years

With an oppressive heatwave persisting throughout Bangladesh, Govt remains deeply concerned about the health and safety of children across the country due to sweltering temperatures, as temperature was holding from 38 to 42 degree Celsius (100 – 107 degree Fahrenheit). As a result, all schools in the nation have been temporarily closed for a week, starting from 21st April. This decision aims to mitigate the risk of students being exposed to extreme heat conditions, allowing them to remain in the comfort and safety of their homes during this period.

Our school has scheduled the 1st term examinations for all classes to commence from the 1st week of May, with the hopeful expectation that the ongoing heatwave situation may alleviate by then. However, we remain flexible, understanding that the schedule may be subject to change should the government decide to extend the school shutdown due to the prevailing weather conditions. In accordance with government guidelines, all our boys and girls are adhering to the directive to remain in their dormitories, engaging in self-study activities. We are grateful to report that, by the grace of our Lord, none of our children have suffered from any illnesses or dehydration thus far.

To ensure the well-being of our students during this challenging time, we have implemented measures such as regularly reminding them to stay hydrated. A bell has been scheduled to ring at hourly intervals, serving as a reminder for students to drink a glass of water, thereby helping them to stay properly hydrated amidst the heatwave conditions.

Our Grade 10 public examination candidates have completed their exams successfully in April, the results will be published in May

Grade 12 public examination also took place in March and all the students have successfully completed their exams; results will also publish in May. Currently they are staying with their relatives and awaiting to join our Joy Hostel

### **Children Home Update:**

Excluding the 32 SSC candidates who are staying with their family and waiting for the results, currently there are 390 kids (181 boys and 209 girls) in our children home.

In January we received a letter from one of the local pastors in Bandarban where he requested for 10 kids who are financially very challenged. 8 of those 10 kids the kids had only one parent. Considering their situation as high risk and vulnerable, we have decided to support those kids and accepted their applications. These 10 kids are now under our shelter and receiving all supports from our program. We will soon share their profile for possible sponsorship.

### **Chapel Roof Reconstruction:**

We extend our gratitude to IPF for your generous support in providing a much-needed upgrade to Our Children Home Chapel. Built in 2005, the chapel, covering about 6000 sqft, had been recently struggling with a deteriorating tin shed roof, leading to water leaks during rainfall despite previous repair attempts. Recognizing the inefficiency of continued repairs, we decided to replace the entire roof structure.



This project holds a special significance as it was the last one guided closely by Robert Spica, Chairman of IPF and a very dear friend of our children home. With his invaluable expertise, guidance and support; we were able to procure new zinc/aluminum alloy coated high tensile steel sheets, chosen for their durability and suitability to our local weather conditions. These new sheets are thicker than the previously installed sheets, as so the internal structure frame has also been reinforced. As insulation for heat resistance, fire proof aluminum foil bubble insulation has been used which will keep the chapel cool during summer time. The whole project was completed under the supervision of our trusted Civil Engineer, who have also supervised our Science Building project.

### **Ongoing Projects:**

This year, one of our primary goals is to enhance the living conditions for our children by installing individual storage cabinets in the boys' and girls' dormitories. As a part of that, we are planning to install individual storage cabinets for boys and girls dormitory. Currently we have placed orders of building the storage facility for the boys side which is already in progress. This initiative aims to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility among the children, as they'll have their own private space to store their belongings. Not only will this promote tidiness and cleanliness in the dormitories, but it will also foster a sense of security through the introduction of the lock & key concept. We extend our gratitude to IPF for recognizing the importance of this project and for their generous support in helping us achieve our goal.

In addition, we are in the process of renovating our Volleyball Court, with plans to add more benches for spectators. Volleyball holds special significance for us, as it was a beloved pastime of our late Karno Barmon, a cherished member of our children's home who tragically passed away last year due to liver cancer. In honor of Karno's memory and his passion for the sport, we aim to dedicate this court to him, ensuring that his legacy lives on as an inspiration to future generations.

### **Jack and Jeanny from The Netherlands Visiting Suvash For The First Time:**

We were thrilled to welcome Jack and Jeanny Van Berge from The Netherlands, who had traveled to Bangladesh with a special purpose in mind. Having sponsored Suvash Tripura for the past decade through our partner Kimon, they expressed a heartfelt desire to meet him in person. The couple arrived on the 26th of March and graciously spent a day at our children's home.



Jack and Jeanny have extended their generosity to support numerous children worldwide. Witnessing Suvash in person for the first time was a truly an amazing experience for both the Van Berge couple and Suvash himself. They were deeply moved by the opportunity to meet him and witness firsthand the impact of their support over the years.

Their visit reaffirmed their belief in the importance of our mission and the significance of the care and support we provide to all our children. We are immensely grateful for their unwavering dedication and generosity, which continues to make a profound difference in the lives of children like Suvash.

In His Name,  
**David A. Halder**  
Founder Executive Director.  
H.E.L.P Bangladesh