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Newsletter

RDRS Quartlerly Newsletter | April- June 2026

RDRS Eye Care Center

Restoring sight, building trust among the marginalized

Md. Iftekhar Hossain
Manager, RDRS Eye Care Center

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a country should have an average of three hospital beds per 1,000 people. However, Bangladesh currently has only 0.92 beds per 1,000 people. In the northern region of the country, the situation is even more alarming, with just 0.75 beds per 1,000 people. Given this fragile state of the country's healthcare infrastructure, it is unsurprising that access to specialized medical services remains severely limited. In the field of ophthalmic care, this challenge is particularly acute for marginalized and low-income communities. Recognizing this urgent need, RDRS established the RDRS Eye Care Center in Haribhanga, Nilphamari District, in 2002.

Since its inception, the center has become a trusted institution within the local community, playing a vital role in preventing avoidable blindness and delivering essential eye care services. From 2002 to the present, its outpatient department has provided treatment and counseling to approximately 500,000 patients, while nearly 21,000 people have regained their sight through successful surgical interventions.

Today, the center has earned a strong reputation as a reliable provider of eye care, serving not only Lalmonirhat but also the neighboring districts of Kurigram, Rangpur, and Gaibandha. On average, the center serves around 110 patients each day, or approximately 2,000 patients per month, all of whom receive high-quality eye care at highly subsidized rates. To ensure accurate diagnosis and early detection of eye diseases, a dedicated team of 16 skilled healthcare professionals works at the center. This team includes three doctors, three refractionists, and three paramedics, along with other support staff. In addition, visiting specialist surgeons regularly provide advanced treatment for patients with complex eye conditions. The outpatient department operates daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The center's core services include specialist consultations, eye surgeries, and the provision of prescription glasses and medications. Beyond its clinical services, the RDRS Eye Care Center regularly organizes community eye camps to raise awareness about eye health and promote the prevention of vision loss. It also conducts training on primary eye care for Community Health Promoters. Most recently, from June 15 to June 21, 2026, the center observed Eye Care Week by organizing a week-long campaign featuring free vision screenings, public awareness activities, and educational sessions on eye health for school students.

RDRS Eye Care is bringing essential vision care to marginalized communities across northern Bangladesh. While its community eye camps provide free vision screening services, the center offers a range of modern diagnostic and treatment facilities at highly affordable costs. For a nominal fee of only BDT 50, patients receive a consultation with an eye specialist along with selected diagnostic tests. The RDRS Eye Care Center stands as a remarkable example of humanitarian service, dedicated to improving the lives of underserved populations. Guided by its mission to eliminate preventable blindness among the underprivileged, the center continues to expand access to high-quality, affordable, and compassionate eye care.

RDRS hosts International Climate Adaptation Training with six-country participation

Mst. Razia Begum
Senior Trainer, Training Department

Recently, as an active member of the Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network (AZEECON), RDRS Bangladesh successfully hosted a three-day regional training program on climate change adaptation. Held from June 15 to 17, the initiative aimed to foster climate-resilient communities while strengthening regional cooperation.

The training brought together climate experts and development professionals from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia. Through interactive sessions, participants shared adaptation strategies, practical experiences, and innovative ideas from their countries to collectively address the growing global challenges of climate change. Md. Enamul Haque, Head of Agriculture and Climate Change, coordinated the event on behalf of RDRS Bangladesh. The training was designed to move beyond theoretical discussions, emphasizing practical, field-based learning. As part of this approach, the international delegation visited Kurigram district to observe climate adaptation initiatives implemented by RDRS Bangladesh.

The delegates witnessed firsthand how local communities are responding to climate-induced risks and building resilience through sustainable, grassroots initiatives. Following the visit, representatives expressed their appreciation for the impact and effectiveness of RDRS interventions.

The event began with an inaugural session where Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh, joined virtually to welcome delegates and highlight the importance of regional cooperation in addressing climate change. He later attended the closing ceremony in person to present certificates to participants upon completion of the training. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Muniruzzaman reaffirmed RDRS's commitment to supporting marginalized and vulnerable communities in addressing the impacts of climate change.

A new hub for sustainable development

RDRS lays foundation stone for a training centre in Sreemangal to strengthen learning and capacity building

News Desk: On April 24, 2026, the foundation stone for the construction of the new 'RDRS Training and Resource Center' of RDRS Bangladesh was officially laid in Sreemangal. This momentous occasion marks the beginning of a new era of pride and potential in the ongoing journey of RDRS Bangladesh.

Faruque Ahmed, the honorable Chairperson of the organization's Board of Trustees, formally laid the foundation stone during a dedicated ceremony organized at the project premises. The foundation stone laying and subsequent special prayer ceremony were graced by the presence of the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, S. M. Akbar PhD, alongside other esteemed board members including Professor Md. Moynul Haque PhD, Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, Philip Biswas, Dr. Yasmin Hemayet Ahmed, and Ferhana Ferdous. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman PhD, the Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh, also attended the event.

The ceremony saw the participation of several senior officials from the organization. It is deeply anticipated that this Training and Resource Center will transcend being merely a physical infrastructure; rather, it will evolve into a unique epicenter for acquiring knowledge, honing skills, and fostering self-reliance. The vision for this center is that it will serve as a crucial foundation for nurturing capable future leadership, ultimately leading to stronger and more empowered communities.

Unparalleled protection for female employees at RDRS

Special benefits include maternity leave and childcare allowance

Minhun Nahar
Coordinator, Human Resources

Since Bangladesh's independence, RDRS Bangladesh has made significant contributions to improving the lives of marginalized communities. Beyond its grassroots impact, the organization has established a unique example by fostering a women-friendly work environment within its institutional framework. To promote women's empowerment and gender equality, RDRS's human resource policy serves as a strong safeguard, ensuring the rights, dignity, and protection of female employees. For women working at the field level or in remote areas, safe accommodation and transportation are among the major challenges. Recognizing this concern, RDRS has incorporated special provisions into its human resource policy. When a female employee is assigned to a remote location, the organization provides necessary support to help her secure safe and suitable accommodation. Supervisors and managers proactively coordinate with local landlords, community leaders, and public representatives to ensure her safety, with support from colleagues in the area. Motherhood is one of the most important and sensitive phases in a woman's life, and RDRS has introduced special measures to support female employees during this period. From the confirmation of pregnancy, any physical challenges such as fatigue and nausea are addressed with care and understanding. Prioritizing the health of both mother and child, the organization reduces employees' physical and mental workload for a combined period of at least six months before and after childbirth. Female employees may use bicycles or motorcycles for commuting up to the 27th week of pregnancy; however, this requirement can be waived or special leave granted based on medical advice or valid circumstances. Recognizing motherhood as a significant life stage, RDRS provides six months (180 days) of fully paid maternity leave for regular female employees, which may begin up to 60 days before the expected delivery date. To ensure financial stability during this period, the salary for the first two months of leave is paid in advance, while the remaining four months are provided through the regular payroll process. Additionally, transferring any female employee from the beginning of pregnancy until four months after childbirth is strictly prohibited. Upon returning to work, childcare becomes a major concern for new mothers. If workplace distance requires separation from the child, flexible working arrangements are considered. For the first year after childbirth, employees receive an additional 30-minute daily "Breastfeeding Break." To further support healthy child development, RDRS provides a Child Care Allowance of BDT 1,500 per month for the first and second child under 18 months of age for 12 months after the mother's return to work. Recognizing that men's involvement in family responsibilities is essential for women's empowerment, RDRS provides seven consecutive days of paternity leave for regular male employees. The organization also offers flexibility regarding field assignments and physical tasks for female employees experiencing menstrual discomfort. Ultimately, RDRS Bangladesh's human resource policy extends beyond written guidelines; it reflects a progressive and inclusive workplace culture. Through these humane and gender-responsive initiatives, RDRS enables women to participate confidently and comfortably in the workplace while contributing to the vision of a sustainable and equitable Bangladesh.

From Microfinance to Farming Success

Lovely Begum wins Best Farmer award for pioneering poison-free vegetable cultivation with RDRS support

Md. Mashiur Rahman
Senior Manager

Mst. Lovely Begum, a member of the RDRS Bangladesh Microfinance Program, has received the prestigious 'Best Farmer' award from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) for her outstanding contribution to safe, poison-free vegetable cultivation. She received the award from Shahin Akhter, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, at a ceremony held at the BARC auditorium in Dhaka on May 12. The recognition was presented under the Bangla SHEP project, a joint initiative of JICA, Bangladesh Bank, and the Department of Agricultural Extension. Lovely Begum is a member of the Bishaler Par Women's Group, supported by RDRS in Rajarhat upazila under the Bangla SHEP pilot project, which is being implemented in Kurigram and Dinajpur. The project aims to strengthen smallholder farmers through technical training and improved market linkages. By adopting climate-smart and eco-friendly practices such as mulching, yellow traps, and pheromone traps, Lovely has become a role model for safe vegetable cultivation in her community. She currently grows bitter gourds on 20 decimals of land using mulching techniques, producing completely poison-free vegetables. Her use of integrated pest management has reduced dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to almost zero, lowering production costs while protecting soil health. Her successful adoption of sustainable and profitable farming practices earned her this distinguished national recognition.

76th Board of Trustees meeting

Annual budget and branch expansion plan approved

Takvir Jannat
Senior Executive Secretary

The 76th Board of Trustees meeting of RDRS Bangladesh was held on June 28 at the organization's head office in Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by Board Chairperson Faruque Ahmed.

Executive Director Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, presented updates on recent initiatives to improve the organization's management and daily operations.

The board discussed recommendations from different sub-committees. Key agenda items included approval of the annual budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, the strategic plan for the microfinance program, and a proposal to open 20 new branches. The board also reviewed a proposal for an inflation-adjusted salary increase for employees.

The meeting was attended by Treasurer S. M. Akbar, PhD, and board members Professor Md. Moynul Haque, PhD, Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, Philip Biswas, Dr. Yasmin Hemayet Ahmed, and Ferhana Ferdous.

The board members shared important guidance to support effective, sustainable, and people-centered development. They expressed confidence that the new decisions will strengthen the future work of RDRS Bangladesh.

3rd meeting of the HR and admin sub-committee held

The 3rd meeting of the HR and Admin Board Sub-Committee of RDRS was held on May 14, 2026, and was chaired by the Sub-Committee Convener and Board of Trustees Member, Dr. Yasmin Hemayet Ahmed. The meeting was attended by Board Treasurer S. M. Akbar, PhD, and member Philip Biswas. Executive Director Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, Head of Admin and General Services Major Shammita Kabir (Retd.), and Head of HR Shaheen Parveen were also present. The committee reviewed a three-year property renovation plan for 46 RDRS locations, discussed the legal documentation of the organization's 121 acres of land, recommended integrating AI into employee performance management, considered creating a Deputy Director position for the microfinance program, and directed management to strengthen cybersecurity awareness and provide AI training for senior management by July 2026.

18th meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee

Annual budget approved and audit activities reviewed

News Desk: The 18th meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee of RDRS Bangladesh was held on June 22, 2026, at the Dhaka office. The meeting was chaired by the Committee Convener and RDRS Board of Trustees Treasurer S. M. Akbar PhD. Important discussions took place regarding the organization's overall financial operations and future plans. Among these, the review of the loan write-off proposal for the Microfinance program, the financial planning, and the annual budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year were considered with high priority. Furthermore, following a review of the progress of internal audit activities and the annual internal audit plan for the current fiscal year, the meeting granted its approval. This meeting was attended by Committee Member and RDRS Board of Trustees Chairperson Faruque Ahmed, Board of Trustees Member Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, and RDRS Bangladesh Executive Director Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman PhD. Also participating in the meeting were Director (Microfinance) Tarik Sayed Harun, Director (Finance and Accounts) Md. Salahuddin FCA, and Head of Audit Touhidur Rahman Khan.

7th meeting of the Program Sub-Committee held

Key organizational initiatives reviewed

News Desk: The 7th meeting of the RDRS Bangladesh Board Sub-Committee on Program Matters was held virtually on June 20, 2026, chaired by Sub-Committee Convener and Board of Trustees Member Ferhana Ferdous. The meeting was attended by Board Member Professor Md. Moynul Haque, PhD, Executive Director Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, Director (Microfinance) Tarik Sayed Harun, and senior officials of RDRS Bangladesh. The committee discussed strengthening Union Federations through the establishment of agriculture centers, health corners, and information centers to make them more sustainable and community-focused. A target was set to plant 50,000 tree saplings in Rangpur Division and Cox's Bazar in 2026 as part of environmental protection efforts. The meeting also reviewed a study on school dropout rates in Cox's Bazar, which identified a 26.8% dropout rate mainly linked to socio-economic factors. The committee expressed satisfaction with overall program progress, including the implementation of new projects supported by donor organizations such as UNICEF and Act Church of Sweden.

RDRS–Union Federation Dialogue
Shaping the Future of Community Based Organizations

Md. Ashik Ahamed
Senior Manager, Training Unit

To expand mutual activities and strengthen cooperation, RDRS Bangladesh and the Union Federations held two separate exchange meetings on April 20 and 21, 2026, in Thakurgaon and Rangpur, respectively. The sessions focused primarily on reviewing the current status of the federations, developing future roadmaps, and identifying specific areas where RDRS could provide support.

The meetings brought together federation leaders from various districts and levels. Representing RDRS Bangladesh were Executive Director Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD; Head of Social Development Md. Mujibul Haque Munir; Team Leader Rashedul Arefin; and other officials.

In his welcome address, the Executive Director expressed immense pride in the historic achievements of the federations. He highlighted that although these organizations were initially envisioned as platforms for addressing social issues, they have since obtained legal registration and are independently mobilizing resources from various sources to implement development projects. He emphasized that the primary objective of the meetings was to develop collaborative future action plans and identify key areas for mutual cooperation.

Several significant decisions were made during the discussions. To protect the interests of ordinary citizens and serve as a foundation for future initiatives, it was decided that an "Agriculture Center" (Krishi Kendra) would be established in each federation to promote and strengthen agricultural activities. Furthermore, to improve access to primary healthcare at the grassroots level, it was decided to establish a "Health Corner" within every federation. To support this initiative, RDRS will provide the necessary paramedic training.

The federations will also undertake extensive tree-planting programs to address climate change risks and promote environmental sustainability. Additionally, to ensure the smooth implementation of regular activities and strengthen institutional support, RDRS has decided to assign one dedicated staff member to each district federation.

Fifteen years of connecting communities
Radio Chilmari celebrates its journey with a three-day anniversary programme

Bashir Ahmed
Station Manager, Radio Chilmari

Radio Chilmari 99.2 FM, an initiative of RDRS Bangladesh and widely known as the voice of marginalized communities in Kurigram, recently celebrated its 14th anniversary and officially stepped into its 15th year on June 2. To mark the milestone, the station organized a vibrant three-day celebration featuring special broadcasts and cultural activities, with enthusiastic participation from listeners of all ages and backgrounds. On this special occasion, Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD; Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh, delivered a congratulatory message, while Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Advisor to the Radio Chilmari Council and Chilmari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), also extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes. Since its official launch on June 2, 2012, in Chilmari Upazila of Kurigram district, Radio Chilmari has been producing and broadcasting community-focused programs that promote awareness on local socio-economic development, education, health, agriculture, women's and children's rights, and climate change. Over the past 14 years, the station has established itself as a trusted platform for information, awareness, and entertainment, making a meaningful contribution to the lives of people across the region.

WRITE and win exciting PRIZES!

Starting with the upcoming issue of the RDRS Newsletter, contributors will have an exciting opportunity to win attractive prizes. In each issue, one writer will be selected for the best published article and receive a special award. The winner's name will be announced in the newsletter.

If the judging panel finds more than one submission equally deserving, multiple writers may also be recognized and awarded.

Write for Newsletter, highlight your beloved organization

Win prizes!

Special student clubs are turning inclusion into everyday practice

Equality begins at school

Syeda Nur-e Nabila Tabassum
Project Manager, Cox's Bazar

Student life is the most important stage for nurturing the values, attitudes, and aspirations that shape a person's future. With this vision, RDRS Bangladesh is implementing the project "Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Schools: Building on What Children Value and Aspire to Do and Be" in eight schools across Cox's Bazar. The initiative aims to foster gender equality, social inclusion, equal participation, and a discrimination-free environment among young learners.

As part of the project, LIKE Clubs have been established in all eight schools. These clubs provide a safe and inclusive platform where students can learn about gender equality, child protection, mutual respect, and social inclusion through interactive discussions, study circles, debates, awareness campaigns, and other participatory activities. By taking part in these sessions, students are building self-confidence, leadership skills, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for diversity and inclusion.

A remarkable example of the project's impact is Tanisha, a fourth-grade student at Cheinda Government Primary School in Ramu Upazila. Before joining the LIKE Club, she was hesitant to speak in front of others and rarely expressed her opinions in class. Through regular participation in club activities, her confidence has grown significantly. Today, she actively contributes to classroom discussions and school events. Reflecting on her experience, she said, Before joining the LIKE Club, I was afraid to speak in front of others. Now, I can confidently express my opinions and participate in different activities.

Tanisha also shared that the club helped her and her classmates understand the harmful effects of bullying and the importance of treating one another with respect. She observed that boys and girls, who previously interacted less and often hesitated to work together, now cooperate more openly and respectfully. According to her, incidents of bullying have also declined noticeably, creating a friendlier and more supportive school environment.

To review these encouraging outcomes and discuss the sustainability of the initiative, a project review meeting was held in Cox's Bazar on June 11, 2026. Participants highlighted the positive changes already taking place and proposed several recommendations, including orientation for newly elected School Management Committee (SMC) members, joint monitoring visits, and the integration of gender equality and social inclusion indicators into the education department's regular monitoring system.

> LIKE Clubs are promoting gender equality, inclusion, and mutual respect in schools.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of institutionalizing the LIKE Club model so that it becomes a permanent part of school life. Some schools have already taken steps in this direction, demonstrating their commitment to sustaining the initiative. With the continued collaboration of schools, teachers, students, parents, and education authorities, LIKE Clubs have the potential to create safer, more participatory, and inclusive learning environments where every child feels respected, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Closing the vision gap

Delivering essential eye care to remote and char communities

Md. Masud Ur Rahman
Senior Manager, Research and Development

RDRS Bangladesh is implementing the Comprehensive Cataract Service project in remote and hard-to-reach char (riverine island) areas. With technical support from Orbis International and the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), the project has been running since October 2025, bringing quality eye care services to underserved communities and helping restore sight to people affected by cataracts. Using Orbis International's Vision Pack and digital applications, RDRS has so far identified 16,339 potential patients. Of these, 597 cataract patients have already received advanced treatment and successfully undergone surgery, significantly improving their quality of life. Between April and June 2026, RDRS organized nine eye camps in the Nageshwari area, where 1,683 people received general eye care services. During these camps, 229 patients diagnosed with cataracts were referred to Deep Eye Care Hospital in Rangpur for advanced surgical treatment. As cataracts account for nearly 70% of blindness cases in Bangladesh, the project is making a meaningful contribution to reducing avoidable blindness. By reaching vulnerable communities at the grassroots level, RDRS continues to restore the precious gift of sight and improve the lives of people who otherwise have limited access to specialized eye care.

A Quiet Departure, A Deep Loss

RDRS remembers Jononi Project's Senior Monitoring Officer Fuad

The RDRS Bangladesh family is deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Fuad Ahmed Khan, Senior Monitoring Officer of the Jononi' project. He passed away due to cardiac arrest on June 28 at 10:15 PM. (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). Fuad Ahmed Khan dedicated many years of his professional life to RDRS Bangladesh, serving the organization through several successful tenures. He first joined RDRS as a Monitoring Officer on April 20, 2009, and continued in that role until December 31, 2009. Later, he served as Monitoring, Evaluation, and Documentation Officer from October 2, 2010, to March 20, 2012. He returned as a Monitoring Officer on March 22, 2012, and carried out his responsibilities with commitment and excellence until December 31, 2017. On June 15, 2023, he once again became a valued member of the RDRS family, joining as Senior Monitoring Officer for the 'Jononi' project. Throughout his career, Fuad Ahmed Khan was recognized as an honest, skilled, and dedicated professional. His sudden passing is a great loss to RDRS Bangladesh, and his contributions, commitment, and warm presence will be deeply remembered by his colleagues and the entire organization. RDRS Bangladesh extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and prays for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

Annual Review and Planning Meeting of the Water Credit Program held

Bidyut Kumar Saha
Senior Manager, Special Partnership and WASH

On May 5, RDRS Bangladesh, in collaboration with Water.org, successfully organized the "Annual Business Review and Future Action Planning Meeting 2026" in Rangpur. The event brought together divisional and regional managers from across the organization to review progress, discuss achievements, and plan future actions. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh, attended the meeting as the chief guest. In his remarks, he reaffirmed RDRS's strong commitment to achieving SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and emphasized that the project's goal extends beyond loan distribution. He highlighted the importance of ensuring safe water, improved sanitation, and better health outcomes for disadvantaged communities. Abu Aslam, Portfolio Lead for South Asia at Water.org, attended the event as a special guest and praised RDRS Bangladesh for its significant achievements in the WASH sector. He expressed a shared commitment to expanding access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for every household.

Better Skills, Stronger Systems

Workshop for strengthening discipline and accountability in microfinance services

Md. Masud Ur Rahman
Senior Manager, Research and Development

The Microfinance Program of RDRS Bangladesh organized four divisional skill development workshops between April 9 and May 10 across the Rangpur-East, Rajshahi-Khulna, Rangpur-West, and Dhaka-Sylhet divisions. A total of 300 Branch Managers and Accounts Officers from 16 regions participated in the sessions. The workshops focused on identifying financial irregularities, understanding risks, and adopting preventive measures, cash management, bank transaction verification, software use, record-keeping, internal controls, and strengthening accountability.

RDRS Board of Trustees Chairperson Faruque Ahmed and Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman, PhD, Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh, emphasized a strong "zero tolerance" approach toward financial irregularities. The workshops were supervised by Tarik Sayed Harun, Director of Microfinance. Senior officials, including Md. Salahuddin FCA, Director of Finance and Accounts; Touhidur Rahman Khan, Head of Audit; and Mamunur Rashid, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning, provided guidance on preventing financial mismanagement and improving operational efficiency. These initiatives are expected to strengthen internal systems, enhance branch performance, and support RDRS Bangladesh in providing more effective microfinance services for marginalized communities.

RDRS marks Environment Day with 21,000 saplings

On the World Environment Day 2026, RDRS Bangladesh's ECCP-Drought project organized a tree plantation and sapling distribution program in four schools of Niamatpur Upazila, Naogaon, from June 16 to 22. The initiative aimed to raise environmental awareness and encourage youth participation in climate action. A total of 3,075 tree saplings were distributed among 615 students and teachers, who pledged to contribute to environmental protection. As part of its broader green initiatives, RDRS Bangladesh has planted 21,000 saplings nationwide by June 2026 through various projects, and the Emergency Response Program. RDRS Bangladesh will continue its efforts to promote environmental sustainability. and build a climate-resilient future.

Beyond Rehabilitation, Into Recognition

Disaster Management and Relief Minister praises RDRS Rehab Center's achievements on the cultural stage

Pradip Kumar Roy
Admin Officer, Rehabilitation Center

During a visit to Church of God High School in Lalmonirhat on May 11, Minister of Disaster Management and Relief Asadul Habib Dulu (MP) met two visually impaired students from the RDRS rehabilitation center. After learning that RDRS provides these students with free accommodation, education, and support services, the minister highly appreciated the organization's initiatives and expressed his interest in visiting the rehabilitation center. The Deputy Commissioner, District Council Administrator, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer, and other senior officials were also present during the visit.

Recently, students of the RDRS Bangladesh Visual Impairment Rehabilitation Center in Lalmonirhat brought great recognition to the institution through their outstanding performances in various national and local cultural competitions. During the National Primary Education Medal Competition 2026 held in Mohendranagar Union on May 19, Swapna Khatun secured first place in Hamd-Naat, patriotic songs, and Rabindra Sangeet. Marufa Akter and Reshma Khatun also achieved second positions in Bhawaiya songs and folk dance respectively.

The students continued their success in cultural events organized by the Lalmonirhat Sahitya-Sanskriti Sangsad, District Administration, Shilpakala Academy, and Shishu Academy marking the Rabindra-Nazrul birth anniversary. Suraiya Akter earned top positions in poetry recitation, while Puja Roy and Khadija Parvin Bannya also received awards in Nazrul Sangeet and other cultural categories.

To expand students' learning experiences, the center organized a Seasonal Fruit Festival 2026 on June 21. The event provided visually impaired students an opportunity to become familiar with different fruits through touch, smell, and taste. Mangoes, jackfruits, litchis, dragon fruits, and other seasonal fruits were displayed, creating an enjoyable and educational experience for the students. RDRS officials, including Md. Mujibul Haque Munir, Head of the Social Program, and K.M. Rashedul Arefin, Team Leader, attended the program.

The RDRS Bangladesh rehabilitation center in Lalmonirhat continues to serve as a safe and supportive space for visually impaired children, as well as women and adolescent girls affected by violence. The center provides Braille-based education, support for mainstream schooling, life skills development, cultural activities, psychosocial counseling, and livelihood training. Through these initiatives, RDRS is helping beneficiaries gain confidence, become self-reliant, and lead dignified lives.

RDRS Board Chairperson Visits SEEDS Project

Tamim Ahmed
Project Coordinator, SEEDS

Faruque Ahmed, Chairperson of the RDRS Bangladesh Board of Trustees, visited the ongoing SEEDS project in Badarganj Upazila of Rangpur district on April 6. During the visit, he observed the activities of the Kaljani Sanglap Forum in Madhupur Union and interacted with adolescent girl members to learn about the impact of their initiatives. The forum members shared their experiences in social awareness activities, research initiatives, communication with government and non-government organizations, and their efforts to access public services. Impressed by their confidence, leadership, and community engagement, the Chairperson praised their achievements and encouraged them to continue their efforts. The field visit was attended by Md. Mamunur Rashid, Head of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning; K.M. Rashedul Arefin, Team Leader of Social Development; and other officials from the SEEDS project. Implemented with financial and technical support from the Strømme Foundation, the Socio-Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS) project works to improve the livelihoods of marginalized communities. Under the project, adolescent girls from disadvantaged families receive one year of training on life skills and income-generating activities through Sanglap (Dialogue) or Adolescent Empowerment Centers. After completing the training, graduates form Sanglap Forums that promote social awareness, leadership, and family-based development for broader community transformation.

SEEDS project is empowering adolescent girls through life skills

Advisory Editor: Dr. Imrul Kayes Muniruzzaman ● Editor: Md. Mujibul Haque Munir, Asst. Editor: Monazzil Riyad.
RDRS Bangladesh, House 43, Road 10, Sector 6, Uttara, Dhaka 1230.