



Newsletter

Winter 2025

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR, BANGLADESH, Registered Charity No: 1185262

156 children transfer to Primary School

This January 156 children from our pre-primary schools transferred to primary school. Most (63) went to Khasdobir School which the guardians often prefer because it offers the opportunity to study to class 8. (Most primary schools only have provision to class 5). 5 children transferred to other Government Primary Schools. 37 went to the 3 tea garden primary schools and the remainder went to Madrassa (Religious Schools).

At all of the schools a farewell party was arranged for the children who were leaving. These were organised and funded by the local Centre Management Committees, which consist of local parents and others from the local community. Games were organised and a cake was cut. Every child leaving was presented with a certificate.

All the children leaving this year had completed a short exam, which the children said they had enjoyed. There were simple questions on Maths, English and Bengali, and those who scored the top marks were presented with a small prize.

Annual meeting of our supporters:

Saturday 5th July 2025 10am by zoom

Please make a note in your diary and try to join our annual meeting of supporters to hear reports from the project, find out about our plans for the future, and meet the staff who work on the project and the children and young people who benefit from your support.

To receive the zoom link to join email: khasdobir@btinternet.com

John's Fun Run Raises over £600



Congratulations to our trustee, John Cowpe, who completed the Skegness Rotary Club's annual Santa Fun Run on 15th December 2024. The run was around the seaside town's foreshore. John raised over £600 for the Khasdobir Project and would like to thank all those who supported him.

Below: Children with their leaving certificates



Chairman
Treasurer
Patrons:
Web Site:
On-line donations:

Mike Sherriff
Phil Watson, April Cottage, 12, Church Street, Rothley, Leicestershire, LE7 7PD
The Rt. Hon the Baroness Morgan of Cotes; Rt. Hon Sir Kevin Barron
www.khasdobir.org.uk
<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-khasdobir>

Sylhet Volunteer Team to organize fundraising games

Current and former students from our computer training courses have formed a team with staff of Sylhet Jubo Academy to raise funds for the project.

Next month a futsal competition (similar to five a side football) is being arranged. There will also be indoor games including carrom (similar to pool but using discs instead of balls) and ludo. Each team will pay a fee to enter and our volunteer team are producing publicity and promoting the competitions at local schools and colleges.



Pass it on

We circulate our newsletter by post and email. After you have read your copy please consider passing it on or forwarding the email to friends and family who might be interested in the project. Please encourage them to contact us by email to be added to the mailing list so that they can receive the newsletter regularly and consider donating to the project.

Embroidery and block batik provide alternatives for the daughters of tea labourers

Our embroidery and block batik training will be increasing from two to three days following feedback from trainees about the time needed to gain these skills. We now have more trainees attending from tea gardens, where one former student is already making and selling embroidery.

Shejuti is 17 years old. She is one of our trainees from Malnichara Tea Garden. Her mother and father work in the tea garden. She is the youngest of two brothers and two sisters. Her older sister is married and does housework. Her husband works in the tea factory. One brother is married, and he also works in the tea factory. Her younger brother looks after their cows.

Shejuti is learning embroidery to help her family. When she finishes the course, she wants to start an embroidery business with her friends who are also learning embroidery. She says that she has no interest in tea garden work because she wants to make better use of her education. She is currently learning kantha (a type of embroidery). She has already learnt block batik. She started the course in July 2024 and is also learning sewing in our sewing class.

Protima is 22 years old. She was born in Monipur Tea Garden, located in a different part of Sylhet. She came to Malnichara in 2023 for her marriage. She does not have children. Her sisters and one brother live in Monipur and her mother and father work on the tea garden there. Her sisters and brother attend school.

Her husband is a motor bike rider on Malnichara tea garden (taking passengers to and from Sylhet). His parents both work on the tea garden. Protima started the course in July and is currently learning block batik. She prefers block batik and finds this easier. She already knows how to sew. In the long term she wants to start a business in her area. She wants to do this type of work because she has an education, and the current situation of tea workers is bad as they only earn 170 taka (about £1.15) per day.



We are looking for new trustees

We are a small charity that has been supporting the Khasdobir Project in Sylhet for almost 40 years. We are always looking for people interested in joining our committee, which meets 3-4 times a year. The duties of a trustee are described here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved> If you, or somebody you know, would be interested in joining us then please email us at: khasdobir@btinternet.com

Distribution of cloth for school dress

Every year in January the Khasdobir Project distributes blue and white cloth to all the children. With this cloth the guardians make the school dresses for the children- shirt and shorts for the boys and dresses for the girls.



Puppet Show

Thanks to everyone who joined our annual puppet show in December- the story of the three billy goats gruff. About £200 was raised for the project. This is one of the favourite stories for our children and they always enjoy performing for our supporters.

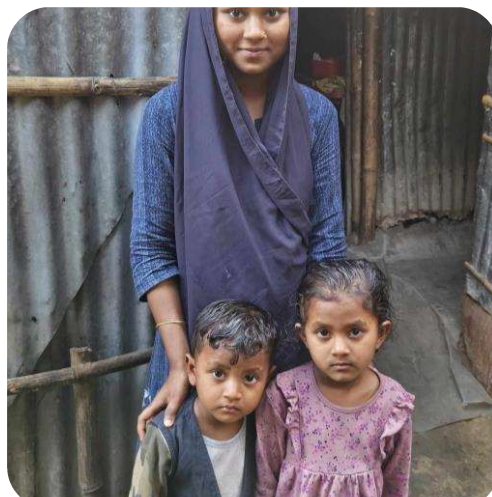


Our outreach team recruit new students for the pre-primary schools

Our outreach team go from door to door to help people in the poorest parts of Sylhet to get opportunities that will improve their lives. They work in the slums that are located on land owned by the better off residents of Sylhet. They also work in the tea gardens on the outskirts of Sylhet city. They help families to get birth certificates for their children. These are essential for getting access to many local services and can often be very difficult to obtain, especially for children in the slum areas whose parents have often recently moved to Sylhet from other parts of Bangladesh. The team also help children to get access to education and health services. They help young people to get access to training, and older people and widows to get access to financial support.

In December Rubina, one of our outreach workers, visited all the slum areas in Badambagicha, to find children aged between four and six and to motivate their parents and guardians to enrol them in our schools. During her visits she met Salma and Moshahid who originally came from Habiganj and have spent 40 years living in the slums of Sylhet. They have been living at their current place for just over a year and previously lived at another slum in Badambagicha. Salma is a housewife and Moshahid is a painter and decorator. They have five children including two young children aged between four and five who have just started attending one of our pre-primary schools. Rubina is helping them to obtain birth certificates for the children.

The three other children are aged between 10 and 19. The oldest is married and her husband is a painter and decorator. The fifteen-year-old son is doing the same work. He previously attended a madrasa (religious school). The youngest boy aged ten is also studying in a madrasa



If you receive your newsletter by post and we do not currently have your email address it would be extremely helpful if you could provide it to us so that we can communicate with you occasionally about our various on-line events using email. It is still possible to receive a paper version of the newsletter. If you want to stop receiving a paper version of the newsletter and just receive an email copy, then please let us know. You can contact us at: khasdobir@btinternet.com

YES, I'd like to help...

1 Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh Registered Charity No. 1185262

2 Gift Aid Declaration

I am a U.K. taxpayer, and wish the charity to treat all donations that I make as Gift Aid donations from the date below, so that the tax I have paid on those sums can be recovered by them.

Name, including Mr, Mrs, Miss or Ms, and first name

.....

Full Address

.....

Postcode Date

Signed

E-mail Address (optional)

Notes:

This declaration is in force from the above date until it is cancelled. It need only be made once.

I confirm that have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax (added together) for the current and each following year; 6th April to 5th April, until further notice, that is at least equal to the amount of all the tax that the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts each tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that The Friends of Khasdobir charity will reclaim the tax on my donations to them.

If your financial circumstances change, and you cease to pay income tax or capital gains tax at a level at least equal to the sum that you donate to all charities and CASCs each year, then please let the charity know by writing to the Treasurer.