

A Donation: Necessities for Moanoghar 2014

I received SFr1,000.-(TK81,690) for the children in Bangladesh. Here is what it bought.

Over time, i have learnt to ask what is needed and so Ven. Buddhadatta asked around what



would be the best way to use the money for the 814 residential students aged 6 – 18. Everyone came up with a list and so we decided to buy many of the really important things on each list.

We set off at 7 am and reached Chittagong at about 9 (no traffic – we were lucky). Then we went in search of elixir: coffee. Three places invited us to sit down in order to have a cup of coffee and all three ended up serving only Nescafe. And so we gave up.

It was now about 11 am and so we headed off to change money. This is not such an easy matter as many places have counterfeit notes etc. But we did it.

And so to the stationary shop area. As we have a drawing competition coming and art materials are terribly lacking, we bought:

10 drawing books (prizes)
10 24 color pencils (prizes)
20 36 color pastels

20 12 color water colours
65 brushes (various sizes)
1,000 sheets drawing paper = 21,050



Milipon Marma

Subharti Chakma

Then we all had lunch (about 3 pm) on me, which was cool and excellent but expensive = USD25 for 4 people. However it was worth it as we were on an incredibly long shopping spree!

Next musical instruments. Moanoghar is an unusual place: there are two 15 year-old girls who are very serious about the tabla: I promised them each their own tablas... (Milipon Marma belongs

to the second biggest tribe, Marmas and Subharti Chakma belongs to the biggest tribe, Chakmas.)

The rest of the list was long including a keyboard, which I knew would be too expensive. So we bought:

3 guitars

3 tabla sets

2 sets guitar strings = 18,250

Off to the Sports shop section of town. The first shop was rude and unpleasant so we went next door.

There we bought:

19 footballs

24 tennis balls

10 shuttle cocks

8 sets of badminton rackets

2 plastic stumps

2 badminton nets

2 table tennis bats

5 badminton strings = 25,000

And finally the stuff for jewellery making – a new activity to Moanoghar. As it was after the holiday, that market

30 kilos of mixed beads

500 yards fish line

5 x 20 needles

1 kilos of locks

20 + plastic containers (beads) = 16,295

We returned home about 1130 pm and quickly moved all the things to a locked room. In the morning, when i wanted to take pictures, we started

to unpack the things and hundreds of children stood around, their eyes popping out of their heads!

The next day we went to buy the dancing materials locally.

Ontar, a university student and amateur dancer, helped us

buy: Plates (for a special dance)

Saris

Pots (they dance on top of them)

Clips

Hair decorations

Bangles and Cloth = 7,930

TOTAL = 7,930 + 16,295 + 25000 + 18250 + 21,050 = 88,525

The plan is that they start activity centres on Thursday afternoons. As Bangladesh is a Muslim country, schools are closed from Thursday midday until Saturday morning. They have often wondered what to do with the time, how to benefit the children. Of course the children can play around and they have a few instruments and so on. But there was not enough for 814 kids. Now this is a little better with the things we brought and we will try to make activity centres as soon as possible. I will let you know how it goes!!!

Thank you from everyone.

