

Our newest TOS group is attached to the Maynamati Lodge of the TS Presidential Agency in Bangladesh. Presidential Agent, Mr B.L. Bhattacharya, who is also the National Director of the TOS in India, encouraged the Lodge to form a TOS group “to shape the image of the Maynamati TS Lodge as a complete lodge.”

The new TOS group has 11 members with Advocate Prahlad Debnath as Chief Patron, Adv. Abdul Jalil as President and Mr Sajal Paul as Secretary. Adv. Prahlad Debnath is the Correspondent for the International TOS. Several of the group’s members and their families attended the Adyar Convention where they enjoyed meeting many other members of the TS and TOS and attending the TOS Session. Upon returning home the energetic group went to work immediately fixing several objectives, two of which have already been accomplished!



Nancy Secrest, TOS International Secretary, Prahlad Debnath, Maynamati Lodge President and TOS Correspondent, his daughter Maynamati Debnath Rajana, and his son Joydip Debnath Manon at the Adyar Convention in January 2017



Nancy Secrest, Barna Bhowmik, Prahlad Debnath's wife, and their children at the Adyar convention January 2017

The Maynamati Lodge and TOS group delivered winter clothing to poverty-stricken people at the Comilla rail station on the night of 31 January 2017. A number of members were present at this winter clothing distribution ceremony.



The Lodge and TOS group celebrated Adyar Day, 17 February, by distributing educational materials to poor students at Comilla City Park.



A group discussion at Nazrul Institute followed the distribution. Dilip Debnath and the senior member of the lodge, Professor Sunil Chandra Das, acted as President. The Unity prayer was conducted by the President of the lodge Adv. Prahlad Debnath and cordial respect was offered towards the language martyrs (see below for more about these brave Bangladeshis).

Other TS lodges that participated in the discussion were represented by: Dr Almasur Rahman, President, Pro-active Lodge, Dhaka; Sree Dipak Kumar Rai, President, Nazrul Lodge, Dhaka; Adv. Mahfuzur Rahman, President, Lalon Lodge, Dhaka; Professor K. M. Bari, Member, Bidyasagar Lodge, Dhaka; Writer and Researcher Adv. Golam Faruque; Farid Uddin Siddique, Secretary, Comilla Cultural Complex; Mr Omar Faruque Vuiyan, Secretary, Maynamati T.S. Lodge; Adv. Sajal Paul, Secretary, TOS Group.

A volume published covering Adyar Day was unveiled by Sree Arun Kanti Saha. Music presented by Professor Sunil Chandra Das, Md. Omar Faruque Vuiyan, and perusal of a poem presented by Dr Dinesh Bhattacharya and Sree Dilip Saha followed the discussion.

The morning of 21 February saw the celebration of International Mother Language Day.

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. First announced by **UNESCO** on 17 November 1999, it was formally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution establishing 2008 as the International Year of Languages. It was inspired by the Bangladeshis ("language martyrs") who died during a protest at the University of Dhaka on February 21, 1952, when they defended Bengali as a state language for Bangladesh. The people celebrate International Mother Language Day by laying down flowers to the Martyrs' Monument and replications of that monument.

The Maynamati T.S. Lodge and TOS Group submitted their cordial respect to the language martyrs by offering flowers to the Central Shahid Minar of Comilla. Members present included: Sree Haripada Debnath, Mr Omar Faruque, Kalipada Debnath, Md. Asikur Rahman.



The work in Bangladesh goes on. Educational scholarships to bright students will be offered at the eve of the Bengali New Year.

We congratulate the members of the Maynamati Lodge and TOS Group for their good work and offer encouragement for its continuance. Service work such as this applied steadily will surely direct the world toward benevolence, cooperation and understanding.