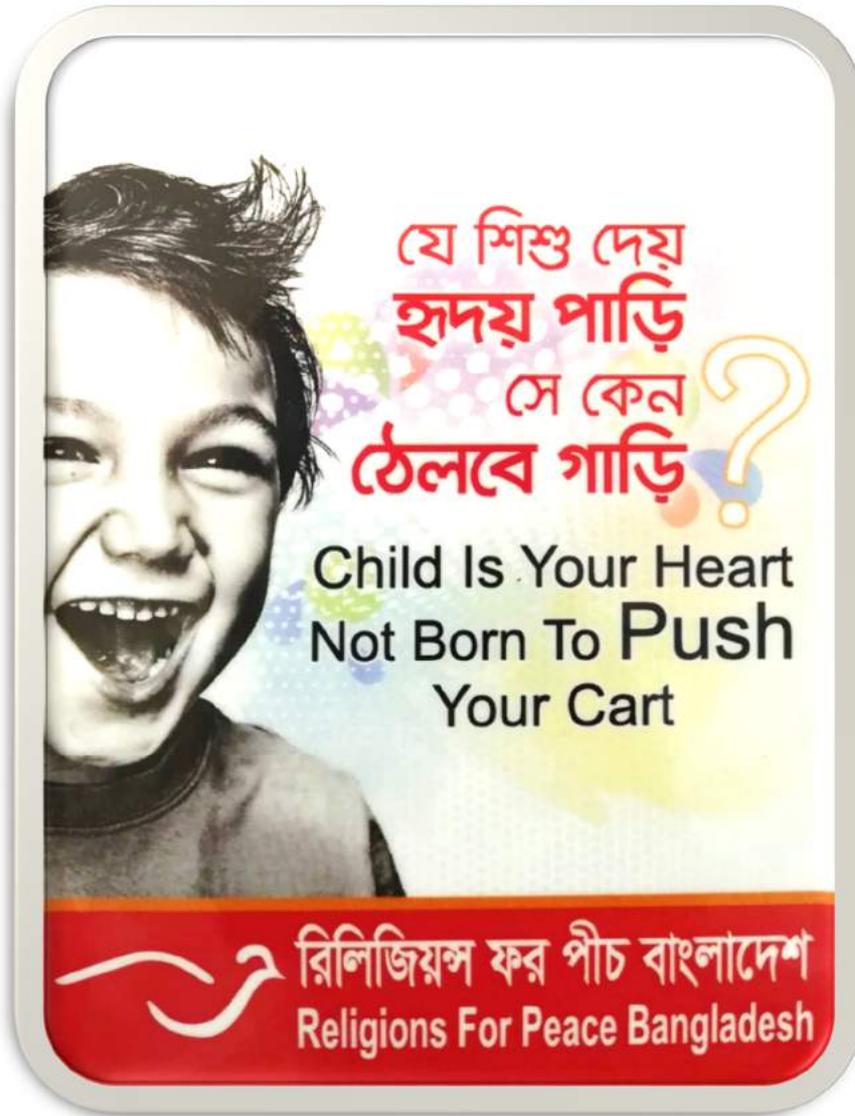


**Religions for Peace Bangladesh carried out an ACRP
flagship project: “Protection of Children’s Rights and
Advancing Their Well-being”**



A signboard shown above is one of those which was held up by a student at the Children’s Rally organized by RfP Bangladesh and Prabartak Samgha at Prabartak Square, Chattogram City at 9:30am on Friday June 28, 2019

Awareness creation for children's/women's rights and their dignity is an ACRP flagship project. *Religions for Peace* (RfP) Bangladesh with the cooperation of the Tokyo Secretariat contributed to the implementation of this flagship project by organizing a “Children’s Rally” and a “Discussion Meeting” chaired by Professor Ranajit Kumar Dey (Executive Secretary, RfP Bangladesh) and participated by children, guardians, teachers and the invited guests on Friday June 28, 2019.

Children’s Rally

Over 200 students of the Prabartak Samgha, a well-known educational institution and orphanage founded in Chattogram in 1920 Hope-87 (Mobile Primary School), Pathashishu Seva Sangattan and Center for Non-Killing and Development lined up along with Prabartak Square, Chattogram, raising their voices for the protection of the children's rights.

Those children on the Square held up a variety of messages on the placards such as “Stop Child Labor”, “Stolen Children”, “Stolen Dreams”, “Female Child Trafficking, Can



Lead To kidnapping, Drugs, Forces Sex and Death” and conveyed their genuine messages to the onlookers, the riders of motorcycles and cars across Prabartak Square. This impressive scene eloquently demonstrated that so many children were concerned with their own rights and dignity and that the members of RfP Bangladesh and its family organizations wanted to make a contribution to a better life for children in Bangladesh.

Discussion Meeting of Awareness Creation for Children’s Rights/Dignity

After the children’s rally ended, the Discussion Meeting took place at the Auditorium of Prabartak Samgha at 10:30am until 12:00 noon. The children, who had joined the Children’s Rally, also participated in this program with guardians, teachers and invited guests. The main purpose of this event was to raise awareness on the children’s rights and their dignity with the particular focus on the importance of education. The invited guests of this program were the representatives of Protyashi, Center for Non-Killing, Mobile Primary School and Rissho Kosei-kai Bangladesh.



At the opening of this program, the selected children, who belong to Prabartak Samgha, performed a singing and a traditional dancing for welcoming the participants and the guests from overseas.

Prof. Dr. N.H.M. Abu Bakar (Secretary General, RfP Bangladesh) spoke first to explain what to happen during this program, and afterwards Rev. Masamichi Kamiya, Senior Advisor for ACRP, delivered his keynote address. Identifying five flagship projects of ACRP, he touched upon the challenges that Asia-Pacific region is facing at this moment. While saying: “Children are hope for the future,” he emphasized that adults have to learn from children so that a community, where children could live safely and their dignity fully respected, be established. In conclusion, Rev. Kamiya emphasized that today’s program for the awareness-raising for children’s rights and the advancement for their well-being was so meaningful that will show paths to other social organizations and thinkers.



After the keynote address, some of the invited guests delivered their words of greetings. First, Brother Luigi Pmea, Director of Pathashishu Seva Sangathan, spoke in Bengali. In addition to what he said, his gesture and his powerful voice gave a great impact on the audience (children, guardians, teachers and the guests on the floor). Though Brother Pmea is not a native Bangladeshi (Italian citizen), his skill in speaking Bengali made him so close to the children at the Auditorium.

(The person in the center is Borthor Pmea)



Among the guest speakers, both Mr. Tatsuya Yoshida and Ms. Minako Idei, the officers of the Tokyo secretariat delivered their remarks. Ms. Idei said that nobody in this world exists without any role to play and that this world necessitates each one because every person is so dignified and respected. Her message was well received by the students. Mr. S.C. Lala (Chairman of Prabartak Samgha) and Mr. T.K. Charkraborty (General Secretary of Prabartak Samgha) conveyed their good will messages and expressed will to cooperate with the activities of RfP Bangladesh.

(Ms. Idei *left* and Mr. Barua, RfP Bangladesh *right*)



Finally, this program ended with the “Thanks Giving” by Mr. Dilip Barua, Assistant Secretary of RfP Bangladesh and presidential speech by Prof. Ranajit Kumar Dey on completion of the discussion. Later the whole audience was entertained with the snacks.