

Sabha organises 'Bandhuttwar Saako' to highlight friendship, brotherhood, communal harmony in *char* area



(Left) A child of *char* area hailing Assamese language & (right) Sabha President and other office bearers at the open meeting

Asam Sahitya Sabha organised a central programme at Chaulkhowa-Rowmary *char* area in Darrang district on last February 10 titled 'Bandhuttwar Din' (Friendship Day) to highlight the sense of friendship, brotherhood and communal harmony among the masses. The open meeting held on the occasion was preceded by a huge procession comprising cultural troupes from various ethno-linguistic communities of the locality to escort the Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia and other dignitaries. The cultural procession was inaugurated by the Sabha's cultural sub-committee working president D N Basumatary.

The programme was held at Barlekhaiti Samannay Kshetra under the auspices of Darrang Zila Sahitya Sabha in association with Chaulkhowa-Rowmary Sakha Sahitya Sabha and Asam Sahitya Sabha's Char-Chapori Language Development Sub-committee. Sabha's Karnadhar Samity member and noted writer Thaneshwar Malakar inaugurated the open meeting in which the Sabha president Dr Saikia, distinguished actor Prithviraj Rabha and noted journalist Nitumoni Saikia were present as the chief guest and the guests of honour respectively. Presided over by the district president Sailen Rajbongshi, the meeting was conducted by the sub-committee working president Abedur Rahman and was anchored by the Sabha general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma and the district secretary Gautamananda Goswami.

The proceedings began with presentation of the Sabha anthem '*Chira Chenehi Mor Bhasha Janani...*' by the students of Jnan Bikash Jatiya Vidyalay. The chorus was conducted by programme coordinator Mukut Chandra Hazarika and music director Dinabandhu Saharia. It was followed by the reception committee president Shahanuddin Ahmed's welcome speech.

in his speech as the chief guest, Dr Saikia said that without the language-literature and culture of the huge population living in the *char-chapori* areas of Assam, it is never possible to develop the overall literary-cultural scenario of the State. Appreciating the participation of huge number of people of the *char-chaporis* of Chaulkhowa-Rowmary and neighbouring localities in the procession as well as in the open meeting, Dr Saikia remarked, "This mammoth gathering of people of the *char-chaporis* of this locality clearly shows the faith and eagerness of these people towards Assamese language and Asam Sahitya Sabha. This is indeed a great asset of the Sabha."

Guests of honour Nitumoni Saikia and Prithviraj Rabha also spoke on the occasion. Popular singer Bibha Kalita rendered Bihu song and some other musical items were also presented at the meeting. Dr Kuladhar Saikia distributed certificate to 53 newly-enrolled 'life members of the Sabha. Among the others present at the programme mention may be made of the Sabha's various district and central committee office bearers and members, such as, Sahir Bhuyan, Rana Alam, Dr Mrinmoy Nath, Mukut Raj Sarma, Mijan Nur Rahman, Prasanna Deka, Akhtara Sajina Begum, etc.

In the morning, the Sabha flag was hoisted by Farijul Haque, president, Chaulkhowa-Rowmary Sakha Sahitya Sabha.