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PM opens Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital

A new horizon has been opened up in cancer treatment in Bangladesh as the country's largest cancer hospital formally started its journey on 9 April, 2014.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the much-awaited state-of-the-art Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital in the city's Uttara area this morning, urging the hospi-

tal authorities to dedicate it to the services of the people. "I hope that you would always remain careful so that the common people, especially the cancer patients, get scope for

treatment easily and at lower cost," she said. In this connection, Sheikh Hasina assured that all kinds of the government assistance in the development activities of the hospital which would treat both cancer and general patients would continue in future



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like the past. The Prime Minister requested well-off people of the society to extend their hands to build the hospital as a most modern institute in cancer treatment. Sheikh Hasina urged all to work for the welfare of the people and taking the country forward by shunning all differences.

“Let us come to work for the welfare of the people and taking the country forward by shunning all differences so that Bangladesh could stand on the world stage by keeping its head high,” she said.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, Social Welfare Minister Syed Mohsin Ali, former minister Advocate Sahara Khatun, MP, eminent jurist and Advisor of the Ahsania Mission Barrister Rafiq-ul Haque, President of Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam and advisor of Ahsania Mission Syed Dina Haque also spoke on the occasion.

Sheikh Hasina said Dhaka Ahsania Mission authorities have been able to build such a big hospital with the money of the people. “I am extending my thanks to those who over-

whelmingly donated money to build the hospital,” she said. Since its inception, Sheikh Hasina said, Ahsania Mission has been working ceaselessly to serve the humanity side by side with implementing various programmes to establish human rights and social justice.

“As the country’s biggest cancer hospital built by the mission, it has created a huge scope for cancer treatment,” she said.

The Prime Minister said she was happy to know that “Ahsania Mission Children City” has been set up with floating children aged between 6 and 8 years in Panchagarh where 10,000 such children would get a scope for growing in motherly affection.

Illustrating her government’s different steps for the development of the health sector, Sheikh Hasina said the government is pledge-bound to ensure healthcare services for all.

“Our activities in health sector have been acclaimed nationally and internationally and Bangladesh got different awards including the MDG and South-South for its stun-

ning success in the health sector,” she said.

She called upon all including private physicians and health workers to retain the government successes in the health sector.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh has been recognised as a role model on the world stage due to the country’s astonishing successes in different fields.

“Bangladesh was once known as a country of terrorism, militancy and corruption in the world. But it has now become a role model as the Awami League government established good governance, ran the state with efficiency and fulfilled the basic needs of the people,” she said.

Sheikh Hasina said her government has been working relentlessly to materialise Vision 2021. “We would turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed and prosperous country with high income by 2041,” she said.

Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated the hospital by unveiling its plaque. A munajat was

offered on the occasion. After opening the hospital, Sheikh Hasina went round its different sections.

At the function, Dutch-Bangla Bank handed over a cheque for Taka 15 crore and Al Arafah Islami Bank a cheque for Taka 10 lakh to the Prime Minister for the development of the hospital.

The 15-storey hospital is located over 6.5 bighas of land on the bank of the Turag river, which is five kilometre away from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The Awami League government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during its tenure in 1997 allocated land for the hospital.

The hospital with 4.5 lakh square feet of space and is being constructed in three phases. The first phase has just been completed and it is already providing health care services.

The second phase of the 500-bed hospital is expected to be completed in July next year and the third phase in December 2016.

Initially the estimated cost for construction of the hospital has been earmarked at Taka 256 crore. But, according to authorities, the project cost would stand at Taka 378 crore. The hospital has so far received Taka 112.63 crore from different government and non-government organizations as well as individuals as donations. Of the amount, the Social Welfare Ministry and the Health Ministry gave Taka 64 crore.

According to authorities, the hospital will run on a ‘no-profit-no-loss’ basis, and 30 percent of services will be provided free of cost to the poor and needy patients.

There are also provisions for donors to sponsor different facilities of the hospital in one’s own name or in the name of their loved ones. The cost of treatment and services would also be much lower than those available at top hospitals in Bangladesh.

The Ahsania Mission has already set up a fund so the poor can receive treatment for free or at subsidized rates. Foreign currencies equivalent to Taka 100 crore will be saved annually by providing treatment to 1.8 lakh outpatients, the authorities said.

The report is quoted from BSS on 10th April 2014



DAM Presidents Speech

Bismillahir Rahmanir

Honourable Chief Guest Her Excellency Prime Minister and Daughter of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Hasina

Honourable special guests Honourable Minister for Health & Family Welfare Mohammad

she used to give necessary guidelines to the concerned office.

With Bangladesh's extraordinary advancement in health sector following Prime Minister's commitment to reach healthcare service to people's doorsteps and successful

suffering for a long period due to lack of proper treatment facilities at home. Just at this moment, Dhaka Ahsania Mission dreamt of a cancer hospital. As a first step towards its implementation, RAJUK allotted three acres of land in 1997 following recommendations made by late President Zillur Rahman and incumbent health minister Mohammad Nasim.

able to complete Basement 2 and ground floor just at the moment. More time and money are needed for completion of various internal jobs. The way people of all strata of life have created a rare example by generously donating crores of taka to the AMCGH construction work fund by keeping unflinching faith on us, it is unprecedented in the



Nasim, MP & Honourable Minister for Social Welfare Syed Mohsin Ali, MP, Esteemed Local Lawmaker Sahara Khatun, MP, Hospital Trustee Board Chairman Barrister Rafiq-Ul-Haqqe Hospital Adviser Syeda Deena Haque

Honourable Ministers, Advisers to Honourable Prime Minister, Secretaries and High government officials Renowned physicians, honourable representatives of print & electronic media My colleagues & ladies & gentlemen

Assalamu'alaikum

With Allah's grace and the spontaneous support extended by the Prime Minister, the inaugural ceremony of the Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital is going to be held soon through an announcement of the Prime Minister. Today, we are filled with elation. Honourable Prime Minister, we are sincerely grateful to you. The Honourable Prime Minister used to enquire about the progress of the construction work of the hospital most often. We are indebted to her as

strides made during the last few years, another national organisation has been added today from where the countrymen will be able to avail themselves of the global standard cancer treatment at an affordable cost. This will help Bangladesh save valuable forex amounting to over 100 crores of taka. The tendency of going abroad for treatment will come down considerably because people will get the same global standard treatment from this hospital. It is definitely a joyful event. It is to be noted here that 30 percent poor patients would get free treatment facilities from here.

Today, cancer haunts almost each and every family. Cancer takes a toll of about two lakh people in Bangladesh every year. Currently the treatment of this fatal disease is available in the country although in a limited scale. But two decades ago, there was little opportunity of cancer treatment in the country. A small number of fortunate people rushed abroad for cancer treatment at an exorbitant cost. But the general people embraced death after

We express our gratitude to the then government, especially to the honourable minister for the successful completion of the hospital. Against the allotment of 9 bighas, RAJUK handed over to us only six-and-a-half bighas of land. The hospital will take a full-fledged shape if RAJUK specially allocates the two-and-a-half bighas of land to us either adjoining the hospital or at the third phase site at Uttara. The land will be utilised for the hospital expansion work, Palliative care unit, launching of third radiation unit as well as medical college and nursing unit. It is a matter of great regret that despite assurance given by RAJUK time and again, no progress in land allocation is in sight till date. We humbly seek the honourable Prime Minister's kind directives in this regard.

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital is a 15-storey building having an area of four-and-a-half square feet. It will be a 500-bed hospital where global standard treatment facilities will be available. Although the external civil construction of the 15-storey building has been completed yet we have been

history of Bangladesh. In this context, I remember with gratitude the generosity of the Dutch Bangla Bank Limited. The honourable chairman of the bank, Shahbuddin Ahmed, gave us the strength and courage by handing over a cheque for four-crore taka to us, at first. Later, he has set a rare example by donating more 15 crore-taka to the AMCGH fund and helped push forward the development work of the hospital. We are still optimistic that more financial assistance would come from the bank in the coming days on the basis of mutual understanding. We express our heart-felt gratitude to the Dutch Bangla Bank Limited.

The Management Board of the Pubali Bank Limited led by its worthy Chairman Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, has donated an amount of 10-crore taka to the AMCGH fund. We remember with gratitude the generous donation of the bank. If more banks and financial institutions come forward with generous help then Inshallah we can overcome the financial limitations.

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Poor Social Worker Zainal Abedin wins Chand Sultana Award-2013

Chand Sultana Award-2013 was given to poor but large-hearted social worker Zainal Abedin of Mymensingh through a function attended by State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, MP on 30 April 2014. The Award was introduced by

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in memory of Late Chand Sultana who dedicated her whole life for the empowerment of women and helping the illiterate, half-literate and downtrodden sections of the society through promoting non-formal education in the

country. In recognition of his outstanding contribution towards the society through setting up of primary school, Charitable hospital and an Association for poor women with his own hard-earned money, collected through pulling rickshaws for long 20 years, Dhaka

Ahsania Mission honoured Zainal Abedin with this year's Award. Sharing his sentiments Zainal Abedin broke into tears as he said he is unable to pull rickshaw anymore due to health reasons. He requested the countrymen to donate at least one paracetamol each towards his hospital.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, the State-Minister said, she was amazed to know about the great work of Zainal Abedin and urged all sections of society to come forward to set more examples like him. Drawing upon the sad fact of unrecognized work of the women and their substantial contribution to GDP of this country, she also praised Chand Sultana for her dedication and leadership in this field. She promised to visit Zainal Abedin's service facilities at a convenient time.

In his presidential speech, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, everyone of us must have a dream and we must try our best to materialize the dream through honest and sincere endeavors.

Chand Sultana Award consists of one lakh taka cash prize, a crest, a certificate and a set of books and training materials published by late Chand Sultana.





Turkish Ambassador visits AMCGH

Turkish Ambassador Huseyin Muftuoglu visited Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital (AMCGH) at Uttara on 24 April 2014. Referring to the growing number of cancer patients in the world, including Bangladesh, the Ambassador highly ap-

preciated the initiative and stressed to ensure quality and skills of the cancer doctors, nurses and others associated with the treatment. He also pointed towards exploring the possibilities of exchanging doctors and nurses between Bangladesh and

Turkey.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and other Senior staff members of the hospital were present during the visit.

Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital, first ever and the largest cancer treatment facility in Bangladesh, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 9 April 2014. Run on the 'No loss-No Gain' basis, the hospital will treat 30% of its poor patients free of charges.

Inner Wheel helps woman addicts

Inner Wheel Club of Dhanmondi, Dhaka has donated 500 copies of books and some indoor games articles for the patients receiving treatment at Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, located at Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka, on 27 April 2014. Hosne Ara Chowdhury, District President, Naz Afreen Rahman, former National Representative Nayeer Islam, Secretary and other members of the Club were present on the occasion. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Deputy Director Iqbal Masud received the donation.

On top of medical treatment, The Female Drug

Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre offers counseling and

imparts psycho-social education to bring the drug dependent back to normal life.

Inner Wheel firmly believes that reading of books and participation of games would contribute positively towards mental development and treat-

ment of the patients/drug dependent. They urge upon other women organizations in the country to extend their support towards this initiative of DAM.

Growing social tension and continued transformation of societies have given rise to the number of female drug users in Bangladesh. Newspaper reports and data available from concerned doctors indicate that the number of female drug users are increasing in the city areas along with other regions of the country.

All Sections of the security-young, middle aged and house-wives are included in the list according to a survey conducted in 2009. Most of the addicts are within the age-limit of 18-30 years. Sociologists believe that females suffer most because of dependence.





Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre opens

Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre was inaugurated at cities Iqbal Road of Mohammadpur on 12 April 2014. Marking the inaugural pro-

gram is discussion meeting was organised. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the meeting while State Minister for Home Asaduzza-

man Khan Kamal MP was present as chief guest. Md. Atowar Rahman, Director General of Department of Narcotics Control spoke as chief guest. Moreover Dr. Akhtaruz-

zaman Selim, Residential Psychiatrist of the central drug treatment centre, Abu Taleb, Additional Director, Department of Narcotics Control and Country Director of Bangladesh Youth First Concern Dr. Pitar Haldar also spoke on the occasion. DAM Assistant Director Iqbal Masud delivered the welcome address in the program.

While addressing as chief guest the State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal MP said, drug is one of the marked problems of our country that starts from bidi-cigarette and ends in heroin. Dhaka Ahsania Mission working for the rehabilitation and bringing back the drug addicted persons to normal life. Simultaneously the organisation is campaigning for not to be addicted. He mentioned that Dhaka Ahsania Mission has done a time be fitting work through launching the 25 bed treatment centre at the Iqbal Road of Mohammadpur in city.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, the lowest duration of Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre is three months. The medical officers of the centre serve the Psycho-social treatment and group counseling by clinical psychologists.



Survey Report on 6 city hospital

Tobacco control law not complying in city's hospitals

Tobacco control law is not being complying in city's hospitals. Health Ministry should take the necessary steps in this regard. According to article-6 of Tobacco control law-2005, there is the specific provision to display alert notice at public places including Hospitals. Smoking is completely prohibited at the hospital adjacent area but the relevant authority has showed reluctant to implement the law at the hospital premises, according to a re-

cent survey in 6 city's hospitals.

This information revealed in a press conference titled 'Implementation of Tobacco Control Law' at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium on Wednesday. Two separate surveys were carried out during 22-25 February and 29-31 March 2014 in six hospitals, including Hospital of the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM Hospital),

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU Hospital), Hospital of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Pongu Hospital), Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital, and Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Deputy Director Iqbal Masud presided over the press conference, Executive Director of Environment Council (EC) Bangladesh Arif Sikdar, Prof. of National Heart Foundation Sohel Reza Chowdhury, Convener of Anti Tobacco Women Alliance Farida Akter and Co-ordinator of Progga Imtiaz Rasul were present in the conference.

Speaker said according to the law, though smoking is prohibited at hospital premises, all smokers are seen to smoke in all of the hospitals during the survey. Even in the emergency cell of Pangu Hospital a smoker is seen to smoke. Hospital authority did not pay any heed to take any measures during these two phases of survey. It was observed that at Pangu and Saheed Suharawardi Hospital cigarettes sellers rampantly selling cigarettes at the boundary area of hospital. Moreover most of the cigarette sellers are seen to sell the cigarettes close to the wall of Birdem Hospital. The sellers stay in the 50-100 meters boundary area of those six hospitals.

Workshop on URA validation in city

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Social and Economic Enhance Program (SEEP) jointly organised a workshop titled Urban Risk Assessment (URA) Validation at city's Mirpur area on 20 April 2014.

Zonal Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) zone-2 Amar Chan Banik was present in the workshop as chief guest. Convener of ward disaster management committee AN Alim presided over while Lion Khairul Islam Tontu, AIICT Principal Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Principal of Fire Service Civil Defense (FSCD), Training Complex Mirpur Badiuzzaman were present as special guests. DAM assistant director Zahangir Alam presented the Urban Risk Assessment Process & the prepared profile and facilitated the program.

The speaker said, there is the opportunity of all divisions and organisations to work unitedly to implement this work plan. This is why, effective coordination and communication between government and

non-government organisations are needed.

Chief Guest Amar Chan Banik said, government has already started to buy the necessary equipments to reduce disaster. At the same time the garbage

will be removed from roadside with the assistance of City Corporation.

It is mentionable that Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Concern Universal is jointly implementing the "Building a disaster re-

silient Bangladesh" project at the seven wards of Dhaka North City Corporation area. ECHO and Cordaid are jointly financing the project while NAARI Consortium providing the technical support.

The project is being implemented from 2013 aiming at enhancing capability among the school students to strive disaster risk and to assess urban risk.



DAM Presidents

FROM PAGE 3

As media partners, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star published advertisements free of cost for motivating people to donate to the AMCGH fund. In reality, it is a rare example. As a consequence, a greater interest about the hospital has been created among a large number of people about the hospital. We are grateful to the management of the two papers. We also take an opportunity of expressing our gratitude to all donors—from rickshaw pullers to vendors and people from all strata of life—who came forward to generously donate to the hospital fund.

We got 49 crores of taka through the ADP of the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh. We express our gratitude to the incumbent government, especially the Ministry of Social Welfare. The manner this ministry and the Directorate of Social Welfare had extended cooperation to us, it would re-

main as an example to emulate. We are indebted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for giving Tk. 15 crore assistance for sophisticated equipment. In recent time, a 100-crore development project (including Tk. 40 crore from own fund of Dhaka Ahsania Mission) has been sent to the Planning Commission for approval with assistance from the ERD. It has been sent from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with 60-crore taka allotment of Japanese Debt Cancellation Fund. It is still under consideration of the Commission. On approval of the project, the requirements of necessary equipment will be met up, Inshallah. We humbly seek active cooperation of the honourable Prime Minister and the Planning Minister for approval of the project by the ECNEC.

This is for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that such a massive project has been implemented by any non-

government development organisation with donations from government, corporate sector and individuals.

We believe in implementation of any development or welfare-oriented work through self-help of the countrymen and it is quite possible. It is not at all reasonable to depend on any foreign donor agency. We ourselves must have to develop Bangladesh. It requires an ardent desire, transparency and trustworthiness.

We also hope that within next 10 years, another novel project titled the Ahsania Mission Children City would be implemented with people's support. Our aim is to rehabilitate 10,000 street kids under the project. The underprivileged children will get an opportunity to study and ply so that they can grow up as worthy citizens of Bangladesh. The AMCC will also help create national players from its residents.

Like cancer hospital, people will have an opportunity of sponsorship at the AMCC that is underway in Panchagarh, a northern district. In her 2021 vision, the honourable Prime Minister mentioned about rehabilitation of the underprivileged street children.

We hope that the honourable Prime Minister would pay her kind attention towards implementation of the ambitious Ahsania Mission Children City project.

In conclusion, we express our sincere gratitude to the Prime Minister for making time to inaugurate the hospital in spite of her busy schedule. We pray for her good health and long life. I also take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the nonhonourable ministers, advisors, members of parliament and secretaries for their kind presence here on this auspicious occasion.

Allah Hafez



DAM IN FRAME

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