



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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April 2010

## Proposals of equivalence education being processed

A three-day Second National Workshop was held at the Non-Formal Education Bureau Bhaban in the city under joint sponsorship of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and UNESCO Dhaka from 2 March to 4 March 2010.

At the inaugural function, Minister for Primary and Mass Education Ministry Dr. Afsarul Ameen MP, State Minister Md. Motahar Hossain MP and Acting Secretary Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, UNESCO Dhaka representatives and high officials of government and non-governmental organisations took part. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss and scrutinise the draft of proposed equivalence education framework to formulate some recommendations for the future.

At the main session of the workshop, about 35 officials and experts selected from government and non-governmental organisations participated. On conclusion of the workshop, Primary and Mass Education Ministry Secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan chaired the open discussion and concluding sessions. In the open discussion, matters relating to a draft plan of equivalence education project was discussed. Based on the plan, participants expressed their opinion and placed

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## Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital lottery draw held

Draw of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery-2010 was held at the Jatiya Press Club Hall Room on 23 March 2010.

The owner of Ticket No. GA 0573309 got the first prize of Tk 30 lakh while second prize of Tk 5 lakh went to owner of Ticket No JA 0078166 and the third prize of Tk 70 thousand went to owner of Ticket No A 803420, fourth prize winners-two (each Tk 20,000) JA 0363608 and JHA

Entire result of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery-2010 draw is available at Dhaka Ahsania Mission website : [www.ahsaniamission.org.bd](http://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd) or Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital website : [www.ahsaniacancer.org.bd](http://www.ahsaniacancer.org.bd)

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## Speakers at seminar on multigrade approach

## Multigrade learning in NFPE is most effective

Multigrade learning system in non-formal primary education (NFPE) is most effective initiative in accelerating the government's Education for All programme. Based on their acquired qualification, the learners can pursue education at the next stage. The system helps bring out of school and disadvantaged children to the mainstream.

In the system, the curriculum and training materials are flexible. Because of its low

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## Seminar on Enforcement of Tobacco Control Act at Meherpur

Rural Vision and Amic organised a seminar titled, "Things to be Done for Enforcement of Tobacco Control Act," at Jorpukuria under Gangni upazila in Meherpur district on 1 March, 2010.

It was organised under aegis of a project on "To sensitize Concerned Government Department on Illicit Trade and Raise Civil Society Support for Illicit Trade Protocol

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## New Projects

Activities of a project titled, 'Reduction of Food Insecurity for Poor and Extreme Poor Household Project,' began in 22 unions of five upazilas of Jamalpur district since January this year.

### Reduction of Food Insecurity for Poor Household Project (FFP)

As many as 50,000 poor and ultra-poor members of 10,000 families have been brought under the project funded by the European Commission and Cord Aid-Netherlands The project objectives are reduction of food insecurity of poor and ultra-poor people, ensuring lasting means of livelihood, ensuring world food security as well as nutrition of the United Nations (UN). This will result in ensuring a strong footing for project beneficiaries in facing unstable food prices.

Concern Universal Bangladesh will extend all-out cooperation in implementation of the project while Switzerland-based international organisation Interooperation will extend technical assistance. The food security related project will continue till October 2011.

### Ensuring Water and Sanitation Facilities towards Disaster Risk Reduction Project (EWSDRR)

Work on 'Ensuring Water and Sanitation Facilities towards Disaster Risk Reduction Project' started in Doulatkhan, Borhanuddin, Charfashion and Tazumuddin upazilas of Bhola district from January 2010. Concern Universal Bangladesh is

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## Increasing disaster risk, climate change

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poor people of the disaster prone area to earn a living. As for example, some members of poor community are now earning a living by rearing ducks.

As part of DAM's advocacy and awareness activities, an essay competition on 'Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation' was organised for students Chhabed Khan Secondary School on the school premises at Dakkhin Chila under Mongla upazila on March 29, 2010.

The project is being implemented in close coordination with the upazila administration and local government bodies.

Contacted, Mongla Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Saidur Rahman said, the government has extended its all-out help in implementation of the project. He also informed that DAM, Caritas Bangladesh, ADD Bangladesh and Prodipan are working in close collaboration with the Union Parishad (UP). At government level, work on a flood protection embankment already began with financial assistance of World Food

Programme (WFP), he further disclosed.

Earlier, Chandpai UP Chairman Mollah Tarekul Islam informed that DAM activities have strengthened the Union Disaster Management Committee.

As many as, one lac 37 thousand beneficiaries have been brought under the project in Mongla, Bagerhat.

Mass awareness campaigns on livelihood security and climate change issues are being geared up in the project areas. The activities help beneficiaries in attainment of their capacity to combat disaster and its management.

Besides increasing capacity of government and establishing coordination among associate organisations, one of the objectives of the project is to increase coordination among associate organisations, increase capacity of associate organisations and government at various tiers, different educational institutes, CAFOD, UK, related organisations as well as sharing lessons learnt among various networks relating to disaster

risk reduction/climate change.

The project activities have raised the capability of Union Disaster Management Committees besides women-headed families of the targetted population, disabled people and those living at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Under the programme, income of families of targetted population in Mongla upazila have increased by conducting environment-friendly farming-pisciculture, livestock rearing and by adopting alternative means of livelihood.

Food production has also increased considerably in the upazila through sustainable farming technology being practised by small and marginal farmers.

According to Project Coordinator Md Mukhlesur Rahman, till date, 14 opinion exchange meetings were organised among representatives of the Union Disaster Management Committees while two training programmes on disaster management conducted for representatives of Union

Parishad (UP). Fourteen monthly meetings were organised to strengthen union level committees and two triennial meetings arranged for Community Advocacy Group members and Union Disaster Management Committee to establish strong linkage and activities, he further said. Two workshops were organised for union level disaster reduction planning, he added.

Community Action Group and Union Disaster Management Committee have been formed for identifying community volunteers aiming at disaster preparedness and raising mass awareness through posters and leaflets. For implementation of the project, Radio spot management, orientations for sending warning messages, pre-disaster and post-disaster training as well as training during disaster are being conducted for different community groups. Besides, radio and megaphone have been distributed among various Action Groups.



## Proposals of equivalence education being processed

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recommendations. A full report of the workshop is likely to be published soon. Cooperation of all concerned was sought so that future work on the

project can be done properly. If the project can be implemented then a proposal for equivalence education framework will be made which will be placed for official recognition.

## Multigrade learning in NFPE

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cost, the system has already gained popularity across the country. The attractive feature of multigrade system is its close participation, cultural diversity and multifariousness. The system plays an effective role in relatively remote and backward areas.

Speakers said this at a seminar titled, 'Multigrade Approach in Primary Education: Sharing of Experience on Unique and Rask Project,' jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Unique Project and Primary Education Directorate's Rask Project at the Primary Education Directorate Conference

Hall at Mirpur-2 in the city on Tuesday, 16 March, 2010.

Speakers further said, Multigrade Approach is such a learning system where learners of various classes are engaged in study at the same class. In many remote areas of Bangladesh, advancement of education progresses through multigrade approach.

Primary Education Directorate's Rask Project Director Md Ataul Huq chaired the occasion while it was attended by the Director of Administration of Primary Education Directorate Abdur Rouf Chowdhury as Chief Guest. Rask Project Adviser A N S Habibur

Rahman and Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Unique Project Coordinator Golam Faruque Hamim presented two reports on Multigrade Approach in Primary Education. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director (ED) M Ehsanur Rahman played the role of moderator at the seminar. BRAC University Educational Development Institute Senior Advisor Dr Manjur Ahmed, Australian Aid Regional Advisor Dr James Jennings, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate TQI-SEP Advisor Prof Sirajul Islam, Director of Save the Children USA Education Sector M Habibur Rahman, Dhaka University Educational and Research Institute Prof Abul Ehsan and Rask Project

Assistant Director Tahmina Khatun took part as panel discussants. Besides, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Unique project Director Shafiqul Islam delivered welcome address.

As many as 88 thousand children of 24 districts have been brought under the project through 2 thousand 3 hundred 80 child learning centres. Since 2007, European Union is funding the Unique Project's Multigrade Approach of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. A total of 1 lac 39 thousand 292 learners of 60 upazilas have been brought under the project. Since 2005, Bangladesh government, World Bank and SDC have been working jointly for implementation of the project through Anondo School.

## Seminar on Enforcement

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through Advocacy and Media Campaign,” being funded by American Cancer Society. Tobacco cultivators, Upazila Chairman, local government members, teachers, professionals, physicians and 60 members of civil society took part.



## New Projects

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assisting in implementation of the project. The project has been aimed at containing outbreak of diseases and decreasing mortality rate in disaster prone areas due to insufficient water and faulty sewerage system. The project will continue till June, 2011.

### Improved Food and Livelihood Security in Bagerhat District (IFLS)

Improved Food and Livelihood Security in Bagerhat District, Bangladesh in the context of Increased Disaster risk and Climate Change Project is progressing with financial assistance from European Union and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), UK. The three-year project was launched on 1 March, 2010. Alongside, Prodiplan, Action on Disability and Development (ADD) and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) are implementing other activities of the project.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been implementing the project in Mongla, Rampal and Sharankhola upazilas of Bagerhat district. The project will remove food and livelihood insecurity of project beneficiaries. Main features of the project are to raise source of income of targeted families through agriculture-pisciculture, cattle rearing and pursuing alternative source of income, combating malnutrition through increased food production, advocacy in raising source of income and increasing

capability of family, local Union Parishad and Upazila tiers in disaster preparedness and management.

### ACCESS Health and Empowerment Project (ACCESS H & E)

ACCESS Health and Empowerment Project funded by Cord Aid Bangladesh was launched on January 1, 2010 in 44 unions of 8 upazilas of Jessore, Jhenidah and Jamalpur districts. The three-year project was aimed at ensuring access of poor, vulnerable and marginal people to health service thereby reducing risk and development of livelihood. Virtually, the project will directly benefit 45,000 beneficiaries including distressed, ultra-poor, vulnerable, marginal rural people and insolvent children and adolescents. The project will take necessary action to promote health rights alongside advocacy and ensuring ICT utility among the communities.

### CMDRR Partners Forum

CMDRR Partners Forum is a forum formed with financial assistance of Cord Aid. The forum was launched in March 2010 to exchange experience and capability to reduce disaster risk through community management. As a certain project, the forum is being implemented through direct supervision of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). It was aimed at creating ability of partners, exchange development experience and documentation, reinovate best practice, advocacy and networking. Primarily, the project activities will continue for next one year.

## Money, resource transfer,agri-related

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(DC) Kamal Krishna Bhattacharya. Speakers further said monetary help will be given to 4 thousand ultra-poor families during famine-like situation (April-June), 6 thousand poor families will be given monetary allowance during crop harvesting period and afterwards for prevention of selling labour and agri-related training will be imparted to the beneficiaries.

The project was planned in such a manner that it will keep a positive impact instead of negative impact during enhancement of food prices. Ten thousand poor and ultra-poor

people of 22 unions in five upazilas of Jamalpur Sadar, Dewanganj, Motherganj, Sharishabari and Melandaha are likely to be benefitted. It is expected that 50,000 poor and ultra-poor population will also be benefitted with the all-out cooperation of government and non-governmental organisations. DAM undertook the project following signing of a contract with the European Union and Concern Universal on 7 December 2009. The project duration is 22 months while the programme took effect from January 2010 which will continue till October 2011.

## Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital lottery draw held

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Mission Cancer Hospital project Mohammad Ali addressed. Supreme Court lawyer Barrister M A Samad, ex-Secretary Lutfar Rahman Talukder and veteran educationist Prof Nurul Islam were members of the Board of Jury.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid, MP, said the government will do all-out help for building Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. He assured for handing over promise grant of the government in the next week. He appealed to all to come forward to build the cancer hospital.

At the outset of the programme, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam thanked all those who extended cooperation in holding the lottery and also to everyone who bought lottery tickets for construction of the hospital.

Ahsania Mission School students lifted the tickets of first, second, third, fourth prize winners. The

winners of 5th - 8th prizes were selected through computer. As many as 1298 prizes of total Tk 50 lakh were announced. It may be mentioned, besides printed tickets, tickets were sold through SMS at Grameen Phone, Aktel, Banglalink and Teletalk for the first time.

The winners have been advised to apply in writing along with the original tickets and two copies of photographs to the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission to receive the prize money within one month of the draw. Prizes will be formally handed over to the genuine winners after proper scrutiny within the least possible time.

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## Workshop marks Int'l Women's Day

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across the globe. This is because, he said, this year's celebration marks 100 years of International Women's Day. He informed the participants that DAM-Pakistan is also celebrating the Day by jointly organising a handicrafts show with Hotel Serina. He concluded his speech by thanking all concerned for their participation.

Forty participants from different divisions, units and projects took part. The major objective of the workshop was to revisit DAM's capacity, achievements and limitations in terms of women's development interventions.

Three PowerPoint presentations covering three different subjects were exhibited before the audience. Ferdousi Akhter drew a comparison on DAM Human Rights and Social Justice Sectoral Strategy and CEDAW priority. She also explained the Strategic Vision of DAM HRCJ. Subsequently she presented CEDAW's principle of substantive equality, principle of non-discrimination and principle of state obligation.

Rowshon Ara again took the floor and highlighted achievements and limitations of DAM. She also tried to sketch DAM's involvement in different national task forces. Eventually she tried to synchronize achievements and limitations to find out right mechanism for way forward.

M Rafique Hassan presented selected study findings (2002-2010) of DAM interventions in Human Rights, Social Justice and Women's Empowerment. Besides presentation of study findings and results, he tried to identify the neglected areas for consideration. He also provided two recommendations to help DAM accelerate its women development programme.

This was followed by an open discussion. Among others, key executives including Executive Director, M Ehsanur Rahman, Director programmes, Shafiqul Islam, Director Admin and HRD Azam S Chowdhury and Director TMD MA Rashid took part in the open discussion.

## Workshop marks Int'l Women's Day Prevention of violence against women stressed

Speakers at a workshop on Prevention of Violence against Women stressed on prompt steps for reducing violence against women and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators.

The workshop was held in observance of International Women's Day at the conference room of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 8 March 2010.

The workshop was formally opened by the Director of Administration and HRD, Azam S Chowdhury. This was followed by welcome address of the Project Coordinator of PVAWTE Project, Rowshan Ara who called upon the Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, M Ehsanur Rahman to moderate the workshop. Ehsanur Rahman thanked the organisers and reminded the participants about special attention given to this year's Women's Day **[See page 3]**



## Jamalpur Project launching ceremony Resource transfer mechanism to help raise standard of living

Money and resource transfer, agriculture related mechanism and marketing will play a positive role in skill development and raising the standard of living.

Speakers said this at launching ceremony of a project titled, 'Reduction of Food Insecurity of Poor and Ultra-poor Families' initiated by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in

collaboration with the European Union and Concern Universal Bangladesh.

Held at Jamalpur district administration conference room, the occasion was presided by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Division Director Shafiqul Islam while it was attended by Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner **[See page 3]**

## Increasing disaster risk, climate change

# Over 1 lac brought under Improved Food and Livelihood Security fold in Mongla

It was a hot summer afternoon. A large number of villagers thronged Dakkhin Haldibunia Registered Primary School ground at Baidyamari Bazar of Dakkhin Chila union in Mongla upazila, Bagerhat. The crowd included many women and children. Their attention was focused towards a colourful stage where several adolescent girls were performing 'Zarigan'. Keeping pace with the rhythm of music the girls enthralled the audience by performing dance. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the programme recently to make people aware about bad effects of climate change and reduce the risk of disaster. It followed a drill of natural disaster participated by students of the aforesaid school and local youths belonging to Community Action Group.

The programme was organised as part of an innovative project



launched in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district. The project titled, 'Improved Food and Livelihood Security in Context of Increased Disaster Risk and Climate Change Project' was launched in March 2009. Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Prodipan, Caritas Bangladesh and ADD Bangladesh have been jointly implementing the project funded

by donor agency CAFOD, UK.

DAM is conducting the advocacy and awareness programme while Caritas Bangladesh is responsible for creating alternative livelihood pursuits to combat recurring disaster, ADD Bangladesh is engaged in protecting physically challenged people by conducting training programmes for them. Prodipan is helping **[See page 2]**

## Treatment rendered

As part of HIV and STI Prevention Project for IDUS of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), 81 drug addicts were given treatment at Amin Bazar, Savar and Modhumita in Dhaka and Modhumita Centre of Nasir Uddin Sarder Lane according to January, February and March 2010 targets. The number of clients received through police was three. Fifty-six of them were HIV tested while 51 were tested for sex diseases and five TB patients were rendered treatment. As many as 185 persons were rendered day care service in two months of January and February 2010. About 1,795 pieces of condoms were distributed for reducing risk of HIV/AIDS. Recovery clients attended 49 narcotics anonymous (NA) meetings and nine meetings of self help groups. Besides, daily sessions on client counselling, family counselling, general health service and change in habits were conducted.

## Mass awareness materials to combat bad impact of climate change published

The coastal areas of Bangladesh are facing multifarious disasters. As a result, people living in coastal belts are suffering a lot. The main reason of their misery is increasing salinity due to impact of climate change. Because of increased salinity, livelihood of people in the area is adversely affected. With an objective to mitigate sufferings of people, Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with IFLS-DRR CAFOD, UK is implementing a project titled, 'IFLS-DRR Project'. Mission's Training and Material Development Department has developed and published a poster and a leaflet to improve life skills of people. A 23 inches by 36 inches poster headlined 'Lona Panir Paribesh Banchar Upae Janbo Milemishe,' meaning we shall learn the technique of living unitedly in an environment of saline water was developed while a 8.5 inches by 11 inches leaflet titled, 'Upokulio Paribesh Rakha Kara Amader Ongiker,' meaning we take a vow to protect the coastal environment. People of the coastal areas are likely to be made aware on development of livelihood for raising the standard of living.