US Assistant Secy of State visits DAM Shelter Home

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs, Robert O Blake visited Jessore Shelter Home of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 22 March, 2011. At that time, Jessore superintendent of police (SP) Quamrul Ahsan, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Zahurul Islam and Sharsha upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) were present. Winrock’s Chief of Party Sara Piazzano gave a brief presentation on Action for Combating Trafficking (ACT) while Mission’s programme officer Sharmen Shahria Ferdus gave a brief description on the shelter home. US Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Blake also talked with two integrated survivors. He showed keen interest in the programme and highly praised Dhaka Ahsania Mission for conducting the humanitarian activities. ‘The NGO is playing an important role in protecting human rights. It also helps rescue trafficked victims to return to normal life as well as their study and rehabilitation.’

Women action group striving to prevent violence against women

Women action group is playing an effective role in preventing violence against women. It is working as a combined force in this regard. Earning self-conscious women are comparatively less vulnerable to violence. Speakers said this at a seminar during presentation of a report on transformation of women towards empowerment organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Dhaka.

News in brief

Skill development training held

Early childhood Development Support Program—Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducted a need-based supervisory training in the city to develop skill of Secondary Civil Society Organizations (SCSO) and DAM project staffs within a period from 27 to 31 March, 2011. The main objective of the training course was to raise effective supervision skill of the staffs. Main contents were—concept and types of supervision, steps, process and style of supervision, create an enabling environment for supervision, tools and checklist used for centre ranking and analysis of present situation, monitoring and supervision, field visit and usage of tools, monitoring and coaching concept.

All Program Coordinators (PC) from three SCSOs, trainers, Monitoring & Documentation Officers (MDO), supervisors and ECDSP-B project staffs participated. Training coordinator Md Delowar Hossain and monitoring and evaluation coordinator Mohammad Halimur Rahman acted as facilitators.

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collaboration with the European Union (EIDHR Programme) at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on 23 March, 2011. Speakers further said women’s active participation in decision-making is also playing a special role in individual welfare. Women are gradually becoming self-reliant for their own welfare and security. Various income-generating training courses are being conducted in the project area. Of the trainees, 70 to 75 per cent women have been able to earn money with which they can bear expenditure of their children’s study and healthcare. Even they are taking decisions independently. An easy access to banks and police stations have been created for these trained women. Awareness among community people also rose considerably.

Orientation meeting to preserve bio-diversity

Bio-diversity Preservation Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised an orientation meeting with members of the newly-formed co-management committee at Bashkhali Upazila Parishad auditorium on 3 March, 2011. The meeting relating to co-management was aimed at building a social movement for preservation of forests through awareness on creation of natural regeneration and prevention of forests from fire.

DAM director Dr Khaza Shamsul Huda, Cox’s Bazar South Forest Department assistant conservator of forests Abdrup Rahman were present on the occasion.

It is to be mentioned here that a 61-member co-management council and a 28-member co-management executive committee of Bio-diversity Preservation Project were formed through Forest Department’s co-management at Bashkhali Upazila Parishad auditorium on 02 March, 2011.

Ahsanullah Chowdhury was elected president of the co-management committee while Ferdous-ul-Huq and Farid Ahmed were elected its vice-president and treasurer respectively. Kalipur range officer Saheb Ali will act as ex-officio member secretary.

Bashkhali upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) S M Nazim Uddin presided over while Bashkhali upazila chairman Alamgir Kabir Chowdhury was present as chief guest and Chittagong South divisional forest officer Bakhtiar Nur Siddiquee, social worker Khoka, Aronyak Foundation executive director Farid Uddin Ahmed and Dhaka Ahsania Mission director Dr Khaza Shamsul Huda were present as special guests.

ECDSP-B project’s workshop held

A six-day workshop was held on Day Care Centre Curriculum, Guidebook and Training Manual development at the BASE centre in Sonargaon under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Early childhood Development Support Program-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) project on March 05-10, 2011.

IED-BRACU representative Zannatun Nahar, project staffs from ECDSP-B and two staffs from TMD participated. Md Mohsin acted as facilitator who guided the team to develop curriculum, guidebook and training manual of the day care programme.

Aga Khan Foundation’s ECD adviser Golam Mustafa and ECD specialist Rafat Sultan were present at an important session on 9 March, 2011.

Participants provided recommendations for incorporating child health nutrition and development related information. DCC curriculum, guidebook and training manual final draft was also completed.
Various projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed the International Women’s Day in a befitting manner on 08 March, 2011. This year’s theme was ‘Free Access to Education, Training, Science and Technology: Opens Door for Women’s Dignified Job’. Different programmes were chalked out on the occasion. The programmes were rally, human chain, discussion etc.

Jhenidah: Marking the occasion, a colourful rally was brought out in Jhenidah town at the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Preventing Violence against Women Project through Empowerment. The rally began from the court premises and terminated at the district Shishu Academy after parading different streets of the district town. Jhenidah additional district magistrate (ADM) Jahanara Begum led the rally. This was followed by a discussion. ADM Jahanara Begum was present as chief guest while Sadar upazila nirbahi officer Md Hamidul Haque Khan was present as special guest.

Jessore: A rally was brought out in Jessore town under joint aegis of Jessore district administration, women affairs directorate, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and government and non-government organisations. Led by Jessore deputy commissioner (DC) Md Nurul Amin, the rally started from his office and terminated at the same place after parading the main streets of the district town. From DAM regional team Jessore field coordinator of Preventing Violence against Women Project Kabir Uddin, ACCESS Project area coordinator Rafiqul Islam and MF Program area manager Khairel Islam took part.

Chowgachha: A colourful rally, discussion and drama were held in Chowgachha upazila town at the initiative of Preventing Violence against Women Project. A workshop was held in collaboration with the upazila administration. Chowgachha UNO Md Shahidul Hosain was present as chief guest while upazila vice-chairman Md Abdur Rahim Mollik, Narayanpur Union Parishad chairman Md Joynal Abedin (Mukul) were special guests. Highlighting the significance of the International Women’s Day, the area in-charge of the project, Md Rafiqul Islam read out a key-note paper.

Keshobpur: The Day was observed in Keshobpur of Jessore through holding of rally, human chain, discussion and various other programmes. A total of 1,077 persons including juveniles, men and women of three CRCs under the project and 80 Ganokendro (people’s centres) of six unions spontaneously participated.

At the discussion, emphasis was given on preparing an atmosphere for woman-friendly education, equal opportunity for women in all activities, fair wage for women like men, taking opinion of women and giving due importance to the opinion, stoppage of all kinds of violence against women and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators, women’s development and on other issues.

Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT): Mission’s UNIQUE Project observed the day at the area offices of Rangamati Sadar, Lama, Dighinala, Khagrachhari, Baghaichhari, Kaptai and Bandarban in a befitting manner. Day-long rallies, discussions and cultural functions marked the occasion. CLC teachers, learners, committee members, guardians, elite of the areas and officials of various government and non-government organisations were present.

Kaliganj: Led by Kaliganj upazila nirbahi officer Toufique-e-Elahi, a colourful rally was brought out in the upazila town. Beginning from Nazimnagar Bazaar, the rally paraded the main streets of the upazila town and terminated at Kaliganj Upazila Parishad auditorium.

The woman vice-chairman of Kaliganj upazila, Shahida Sultana inaugurated various programmes of the day. This was followed by a discussion and workshop at Kaliganj Upazila Officers’ Club. Upazila women’s affairs official Anis Afroz chaired the occasion. Upazila primary education officer Mozaffar Uddin, Kaliganj Press Club president Sufil Bari Soof, upazila jubo unnayan officer Md Rezaul Karim and Sangbadik Samity president Md Anwar Hossain took part.

Rangpur: The International Women’s Day was observed in 10 working areas of UNIQUE Project in Rangpur region. The areas were Pirojnagar, Phulbari, Palashbari, Fulchhari, Aditmari, Rajarhat, Bhurungamari, Kishoreganj, Syeedpur and Kaliganj. Various programmes were held under joint aegis of Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad. The programmes were hoisting of flag, rally, sion, sports and games, drama and prize distribution ceremony etc. A total of 4,818 people of 10 regions were present. Of them, 2,660 ere men and 2,158 were women.

Narsingdi, Jamalpur: Mission’s Access Project (health and empowerment) also observed the day in Moheshpur, Narsingdi Sadar, Dewanganj and Sharishabari upazilas of Jhenidah, Narsingdi, Jamalpur districts respectively through holding of various programmes. The programmes included rally, human chain, discussion, workshop, drama and cultural function. A total of 4,360 people of which majority was women spontaneously took part.
Nat’l Children’s Day observed in Patuakhali

The 91st anniversary of birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children’s Day was celebrated in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali district under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Post-Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-2) Project supported by BNFE on 17 March, 2011.

A colourful procession was brought out on the occasion. Kalapara upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) led the procession. Beginning from the upazila compound, the procession paraded Natun Bazaar Thana Road and Livestock Resources Road and terminated in front of the upazila auditorium.

This was followed by a discussion where the life and work of Bangabandhu was discussed. Childhood memories of Bangabandhu, significance of children’s day and things to be done by mothers for children’s welfare were discussed. Child rights issues also came up during the discussion.

Besides, a essay competition for children and juveniles, painting competition and extempore speech were also arranged to mark painting competition, sitting on chair and race etc. On conclusion of the competitions, prizes were distributed among the winners.

In each event, 650 people including 600 learners and 50 others (CMC members, guardians, employers, teachers, supervisors and elite) took part.

The main objective was to communicate the significance of the special day to people from all walks of life. The programmes have created an opportunity to the underprivileged children to underline significance of the day in a joyful atmosphere. It also ensured participation of community people which is also the aim and objective of the project. As many as, 2,472 people participated in five events. Among them, 2,222 were students.

Independence Day observed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Basic Education Project for Urban Working Children (2nd phase) observed the Independence and National Day in all 113 project areas with due fervour and enthusiasm on 26 March, 2011. To mark the occasion. Supported by BNFE, various programmes were chalked out in 30 cluster and supervisor-based learning centres of five places. The places are Gobindapur Primary School, Shanir Akhra, Dhaka, Bahadurpur Community Centre, Sutrapur, Dhaka, Isdair, (Burir Dokan) Narayanganj, Fatullah Government Primary School, Fatullah, Narayanganj. The programmes included swelling of balloon, music ball passing, painting competition, sitting on chair and race etc. On conclusion of the competitions, prizes were distributed among the winners.

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Annual prize distribution ceremony at AMC

Prize distribution ceremony of the Annual Games And Sports And Cultural Competition of Ahsania Mission College (AMC) was held on the college premises in Mirpur in the capital on 23 March, 2011. Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam graced the occasion as chief guest while it was attended by Mission’s general secretary Md Ziauddin as special guest. Ahsania Mission College principal Md Atiar Rahman chaired the occasion. College vice-principal Md Mofizur Rahman delivered the welcome address. This was followed by distribution of prizes among the winners of the games and sports competition held in last week of January and cultural function held on 15-22 February, 2011. The event ended through a cultural function performed by students and others.

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Woman leadership in disaster risk management stressed

A three-day workshop on woman leadership in disaster risk management was held at Barguna Pathshala Training Centre under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s ECDSP Project in cooperation with Nirapad on 16-18 March, 2011. A total of 30 women from Jago Nari, Avas and Multi Task took part. Training manual, multimedia, poster paper, brown paper, notebook, pen, muskin tape, VIPP card, marker, white board, pre-test/post test question paper, handset were the materials used in the workshop. The following subjects were discussed:

Disaster environment and women, concept on disaster, risk analysis, risk management-disaster preparedness, emergency response and women, warning signal, early warning message, shifting, search and rescue operation, requirement and determining losses, adaptation and survival, emergency relief and treatment, women’s role in disaster risk management, establishing woman leadership in disaster risk management, module discussion and feedback and planning formulation.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission master trainer Nasiruddin and technical officer Ziaur Rahman conducted the training.
Disaster Preparedness Day observed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Improved Food and Livelihood Security (IFLS) Project observed the National Disaster Preparedness Day in Chila union of Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district on 31 March, 2011 in the context of increased disaster risk and climate change. A mammoth colourful rally was brought out to mark the occasion. The rally began at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Haldibunia Secondary School which terminated at Uttar Haldibunia Feeder School. This was followed by a discussion at Bangladesh Nazarene Mission School. Newly elected Union Parishad (UP) member Chila union Shah Alam and woman UP member Shikha Rani Mistri were present as guests.

Project manager Liton Sarder of Mongla office Bangladesh Nazarene Mission Project chaired the occasion. Dhaka Ahsania Mission IFLS Project union supervisor Biswajeet Biswas delivered the welcome address. Dhaka Ahsania Mission IFLS Project field coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu read out the key-note paper. An elaborate discussion on this year’s main theme and subject on food and livelihood security development in the context of increased disaster risk and climate change in Bagerhat district was held. Moreover, the meeting informed that a 12-member Community Action Group and 9-member Community Volunteer Group were formed in each ward of Chila union. The groups will assist the entire community to combat disasters.

In his address the president of the discussion meeting called upon all to stand by the distressed people in any calamity. Union Disaster Management Committee members, Imams of mosques, NGO representatives, community volunteers, Community Action Group members were present.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, ADD, Caritas Bangladesh, Prodipan, ITN BUET have been implementing the project jointly with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) and UK-based donor agency CAFOD.

Anti-trafficking orientation workshop in Jamalpur

A two-day anti-trafficking orientation workshop was held at Unnyan Sangha Training Centre in Jamalpur town on 19-20 March, 2011. The workshop was held under the auspices of Community Capacity Building to Reduce Vulnerability of Human Trafficking (CCRVT) Project for its workers to reduce the risk of human trafficking.

The main objectives of the workshop were to give a brief description on the activities to project workers, give guidelines on the procedure of project implementation and strategies, coordination with stakeholders at various stages of project implementation and give a clear direction on the future action plan.

An elaborate discussion on the project programme was held. At the same time, implementation strategies were found out. The participants were given required orientations on the issue of human trafficking, ways for resistance, role of community and other matters.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Division director Shafiqul Islam dwelt on ways to inform people about the project activities. Earlier, Relief International representative Ihtiar Newaz and Dhaka Ahsania Mission representative Masud Rana highlighted the activities of their respective organisations.

An important session of the orientation workshop was panel discussion. Each representative from law enforcement agencies, district legal aid committee coordinator and a press club representative were invited. Its objective was to give project workers a clear idea on the field activities so that they can carosehem forward smoothly. Press club vice-president Nurul Alam Uzzal, director of Programme, donor organisation Relief International representative and project focal person spoke on the occasion.

Later in the Question-Answer Session, the press club vice-president gave answers to various questions of project workers.

9 new microcredit branches to open

With a view to extending the microcredit programme, DAM with approval of Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is going for opening of nine new branches at Patuakhali Sadar and Mirzaganj in Patuakhali district, Monohordi, Belabo and Radhaganj Bazar (Raypura) in Narsingdi district and Netrakona Sadar, Barhatta, Shyamganj and Birisiri in Netrakona district. With these new branches total number of branches will be spread over various districts.

Report of Training Course

A validation work was done under ROSC Project within a period from the months of January, 2011 to March, 2011. The work includes 20 batches of basic trainings and 3 batches of orientation courses.

Under the ROSC Project, Dhaka Ahsania Mission started working in three new upazilas within the same period. The upazilas are Motherganj and Bakshiganj of Jamalpur district and Phulchhari of Gaibandha district.

Within the period, Dhaka Ahsania Mission imparted training on ‘Multigrade Education’ to the teachers and supervisors of five partner organisations of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark. A total of 22 trainees took part. A two-day training manual on quality education was developed for education officers and teachers under UNIQUE Project. A two-day ToT on the manual was also conducted for master trainers and other officials under UNIQUE Project. A total of 27 trainees took part in this training course.
Anti-trafficking community committees formed

A total of 27 anti-trafficking community committees (ATCCs) have been formed in every union of Melandaha, Dewanganj and Bakshiganj upazilas in Jamalpur district. The committees were formed at community level in March, 2011 under the Community Capacity Building to Reduce Vulnerability of Human Trafficking (CCRVT) Project. Each committee consists of 20 members from representatives of all classes of professionals.

The main objectives of formation of such committee are to make people aware about human trafficking, to find out the causes keeping in mind people’s requirement and adversities as well as identification of people who are at risk of trafficking.

This committee will take part in skill development training courses relating to human trafficking, make monthly and yearly work plan, organise discussion meetings with local people to create awareness about the issue, identify people who are at risk of trafficking, conduct survey and collect information, monitor activities to resist trafficking and take next course of action.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in assistance with Relief International, has been implementing the two-year (2010-2012) project where priority has been given to children. Importance has also been given on proper steps to be taken during trafficking period.

Art competition held in 24 schools of Dhaka, Comilla

An art competition on Safe Water For Urban Children was held in 24 WASH-vulnerable schools of Dhaka and Comilla cities to mark the World Water Day on 22nd March, 2011. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Improvements in Schools (WSHS)-UN HABITAT project organised the art competition.

A total of 755 students of 24 schools in Dhaka and Comilla took part in the one-hour long competition that started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.00 am. Classrooms of each school were venues of the competition. Most of the schools provided drawing materials to the participants. Here are the names of the schools situated under Dhaka City Corporation along with the number of participants.

Two teachers were responsible for competition in each school. They wrote rules and topic of the art on the board. The school authorities arranged the programme internally. CBPC judged the picture in each school primarily. Finally, a jury would be formed by the representatives of CU, DAM, CBPC, UPPRP and school authorities to sort out and qualify the pictures. Best 25 pictures would be qualified by the jury. The project has intended that a desk calendar for 2012 would be made by the selected pictures where names of the winners, class and names of schools would be mentioned. Earlier, Dhaka Ahsania Mission officially informed all schools and project-related GoB stakeholders like DPE, LGED and Pourasabha and City Corporation about the competition.

Chittagong: The day was observed at the initiative of the Mission’s UNIQUE Project at Hathazari, Patiya, Fatikchhari, Rangunia, Chandaish and Boalkhali of Chittagong district. Local Union Parishad (UP) chairmen, CLC and LRC officials participated there.

Noakhali: UNIQUE Project organised various programmes at Sonaigazi, Begumganj, Subbarbachar, Hatiya, Raipur, Luxmipur Sadar, Ramgoti, Bhola Sadar, Lalmohan, Tomizudding and Doubakh of Noakhali region to mark the occasion, CLC teachers, students, guardians, CAG, CMC members, local representatives, government officials and community members took part.

Mymensingh: International Mother Language Day was observed at the initiative of the UNIQUE Project in 10 project areas of Mymensingh region including Mithamine, Halaqabant, Motherganj, Jamalpur Sadar, Melandaha, Mononganj, Phulpur, Bakshiganj, Ina, Mymensingh Sadar.

Barisal: UNIQUE Project organised befitting programmes in Hizla, Uzipur, Galachipa, Kalapara, Amtoli, Barguna Sadar and Patharghata upazilas on the occasion. As many as 4,979 learners of 25 CLCs in seven Barisal regions, 2,987 guardians, 1,327 local people took part.
Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is a pioneer organisation in upholding the causes of children. It has undertaken various programmes for overall development of children. The name of Early Child Development (ECD) programme is worth mentioning. The programme has been aimed at improving lives of children as well as their families. The programme moves forward through various supportive services. The services are early education and care, parenting services and other welfare activities meant for child health and development.

DAM-led ECD programme started operation back in the year of 1992. Since its inception, the DAM model has been widely acclaimed for designing the community-based programme. The major objective of the ECD programme is to rear up children for their physical and mental development and their preparation for schooling with proper attitude and practice. Its components are designed to focus on the child and his/her parents as an integral part.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has a glorious history of implementing a good number of projects on Early Childhood Development. A project named as Comprehensive Basic Education Programme (CBEP) was implemented within a period from 1994 to 1997.

In Amtali of Barguna district, CBEP opened 240 centres for extending pre-primary support. Another such project, Community Learning Centre (CLC) being supported by UNESCO, was also implemented in early 2000s. This project established quite a few child development centres in the target area.

In recent past, DAM implemented a specialised project named, ‘Community Learning Action Project (CLAP)’ with major focus on early childhood development. With the objective of development of young children, CLAP Project was launched in July 2005 and ended in 2008. CLAP covered three major districts of Narsingdi,Jessore and Satkhira. Early childhood Development and pre-primary education were chosen to be major components of the project. Quality Primary Education (IQE) is another important project that contributed immensely in improvement of ECD initiative. This project was implemented in Gazipur district within a period from 2006 to 2010 with active support from Plan Bangladesh.

At present, Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s Early Childhood Development programme comprising of different components spreading over all the regions of the country. The lone EU-funded ‘UNIQUE’ project covers 78 upazilas in 24 districts.

Another project, ‘ECDSP-B’ has been working in Barguna district of the coastal region of Bangladesh. This project is supported by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and AGA Khan Foundation.

DAM’s Early Childhood Development programme progresses across Bangladesh and raises public awareness as well as information sharing and networking.

At present, DAM is an active member of Bangladesh ECD Network.

DAM is also providing valuable support to a number of local organisations to formulate organisational ECD policy and implementation of ECD programmes. To cite an example, the names of Jago Nari, Avas and Multi Tasks are worth mentioning.
DAM in frame

DAM’s assistance towards economic empowerment of women