

100 pc smoke-free at public places demanded

Dhaka Ahsania Mission through a press conference stressed to pass the tobacco control law in the ongoing session of National Parliament by declaring hundred percent tobacco-free at public places. At the same time, it has demanded not to establish smoking zone in public places and for violation of the tobacco control law it has demanded stringent punishment by the amendment of tobacco control law.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the press con-

ference on April 23, 2013.

They also said, tobacco companies are continuing their advertisement of tobacco, bidi and cigarettes in the name of social corporate responsibilities (CSR). Even, they are being encouraged as they are given easy loan. This is why, effectiveness of tobacco control and smoke-free law is being hindrance.

Project Coordinator of AMIC AKM Anisuzzaman delivered the welcome address. Assistant Director of DAM Iqbal Masud presented the

key-note paper. Executive Director of UBINIG and Coordinator of Anti Tobacco Media Alliance Farida Akter, Advocacy & Media Coordinator of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) Taifur Rahman, Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse (MANAS) Presi-

dent Dr. Arup Ratan Chowdhury and CAB President Kazi Faruque were present as panel guests. Government has taken initiative to amend the tobacco control law. It is expected to be passed the amendment of the expected tobacco control law in the ongoing parliament session. Initiative has been taken to extend of the definition of public places in tobacco control law, include of smoke free tobacco, set pictorial warnings on wrapper of cigarette.



ference titled 'Amendment Tobacco Control Law and Hundred Percent Smoke-free Environment' to uphold the present situation of tobacco control law and make aware to the policy makers regarding the issue at Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city 23

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SBK & Pre-School Centre open in Barguna

A plan has been undertaken to open 12 SBK and 12 Pre-Schools this year in collaboration with Multi Task, a partner organization of ECDSP-B Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and three centres at the initiative of the community. Twenty-four SBK and Pre-Schools were established in Char Duani union (19) and Kathaltoli union (5) of Barguna district within a period from January 2 to 9, 2013. Besides, a total of three centres, two SBK and one Pre-School, were inaugurated at the initiative of the community. At the opening ceremony, briefly a concept on the activities of the ECDSP Project was given to all. Discussion on issues like child development, child rights, birth registration and school dress was also held. Besides, the aims and objectives of SBK and Pre-School were discussed. Efforts were made to keep the participating children within the actual age limit in 2013. Finally, 18-20 children were selected for SBK and pre-schooling this year. An elaborate discussion was held on child rights. Finally, a nine-member executive committee was formed based on opinion of all to ensure accountability and transparency in all spheres of activities.

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Half of the older people suffer from High Blood Pressure

Half of the older people are suffer from high blood pressure in the country. In addition, they are also suffering from different complicated diseases like gastric, dysentery, diabetes, headache and eye related. 21% older people take treatment from different NGO's health centres.

The above findings came out from a survey conducted by HelpAge International. The survey findings were presented in a health right based programme, participated by older people, under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Resource Integration Centre (RIC) and Bangladesh Women Health Coalition (BWHC) in collaboration with the campaign program, 'Age Demands Action (ADA)' of HelpAge International at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban Auditorium at on 3 April 2013.

HelpAge International conducted the survey in six districts of Bangladesh. Survey revealed that due to economic

crisis and treatment centre being far away, older people lose their interest to take treatment.

of high blood pressure of older people, discussion meeting also held. National Federation of Older

ning) Dr Abul Kalam Azad, the Prof. of Delta Medical College and Secretary of Bayosko Kalyan Samity Dr Afsana Karim, Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital Brig (Retd.) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim were present as discussants. President of Forum for the Rights



In participation with older people, the inaugural ceremony was held at 10.30 am. After the inaugural ceremony, different types of events including presentation

People President Freedom fighter Shahabuddin Sarder presided over the meeting while Additional Director General of Health Department (Development and Plan-

of Elderly People Dr AKM Rashid read out recommendations on high blood pressure of older people which were the findings of the survey on older people.

Anti-Smoking Peoples Forum, Dhaka-7 formed in city

Anti-Smoking Peoples Forum, Dhaka-7 has been officially formed and kicked off under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at a local hotel of Dhaka-7 parliamentary constituency zone on 27 April 2013. Lawmaker of



Dhaka-7 constituency, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin inaugurated the newly formed forum of 15 members. He said, smoking is harmful not only for

the smokers but also the people who stay surrounds the smokers equally. He hoped that the anti-smoking people's forum will work to reduce smoking at public places

of Dhaka-7 constituency zone. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working to control the use of tobacco and create smoke-free environment by entangling local people. This is why, an initiative has been taken to form Anti-Smoking People's forum at the different parliamentary zone of Dhaka City. These forums will take steps to keep smoke-free at public places and create awareness among the mass people about the reduction of tobacco use. Moreover, the forums will work to place different types of recommendations to the government through respective parliament members.

Project Coordinator AKM Anisuzzaman presented a key-note paper about the negative impact of tobacco and smoking. Former Ward Commissioner of Lalbagh Humayun Kabir and Regional Executive officer of Dhaka south city corporation KM Kabir Ahmed were present as guest of honor. Moreover, members of the forum and respected persons of this area were present.

Govt welcomed for passing tobacco control law (amendment)

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and officials of different walks of Health and Family Welfare Ministry and greeted government for the passing of Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Bill (Amendment) 2013 in the ongoing session of Jatiya Sangsad. Health and Family Welfare Secretary Niazuddin welcomed Health Minister with flower on the occasion. Additional Secretary of the Ministry Safikul Islam Laskar, Joint Secretary (public health) Suvash Chandra Sarker, the Deputy Secretary and Programme Manager (Tobacco Control) Azam-e-Sadat, Deputy Secretary Abu Masud, Deputy Secretary Saidul Islam, Coordinator of National Tobacco Control Cell Amin-ul-Islam, Senior Assistant Secretary Niama Islam and Assistant Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Iqbal Masud were present at that time.

Later, employees of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and members of Anti-Smoking People's Forum brought out a rally from National Press Club greeting everybody relating to anti-smoking campaign.

It is mentionable that Bangladesh government passed smoking & tobacco products uses (control) law in 2005 and made it effective on the same year to protect harmfulness of tobacco and smoking. But due to some weak points of the law, it was not appropriately implemented. As a result, tobacco control



activities are become obstructed. So, DAM along with other organizations has been working for the amendment of the law. Fine has been increased from Tk.50 to.300 in the passed law (amendment) for smoking in public places. Restaurants have been included in the Law as public place, Pictorial warnings would occupy at least at the 50pc space of wrapper of Bidi, Cigarette and Tobacco products. Any type direct or indirect advertisements relating to tobacco have been banned. Even, any types of advertise-

ment at selling point have been banned. Moreover, in the name of corporate social responsibility of tobacco companies, advertisement of tobacco products has been restricted. The tobacco control law will stand on a stringent base though there is still remaining scope of designated smoking area in the law. People from all walks of life believe that government will stop the designated smoking area completely at public places considering the public interest.

BNFE officials, EU delegates visit UNIQUE II Child Learning Centres (CLCs)

A high level team of Bangladesh Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) visited two Child Learning Centres (CLCs) at Mirpur on 29 April 2013. The CLCs are being run by UNIQUE II project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Director of Planning Abul Kashem and Deputy Director of Planning Shamima Nargis along with other four officials of Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) took part in the visit.

Before visiting the CLCs, the visitors were briefed on the project as well as Mutigrade Teaching-Learning Approach (MGTLA) that are being followed by the project. The vis-



iting team expressed their satisfaction over programmes and management of the project. They also expressed their

high satisfaction over the project's community empowerment actions and sustainability efforts for Child Learning Cen-

tres (CLC) and Learning Resource Centres (LRC). The BNFE officials showed their sincere interest to adapt MGTLA in different programmes for the marginalized children. They even expressed their willingness to acquire required information form UNIQUE II project. The visiting BNFE representatives also sought for training and technical assistance from Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

The BNFE officials were accompanied by Laila Baquee, Education Adviser, Delegation of the European Union, Dr Valerie Emblem, Team Leader, Share Component II and Shafiqul Islam, Project Director of UNIQUE II project. Other concerned officials of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Share Component II were also present.



Implementation of Community-based Pre-Primary Education under UNIQUE Project

A total of 109 Pre-School programmes are being implemented in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Rangpur and Rangamati regions in 2013.

A five-day training on Pre-Primary Education was organised in the aforesaid working areas in February during preparatory stage of the nine-month pro-

gramme from March to November this year. Pre-school tutor, supervisor, technical officer and area manager took part in the training. There were 164 participants. Of them, 119 were women and 45 men. The training was participatory and very effective due to active participation of Master Trainer and Technical Offi-

cer. In 2012, a total of 4,575 learners from 183 pre-schools of UNIQUE-2 Project area got admitted to Class-I in local government primary schools. Because of competency of all participants including tutors, the Community-based Pre-Primary Education Programme is being successfully implemented in different areas of the

country. The Community-based Pre-Primary Education Programme is one of various activities of UNIQUE-2 Project. The programme is being implemented in child learning centres of various project areas in active cooperation with community members. A joyful learning procedure is being followed during study to children aged 5 plus of the project areas.

Learning children get a clear concept on pre-education, writing and counting through songs and dances, acting, story-telling, painting and playing games. All the centres are well-decorated with attractive educational and play materials. In the process, children's physical, intellectual, linguistic, social and emotional flourishment occurs. Ultimately, the children acquire an ability to get themselves admitted to government primary schools. Alongside, they acquire the skill to get themselves adopted to a new environment.

10-day pedagogic training course for tutors, others

Ten-day pedagogic training courses for tutors, union supervisors, technical officers and area managers, working under the UNIQUE-2 Project, each in six regions of Bangladesh, were held from November 22, 2012, to March 27, 2013. The regions are Dhaka, Rangpur, Barisal, Khulna, Rangamati and Mymensingh. A total of 483 participants took part in the training courses. Of them, 400 were females and 83 males. They consisted of 412 tutors, 51 union supervisors, 16 technical officers and four area managers.

The training courses were aimed at implementation of non-formal primary education (NFE) project through multi-grade teaching-learning approach. At regional stage, two master trainers each conducted training sessions. Trained tech-

nical officers assisted the master trainers in conducting the training courses. The central team members of the

UNIQUE-2 Project, Md Nurul Islam, Saleha Akter, Shelly Biswas and Sultana Fariza provided necessary counseling and technical assistance in this regard. Project Director Shafiqul Islam and Deputy Project Director

Golam Faruk Hamim provided necessary guidelines. Because of capability and sincerity of master trainers and spontaneous participation of participants, the training courses became a total success.



Advocacy and Communication with Communities to Empower for Accessing Social Services (ACCESS-CAFOD-II) Project is supported by CAFOD-UK with the duration from March 2011-February 2014 being implemented in 2 upazilas Barguna Sadar and Amtoli with a goal for creating an enabling environment to increase access of vulnerable and marginalized groups, in particular, women, adolescents, and children, fisherman, socially excluded and environmentally refugee to quality public resources and services. The vulnerable, marginalized rural poor, destitute and distressed women, persons with disabil-

Rights and life skill development through CRC

Ganokendra who will receive follow up support and very limited services while new beneficiaries will receive extensive support. Among all the beneficiaries at least 60% will be the female. Thematic focus of the Project is Rights and Life Skills Development, RTI & ICT, Peoples Organization, Climate change and DRR.

Ganokendra, CRC and MCRC Infrastructure and Bank ac-

count/Persons to provide legal services. The awareness and enhance capacity of the rural poor has been enabled creating an environment to enjoy the available local resources and services provided by the government. The major activities of the project are to provide vocational and skill training through Rural vocational training Centers at the MCRC level and facilitate job

early warning system, provide life skill training to the Ganokendra/CRC based adolescent group, provide training on adolescent Family life education, legal education and gender session, organize adolescent fair at upazilla/district and national level, organize ICT fair at district/ national level., organize cultural program and mock session on disaster preparedness and response, arrange study visit to get and share the experience of the adolescent.

Here are some good practices of the project. Those are learning environment are prevailing in Ganokendra, the staff are maintaining the project dairy, adolescent playing vital role to prove



ity, adolescent and the children of hardcore poor and extremely poverty stricken resource poor, land less, asset less and fishermen families who are the victim of denials basic services will be target population of this project. A total of 10,600 Ganokendra members' family will be the target of this project. Out of this 10,600, 6600 members will be from the existing

count, Community participation, GO-NGO linkage, CBDRR fund, Union Parishod and UDMC linkage, Regular Local Resource Mobilization, The standing committee of Union parishad have taken initiative to ensure the rights of the poor people. To ensure the rights of the poor people in the working area, an effective linkage and network have been formed with likeminded organ-

placement and self employment, orientation for Ganokendra chairman/ Vice chairman / Cashier on project development, Leadership development training for Ganokendra members, Arrange indoors and out door games for the adolescent, provide Orientation to volunteers, GMC members, different community group, Up standing committee on pre-during and post disaster response and

themselves as good citizenship, the targeted adolescents are better sensitized about the gender issues probe, Marginalized group are involved in the GMC, Ganokendra are trying to be institutionalized, Ganokendra raised the CDRR fund for emergency management of hazards risk reduction at the community level, Good practice and lesson learned are being properly documented.



DAM IN FRAME

Various activities of Access-Cafod Project

