



Nation is honored if worthy citizens are respected



Nation is honored if worthy citizens are respected. Encourage is beefed up through the recognition of respected people for their welfare work. Speakers said this at Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2012 awarding ceremony held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Bhaban auditorium in the city on Saturday 24 August, 2013.

The gold medal was formally awarded to noted personality Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury in recognition to his outstanding contributions in the field of Education, Architecture and Research.

The chief guest of the programme Prof. Dr Wahid Uddin Ahmed, Ombudsman of BIRDEM (Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders) formally handed over the medal to Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury.

Speaker's also said, Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah was a prominent educationist in the

sub-continent. He contributed to establish the University of Dhaka and to make the people educated with modern education.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while Professor (retd) of Philosophy department of Dhaka University Dr Aminur Islam read out the key-note paper. Former Secretary and ex-Chairman of the National Board of Revenue, Dr Md Abdul Majid and Vice-Chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) Dr A M M Shafiullah were present as discussants. The Executive Director of DAM, Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered the Welcome Address. Consultant of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Md Nazrul Islam gave a brief resume of the gold medal award winner.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury was born in Sylhet and had his early education in St. Gregory's School and Dhaka College in Dhaka. He obtained B.Sc. (Eng), in Civil,

degree in 1963 as first class first from University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) and M.Sc. Engineering and Ph.D. Degree from University of Southampton in 1968.

Dr. Choudhury joined in BUET as a lecturer of Civil Engineering in 1963 and was appointed as a Professor of Civil Engineering department in 1976. He was Head of the Dept. of Civil Engineering from 1978 to 79 and 1981 to 83, Dean of the Faculty from 1983 to 85.

In 1986, DAM has introduced the prestigious gold medal award after Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), its founder and a noted educationist of the Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent as well as a social reformer, practitioner of Sufism and former Assistant Director of the Department of Public Instruction during British period in undivided India. This medal has been awarded to 21 noted personalities up to this period.

Indoor games organised at Barguna Ganokendra, CRC level

ACCESS-CAFOD-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized indoor games for adolescents. Aiming to enhance the quality of life, the indoor games were held at Amtoli Bristi Ganokendra on August 22, Nilpadma Ganokendra on August 23, Rupsa and Titas Ganokendra on August 25, Keorabunia MCRC on August 26, Tamanna Ganokendra on August 27 and Paira Ganokendra on August 29 this year. Events on carom, ludo, chess and dance and music was held. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners. A total of 151 women and 59 women took part.

Contents

DAM at work

Higher level advocacy meeting on HIV/AIDS with focal points of 19 ministries held 2

Poriborton donates Eid outfits for disadvantaged children 3

ICT related debate held at Moheshpur 4

Training course for prevention of HIV/AIDS in jail 5

Community Volunteer Group (CVG) of the EWSDRR project 6

Thematic Focus

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Gender Approach 7

DAM in Frame

Activities of Gender Approach 8

Higher level advocacy meeting on HIV/AIDS with focal points of 19 ministries held

In order to facilitate effective prevention and care of HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh, a higher level advocacy meeting with HIV Focal Points of 19 Ministries was held at the at the conference room of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) on 29 August 2013. Additional Secretary Safiqul Islam Laskar chaired the meeting while Health Secretary MM Neazuddin was present as chief guest. Ministry of Health and Family welfare and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) jointly organized the programme while it was supported by the Save the Children International under Global Fund, RCC-phase-2 program.

The 19 key ministries who participated in the meeting to facilitate necessary support are Ministry of Public Administration, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Information, Education, Women and Children Affairs, Labor & Manpower, Local Government and Rural Development, Social Welfares, Economic Relations Division, Planning, Foreign Ministry, Religious Affairs, Home Affairs, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Industry, Ministry of Housing and Public works. Besides government representatives UN Agencies UNAIDS, USAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, fhi360, UNISF rep-



representatives were present and spoke. Policy makers from Ministry of Home Affairs and other relevant ministries & departments of peoples' republic of Bangladesh is planned to implement up to November 2015 under global fund RCC phase-2 program. The speakers informed, according to the UNAIDS regional fact sheet 2012, Bangladesh is one of the countries in Asia where the rate of HIV infection has increased by more than 25%. Although UNAIDS identified this trend as that of a "latent epidemic",

Bangladesh is not projected as a latent epidemic country as the real numbers are very low. This should not lead to complacency as the number of HIV cases are on the rise. They also opined that considering the current HIV and AIDS situation in Bangladesh and to create enabling environment for effective implantation of MARP program there is a strong need for higher level advocacy among parliamentarians, different key ministries, law enforcement agencies, journalists, relevant professional bodies, program managers etc.



Violators of anti-tobacco control act punished

An official team led by Sarah Sadia, an executive magistrate at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka district, conducted a mobile court in Tejgaon and Banani thana areas on August 27, 2013. Police personnel of the two police stations helped conduct the mobile court following the tobacco control act. Advertisements of cigarettes came to the notice of the magistrate where she saw that 15 shops were displaying the advertisements in their showcases. As per tobacco control act, she at once,

gave directives to the concerned law enforcers to damage the advertisements by colouring those with black colour. At Mohakhali central bus terminal, the mobile court fined five people for openly smoking in public places and a manager of a restaurant for not hanging No-Tobacco Zone sign at his restaurant. The court also damaged an advertisement of cigarette there. Victims of passive smoking and pedestrians highly lauded the punitive measures taken by the mobile court against the law violators.

AMIC's opinion exchange meeting with media activists

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's AMIC-Modhumita project organised an opinion exchange meeting for media activists at its Chankharpool centre in the capital on July 30, 2013. A total of 16 persons including media activists and local elite were present. At the outset of the meeting, Centre manager of AMIC-Modhumita project Jahangir Hossain exchanged opinion with media activists to narrate the activities of AMIC-Modhumita project. He also highlighted its three-month progress report.

Participants underscored the need for publicity in various educational institutions about the ill effects of drug addiction. A committee was formed with Moinuddin Ahmed, a journalist of Durnitir Chitra as its convener. At the last stage of the meeting, Mahfida Deena, the senior programme officer of AMIC, discussed in brief about the anti-smoking campaign of AMIC. She also sought cooperation of media and social activists and various organisations to make their anti-tobacco campaign a success.

Poriborton donates Eid outfits for disadvantaged children

Poriborton, a youth organization working for disadvantaged children, donated Eid outfits to the children of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) at Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on 1 August 2013. Founder and president of Poriborton Noorin Suhaila Asjad, general secretary Rafiuzzaman Khan and head of marketing and event management Afi Abida Nitunto jointly handed over the outfits to Vice-Chairman of AMCC, Shahnewaz Khan.

DAM general secretary Md Abdus Sobhan was present in the programme. Programme Coordinator of AMCC project Tariq Masud and programme manager M Zahangir Hossain were also present on the occasion.

These dresses will be distributed among the 80 children residing at Ahasnia Mission Children City, Panchagarh and Savar. To share Eid joys with these children, Poriborton has donated these dresses.



It is mentionable that Poriborton has set out its journey with some dedicated students of school and college in this year. They collect money from the

well-off people of the society and conduct activities for bringing change in the condition of disadvantaged children into mainstream.



GO-NGO coordination meeting held

A GO-NGO coordination meeting was held at Chankharpool centre of Dhaka Ahsania Mission AMIC-Modhumita project in the capital on August 27, 2013.

The meeting discussed the activities of AMIC-Modhumita project with the development activists of government and non-government organisations. A total of 13 representatives of one GO and nine NGOs were present at the coordination meeting. Centre manager of AMIC-Modhumita project Jahangir Hossain presided over. At the outset of the meeting, he

placed a report on the next year's activities of AMIC-Modhumita project with development activists. He also placed a detailed progress report of last three months. The meeting further discussed issues on certain specific agenda. One of the agenda was that how to protect a drug user from all kinds of torture and to ensure his protection. NGO representatives highlighted the programme and activities of their respective organisations. They also shared experience on how to make their activities more dynamic.

Discussion on usage of tobacco & women's reproductive health

A discussion on usage of tobacco and women's reproductive health was held at the office room of Dhaka North City Corporation Zone-1 on July 25, 2013. Zonal executive officer of Dhaka North City Corporation Zone-1 Md Nuruzaman Sharif presided over the discussion organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Dhaka North City Corporation chief health officer Brigadier General (ret) Md Afzalur Rahman was present there as chief guest. Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association president Qamaruddin Ahmed (Khokon),

Dhaka North City Corporation Zone-4 assistant health officer and Urban Primary Healthcare programme officer Mahmuda Ali and Dhaka North City Corporation Zone-1 assistant health officer Azizunnessa were present as special guests. DAM project coordinator AKM Anisuzzaman was also present.

Mahfida Deena Rubaiya and Dr Naila Parveen presented the main report on usage of tobacco and women's reproductive health. Day by day usage of tobacco is increasing, the speakers said. At the same



time, health problems are also increasing, they said.

Although the tendency of smoking is less among the womenfolk but about 28 per cent women take smokeless tobacco. Besides, about one crore women fall prey to pas-

sive smoking which is as much harmful as smoking, they informed. This has kept an adverse effect on women's reproductive health about which women are not at all aware of, they said raising their concern.

ICT related debate held at Moheshpur

A debate on Social Usage of ICT is the Only Way towards Development was held at Dr Saiful Islam College at Kathgora in Mandarbaria union of Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah district on August 22, 2013. Students of the college took part in the debate. Three students of Class-XI participated in favour of the topic while three students of Class-XII participated against the topic. Each team placed adequate in-

formation and argument in favour and against the topic. Based on the evaluation of judges, the team which argued in favour of the topic became champions. Rokeya Khatun, a student of Class-XI was selected as the best speaker. Prizes were awarded to each and every member of both the teams. Dhaka Ahsania Mission coordinator Quamruzzaman acted as moderator. Lecturers Alaud-



din, Prodip Kumar Roy and Rezaul Karim were judges. Earlier, Lecturer Abu Zahid delivered the welcome address. The college authorities

were in overall management of the competition. A total of 345 students and 17 lecturers were present at the competition.

Human chain to prevent violence against women

A human chain was formed at Moheshpur in Jhenidah on August 5, 2013. Jointly organised by the Directorate of Women Affairs, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and various women's organisations, the

human chain was formed aiming to prevent violence against women. It was followed by a rally and discussion. Moheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nasima Khatun led a colourful procession. The dis-



cussants underscored the need for female education in empowerment of women and discussed issues like behaviour towards women in light of Islam, creation of women entrepreneurs and prevention of violence against women. Among others, Moheshpur UNO Nasima Khatun, officer-

in-charge of Moheshpur thana Akram Hossain, upazila livestock officer, upazila women affairs officer, SBK UP chairman Sazzadul Islam Sazzad, RDC executive head Abdur Rahman, noted social worker Alhaj Abul Bashar and DAM coordinator Quamruzzaman spoke on the occasion.

Union disaster management committee meetings held

Meetings of union disaster management committees were held in Burirchar union under M Baliatoli of Sadar upazila and Amtoli union under Amtoli upazila of Barguna district. President of Union Disaster Management Committee and Union chairman presided over. The meetings discussed issues on government directives regarding disaster management,

all about various disaster management committees, duties and responsibilities of Union Disaster Management Committee during calamity, warning signal of cyclone and weather, disaster period, things to be done, updating plans for disaster management and various awareness programmes. A total 102 members were present. Of them, 69 were men and 51 women.

Quarterly meeting of People's Forum

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized the quarterly meeting of People's Forum in Dhaka-7 constituency at its Modhumita project office on July 30, 2013. Forum convener Humayun Kabir presided over the meeting. A total of 13 members including the joint convener of the Forum, Nazim Uddin, and Camelia Chowdhury were present there.

A three-month plan of action was formulated. It was planned that a training programme for Imams of mosques and awareness creating meetings will be arranged in five schools/ colleges. It is worth mentioning, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, MP, officially inaugurated the anti-smoking People's Forum in his constituency on April 27, 2013.

BIAAG campaign held in Barguna

ACCESS-CAFOD-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised Because I Am A Girl (BIAAG) campaign on four occasions in Barguna district. The campaign was held in four spots at Ganokendra, regional office and Keorabunia MCRC levels on August 03, August 01, July 30 and July 25 this year. Participants raised their hands and shouted that “We do not support child marriage: We shall do everything to prevent it.” Participants included members of Adolescent Forum, Management Committee, Guardians’ Committee, Community Action Group and officials and workers of the regional office.

Training courses on disaster warning signal held

ACCESS-CAFOD Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised two training courses on pre-disaster, during disaster and post-disaster warning signal at Shyamoli Ganokendra and Sagorika CRC of Amtoli upazila in Barguna district on July 08 and July 10 this year. Held at two venues, the training courses were participated by Ganokendra volunteers, GMC members and Union Parishad (UP) Standing Committee members. Discussion on the Barguna project activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, danger, capacity, definition of disaster, its causes and types of disaster, all about the disaster management committee, duties



and responsibilities of the union disaster management committee, warning signal, planning related to disaster management, losses, finding

and climate change were held at the training sessions. Field coordinator Mizanur Rahman and supervisor Abdur Rab Akond acted as facilitators.



Free health camps for elderly people in Barguna

Free health camps for elderly people were held in Burirchar Sagorika CRC and Chhoto Badarkhali village of Gourichanna union, both under Sadar upazila in Barguna, within a period from August 23 to 28, 2013. ACCESS-CAFOD-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the camps where medicines were

distributed for free after their treatment. The health camps were aimed to respect the elderly people and create a healthy relationship with them at family and society. There is a total of one crore 30 lakh elderly people in Bangladesh. These people are neglected in family and society in many ways.

Training course for prevention of HIV/AIDS in jail

Dhaka Ahsania Mission’s AMIC and ROZA-H-71 of the UN Office on Drug and Crime jointly organized a HIV/AIDS related training course at Faridpur district jail on July 31, 2013. Senior jail super, jailer, prison official, prison guard and representatives of DAM were present. Similar training courses were held in six district jails. Seventy representatives of jails took part in the training courses.



CVG functioning

Community Volunteer Group (CVG) of the EWSDRR project



While a person or an organization links himself or itself for development or any special change of society or world and spends labor, time and money in need for obtaining the particular goals is called volunteer. Community volunteer Group will work with his/her community. They want to do good for others. They particularize their doings for solution on the basis of priority after analysis the existing problem of their own community because they believe that they have social responsibilities and need to meet that responsibilities. Educated, young & youth people are eager to do something implausible for the development of their own community and neighborhood alliance. But most of the time they do not get or create any platform to do such things. CVG formation under the project "Ensuring Water and Sanitation facilities towards Disaster Risk Reduction" has given this opportunity to these people.

Concept at the EWSDRR

Community Volunteer Group i.e. CVG has formed with the aim to rising awareness on safe water and sanitation as well as hygienic behavior along with disaster preparedness among their own community and

neighbors. The following are the rational of CVG formation that could be performed by the volunteers:

Preparation of social Map focusing WASH facilities and problem. Preparation of community action plan (CAP) focusing to the problem & disputes documented in the MAP. Organize the hygiene promotional event like street play, rally, miking, folksong, sports and day observation & regular house hold visit. Encourage the community people to collect, preserve and drink safe water and use of sanitary latrine following hygienic behavior. Invent the community confident through promotional counseling to face the challenges of disaster. Encourage/support the community in making sanitary latrine by their own effort. Campaign/ canvass early warning of disaster, update & revised the MAP and CAP quarterly

Function of CVG : Volunteer consider saving their own community during disaster through counseling and rising awareness among the community population. The project is helping in deprived and disaster prone community moving towards disaster friendly future by contributing to community

interests mainly on disaster preparedness focusing WAT-SAN measures. Measures that would be taken by CVG in pre, during and post disaster period and normal period are stated below:

Pre disaster/ early warning

Preparation for going to shelter during early warning. Assemble/ mobilize community people going to shelter through dispersion or interpersonal communication as early warning. Preserve the family utensils jug, mug, pot, water jar etc. and necessary materials. Take care for children and elderly people for going to shelter after hearing early warning of disaster. Open the tubewell spout/ upside and fasten tightly the open upside by polyethylene as if no contaminated water can go inside.

During disaster

Preparation for staying in shelter, Avoid dispute; Properly use

of WASH facilities; Be kind to children and elderly people.

Post disaster

Preparation to go back home and ready to face the post challenge of disaster like spreading many kind of diseases. Build decent and hygienic latrine if it is damaged or destroyed due to disaster. Build house if it is damaged or destroyed due to disaster. Repair the tubewell. Rise awareness to bind up the neighborhood alliance and face the challenges of disaster

Awareness building activities of CVG

On receiving training all CVG prepared social Map and CAP focusing Watsan issues with the assistance of community people. Regular activities of CVG are courtyard session, tea stall session and discourse with religious leader, introductory orientation, training and meeting with ward watsan committee etc. usually CVG conducts three types of works. The following activities are being conducted regular basis by CVG for making awareness among the community like: Courtyard session, Tea stall session, Meeting with religious leaders, School hygiene session

Community Development steps of community development:

Setting a good goal, that has a clear and specific characteristic for achieving the particular purpose of the project through self interest and inspiration of the community. Marking problems related to watsan and disaster is carried out through volunteers brainstorming CVG discussion and individual discourse and opinion. Identifying the problems (community issue and needs) must be shown in the CAP. All should be agreed as priority basis that need to be resolved. Issues and needs can be identified.



Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Gender Approach



The founder of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (RA), worked throughout his life for emancipation of women from discrimination, torture, poverty and segregation. He relentlessly worked for female education. He pushed forward for the noble cause by introducing scholarship and stipend for girl students. He built hostels for girls and gave financial help to girl children for their education. He created various opportunities for women to make their work places safer. He also called upon all concerned to involve women in responsible activities. In response to his call, Dhaka Ahsania Mis-

Besides difference in physical structure of males and females, other differences are also visible in cultural activities. This difference is manifested while females discharge their duties and responsibilities. It is known as gender.

Gender for identification of discrimination towards women:

Discrimination towards women has been created following creation of family and society by human beings and difference in culture. Women frequently fall prey to violence. From time immemorial, she had been deprived of her rights as human being. Still the trend is going on. As a result, she lacks far behind than men. The discrimination was created by men. With a view to improving the situation, laws and policies are being formulated and various programmes are being implemented at national and international level.

Bangladesh Constitution has stressed on male-female equity. The Constitution stressed on formulation of women's development policy, national children's policy suggesting eradication of discrimination against women, prevention of torture on women and their safety and protection.

International charter for elimination of discrimination against women:

An international charter named UN Declaration for elimination of discrimination against women was signed in 1979. Signatory countries are commit-

ted to ensure women's rights and pledge-bound to give equal right to women in economic, social, cultural, civic and political arenas.

According to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1948, the states were urged to take various steps to eliminate discrimination against women as well as prevention of all forms of torture on women.

Gender approach of Dhaka Ahsania Mission:

Dhaka Ahsania Mission envisions a society where poverty and violence will diminish, where there will be no discrimination against women, where an environment will exist where human rights are not violated.

Since its inception, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been striving for improvement of socio-economic condition of rural and urban poor and marginal people, specially, for alleviation of hardship and miseries of girl child as well as women.

mission increased women's participation in spheres of health, education, life and livelihood. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has formulated a policy on gender and development. In 1995, it formed a gender and development cell consisting of



chiefs of various divisions and projects. The Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission is its president. The activity of the cell include raising women's participation in various programmes.



DAM IN FRAME

Activities of Gender Approach



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