



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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## News in brief

### 44 school students' death AMC condolence on Mirsarai tragedy

Ahsania Mission College (AMC) has condoled premature death of 44 school students who met a tragic end of their lives in a road accident at Mirsarai in Chittagong on 12 July, 2011. On the occasion, a condolence meeting and Doa Mahfil were held on its Mirpur Pallabi campus in the city on 13 July, 2011. Students, teachers, officials and staff of the college attended.



## Training courses to raise awareness on gender equity

Training courses, to raise awareness for bringing gender equity at workplaces and preventing violence and sexual harassment, were held in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Bogra districts during April-June, 2011 period. A total of 352 trainees participated. Of them, 115 were women and 237 men.

Earlier, an agreement was signed between International Labour Organisation (ILO)

and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for conducting the training courses. According to requirement of International Labour Organisation, a training manual titled, "Step Towards Development" has been developed for the training course.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission reviewed the manual. Besides, a two-day training course on gender equity was held in Barisal district under aegis of Early Childhood Development Support

Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission during the period.

A total of 26 participants attended. Staff members of four NGOs took part. Of them, six were women and 20 others men.

A training manual titled, "Mainstreaming Ganokendro" has also been developed to raise awareness among the beneficiaries of Ganokendro and make Ganokendro dynamic through training.

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## Insurance money handed over

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam handed over an amount of Tk93,800 as group insurance money to Minara Akter, widow of late Md Abdul Malek, Field Organiser of Micro Finance Programme, Amtali unit, Barguna area, on 9 July, 2011. Field Organiser Md Abdul Malek died of typhoid at the age of 33 years only on 24 December, 2010. He joined Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 8 July, 2007. Malek has left behind his widow and a daughter. All of his colleagues at Dhaka Ahsania Mission have been deeply shocked at his untimely death.

## Women's skill dev training organised in Barguna

A one-day training course on Women's Skill Development to Give Leadership in Family and Community and Decision Making' was organised for 206 mothers of 26 Pre-School and Shishu Bikash Kendro (SBK) in Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project area under Amtoli upazila in Barguna district. The training was held at the project office of Chaora and Kukua unions under Amtoli upazila.

Discussions on expectations, concept on early childhood development, gender issue, human rights, empowerment, eradicating gender disparity and duties and responsibilities for child development were held. CIDA and Aga Khan Foundation, funding the project while Dhaka Ahsania Mission is implementing with required technical support to the project.



## East Timor team visits DAM

A team of the Ministry of Education of Democratic Republic of Timor has visited Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). UNESCO Jakarta, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Dhaka office jointly organized the 4-day visit from 19 July to 22 July, 2011 with an objective to learn activities and implementation process of non-formal education (NFE) and community development. Team members included five high-level education officials of East Timor and a delegate of UNESCO Jakarta.

The team visited Dhaka Ahsania Mission Head Office on 19 July to know the organizational and overall activities, Vocational Training Centre at Pallabi on 21 July and Narsingdi Area Office, Chander Hat Ganokendra and Papri Community Resource Centre (CRC) on 22 July.

Different study teams of East Timor visited Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Nepal and Bangladesh. After the visit, the team will report to the Ministry of Education. These visits are organized to gather input for preparing their national plan on Non-Formal Education.

Democratic Republic of Timor, commonly known as East Timor, is a new and small country nearby Indonesia and Australia. It was colonized by Portugal in the 16th century, and in late 1975, it declared its independence. But later that year, Indonesia invaded and occupied it and declared it Indonesia's 27th province on the following year.

In 1999, following the United Nations sponsored Act of Self-Determination, Indonesia relinquished control of the territory and East Timor became the first new sovereign state of the 21st century on May 20, 2002. The total area of the country is about 1,066,582 with an area of 14,874 sq km. About 50% population of the country are illiterate.



## Microfinance

### 3-day orientation programme

A 3-day orientation was organised for 20 branch managers of Micro-finance Programme at Samabaya Training Institute of Narsingdi region on 23-25 July, 2011. Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Training and Material Development Division organised the same. Training and Material Development Division's Senior Trainer M M Reza Latif conducted the course.

Besides, Head of Micro-finance Programme Md Abdus Salam Mia, Field Coordinator Md Rezaul Karim and other officials conducted various sessions.





*A programme with a difference*

## Veteran freedom fighter recalls memories of Bangladesh liberation war at AUST

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) organised a programme with a difference on its campus at Tejgaon Industrial Estate in the capital on 18 June, 2011. In the programme, a veteran freedom fighter has recalled memories of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Major General (ret'd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, BB, PSC, a

brave freedom fighter, who fought valiantly during our liberation war risking his life, enthralled a large number of students of the university, by sharing his invaluable experience. AUST acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Kazi Shariful Alam presided on the occasion.

While narrating the story of the liberation war, General (ret'd) Amin became very emotional. He described various events of the war from its beginning till culmination of the war through surrender of Pakistani General Niazi and his occupation forces. A vivid picture of the liberation war appeared before the students.

Now a days the students get some distorted history of the liberation war. This sharing helped to know them some facts of the liberation war.

AUST acting vice-chancellor announced that this type of programme would continue in future.

Among others, Prof Dr AFM Anwarul Haque, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Dr M A Mukhtadir, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Prof Sirajuddaula Shaheen, Dean, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, Prof Dr Anwarul Mustafa, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Prof Dr SMA Al-Mamun, Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Prof Dr Abdur Rahim Mollah, Head, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Prof Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Head, Department of Textile Technology, Prof Dr M Shahabuddin, Head, Department of Arts and Sciences & Proctor of AUST, M Abul Hossain, Advisor of Students' Welfare of AUST, teachers, staff and employees were present. At the end of the programme, the acting vice-chancellor handed over an honorary crest to Major General (ret'd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury.

## Basic training workshop to assist SBK

Multi Task, a partner organisation of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project organised a four-day basic training workshop (2nd phase) for assisting Shishu Bikash Kendro (SBK) at the venue of Sangkalpa at Patharghata in Barguna district. Multi Task Executive Director Azad Mallik opened the training course on 24 June, 2011. Technical Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Ajoy Kumar Ghosh and Trainer of Multi Task Anwar Zahid assisted. Various techniques of mixing with children were taught at the training workshop. An open discussion on child evaluation process, evaluation strategy and evaluation registrar was also held. A total of 16 trainees took part. Of them, 12 were male tutors, two others supervisors, a trainer and a training officer. The workshop ended on 27 June, 2011.



Chairman, Board of Trustees.

Dr A M M Safiullah obtained his B.Sc (Civil. Eng) degree in 1969 and M.Sc in 1977 from BUET and Ph.D. degree from the university of Stratchclyde in 1981 under a

## AUST gets a new VC

Prof A M M Safiullah joined Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) as the new Vice-Chancellor on 01 August 2011. He was former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Prof Safiullah took over the charge from Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam in a formal meeting which was presided over by Kazi Rafiqul Alam,

Scholarship. He joined BUET as a lecturer of Civil Engineering in 1973. In August 2006, he was appointed the 10th Vice Chancellor of BUET, a post he held till July 31, 2010. Prof Safiullah acted as Consultant to a large number of national and international projects. The previous vice-chancellors of AUST were Prof M H Khan and Prof Anwar Hossain.



## World Population Day observed in Keshobpur

World Population Day was observed in Keshobpur of Jessore district on 11 July, 2011. Keshobpur upazila health complex organised the Day observation programme in association with ACCESS (H&E) project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). This year's theme was 'Promise to build country, planned families for 700 crore people of the world.'

A discussion meeting was held at Keshobpur Upazila Health Complex to mark the occasion. Chief Whip of National Parliament Principal Abdul Wahab was present as Chief Guest. Keshobpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Khan Md Reza-un-Nabi, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Md Dilder Hossain, DAM Area Coordinator Md Alamgir Hossain and workers, Ganokendra level CAG, GMC members, field level employees of Family Planning Department and representatives of government and non-government organisations were present. Upazila Chairman H M Amir Hossain chaired the occasion.

It is worth mentioning that population boom poses a threat to Bangladesh. Only 38 portion of families of couples aged 15-19 have adopted family planning methods. Only 5.2 percent adopted long-term methods. Male participation was merely 6 percent. Despite demand, 17.6 percent are being deprived of family planning services. This is why, field level workers should work more sincerely. Besides food crisis, it will be difficult to ensure healthcare services if population increases. A total of 137 people were present. Of them, 107 were women and 30 men.

## Booklet on good governance in school administration

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with Manuser Jonno Foundation, has been implementing Strengthening Good Governance in Primary Schools (SGGPS) in Bangladesh to support quality education efforts, in three unions of Dharmapasha upazila in Sunamganj district.

The project has been aimed at ensuring good governance in school management as well as qualitative education. A research-oriented booklet on good governance in school administration has been developed. It deals with overall implementation strategy and success of the initiatives. This will help replication of the project experiences. A vivid picture on successful efforts of the project has been depicted here.



## Pry & mass edn state minister visits Sreepur QPE Project

Primary and Mass Education State Minister Md Motahar Hossain visited Lakkhipur Registered Primary School and Rajabari Government Primary School to see the activities of overall development plan under Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Quality Primary Education (QPE) Project in Sreepur on 1 June, 2011. He also saw the activities of Shishu Bikash Kendro (child development centre) and Pre-school Programme.

During his visit, Deputy Director of Primary and Mass Education Directorate Mahfuzul Haque, District Primary Education Officer Malobika Bhowmik, Upazila Primary Education Officer Mizanur Rahman, Acting Country Director of Plan Bangladesh Anwar Hossain Shikder and Deputy Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Dewan Sohrab Uddin were present.

## AMIC's family meeting

A family meeting of AMIC for clients, family members and professionals was held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission's conference room on 24 May, 2011. CTC Project Director and Residential Psychiatrist Dr Akteruzzaman Selim was present at the meeting. AMIC Coordinator Iqbal Masud discussed the role of family in treatment of drug dependent people.



## ECDSP-B Project's opinion exchange meeting

An opinion exchange meeting was held under the aegis of Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project of the Association of Voluntary Action for Society (AVAS) at its office in Chowra-Kukua union of Amtoli upazila in Barguna district on 23 June, 2011.

Saiful Islam, Monitoring and Documentation Officer of the project, delivered welcome address at the opinion exchange meeting on linkage related matters.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Technical Officer Md Ziaur Rahman, BRAC representative Jibonando Das, Union Health Assistant Purnima Rani Mojumder and No-1 Ward member of No-1 Union Parishad Md Motiur Rahman addressed. Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project is funded by Canadian CIDA and Aga Khan Foundation with technical support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM).





## Afghan literacy team participates in training workshops

Literacy officials of Afghan Education Ministry took part in various training workshops and visited literacy related activities in Bangladesh from 30 May to 9 June, 2011.

The visit programme was aimed at enhancing capacity of Literacy Department under Afghan Education Ministry as well as raising standard of literacy programme and their extension.

The visiting team took part in training workshops on literacy issues of the literacy campaign at Non-Formal Education Bureau on 31 May, 2011. The training workshop was organised by BNFE in collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The team also participated in training workshops in Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 01-03 June and 09 June, 2011 and another workshop relating to literacy on 08 June, 2011. Within the period, the team also visited the field level literacy programmes of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, BNFE and BRAC. In the process, the team became aware about the state of affairs of literacy in Bangladesh as well as its overall management at government and non-government levels.



## SDGWP playing a vital role in making skilled garments worker

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has undertaken 'Skill Development for Garments Workers Project (SDGWP)' in 2007. German Technical Cooperation (gtz) has been providing financial and technical support to the project. Under the project, two vocational training centres were inaugurated in Dhaka and Gazipur to train up unskilled men and women of slums in urban areas as well as of rural areas. A total of 1,950 people were trained on sweater knitting, sweater linking and garments machine operation by 2010. They were also employed in various garment factories. Initially, a 3-year plan was formulated. Its phase-1 has been completed on 31 January, 2011 while phase-2 will continue till 31 January, 2012 and phase-3 will start on 1 February, 2011.

## ToT for education officials

Training Unit of Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on water and sanitation for education officials under Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply in Bangladesh --SHEWA-B (CHT) Project during April-June 2011 period. Before the training, manuals were developed according to project requirement.

A total of 31 trainees took part. Of them, three were women and 28 others men. Under the project, a seven-day training course on water and sanitation was also conducted for staff members of Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP). A manual was developed before the training. A total of 47 trainees took part in two batches. Of them, 12 were women and 35 men. Trainees also promised to build a water and sanitation positive habit in their personal as well as practical life.

## Safe Motherhood Day observed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) ECDSP-B Project observed Safe Motherhood Day in a befitting manner in Amtoli upazila of Barguna district on 28 May, 2011. Programmes included rally and discussion for creating awareness on the need for child delivery in hospitals. To observe the day, 26 ECD centres were divided into six clusters. The Day was observed in three places in the morning and three other places in the afternoon.



## Jago Nari's counseling on healthcare

A total of 38 women of Tulshibaria village under Keorabunia union of Barguna Sadar upazila and 40 learners of Anamika Pre-School and Anamika Shishu Bikash Kendro were provided counseling on healthcare on 19 June, 2011. Jago Nari, a partner organisation of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project, organised the counseling session in cooperation with Surjer Hasi Clinic.

Healthcare service included blood grouping, children's health check-up, common diseases of mother and child and treatment service on family planning. Former Civil Surgeon Dr Md Haroon-ar-Rashid, clinic manager Md Ataur Rahman, paramedic Niamutan Nessa, Mahfuza Akter, lab technologist Md Arifuzzaman and messenger Md Ruhul Amin provided the healthcare service.

## Para-legal training

Union based Para-legal teams have been formed in the Promotion of Human Rights for Preventing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls (PPVD) Project areas of Barguna Sadar and Patharghata upazilas in Barguna district for giving legal assistance to women and girl children who fall victims to various types of violence and discriminations. The teams consist of women and men aged 18-30 years. A 3-day Para-legal training was imparted to the team



members at Madaripur Legal Aid Association on 22-24 July, 2011. A total of 29 members took part. Of them, 15 were

women and 14 men.

Senior advocates, training coordinator and trainers of Madaripur Legal Aid Association assisted. Participants also underwent practical training there. The training session was divided into two parts—conceptual and practical. The conceptual sessions included definition of legal assistance, its necessity, human rights, evolution of women's legal rights while the practical sessions included Muslim Law, Hindu Law, Muslims inheritance etc.



Food & livelihood security

## Opinion exchange meetings with union disaster management committees

A project related opinion exchange meeting was held with the members of union disaster management committee at the meeting room of Dhansagar Union Parishad (UP) under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district on 28 July, 2011. The project is being funded by European Union and UK based CAFOD. Acting Chairman of Dhansagar UP Md Shamim Munshi presided.

Union disaster management committee members, CAFOD Programme Coordinator Umme Kulsum, journalists, NGO representatives, partner organisations' representatives, community action group members and community volunteer group members were present. Being a member of the committee, Dhaka Ahsania Mission was welcomed at the meeting. Dhaka Ahsania Mission's IFLS Project Field Coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu placed a report at the meeting. The report said that an opportunity has been created to work with the union disaster management committee during pre-

disaster, disaster and post-disaster periods. The CAFOD official said that besides Dhaka Ahsania Mission, two other organisations, CARITAS and ADD, are also working with the same aim to assist poor and helpless people.

In his address, the meeting president urged Dhaka Ahsania Mission and CAFOD for undertaking various activities like arrangement of pure drinking water, pond and canal digging for cultivation. The union parishad has committed to give all-out help to the programme. A similar opinion exchange meeting was held at the meeting room of Chila UP under Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district on 31 July, 2011. Chila UP Chairman Sheikh Mozaharul Islam presided. In his address, the chairman also urged for involvement in activities like supply of plastic tanks and making pucca tanks with the project.

## Opinion exchange meeting on reduction of food insecurity

An opinion exchange meeting on reduction of food insecurity for poor and Ultra-poor families was held in Jamalpur district on 16 August, 2011. Held at Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner's (DC) conference room, the opinion exchange meeting was organised under overall management of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) being funded by the European Union and technical support of IC. Minister for Land of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Md Rezaul Karim Hira, MP, was present as Chief Guest. Speakers dwelt on various aspects such as financial assistance for reduction of food insecurity, agricultural support, enhancement of professional technical standard, fish cultivation and above all ensuring exact price of produces for 10,000 poor and ultra-poor families in five upazilas of the district. Jamalpur DC Sirajuddin Ahmed presided over while the meeting was addressed by Civil Surgeon Dr Abdul Hakim, Rezaul Karim Reznun, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Division Director Shafiqul Islam, Project Director and Manager Md Asaduzzaman and Emdadul Haque addressed.

## Baseline survey on violence and discrimination

A six-day field level baseline survey was conducted in six unions of Barguna Sadar and Patharghate upazilas in Barguna district on 25-30 June, 2011. The survey was done for conducting the activities of Promotion of Human Rights for Preventing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls (PPVD) Project smoothly.

As part of the survey, 12 RRA sessions were

held with women and adolescents, two sessions with community and local government leaders, three focus group interviews were held with FGD, law enforcement agencies and lawyers. Information was gathered from 180 women, 180 adolescents, 75 men, 20 members of law enforcement agencies and 20 lawyers.

Information on community, discrimination and violence to women and children, current state of affairs of discrimination and violence, causes of violence, influence of dowry, early marriage, polygamy and consequences, opportunity of women's self-employment, economic



condition of local people, rate of education were collected. This will help play an effective role in implementation of the project activities.





## DAM's DRR Programme sets target for millions to fight disaster

**D**haka Ahsania Mission (DAM), with its multi-faceted and engaging initiatives, covers many areas of development, which attracts attention of all. Mission's pervasive presence across the country has been lauded by many, both inside and outside the country. DAM has championed the cause of marginalised and vulnerable people and extended support to them so that they can take adequate measures, within their means and management. This is because of proneness to disaster, Bangladesh has always been subjected to devastating cyclone, awesome flood, inescapable drought and other natural calamities. DAM, with its firm commitment for extending support and services to disaster victims, has proactively designed programmes to lessen sufferings of majority of people in this tropical delta. In the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR), DAM has been implementing a good number of projects across the country. Fittingly, people living on the vast shoreline, coast and fringe of the Bay of Bengal

have always been given special attention. As a matter of fact, people who live on the fringe of numerous rivers and rivulets crisscrossing the country have also been given special attention.

Initially, disaster risk reduction programme of DAM was considered to be an isolated development theme and a number of projects were listed under the programme. Soon, it was felt that DRR should encompass several other components to become effective in the field level operations. Finally, a decision was taken for operating DRR programme under disaster management unit (DMU), regarded as an apex platform for design and implementation of all kinds of projects concerning disaster.

At present, DAM's disaster management programme stands on a very strong footing. Now-a-days, it is regarded as one of the few precursor organisations in Bangladesh, extending well designed and preordained disaster management programmes. In early to late 90s, DAM has implemented a good number of projects concerning disaster management.

A few of the projects are: Reconstruction of Rural Housing Project (RRHP) for Flood & Cyclone Affected People, Emergency Relief for Flood Affected People, Tornado Affected Rehabilitation Project, Emergency Relief for Cyclone Affected People, Cyclone Affected Rehabilitation Project, Emergency Flood Relief Programme, Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme (PFRP) and Post-flood Rehabilitation Programme (PFRP) etc. During a period from early to late 2000s, DAM has implemented a large number of projects both for post-disaster rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

At present, as many as five projects are being implemented by DAM for reducing vulnerability of disaster. A project named "A Disaster Resilient Future: Mobilising Communities and Institutions for Effective Risk Reduction" is being implemented in Dhaka and Jamalpur districts. Another project named "CMDRR Forum" is engaged in building a network among organisations working for disaster management. This project also facilitates avenue for increasing coordination among partners and sharing the lessons learned. In Mymensingh district, a project named SHOUHARDO is being implemented. DRR is an implied component of the project that benefits about 28,000 people in two upazilas namely Phulpur and Nandail. "Improved Food and Livelihood Security in the context of Increased Disaster Risk and Climate Change (IFLS-DRR-CAFOD)" is a project being implemented in Bagerhat district. With an objective of assisting 30,000 beneficiaries of four upazilas in Bhola district, another project, "Ensuring Water and Sanitation for Disaster Risk Reduction (EWSDRR)" project was launched in January 2010. Besides, many other projects, being implemented by DAM at different locations across the country, have direct disaster management components. Moreover, manifold advocacy programmes for mainstreaming DRR at various levels are underway. It organises meetings, seminars, roundtables, photo exhibitions etc to communicate DAM's experience to a wider audience. It is noteworthy to mention that the experiences gained over decades are also being disseminated to audience at international level.





## DAM in frame

### DAM's suport to victims of violence and trafficking



*Survivors participating at a workshop at Jessore*



*Survivors being imparted basic English training*



*Survivors ardently participating at a life skills training session*



*Survivors at a group counselling session*



*Survivors performing in a theatre*



*Visitors assessing survivors' work*

