



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission  
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**Speakers at publication ceremony**

## Usage of supplementary materials essential for success of primary education thru' mother language

Usage of supplementary materials is essential for success of primary education through mother language. This is why, development of alphabets in mother language, linguistic alphabets and circle chart is most essential. Besides, development of various materials for overall development of culture of different ethnic groups in Chittagong Hill Tracts also plays a significant role. This was revealed at a survey conducted recently on the children of Chittagong Hill Tracts by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF). Speakers said this at a

publication ceremony of Chakma, Marma and Tripura linguistic alphabets and circle chart at the conference hall of Rangamati Hill Tracts District Council held under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 30 November, 2011. Speakers further said About 53.9 percent people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are illiterate. Twenty-one percent of total population are unable to complete primary education while 6.3 percent of them finished primary education.

The Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dr M Ehsanur Rahman, chaired the occasion while it was attended

by the Chairman of Rangamati Hill Tracts District Council, Babu Nikhil Kumar Chakma, as Chief Guest. Member of the Committee for Educational Affairs of Rangamati Hill Tracts District Council, and Convener Angsui Pru Chowdhury was present as Special Guest. The retired Director of Rangamati Cultural Centre, Sugata Chakma read out the key-note paper. Among the panel discussants, the Executive Director of Khagrachhari Zabarong Welfare Association, Mathura Bikash Tripura, President of the Adhoc Committee on Marma language, Kwa Shoi Pru Marma and the Primary Education See page > 6



### *Nominations for Chand Sultana Award 2011 invited*

Nominations are invited from individuals, organisations/institutes for awarding the prestigious Chand Sultana Award 2011 of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in recognition to See page > 3

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## RAK Ceramics Bangladesh Ltd. donates Tk50 lakh

R A K Ceramics Bangladesh Ltd. has donated an amount of Tk50 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital fund for building a 500-bed world standard specialised cancer hospital at Uttara in the capital. S A K Ekramuzzaman, Managing Director, R A K Ceramics (Bangladesh) Ltd. and Barrister Rafique-ul Haque, Senior Lawyer and Independent Director of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Ltd. formally handed over a cheque for Tk 50 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at a simple

ceremony held at DAM auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, on 30 November, 2011. Besides, Managing Director of Triune (Pvt.) Limited Kazi Wahidul Alam was also present during the cheque handing over. Welcoming the noble initiative, Barrister Rafique-ul Haque said, in Bangladesh, facility for cancer treatment is very limited. Most of the cancer patients have to go abroad for treatment. If the hospital is commissioned then modern facilities for cancer treatment will be available in Bangladesh. He called upon people from all



walks of life for donation. While receiving the cheque, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, if the corporate sector comes forward, Inshallah, we shall be able to start the primary activities of the hospital by opening the

Radio Therapy unit, Out-patient Department and laboratory. He urged upon the well-to-do section of society as well as the corporate sector to come forward with generous donation for constructing a full-fledged hospital.

HYV wheat experimentation

## DAM's FFP beneficiary selected as field trial farmer by BARI, DAE

A beneficiary of the Food Facility Programme (FFP) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been selected as a field trial farmer for experiments on high yielding variety (HYV) of wheat being innovated by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Department of

Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jamalpur district. The FFP beneficiary is Md Kalu Mia, son of late Abdur Rahman of Uzanpara village in Laxmichar union of Sadar upazila in the district. DAE will provide extension support, training on wheat production

and seed preservation technologies ahead of wheat cultivation season. BARI and DAE have been working jointly on the new HYV wheat. In the mean time, a control research has been done which has detected its natural comparative advantages. The advantages are as below: Low water requirement; can be grown in residual soil moisture; Less damage from disease and insects; Easy to cultivate, Echo friendly; Reduce natural degradation of soil and

environmental pollution; Save underground water level; Less deposition of toxic elements after irrigation; Low investment in comparison to early invented Sonalika and Kalyansona varieties. It is hoped that farmers will be encouraged to grow this new variety of high yielding wheat. It is to be mentioned that a dietary change has taken place among the people of the country. This is why, wheat has become a food supplement to rice.

## Jhenidah Sadar UNO visits Madhukori CRC, Ganokendra

Jhenidah Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kalachand Singh paid a visit to Madhukori Community Resource Centre (CRC) and Madhukori Ganokendra at Razapur village in Jhenidah district on 15 November, 2011.

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project organised the visit. Jhenidah Cooperatives Officer Md Motahar Hossain, CBDP Assistant Director Gazi Nazrul Haque, president of the Resource Centre Md Nurul Islam, vice president of the Ganokendra Md Ishaque Biswas, Area Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Md Rabiul Islam, Technical Officer Suraiya Sultana Beauty, Taslima Khatun, Rozy Khatun, Runa Khatun as well as the CMC and Ganokendra members were present. During the visit, the UNO observed the self-employment activities of women as well as the activities on healthcare, educational, right to



information, ICT services and wall magazine of the members. The visit helped the UNO get a clear-cut idea about the activities of CRC and Ganokendra.



## Free eye treatment, cataract operation camp in Jessore

A day-long free camp of eye treatment and cataract operation was held at Keshobpur Upazila Health Complex in Jessore district on 16 November, 2011. Eminent eye specialist and surgeon of Jessore Eye Hospital conducted the activities at the eye camp jointly organised by ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Ad-Deen Hospital. DAM staffs led by supervisor

Shefali Khanom as well as the officials and employees of Keshobpur Upazila Health Complex and family welfare department extended their all-out cooperation. Members of Ganokendra, CRC, CAG and GMC played a pioneering role in ensuring participation of poor patients at the camp. A total 91 male and female patients got treatment at the camp. Of them, 16 patients were operated upon. The camp

activities were conducted from 10 am to 4 pm. ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of DAM has been working in health, education,

livelihood and social justice sectors in six unions of Keshobpur upazila to change the lifestyle of poor and ultra-poor people.



## Discussion on combating disaster in Barguna

A discussion meeting on combating disaster was held recently at Sadar upazila in Barguna district. Union disaster management committees (UDMCs) of six unions and Upazila Disaster Management Committee took part in the discussion organised by ACCESS Caffod project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Union Disaster Management Committee President and chairman of the union Mir Nurul Haque presided over the meeting. Various issues like duties and responsibilities of the union disaster management committee during disaster, cautionary warning signals adaptation in peculiar situations due to climate change etc. were discussed. A total of 250 participants took part.

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## Nominations for Chand

their contributions in implementing various programmes for advancement of disadvantaged and backward ethnic groups and communities as well as development of innovative materials and research-oriented activities.

The Award contains Tk 30,000, a crest and a certificate. A full description of nominee's contributions along with bio-data

should be submitted to the Head of Admin & HR Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (House No.-19, Road No.-12 (New) Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209) by 29 December, 2011. Dhaka Ahsania Mission introduced this award in 2001 after the name of Chand Sultana, who developed materials and wrote books for half/semi-literates. Interested persons may contact the telephone numbers: 8119521-22, 9123402 for further information or by email : [dam.bgd@ahsaniamission.org](mailto:dam.bgd@ahsaniamission.org).

## Touhidul Islam new MD of Hajj Finance Company Ltd

Md Touhidul Islam has taken over the charge of Managing Director (MD) of Hajj Finance Company Limited a Bangladesh Malaysia jointventure finance and investment company initiated by DAM. Touhid obtained masters degree in Physics from Rajshahi University. He is an associate of Bangladesh Institute of Bankers. He began his career in 1973 as a Probationer Officer of the nationalised Agrani Bank. During his 38 years of banking career, he served AB Bank for 23 years. He retired from AB Bank as Executive Vice President. Later he joined Hajj Finance Company Limited in 2007 as Deputy Managing Director. During his long chequered banking career, Touhid carried on his responsibility most efficiently.

## Social Safety Programme activities reviewed

Ongoing activities of the Social Safety Programme of government sector were reviewed at a meeting held at the conference room of Noapara Hasimukh Community Resource Centre (CRC) on 29 November, 2011. Noapara Hasimukh CRC, Noapara Union Parishad and ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of DAM jointly organised it. President of Hasimukh CRC Md Kamal Hossain chaired the occasion while Jessore ADC (Gen) Mir Zohurul Islam was present as Chief Guest.

Deputy Director of Social Welfare Directorate Abdul Haque, Programme officer of DAM Ali Alaul Md Kabir, chairmen of Deara and Noapara unions Ashrafuzzaman Mithu and Md Altaf Hossain were present as special guests. Representatives of Ganokendra (people's centres) and CRCs, civil society members, newsmen, imams, teachers and workers of DAM were present.

## NFPE materials developed by UNIQUE project

The UNIQUE Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) recently developed the following materials to impart non-formal primary education (NFPE) to the disadvantaged people of inaccessible, hilly and coastal areas in the country.

**Amader Kathamala:** Tutors of seven areas of the UNIQUE Project have expressed their likings, dislikings and stories of turning points of life. The contents of the material include hopes and aspirations of the learners, their love for tutors, acceptability of guardians and people through their responsibilities.

**Rangdhonu:** The material contains rhymes, poems, stories and letters written by learners of Children Learning Centres (CLCs) and pictures of rural areas and nature, also drawn by them.

**Shikhya Sahayak Kendro:** The material deals on the

procedure of formation of Learning Resource Centre (LRC), role of the committee and institutionalisation of LRC through networking with stakeholders.

**Multigrade Teaching-learning System in Primary Education:** A brochure on 'Multigrade Teaching-learning System in Primary Education: A Model of UNIQUE Project' has been developed.

**Chart & Cycle Chart of Alphabets of Chakma, Marma & Tipera Languages:** The UNIQUE Project has developed a chart and cycle chart of alphabets of mother languages of Chakma, Marma and Tipera ethnic groups.

**Galpo Kathaye Pori:** A general educational material has been developed suiting to needs of the equivalence education initiative of the UNIQUE Project. The material is suitable for the



learners of 5th Grade.

**Maa Mati Manush:** Special educational material, suiting to needs of the equivalence education efforts has also been developed to help develop the mental faculty of learners as well as help learn the learners' technique of adaptability with the surrounding atmosphere.

**Egiey Jaoar Galpo:** 'Egiey Jaoar Galpo-2', a book of case studies, and its English

translation, 'Snippets of Success-2' have been published. The contents include the changing trend in life of both the learners and tutors, development of CLCs, community participation and sustenance of LRCs.

All the materials have been developed as part of DAM's move to complement the government steps to ensure Education for All.

## PPVD project's workshop for school students in Barguna

Preventing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls (PPVD) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has organised two awareness raising workshops on resisting violence against women and girl children in Barguna district.

One workshop was held in Burirchar A M G Secondary School under Burirchar union in Sadar upazila of the district on 17 November, 2011 while the other one was held in Chhoto Gourichanna Secondary School of Phuljhuri union in Sadar upazila of the district on 19 November, 2011.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md Shahidul Haque was present as Chief Guest in the two workshops. Union Facilitator Saleha Khanam Lata introduced the participants and discussed the aims and objectives of the project, expected result and project activities in detail.

The workshops dwelt on issues like reasons of discrimination



and violence against women and girl children, its consequences, harassment to schoolgirls by stalkers on way to school, law to prevent similar violence and discrimination and ways to prevent tortures. Upazila Coordinator of PPVD Project Md Rafiqul Islam assisted in successful holding of the workshops.

A total of 60 school students took part in the two workshops. European Union is funding the PPVD Project and Concern Universal is giving the technical support.



## World AIDS Day observed in Jessore

World AIDS Day was observed in Keshobpur and Sadar upazila of Jessore district on 1 December, 2011. This year's theme was 'HIV sankromon o AIDS mrittu; noi ektio. Boisommohin prithibi gorbo sabai ei amader ongiker,' (no more AIDS death. We shall build a world for all free from discrimination).

Keshobpur: ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised befitting programmes in 47 Ganokendra (people's centres) and three community resource centres (CRCs) of Keshobpur

upazila to mark the Day. The Day's programme included rally and discussion meeting. Ganokendra and CRC Management Committee members and poor people and CAG members took part. It is worth mentioning that 2088 AIDS patients were detected in the country since 1989. Of them, 241 died.

Jessore Sadar: Jessore district administration, civil surgeon's office and ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of DAM jointly observed the Day here. A colourful rally, led by ADC



(General) Mir Zohurul Islam, was brought out from the Zila Parishad. The rally ended at Zila BD Hall after parading various streets of the town. Later, a discussion meeting was held

where civil surgeon Dr Atiqur Rahman presided over. Workers of ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project, members of Ganokendra, CRC and DAM officials were present.



## Int'l Disability Day-2011 observed in dists

International Disability Day-2011 was observed in various project areas of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in two districts of Jessore and Bagerhat on 3 December,

2011. This year's theme was 'Unnyane Samprkito Protibondhi Becti, Sabar Jonno Sundar Prithibi' (disabled person's involvement in development, a

beautiful world for everyone).

**Jessore:** Jessore district administration, Social Welfare Directorate and DAM jointly organised various programmes to mark the Day.

A colourful rally was brought out on the occasion. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Jessore Mir Zohurul Islam led the rally which began from the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office and ended at the same spot after parading different streets of the district town. This was followed by a discussion meeting. Deputy Director of Social Welfare Directorate Abdul Haque presided over. Various aspects, such as improvement of lifestyle of the disabled and responsibility towards them were discussed.

The Day was also observed in 86 Ganokendra (people's centres) and four Community Resource Centres (CRCs) of Jessore under the aegis of ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of DAM.

**Bagerhat:** DAM, ADD and Bagerhat Upazila Parishad jointly organised a discussion meeting at Mongla Upazila Parishad Auditorium. Assistant Commissioner (Land) Bakahid Hossain presided over while it was attended by Upazila Chairman Idris Ali as chief guest. Mongla Upazila Social Welfare Officer Ruhul Amin, DAM's Field Coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu, Field Officer Dishwajit Biswas, ADD's Advocacy Officer Ziaul Islam, journalist Monirul Islam and disabled people of different areas were present.

## Cultural function to portray social disorder in Barguna

A cultural function to portray social disorder was held in Sadar upazila of Barguna district on 5 September, 2011. ACCESS Caffod project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the cultural function, participated by the members of Kishori Forum and Community Action Group. A drama on the menace of eve teasing and right-based songs enthralled the audience.

Project's Field Coordinator Mizanur Rahman delivered the welcome address narrating the aims and objectives of holding such function. MCRC members, schoolteachers and students, Ganokendra members, Union Parishad (UP) members, Kishori Forum members and Community Action Group (CAG) members were present.







## 9th quarterly meeting of CMDRR Forum

The 9th quarterly meeting of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum was held at Pidim Jhenaigati Human Resource Development Centre in Sherpur on 30 October, 2011. The Executive Director of Pidim Foundation, A B Banerjee, chaired the occasion. The Advisor of the Forum, Shafiqul Islam, also the Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Programme Division, was present as the Chief Guest. The Coordinator of the Forum, Khan Mohammad Mujahid Ibne Habib, conducted the session. The representatives of ADD, CARITAS Bangladesh, CEUB, FFH, Friendship, PGUK, Poppy, RDRS Bangladesh and VERD were present.

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## Speakers at publication ceremony

Officer of Rangamati District, AKM Riazuddin addressed. The Director of Training and Material Development Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, M A Rashid delivered the Welcome Address.

In his address as Chief Guest, the Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council Babu Nikhil Chakma mentioned about the importance of mother language in the National Education Policy. The National Education Policy has clearly mentioned what is to be done in this regard. If we are able to create teachers and textbooks properly then the government will certainly be able to implement it. The government has already created various ways for pursuing education in mother language. Materials for teachers of different mother tongues will have to be developed through unitary policy. This will be acceptable to all. A book fair for books published in respective mother languages will be arranged in February next year.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing the Non-formal Educational Programme for school dropouts and out of school children in 24 districts of Bangladesh including the hill areas through UNIQUE Project with the assistance of the European Union. The project gives emphasis on primary education through mother languages of the ethnic groups in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

A total of 6878 boys and girls of ethnic groups along with Bengali speaking students are being imparted non-formal education through multigrade system. Textbooks of National Curriculum Text Board (NCTB) and charts prepared in various languages of ethnic groups of the hill region are being followed.

## Opinion exchange meeting on right to information in Barguna

An opinion exchange meeting on right to information was held at Sadar Upazila Parishad auditorium in Barguna district on 27 September, 2011. Organised by the ACCESS Caffod project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), the meeting was presided by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mostafizur Rahman.

Barguna Sadar Upazila Chairman Alhaj Lt Col (retd) Abdul Khaleque Mia was present as Chief Guest. Field Coordinator Md Mizanur Rahman presented the entire project activities of Barguna region of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Project Co-Coordinator Abdur Rakib apprised the participants of the steps taken by the government of Bangladesh in ensuring right to information (RTI). He dwelt on subjects like necessity of RTI in Bangladesh perspective, RTI related laws, means to get information, lodging complaints to the Information Commission etc. Officials of various government and non-government organisations and chairmen of Union Parishads took part.



## Worcester University official visits AITB

The Senior International Officer of the University of Worcester of London, Chris Taylor, paid a visit to the Ahsania Institute of Technology and Business (AITB) in Dhaka. During the visit, he met the officials of AITB. AITB Director Engineer Syed Ziaul Haque, Faculty Engineer Asheque-Al-Aziz, Engineer Mohammad Manjurul Alam, Students' Counsellor Patric Sarder, Country Manager of Alpha-i Consultants Ltd., Bangladesh Runa H Noman and Operation Manager Tahmina Hasnat. They discussed ways on admission of the successful students of AITB in Top-up course of the University of Worcester. Later, Chris Taylor met the Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dr M Ehsanur Rahman at his office.



**D**haka Ahsania Mission (DAM), with assistance from European Union, has launched a project titled 'Up-scaling Non-formal Primary Education through Institutionalising Qualitative Endeavour (UNIQUE)' in 2007. At field level, the wide array of project activities are being implemented jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and five other development partners - DORP, Padakkhep, Surovi, CCDB and Plan Bangladesh.

The project is being implemented through multi-grade teaching-learning system for

at a time. It most often involves an integration of learners from different grade levels and competencies. Multi-grade teaching is conducted in line with the demand of learners of different grades and age. UNIQUE manages to make learners take part in small group learning activities, according to subject-based competency. If needed, learning activities of larger groups are also done. Tutors are needed to conduct learning activities of various groups with different level of competency and learners are divided into more than one group as per

activities have prompted positive interaction among the learners. Multigrade teaching employs a tutor (teachers are referred to be tutors in UNIQUE project) to do learning activities in a classroom for two or more grades at a time. Accordingly, several strategies have been adopted in the teaching activities. Application of the multi-dimensional strategies has resulted in positive implications on the multigrade teaching-learning system.

Under the leadership of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, five project partner organisations are working collaboratively for implementing the project for attainment of the Education for All programme of the Government of Bangladesh. At the same time, it contributes towards attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

With a view to carrying out the teaching-learning activities in line with the demand of children and adolescents living in remote, Char and hard-to-reach areas, the project is being implemented in all regions. Dropout children of primary schools, out of school children and those who (6 to 12 years of age) were never been under the fold of educational programme, are eligible to come under UNIQUE interventions.

Multigrade teaching-learning system has been chosen as a useful means of ensuring a congenial learning atmosphere. Some significant issues including geographical and ecological diversity, heterogeneous mixture in competency and skill of learners, age differences, ethnic and lingual diversity, adaptation with the NCTB curriculum etc. have been taken into consideration during project design and development.

Keeping in mind the drawbacks of traditional teaching method, Dhaka Ahsania Mission opted for introducing such a new system to provide non-formal primary education to 1,59,000 underprivileged, dropped out and out of school children aged between 6 to 12 years across 24 districts of the country. The entire project activities have been implemented through 2,380 Children Learning Centres (CLCs) established in different locations across Bangladesh. In the meantime, the project end evaluation of the project has been done and the new teaching-learning system has proved to be successful. Earlier, in the mid-term evaluation the process was termed as 'world class one'.



## Multigrade Teaching Learning system

# UNIQUE model lauded as 'world class one'

accelerating a need-based teaching-learning opportunity for the children of remote, Char (newly emerged landmass) and hard-to-reach areas. Because of numerous factors like subject-based skill and competency of learners, age dissimilarity, ethnic and lingual diversity, acute shortage of skilled teachers and miserable state of affairs of targeted children, the multi-grade teaching-learning system has been introduced in all learning centres under the project.

Multi-grade teaching is usually imparted within a graded system of education when a single teacher conducts teaching-learning activities for learners of two or more grades

their level of competency. UNIQUE's Multigrade teaching-learning system allows every single learner to adhere to a flexible routine for study. A learner, therefore, enjoys an opportunity to read texts of different classes according to his/her personal competence. For instance, a learner has the liberty to do exercise of Bangla (Grade-III), Mathematics (Grade-II) or English (Grade-I).

Identifying an effective teaching-learning system is regarded to be the most vital. UNIQUE has launched group learning activities as an integral part of the multigrade system. Group learning





## DAM in frame

### A glimpse of agriculture extension services of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

