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Discussion on World Cancer Day

Cancer to be conquered instead of fear

Cancer must have to be conquered instead of fear. It requires awareness, change in eating habit and a tension-free atmosphere for keeping cancer away. Till now the government has allotted Tk 10 crore and Tk 39 crore to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital in two stages, out of it Tk 18 crore 75 lakh has already been disbursed. In the next ADP, the allocation for treatment of cancer patients from this hospital will be doubled.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid said this while speaking as Chief Guest at a discussion on World Cancer Day at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on Thursday, 3 February, 2011.

He further said, the government will provide all-out help to fight cancer. The government hopes that poor patients will get treatment from this hospital at a nominal cost. Cancer treatment facilities are too meager in the country. According to my knowledge, Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital is the only reliable place where cancer treatment facilities are available.

While delivering his presidential address, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, till now about 90,000 patients were treated from Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital being run from Mirpur in Dhaka. About 10,000 more patients were operated upon from this hospital. We shall be able to commission the Radiotherapy Unit, Day-Care Unit, Out-Patient Department and laboratory of 500-bed Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital being built at Uttara in the city. At the initial stage, treatment facilities will be provided from 150-bed hospital in June-July next year. Government, general people, affluent and common people-everyone has extended hands of cooperation to build the hospital. Expressing gratitude to all, he said, cooperation of all is needed for prevention of cancer at grassroots level.

Special Guest National Professor Dr M R Khan said, two-third children cancer patients are

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National Vaccination Day observed

ACCESS (Health and Empowerment)-a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed 19th National Vaccination Day on 8 and 12 February 2011 across the country. The project is working with government vaccination programme at Jessore Sadar, Keshobpur, Chowgacha, Jhenidah Sadar, Moheshpur, Sarishabari, Dewanganj and Narsingdi Sadar upazila. The programme includes polio vaccination of children aged 0-59 month, feeding of vitamin A capsule to children aged 12-59 month. Workers of Gonokendras and Community Resource Centre (CRC) and members of Community Action Group assisted in this activity. Moreover, meeting at upazila level, discussion meeting through coordination of private and public officials, courtyard meeting, discussion meeting at community action group and Gonokendra Management Committee were held. The project vaccinated polio among 33618 children, distributed vitamin A capsule among 26901 children, provided anti-worm tablets among 18634 children.

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Cancer to be conquered instead

cured in the developed world. But it is very expensive. So, in our country, the government should keep an watch on medicine manufacturers for easy availability of cancer medicines.

The theme of this year's World Cancer Day was 'Teach Children and Teenagers to Avoid UV Exposure by being Sun Smart.'

At the function, Abul Kalam Azad, a recovered cancer patient expressed his feelings about the discomfort during ailment and recovery period. He said, an opportunity should be created to cure cancer like killer disease tuberculosis (TB). He informed that he has been cured taking treatment from Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. It is possible to get rid of the disease if affluent people and government come forward to combat cancer.

While discussing, speakers said, there are 12 lakh cancer patients in the country. Every year, 2 lakh cancer patients are being attacked with the disease anew. Sixty percent cancer patients die within a period of 5 years. At present the mortality rate from cancer is 8 per cent. This number will increase 13 times by the year 2030.

Cancer Specialist Prof Dr Mahbulul Alam presented the key-note paper. Director of Mirpur Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital Brigadier General (retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim took part at the discussion. Besides, high government officials, representatives of various organisations working for prevention of cancer, cancer specialists, doctors, nurses and media personalities were present on the occasion.

Child development centres opened

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), in collaboration with three partner organisations, has opened 13 child development centres--Shishu Bikash Kendro and 13 pre-schools in its working areas in Amtoli, Barguna Sadar and Patharghata upazilas of Barguna district. The partner organizations are Avas, Jago Nari and Multi Task.

Children, parents, schoolteachers, committee members, Union Parishad (UP) members and local elite were present at the opening ceremony.



Literary & cultural week at KATTC

Teachers' multifarious role a must for sustenance in global competition

Teachers' multifarious role is a must for sustenance in global competition. Not only education but sports, literary and cultural activities help a lot in physical and mental flourishing. It plays an effective role in building ideal citizens.

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology acting vice chancellor (VC) and Treasurer Prof. Dr Kazi Shariful Alam said this while addressing as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony of literary and cultural week of the trainees of B Ed and M Ed courses at Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Teachers' Training College (KATTC) on 27 February, 2011.

He further said, extra skill is required for attainment of individual excellence. Students should be encouraged in this regard. He assured five computers to KATTC as donation.

Chairman of KATTC governing-body and former chairman of National Curriculum and Text Book Board Prof M Eltasuddin chaired the occasion while it was attended by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)

general secretary Md Ziauddin. KATTC principal Fatema Khatun delivered the welcome address. Besides, Shamsunnahar Hena, a student of B Ed course and Farhana Rabeya Shams of M Ed course addressed.

An exhibition of various educational materials made by the trainees was held. The literary and cultural competition was held. from 11 February to 26 February, 2011. Sports, debate, recitation and musical competition highlights of the event.

Speakers opined for ensuring qualitative education by being educated in classes rather than taking coaching in coaching centres. Everybody should rear up as real human beings by arousing moral values. Finally, the chief guest Dr Kazi Shariful Alam handed over prizes to the winners.



Birth registration certs distributed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Basic Education for Working Children Project (phase-2) distributed birth registration certificates among the students at a function held at Bahadurpur Lane Community Centre in Faridabad, Shyampur thana, Dhaka on 12 February, 2011.



Advocate Sanjida Khanom, a member of parliament (MP) elected from Dhaka-04 constituency was present as chief guest while project director (PD) of Basic Education for Working Children Project Md Mojibar Rahman, chief of Child Protection Project of UNICEF Bangladesh Rose Anny Papavero and education manager of UNICEF Bangladesh Christin D Augastani were present as special guests. The executive director (ED) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, M Ehsanur Rahman chaired the occasion.

In her address as special guest, chief of Child Protection Project of UNICEF Bangladesh Rose Anny Papavero said, birth registration

certificate is the only proof of identification of anyone's citizenship. Besides, birth registration certificate help ensure education of children. At the same time, it helps them in attainment of their rights including prevention of child marriage and dole.

In her address as chief guest, Advocate Sanjida Khanom MP, called upon Dhaka Ahsania Mission to undertake similar projects for overall development of the country. In his presidential address, the executive director (ED) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, M Ehsanur Rahman said, a national proposal is being formulated for children policy guidelines. Students and their guardians have become aware about birth registration.

DAM intervention at victim support centre

Bangladesh Police launched a victim support centre in 2009 to render professional services. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has intervened to render humanitarian services by signing memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victim Support Centre. Woman and child trafficking, acid terrorism, rape, sexual harassment and physical torture are on rise alarmingly. Consequently, natural growth of children is being obstructed. Many of them are being separated from their family and some others commit suicide as solution.

DAM's activities are like cordial reception to victims and the case enrolment, legal advice, emergency treatment, assistance in inquiry and referring to the various government and non-government organisations in this regard.

Workshop on Quality Primary Education

UNIQUE, a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a two day long workshop on quality primary education at RDS training centre, Rangpur on 25-26 February, 2011. The workshop was assisted by European Union.

Deputy director of Rangpur Primary Education Department Mohiuddin Ahmed Talukdar was present as chief guest while area manager of the project Shamima Begum presided over.

District primary education officer Abul Kalam Azad was also present at the workshop.

Twelve headmasters of government primary schools from Mithapukur, Pirganj, Palashbari and Gaibandha Sadar upazila and technical officers of UNIQUE project attended. The speakers said, 'There are many set-backs to ensure the quality primary education. If we work jointly then we shall be able to ensure quality education at primary level.'



DAM takes part at 7th Nat'l Cub Camporee

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has taken part at the 7th National Cub Camporee-2011 held at Mouchak in Gazipur.

DAM participated at the seven-day cub camporee held from 8 February to 14 February, 2011 at an invitation of Bangladesh Scouts.

It is hoped that on return from the camporee, cubs will apply their experiences in their lives. At the same time, cubs will also motivate others to learn and exercise the experiences. Besides, a camporee helps foster fraternity and friendship among cubs.

DAM took part at the camporee considering its commitment towards continuous development of children.

A global development village (GDV) was organised in cooperation with government and non-governmental organisations to make youths prepared so that they can face global challenges as well as attain the millennium development goal. DAM's activities in the fields of education, Livelihood, health and human rights and social justice were highlighted. DAM displayed various materials and arranged issue-wise CD shows to make people aware about important contemporary matters. Considering children's mental development, DAM set up a reading corner for children where story-books were displayed. DAM also organised extempore speech and hand writing competition for children. A large number of children

thronged the stall of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Scout committee, scout guides and parents have hailed DAM for good performance. A positive impact has created about DAM among people and children.



Among others, Masud Rana, Rezwanul Alam, Motiar Rahman, Aminul Islam of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Division and staff members of micro-credit programme Mouchak unit participated.



Planning workshop held

Fulbaria Pourasabha of Mymensingh, WaterAid Bangladesh (WAB) and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) have jointly organised a planning workshop at Hope Centre of CCDB in Savar, Dhaka.

Held on January 27, 28 and 29 this year, the main objective of the three-day workshop was to turn Fulbaria Pourasabha into a model service-oriented municipality so that poor people may have an easy access to all types of services including those of hygiene, water supply and sanitation.

Fulbaria Pourasabha mayor Golem Kibriya was present as chief guest while urban specialist Prof Ghulam Murtaza of Environmental Science discipline of Khulna University was present as special guest. Thirty-seven participants took part. Of them, names of mayor, panel mayor, councilors, secretary and assistant engineer Fulbaria Pourasabha, representatives of DAM WatSan sub-sector and staff of Amader Fulbaria project and representatives of WAB are worth mentioning.

WAB consultant Shiraz-Ud-Dahar Khan, WAB project manager (PM) Md. Shahidul Islam, programme officer (PO) of Social development Shajeda Begum, PC-advocacy Ferhana Fredous and

advocacy and training officer (ATO) of sustainable sanitation and resource mobilisation approach (SSARA), DAM's Laboni Shabnam acted as facilitators during the three-day workshop.

While addressing, Amader Fulbaria project coordinator Md Sirazul Islam highlighted the project implementation activities while PC of WAB Shahidul Islam and PC of Amader Fulbaria project Md Sirajul Islam highlighted future action plan.

Director Program of DAM Shafiqul Islam was also present and delivered valuable speech at the workshop. The closing session was chaired by Gulam Kibria. On conclusion of the workshop, a joint action plan was prepared. It is to be mentioned that the project is being funded by WAB and supported by DAM while Fulbaria Pourasabha is its implementor.

Annual review meeting held

A two-day annual review meeting was held at CODEC centre on 26 and 27 January 2011. Project staff of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), three Secondary Civil Society organisations and AKF-B representatives took part. Avas, Jago Nari and Multi Task, three partner organisations of DAM, presented last year's progress at the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting were reviewal of minutes of last quarterly partners' meeting and that of October meeting, presentation of Secondary Civil Society organisations, replication plan for 2011, understanding, quarterly breakdown and reviewal of supervision and monitoring guideline for programmes, training calendar for 2011 and capacity building plan for training, event-wise quarterly budget breakdown for finance, monthly, quarterly and half yearly reports for reporting, response in due time for administration and effectiveness of linkage programme and that of nutrition demonstration programme for AOB.

UCLC's day-long workshop held

A day-long workshop was held at Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Teachers' Training Institute at Shyamoli in the capital on 5 February, 2011. Urban Community Learning Centre (UCLC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the workshop so that students can do well in Primary Completion Examination and Junior School Certificate Examination.

Under the project, DAM has been imparting education to working children of Mirpur and Mohammadpur areas in Dhaka city.



A total of 175 students from eight community learning centres took part in Primary Completion Examination in 2010. Of them, 86 students came out successfully in first division, 69 in second division and eight in third division. The rate of pass was 93.14 percent. On the other hand, 111 students took part in Junior School Certificate Examination in 2010. Of them, 82 students came out successfully. The pass percentage was 73.87%.

Planning of study of Class-I to Class-VI was reviewed at the workshop. Planning of study was determined keeping harmony with questions of public examinations and books of education boards. A total of 60 teachers, five supervisors and field co-ordinator Md Aminul Islam Shaheen participated.

DAM working to raise agri output

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been working to increase agricultural production in the country. It is also supplementing government efforts for ensuring food security in the country. DAM has increased its investment in agriculture sector through its micro-finance programme. DAM already signed accords with Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL) for extension of agricultural and seasonal loans. For maximum utilisation of loan, DAM imparted trainings on 'Cow Rearing' to its beneficiaries of Dhaka and Narsingdi areas. A total of 139 beneficiaries received training in seven batches. During training, the participants were asked to rear improved varieties of cows. On successful completion of training, beneficiaries received credit support for income generating activities (IGA). Md Niamul Kabir, Programme Officer (Agriculture) conducted the training courses where trainees showed keen interest to undergo trainings. The trainings will continue in other area offices of DAM.



Anniversary of death of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R)

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and local people jointly observed the anniversary of death of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R) by chalking out various programmes in Mirpur and Mohammadpur in the capital on 9 February, 2011.

On this occasion, milad mahfils and prayers were offered separately at Alor Bhuban Community Learning Centre, Alor Pathey Community Learning Centre, Jyoti Community Learning Centre, Alor Michhil Community Learning Centre in Mirpur and Mohammadpur Rangdhonu Community Learning Centre.

Over 1000 people including students, guardians and local elite took part.

Since 1958, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working in the fields of education, health, human rights and social justice for enhancement of standard of living and service to humanity as well as alleviation of poverty.

As part of the programme, Dhaka Ahsania



Mission has been working for over 10 years to ensure education of poor working children in Dhaka city through a project titled, "Urban Community Learning Centre (UCLC) Project." At the same time, it has been working for social development by enhancing the standard of living of family members of the aforesaid children.

Free education is being imparted to ultra-poor working children from class-i to

class-vi at these community learning centres. At the same time, various awareness programmes are being conducted to enhance the standard of living of local people under the fold of community learning centres. The programmes included courtyard meetings, issue-based meetings and awareness raising meetings for juveniles.

The community learning centres are being run by people of own communities. While working with Dhaka Ahsania Mission, community members came to know about life and work of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R). Being overwhelmed by learning greatness, love for people and dedication of the founder of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, local people spontaneously observe the anniversary of death of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R) every year at their own initiatives.

On conclusion of milad mahfils, students, teachers, community workers, management committee members prayed for salvation of the departed soul of the great saint. Tobarak (sweets) are also distributed among the participants after the milad mahfils.

Inauguration of 4 arsenic free drinking water plants

'Community-Managed Small Arsenic Mitigation Plants'-a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a programme on the occasion of installation four arsenic free drinking water plants in Syamnagar village at Churamon Khati Union on 31 January 2011. District Commissioner of Jessore Md Nurul Amin was present as chief guest while DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman chaired the occasion. The fund raising coordinator of DAM (UK) Zina Fear, volunteer of DAM (UK) David Fear, Proctor of Jessore University of Science and Technology Saidur Rahman Mollah, President of Jessore Press Club Ekram-ud Daula and chairman of Churamankhata Union Parisad Abdur Sattar were present. It was being expected that at least 5000 people will be benefited from the community-managed water plants. DAM launched the project by installing the first plant at



Chowgacha upazila in 2009 with fund from DAM (UK). Local communities donated the land for plant installation.



Orientation course for grandmothers

A daylong orientation course on gender equity in child development has been organised for grand mothers. Three Secondary Civil Society organisations of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted the orientation course. A total of 120 participants from 12 child development centres (Shishu Bikash Kendro) and pre-schools took part. Contents of the orientation course were as follows:

Concept on early childhood development. Domain of child development. Activities of the project. Concept on gender and society created discriminations among boys and girls.

Int'l Mother Language Day observed in 9 UCLCs

UCLC project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has observed the International Mother Language Day at its nine centres situated in the capital. Various programmes were chalked out to mark the occasion. The three-day programmes included laying of wreathes at the alter of Shaheed Minar, rallies, discussion meetings at Nayantara Community Learning Centre and Anirban Community Learning Centre on the first day of the programmes on 21 February, 2011.

On the second day on 23 February, Alor Pathey Community Learning Centre, Jyoti Community Learning Centre and Ashar Alo Community Learning Centre separately organised art competitions and cultural functions. The functions were held throughout the day by dividing learners of the centres in separate groups.



On the third day on 24 February, Godhuli Learning Centre also organised similar painting competition and cultural function. On conclusion of the programmes, prizes were distributed among the winners.



Rally to ensure primary admission

'Strengthening Good Governance in Primary School in Bangladesh to Ensure Quality Education (SGGPS)' a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a rally to ensure admission at primary level at Dharmapacha Upazila, Sunamganj on 30 January, 2011. The rally started from Halikhanda Registered Primary School premises and ended at upazila chhatra parading over the important roads. More than eight hundreds Pupils from ten primary schools took part. Upazila assistant education officer Pizush Majumdar, project coordinator of SGGPS Safikur Rahman Biswas, technical officer Salah Uddin and union supervisor A S M Anawarul Haque also participated in the rally. A discussion meeting held after the rally on upazila premises. Upazila Assistant Education Officer Pizush Majumdar urged teachers, guardians to ensure admission of all children.



DAM: the harbinger of post-literacy and continuing education movement in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is facing problems of overpopulation, poverty, illiteracy, corruption etc. In order to overcome the problems, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) looks upon a mobilised and participatory society. DAM perceived that this is possible through an effective programme of continuous life-long learning. Promoting education for life must get priority in our national agenda. It also perceived that adult literacy is highly relevant to poverty alleviation efforts, because nowadays much of the information needed to make decisions and improve one's economic, personal, family or political condition can be presented in written form. Lifelong education should enable people to develop awareness among themselves and their environment. It

encourages them to play their social role at work and in the community.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, with the objective to uplift economic and social status of people of underprivileged section of society, has been implementing a wide-variety of continuous education programmes for about three decades. A good number of specialised programmes and projects was already implemented by DAM. The programmes include Comprehensive Basic Education Programmes (CBEP), Adult Mass Education Programme (AMED), Functional Education Through Local Initiative (FETLI), Community Based Continuing Education for Social and Economic Empowerment (CBCE), Educate to Empower (ETE), Strengthening of Ganokendra for Life-

long Learning and Community Development in Bangladesh (SLCD), Educational & Financial Services through Strengthening of Ganokendra (EFSN) etc.

At present, DAM is implementing a specialised project in the name of 'Post literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development (PLCEHD-II). This project is being supported by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). The Post Literacy and Continuing Education courses aim at providing literacy and skills trainings to underprivileged people of remote areas of the country. DAM implements the aforesaid programmes in 28 unions of seven upazilas of Patuakhali district. Besides providing

basic education facilities, learners are being provided with skill development training courses on the basis of their choice and future demand of the trade. DAM is providing such opportunity to a total number of 14280 learners in the project areas.

Besides Ganokendra, a community-based organisation, initially launched in 1992, being a platform to address the needs of the people, particularly for literacy, continuing education and eventually for poverty alleviation and thus for improvement of quality of the people's life. At present the number of effective Ganokendra stands at 855 spreading over 6 districts of the country with a membership of 85829. DAM supports the Ganokendra by supplying books, newspapers, newsletters, magazines, booklets, posters and wall magazines, etc. depending on level of literacy skills of the users. At present, a total number of 31633 learners are continuing literacy practices in 551 Ganokendras across Bangladesh.

It is worth mentioning that Dhaka Ahsania Mission, as a proven and acclaimed organisation, has been successfully spreading education to most underprivileged section of society. In the year 2003, UNESCO recognised DAM for its immense contributions to make 38,00,000 downtrodden people literate. Besides, a number of national and international organisations awarded DAM for its continuous and sincere efforts towards literacy. These include UNESCO Human Development Prize-1994, ACCU Japan Grand Prize-1996 and National Literacy Material Development Prize-1998.



dam in frame

Literary & cultural week at KATTC



VC of AUST inaugurating Literary & cultural week at KATTC



AUST VC delivering his speech



A view of the audience on the concluding day of the Literary & cultural week



Guests visiting a stall made by the trainees



Trainees rendering a song



A group of trainees pose for photograph of the Literary & cultural week at KATTC

