



Mission Barta

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News in brief

Workshop for drug users

'National Mushroom Development and Expansion' Project organised a three-day long workshop from 28-30 December 2010, focusing rehabilitation and treatment of drug users. Two officials of Modhumita project, a peer volunteer and three recovery members participated at the workshop. One hundred mushroom seeds and certificates were distributed among the participants on behalf of National Mushroom Development project. Moreover, a mushroom project was inaugurated at Modhumita centre, Genda Savar. AMIC coordinator and team leader of Modhumita project Iqbal Masud was present as the chief guest while Prof. Shah-al Bhuiyan and project manager of Modhumita project Nazmul Haque Shamim were present as the special guests. Centre manager of Savar Modhumita project Md. Golam Rasul presided over.



Act as change agent, make changes visible

-DAM President asks staffers

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) president Kazi Rafiqul Alam has called upon all staffers to act as change agent and make changes visible. He gave this clarion call while inaugurating a three-day Retreat – 2011 of the organisation's Programme Division. The event was held at Human Resource Development Centre, Koitta in Manikganj district. The theme of the retreat was 'Solidarity with People's Voice'. Beginning on 18 January 2011, it ended on 20 January 2011.

While launching the programme Rafiqul Alam said, I want to see each of the DAM employees as the best employee of the organisation. He further said that the aim of the organisation is to emancipate people from the curse of poverty and take effective steps for their socio-economic development. He also said that DAM employees should take initiative for launching a national movement for people-oriented development.

DAM executive director M. Ehsanur Rahman encouraged the participants by personally remaining present throughout the event. In his concluding speech M. Ehsanur Rahman reiterated the president's call and give direction to move forward. He explained the national and regional priorities of DAM before the Retreat participants. 'We have got big potentials. Retreat has given an opportunity to identify such potential. Now we should make a plan to use our inner potentials', he added.

Director of programmes Shafiqul Islam spoke at different sessions. He expressed his optimism for holding DAM Retreat in near future with participation of all personnel of DAM.

Three eventful days of Retreat were dedicated for achieving different objectives. The first day was

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Act as change

named “Pre-Retreat Registration and Inauguration” while it was “Looking for Insights” on the second day and “Reach for the Future” on the third day. Regional presentations and discussions on different development themes and good practices were done with colourful events. The third day was completely dedicated for formulating a way forward plan of the programme division. The event brought together 158 participants from across the country including top executives, mid-level managers and field officials.



Best performance award distribution ceremony

Application of knowledge a must for winning recognition of work

-DAM president

Co-ordination of individual initiatives with application of knowledge is a must for winning recognition of work. Each and every work is competitive. Until and unless the activities of workers are recognized, their evaluation is not possible. We shall have to recognize every work at all levels.

The president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Kazi Rafiqul Alam, said this while speaking at the Best Performance Award Distribution Ceremony-2010 at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on 08 January, 2011.

He further said, the person will be awarded whose life and ideals are worth emulating. Joy of happiness comes from woes. A prize increases the limit of happiness.

DAM executive director M Ehsanur Rahman presided while general secretary Md Ziauddin was present as special guest. The director of Administration and Human Resource Division of DAM, Azam

Chowdhury delivered the welcome address.

In his presidential address, M Ehsanur Rahman spoke about the procedure of the award. He said, about 119 nominations came. After proper judgement, the committee selected Mohammad Abdul Hye from among them. He specially requested all to give nomination in future from among all the officials and staff at all levels from the working area of the Mission.

DAM Resource Mobilisation Unit's assistant director Md Abdul Hye was adorned with the Best Performance Award of Dhaka Ahsania Mission –2010. The chief guest of the function, Kazi Rafiqul Alam handed over the prize to Md Abdul Hye. Valuation of the prize is a cheque for Tk 25,000, a crest and a certificate.

While expressing his feelings, award winner Mohammad Abdul Hye said, he thinks himself fortunate enough for working at a social welfare organisation like Dhaka Ahsania Mission. ‘After receiving the prize, my duties and responsibilities increased manifold. Specially, I shall have to remain ever vigilant for preservation of the image of the prize,’ he said.





Safe water, hygiene & sanitation system being installed at schools in ultra-poor urban areas

Safe water, hygiene & sanitation system is being installed at schools in ultra-poor urban areas. Students will be encouraged to practise and preserve of water and sanitation (Watsan). Speakers said this at an inaugural function of safe water and sanitation installation ceremony at Champa-Parul Registered Primary School at Mirpur in Dhaka on January 17, 2011. The inaugural function was organised by 'Water, Sanitation and

Well-to-do people urged to participate in drug prevention activities

Well-to-do people, please come forward to participate in drug prevention activities for treatment and recovery of drug users. Drug addiction is a great curse of the century. People from different classes- lower class, upper class and middle class- had been entangled in the trap of drug. In recent time, different types of drug have come while its practice also increased to a large extent.

Speakers said this at a get-together of former drug dependent patients who have been recovered from drug dependency. The get-together was held at Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at Rajendrapur in Gazipur on 27 January, 2011.

Speakers further said, majority of drug users turn towards drug following peer pressure. Gradually, they become dependent on drug. According to the Department of Narcotics Control, there are 50 lakh drug users in the country. If we are unable to treat them at the initial stage then the menace of drug will remain uncontrolled.

President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Kazi Rafiqul Alam, UNESCO representative Mahfuza Rahman, UNODC Advisor (HIV/AIDS) Dr Mozammel Haque, representative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's UK office Zina Fear and David Fear, District Information Officer Liaqat Hossain, Psychiatrist Dr Khaleda Begum, Gazariapara Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Ezadur Rahman Milon, CIP President, Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association Shahedul Islam Helal and AMIC Co-ordinator Iqbal Masud were present as guests.

Over 200 participants participated at the get-together organized by AMIC Centre. Discussion meeting, cultural function, sports

Hygiene Improvement in Schools (WSHS) Project' under initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) through public-private partnership. Concern Universal Bangladesh gave technical support and it was funded by UN-HABITAT and Coca Cola.

The project is working with the assistance of UK Aid, DFID, UNDP, and Local Government Engineering Department through public-private partnership.

Speakers further said the project has ensured water and sanitation facilities to 15,944 students of 10 schools in the capital and 25 schools in Comilla through Community Development Committee (CDC). Local school management committee will make the activity sustainable.

Bazlul Baset Anju, Councilor of Ward No 7 of Mirpur inaugurated the function at Champa-Parul Registered Primary School at Mirpur in Dhaka.

Settlement Adviser of UN-HABITAT Binodh Shestha, National Project Coordinator of UNDP Azahar Ali, President of Champa-parul school management committee Iva Rahman, Headmaster of Champa-Parul Registered Primary School Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Programme Division Dewan Sohrab Hossain, Health Unit Chief of Concern Universal Bangladesh Zahidul Mamun, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's WatSan Unit Co-ordinator Imam Mahmud Riad and City Manager of Dhaka City Corporation's UPPR Project Nazrul Islam were also present.



and games competition and band show were main attractions of the get-together. Patients of various parts of the country and those of the centre as well as guests coming from home and abroad spent the day with great pleasure and fanfare.

With a view to preventing increasing trend of drug use, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has established the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in cooperation with UNESCO, on 5 bighas of land at Rajendrapur in Gazipur in 2004. Alongside treatment facilities, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in cooperation with its UK office, established a vocational training centre for former drug users in 2008.

Since 1990, AMIC has been implementing various programmes for prevention of drug menace. Alongside, it conducts treatment activities for drug users in Jessore, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Savar.

Jafar Iqbal at Ahsanullah memorial lecture

Radical change in edn system a must to build Digital Bangladesh

Educated and skilled people as well as proper education are required for building Digital Bangladesh. This is why a radical change in education system is a must.



Prof Muhammad Jafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology said this while delivering Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah memorial lecture on Saturday.

The memorial lecture was organised for third time at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST).

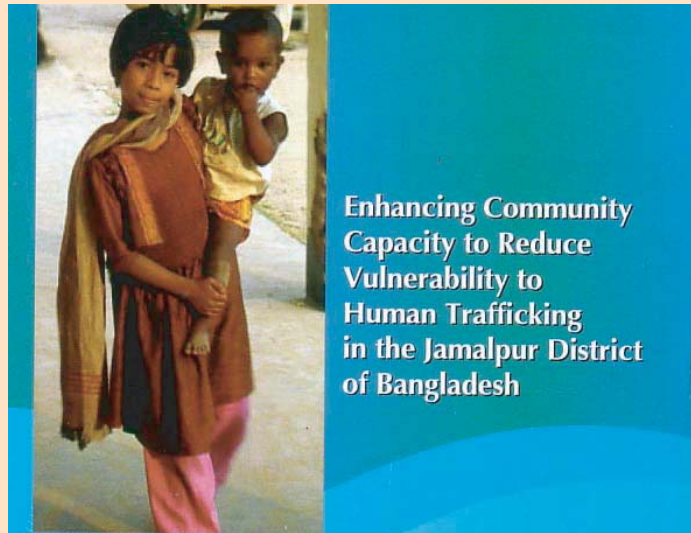
Muhammad Jafar Iqbal delivered a lecture on 'Digital Bangladesh: Perspective and Priority'. Citing examples of achievement of the country in various fields he said, "We have achieved our right to dream. We are able to build Digital Bangladesh. This is not a day dream" Digital Bangladesh does not mean that everything will be computerized. It means to build a prosperous modern Bangladesh by ensuring utmost use of information technology (IT) in every field. Mentioning that education is most important for building such Bangladesh, he said, there are three-crore students in this country. In many countries, the entire population is not same. If education of three-crore students can be maintained and proper education can be given to them then they will lit the light of hope. For this reason, a revolutionary change must be brought in education system. After education he stressed on electricity. While underscoring the need for research-based higher education, he said, the universities are not at all universities. Stressing on the need for rapid Software Copyright Act, otherwise, he said, the country will be at great risk. AUST Vice Chancellor M Anwar Hossain presided over while University Trustee Board Chairman Kazi Rafiqul Alam was present as Chief Guest. AUST Treasurer Kazi Shariful Alam delivered a brief address on Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R.).

DAM striving to combat human trafficking

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been striving hard to combat human trafficking.

DAM has initiated a project in Jamalpur district titled, Enhancement of Community Capacity for Reducing Vulnerability to Human Trafficking (CCRVT) with support from Relief International (RI) on November 2010.

The two-year (2010-2012) project is designed to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking, with special emphasis on women



Enhancing Community Capacity to Reduce Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in the Jamalpur District of Bangladesh

and children as well as responding appropriately when trafficking occurs.

The project has been aimed at raising awareness about migrant rights, risks and warning signs of exploitation, where victims can return to their communities for support. The project also provides skill development training and employment opportunities, protection through local community as well as rehabilitation and livelihood support to rescued victims.

Key activities of the project are development of capacity building of anti-trafficking community committees (ATCCs), formation of 27 committees in Jamalpur district, identification and monitoring of individuals and groups at risk, creation of a support network for risky groups, sensitisation of media on human trafficking, capacity building of youths to address human trafficking and rehabilitation services for rescued victims.

The project is being implemented in all unions of three upazilas in Jamalpur district such as Melandaha, Bakshiganj and Dewanganj.

Graduation ceremony held at Savar

Addiction Management and Care (AMIC)-a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a graduation ceremony at its working office at Genda, Savar on 02 January 2011. It was held on completion of 90 days' treatment course of five drug users. AMIC coordinator and team leader of Modhumita project Iqbal Masud was present as the chief guest while Prof. Shah-al Bhuiyan, project manager of Modhumita project Nazmul Haque Shamim were present as special guests. Centre manager of Savar Modhumita project Md. Golam Rasul presided over. It is worth mentionable that the patients who completed 90 days treatment course took the opportunity of medication, counseling, psychosocial education and self-motivation session. Among others 41 patients and all officials of Modhumita centre were present.

Sewing machines distributed among women

Preventing Violence against Woman through Empowerment (PVAWTE) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted a tailoring training course and distributed sewing machines among women at its Kaliganj project office in Satkhira on 5 January, 2011.

Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Toufique-e-Ilahi Chowdhury was present as chief guest at the sewing machine distribution ceremony while Upazila Women Affairs Officer Anisa Afroz was present as special guest.

Among others, project's Field Co-Ordinator Md Abdul Halim, Kushulia Union Parishad (UP) chairman Sheikh Ebadul Islam and local elite were present.

While delivering the welcome address, project's Field Co-Ordinator Md Abdul Halim gave a brief description of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, its activities, project area and implemented activities of Prevention of Cruelty to Women through Empowerment Project in Kaliganj upazila.

Kaliganj UNO Md Toufique-e-Ilahi Chowdhury said, alongside government efforts, NGOs are playing a significant role in



prevention of cruelty to women.

Upazila Women Affairs Officer Anisa Afroz said, people's attitude towards women should be changed for prevention of cruelty to women. An atmosphere should be created so that alongside education, women can work going outside their houses.

Workshop on right awareness at upazila level for prevention of cruelty to women

Preventing Violence against Woman through Empowerment (PVAWTE) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised a workshop at the hall room of Ekok Bima Office in Kaliganj upazila town, Satkhira on 10 January, 2011.

The workshop was organised aiming at making adolescent girls self-reliant so that they can prevent stalking, torture and human trafficking. It was also aimed at creating awareness at upazila level for collectively preventing cruelty to women and children, stalking and trafficking.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Field Co-ordinator

Md Abdul Halim presided over. Kaliganj Upazila Women Affairs Officer Anisa Afroz was present as chief guest while Kaliganj Press Club President Sheikh Saiful Bari Safu was present as special guest.

While delivering his presidential address, Md Abdul Halim said, mutual relationship among adolescent girls will improve. At the same, participation of adolescent girls in prevention of cruelty to women, trafficking and stalking will also increase.

In her address as chief guest, Upazila Women

Affairs Officer Anisa Afroz said, attitude of all should be changed for prevention of stalking. Adolescent girls may inform the upazila administration secretly if they fall victims of stalking. Nobody will dare to do such activity if an exemplary punishment can be given to the culprits, she said.

Math, sanitation fair in Gazipur

'Water and Sanitation'-a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a fair relating to math and sanitation on the premises of Laksmipur primary school on 20 December, 2010 in Gazipur district. Babu Nittanondo Sirker, Headmaster of Laksmipur primary school, inaugurated the fair while Bijoy Kumar Mondol presided over the inaugural function. Among others, deputy program manager of Plan-Bangladesh Nargis Akter, area coordinator Mahfuza Akter, education coordinator Saidul Haque and local elits were present there.



Opinion exchange meeting of Monitoring Forum, service oriented organisations

Preventing Violence against Woman through Empowerment (PVAWTE) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised an opinion exchange meeting between Sathkira Monitoring Forum and service-oriented organisations at the hall room of Ekok Insurance Office in Kaliganj upazila, Sathkira on 29 December, 2010.



Subjects like limitations in implementation of project, opinion of participants, identification of things to be done, police station and hospital services, field of work of woman action group in preventing violence against women and children, undertaken initiatives and monitoring were discussed.

While addressing, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Field Co-Ordinator Md Abdul Halim termed poverty, lack of employment, social and religious bigotry and lack of education as reasons for cruelty to women. Prevention of cruelty to women is possible through empowerment of women.

While speaking, Union Facilitator of Kaliganj upazila Md Quamruzzaman dwelt on subjects like findings of strategies in prevention of cruelty to women and trafficking and other issues. He also spoke on project activities and areas, title of project, aims, objectives, project stakeholders, main activities of project, result of base line survey/ information, adopted programme of project, achievement etc.

In his address, chief guest Dr Akedur Rahman said, for providing legal aid to the victims of torture, their information should be authentic. This is why, family members should be conscious enough. When women fall prey to physical torture, they can recover after taking treatment but it is very difficult to get rid of mental pressure if victims fall prey to mental torture.

Tiffin distributed among school students of Dhaka, N'ganj

Working Children's Basic Education Project (2nd phase) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in association with World Food Programme (WFP) formally inaugurated a tiffin distribution programme among school students of Dhaka and Narayanganj on 22 January, 2011.

Food was distributed among 2500 pupils of 113 educational institutions in the two districts.

The first inaugural function was held at Progoti Sangha School at Lalmohan Podder Lane in Shyampur, Dhaka. Local social worker Md Zafarullah was present as chief guest while president of the centre management committee Syed Sirajur Rahman and project coordinator of DAM's Hard to Reach Project Md Abdur Rouf were present as special guests.

The second programme of tiffin distribution ceremony was inaugurated at the rear side of Narayanganj DC Court. Assistant



director of Narayanganj District Non-formal Education Bureau Afil Uddin Sikder was present as chief guest. Local social worker Alam Chan was present as special guest. President of the centre management committee Badal Mia presided over.

Speakers said, the tiffin will cater to physical requirement of the students besides cessation of their appetite. As a result, presence of students at the centre will increase. Alongside, students' studies will also progress.

Workshop on disaster management

Sustainable Sanitation and Resource Mobilisation Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized a day-long workshop on disaster management at the conference room of Sadar upazila in Jamalpur district on 29 December, 2010.

The objectives of the workshop were to formulate a joint work plan between union and upazila disaster management committees and WatSan committee. Its another objective was to take initiative for a sustainable sanitation system through usage of improved technology.

Sadar upazila chairman of Jamalpur district Bijon Kumar Chandra opened the workshop while Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Alamgir was present as special guest.

Laboni Sabnam presented a key-note paper on the activities of Jamalpur Sadar Upazila Disaster Management Committee.

Speakers urged all concerned for activating the upazila and union disaster management committees. They also urged for building a sustainable sanitary system and installing sanitary latrines on high land so that people do not suffer due to lack of pure water and sanitation problem.

Jamalpur Sadar upazila chairman Bijon Kumar Chandra, upazila nirbahi officer Md Alamgir, Lakkhichar union chairman Afzal Hossain Biddut, Kendua Union Parishad chairman Md Hasmat Ali Sarker, Sreepur Union Parishad chairman Enayet Hossain and Jamalpur Sadar upazila education officer Shaheen Alam spoke on the occasion. A total of 66 participants took part.



role of volunteers so that people understand and avail of ICT facilities for their overall development. People including those of low income group are being made aware about information technology (IT) so that they can enjoy their rights and privileges. A CRC facilitator provides assistance to the community action group. At present 34 community action groups are working across the country. Access and use of ICT equipment: Efforts are being made so that people's access to information technology is ensured through communication and telecommunication tools. The purpose is to increase their agricultural productivity, marketing facilities, trade opportunities and thereby reducing household poverty. The tools are mobile phones, internet modems, personal computers, video and still cameras, scanners, pen drives, UPS etc.

DAM working for expansion of ICT in rural Bangladesh

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been relentlessly working for rapid expansion of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at grassroots level. With a view to creating a social movement, the organisation has chosen a theme titled 'Social Use of ICT.'

DAM has established 34 community resource centres (CRCs) in remote rural areas of Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions. The centres are well-equipped with ICT materials and devices. CRCs are governed and managed by the local community.

DAM has undertaken various initiatives for reaching ICT to a large number of rural people since 2000. This has increased social use of ICT.

ICT based Community Action Group (ICT CAG) has been formed in each CRC. Local youths having keen interest in ICT are main targets of the group. Young people are being motivated to play the

Training and Capacity Building:

ICT based trainings are being conducted regularly with a view to empowering people and generating sustained employment for people in Dhaka Ahsania Mission's working areas. The CRCs have been contributing to help people acquire knowledge on ICT. Trainings of CRCs include basic training on hardware, word processing, spread sheet and power point and basic graphics. The trainings help bridge gap of rural people with the mainstream urban developers.

Sessions for school students: ICT in education provides a unique opportunity for boosting natural way of learning. Integration of ICT in school curriculum is instrumental in developing a culture of spreading IT at grassroots level. Community resource centres organise discussion meetings with school students and teachers to draw their attention and making them aware about benefits of ICT. In the meantime, a large number of schools have been brought under ICT coverage.

Entertainment and Educational Shows for Children: Various educational and entertaining video shows are being organized for children and young people in CRCs. Educational videos make learning interesting. The shows make learning joyful to children. A number of videos are shown in CRCs to raise awareness of people. Different messages are disseminated through the shows. Attractive videos on business and income generating activities are also shown in CRCs. People get access to different public information by browsing internet in CRCs. Using internet, people get information on public examination results, employment, current news and other matters.

ICT at grassroots level can be a cost-effective way to respond to needs of a large number of disadvantaged population. Information and communication technology plays a major in development. ICT is a tool for launching a social movement for poverty alleviation.





dam in frame

Disaster Risk Reduction



Homestead raising activities underway at Dharmapasha



Students at a drill



Another drill underway



volunteers making a make-shift bridge



A community volunteer in a mock show



Radio spot managers engaged in preparing early warning signals

