



## Work for development, Award follows you

- DAM President

All must have to work in close coordination with others for the sake of development. Everyone should unearth his/her potentiality. Then the award follows you.

Efforts should be made for knowing on the top of what is already known.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), said this while addressing as Chief Guest at the DAM Best Performance Award-2011 giving ceremony held at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on 7 January, 2012.

He further said that it is not shame to acquire knowledge, rather a pride. Lack of sincere and active worker hurts all.

DAM Executive Director Dr

M Ehsanur Rahman presided over while Chairman of the Selection Committee of DAM and Vice President Prof M H Khan was present as Special Guest.

Head of Administration & Human Resource Division Anwar Hossain delivered the Welcome Address. Director of Programme Division Shafiqul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

In his presidential address, DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman said that DAM Best Performance Award giving ceremony is the only employee-centred function of the organisation. The qualities of the awardee will remain as a source of inspiration for other employees

of the mission.

Md Asaduzzaman, Assistant Director of Programme Division, was adorned with DAM Best Performance Award-2011.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of DAM, handed over the DAM Best Performance Award-2011 to the awardee, as Chief Guest. Valuation of the award is a cheque for Tk 25,000, a crest and a certificate.

While expressing his feelings, Md Asaduzzaman said, Always I have worked with utmost responsibility. Activity was a source of joy to me which is a chain process. This is why, we should work in close coordination with others, not alone.

## Workshop to combat adverse effect of climate change

A workshop to combat the adverse effect of climate change was held at Mongla Upazila Parishad auditorium in Bagerhat district under joint aegis of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum and ADD International on 12 January, 2012. Acting Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bakahid Hossain presided over while Habibun Nahar, a lawmaker elected from Bagerhat-3 constituency, was present as Chief Guest. Prof Abdullah Harun Chowdhury read out the key-note paper. Khan Mohammad Mujahid Ibne Habib, Bangladesh Coordinator of CMDRR Forum played the role of moderator. Among others, Jobaidul Alam Mintu, Mokhlesur Rahman, Swadesh Mondol, Md Hafizur Rahman, Uzzal Kumar Kundu and Md Ziaur Rahman were present.

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## Welcome to English New Year

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) formally welcomed the English New Year at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in a befitting manner on 01 January, 2012. DAM officers and employees welcomed the New Year by organising colourful programmes.

This was followed by a colourful function. The Assistant Director of the Accounts and Finance Division, Nilufar Yasmeen, conducted the function. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of all officers and employees of the organisation. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered the Welcome Address. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam addressed the officers and employees.

The Director of Training and Material Development Division, M A Rashid, also Convener of English New Year Celebration Committee, spoke on the occasion. Name of the winner of DAM's Best Performance Award was declared and all publications of the



new year were handed over to DAM President. The entire programme concluded by holding a cultural function. Its main features were songs and music, dance, poetry recital, magic, Mission's theme song and raffle draw.

## Make activities deep rooted to build a social movement

*-Kazi Rafiqul Alam*



The most important accomplishment of last year was our ability to materialise the philosophical thoughts of the founder of the Mission in our lives. Last year, visibility of our activities was displayed through televisions, newspapers and people.

A total of 35 lakh people were directly or indirectly benefited by our activities. We were able to teach about one lakh 10 thousand children. UNIQUE Project is a major successful project in the field of education. Services were provided to one lakh 20 thousand people in the area of livelihood while 16 lakh 93 thousand 410 people were served in the area of water and sanitation.

There was no fund when I first took responsibility of the Mission in July, 1976. I took an initiative to publish the Mission Barta for collection of fund. The then minister for textiles helped me a lot by providing advertisements.

Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology has taken an institutional shape in all spheres. I intend to take Ahsania Mission College to this level. ITVET was under Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology. Now it has been brought under direct control of the Mission. Drug Treatment Centre has become a well-established division. We were unable to satisfactorily enhance the Teachers' Training College and AICT. We are yet to turn Nogordola as a profitable concern. We are working but our activities are yet to be deep rooted in society. We shall have to build a social movement by deep rooting our activities.

Equal education for all children, opportunity for school admission of all students, freedom from tobacco and drug, prevention of trafficking of women and children, awareness on breast cancer, resisting school dropouts-we may build various movements. Until and unless we are able to build social movements, Ahsania Mission will have no visibility. We shall have to create partnership with print media and TV channel for this purpose. We shall have to work together with the

public relations cell.

We have purchased 105 acres of land at Panchagarh for building a Children's City. In the meantime, its construction work has already begun. I hope to begin students' admission from next year. We have proposed to establish universities at Rajshahi and Khulna. If we get approval then we shall be able to establish the two universities in two places. AITB is yet to take shape. Work on a drug treatment centre at Jessore will be finished very soon. We are yet to commission the cancer hospital due to various reasons. Although our cancer hospital at Mirpur works satisfactorily but it is yet to run on break-even point. With a view to creating skilled manpower, we shall have to make good practices of all activities. No matter, in which division we do belong to, we shall have to strive hard to make other divisions self-sufficient.

## Modernisation of Mission Barta a must following expansion of DAM activities in int'l arena

*-Dr M Ehsanur Rahman*



The year, 2012, is the 54th year of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). DAM is the oldest non-governmental organisation (NGO) in comparison with other NGOs of Bangladesh. Alongside, the main journal that represents Dhaka Ahsania Mission, namely quarterly Mission Barta, has attained the age of 34 years. Detail information on our 33 years of journey will be highlighted on the first issue of this year's Mission Barta. An initiative was undertaken to bring out the Ahsania Mission Barta in 1966. Its first (October-December) issue came out in 1977 through various procedures.

Alongside printed version of the Mission Barta, we have also launched an e-version. Every month, this comes out as e-bulletin. Following expansion of Mission's activities in the international arena, we have a plan to make a printed version of e-bulletin to bring dynamism in programme activities. In January, 2011, we brought out a compilation of essays of the founder of Mission which were presented at the monthly coordination meetings in 2010. The presentations of 2011 were published as workmission of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R)- vol. 2.



## Education minister urged to help revise Tobacco Control Act

A four-member delegation of several organisations, working for creating a tobacco-free environment, met with the Minister for Education Nurul Islam Nahid on 16 September, 2011. The delegates included President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Professor Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Media & Advocacy Coordinator of Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids Taifur Rahman and Assistant Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Iqbal Masud. During the visit, the delegates urged the minister to support their efforts in revising the Tobacco Control Act and highlight bad effects of tobacco in school text books and give pictorial warnings on labels of tobacco products. The minister gave a patient hearing and assured them his full cooperation in this regard. Taifur Rahman showed to the minister various information materials.



## Modhumita Project's opinion exchange meeting with law enforcers

An opinion exchange meeting was held with members of law enforcement agencies at Bangshal in Dhaka under the aegis of Modhumita Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 22 October, 2011. Mosharaf Hossain, manager of a centre being run under the project, delivered Welcome Address. This was followed by a video documentary show on drug dependence and treatment, developed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Modhumita Project Manager Shekhor Banerjee gave a presentation on the project activities. Acting Officer In-Charge (OC) of Bangshal Thana Jamir Uddin Ahmed and Second Officer A K M Sultan also took part.

## World Human Rights Day observed

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Rights Jessore jointly observed World Human Rights Day in Jessore on 10 December, 2011. This year's theme was 'Working Together to Promote Human Rights: Giving Young People a Voice.' To mark the occasion, a colourful rally led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) Mir Zahurul Islam, was brought out in the district town. This was followed by a human chain. A total of 120 people including inmates of Jessore Shelter Home of DAM, targetted family members of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project, Ganokendra members, CRC members, DAM officials and staff took part in the rally and discussion. World Human Rights Day was also observed in 86 Ganokendra (people's centres) and four community resource centres (CRCs) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.



## Activities of 'A Step Toward Smoke-free Dhaka City Project' begins

Activities of 'A Step Toward Smoke-free Dhaka City Project' under the fold of Tobacco Control Programme of Addiction Management & Integrated Care (AMIC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission began on 01 November, 2011. Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids is funding the project. The project activities are being conducted in 90 wards of Dhaka City Corporation.

Aims of the project are to raise anti-tobacco awareness, ensuring smoke-free spots for non-smokers, according to Article-8 of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) adopted by World Health Organisation (WHO), motivating Dhaka City Corporation to announce government and non-governmental organisations smoke-free organisations as well as motivating Restaurant Owners and Employees Union to declare restaurants cent per cent smoke-free areas.



## Special Meeting of Microfinance held

A special meeting for reviewing ongoing progress of Microfinance Programme was held at DAM head office conference room on January 15, 2012 with the participation of all branch managers, area managers and head office staffs. Assistant Director and Team Leader of MFP Md. Asaduzzaman presided over the meeting. DAM Executive Director Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman and Director (Programmes) Shafiqul Islam were present to provide necessary guidance. DAM Executive Director Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman delivered welcome address and introduced Md. Asaduzzaman



among the officials of MFP as new Team Leader who recently taken over the responsibility of MFP. In his welcome address Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman focused on importance of microfinance role in poverty reduction and national development. Meanwhile Director (Programmes) Shafiqul Islam emphasizes in his speech on the following the group approaches and maintaining group dynamics as principles of microfinance programme.

In the meeting, elaborate discussion proceeds on major audit observations and MIS findings. For strengthening the programme performance, different programmatic measures were discussed and accordingly set a development plan for the next six months where overdue realization and ensuring proper investment got highest priority. Moreover a plan for agricultural extension work also set for promoting homestead non-cereal crop production among beneficiaries of MFP. Under the plan of agricultural extension work, it was decided that seedlings of Dalim, Jambura, and Shajina will be provided among 20,000 households within next quarter. In addition, MFP sets a target for publishing a booklet highlighting the success story of MFP borrowers within June 2012.

## State minister visits AMIC Info Centre

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (retd) Mujibur Rahman Fakir has visited AMIC Information Centre in Dhaka on the occasion of World AIDS Day-2011. He saw various posters containing information on HIV AIDS and drug, training manual, sticker and brochure published by Dhaka Ahsania Mission.



## Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah's 138th birth anniversary celebrated in Gopalganj

The 138th birth anniversary of great saint, philosopher, renowned educationist, social reformer and Assistant Director of Education Department in undivided Bengal and Assam of British India, Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), was celebrated in Gopalganj recently.

To mark the occasion, a discussion meeting on 'Role of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R) in Spreading Education and Building an Enlightened Society' was held at the Conference Hall of Gopalganj Poursabha on 24 December, 2011. Held under the aegis of Gopalganj Ahsania Mission, the discussion meeting was presided by the Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dr M Ehsanur Rahman. Former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank and Chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank Khondker Ibrahim Khaled was present as Chief Guest. A J G Mortuza Pannu Mia of Gopalganj Ahsania Mission delivered the Welcome Address. Justice Khondker Musa Khalid of High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdul Matin and Gopalganj Poursabha Mayor Rezaul Haque Sikder Raju spoke as special guests.

Assistant Professor of Economics Department of Government Bangabandhu University College Habibur Rahman and poet and journalist Rabindranath Adhikary were the main discussants. Former Headmaster of Swarnakoli High School M M Golam Mostafa read out a paper. The Convener of Gopalganj Ahsania Mission, Golam Kibria, conducted the entire programme.



## Tk 1 lakh handed over to widow of DAM staff

An amount of Tk one lakh has been handed over to Sharmin Rahman Mukta, widow of Rafiqul Islam Khan, a staff of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), from the DAM Employees' Benevolent Fund. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), handed over a cheque of the same amount to Sharmin Rahman Mukta at the Mission Bhaban auditorium on 09 January, 2012. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman, Director of Programme Division Shafiqul Islam, Head of Administration & Human Resource Division Anwar Hossain, brother of the deceased's wife Quamrul Hasan, cousin Mamun Hossain and high officials of DAM were present. Rafiqul Islam Khan worked as Field Engineer in different projects of DAM since 2007. Lately, he worked at EWSDRR Project of DAM's Water & Sanitation Sub-sector. He sustained critical injuries while going to DPHE Bhola office on official duty on 19 December, 2012. Later, he was admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital. As his condition worsened, he was shifted to Barisal Sadar Hospital where he died during treatment.

## Gender awareness creating drama in Patharghata

Multi Task, an implementing agency of ECDSP-B Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, staged a gender awareness creating drama titled 'Sukher Sangsar,' in Barguna district, within a period from 29 November to 7 December, 2011. The drama was staged in 12 places of nine wards in Charduani union of Patharghata upazila in the district. An accord was signed with Santa Rina Academy of Patharghata for staging the drama. The Academy authorities staged the 45-minute drama in the 12 places as per schedule. Drama personality Manotosh Kumar wrote the drama where gender issues were highlighted.



## Annual sports, cultural meet at AIICT

The annual sports and cultural competition of Ahsania Institute of Information and Communication Technology (AIICT) was held on its own campus on 13 January, 2012. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and AIICT Governing Body distributed prizes among the winners as Chief Guest. AIICT Director Engineer Syed Ziaul Haque, acting Principal Kazi Shahidul Islam and Ahsania Mission College Principal Sheikh Syed Ali were present. A large number of students, teachers and guardians took part. The prize distribution ceremony was followed by a cultural function.

## Workshop to formulate work plan on disaster mitigation

A workshop to formulate a work plan on disaster mitigation for reducing the risk of disaster was held at Sundarban Union Parishad (UP) meeting room in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district on 28 December, 2011. Held under the aegis of IFLS Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the backdrop of climate change, the workshop was presided by Sundarban UP Chairman Abul Kalam Azad. Mongla Upazila Chairman Alhaj Idris Ali as present as Chief Guest while Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dr Mizanur Rahman was present as Special Guest. Besides, Mission's Field Coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu and Field Officer Biswajit Biswas were also present.



## Children's fair at Amtoli

A day-long children's fair was held at Amtoli A K Pilot High School in Amtoli upazila town under the aegis of ECDSP-B



Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 24 December, 2011. Thirteen Shishu Bikash Kendro (child development centres) of the project area, children, tutors, guardians, members of community action groups and local elite were present at the annual event. The fair began with playing of national anthem. This was followed by an attractive opening ceremony. Other attractive features of the fair were rally, discussion meeting, PT display, sports and games, rhymes competition, dance and gender related drama titled, 'Samatai Samridhhi Chele Meye Saman Saman' (prosperity in equality-boys and girls are equal).

Rahima Sultana Kazal, Executive Director of AVAS presided over while Md Abdur Rashid, Headmaster of Amtoli A K Pilot High School was present as Chief Guest.

Md Sahabuddin Panna, Executive Director of NSS, Jotish Chandra Shil, Education Officer of Amtoli upazila, Nasir Uddin, Field Manager of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Milon Kumar Mukherjee, Master Trainer of UNIQUE Project were present as special guests.



# DAM distributes warm clothes among cold-stricken people

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has distributed warm clothes among the cold-stricken people of various districts in this winter season.

DAM, in collaboration with Emirates Airlines Foundation, distributed blankets among 200 cold stricken children of Mohammadpur Drop-In Centre and Urban Community Learning Centre in the capital city, on 27 December, 2011.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Sales Manager of Emirates Airlines-Bangladesh

Ismail Bhuiyan distributed the blankets.

While speaking on the occasion, Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, 'We are grateful to Emirates Airlines Foundation for their noble gesture.'

Among others, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Dr M Ehsanur Rahman and other officials were present. The blankets were distributed as part of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's programme to distribute 6,000 blankets donated by Emirates Airlines Foundation, among the cold victims, especially the

children in 21 districts across the country.

In Jamalpur district, Dhaka Ahsania Mission distributed 500 blankets and wrappers among the distressed people of four unions in Dewanganj upazila of the district.

The warm clothes were distributed through Hatibhanga Surjo Uday, Bahadurabad Rajanigandha, Chikajani Setu Bandhan and Par Rampur Modhuban community resource centres.

Dewanganj Women Affairs Officer Quamrunnahr,

Chikajani union chairman Md Mamtazuddin, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Area Coordinator Md Asad Ullah, Technical Officer Syed Mizanur Rahman, CRC Coordinator Md Jahangir Hossain, Union Coordinator Md Hazrat Ali Selim, Upazila Coordinator Md Shahabul Islam and presidents of the working committee of four resource centres were present.

In Barguna district, 500 warm clothes were distributed among 500 rootless and distressed people of various housing projects in Barguna municipality and vulnerable unions of Amtoli upazila on 29 December, 2011.

Sadar Upazila Chairman Lt Col (ret'd) Abdul Khaleque distributed the clothes as Chief Guest.

UP member Md Milton, Pouro Commissioner Faruk Sikder, general secretaries of Char Khejurtala Japanese Barrack House, Potkakhali, Uchchhas and Mim Ashrayan Project Abu Hanif, Yusuf Gazi, Rabiul Awal and Programme Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Disaster Risk Reduction Project Abdul Hamid were present.



# DAM creates new opportunities for garment workers

The readymade garment (RMG) industry of Bangladesh has been the key export division and a main source of foreign exchange of Bangladesh for over last two decades. This sector has become one of Bangladesh's most important sectors for employment, especially for the women. The sector has flourished the most required industrialization and has been playing a major role in speeding up the healthy growth of export and economy through employment generation, poverty alleviation and empowering women for the sector. Identifying its growth potentials, skill development needs to be placed on the priority agenda of the government and other concerned. Presently the RMG sector in Bangladesh employs more

(DAM) has been providing training support to most deserving people, particularly the women. DAM has been rendering such services with support from different donors including World Bank, European Union and German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) etc. Besides, DAM is supported by concerned government departments and the corporate sector as well. The corporate sector partners who are supporting DAM to extend training programmes for the disadvantaged including Gueldenpfennig GmbH and Knights Apparel etc. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has made great strides in the field of Ready-made-garments training since the year of 2006. People who are provided such support including the rural poor, slum dwelling men and women aged

people have been trained and 3139 of them are female. A total of 2171 trainees were enrolled at Dhaka, 1817 at Gazipur and 144 at Jamalpur training centres. During this period 98 % of graduated trainees (4050 trainees) have been employed and working as skilled operators at several sweater garment factories in Dhaka and Gazipur District.

At present, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is operating four skill development training projects including Skill development for garment training for garment workers, Capacity building on skills development training program of SSFMWTA-Residential, DOWA, Zirani, Gazipur, RMG training to disadvantaged women through SSFMWTA, DOWA, MOCWA (Non-residential) and Skills development training for garment workers Activities. The projects are supported by the donors including Knights Apparel, directorate of women affairs, German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) and Gueldenpfennig GmbH. Poor, unemployed, disadvantaged, retraced garments workers and people with disability (PWD) are being trained. These projects have undertaken an initiative for personal advancement and career enhancement of people of the disadvantaged section of society. Females are being provided skills training on readymade garment sector to make themselves ready for RMG Machine operation. This in turn will create employment opportunity of those disadvantaged women. Besides, DAM has been working for creating linkage with other organisations in a comprehensive manner. Many organisations and projects have so far been working collectively including Prevention on Drug Addiction, Nari Moitre, DAM QPE, UNIQUE-II, Pavement Dwellers of Sajida Foundation, Concern Worldwide and Maaer Anchol etc. This initiative has been very conducive for raising social awareness with respect to female garment workers.

Another important feature of the DAM's RMG training programme is to assist the trained workers with job placement. So far almost all trained men and women have given job placement support at many garment factories in Dhaka and Gazipur. DAM has a plan to establish a project named "SKILLFUL" in collaboration with Swiss Contact, for creating employment opportunity through RMG sector skills development training courses to the poor and disadvantaged People of different poor of rural and slum dwellers. It is expected that the unskilled poor workers will be able to earn the required skills and thus develop their living standard by working in the garments industry. Besides, the industry will benefit with the quality work from skilled labor force.



than 3.6 million people out of which 208 million are women. But still the shortage of adequately skilled and employable resources creates remarkable blockade and acute distraction to its faster growth and competitiveness. At the same time the sector is being ill with an impending shortage of skilled labor force or the most needed potentials for future product diversification which will be significantly influence the export market.

With a view to support the disadvantaged people and develop skill human resources for the RMG sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission

from 18-25 years, garment factory workers who are terminated from their job for lacking required skills and partially disabled men and women who can work but lacking skills. The underprivileged people are being trained for gaining particular theoretical and practical skills through this Programme. However, the practical part of training is being given emphasis. Besides, life skills development trainings are also provided with a view to make them aware of the compliance issues including labor rights, labor laws, health and hygiene, environment, self security etc. Since the year of 2006 a total number of 4132



## DAM in frame

### Snaps shots from the Happy New Year-2012 programme in DAM Bhaban

