Benches distributed to Hatibhanga Union Health Family Welfare Centre

Hatibhanga Union Health Standing Committee Chairman Ahmmad Ali (Dulu) on January 20 this year handed over three pairs of benches to Hatibhanga union chairman Md Abu Hanif. The benches were meant for Hatibhanga Union Health and Family Welfare Centre in Dewanganj under the Save Motherhood Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Earlier, a monthly meeting of the Union Health Standing Committee was held on November 29 last year. The meeting decided to organise a visit to the aforesaid centre. Following the visit, dearth of benches for patients was observed there.

Ahsania Mission College: Academical & co-curricular activities go hand in hand for future nation building

Ahsania Mission College offers a qualitative formal education to the students. Regular academic and co-curricular undertakings are considered to be an integral part of college life - and key to the college's commitment to the academic, social and emotional well-being of students, the future nation building.

The college does its best when it comes to supporting the educational goals of young people.

In 2012, 120 students took part in the Primary School Certificate (PSC) examination. Of the students, 62 got A plus, 52 A and six A minus. The same year, 74 students participated in the Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination. Of them, 12 obtained A plus while 48 got A and 14 others A minus.

Fifty-two candidates sat for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination last year. Of the candidates, 14 got A plus, 33 A and five A minus.

In last year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination, 27 students took part. Of them, eight came out successful obtaining A plus while nine others got A and 10 A minus. The brilliant result has created great enthusiasm among the students and guardians.

A reception was accorded to the successful candidates who got GPA 5 in SSC and HSC examinations. The college authorities also honoured them by presenting crests. Prizes were distributed to the students who got talent pool scholarships in PSC and JSC examinations.

The politics and tobacco-free college has been moving forward by imparting advanced education to students in Science, Business and Humanities faculties. The school authorities are relentlessly working for rearing up the students as responsible citizens of the country. While imparting education, the teachers stress on the importance of moral education, culture & values, tolerance, justice and fair play, fellow feeling, dutifulness and commitment towards society, country and world.

Ahsania Mission College has a reputation for its practical & career-oriented programmes. It has a well-equipped computer lab as computer education is compulsory for

See page 2

Contents

DAM at work

AUST lauded for imparting quality education to students - Education minister page - 2

Dhaka Ahsania Mission distributes blankets among cold-hit people page - 3

Anti-smoking campaign in capital page - 4

Workshop organised by DAM's Central Monitoring Unit page - 5

Call to build a beautiful society being inspired by Ahsanullah's ideal page - 6

Thematic Focus

Human trafficking: The worst form of HR violations page - 7

DAM in Frame

National Conference of Teachers page - 8

2012
5th convention of people's organisations held

Socio-economic condition of the country will not improve without collective participation of people as well as initiative of government organisations.

This message was reflected in the opinions of representatives of various people's organisations at 2-days 5th Convention of People's Organisations held at Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, on November 21 and 22, 2012.

The convention was aimed at empowerment of people's organisations by creating strong net work of similar minded organisations so that they can unitedly bring a change.

The people's organisations are Lokkendro, Ganokendro, Pallisamaj, Ekota Dal and Samota. As many as 1,000 participants of NGOs like ActionAid Bangladesh, SPED, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, BRAC and IIRD took part.

The Director General of BARD, Md Moshfiur Rahman, was present as Chief Guest, on the concluding day of the convention.

Among others, Md Zakir Hossain Sarker, Manager, HRBA Programming Unit, ActionAid Bangladesh, Md Fazlur Rahman, Coordinator of SPED, Rita Rozlin Kosta, Programme Coordinator of BRAC, Dhaka, Quamrun Nahar, Technical Manager, Khamotayan (empowerment), CARE Bangladesh, Md Mokjlesur Rahman, Coordinator, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Md Monir Hossain, Senior Sector Specialist, BRAC, Dhaka, Merina Akter, Senior Programme Manager (gender), IIRD and Palash Kumar Ghosh, Team Leader, BRAC, Dhaka, were present.

On the concluding day, representatives of various people's organisations shared experiences and community challenges on various issues including land right, prevention of violence against women and Right to Information. They informed that landless people cannot establish their right to 'khas' (government) lands as influential people have captured government lands by force. So, proper implementation of government policy is essential, they said. They further informed that still now women fall victims to violence. Local government agencies should take effective measures.

Other speakers said, there is no alternative to Right to Information for preserving rights of poor people. It is possible to establish people's right as well as women's right by ensuring Right to Information. At local level, united efforts of people's organisations, are essential. Participants of the people's organisations displayed drama, 'Zari Gan' (songs), held talk show etcetera to make the convention a total success.

From page>1

Ahsania Mission College: Academic, every student. Alongside text book studies, extra measures are taken to increase the out-knowledge of students. This is why, a rich library consisting of rare books from home and abroad, is at service to the students.

The goal is for every student to become a self-directed learner. Regular art and cultural competitions are organized on the campus. Study tours are regular activities at the college. Healthy activity like Rover-Scouting movement is encouraged. Besides, students can be members of various clubs and societies.

Situated at Pallabi in Mirpur, Dhaka, Ahsania Mission College is a college with a difference.

Victory Day observed and discussed

Victory Day was observed in a befitting manner in Chinishpur Sonali Provat, Shilmendi Papri, Mohishasura Ekota, Nuralapur, Bikoshito and Kathalia Sukher Disha community resource centres (CRCs) of Narsingdi on December 16, 2012. Discussions, sports and cultural functions were organised by the ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project to mark the occasion. Discussants dwelt on the significance of the Victory Day. People learnt about the history of liberation war at the discussion meeting. Local people came to know by the discussions that Bangladesh had achieved independence at the cost of sacrifice of lakhs of martyrs. The discussions were followed by sports and cultural programmes. CAG members and school students enthralled the audience by rendering patriotic songs. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners. Among others, teachers, UP representatives, representatives of Ganokendro and CRC, local elite, DAM officials and staff and people from all strata of life were present.
**Paralegal counselling at Keshobpur**

A paralegal counselling on legal protection service was held at Prantik Ganokendro at Suzapur village of Keshobpur upazila in Jessore district on November 23, 2012. ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the same to raise capacity of people at grassroots level by providing them legal assistance and creating awareness on prevention of torture against women at family level. Dr Monimohon Das presided over while Upazila Women Affairs Officer Mousumi Akter was present as Chief Guest. Woman Union Parishad (UP) member Sharifa Begum attended as Special Guest. Advocate Md Ayub Ali of Jessore Judge Court was main discussant. Md Alamgir Hossain, Area Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission delivered Welcome Address. Local people including poor and ultra-poor members of Ganokendro took part. Technical Officer of DAM Nazmeen Nahar and Union supervisors were also present. Discussants dwelt on issues like various aspects of law regarding prevention of torture at family level and torture against women, places of legal assistance being offered to people at grass roots level, rules and regulations of receiving legal assistance and opportunities being provided to poor people by the government etc.

**Rajanigandha CRC distributed winter clothes among cold-hit people**

Ghorashal Rajanigandha Community Resource Centre (CRC) distributed winter clothes among 36 cold-stricken people of Jhenidah on January 3, 2013. Rajanigandha CRC President Bhanupati Shikder presided over while Mosammat Fahima Begum, female Union Parishad (UP) member, Md Modasser Ali, UP member and President of the Union Health Standing Committee, Rabiul Islam, Area Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Suriya Sultana, Technical Officer and Asaduzzaman, Union Supervisor, and members of CRC and Ganokendro were present on the occasion. In his address, the President of the Union Health Standing Committee said, "Rajanigandha CRC has done a commendable job by distributing winter clothes among the cold-hit people. I also thank them who extended their hands of cooperation in this noble endeavor. I urge all to come forward to help the distressed humanity." Twenty-nine distressed women and seven distressed men got blankets and sweaters.
Dhaka Ahsania Mission welcomes 2013

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) welcomed the English New Year with great enthusiasm.

Like previous years, this year also DAM welcomed 2013 by chalking out colourful programmes. The day’s programme began with presentation of flowers to each official and staff member of the organisation. The big New Year celebration took place inside the DAM auditorium at Dhanmondi in the capital. The entire office wore a festive look. It was decorated with flowers and multi-coloured balloons to mark the occasion. A large number of officials and staff wearing colourful dresses gathered at the auditorium situated on the first floor of DAM head office. It seemed as if everyone was saying, “Happy New Year is here again.”

Ahsania Mission marked the occasion with the traditional New Year’s programme that was divided into two sessions. The first session was marked by valuable speeches delivered by DAM high officials. During their speeches they warmly greeted their fellow colleagues as well as subordinates.

At the outset of the programme, DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered his Welcome Address. He warmly thanked the DAM family members for their excellent performance in 2012 and urged them to look forward to 2013. Then DAM General Secretary Prof. M Sobhan delivered his speech.

Finally, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam stood on the dais for delivering a passionate speech. The speech was "direct, significant and brave appeal" in which the DAM President made a "wake-up call" to all members of his organisation. He said, "Today is a day to dream a new dream. Set a goal like the Mission founder to live anew." "Bangladesh was afflicted with multifarious problems in bygone days. Now the scenario has totally changed. At present, technology has taken over the manual ways of cultivation. We train readymade garment workers because of whom the country earns huge forex," Kazi Rafiq said as a mentor and guide of DAM workers.

"Population is a boon for Bangladesh," he further said. "We may well-utilise our population resource. In the coming days, the number of youths will surpass elderly people. We may grab it as an opportunity. Doors of immense possibilities are open to us. We must have to come out of the boundary of our own realm. It is possible for us to grow by staying in our own country. It is simply wonderful that our youths have opened up doors of immense possibilities abroad," the DAM chief said.

"We want to announce that 2012 was a year of success. Despite failures in a few spheres, we have achieved great successes in many spheres. People who stay back in the country and work for its betterment are the real sons of the soil," he declared. "We want to surpass all others in the sphere of our activities. While working with drug, we have attained first place. The same year, we got the international literacy award. We shall work for improvement of the standard of education. We shall have to make students creative, this is very important, the DAM president observed. He said, DAM, through multi-dimensional interventions, has been providing services to the poorest of the poor at micro to macro level. DAM's interventions at grassroots level for alleviation of poverty, uprooting illiteracy, reaching healthcare services to people's doorsteps and building capacity for poor and ultra-poor people, all have been recognized, nationally and internationally. Another feather has been added to DAM's cap after winning the prestigious IESCO Literacy Award.

DAM recently won the award in recognition to its literacy movement across the country. DAM's programmatic interventions comprise four basic needs of human being—education, health, human rights and social justice. DAM has extended its service-providing activities and is now supporting social entrepreneurial activities.

Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital (AMCGH) is nearing its completion. Ahsania Mission Children's City (AMCC) has been launched aiming at making 10,000 street boys and girls self-relian. Work on the second and third campus of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) progresses fast. Water and sanitation-based activities of DAM in saline and disaster-prone areas are praiseworthy. A wing of DAM has earned reputation by providing treatment facilities to drug addicts. Its name and fame has been spreading fast. DAM's manifold activities are being outreached in a cumulative way.

Kazi Rafiq concluded his speech expressing a hope for the best in the coming days. His speech was followed by an attractive cultural function. Hundreds attended the event, which included live performances by DAM cultural activists. It was an unforgettable event for all the family members of DAM who celebrate the New Year's Day in a befitting manner every year.
PDAC held in Comilla

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Program Division organized Program Division Annual Conference (PDAC) from 22 to 24 January, 2013 at BARD in Comilla. PDAC 2013 gave the staff members of DAM and its Program Division a platform and an opportunity to share each other’s experience further, think strategically and development plan of action and strategy documents with renewed insights and innovations based on achievements, challenges and lessons learned of the working areas.

Program Division of DAM has operationally been divided into 7 geographical regions having socio-economic and cultural diversities in each. Each of the Regions has its own Regional Strategy depicting the development scenario, challenges, priorities, and future interventions. The Regional Strategy is now heading towards ending in 2015 with a benchmark set to achieve its targets. Considering this changing perspective, "Improved Living Conditions: Addressing the Regional Development Priorities" was selected as PDAC theme in this year. The PDAC 2013 discussed the Regional Strategy with a focus on region specific theme and tried to create synergy of this theme with the other existing regional development interventions.

In the first day, formal inauguration of PDAC 2013, Programme Director Shafiqul Islam and also PDAC-2013 Convener delivered welcome speech and explained the objectives of the conference. Following his speech, DAM president Kazi Rafiqul Alam gave an inspirational speech to the audience.

In his speech, President said, Bangladesh will be one of the 11 most promising countries within 2030. The GDP of Bangladesh will surpass many western countries within 2050. We hope that if we all can work together we will be able to achieve that success. The role of the NGOs is notable in this regard.

Subsequently DAM President lit the wishing candle and declared the Conference open. Inauguration session concluded with the impressive cultural presentations including duet dance, theme song of DAM, contemporary song and many more that fascinated the audience.

The Program Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission initiated Annual Conference with the name of Retreat in the year 2007. Since then DAM has organized its Annual Conference for the six times. Of them, two times were Organizational Conference and four times were Program Division Conference.

2-day Information Fair held at Barguna

A two-day Information Fair was held at the Shaheed Minar compound in Barguna on 3-4 December, 2013. The fair was aimed at implementation of the Right to Information Act for ensuring smooth flow of information and people's right to information. Various government and non-government organisations took part at the fair jointly organised by ACCESS CAFOD, PPVD and ECDSP-B projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Barguna Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdul Wahab Bhuyian opened the fair. Government and non-government organisations erected 29 stalls at the fair. A booklet containing information on ways to get access to information, various information services being provided by the service providers etc. was distributed among the visitors. Besides, books on right to information and different books developed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission were displayed at the fair. After opening the fair, the DC visited the stalls and expressed his deep satisfaction observing participation of a large number of people at the fair. He urged the concerned personnel to work unitedly so that they can help reach information services at the doorsteps of people. On the second day of the fair, crests and certificates were distributed to the participants on behalf of TIB.
BLFCA distributes blankets among cold-hit people

Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Company Association (BLFCA) has distributed 1,000 blankets to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for distribution among the cold-stricken people of the country. Midas Financing Limited Managing Director (MD) Shafique-ul Azam, on behalf of BLFCA, handed over the blankets to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, at a simple ceremony held at the Dhanmondi head office of DAM in the capital, on January 9, 2013. BLFCA Secretary Fazle Rahim, DAM’s Head of Institutional Finance and Corporate Sector Monzur Md Kawser and officials of the two organisations were present on the occasion. During blankets distribution, Midas Financing Limited MD Shafique-ul Azam urged the well-to-do people of the society to generously come forward to mitigate the sufferings of distressed humanity.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, "The blankets hunded over by the BLFCA will help a lot in mitigating the sufferings of common people in the ongoing cold wave across the country. Alongside various social welfare activities, every year, DAM distributes winter clothes among the cold-hit people of the far-flung areas of the country including the capital city.

Tk 1 lakh HFCL donation to DAM

Hajj Finance Company limited (HFCL) has donated one lakh taka to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for purchasing winter clothes for distribution among the cold-stricken people of the northern region of the country. The Managing Director (MD) of HFCL, Md Tawhidul Islam handed over the amount to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, at a simple ceremony held at the Dhanmondi head office of DAM in the capital, on January 2, 2013. The Senior Vice-President of HFCL, Moshi-ud-Daulla and Head of Accounts and Treasury A F A Md Shafiuddin were present on the occasion.

During the donation handing over ceremony, the HFCL MD said," We feel proud as we have been able to come to the aid of the cold-stricken people of the northern region where people suffer a lot due to shivering cold." While receiving the donation, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, "People will Helpless a sigh of relief if the corporate sector comes forward to the aid of the needy." The DAM president also urged the affluent people to participate in welfare activities like that of DAM.

Tk 70 lakh donated to AMCH by Babylon Group

Babylon Group, a hundred percent export-oriented group of company, has committed a donation amounting to 70 lakh taka to the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) fund for construction of a 500-bed international standard hospital at Uttara in Dhaka. Babylon Group Managing Director (MD) Neesar Ahmed handed over a cheque of 20 lakh taka as first installment of the entire amount to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a simple ceremony held at the Dhanmondi head office of DAM in the capital on January 27, 2013. Babylon Group Chairman Emdadul Islam, directors Abidur Rahman, Moinul Ahsan, Abdus Salam and DAM Assistant Director Abdul Hye were present on the occasion.

An operation theatre (OT) of the hospital will be named after Babylon Group. During cheque handing over ceremony, Babylon Group MD Neesar Ahmed said, "Cancer treatment facility is very limited in Bangladesh. Most of the cancer patients go abroad for treatment. After launch of the hospital, modern cancer treatment facility will be available in the country."

He called upon the well-to-do section of the society and corporate sector to come forward for construction of the hospital. While receiving the cheque, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, "If the corporate sector comes forward then the Radio Therapy Unit, Out Patient Department (OPD) and laboratory will come into operation at the initial stage." He made a fervent call to people from all strata of life to come forward to help finish the hospital work.
Ahsania Institute of Technology and Business (AITB)

The Ahsania Institute of Technology and Business (AITB) started its journey in 2010. The aim was to provide Bangladeshi students with vocational education of international standard. The AITB got approval from Edexcel of the United Kingdom (UK) for imparting education of Level 4 of British curriculum offering degrees of Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) in Computing and System Development, Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Business with Accounting and Human Resource pathways. Since inception the AITB was able to draw attention of many UK universities. The universities showed interest to take HND graduates from AITB for top up progression towards Bachelor degree education. Sheffield-Halam University and Teeside University of the UK already showed interest to establish their study centres at the AITB paving way to Bangladeshi students for obtaining British degrees from their own country.

Ahsanullah Institute of Information and Communication Technology (AIICT)

The Ahsanullah Institute of Information and Communication Technology (AIICT) was launched in 2001 with an objective of imparting information and communication technology (ICT) related education to Bangladeshi students. On approval from the National University at Gazipur, the AIICT concentrated on human resource development. The AIICT has been offering Bachelor degrees in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) and Business Administration (BBA). The Institute already earned name and fame for its academic excellence. Many AIICT graduates are now employed in various service-oriented organisations at home and abroad.

Ahsania e-Solution (AeS)

Ahsania e-Solution (AeS) is an area where Bangladeshi students attain capability of applying their knowledge properly through skill development. AeS has several wings such as Graphics and Desktop publications, Web Design, Development and Hosting, Search Engine Optimization and Social Media Marketing. Now it is a complete outsourcing firm serving the European buyers. AeS has an adequate skilled workforce for efficiently running the activities of the organisation for 24 hours as well as earning remittances in foreign currencies. AeS has a vision to widely serve e-commerce in entire Bangladesh.
DAM in frame

New Year Celebration 2013