



# Visit to Dasherjanganal

The memory of his rare visit lied buried so long until one of his followers - Dewan Sohrab Uddin - who incidentally hails from the same village, broke the news in a monthly meeting of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, which was presided over by the Executive Director. Quoting from Amar Jibon Dhara (autobiography of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah) Dewan Sohran said, the historic week-long visit of the Founder of DAM followed an invitation from his local admirers.

Some events are often lost in the mists of memories until someone digs it out. It was also no exception in case of the visit of Khan Bahadur Ahsanulla® to a remote village - Dasherjanganal - more than seventy years ago. The memory of his rare visit lied buried so long until one of his followers - Dewan Sohrab Uddin - who incidentally hails from the same village, broke the news in a monthly meeting of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, which was presided over by the Executive Director. Quoting from Amar Jibon Dhara (autobiography of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah) Dewan Sohran said, the historic week-long visit of the Founder of DAM followed an invitation from his local admirers. Was it a mere visit on the part of the Founder? Perhaps not! Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah who dedi-

cated his whole life for education and welfare of the common people did not merely visit the place to spend a pleasure time. He had a mission; and that was why he left his mark by setting up of a library and welfare organization - Ahsanullah Reading Hall and Samaj Kalyan Sangstha there.

Why a library in such a remote place - one may logically ask - when less than five percent of the population of that region at that time are educated. Again, among so many places he visited in his life, what made him put the name of the village in his famous publication - Amar Jibon Dhara? The answer to these questions lies in the life and works of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, who wrote more than 70 books, established around two dozen of educational institutions and set up a number of li-



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braries and publication houses. Throughout his life, he wanted to enlighten the society through quality education; because he believed, no nation can progress without it.

The information shared in the monthly meeting drew attention of the Executive Director who decided to commemorate the historical visit. He reached there with a group of his staff members and sat in a meeting with the managing committee of the library. Leaders of local administration including the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the UNO were also present on the occasion. Speaking at the meeting, the ED dwelt in length on the life and works of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah and pointed out the unity of purpose of both the entities - DAM and the Ahsanullah Library. Since both of them owe their births to the same Founder, the ED promised to



revitalize the lost glory and past heritage of the library.

Emphasizing on the importance of education Dr Ehsan expressed his willingness to support the library activities in the future. He asked Dewan Sohrab to liaise with the library management and chalk out short and long term plans incorporating the vision, mission and the ideals of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah. Set up back in 1945, the library

is still there to meet the educational needs of the community.

Quality education is a must for national development. Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah could realize it long ago; and thus cultivated a piece of education-pearl in the deep darkness of Dasherjangan. He hoped the twinkling star of Dasherjangan will one day blossom into a full moon. Let's all work together to fulfill his dream and build an enlightened society.

*Note:*

Dasherjangan is a village under Idilpur Union

*Team members:*

Dr Ehsanur Rahman, ASM Babar Ali, Dewan Sohrab Uddin and Bari Al Baki

*Prepared by:*

Dewan Sohrab Uddin



# DAM celebrates new year

The day was not like the other days of the year. All staffers of Dhaka Ahsania Mission sacrificed half of the day to welcome New year-2015. They entered into the office taking a beautiful gift from pre-arranged management committee members at office gate.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) formally celebrated the English New Year at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in a befitting manner on 01 January, 2015. DAM officers and employees welcomed the New



Year.

The total program were divided into two parts. In the first part, DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman spoke the welcome address and President Kazi Rafiqul Alam gave his directive address for the next year. In the second part, a colorful cultural program was conducted welcoming Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

The main features of the program, were songs and music, dance, poetry recital, magic, Mission's theme song and raffle draw. The members of reception committee welcome everyone at the gate of main building. They gave everyone a flower stick and a pen. At the inaugural ceremony of the day, artists of DAM performed national anthem.

## New Year Speech of President

We have said goodbye to 2014 which was characterized with hopes and despair. Changes were there in the national and international arenas. Changes took place in our social, political, economic and cultural fields. It was for the first time since 1870 that the USA was degraded to second place in the economic competition of the world, placing China on the top of the list.

If we look back to Bangladesh there are significant difference between 1 January 2014 and that of today. The amount of uncertainties that engulfed the days of 2014 January are in no way comparable to today's situation. However, there are signs of bad days in the horizon. And we are really scared!

In case of DAM we have a mixed feeling of sweet and sour. We have lost some of our colleagues during the last year. We pray for the salvation of their souls.

The vision and mission of our Founder has been carried forward with your relentless support and dedication. The Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh made us grateful to her by inaugurating the country's biggest Cancer Hospital - Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital - in Uttara. This was possible due to people's confidence and overwhelming support to our work. This is indeed a great achievement! The words of praise the the honourable Prime Minister has spoken about our Founder Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah is exceptionally rewarding. He deserved it because of his dedication and humanity towards humankind. Chief Justice of Bangladesh and other Ministers, Secretaries and high government officials made us grateful to them through their kind support and cooperation throughout the year.

We have initiated a number of activities - seminars, symposia, lectures - in schools, colleges and Universities to advocate the philosophy of Khan Banadur Ahsanullah. This would gain momentum in the coming days. A number of nationally recognised personalities have joined us as Honourable Partons to support our humanitarian activities. We firmly believe DAM will receive all sorts of cooperation and guidance from them.

Those of us who work for DAM are not only working for our salaries. We are serving the humanity. The primary objective of our work is to stand by the suffering humanity. We must not be forgetful of the immense trust and respect common people have reposed on us. Nothing is costlier than the trust.

We are grateful to all those who have helped us spread the news of our humanitarians services to the rest of the world. The role of media is especially worth mentioning here.

Internationally, we have achieved some rewards and honours during 2014. We are grateful to all of you who have contributed to these achievements. However, we should not be complacent as there are a number of avenues that need major improvement.

As you know, I often speak about dreams. We need to have big dreams. Human survival depends on his/her dreaming. Likewise, an institution must have some goals to achieve. Our Founder dreamt of an institution which will dazzle and stand by the side of suffering humanity. It is now time to claim that we have fulfilled some of his noble dreams. Nationally, DAM is the third largest NGO in Bangladesh. And I am grateful to all of your for the success.

It is said, a human being is the sum total of his/her activities. Humankind has no other identity. A human being lives in his work. The best example before us is our Founder who has been immortal through his good qualities - honesty, truthfulness, selflessness and humanitarianism.

The former president of India Abul Kalam Azad used to say, I love to dream; but that I don't do it in my sleeping bed.

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## AMCC children participate in national child competition

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) has been working to build every street child as well-behaved citizen through rehabilitation. As part of this intervention, National child award competition was held at Shingpara government primary school of Panchagarh sadar on 7 January, 2015. Upazila Education Officer, Headmasters and assistant headmasters of different schools were present on the occasion. A total of five children from Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) took part in the competition. Nazrul song, patriotic song, Chhara gan, Folk song, art competition, swimming, high jump, long jump, and performance were included individual in the competition.

# Inter-University Project Competition held at AUST

Faculty of Engineering of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) arranged an Inter-University Project Competition titled 'Speed Engenius '15, on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at its campus. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering assisted the program. Competitions on Hardware, Software, Robotics and Line Follower Robot (LFR) Projects were held.

Prof. Dr. A.M.M Safiullah and Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam Treasurer jointly inaugurated the the daylong project competition. Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) was present as the chief guest. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Chairman, Board of Trustees AUST and Prof. Dr. M. H. Khan, Advisor AUST were present as the special guests of the project competition. Prof. Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, AUST was present as Chairman.

A total of 83 teams participated in the event from 12 different universities all over Bangladesh.

There were 9 winning teams from 4 categories. AKIJ Food and Beverage Ltd sponsored prize money of BDT 1,25,000 for the winning teams. The evaluation was done by 9 reputed judges. In Hardware category the champion team was 'N-38' from North South University and the 1st Runner-up was 'Circuit\_32' from AUST. In Software category The champion team was 'Coder27' from AUST and the 1st Runner-up was 'BRAC Neso' from BRAC University. In Robotics category the champion team was 'Hunter 28' from AUST and the 1st Runner-up was 'BRACU Epoch' from BRAC University. In LFR category the champion team was 'RMA EVOLUTION-1' from CUET, the 1st Runner-up was 'Blue' from IUT and the 2nd Runner-up was 'BUET AC~DC' from BUET.



# Fatema on her way to build new life



Fatema was born at the village, Kismot Thakur Mollik of Barisal district. Her father Md. Rasul Sharif is a farmer, mother Parul Begum a housewife. She has four brothers and a sister. When Fatema was 11 years old, her father became paralyzed and unable to earn for his family. Fatema read upto class five and didn't continue her education.

All the age of five her right leg became slim and short due to Typhoid. Could'nt When she was 17 she got married to Faruk Hossain who was a van puller. They have two sons. Three years ago, she lost her husband in a road accident.

Fatema then went to her maternal aunt in Dhaka leaving her children at village with her mother. Fatema tried a lot to have a job in any garments as a helper but she failed to get one. Factories refused to engage unskilled workers like

Fatema. One day, she met a survey group of DAM who were looking for trainees for **“Skills Development training programme for Garment Workers in Bangladesh”**. She found a new hope in her life. She received two months training from DAM Vocational Training Centre, Mirpur as a garments operator. After completing the training, she got a job in 'SF Fashion limited' garment factory as an operator with a basic salary of Tk 8,500. She lives in Dhaka with her aunt.

Now Fatema is grateful to Dhaka Ahsania Mission Vocational Training Institute which helped her to get rid from poverty and struggle. She has been an advocate for DAM and influencing other women and girls from the community to receive DAM vocational training center to change their lives too.



## Road repairing in Shamnagar

An important 4000 feet road of ranging has been repaired at Keuratali village of Shamnagar upazila under Sathkhira district. DAM's climate change project took the initiative and completed the work. Tk 80,000 was spent and 53 laborers took six days to complete the work. In the rainy season, students and common people suffered much. DAM's field coordinator Mizanur Rahman, Accountant Golam Mustafa and Field Officer Mamun Al-Hossain supervised the whole work.

### New Year

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My dreams do not allow me to fall asleep. These keep me awoken all the time. We should not forget that the world is constantly changing. Change – a positive change - is a must for us as well. Changes we need in our work, in our thoughts, in our knowledge and in our skills. We must also be ready to accept the changes. If we fail to adapt to the changing world, we are likely to face extinction.

The weapons we use in our war of liberation are not usable now. World's largest animal dinosaur had to face extinction as it could not adapt to the changing circumstances. Former Soviet Union could not keep it united as it did not respond to the changing demands of the time. But a small insect – caroches' – are surviving since centuries. However, you cannot expect to change the world until you change yourself.

Most of you know, we are preparing a Strategic Plan for DAM. We are trying to incorporate our hopes and aspiration into it. Your active support will be needed to finalize it. We must believe that if we do not change ourselves – we will be at the risk of losing out in the completion. All the best wished for the New Year 2015.

*Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President, DAM*



## Pariban's Change of Fortune by Rickshaw

**P**ariban is such a woman whom no one can recognize how she passed her previous struggling life and how she has come to this financial position. She is a house wife in Atpaika village, Union: Mohishashura, District: Narsingdi. She has 2 sons and 2 daughters. Living with her day-laborer husband, she could not find a strong foundation to survive in the society. By the time the savings that her household had was devoured by her eldest daughter's marriage related expenses. At this situation, her household faced extreme poverty.

Her husband and Pariban were deeply engrossed with increasing income of the family. She knew from a neighborhood woman that there is an 'ROJGAR Project' of Dhaka Asania Mission. Prime target of the ROJGAR Project is to provide financial and technical support to poor rural women, involving them in increasing income related activities. This project is

conducted with financial support from SGS Bangladesh. Pariban discussing with husband and sons that she want to conduct rickshaw business with the support of her family, taking loans from the Mission's ROJGAR Project. In this way, she got enrolled in the ROJGAR group and borrowed BDT 20,000 from the group under the ROJGAR Project. She bought 2 half-new and 01 old rickshaw. She rented the three rickshaws to her 2 sons and to her husband at BDT 250 per day. In this way, Pariban earns BDT 7500 per month. She earns net BDT 5000 per month, repaying BDT 2500 per month against the borrowed money.

The overpowering poverty has disappeared from the family as all family members have started earning. Pariban has modified her dwelling place by the joint family income. Her youngest daughter has started going to school again. She is also rearing and growing a cow with the savings money. The cow

has already bred two calves.

Pariban dreams to have a complete garage, increasing the number of rickshaws gradually. She wants to establish a cow farm with the money earned from the garage through repairing and rent. Her rickshaw garage shall create employment opportunity for others in transport sector and her farm will meet the nutrition demand of local people. The work spirit and enthusiasm she holds shall take her to the desired success road. Pariban is resolute and optimistic about her dreams. She expresses gratitude to the 'ROJGAR Project' of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission for the change occurred in her life with the help of it.

*Member's Name: Pariban*

*Group Name: Sagorika Mohila Dol/03 (ROJGAR-II Project)*

*Project Name: Purchase of Rickshaw*

*Picture: Pariban's portrait with rickshaw*



## SCAN dialogue on developed a future strategy

Street Children Activists Network (SCAN) SCAN has organized a dialogue program on “Developed a future strategy for the welfare and quality life of underprivileged

street children” on 06 December 2014, Saturday at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium.

The founder of Shudha, Rezaul Karim Khokhon chaired the meet-

ing and Jahangir Hossain, Program Manager of Ahsania Mission Children City presented the key-note. Program Coordinator of SEEP Moniruzzaman facilitated the program.

Maruf Momtaz Rumi, Country Coordinator of KNH-Germany, Fazlul Karim Country Coordinator of Muslim Charity and Farhad Hossain Executive Director of LEEDO also delivered their valuable speeches. Almost representatives from 50 organizations including Dhaka Ahsania Mission & Ahsania Mission Children City, KNH-Germany, BRAC, Islamic Relief Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nazrin Mission, Muslim Charity, Shishu Polli Plus, SOS Children Village, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, SEEP, LEEDO, HEED Bangladesh, Apon Foundation, APON, Shishu Foundation participated in the meeting.



*Dhaka Ahsania Mission distributed winter clothes among the cold hit people at capital's different slum areas in January-2015*



## Best Performance Award 2014



*Like other year, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) selects an employee as best performer. In 2014, Momtaj Begum a dedicated employee of DAM was selected and handed over the award on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at DAM auditorium.*

