

Literacy campaign for illiterate mothers kicks off

‘Maa Literacy Campaign’ (literacy campaign for illiterate mothers) began on Wednesday

General Secretary Abdus Sobhan and other officials were present on the occasion. Quoting Non-

acy campaign launched by DAM. Mothers’ literate children will help their illiterate and semi-



across the country with a view to making illiterate mothers literate.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam launched the campaign at a ceremony at the mission bhaban by uncovering the book ‘Mayer Paralekha’ (Mother’s Book), specially published for the campaign. DAM Executive Director Dr. M Ehsanur Rahman, DAM

formal education Survey 2008, the speakers at the function said, the number of illeterate people, aged between 11-45 years, in the country is 3.70 crore. A large number of them are mothers. If they get educated, then the nation will be educated”.

The function was told that, initially one lakh non-literate mothers in 46 districts will be brought under this liter-

literate mothers to help them become literate. DAM, with its own funds, will provide technical support and supply the books free of cost at the initial phase of the campaign.

The speakers called upon all to come forward for making the campaign a success. Media’s positive role was also sought to mobilize others to making it a social movement.

Orientation on Information Rights

An orientation on the Right to Information Act was held at Mohespur regional office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 23 December 2013. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Mohespur Upazila Nasima Khatun was present as resource person in the orientation. She discussed about the Right to Information Act -2009 in the orientation. DAM area coordination Md. Kamruzzaman discussed about the close relation between the activities of DAM’s Access (Health & Empowerment) and law of information rights. While Branch Manager Abdul Alim presided over the orientation. Human Rights Organization-RDC’s Executive Chief and Journalist Abdur Rahman analysed the law of information rights among the participants. Technical Officer Tapan Kumar and Rabiul Islam facilitated the program. Representatives from different government and non-government organisations, journalists and civil society participation on the occasion.

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Blankets for cold-hit people in Dewangonj

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has distributed blankets among the 200 families at Chikajani Setubandan Community Resource Centre (CRC), Hativanga Surjauday CRC and Parrampur Madhuban CRC of Dewangonj Upazila in Jamalpur District on 19 and 20 January 2014. Upazila Education Officer Md. Lutfar Rahman, Upazila Youth Development Office Md. Saiful Islam Khan, Chikajani UP Chairman Momtazuddin Ahmed distributed 100 blankets among the cold-stricken people in Dewangonj Upazila.

Chairman of Hativanga Union Md. Abu Hanif and Former Chairman of the Union Abu Taher distributed another 100 blankets through Hativanga Surjauday CRC. DAM Regional Manager Tapan Kumar Sarkar, Area Manager Md. Asadulla and Md. Rabiul Islam, Area Coordinator Nitai Chandra Ray, Chikajani CRC President Md. Anwar Hossain Makku and USO Md. Younus were present on the occasion. Others who assisted included USO Akram Hossain. Around 200 blankets were also distributed among the cold-stricken people

at different unions of Sarisabaria upazila on 27 January. Upazila Nirbahi Officer

Kazi Abeda Gulsan inaugurated the distribution program in the present of Upazila Youth Development Officer Md. Habibur Rahman, APM of CATT Project Ovijit Shaha, Area Coordinator of the project Ragob Nandon Datta and the Area Coordinator of CEC Project Helena Akter.



Mock-drill, Prize Giving Ceremony Held

A Mock-drill and prize giving ceremony was held on January 28, 2014 at Ahsania Mission School & College, Pallabi, Mirpur. The event focused on earthquake, building collapse and fire to address emergency response as part of whole disaster

risk reduction process. National Volunteers guided the whole program.

The First Aid, Search & Rescue Team have played vital role in explaining the learning points to the audience of this event. Earlier 14 school's network had de-

veloped a Yearly Action Plan of 2013-14. The Mock-drill & Prize giving ceremony is one of the major activities of the plan. A total of 327 selected students of 14 schools participated the Art Competition and drew disaster related pictures. Finally, 42 students were rewarded as First, Second and Third winner. They received prizes from the honorable guests of the occasion. A group of students put up a colorful cultural events, which included disaster related songs, poems, folk song and dance.

Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was present as Chief Guest; Sumi Akter Shewly, Project Officer, Concern Universal Bangladesh as Special Guest and the occasion. The event was presided over by Professor Sheikh Sayeed Ali, Principal, Ahsania Mission College. Md. Jahangir Alam, Assistant Director & Team Leader, Disaster Management Unit, Dhaka Ahsania Mission delivered welcome speech and shared the objectives of the program. The program was anchored by Md. Roushon Ali, Project Coordinator, DIPECHO-VII Project and Hafsa Akter, Lecturer, Dhaka Ahsania Mission College.



DAM celebrates English New Year

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) formally celebrated 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.

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, Rabeya Sultana, also Convener of English New Year Celebration Committee, spoke on the occasion. Name of the winner of DAM's Best Performance Award was de-



clared and a copy each of all the publications of the New Year were handed over to DAM President.

The main features 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 gaved everyone a flower stick and a pen. At the inaugural ceremony of the day, artists of DAM performed national anthem and the Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam delivered the condluding address on the DAM activists. DAM Executive Director Dr. M Ehsanur

Rahman delivered the welcome address. The cover of a book on MAA literacy campaign was uncovered in the program.

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.

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 raise Ahsania Mission College to that 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 thurgh commitment and dedication.

Though 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 can launch various movements. Until and unless we are able to generate social movements, Ahsania Mission will have no visibility. We shall have to create partnership with print media and TV channels for this purpose. We shall have to work together with the Public Relations Department.





Country Director of Helvatus Swiss Interco-operation Bangladesh visits CATT Project

Country Director of Helvatus Swiss Interco-operation Bangladesh Falic Backman visited the activities of CATT Project in Jamalpur Sadar and Dewangonj Upazila of Jamalpur District on 29 January 2014.

During his visit Shamim Hossain, Shamim Ahmed, Morad Khan Ohahid, Mazharul Islam and DAM Project Manager of DAM's CATT Project Sadiqur Rahman, Area Coordinator Durul Huda Mondol, Deputy Coordinator Md. Raihan Ali, CMO Selina Begum and all working field facilitators were present.

The Team first visited the Agro Firm of Mohespur village and took interest in the goods produced by the farmers. The also visited the selling points. During the

visit the country director Falic Backman became aware of the different issues of the beneficiaries. They also visited the activities of Chukaibari, Hativanga and

parrampur union where they advised beneficiaries as to how to get more benefit from the project.

They praised Dhaka Ahsania Mission for the good work for the development of beneficiaries.



DAM distributes winter clothes

With the financial assistance of Prime Finance and Investment Limited Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has started blanket distributed across the country. As part of this activity, blankets were distributed at Malibag Bissa Road, Basaboo, Kadamtola, Rajarbagh and Mugdha area of the capital city

on 8 January 2014. The distributing program was inaugurated through a simple ceremony at Kadamtola of the city. Head of Institute Finance of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Munzur Mohammad Kawsar, DAM Assistant Director and Team Leader of DRR Jahingir Alam, DAM Project Coordinator Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib, Administrative Officer Shahid Mahfuz, Project Manager Nazrul Islam and Principal of Kadamtola Darul Islam Alim Madrass Prof. Mahbubur Rahman were present on the occasion.

DAM urged the corporate houses including Bank, Bima, Financial Institutions and well-off people to participate in this volunteer activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Tk 5 lakh donated to AMCGH Construction Fund

Dr. Abdul Haque and Dr. Arif Chowdhury from Bangladesh Forum for Community Engagement in Australia donated Tk. 4 lakhs 94 thousand to the Construction Fund of Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital recently. They jointly handed over the cheque to the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the head office of Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban as part their committed amount Tk. 30 lakhs. With this installment a total amount of Tk. 27 lakhs were given to the AMCGH construction fund. A minor Operation Theatre (OT) will be sponsored with this donation. It may be mentioned here that Bangladesh Forum for Community Engagement in Australia

will arrange a total of \$ 2 lakhs 50 thousand for a recovery room of 12-bed upper and lower endoscope suit, an OT and a double bed cabin for the

hospital. Meanwhile, a fund-raising dinner has been organised at Sydnee to support the initiative. Speaking on the occasion the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, work on the 15-storied hospital was now at the final stage. More funds would

be required to complete the hospital. He appealed to well off people of the society to come forward with generous help. The hospital will be run on "no profit no loss" basis and thirty per cent poor and distressed patients will get treatment free of cost.



Workshop on the Socio Economic Impact of river bank erosion

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum and Integrated Development Association of Bangladesh (INDAB) jointly organized a workshop titled 'Socio-Economic Impact of River Bank Erosion' at Banaripara upazila in Barishal district on 29 January 2014. Pres-

ident of INDAB Executive Committee Md Hafizur Rahman presided over the workshop while Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Syed A Z Morshed Ali was present as chief guest and Municipality Mayor Golam Saleh Manzu Mollah was present as special guest. CMDRR Coordinator

Khan Md. Muzahid Ibne Habib, former Professor Idris Ali, Fisheries officer Pranab Shaha delivered speeches on the occasion.

INDAB Coordinator Ahsan Habib facilitated the workshop. The discussants upheld the recent socio-economic impact caused by Sondha river erosion at the river adjoining area. They also gave their opinion on how to come out from the negative impact of this river erosion.





Community led ECD center Execution

From 2009, Multi Task is implementing ECD activities in Charduani and Kathaltoli Upazila of Barguna District with the fund of CIDA and Aga Khan Foundation, and technical support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. At the very beginning of the program, community people did not accept the ECD programs positively. They thought that this program might conflict with their religious beliefs, norms and practices. They even assumed that the toy materials which would be used as education materials are actually for worshipping the structures which is conflicting with the religious practices of the Muslim believers. They did not allow their children to come to the ECD centers. They showed extreme disapproval to attend in parents' meetings. However, ECD programs were continued through these unfavorable circumstances. Within a very short time, people came

to understand that the ECD programs were not to harm their religious beliefs rather to develop their children. They came forward and started to render support and excellent cooperation with the ECD team. They mentioned that they did not even think the importance of ECD but now they are amazed.

People are now enthusiastic towards the ECD program. They participate in meetings, put opinions, find out possible solution to any challenge they face. Huge changes have been brought among the community people through various meetings, orientations, workshops, day observation and so on. For instance, parents do not discriminate on basis of children's sex. They are aware of their rights as well as the children's rights and practice these in their everyday life. Gender based discrimination has been reduced in a mentionable rate

in the community. Women are working together with the men

and they are aware about their rights and entitlements. Prior to the inception of ECD programs, parents hardly knew about child rearing and children's health. Now, they know a lot on these matters due to their active participation in parenting sessions.

The most amazing factor is that though ECDS-P project was ended in 2013, community people are still running 10 centers from the eve of 2014 with their own efforts. They visit the centers, supply logistics, and fix up the problems they face in running the centers. The members of Action Committee (AC) collect subscriptions and pay the tutors' compensations. Leadership attitude is growing among them.

People of the project area stated that this program is an important initiative to develop the future generation and they proposed that there should be ECD centers in every village for the sake of children's smooth development.



Saludha Khanom bags Joyeta Annason Bangladesh 2013 award

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Kicks off literacy campaign through Fetly project in 1992 at Satkhira Sadar Upazila to accelerate the social development. Saludha Khanom played the pioneer role to eradicate adult illiteracy from the society. Apprehending the situation, she got involved in this campaign. In the meantime she ran seven schools of which five for woman and two for man. The total students were 210 in there. She was directly involved as facilitator to operate three of the woman schools. She also played significant role to make 53 women literate in the Hindu para. They were out of school. She facilitated 47 males and 45 adolescent girls of Ganokendras to acquire skills and become aware about their health. A total of 33 drop-out adolescents became self skilled under her initiative. Of them Robia Khatun Robi is one of the exemplary examples. She is now working with BRAC project. Alongside she assisted 40 children to get pre-primary education through Ganokendra.

With the efforts of commoners in rural level Ganokendra (A organisation of Mass People) where not only women but also people from all walks of life come to develop themselves. Especially education, awareness, livelihood and the basic human-rights are the main focus of Ganokendras. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has materialised Saludhas dreams through Ganokendras. She became the general secretary of Sabuj Ganokendra. From the very inception of her activities of Ganokendra she has been continuing the contribution to make adolescent, youths and children literate with proper strategy.



In 2000, when a destructive flood hits across the country and people of the affected area saw no ways to come-out from the situation, Dhaka Ahsania Mission played vital role to provide necessary food



clothes and other emergency needs. Literarily Dhaka Ahsania Mission became dependable partner for humanitarian service to those vicitims of flood. In 2005, DAM withdrew its Ganokendra based activities but the program is continuing.

She formed an association of making jute bag by landing money from a local non-government organization to bring happiness to the families of Ganokendras. As a result, CRC and Ganokendras members are now earning around Tk. 2500-5000 per month. on top of it, the meritorious students of those families and divorced families are now include under helping shadow of Ganokendras and CRCs. All of those have been possible with the relentless efforts of Saludha Khanom. Bangladesh government has identified her to received Joyeta Annason Bangladesh

2013 award. Overcoming the hindrances in different fields is the symbolic name of Joyeta. So Bangladesh government identifies women in five sectors to award them for their outstanding contributions in different field. In the 1st sector those

women who start their carrier overcoming the repression with new Endeavour, 2nd sector for the outstanding contribution in social development, 3rd sector successors in economically, 4th sector successful in education and service and 5th sector successful mother.

General Secretary of Sabuj Ganokendra Saludha Khanom wins the Joyeta Annason Bangladesh 2013 award for her outstanding contribution in social development. On 15 December 2013 she formally awarded with the presents its Satkhira District commissioner Anwar Hossain Hawladar, UP Chairman Nazrul Islam, Sadar Thana UNO Asadur Rahman, District women officer Tara Moni Mukharzee and officials of different government and non-

government organisations. While receiving the award Saludha Khanom made highlight on the activities of how to develop the society. Especially she described on the process of CRC and Ganokendra activities.



DAM IN FRAME

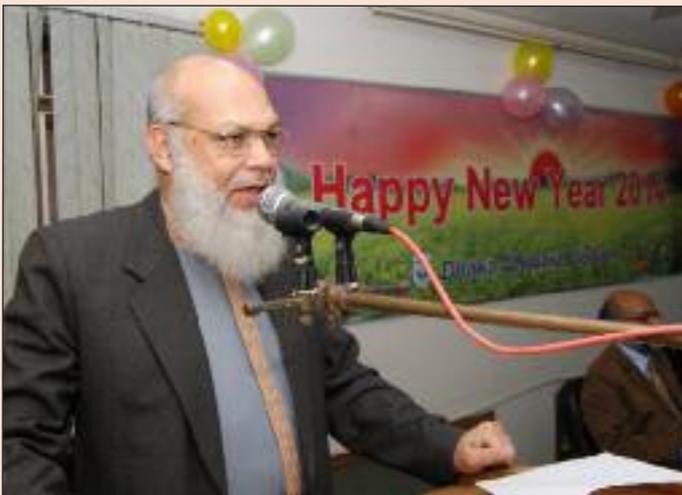
Snapshots of Celebrating Happy New Year 2014



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