



Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Visit : www.ahsaniamission.org.bd/bulletin.asp



January 2010

Technological advancement a must for Digital Bangladesh for All

---Architect Yafes Osman

National progress should be ensured through technological advancement, which is a must for Digital Bangladesh for All. If we cannot ensure such advancement, we won't be able to present Digital Bangladesh before the nation in right sense.

State Minister for Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology Architect Yafes Osman said this while addressing as Chief Guest a seminar organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on ICT's Social Utility, Experience at Grassroots Level and Prospects at Bangladesh Computer Council seminar room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Agargaon, Dhaka on 30 December 2009.

He further said, the government will extend all-out cooperation to Dhaka Ahsania Mission, [See page 2]

Research paper on ICT Published

A research paper titled, 'Social Use of ICT, People's Practice for Prospect' was published in December 2009 by Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with ACCESS Cordaid Project. The study team consisted of M. Rafiqul Hassan, G.F. Hamim, Ferdousi Akter and Sk. Shafiqur Rahman. It is worth mentioning, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has set up 36 Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in 36 unions of six districts in Bangladesh.

Out of them, Dhaka Ahsania Mission is playing an important role through 30 centres, to increase social use of information and communication technology, organising computer-based trainings, resolving problems of rural inhabitants, raising awareness about education, health and livelihood, informing people about their rights and empowerment and elimination of disparity in education.



State Minister for Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology Architect Yafes Osman addressing as Chief Guest at a seminar on ICT in the city.

You too participate in building cancer hospital by buying a lottery ticket

Please take part in building a world class cancer hospital by purchasing a 10-taka ticket of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while addressing a press conference held on the occasion of launching of



Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam addressing a press conference

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery-2010 at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on Thursday, 24 December 2009. Former secretary and Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Adviser Mohammad Ali, DAM Adviser Dr. M. Khalilullah and educationist Prof Nurul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam further said, Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery-2010 is being launched for second time on 1 January 2010 to raise fund for construction of a world class 500-bed cancer hospital. Total value of 1,298 prizes of lottery is Tk 50 lac while its first prize is Tk 30 lac, second prize (one) Tk 5 lac, third prize (one) Tk 70,000, fourth prize (two) Tk 20,000 each, fifth prize (three) Tk 10,000 each, sixth prize (five) Tk 5,000 each, seventh prize (50) Tk 2,000 each, and eighth prize (1235) Tk 1,000 each. Draw will be held on 23 March 2010. DAM has embarked upon the project in 1994 and taken various steps for its implementation. Bangladesh Government allotted [See page 2]

Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Memorial Lecture held at AUST

Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology organised Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Memorial Lecture on its campus in Dhaka on Saturday. AUST vice-chancellor Professor M Anwar Hossain presided over the session.

Jamal Nazrul Islam, emeritus professor of Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Chittagong University, and fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences, delivered the lecture on 'origin, structure and evolution of the universe and its long-term future'.

AUST treasurer Professor Kazi Shariful Alam [See page 3]

Speakers at workshop Coordinated efforts to resist violence against women stressed

There is no alternative to coordinated efforts for resisting violence against women. Not only the victims of violence against women but the oppressors should also be made aware about the issue by undertaking various programmes. Emphasis on stronger empowerment of women should be given to prevent cruelty to women. Disadvantaged women of rural areas should be made self-reliant by providing manifold opportunities for creation of jobs.

Speakers said this at a seminar on "Concerted Initiative for Resisting Violence against Women" organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at Jessore Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office on 27 December 2009. [See page 3]

Community Based Work to Develop Child Protection Mechanism Project underway in 28 districts

New lease of life for former camel jockeys

Sakib Hossain, 18, is son of Monowara Begum and late Abdur Rashid of Tok Nagar village under Tok union in Kapasia upazila, Gazipur district.

Shahnaz Begum of Bikrampur and a distant cousin of Monowara lived in Dhaka. When Sakib was 10 years old, Shahnaz promised Sakib's education to Monowara and brought him to Dhaka. But she sent him to Dubai in United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Before departure, Shahnaz told Monowara that she had been taking her son abroad for education and employment. Monowara agreed to send her son to UAE with Shahnaz. On arrival at Dubai, Sakib was forced to work as camel jockey. He was also compelled to look after the camels and feed the desert animals. However, Shahnaz did not pay any single penny to Monowara. Later, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) helped repatriate Sakib to Bangladesh. At that time, Shahnaz was in jail.

On return home, Sakib took admission to a KG School for education. A few days later, he undertook a training course on tailoring at Board Bazaar in Tongi with the help of his mother. At present, Sakib studies at Tok Senior Madrassa. Now he has attained the



age of 18.

Like Sakib, 199 children who worked as camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were repatriated in Bangladesh by DAM.

Home Ministry of Bangladesh Government and UNICEF Bangladesh helped their repatriation.

Advocate Shirin Nahar, Assistant Director, Human Rights and Social Justice Sector and Project Coordinator of Community Based Work to Develop Child Protection Mechanism Project revealed this to a group of visiting journalists at Tok Ranendra High School in Tok union of Kapasia upazila in Gazipur district on Tuesday.

DAM is working to develop child protection mechanism in 53 unions of 15 districts since August 2008, in assistance with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Bangladesh and Home

Ministry of Bangladesh Government.

The work progresses as part of the Community Based Work to Develop Child Protection Mechanism Project being funded by the United Arab Emirates.

A broad-based action plan is underway for ensuring the standard of living of children as well as assisting them to grow as ideal citizens. In the meantime, 2 thousand 7 hundred 52 awareness building programmes have been conducted to inform community people about bad effects of child marriage, necessity of children's birth registration, their safe shelter and right to live with dignity. As many as 40 thousand 4 hundred 39 children have been brought under the mechanism.

Imams of mosques, women members of Union Parishad (UP), teachers, youth community,

guardians, conscious citizens and members of law enforcement authorities were involved in the project work, said Md Aminul Islam (Shahin), Programme Officer of Community Based Work to Develop Child Protection Mechanism Project. Awareness on the issues increased by conducting training courses and similar programmes.

The mechanism is progressing maintaining close relationship with active members working at zila, upazila and union level under ministries of Home, Information, Social Welfare, Education, Religious Affairs, Youth and Sports and Women and Children affairs and local administration officials.

For the purpose, 265 information centres were opened. At the same time, action groups were also formed with the help of community care committees. A pressure group was also created consisting of local journalists and civil society members.

The main objective is to raise awareness among families, people related to children alongside local administration to help formulate a countrywide community-based mechanism for protection of children.

DAM, Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Ainjibi Samity and Uddipan, an NGO, are jointly implementing the project in 111 unions of 28 districts, in assistance with UNICEF.

You too participate in building cancer

[From page 1]

land for the gigantic project in 1997. Since then government and people from all walks of life have come forward in its successful implementation. DAM conducted first Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery in 2005. It has raised fund Tk 3 crore by creating a record in history of lottery. The entire amount has been spent in construction of the hospital.

It was really amazing to observe that people from all walks of life have spontaneously contributed towards the noble venture. As for example, a housewife has donated Tk 500 by saving from her family expenses. A group of schoolchildren contributed tiffin money. A primary teacher has donated one month's salary. Even a rickshaw-puller has given Tk 20 by money order. There are so many

examples. Amazing indeed! Besides, many industrialists, bankers and owners of business establishments have also donated for the noble cause.

Work on 13-storied hospital having 38,840 square feet area excluding two basements is being built on its



own land at Sector-10 in Uttara, Dhaka. The total cost of construction is Tk 256 crore. Unabated donation of people from all walks of life is on. The hospital will be run on 'no profit no loss' basis while 30 percent poor and distressed patients will be provided treatment for free.

A further amount of Tk 22 crore is now required to commission the

hospital primarily by the end of next year. We appeal to people from all walks of life including corporate sector to buy lottery tickets. Till now an amount of Tk 110 crore 24 lac has come as donation. Of them, Tk 15 crore from health ministry, Tk 10 crore from social welfare ministry, Tk 17 crore 35 lac from individual donation, 14 crore 45 lac from corporate sector and Tk 2 crore 99 lac from earning of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery-2005.

Besides, social welfare ministry has committed to donate Tk 39 crore, individuals have committed Tk 2 crore 45 lac and corporate sector has committed to donate Tk 4 crore. It is expected, related work upto 6th floor will be completed by end of 2010 and the hospital will be ready for commissioning to render health-care service to patients at primary stage.

NFE can play an effective

[From page 4]

about the issue. He also stressed on parity of formal and non-formal education.

NFE Bureau Director General Rezaul Kader and UNESCO, Dhaka Programme Specialist Kichi Oyasu attended the seminar as special guests. NFE Bureau Deputy Director Abu Taleb Mia presented the key-note paper.

CARE Bangladesh HIV Programme GFATMIDU-906 Project Team Leader Dr Rupali Shishir Banu, Primary Education Directorate Consultant A N S Habibur Rahman and UNODC HIV/AIDS Advisor Dr Mozammel Haque took part in the discussion while DAM Programme Director Shafiqul Islam delivered the welcome address.

Khanbahadur Ahsanullah

[From page 1]

made introductory statements on the memorial lecture, said a press release. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president and syndicate chairman of AUST, graced the occasion as guest of honour.

Deans of the faculties, heads of the departments, teachers, officers and students of AUST as well as vice-chancellors from various universities and other distinguished guests attended the memorial lecture.



Coordinated efforts to resist

[From page 1]

DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman presided over the seminar. It was attended by Jessore DC Md. Mohibul Haque as Chief Guest, Jessore Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md. Zakir Hossain Khan as Special Guest, Jhenidah Additional District Magistrate Jahanara Begum and Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shahabuddin Khan of Satkhira district. Jessore Government M.M. College Vice Principal Ashoka Rani Datta read the key-note paper.

Jessore District Public Prosecutor (PP) Advocate A.Z.M. Feroz, Jessore District Women Affairs Officer Kawsar Begum, Sharsha UNO Dr. Abdul Hakim, Jessore Sadar Upazila Vice Chairman Advocate Setara Khatun,

Jhenidah Sadar UNO Habibul Haque Khan, National Legal Assistance providing Coordinator of Jessore Advocate Rafiqul Islam, President of Human Rights Lawyers' Council, Jhenidah, Advocate Dabir Hossain and Satkhira Agragoti Sangstha Executive Director Md. A. Sabur took part in the discussion. Besides, DAM Project Coordinator Rowshon Ara delivered the Welcome Address.

Speakers further mentioned that concerted efforts at union and upazilla level are required to address issue of poverty, illiteracy, superstition, legal loopholes, complexity, procrastination, gender discrimination, non-availability of political commitment, lack of exercise of religious edict and above all lack of mass awareness, which are reasons behind violence against women.

Power of grassroots bodies

[From page 4]

further. A vast field has been created to improve relationship, increase communication, share experience through exchange of opinion among the organisations. The conference has also created an opportunity for thoughts on future action plan for the organisations.

Held at Ganoswastho Kendro (centre) in Nayatola, Savar, the grand convention was jointly organised by grassroots organisations like Ganokendro, Lokkendro, Ekota, CBO and Lahanti Akhra managed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, ActionAid Bangladesh, CARE Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide and Ashroy. The inaugural session was followed by colourful programme on presentation of activities of participating organisations, cultural show and announcement on future action plan and thoughts for coming days.

The opening session of the convention was attended by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Program Director Shafiqul Islam, Partha Hefaz Shaikh of ActionAid Bangladesh, Farhana Ahmed of CARE Bangladesh Program Director (Empowerment), Anwar Hossain of Concern World Wide, Asroi Director Syed-ul Kazal and agencies including 1 thousand leaders of the grassroots organisations.



Coordination Meeting

[From page 4]

to ensure increased development in the region, playing pivotal roles through ensuring DAM's presence at local government institutions etc. The meeting also stressed the need for institutionalising Ganokenkendras.

Director of Programmes Shafiqul Islam, Head of Microfinance Md. Abdus Salam Miah, Project Coordinator Mukhlesur Rahman, Project Coordinator ARM Sharif Hossain and Shirina Pervin, Regional Manager were present among others.

Technological advancement a must for Digital

[From page 1]

which is striving hard to help bring backward people to the mainstream of Digital Bangladesh.

DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman who presided over the seminar said, the Mission has undertaken a long-term initiative with a difference in 2001. DAM has applied the Information Communication Technology (ICT) to development activities at the grassroots level through Community Resource Centres (CRCs). There are ICT materials and trained facilitators in CRCs, he said. Necessary cooperation is being extended to the CRCs through support system at the regional level, he further said.

DAM Executive Director revealed that continuous adult education, joyful learning facilities for children, information on agricultural, health, environmental and issues like

violence against women are being provided to people at the CRCs by applying ICT technology.

Bangladesh Computer Council Executive Director Md. Mahfuzur Rahman attended the seminar of the Mission's ACCESS CordAid Project as Special Guest. DAM Programme Department Director Shafiqul Islam delivered the Welcome Address while Dhaka Ahsania Mission Research Department Deputy Director Rafiqul Hasan delivered the Key-note speech.

Bangladesh Computer Council Secretary Engineer Mohammad Enamul Kabir, Development Research Network (D.Net) Executive Director Dr. Ananyo Raihan, BNNRC Chief Executive Officer A.H.M. Bazlur Rahman and BTN Chief Executive Officer Mahmud Hasan took part.

NFE can play an effective role in prevention of AIDS

--Rashed Khan Menon MP

Non-Formal Education (NFE) can play an effective role in prevention of AIDS. This is why, inclusion of AIDS prevention issues in NFE Curriculum is essential.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the advocacy seminar in collaboration with UNESCO, Dhaka at a seminar titled, 'Role of NFE in Prevention of AIDS,' at BIAM auditorium in the city 09 December, 2009.

Rashed Khan Menon MP, President of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Education Ministry Affairs of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh said this, while addressing as chief guest.

Menon also underscored the need



Rashed Khan Menon, MP and President of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Education Ministry addressing as chief guest at an seminar

for moral education in the AIDS awareness programme. As the number of injecting drug users (IDUs) is on the rise, AIDS is likely to take an alarming turn at any moment, the lawmaker cautioned.

While addressing as Special Guest, NFE Bureau DG Rezaul Kader said, 2 lakh people are included in Basic Education Programme while 16 lakh people of PLCHD-2 Project will be imparted life skill development training. In future, 3 crore 72 lakh people will be

brought under the elementary education and skill development programme. In the programmes, NFE Bureau will include other issues including that of AIDS prevention.

DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman presided over the seminar. He said, the danger of HIV/AIDS is increasing alarmingly. If the awareness programme is not included in the Adult Education Programme then 50 per cent illiterate people will remain unaware [See page 3]

Coordination Meeting Decision taken to mainstream Ganokendras

Barguna regional coordination meeting was held on 26-27 December 2009 at CODEC Training Centre, Patuakhali. Representatives of eight different projects namely ACCESS-CAFOD, ECDSPB, CBDRR, CMDRR, CDCPM, MFP, UNIQUE and PLCEHD-2 participated the meeting to share project activities, achievements and challenges. All these projects are working at Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna Districts. The basic objectives of the meeting were to know each other and find ways to ensure increased coordination among projects. Major decisions taken at the meeting include finding out ways to mainstream Ganokendras, undertaking collective effort [See page 3]

Seminar on Tsunami Held at AUST

A seminar on "Numerical Modeling of Tsunami along Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand and North Sumatra Using Shallow Water Equation." was held „at the Permanent Campus of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology on 6 December 2009. The Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the departments, School and the teachers and the students of AUST attended the seminar and participated in very lively discussion. Prof. Dr. M. Anwar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of AUST was present as the chief guest and also took part in the discussion.



2nd convention of grassroots organisations

Power of grassroots bodies to expedite nat'l development

Power of grassroots organisations will expedite national development. Grassroots organisations situated at various parts of the country should have to play an active role in national development at government and non-government level. A participatory developmental plan

is essential for changing fate of under-privileged people. Speakers said this at the two-day Second Grand Convention of Grassroots Organisations for Under-privileged People-2009 held on 20 December 2009. 'Amrao Pari' (we can do also), speakers said [See page 3]

Freshers Reception for Diploma Engineering

A day long program was organized on the occasion of the reception of the newly admitted students of Diploma in Engineering program, 2009-2010 of AUST on 05 November 2009 at its Testuri Bazar campus. As a part of the program the new students were accorded reception in the institute.

Prof. Dr. M. Anwar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of AUST graced the program as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam, Treasurer of AUST was present there as a Special Guest. A. K. Wahidul Hoque, Director, ITVET of the Institute presided over the function.

Prof. Hossain, AUST VC, in his speech emphasized that in this globalized world, the job market has also become global. Every students of AUST will have to compete for a job even outside of Bangladesh. There is no alternative to quality. We will now have to maintain world-class standard to be competitive in the global job market.