Restaurants to be declared tobacco-free public places by next month thru' ordinance

Restaurants to be declared tobacco-free public places by next month thru' ordinance. It will be requested to impose more tax on tobacco products in this year’s budget. Each and every one should be prepared to abide by rule and law from his/her own position.

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Lt Col (Retd) Muhammad Faruk Khan MP, said this as Chief Guest at a seminar on declaration of smoking-free restaurants and adverse effects of smoking in collaboration with Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Bangladesh Restaurant Owners’ Association at the conference room (1st floor) of National Press Club on 9 June 2012.

He further said, we shall not smoke in public place and we shall discourage others to smoke in public place. We shall resist if others smoke in front of us.

In his presidential address, Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, if all restaurant owners come forward then it is possible to build a movement against smoking in near future.

Restaurant Owners’ Association, in cooperation with DAM, has developed tobacco-free guidelines. Chief Guest Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Lt Col (retd) Muhammad Faruk Khan MP, unveiled the cover of the guidelines.

Speakers said, 4 crore 20 lakh people of the country fall victims to passive smoking. Of them, 2 crore 58 lakh people fall victims to passive smoking in restaurants, according to an information of GATTs 2009. According to a study conducted by World Health Organisation (WHO) and Health and Family Welfare Ministry in 2004, as many as 57,000 people die every year following intake of tobacco and tobacco products while 3,82,000 people embrace disability. Despite this fact, restaurants are yet to be declared as public places, according to smoking and tobacco products control act (usage) of Bangladesh-2005.

Speakers said, about 415 restaurants of the
Literary, Cultural Week ends at Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Techers' Training College

Literary and Cultural Week of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Techers' Training College (for B.Ed. & M. Ed. trainees)

DAM at work

DAM awarded 1st prize for contribution towards drug treatment

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been awarded the first prize by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) in recognition to DAM's extraordinary contribution towards drug treatment.

Minister for Home Affairs Advocate Shahara Khatun handed over the prize to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam as Chief Guest at a simple function held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2012.

Minister for Information Abul Kalam Azad and State Minister for Ministry of Home Affairs Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku were present as special guests. DNC, Khandker Mohammad Ali, presided over.

World Population Day observed

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Upazila Family Planning Department observed the World Population Day in Keshobpur of Jessore district on 11 July, 2012. This year's theme was 'Family Planning for Universal Reproductive Health.' A rally was held to mark the occasion. This was followed by a discussion meeting at Keshobpur Upazila Health Complex. Upazila Family Planning officer Md Dilder Hossain presided over while it was attended by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abu Sayed Md Manjur Alam as chief guest. Upazila Vice Chairman Mizanur Rahman Khan (Mirza), Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer Dr Md Abdus Samad and Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mir Rezaul Islam were present as special guests.

Among others, Keshobpur Union Parishad Chairman Md Alauddin, Dainik Spandan journalist Md Sirajul Islam, Dainik Ittefaq and NTV newsman Ashrafuzzaman Khan, DAM area coordinator Md Alamgir Hossain and others were present. CAG, GMC members and Family Planning Department officials and employees took part in rally and discussion. Family Planning Officer Md Dilder Hossain discussed on Population Boom in World perspective.

The same project observed World Population Day in Narsingdi sadar upazila on 11 July 2012. Rally and discussion meeting were held to mark the occasion. Regional coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Misson Tapan Kumar Sarker presided over the meeting while VDS Executive Director Shahjahan Mia was present as chief guest. Rajiful Islam Sarker, coordinator of Health Rights project was present as special guest. BRAC district representative Bivash Chandra Tarafder was present as Resource Person. Moreover, school teachers and representative of different CRC's were present on the occasion.
Reunion of people cured from drug dependency

5.3% among 50 lakh drug addicted people are at risk of AIDS in the country

AMIC-Modhumita Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised a discussion and reunion of people who were cured from drug dependency at TSC Auditorium of Dhaka University to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at 10 A.M. on 25 June 2012.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while Director General of Drug Control Directorate Khondker Mohammad Ali was present as chief guest and Line Director of National AIDS and STD Programme Dr Abdul Wahed was present as special guest. Dhaka University Psychology Department Associate Professor Kamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Save the Children Senior Project Manager Anup Kumar Bose, Technical Director of Family Health International (FHI-360) Dr Shamim Jahan and HIV and AIDS Specialist of UNODC Bangladesh ABM Quamrul Ahsan spoke on the occasion. DAM Assistant Director Iqbal Masud delivered the welcome speech.

Speakers said, 50 lakh people are drug addicted in the country. 5.3% of them are in AIDS/HIV risk. No programme will be successful if these people are not returned to normal life. This is why entire community must be involved. Then and only then the movement for freedom from drug addiction will be successful. Government and non-government organisations must work unitedly to bring them under the fold of treatment through good behavior.

Two persons engaged in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme were honoured. They are president of Panchayet Committee Hazi Md Shahid Mia and Director of National Diagnostic Centre Md Nurul Hasan. Director General of Drug Control Directorate Khondker Mohammad Ali inaugurated the reunion function through cutting cake.

Sharing, recovery countdown and cultural function were arranged for over 150 patients who were cured from drug addiction and members of their families. Besides guests and project beneficiaries, representatives of government and non-government organisations and local people's representatives took part.

Workshop on development of management manual of 'Ahsania Mission Children City'

A two-day workshop on development of a management manual of 'Ahsania Mission Children City' was held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bhaban auditorium in the capital on 20-21 May 2012. Representatives of 18 child-based national and international non-government development organisations, social welfare directorate, Ahsania Mission Drop-In Centre, Ahsania Mission College and government organisations were present. The organisations are DSK, CPD, STS, PSTC, Shishu Palli Plus, SOS Shishu Palli, Aparajeo Bangladesh, Intervida, Jago Foundation, Ain o Shalish Kendro, Incidin Bangladesh, Lido, Ekmatra Society, Jatiyo Ainjibi Mohila Samity and KNH Germany.

Participants' opinion was taken for development of aims and objectives of children city, selection of children and their admission procedure, rearing of children and maintenance, children's security, children city curriculum, teaching-learning, rehabilitation of children, monitoring of supervision and evaluation, daily activities, talent hunt procedure, workers' training, advocacy & networking, solvency of children city and income generating programme.

Maruf Momtaz Rumi, Bangladesh representative of KNH Germany, and Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, were present.

Chief Executive Officer Shahnewaz Khan, played the role of facilitator while Ahsania Mission Children City Programme Coordinator Tareq Masud and Programme Manager Jahangir Hossain acted as co-facilitators.

Rabi AUST CSE Day of AUST ends

A 3-day Rabi AUST CSE Day-2012 organised by the Computer Science and Engineering Department of Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST) ended on 28 June 2012. The programme began on the university campus on Tuesday.

The 3-day programme included exhibition of Software & Hardware Project, debate competition, photography exhibition, gaming contest, seminar and programming contest. Prizes were distributed among the winners on the concluding day. Aim of the festivity is to create opportunities for creative thinking and exhibiting technological skill. Students of B.Sc. (honours) took part. Mobile phone operator Rabi Aziata Limited was title sponsor of the festival.

AUST Treasurer Dr Kazi Shariful Alam, head of CSE Department Dr S M A Al-Mamun and General Manager (market communication) of Rabi Yasir Nur were present.
Opinion exchange meeting with Rampal Union Disaster Management Committee members

An opinion exchange meeting for reviewing third year’s activities of Improved Food & Livelihood Security (IFLS) EU CAFOD Project was held with members of Rampal Union Disaster Management Committee at Rampal Union Parishad (UP) meeting room in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat district on 21 June, 2012. Rampal UP Chairman Sheikh Bazlur Rahman presided over. Members of Union Disaster Management Committee, Community Action Group (CAG), Community Volunteer (CV) and journalists were present. A total of 39 participants took part. Of them, eight were women and 31 men. Bishwajit Bishwas, Field Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission IFLS EEU CAFFOD Project conducted the meeting as well as placed a key-note paper. Among the partner NGO representatives, Md Ismail Mondol placed a report on the activities. Retired Headmaster Md Abdul Quader Izarader, UP member Asabur Rahman and Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Manos Kumar Das spoke on the occasion. Another opinion exchange meeting was held at the same venue on 24 June 2012. Panel Chairman Sheikh Ali Hossain presided over. Besides members of Union Disaster Management Committee, members of CAG), CV, NGO representatives, journalists and others were present. A total of 40 participants were present. Of them, 12 were women and 18 men. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Field Officer Bishwajit Bishwas placed the key-note paper.

Cow rearing training for development of small entrepreneurship

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in a bid to raise standard of living of beneficiaries of Micro-finance Programme, has imparted training to 252 beneficiaries, in 10 batches, during April-June period. Of them, 82 were imparted 2-day training on cow rearing in three batches. They included 24 in Amtoli branch, 30 in Barguna Sadar branch and 28 in Modhupur branch. A 2-day training on poultry birds (chicken) rearing was imparted to 50 people in two batches. Twenty-three of them in Hadipur branch and 27 others in Moheshpur branch. Forty-seven beneficiaries were imparted training on cow rearing in two batches. First Security Islami Bank funded the programme. Twenty-seven of them in Sreepur branch and 22 others in Safipur branch.

Seventy-three ultra-poor members were imparted training on goat rearing in three batches. Of them, 25 in Gouripur branch, 22 in Kulia branch and 26 in Madhabkathi branch. Dhaka Ahsania Mission programme officers Md Niamul Kabir and S M Iqbal acted as trainers. In recent time, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has given emphasis on cattle rearing for ensuring food security across the country. Efforts are underway for development of small entrepreneurship. A total of 252 entrepreneurs, FSIBL beneficiaries and ultra-poor members have been brought under fold of cow, poultry birds and goat rearing training programme.

Restaurants to be declared tobacco-free

country under the fold of restaurant owners' association will be freed from smoking. Efforts will be made to free all restaurants of 40 districts under the fold of restaurant owners' association from smoking phase by phase as per the guidelines. If restaurants become tobacco-free then customers do not reduce rather restaurants become more profitable. Restaurants abroad have become tobacco-free and they are earning more profits. Alongside public health has also improved. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the seminar while it was attended by the member of Standing Committee on Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry affairs and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal MP as special guests. Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association President Kamar Uddin Ahmed Khokon placed a key-note paper. Besides, Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association Secretary General M Rezaul Karim Sarker Robin and DAM Assistant Director Iqbal Masud spoke on the occasion. Members of Anti-Tobacco Alliance, representatives of government and non-government organisations and media activists were present at the seminar.

Lawmaker-led anti-smoking human chain held

Nagorik Forum, an anti-smoking organisation, organised a human chain, on the opposite side of Tejgaon Police Station in the capital, marking World No Smoking Day 2012, on June 2, 2012. Asaduzzaman Kamal, lawmaker elected from Dhaka-11 constituency, led the human chain. A total of 150 people took part in the human chain. The lawmaker expressed his optimism that Nagorik Forum will be able to play an important role in raising awareness among people about ill effects of smoking and keeping public places free from smoking.

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ECDSP-B Project's training on disaster risk reduction

A two-day training course of ECDSP-B Project on disaster management was organised for juveniles of Ananda Ashram Ganokendro at Barguna Jago Nari Training Centre on 14 June and 15 June 2012. The objectives of the training programme were to improve knowledge, skill and attitude on the subject.

Md Kabir Hossain, Technical Officer of ECDSP-B Project and Md Ziaur Rahman, Medical Officer assisted. A similar programme was organised at the same venue for caretakers, assistant caretakers and assistants of Shishu Ganokendro and Ananda-Ashram Ganokendro on 22 June and 23 June 2012.

Second batch of Workplace Adult Literacy Project launched

Second batch of Workplace Adult Literacy Project has been launched at literacy centre of Young An Hat (BD) Ltd garment factory on 09 June, 2012. Director of Young an Hat (BD) Ltd M S Kwon, General Manager Maqsudul Haq and Project Coordinator Ayub Khan were present in the opening ceremony. General Manager Mr. Haq discussed about important of adult literacy. Dhaka Ahsania Mission along with Young An Hat (BD) Ltd has been running adult literacy project from 2011 at Young An Hat (BD) Ltd garment factory which is funded by Out Door Cap Inc. USA. First batch of the project was completed successfully in 2011. So, all operational partners decided to run the activities of the project.

Moheshpur CRC organises ICT publicity campaign for secondary school students

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised an exceptional ICT publicity campaign for secondary school students of Moheshpur. The novel ICT publicity campaign was organised as part of Bangladesh Government's vision to build Digital Bangladesh.


The programme was organised in two stages. At first stage, five students were selected through selection round. At second stage, first, second, third and fourth successful competitors were selected through option point round game. This was followed by distribution of prizes to the winners. ICT/computer related questions were asked and later discussions were held. DAM's Area Coordinator Kamruzzaman conducted the entire programme. A total of 286 students of three secondary schools took part. Of them, 174 were girls and 112 boys. All teachers of the schools actively participated.

Training course to prevent violence, discrimination against women, life skill dev

DAM's PPVD Project organised a two-day training course on "Prevention of Violence & Discrimination against Women & Life Skills Development" for adolescents and women in Barguna Sadar and Patharghata upazilas of Barguna district during April-June, 2012 period. A total of 440 participants took part. Of them, 400 were women and 40 adolescents.

Venues of the training courses were CLC and Ganokendro (people's centres) of DAM. In some cases, even the corridors of houses of the people involved with these activities were also used.

Besides, a one-day orientation course on leadership and organisational development was held for two trainers of Training Unit, M M Reza Latif and Md Motiar Rahman. The orientation course was held under purview of Souhardo Project of CARE Bangladesh. After he orientation course, this team conducted three-day training courses in six unions of Fulpur and Nandail upazilas. Members of Village Development Committee (VDC) took part in the training courses. A total of 208 participants took part. Of them, 136 were women and 72 men.
World Child Labour Resistance Day observed

UNIQUE-2, UCLC and DRR projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) jointly organised rally, discussion meeting and cultural function marking World Child Labour Resistance Day at Shahin School Avenue in Mirpur in the city on 13 June 2012.

This year's theme was "Come Forward to Establish Human Rights and Social Justice thru' Elimination of Child Labour.

The Director of Programme Division of DAM, Shafiqul Islam, presided over. Alhaj Ilias Ali Molla, lawmaker elected from Dhaka-16 constituency, was present as Chief Guest while Advocate Alhaj Ali Ahmed was present as Special Guest.

UCLC Project Coordinator Md Abdur Rouf delivered Welcome Address. Imran Hossain, a student of class-VII, expressed his feelings.

Jyoti CLC Community President Sirajul Islam Chunnu, Alor Bhurban CRC President Alim Ahmed, UNIQUE-2 LRC President Dr A K M Jamal Uddin Sarkar also spoke on the occasion.

The Chief Guest assured to donate 12 computers and a projector for the children. The entire programme was followed by a cultural function. Attractive features of the cultural function were drama, songs and music and dance.

Awareness creating training course on gender equity, prevention of violence, sexual harassment on women

An awareness training course, for gender equity, prevention of violence, sexual harassment on women, at work places, was conducted during April-June 2012 period.

The training courses were held at BIAM Training Centre, Iskaton, in the capital, Hotel Royal International in Khulna, Narayanganj Club in Narayanganj, Hotel Regeant Park in Chittagong, Parajtan Motel in Rajshahi, Uttara Training Centre in Bogra, BNSB Eye Hospital Conference Room in Mymensingh and BIAM Meghna Hall in the capital. Nasima Shaheen and Mariam Zahan Sonali conducted the training course. A total of 274 participants took part. Of them, 119 were women and 155 men. Participants included Labour Court lawyers and Trade Union members.

JAMALPUR : A two-day training course on Gender and Development was held recently at the conference room of Jamalpur Civil Surgeon's office under the fold of Hospital Service Management Project.

Sixty-six doctors and senior nurses of Jamalpur Sadar Hospital took part. Of them, 29 were women and 37 men.

The aims and objectives of the training course was elimination of gender discrimination while providing services to patients in hospital, creating a positive attitude to women service recipients as well as service providers and enhancement of standard of service.

Training on educational issues

Three-day training courses on Petagozi teaching-learning procedure of UCLC Project were conducted under purview of education sector. Md Shahjahan assisted in the training course. A total of 44 teachers and supervisors took part. Participants included 41 women and three men. Two more training courses were held under purview of UNDP- Naogaon Project during April-June 2012 period. Fifty teachers took part in the refreshers' course. All of them were women. A five-day training course on Diagnostic Teaching Model were organised by Training unit of Training and Material Development Division during April-June, 2012 period.

The training course was held in Mymensingh.

Basic training of Disaster Management Committee

A three-day basic training of Upazila Disaster Management Committee was held under purview of Souhardo Project of CARE Bangladesh. The training course was conducted for members of disaster management committees formed in Fulpur and Nandail upazilas. Upazila chairman, upazila vice chairman and officials of various government officials at upazila level were present. A total of 72 participants took part. Of them, nine were women and 63 men.

Participants got correct information on disaster related issues and expressed their opinion. The training course will play a pioneering in combating disaster.

Opinion exchange meeting with service providers

An opinion exchange meeting was held with service providers of various government and non-government organisations at Barguna field office of ECDSP-B Project, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), on 29 May 2012. The meeting was aimed at establishing linkage with various government and non-government organisations so that housing based Innovation Programme can be conducted in a proper manner. Barguna Sadar Upazila Education Officer Dhirenra Nath Sikder opened the meeting. Field Manager of ECDSP-B Project Kazi Yunusur Rahman, delivered welcome address. Md Nazmul Hasan Khan, Area Manager of UNIQUE Project, highlighted the activities of DAM while Technical Officer Md Saiful Islam highlighted the activities of the project. Among others, Union Health Assistant Mosammat Matoara Begum spoke on the occasion.
Salma Begum, 28, wife of Kazal Ahmed is an inhabitant of Baufal upazila in Patuakhali district. Salma’s father was a poor share cropper at a remote place in Baufal upazila. With his meagre income from cultivation, he rarely able to meet the family requirements. So he also earned money by doing job of a day labourer. Despite this poverty was their constant companion. This is why Salma could not pursue primary education till attainment of age of 15 years.

At this stage a distant aunt visited their house and observed their miserable condition. She proposed a job to Salma at a garment factory named Young an Hat (BD) Ltd, Chittagong EPZ. After passing 10 years at this factory a supervisor of Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., enlisted her to undergo a nine-month (April 2011 to January 2012) Adult Literacy Course launched by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) with financial assistance of Out Door Cap Company Inc, USA, a buyer of the garment factory.

Besides basic education Salma learnt many important issues of day-to-day life. The issues are child marriage, ill effects of dowry, women’s rights, first aid, reproductive health, mother and child care, importance of education, means of improvement of standard of living, means of earning extra income, family planning, healthcare, cleanliness and rules and regulations at workplace, accountability as well as other essential issues of practical life.

On conclusion of Adult Literacy Course Salma said, ‘Now I am able to take decision at my own. I am self-confident and can easily tackle any situation. At present I help my child in study. I fully enjoy living’. Because of literacy course, all avenues of success are now open to me, she added.

Young an Hat (BD) Ltd is one of the largest Korean export manufacturers of caps around the globe. It is also the largest single foreign investor in Bangladesh. Young an Hat (BD) Ltd operates two factories in Bangladesh with approximately 3,000 workers. The bulk of its exports go to USA.

Through a literacy base-line survey, Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., discovered that more than 50% of its total workforce are illiterate. Because of illiteracy the workers were unable to provide quality products. With a view to changing the situation Out Door Cap Company Inc USA requested DAM to provide non-formal education to the garment workers. Accordingly DAM agreed to provide support on non-formal education to them.

Out Door Cap Company Inc USA also came forward to fund the initiative. DAM designed a nine-month literacy course for 25 selected factory workers. After completion of the course, 25 learners are now able to read and write by themselves. They can maintain family accounts. They are able to make nutritious food at home and work places. They can maintain hygienic cleanliness. They learnt about various social issues stated above. Now they lead a more decent life.

Lessons learned:
- Adult literacy course at work place helps increase and improve quality of produces.
- Capacity building initiatives help improve relationship between officers/staff and workers.
- Increases ability to exchange opinions on different issues with family members.

Challenges:
- Because of tiredness, a few learners were not interested to participate in Adult Literacy Course after office work.
- Notion of these workers was that their factory is a place for work not learning.
- Due to pregnancy and resignation several learners dropped their names from the course.

DAM, Young and hat BD Limited and OUTDOOR CAP, USA jointly agreed to continue the literacy intervention. Another new batch of 25 illiterate factory workers was selected to complete the nine-month course. It was also decided to continue education for those who already completed the course so that they do not forget whatever they had learnt earlier.
Literary and Cultural Week at Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Teachers Training College

AUST President Dr. M M Shafluallah delivering his address as chief guest

KATTC Principal Fatema Khatun delivering welcome address

DAM Executive Director Dr. M Ehsanur Rahman speaking as special guest

Chairman KATTC governing body Prof. M Eltas Uddin delivering his presidential address

AUST Treasurer Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam speaking as special guest

Guests visiting stalls of educational materials