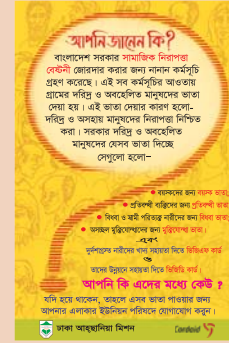


Poster on Entitlement info published



Many people have no social security and lead miserable life in our country. Bangladesh Government has undertaken various programmes to ensure social

security of these people. As part of the programmes, the government provides various kinds of allowances to these poor people. The allowances are: Elderly Allowance, Disabled Allowance, Widow Allowance and Freedom Fighters' Allowance. The government has been giving food assistance by distributing VGF Card to them for meeting up their development requirement.

Many of them who are eligible for these cards do not know the right information in this regard. To make them aware about it, ACCESS Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with CordAid, has published a multi-colour poster titled, 'Apni Janen Ki?' (do you know?). The poster will help poor and neglected people to make them aware enough by strengthening their social safety enclosure.

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Rights, protection of child domestic help to be incorporated in domestic help & welfare policy

--Meher Afroz Chumki

Rights, protection of child domestic help will be incorporated in Domestic Help and Welfare Policy. Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki said this while addressing as Chief Guest at a roundtable discussion on Protection and Welfare of Child Domestic Help jointly organised by Bangladesh Shishu Odhiker Forum, Coalition for the Urban Poor and Dawn Forum in collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at Mission Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi in

the city at 10:00 am on Saturday, 11 June 2011. She further said the policy guideline is being formulated for enactment of a full-fledged law on protection of rights of a large number of child domestic workers. Opinion of people from all walks of life will be taken in the draft policy. The government is keen to formulate policy guideline for all. In the meantime, the government has drafted a policy guideline for women and children. With a view to implementing the policy for ensuring equal rights and basic human rights for all citizens in the constitution,

enactment of a full-fledged law will move forward the country. Later, opinions of this roundtable will be discussed in the standing committee. If required, selected civil society representative will be invited there. Dawn Forum Chairperson and DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman acted as moderator. Bangladesh Shishu Odhiker Forum Chairperson Emranul Haque Chowdhury delivered welcome address. Dhaka University Social Welfare and Research Institute Associate Professor

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People urged to come forward to alleviate poverty by giving Zakat

People have been urged to come forward to alleviate poverty by giving Zakat. It is essential to create awareness about the benefit of payment of Zakat among general people. Proper maintenance of records on Zakat collection and distribution is essential and it should be made public.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while addressing a meeting of civil society members and a discussion at Ahsania Mission Bhaban Auditorium at 4 pm on 29

June, 2011 organised to form Ahsania Zakat Foundation for development of Zakat management under the aegis of DAM.

He further said, Zakat management should be given an institutional shape. There should be transparency and accountability in its activities. Zakat Fund will help alleviate poverty and create employment opportunities.

Member of National Zakat Board Prof Asma Abbasi, Vice Chairman of Bank Asia Mohammad Lokuatulla and Principal of Faridganj Kamel Madrassa Maulana Dr A K M Mahbubur Rahman took part as panel discussants. Besides, Managing Director of proposed Ahsania Zakat Foundation A B M Nurul Haque delivered welcome address. Speakers said, it is not possible to bring overall change in the lifestyle of poor people with Zakat money donated by individuals. This is why, an elaborate programme should be taken for poor people by donation of Zakat through institutions established by government and non-government organisations (NGOs). 'Ahsania Zakat Foundation' of DAM can play a proper role in collection of Zakat and proper distribution according to Islami Shariah.

In the meantime, DAM has been conducting welfare-oriented activities by forming Zakat Fund. Every year, the amount donated to Zakat Fund is being managed properly in a systematic manner. Ahsania Mission Zakat Shariah Council has been formed consisting of six members led by 'Khatib' of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Money from Zakat Fund is being spent in a systematic way under their guidance.

Automation of Microfinance Programme DAM signs MoU with Benchmark-eGeneration

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Benchmark-eGeneration Ltd aiming at automation of microfinance programme by providing worldclass microfinance management software solution 'Microfinance Monitor' to Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

The formal signing ceremony was held at Mission Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi in the city at 11 AM on 14 June 2011.

DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman and Benchmark-eGeneration Ltd Managing Director Zahidul Hasan Bhuiyan signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of their respective organisations. Benchmark-eGeneration Ltd Chief Operating Officer Ibtesam Doha, Software Engineer Al-Amin, MIS Implementation Officer Md. Mominul Islam, DAM HR Director Azam Chowdhury, Training and Programme Director MA Rashid and Mission's Microfinance Programme Chief M A Salam were present during the signing ceremony.

By using the software, information and accounts of Microfinance



Programme will be digitalised through online web-based software.

DAM's Microfinance Programme at grassroots level will be brought under fold of Information Technology (IT) through this initiative. This will ensure maintenance of accurate information to beneficiaries. In phases, the software will be installed in 41 branch offices of Mission's Microfinance Programme.

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Rights, protection of child

Dr Rezaul Islam initiated the discussion meeting through placement of a study report. Terre Des Homes Country Director Mahmudul Kabir, Aparajyeo Bangladesh Executive Director Wahida Banu and Coalition for the Urban Poor Chairperson Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury took part.

According to a survey report of National Labour Survey 2010, the

number of child labour engaged as domestic help aged 5-17 years is one lakh 25 thousand, speakers said. But because of lack of registration, their actual number cannot be ascertained, they said. Among them, 80% are girl children, they observed. There was no policy guideline for child domestic help in the country, they further said. The draft policy-2010 will make a headway to this effect, they opined. Top representatives of various non-governmental organisations working for children took part in the open discussion.

Human chain demands Amendment to law-2005 relating to management of drug dependents' rehab centre essential

Amendment to law-2005 relating to management of drug addiction counselling, treatment and rehabilitation centre is essential. According to information of the Department of Narcotics Control, there are about 50 lakh drug dependents across the country. But the treatment facilities are too meagre for them throughout the country. There are 60 beds in four government treatment centres. Duration of treatment is 14 days only. It is not a full-fledged treatment system, rather only first step to treatment. But a long-term rehabilitation programme is not possible if mental and behavioural changes are not tangible. Speakers said this at a programme of human chain organised in front of National Press Club at 11A.M. on 25 June, 2011 marking International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the aegis of Addiction Management on Integrated Care (AMIC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with Family Health International with a demand for amendment to law relating to treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents. The human chain was attended by Dhaka Ahsania Mission AMIC Coordinator Iqbal Masud and Family Health International Modhumita Project Manager Shekhor Banerjee, AMIC



Programme Officer Rubaiya, Zahid Iqbal and recovering drug dependents.

According to clauses 5 and 6 of existing law, license fee for over 20-bed drug treatment centre is Tk 50,000, annual renewal fee Tk 25,000. But according to information of 2010, license fee for a bar is Tk 10,000 while its annual renewal fee is Tk 10,000. At present, there are 94 licensed bars across the country. We think that because of such law drug is being encouraged.

As per existing law, 80 square feet space has been earmarked for each drug dependent. There should be facilities for lift if the centre is situated on second floor or above of a multi-storied building. There is a provision for one doctor for 10 beds and one psychologist. It is not feasible to expect social service organisation has the resources to establish a rehabilitation centre of this type. In this case, amendment to law is essential based on discussion with the service providing organisations.

World Environment Day 2011 observed

Narsingdi : World Environment Day 2011 was observed in Narsingdi under the aegis of ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 05 June, 2011.

This year's theme was 'Nature & Forest at Your Service.' To mark the occasion, a mammoth procession led by Acting Deputy Commissioner Momena Khatun was brought out from the Deputy Commissioner's Office. The procession terminated near Shilpakala Academy after parading main streets of the district town.



Representatives of government and non-government organisations, representative of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), journalists, teachers and representatives of various NGOs took part.

After the procession, a discussion meeting was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office. Acting Deputy Commissioner of Narsingdi Momena Khatun presided over.

Besides, different programmes were chalked out by Ganoken-dro and CRC at union level to mark the occasion. Programmes included discussion meeting, bringing out wall magazine, motivation towards afforestation, school-based essay competition and debate competition. Besides, awareness creating programme and courtyard meeting were also held on the occasion.

Mongla, Bagerhat : World Environment Day was also observed on the premises of Mongla Upazila Parishad in Bagerhat district under joint aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Mongla upazila administration.

A colourful rally was brought out on the occasion. Beginning from Upazila Parishad premises, the rally terminated at Mongla Poursabha office. This was followed by a discussion at Upazila Parishad auditorium.

Mongla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dr Mizanur Rahman presided over while it was attended by Mongla Upazila Chairman Md Idris Ali as Chief Guest and Upazila Vice Chairman Nure Alam Sheikh as Special Guest. Besides, Upazila Woman Vice Chairman Quamrun Nahar Hye and former Principal of Mongla College Sunil Biswas were also present.

Meeting on Food and Livelihood Security

An opinion exchange meeting, relating to undergoing Food and Livelihood Security Development Project in the backdrop of increasing risk of disaster and climate change in Bagerhat district, was held at Mongla Upazila Parishad conference room on 18 May, 2011.

Mongla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Dr Mizanur Rahman presided over while it was attended by Mongla Upazila Chairman Md Idris Ali as Chief Guest and Upazila Vice Chairman Nure Alam Sheikh as Special Guest. Besides, Upazila Woman Vice Chairman Quamrun Nahar Hye was also present.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission IFLS Project Field Coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu delivered welcome address. IFLS Project Field Officer Bishwajeet Biswas conducted the meeting.

The meeting elaborately discussed the second year's programme activities of Food and Livelihood Development related project being implemented in Bagerhat district.

The project is being implemented in Bagerhat district by Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with European Union and



financial support of UK-based donor organisation CAFOD. It is also a united effort of ADD, CARITAS Bangladesh and ITN BUET.

The meeting further informed that a 12-member Community Action Group and a 09-member Community Volunteer Group were formed in Chandpai and Chila unions. Training was also imparted to them.



Clean Birthday celebrated in Mymensingh

Clean Birthday was celebrated at Modhumita Centre of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Mymensingh on 09 April, 2011.

The occasion marked one year of recovery of Salman Ahmed, Sagar Pal and Chandar Kar from the curse of drug dependency after taking treatment at AMIC Modhumita Mymensingh Centre. On the occasion of Clean Birthday, greetings and good wishes were conveyed to them on behalf of Modhumita Centre.

The three underwent treatment at AMIC Modhumita Mymensingh Centre one year ago and recovered from drug addiction. They also did follow-ups properly. As a result, they were able to return to normal life.

Int'l Child Labour Day observed

International Child Labour Day was observed under the aegis of Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children Project-2 of Dhaka Ahsania Mission through elaborate programmes in six different areas of Dhaka and Narayanganj on 17, 18 and 19 June, 2011.



In each place, members of 20 community centres were present. Child labour related discussion meetings were organised to mark the occasion where local representatives and Centre Management Committee members took part. This was followed by a function rounded up with songs and music, dances and drama as well as patriotic songs. All the events protested child labour.

Safe Motherhood Day 2011 observed

ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in joint collaboration with various government and non-government organisations (NGOs) observed Safe Motherhood Day 2011 in eight upazilas of four districts on 28 May, 2011.

This year's theme was 'Make Delivery in Hospital & Save Lives of Mother and Child.'

Various awareness programmes were chalked out to mark the occasion. Separate programmes of discussion meeting, rally, human chain and courtyard meeting were held.

Online birth registration

Online birth registration of 36,114 people has been done under the auspices of ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in nine wards of Kazirber union under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district. Online birth registration was done as part of ICT activities under the project at Natima Godhuli Community Resource Centre.

Out of 36,114 people, 18, 452 were men and 17, 662 women. Online birth registration was done by Shyamoli Akter and Rafiqul Islam while Dhaka Ahsania Mission Coordinator Quamruzzaman assisted them.



Discussion on procreation health awareness

A discussion meeting on procreation health awareness of juveniles was held in Mandarbaria union of Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah district on 20 April, 2011 under the aegis of ACCESS (health & empowerment).

A total of 20 juveniles aged 11-17 and five women of Anarkoli, Dhanshiri and Modhumoti ganokendro (people's organisations) took part. Family Planning worker Rowshan Ara acted as Resource Person at the discussion meeting.

Recovered drug dependents' reunion

AMIC Modhumita Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in joint collaboration with USAID/FHI, local ward council, panchayet committee and national Diagnostic Centre, organised a reunion and graduation ceremony for recovered drug dependents at Moulvibazar Community Centre, Chakbazaar, Dhaka on 18 June, 2011. Team leader of Modhumita Project and AMIC Coordinator Iqbal Masud presided over while Assistant Police Commissioner Saiful Islam was present as Chief Guest. Narcotics Control Directorate Assistant Director Lutfar Rahman was present as Special Guest. Senior Programme Officer and Team Leader KSM Tarique, No-67 Ward Councillor Haji Mohammad Ullah, Haji Shahid Mia of Nabab Katra Panchayet Committee were present as guests. This was followed by a cultural function.



Enhancement of tax on tobacco products demanded

A demonstration was held in Moheshpur upazila headquarters for enhancement of tax on tobacco products on 15 May, 2011. ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania



Mission, RDC and NGO Coordination Committee jointly organised the demonstration with a view to preserving healthcare and environment. Leaflets on awareness messages conveying harmful effects of tobacco were also distributed among people.

Saline distribution thru' CRC at Ganokendro level

ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in a bid, to ensure poor and ultra-poor people's healthcare service and to create awareness among them, has arranged 600 packets of saline for them from the Upazila Health Complex every month. Hakimpur Shimul, Narayanpur Protyasha, Patibila Alor Pathey Community Resource Centre of Chowgachha upazila in Jessore district succeeded in getting saline packets from the Upazila Health Complex through communication and coordination.

Every month, the government saline will be distributed through 54 Ganokendro (people's centres) and three CRCs of four unions in Chowgachha upazila. This has resulted in poor and ultra-people's easy access to Ganokendro and CRCs to receive saline for free.

Folk life based supplementary materials of UNIQUE Project Launched

Let books be a source of joy to children. Alongside, books will make children aware about their surroundings and will carry them to their roots. Children require such books which will be able to unfold their world of inquisitiveness. With this spirit, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has taken up an initiative for development of materials for UNIQUE Project being implemented by the Mission. With this aim in view, a package of seven supplementary materials based on folk life was produced in 2009. As part of the programme, four other materials have been produced at second stage.

A material under the package is 'Pithali.' Contents of the book are information on food, festivities and games and sports of rural

areas. Although it is meant for students of classes-III and V, it is also equally beneficial to children of all ages.

Another material under the package is 'Kathurer Ghore Rajkanya.' There are two stories on folk life in this material. This has been meant for students of all stages. But it is also essential for students of classes I, II, III and V.

Another material under the project is 'Matha Khatai, Buddhi Barai.' Puzzle and proverbs of several regions of Bangladesh as well as of Garo language have been compiled here. Although it has been meant for students of classes III and V, it is equally suitable for students of all stages.

Another material under the package is 'Stories of Garo and Rakkhaine.' The book has been produced that is based on life of indigenous community. Although it has been meant for students of classes III and V, the book is equally suitable for students of all stages. Inner and cover of all the materials are of 4-colour.

Orientation of SHOUHARDO Project held

Nandail Upazila Parishad in joint collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission, CARE Bangladesh and USAID organised an orientation meeting of Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunity II (SHOUHARDO II) Project at Nandail Upazila Parishad Conference Room on 26 June 2011.

Nandail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Zakia Parvin presided over. Upazila Vice Chairman Shafiqul Islam Sarker, newly elected chairmen of five unions and local dignitaries were present.

SHOUHARDO Project has been working to reduce danger of



food insecurity among 16,136 ultra-poor families of 61 villages in Achargaon, Betagoir, Chandipasha, Gangail, Jahangirpur and Sherpur unions of Nandail upazila.



New project for rehabilitation of drug dependents

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's AMIC Modhumita Project has undertaken a project for imparting vocational training and job placement to recovered drug dependents for their (economic) rehabilitation.

A total of 17 recovered drug dependents were enrolled at a vocational centre for the purpose within a period from March-May 2011.

In the meantime, six trainees joined at garments and soap factories. Various individuals and non-government organisations have been assisting to rehabilitate them by maintaining link at Dhaka and Mymensingh centres.

Free health camp in Moheshpur upazila

A free health camp was held at Jadabpur Community Resource Centre in Jadabpur union of Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah district under the aegis of ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 14 April, 2011.

Members of 14 Gaokendro (people's centres) were brought under the fold of healthcare service. Upazila Health and Family

Planning Officer Dr Abdul Aziz provided healthcare service to people. Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer Dr Ashabus Shahid and Pharmasist Amjad Hossain assisted him.

A total of 117 patients received treatment free of cost. Of them, 99 were women and 18 men. Eight patients were referred to Jessore/ Khulna hospitals for improved treatment.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Area Coordinator Quamruzzaman was in charge of overall management of the camp while Community Action Group members and CRC Committee members volunteered.



DAM's human rights programmes progress with widespread interventions

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been in the forefront of human rights movement in Bangladesh. With its wide field coverage, DAM has extended intervention even in the far-flung and remote areas in the countryside. DAM-led human rights interventions have been alluring not only for its remote area coverage but also for attractive features and diversified aspects. The concept of DAM's human rights activities is the harvest of the philosophy of its founder, 'service to humanity'. DAM has been regarded as a leading human rights organization in the country and happens to be one of very few national organisations bagging international acclamation.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, since its very inception, has been working for promotion of human rights. But virtually, DAM's human rights efforts have been very intensive in the late 90s. A good many projects have been operational and listed under human rights and social justice sector. Soon, this sector emerged as the most vibrant segment of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's programmes. It was quite astonishing that with its multidimensional approach in promotion of human rights, DAM has been able to be triumphant in national perspective keeping other players behind the queue. Its programmes have been widespread with interventions including promotion of child rights, adolescent development, prevention of violence against women, women empowerment, anti-trafficking, shelter home and legal aid support to the victims.

It is not an exaggeration to say that DAM has covered many

strategic areas of human rights. It calls for immediate attention for promotion of human rights at grassroots level. A large number of projects on children and women trafficking had been implemented during 1997–2010. In order to provide repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation services to trafficked victims, a shelter home has been established in Jessore district. A project named ASHROI had been implemented for promotion of human rights and providing legal support to human rights victims. With the objective of capacity building of local NGOs working for promotion of human rights and building network among such NGOs, another project named SANG-JOG had been implemented during 2008-2009. DAM has also been working to equip grassroots people for claiming their rights and entitlements. Advocacy and Communication with Communities to Empower for Accessing Social Services (ACCESS) is an approach designed for raising

people's awareness as well as creating a favourable atmosphere for people to enjoy their rights and entitlements. Two new projects named ACCESS-CAFOD and ACCESS-CORDAID emerged with same objective and extended services to five different districts of Bangladesh.

At present, Dhaka Ahsania Mission is implementing six human rights projects at different locations of Bangladesh. These projects are having different human rights components including social mobilisation and advocacy towards pro-poor measures, rescue/release and basic shelter support for trafficked victims, development and capacity building of anti-trafficking community committees, prevention of violence against women, access to vulnerable people in social security and safety net programme and right to information. Besides, advocacy remains to be a key strategy for DAM for promotion of human rights. Both local and national level advocacy is done at a regular intervals. DAM has established a good organisational network to go ahead with the universal agenda of human rights promotion. It arranges seminar, workshop, roundtable, consultation meeting, rally and demonstration etc. to reach to a wider audience. The Mission also regularly develops different advocacy materials and distributes to concerned individuals and organisations. A major objective of DAM's human rights programme is to sensitise policy makers and general people alike. The advocacy initiatives undertaken by the organisation help achieve its objectives.



DAM in frame

Social use of ICT: DAM's ICT movement at grassroots level

