



Mission Barta

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Ahsania Mission Children City launched in Panchagarh

Ahsania Mission Children City was formally launched at Jalapara village under Hafizabad union of Sadar upazila in Panchagarh district amid great enthusiasm and people's spontaneous participation on June 7 this year.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the launching ceremony while it was attended by Panchagarh Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shamsul Azam and Superintendent of Police Abul Kalam Azad as honourable guests.

Among others, Country Coordinator of donor agency KNH Germany Maruf Mamtaz Rumi, Programme Coordinator of Ahsania Mission Children City Tariq Masud and Programme Manager M Jahangir Hossain were present.

Shahnewaz Khan, CEO of the Centre for International Education Development of DAM, exhibited two documentaries on the long journey of DAM as well as its Children City. The children city is set to provide street children's socio-economic security, balanced diet for flourishing of their talent and capability, safe and healthy accommodation, clothing, regular healthcare services, formal education up to secondary level and vocational training after attainment of 14 years of age, said Kazi Rafiqul Alam. Making good use of the opportunity, the street children will be able to attain supremacy in the fields of education, sports and culture at national level. Every resident child will receive standard education, technical and life skill training so that they can be turned into skill manpower who will ultimately be able to play a due role in the socio-economic development at national level. The children city will bring a positive change in lifestyle of each and every child by imparting moral and value-based edu-

cation. Ultimately, they will be able to shoulder the responsibilities of responsible citizens.

Anybody or any organisation can become a proud sponsor for construction of buildings of the city, the DAM president said. Intending persons or organisations can also bear the rearing cost of children like that of 'Sadkae Zariya.' He called upon the people of all walks of life to extend their cooperation towards the noble endeavour. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Shamsul Azam thanked DAM for taking the noble initiative.

Police Super Md Abul Kalam Azad said there are 50 lakh drug addicts in Bangladesh who are children. These children will come back to the mainstream through the endeavour of DAM, he hoped. The representative of donor agency KNH (Germany), Maruf Momtaz Rumi, said, "We feel proud to be associated with the noble endeavour. In future also, we shall extend our hands of cooperation for development of children in any part of the country. Once street children now beneficiaries of the city, Sohag Mia, Shaheen Mia and Sagor depicted their lifestyle.

At present, there are 13 lakh street children in Bangladesh. Ahsania Mission Children City is a philanthropic endeavor undertaken by Dhaka Ahsania Mission to promote street children living "smarter, healthier and more sustainable lives." The Children City will consist of 10 separate children's villages. Each village will consist of 100 children. Ultimately, the activities of the children city will be extended with 10,000 children living in 10 such villages. Children aged 6-8 years are eligible to become residents of the city. Each child can stay in the city up to 18 years of age.

Pre-budget open discussion held

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Dogachhi Union Parishad (UP) of Jhenidah district jointly organized a pre-budget open discussion at the UP office on May 25, 2013.

Dogachhi UP chairman Faijullah Foyez presided over the meeting. Yaseen Ali, sub-assistant engineer of Public Health Engineering Department, Jhenidah, was present as chief guest.

An open discussion on draft budget of the union parishad for 2013-2014 fiscal year was held. UP secretary Hafizur Rahman informed about sector-wise allotments.

Members of Dogachhi union, Dhaka Ahsania Mission regional officer Rabiul Islam, representatives of government and non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives were present in the meeting.

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Chowgachha union chairman Md Rafiqul Islam, Health Standing Committee president Golam Mostafa, Hakimpur Union Health Standing Committee president Hasan Hafizur Rahman, Patibila union chairman Md Shahidul Islam and Health Standing Committee president Shariful Islam and Narayanpur union chairman Md Rabiul Islam and Health Standing Committee president Ohidul Islam and all other members of the committees were present on the occasion.

Ashok Kumar Ghosh, area coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present in each and every meeting.

At present, list of medicine is now displayed with the help of the health standing committee. Alongside, daily expenditure of medicine is also maintained.

However, monitoring of healthcare programme is essential. The UP chairman and president called upon all present at the meetings for weekly follow-ups of community clinic and union health service activities.

Meeting to activate UP Health Standing Committee

A series of Health-Related Standing Committee activating meetings were held in four unions of Chowgachha, Hakimpur, Patibila and Narayanpur during the month of April, 2013.

Four Union Parishads (UPs) of the aforesaid unions where the ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission implemented the project organized the meetings.

Planning and follow-up meetings held

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, through its Chowgachha Area office, organized triennial planning and follow-up meetings in 54 Ganokendro (people's centres) under ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project in the month of April this year. Members of Ganokendro

executive committee, resource persons, members of community action group and general members took part in the meetings. Matters relating to annual planning of Ganokendro-2013, constitution of Ganokendro, duties and responsibilities of the executive committee, local ac-



tion at the initiative of Ganokendro, local donation, pre-school activities,

formation of teams to encourage savings were discussed in the meetings.



Pre-budget open discussion held

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Mangolkot Union Parishad jointly organ-

ized a pre-budget open discussion at Mangolkot Union Parishad meeting room under Keshobpur in Jessore district

on May 15, 2013. The pre-budget discussion was aimed at making policymakers aware about the reflections of people at grassroots level regarding the upcoming national budget so that it reflects their opinion as well as for drawing attention of policymakers to formulate a pro-people and poor-friendly budget. Mangolkot Union Parishad chairman Manwar Hossain presided over the meeting while area coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Alamgir Hossain acted as the facilitator. Branch manager Jalal Uddin placed the budget related papers. Members of Mangolkot Union Parishad, civil society members, teachers, representatives

of government and non-governmental organizations, businessmen, Imams of mosques and members of CRC and Ganokendro were present. Dhaka Ahsania Mission technical officer Nazminnahar, union supervisor and CRC facilitator were also present. Nine UP members of nine wards of Mangolkot union placed the proposed and draft budget for the year 2013-2014 of their respective wards. Later, opinions and recommendations of the participants were taken. According to the opinions and recommendations, it was decided to place the budget for 2013-2014 fiscal year during first week of June, 2013.

Experience-sharing visit to Narsingdi

An experience-sharing visit to Ganokendro (People's centres) and Community Resource Centres (CRCs) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was organized in Narsingdi district on April 14, 2013.

Two representatives each of community committee related to Amader Thikana under Practical and Income Generating Education Project-2, project officer of CARE Bangladesh, project coordinator (DAM-WCP), project supervisor of Functional

Education and 10 assistants of Amader Thikana took part in the visit.

Regional coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Tapan Babu escorted the delegates to the Ganokendro and CRC at Shilamondi.

The visitors held discussions at the Ganokendro with the president of the 11-member executive committee and general secretary and four general members. The visitors also visited several other Ganokendro (people's centres).



Nat'l level sharing workshop held

A national level workshop on 'Exchanging field level experience's of Strengthening Good Governance in Primary School (SGGPS) for Quality Education Project was held at Mohakhali BRAC Centre in the capital on Sunday. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has organised the workshop, says a press release. Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Dr M Ehsanur Rahman presided over the meeting while Director General of Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) Shamal Kanti Ghosh was present as chief guest. Programme Manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation Arif Hossain Khan was present as special guest and Programme Manager of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Tapan Kumar Das was the chief discussant.

DAM Deputy Director Dewan Sohrab Uddin presented the field level's achievements and experiences in the programme. Project coordinator of SGGPS project Safiqur Rahman Sabuj delivered the welcome address.

Representatives of different

government and non-government and civil society organizations were present on the occasion.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing SGGPS



Leadership development training for community committee members

A leadership development training was organized for community committee members at their Uttara office in the capital on April 30, 2013. The training course was aimed to efficiently conduct the activities meant for working children. Project coordinator Kasim Uddin briefly discussed about two projects:

project in Sunamganj and Gaibandha district from 2010 with the financial support of Manusher Jonno foundation. The project has been completed on June 30, 2013.

(1) Practical and Income Generating Project-2 for Working Children and (2) Light of Life: A Change-Lilac. Under project-1, a total of 1,000 working children aged between 11-14 years study at 40 learning centres. Girl children get priority. A detailed discussion on leadership quality was held

Half-yearly workshop on observation, outcome of health services

Half-yearly workshop on observation and outcome of health services of Safe Motherhood Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was held at Dewanganj Upazila Auditorium hall room on May 22, 2013. Former Chairman of Hatibhanga union Abu Taher Sarker presided over the workshop while it was attended by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Aminul Haque as chief guest and Upazila Education Officer Lutfur Rahman and noted journalist Khademul Islam as special guests.

Incumbent Chairman of Hatibhanga union Abu Hanif, Dr Delwar Hossain, Upazila Health Inspector Lokman Hakim was also present.

Area Coordinator of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Asadullah delivered the welcome address.

Union Coordinator of Safe Motherhood Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission placed a detailed report on observation and outcome of health services of Safe Motherhood Project.

Assistant health inspectors of Upazila Health & Family Planning, Union Health Standing Committee members, FWV of Union Health and Family Welfare Centre Mosammat Sabina Yasmeen, Union Health Inspector Altaf Hossain, Community Clinic worker Rezaul Karim, NGO representatives, Dhaka Ahsania Mission worker Mizanul Islam, ESO Yusuf Ali, UF Faruque, CBO members took part in the workshop.

Tripartite partnership stressed for development

Representatives of different levels of society including businessmen stressed on the Tripartite partnership for the overall development of the country. They urged government, non-government and corporate sectors to come forward unitedly regarding the issue.

This came out from a seminar on 'Corporate Social Responsibility' on 19 June 2013 held at VIP lounge of National Press Club in the city. With the support of United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Lions Club of Dhaka Oasis jointly organized the seminar. The FBCCI President and Chairman of Standard Bank Ltd Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest while Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier General (Rtd) Dr Ashraful Islam Khan, Executive Director of BARAT Group Ln Sheikh Anisur Rahman, Regional Expert of HIV and AIDS, UNODC Gunashekar R and Country Coordinator of UNAIDS Leo Canny were present as special guests. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam

presided over the seminar. Media and Advocacy coordinator Taifur Rahman presented the key-note paper. DAM Assistant Director Iqbal

all development activities. They said, for sustainable development, Tripartite partnership identified as an approach to address prison health

ing programme to ensure increased involvement in development activities in the changing global scenario where sustainable development is given prime focus. They also said, business is not an outside phenomenon of the



Masud facilitated in the seminar while team leader of FHI360 KSM Tarique and Chairman of Urology department of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital Prof. Dr M Fakhrul Islam spoke on the occasion. Speakers said, Government and non-government organizations along with development associates have the opportunity to play significant role in over-

through the combined efforts of public, private, and development organizations in Bangladesh. UNODC envisages bringing in private players in the country through various sensitization and train-

society. Society is operated by people. So, different companies or business organizations have a moral accountability to participate in social development activities.

Ward-based child protection teams to prevent woman & child trafficking

Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project has been working in 20 unions of five upazilas in Jessore and Satkhira districts aiming to raise mass awareness about human trafficking, specially child trafficking, rescue missing children, their rehabilitation and reunion in family and society.

With a view to bringing dynamism in the activities, preventing woman and child trafficking, child marriage and motivating people for birth registration, ward-based child protection teams have been formed in 180 wards of 20 unions in five upazilas of the two aforesaid districts. Each team consists of 20 members.

Earlier, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Plan Bangladesh jointly implemented a project under which 20 child protection teams were formed. The teams played a significant role in preventing child trafficking and preserving child rights. Concerned UP members, local elite, CRC/Ganokendro representatives, area coordinators of Missing Child Alert Project, child protection officers and union coordinators were present during formation of child protection teams. Area coordinators, child protection officers, union coordinators discussed in detail the aims and objectives of formation of the teams and activities of their members.



Safe Motherhood Project's experience-sharing meeting held

An experience-sharing meeting on safe motherhood project was held at the area office of Sajeda Foundation on May 18. The meeting was organized by Safe Motherhood Project being run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Md Nurul Islam, project manager of Prime Project of Sajeda Foundation presided over the meeting.

Union coordinator of Safe Motherhood Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Azizul Haque delivered welcome address in the meeting. Noted journalist

Khademul Islam was present as special guest.

Among, others, Sajeda Foundation branch managers Tajul Islam, Anwar Islam, Sumon Kumar Das, Rezaul Karim, Obaidur Rahman and Shamima Nasreen, paramedics, Ishrat Jahan, Rani Akter, Lipi Khatun and Quamrunnahar, Dhaka Ahsania Mission worker Yunus Ali, UF Faruque, C.T. Fazlur Rahman were present.

A total of 120 participants took part. Of them, 23 were men and nine others women.





These information are revealed from a discussion organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), in cooperation with Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids at Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city today.

Speakers at the meeting said, Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Bill (Amendment) 2013 has been passed at the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) recently but rules formulation is still underway. Every sector will have to keep a keen eye that any tobacco company cannot hamper the rules formulation process.

Bangladesh is one of the tobacco users among the highest 10 user countries in the world. 57,000 people die and 3,82,000 people braced disabled life due to tobacco use.

4 1.5 million people in health risk due to tobacco use

41.5 million people are in health risk due to the use of smokeless and smoking to-

bacco in the country. 98 percent drug users started their addiction with the 'Bidi' and

cigarettes. Tobacco is being cultivated in 77 hector of lands every year.

European Union team visits CATT project

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is implementing Cross Border Agricultural Technology Transfer' (CATT) project at 29 unions of five upazilas under Jamalpur district funded by European Union with technical support from Helvetus Swiss Inter-cooperation Bangladesh and overall supervision of concern universal Bangladesh.

Representatives of donor agency-European Union visited the project activities of four upazilas on 9-10 June, 2013. They visited Shthal Moddhopara of Aona union under Sarishabari upazila, Dudhiagacha of Adarvita union under Madarganj upazila, Uzanpara and Mollapara of Lakkirchar union under Jamalpur sadar upazila and Baherchar of Durmut union under Melandah upazila. Members of the visiting team were Philippe Jacques, first counselor, Head of cooperation, European Union, Bangladesh Delegation, Gonzalo Serrano, Second Secretary, Head of Section,

Rural development, European Union, Bangladesh Delegation, Joost Kurstjens Carsen, Attaché, finance and contract officer, European union, Bangladesh Delegation, Donel

Deputy Programme Director, Helvetus Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh, Abdullah Al Mamun, Senior programme manager (livelihood), Netz Bangladesh, Mukhlesur Rahman, Team leader (Livelihood) Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Murad Khan Wahid, Marketing Advisor, Helvetus Swiss

Majharul Islam, LSP advisor Helvetus Swiss inter-cooperation-Jamalpur, Jahangir Alam, HID coordinator and Arobindo Ray, TTC, cross border project, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Jamalpur. Officers from different levels of the cross borders project were present on the occasion. Visitors discussed with



E Rosario, programme officer, European union, Bangladesh Delegation, Cornelis De Wolf, Country Director, Concern Universal, Shamim Ahmed,

Inter-cooperation, Jamalpur, Shadiquir Rahman, Project Manager, DAM, Avijit Shaha, Assistant project manager, concern universal bangladesh,

the local service providers and team members about their details activities. Being informed about their activities, the visiting team highly appreciated.

Health fair at Moheshpur community clinics

A health fair was held at Pathra and Dhanyaharia community clinics under Jadabpur union of Moheshpur upazila on February 9 and 10, 2013.

Project for Strengthening Healthcare System at Grass-roots Level in Bangladesh under Health Network of Bangladesh of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized the health fair. Jadabpur Union Parishad (UP) chairman Azizur Rahman inaugurated the health fair as chief guest. He expressed his optimism to build Jadabpur union as a model union by extending his hands of cooperation for overall development of the community clinic.

Area coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Quamruzzaman delivered his welcome address. Director of Hajee Iman Ali Pre-Cadet School and vice-president of Pathra Community Clinic Siddiquir Rahman

and president of Jadabpur Sonali CRC Emdad Zahid spoke as special guests.

Jadabpur UP member and

Pathra Community Clinic president Shariful Islam presided over. Food value of vegetables, symptoms of vari-

ous diseases, preventive measures, healthcare services of community clinic, health-related books and informative pamphlets were displayed at two stalls of health fair.

This was followed by a cultural function where music, drama, songs and dances were performed by children.



Upazila Education Officer visits Dewanganj CLC

Dewanganj Upazila Education Office Md Lutfar Rahman visited Rajanigandha CLC at Basetpur village under Bahadurabad union in Dewanganj upazila on May 14, 2013. During his speech, he said he has been encouraged to observe the innovative system of study and regular class at the CLC. He expressed his satisfaction observing the standard of education, learners' progress, favourable atmosphere and learners' presence in class in large number. At that time, Dewanganj area coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Md Asad Ullah and UC Azizul Haque were also present.

Bangladesh: Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Bangladesh is rich in biological diversity (biodiversity), defined as the variability among living organisms. They are sources of important perennial rivers, originating from glaciers and watersheds which, before flowing into Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, lead to huge river basins and deltas that inhabit large but mainly impoverished population with great socio-economic and ecological dependence on natural resources including forests and water.

Bangladesh is a developing and a Third World country. At present, Bangladesh has been facing a range of environmental challenges that will be seriously exacerbated by climate change. Because of climate change and reduced biodiversity, Bangladesh is already experiencing the adverse effects of serious environmental degradation. Water, land and soil degradation, biodiversity loss and natural disasters are keeping a negative impact on the lives of Bangladeshi people across the country, from every day challenges to threats to life and livelihood.

Bangladesh is already a global hotspot for tropical cyclones and other climatic events and is highly vulnerable to increased intensity of storms and droughts due to climate change. Two thirds of the country is less than five-meter above the sea level and vulnerable to coastal inundation and salinity intrusion, now a regular phenomenon in Bangladesh. According to recent estimates, 14.6 million people in the coastal areas of Bangladesh are vulnerable to inundation due to increased cyclonic surges, and this number will increase to 18.5 million by 2050 under moderate climate change scenarios.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that by 2050, 17% of Bangladesh will be affected due to elevated sea level, forcing 20 million people to migrate elsewhere. The impacts of climate change will put additional stress on the country's human and economic development, creating a great challenge in future.

Climate change projections in



Bangladesh include rise in sea level and temperature and increased frequency of droughts, cyclones, storms, floods and other water-induced extreme events.

Climate Change and Bangladesh

The absolute values of the projected temperature and sea level rise are not large; however the complexities of the global climatic systems mean that even these small changes will result in a range of further climatic trends that will have serious impacts in Bangladesh. They include changing precipitation patterns and silt up river flows, increasing drought and increased intensity of extreme weather events such as cyclone. These climatic changes will have serious implications for a range of sectors in Bangladesh: Agriculture and food security, water supply and security, coastal zone management, ecosystem loss, human health and sustainable development.

Responding to Climate Change

Mitigation is the primary response to climate change and it refers to reduction in the production of greenhouse gases in order to reduce the process of global warming. Bangladesh has one of the lowest carbon emissions in the world, and in the face of high emissions from developed countries, can not effect change in this arena. Over the last decades, the Bangladesh government has invested more than US\$10 billion to make the country less vulnerable to natural disasters. Measures such as strengthening river embankments, building emergency cyclone shelters and developing world class community-based early

warning system have significantly reduced the loss of lives and livelihood and property damages caused by extreme weather events.

With a view to supplementing its national programmes, Bangladesh has successfully aligned its development partners to address the climate change challenge and established an innovative financing mechanism - the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF). So far, the BCCRF has channeled US\$ 170 million in grant from seven development partners, namely Australia, Denmark, EU, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the USA, to strengthen resilience to climate change. The Government of Bangladesh is in the driver's seat and the authority of choosing projects to fund and implementing them. On an interim basis, the World Bank is playing the role of trustee - that is, conducting transparency and accountability due diligence of the BCCRF.

The Government of Bangladesh has also created a separate "Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund" and allocated US\$ 350 million from its own resources for the last four years consecutively - 2009 to 2012. Bangladesh has been implementing 106 projects to address the issue of climate change including better adaptation and mitigation.

The role of social protection in climate change adaptation

There is growing awareness that development and poverty reduction programmes need to integrate climate change adaptation. Climate change poses a threat to attempts to reduce poverty.

Social protection covers a

range of initiatives that transfer income or assets to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized. Social protection and climate change adaptation have much in common. They both seek to minimize the risks being faced and promote resilience among most vulnerable people. Yet they remain separate fields of research, policy and practice.

In Bangladesh, several NGOs have been working with the forest-dependent community who are living in the forest landscape area. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is one of them. It is working with the support of partners (donors) to strengthen evidence base - exploring how social protection mechanisms can transform livelihoods in order to protect forest, biodiversity and adapt to changing climate conditions, rather than just reinforcing coping mechanisms. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing some projects at field-level under the Environment and Climate Change Programme (ECCP) to address the issue of climate change including better adaptation and mitigation. The Restoration and Conservation of Bio-diversity in the Denuded Hills in Banskhal (RCBDH), Chitagong project, is one of the several projects. The project is being funded by the Arannayk Foundation (AF). The key focus of the project is to protect the naturally regenerated tree species through community participation. Thus, the primary attention of the project, from its very inception, has been restoration of the green belt through people's participation, creating alternative livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent people and preventing forest fire and making people proactive to protect forest and biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the project innovated a functional model for collaborative management of Banskhal denuded hills and strengthened capacity of the Co-Management Council and Co-Management Committees as envisaged under the Collaborative Management Model.



DAM IN FRAME

Issue : Climate Change



Sadhanpur planned Plantation area visit



Union Federation Meeting : Conducted by Fed. Secretary



Cross Visit Program : Speaking Kalipur Range Officer



ICS Producing by Group Member



Handicraft producing by Group Member



Seedlings Distributing by CMC Chairperson

