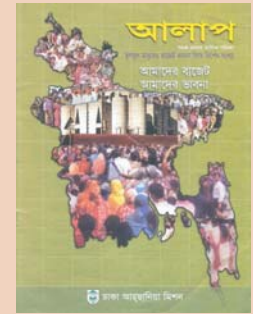




Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission
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June 2011



People's voice on budget in special issue of 'Alap'

Grassroots people's voice 'Our Budget Our Reflection' has been reflected in the special issue of 'Alap' magazine of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

The magazine has reflected contemplations of general people of fur flung areas of the country on budget 2011-2012 and allocations in various sectors. A total of 102 meetings were organised to collect peoples voice. About 6,000 people took part and gave their opinion on the expected budget. This issue contains their opinion on budget allocations in food, employment, social security, agriculture, health, water and sanitation, disaster management, information and technology, rural communication and human rights sectors.

The opinion and recommendation of grassroots people of coastal, flood-prone haor and drought-prone areas including backward areas were inserted in the magazine.

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World Cancer Survivors' Day-2011

70% cancer can be cured thru' will power

--Barrister Rafique-ul Huq

Seventy percent cancer can be cured thru' will power. Development in health and education sector is not possible on the part of government alone. This is why public-private partnership is essential. Thirty per cent poor patients will get treatment free of cost at Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

Noted lawyer Barrister Rafique-ul Huq said this while addressing as chief guest at a discussion meeting and cancer survivors feelings at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city marking World Cancer Survivors' Day-2011 at 11 A.M. on Saturday, 4 June 2011.

This is why, people from all walks of should come forward, he further said. I am a cancer survivor. I along with my family members are living with cancer for the last 30 years. This is why I am relentlessly working to build Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. My friend Iqbal has arranged a fund raising dinner party at Manchester for collecting fund for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. He sought cooperation of all in building the hospital.

Expressing gratitude to all, specially Barrister Rafique-ul Huq for his continuous support, Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam

said, if people from all walks of life come forward in such a manner then definitely we shall be able to commission the cancer hospital by the year end. He said this while delivering his presidential address. The hospital will be run on 'no profit, no loss' basis, he said. About two lakh people are being attacked with cancer annually across the country annually. Of them, one and a half lakh die every year. About 5,000-crore taka goes abroad as expenditure of cancer treatment. He appealed to the countrymen to come forward to assist in building the hospital.

While speaking as special guest, National Professor Dr M R Khan said, 75% cancer can be cured through treatment, counselling and positive attitude. Eighty percent cancer of children is possible abroad while in our country 25% cancer of children can be cured. He welcomed the initiative of building Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

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South Asian Sub-Regional Literacy Workshop Country will be freed from illiteracy by 2014

--Pry & mass edn state minister

Although literacy rate is half the population, the country will be freed from the curse of illiteracy by 2014. At present, in Bangladesh 99.37% children attend school in primary education sector. Two crore students have been added to primary education.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Motahar Hossain, MP, said this while addressing a five-day South Asian Sub-Regional Workshop on Participatory, Monitoring, Evaluation, Report Preparation on Literacy and Non-Formal Education organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in cooperation with UNESCO at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi in the city on Monday, 06 June 2011.

He further said, the number of registered primary schools is 82,000. Education system will be made up to date befitting to the era through general education and technical education within 2016. Present government is giving importance to education. Education is the key to development.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while it was addressed by Indian literacy expert Nishat Faruque and DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman.

In his presidential address, Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, appointment of

trained official in primary and non-formal education is essential. He appealed to the government not to transfer skilled officials elsewhere just after making skilled manpower. This practice hampers standard of primary and non-formal education. He mentioned that women are now ahead of others in the field of primary education through elimination of gender discrimination. He strongly demanded for increased budget allocation in education sector. He stressed on giving emphasis on monitoring in non-formal education system.

The five-day workshop concluded on 09 June 2011. Twenty-one government and non-government officials of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan including Bangladesh participated in the workshop. UNESCO Representative in Bangladesh Kitchi Waisu, ZAICA Consultant Daruni Reupituk, Indian Literacy expert Nishat Faruque and DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman acted as resource persons.

DAM organised the workshop to support achieved of Education for All goals 2015 announced by the United Nations. Since 2001, DAM has been conducting the programme in cooperation with UNESCO with a view to create skilled manpower in non-formal education monitoring system.

Training on gender in ECD

A training course on Gender in Early Childhood Development (ECD) was conducted in AVAS Training Centre in Barisal on 3-4 May 2011. Field manager (FM), master trainer and all technical officers of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and all staffs of three secondary civil society organisations (SCSOs) took part. Objective of the training was to develop skill of participants for providing gender training to community people.

Agenda of the training were concept of child development, step of development, project activities, gender concept, traditional work (male and female) in the community, violence against women and protection, early childhood development and gender discrimination, need for equity in early stage of children and role of parents, overcoming discrimination and things to be done in early childhood. Training coordinator, program officer-material development of ECDSB-B



project, senior trainer Shamsun Nahar, Training Division of DAM and Fateema Khairunnahar, gender specialist of Aga Khan Foundation facilitated the two-day training. Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the training course while Aga Khan Foundation funded the same.



Amendment of Tobacco Control Law-2005 in line with FCTC is essential

Amendment of Tobacco Control Law-2005 in line with Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is essential. Because of flaws in law, tobacco control is being obstructed to a great extent.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while addressing a press conference on Amendment of Tobacco Control Law-2005 at the conference room of National Press Club at 11:00am on Thursday, 26 May, 2011.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the press conference in cooperation with Family Health International.

Pictorial health warning on cigarette packets is essential, he said. Half of the population is illiterate. This is why written warning on

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World Cancer Survivors' Day-2011

During the programme, Barrister Rafique-ul Huq handed over a cheque for Tk 10 crore donated by Canada expatriate Mahmud Hossain to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam for building the hospital.

Cancer specialist Prof Dr Mahbub-ul Alam and Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Project Director and hospital management specialist Dr Md Lutfar Rahman took part in the discussion.

Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital Director Brig Gen (retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim delivered welcome address.

On behalf of cancer survivors, Papiya and Dr Ibrahim Khalil expressed their feelings. They conquered cancer through treatment along with strong will power, they said. 'We have fully recovered after taking treatment at Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital. Now we are living well,' they said.

Speakers said, there is limitation in treatment of cancer in the country. At present, only 120 cancer specialists are available in Bangladesh. If detected earlier then cure of cancer is possible. This is why, awareness and detection of cancer at early stage is most essential.

the packets is a futile practice. At present, pictorial warnings have been introduced in more than 43 countries across the world. Limitation of the existing law in our country is that 'Sada Pata', 'Gul', 'Jarda' and 'Khaini' are not considered as tobacco products. As a result, no legal step is applicable to these tobacco products. Among the matured people, over 27% of them take smokeless tobacco. This is why, it is essential to identify 'Sada Pata', 'Gul', 'Jarda' and 'Khaini' as tobacco products. General Secretary of Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, President of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Kazi Faruque, Secretary General of Bangladesh Cancer Foundation Dr Habibullah Talukder, National Professional Officer of World

Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Mostofa Zaman, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Iqbal Masud and Coordinator of Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance also spoke on the occasion.

Speakers further said, it is because of legal loopholes, most frequently indirect advertisement is going on. Alongside various propaganda and patronisation go on. For effective control of such practise, amendment of tobacco control law is essential through correction of the flaws and loopholes. As per existing law, fines imposed on tobacco companies are not adequate. Not only that, there is no provision for imposition of fine directly to the tobacco companies concerned. There should be provision for imposition of adequate fine in cash to prevent tobacco companies from violating law of the land. The amount of fine should be increased to a great extent. Fine amounting to Tk50 should be increased to Tk500 for violating law by openly smoking in public places and public toilets. It is essential to raise the amount of fine to Tk 10 lakh for violation of tobacco company law. In default, a provision of six months' imprisonment should be introduced.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) became effective in 2005. Because of the convention, now there exists over 173 parties. Eighty-seven percent of total population of the world is now under its perview. With a view to decreasing the practise of usage of tobacco products, tax on them should be imposed, alongside raise in their prices is essential. It is essential to impose ban on sponsorship and advertisement of tobacco products. A tobacco-free atmosphere should be created in the populated areas.

It was informed that, in Canada, warning signals were given on 75 percent spaces while Australian government has proposed for giving a message on 82.5 percent spaces of packets. In Mexico city, its Supreme Court has promulgated a law in 2009 to make 100 percent area free from smoke.

Students get SSC result thru' CRC Internet

Internet service is being provided to people at the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) under Access (health & empowerment) project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Recently, 179 students got results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations from various community resource centres situated in Jessore Sadar, Jhenidah Sadar, Chowgachha and Moheshpur upazilas under the project area.

Results of secondary school certificate examinations of all boards of the country came out on 12 May, 2011. On that day, students got their results at union level through Internet by establishing communication with presidents of resource centres.

CRC information providers, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Action team members provided information on examination results to students through Ganokendro community workers. Ganokendro's ICT team and Community Action Group (CAG) members also provided information to students in the respective areas.



In every community resource centre, examination results along with marksheets were distributed to students on payment of Tk10. Ultimately, the community resource centres earned an amount of Tk 1,090.



PPVD Project launched

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) launched a new project titled, "Promotion of Human Rights for Preventing Violence and

Discrimination against Women and Girls-PPVD Project" in Barguna district in March, 2011. The project will be implemented with support from European Commission.

The project will be implemented in Burirchar, Phuljhuri, Gourichanna unions of Sadar upazila and Patharghata Sadar, Char Duani and Kathaltoli unions of Patharghata upazila.

The project has been aimed at eliminating all sorts of violence and discrimination against women and girl children in the aforementioned areas through establishment of human rights.

The project will directly benefit 20,000 beneficiaries in six unions. It will also conduct awareness programmes in other unions which will indirectly benefit 1,10,000 people of 20,000 dwellings.

One hundred local government representatives, 100 personnel of law enforcement agencies, 60 women and members of adult groups, representatives of 20 para-legal groups, 700 students of 20 educational institutions, 50 civil society members and 40 victims will play their due role in implementing the project. The two-year project activities will end in February, 2013.

Training course for CMC, CAG members held

A week-long community-based supervision and monitoring training was conducted for 130 members of centre management committees (CMCs) and community action groups (CAGs) separately at 26 Shishu Bikash Kendro (SBK), child development centres, and pre-school centres in Patharghata upazila, Barguna, on 08 May -15 May this year.

Multi Task, a partner organisation of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme (ECDSP) organised it.

Issues like supervision, monitoring and adopted action in community centres were discussed. Besides, various subjects like introducing project's partner organisations, project's aims and objectives were highlighted.

Md Abdur Rahman, Md Abdullah al-Mamun, Md Rafiqul Islam,



Md Ziaur Rahman, Md Zainul Abedin, Kishore Kumar Tarua and Md Anwar Zahid conducted the course.

Opinion exchange meetings on budget

Opinion exchange meetings on people's view on national budget were held separately at eight area offices under Dhaka Ahsania Mission's ACCESS (health & empowerment) project. Held at Jessore Sadar, Keshabpur and Chowgachha in Jessore district, Jhenidah Sadar and Maheshpur in Jhenidah district, Narsingdi Sadar in Narsingdi district and Sharishabari and Dewanganj upazilas in Jamalpur district, the meetings were organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's ACCESS (health & empowerment) project. The meetings were aimed at making policymakers aware about people's views and their reflection at the incoming budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year so that it becomes poor-friendly and people-oriented.

Members of Ganokendro, people's centres, and people from all walks of life exchanged their opinions openly.

The meetings were held in 61 Ganokendro, people's centres, and 11 community resource centres of eight upazilas in four districts. Ganokendro and community resource centre



members, committee members, Union Parishad (UP) members, community action group members, civil society members, school and college teachers, physicians, petty businessmen, school students and general people of villages took part.

A total of 2,768 women and 940 men participated at the meetings held separately at various locations.



Safe Motherhood Day observed in Barguna, Patuakhali

Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed the Safe Motherhood Day in a befitting manner in Barguna and Patuakhali on 28 May 2011.

This year's theme was 'Haspatale Prosob Koran, Ma o Shishuke Bachan' (Do child delivery at hospital, save mother and child).'

Twenty-six Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres of Barguna and Patuakhali districts were divided into six clusters. The day was observed in three centres in the morning and three other centres in the afternoon.

Rallies were organised to mark the occasion. This was followed by discussions where importance and significance of the day were highlighted.

ECDSP project's Vitamin-A campaign

Public Health Nutrition Institute under Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched a countrywide campaign for feeding Vitamin-A capsule to children aged below 5 years on 29 May 2011.

On the same day, Avas, a partner organisation of Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission established linkage with union health workers for administering Vitamin-A capsule to children of 13 Shishu Bikash Kendro, child development centres, as well as children aged below 5 years in Chawra and Kukua unions of Amtoli upazila in Barguna district.

Avas workers and tutors fed Vitamin-A capsule to 243 children of 13 child development centres and other children in the area. The Vitamin-A campaign was done at 26 ECD centres of Avas. Besides, nutritional messages to decrease child mortality and preventing blindness due to want of Vitamin-A as well as ensuring higher rate of feeding Vitamin-A capsule were circulated in the area.



ACCESS project observes Global Action Week

Like previous years, this year also ACCESS (health and empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed Global Action Week in eight upazilas of four districts on 2-8 May 2011.

The districts are Jessore, Jhenidah, Jamalpur and Narshingdi.

This year's theme was 'Nari o Mey Shishur Shikkhar Odhikar Nishchit Korte Hobe, Ekkhuni' (Right to education of women and girls to be ensured, right now).'

Various programmes were chalked out in Community Resource Centres (CRCs) and Ganokendro (people's centres) situated under the purview of the project. The programmes included rally, human chain, discussion meeting, book collection activity, 'Jari' song on right to education, essay competition and cultural function.

A total of 10,473 members of 410 Ganokendro (people's centres)



and 23 community resource centres took part. Of them, 9,471 were women and 1,002 men



Anti-trafficking skill dev workshop held in 27 Jamalpur unions

Capacity Building to Reduce Vulnerability of Human Trafficking (CCRVT) project organised skill development workshops for members of trafficking prevention committees formed in 27 unions of Melandaha, Dewanganj and Bakshiganj upazilas of Jamalpur district within a period from April and May 2011.

As many as 594 members of human trafficking prevention committees of the three upazilas took part. After the workshop, the committees will prepare monthly and yearly workplan. Besides, they will arrange monthly discussion meetings to raise awareness among locals as well as identify vulnerable people and discuss with them anti-trafficking measures and conduct a survey with their help.

They will also preserve information on the survey and will take next course of action following monitoring in the area. Later, these committees will undertake skill development programmes for prevention of human trafficking and raising greater awareness on trafficking issues.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Relief International Bangladesh are jointly implementing the two-year project with financial support from US State Department. Women and children got priorities and importance has been given on proper steps to be taken during trafficking period.

ECDSP-B Project's quarterly partners' forum meeting held

Quarterly partners' forum meeting of Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project was held in AVAS Training Centre of Barisal on 12 April, 2011.

The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

To look back last year's performance and identifying the strategy to implement the future plan. To bring clear understanding about replication plan of the ongoing year. Audit findings sharing and compliances.

The following agenda was discussed:

Reviewal of progress of last year's programme. Present status, learning and challenges. Community participation in the programme activities. Year-IV replication plan execution. Quarterly and monthly breakdown and staff's monthly activity plan according to monthly replication plan.

Executive director, director of programmes, ECDSP-B Project manager, training coordinator, accounts and administration officer, field manager, master trainer, assistant accounts and administration officer, project coordinator, monitoring and documentation officers (MDOs), trainers and accounts and administration officers from secondary civil society organisations (SCSOs) were present.

Nat'l Worm Week-2011 observed in Chowgachha

National Worm Week-2011 has been observed in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district under sponsorship of ACCESS project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with Upazila Family Planning office. An upazila advocacy meeting was held in observance of the week. According to resolution of the meeting, people were motivated thru' refreshers' meeting and courtyard meetings at community resource centres and Ganokendro, people's centres, to create mass awareness for intake of anti-worm tablets to school-going children aged 5-12, for elimination of worms. The meeting also suggested to other members of the family for intake of anti-worm tablets at own initiative on the same day. As many as 373 children of tiny tots' schools and kindergartens of Chowgachha were fed anti-worm tablets at Narayanpur Prottasha, Hakimpur Shimul, Patibila Alor Pathy community resource centres under sponsorship of upazila health department. Of them, 197 were girls and 176 boys.

Trafficking is a complex social ill. Typically it involves a series of events over an extended period of time and in many different places – from home to border and workplace, some legal and some illegal.

Trafficking is widespread in Bangladesh. Most often, it is for flesh trade but also for other forms of exploitative work — domestic service, plantations, construction sites, sweetmeat shops or for begging. The response, therefore, has to be equally wide ranging. Since inception, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been pursuing a policy of upholding rights and dignity of women and children. Today it has emerged as a successful organisation in Bangladesh as long as human rights are concerned. A wide array of activities has been underway so far to institutionalise its endeavour to resist human trafficking. Befittingly, capacity building of local community, relevant organisations and individuals remains to be the main agenda of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Such initiative has been unertaken to create a vibrant community as alternative advocates at the very grassroots level. Especially, there has been always a major focus in border areas.

Rehabilitation Establishment of a Shelter Home, Child and Woman Trafficking Prevention Programme, Concerted Intervention Through Networking (Awareness), Coordinated Programme To Combat Child Trafficking, SANGOG, Children Involved in Camel Racing (CIRC) and Prevention of Cross Border trafficking in Women and Children between Bangladesh and India (C-BAT).

At present, seven different projects are being implemented by the Human Rights and Social Justice Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Among them, three projects have been specially designed for combating trafficking and providing support services to trafficked victims.

A project named 'Bangladesh Action for Combating Trafficking-in-Persons Programme (BACTP)' is being implemented in Jessore region. The project is being implemented since 2008 with an objective to protect survivors through provision of rescue, shelter and well-being support systems and assisting survivors through skills development training and reintegration measures their return to a normal life.

DAM remains ever vigilant in resisting human trafficking in Bangladesh for over a decade



Dhaka Ahsania Mission formally launched its first programme on anti-trafficking in mid-nineties in name of 'NASHIK'. NASHIK started working across the programme areas of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

However, within a year another new programme named 'Children and Women Trafficking Prevention Programme (CWTP)' came into being. Under CWTP, Dhaka Ahsania Mission-led anti-trafficking movement gained new impetus. Since then, the anti-trafficking programme of the Mission has been growing fast.

In early 2000s, a significant number of projects emerged which were listed under the anti-trafficking programme. The projects have been able to focus on different areas of anti-trafficking. The key projects that kept significant impact concerning anti-trafficking include Child and Woman Trafficking Prevention Community Empowerment Approach, Child and Women Trafficking Prevention Repatriation and Rehabilitation, Child and Woman Trafficking Repatriation, Reintegration and Reha-

'Enhancing Community Capacity to Reduce Vulnerability to Human Trafficking in Jamalpur district' is one of the key major projects dealing with anti-trafficking components.

The project is being implemented in Jamalpur region with an objective of development and capacity building of anti-trafficking committees.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has established a shelter home in Jessore with an objective of repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of trafficked victims. The centre has been rendering valuable services to rescued victims since early 2000s. It has emerged as one of the best shelter homes of trafficked victims across the country.

Although Dhaka Ahsania Mission has devoted much attention to the cause of combating human trafficking but a more concerted and coordinated effort from various departments including government departments and civil society organisations are needed for protection and safeguarding interests of vulnerable women and children.



DAM in frame

Technology Transfer: Rural people were imparted training on Ready made Garments (RMG) at rural vocational training institutes (RVTI) situated in Dewanganj and Sharishabari upazilas of Jamalpur district

