



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission  
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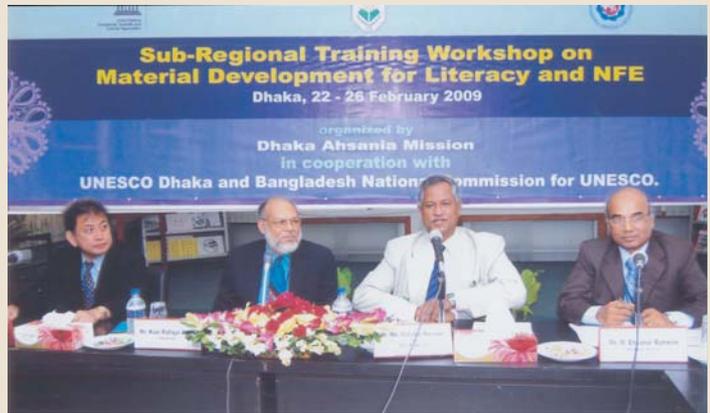


March 2009

## Govt. determined to achieve total literacy by 2014

-Primary and Mass Education State Minister

Government is determined to achieve total literacy by 2014 and govt. will welcome any initiative in this regard. To achieve this target, government and NGOs will have to come forward with coordinated action. State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md. Motahar Hossain MP said this while speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 5 day-long South Asian Sub-Regional Workshop on Material Development for Literacy and NFE organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission with the support of UNESCO Dhaka and Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO on Sunday, 22 February 2009 at the Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the capital. [See page 2]



## Law Enforcing Agencies to Ensure Best Interest of Children

The law enforcing agencies will have to play the supporting role to protect the best interest of children. It is the demand of time that police will keep the child protection activities within their routine work.

To protect children and realization of their demand, it is important to create a circle comprising representatives of law enforcing agencies and other professionals. An environment for the protection of children will have to be created through rousing consciousness and establishing close relationship among officials and staff belonging to the ministries of Home, Information, Social Welfare, Education, Women and Children Affairs working at the district, upazila and union level. For this a supporting group has been created comprising local journalists and people associated with judicial activities through the formation of an action group by community care committee.

Speakers said this at the concluding ceremony of a two day-long training workshop titled "Training for Trainers of Law Enforcing Agencies" [See page 3]



## Necessity of pictorial warning and labeling on tobacco product packets

Inclusion of health related pictorial warnings and labeling on tobacco product packets is important as majority of the tobacco users in this country are illiterate. Arrangement of alternative livelihood through providing subsidy, novelty in anti tobacco slogan and building awareness through stringent implementation of Tobacco Control Act is the demand of time. Separate workshop may be arranged involving members of parliament

and various professionals to work out necessary modalities in this regard. For this media can play an important role.

Speakers said this at a workshop titled "Inclusion of Pictorial Warning and Labeling issues in Tobacco Control Law" held on Monday, February 16, 2009 at the Mission Bhaban Auditorium at Dhanmondi in the capital. With the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and support of [See page 3]

## Khanbahadur Ahsanullah was an exponent of Bengali nationalism, upholder of free-thinking and secular ideas

- Khulna city Mayor

Khanbahadur Ahsanullah was a exponent of Bengali nationalism, upholder of free-thinking and secular ideas. Khulna city corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleq said this while speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled "Contribution of Khanbahadur Ahsanullah in educational and social development" held at the Zia Hall in Khulna city on 28 February, 2009.

He further said, he inspired the backward society through spreading education. The motto of his life was confined not only in the devotion to Allah but fulfillment of life meant to him love and dedication for the creation and service for their welfare.

He declared the highway from Khulna Sonadanga busstand to Satkhira as Khan the [See page 3]

## Retreat-2008 was held with great enthusiasm and fervor

Retreat - 2008 was held in the face of changed reality while global development arena has been facing numerous new challenges. Bangladesh as a least developed country faces tremendous problems as global challenges are ready to affect Bangladesh in many different



ways. Dhaka Ahsania Mission as a leading and pioneer development agency in Bangladesh shoulders a huge responsibility to pursue right directions for contributing against the adversity of changed phenomenon.

Retreat - 2008 was held on 26-29th January, 2009 at the HRDC PROSHIKA at Koitta, Manikgonj. This Retreat had the [See page 2]

## Retreat-2008

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opportunity to set objectives in light of finding right coping mechanism for ensuring 'way forward'. DAM personnel remained the key consideration to uplift the organizational status as number of events were planned to be taken place to ensure right motivation for them. This Retreat also anticipated the severity of challenges and multiplicity of emerging areas of development. Consequently, the major theme of the Retreat - 2008 has been 'Diversity and Changes'. As usual this Retreat remained the annual gathering of the programme personnel beside the key central officials.

The inaugural session of the Retreat-2008 was on with a charming choreography reflecting the patriotic affection. The choreography group displayed wishing lights at the beginning while at the end they welcomed and received the participants throwing flower petals. President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission formally uncovered the inaugural festoon. All the attendees put their hands together as soon as the festoon became visible.

Retreat - 2008 thematic Committee identified two major challenges that have to be intervened immediately. Hence, it was understood that a thorough preparedness is needed in terms of conceptual clarity of the programme personnel. Consequently two different seminars were held so that the participants can acquire required knowledge to be effective



for undertaking interventions on Climate Change and Food Security. Mr. Shashanka Saadi of UNDP and Dr. Hamidul Huq of Institute of Livelihood Studies presented key notes. Opinion sharing sessions also took place for the issues and participants were encouraged to ask relevant questions on both the issues.

The participants were directed to have group exercises in the next day. Four sectors of the programme division were divided into four groups tagging EDUCATION, LIVLIHOOD, HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE and WATSAN (Health). All the four groups were advised to examine the status of each sector in terms of integrating Climate Change and Food Security challenges. Every group was guided by the concerned senior personnel. The group exercises explored several new issues, priority interventions and recommendations for coping up with the emerging challenges in terms of Climate Change and Food Security.

The last day of the Retreat - 2008 had an endeavor to accelerate the team building arrangement for attaining maximum outcomes.

## DAM takes responsibility for treatment

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for protecting this type of youths from ruination who have become the victims of drug. For this, DAM wants to establish one drug treatment centre in each of several more districts. To help this initiative, he sought suitable land or building as donation from the wealthy section of the people to establish drug rehabilitation centers which will be conducted after the name of the donors. He further said, Dhaka Ahsania Mission will bring Maznu back into normal life through proper treatment and will also rehabilitate him in the society.

DAM Senior Program Officer Iqbal Masud said, Mission so far has provided 1811 persons with short and long term treatment and rehabilitated through support from DAM centre.

It may be mentioned, Maznu a youth of 25 years who was once a gentle and amiable youth had been chained for two long years. Now with big nails and long beards, he remain sitting all the time with a blank look. Due to lack of money, his parents could not arrange for his treatment and finding no other means had chained him so long.

Maznu Miah lived near Taraganj in khas land in the village Kalla Bari of Kishorganj upazila under Nilfamari district. His family consisting of four persons used to lead life with the meager earning of day laborer father Abdur Rahman. Maznu and his sister Sultana used to read in school but this devastating addiction has destroyed his family.

Highlights of the recommendations and findings of the previously held Regional Coordination Meetings during last year were presented. The basis of the presentation includes strength of Dhaka

Ahsania Mission from the programme perspective, underlying problems that interrupt the overall development of the organizational strengths, some agreed recommendations for overcoming the weaknesses found and some major areas of attention that are needed to be nurtured purposefully so that the organization can walk along the right direction.

This Retreat raised number of recommendations for approaching global challenges that emerged in the recent time. Recommendations on institutional

capacity building got momentum as DAM set a clear vision to represent beyond the national boundary. Retreat - 2008 also had an opportunity to identify the weaknesses and target right direction to overcome such limitations.

Retreat - 2008 was declared to be fantastic in terms of producing effective results. All concerned agreed that the Retreat - 2008 was a product of collective effort of a huge team comprising Key personnel of the organizational hierarchy as well as field personnel from across the country. Hence, this Retreat was found to be inspiring, enlightening, entertaining and outstanding. Retreat- 2008 again rang the bell 'LET US WORK TOGETHER'.



## Law Enforcing Agencies to Ensure Best Interest of Children

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on the Issue of Child Rights, Protection & the Responsibilities of Law Enforcing Agencies' on Thursday, February 19, 2009 held at the Mission Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the capital.

They further informed, imams of mosques, U.P-female members, teachers, youth community, guardians, conscious citizens and members of the law enforcing agencies had been involved in this project. Through this training workshop, a work plan was formulated for the protection of children which would be helpful to ensure quality of life of children and also help them to establish in the society.

With the support of UNICEF, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing community-based child protection and techniques of development in 53 unions of 35 upazilas under 15 districts in the country. A number of 15 Police Inspectors of 15 districts had participated in this training workshop.

DAM Programme Director Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Director Advocate Shirin Nahar, Training Coordinator Ayub Khan and Coordinator Kamol Kumar Joardder were present at this two day-long training workshop.





## World Class Nursing Training Institute

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Altaf Ali and ADG, Health Directorate Dr. Hosne Ara Tahmina spoke as special guests at the meeting.

Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali said, health related basic information should be included in the curriculum of our schools. He also said, with the joint initiative of Education and Health Ministry awareness activities on healthy diet and physical activity will have to be promoted among the masses across the country.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, there is very little scope of cancer treatment in our country. There is scope of cancer treatment for only 25 thousand cancer patients combinedly at the government and private clinics. He appealed to the government to support Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital for the

procurement of medical equipments.

Cancer Specialist Dr. Kamruzzaman Chowdhury presented the key-note paper. Among others Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital MD and former health secretary M. Fazlur Rahman, Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection and Hospital Director Brig. General (Rtd.) Dr. Syed Fazle Rahim spoke on the occasion.

In his key-note paper Cancer Specialist Dr. Kamruzzaman Chowdhury said, for treatment of cancer abroad approximately Tk. 6 thousand crore goes out of the country annually. He informed that there are more than a million cancer patients in our country which is added by another two lacs out of which 1.5 lacs die annually.

## Khanbahadur Ahsanullah was an exponent

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Bahadur Ahsanullah road. With the support of Khunla Ahsania Mission, the seminar was arranged by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Presided over by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam Additional Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikder was present at the seminar as special guest. The keynote paper was presented by Khulna Public College Principal Sheik Syed Ali Ahmed. Bangladesh Regional News Paper central committee Dhaka President Principal Ali Ahmed was the main discussant. Khulna University Registrar Gazi Abdullah-Hel Baki, Khulna City Corporation Panel Mayor Ruma Khatun and DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman participated in the discussion. Principal Ali Ahmed placed a demand to DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam for establishing a full-fledged university in Khulna.

## Preparation of Sectoral Strategic Document

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Rights and Social Justice have already been completed and the process for preparing final draft of Livelihood and Health is expected to be completed by end March 2009. The whole process is jointly facilitated by the Executive Director and the Director Program.

## Only good governance and recommendation-free police

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Kumar Kundu, Area Coordinator Abdur Rakib and Advocate Sabia Khanam of ASHROI Project participated in the discussion. ASHROI Project has also been conducted police training at Satkhira and Narshindi district.

## Necessity of health related pictorial warning

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American Cancer Society, Cancer Research, UK and Framework Convention Alliance the workshop was organized. Presided over by DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman, BSS chief editor Jaglul Ahmed Choudhury, RTV CEO M. Hamid, Bhorer Kajos editor Shamol Dutta, Daink Bhorer Dak editor K. M. Belayet Hossain, Shamokal associate editor Ajoy Dasgupta, BFUJ former general secretary and the Daily Star city editor Abdul Jalil Bhuiya, Zai Zai Din executive editor Mahmud Al Faisal and Protham Alo city editor Pronab Saha were present as guests in the workshop. The workshop was moderated by WHO Technical Officer Dr. Iqbal Kabir and the key-note paper was presented by DAM Senior Program Officer Iqbal Masud. Speakers further said, it is possible to mitigate the nutrition deficiency of 10 million people with the money which would be saved through control of tobacco use. According to recent information of HDRC, the rate of tobacco use among people of the age group of 15 and above irrespective of male and female is 37% and the annual expenditure for tobacco use is Tk. 9370 crore. United initiative is necessary to make aware people about the use of tobacco and tobacco products. In this regard, ubckysuib if ouctiruak warbubgs abd kabekubg on tobacco product packets can play a great role. Many developed countries i.e. Thailand, Canada, Brazil, Australia and many more are already reaping the benefit of incorporating health related picture-based caution on tobacco product packets. We know a picture is powerful than thousand words. For this, it is easy to make people understand the bad effects of tobacco use through picture. A consumer has the right to know the good-effects and bad-effects of the product he/she is going to buy. This is also applicable in the case tobacco products. That is why inclusion of pictorial warning and labeling tobacco product packets now is the demand of time.

## Govt. determined to achieve total literacy by

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He further said, there is no alternative for education to survive in this competitive world and the nation can not progress without education which is the precondition to eradicate poverty. Participants from different countries in this South Asian Sub-Regional Workshop on Material Development for Literacy and NFE contribute greatly from their experiences, he hoped.

Presided over by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, UNESCO Bangladesh education specialist Kiichi Oyasu and DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

In his presidential address Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, poverty and illiteracy are still the main

problems of South Asia. According to the follow up of the progress report of Dakar Frame-work of Action on Education for All, to remove the poverty and illiteracy of South Asian region, importance of the development of literacy materials and NFE is paramount. For this, shaping of skilled manpower to develop literacy materials is necessary and for making Digital Bangladesh massive use of ICT materials is needed.

With the aim of skill development at the national level of South Asian Sub-Regional Countries for literacy materials development, 20 specialist senior officers of government and non-government level from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh participated in this workshop which continued up to February 26, 2009.

Speakers at the DAM training

## Only good governance and influence-free police can ensure child, women and human rights

Only good governance and influence-free police can ensure fundamental rights of people, stop torture on child, women and establish human rights. For this police force will have to work sincerely. When victims come to the police station, their statements will have to be recorded speedily.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission arranged an orientation workshop titled 'women and child repression and appraisal of human rights' for the members of law enforcing agencies at the Jessore Joyoty Society Auditorium. ASHROI Prjoect of DAM Program Director Shafiqul Islam presided over the workshop which was attended by Assistant Police Super Quamruzzaman as chief guest. District Women Affairs Officer Kausar Parvin, District Child Affairs Officer Fazlul Karim, Social Directorate Probationary Officer Razaul Hoque and Senior Information Officer Shiba Prada Mondol, were present as special guests.

Among others, DAM ASHROI Project Coordinator Masud Rana, C-BAT Project Coordinator Rowshan Ara, Members of Police Forces, Journalist and NGO Representatives participated in the workshop. Participants presented group wise posters on the role and duties of law enforcing agencies to combat oppression on women and child. DAM Program Director Shafiqul Islam conducted the training.

In his speech the chief guest said, our progress will not be possible unless we can stop women and child repression and ensure their rights 3 security. We will have to develop the victims economically. For this NGO activities will have to be coordinated with others. Regional coordinator Rashedul Islam, ASHROI Project Human Rights Coordinator Uzzal [See page 3]



## Govt. will cooperate in establishing World Class Nursing Training Institute

-Health Minister

Government will extend support to Dhaka Ahsania Mission in establishing world class nursing training institute in the country. For a world class cancer hospital qualified doctors, nurses and medical physicists are very much important and for this Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital would have to take initiative.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof. Dr. A F M Ruhul Haque said this while speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting in observance of World Cancer Day on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 held at the National Museum auditorium in the capital.

He further said, the slogan

"cancer will have to be conquered instead of being afraid of it" It will have to be spread among the masses across the country and observed that print and electronic media can play a significant role in this respect. To combat cancer it needs mass awareness and only a conscious citizen can resist cancer. Ahsania Mission has been playing a leading role in this regard, he said.

To observe the day, Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital organized a rally at 9 A.M. from National Press Club to National Museum followed by a discussion meeting. The rally was participated by doctors, nurses, scouts, students, teachers, professionals and development workers. The theme of this year's cancer day was "Today's children, tomorrow's world- prevent cancer with healthy habits, healthy diet and physical activity."

Presided over by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Health Secretary Shaikh [See page 3]

## DAM takes responsibility for treatment & rehabilitation of chained addicted Maznu



Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) takes responsibility for treatment and rehabilitation of addicted chained Maznu. On Monday (2 February 2009) DAM took the responsibility of Maznu from his parents at its Head Office at Dhanmondi in the capital.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Senior Program Officer Iqbal Masud, Maznu's parents,

Abdur Rahman and Marjina Khatun and his neighbor Pradip Kumar were present on the occasion.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, this is a common scenario of drug addiction in the country. This type of Maznus are spread across the country. All will have to take initiative

[See page 2]

## Preparation of Sectoral Strategic Document

An initiative is moving ahead for last 2 months across program division to prepare "Setoral Strategy Documents" to present the vision, mission, future intervention strategies of all the 4 sectors and sub-sectors such as Education, Livelihood, Health, Human Rights & Social Justice.

Sectoral sub-committees under the guidance of the senior colleagues have already prepared drafts and shared with all concerned for comments and ideas. Separate workshops were organized to examine and incorporate those comments and ideas to give the final shape of the documents.

This initiative was taken as internal institutional capacity development of the 10 years long perspective plan of DAM program division (2006 to 2015). The final drafts of Education, Disaster Risk Reduction, Human [See page 3]