



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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March 2010

## Speakers at DAM Advocacy Meeting **Literacy rate up by 27.2 pc only in 35 years**

Literacy rate has gone up by 27.2 % only in 35 years across the country. Now is the time to take various steps for attainment of cent per cent literacy by the year 2014. Enrolment in primary schools has been raised to 90%. Ten per cent learners either do not attend school or do not get the opportunity for schooling. Rate of school dropouts is 49.9%.

Speakers said this at an advocacy meeting sponsored by the Unique Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in cooperation with *[See page 2]*

## **Japanese survey team visits under construction AMCH**

A five-member high power survey team of Tokyo University of Science visited the underconstruction Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Uttara in Dhaka, one of the overpopulated megacities of Asia, on 8 February 2010.

The delegation led by Prof Korayashi Yioichi consisted of Sanjin Barua, *[See page 2]*

Bangladesh's unique geo-climatic conditions make it traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters.

Bangladesh is the worst cyclone-affected part of the world. Cyclones, storms, floods, earthquakes and landslides strike different parts of the country every year with mind-numbing regularity. Climate change has added to the misery of its people. For the millions of poor and dispossessed living in these regions, every calamity is a disaster spells death, destruction and deprivation.

The disasters underscored the increasing need for a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach in the developmental plans and strategies towards risk



Rashed Khan Menon, MP

## **Mother language is essential as medium of education for ethnic children**

It is very essential for the children belonging to ethnic community to pursue education in their mother language at the initial stage of learning. If the children get an opportunity to continue education in mother language at primary education level then the speed of their education is accelerated.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry Affairs said this while addressing as chief guest at a

seminar on 'Outcome of Study on Ethnic Community Children's Education through Mother Language,' organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban in the city on Thursday, 25 February 2010.

He further said that according to a study, it has been learnt that the ethnic children who pursue education at primary stage in mother language instead *[See page 2]*

## **Donate blood to save dying patients**

All should come forward to donate blood for saving dying patients. Everyone should be engaged in service to humanity alongside institutional education. Service to humanity is true religion. Life will be prosperous by reflecting ideals of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R) in own life.

Speakers said this while speaking at a Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign organised by Ahsanullah Institute of Information and Communication Technology (AIICT) in collaboration with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, on AICT campus marking the 46th anniversary of demise of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), founder of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on Monday.

They further said, Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R) was a social and educational reformer. It is he who introduced first the system of writing roll number on the answer scripts of public examinations. He authored 79 books on society, country, Bengali literature, history and culture as *[See page 2]*

## **Disaster risk reduction initiative at village level**



reduction. Relief and voluntary organisations are beginning to realise that besides relief work it is

also imperative to reduce the vulnerability of people by adequately preparing them to face

these disasters.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Concern Universal, Bangladesh has initiated a Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) intervention in some of the most vulnerable and disaster prone districts in the country.

The initiative is supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) under the DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness ECHO) Fifth South Asian Action Plan and Cordaid.

Since June 16, 2009, the two organisations are working jointly with the local community in the coastal districts of Patuakhali and Barguna, a highly *[See page 3]*

## Mother language is essential as medium

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of Bangla are far ahead than others. These children are much more creative than others.

In his presidential speech, Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, this is because of only Bangla as medium of education, the rate of schooldropouts is larger among the children belonging to ethnic community. This is the main reason of lack of interest in education among these children resulting in non-fulfilment of a desired result of primary education. UNESCO Bangladesh Representative Malama Meleisa said, UNESCO is actively helping children belonging to ethnic community to pursue education in mother language in 12 countries including Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Thailand. Work on this study in

Bangladesh has been undertaken as part of a regional study programme. CAMPE Chairman and Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the seminar while UNESCO Bangladesh Representative Malama Meleisa was present as special guest.

DAM Research Division Deputy Director Rafiq Hasan presented a report on the outcome of the study. Prof Ahsan Ali of Anthropology Department of Dhaka University, President of Monipuri Sahitya Sangsad, Sylhet A K Seram and Jatiyo Adibasi Parishad general secretary Rabindra Nath Saren took part at the discussion. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman delivered Welcome Speech at the seminar.



## Japanese survey team

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Eukio Yamauchi, Eukio Nishida and Taiki Tomatsu. At that time, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Engineering Department director Engineer Chowdhury Ziaur Rasul, Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate director Major M M Motiur Rahman, assistant director Zohurul Amin

and other officials were present.

A survey is being conducted on Urban Building Fire Safety in Megacities of Asia in collaboration with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate. As part of the survey, the Japanese team visited the underconstruction Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital and gave suggestions on matters relating to infrastructure and fire safety.

## Govt to take steps to detect cancer

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This year's theme of World Cancer Day was 'Cancer can be prevented too.' Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Project Director Dr Md Lutfar Rahman presented a paper on 'Cancer can be prevented too' while Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University cancer specialist Prof Dr Syed Md

Akram Hossain displayed government plan and action programme for prevention of cancer through power point display. Earlier, Mirpur Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital Director Brig Gen (retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim delivered welcome address on the occasion.



## Literacy rate up by 27.2 pc only in 35 years

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the European Commission held at Mirpur Urban Training Centre in the city on Tuesday, 23 February, 2010.

Under Unique Project, about 1 lac 59 thousand 460 children who are deprived of education and living in Char (sandy land rising above the river bed), Haor (water body), coastal islands, hill region, Monga-prone areas and city slums are being rendered non-formal education by following the government curriculum, speakers further said. These children usually fell victims of circumstances due to certain geographical location and bad communication system. After rendering non-formal education, these children are being brought to the mainstream of education. Apart from this, Unique Project has set up 2380 learning centres where multigrade system is being followed to teach the learners.

Suravi Director Md Abu Taher presided over the advocacy meeting titled, 'Prospects and Problems in Attainment of Quality Primary Education'. Ershad Uddin Ahmed, Education Officer of Lalbag Thana in Dhaka presented the key-note speech while Manikganj District Primary Education Officer Shaheen Ara Begun was present as chief guest. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Training and Material Development Division Director M A Rashid was present as special guest. Besides, Unique Project Coordinator Golam Faruque Hamim and Regional Manager Shamima Begum also spoke on the occasion.

Various recommendations were adopted at the advocacy meeting. Zila and Thana education officers of Dhaka division, headmasters of different schools, NGO officials and civil society members highlighted their respective recommendations.

## Donate blood to save

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well as religion and life.

During blood donation campaign, DAM ICT Team Leader Syed Ziaul Haque, AICT Principal Kazi Shahidul Islam, Ahsania Mission College Principal Atiar

Rahman, Banglaesh Red Crescent Society Programme Organiser Shah Raziur Rahman, medical technologist Manoranjan Balo, AICT teacher Tanzila Yasmeen, Shamima Nasreen and K H Rubel were present.



## Disaster risk reduction

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dynamic ecosystem facing storms, high tidal waves, floods and cyclones every year.

DAM along with Concern Universal is helping the local community in 14 unions of Mirzaganj upazila in Patuakhali district and Patharghata upazila in Barguna district in building effective preparedness to face the consequences of recurrent disasters and minimise loss to lives and property.

The programme has been incorporated with the agenda of 1,576 learning centers run under UNIQUE Project, a major educational project of DAM, in the disaster prone regions of Rangpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Barisal, Noakhali, Chittagong and Rangamati.

Activities under this initiative will continue till September 15, 2010. Around 2 lakh people of disaster prone districts have been brought

under the project.

The novelty and uniqueness of the initiative is that local community, union parishad (UP), secondary schools, learning centres and Ganokendro (people's welfare centres operated by DAM), government and non-government organisations have been involved with its activities while all the institutions are working in close coordination with each other.

Project activities include discussion, development of risk reduction action plans for vulnerable areas, education material for school children containing awareness messages on disaster, training module on Disaster Management Committee (DMC), handout package for DMC training, manual on post disaster care, volunteers' guide, posters on disaster preparedness, flyers and festoons containing awareness messages on

disaster preparedness, simulation models on cyclone and floods and simulation focusing role of schools and students in disaster risk reduction.

A team consisting of 14 Dhaka-based journalists of print and electronic media went to Charkhali village under No-4 Deuli Subidkhali union of Mirzaganj upazila in Patuakhali district on Sunday (February 22, 2010) to witness a community based disaster risk reduction simulation exercise there. No-4 Deuli Subidkhali union, Samabae Secondary School, local Ganokendro known as people's centers jointly organized the one hour long simulation exercise as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction at the village level. Held at Charkhali Samabae (Cooperatives) Secondary School, the simulation exercise has proven to be a success. It has created great enthusiasm among local people. The villagers were highly impressed by

the extra-ordinary performance of school students of the rural area.

Mirzaganj upazila chairman Gazi Athar Uddin Ahmed, vice-chairman Abu Bakar Siddiquee, woman vice-chairman Jesmin Sultana Jui, Deuli Subidkhali Union Parishad (UP) chairman Mobarak Ali Munshi and Charkhali Samabae Secondary School headmaster Golam Mostafa Khan graced the occasion. In a brief speech, both Mirzaganj upazila chairman Gazi Athar Uddin Ahmed and Deuli Subidkhali Union Parishad (UP) chairman Mobarak Ali Munshi stressed on reconstruction of a 15-foot high embankment around the village. Jahangir Alam, an official who is responsible for coordination and monitoring of the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Project told the visiting journalists that the villagers' interest and enthusiasm in the project was evident during the exercise and that was what CBDRR was all about.

## ECD pre-requisite for ensuring quality edn

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through early childhood education and care then school enrolment will increase alongside raising attendance rate in classes. He also assured all-out administrative support and cooperation in implementation of the ECDSP-B project.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Director Shafiqul Islam chaired the inaugural session while it was attended, among others, by Canadian Programme Team Leader from PIU, AKF-B Faruq Faisel, Barguna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Jahirul Islam and Barguna Sadar Upazila Chairman Abdul Khaleque as special guests. Shahinoor Begum, District Women's Affairs Officer (additional in-charge), Directorate of Women's Affairs, Barguna also graced the occasion. Jago Nari Barguna President Razia Begum delivered welcome speech at the opening session. Under the ECDSP-B project, children of poor and disadvantaged people are being provided with early childhood education and care.

A power point presentation on ECDSP-B Project approaches was displayed by Md Shahidul Islam, Project Manager, ECDSP-B project. This was followed by a brief discussion, moderated by the chairman of the session where officials, experts and staffs expressed their comments, feedback and recommendation. An ECDSP-B display demonstration was also held on the Shilpokala Academy premises.



## Capt. Abu Syeed Monim

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ing the hospital at its initial stage by the year end. The hospital will be run on the basis of 'No profit, no loss.' Thirty percent poor and distressed patient will be able to get free treatment. He called upon the government, corporate sector and people from all walks of life to come forward for the noble cause.



## Replicate AUST to ensure quality

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development.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry Affairs, said this while addressing as Chief Guest at the opening ceremony of AUST Ex-Students' Reunion at its Tejgaon campus in the city on Friday, February 5, 2010.

He further said, engineering education does not make engineers merely machines, rather they should be aware about their social responsibilities. They must have to work collectively for development of the country arousing human values. Alongside engineering education, students and engineers must uphold indigenous tradition and correct history of our liberation war which should reflect in their activity.

While delivering address as Special Guest, AUST Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Anwar Hossain said, ex-students are lives of private universities. They are also ambassadors of private universities. Ex-students can always play an effective role in raising the standard of education.

Former AUST Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. M.H. Khan also spoke as Special Guest while Students' Welfare Director Prof. Dr. Md. Anwarul Mostafa delivered Welcome Speech. Ex-student Diben Dutta also spoke on the occasion.

The day-long programme included formation of Convening Committee, General Meeting, Sports and Games Meet and Raffle Draw. Attractive feature of the programme was a musical function participated by popular singers of the country.



State Minister for Health on World Cancer Day

## Govt to take steps to detect cancer at all community clinics

Government will take necessary measures for detection of cancer at all community clinics across the country. Steps will also be taken for proper training to create

skilled manpower in this field.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Capt (ret'd) Majibur Rahman Fakir, MP, said this while speaking as chief guest

at a seminar held on the occasion of World Cancer Day at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city on 4 February 2010.

The State Minister stressed on concerted efforts of government and non-governmental organisations to create awareness about cancer. Awareness is the best way for prevention of cancer, he said.

Speakers said, in Bangladesh, 60 % cancer patients die within five

year. At present, cancer mortality rate is 8%. The rate will rise to 13% within next 20 years. If usage of CFC, contraction of ozone sphere continue at the present state then an additional 10 crore people is likely to fall victims of skin cancer within next 50 years. About 4.5 crore people will suffer from various problems relating to eyesight.

In his presidential speech, Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will be commissioned at the initial stage by the yearend. He said, Health Education Bureau of government should take initiative to create awareness on cancer. Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will extend cooperation according to its might. There are only 105 cancer specialists in this country of 15 crore population. Government's cooperation is a must for creating cancer specialists, he said.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the seminar while it was attended by National Professor Dr M R Khan and Amsterdam University Emeritus Professor Dr A B M F Karim as special guests.

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### Barguna DC says

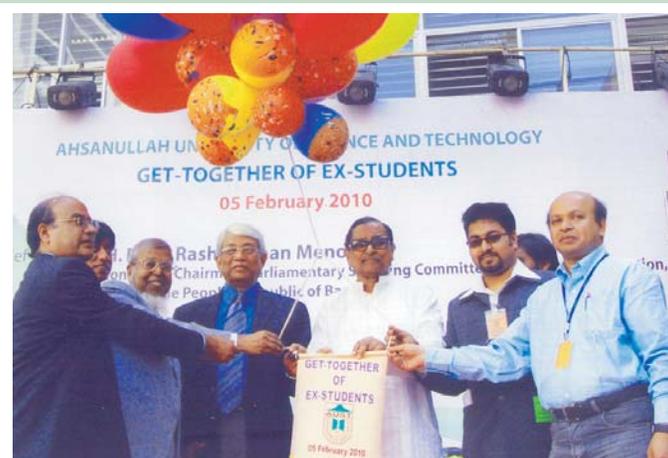
## ECD pre-requisite for ensuring quality edn

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a pre-requisite for ensuring quality education as well as for enhancement of literacy rate.

Barguna Deputy Commissioner (DC) Swapon Kumar Sarkar said this while addressing as chief guest during inauguration of a dissemination session of ECDSP-B at Barguna Zilla Shilpokala Academy auditorium on 23 February, 2010. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organised the dissemination session in cooperation with three local NGOs named AVAS, Jago Nari and Multi Task. The programme was financially supported by AKF-B and CIDA.

Barguna DC further said if children get an opportunity to prepare themselves fully for admission to primary schools

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Ex-Students' Reunion

## Replicate AUST to ensure quality edn, attainment of self-sufficiency

--Rashed Khan Menon, MP

Private universities should replicate example of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) to ensure quality education and attainment of self-sufficiency through overall

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## Capt. Abu Syeed Monim donates Tk 6 lac to AMCH Fund

Capt. Abu Syeed Monim has donated Tk 6 lac to the fund of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital being built at Uttara in the capital. Capt. Abu Syeed Monim handed over the cheque for Tk 6 lac to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban in the city on Thursday, 11 February, 2010.

With the donation, a bed of the hospital will be named after Capt. Abu Syeed Monim's father late Abu Taher Mia. While handing over the cheque, Capt. Abu Syeed Monim said, "I feel proud for my participation in construction of the hospital". Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, "Only an amount of Tk 22crore is required for commission-

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