



Deputy Speaker at Chand Sultana Award-2011 giving ceremony

Social service, dev work alongside creative activities should be given due recognition

Social service & development work alongside creative activities should be given due recognition. It is possible to build Sonar Bangla (golden Bengal) by working together. The challenges of 21st century should be faced for building Bangladesh that was freed through a bloody war of independence.

The Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad, Shawkat Ali, MP, said this while speaking as Chief Guest at the Chand Sultana Award-2011 giving ceremony held under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi in the city on 26 April 2012.

He further said, we have many things to learn from alien culture. Such rural or social based organisation is able to ensure food security to needy people as well as can create unity and fraternity in society by eliminating disunity.

All should come forward for cooperating with DAM that is working for treatment of cancer and spreading the light of education. While addressing his presidential address DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, everyone should be visionary and should come forward

to materialise the vision. If anybody works then he/she is sure to get recognition and he/she will have to sustain the recognition.

CCBVO General Secretary and researcher Md Sarwar-e-Kamal Swapan presented a report on Alternative Concept on Sustainable Development of Barind Adivasi. Adivasi leader and columnist Everist Hembrom participated at the discussion.

DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered the welcome address while Assistant Director Mohammed Mohsin presented a short life-sketch of late Chand Sultana.

Centre for Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisation (CCBVO) of Rajshahi was awarded Chand Sultana Award-2011 for its outstanding contribution towards sustainable development of disadvantaged and backward Barind Adivasi. The Chief Guest, Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shawkat Ali, MP, handed over the Chand Sultana Award-2011 to CCBVO General Secretary and researcher Md Sarwar-e-Kamal Swapan. The award includes a cheque for Tk 30,000, a crest and a certificate



Discussion held at Mozena's residence

Action for Combating Trafficking in Persons (ACT) project coordinator Sharmen Sharia Ferdus attended a discussion meeting on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) at US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena's Gulshan residence in the city on 14 May 2012. Moreover Representatives of BNWLA, Asia Foundation, SHISHUK, IOM and USAID Mission were present in the discussion. Participants discussed about human trafficking, activities of NGO elaborately. US Ambassador emphasized on the implementation of law regarding trafficking in Bangladesh and he requested everybody to be more active against such type of inhuman activities.

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BDRCS chairman says at workshop Disaster preparedness more essential than relief, rescue operation

Disaster preparedness is more essential than relief and rescue operation. It is also essential to permanently rehabilitate the disaster victims. Coordination of government and non-government organisations is a must for combating disasters.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) chairman MS Akbar, MP, said this while addressing as chief guest at a national sharing workshop on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction under the aegis of CMDRR Forum in collaboration with CordAid of the Netherlands at the Banquet Hall of Abakash Hotel at Mohakhali in the capital on 25 April 2012.

He also said that the environment of Bangladesh is being degraded through carbon emission in the air. This is why Bangladesh is being affected mostly in natural disasters. For combating natural disasters experiences of various national sharing events should be reached to grassroots level.

CARITAS Bangladesh Director Jyoti F Gomes presided over while Disaster Management Bureau Director General (DG) Ahsan Zakir, Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate DG Md Zahirul Haque and National Project Manager of CDMP-2



Mohammad Abdul Quayum were present as special guests. Head of Education Development of Concern Universal Bangladesh Abdul Hamid delivered the main speech. ADD Bangladesh Country Director Mosharraf Hossain delivered the welcome address.

Speaker at the workshop said, 13 organisations have been working under the fold of CMDRR Forum. This forum has been playing an effective role in raising capacity of individuals and organisations for reducing the risk of disasters through community management. This forum has also been working to increase capacity at grass roots level for providing a clear concept on climate change and its adverse effect.



4 cr 20 lakh fall victims to second-hand smoking across Bangladesh

Four crore 20 lakh people fall victims to second-hand smoking across Bangladesh, according to a survey conducted by Global Adult Tobacco. Of them one crore are women. Sixty three percent fall victims to second-hand smoking at workplace while 45 percent fall victims to second-hand smoking at public place. Two crore 58 lakh people fall victims to second-hand smoking in restaurant only.

Speakers said this at a roundtable conference on Tobacco Control and second-hand Smoking for editors and senior journalists of print and electronic media held under the aegis of A Step Toward Smoke-free Dhaka City at Dhanmondi Mission (DAM) Bhaban auditorium in the city at 11 A.M. on 15 May 2012.

Speakers further said, this is because of weakness of Tobacco Control Act of 2005 tobacco control programme is being hampered across the country. Tobacco and tobacco products are gradually swallowing us as silent killer. In the meantime cancer, heart disease, stroke and lung diseases have been taking an epidemic form. Tobacco and tobacco products are never beneficial to us rather they harm us.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam acted as moderator. Gholam Tahabur, online editor of The Independent, Taifur Rahman, media

and advocacy coordinator of Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, Iqbal Masud, assistant director of DAM, Ruhul Amin Rushd, journalist of Banglavisian Television and senior journalists were present.

Speakers said, there is no beneficial ingredient in tobacco which is little helpful to human being. Despite this fact use of tobacco is gradually increasing.

A smoker not only does harm to himself but also others around him. Print and electronic media can play an important role to control tobacco products in this age of globalisation.

Multi Task takes part in Boishakhi Fair

Multi Task, implementing agency of Early Childhood Development Support Programme Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) project, has taken part in a Boishakhi fair organised for welcoming the Bangla New Year at the open ground adjacent to Charduani Bazar in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district on 14 April 2012. People from all walks of life of Charduani and Kathaltoli unions thronged the fair organised by local community. Educational materials used in ECDSP-B Project activities and toys made by the mothers of children of Shishu Bikash and Pre-School were exhibited at the stall of Multi Task.





RMG training centre opens in Dinajpur

The Department of Women Affairs (DWA) under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has opened 'Mahila Hasta Shilpa O Krishi Proshikkhon Kendra' in Dinajpur on 15 May 2012 with financial support of German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and technical support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). Parliament member of Dinajpur-3 Iqbalur Rahim was the chief guest while District Commissioner (DC) of Dinajpur Jamal Uddin Ahmed presided over the opening ceremony. Dhaka Ahsania Mission's SDT-RMG project Coordinator Abdus Sadeque was present as special guest on behalf of GIZ and district women affairs officer Sandha Rani Bagchi was the convener of the opening ceremony.

More than 3000 people were present on the occasion. MP and DC visited the training centre and the training rooms just after the inauguration ceremony.

The centre was built in 2009 with a view to conducting RMG training programmes for the poor women to develop their living life. About 200 women will be able to receive training on RMG sector training in every two months. Moreover other trainings of women on handicrafts, agro and other need based will be imparted in phases.

US envoy visits DAM shelter home in Jessore

Dan W Mozena, Honourable Ambassador of the United States of America (USA), visited the shelter home of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in Jessore on 8 May 2012.

The US envoy observed the overall activities of the shelter home during his visit. Shafiqul Islam, Director of Programme Division of DAM presented the anti-trafficking activities of the shelter home. Sara Piazzano, Chief of Party of Winrock International, Dipta Rakshit, Project Manager of Winrock International were also present.

During the visit the ambassador interacted with some of the integrated survivors and members of the survivor voice group-Anirbban. Sharmeen Shahria Ferdous, Project Coordinator of DAM and Shahana Khondker, Home Manager answered to various queries of the ambassador as well as those of other officials.

Awareness stressed for disaster risk reduction

Local government representatives and officials in Sarisabari, Jamalpur, stressed the need for raising mass awareness for disaster risk reduction, following a mock drill held on Wednesday.

Local community members and leaders, school children, teachers, physicians, police, fire fighters, representatives from union parisads, community based organisations and the media took part in the event.

Participants demonstrated how floods occur in the area, affect people's lives and livelihoods and the responsibility of different sectors to reduce losses during and after the disaster.

The drill was held at Satpoa union parishad at a playground on the bank of the river Subarnakhali, a tributary of the Jamuna where floods take place every year. Sarisabari upazila disaster management committee, Concern Universal and Dhaka Ahsania Mission jointly organised the drill.

The area is mostly char land and inhabited by poor people, veteran freedom fighter Hazrat Ali Tarafdar said. He added that floods increase the river waters which inundate the locality during the month of Ashar and Shraban, destroying standing crops and homesteads.

The union disaster management committee president Md Abdul Hai Talukder said Sarisabari upazila, especially the Satpota union, was particularly at risk of flooding and faces river erosion as the soil in the area was sandy.

Also the local UP chairman, Talukder urged all quarters to be involved in creating awareness and increasing the communities capability for disaster risk reduction in his union.

Sarisabari upazila parishad chairman Abdul Maleq, thana nirbahi officer Parvez Raihan, Concern Universal country director Stephane Bonduelle and Md Jahangir Alam of DAM also spoke.



After the visit Dan W Mazena expressed his satisfaction and highly appreciated the survivor's rehabilitation activities being conducted by DAM.



Commitment for ensuring Education for All

DAM observes Global Action Week-2012

Global Campaign for Education (GCE) has been formed with a commitment for ensuring Education for All across the globe in 1999.

Non-government organisations (NGOs), educationists and teachers associations of 189 countries got united during formation of GCE. GCE has started its journey with an objective of ensuring "Education for All" (EFA) by making people of various countries aware in this regard. From then on Global Campaign for Education has been working to enhance awareness in favour of quality education as well as ensuring Education for All.

A total of 164 countries including Bangladesh have approved a declaration paper to ensure Education for All by the year 2015, according to a declaration of Global Educational Conference held in

Dakar, capital of Senegal in April, 2000.

Every year, 'Global Action Week' is observed across the globe to mark this historic declaration.

Mass Literacy Campaign acts as the coordinating organisation of GCE.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) observed Global Action Week-2012 in various districts in a befitting manner on 22-28 April, 2012.

This year's theme was 'Pre-childhood Care & Education.'

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) and ACCESS CAFOD projects of DAM chalked out various programmes to mark the occasion.

The programmes included colourful procession, discussion meeting, children's painting competition, folk cultural function, sports and games, assemblage of parents, people's rally, seminar,

roundtable conference, opinion exchange meeting with Pre-school tutors, exhibition of educational materials, campaign on right to education and submission of memorandum.

DAM and Mass Literacy Campaign jointly observed the day in Satkhira region.

UNIQUE Project-2 : CLC teachers, learners, Pre-school teachers, guardians, local people, CAG, CMC, LRC members, primary school teachers, learners, SMC, ward commissioners, TO, ATO, headmaster, Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad members, journalists and NGO representatives were present in 2,380 community-based CLCs on the occasion.

A total of 80,509 participants took part in a children's programme of drawing 'Big Picture' held in seven regions of UNIQUE-2 Project. Of them, 36,538 were men and 43,971 women.

DAM succeeded to reach the main message of the programme to the doorsteps of people through the 'Big Picture.' This programme of DAM bears a great significance in bringing disadvantaged people under the fold of education as well as making people aware about education.

Chowgachha : Global Action Week was observed in 54 Ganokendro (people's centres) and three CRCs of Chowgachha area office in Jessore district under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project.

Union Parishad (UP) member Mosammat Shahnaz Begum and BRAC School teacher Mosammat Sabina Khatun took part in a discussion on Pre-childhood, children's care and education held at Sarat Ganokendro.

On the other hand Muktaadaha Government Primary School teacher



Mosammat Anowara Khatun, Mosammat Marzina Khatun and DAM's Area Coordinator Ashoke Kumar Ghosh and Niamatpur Registered Primary School teacher Md Ahsan Kabir Sagor took part in another discussion held at Alor Pathey CRC.

DAM Technical Officer Md Azizul Hakim, Programme Supervisor Md Zafar Alam and CRC CF Ayesha Khatun were also present.

Narsingdi : In Narsingdi, Global Action Week was observed in five CRCs under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project.

DAM's Area Coordinator Tapan Kumar Sarker, Technical Officer Ashraful Islam and CRC Coordinator Tareq Chowdhury took part in a discussion.

Jessore Sadar : Global Action Week was observed in Jessore Sadar upazila under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project.

Barguna : DAM's ACCESS CAFOD Project and UNIQUE-2 Project jointly organised a programme of drawing 'Big Picture' in 40 CLCs and 86 Ganokendro (people's centres) of seven unions in Sadar upazila and 20 Ganokendro (people's centres) of Amtoli upazila in Barguna district.

Satkhira Sadar : DAM organised a



discussion and a children's programme of drawing 'Big Picture' in the meeting room of Satkhira Sadar Upazila Parishad.

ADC (General) of Satkhira Mukesh Chandra Biswas was present as Chief Guest. Satkhira Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Asaduzzaman, Poura Mayor Md Abdul Jalil, Sadar Upazila Chairman Md Nazrul Islam, District Primary Education Officer Panchanon Bala and President of Satkhira Zila unit of Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity Federation Md Yunus Ali were present as special guests. DAM's

Area Manager Md Shahidul Islam delivered the Welcome Address.

Among others, DAM's Area Coordinator Md Alamgir Hossain, Branch Manager Md Quamrul Islam and Md Riaz Uddin were present.

Six partner organisations of DAM such as ASOD, CCDB, DORP, Padokkhep, PMUK, Surovi and IPSA also organised a programme of drawing 'Big Picture' in 2,380 children's learning centres of 238 unions in 74 upazilas of 26 districts under UNIQUE-2 Project on 25 April this year.

AMCGH Fund

Bank Asia commits Tk 50 lakh

Bank Asia has committed an amount of Tk 50 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital (AMCGH) fund to sponsor a patient waiting lounge to procedure a surgical ward of the 500-bed world standard specialised cancer hospital at Uttara in the capital.

Out of this commitment a cheque for Tk 20 lakh was handed over to the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a simple ceremony at the bank's Gulshan office in the city on 20 May 2012. A Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of Bank Asia formally handed over the cheque. Besides, Vice Chairman of the Bank Mohammed Lakiotullah, Chairman of the Board Audit Committee Rume A Hossain, Directors AM Nurul Islam, M Irfan Syed and Shah Md Nurul Alam



and Managing Director Aminul Islam were present during the cheque handing over ceremony.

The rest of the amount will be released in two installments in 2013 and 2014.

While receiving the cheque, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, if the corporate sector comes forward, Inshallah, we shall be able to start the

primary activities of the hospital by opening the Radio Therapy unit, Out-patient Department and laboratory. He urged upon the well-to-do section of society as well as the corporate sector to come forward with generous donation for constructing a full-fledged hospital.

DAM president participates in CND session

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam participated 55th session of Commission on Narcotics and Drugs (CND) which was

taken place on 12th to 16th March 2012 at UNODC central office in Vienna. He also participated in different site events alongside the session like discussion meeting on Drug and HIV of Pakistan and informal meeting with UNODC Executive Director.



DAM representative attends international training course

Addiction Management and Integrated Care (AMIC) Assistant Director Iqbal Masud attended Regional Training of Trainers on the Certificate of Addiction Professionals in Bangkok on 2nd to 10th January, 2012. The Colombo Plan Asian Centre for Certificate and Education of Addiction Professional organised the training with the financial support of US department of state. The training was held on the basis of Curriculum 1 and 2 among the 9 anti-drug curriculums prepared by The Colombo plan. 15 persons are selected

from Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Philippine, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives to participate in the training. After the successful completion of the training, the trained persons will get the opportunity to participate two other regional training. Later, they will have to be sited for test to participate in the training over total 9 curriculums. Those who will successfully get over from the training, will be acknowledged as the regional trainers of The Colombo Plan.



AMIC's presentation in world conference on Tobacco or Health

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Assistant Director (AD) Iqbal Masud presented a research report on pictorial warning on the wrapper of tobacco products at the 15th world conference on Tobacco or

Health which was held in Singapore on 20th to 25th March, 2012. He also shared DAM experiences about changes of law through mass awareness on the occasion.



Month-long health awareness programme conducted

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment), a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducted month long awareness activities towards the mass people of Chougacha upazila in April 2012 marking health month. Court yard meeting and discussion meeting about health awareness were held on the occasion. Health assistant of Mitali Ganakendra Selina

Khatun, Anzumanara Begum of Panna Ganokendra, health assistant of Prattasha Community Resource Centre (CRC), Family planning inspector Shila Rani Mazumder in Bashanto Ganokendra and Family planning inspector Jesmin Akter in Barsha Ganokendra conduct the court yard meeting at their respective area.



Adult Literacy Course brings bright future for Munni

Munni Begum, 20, daughter of Kazal Ahmed of Sadar upazila in Luxmipur district could not attend school due to abject poverty and lack of consciousness. Being a marginal farmer Kazal failed to meet up the family requirements. When other girls of Munni's age studied she had to take a job at a nominal wage at Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., a garment factory at Chittagong EPZ,. A distant relative helped her find the job. Munni still craved for study. At one stage Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) launched an Adult Literacy Course at Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., with financial assistance of Out Door Cap Company Inc USA, a buyer of Young an Hat (BD) Ltd. At once Munni took the opportunity and became a participant of the literacy course. He showed her talent in various activities conducted under the course. She underwent the literacy course for nine months. She learnt many things such as ill effects of child marriage and dowry, rights of women, first aid, reproductive health, mother and child care, importance of education, ways of improvement of standard of living, various rules and

regulations at work place, all about produced goods and how to take weight. On conclusion of the training course, Munni was able to read office notices, daily newspapers, story books and mastered the art of counting. Now she reads and understands the contents of religious books written in Bengali. Being educated Munni was benefited in many ways. She also encouraged others to pursue study. Observing her sincerity and good performance during Adult Literacy Course, the management of Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., has decided to promote her to the post of Assistant Supervisor. Adult Literacy Course has brought prosperity to Munni's life. Young an Hat (BD) Ltd is one of the largest Korean export manufacturers of caps around the globe. It is also the largest single foreign investor in Bangladesh. Young an Hat (BD) Ltd operates two factories in Bangladesh with approximately 3,000 workers. The bulk of its exports go to USA. Through a literacy base-line survey,

Young an Hat (BD) Ltd., discovered that more than 50% of its total workforce are illiterate.

Because of illiteracy the workers were unable to provide quality products. With a view to changing the situation Out Door Cap Company Inc USA requested DAM to provide non-formal education to the garment workers. Accordingly DAM agreed to provide support on non-formal education to them.

Out Door Cap Company Inc USA also came forward to fund the initiative. DAM designed a nine-month literacy course for 25 selected factory workers.

After completion of the course, 25 learners are now able to read and write by themselves. They can maintain family accounts. They are able to make nutritious food at home and work places. They can maintain hygienic cleanliness. They learnt about various social issues stated above. Now they lead a more decent life.

Lessons learned:

- ⊙ Adult literacy course at work place helps increase and improve quality of produces.
- ⊙ Capacity building initiatives help improve relationship between officers /staff and workers.
- ⊙ Increases ability to exchange opinions on different issues with family members.

Challenges:

- ⊙ Because of tiredness, a few learners were not interested to participate in Adult Literacy Course after office work.
- ⊙ Notion of these workers was that their factory is a place for work not learning.
- ⊙ Due to pregnancy and resignation several learners dropped their names from the course.

DAM, Young an hat BD Limited and Out Door Cap Company Inc USA jointly agreed to continue the literacy intervention. Another new batch of 25 illiterate factory workers was selected to complete the nine-month literacy course. It was also decided to continue education for those workers who already completed the course so that they do not forget whatever they had learnt earlier.



DAM in frame

Learn Without Fear (LWF) initiative of School Improvement Programme (SIP) progresses



A Child is keeping his written comment in box



Committee members at a meeting of LWF



Headmaster is reviewing comments with the committee members



A register containing children's comments is being maintained for next course of action



Students are filing comments in a file



A comments sharing session with the students

