



DAM President meets Bangladesh expatriates in USA

Attending a gathering of Bangladeshis, living in New York, USA, on 18 May 2014, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam briefed the audiences about the progress of the mega project- Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital in Bangladesh. He informed them that the 500-bed AMCGH will hopefully be completed and fully operational by June 2016. He thanked the expatriates for

their strong support in this great endeavour and requested them to continue their support in the future. The gathering was attended, among others, by Ahsania Mission-USA President, an eminent educationist, Dr. Mansur Khan. During his stay in the USA, DAM President also sat for interviews with two TV Channels: TBN & TIME.

Literacies - the power to change: Discourses at Oxford

'Literacies – The power to change' had been the key theme of the World Literacy Summit 2014 (WLS 2014), held at Oxford, UK from 14-16 April 2014, where multi-dimensional importance of literacy in the rapidly changing world was discussed. The WLS 2014 gathered education and literacy specialists with diverse backgrounds,

who share a common passion: *championing literacy*. Sponsored by Oxford University Press, the WLS 2014 provided a platform for debate, discussion and sharing of knowledge among some of the world's most ardent educational leaders. The mega event was rounded up with the Oxford Declaration-a commitment from the literacy practi-

tioners and promoters from around the world with an urge to invest effectively for meaningful expansion of literacies. DAM Executive Director Dr. Ehsanur Rahman participated at the WLS 2014 as a Speaker and a Panelist, at the invitation of the WLS 2014 Board of Directors. The theme of the WLS 2014: 'Literacies: The Power to Change' very much goes along with DAM's overall efforts for eradication of illiteracy. It encompasses not only the basic functional literacies, but also the whole spectrum including the digital, scientific, mathematical and cultural arena. The main points of discussions in the Summit were to focus literacy's power to change and improve the lives of individuals and

Contents

DAM at work

Better services required for drug addiction treatment 3

FSIBL's donation for Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre 4

Sensitization meeting with urban primary health care 5

Advocacy meeting with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs 6

Thematic Focus

Child marriage averted by Ekota group members 7

DAM in Frame 8

communities, which had never been greater before than in the current context of technology and communications. With a spectrum of new tools and greater connectivity, the world had never been in a



better position to raise global literacy levels. WLS 2014 was the second biennial World Literacy Summit in a row, organized by the World

technological literacy, political literacy, etc. apart from the right to literacies, where DAM's contributions had been highlighted both during

diversity in learning contents and the mode of learning make integral part of social education. It facilitates learning and also as to how to learn by

launched a two-volume book entitled Pathways to Literate Worlds as a contribution to the post-2015 Education for All agenda. The publication was a collection of articles from around the world illustrating the successful efforts for delivery of literacies. Given DAM's success in winning the UNESCO Literacy Award 2013 for the Ganokendra approach, an article contributed by Dr Rahman on the approach was included as a separate chapter in the compilation.

Other significant issues of discussions in the Summit centred around the topics: technology and learning, teacher development as a key to quality education, and importance of diversifying partnership to promote literacies.

Against the backdrop of the deluge of post-2015 discussions on educational agenda and the alarming fall of investment in literacy by the governments and the donor communities, the convening of the WLS 2014 was very timely, meaningful and appropriate. Oxford Declaration thus stressed upon increased investment in literacies and also on the roles of the providers in diversifying literacy courses through branding it as: **Literacies** as power to change.

*The write-up is based on DAM Executive Director Dr Ehsanur Rahman's participation at the World Literacy Summit 2014 at Oxford, UK.



Literacy Council.

The importance of multiple literacies in working to raise international literacy rates were recognised by a number of key organisations, including UNESCO, whose theme for the International Literacy Day 2013 was: [Lit-eracies for the 21st Century](#). Often times, educational discourses argue for multiple literacies in modern education, insisting that multiple literacies empower students and are essential to staying relevant in this fast-changing technological world. The [WLS 2014 Programme](#) thus dealt with community literacy, health literacy, emotional literacy, financial literacy,

the presentation and panel discussions.

Representing DAM, Dr. Rahman in his presentation shared the organizational experience of grassroots level's scopes for learning for acquiring life skills and for access to information and application of learning skills. The micro-macro experience of DAM was highlighted pointing towards the vision of developing a learning society: the approach – deeply rooted in the Ganokendra model of DAM.

DAM's Ganokendra and Community Resource Centre functions as a platform for Lifelong Learning and Social empowerment, where di-

improving personal knowledge and skills, changing social roles of the peoples in the community and enhancing earning opportunities.

In the panel discussions, Dr. Rahman focused on community literacy illustrating the education providers' social accountability and the community roles in promoting access, retention and quality. As an anecdote, he mentioned about DAM's community score card model to monitor performance of the service providers.

As part of the WLS 2014 deliberations, the Summit organizer - World Literacy Council - had

Better services required for drug addiction treatment



Better treatment services are required for drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation. There is no alternative except capacity building of drug ad-

diction treatment professionals. Amir Hossain, Additional Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control said

this at a ten-day national level skill development training of addiction professionals on universal treatment curriculum of drug addiction treatment and

rehabilitation centers organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission & Department of Narcotics Control and supported by GIZ at its conference room on 26 May 2014.

Speakers further said, this training is essential so that modern treatment facilities can be provided to patients at drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers all over the country.

Department of Narcotics Control Treatment & Rehabilitation Director Nazmul Ahsan Mojumdar presided over while chief guest was Additional Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control, Anne Doose, Performance and Communication Manager of GIZ was present a special guest. Chief Consultant Dr. Emam Uzzaman of Central Drug Treatment Center of Department of Narcotics Control, Residential Psychiatrist Dr. Aktaruzzaman Salim spoke on the occasion. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Deputy Director Iqbal Masud delivered the welcome address.

Children's rally, painting competition mark Global Action Week

The Global Action Week was observed in Barguna district in a befitting manner. To mark the occasion, children's rally, painting competition and cultural function were held at UTDC Government Model Primary School ground in Barguna Sadar upazila.

Mass Literacy Campaign and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) jointly organised the programme. Barguna Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Golam Mohammad Bhuiyan inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

Barguna Zila Mohila o Shishu Bishayak Karmokarta (District Women and Children Affairs Officer) Meherun Nahar Munni, Upazila Sahakari Shikkhya Officer

(Assistant Upazila Education Officer) Mozammel Haque and Md Saifuddin were present on the occasion. On behalf of DAM, Train-

ing Coordinator Khadizunnahar Swapna, Senior Area Manager Nasir Uddin and Field Manager Quazi Yunusur Rahman were also present. Physically challenged children also took part in the children's painting competition and drama which was staged by them.



FSIBL's donation for Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre



First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL) donated 1,97,00,000/- (One Crore Ninety Seven Lac Taka) for purchasing Digital X-Ray Machine with latest technology, ECHO Machine

and establishment of 5-Bed ICU for Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre & Hospital at Mirpur, Dhaka on 28 May 2014. A.A.M. Za-

karia, Managing Director of FSIBL handed over the Cheque to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mis-

Among others Syed

Waseque Md Ali, Deputy Managing Director, Quazi Osman Ali, Deputy Managing Director, Syed Habib Hasnat, Deputy Managing Director of FSIBL, Md. Mustafa Khair, SEVP & Manager, FSIBL Gulshan Branch, Hasanuz-zaman Malek, AVP & PS to Managing Director, Azam Khan, Head of Marketing & Development Division of FSIBL, Monzur Md. Kawser, Head of Institutional Finance & Corporate Secretary of Dhaka Ahsania Mission were also present on the occasion.

DAM observes 'World no Tobacco Day'

Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed 'World No Tobacco Day' at its working area across the country on 31 May 2014. Marking the Day, DAM brought out rally and organized seminar accompanied with Health and Family welfare ministry in Jessore, Comilla and Gazipur. The officers and employees of AMIC, Modhumita and Urban Primary Health Care project participated in the rally and separately organized seminar and discussion meeting. The theme of the Day was "Raise taxes on tobacco". In the discussion, the discussants emphasized on increasing taxes on recent budget.





Sensitization meeting with urban primary health care held

Sensitization meeting with officials of Urban Primary Health Care settings of DNCC arranged on 14th May 2014 at the Conference Room, Nari Maitree Project Office Mogbazar.

The chief guest of the meeting was Brig Gen AKM Masood Ahsan, chief health officer of Dhaka North city Corporation. The meeting was

chaired by Masuda Begum, Project Manager, Nari Maitree. Special guest of the meeting was Dr. Mahmuda Ali Program Officer UPHCSDP, PIU, DNCC and Eva Naznin, program manager of Campaign for tobacco free kids (CTFK). In his speech chief health officer of DNCC said that “we have to utilize the city corporation facilities

and manpower to prevent the violation of law, deliver the message of harmful effects of tobacco to the people. Already DNCC initiated some steps for implementing the smoke free guide line that adopted last year and it will be proceed.” In the open discussion session all participants agreed that they will incorporate one ses-

sion in their regular session curriculum with anti-tobacco message and current TC law.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Dhaka North City Corporation jointly organized the meeting. In the meeting participant from different health care settings of city corporation attended including physicians, paramedics, counselors.

Advocacy meeting with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs



To increase awareness and creating enabling environment and support for prevention of HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh,

a higher level advocacy meeting with different ministries was held at the conference room of Ministry of Women

and Children Affairs on 25 May 2014 at 03.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

The meeting was chaired by

honorable Secretary, Mr. Tariq ul Islam. All institutional head under Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and other ministries high officials and UN representatives were also presented in the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Iqbal Masud, Deputy Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Dr. Husain Sarwar Khan, Line Director, National AIDS/STD Program presented the current scenario of HIV and AIDS and National Response.

Shaikh Masudul Alam, Deputy Director, Dr. Simon Rasin, Chief of Party, HIV Program & Jiniya Afroze, Senior Manager, Child Protection of Save the Children in Bangladesh, Leo Keny, Country Director of UN-AIDS were spoke. After all presentation an open discussion has taken place to all the participants and there was lively discussion.

Cheques distributed among Rana Plaza Victims

Dhaka Ahsania Mission distributed Cheques among the 6 Rana Plaza Victims under the project of "Livelihood support to the victim of Rana Plaza" recently. The cheques were distributed at the city's SGS Bangladesh Limited office. Managing Director of SGS Bangladesh Limited Arial Miranda, Manager of Human Resource Md. Nurul Islam and Coordinator Abdul Kader were present on behalf of SGS Bangladesh Limited. On the other hand HR and

Admin Head Anwar Hossain Chowdhury and Project Coordinator of

Disaster Management Unit of DAM Rawsan Ali were present on behalf of

Dhaka Ahsania Mission. It is noted that, with the financial assistance of SGS Bangladesh Limited, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is implementing the project.



Child marriage averted by Ekota group members

Sobhan Mia is a marginal farmer at Kadamtoli, a backward village under 19, Kamaria union of Tarakanda upazila in Mymensingh district. His family consists of seven members including his wife, four daughters and a son. Want was their constant companion. Sometimes, he worked at his too small land and sometimes he worked at others' houses as a day labourer. Because of poverty, most of the time the couple remained engaged in scuffle. They somehow managed marriage of their three daughters. But they were compelled to stop education of their younger daughter Farzana.

At this stage, Farzana, in collaboration with Gram Unnyan Committee (Village Development Committee), enlisted her name with Kadamtoli Ekota Kishori Dal (Ekota Adolescents' Group) under Shourhardo Programme. The programme was being funded by USAID and Bangladesh government and jointly run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Care Bangladesh.

Suddenly, Farzana's father died of heart attack. Because of his death, her



mother arranged marriage of her 13-year-old daughter Farzana. Being an adolescent member of Ekota group, she learnt the ill-effects of child marriage after attending various sessions of Ekota. So, she shared the issue with other members of her group. They along with VDC members decided to make her mother understand the adverse effects of child marriage.

In case of failure, they decided to inform the matter to local Union Parishad (UP). If needed, they promised to go to the upazila but they won't let the child marriage happen. Accordingly, they rushed to Farzana's mother but she remained firm in her decision. Finally, they narrated the sufferings of her daughter in the coming days. At this stage, Farzana's

mother realized that she had been wrong in her decision. So, she revised her decision and stopped marriage of her daughter before attainment of her maturity. With the help of Ekota and Gram Unnyan Committee (Village Development Committee) she got Farzana admitted to a local school in class-VI.

Thinking her future, Farzana's mother bought a goat for her daughter. Alongside study, Farzana started rearing her goat and helped mother in her work. At present, she owns three goats and five poultry birds (chicks). Farzana enjoyed both study and her work. Farzana realized that if she did not enlist her name with Ekota group of DAM and Care Bangladesh then she could not make herself aware about the ill-effects of child marriage. Ultimately, her life would turn into a hell." Now, I think only about my study and work," she said.

"In the meantime, I read many books from Ekota library. I feel complacent and discuss with others about the contents of the books. In future, we shall collectively try for sustenance of Ekota," she expressed her desire.



DAM IN FRAME



Chand Sultana Award-2013 was given to poor but large-hearted social worker Zainal Abedin of Mymensingh through a function at DAM Head office attended by State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, MP on 30 April 2014

