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Equivalent Education : DAM, UNESCO sign agreement

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have signed an agreement for development of Equivalent Education (EE) Framework in Bangladesh.

The accord was signed on 8th October 2009 for a period of one year commencing from November 2009 to October 2010.

DAM will implement the project, first of its kind in Bangladesh, in collaboration with MoPME, BNFE, UNESCO, NCTB and other relevant organisations. DAM will provide technical support during its implementation to relevant bodies. The project was aimed at bridging the gap between formal and non-formal education through establishment of equivalency at four levels of education sector, such as classes V, V111, X and X11. This will

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Mid term evaluation of UNIQUE Project

Mid term evaluation of the UNIQUE Project was done at the initiative of the European Commission in June-July this year. An evaluation team visited the central office and observed the field activities. As part of the evaluation, the delegates visited the learning centres at Mirpur in Dhaka, Mymensingh Sadar and Lama-Alikadam of Bandarban hill district. They exchanged opinion with learners, guardians, management committee members, local government representatives and people from all walks of life. Besides, they had fruitful dialogues with various stakeholders, partner organisations of the project as well as the committee members. They examined learning

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Employment opportunities, unhindered movement of the disabled to be ensured

-Information Minister

The government will create all kinds of opportunities for welfare of people with disabilities so that they can move freely without any hindrance on the roads and streets as well as lead a dignified life in society. Law will be enacted for welfare of the disabled suiting to needs of time.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad MP, said this while addressing as Chief Guest at a function organised on the occasion of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2008 awarding ceremony at Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Bhaban Auditorium in the city on 24 October 2009.

The minister also said, the life and deeds of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah will remain as a source of inspiration to the new generation. The ideals of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah should be spread before the new

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Illiteracy free Kawamara village, a model for Bangladesh

Hundred per cent illiteracy free Kawamara village will remain as a model for Bangladesh. Ultimately, illiteracy will be totally eradicated from the country by the year 2014 as per government declaration.

Dr. Murad Hasan, member of parliament (MP), elected from Jamalpur-4 constituency said this while addressing a function held in the new embankment area at Kawamara village of Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur district on the occasion of the official declaration of Kawamara village cent per cent illiteracy free. ACCESS-Cordaid Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the programme on October 18, 2009.

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DAM Presidential Award introduced

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has introduced an annual performance award titled, 'DAM Presidential Award' for its employees. Employees having uninterrupted services of three years in DAM are eligible for nomination. An amount of Tk 25,000 as prize money, a crest along with a certificate will be awarded to the winner.

Any DAM employee can propose a staff-member of his/her own choice for nomination. No prescribed form will be required for the purpose. The nomination proposal should be supported by two other staff members of DAM either in Bangla or English. They should have to mention clearly the reasons or giving evidence for their support as such as possible.

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Freshers' reception at AUST

A freshers' reception for the new comers of Fall 2009 Semester of the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) has been held at its own campus. Held on 12 October 2009, AUST Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Anwar Hossain presided over the function while it was attended by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister G M Kader as Chief Guest. Prof Dr Md Anwarul Mostafa delivered the welcome address at a discussion held at the open compound of the university at 3PM as part of the day-long programme. Among others, AUST Treasurer Prof Dr Kazi Shariful Alam, Prof Bijon Behari Sharma, Prof Dr S M Kabir and Prof Dr A M Shahidullah were present on the occasion. Later, the freshers were welcomed through an attractive cultural function. Besides, freshers were also welcomed separately at every department.



Mid term evaluation of UNIQUE Project

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materials of the project, reports and documents of the Accounts department.

Employment opportunities, unhindered

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generation. The government will do the needful for materialisation of future plan and proposals of Valerie Ann Taylor, he assured. Minister for Information Abul Kalam Azad MP, formally handed over the Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2008 award to Valerie Ann Taylor, founder of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) at the simple but impressive function.

In his presidential address, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, an opportunity was created for service to the distressed humanity through establishment of DAM. Since 1986, DAM honoured 17 distinguished personalities by awarding the gold medal. While speaking, Valerie Ann Taylor said, this award is not for me but for the entire officials and staff of CRP who are rendering selfless service to the paralysed. She suggested for setting up of units for the paralysed in hospitals of six divisions. She gave a proposal for overall welfare of physically challenged people.

National Professor Dr. M.R.Khan was present as special guest at the function presided DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam. DAM Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman delivered Welcome Address on the occasion while researcher Mohammad Abdul Majid presented a report. Former Chairman of the PSC S.M.Al-Hossainy took part at the discussion. Prof Nurul Islam presented a brief biography of Valerie Ann Taylor and also read a written felicitation in her honour.

DAM Presidential Award introduced

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The evaluation criteria will be: Accomplishment of nominee's own duties and responsibilities in qualitative and efficient manner, additional work beyond routine job assignment, innovativeness in work and its impact in improving living conditions of DAM target beneficiaries, impact of work in the institutional development of DAM, role in the promotion/enhancement of DAM image as well as his/her teamwork, leadership and management capacity. A three-member Award Committee, headed by a Vice-President of DAM Executive Committee to be nominated by DAM President, will select the award winner reviewing nominations and confidential verification report. Other two members of the committee are the General Secretary and the Executive Director of DAM. The President of DAM will finally approve the recommendation of the committee, which will be considered as final.

The nomination should be submitted to the Executive Director by 30 November every year. The award winner selection will be completed by 31 December. The President of DAM will formally announce the name of the award winner on the New Year's Day. Formal handing over of the award will be made through a ceremony on a convenient day later on.

Equivalent Education

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contribute to achieving the EFA and MDG, NPA goals and materialisation of a commitment of NFE policy approved by the government in 2006. The EE will be applicable to both general and vocational education. Once a

learner is graduated from any of the four levels, will be allowed to continue his/her education in higher grades in both ways such as non-formal to formal and formal to non-formal education.

DAM has been considered as the lone NGO having competency to implement such a project.

Illiteracy free Kawamara village

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He further said, efforts will be made to turn Daulatpur and Tarakandi villages hundred per cent illiteracy free in near future. At the same time, the illiteracy free villages will brought under the coverage of sanitation and poverty eradication programmes. Following the footsteps of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, everyone irrespective of party affiliation and opinion should come forward to make Bangladesh illiteracy free within a short time,

the lawmaker said. Presided by former headmaster of Pingna Secondary School Md. Bahauddin Mia, the occasion was attended by Sarishabari Upazila Chairman Abdul Malek, ex- Religious Affairs State Minister Maolana Nurul Islam and Dhaka Ahsania Mission Programme Division Deputy Director Dewan Sohrab Uddin as special guests. Besides, ACCESS-Cordaid Project Co-ordinator Kamal Kumar Joarder and Sarishabari Regional Co-ordinator Md. Rabiul Islam were present.

Peari got justice

Peari Begum, 25, is the youngest child of her parents at Purbo Keorabunia village of Ailapatakata union under Barguna Sadar upazila in Barguna district. She lost her day labourer father at the age of two only. Her mother earned a living working as a domestic help. Neighbours and her uncle also helped her slightly.

Because of abject poverty, Peari was unable to study much. She was locked in marriage with Mosharraf Hossain, a day labourer at the nearby Lemua village at the age of 18 in 2002. During marriage, her mother gave her son-in-law Tk 10,000 as dowry. After marriage, they passed good days for a considerable period. But problem arose after a while because Peari's husband is an idle person. He spent time in an idle manner. After two years of marriage, Allah blessed them with a baby. But Mosharraf could not bear the expenses of the baby. This is why Peari's relationship with her husband worsened. At one stage, she landed at her father's house with the child. At a village arbitration, it was decided that Peari would stay at her father's house and Mosharraf would supply 10 kilogram of rice regularly for maintenance of the child. At this stage, Mosharraf left for Dhaka in search of a job keeping his 15-days-old child with Peari. From then on, he remained untraced. About 6 to 7 months later, people learnt about his second marriage. As a member of Purbo Keorabunia Bely Gano Kendro (people's centre), Peari lodged a case with the Family Court against Mosharraf because she married



for second time without prior consent of first wife. Following issuance of arrest warrant at Badda and Mirpur police stations in Dhaka, Mosharraf was compelled to return to his village home with his second wife. Being informed, Peari and fellow members of the Gano Kendro informed the matter to local Union Parishad (UP) chairman. Peari decided for a break with Mosharraf. The UP chairman convened an arbitration meeting where local elite and Mosharraf's elder brother and brother-in-law were present. According to the final decision, Peari's son was sent back to his father and Mosharraf was asked to hand over a total of Tk 60,000 (Sixty thousand only) to Peari. Of the amount, Tk 50,000 (Fifty thousand taka) is for Peari's maintenance and Tk 10,000 (Ten thousand taka) for withdrawal of the case.

Peari deposited the entire amount with a bank. She wants to spend the money to start a petty business. Now she stays with her mother. Expressing gratitude to the Gano Kendro run by locals in collaboration with the ACCESS-CAFFOD Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Peari said she got justice. She desires to educate her son in near future.



DAM observes Nat'l Girl Child Day

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colourful banners, festoons and placards. They wore caps and T-shirts displaying the day's message.

The rally was followed by a discussion held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. Girl Child Advocacy Forum Vice-President Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar presided the discussion. State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmeen Chowdhury was present as Chief Guest while Rokeya Sultana, Secretary of the ministry addressed as Special Guest.

Noted personalities including Chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Mustafa Monwar, former Secretary Professor Dr Tahmina Hossain and eminent literature Emdadul Huq Milon were among the discussants.

Later, a cultural function was held where a group of children of UNIQUE project of DAM performed music and drama.

A large number of girl children from different Community Learning Centres (CLCs) of DAM as well as DAM staffers participated at both the rally and discussion.

Awareness on breast cancer

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International Breast Cancer Awareness Month October 2009 at Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital on Thursday (01 October 2009).

He stressed on proper information and education on breast cancer, self-examination of breast and creating awareness on detection of breast cancer at the early stage. He urged all to chalk out special programmes to create awareness on breast cancer among the students of schools, colleges and universities.

Noted singer Shabnam Mushtari formally inaugurated the month-long programme marking International Breast Cancer Awareness Month October 2009 at Mirpur Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital. Its Director Brig General (Retd) Dr. Syed Fazle Rahim presided the inaugural ceremony while it was attended by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Advisor and former

Secretary Mohammad Ali. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Cancer Specialist Prof Dr. Syed Md. Akram Hossain delivered the key-note speech. Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Project Director Dr. Md. Lutfar Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Speakers said, every year about 22,000 women are attacked with breast cancer across the country. Of them about 17,000 patients die annually. Most of the women are not aware about breast cancer. They do not observe change in breast or neglect it. Even they feel shy to take treatment from doctors. Each and every woman aged 20 years should examine their breasts themselves.

The month-long programme includes free prescription on all week days other than holidays, operation, memography, breast screening at 30 per cent reduced rate and breast tumor operation at much reduced rate. Besides, free advice will be given on various problems for prevention of breast cancer at the initial stage.

1,303 got employment

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Ministry of Manpower and Employment Secretary Mr. Md. Ataharul Islam said the Government will extend all-out cooperation in skill development training through private partnership. Mere employment of trainees is not enough rather DAM should come forward to make a database in this respect. This will create a model across the country.

He further said, there is no substitute to skillness. Attained skillness should have to be sustained. A good number of dormitories with all the required facilities will be built for training of the under-privileged. Non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) should come forward for implementation of the programme. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided the function while Ministry of Manpower and Employment Secretary Mr. Md. Ataharul Islam was present as Chief Guest and GTZ Progress Programme Coordinator Dr. Dietrich Stotz graced the occasion as Special Guest. Besides, DAM Human Resource Development Department Director Azam Chowdhury, GTZ Progress Programme Consultant Syed Azim, Business Advisor Shatil Ara and DAM ICT Team Leader Engineer Syed Ziaul Haque addressed the meeting. Trained graduate Mahmuda Akter also narrated harsh reality of her life at the function.

DAM observes Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction

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ACCESS-CAFOD, IFLS-DRR-CAFOD, CBDRR and DRR projects of DAM patronised the programmes.

Besides, DAM also participated in the National level rally and seminar organized by Disaster Management Bureau. Inaugurated by the Minister for Food and Disaster management Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, the rally was started at Jatiya Shaheed Minar and ended at National Museum. Followed by, a national seminar held at Shaheed Zia auditorium of National Museum. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof. AFM Ruhul Haque, MP was present as the chief guest. Vice-chancellor of BRAC University Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Disaster Response Advisor of UNDP BMM Mozharul Huq, ndc were present among other discussants. Md. Mokhesur Rahman, Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare presided the seminar.



WatSan services yet to reach 1010 HtR unions

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communication system and risk of natural calamities, they said. However, socio-economic condition, technological, availability of resources, good governance, activities of service providers and other aspects will be considered while preparing the final list.

World Bank regional water and sanitation expert Mark Ellery delivered welcome speech at the consultation workshop while World Bank water and sanitation expert Rokeya Ahmed presented objectives and background of the workshop. Dhaka Ahsania Mission WatSan Sub-Sector Project manager Umme Farwa Daisy conducted the group work session as well as the session on experience sharing and listening from grass roots. Water and Sanitation expert Abdul Motaleb participated at a discussion on Identification & Recommendation on Ways to Ensure WatSan services in HtR areas. Besides, Dhaka Ahsania Mission SSTS Project co-ordinator Imam Mahmud Riad presented a list of HtR areas. Sector professionals and field level representatives of various development organisations the grassroots level working in HtR areas were present at the workshop.

1,303 under-privileged people got employment through DAM

Bangladesh is a country of 15 crore people. The huge population should be turned into human resources. The human resource should be skilled as there is no substitute to skillness in world labour market.

This is why, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has undertaken a skill development for Garment workers project for slum dwellers and underprivileged people. A total of 1,320 trainees were imparted training till now. Of them, 1,303 under-privileged people were

employed suitably in various garment factories. If the trend is continued, poor and unskilled workers will be able to raise their standard of living through employment in standard garment industry. This will also result in prosperity of the country.

Speakers said this at the certificate awarding ceremony to the graduates of the Vocational Training Institute of DAM at the Bangladesh Krishi Bank Training Institute Auditorium in the city on 10 October 2009.

DAM Vocational Training Institute and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) jointly organised the Course Completion and Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Skill

Development

Trained Graduates of Vocational Training Institute for Working Children (VTIWC) at the Bangladesh Krishi Bank Training Institute Auditorium in the city on 10 October 2009.

While addressing as the Chief Guest,

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Build social movement to create awareness on breast cancer

A social movement should have to be built for creating awareness on breast cancer. Stress should be given on creating awareness rather than treatment of breast cancer in this land of 15 crore people. A change in food habit should be brought without further delay. At the same time a regular walking habit should be grown. Awareness on breast care and its nursing should be created.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali said this while speaking as Chief Guest at a discussion held on the inaugural ceremony of a month-long programme marking

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DAM observes Int'l Day for Disaster Reduction

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) observed International Day for Disaster Reduction on Wednesday October 14, 2009. The theme of the day was 'Hospitals safe from disasters'. DAM chalked out elaborate programmes in different places of the disaster prone areas including different Unions of Patharghata and Sadar Upazila of Barguna, Mirzagonj Upazila of Patuakhali, Mongla Upazila of Bagerhat and Dharmapasha Upazila of Sunamgonj district. The day's programme began with colourful rallies followed by discussion on various disaster issues. Discussions concentrated on community risk reduction, apart from special focus on this year's theme concerning safety and security of hospitals in the face of disaster. Local dignitaries, local government representatives and general masses participated the programmes.

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WatSan services yet to reach 1010 HtR unions of 250 upazilas

WatSan services are yet to reach a vast areas of Bangladesh due to its geological and geographical location, communication system, technological, socio-economic condition and risk of natural disasters.

Speakers said this at a Consultation Workshop on Identification of Effective Ways to Provide WatSan Services in Hard to Reach (HtR) areas organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission supported by World Bank (WSP-SA) at Jamuna conference hall of World Bank at Sher-e-Bangla

Nagar, Agargaon on 18 October 2009, Sunday in the city.

According to primary identification, hard to reach unions have been divided into 11 classes, they said. Of them, 271 unions are char (shoals) areas, 145 haors and 80 beels (water bodies), 78 coastal areas, 171 hilly areas, 160 Barind area (Modhupur), 37 saline areas, Sundarbans, Chhitmahal (enclaves), Mohazer and 29 extreme hard to reach areas. The list has been prepared based on watery geological and geographical location,

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DAM observes Nat'l Girl Child Day

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) observed the National Girl Child Day on October 6, 2009. The official theme of the day was 'Girl Children will Grow in Safe and Pleasant Environment'. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and Girl Child Advocacy Forum patronised the entire programme.

The day's programme started with a grand colourful rally. The rally began at National Public Library and ended at Bangladesh Shishu Academy. State Minister for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmeen Chowdhury inaugurated the rally. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana also joined the rally.

About 1,000 people took part at the rally. Most of them were children of underprivileged sections, students, teachers, guardians and general masses. Participants carried with them

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