



# Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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## Call for changing attitude towards girl child

### *DAM observes Child Rights Week in different districts*

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) observed the Child Rights Week in various districts of the country and in Dhaka city with a call for changing attitude towards girl child.

Befitting programmes marked the day. Programmes included rally, discussion meeting and cultural function. Colourful programmes were held from October 01 to 06, 2012.

**DHAKA** : Dhaka Ahsania Mission's UNIQUE Project organised rally, discussion meeting and cultural function at Mirpur in the capital on 02 October, 2012. Dhaka Ahsania Mission's PPVD Project convened the meeting with a call for changing attitude towards girl child.

**BARGUNA** : Multi Task, implementing agency of ECDSP-B Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, organised rallies and discussion meetings in 26 centres of nine project spots in Barguna district within a period from October 04 to 06, 2012.

Issues on child development, child rights, protection of child and significance of

World Child Day were discussed. A total of 1,250 people including children, guardians, community volunteers and local elite took part.

**JALDHAKA** : Quality Primary Education (QPE) Project organised discussion meetings at various schools under pervue of the project in Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district. Elaborate discussion on technique of learning without teachers' punishment in schools and guardians' punishment at homes was also held.

**RANGAMATI** : UNIQUE-2 Project organised discussion meetings at 212 community learning centres of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts. Discussants dwelt on issues like child rights and initiatives undertaken to make children of hill districts school-bound.

**JAMALPUR** : UNIQUE-2 Project organised different programmes including drama staging, discussion meeting and rally at Madarganj upazila in the district.

## Farewell to students of Fall Semester at AUST

A farewell was accorded to the students of Fall Semester of Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST) on July 25, 2012. AUST Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Shafiullah presided over while it was attended by AUST Trustee Board Chairman Kazi Rafiqul Alam as Chief Guest and founder Vice Chancellor and university Adviser Prof M H Khan as Special Guest. AUST Treasurer Dr Kazi Shariful Alam was present as Guest of Honour. Two outgoing students named Sakhawat Hossain Rabbi and Towhid Hossain shared their experiences.

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## Breast cancer kills 17,000 in Bangladesh every year

— Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

Seventeen thousand people die of breast cancer in our country every year.

As many as 22,000 people are attacked anew with this type of cancer each year. If cancer is detected at primary stage then full recovery from the deadly disease is possible.

Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs said this while addressing a discussion meeting organised by Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital (AMCGH) as chief guest at Mission Bhaban auditorium on 1 October 2012. The discussion meeting marked the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month of October-2012.

The state minister also said that 13 thousand out of 18 thousand community health clinics have been operating across the country. The clinics are being run Public Private Partnership (PPP).

So, now there is possibility to make rural women aware about breast cancer.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while Meher Afroz Chumki MP, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs was present as Special Guest.

In her speech, Chumki stressed on people's, specially women's awareness about cancer.

Cancer specialist Prof Dr Syed Akram Hossain and surgical

oncologist Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid of AMCGH jointly presented the key-note paper on awareness of breast cancer.

The Adviser of DAM, Prof. Dina Haque, delivered the special address. The Director of AMCGH, Brigadier General (retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim, delivered the welcome address.

The AMCGH has chalked out a month-long elaborate programme on the hospital premises at Mirpur-14 (eastern side of NAM Quarters), in the city, during entire month of October-2012.

Free services are being provided to the needy from October 1 to October 31 (excepting holidays) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm everyday.

Dr Naheed Sultana, Dr Selina Parveen and Dr Sharmeen Hossain will provide free counselling to those women who are at risk of breast cancer.

Special concession will be provided to them for their ultrasonogram, memography and F.N.A.C. including breast cleaning service during the month of October. Breast tumor operation and other services will be provided to women by experienced surgeons at 30% concession.

Earlier, open discussion on prevention of breast cancer was held at most of residential halls of universities and women's colleges across the country. Colourful banners, posters and leaflets were also brought out.

## WISH Project's workshop for local stakeholders in Tajumuddin UZ

Women Initiative for Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply for Improved Health (WISH) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a day-long workshop for local stakeholders at Tajumuddin Upazila (UZ) Parishad hall in Bhola district on 23 September, 2012.



The aim of the workshop was to prepare an action plan on implementation of the government policy at upazila level. Besides Upazila Parishad and MAX, other partners of the workshop were LGI, DPHE, DPE and local entrepreneurs.

Tajumuddin Upazila Chairman Mosharraf Hossain Dulal, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Khairul Hasan, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Arifur Rahman were present. Issues on government policy on sanitation, aims and objectives of WISH Project, implementation procedure and strategy were discussed. Twenty men and six women from five unions took part.

## Programme networking meeting with drug users

AMIC Modhumita Project-02 of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a programme networking meeting at Mymensingh Kristapur Railway Defence Party Duty Office on 17 July 2012. Programme Assistant Foyez Ahmed and Community Counsellor Abdul Mannan were main discussants. They discussed issues on field of cooperation and aims and objectives of ASHROY. Centre manager Golam Rasul discussed issues like services, social gathering programme and cultural function. President Amir Hossain dwelt on activities of ASHROY.





## TMD-conducted training courses

**Gender :** Training & Material Development (TMD) Division has conducted one-day training courses on Creating Awareness for Bringing Gender Equity in Workplaces and Preventing Sexual Violence against Women in four batches. Sponsored by ILO, a total of 95 trainees have taken part in four batches. Of them, 19 were women and 76 men. Rabeya Sultana, Director, TMD, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Nasima Shaheen and Moriam Jahan Sonali, both trainers, conducted the training course. Senior, mid and junior level officials of Beximco Textiles and ACI Limited have taken part.

Khalid Shahriar, Deputy General Manager, Human Resource and Compliance, Beximco Textiles opened the training course. Speakers termed the training course meant for creating awareness to bring gender equity in work places and preventing sexual harassment to women as 'timely.' Trainees irrespective of status vowed to play a vital role in bringing gender equity and preventing sexual harassment to women at workplaces.

**Union Dev. Committee :** One-day upazila orientation of UDCC in two batches has been completed. A total of 143 persons have participated. Of them, nine were women and 134 men. Bhaluka, Jamalpur Sadar Upazila chairmen, vice chairmen, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), officials of various government organisations and Union Parishad chairmen were present. Concerned persons of programme implementation and M M Reza Latif, from Training & Material Development Division,

senior trainers (focal persons of projects) were involved in the orientation course. Enhancing coordination

among upazila and union, promoting coherence in entire activities of Union Parishad, prevention of dual policy in spheres of services and bringing accountability and transparency in activities during implementation of programmes through coordination among service providers and recipients were aims of the orientation course. Above all, the aim of the orientation course was to make Union Parishad a focal point of entire development activities by strengthening the local government system. Participants opined that the agenda of discussion was 'timely.'

**Leadership & org. dev. :** Two trainers of Training Unit named Md Shahjahan and Md Motiar Rahman conducted training courses on

Leadership and Organisational Development under purview of SOUHARDO-2 Project in collaboration with CARE Bangladesh. The training courses were held in two unions of Nandail upazila. Members of Village Development Committee (VDC) participated. A total of 80 persons have taken part. Of them, 40 were women and 40 others men.

Programmes like Agriculture & Livelihood, Health & Nutrition, Women's Empowerment & Education, Disaster Management & Climate Change and establishing liaison with government and non-government service providing organisations are being implemented under SOUHARDO-2 Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Trainees have expressed their opinion saying the training would be helpful in implementation of the aforesaid programme and giving leadership in community activities. In the meantime, a trainer, in assistance with INCIDIN Bangladesh, has undertaken training on ToT on Life Skills at Podokkhep.



## Tobacco control workshop at Dhaka South City Corpn

Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka Ahsania Mission jointly organised a workshop on Tobacco Control at the office of Dhaka South City Corporation Region-2 on 7 August, 2012.

Senior Programme Officer of Tobacco Control Project Mahfida Dina Rubaiya delivered welcome address. Tobacco Control Project Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission A K M

Anisuzzaman discussed the ill effects of active and passive smoking. Assistant Health official of Dhaka South City Corporation Region-2 Dr F S Kabir was present on the occasion.

## Representative of AMIC at int'l workshop in Sri Lanka

Shekhor Banerjee, representative of AMIC- Dhaka Ahsania Mission, participated at a workshop titled, 'International Sensitisation Course on Socio

Ecological Approach to Alcohol Related and Mixed Problem' at Kurunegala in Sri Lanka on 16-21 July 2012.

Sri Lankan National Association of Family Club organised the workshop in collaboration with IOGT International. Fransisco Piani, President of European School of Alcoholology, played the role of Course Director. Helge Colstad, representative of IOGT International and Guna Shekhor, President of Sri Lankan National Association of Family Club acted as facilitators. Issues on formation of Family Club, activities, role of family

and responsibility, ways to prevent family members from the curse of drug addiction and ways to get benefits for society and country were discussed. European experiences were shared at the workshop. Representatives of various countries depicted the pictures of their own region. The AMIC representative carried out a power point presentation on treatment facilities of AMIC and Dhaka Ahsania Mission at the workshop. Besides Bangladesh, 30 representatives from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Maldives took part.

## Orientation workshop on tobacco control

An orientation workshop on tobacco control was held at the seminar room of Gulshan Youth Club in the city on 10 September, 2012.

The workshop was aimed at keeping public places and public transports free from tobacco, according to Smoking and Tobacco Products (control) Act 2005.

Officers and staff of Dhaka North City Corporation (zone-3) and representatives of Gulshan Youth Club took part. The Regional Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation (zone-3), Dr Nasir Uddin presided over while it was attended by the President of Gulshan Youth Club, Rafez Alam Chowdhury, as Guest of

Honour. The Project Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, A K M Anisuzzaman presented the key-note paper.

In his address, Gulshan Youth Club President Rafez Alam Chowdhury said, 'We shall have to protect our youths from ill-effects of smoking. There is no alternative to it but to increase awareness at all spheres. The officials of public places will have to remain vigilant to keep public places free from smoking'. He declared Gulshan Youth Club and its premises tobacco-free. With the approval of all, Dr Nasir Uddin also formally announced the office of Dhaka North City Corporation (zone-3), tobacco free.



Highlighting the dreadful consequences of smoking, the speakers said, because of smoking, at least 57,000 people die every year and three lakh eighty two thousand people become crippled. Speakers lamented saying that public places were not at all made tobacco free despite imposition of ban on smoking in public places.

Dhaka North City Corporation has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dhaka Ahsania Mission for prevention of smoking in public places. The office of Nagar Bhaban (North City Corporation) has been declared a smoke-free area.



## Kishore-Kishoree Forum members enthral audience

Twenty one selected members of Kishore-Kishoree (adolescents) Forum underwent a 7-day training course conducted by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project in Barguna district on September 23-29, 2012. The training course was held at Jago Nari Pathshala Training and Research Centre. Drama and sessions of 'Gambhira' were held on the concluding day of the training course on September 29, 2012. The drama and musical show depicted the activities conducted at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Day Care Centre and Anando Ashrom Ganokendro under ECDSP-B Project.

## Discussion meetings by community based committee members

Multi Task, associate organisation of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B Project), organised discussion meetings on supervision and monitoring activities at community centres within

September 16-20, 2012. Assistant teachers of local primary schools, all members of CMC and CAG committees and ECD workers were present. Committee members and guardians supervised and discussed means for improvement of community centres.





# Smoke-free Campaign Bus launched

A Smoke-free Campaign Bus has been launched in Dhaka city. This different type of bus has been launched in the city for the first time in Bangladesh. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a member of parliament (MP), inaugurated the Smoke-free Campaign Bus of 'Bahon Paribahan' at Khilgaon in the city on 22 September, 2012. The entire bus is covered by pictures and information on tobacco control Act and harmful effects of active and passive smoking. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) initiated the noble gesture. The Assistant Director of DAM,

Iqbal Masud and Advocacy and Media Coordinator of Tobacco Free Kids Bangladesh Taifur Rahman were present on the occasion. Buses of 'Bahon Paribahan' run five times a day from Pallabi of Mirpur to Khilgaon via Motijheel. Those cover a distance of 22 kilometers every time and a total of 110 kilometers every day. The initiative will help people learn penalty for smoking in public transport. It will also make them aware about ill effects of smoking in public places, according to the tobacco control



Act. Saber Hossain Chowdhury praised the initiative of DAM. He gave advices and valuable suggestions to make the campaign successful. Dhaka Ahsania Mission with support from Campaign for

Tobacco Free Kids under the Bloomberg Global Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use will gradually bring five more buses of Dhaka city under fold of the campaign within a year .



# Multi Task's orientation on gender issues

Multi Task, associate organisation of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development Support Programme - Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project, conducted an orientation course on Gender issues in Barguna district on 23 September, 2012. Members of Community Managed Centre (CMC) and Community Action Group (CAG) participated in the course aiming at making parents aware about their role in pre-childhood development of their children. Issues on women's empowerment in family and community, women's role in decision making and father's

involvement in it were discussed at the orientation course at Meghdut Pre-School and SBKs of ECDSP-B Project in Charduani union of Patharghata upazila. The orientation course was assisted by Trainer Md Anwar Jahid and TO Md Kabir Hossain. Multi Task also conducted another orientation course at its office on Gender issues with UP members, NGO workers, teachers, health workers and local elites on 24 September 2012. The orientation course was assisted by TO Md Kabir Hossain, PC Abdullah Al-Mamun and Trainer Md Anwar Jahid.

# UHSC members visit Amkhaoa Community Clinic

Hatibhanga Union Health Standing Committee (UHSC) members visited Amkhaoa Community Clinic to observe its activities on September 26, 2012. The visit was sponsored by Health Monitoring and Advocacy on Safe Motherhood Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Health Standing Committee President Ahmmad Ali Dulu, Union Coordinator Md Azizul Haque of Safe

Motherhood Project, Health Standing Committee members Lutfur Rahman, Tahura Akter Heera, Community Based Organisation (CBO) President Sultana Razia, Amkhaoa Government Primary School teachers Aminul Haque and Nur Mohammad were present. A total of 600 women, 400 men and 200 children got service from this clinic in the month of August this year. Thirty eight pregnant mothers got ANC services and 15 others were provided with post child birth PNC services from here. Other services including first aid treatment are also provided from the community clinic.





## Media briefing on Smoke-free Environment & Tobacco Control Law

A media briefing on Smoke-free Environment and Tobacco Control Law was held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital on October 2, 2012. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Progga, Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) with

support from Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids jointly organized the media briefing. DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, a member of parliament (MP) was present as chief guest.

MANOSH President Prof Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Media & Advocacy Coordinator of Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids Taifur Rahman, and Senior News Editor of Bangla Vision Abu Rushd Md. Ruhul Amin were present as guests.

Progga Chairman Sayed Badrul Karim delivered the welcome address. DAM Assistant Director Iqbal Masud presented the key-note paper on Tobacco-free Environment and Tobacco Control Law.

Speakers said that it is essential to reject the provision of smoking zone in public places that was recommended by the Cabinet on 27 August, 2012. Cabinet gives initial approval with some changes, retention of smoking zone one of the major changes. If the law becomes effective then the

initiative to protect non-smokers from second hand-smoking will be jeopardized. Then 100% smoke-free environment will not be created.

They also said that 45% people fall victims to passive smoking in various public places. Four crore 20 lakh people of the country fall victims to passive smoking. Of them, 2 crore 58 lakh people fall victims to passive smoking in restaurants only.

It is mentionable that 43.3% people above 15 years of age, take smoke and smokeless tobacco products. Of them 23% are smokers. Smoking is harmful for both smokers and non-smokers. Smoking kills 57,000 people every year while 3,82,000 others become crippled during the same period .

## Training course on management of Ganokendro

Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducted a training course on management of Ganokendro (people's centres) at Pathshala Jago Nari Research & Training Centre in Barguna district. Project's Technical Officer Ajoy Kumar Ghosh and Training Coordinator Delwar

Hossain assisted the two-day training course. Members of five Ganokendro took part. Issues like status of Anondo Ashrom Ganokendro, its progress and effectiveness, concept on Ganokendro, aims & objectives, duties and responsibilities of Ganokendro committee, resource mobilisation and future planning were discussed.



## AMIC Project's family support group meeting

A family support group meeting was held at the house of Kristapur recovery client Anwar Hossain of AMIC Mymensingh Modhumita Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on July 14, 2012. A total of 17 persons took part. President of AMIC Modhumita Project Hena

Akter presided over. The meeting discussed ways of cooperation and supplying information from one family to other one through sharing. Among others, Modhumita Project councillor Saira Khatun and community councillor Abdul Mannan were present.

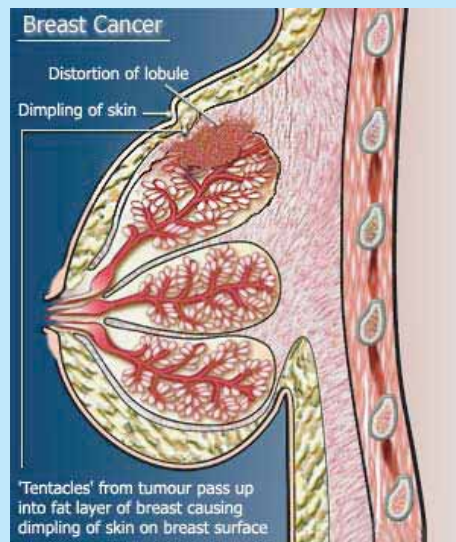




# Collective efforts of state, community needed to combat breast cancer

The word "cancer" is one of the most unsettling sounds for human life. It brings life to a cruel stand-still. Humanity is using everything in its arsenal to defeat this cause of endless tragedy. With a strong resolve to never accept defeat, those afflicted continue to struggle to live out their dreams within the limitations that this plague has set out for them. Sometimes without the help of others, without an all-rounded support in term of finance and care which the family, society and Estate can provide that dream shatters. Life prematurely fades away. The fear of the end remains with the cancer affected one every waking moment of life and that is why, it is fundamentally important for familial, societal and stately help and assistance in terms of care and funding to play their roles in bringing about the ultimate defeat of cancer.

The treatment process in a developing country like ours is catastrophically time-consuming. Aside from that, the lack of proper education and social awareness coupled with stigma from religious perspective and lack of State support and intervention lead afflicted people to lead lives that are inhumane and without dignity. Most prominently for victims of breast cancer these lacking are far more magnified. The position of women in our society can at most be described as unsatisfactory and deplorable. And above that, the disrespectful eye of society is another terrible package, which only a very unsatisfactory number of women can break free from the serpent-like noose which binds it. So in order to instill courage in women and make them more willing to seek treatment and create greater levels of social awareness and moreover to break the fear created by social stigma. Many individuals, groups and organizations have begun work with these women to overcome this disease without any obstacle or hindrance. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is such an organization who comes forward to combat cancer together with the survivors. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has already established "Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital (AMCGH) in 2011, a center for early detection and treatment for cancer at Mirpur, Dhaka. The AMCGH is



providing services of well recognized standard through specialized doctor and oncologist. The hospital is running on a "No Profit, No Loss" basis and 30% of the services for the poor and marginalized. Besides, since 2004 Dhaka Ahsania Mission has started the construction work for another AMCGH at Uttara which has now been scheduled to start from 2012.

Breast Cancer is a fear in our country in just the same way as it is in all other countries of the world. Adult women, young girls and elderly women are all at risk of contracting this frightful ailment. The harsh truth is that being born a woman puts women at risk of breast cancer because of physical structure. Women, who are twenty years and older are most at risk. Upon closer research, women who have had or have relatives who have suffered and are suffering from breast, colon or cervical cancer and thus share a common blood-line are most at risk. The risk of contracting breast cancer moves one step higher for close female relatives before the age of fifty. In every twenty victims, one victim will have inherited the disease. At the same time, prolonged usage of birth-control pills, hormone therapy during menopause and obesity are all contributory factors. Keeping in mind that breast cancer is a treatable disease and therefore, all men and women should know what breast cancer is. The body inherently has the ability to

regularly renew and regenerate by creating new cells. The newly created cells take the places of the old and worn out cells. This regenerative function is governed from within the cell. If new cells are not required the DNA governing the function is suspended until required. During cell regeneration, if for any reason the DNA is adversely affected, there is great loss of control over the rate of regeneration. And so cell regeneration takes place at an uncontrolled rate. As a result cysts or tumors develop. Not every tumor is cancerous. Tumors created from an uncontrolled proliferation of cells are cancerous. These spread to surrounding tissue and to other parts of the body.

In order to gain respite and safety away from this bringer of breast cancer, one must gain proper knowledge and treatment. One must be aware of the symptoms of the disease. The task of raising public awareness as is being done by individuals and organizations alike is not an easy one. In this case, various organizations like public or state-owned ones and private organizations as well as the media should put their feet forward. Society and the state should take up their respective responsibilities and stick to fulfilling them. It is essential that every corner of rural areas be enlightened. In developing and remote areas, it is noticed that, diseases and illnesses that affect women are kept hidden. But it is also important to remember that keeping the knowledge of cancer in the dark and seeking treatment is foolishness of the utmost kind. Not seeking the right treatment at the right time will lead to devastating consequences. The family should be more prompt in taking action at this moment. It is paramount for the family, to take proper care because the patient may already be distressed both mentally and physically and may not have the strength and resolve in that respect to push on.

The endeavor of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has come as a life saving effort for cancer patients as well as it has ensured the accessibility of poor people to this expensive treatment. In these times of capitalism while humanity and societal values are fading away, in the absence of political commitment, the state has limited opportunities to provide cancer treatment to poor people. The Dhaka Ahsania Mission along with fellow organizations efforts will definitely give a positive message to the live threatening cancer patients who are suffering from this dreadful disease.





## DAM in frame

### Water supply and sanitation technology



Rural piped water supply scheme



Arsenic and saline removal Sujol plant



Filtering pond water using sand



Rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge



Sanitary toilet



Disaster Friendly Latrine

