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Country needs research university

Although the quality of education has been improved but there is no research university in Bangladesh and no remarkable research work seen at the existing different public and private universities.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury made the opinion as the chief guest at the Second National Conference of Teachers-2013 at city's Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) Auditorium on 4 October 2013.

He said, government has distributed 92 crore books in primary and secondary level in last four years in free of cost. As there is no learning assessment in those levels, it is being impossible to get clear idea about standard of education. This is why, government is planning to launch School Based Assessment (SBA) system. He stressed on including national history and civics in text book.

He also informed about the internal assessment system to ensure quality education in

universities.

Bangladesh Reading Association (BRA), in collaboration with Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Campaign for Popular Education and International Reading Association organized the conference for second time.

At his presidential address, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, professional skill of teachers should be developed to ensure quality education. Social media can play significant role for disseminating education.

Professor of Bangla Department of Dhaka University, Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq presented the key-note paper. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered a speech on 'Education Philosophy: Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah'. Former Director of CPEIM Unit of Education Ministry Prof. Nurul Islam delivered the welcome address.

At the first day of conference, some parallel sessions were conducted on the prevailing problems in primary education

and action to solve this. Moreover, conference conducted different session including promoting Education Policy Dialogue, Learning English Without Grammar etc.

On the second day, same types of parallel sessions were conducted on different issues.

Bangladesh Reading Association was established by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in 2005 as a National Affiliate of BRA.

The BRA was approved by IRA officially in July 2008 and has been working for the students, teachers educational researchers and publishers etc to develop the capacity on reading instruction and creating a culture of reading in the society till then.

IRA is organizing training on improved teaching learning process for the teachers/educators, publishing results of significant research /investigations and practices of reading, teaching learning process and potential issues on literacy and education.

AUST Gets Permanent Certificate from Edn Ministry

As the first private university, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) on October 7, 2013 got the 'Permanent Certificate' for establishing own permanent campus and giving proper direction to the students by the university.

The university was shifted to its permanent campus at Tejgaon in 2008 and UGC approved the permanent campus of AUST in 2009. After establishing private university act 2010, AUST authority applied to Education Ministry and following this UGC investigators visited AUST campus. Finally, on October 7, 2013 AUST got the certificate as the first private university getting this in Bangladesh.

Facilities of the Permanent Campus are - Lifts : There are 6 lifts, 3 for students (54 passengers), 2 for Teachers (34 passengers) & 1 for administrative block (8 passengers); 5 (five) stairs, 3 (three) for students, 1 (one) for teachers and 1 (one) for administrative block; One sub-station including has trucking for 2500 Kva capacity for each; 2 (two) standby generator of 1000 Kva for each; One 4th dia Tube-Well; Air conditioning system; each & every room will have Air Conditioning system

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Smoking claims 57 thousands lives in a year

Fifty Seven thousand people are dying and 12 lakh people are being ill in a year and especially women are badly affected due to smoking. This information is revealed from a view exchanging meeting with media personalities, held at the Dhanmondi, Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city on 2 October 2013.

Speakers opined, according to the amended tobacco control law, print and electronics media can play a significant role to keep smoke-free at public places and transports.

Speakers also informed, second-hand smoking is badly causing impact on women. This is why, they are suffering from different diseases including breast cancer.

Parliament member of constituency Dhaka-11 Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal MP was present as chief guest while

President of Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association Kamaruddin Ahmed, Media and Advocacy Coordinator of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Taifur Rahman and President of MANAS and Secretary of Bangladesh Anti To-

bacco Alliance (BATA) Dr Arup Ratan Choudhury were present as guests. DAM Assistant Director Iqbal Masud facilitated the programme.

It is mentionable that through a collective initiative with government Tobacco Control Law-2005 had been amended on 29 April 2013. In the amendment, a smoker is fined for Tk 300 increasing from 50

and restaurants have been declared as public places. Notwithstanding, due to lack of public awareness, the campaign is not being implemented properly.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in line with tobacco control law, is implementing 'Smoke Free Dhaka City' project to boost up public health by keeping public places smoke free.



Project inception meeting of DIPECHO-7 held



Project inception meeting of DIPECHO-7 was held at Dhaka City Corporation (North) office, Gulshan in the city on 10 October 2013.

Dhaka North City Corporation, Concern Universal and Dhaka

Ahsania Mission jointly organized the meeting.

The program was chaired by Akhter Hossain Bhuiya, Administrator, Dhaka North City Corporation and the Chairperson of City Corporation Disas-

ter Management Committee (CCDMC) while Assistant Project Manager of Concern Universal Runa Jesmin was present as special guest. DAM Assistant Director Jahangir Alam was present among

other. Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management Circle superintendent and Member Secretary of CCDMC Dr Tariq bin Yousuf Dhaka North City Corporation moderated the meeting.

Members of civil society and school level representatives urged government to include ward level disaster management committee in government's disaster management policy.

It is mentionable that the first meeting of Dhaka City Corporation was held at the same conference alongside project inception meeting.

The speakers said, Government has taken initiative to make 60,000 volunteers in all city corporations across the country to confront disasters including building collapse earthquakes.

Disaster resilience culture is necessary for striving with climate change.

DBL group donates Tk 1 cr to AMCGH

DBL Group donated Tk 1 crore to the construction fund of international standard Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital (AMCGH) which is under construction at Uttara in the capital. DBL Group Chairman Abdul Wahed handed over the cheque to the Chairman of the Governing Body of Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital Barrister Rafique-ul Huq at the board room of DBL head office at BGMEA Complex building in the city on 21 September, 2013.

While handing over the cheque, Chairman of DBL Group said “We feel happy for being able to participate in this noble initiative”.

Managing Director of DBL group MA Jabbar, Vice-Chairman MA Rahim Feroz, Deputy Managing Director MA Quader, Advisor Md Ishaque, General Manager (corporate) Mohammed Zahidullah, Presi-

dent of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Coor-



dinator of Resource Mobilization Md Abdul Hye and Head of Finance (Institute) Monzur Md Kawser were present at that time. In context of

this donation, a 12-bed recovery room in OT support service & procedure unit and a 8-bed CCU will be named in memory of their (DBL group Chairman, MD, Vice-Chairman and DMD) parents Mrs Jinnater

stage of completion. More money needed to complete the hospital. He appealed to well off people of the society to come forward with generous help for commissioning of the hospital. The hospital will be

Nessa and Abdul Matin. President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, work on the 15-storied hospital is now at the final

run on “no profit no loss basis” and Thirty per cent poor and distressed patients will get treatment free of cost, he also informed.

Bank Asia donates Tk 50 lac to AMCGH construct fund

As a part of corporate social responsibility, Bank Asia has donated Tk.50.00 lac to Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital for construction of Patients Waiting Lounge - Procedure and Surgical Ward in the second floor of the hospital

building. A. Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of Bank Asia handed over the Banks donation to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission for construction of Patients Waiting Lounge - Procedure and Surgical Ward in the second

floor of Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital, Uttara. Vice Chairman of the Bank Mohammed Lakiotullah, President & Managing Director Md. Mehmood Husain, Deputy Managing Directors Aminul Islam, Humaira Azam

and Md. Arfan Ali and Resource Mobilization Coordinator of DAM Md. Abdul Hye were present on the occasion. The handing over ceremony was held through a simple ceremony at the Banks Corporate Office at Rangs Tower, Paltan, Dhaka today on 6 October 2013.



Scholarship checks distributed among poor adolescents

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has distributed checks of scholarship among 100 adolescents in Sadar upazila and Amtoli upazila of Barguna district. The checks were distributed to them after a two-day training course on life skill development and small entrepreneurship conducted in four venues. The training course was aimed at improvement of lifestyle of adolescents and making them economically self-reliant. The check distribution ceremony was held at Jagoroni Pathsala and Keorabunia MCRC on October 22 and at M Baliatoli Union Parishad and Amtoli Ideal Free Cadet High School on October 24. Dewan Sohrab Uddin, head of Human Rights and Social Jus-

tice Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission presided over the check distribution ceremony at Jagoroni Pathsala while it was attended by the District Women Affairs Officer of the Directorate of Women and Children Affairs, Meherun Nahar Munni, as chief guest. Among others, District Social Service Deputy Director Md Abdul Mannan, UNICEFR Representative Feroz Mahmud, Press Club President Monir Hossain Kamal and Barguna NGO Forum President Motaleb Mridha were present.

The Director of Training and Material Development Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Rabeya Sultana, presided over the check distribution cer-



emony at Amtoli Ideal Free Cadet High School. Amtoli Upazila Nirbahi Officer Engineer Abdullah was present as chief guest. Among others, Press Club President Paritosh Karmaker and Dhaka Ahsania Mission's ACCESS-CAFOD Project Coordinator Abdur

Rakib attended the function. Each ultra-poor adolescent got Tk 15,000 as scholarship so that they can continue studies by pursuing vegetable cultivation and running small business, said Dhaka Ahsania Mission representatives.



Int'l Children's Day celebrated at Dewanganj

International Children's Day was celebrated at Dewanganj in Jamalpur district on September 22, 2013. Marking the Day, Children Education and Community Care (CECC) project chalked out befitting programmes at Children's Learning Centre and CRC. Children of CLC, representatives of Ganokendra, CRC, government and non-government organisations took part in various programmes.

The programmes included cake cutting, painting competition, jari gan (people's songs) on child rights, cultural func-

tion and discussion. It is worth mentioning, pre-primary and primary (multigrade) education system were introduced in the ganokendra (people's centres) being run under the aforesaid project at Dewanganj.

It is expected, the activities will help create people's awareness and turn the hapless families self-reliant. In the long run, the down-trodden families will be able to improve their living condition. At the same time, they will contribute their mite towards development of the country.

Orientation course on right to information act at Dewanganj

An orientation course on right to information act was held at AKM Abdul Khaleque Memorial College auditorium in Dewanganj on September 26, 2013. Dewanganj Poursabha mayor Abul Kalam Azad presided over while Dewanganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Aminul Haque supervised the orientation course. Md Asadullah, area coordinator of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission cooperated in making the orientation course successful.

Participants got a first hand knowledge on right to information act, objectives of its formulation, information on

right to information act 2009 and other issues.

Among others, upazila agriculture officer Sakhwat Hossain, upazila health and family planning officer Md Nurul Amin, upazila project implementation officer Ariful Haque, upazila primary education officer Md Lutfar Rahman, upazila secondary education officer Md Aminul Islam, upazila jubo unnyan officer Md Saiful Islam Khan, Chikazani UP chairman Md Momtazuddin, eight other UP chairmen, journalists, NGO representatives, members of Ganokendra and local organisations were present.



Int'l Day of Elderly People observed in Barguna

ACCESS-CAFOD-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed the International Day of Elderly People in 86 Ganokendro (people's centres) and five CRCs in Barguna Sadar upazila and 20 Ganokendro and several CRCs in Amtoli upazila of Barguna district on October 1, 2013.

This year's theme was 'Probinder Prottsae Amader Bhabissat' (our future and elderly people's expectation).

Various programmes were chalked out to mark the occasion. Programmes included discussion, rally, human chain and free health camp.

Elderly people spontaneously took part in all the programmes. Discussants stressed on increase in number of elderly allowance and its amount, paying more attention to elderly

people's health and nutrition, involvement of elderly



people in various income-generating activities and related issues.

A total of 2,470 people took part in the programmes. Of them, 1,659 were women and

811 men. Besides elderly people, participants included women, adolescents, GMC members and representatives of civil society as well as people's representatives.

Int'l Day of Disaster Mitigation observed in Barguna

The International Day of Disaster Mitigation was observed in Barguna district on October 13, 2013. Barguna District Disaster Management Committee organised the programme in association with Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Plan Bangladesh, the European Union, Concern Worldwide Bangladesh,

Save the Children-Bangladesh, RDF, Sushilan, Sangram and DSK. The theme of the Day was 'Protibondhider Sathe Rakhbo, Durjog Sahansil Desh Gori' (we shall remain beside physically challenged people, we shall build a disaster-resilient country).

Programmes included colourful

rally, discussion, painting competition and drill. A colourful rally led by Barguna Deputy Commissioner Abdul Wahab Bhuiyan paraded different streets of the district town. This was followed by a discussion at Barguna Zilla School. It was presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Nure-Alam and attended by the Deputy Commissioner. Speakers highlighted the significance of the Day.

This was followed by a simulation

on tornado and earthquake at the Zilla School ground. Later prizes were distributed among the winners of the painting competition. Among others, Barguna Press Club President Monir Hossain Kamal, Plan Bangladesh representative Shahrulkh Sohel, District NGO Forum President Md Motaleb Mridha, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Prokash Chandra Biswas and District Education Officer Nikhil Chandra Das attended. ACCESS-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission also observed the Day at Ganokendro, CRC and MCRC levels. A discussion was organised at Nilpadma Ganokendro where the News Editor of Dainik Saikot Sangbad, Birendro Kishor was the main discussant. He said, "Our Barguna district is disaster-prone area where natural calamity strikes any moment. This is why, we shall have to remain ever vigilant. Understanding the signal, we shall have to hurriedly rush to the disaster shelters. If we remain alert then our losses will be minimum." A total of 2,618 people took part in various programmes. Of them, 2,427 were women and 191 men. Participants included women, children, adolescent girls and boys, GMC and CAG members, representatives of various educational institutions, civil society members and people's representatives.



Bangladesh Reading Association



Literacy is an essential prerequisite to access to today's knowledge based societies. To get access in the printing world and avail other opportunities to learn and to acquire new skills inevitably require literacy. Literacy is apart of our basic rights and it facilitates the attainment of other rights. Nothing has been more necessary for all kinds of development than Literacy. Reading, writing and critical thinking are the main components of literacy. We read a text in order to derive meaning from it. Literacy development is one of the potential mandate of DAM and working on it in the last five decades. DAM has been working to develop literacy through various activities and right roots level to international level. DAM initiates innovative and effective approaches for development of literacy since long. DAM's recent initiative is the establishment of the Bangladesh Reading Association (BRA) to improve literacy, teaching profession, teachers network, reading instructions, reading research etc.

BRA established by DAM in 2005 as a National Affiliate of the International Reading Association (IRA) aiming to develop literacy and to create network of literacy personnel. IRA is an international networking organization operates from USA and established national affiliates in 92 countries in all over the world. It has

created a global network of teachers to develop professional development and to improve quality of education emphasizing reading promotion. IRA is publishing journals and educational materials for teachers/educators. BRA became part of IRA's global network in 2008 under the leadership of DAM and started working in Bangladesh. BRA is working for the students, teachers/educators, educational researchers, publishers etc. to develop capacity on reading instructions and creating a culture of reading in the society. Reading is one of the most potential skills to improve quality of education. It is an attempt to absorb the thoughts of author or text and know what the author or text is conveying. Quality reading is the interpretation of reading texts. Reading habits and skills are particularly important for the early grade students to continue learning, whose needs include phonics, fluency, vocabulary, listening and comprehension. It is generally assume that in Bangladesh the quality of reading instruction is low and negatively affects the overall educational achievement.

Teaching is directly a national activity and a teacher is a person who provides education for students of different ages and inspires them to develop the habits and a spirit of research and criticism. There are more than a million of teachers in the

country right from the non-formal education to higher education. Teachers, like other professionals, need to stay informed about new knowledge and technologies, network within the professional field, knowledge management of teachers and many more.

There are lots of teachers who have great potentials, innovative ideas, and effective teaching techniques. Their experiences and good practices should be disseminated widely for the benefit of teaching learning process of our country. Considering these needs BRA is specifically emphasizing on professional development of teachers in Bangladesh through various activities. Currently BRA is implementing a professional development project on Diagnostic Teaching Techniques & virtual mentoring through mobile phones for the primary school teachers, organizing yearly National Conference of Teachers to share their ideas, good practices, problems, teaching techniques etc., publishing a classroom practiced based quarterly journal the "Classroom Teaching" because a relevant journal can update and/or explore teachers knowledge or activities of their classroom and can be influenced to improve classroom teaching, action research on problems & practices of teaching etc. to identify current situation of teaching.

Nafiz Uddin Khan, Project Manager, BRA



DAM IN FRAME

Snapshots of 2nd National Conference of Teachers 2013



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