



Mission Barta

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2,70,000 brought under DAM's educational programme this yr

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has called upon the development organisations to launch a massive drive against illiteracy on the eve of the International Literacy Day. DAM has chalked out an elaborate programme in its programme area throughout the country to mark the International Literacy Day on September 8, 2009.

In Bangladesh, literacy rate has improved substantially following continued efforts of the social development actors. But there is no scope of complacency as we have to address

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Dr Modasser says at DAM seminar

Concerted efforts of all is a must for combating economic terrorism

Concerted efforts of all is a must for combating economic terrorism like illicit trade of tobacco products. All-out measures will be taken for official amendment of Tobacco Control Act.

Prime Minister's Health and Social Welfare Ministry Affairs Advisor Prof Dr. Syed Modasser Ali said this while speaking as Chief Guest at a seminar on "Combating Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products in

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Awareness drive to prevent Swine flu at grassroots level

People of Bangladesh are living with the growing risk of Swine flu virus infection. Swine flu virus may widespread in the country in a wave and people are no longer aware about this. In that circumstances,

DAM management reviewed this matter with due importance in the monthly general coordination meeting in September 2009. It was decided that mass awareness campaign will be conducted at grassroots level for preventing spread of the disease. Besides, necessary materials like- posters, leaflets etc. will be developed for awareness rising. In

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Micro Credit

Departed members' loan waived

Assistance given for losing key income earning person of the family. It becomes worse to a family, when somebody died left behind the burden of loan repayment. The similar situation arises when family lose main income earning person. In the most cases, carry out the responsibility of micro credit loan repayment become difficult both for the family members of departed borrower or for the borrowers who lost the main income earning person. DAM's MFP

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Micro Enterprise Dev Loan

DAM - PKSF accord signed

DAM has been implementing Micro finance program for alleviating poverty of rural poor people more than a decades. Many find out a path to come out from the cycle of poverty creating self-employment, increasing income or developing new skills. To widen the scope to those who has

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Disaster Friendly Water and Sanitation Website will help enrich DRR strategy

Disaster Friendly Water and Sanitation Website will help formulate an appropriate policy and enrich a coordinated disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy. At the same time, it will help strengthen field level activities. The website contains field level experiences and lessons learnt during implementation of related projects.

Speakers observed this at a function held to mark Launching Ceremony Of Publication And

Website on Disaster Friendly Water and Sanitation under joint sponsorship of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Concern Universal-Bangladesh (CUB) at Mission's

Dhanmondi auditorium in the city on Saturday (September 12, 2009). The Joint Secretary of the Local Government Division under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Mr. Md. Shahjahan Ali Mollah

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Former banker Nizam-ul Islam donates Tk 10 lac

Former banker Nizam ul Islam has donated Tk 10 lac to the fund of the under-construction Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) at Uttara in the capital.

Former banker Nizam ul Islam formally handed over a cheque for Tk 10 lac to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city on 15 September 2009.

A twin bed cabin will be named in memory of his parents Late Nurul Islam and Nurun-Nessa.

Disaster Friendly Water and Sanitation

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formally inaugurated the website as Chief Guest.

DAM Executive Director Mr. M. Ehsanur Rahman chaired the occasion while it was attended by, among others, Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Dr. Md. Mujibur Rahman, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET, Mr. Khairul Islam, Country Representative, Water Aid Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Akhteruzzaman Country Team Leader, Water and Sanitation Project of the World Bank.

Besides, Mr. Stephane Bonduelle, Country Representative, Concern Universal-Bangladesh (CUB) and DAM Director of Programme Mr. Shafiqul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Majority of people do not consider safe water and sanitation system essential to disaster preparedness. So, they do not develop the system that may be long lasting during disaster period. This is why, the infrastructure of safe water and sanitation system washes away during annual flooding and cyclone. As a consequence, calamity victims are compelled to defecate on open space resulting in environmental pollution. Disaster friendly water and sanitation technology will help prevent massive environmental pollution and preserve the sources of safe water.

Tragic end of child triggers commotion among fellow children

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became intolerant. He asked the boy repeatedly to bring cigarette for him. As he showed his indifference, Accusing Bellal, Shahnaz lodged a case with Gulshan police on May 8, 2009. Because of delay dally tactics of police, its final investigation report is yet to be placed although several months were passed after the incident.

Being shocked at the tragic incident as well as police indifference, local children, most of them belonging to Shishu Dal, a children's group formed under CDCPM Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), spontaneously took part at the human chain to press their demand for an investigation into the incident, arrest of the culprit without further delay and a fair trial.



Awareness drive to prevent Swine flue

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response to the decision of the meeting, MFP started awareness campaign in all of its working area conducting issue based discussion on Swine flue. The main objectives of the campaign were to inform the community about the disease, how this disease can be spread out and the preventive measures. At the time of awareness campaign, main symptoms of Swine flue, how to

identify the affected patient, and what kind of steps can be taken if the symptoms are positive in somebody, were discussed. Moreover, the role of each individual to prevent Swine flue and treatment available with possible places of treatment facilitate. Leaflets on Swine flue were disseminated among participants of the awareness campaign.



2,70,000 brought under DAM's

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the issue more positively because a large number of people still remains illiterate.

This year, DAM alone reaches

over 2,70,000 disadvantaged people in rural and urban areas through various educational programmes. At present, DAM's educational endeavour has spread to over 82 upazilas of 26 districts in five divisions of Bangladesh.

Concerted efforts of all is a must

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Bangladesh," jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and World Health Organisation, at the Dhanmondi auditorium of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in the city on Tuesday (29 September 2009). He mentioned about massive use of tobacco by people at the grassroots level which is the root cause of widespread cancer. He stressed on creating mass awareness about the issue. He urged all at all level to come forward in this effort.

In his presidential address, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam stressed on stoppage of marketing of duty-free tobacco. He sought separate licences among tobacco manufacturers, traders as well as retailers. He too underscored the need for combating illicit trade of tobacco products. National Professor Dr. M. R. Khan was present as Special Guests at the seminar chaired by Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam. Law and Society Trust Bangladesh Executive Director Barrister Tania Amir delivered the Key-note Speech while World Health Organisation Technical Officer Israt Chowdhury took part at the discussion. Besides, DAM Coordinator Iqbal Masud gave the Welcome Address.

In her Key-note Address, Barrister Tania Amir said tobacco products manufacturing multinational companies are directly involved in illicit trade of tobacco products. Citing various examples, she urged all to come forward to take legal action against them. Speakers said about one third of cigarette trade is going on through smuggling. These results in fall in cigarette prices at the consumers' level simultaneously increasing its demand. It poses a threat to public health as well as the country is being affected economically. Well-organised smugglers are active in Bangladesh. Tendu leaves coming from India is easily available in the country which is on open sale everywhere. Moreover, smuggled cigarettes, cigars and tobacco products are also being sold openly all over Bangladesh.

Departed members' loan waived

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generated an APODKALIN TOHOBIL/emergency fund to assist the family member or borrower by relieving from the burden of loan repayment or providing financial assistance to meet up emergency family needs. In case of death of borrower, family gets loan waiver (outstanding of loan) and additional 1000/- Tk. for family welfare and in case of death of main income

earning person of a family, borrower gets 2000/- Tk. to meet up emergency family needs. So that, s/he can get little bit of time to come out from the situation. During July 2009 to September 2009 a total no. of 6 member receives 12,000/- Tk. financial assistance for losing key income earning person and a total no. of 8 family receives 24,625/- Tk. loan waiver for death of loan receiver.



Bangladesh Inner Wheel Club donates Tk 1.53 lac

Bangladesh Inner Wheel Club has donated Tk 1 lac 53 thousand to the fund of the under-construction Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Uttara in the capital.

Inner Wheel Dist 328 Chairman Naz Afrin Rahman formally handed over a cheque for Tk 1 lac 53 thousand to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at the Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city on 14 September 2009. At that time, Inner Wheel Dist 328 Secretary Suraiya Alam, Treasurer Aliya Parveen, Farida Yeasmin, Bulbul Alam, Inner Wheel Club of Dilkusha Chartered President Tahera Wahid and presidents, secretaries and other leaders of various inner wheel clubs were present.

Nogordola now at Deshi Dosh

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abundance of varieties of colourful saree.

Nogordola Eid dresses are available at three outlets of Dhanmondi, Banani and Bashundhara City.

Each house at Deshi Dosh is unique in skill, experience and

variety. But Nagordola has an experience of merely two years and four months. Within a short period of 28 months, Nogordola has kept its mark in creativity and secured a respectable position with Deshi Dosh. This has been possible due to wonderful managerial capacity of Nogordola Project chief Ali Afzal.

One third of tobacco trade via int'l smuggling

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criminal activities, the tobacco companies are fetching benefits of smuggling. Various countries already took punitive measures against the tobacco companies. Barrister Tania Amir, DAM Coordinator Iqbal Masud and Public Relations Officer Humayun Kabir Tutul were present at the press conference.

Barrister Tania Amir said tobacco smuggling is an organised crime. The smugglers also involve in smuggling of money. There are allegations against Philip Morris (Marlboro Brand Company) and British American Tobacco Company for their involvement in smuggling in Bangladesh, Latin America and many other countries, she said. They also earn money in an illicit manner.

DAM Coordinator Iqbal Masud said, an organised gang of international smugglers is very active in Bangladesh. Although there is no availability of full

information of smuggling of tobacco products, a study conducted by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids revealed that British American Tobacco Company is directly involved in tobacco smuggling in Bangladesh. Even smuggling of tobacco products are going on in Bangladesh and India under their direct supervision.

Speakers said, thirty percent of cigarettes being consumed across the country are smuggled goods. Foreign cigarettes are on open sale at many important points in the capital without any hindrance, they said. The points are Nilkhet, Elephant Road, Gulshan-1, Gulshan-2, Baridhara, Shyamoli, New Market, Shahbag, Uttara and other points, they further said. There is easy availability of 'Tendu' leaves being smuggled in Bangladesh from India along Indo-Bangla border areas. These are on open sale everywhere.

DAM - PKSF accord signed

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the potentials to transform small business initiative into micro enterprise, DAM also has been implementing Micro Enterprise Development Scheme. Currently around 500 members is the beneficiary of this scheme. Mainly small IGA loan receiver, who gained experience by handling their small business for one to three years period,

repaid loan successfully and has scope to widen business in relatively larger scale with a better prospect, can be selected for the scheme. DAM made a loan agreement with PKSF for "Micro Enterprise Development" project and received 50 lac taka in the first phase on August 16, 2009. Through this scheme, micro entrepreneurs will receive credit support from 20000/- Tk to 100000/- Tk. The loan ceiling will increase gradually.

Dream of 5,000 people

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Upazila Parishad (UP) Chairman S M Habibur Rahman formally opened the plant while the inaugural ceremony was addressed by, among others, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Shakhawat Hossain, Director (Program) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Shafiqul Islam, UP Chairman Mr Ataur Rahman Lal and other dignitaries. Other GoB and NGO officials, journalists, representatives of Sidko Ltd, a team of DAM headquarters, WatSan, CI and UZC were also present. Hayatpur is a remote village of Patibila union in Chowgachha Upazila. The village is seriously affected by arsenic contamination in ground water. A survey conducted by DAM in 2008, revealed that more than 90% of tubewells (TWs) of the village are contaminated while many villagers were attacked by arsenicosis following usage of water of the TWs.

Meanwhile, DAM received a small fund from DAM UK which was donated in memory of Friedenstern Howard, a respected late trustee of Vegfam-UK. This inspired to install a costly chemical based AIRP (arsenic and iron removal plant) of SIDCO Ltd. The plant extracts ground water from shallow aquifer and then treats through three steps including oxidizing, removal of iron and removal of AS, other metal and non metals.

In response to DAM's proposal for supporting installation of AIRP, community people at the village formed a committee titled, "Hayatpur AIRP Management Committee" to take up responsibility of running the plant credibly for a long term.

Munirul Islam, a resident social worker was elected chairman of the 11-member committee. The committee convinced Bazlur Rahman, a villager, to donate 1 decimal of his roadside land for the plant. The committee, in cooperation with, UP and Barsa Gonokendra (a people's centre formed by DAM in 2005) jointly worked out modalities for operating the plant by lease and through introduction of water tariff. Jinnat Ali, a poor youth at the village was selected the first leaseholder of the plant for a trial period of six months. As a leaseholder operator, he will be liable for O&M, water delivery, payment of all liabilities including electric bill and others.

Meanwhile, necessary tests were conducted at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) laboratory with all required preparations. Earlier, DAM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the AIRP committee for taking over the plant on behalf of the community following which the handing over ceremony took place.



DAM observes Int'l Literacy Day

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than 270000 disadvantaged rural and urban people through its different educational programmes. At present DAM's educational endeavour has spread over 82 upazilas of 26 districts in 5 different divisions of Bangladesh.



DAM installed Hayatpur Arsenic Removal Plant opens Dream of 5,000 people comes true

Dream of 5,000 people at Hayatpur village in Chowgachha Upazila for getting arsenic-free safe water has come true with opening of the first Arsenic Removal Plant installed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 26 September, 2009. *[See page 3]*

Help implement Mass Edn Programme

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has called upon the well-to-do families and corporate sector, to come forward to help implement Mass Education Programme. Education has no substitute for raising the overall standard of living of general people. Mass education is essential to implement the overall development programmes including income generation activities, health, nutrition, environment, improvement of the law and order. Even success of the primary education programme depends on education of the parents/guardians. You too can come forward for education and income generation skills training of the adolescent, youth and adult of both sexes nearer to your village home or any chosen area. DAM has a 30-year experience in implementation of the mass education and income generating skills training programmes. Corporate sector as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as well as well-to-do families who care for the well being of the society, may undertake mass education and vocational skills training programmes in their chosen areas in cooperation with DAM.

One third of tobacco trade via int'l smuggling

One third of tobacco trade is being operated through international smuggling. This results in fall in cigarette prices and rise in demand. As a result, public health is at new risk and the country is also economically affected. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while speaking at a press conference on "Smuggling of Tobacco Products: Bangladesh Perspective," jointly organised by

DAM, FCA and American Cancer Society at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban Auditorium in the city on Thursday 10 September 2009. Quoting information from World Health Organisation (WHO), he said, tobacco products manufacturing and marketing companies themselves are fetching benefits from such smuggling. Despite denial by these companies about their involvement in *[See page 3]*



Nogordola now at Deshi Dosh

Nogordola is now at Deshi Dosh in Bashundhara City. Deshi Dosh is a fresh initiative and newly-floated dependable fashion house involving top ten boutique establishments. At Nogordola, Eid dresses have been created taking inspiration from 'oriental art,' unique in creativity. In this Eid season, Cotton Kamiz

with 'Karchupi' and embroidery work is the newest attraction at Nogordola. Matching cap is added attraction for Punjabi. A touch of variety has increased attractiveness of Salwar-Kamiz for tiny tots. A good number of Salwar-Kamiz and Fotua-Pant-Scarf made for girls in oriental western fusion are on display for fashionable customers. Besides, there is *[See page 3]*



Tragic end of child triggers commotion among fellow children

A large number of children and people from all walks of life recently formed a human chain at Korail slum of Banani area under Gulshan police station protesting tragic end of a child after indiscriminate beating by his step father. Participants demanded immediate arrest of what they said 'killer father' and his punishment after a proper investigation. The victim is Shah Alam, 12, of the same locality. As he lost his father at a tender age, his mother Shahnaz Begum became a destitute. She earned a living by begging. To get rid of miseries, she remarried a man named Bellal Hossain. Alam also began to live with his stepfather. On May 1 this year, Alam was playing with the neighbouring children at their house. Bellal asked the minor boy to bring cigarette for him from a nearby shop. But Alam was totally absorbed in the game. Being a tobacco addict, his stepfather *[See page 2]*



DAM observes Int'l Literacy Day

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) chalked out elaborate programmes in its programme area across the country to mark the International Literacy Day on September 8, 2009. The programme included holding of rally, discussion meeting, cultural programmes and handwriting competition etc. Addressing the meetings, the speakers discussed the significance of the day and stressed the need for removing illiteracy from the society. During the celebration a large number of Non-Formal learners from across the DAM working areas participated the programme. Earlier DAM called upon all development actors for launching massive drive against illiteracy. This year DAM alone reaches more *[See page 3]*