The monthly publication ‘Alap’ is a magazine targeting neo-literates and the persons with limited reading skills. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) works for disadvantaged and underprivileged people priority basis. Children, adolescent, young and adult people are enjoying the magazine from both side, as reader and writer. In this magazine a writer can get information and entertainment at the same time. Its language is easy to communicate and understand. The magazine started its journey in 1992. It has been improving significantly over the time to meet the purpose of the readers. DAM is going to celebrate the ‘Silver Jubilee of ALAP’ in December 2016 with dignity and manner at the organizational level. To mark the occasion Dhaka Ahsania Mission has taken numbers of initiatives. It connected people associated with ALAP throughout the country. A number of events have been organised in Khulna, Barishal, Chittagong and Dhaka division, where various projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission are ongoing. In the division level, elite person of the community, persons from government departments, local government Institutions and NGOs were invited. Programme participants of different sectors of DAM, member of Ganokendra and CRC were participants. They performed in the different events. It is a successful celebration at field level by the cooperation of different stakeholders of DAM.
AMCC celebrates Eid

Children and employees of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) celebrated Eid-ul Adha amid festivity, due religious gaiety and solemnity. Marking the festival, a four-day long program on 11-14 September 2016 was organized. From 11 September, Eid celebration programmes were started. First day’s programmes include Doa Mahfil, Tabarak distribution, indoor and outdoor games, publishing wall-paper and learning based film-show. On the Eid day, it includes wearing new dresses, going to Eidgah to offer Salah, animal scarification, providing enrich food and eid journey.

Moreover, the AMCC authority thinks that celebration of Eid festival is essential to flourish moral and religious value, brotherhood and creativity. Marking the festival, the moral learning of Eid-ul Adha was presented before the children so that they can prepare themselves as a well citizen of the country through devotion.

The whole residential building of AMCC was cleaned and decorated with color paper, balloon and other handicrafts made by the children. The playing ground was also adorned. The children took part in cultural programmes and indoor & outdoor games. In the very early morning of Eid Day, they wore paijama and panjabi, later they went to Eidgah Maiden to offer salah. At noon, rich foods including meet of sacrificed animal and polaw were distributed among them. It was continued next 3 days. This year 7 donors contributed 30 thousand Tk. to buy sacrificial animal. They are Julekha Banu (Father-Kazi Mazhar Uddin), Smoth Noor (Father-Syed Saeed Hossain), Sayed Amir Ahsan (Father-Syed Saeed Hossain), Khandaker Ashekul Haque (Fahter-KN Haque), Anika Haque (Father-KN Haque), Syed Arian Ahsan (Father-Syed Amir Ahsan), Syed Saeed Hossain (Father-Syed Abdul Gafur).

'Bswopno Vonger Jatra’ an awareness programme of Bangladesh Betar

Bangladesh Betar started a Phone-In Live programme on 19th April, 2016 for creating mass awareness on Human Trafficking. It invited government, non-government, international organization who have working experience at local, national and international level. On 21st September, 2016 Bangladesh Betar invited Ferdousi Akhter, Project Manager, Bangladesh Counter Trafficking In Action Programme, BCTIP project, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Motiur Rahman, Police Super, CID and ABM, Kamrul Islam Coordinator, UNODC, to participate in the Bangladesh Betar Phone-In Live Programme, ‘Swopno Vonger Jatra’. The audience from different districts directly contacted with the resource persons and asked questions, queries for rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation & reintegration of trafficked victims. The programme was facilitated by Monjurul Haque, Deputy Director, International Mother Language Institute and coordinated by Mustafizur Rahman, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Betar.
Int’l Literacy Day observed

Like other years, some projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) observed International Literacy Day 2016 at various places of the country. In Laxmipur, the district administration organized programmes to celebrate the day along with other non-government organizations. DAM CLC project participated in those programmes. A rally and discussion meeting was held to mark the occasion. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Md. Sajjadul Hassan presided over the meeting while Deputy Commissioner of the district Md. Zillur Rahman was present as chief guest. Moreover, Additional Police Supper Md. Shariful Islam, Laxmipur Sadar Upazila Chairman AKM Salauddin Tipu, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Nuruzzaman and other government and non-government employees were also present. Students and Teachers, hailed from various institution also took part in the programme.

In the rally Upazila Nirbahi Officer said, literacy means ability to write, read and count. Deputy Commissioner said, Laxmipur district is lag behind in education. So, it is needed to be advanced in education from now. Guardians and Teachers have to play pioneer role in this connection.

In Lohagora, Students, Guardians and CAG, CMC & Ganokendra members of 10 centres of DAM CLC project took out a rally and organized discussion meeting. The project also organized various competitions including handwriting, art, poem/rhyme recitation and the reading competition of mothers under mother literacy programme.

On the other hand, Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) brought out a rally along with Panchagarh District administration. The project also organized essay competition, discussion meeting, cultural programme and prize giving ceremony. It is noted that the theme of the day was ‘Reading the past, writing the future’. Bangladesh has been able to draw attention of other countries in various indicators including improvement of literacy.

Support Forum members visit DAM activities

Members of Ahsania Mission Support Forum visited some of DAM’s projects including Drop In Centre (DIC), Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital (AMCGH), and KNH Ahsania Centre for Abandoned Children & Destitute Women recently. They were informed about the philanthropic activities, its progress and future plan of DAM. Ahsania Mission Support Forum has been working to relate forum members with various activities of DAM and to finance in the service based project and programmes. Assistant Vice President of Forum Executive Committee and also a Banker Lokiotullah, General Secretary of DAM Professor MA Sobhan, General Secretary of the Forum and TMD Director Kazi Abu Hashem exchanged views with the members.
Keya, Sukla and Razia are now happy. Keya is now able to draw her ration money, Sukla Rani received his VGD card and Rizia Begum has got back her money from the Union Parishad Chairman. Social Safety Forum of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has made these possible.

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Haor encompassed Beheli union of Jamalganj upazila had been receiving disability allowances since 2013 but in last fifteen months, she could not draw her allowance from the bank. Members of Social Safety Forum were informed that her ration card had been canceled. In this backdrop, at first the forum members discussed with UP members and later Jatindra Mohon Das and Bela Rani Das—the members of the forum went to upazila social welfare office with all documents. After inquiry, an employee of the upazila social service office informed the members that all unpaid allowance moneys were deposited in the bank. At last she drew her all money from the bank.

Sulkla Rani Pal, wife of day laborer Dhirendra Pal of Jamalganj Sadar Union tried hard to collect a VGD card. Numerous times she knocked at the UP chairman door but no card was issued in her name. In the meantime, she became introduced with the treasurer of Social Safety Forum Md Sajab Ali just before preparing the list of VGD circle in 2015-16 financial year. Sajab Ali communicated with ward member Monir Hossain and finally she got the card.

Chairman of Vimkhali union deceived Razia Begum when she went to enlist her name in Adult Allowance program. The chairman demanded five thousands taka illegally as processing cost of enlisting. Razia managed the money by selling her only asset—a cow and handed over the money to the chairman. Unfortunately, she was not enlisted even after a long time. When Razia realized the situation, she took the assistance of Social Safety Forum members. Later, the members went to the chairman with Razia and upheld the situation and finally she got back the money from chairman.

All these three women are grateful to members of Social Safety Forum.