



# DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION

## E-Newsletter

<http://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd/>

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### **Akhlima's journey with AMCGH**

Four years ago, Akhlima (60) came to Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital (AMCGH) with a strong pungent smell coming from her body. Pus was emitting from her breast and she was at a loss of what to do. A widow for long, Akhlima used to sell ice-cream at roadside to make a living, she had no money to afford treatment. She has a daughter but her daughter is not self sufficient enough to afford her treatment.

AMCGH provided Akhlima with free consultancy and after undergoing needle biopsy it was discovered that she had breast cancer. Shocked at the twist of fate, she had surrendered her life to death. But AMCGH took over her case. As Akhlima was completely destitute, AMCGH provided her with free mastectomy surgery which would have cost her thirty five thousand taka otherwise. Her hospital stay, food and medical expenses following the surgery were also provided free of cost. Akhlima would further need six chemo therapy sessions with each session costing eight thousand taka.

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# Cancer will cause 13pc deaths in 2030 in Bangladesh

**World Cancer Day celebrated in Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital**

Experts at a discussion on 22nd February predicted that cancer would become increasingly important cause of morbidity and mortality in Bangladesh where death from cancer will increase to 13 per cent in 2030. Citing statistics of International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), they said cancer caused 7.5 per cent death in 2005. This was revealed at the discussion held at the Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital at Uttara in the city.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque addressed the meeting as the chief guest while President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission presided over it. President of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Managing Director of Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital Brigadier General (ret'd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim, among others, also spoke on the occasion.



State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque, Managing Director of AMCGH Brigadier General Dr Syed Fazle Rahim (Retd.), President of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Vice-President of Bangladesh Medical Association (Dhaka Division) Dr Jamal Uddin Khalifa, Director of NCD under Health Service Dr. Faruk Ahmed Bhuiyan and Senior Consultant (Oncology) Professor Dr M M Shariful Alam from right to left.

Zahid Maleque said Bangladesh has achieved a remarkable progress in the field of health in the past eight years as the government has implemented various effective programmes. He said target has been set for reducing epidemic of non-communicable diseases, including cancer, to one third for ensuring sustainable development in the country. Unhealthy lifestyle is largely responsible for a rapid rise of cancer diseases in the world as well as in Bangladesh, Zahid said adding that early detection of cancer can save lives of the people. He stressed on launching a massive campaign to create mass awareness among the people to prevent outbreak of the cancer diseases.

Health experts said the number of cancer patients is increasing at an alarming rate in Bangladesh as nearly three lakh people are affected by cancer diseases every year. Of the affected cancer patients, around two lakh people are killed by the deadly disease annually, they added.

# Akhlima Gets a New Life

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Akhlima Begum is now cancer-free and she is grateful to AMCGH for her new life

Since AMCGH does not provide chemotherapy for free, the deputy director of AMCGH contacted few pharmaceuticals company and requested them to help Akhlma. With the help of the pharmaceuticals, Akhlma was provided with eight free chemotherapy sessions. She further needed radiotherapy treatment, which was provided to her for free by Mohakhali Cancer Hospital on the request of AMCGH as AMCGH had not yet started their radiotherapy treatment then. Since Akhlma could not work the entire year of her treatment, her living cost was provided by the local community where she stayed in Mirpur. After one year of battle with cancer, Akhlma was declared cancer free. She now comes to AMCGH every four months for routine checkup. Akhlma thinks AMCGH gave her a new life. Four years later, cancer free Akhlma now sells vegetables in the Mirpur-2 bazaar, and is successful at her business.

Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital, a modern as well as the largest cancer hospital in Bangladesh, provides treatment free of cost to 30percent of all patients who cannot afford treatment costs. Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital is an establishment of Dhaka Ahsania Mission who works with the motto of 'No-Profit-No-Loss'. The cost of treatment and services here is much lower than those of the big hospitals in Bangladesh.

**For more info click to visit: <http://www.ahsaniacancer.org.bd/>**



## From Street to Home

### Securing the rights of children

Babul (not his real name) was not born a street child. His life turned upside down when his mother committed suicide due to domestic dispute when he was just four years old. Babul's father remarried subsequently. Babul soon realized how much his world has changed. Earlier when didn't want to eat, his mother forced him to eat. Now suddenly there was a shortage of food for him. Everything he did earned him a scolding or beating from his stepmother while his father turned a blind eye to everyday domestic abuse.

Unable to bear the abuse any longer, Babul ran away from home to Tongi railway station and began another harsh and cruel life. He slept in the station with other street children like him and was forced to do manual labor to survive. Babul had no access to basic needs and was not aware of child rights.

In 2012, Babul came to the notice of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) Programme Manager Jahangir Hossain and he was brought to AMCC in Panchagar along with six other street children. Initially, Babul did not like the routine life. He hated studying and found it difficult to adjust in AMCC.

By proper counseling, through encouragement of AMCC staff, teachers and support from his peers, Babul started feeling at home in AMCC and began focusing on his studies. Gradually he started to do better in his studies and took great interest in sports and other activities. He is particularly interested in football and his favorite team is Brazil. In the year 2016, Babul secured highest marks GPA 5 (A+) in Primary School Certificate (P.S.C.) examination making everyone in AMCC proud. Asked what he wants to be when he grows up, he replied "A doctor, so that I can serve the poor people and gain their love".

Babul's is not a singular or rare case in AMCC. Six students of AMCC took part for the first time in P.S.C. and four of them secured GPA 5, and two scored GPA 4. It shows given the opportunity, love and kindness street children can reshape their own and Bangladesh's future for the better. All they need is an opportunity for which there is Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC).

### About AMCC

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) an institution of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was established to protect and support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged street children (MVDSC) of the country and help them grow and reach their full potentials till they turn 18 and is ready to be reintegrated in the mainstream society.

To know more click to visit: <http://www.ahsaniachildrencity.org/>



Mr. Josh Woodard, Regional ICT & Digital Finance Advisor, mStar-FHI360, Mr. Bidyuth K. Mahalder, the Chief of Party, Ag Extension project, Mr. Bidyuth K. Mahalder, the Chief of Party, Ag Extension project, Ms. Janina Jaruzelski, Mission Director, USAID/Bangladesh, Mr. Nitya Ranjan Biswas, Additional Director, DAE, Khulna Region, Mr. Md. Ahsan Ul Alam, Vice President, Bank Asia, Mr. Narayon Chandra Chanda, MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Ms. Sunaita Rani Mondal (Receiving A-card from the State Minister) were present from left to right.

## A-Card Launched in Khulna

The A-Card initiative is a unique initiative of the USAID Agricultural Extension Support Activity (AESAs) project where the farmers are getting agricultural loans directly from the commercial Bank – Bank Asia – with the assistance of microfinance institutions with a 10% interest rate and an extended payback period of six months.

The USAID funded project is being implemented since October 2012 by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission with CARE Bangladesh and mPoweras technical partners, in the central and southwest of Bangladesh in the 12 targeted FtF (Feed the Future) program districts to sustainably improve the food security and nutrition of the smallholder farmers.

The project with the support of Bank Asia and local microfinance institutions started the A-Card initiative in August 2016 to link farmers with the formal banking system for their access to finance. Through the A-Card, the farmers can buy necessary agricultural inputs from selected local retailers using the NFC (near field communications) enabled smartphones and this is the first time that a NFC card has been used for financial transaction for the farmers in rural Bangladesh.

A-Card initiative has been piloted in four project working districts – Faridpur, Bhola, Jessore and Khulna.

Accordingly, the “A-Card: smallholders’ access to finance through Bank” was launched together with Bank Asia and a local NGO partner Socio Economic Development Organization for the Poor (SEDOP) on February 23, 2017 in Khulna.

Mr. Narayon Chandra Chanda, MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as the Chief Guest while Ms. Janina Jaruzelski, Mission Director, USAID/Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Zahirul Alam, Deputy Managing Director, Bank Asia were present as Special Guests on the occasion.

Among others, guests of honor, Mr. Prosanta Kumar Biswas, ED (SEDOP), Mr. Josh Woodard, Regional ICT & Digital Finance Advisor, mStar-FHI360, Mr. Anowarul Haq, Director-ERPP, CARE Bangladesh, Dr. Khawaja Samsul Huda, Director Program, Dhaka Ahsania Mission also spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Bidyuth K. Mahalder, the Chief of Party of the project gave a brief on project activities and on A-Card initiative followed by a video show on the project.

The event was chaired by Mr. NityaRanjan Biswas, Additional Director, DAE, Khulna Region.

**For more info click to visit: <http://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd/>**



## A 12-Year Old Fighting Mother

Moina (not her real name) had never seen her father. She was raised singlehandedly by her mother, who worked the whole day as a day-laborer. When she was seven years old her mother remarried. Her stepfather worked outside Dhaka and came to visit them from time-to-time. He was very affectionate towards her and used to treat her like his own daughter.

Affection was something that was unknown to Moina as her mother was always busy with work. The abuses began when she was only nine years old. Moina did not even realize what her stepfather was doing was wrong and later on she was too afraid to speak up. The abuse went on for two years. One day her mother noticed that she was seemingly pregnant and took her to a local hospital.

Moina was already seven months pregnant by that time. She was too young to understand what was happening and her mother had no time to noticed. When Moina's mother realized her own husband was the rapist, she was devastated and didn't know what to do. They were referred to KNH-Ahsania Centre for Destitute Women & Children (KACACDW) where they were counseled and told about their rights. After finding out her legal rights Moina decided to take action against her rapist and the case is now on-going in court.

Moina gave birth to a baby boy in KACACDW, who she has decided to leave in hereKACACDW and start her life afresh. Sitting in the room which she shares with four other pregnant destitute women, Moina shared "I do not have the ability to take care of the baby as I am a child myself. That is why I have decided to leave the baby here. It'll be better provided for in KACACDW. I am learning skills in RMG so that I can find work when I leave this place. I want the person responsible to be punished for his deeds." She has undertaken vocational training while staying at KACACDW so that she can work and support herself. Moina is determined this incident will not ruin her life and she'll take charge of her life. The baby is now the responsibility of KNH-Ahsania Centre for Destitute Women & Children (KACACDW).

### About KACACDW

KNH- Ahsania Center for Abandoned Children and Destitute women (KACACDW), is a specialized institution in Mirpur, Dhaka which provides long term assistance to abandoned children of 0-5 age group and pregnant mothers who are victims of rape and sexual violence.

KACACDW ensured secured accommodation, clothing, motherly care, medical support, safe delivery assistance, age appropriate education, counseling, recreation and all other necessary support to the abandoned children and pregnant mothers.

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**I do not have the capability to take care of the baby as I am a child myself. That is why I have decided to leave the baby here. It'll be better provided for in KACACDW.**

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To know more click to visit: <https://www.facebook.com/AhsaniaProgramForRehabilitationOfAbandonedChildren>

# International Mother Language Day Celebration

## Ahsania Mission Children City



Children of Ahsania Mission Children City celebrate International Mother Language Day at Panchagar

## Underprivileged learners of Joyti and Alor-Pothe UCLC



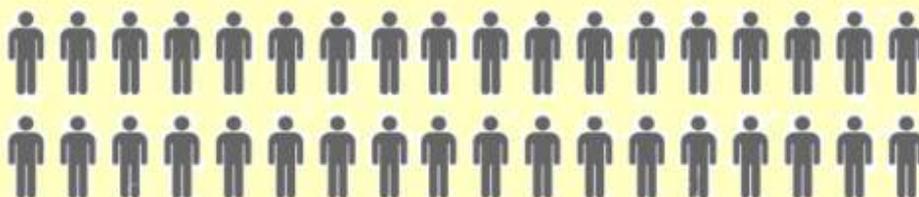
Learners from DAM implemented Community Learning Centers performed at SCHOLASTIC School & College Mirpur Campus, celebrating Shaheed Dibas and International Mother Language Day.

## Knh-Ahsania Center for Destitute Women and Children



Children of KACACDW celebrate International Mother Language Day 2017 in Paikpara, Mirpur

# 1.3 million Street Children in Bangladesh



97.5% are boys and  
2.44% are girls



41% sleeps in slums, parks,  
footpaths, bus & railway  
stations



40% does not have  
access to basic needs



No Access to Education



80% works as child labour



Forced into a dark life of  
crimes



**Their number is increasing**



## Ahsania Mission Children City



Provides full residential accommodation to 250 children



Access to healthy food



Access to Education



Access to personal  
hygiene



Development of  
Physiological and  
Psychological needs



Vocational Training



Life Skills(Agriculture  
Livestock & Poultry)



**HELP US TO HELP THEM**

Call +8801758666888



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