



Mission Barta

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10,000 street children will soon get shelter in children city

Ten thousand orphan street children will soon get shelter in 'Ahsania Mission Children City in phases.' At present, there are about 13 lakh street children across the country. Future of these children who are deprived of love and care is bleak. If we are unable to

rehabilitate these children in society properly then none will be able to lead a decent life.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while addressing a press conference at the Dhan-

mondi Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bhaban Auditorium on 17 April, 2011 ahead of the foundation laying ceremony of 'Ahsania Mission Children City' scheduled to be held in Panchagarh.

He further said that the hapless children would be imparted job-oriented technical education as well as skill development training through regular exercise, games and sports and cultural activities.

There will be facilities for rearing poultry birds, livestock, pisciculture and crop cultivation. In this manner, the children will stand on their own feet and become self-reliant. In future, they will be able to earn a living after finding suitable jobs. In the long run, they will be capable of shouldering the responsibility of taking national leadership.

Although it seems to be a

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Two CRCs in Jamalpur Garments sector training for youths at grassroots level

Rural youths now have access to garments skill training. People at grassroots level will be brought under the purview of information and communication technology (ICT).

Pingna Paira Community Resource Centre (CRC) will play an epoch-making role of bridging bondage. The councillor of Japan Embassy in Bangladesh, Masayuki Taga, said this while inaugurating Pingna Paira CRC at Kawmara village of Sharishabari upazila in Jamalpur district on 14 May,



2011.

He further said, the skill training and use of ICT will create awareness among local people for socio-economic development including providing services on information, health, agriculture, education and legal matters.

Among other, Assistant Commissioner of Sharishabari upazila Saiful Islam, local elderly

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Micro-credit programme launched in Netrakona

A discussion meeting marking launching of micro-credit programme in Netrakona district was held at Sadar Upazila office at the initiative of the District Area office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 16 May, 2011.

Netrakona Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mozammel Hossain Khan presided over while Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Prof Tafsir Uddin Khan delivered address as Chief Guest.

Among others, Vice Chairman Ataur Rahman Manik, Ahsania Mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman, Head of Micro-finance Md Abdus Salam Mia, Sabolombi Executive Director Begum Rokeya, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Director Shafiqul Islam and Netrakona Zilla Press Club General Secretary Shaymolendu Pal spoke on the occasion.

This was followed by credit disbursement among 10 women. The credit will be utilised for rearing livestock and other activities.

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AMCH construction fund Unabated donation going on

London expatriate Engineer Haji Abdul Matin has donated an amount of Tk 2 lakh 10,000 to the construction fund of the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) which is being built at Uttara in the capital city. London expatriate Engineer Haji Abdul Matin handed over a cheque for the aforesaid amount to Dhaka

Ahsania Mission president Kazi Rafiqul Alam at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban on 02 May, 2011. In context of this donation, the name of Engineer Haji Abdul Matin and two of his daughters will be inscribed upon marble stone which will be set up on hospital wall.

At that time, the former chairman of DESA, K K Altaf Hossain, ex- additional chief engineer A K Mosharrif Hossain and Dhaka Ahsania Mission treasurer M S Mia were present.

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10,000 street children

dream, still Dhaka Ahsania Mission has submitted a proposal to the Women and Children Affairs Ministry for establishing four children villages for 4000 children through GO-NGO partnership. Apart from this, Dhaka Ahsania Mission believes that wealthy people of the society would come forward in this noble venture.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman and former Secretary Mohammad Lutfar Rahman Talukder replied to the queries of journalists present at the press conference.

The first children village would be built at Jalapara village of Hafizabad union in Panchagarh Sadar upazila. There will be 10 such children villages. One thousand street children will become residents

in each village. Each and every village will be self-sufficient in nature. Resident children will produce crops themselves on the fields of the villages to cater to their needs. Schools and colleges will also be established in the villages for proper education of the children. Skill development trainings will also be imparted to them. Children aged between 6-8 years will be admitted to the educational institutions where they will stay till attainment of 18 years of age. They will study there up to S.S.C. and higher secondary level. Alongside studies, the children will be imparted skill development training. On conclusion of study and training courses, they will be rehabilitated in society so that they do not remain burden of the society.

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Two CRCs in Jamalpur

educationist Bahauddin, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman and its Programme Division Director Shafiqul Islam addressed on the occasion.

While addressing, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M. Ehsanur Rahman said, in this CRC, there is a special arrangement for

Freshers' reception at AUST

Freshers' reception of Spring-2011 was held at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) on 16 April, 2011. AUST Trustee Board Chairman and Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam was present as Chief Guest while the founder Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the university Prof Dr M H Khan was present as Special Guest. AUST Acting VC Prof Dr Kazi Shariful Alam presided over. Guardians of the students of Spring Semester were also present. In his address, the Chief Guest said that this university has been established as a renowned educational institution by dint of hard toil and great effort. Freshers are the torch bearers of its good name and fame. In his address as Special Guest, Prof Dr M H Khan said, a teacher himself/herself can give proper guidance to the students. Those who are freshers today will take help from their teachers if and when required. A teacher himself/ herself can help him/her in the best way. In his presidential address, Prof Dr Kazi Shariful Alam hoped that the freshers would serve in future in their practical life through utilisation of their merit by dint of which they got themselves admitted into this prestigious university.



multifarious vocational trainings including special courses on garments machine operation, knitting and linking course. Utilising the opportunities, local people are turned into skilled manpower.

It is to be mentioned that Dewanganj Upazila Chairman Istiaq Hossain Didar opened Bahadurabad Community Resource Centre (CRC) at Bahadurabad village in Dewanganj on 15 May, 2011. The resource centre was opened under sponsorship of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in cooperation with Japan Embassy. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman presided over. Bangladesh Rural Development Board Chairman Asaduzzaman was present as Special Guest. Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Programme Division Director Shafiqul Islam delivered the welcome address. Among others, project manager Sadek Hossain, project coordinators Selim Uddin, Abdur Rakib and Community Resource Centre president Enamul Haque spoke on the occasion.



Exchange of opinion with journalists at Jackson Heights

AMCH will run on no loss, no profit basis

--Kazi Rafiqul Alam

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will run on no loss, no profit basis. There will be an arrangement for 30 percent poor patients' treatment at free of cost.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said this while exchanging opinion with the journalists at Khan Tutorial Auditorium at Jackson Heights in New York on 14 May, 2011.

In the meantime, work on the 12-storied building is at its finishing stage, he further said. Bangladesh government, general people and expatriates have donated about Tk 84 crore provided its construction cost of Tk 370 crore. There is a possibility of

receiving more Tk 103 crore donation within next year. With this money, a 160-bed hospital will be commissioned at its first stage by the next year. Gradually, it will be elevated to a 500-bed hospital stage by stage on condition of receiving rest of the amount.

Expressing his gratitude to the expatriates for their continuous help, he urged them to come forward with more financial assistance.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam also disclosed the news of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's new endeavour of building a 'children city' for 10,000 rootless street children to make them self-dependent through flourishing of human qualities.

Construction work of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital started according to the design of a Maryland expatriate architect on three acres of land at Sector No-10 in Uttara, Dhaka in 2005. The President of Ahsania Mission USA, Dr Mansur Khan, adviser Naima Khan and Anisul Kabir Jasim were present at the opinion exchange meeting.

Replication of Multigrade system of education

Urban Community Learning Centre (UCLC) Project with technical support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) UNIQUE Project has conducted a training workshop for replication of multigrade teaching-learning approach. The training workshop was organised at Nayantara Community Learning Centre in the capital in early May 2011.

President of Nayantara Community Learning Centre Md Nurunabi inaugurated the workshop.

Dhaka Regional Coordinator of UNIQUE Project Md Asaduzzaman, UNIQUE Project's Basic Education Project Coordinator Saleha Akter, UCLC Project Field Coordinator Aminul Islam Shaheen were present. Technical officers of DAM UNIQUE Project Md Faruque Hossain and Ashrafuzzaman Palash acted as facilitators. Project's Master Trainer Lutfunnahar Kona and Area



Manager Shahina Akter conducted various sessions. Trainees got practical training at the workshop.

Nine Tutors of UCLC Project and two supervisors took part. Discussion on various aspects of Multigrade system was held. The 12-day training workshop ended on 11 May, 2011.



VCT Lab opening ceremony

Rate of HIV infection among injecting drug users is 7.1%

Rate of HIV infection among injecting drug users is 7.1 percent. Proper counseling and HIV testing are not easily available in the country. Alongside various problems of drug dependents, the risk of HIV/AIDS infection has increased.

The Director General (DG) of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Khandker Mohammad Ali, said this while opening a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Lab for Drug Dependents at Gazipur Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre on 16 May, 2011. The VCT Lab was inaugurated at the initiative of Gazipur Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in cooperation with the USAID/ Family Health International (FHI).

The DG further said, there is close relationship of HIV with drug. This is why, it is imperative to accelerate HIV prevention programme alongside its cure. It has become very essential to establish VCT Lab in the government and non-governmental drug addiction treatment centres of the country.

Additional Director of the Department of Narcotics Control Abu Taleb, its Gazipur unit Superintendent Subodh Kumar Biswas, Technical Officer of Family Health International Dr Borhan Uddin and coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Iqbal Masud were present at that time.

Speakers further said local people and other organisations will also get an opportunity to test HIV free of cost from this centre. Till now, over 1600 drug dependents got free counseling and HIV testing under Dhaka Ahsania Mission's AMIC Modhumita Project since 2006.

Posters on School Governance published

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with Manusher Jonno Foundation, has been implementing a project titled, 'Strengthening Good Governance in Primary Schools' (SGGPS) in Bangladesh to ensure quality education in three unions of Dharmapasha upazila in Sunamganj district. The project's main objective is to ensure good governance

and standard education in management of schools in targeted areas.

The awareness creating posters will help motivate school teachers, students, guardians, school management committee (SMC) members, union parishad chairmen and members as well as general people in implementation of the



project.

While preparing the poster, 'Amra Sakal Shishur Shikkha Nischit Korbo (we shall ensure education for all children)/ Nij Elakae School Unnyane Sahayata Korbo (we shall assist in development of school in our area),' photographs of various activities of the project have been utilised. It is hoped, the poster will play a positive role in extension of qualitative education in the targeted area.

New branch of micro-credit programme opens at Manohordi

A new branch of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) micro-credit programme was opened at Manohordi Upazila Auditorium of Narsingdi on 8 May, 2011. Chief of micro-credit programme Md Abdus Salam Mia inaugurated the new branch.

Programme coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's micro-credit unit Md Rezaul Karim presided over while Manohordi Press Club General Secretary Shyamol Mitra was present as Special Guest.

Local civil society members, journalists, representatives of government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were present. After the opening session, Tk 1 lakh was distributed to



each of the six beneficiaries. DAM has been conducting the micro-credit programme in cooperation with Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation.

Learning centre for children in remote *char* areas

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's UNIQUE Project has been playing an important role in bringing back the primary school dropouts and the students who lag behind to the mainstream of education as well as making them worthy citizens of the country in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district.

Through this project, this development non-governmental organisation has been able to make at least 2,000 students suitable for schooling at secondary level in five unions of the upazila in the last four years.

At present, the project has been rendering proper education to more than 1,000 students through 43 centres. The project has received wide appreciation from students and poor as well as disadvantaged guardians of the community. They have demanded for continuation of the project. The information has been gathered following talks with the learners, guardians and project implementators.

With the financial assistance of the European Union (EU), Dhaka Ahsania Mission launched the UNIQUE (Up-scaling Non-formal Primary Education through Institutionalising Quality Endeavour) Project in Gazalia, Bakulbaria, Chiknikandi, Amkhola and Golkhali unions of Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali district in 2007.

UNIQUE Project in aid of children in need of special edn support in Galachipa

The main aims of the project are to bring back primary school dropouts and backward students in the fold of schooling as well as in the mainstream education and turning out of school children into capable citizens through timely Multi-grade Teaching-Learning system. It has been observed that due to lack of awareness and poverty, qualitative primary education is being hampered to a great extent.

It has been learnt that UNIQUE Project is being implemented through three packages. One of the packages consists of a programme to bring back the backward children of 3-12 age group to the forefront through Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) while in another package, there is an arrangement for Pre-Primary Education for backward children aged over five years.

In the process, school dropouts will be brought back to the fold of schooling.

The Area Manager of the project, Liakat Ali, has informed that presently there are 40 children's learning centres in the unions under the project. In each centre, there are 30 learners and a teacher. The teacher strives hard to make his students capable of shouldering the responsibility as future leaders.

In each centre, students receive education of class i to class iv standard. Later, the students get themselves admitted to class-v at nearby government primary schools facing stiff competitions. Even many students are able to pursue secondary education.

Project Supervisor Sanjoy Das said, teachers render education to

their students with utmost sincerity in each learning centre. Each centre is being inspected regularly. This is why, the teaching-learning system here has been widely acclaimed all over.

Following visit to several centres, it was observed that alongside education, each child becomes keenly interested in reciting poems, drawing, music and dance as well as in games and sports. Child learners are achieving success in various competitions also. Once the children who were deprived of education and became a burden of society, are now achieving good results in schools. As a consequence, their guardians also become proud of their wards. Nasimuddin, a guardian of Amkhola village has informed that previously his child stayed away from school to avoid harsh punishment of the teachers. He virtually became a vagabond. It is a strange that now my child attends learning centre regularly and takes part in games and sports.

Hasanuddin Khan, another guardian at Gazalia village said that like his son at least 50/60 children have got an opportunity to study. Had these centres did not exist then these children would have been turned into vagabonds. Then many of them had to look after domestic animals while others had to work as day-labourers. Now we have begun to dream with these children.

Yunus Mridha, a guardian at Bokulbaria village said, I have come to know that the centres are going to be closed this year. If this happens, the door of education will be closed for a large number of children.

It is our humble desire that the centres remain open in the coming days too.

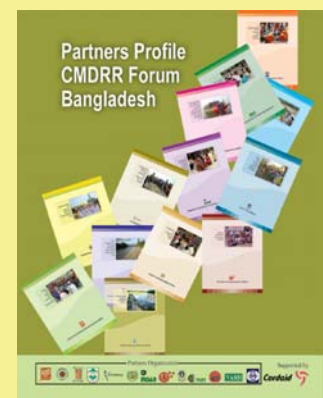
Moreover, it is a necessity for opening such centres in Char areas. Extension of the project is essential.

Partners' Profile CMDRR Forum Bangladesh published

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction--CMDRR Forum Bangladesh consists of 13 non-governmental organisations.

The organisations are Action on Disabilities and Development (ADD), CARITAS Bangladesh, Concern Universal Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Fight for Hunger, Friendship, Integrated Development Association of Bangladesh, Palli Gano Unnyan Kendro, Pidim Foundation, People's Oriented Programmes Implementation, RDRS Bangladesh, Voluntary Association for Rural Development and Young Power in Social Action.

Its secretariat is located at Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Alongside various activities, the organisations implement disaster risk reduction



programmes. As disaster risk reduction is a common field of action, the partner organisations work unitedly through the forum.

The book titled, Partners' Profile CMDRR Forum Bangladesh has been published at the forum's initiative. The book contains identities and entities of the partner organisations and their respective roles.

Over 100 brands of tobacco products on sale thru' illicit trade

Over 100 brands of tobacco products are on sale across the country through illicit trade. Because of taste, 48 percent people use foreign brand of cigarette while 22 percent use it due to its easy availability and 22 percent for maintaining the social status.

Besides, most of the sellers said, even if they sell foreign brand of cigarette in front of the law enforcers, they remain silent and inactive.

Speakers said this while addressing a publication ceremony of a research report at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh on 24 April, 2011.

Speakers further said, 115 brands of cigarette, bidi, cheroot and other tobacco products are being sold in an illicit manner. Moreover, 8% locally made cigarettes are on sale without band rolls of tax. Fifty-four percent sellers have informed that they receive greater commission while 11% said, it is sold in large scale due to cheaper prices. In the research findings, it has been seen that 37% sellers already know that it is illegal while 20% of them said they know that most of the tobacco products are being sold illegally. Only 5% know that most of the products are imported legally.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Humayun Kabir presided over while the Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof (Dr) A.F.M. Ruhul Haque graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr Iqbal Kabir, Coordinator of National Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare and Iqbal Masud, Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission presented the reports on behalf of their respective organisations.



National Professor Nurul Islam, Founder President of ADUNIK and President of the Anti-tobacco Alliance, Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Professor Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Coordinator of the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids Taifur Rahman and Deputy Secretary (WHO) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Azam-E-Sadat took part in the discus-

sion.

The National Professional Officer of WHO, Dr M. Mostafa Zaman conducted the entire programme.

In his address as Chief Guest, the Health and Family Welfare Minister said, this government is very much sincere and eager for effective control of tobacco products than that of previous period.

nia Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said that the government should have to take a greater initiative in raising tax on tobacco products and in controlling its illicit trade. Otherwise, tobacco control would be delayed resulting in rise in tobacco mortality rate. Every year, as many as 57,000

Many people are still not aware about illicit trade of tobacco products. It is essential to work together both at national and international level, he said adding, the government will take a pioneering role in this regard. In near future, the process of Tobacco Control Act-2005 will be revised. Finally, he thanked the report presenters.

In his address, Dhaka Ahsa-

patients die of tobacco-related diseases. He urged the health minister for quick revision of the Act.

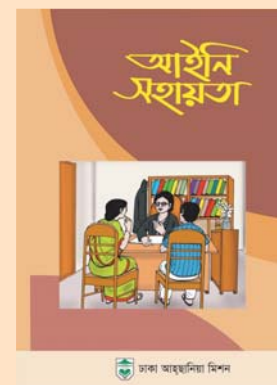
At the initiative of National Tobacco Control Cell of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) three reports on Mapping of Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products in Bangladesh were published.

Guidebook on legal aid published

The government has enacted a new law titled, 'Aini Sahayata Prodan Ain-2000' (law on legal aid) for ensuring justice to poor and disadvantaged people. Legal aid is being provided to them with the help of this law.

A booklet titled, 'Aini Sahayata' has been published

so that targeted people can be able to get legal aid with its help. The booklet has been prepared to meet up requirements of Preventing Violence against Women through Empowerment (PVAWTE) project. The 24-page booklet contains various tips on legal aid to distressed people.



Primary education : DAM's intervention over decades



Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has realised that it requires a massive effort and close collaboration of government and non-governmental organisations and other progressive forces for education of the underprivileged and marginalised children. DAM has now been working relentlessly in close collaboration with government, non-governmental organisations and civil society for bringing a qualitative change in primary education. A mass movement encompassing both formal and non-formal educational programmes has been launched for creating a sustainable option for development of primary education. At organisational level, primary education has been chosen to be one of the key thematic areas in development of philosophy and strategic choices of DAM.

As a large number of children remains out of purview of education, some innovations are needed to provide quality education at low cost for ensuring high attendance rate as well as retention and high rate of success.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has initiated several innovative programmes to achieve the objectives in the field of primary education. Since early eighties, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been rendering basic education to the children of ultra-poor families by providing non-formal primary education to them. Within the framework of Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG), Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing various programmes for enrollment and retention of children in primary schools till completion of the course to achieve universal primary education.

Over last few decades, Dhaka Ahsania Mission experimented and piloted different models and replicated them at different

locations across the country. Many of the models have proved that even with very limited facilities and through better design of materials, improved teaching methods and better management and supervision, schools can be made highly attractive to children for decreasing drop-outs and absenteeism. Consequently, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has become an important partner of government and UN agencies in the field of primary education. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has implemented a large number of primary education projects in different periods for over last four decades. The projects have extended opportunities to children of impoverished and marginalised families in all regions of the country. Names of several projects are worth mentioning. These are Comprehensive Basic Education programme (CBEP),

Primary Education for Urban Working Children (PUWC), Urban community Learning Centre for Children's Education and Empowerment of the Poor (UCLC), Government Education Programme (GEP), Non-formal Basic Education for Urban Poor Children, Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC).

At present, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing seven primary education projects. The projects are Upscaling Non-formal Primary Education for Institutionalising Qualitative Endeavour (UNIQUE), Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC), Urban Community Learning Centres for Working Children (UCLCWC), Establishment of Four Urban Community Learning Centres in Dhaka City (UCLC), Drop-in Centres for Street Children, Quality Primary Education (QPE), Strengthening Good Governance in Primary Schools (SGGPS) and Community Score Card in Primary Education and Social Safety-net Project.

Besides providing teaching-learning support to the targeted children, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's endeavours have been highly acclaimed everywhere for its innovativeness in developing effective education materials. The materials are used in various programmes run by different organisations of the country.

Furthermore, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been at the forefront of advocacy on behalf of the issues that has kept a positive impact on ultimate development of primary education across the country. Advocacy is also being done regularly both at regional and national level for influencing general people as well as gatekeepers at different levels.



DAM in frame

Disaster Preparedness: DAM extends homestead raising support to reduce flood vulnerability

