3,000 children will be educated by Marico Bangladesh

At a press conference held in the capital on 13 May 2015, Marico Bangladesh Ltd. (MBL) announced its collaboration with the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) to support a project to build 75 Children Learning Centers (CLCs) for out-of-school (OOSC) children. The centers which will be built in the Melandah Upazila of Jamalpur district is set to impact 3000 out-of-school children, the authority said in the press conference.

Aditya Shome, Managing Director & Country Head – Marico Bangladesh Operations, Dr. M Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Kazi Rafiquil Alam, President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present at the press conference to share details on the noble initiative.

In Bangladesh, large number children of primary and lower secondary school age group are out-of-school. Any intervention in the area of education is therefore crucial. The project will enrol students who have either never been to school or those who entered the mainstream schooling system but dropped out due to various challenges. The support from MBL will enable OOSCs to complete their education which is matched to the third primary education development program (PEDP 3) of the government for children aged six to fourteen.

DAM currently runs a number of CLCs across 26 districts in Bangladesh and the partnership with MBL will enable DAM to establish and run 75 CLCs in the Jamalpur district. The location chosen for the CLCs has low rate of literacy and limited access to education. To ensure maximum participation from OOSC, the project model is designed to run by mobilizing the community in the district.

The project also uses various unique interventions including Multi-grade teaching where learning
DNCC promises separate allocation for tobacco control

Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) BM Enamul Haque has promised to keep a separate allocation in tobacco controlling. He said, it takes almost 10 years to clear a lung of a smoker; and numerous people are dying every year being infected with tobacco related diseases. This is why DNCC will play a vital role to reduce the use of tobacco. He also informed that the ‘cigarette free’ slogan will be included in the ‘Garbage Free Dhaka City’ campaign.

This was said at a discussion meeting at capital’s Gulshan Youth Club on 30 May marking World No Tobacco Day. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and DNCC jointly organized the meeting. Prior to the program, a rally was brought out at Gulshan Area. The secretary General of Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association M. Rezaul Karim Sarkar Rabin, Acting President of the Association Anwar Hosain Mrida, Deputy Secretary and Former Coordinator of Tobacco Control Cell under Health Ministry Aminul Hasan, Secretary of DNCC Abu Syed Sheikh and health officer Imdadul Haque, spoke on the occasion. DAM Deputy Director Iqbal Masud delivered the welcome address.

Speakers said if 50 percent of tobacco control law would be implemented, use of tobacco would have reduced remarkably. Now anti-tobacco message is being sealed off over every publication of DNCC. Coordinated effort is now required to make the anti-tobacco activities more dynamic.

Teacher can play role in curbing smoking: Education Minister

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on 14 May 2015 underscored the role of the teachers at different levels in controlling the smoking rate in the country.

“Smoking is a serious problem which creates bad impacts in human bodies as well as human societies. The teachers can create consciousness among the students about the hazards of smoking”, he added. The comments came up while the Minister was addressing a roundtable meeting as chief guest, held at the conference room of Education Ministry on the topic of ‘Tobacco Control Laws and Our Responsibilities’.

“The greatest health risks for both men and women are likely to occur in countries where smoking is pervasive and smokers consume a large quantity of cigarettes”, he added. Speakers said, “smoking causes harm to the body. Anything inhaling the toxic fumes from cigarettes around you can cause unwanted, detrimental effects’. They also added “Smokers face an increased risk of countless health problems. Oftentimes, the potential of suffering from any of these health problems often scares people”, Speakers said, “According to the statistics of City health, around one third smokers in the cities and one fifth in the villages, are in between 15 to 19 years”.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Association for Community Development (ACD) jointly organised the program. The program was chaired by Additional Secretary of Education Ministry Dr. Aruna Biswas. DAM deputy director Iqbal Masud facilitated the program.

Among others, the speakers of the programme also included Additional Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Rexona Kader as guest of honor, ACD executive director Salima Sarwar, ACD project coordinator Ehsanul Amin Emon and consultant of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Shariful Alam.
On 17 May 2015, Dhaka Ahsania Mission USA organized a Learning Seminar at Maurya Restaurant in New York to educate the community about its programs and initiatives carried out in Bangladesh. The seminar addressed DAM’s mission to provide quality cancer care at little or no cost to the underprivileged people of Bangladesh. In his speech Kazi Ali Reza, Director, Communications and Public Relations, DAM, discussed extensively about the Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital (AMCGH) project. He also shed light on the KNH Ahsania Centre for Abandoned Children and Destitute Women as well as other important initiatives of the Mission. Discussions were also held on the Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) project in Panchagar, which commits to provide housing, education and life skills to the destitute, homeless and street children. Participating at the seminar from Bangladesh through Skype, Jahangir Alam, who is in charge of AMCC, discussed extensively and gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation. Using the same modern technology, the Founder Secretary of DAM USA Anisul Kabir Jasir also thanked the audience for their participation. The speakers of the seminar included many renowned community leaders and distinguished guests including Dr Delwar Hossain and Imam Beg from Jamaica Muslim Centre. Many of the speakers recalled the work and dedication of Dr Mansurul Khan, former President of DAM USA, who passed away last year after his own decade long battle with cancer. His wife, Mrs Nayeems Khan, who is the current President of DAM USA, presided. During her closing remarks, Mrs Nayeema Khan made an emotional appeal, urging the community to come together to work with DAM in extending their helping hand and relief to poor cancer patients and their families. The Dhaka Ahsania Mission USA Board includes: Mrs Nayeema Khan, Ms Selina Sharmin, Mr Rasel Kabir, Mr Nouswar Rahman, Mr Anisul Kabir Jasir, Dr Illora Rafique and Mr Farhad Reja.

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is facilitated based on individual competencies; and fast learners are allowed to move grades during and after the nine months cycle in each grade. Other interventions include networking with government primary schools and educating the parents to develop life skills, ensuring maximum participation. Efforts are also made to train and mobilize Centre Management Committees (CMCs) and Community Action Groups (CAGs) for monitoring the CLCs for optimum results.

Aditya Shome, Managing Director & Country Head – Marico Bangladesh Operations, said, “As a local socially responsible organisation we are committed to making a difference to the community, and are very happy to support this initiative. Every child has the basic right to education and the endeavour is to make a difference to 3000 out-of-school children by creating a ‘second chance’ for them and giving them an opportunity for education. Extending our support to build these 75 learning centres will hopefully also urge others to do the same”.

Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission said, “Though the enrolment of children is increased, the school drop-out rate is still relatively high in Bangladesh thus, giving rise to a large number of out-of-school children. The endeavour is to enable children to have access to basic quality education and thus give them the chance for a better future. There is a constant need to create awareness and solicit support for the same. I am glad that Marico has come forward to extend support for this initiative to help build 75 learning centres and make a difference to 3000 children. We look forward to working with Marico for the children of Bangladesh”.

Supporting the sentiment, Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission said, “The relationship between Marico Bangladesh Ltd. and DAM will help strengthen the efforts against illiteracy & and to reduce the dropout rate thus, promoting quality education in the country. We appreciate this gesture of Marico and feel it will go a long way to support the cause.”
Free cataract surgery held in Narsingdi

Enrich, a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organized a free cataract surgery camp at the Progressive Lions Hospital in Narsingdi district on 28 May 2015. A total of 21 cataract patients of Sukundi union under Monohardi upazila of the district attended in the camp and removed their cataract successfully. Prior to surgery, Deputy General Manager of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Abdul Matin exchanged view with those patients. DAM Foundation Head Md. Abuduzzaman, Coordinator (Field Operation) Md. Rezaul Karim and other officials of DFED were present at that time. Speaker said, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working at the Sukundi union of Monohardi upazila to ensure the health service of this area. The camp was organized with the financial assistance of PKSF.

Blood Donation Program

A daylong voluntary Blood Donation Program, jointly organized by Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) and Quantum Foundation, Dhaka was held recently at the AUST Boy’s Common Room. Due to unavoidable circumstances the Blood Donation Program of Quantum Foundation Scheduled to be held on 2nd November, 2014 could not be held on the due time. Total 142 bags of whole blood were donated in this Program. Out of those 142 donors 111 were male students and 31 were female students. Sheikh Md. Foisal, Co-ordinator of Quantum Foundation and Dr. Ahmad Munir Hussain, M.O.AUST supervised the whole program. A good number of volunteers of Quantum Foundation worked in the campus throughout the day and motivated the students for blood donation as a result, a good quantity of Blood was collected.

Free online telemedicine program kicks off

With the support from www.amarhealth.com and DAM Foundation for Economic Development (DFED) a CRC based online telemedicine program of Dhaka Ahsania Mission kicked off at Papri Community Resource Center (CRC) in Moddho Shilmandi of Narsingdi district on May 31, 2015 to provide clinical health care at a distance. The telemedicine program was organized by Papri Community Resource Center (CRC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. In the telemedicine program, 42 patients from nearby villages of Papri Community Resource Center received distance health care advice from MBBS doctor through Skype. At the patients end, a trained paramedic ensured normal checkup i.e: B.P reading, weight and prescription according to the direction of doctors from other end. This telemedicine program helps eliminate distance barriers and can improve access to medical services that would often not be consistently available in distant rural communities. Initially the online telemedicine service will be provided at five CRC’s of Narsingdi Area. Gradually this telemedicine program will be extended to another area.

AUST wins Honorable Mention in International Architecture students competition

The Department of Architecture of the AUST participated in a worldwide International students competition in Architectural design held in Texas A and M University, USA. There were 5 winners—one from the USA, three from China and one from Germany. Further, there were 9 Honorable mentions. Khairun Nahar, and Md. Afif Ibne Mahmood of AUST Department of Architecture received Honorable Mention in the 5th position. The Advisor of the Project was Rumana Rashid. It may be noted that from Asia, only China and Bangladesh could find places in the award list. It is indeed an honor and inspiration for the AUST.
As a token of humanitarian assistance, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) donated taka one million towards the victims of Nepal’s devastating earthquake which has claimed more than 7,000 lives so far and caused immense sufferings to millions of others.

The million taka cheque was handed over, on 5 May 2015, by DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam to His Excellency Mr Hari Kumar Shrestha, the Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Nepal to Bangladesh, in a simple ceremony, held at the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka. Mr Alam promised to stand by the people of Nepal in their time of test.

Expressing his gratitude to Dhaka Ahsania Mission, the Nepalese Ambassador hoped that the people and the government of Bangladesh will continue to extend their wholehearted support to the distressed people of Nepal.

The Vice-Chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology Prof. Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah and DAM Executive Director Dr. Ehsanur Rahman were present during the hand-over ceremony.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission was founded by Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah with the motto of Divine and Humanitarian services; and with the key aim of developing social and spiritual lives of the entire human community.

Eco training held

Echo Training on Universal Treatment Curriculum 6,7 & 8 was started from 4 May at Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Dhaka, Bangladesh and it would continue up to 13 May 2015. The training program arranged by DNC & Dhaka Ahsania Mission and supported by GIZ. Most of the participants are drug treatment professionals they are from different private drug treatment centers, NGO driven centers, government drug treatment center and prison.
Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Bangladesh in cooperation with CIVICUS conducted a campaign on Global Day of Citizen Action (GDCA) on 16 May 2015. Two separate seminars were organized to mark the Day: one and the second one was at the auditorium of Mohammadpur Bengali Medium High School, Mohammadpur venue of Mirpur Shahin School Premises, Pallabi, Mirpur. Around 230 participants participated in each of the program. The participants were slum children (students), teachers, parents, community leaders, UCLC and UNIQUE II project staff, NGO representatives, resource persons, religious leaders, local elites, slum leaders and UCLC leaders. Welcome address and introductions to the Campaign for GDCA 2015 Peace Observance were made by Prosanto David Shadukha, Project Coordinator, UCLC Project and Md. Asadullah, Regional Coordinator, UNIQUE II Project, Dhaka Region respectively. The objectives of the Campaign for “Global Day of Citizen Action (GDCA) 2015 Peace Observance” were to encourage children for the freedom to speak out, organize and take action, to enable them by the parents, community leaders, teachers and other stakeholders to take action in favor of children. In every house of the societies to promote their rights and well-being, through awareness raising and practical actions, to help achieve internationally agreed Goals 16 for peace among children and societies as well to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development geared by the activities of community mobilization, motivational awareness education and advocacy. A key note paper on importance of the GDCA 2015 Peace Observance was prepared and presented by Rajkumar Sadhukhan, Deputy Director, DAM International, Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the venue at Mohammadpur and in the other venue at Mirpur presented by Chinmoy Mutsuddi, Media Consultant, Public Relations Division, Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Six resource persons from Mohammadpur, Mirpur and DAM discussed in details on the key note paper in both the venues. Resource persons also expressed their hope and aspiration that the situation will be suitable for children within a shortest possible time in Bangladesh. Besides students, parents, UCLC executive committee members, community leaders and teachers of UCLC and UNIQUE II project also discussed in the occasions and asked to accelerate their total efforts for wellbeing of children. Urban slum communities can inspire other stakeholders to take well coordinated and united actions to protect the rights and promote the wellbeing of children. Students of UCLC and UNIQUE II project performed cultural sessions in both the venues.

DAM representative visit AIGA site

DAM is trying to regeneration and conservation of bio-diversity through promoting alternative livelihood option for the forest depended communities. To overserved those project, DAM Program Director Khawja Shamsul Huda visited Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGA) site of forest depended peoples in Banskhali, Chittagong in May 2015.
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology organized a Reception and Orientation Program to welcome the newly admitted students of Spring Semester-2015. The Reception was held on 30th May 2015, Saturday at the Prof. Dr. M. H. Khan Auditorium of the University, Tejgaon, Dhaka. The main purpose of the Program was to introduce the rules and regulations of the University to the newly admitted students.

The Program was divided into two phases. In first phase newly admitted students of the Department of Architecture (Arch), School of Business (SoB), Civil Engineering (CE) & Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) were welcomed. It and doing the second phase newly admitted students of the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE), Textile Engineering (TE), Mechanical & Production Engineering (MPE) were welcomed.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Chairman, BoT and President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Prof. Dr. M. H. Khan, Founder Vice-Chancellor and Advisor, AUST was the Special Guest on the occasion. Prof. Kazi Shariful Alam, Treasurer, AUST was present as the Guest of Honor. Prof. Dr. M. A. Muktedir, Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Prof. AUST, Teachers and all newly admitted students of various Departments of Spring-Semester-2015 of Ahsanullah University attended the Program. The Program was presided over by Prof. Dr. A. M. M Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, AUST. The Advisor of the Students’ Welfare Prof. Dr. S. K. Biswas delivered his opening speech. Welcoming the students the Proctor of the University Dr. M. Shahabuddin said you all are meritorious students. Beside engineering he also emphasized the subjects of Math, Physics, Sociology, Psychology and others. He also mentioned this University is completely free from politics & smoking, playing cards are strictly prohibited here.

Treasurer Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam in his speech read a brief sketch about Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah. He highlighted his contribution towards education and reformation of the society. He also said Ahsanullah University has proven that it is one of the best Universities in Bangladesh.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Chairman, Bot, AUST & President DAM also spoke on the Occasion as Chief Guest. He also mentioned about Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah and his services towards the society. He advised students to acquire knowledge and emphasized on setting up an aim of life and reach their destination.

Besides, Head of all Departments, students, Teachers and all the employers of the University were present at the Program. After the central Program, Departmental Program started. And these were organized by Departmental Heads. Many things were marked there, such as Academic Program, Course Curriculum, Exam System, Description of various semester fee, rules of Exam and different facilities etc.
Activities of Shelter Home, Jessore