



Dhaka
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Mission



e-Newsletter

HEALTH & WASH SECTOR

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'Initiatives will be taken to remove cigarettes from list of essential products': Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi

A discussion program was organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission on Sunday, August 28, 2022. Honourable Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi as the chief guest at the program said "Cigarettes are included as an essential commodity in the Essential Commodities Act of our country. It is surprising how cigarettes make it to this list despite being a harmful product. I will try my best to exclude cigarettes from this list". Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament and Chairman, of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Professor Dr. Pran Gopal Dutta, Member of Parliament and former Vice-Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University were the special guests in this discussion titled 'What to do to create a tobacco-free Bangladesh announced by the Honorable Prime Minister'. In the program Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Lead Policy Advisor, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Retired Chairman (Grade-1), BCIC, Hossain Ali Khandkar, Coordinator (Additional Secretary), National Tobacco Control Cell and Health Services Department, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Dr. Syed Mahfuzul Haque, National Professional Officer (NCD), World Health Organization were present as discussant. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director Sajedul Qayyum Dulal presided over the program and Health and Wash Sector Director Iqbal Masud gave a welcome speech. Deputy Director Md. Mukhlesur Rahman presented the main article in the program.

“An effective family environment is conducive to a person's strong mental health.”

Family psychosocial educational programs are regularly organized by the center for the effective participation of the patients as well as the family members of the patients in Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment Center. Following this, a family meeting was organized on 31st July 2022 with the family members of the patients who came to the center for treatment.

Family is the safest haven for every human being. And so a healthy family environment helps a person to have strong mental health. The topic of this year's group session was “Family Communication and Family Structure”. 22 family members of 16 patients participated in the programme.

Discussions and cultural events to celebrate International Recovery Month



A discussion meeting and cultural program were organized on the occasion of the International Recovery Month celebration on September 27, 2022, by the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Mental Health Service 'Monojotno Center' and 'Ahsania Mission's Women's Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre'. The main objective of this month's celebration was to encourage substance users to live healthy, drug-free lives after treatment and raise public awareness.

September is celebrated all over the world as Recovery Month. Family and society's negative attitudes towards substance users hinder the process of rehabilitation and treatment. One of the objectives of this month's celebration is to change society's negative attitudes and inspire recovery by reducing discrimination. This year's theme is “Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community”.

The Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Md. Abdul Wahab Bhuya was the program's chief guest. Md. Sajedul Qayum Dulal, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission chaired the program. Director of the Department of Narcotics Control (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Md. Masud Hossain, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health Professor Dr Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar were present as special guests. Dr Rahanul Islam, Resident Psychiatrist of Central Drug Treatment Center was also present as a discussant.

In the speech of the chief guest, Abdul Wahab said that drug addiction causes physical, mental, economic and social problems. Addressing the health and safety complexities of drug addiction treatment should involve various stakeholders, including policymakers. Iqbal Masud, Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health and Wash Sector, gave a welcome speech on the occasion.

After the discussion meeting, a wonderful cultural program was organized by the recoveries. Recovered persons, family members and staff from Dhaka Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Gazipur and Ahsania Hena Ahmed Monojotno Center participated in this event.

Family Meeting on “Importance of Mental Health in Suicide Prevention”



A family meeting on the “Importance of mental health in suicide prevention” was held on September 23, 2022, at Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre, Jessore. The main discussion in the meeting was held by the counselor of the said center, Mr Masud Rana. At the meeting, one recovery shared his recovery experience and personal opinion. Then in the question and answer session, the Senior Psychologist of the Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission "Rakhi Ganguly" joined online and answered various questions from the parents. Also, on August 20, 2022, at 11.30 am, a family meeting was organized with the participation of the family members of the substance users under treatment at Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Jessore. The purpose of this meeting was to increase the involvement of family members in drug addiction treatment, so that family members can provide proper support from side to side in the progress of drug-free life. What is the relationship between drug addiction and mental illness in drug addiction treatment? and discusses why the proper use of medicine is important in drug addiction and psychiatric treatment. Medical Officer (CS) Mr Dr Md. Rehe

Nawaz Civil Surgeon Office Jessore was present as the chief guest.

A family meeting on the “Role of a family after treatment” was held on August 26, 2022, at Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Gazipur. What should be the role of the family after treatment, Counselor Mr. Mainuddin Bakaul noted. One recovery shared his personal experience and opinion and one family shared the positive results of completing the course at the center as the reason for their well-being for 9 years.



On 25th September 2022, an awareness program was held at Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh by Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Gazipur. About 183 students and 12 teachers of classes XI and XII participated in the program. Principal of the college Md. Aman Ullah inaugurated the program and praised the initiative of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The main speaker of the program was the counselor of the center Mr Mainuddin Bakaul. He carefully discussed the negative aspects of drugs, the main reasons for turning to drugs and some strategies to stay away from drugs. The program was concluded by honouring the participants.

Awareness activities on mental health issues and World Suicide Prevention Day

On the last 7th and 15th of September, under the initiative of Monojotno Outdoor Counseling Center under the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector, an awareness program was held at Navy Anchorage School and College Dhaka on the occasion of mental health issues and World

Suicide Prevention Day on the harmful aspects of drugs and ways to prevent them. Stress, anxiety, anger control and parenting style were discussed by Professor Dr Afroza Hasan, Associate Professor Syed Tanveer Rahman, and Assistant Professor Md. Salim Hossain of the Psychology Department of Dhaka University in this three-day program on September 7, 8, and 9.

September 15, 2023, On the occasion of World Suicide Prevention Day, Navy Anchorage School and College held an awareness program in Dhaka about the various harmful aspects of drugs and ways to prevent them. The resident psychiatrist of the central drug treatment center Dr Raihanul Islam and Rakhi Ganguly, Senior Psychologist of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector and Focal of Monojotno Outdoor Center were the co-discusser.

Public awareness Street dramas promote nutrition, women empowerment and water and sanitation messages

To spread the message of nutrition, women empowerment and water and sanitation widely to the people of the village, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission BNA project organized a total of 53 street dramas in a total of 23 growth centers in 9 upazilas of Patuakhali and Barguna districts. The special attraction of the theatrical exhibition was the quiz competition. Through this, the audience was asked open questions on the content



presented in the play. And three were awarded from among the correct respondents. Currently, about 85% of the households in the project area use sanitary latrines and practice good hygiene practices, including personal hygiene, which is higher than before. It is the result of mass plays and other activities organized by the project.

Training of trainers on substance abuse treatment and management for prison officers

On 25 July 2022, 18 people including officers of 5 prisons of Chittagong Division and various centers of Dhaka Ahsania Mission participated in the four-day "Training of Trainers on Substance Dependence Treatment and Management" in the training room of Chittagong Central Jail. The workshop was jointly organized by the Rule of Law Programme, GIZ Bangladesh and Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Chittagong Division Deputy Inspector General of Prisons A.K.M. Fazlul Haque, Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and Wash sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and member of the National Anti-Drug Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs were present as special guests.

Four-day training of trainers on drug counseling for prison officers and employees

A four-day 'Drug Counseling Training of Trainers' was held on 12th September 2022 and organized by the JPRPHRPC project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission for prison officers and employees. A total of 12 officers/employees of Kashimpur Central Jail-1, 2, Kashimpur Women's Central Jail and Kashimpur High-Security Central Jail participated in the said training. Mr. Amirul Islam, Senior Jail Superintendent (Acting), Kashimpur Central Jail-2 was present as the chief guest at the inauguration of the training.



Ms. Halima Khatun, Senior Jail Superintendent Kashimpur Women's Central Jail, Mr. Nurunnavi Bhuiyan, Senior Jail Superintendent, Kashimpur Central Jail-1, Mr. Khan Mohammad Elias, Sentence Punning Officer, GIZ Bangladesh were present as special guests.

The former resident psychiatrist and addiction professional of the Central Drug Treatment Center of the Department of Narcotics Control Md. Akhtaruzzaman, International Certified Addiction Professional and Program Director of Amar Home Drug Treatment Center Md. Tanveer Ahmed, Md. Salim Hossain, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Dhaka and Rakhi Ganguly, Senior Psychologist, Dhaka Ahsania Mission took sessions as expert trainers and resource persons in the training.

A four-day Training of trainers on mental health for officers and employees of Prisons

Organized by the JPRPHRPC project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a four-day training of trainers on mental health issues for prison officers and employees was held on 22 August 2022 at the meeting room of Dhaka Central Jail. A total of 18 people participated in the training. Mr. Subhash Kumar Ghosh, Senior Jail Superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, was present as the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the training. Mr. Khan Mohammad Elias, Sentence Planning Officer, Rule of Law Program, GIZ Bangladesh, Mr. Abu Taher, National Program Coordinator of UNODC were also present as special guests. Speakers commented that there is no alternative to organizing such training to implement the work that the government is doing to improve the quality of prisons. A total of 729 people (Male-367 and Female-362) participated successfully in 25 batches till this training.

Four-day training of trainers on 'life skills' for officers and employees

JPRPHRPC project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Organized, a four-day 'Life Skills training of trainers' for prison officers and employees was held on 26 September 2022 at Faridpur District Jail. A total of 12 officials/employees participated in the said training, 7 from Faridpur District Jail and 1 each from Jessore Central Jail, Jhenaidah, Rajbari, Magura and Gopalganj District Jail. Mr. Md. Al-Mamun, Jail Superintendent, Faridpur District Jail was present as the chief guest at the inauguration of the training. Mr. Khan Mohammad

Ilyas, Sentence Planning Officer, 'Rule of Law' Program, GIZ Bangladesh attended the session as resource person Md. Salim Hossain, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Dhaka and Abul Kalam Md. Saifuzzaman Freelance Consultant and former project Coordinator GIZ Bangladesh were present as special guests.

Ensuring seatbelt use for all in motor vehicles: Policymakers' views



On 23 July 2022, the delegation of the road safety project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector met Rowshan Ara Mannan, MP, Honorable President of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, at her residence. During the meeting, Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director of the Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission informed the Honorable MP about the current situation of road accidents in the country and the safe road activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Mr. Rowshan Ara Mannan MP agreed with all the points discussed and assured that she will discuss the issues in the next meeting with BRTA and in the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting.

Also, on the evening of 4th September 22nd, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health and Wash Sector Director Iqbal Masud, Road Safety Project Coordinator and colleagues met with former Shipping Minister and Awami League Presidium member Shahjahan Khan MP at his office regarding the quick issuance of road transport regulations.

Demand for quick regulation to reduce road deaths in an exchange meeting with the media

Under the chair of Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and WASH sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Dr. Salim Mahmud Chowdhury, Director of Center for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh and Sharmin Rahman, Project Coordinator of Road Safety Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission gave the main speech of the program. Daily Ittefaq, Daily Yugantar, Daily Kalerkanth, The Bangladesh Today, Daily Jayadayin, Daily Desh Parwan, Daily Manabzamin, Daily Janakantha, Daily Bhorer Paper, Daily Ajker Patrika, Daily Daily News, Dhaka Post, Jago News, Daily Observer, The Muslim Times, Dainik Barta Pravah and Bangla Times newspaper representatives were present.

Free health screening program



On the occasion of celebrating International Youth Day 2022, BRTC and Dhaka Ahsania Mission Youth for Health and Wellbeing jointly organized a free health check-up for drivers and training on the harms of drug use at BRTC's Joar Sahara Depot and Training Center in Khilkhet, the capital.

Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Noor Mohammad Majumdar was present as the chief guest on the occasion. Meanwhile, the Director of the Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Iqbal Masud, Director of BRTA (Road Safety) Mahbub-e-Rabbani, and Director (Training) of BRTA Mr. Sirajul Islam and Senior Officials of BRTA were present. About 150 drivers were given free health check-ups in the program. Among them 60.67% were healthy, 36%

Demand for passage of draft amendments to the Tobacco Control Act to protect public health

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has promised to make Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040. Shirin Akhtar, Member of Parliament of Feni-1 Constituency and General Secretary of JSD feel that the draft amendments to the Tobacco Control Act made by the Ministry of Health should be passed quickly. He said this in a press conference at the National Press Club on the morning of 20 September 2022. Shirin Akhtar said these things in the speech of the chief guest at this press conference entitled "Demand for quick passage of the draft amendments to the Tobacco Control Act made by the Ministry of Health" organized by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Md also spoke at the press conference with the support of CTFK. Mostafizur Rahman, Lead Policy Advisor, CTFK-Bangladesh, Nurul Islam Hasib, General Secretary, DRU and Ahmed Sarwar Hossain Bhuiya, General Secretary, Law Reporters Forum. Md. presented the conference paper. Shariful Islam, Project Coordinator, Dam. The function was presided over by KSM Tariq, Joint Director, Health and WASH Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Media workers urge the speedy passage of the revised draft of the Tobacco Control Act



Leading media persons of the country have expressed their opinion in favour of the quick passage of the draft amendment to the Tobacco Control Act. On September 7, the media workers

made this comment in an exchange meeting with the media workers of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Under the chairmanship of Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Abdus Salam Miah, Grants Manager of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Bangladesh and Md. Ataur Rahman Masud, Senior Policy Advisor spoke at the meeting. Md Mokhleshur Rahman, Deputy Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, answered various questions from media workers. Project coordinator Md. Shariful Islam presented the main article in the meeting moderated by Rezaur Rahman Rizvi, Media Manager of the Tobacco Control Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Media workers from electronic, print and online portals were present at the meeting.

Traders 'and launch owners' associations demand speedy passage of the revised draft of the Tobacco Control Act

The Ministry of Health has prepared a draft for further revision of the Tobacco Control Act. The leaders of the Bangladesh Supermarket Owners Association (BSOA), one of the top traders' organizations, and the leaders of the Bangladesh Inland Navigation Association have demanded the speedy passage of this draft law amendment. The leaders of both associations said these things in two separate meetings organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission on September 4 and 24. They said we agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision of making the country tobacco free by 2040. We applaud this move by the Ministry of Health. We have full support for the revised draft. We hope the amended law will be passed soon and the Prime Minister's vision will be successful.

Healthcare Program of UPHCSDP-2nd Phase, RCC PA-1, Rajshahi Project

Under Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery (UPHCSDP) 2nd Phase Project, RCC PA-1, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Rajshahi, 03 Family Planning Camps were conducted in the said quarter at Nagar Matrisadan Kendra. A total of 14 people are provided long-term and permanent

system services. Also under this work area evening clinic was conducted at Nagar Health Center-1, Kashiadanga.

DAM has been awarded as the best non-government organization in providing maternal and child health care and family planning services

Like every year, 20th Population Day, 2022 is celebrated on the 14th of July. This year, the main theme was "A World of 80 Crores: Ensuring the Opportunities, Choices and Rights of All, building a Vibrant Future", as every year, the 20th Population Day was organized by the DC Office. Mr. ADC was the chief guest on the occasion. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been selected as the best non-governmental organization in the year 2021-22 for providing maternal and child health care and family planning services at both the Rajshahi divisional and Rajshahi district levels.



Day Observances

"Mayer Hashi" Health Care Center Program

A total of 5 blood group camps were held in schools and madrassas from July to September under the initiative of Mayer Hashi Health Care Center managed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Health Sector. A total of 187 students took the blood group test from these 5 blood group camps. Also, an awareness meeting on pregnant mothers was held on 26th September 2022 on its initiative in the said centre.

Awareness sessions with expectant mothers and postpartum mothers

A total of 10 awareness sessions for expectant mothers and postpartum mothers were conducted



in each PHCC including CRHCC at the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II Phase, DNCC, PA-03, Ward No. 10, 11, and 16 in Mirpur, managed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Celebrating 20th World Breastfeeding Week 2022

Under the motto "Step Up for Breast Feeding-Educate and Support" with great enthusiasm, Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized the 2022 Mother's Breastfeeding Week 2022 with breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women at the community level in 24 growth centers of 6 upazilas of the working area of "Bangladesh Nutrition Activity" has been observed. According to this year's theme, 'It is possible to increase the rate of breastfeeding only through appropriate education and cooperation', therefore, Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducts all the activities on the occasion with special emphasis on public awareness by the BNA Project.

World Mental Health Day

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2022, various programs were organized at Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur. The program included rallies and in-house discussions with clients in the presence of all staff. This year's theme was "Mental health protection and well-being for all is a global priority". Later the program was completed with a cultural program.

A week-long Safe Roads campaign was held to mark the International Anti-Drug Day

In view of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022, a week-long awareness campaign program was held with journalists, CNG drivers and students from 26 June to 02 July 22 organized by the Road Safety Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. This year's theme was 'Stop drug use, build a healthy and beautiful life'. A week-long social media campaign was also organized.

Wash Sector

Spontaneous initiation and organization of community



The establishment of an Arsenic Iron Removal Plant (AOJCH) under the Benapole Wash Project of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission has solved the acute drinking water problem of the local people for many years.

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