

NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015

Anti-Corruption Oath Program

On 9th November 2015 an anti-corruption oath taking programme for the students of Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) and CRP-Nursing College was arranged by Shocheton Nagorik Committee (SHANAC) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at CRP-Savar. CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Dr. Valerie Taylor as president; TIB's Executive Director, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; CRP's Executive Director, Shafiq-ul Islam and Head of Programs, Sohrab Hossain attended the event. There was a short discussion session before taking the oath. The welcome speech was given by Professor Dipak Kumar Ray, Vice-President of SHANAC. The Executive Director of TIB encouraged the students to contribute in anti-corruption activities as the youth possess the great possibilities for building a corruption-free world. A drama named "Sonar Bangladesh Chai" (We Want a Golden Bangladesh) was performed; a book named *The History of Liberation* by Dr. Zafar Iqbal was distributed among the students. Finally all students and staff recited the oath.



Annual Sports Day and Prize Giving Ceremony

The Annual Sports Day and Prize giving Ceremony of CRP's Madhab Memorial Vocational Training Centre was observed on 16th November, 2015 at CRP-Ganakbari premises. A cultural program was also arranged after lunch. Almost all the trainees with disability participated actively in both the events. Executive Director of CRP attended the function as Chief Guest. CRP's Rehab Manager, Manjurul Karim and, CRP-Ganakbari's Centre Manager, Sazida Zinat were Special Guests.



First Vitamin A plus Campaign at CRP



On 14th November 2015, for the first time CRP conducted the National Vitamin A plus Campaign initiated by the Government in its premises. Many children along with some disabled children came to the Reddaway Hall to receive vitamin A. This vitamin was given to the children under 5 years of age. Approximately 200 children were given vitamin A plus that day.



NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CRP and BSRM

Dr. Valerie Taylor receives HRPB Award-2015

On 28th November 2015, CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie Taylor was awarded the HRPB Award-2015 for her extra ordinary contribution to ensure the rights of disabled people as individual human beings through the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP). Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) arranged the ceremony. This event was held in the Supreme Court Bar Auditorium.

The Hon'ble Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh Mr. Justice Md. Tafazzul Islam was the Chief Guest of the event. Advocate Manzil Murshid, President of HRPB presided over the occasion. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Human Rights; Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder, Vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council; Justice Md. Mamtazuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council; Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Senior Advocate SCBA; Advocate Abdul Matin Khusru, Senior Advocate SCBA; Proffesor Muntasir Mamun, Dhaka University, Honourable Justice Emdadul Haque and Advocate Rafiqul Haque all were present in the award ceremony. All the guest speakers including honorable judges, lawyers, and distinguished personalities delivered their valuable speeches. In the meantime Dr. Valerie also delivered her speech and invited all the guests to visit CRP. The two volunteers from CRP, Sara Tallman from the USA and Dr. Atiya Abedin from the UK, accompanied Dr. Valerie in the award giving ceremony.

On 19th November 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) and BSRM Steels Limited for providing Vocational Training Facilities for Persons with Disability (PWD). Regarding CRP's services to disabled people, BSRM Steels Ltd. has donated BDT taka five lac to CRP for ensuring vocational training facilities for the persons with disabilities. Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP and Ruhi M. Ahmed, Head of CSR, PR & Communication, signed the MoU on behalf of CRP and BSRM respectively. Ms. Valerie Ann Taylor, Founder and Coordinator of CRP, Kazi Anwar Ahmed, Head of Corporate Affairs of BSRM and Mohammad Monjurul Karim, Rehabilitation Manager of CRP, were also present in the event. This vocational training will be provided in two sectors namely Computer Office Application and Industrial Sewing Machine Operation for one year. 12 beneficiaries will receive training and after the completion of the training they will be offered suitable jobs to become self-sufficient in life.



NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015

Naming the Unit and Booklet Opening Ceremony of Civic Trial Project

CRP observes the International Day of People with Disability 2015

On 3rd December 2015, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) observed the International Day of People with Disability (IDPD) with lots of interest, solemnity and eagerness at the premises of CRP-Savar. A rally with wheelchair users, staff, volunteers, journalists and distinguished guests went from CRP-Savar to Shimultola Highway and then the participants created a human chain on Dhaka-Aricha highway for raising awareness and mobilizing support for the rights, well-being and integration of the persons with disabilities into mainstream society. After returning to CRP there was a wheelchair basketball competition followed by a cultural program. The Chief Guest Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University handed over the prizes to the winners and CRP presented her a painting by Ibrahim who is a mouth-painter. Md. Tauhidul Islam, Health Program Coordinator of AHEAD Project was present in the event as a special guest. Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP chaired the Programme. In CRP the Programme ended with the experience sharing and delivering speeches by the Chairman, the Special Guest and the Chief Guest. In addition, CRP also participated in the Prime Ministers' Programme in Bangabandhu Conference Centre and Savar Upazilla Development Forum's procession and in every branch of CRP the International Day of People with Disability 2015 was celebrated significantly.



On 7th December 2015, a long awaited moment for naming the unit and inaugurating the booklet named "Spinal Cord Injury and Way to Happy Life - A Guide for the People with Spinal Cord Injuries" of Civic Trial Project was held at CRP. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Valerie Taylor; Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam; Head of Programs Md. Sohrab Hossain; Civic Project's Principal Investigator Dr. Lisa Harvey, Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Sydney and other staff were present in the ceremony. Dr. Lisa, Valerie and Shafiq-ul Islam together cut the inauguration ribbon.



UK Minister's Visit to CRP

Baroness Verma, Minister of Department for International Development UK visited Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) on 9th December 2015. Children from William and Marie Taylor School welcomed her with flowers and one of CRP's mouth painters, Alamin, presented her a painting. Then CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam delivered his presentation on CRP's activities. The minister visited various departments of CRP and met some of the patients. After visiting CRP and observing the services it is providing, the UK Minister promised that UK Aid will be proud to continue supporting CRP's activities.



NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015



Founder and Coordinator of CRP, Valerie Taylor received the Public Health Foundation Award 2015 for CRP's contribution to the public health sector of Bangladesh. The award was given on 9th December, the closing day of the two-day scientific conference on health, organized by the Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFBD). Professor Abdul Malik, Founder and President of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute was present at the function as Chief Guest. Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo, Matiur Rahaman and Deputy Director of icddr'b Abbas Bhuyia were Special Guests. Chairman of PHFBD Professor Muzaherul Huq; CEO Professor Sharmeen Yasmeen and Vice-Chairperson of Faith Bangladesh, Nilufer Ahmed Karim also spoke at the function. Along with Valerie Taylor, Executive Director of Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha, Hosne Ara Begum also received the Public Health Foundation Award.

Celebrating 36th Birthday of CRP

11th December was the day when CRP first started its journey in 1979. This year CRP celebrated its birthday on 13th December as 11th December was weekly holiday. The celebration started with welcoming our Founder, Valerie and Executive Director with flowers and they released a bunch of balloons.

Then all the staff, patients, children of William and Marie Taylor School (WMTS) gathered in the Reddaway Hall of CRP where some special children of WMTS performed a dance. Some of the longest serving staff shared their experiences at CRP. At the end of the function, Valerie cut the cake of CRP's 36th Birthday.

Valerie Receives the Public Health Foundation Award



Coats Bangladesh's Gifts to CRP

Coats Bangladesh, a renowned thread company and an old supporter of CRP handed over some gifts to CRP on December 19, 2015. They visited the workshops at CRP-Ganakbari on December 3 and they assessed the workers safety and health hazard related issues there. On 17th December, in response to the assessments, they arranged a workshop on "Workplace Health and Safety" at CRP-Ganakbari. Finally they handed over the gifts consisting of personal protective equipments for the workers, sewing thread, desk calendars printed with paintings by the children of William and Marie Taylor School, CRP and some of their newsletters. They also provided certificates to the workers who attended the workshop.



NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER
2015

Annual Sports and Cultural Competition Week 2015

Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) and CRP Nursing College organized the annual sports and cultural competition week 2015 on 20-23 December. CRP's Executive Director, Shafiq-ul Islam inaugurated the event by releasing balloons and unveiling the mascot. Head of Programs, Principals of both BHPI and CRP Nursing College, all students and teachers were present in the function. The sports events were held at CRP Savar campus and Lalteck Athletics Ground. All the teachers, students and staff participated actively in the sports, and much enjoyed the event.



Visit of Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau



The Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau, Mr. K.M. Abdus Salam, visited Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) on 26th December 2015. The students from William and Marie Taylor School greeted him with flowers and one of CRP's mouth painters, Alamin, presented him a painting. He visited various departments of CRP. He also conducted a discussion session on "Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing Compliance in NGO Sector". 32 staff of CRP attended the discussion session.

Pre-Christmas Celebration

CRP's staff and the BHPI students organized a mesmerizing Pre-Christmas evening on 15th December at CRP Reddaway hall. The function started with CRP's Founder, Valerie Taylors' lighting the candle. CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam and Heads of all departments were also present in the function. The Pre-Christmas celebration consisted of various cultural and religious events. All patients, staff and children enjoyed the show very much.



NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015

Two more Sculptures added to CRP's Premises

The metal scraps from CRP's workshop turn into brilliant sculptures with Arhamul Huq Chowdhury's ideas and Alphonso's welding skill. Arham ul Huq Chowdhury, a longstanding supporter of CRP creates beautiful metal sculptures with the scraps left over from making wheeled mobility aids in Metal workshop. Two new creations by Arham have been added to CRP's premises recently. One of them symbolizing Bangladesh's Victory Day is the Water Lily, our national flower. The second one resembling a winter celebration is snowflakes in the shape of a Christmas tree. These sculptures reflecting his creativity are tokens of his interest and care for CRP. CRP is grateful to him for his love and support.



Snowflakes in the shape of a Christmas Tree



Water Lily



Sara Tallman



I am Sara Tallman from the USA. I came to CRP to complete my internship in occupational therapy. I am an undergraduate student of Pacific University, USA and I heard about CRP from my University as 3 students from Pacific University came here previously for their internship. I stayed at CRP for 3 months but my working place was the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH). I worked with 2 other interns there. While working in NIMH, I watched patients, did research for department, group planning and also supervised junior students. Along with my services to NIMH I spent a lot of time with CRP's patients which I enjoyed most. During my stay at CRP in Bangladesh I faced challenges like language barrier, the weather and mostly the safety as a foreigner. The contradictory thing is that I also found world's kindest people here. I loved the clothes and the spicy foods of Bangladesh. I have a request to the authority if CRP could arrange Bangla language lessons it would be great for the foreign volunteers to communicate with the Bangladeshi people. CRP's accommodation facility is very good and CRP is a great host. My visit to CRP and Bangladesh was a really good experience and I want to come here again if I get any further chances.

NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2015

Story of Ratna

Ratna is a young woman of 20 years of age from Satkhira. She is a spinal cord injured patient and came to CRP about 2 months ago. The tale of her life is a tragic one. She had a happy family with her husband and a little baby boy. Her husband was not a good person and often demanded "dowry" but when Ratna's poor family could not provide it he started to torture her. Suddenly one day he got very furious and beat her until she was unconscious. He and his mother then threw Ratna from the roof of their two storied building. When she regained consciousness she found herself in the hospital. Her spinal column was fractured. She was operated in National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) and she stayed there for 6 months. Her husband divorced her and now her poor father has to bear all her expenses. After 9 months of her accident she came to CRP. She is taking both physiotherapy and occupational therapy here; with these she has regained some strength in her legs. Now she can walk a little. She is now planning to take Industrial Sewing Machine Operating Training at CRP-Ganakbari after her discharge from CRP. Her father is not able to pay the expenses of her treatment at CRP. So, CRP's donors are providing the cost for her treatment. Ratna and her family are very grateful to CRP.

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