

"Service to Sufferers is  
Service to God"

April  
2018

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## World Autism Awareness Day celebration

CRP observed World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2018 with the slogan "Empowering women and girls with autism". The paediatric unit organized a rally with autistic children, their parents, paediatricians and therapists of CRP, which started from the paediatric department, went around CRP and finally ended at Reddaway Hall, it was followed by an art competition and prize giving. CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam attended the programme and cheered on the children.

Three autistic children and teachers from CRP's William and Marie Taylor School (WMTS) joined the Prime Minister's Programme on this occasion. CRP-Mirpur and other divisional centres of CRP also observed the day with rallies, seminars and other programmes.



## Art competition on Autism Awareness Day

On 31st March, the Child foundation arranged an art competition in Gulshan 2 on the occasion of International Autism Awareness day. A total of five students with special needs from the William and Marie Taylor School (WMTS) participated in the day's program. A follow-up "Walk for Autism Awareness" and prize giving ceremony were held in Gulshan Lake park on April 6th, 2018 at 8:00 am. The first prize in the art competition was won by Emon Hossain, one of our very own WMTS students. Congratulations to Emon.



## Quarterly sports for SCI patients



CRP organized quarterly sports day for spinal cord injury patients on April 18, 2018 at CRP premises. All inpatients, along with their carers, participated in different events. CRP's rehabilitation wing arranged the competition with the help of the sports rehab unit and other departments. There was a great variety of events to choose from, including a wheelchair race, a ball throw competition, a long trolley race, a dirt throw competition, table tennis and others. All participants and winners received prizes.

## Success of CRP's Vocational Trainees



This year, the National IT Competition for youth with Disabilities was held on April 21st 2018 at the University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka. This competition was arranged by the Govt. ICT division and the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). Competitors were divided into four categories according to their impairment; physical, visual, speech impairment and neuro development disorder. 65 participants from across the country took part, including 10 vocational trainees from CRP's Madhab Memorial Vocational Training Institute.

The best three in each category were selected by a jury. Congratulations to the members of CRP's team who bagged all three top slots in the physical disability category. Each place winner received a crest, a certificate and a smartphone. Four of the day's winners have the opportunity to attend the upcoming Global IT competition in India in November, 2018.

## Training for 5th Bali Cup International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

CRP's wheelchair basketball team is going to compete in the 5th Bali Cup in July, 2018. BSF Indonesia is organizing this event, as they have done so since its inception in 2014. For the first time, CRP's wheelchair basketball teams, both male and female, will represent Bangladesh in this prestigious international tournament.

In order to prepare the players for such a competitive event, CRP arranged training and selection camps at Savar. People with disabilities from many different areas of the country took part in the camps. The training was held from 21st to 27th April with certificate giving. The trainer was Jess Markt from USA, who works as the Disability Sports and Integration Advisor for the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). Jess incurred permanent spinal cord injury in a road accident many years ago. In 2009, he started providing wheelchair basketball coaching. Later he started a campaign jointly with ICRC. This was Jess's first visit to Bangladesh. Not only did he train players, he also worked with coaches and referees from other organizations. He thinks that the players have got an excellent spirit, and with time and proper coaching there is no limit to the degree of skill that they can achieve.

All support for the camp was provided by ICRC.



## Celebrating Global Action Week for Education at WMTS



From 22nd to 28th April 2018, CRP's William and Marie Taylor School (WMTS) observed Global Action Week for Education (GAWE). The school was supported by the Rights, Rehabilitation, Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (RRED) project. The RRED project started in March 2017 and will last for a total of just under four years. The project is funded by CBM-BMZ and CRP.

The theme of this year's GAWE was "Keep Your Promises", and was based on Accountability for SDG 4 'Quality Education' and Citizen Participation. The objective is to ensure increased citizen participation in holding both government and the international community accountable to commitments made for the SDG 4 and Education 2030. WMTS conducted a 'Ring the bell' event with children, both with and without disabilities, teachers and other school staff. The idea was to make as much noise as possible for one minute to let people know all children should be welcome in school. Overall, the week's celebrations were a great success.



## Our annual visit to CRP!



Jan and Roger with Dr. Sayeed and Nursing Superintendent, Shokhoria Mondol at operation theatre

We had a very successful visit to CRP during a 3 week period in February 2018. Thank you for hosting us, it is always a privilege to visit CRP.

Our main objective this year was to replace the operating theatre flooring. We applied for a NATO grant and was successful in this bid so this was instrumental in being able to fit Poly - flooring. We are so pleased with the result as it is now suitable flooring for high risk surgery which is carried out in CRP. Roger worked with Shalimur Rahman, Maintenance Engineer, in overseeing all the requirements regarding this flooring. He also worked with Dr Sayeed, Head of Medical Services Wing, regarding the proposed improvements and additional requirements for bringing the operating theatre and post operation facilities up to an improved standard and accessibility.

We also met with the Rotary group in Gulshan to touch base regarding an application for a Global grant for new equipment for the operating theatre.

Jan did training for the nurses including hand hygiene, infection prevention and control and pressure ulcer prevention and management . The same session was then given to all the clinical team in the hospital.

Jan looked at the number of admissions for 2017 and found that 42.6% of patients being admitted to CRP were admitted from government hospitals and private hospitals with grade 4 pressure ulcers. This is totally unacceptable as pressure ulcers are preventable with the right care namely 2 hourly repositioning, good nutrition and bowel and bladder management. To address this finding March was declared pressure ulcer awareness month within CRP and we hope to hold a conference in 2019 at CRP on prevention and management of pressure ulcers. It is everyone's responsibility to work together so that care is coordinated to prevent this happening.

Jan worked with Sunil looking at quality indicators in the ward. For the past year we have been monitoring post surgical site infections, this has been very successful , the infection rate was 3.7% . We have introduced an investigation template so if there is an infection we look at what the root cause might be and put structure in place to prevent it happening again. We have also introduced a zero pressure ulcer rating in patients within CRP, if a patient develops a pressure ulcer whilst in CRP an investigation will be carried out to establish the root cause. Also we are looking at patient falls and collecting data to establish why patients are falling from bed / wheel chairs. It was a busy time and I would like to thank Sunil for his time and support, also the IT support on the ward. We have also started to compose clinical policies and this is work in progress. We are now home in England and we think of you all often. We have friends to thank Dr Sayeed, Engineer Shalimur Rahman and Sahidur Rahman, Head of Support Services.

See you soon our love and prayers.

Jan & Roger

CRP's long-standing friends from UK



Jan and Roger with medical staff on new floor of operation theatre



## Sabiha, Scarf Injury Survivor

Sabiha Islam is a 26 year-old housewife from Dohar. Her husband is currently working in Qatar. With her husband abroad, Sabiha was living in Mohammadpur, Dhaka with her in-laws. One day in June 2017 she was going to visit some relatives in Dohar. She was travelling on an easy bike and suddenly her scarf slipped through the gap between the two seats and became entangled with the motor beneath. As a result, she was almost strangled by her scarf. The impact of the sudden tightening of the scarf round her neck caused immediate full-body paralysis and caused Sabiha to fall unconscious. She was taken to a local clinic and then referred to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where she was diagnosed with spinal cord injury. She was put on a long waiting list and was eventually operated on at Green Life Hospital, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

In August 2017, Sabiha was admitted to CRP after an assessment by CRP's multidisciplinary team. She received physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counselling services during her stay at CRP. After two months' rehabilitation she is able to walk independently and can do all regular tasks. Her husband used to contact her overphone, but now Sabiha is fully dependent on her brother. She is planning on receiving training in dress making and tailoring. She hopes that, with these skills, her family won't consider her a burden on them.

Sabiha's therapists said that as her injury was minor, she would be able to walk again, but, unfortunately, most scarf-injury cases are not usually able to walk again and are dependent on their carers for many needs. Sabiha is absolutely fine now and she does not need others help for any of her tasks.

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