

# NEWS LETTER

December  
2017

## Valerie received Who's who Bangladesh award 2017

Who's Who is a leading source of biographical data on more than 33,000 influential people from around the world. It has been published annually since 1849. It lists people who have influenced society, business and various aspects of life. Entries include entrepreneurs, media, social work and notable figures from academia, sports and the arts.

CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie Taylor received an award from Who's Who Bangladesh on 1st December, 2017 for her remarkable contribution to society and humanity. The award giving ceremony was held at the Radisson Blue Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka. The purpose of the award is to highlight and acknowledge people who have played, and continue to play, vital roles in the development of Bangladesh in various areas such as entrepreneurial business, social work, charitable contribution, fair politics, improving human rights, civil service, law enforcement, education and the media. Each year, the award is given to 12 renowned persons who have made a significant contribution to society in their individual fields.

The Chief Guest at the programme was the Finance Minister from the Bangladesh Government, Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, and the Special Guest was Dr. A K Abdul Momen, former Representative to United Nations and Chief Advisor to Who's Who Bangladesh. Many famous people from different sectors of the country and the entire board of Who's Who Bangladesh were also present.

Who's Who Bangladesh published the biographies of these awardees on the same day and will circulate them around the world in order to draw attention to their contribution to society.



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## Disability Day 2017: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all

CRP observed the 19th National and 26th International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3rd December 2017. The theme of the day was “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”. This year, CRP marked the event with a three-day programme.

The event started with a sports programme at the basketball ground on 30th November, 2017. The following day, 1st December 2017, a wheelchair basketball match was held at the same venue. The closing ceremony was held on 3rd December, 2017 with a rally and a human chain. This was followed by different cultural activities, experience sharing and speeches by the guests.

Many people from different NGO’s, local community, volunteers, students and over 100 wheelchair users joined in the rally and the human chain. In the concluding session, speeches were delivered by Md. Nasirul Islam, Acting Head of Education, Md. Sahidul Rahman, Head of Support Services, Md. Anwar Hossain, General Secretary of SCIDAB and Morshedul Quadir, Operations Manager of AHEAD project. This year the programme was supported by AHEAD Project, Queens University Canada and Epyllion.

There was also a cultural performance by students from William and Marie Taylor School. Two SCI patients shared their experiences with the audience. At the end of the programme there was a prize giving ceremony for the sports event.



## CIVIC Trial Project – 1st Investigators’ Meeting



The CIVIC Trial team held an Investigators’ Meeting at the 16th Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) Conference 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting was held on 8th December 2017, Friday. The Investigators were updated with progress and happy with the ongoing activities of the CIVIC trial at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Bangladesh.

In the photo from left: Md. Akhlasur Rahman, Stephen Muldoon, Prof. Lisa Harvey, Mohammad Sohrab Hossain, Md. Shofiqul Islam, Prof. Fin Biering-Sorensen and Prof. Stanley Ducharme





## Job fair for persons with disabilities 2017

With the aim of creating job opportunities for persons with disabilities and to inform employers about disability inclusive employment, the Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) in partnership with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and the Access Bangladesh Foundation, organized a job fair on December 9, 2017 at the Apparel Club of the BGMEA Complex.

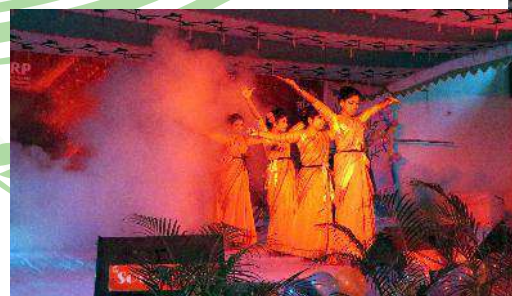
Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, was the chief guest at the opening ceremony while Afroza Khan, Secretary in Charge, Ministry of Labour & Employment, A B M Khorshed Alam, Additional Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, NSDC Secretariat, Md. Siddiqui Rahman, President, BGMEA, Kamran T. Rahman, President, BEF and Kishore Kumar Singh, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO, B-SEP Project attended as Special Guests.

CRP's Executive Director and executive members from BBDN were present at the programme. Trainees from CRP's Madhab Memorial Vocational Training Institute joined the fair and 50 persons with disability received their appointment letters on that day.

The Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) is a network of private sector employers and business associations formed in collaboration with disability organisations with the purpose of facilitating greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Bangladesh work force.

## CRP's 38th birthday

CRP celebrated its 38th birthday on December 11th, 2017. This year, the event was celebrated with an extravagant cultural programme for patients sponsored by Robi, one of the renowned telecommunication companies of Bangladesh. The celebration started in the afternoon with a balloon release and the cutting the birthday cake by CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, along with all artists, officials from Robi, patients, children and staff members' presence. Renowned actors Sahiduzzaman Selim and Rozi Siddiki accompanied us during the cake cutting ceremony. A total of eight famous singers gave performances that really entertained the patients. Everybody enjoyed the programme.





## SCIDAB's 6th raising day

Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association Bangladesh (SCIDAB) celebrated their 6th anniversary on 17th December, 2017. The programme started with a rally from CRP followed by a discussion programme at CRP's Reddaway Hall. The chief guest of the programme was Md. Abu Muhammad Yusuf, Director of Activities, Social Welfare Ministry. Md. Ziaur Rahman, Social Welfare Officer, Savar and Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Founder & Coordinator, CRP attended the programme as special guests. Md. Rafiqul Islam, President, SCIDAB chaired the programme while Md. Anwar Hossain, General Secretary, SCIDAB ran the programme. In the afternoon SCIDAB members cut their 6th birthday cake. Then there was a cultural programme where many SCIDAB members performed. At present SCIDAB has a total 1400 members who sustained spinal cord injury.



## Pre-Christmas Celebration

CRP's staff and Nursing students organized a mesmerizing Pre-Christmas evening on 19th 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.

## WMTS in singing competition

A group of special needs children from CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School (WMTS) participated in a singing competition on 19th December, 2017. The programme held in Dhaka Shilpokola Academy was organised by Sporsho Brail Publication in collaboration to Shilpakala Academy on the occasion of 10 years anniversary of Sporsho Brail Publication. Liakot Ali Lucky, Director of Shilpokola Academy, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. The special needs children who participated in the competition were Abu Bokkor, class five, Hisbullah, class five, Emon Hossain, class four, Zakia Jannat, class two, Abdul Momin, class two and Anisha, nursery. Abu Bokkor won the second place in junior group (school level) by singing a country song. Moreover, some other renowned people like Nazia Zabin, Kiron Chandra Rai, Nasima Jahan Fency were also present on that occasion.





## CRP wins the ICRC T20 Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities 2017



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Bangladesh Cricket Board and the Ministry of Youth and Sports collaboratively organised the ICRC T20 Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities 2017 at Jagannath Hall Ground. The tournament started on 17th December, 2017 with six teams from all over the country. The Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony was A E M Kawser, Manager Game Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports. ICRC officials and the Head of Delegates attended the event as special guests. The CRP Physically Challenged team competed in three matches, and won all three, including the tournament final. The final was held on 21st December at Jagannath Hall Ground, and was played between the CRP Physically Challenged Cricket team and Bangladesh Cricket Association for the Physically Challenged team. Shariful Islam, an amputee, was the man of the match, man of the tournament and best batsman. The best bowler was CRP's Sanaullah Molla. The prize giving ceremony was overseen by Arif Khan Joy, Deputy Sports Minister and ICRC's Head of Delegation.

## SEKNAK-CRP MoU signing and cheque hand over programme

A MoU signing and cheque handing over ceremony between Syed Enayet Kabir-Naiyer Ara Kabir (SEKNAK) Welfare Trust and CRP was held on 27th December, 2017 in the conference room at CRP-Mirpur. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie A. Taylor was the Chief Guest of the programme. The special guests were Azra Faizi Ahmed, Chairperson, SEKNAK Welfare Trust and Syed Rezwanul Kabir, Managing Director, SEKNAK Welfare Trust. They handed over an initial cheque for 75 lac BDT for the development and construction of CRP-CARSA Foundation, Barisal. They will donate a total of 3 crore BDT to this project in four quarterly installments. Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP, and Syed Rezwanul Kabir, Managing Director, SEKNAK Welfare Trust signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their respective organisations.



The 16th Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) Conference took place between 7th and 10th December, 2017, in Chiang Mai Thailand. The theme of the conference was “Sharing and Learning for Enhancing Comprehensive Rehabilitation Management of SCI.”

It was a great experience for me to attend the conference both as one of the presenters and as a CRP delegate. While there, I met many intelligent and sharp international colleagues, experienced professionals, experts, specialists in different disciplines, and practitioners. Personally, I think this conference was very well organized and very successful. I fully enjoyed this event with many interesting presentations, discussions and workshops on various topics related to Spinal Cord Lesion.

On the first day of the Conference, 7th December, there was the special session based around the opening ceremony. It was a cultural session where each country were asked to perform something representative of their country. Our team sang a Bengali song, which I led. We were very happy to win a prize for our performance. In addition, we very much enjoyed the cultural performances by other countries, especially Thailand and South Korea. The next day was the day of my own presentation, which had been selected to be given in the ‘Work and Community’ session of the conference. The topic I had chosen was a study on the vocational rehabilitation of women with Spinal Cord Lesion. The chairperson during my presentation was Dr James Middleton, Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, The University of Sydney.



The presentation was well appreciated both by the chairperson and the audience, which included several experts in the field. Moreover, during my session another presenter, who was studying for a PhD at Sydney university, gave a presentation on Qualitative Research. As my study was also a qualitative study, I learned a lot from his presentation and got many ideas about how to represent qualitative data.



After the presentation, I had a very pleasant one-to-one conversation with Dr Middleton and he gave me some interesting suggestions regarding further research on the topic of vocational rehabilitation. He suggested that I look into several areas, such as the barriers that arise during the implementation of vocational rehabilitation, ICF model based evaluation of vocational training, research on advocacy and trainee networking. In my role as a lecturer in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, I will share these research ideas with my students. I hope this knowledge will motivate them to do further study and explore their role as rehabilitation professionals in the field of vocational rehabilitation. I also attended several sessions, and heard many very informative and insightful presentations about different specialist subjects.

On reflection, the conference will help me do more research on rehabilitation themes. Moreover, this experience gave me an international perspective regarding the exchange of ideas, learning from knowledge experts, and networking with international counterparts. I also thought about how relevant the conference was to my own career at CRP.

In 2018 the ASCoN Conference will be held in Myanmar. I anticipate that it will be a great chance for me to get involved in the organizational preparation for the event based on my experiences from the 2017 event.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heart-felt thanks to CRP management committee for funding me and Apichana Kovindha, M.D., FRC, Chairperson of the 16th Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) who has made this conference possible and all those who shared their knowledge and experiences with me regarding research. I really did benefit very much from this fantastic event.

**Shamima Islam Nipa**  
Lecturer,  
Department of Rehabilitation Science Bangladesh  
Health Professionals Institute (BHPI)



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CRP's Founder & Coordinator, Dr. Valerie Ann Taylor and I, Mohsina Sultana, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Coordinator, were invited to visit Kobe Gakuin University of Japan. The main purpose of the invitation was to hear our team talk about the activities of CRP, including CBR, and also successful case stories and the future plans of CRP. The visit lasted from 3rd to 10th December. The audience at the lecture consisted of graduate students and professors within the Rehabilitation Faculty of the university. In addition, the university extended an invitation for Valerie and me to visit two other university campuses, situated at Port Island and Arise and Hyogo Prefectural Rehabilitation Hospital. Our hosts were eager to demonstrate and share their advance technology for preparing artificial hands using a 3D printer.

I described CRP's CBR activities, with a focus on CRP's rehabilitation approach through institute based rehabilitation (IBR). For the graduate students in the audience, it was important to understand the Bangladeshi perspective of issues relating to spinal cord injury (SCI). Knowing this helped them understand country specific issues such as scarf strangulation. I also described the CBR matrix used by CRP to implement CBR activities and services. A brief description was given about CRP's halfway hostel, which is one of the most important parts of SCI patients rehabilitation. Regular patient follow-up through home visits, the road safety campaign, inclusive sports, self-help group formation, support for income generating activities, and telemedicine were also described. The audience for this presentation included 4th year students, professors and the honorable dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation.

been disabled friendly, especially towards SCI rehabilitation patients. It also covered the growth in the number of regional centres, and how professionals from multiple Dr. Valerie Ann Taylor's presentation began by outlining the origins and growth of CRP since 1979. Amongst other topics, the presentation covered how CRP has always disciplines, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, physicians, prosthetists and orthotists work together at CRP to serve the sufferer. The presentation also covered the CRP academic institute, where the professionals can build their careers through bachelor and masters degree programs. The metal and wood workshops were also discussed, and their roles in fulfilling the demand for assistive devices to match individual patient sizes and needs.

## Visit to Kobe Gakuin University, Japan



Presentation on CBR



Valerie orienting CRP's activities

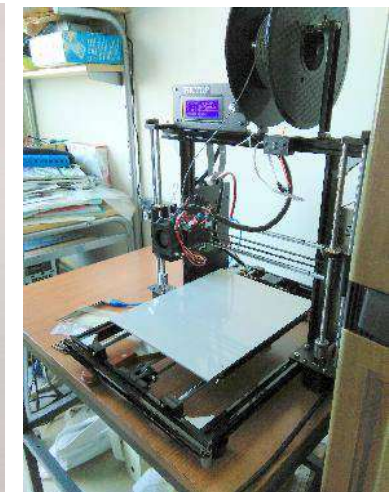


Presentation on CRP's activities

Finally, Valerie described some of the many victims and sufferers that CRP has rehabilitated, including SCI sufferers, Rana plaza victims, and cerebral palsy sufferers. One individual case was used as an illustration, that of Khokon, a CP sufferer who successfully completed vocational training in different trades. Several professors, lecturer, graduate, postgraduate students of Kobe Gakuin University were present during the presentation. At the end of the visit, the dean, Professor Akio Nakagawa, demonstrated a 3D printer where it is easy to prepare artificial hands for children who are missing hands due to congenital absence or loss in accidents. During the visit, he donated some artificial hands to CRP. The university is eagerly interested in working with CRP regarding both these and other assistive devices.



Artificial hands for children made by 3D printer



3D printer

Mohsina Sultana  
Rehabilitation Development Officer, CRP

## Telemedicine Training for DPOs by RRED project

A training programme was organized for the disabled people's organizations (DPO) on telemedicine by Rights, Rehabilitation, Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (RRED) project. The training took place from 5th to 8th November, 2017. The objective of the training was to disseminate knowledge on telemedicine service and build the capacity of DPO members in providing services in the rural community. DPOs are the organizations of persons with disabilities (PWD) who work for establishing the rights of PWDs in their own community. In the RRED project DPOs are working for providing telemedicine service to the poor community people who cannot receive a standard health and rehabilitation service due to lack of money, time, support from family member and so on. The DPOs also advocate for disability inclusive services in their communities. The telemedicine services are provided by using the latest technology and software available in smart phones and computers. A total of 36 participants including DPO members, caregivers, divisional CBR coordinators and Community Rehabilitation Technicians (CRT) of CRP participated in the training. The main contents of the training were online telemedicine software, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, prostheses and orthoses, nursing and medical services of CRP. The Trainers were from Telemedicine Program (DUTP) of the University of Dhaka and different departments of CRP. The information was used effectively. The facilitators used different methods and very simple language for making the session easily understandable. They shared the knowledge of the relevant services through lectures, notes, demonstrations, practical sessions, group discussions, visits and video presentations. At the end of the training the participants received certificates.

Nusrat Jahan Rima  
Project Coordinator  
RRED Project





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## Halima dreams to be a successful nurse

Halima is a beautiful young woman of 23. She lived with her family in Chandpur. Her father died when she was very young and from then her brothers supported the family. At present, she is a 3rd year student of B.Sc. in Nursing at CRP Nursing College. She uses a wheelchair for her mobility but her condition was not the same five years ago. It was a sunny day in April 2013. Halima climbed a mango tree near the roof of her college at her friend's request. Suddenly she reached beyond the edge of the roof and fell from the 3rd floor. She was immediately taken to a local hospital by a rickshaw while being unconscious. There the doctors gave her some first aid and immediately referred her to the Medinova Hospital in Chandpur for some medical tests. The doctors diagnosed her with severe spinal cord injury. She had her surgery in Uttara community hospital and stayed there for 30 days. Then the doctors suggested her family to take her to CRP for rehabilitation. At the end of June 2013 she came to CRP and at that time she was unable to sit.

She was assessed as a paraplegic patient and was admitted to CRP. During her four months stay at CRP, she received occupational therapy, physiotherapy and counselling services to overcome her trauma. Within her rehabilitation period, another surgery was done to remove the plates from her backbone and on removing the stitches the doctors and therapist encouraged her to sit. She was transferred to a wheelchair after two weeks. After returning home, she had to sit for her Higher Secondary Certificate (H.S.C) examination and achieved excellent results. She had the eligibility to study further and she wanted to serve others who suffer. So she chose to study Nursing and got herself admitted in CRP Nursing College in 2015.

Halima is really thankful for being a patient at CRP because she thinks that if she had not come to CRP her physical condition would have never improved. Though she is very confident she faces a lot of problems when attending placements in different hospitals as a nurse. People think that sitting in a wheelchair she cannot do anything. For the first two years of her study no hospital permitted her to practise but after fighting a lot she could make them realize her abilities. Some hospitals then accepted her and permitted her to work. She has proved to be the most successful nursing student at CRP's Nursing College.

