

"Service to Sufferers is  
Service to God"

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## ISPO-Bangladesh in a TV programme

ISPO Bangladesh arranged a 45 minutes live TV program entitled "Light of life" in Jamuna TV on 1st August 2018. The program aimed at exploring P&O services and its academic facilities in Bangladesh. The guests included Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP and Vice President 1 of ISPO-Bangladesh; Ajoy Sen, Programm Manager, Physical Rehabilitation Programme, ICRC and Muhammad Shafiq, Vice-President 2 ISPO-Bangladesh.

From the feedback report from Jamuna TV, more than 20,000 people around the country watched this programme. The P&O department also received some referral amputee clients as a result. The sponsor of this programme ISPO-Bangladesh plans to establish a strong referral system and make this service known to the general people through the mass media.

## Officials from Japan Embassy visited CRP-Barisal

On 8th August, 2018 Ms. Nafisa Shamim Rudmila, Consultant, Grant assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGHSP), Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh visited the construction site of CRP-CARSA Foundation, Barisal. The centre manager, Rubina Akter joined her in a site visit. They discussed about the progress of the work. The Japanese Embassy funded the construction cost of the ground floor of CRP-Barisal.



## Job fair for persons with disabilities at Sylhet



CRP-Iskandar Shitara, Sylhet participated in the Sylhet Job Fair for the Persons with Disabilities-2018, jointly organized by Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) and Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Five staff members from CRP joined this program. They explained how CRP's services and activities empower persons with disabilities through vocational training. Some awareness raising videos on management and prevention of disability were also shown in the programme.

The chief guest of the event was Mr. Imran Ahmad, Member of Parliament, Sylhet-4 and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology. Mr. Numeri Zaman, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sylhet; officials from BBDN and the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce were also present as special guests. Many people with disabilities along with government and non-government officials and local residents also participated in the programme.



### 3rd International SCI Day observed

International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) and Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) observed the 3rd International SCI Day on 5th September 2018. This year the theme is “Stop Spinal Cord Injury”. The intention is to increase awareness about spinal cord injury amongst the general public and all stake holders.

With the slogan “Stop Spinal Cord Injury” CRP organised a rally including people with SCI at Savar in the morning of 5th September, 2018 which was followed by a discussion session on causes, consequences, management of spinal cord injury and ensuring inclusive life for persons with spinal cord injury. The programme was held at the Reddaway Hall.

Mr. Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, Chairman of Bangladesh NGO Foundation was the Chief Guest of the programme. Among other attendees Dr. Fazlul Huq, Senior Consultant, Orthopaedic and Spine Surgeon, Square Hospital Ltd; Professor Dr. Omar Ali Sarker, Principal, Bangladesh Health Professions Institute; Dr. Sayeed Uddin Helal, Head of Medical Services Wing, CRP and Mr. Anwar Hossain, General Secretary, Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association (SCIDAB) were Special Guests. The programme was chaired by CRP’s Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam. Mr. Hedayetullah Al Mamoon handed over some therapeutic equipment, a manual treadmill, a power rider and grocery items to a person with disability from BNF project fund at CRP. In the afternoon, CRP organized a sports competition for the spinal cord injured patients.



### World Physical Therapy Day observed

The Physiotherapy Department of CRP in Collaboration with Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA) observed the “World Physiotherapy Day” on 8th September, 2018. The theme of this day was “Physiotherapy & Mental Health”. The programme was supported by the International Society for Prosthetics & Orthotics- Bangladesh.

To mark the day, a Seminar on “Physiotherapy is an Evidence Based Treatment for Depression, Anxiety and Mental Health Issues” was held at CRP, Savar, Dhaka.

The Honorable Secretary of Ministry of Social Welfare Md. Zillar Rahman attended as the chief guest. Dr. Anwarul Quader Nazim, PhD, President-BPA; M Shahdat Hossain, Secretary-BPA; Prof. Dr. Omar Ali Sarker, Principal-BHPI; Monira Rahman, Country Lead- Innovation for Wellbeing Foundation and Prof. Dr. Golam Rabbani, Chairperson- Chairperson of the Bangladesh Government’s Neurodevelopmental Disability (NDD) Protection Trust were present as the special guests.

## Job selection programme for persons with disabilities

The Madhob Memorial Vocational Training Institute organised an interview and job selection programme on 19th September, 2018 at CRP-Ganakbari's women's rehabilitation unit. This event was organised under Marks & Start Project supported by a renowned British multinational retailer brand, Marks and Spencer. A total of 42 officials from different sourcing garments factories interviewed 86 trainees with disabilities. Among them 52 persons with disabilities were selected for jobs.



## Inaugurating Prosthetics and Orthotics service at CRP-Rajshahi

The inauguration of the Prosthetics and Orthotics service in Rajshahi and a workshop on "Advocacy for ISPO Bangladesh" was held on 19th September, 2018 at Afsar Hussain-CRP, Rajshahi. Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Mr. S. M. Abdul Kader was present as the chief guest. CRP's Executive Director and ISPO-Bangladesh's Vice President Md. Shafiq-ul Islam chaired the programme. Other attendees were Professor Dr. B. K. Dam, Principal of Barendra Medical College and Dr. Suzon Al Hasan, Associate Professor of Physical Medicine Rehabilitation, Rajshahi Medical College. S. M. Imran Shoalb, Joint Secretary of ISPO-Bangladesh presented a paper on the activities of ISPO-Bangladesh and Prosthetics & Orthotics Rehabilitation. Suma Begum, Centre Manager, CRP-Rajshahi presented the center's activities. Two beneficiaries shared their experiences on how prosthetics and orthotics service transformed their lives. The Chief Guest appreciated and acknowledged the importance of prosthetics and orthotics services in Bangladesh. He also promised to provide full support in integrating this service in Rajshahi. Professor Dr. B. K. Dam and Associate Professor Dr. Suzon Al Hasan explained to the audience the importance of the service. They agreed to extend their support towards ISPO Bangladesh. The importance of a professional regulatory body (Council) was also discussed in this forum. CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam answered all questions about ISPO-Bangladesh, prosthetics and orthotics service, the present situation and future plan. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the chairperson.





## Visit of Kadoorie Charitable Foundation Officials

The Day Centre Project for People with Mental Health Needs at CRP-Ganakbari is funded by the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation. It completed its 6 months journey in August, 2018. On 22nd September, 2018 Stephanie Cheung, Programme Manager, South East Asia and Mr. Ziad Samman, Program Manager of The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation visited the project. During this visit, they met the service users and staff and had a brief overview of the documentation of the project. They also visited CRP- Savar.

The feedback of their project visit mentioned that they enjoyed the visit tremendously and found it very fruitful. They can feel how much this service is appreciated by the care givers and clients alike. The staff are also very dedicated to the work they do. The centre is located at Ganakbari which is a good strategic decision, as the clients are exposed to more people and vocational training opportunities. They appreciated the activities of CRP-Savar also.

## BSRM handed over the startup materials to trainees with disabilities

On 25th September, 2018 CRP's Madhob Memorial Vocational Training Institute organized a Materials Handover to Trainees with disabilities programme funded by Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (BSRM) Group of companies. BSRM sponsored 20 persons with disabilities for six month's training in four different trades at CRP's Madhob Memorial Vocational Training Institute. The trades are electronics repairing, dress making and tailoring, shop management and computer office application. Ms. Ruhi Murshid Ahmed, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Relations & Communications, BSRM was the chief guest of the programme. CRP's Executive Director chaired the programme. Other staff from CRP and BSRM also attended the handover ceremony. All the trainees received materials and equipment to start their own business in their community. They promised to give their best effort to support their family with the new business.



## Attending 57th ISCoS Conference: experience sharing

I, Md. Shofiqul Islam, Principal Investigator & Site Coordinator and Punam D Costa, Project Officer of CIVIC trial project joined the 57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) 2018 at Sydney, Australia. In parallel with ISCoS, we also attended an evaluation meeting with Dr. Hueiming Liu to discuss and plan a process evaluation for the CIVIC trial. Prof. Lisa Harvey gave a wonderful presentation on 15th September 2018 in the investigators meeting and all investigators wholeheartedly appreciated the ongoing activities of CIVIC trial project as well as CRP's contribution towards it. The statistical team will do an interim analysis of data in mid-October 2018 but the last 2-years assessment will be held in March 2020.



From Left: Md. Shofiqul Islam, Mohammad Sohrab Hossain and Punam D Costa in the ISCoS conference



From Left: Punam D Costa, Md. Shofiqul Islam, Dr. Hueiming Liu, Prof. Lisa Harvey and Mohammad Sohrab Hossain at CIVIC process evaluation meeting

Before the conference started, we attended the PT/OT Seminar on 12th September 2018 conducted by Prof. Lisa Harvey, University of Sydney, Australia. Additionally, I joined week long fellowship training on "Physiotherapy Management of people with spinal cord injuries" from 17th to 23rd September 2018. During this fellowship, I visited Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) and Royal Rehab Centre where I learnt about the physiotherapy management of people with spinal cord injury. A special thanks goes to Lydia Chen from RNSH and Donna Rainey from Royal Rehab Centre for their valuable time during my visit. I also visited the John Walsh Centre for Rehabilitation Research and Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) where Prof. Lisa Harvey taught to rebut research article after acceptance in a reputed journal and Prof. Robert D Herbert taught about research project management for neurologically impaired patients. I personally believe that this memorable experience will be very helpful for managing the project activities and disseminating the project work both nationally and internationally in future. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Mohammad Sohrab Hossain, PhD student and Prof. Lisa Harvey for organising such a special training for me.

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CIVIC team at Investigators meeting



Prof. Robert D Herbert and Md. Shofiqul Islam at NeuRA





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## Hasan's story

Five years old Hasan lived with his family in Noakhali. His father is a day labourer and supports the family of six members. Hasan, the elder son was very jolly and used to roam around his mother often. On such a day Hasan was with her mother in the kitchen. Suddenly a coconut tree fell on the kitchen's roof and both were severely injured. At first the family members did not notice him. They found him behind his mother. Hasan along with his mother, who was seven months pregnant were immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College. Both the mother and the child in her womb died of the accident. Hasan had severe blood clots in the lungs and was operated on. Unfortunately he lost all sensations below the waist due to spinal cord injury. In addition, he was in severe psychological trauma.

It has been two months since Hasan is staying at CRP. CRP's multidisciplinary team assessed him and admitted him as an inpatient in the spinal cord injury unit. He was very silent, did not talk, did not play and had a blank look. As a little lad everyone at CRP caressed him. He received physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counseling services to get over the trauma and regain his strength.

Hasan is much better now, he smiles, he chats, he plays and is passionate for his grandmother. His therapists say, the severity of the accident and the level of injury will not allow him to walk again. He will be confined to the wheelchair for the rest of his life. Though he achieved confidence but needs to engage with more people, in that case schooling is a good option for him.

Considering the family's economic condition, CRP is looking for potential donors who can sponsor Hasan's treatment expenses.