

# NEWS LETTER

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## Certificate distribution for entrepreneurship training



On 12th August, 2017, CRP organized a certificate distribution programme for the entrepreneurship training funded by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO is supporting one month's training in four trades at CRP's Madhab Memorial Vocational Training Institute. The trades are electronics repairing, mushroom cultivation, shop management and handicrafts. A total of 60 trainees received their certificates from CRP on that day. CRP's HR Manager, Rehabilitation Manager, Social welfare Incharge, CBR Coordinator, Occupational Therapy Incharge, Vocational Training Coordinator attended the ceremony, along with other staff. The trainees also received materials and financial support from the ILO needed to start their own businesses.

## British High Commissioner visited CRP

The British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mrs. Alison Blake, visited CRP on 19th August, 2017. Some members from British High Commission also accompanied Alison during this visit. They donated some items for patients' care and service on behalf of the British High Commission Club and Commissary. All the guests were greeted warmly by special children of William and Marie Taylor School when they arrived. After a presentation about CRP's activities, the Executive Director of CRP, Md. Shafiqul Islam, led the party on a tour of the departments and grounds. The visit was rounded off with a brilliant cultural performance by the WMTS students. CRP's mouth painter, Al Amin, presented one of his paintings to the High Commissioner. Mrs. Blake then handed over all the items for donation to CRP and promised to provide assistance in supporting CRP's work in the future.



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## Rebeca Foster visited Marks and Start project activities

Rebecca Foster, Quality & Compliance Head, Marks and Spencer, UK, visited Dhaka to see the Marks & Start project activities on 23rd August 2017. Marks and Spencer, Viyellatex and CRP jointly organized the program. The venue for the program was ECO Fab factory in Gazipur district. Approximately 40 employees with disabilities, along with representatives from CRP, the factories, Marks and Spencer and the media, attended the program. The CRP vocational training Coordinator gave a project update to the delegates. A selection of disabled employees showed their talents via a program of songs, dance, and a display of handicrafts, and gave a brief of what they had achieved from this project. Up to now, approximately 1,600 disabled employees have received skills development training from CRP and are currently employed at 67 Marks and Spencer supplier factories.



## Capping ceremony of CRP Nursing College



CRP Nursing College organized a capping ceremony on August 26, 2017, in CRP's Reddaway Hall. The Chief Guest was Professor Dr. Nasima Sultana, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dhaka University. The Special Guests were Sufia Khatun, Principal, Dhaka Nursing College, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP, Md. Nasirul Islam, Head of Education, BHPI and Dr. Sayeed Uddin Helal, Head of Medical Services Wing, CRP. The programme was chaired by the Principal of CRP Nursing College, Runu Chowdhury. After all guests had delivered their speeches, they capped all the new nursing students. A total of 80 students (32 B.Sc students and 48 Diploma students) received their caps and participated in an oath taking ceremony. Afterwards, a short cultural programme was performed by the students.

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## 2nd International Spinal Cord Injury Day observed in Bangladesh



Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) observed the International Spinal Cord Injury Day on 5th September 2017. In line with International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOs) and Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN), CRP observed the day with the theme "Yes We Can" in Bangladesh jointly with the Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association (SCIDAB).

The Occupational Therapy Department organised an "Art Therapy Group" as a part of leisure activity on 4th September with the participation of 15 SCI patients, both paraplegic and Tetraplegic participated. Each patient received a prize as the token of their participation.

CRP organised a rally including 200 SCI people at Dhaka-Aricha highway in the morning of 5th September, 2017. A human chain was formed there and leaflets about spinal cord injury were distributed among public. Then there was a discussion session on causes, consequences, management of spinal cord injury and ensuring inclusive life for persons with spinal cord injury at the Reddaway Hall at 10 am.

Professor Dr. Abdul Awal, President, Bangladesh Spine Society was the Chief Guest of the programme. Among other attendees, Dr. Fazlul Huq, Senior Consultant, Orthopaedic and Spine Surgeon, Square hospital, Dr. Sharif Ahsan, Plastic Surgeon and Dr. Rafiqul Islam, President, Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association (SCIDAB) were Special Guests. Dr. Luis Garcia, a spine surgeon from Spain and a long standing friend of CRP, also joined in the special event. The programme was chaired by CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam. All the divisional centres of CRP across the country also observed the day with special events in their area. The days programme was covered by several electronics and print media.

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## World Physical Therapy observed by CRP



Along with the whole world, CRP observed World Physical Therapy Day on 8th September, 2017. This year, the theme was 'Physical activity for life'. The Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA) arranged different events to celebrate the day. Many physiotherapists attended a rally in the morning at the Press Club, Dhaka. This was followed by an afternoon seminar on 'Physiotherapy in Health Care System in Bangladesh' held at the CRP Reddaway Hall. All department heads, physiotherapists, staff and physiotherapy students attended the programme. The programme ended with the speeches by the guests highlighting the importance of physiotherapy in health services.

## World Autism Awareness Day 2017

CRP observed World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2017 with the slogan "Towards Autonomy and Self Determination". The paediatric unit organized a rally with autistic children, their parents, paediatricians and therapists of CRP. The rally started out from the CRP main reception area, 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.

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



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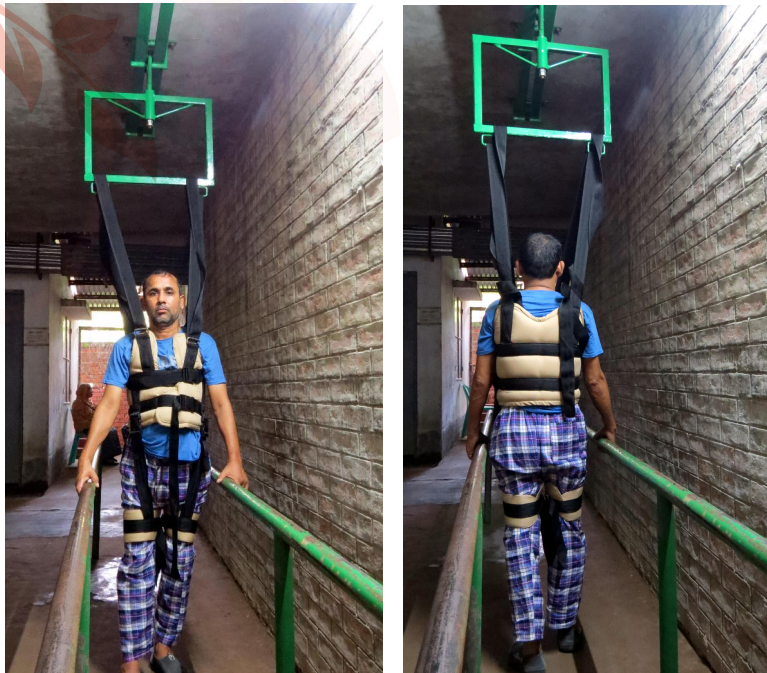
## World Health Day observed at CRP

CRP observed the "World Health Day" on April 8, 2017 with the slogan "Depression: Let's talk". The celebration started with a rally going around CRP and a discussion session at the Reddaway Hall. The Heads of Medical Services, Education and Support Services took the stage and discussed mental health issues.

One of the themes was coping with depression there is no better way than talking or sharing your thoughts and feelings with your family and friends. CRP's inpatients, students of William and Marie Taylor School, their parents and other staff were present at the discussion.



## Physiotherapy Gait practice harness, a joint venture by CRP's Physiotherapy & Special Seating Department



The physiotherapy gait practice harness is a newly launched assistive device. It is a joint venture between the Physiotherapy and Special Seating Departments. This harness is an affordable device manufactured by CRP's workshop using local materials and resources.

The harness system enables physiotherapists to challenge their patients while walking and also keeps them safe. From a teaching perspective, the harness gives clinical instructors another layer of confidence and allows novice therapists to safely explore treatment options. This harness system serves everyone from toddlers and injured athletes to stroke survivors and people with traumatic brain injuries. With it, a patient can move anywhere within the 20-square-foot boundary of the structure. Consequently, the device will reduce effort, both by the therapist and patient, and, of course, build confidence towards walking independently.

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## Member of Parliament, UK, Rushanara Ali's visit to CRP-Ganakbari

On 19th September, 2017, as part of a tour of Bangladesh, Rushanara Ali, a British Labour Party MP, visited CRP-Ganakbari to observe the activities of the Marks and Start project there. She was accompanied by Mrs. Alison Blake, the British High Commissioner for Bangladesh, during her visit. The programme started with a welcome speech by the Country Director of Marks & Spencer, Shwapna Bhowmik, who greeted all the guests at the special occasion. Other attendees during the visit were Ahsan Kabir Khan, Vice Chairman - Vijellatex Group and Naimul Bashar Chowdhury, Director - Interstoff Apparel Ltd. Mrs. Ali visited the training centres in the CRP Women's Rehabilitation Wing at Ganakbari. After a short overview presentation regarding the project, given by the Vocational Training Coordinator, two beneficiaries of this project, Fatema and Reza, shared their experiences. They spoke about their journey from the training centre to the factory where they are working now. This was followed by a short cultural performance by another two beneficiaries of the project. Alamin, a mouth painter, then handed over one of his painting to Rushanara in honour of her visit. After all guests had delivered their speeches, Mrs. Ali gave a speech of her own. An honorary crest was handed over to Rushanara by Shwapna Bhowmik. Finally, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP, offered a vote of thanks to all the attendees, and stated how honoured CRP felt by her presence. Rushanara and Alison then planted two trees in the premises of CRP. The day's programme was covered by several electronic and print media.



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## Tangina Alam

My name is Tangina Alam. I am 27 and I am from England. I work as a counselor for young people aged 12-25 in the UK. I learnt about CRP by searching the internet for volunteer placements in Bangladesh.

I wanted to visit Bangladesh as my parents were born here before moving to England. I have helped a lot of people in England through my job and always wanted to do the same for my "own people" in Bangladesh thinking of the stigma people with disabilities face here. So I searched the internet for volunteer placements in Bangladesh and thus learnt about CRP.

I came to CRP in August, stayed for a month and worked as a general volunteer mainly in the William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School. During my stay I shared some suggestions regarding child protection, introduced some activities to complete with disabled children such as equipment used in UK for people with hand problems and so on.

I enjoyed staying at CRP but it would be great if a detailed programme could be developed for the general volunteers.

I travelled to Sylhet and loved the beautiful place and wonderful people because this is where my parents are from.



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Aziz's success

Aziz has been working in the Prosthetics and Orthotics department at CRP as a technician for the last 4 years. He lives in Savar with his newly wedded wife and mother. Recently he received a scholarship to attend an 18 months Diploma course in Orthopaedic Shoe Technology in Vietnam which will commence in September, 2017.

Twenty years ago, his life was completely different. He was a 10 years old boy living with his family in Natore, Rajshahi. One sunny day in 1997 he was going to the market by bicycle. Suddenly, his cycle collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction and the truck ran over his legs. He was immediately taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he was left untreated with only a few bandages to cover his wounds. His condition deteriorated as infection spread to his bones. He went to a missionary hospital in order to receive better treatment. There, the doctors suggested amputating both his legs to avoid the risk of cancer in future. Two years after his accident, he received prosthetic legs from an NGO and which lasted for five years. He then had aluminum prosthetic legs made at the missionary hospital. Unfortunately, these only lasted for one and a half year. During this period, he passed his secondary and higher secondary school exams. At the same time, his father left the family and remarried, which made Aziz's life more miserable.

He joined Action on Disability & Development (ADD) as a volunteer and was later appointed as a Field Officer. He worked with ADD for nine years at Natore. When looking for more sustainable options for artificial limbs, he found that one NGO, the Centre for Disability Development (CDD), provides different assistive devices for the disabled. He was just about to buy his third pair of prosthetic legs from CDD when he received an invitation to a conference on Prosthetics and Orthotics at CRP. That was the day he came to know about CRP and its services. He joined CRP as a vocational trainee on the computer application course and ordered his artificial legs from the P&O department in 2013. Following the course, he was appointed as a P&O Technician at CRP. Aziz said that CRP produces the best and most sustainable artificial limbs at a reasonable price.

Three staff from CRP have previously attended this course in Vietnam. Aziz will be the first disabled (bilateral amputee) attendee. He will rejoin CRP after finishing the course.

**For Donation, Zakat & Membership**

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