



This year, CRP celebrated its Open Day on 3rd March, 2017 to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and to increase the participation of them as members of society.

Dr. M Harunur Rashid, Former Director General, Bangla Academy and Former President of Asiatic Society was the Chief Guest of the event. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie Taylor and Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam accompanied him to the fair ground. They then inaugurated the fair and the Open Day together.

CRP's patients, staff members, volunteers, and students were present in the inauguration ceremony. Every department displayed their services in their individual stalls in the fair.

Other activities included a Merry-Go-Round, horse riding for children, fishing, art gallery, entertainment for the children and fun for the whole family. There was also a cultural programme in the afternoon at CRP's Reddaway Hall which included a puppet show, wheelchair dancing, singing, and other entertainment, including a band. The evening finished with a raffle draw.

## Valerie receives honorary reception from Bangladesh Protidin

On 14th March, CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Dr. Valerie Taylor, and Angela Gomes, Executive Director of Bachte Shekha, were honoured at a reception given jointly by Bangladesh Protidin, a daily newspaper, and the Social Islami Bank Limited.

The Chairmen of both companies, Ahmad Akber Sobhan of Bashundhara group, and Major Dr. Md. Rezaul Haque (Retd.), Chairman of SIBL, along with various staff from their organisations were present at the reception, which also celebrated the founding of Bangladesh Protidin eight years ago.

In his speech to Dr. Valerie Taylor, and Angela Gomes, Ahmad Akber Sobhan declared his intention to donate 25 lac taka to both of their organisations, in order to help them continue their work in providing humanitarian services to the disadvantaged.





## Open Day at CRP-Ganakbari



CRP-Ganakbari organized an Open Day 2017 on March 17 at its premises. CRP's Head of Support Services, Md. Shahidur Rahman along with CRP-Ganakbari's Centre Manager, Md. Firoz Salah Uddin inaugurated the event. The trainees of the "Women's Rehabilitation Centre" participated in the fair and displayed some of the handicrafts that they had made. Other activities included a Merry-Go-Round, horse riding for children, entertainment for the children and fun for the whole family. CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, visited the fair in the afternoon. There was also a cultural programme which included dancing, singing, and other entertainment, including a band. The evening finished with a raffle draw.



## SCIDAB's book launch

The Spinal Cord Injuries' Development Association-Bangladesh (SCIDAB) has launched a book on the proper management of spinal cord injury. The book "Active and Independent – A self-care guide to spinal cord injury" was inaugurated by CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam on March 19, 2017 in the conference room. CRP and Turning Point Foundation provided logistical support to SCIDAB regarding the book. Funding was provided by three organizations; AHEAD, a project funded by the Canadian Government at Queens University in Canada, Finland's ABLIS Foundation, and Square Hospitals Ltd.

SCIDAB's General Secretary, Major Md. Zahirul Islam, handed the book over to the Executive Director of CRP, the AHEAD project representative, and other attendees. The translators, editors and supporters of this project were present at the function.





## Refreshment care giver training at CRP



CRP, in collaboration with Vitality-UK, organized a three-day long "Refreshment Care giver training" to 8 spinal cord injured patients along with their carers from March 21-23, 2017. Two officials from Vitality-UK, Lucy Robinson, CEO, and Justin Frishberg, Trustee, provided a six-module training course to the patients and their carers covering spinal cord injury management, health awareness issues, manual handling and employment. One of the goals of the course was to increase the number of trainers who can train SCI patients and their carers during CRP's regular in-house training courses. The regular care-giver courses take place four times a year.



## 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.



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.



## CRP's SCI patients in International Wheelchair Rugby Clinic



The International Wheelchair Rugby Foundation (IWRF) ran a four day development clinic programme in Bangladesh. It began on April 8, 2017 at Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Complex, Bangabandhu Stadium, Dhaka.

The program was initiated by Disability Sports Australia (DSA), and supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFaT). The principal sponsor in Bangladesh was Chowdury Shahabuddin Ahmed in partnership with the Centre for Disability Development (CDD) and Sports for Hope and Independence. A team of ten officials, including a doctor, therapists, a referee coach provided logistical support, whilst ten spinal cord injury patients from the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) took part in the clinic as trainees. Thus, the total number of attendees was 20 from CRP.

The four trainers, Katie Bourke (Australia), Curtis Palmer (Australia), Jon Corson (New Zealand), and Sholto Taylor (New Zealand) are internationally recognized experts in their fields. The four day clinic covered both theoretical and practical training topics ranging from the History of Rugby, Recruitment, Volunteers and Costs to Game Play Theory, Game Management, Introduction to Classification, and Referee Mechanics and Coaching.





CRP's Special Seating Unit (SSU) in collaboration with BHI organized a short certificate training course on "Wheelchair Service Training (Basic Level)" on April 26 to 30, 2017. The aim of the course was to make participants aware of, and implement, the new guidelines developed by WHO, regarding the importance of maintenance and accessibility for wheelchairs in different situations and providing the appropriate wheelchair to a user, in order to make best use of it. Iffat Rahaman (Bristy), Sr. Physiotherapist and In-charge of SSU, who is also a certified trainer of WHO, trained a total of nine therapists on this course. Among the trainees, three were Physiotherapists from Nepal, one Occupational therapist, one Orthotist & Prosthetist from Sri Lanka, two CBR staff and two Speech & Language therapists. The course concluded with the certificate distribution by Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP on 2nd May 2017.

### CRP received 5th HSBC-Daily Star Climate Champions Award

CRP was one of five recipients of the 5th Climate Champions Award to protect nature, given by the HSBC Bank and the Daily Star Newspaper.

CRP was given the award as a result of its initiatives regarding recycling paper and other materials. CRP uses recycled paper to make stationary such as envelopes, visiting cards and file folders. It also uses recycled materials to make furniture such as chairs, tables, toys and therapeutic items for disabled children and patients. Other recycling and environmental friendly initiatives include producing compost from kitchen waste, incinerating medical waste, and recycling waste water through a water treatment plant.

The award was presented by the Environment Minister, Anwar Hossain Manju, at a ceremony held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Dhaka on 29th April, 2017. Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Francois de Maricourt, CEO, HSBC Bangladesh, and Mahub Ur Rahman, Deputy CEO, HSBC Bangladesh, were also present on stage during the award giving.





# NEWS LETTER

March-April  
2017

## Eisha Doi

My name is Eisha Doi and I am 21 years old from UK. I am a physiotherapy student and now in the second year in York St John University. I learnt about CRP following Valerie's visit to our university and decided it would be a perfect place to do my placement.

On 1st March 2017, I arrived at CRP for a ten weeks international placement and worked in the SCI and Neurology unit. It has been great to share British clinical experiences with others and learn the treatment techniques used in Bangladesh.

I am returning with positive experiences though there have been challenges with the heat and language barriers. I have met some amazing people here and have had many memorable experiences including visiting the longest sea beach in the world. I think being at CRP has taught me a lot not only about physiotherapy practice but culture and religion too.



## Kirstie Campbell

I am Kirstie Marce Campbell. I am 22, a second year Physiotherapy student at York St John University, UK. Once Valerie visited our university and her inspirational speech encouraged me to visit CRP and here I am now.

I came to CRP on 1st March, 2017 for a ten weeks placement. During my stay I worked in paediatrics, neurology and the musculoskeletal unit. I have learnt different ways of how physiotherapy is practiced here and also have shared other techniques which are used in the UK.

I enjoyed my time at CRP, meeting new people who do amazing work, but the language barriers and the heat have been very challenging at times. I enjoyed visiting the world's longest sea beach at Cox's Bazar. My visit to CRP and Bangladesh broadened my knowledge regarding culture outside of England and I learnt a lot of other physiotherapy practices which will be useful when I return home.



## Jacob Turner

I am Jacob Turner, a second year Physiotherapy student of York St John University. I am 22 from Leeds, UK. I had attended and was very interested that I could do a placement at CRP, which I signed up for after Valerie had given a lecture at my University which was extremely impressive with all her description of working with spinal cord injury patients.

I came to CRP on 1st March, 2017 and worked in the Neurology and SCI unit during my ten weeks clinical placement here. Mainly I was here to learn from the local physiotherapists and gain experience, working with various patients.

I was overwhelmed with the friendliness of all the staff, patients and carers alike. My experience as a student physiotherapist undertaking a ten week clinical placement is one I will never forget. The kindness, knowledge and support from everyone at CRP made this visit an unforgettable experience.



## Al Amin wants to be independent

Al Amin is a 21 year old from Rajshahi where he lives with his two brothers, two sisters and parents. His father is a farmer and brings in the only income for the family. He was studying Management at Dhaka Tejgaon College.

During a holiday Al-Amin went back home, while riding a motorbike with a friend, he had an accident severely injuring his neck. He was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, where after assessing him doctors decided he needed an operation. But as there was a long waiting list the family after selling a piece of land and getting financial aid from relatives moved him to a private clinic so the operation could happen sooner.

After the operation Al Amin was referred to CRP for rehabilitation. When the multidisciplinary team assessed him, he could not sit unaided, had no muscle power and had developed two pressure sores on his back. During his eleven months stay at CRP, his sores were operated on and he also received physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counseling for his physical and mental health.

The therapists said as a Tetraplegic patient Al Amin has little strength in the upper body but no sensation in the lower body, he can feed himself with a modified spoon, can write a little with a hand splint but needs full support for other activities. He can also sit in a wheelchair unaided but depends on the carer for mobility.

During this long period of the rehabilitation process, his father was with him at CRP, so was unable to work on his farm resulting in a loss of income. CRP and its donors helped Al-Amin to complete his rehabilitation, he is planning to transfer to a college near his village but needs a sponsor to continue his studies. He is intending to do a course on computer application and get a job after finishing his studies.

### For Donation, Zakat & Membership

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Send your Zakat to:

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