



Special Newsletter

2021 is the most awaited year as Bangladesh reached its **50th year** as an independent nation. Fifty years ago, in the face of a brutal massacre by the Pakistani military, the freedom-loving people of this land gave their all to oppose that evil with their righteous courage and succeeded in giving the country a monumental victory. As we celebrate our golden jubilee of independence, we recognise that this privilege that we enjoy is the result of their sacrifice and we salute them for that. Alongside the valiant freedom fighters and all the men and women who sacrificed so much to free us from the oppressive Pakistani regime, we pay our deepest respect to the Father of the Nation, **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur**

Rahman, for his unparalleled role in steering Bangladesh to its brightest moment. Also this year, we celebrate the **101 birth anniversary** of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was also the pioneer to understand the importance of rehabilitation services for the war affected and injured freedom fighters.

Valerie A. Taylor, a British Physiotherapist, established the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (**CRP**) to include the persons with disabilities into the mainstream society of Bangladesh while ensuring equal accessibility to education, health, rehabilitation, employment, information and mobility. It has already been **52 years** that, Valerie A. Taylor dedicated her life to serve the Bangladeshi people with disabilities.

CRP, serving the community for the last **41 years**, now has 12 centres providing rehabilitation services to the people in need across different divisions and districts of Bangladesh. It has also started academic institutions to train the health professionals for meeting the growing need of this service. Bangladesh Government has also passed the Rehabilitation Act in the National Parliament commemorating the importance of the health professionals in the health services, which is a great achievement.

This special edition of CRP's newsletter upholds the joy of celebrating the "**Golden Jubilee**" of Bangladesh's Independence, 101th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Valerie's 52 years in Bangladesh.

Celebrating
50
years
Independence
of
Bangladesh

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Speech by Factory representative during Buddy Training Program

Vocational trainings resumed at CRP

CRP's vocational training institute resumed the Industrial Sewing and Linking Machine Operator Training from January 1, 2021 following the health guidelines during this pandemic situation. After completing 3 months of training, the trainees received certificates on March 21, 2021. In the meantime, on March 10, 2021, a job selection program was organized where representatives from 30 factories interviewed the trainees and confirmed the employment of 59 trainees with disabilities. Also the "Buddy Training" program of Marks & Start Project was held on the same day with the participation of factory representatives. The buddy training program is mainly aimed at those who have completed the training and will join the factory soon.



4th anniversary of CRP-Pabna celebrated

CRP-Pabna Diabetic Samity Centre has celebrated its 4th anniversary on 2nd January 2021.

Through this celebration, the staff of CRP-Pabna was rejuvenated and committed to work diligently for the betterment of CRP and patients in this New Year 2021. Mr. Baby Islam, President of Pabna Diabetic Shamity was the Chief Guest of the program. A large number of medical professionals from Pabna Swasthoseba Hospital also attended.

Turkish Ambassador visited CRP-Chattogram

H E Mr. Mustafa Osman Turan, Honourable Ambassador of Turkey; Dr. Ismail Gundogdu, Coordinator of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA); Mr Salauddin Kashem Khan, Trustee Secretary of AK Khan Foundation and other high officials visited CRP-Chattogram centre on 11 January 2021 to observe CRP's activities. It is important to mention that, on March 22, 2018, TIKA donated therapeutic and gymnasium equipment with computers for vocational training at CRP-Chattogram.



H E Mr. Mustafa Osman with his visiting team talking with the staff of CRP-Chittagong



Valerie inaugurating the training arranged by SCIDAB

Training on production of jute items organized by SCIDAB

From 17th to 19th January 2021, a three-day training on making jute products was organized by the Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association Bangladesh (SCIDAB). The training was arranged in collaboration with Persons with Disabilities Foundation (PDF) and facilitated by Craftvision. Mr. Ibrahim Khalil, Proprietor of Craftvision and the CEO of Alliance for Jute Advancement and Diversification, along with his five team members trained the participants to produce different kinds of jute products. The main objective of this training program was to help people with disabilities to earn money as entrepreneurs and support their families financially. The program was inaugurated by CRP's Founder, Valerie Taylor and the Executive Director, Dr. Mohammad Sohrab Hossain. They praised and encouraged the trainees for this initiative. SCIDAB's President, Farid Uddin Bhuiyan; General Secretary, Anwar Hossain and other members also attended the program. A total of 21 persons with spinal cord injuries participated in the training. The trainers believe that, through this training the persons with disabilities will be able to earn money by producing jute products and selling those across the country.

Marks and Spencer's Country Director visited CRP

Ms. Shwapna Bhowmick, Country Director of Marks & Spencer visited CRP-Savar and Ganakbari on January 20, 2021. She visited the training rooms and talked with the new trainees with disabilities. Marks and Start project staff organized a "winter cake festival" to honour her visit. She also donated an industrial sewing machine to Nadira, the Handicraft Master trainer of CRP, at her request.



Ms. Shwapna Bhowmick handing over the gifts to the trainees



CRP-Sylhet distributing warm clothes

Savar's Mayor visited CRP

The Honourable Mayor of Savar Pourosova Hazi Abdul Gani visited CRP on 27th January, 2021 as he was elected as the Mayor for the second time. CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director, Sohrab Hossain greeted him with flowers and CRP souvenirs. He promised to provide any kind of help he can to CRP.

Photo: Savar Pourosova's Mayor receiving flowers from CRP for winning election

CRP-Sylhet distributed blankets

During this winter, CRP-Sylhet took an initiative to distribute blankets to the poor and persons with disabilities in four upazilas of Sylhet District with the support of Bangladesh Cancer Aid Trust (BANCAT). A total of 300 blankets were distributed in Sylhet Sadar, Fenchuganj, Bishwanath and Osmaninagar from 20th to 23rd January, 2021. Two programs were organised at Osmaninagar and Bishwanath Upazila with the assistance of local Disabled Person's Organizations (DPOs). At Fenchuganj Upazila a small distribution program was organized where Mr. Abu Sayeed, Upazila Social Welfare Officer and Md. Akram Hossain, Upazila Freedom Fighter Commander attended. CRP-Sylhet's Manager, Kamrul Hasan presented CRP activities and the future plans of CRP in Sylhet region.





Patient assesment in mobile clinic

Donation from Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation (PVH) Bangladesh

On 30 January 2021, CRP organized a program to handover wheelchairs, supportive seats and assistive devices to the persons with disabilities of CRP. PVH Foundation Inc. which belongs to an American clothing company donated 5000 USD to CRP to support 50 Persons with Disabilities including children with disabilities which was spent for the above equipment.



PVH team with WMTS children

Besides, on March 3, 2021, PVH Foundation donated 2,000 USD to distribute online teaching materials for the William and Marie Taylor School of CRP. Officials from PVH and CRP attended the program. A cultural program was arranged by the inclusive school where students including children with disabilities participated.

CRP-Chattoogram organized a mobile clinic

On 26th January, 2021, a multi-disciplinary team from CRP-Chattoogram including physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, orthotist and prosthetist, Community Based Rehabilitation worker, supportive seating staff joined a Mobile Clinic organized by Human Rights Review Society (HRRS) Protibondhi Songstha, Feni. Two medical officers from the Upazila Health complex also joined the CRP team. The camp was arranged at the hallroom of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). A total of 154 beneficiaries received services from the camp. Most came from the remote areas of Sonagazi Upazila, Feni. Local government officials, political leaders and representatives from other NGOs appreciated the services while attending the closing session. The Centre Manager of CRP-Chattoogram A K Khan centre presented CRP's activities and also requested for proper referrals of the people with disabilities. The host organization provided transportation, accommodation, food, venue, decoration and announcement for informing people of the mobile camp. The mobile camp was very succesful and the centre is receiving many patients from that area.



PVH team handing over the iPads to CRP

TOT training on Neuro Developmental Disability by MAITS

A team from CRP has participated in the Phase-1, TOT training on Neuro Developmental Disability (NDD) in collaboration with MAITS virtually from 1st February to 22nd February, 2021. A total of 15 health professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists were trained as master trainers.



Training on Basic Preventative Strategies of COVID-19 spread for Persons with Disabilities

CRP arranged a three days training 20th, 21st and 23rd December, 2020 on "Basic Preventative Strategies of COVID-19 spread for Persons with Disabilities (Spinal Cord Injury and Stroke)". This training program was conducted by a multidisciplinary team including Fatema Tuj Johra Iris, Clinical Occupational therapist; Dr. Dorine van Ravensberg, Human movement Scientist; Dr Kamal Ahamed, Public Health expert; Prof. Dr. Mahmudul Hoque, Professor of Community Medicine; Faruq Ibn Sadeq, Physiotherapist, Bangladesh Navy; Aklima Farhana, Clinical Dietitian, Ibrahim General Hospital, Diabetic Association. The members outside CRP joined the training virtually. The main objective of this training program is to develop future trainers who will provide training and education to the persons with disabilities through self-help groups (small focus group session and online session for community patients) for improving their knowledge regarding basic preventive measures of COVID-19 spread. A total of 15 participants



One SCI patient conducting training

including SCI patients, stroke patients, SCIDAB members and staff with disabilities attended the training. As continuation of the training program self-help group leaders within the patients and staff recently conducted a two days training with 20 spinal cord injury patients on 31st January and 1st February, 2021 under the supervision of the trainers of "Basic Preventative Strategies of COVID-19 spread for Persons with Disabilities (Spinal Cord Injury and Stroke)".



Valerie's Birthday Celebration

On 8 February 2021, CRP's Founder Valerie Taylor's 77th birthday was celebrated by CRP family, where the CRP staff and patients were present and wished her well. A 30 pound cake was sponsored by Digitech, a company supplying medical equipment to CRP. To celebrate the day a wheelchair tournament was also organized by SCIDAB.



Training and mobile health camp organized by Prosthetics & Orthotics (P&O) Department

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized a training on "Ischium Containment Sockets (ICS) for Professionals" from 2-18 February, 2021. A total of 11 professionals from the Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) Department participated in the training.

The P&O Department organized two mobile health camps at CRP-Sylhet and CRP-Mymensingh respectively in January and February. A total of 25 patients were assessed through these camps.

CRP participated in NASPD's Annual Sports Competition

CRP joined the sports competition organized by the National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability (NASPD). The event was held on 18th February 2021 at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex. A total of 27 participants with disabilities participated in 18 sports events and received 54 prizes.

ICRC Officials Visited CRP

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials visited CRP on 23rd February, 2021. The officials included Katja Elena LORENZ, Head of Delegation; David Montes, Head of Operations; Jonas Verswyvel, Head of Support along with the Physical Rehabilitation Programs team. CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director Sohrab Hossain greeted them and handed over the souvenirs.

PEER Support Sales Centre

CRP has been practicing PEER Support activities over time by the name of PEER counselling. But PEER Support got its formal recognition in 2014 through Access to Health and Education for all Children and Youth with Disabilities (AHEAD) in Bangladesh (2012-2017) project. The mother group of the PEER Support program has been working to improve the condition of the families who have children with disabilities.



PEER support mother's group with

For a long time, they have been trying to have a space for their own in which they can arrange for Income Generating Activities for the mothers of children with disabilities. But due to lack of necessary space and capital it was not possible. With the cordial support of CRP's Founder, Valerie Taylor, PEER Support Mothers group have started PEER Support Sales Centre inside CRP. The centre was inaugurated by Valerie Taylor on February 20, 2021. The mothers have an access to the sales centre to display and sell their hand-made products including different foods, snacks, cloths etc. Also, there is a tailoring corner where mothers can sew cloths of their own and also on-order basis. Recently, they have started laundry service inside CRP which also have home delivery system.

Bangabandhu 100th Birthday Badminton Tournament

A team of eight persons with disabilities from CRP participated in Bangabandhu 100th Birthday Badminton Tournament organised by the National Badminton Federation. It was held on 1st March 2021 at the Saheed Taizuddin Indoor Stadium. From CRP's Rehabilitation Wing, Mahbub Bin Mohiuddin, Asst. Fitness and Recreation Activities Trainer and Kazi Billal, Peer Counsellor won the champion's and runner's up trophy respectively in the wheelchair category.



Participants with guests at the event



CRP observes the International Women's Day 2021

On 8 March 2021, CRP observed the International Women's Day with a lot of interest and eagerness at the premises of CRP-Savar. This year the theme was "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID 19 World". So this year an open photography competition on "Life and work of Women" in two categories – mobile and camera, was organized by CRP to celebrate the day. The main goal of this event was to challenge inequality and women's role to combat COVID 19. CRP organized different events including handicraft exhibitions, discussions, sports competitions and prize giving ceremony to celebrate the day. CRP's founder, Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director, Dr. Mohammad Sohrab Hossain were present as special guests at the event. Two women with disabilities shared their lives' struggle with the audience. The program was organized by the Harmonization, Empowerment and Accountability for the Persons with Disabilities (HEAR) project. Most of the CRP- sub centres across the country also observed the day.

Also to mark this special day, CRP's Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team participated in a friendly tournament in the Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Complex in Dhaka, organized by the National Paralympic Committee of Bangladesh and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



CRP's Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team at Sheikh Russel Roller Skating Complex

Photo: Prothomalo

CRP-Barishal joined a mobile camp

CRP-Barishal, Carsa Foundation Centre joined a mobile camp arranged by CARITAS at Raypasa, Korapur Union Parishad office on 10th March, 2021. A total of 82 persons with disabilities were assessed, among them 12 needed prosthetics and orthotics devices and 4 needed supportive seats. All the patients were referred to CRP-Barishal centre to avail the necessary services.



CRP-Barishal team in the health camp

WMTS residential students outing to the National Zoo

William and Marie Taylor School of CRP arranged an outing for the children with disabilities residing at the hostel. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the children were stuck in their hostel for a long time as the education institutions have been closed since last year. So for a change they were taken to the national zoo as they had never been there. A team of 42 people including 21 children visited the zoo on 16th March, 2021. They enjoyed seeing different animals and birds such as deer, monkey, tigers, lions, peacocks, ostrich, emu, zebra, giraffe, elephant, tortoise and many more. Their visit ended with a short cultural program and lunch. The children enjoyed their outing a lot.



MRS 5th batch of BHPI posing for photo

Farewell program of 5th Batch M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science (MRS) Students

A total of 27 students of 5th Batch M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science (MRS) studied with scholarships provided by the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and completed all the requirements and appeared at the Part II (final) M.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science Examination held in March 2021 (from 8th March to 16th March 2021). The students were from the following SAARC Member States: Nepal (10), Bangladesh (9), Afghanistan (5), Sri Lanka (1), India (1) and Bhutan (1). CRP-BHPI organized a farewell ceremony on 18th March 2021 for the students. CRP's Founder and Executive Director along with faculty members and other staff from BHPI attended the program.



Participants with guests at the event



An SCI patient receiving certificate upon completion of the training

Caregiver Training: Hope for Independence

Aiming to ensure functional independence, increase life expectancy and social inclusion of people with spinal cord injuries (SCI), VITALITY UK (Vital Change for SCI in Developing Countries) started caregiver training for people with SCI at CRP in 2012. Since then CRP's caregiver training has covered three basic topics on health awareness, manual handling and empowerment of 365 post-discharge patients with SCI and caregivers. A total of 24 batches completed the training where each batch included 8 people with SCI and 8 caregivers. The 24th batch of caregivers training consisted of 5 people with traumatic tetraplegia and 3 traumatic paraplegics along with their caregivers attended the 5 days training in March, 2021.

CRP's Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Department has created 3 master trainers from post-discharge patients with SCI, who are Sazal, Shafiqul Islam, and Nazrul. Both Nazrul and Sazal later became security guards in the Administration Department of CRP and Shafiq started a small business in his community. The trainings were facilitated by the CBR department and sponsored by VITALITY UK (Vital Change for SCI in Developing Countries) and CRP.



Rajshahi City Corporation's Mayor visited CRP

The honourable Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation, A. H. M. Khairuzzaman Liton visited the headquarters of CRP on 24th March, 2021. CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Valerie Taylor greeted him along with his wife. After a short presentation on CRP's activities and refreshments, they went to look around the activities within CRP premises. Valerie Taylor handed them souvenirs while the Mayor handed over two beautiful flower bouquets to Valerie.



Valerie receiving the flower bouquet from the guests

Member of Parliament visited CRP-Chattoqram

Moslem Uddin Ahmad, Honourable Member of the Parliament from Chittagong-8 has visited CRP-Chattoqram on March 24, 2021 to visit CRP services. He visited the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) departments. He also talked to the patients to get their opinion and update about their improvement. The news of his visit was covered by an online news portal Banglanews24.

Photo: Receiving Moslem Uddin Ahmad, MP by client of centre

Cultural Evening for Persons with Disabilities

A cultural evening was organized at CRP Reddaway Hall on March 24, 2021 by Harmonization, Empowerment and Accountability for the Persons with Disabilities (HEAR) Project in which Persons with Disabilities performed in different cultural acts. The theme of the event was "Ensuring Active Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Cultural Activities". A total of seven participants performed in different events including singing, dancing and recitation. The Founder and Coordinator of CRP, Valerie A. Taylor thanked every participant for their outstanding performance in spite of having different disabilities and she suggested to continue such events regularly to inspire them in a more meaningful way.



Persons with disabilities performing in the programme

Marathon for Persons with Disabilities at CRP

On March 27, 2021, a marathon was organized by Run Bangla International at CRP where 30 persons with disabilities, 20 male and 10 female, participated. This event was organized on the occasion of Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of Independence. Each participant completed 300 metre distance on a wheelchair. It was a competition between male and female groups and each group had two winners and two runners-up. Kazi Billal, CRP's Peer Counsellor from the Rehabilitation Wing, covered the 300 metre distance in the shortest time which was 1.49 minutes. Officials from Run Bangla International handed over the prizes to the winners and promised to collaborate in future for more events.



Female staff of CRP participating in the

CRP-Rajshahi joined the Development Fair

On 27th and 28th March, CRP- Rajshahi, Afsar Hossain Centre joined the Development Fair organised by the district administration to celebrate the 50 years of Bangladesh's Independence. The fair represented the developmental activities of government and non-government organizations. CRP-Rajshahi also highlighted the activities of the centre and its services for the persons with disabilities. Leaflets on Corona Virus prevention were also distributed by the centre at the fair. CRP also received a certificate of participation from the Deputy Commissioner's office.



CRP staff orienting visitors about its services

CRP-Barishal joined the Development Fair

CRP-Barisal, CARSA Foundation Centre joined a two days Development Fair in March, 2021 arranged by the Deputy Commissioner(DC), Barishal. Approximately 200 organizations including government, non-government, NGOs and private organization participated in the fair presenting their activities in different stalls. CRP-Barishal highlighted their services especially promoting the newly introduced Prosthetics and Orthotics service. Through this fair many people came to know about the services offered in CRP-Barishal. The health professionals provided free consultancy services and referred 25 patients to the centre.



CRP staff presenting CRP activities

Doa-Mahfil arranged by CRP's Rehabilitation Wing

CRP's Rehabilitation Wing organized a Doa Mahfil (prayer) on the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, martyrs of liberation war 71 and Shab-e-Barat on 29th March, 2021. A total of 250 people including CRP staff, patients and their caregiver attended the program.



CRP staff participating in doa-mahfil

Community-Based Rehabilitation Placement (CBR), Department of Occupational Therapy, BHPI

Community-Based Rehabilitation Placement (CBR) is a mandatory component of the course curriculum for the third-year students of the Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI). The program is designed to meet different objectives such as identifying the person with disabilities (PWD) and demonstrating the role of occupational therapy (OT) in the community.

Winter clothing donation

L'Usine Fashion Limited donated 100 pieces of winter clothes to vocational trainees with disabilities. Upon requesting Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Senior Social Compliance Manager of Marks and Spencer, this donation was arranged and the trainees with disabilities were greatly benefitted.



Occupational therapy students showing their group activities

This year, the CBR placement was held between 08.03.2021 to 04.04.2021 in Dinajpur and Natore by following the COVID-19 hygiene rules. Among the 41 students, 20 worked in Dinajpur and 21 in Natore with the supervision of two supervisors at each place. They surveyed 26 villages in these districts and identified 310 PWDs, particularly 77 in Dinajpur and 233 in Natore. They also provided 386 OT sessions to the PWD to ensure occupational engagement and enhance their quality of life. The common conditions were Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Spine deformity, Down's Syndrome, Stroke, Intellectual Disabilities, Leg Length Discrepancy etc.

Additionally, they conducted nine court-yard meetings, accessibility assessments and consultation in school and advocacy meeting with an NGO to create OT post. An Individualised Educational Plan (IEP) focusing the OT was provided to students with disabilities. One of the major highlights was making reasonable accommodation by using local resources such as splint, adaptive tools, special chair, ramp, low-trolley, pre-writing tools, toilet modification, grab rail, parallel bar, play mat, modified pen, sensory tools, modified shoe, tube-well and table, cognitive training equipment and provided them access to information. Additionally, patients were referred to the CRP.

Through these experiences, students enhanced an ability to develop clinical reasoning skills. They learnt to create a professional identity, adapt to the existing community setting, build resilience into them, and develop an understanding of the community diversity, which teaches them to respect the culture, beliefs, and values.

Activities of Training and Development

Training and Development (T&D) Section of CRP completed 13 training sessions during the last three months. CRP employees also joined 5 outside training programs organised by different local and international organizations. Customer Care & Communication, Personality Development, Basic Preventative Strategies of COVID-19 Spread for Persons with Disabilities, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL), Problem Solving Techniques, Fire Fighting, Emotional Intelligence at the Workplace were arranged internally. Basic Computer Operating, Political Economy, Gender Mainstreaming and Audit, Practical sessions for ICS Training, Training of Master Trainers on Working with Children with Neuro Developmental Disorder and a Seminar on the Role of Social Protection in Staffing for the People with Disabilities were arranged by external sources. In this pandemic situation over the world, T&D Section arranged an awareness session of 5 hours duration especially on Preventative Strategies of COVID-19 Spread for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Department. As a part of CRP's safety programs two firefighting training sessions were held practically for CRP's staff including PWDs. The Admin Officer of CRP facilitated these sessions. The three days regular Orientation Program for new staff members was held in February 2021. This aims to share the activities of CRP while visiting different departments and CRP-Ganakbari centre.

Rehabilitation services of the conjoined twins at CRP-Mirpur

The birth of conjoined twins occurs once in every 50,000 births. Attachment at the skull (craniopagus malformation) is very rare and seen in only 2% to 6% of all cases of conjoined twins, which makes the incidence of craniopagus twins 1 in 2.5 million births.

Conjoined twins, Rabeya and Rukaiya were born in Pabna in 2017 to a couple who are school teachers. After 48 hours long surgery by an expert team from Bangladesh and Hungary, the twins were separated in 2019 at Dhaka CMH. After separation Rabeya was diagnosed as a right side hemiplegic and Rukaiya with global developmental delay. CRP's multi-disciplinary team including physiotherapist, occupational therapist and speech and language therapist, prosthetist and orthotist and supportive seat specialist started their service in October, 2019 when the twins became 3 years old.

Rabeya had a mild neurological problem and therefore, she started receiving physiotherapy and occupational therapy services and gradually, her condition improved a lot including normal gait pattern, using right hand for feeding and writing. Her mother is following the advice at home for her further progress.

On the other hand, Rukaiya had severe neurological difficulties. According to her condition, CRP provided physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy along with the required assistive devices. After six months of treatment Rukaiya had better improvement including sensory response, visual response, her joint stiffness reduced and finally oral feeding became possible for her. Still she needs intensive therapy, so she is continuing her rehabilitation services from CRP-Mirpur to improve her quality of life.

Photo: International multidisciplinary team member (CRP, CMH and Hungary team)



From left - Rabeya and Rukaiya

A newly introduced hoist at CRP

Hoist is an assistive device used to transfer persons from one place to another. CRP received a hoist from the UK from Tori Foundation to help the health professionals at the inpatients' and outpatients' services. Supportive Seating Unit organized a training session to orient the professionals of its usage and importance. Health professionals including ward assistants, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists attended the training session. After a short introduction about the device, a practical demonstration was presented to the attendees. The main focus of this training was to ease the works of the professionals while transferring heavier patients from the bed to wheelchair or vice versa. The hoist can also be used by the professionals to practice static sitting of their patients. The professionals from the spinal cord injury inpatient unit has been using the hoist and soon it will be initiated in Neurology Unit of CRP to transfer the stroke, Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and head injury patients.

Photo: Transferring patient with the help of hoist



CASE STORY



Habibur Rahman's Story

Twenty-three years old, Md. Habibur Rahman came from a destitute family from a village of Mymensingh district. He is a person with a physical disability (Adult Cerebral Palsy). From his early age, he grew up with contempt from neighbors and relatives. He has elderly parents and a sister at his home who is also physically disabled (Adult Cerebral Palsy). She is confined to her bed all the time.

Due to his financial difficulties and disability, he could not study beyond the 5th grade. Habibur is the only earning member of his family. He worked in a tea stall. From there he used to earn 1500 taka per month. His fragile father also worked occasionally as a day laborer. Their family lives with great difficulty. He came to CRP based on the advice of a disabled brother who was trained by CRP vocational training institute. Habibur received training from January to March session as a Linking operator. After completing the training, he joined as an operator at Probriddhi Apparels Ltd with the help of the Inclusive Job Centre of CRP.

Rakib Michael Biswas's Story

Eighteen years old, Rakib Michael Biswas came from a Korean safe home named "kkottongnae Bangladesh" of Gazipur district. In his early childhood, his parents were separated. His mother used to beg to run her family.

As a teenager, he was sent to Dhaka to work as a housecleaner. Rakib was tortured in the house where he worked, unable to bear it he fled from the house. Since then, he had been living a nomadic life in Kamlapur railway station area. After a few days, he was injured in a train accident and lost his right leg and two toes of his left leg.

The local pedestrians rescued him from the railway line in an unconscious state and sent him to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) for treatment. After the treatment, the hospital authority could not identify where he had come from. Then a Social Service Officer of that hospital sent him to "Kkottongnae Bangladesh" for his rehabilitation. Rakib came to CRP in 2013 to have his prosthetic leg and came to know about CRP's vocational training institute. When Rakib turned 18 he was referred to CRP for training, employment and rehabilitation.

Rakib was admitted to the CRP Vocational Training Institute in the January-June 2020 session for the Dress Making and Tailoring course. After a long break due to Covid-19 his training activities resumed from January 5, 2021. Since his parents have no address, he needed a job at the end of the training. After completing vocational training, he got the opportunity to work as an operator at Executive Greentex Limited with the help of the Inclusive Job Centre of CRP.





Mafiqul Islam's Story

My name is Mafiqul Islam. I am 40 years old and I live with my wife and two children in Rajshahi. I am the only earning member in my family and I work as an Officer in the Grameen Bank.

A very unfortunate event occurred to me on July 26, 2020. I was returning home after finishing office on my motorbike in the evening. It was raining a little and there were no street lights suddenly an auto rickshaw appeared and I tried but could not control my bike. I slipped and became unconscious on the spot. The people nearby immediately took me to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. My first amputation was a partial foot amputation. After that, it turned into gangrene. I went to Dhaka for better treatment and the doctors there decided to do a Trans-tibial amputation on 15th August, 2020.

Before coming to CRP, I was using axillary crutches for mobility. I could not go to office and lost my job. A very helpless life began. I became so frustrated that it seemed I will never be able to lead a normal life again.

After coming to CRP-Rajshahi on 2nd January, 2021, I have received physiotherapy for regaining my muscle power and my artificial limb from Prosthetics and Orthotics Department. I can move independently with my prosthetic leg now which is easy and comfortable for me. I have resumed my previous job and started supporting my family again.



Aladdin's Story

Md. Aladdin lives in Noakhali with his small family consisting of a daughter and his wife. He was a truck driver. In September 2020, while driving the truck he met an accident. He lost his left leg and had a fracture on his right leg, so he was not able to walk with crutches. In February 2021, he came to CRP. The Multi-Disciplinary Team here assessed him and suggested to provide a left trans-tibial prosthesis and a right patellar tendon bearing orthotic device. After 3 weeks of rehabilitation under the supervision of a physiotherapist and prosthetist and orthotist now he can walk independently. Moreover, due to the trauma he does not want to return to his previous job instead he is trying to start his own business.



Labib's Story

Labib is a 15 months old baby who lives with his parents in Barigram, Natore District. His father is the only earning member of his family. As Labib was growing up, his parents noticed that he had gaps in regular development. In this situation, his parents brought him to CRP-Pabna for treatment. Labib received physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and other services for 8 months and still continuing these. His condition is improving gradually and his mother is going to keep up his exercises regularly at home.

কেন্দ্রীয় পি হেড অফিস CRP HEAD OFFICE

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