

# NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY

2017



## Celebrating Saraswati Puja at CRP

Staff and Students of CRP Nursing College, Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI), Vocational Training Institute and CRP celebrated the holy Saraswati Puja in the CRP premises on 1st March, 2017. Puja started at 10 am and lasted until 12.30 pm. In Hinduism Saraswati is the Goddess of Education. The Hindu staff and students gave their offerings to their Goddess. Finally they distributed their "Prasad", a food offering. In the evening a cultural programme was held at CRP Reddaway Hall which was enjoyed by all who attended.

## Children's book "Haser Paye Ghuri" (Kite on Duck's Foot) launched at CRP-Savar

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) organized a book launching ceremony in its Reddaway Hall on 4th February, 2017. Renowned children's author Nazia Zabin's "Haser Paye Ghuri" (Kite on Duck's Foot) is a story about a disabled child. This has been published by the Ignite Publications and was launched at CRP-Savar. Sporsho Braille Publications was the sponsor of the event.

The ceremony began with a cultural performance of the special children of CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School at 11 am. Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP was the Chief Guest of honour. In addition, Dr. Shamim Matin Chowdhury, Children's Psychiatrist and Chairman of Beautiful Mind School; Rubaba Dowla, Founder and Managing Director- Plus One and Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP attended as Special Guests. Other distinguished guests were Dr. Forhad Anowar, Professor, IBA, Dhaka University; Dalia Nowshin, Freedom Fighter and their families and friends.

The programme started with a welcome speech of Md. Shafiq-ul Islam greeting the guests. Then the special guests and the writer delivered their speeches and they all inaugurated the book together. After this, Valerie praised Nazia Zabin's work and thanked all the guests for sharing such a wonderful event with CRP's disabled patients, children and students. The writer then distributed copies of her book among the children as a gift. The programme ended with a guest sponsored lunch for the children and disabled patients of CRP.





## Orientation Programme of BHPI and Nursing College

Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) and Nursing College of CRP organised an orientation programme for the newly enrolled students on February 5, 2017. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie Taylor was the Chief Guest of the function. Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP and other Heads of department attended the programme. The Head of Education and Principal of BHPI Md. Nasirul Islam chaired the programme. All the teachers, new students, their parents and staff of BHPI and Nursing College were present. Some students, along with their parents shared their experiences of being at CRP.

## WMTS Annual Sports Competition 2017

CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School arranged the annual sports competition and prize giving ceremony on 6th February, 2017. The sports day was inaugurated in the morning by Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP. A total of 291 students, including 80 children with disabilities (CWD), participated in 36 sports events. There were five combined sports events where able bodied and disabled children competed together. Among the students with special needs, 18 received 1st prize, 17 received 2nd prize and 17 received 3rd prize.

At the end of the day, a prize giving ceremony was held in the basketball ground. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Md. Nasirul Islam, Head of Education & Principal, BHPI, and Md. Shahidur Rahman, Head of Support Services, were present. The programme concluded with speeches by the guests and a vote of thanks by Md. Abdullah Al Zubayer, Principal, WMTS.



## Valerie's birthday celebrated at CRP

On 8th February, 2017 all staff and students celebrated CRP's Founder and Coordinator Valerie Taylor's birthday in its Reddaway Hall. Children from CRP's Special Education Unit (SENU) of William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School greeted her with flowers and all staff congratulated her on her birthday. Then she cut a birthday cake with the children, and thanked everyone for her birthday surprise. The cake was distributed among the patients and children at CRP.



#### BNF Donation Programme

On 19th February, 2017 CRP organised a donation programme for Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF) funded project- "Treatment and rehabilitation support for paralysed patients" running at CRP. They supported four SCI patients of CRP by donating 2 wheelchairs, a sewing machine and providing grocery items for setting up a shop. This donation programme was held in CRP's Reddaway Hall. BNF's Managing Director, Chandra Nath Basak handed over the donations to the SCI patients who received vocational training at CRP. Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director; Md. Anowar Hossain, Head of Physiotherapy Department; Ramesh Chandra Halder, Vocational Training Coordinator, and Mahedul Islam, Fund Raising and Development Officer, were also present from CRP. Other staff and patients of CRP also attended the function.



#### Arham's exhibition proceeds handed over to CRP

On 20th February, 2017 Sculptor/artist Arham ul Huq Chowdhury, Mr. Bruno Plasse, Director, Alliance Francaise, Mr. Ark Reepon, Art Agent, ARTCON handed over a cheque to Valerie Taylor, Founder & Coordinator, CRP. This cheque was the proceeds of the fund raising solo scrap metal sculpture exhibition titled "Hard Emotions" held from 23rd September to 8th October 2016 at the Alliance Francaise Dhaka.

All the sculptures were made with scrap metal from the left-overs of the mobility aids workshop of CRP in Savar.

#### International Mother Language Day 2017

At present, 191 countries across the world observe International Mother Language day on 21st February. The Bengalis are the only people who sacrificed lives in order to defend their mother tongue. Like every year CRP observed this day in its premises. The day started with the morning rally and with offering flowers to the martyrs of the language movement. Then a short cultural programme was arranged by the teachers of the school. All students participated in drawing, recitation, singing, speech and dancing.

Students from BHPI, CRP Nursing College, CRP's Madhab Memorial Vocational Training Institute and in-patients with spinal injury also joined the morning rally and enjoyed the cultural programme.



### WMTS Annual Picnic 2017

As a part of recreational activities, CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School organised its annual picnic at Spondon, a large, green, well secured picnic spot with a big play ground near Savar.

On 26th February, 2017 students, parents, therapists and teachers left for the event at 7 am. Students were divided in several groups. All wheelchair users and their assistive devices were taken to the picnic spot first. The students were very excited to reach the destination. All students kept singing in the bus till they reached the venue. After reaching there, all students had their breakfast and then toured the place in small groups. House mothers, support assistants, therapists and all teachers were responsible for taking care of the special children. Everyone was busy in taking photos, roaming around and playing different types of games. At 1.00 pm the parents and children had their lunch. After that, they sang songs, danced and recited poems. They came back to the school by bus safely in the afternoon and had their snacks. The parents and students were very delighted and grateful to have had such a wonderful picnic.



### First short certificate course in BHPI

CRP's Special Seating Unit (SSU) in collaboration with BHPI organized a short certificate training course on "Wheelchair Service Training (Basic Level)" from February 25th to 28th, 2017, which was the first short course offered by BHPI.

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 nine therapists on this course. Among the trainees, five were physiotherapists and four were occupational therapists. The course was inaugurated by Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP on 25th February and concluded with the certificate distribution by Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP on 28th February.



## Nahid Hasan wants to continue his studies

Nahid Hasan, who is aged only 17 years, lives in Narayanganj. He is a student and just passed S.S.C exams. He is the second child of his parents. His father is a shopkeeper and faces much hardship to maintain his family. In early June last year, Nahid fell from a coconut tree. He regained his consciousness when his parents were trying to make him sit at home as they thought nothing happened to him. Nahid was shouting as he could feel severe pain in his legs. He was kept lying in bed at home for one month. Then he had an MRI and came to CRP at his aunt's suggestion. CRP's multidisciplinary team including doctors and therapists assessed Nahid and admitted him to CRP. He had two pressure sores developed on his back. One of them needed plastic surgery and the other one healed by regular dressing. He lay on a long trolley for his mobility and was given a wheelchair only three months ago. He received physiotherapy and occupational therapy for regaining his muscle power and learning his daily tasks sitting in a wheelchair. CRP's counselor counseled him to help face the results of such an accident at this young age. Although paraplegic for the rest of his life, his therapists felt confident that now Nahid can do all advanced activities and can perform daily tasks efficiently. He is very functional and absolutely ready to return to his community.

Nahid is very upset with the thought of leaving CRP. He has new friends here and feels like leaving his new family. He has received shop management training from CRP's Madhob Memorial Vocational Training Institute. He is planning to help his father in his shop and also continue his studies. With the support of generous donors of CRP, Nahid will be able to continue his studies successfully.



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