

# NEWSLETTER

October  
November  
December  
2020

"SERVICE TO SUFFERERS  
IS  
SERVICE TO GOD"



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## World Cerebral Palsy Day observed at CRP

World CP Day is an opportunity for the whole world to come together to recognize and celebrate the 17 million people around the world living with cerebral palsy. With the theme, “Make Your Mark”, Paediatric Department of CRP-Savar celebrated this day through a webinar and an art competition on 6th October, 2020. An opening speech was given by Hosneara Perveen, Head of Paediatric Department, CRP-Savar. One of the special guests Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Deputy Minister of Education, People’s Republic of Bangladesh talked about the accessible education facilities for children with Cerebral Palsy. Another special guest, Prof. Dr. Shaheen Akter, Head of Paediatric Neurology Dept. and Director of IPNA, BSMMU, Dhaka talked about the early detection, early referral and early management of Cerebral Palsy. Valerie Ann Taylor, Founder and Coordination of CRP and Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP also joined the programme. Lastly, Jahanara Begum, mother of a CP child shared the barriers and challenges in every aspect of their lives.



*A child participating in art competition*



*Prize giving on CP Day*



*Patients selling foods to the staff*



*Patients and staff of Mental Health Day Centre*

## World Mental Health Day observed at CRP

The “Occupational Therapy Day Centre for People with Mental Health Needs” of CRP celebrated the world mental health day on 10th October 2020 and the theme was “Mental Health for All, Greater Investment, Greater Access, Everyone, Everywhere”. The Day was celebrated in a different way this year. The patients receiving cooking training sold different delicious homemade foods among the staff of CRP-Ganakbari. The day centre also arranged a brief mental health awareness discussion and cultural program with the patients, caregivers and staff. Other sub centres of CRP across the country also observed the day accordingly.



*Patients washing hands*

## Hand washing Campaign at CRP

CRP observed the Global Hand washing Day on 15th October 2020. The theme this year was "Hand Hygiene for all". Hand hygiene is a great way to prevent infections and CRP educates people in wheelchairs and other disabilities about affordable, accessible and inclusive ways of washing hands. Hand washing with soap and water is one of the best steps we can take to avoid sickness and spreading germs to others.

## Webiner - A day centre for people with mental health needs: A model care of Bangladesh

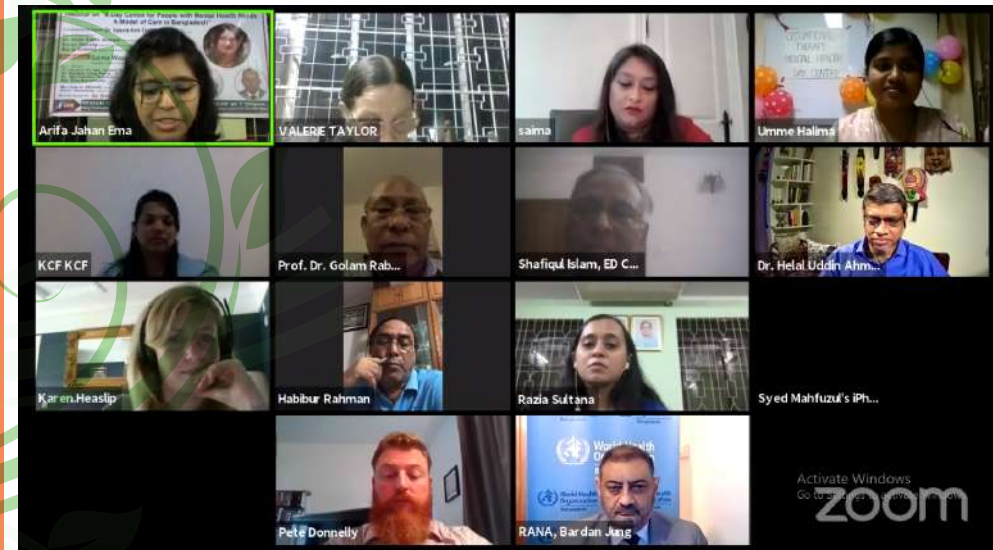
To mark the World Mental Health Day, CRP arranged a webinar on "A day centre for people with mental health needs: A model care of Bangladesh" on 18th of October 2020.

CRP has been working on mental health since 2014, providing occupational therapy into several Mental Hospitals of Bangladesh. In 2018 CRP established a daycare centre for people with mental health needs with the collaboration of Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (KCF) at CRP-Ganakbari, Ashuila, Dhaka.

The webinar was chaired by Dr. Valeria Ann Taylor, Founder and Coordinator of CRP. The Chief Guest of the webinar was Saima Wazed Hossain, Chairperson, Bangladesh National Advisory Committee of Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorder. CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiqul Islam started the program with a welcome speech.

As Special Guests there were professor Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani, Chairman of Neuro Developmental Disability Trust; Rita Bonomally, Program Manager of South East Asia, Kadoorie Charitable Foundation HongKong; Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative of Bangladesh; Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Line Director, Non-Communicable diseases centre DGHS. Three key presenters, Dr. Helal uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor of National Institute of Mental Health; Karen Heaslip, Occupational Therapist from Ireland and Razia Sultana, Project Coordinator of the Occupational Therapy Day Centre for People with Mental Health Needs of CRP presented their thoughts and works.

The Chief Guest Saima Wazed Hossain appreciated the contribution of CRP in the rehabilitation sector of Bangladesh. She told, mental health should be well treated. She pointed mental health services to be very important towards achieving SDGs. She also said how the mental health care service can be provided in the low resourced and developing counties including Bangladesh. Ms. Wazed asked for everyone's collaboration, not competition and added there are no social and political barriers as everyone is concerned and she encouraged to overcome the challenges of providing standard mental health, rehabilitation and therapy services.



*Guests speaking at the webinar including Saima Wazed Hossain*



## CRP Observed Road Safety Day

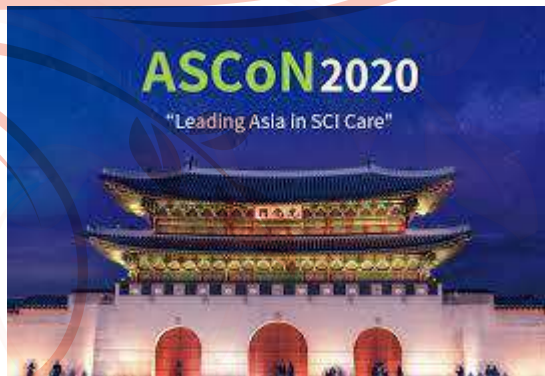
CRP observed the National Road Safety Day with the several arrangements and dignity on 22nd October 2020 at its headquarter Savar with the support of Faraz Hossain Foundation.

CRP's statistics shows 20% of Spinal Cord Injured patient of CRP are injured by road accident. The main theme of the programme was "Let's make the roads safe". The activities to observe the day included distribution of awareness leaflets at the Dhaka-Aricha highway, an art competition for school children and a webinar on "Road Safety and our responsibilities".

The guests who attended the webinar were Ilias Kanchan, Founder and Chairman of Nirapad Sharak Chai; Jon Moussally, Primary Founder of TraumaLink; Arup Saha, Director of Operations of TraumaLink; Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP and Valerie Taylor, Founder & Coordinator of CRP. The guests discussed different issues about road safety.



*Wheelchair Basketball Tournament & Art Competition to observe Road Safety Day*



*ASCoN 2020 poster*



*Award Giving of the conference*

## 19th ASCoN Conference

The 19th International Asian Spinal Cord Network (ASCoN) Conference was held on 22nd and 23rd October, 2020 at Seoul, South Korea. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year's ASCoN conference was held through hybrid media. While all international participants joined through online platform Korean residents could join the conference physically maintaining proper safety measures. It is a great place for the health professionals working for the people with spinal cord injury, spinal cord injury survivors associations, experts, researchers to widen the network, share knowledge and expertise.

From CRP, 4 participants attended the ASCoN this year online and got the opportunity for three oral presentations, and a poster presentation. CRP made a milestone this year winning the prestigious best oral presentation and one of the top five posters. K M Amran Hossain, the lecturer of BHPI has been awarded the best oral presenter for the paper "Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of People living with SCI towards COVID-19 and their Psychological State during In-patient Rehabilitation in Bangladesh" principally authored by Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Senior Consultant and Head of Physiotherapy. This team also won 1000 GBP as a grant for future research programs. Md. Nazmul Hassan, Clinical Physiotherapist was recognized as one of the best five posters titled "Health-Related Quality of Life of Primary Caregivers of Persons with Tetraplegia attending at a Specialized Rehabilitation Center". The other two professionals who presented their papers were Md. Shakhawat Hossain, Senior Clinical Occupational Therapist and Fatema Iris, Clinical Occupational Therapist. Moreover, the Secretary General of Spinal Cord Injuries Development Association of Bangladesh (SCIDAB) - a collaborative effort of CRP, Md. Anwar Hossain has also presented their activities in the conference. Dr. Valerie A Taylor congratulated all the participants and wished them success in future.





Mask distribution to the patients



Roundtable discussion



Rally to celebrate OT Day

The Occupational Therapy Department of CRP observed the International Occupational Therapy Day 2020 with the theme “Reimagine doing” on 27th October 2020. The professionals arranged different events to make people aware of the occupational therapy services, its need and benefits.

The events were roundtable discussion, OT day symbolic mask distribution, talk shows on TV and radio and social media awareness. “Occupational Therapy in Bangladesh: Unmet needs and way forward.” A notable panel of speakers including the chief guest Md Ashraf Ali Khan, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, People’s Republic of Bangladesh and special guest Professor Md Golam Rabbani, Chairperson, Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trustee Board. The discussion was chaired by Dr Valerie A Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP. Additionally, a notably distinguished panel of speakers, including national and international experts on Occupational Therapy added value to the discussion. Mary Ann Waddell, Occupational Therapist, Chairperson-OT Frontiers UK, was one of the legends, who worked with CRP around two years during 1995-1997. She laid the foundation of formal OT education in CRP. The presence of other guests also glorified the round table discussion including Md Ehsunul Ambia (one of the pioneers of OT in Bangladesh), Supervisor Occupational Therapist, Seniors Day Program, WoodGreen Community Services, Toronto, Canada; Dr Mohammad Mosayed Ullah (former Head of OT education in Bangladesh), Lecturer, La Trobe University, Australia; Professor Mark Kovic, Midwestern University, USA; Professor Dr Peter Bonfje, Department of Occupational Therapy, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan; AHM Noman Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Centre for Disability and Development (CDD); Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP); Professor Omar Ali Sarker, Principal, BHPI, CRP; Md. Monjurul Habib Sagor, President, BOTA; Sk. Moniruzzaman, Associate Professor & Head of OT, BHPI; Rajib Hasan, Deputy Director (Planning), JPUF, Arifa Jahan Ema, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, BHPI; Roksana Akter, Executive Director, BELA Health & Education Foundation.

Occupational therapy professionals also attended talk shows in two different TV channels of Bangladesh and highlighted the role of OT’s in health services. At CRP, the OT department arranged a rally maintaining all health guidelines to avoid COVID 19 and distributed masks among the patients and staff. The department also arranged several live awareness programs on Facebook to let people know about the importance of occupational therapy throughout the month of October 2020.



## Lessons Learnt & Experience Sharing of (RRED) project

CRP has organized a daylong workshop on “Lessons Learnt & Experience Sharing” to showcase the achievements of the Rights, Rehabilitation, Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (RRED) project on 25th November, 2020 at the Reddaway Hall of CRP-Headquarters, Savar, Dhaka.

The workshop started with the welcome speech of Valerie A. Taylor, Founder of CRP which followed by the speech of Muhammad Mushfiqul Wara, Country Director of CBM. Valerie A. Taylor said, CRP has been operating its services in three divisional centres with the support of Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) and Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) during the project period. As a result, persons with disabilities from these divisions could receive necessary treatment, rehabilitation and vocational training facilities which helped them to become independent and supportive towards their family and society.

Then Mr. Mushfiqul Wara said, through this project spinal cord injury patients could receive treatment and rehabilitation from the Govt. Medical College Hospitals of this three divisions (Rajshahi, Chattogram and Barishal) while building a good relationship with the Govt and private organizations. CBM hopes CRP will continue expanding their works and reach out to more underprivileged people creating an inclusive society for them.

A total of 11 Disabled People’s Organisations (DPO) from Rajshahi, Barishal and Chattogram Division participated in the workshop while exhibiting their activities and sharing their success stories to other participants. Mr. Anissuzaman, Managing Director of Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), Prof. Dr. Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, Director of National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Representative of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), Mr. AAQH Al-Mosa, Manager, Physical Rehabilitation Program of ICRC and Ms. Sarwat Ahmad, Senior Advisor of German Development Corporation (GIZ) and other representatives also attended the panel discussion on “Way forward towards inclusive sustainability”. The workshop ended with the vote of thanks from CRP’s Executive Director Md. Shafiqul Islam.

The Rights, Rehabilitation, Empowerment for person with Disabilities (RRED) project of CRP has been coming to an end of its 3 years and 10 months journey on 31st December 2020. The project has been implemented by CRP in partnership with the Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) and co-funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ). During the project period 30,655 persons with disabilities residing in the project areas received treatment, rehabilitation and income generation support through three divisional centres of CRP (CRP-Rajshahi, Afsar Hussain Centre, CRP-Chattogram, A. K. Khan Centre and CRP-Sylhet, Iskandar Shitara Centre).



*Guests and participants at the Reddaway Hall*



*DPO's presenting their activities to the guests*



*Panel discussion*



*RRED Project Coordinator presenting group works*



*Dry food packages and hygiene kits*



*Valerie handing over the aids*

### Donation from Scott Bader

UAE based chemical company Scott Bader Middle-East Limited donated 2000 GBP for the emergency response to COVID-19 for vulnerable people and the persons with disabilities of Bangladesh. CRP provided dry food packages and personal hygiene kits to 165 under privileged persons with disabilities on 21st November 2020 by this donation.

### International day for Persons with Disabilities 2020 observed

Following the years earlier, CRP observed the National and International Day for Persons with Disabilities 2020 with spontaneous activities on the 3rd of December. This year the theme was “Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World. CRP arranged a friendly wheelchair basketball match and a sports competition for the patients. The Social Welfare Officer of Savar Upazila, Shibli Zaman handed over some assistive devices to the patients as a special guest. CRP had also arranged a special lunch for the inpatients and caregivers.

On the day earlier at 2nd of December, Rehabilitation wing of CRP arranged a learning session supported by ICRC entitled “Covid-19 and disability awareness” to inform the people with disabilities about COVID-19 infection and protection. Admitted Spinal cord injury patients, amputee patients, children with Cerebral Palsy and their caregivers participated in this session.

Bangladeshi branch of world’s largest sports and retail group Decathlon and Fakhruddin Textile Mills Limited donated 1000 T-shirts and face masks respectively. In the afternoon popular singer Asif Akbar visited CRP and sang for the patients.



*Wheelchair basketball friendly match*



*Patients receiving wheelchairs*



*Singer Asif visiting patients*



## Farewell of Md. Shafiqul Islam, Executive Director, CRP

On 13th December 2020, a farewell program was held at CRP. Md. Shafiqul Islam, who had been working since 2010 as the Executive Director ended his services at CRP. All senior staff members including the Founder & Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor attended the program. Valerie wished him luck for the future and acknowledged his contributions towards the advancement of CRP. CRP's Head of Education and present Executive Director (Acting) Dr. Md. Sohrab Hossain also congratulated Md. Shafiqul Islam for his successful 10 years journey with CRP, extraordinary guidance to the staff members and innovative ideas to improve CRP's services. Md. Shafiqul Islam recollected his good old days and wished to support CRP's work in future voluntarily. All other staff members present in the event expressed their gratitude and respect to the parting Executive Director. The program ended with handing over some memento and photo session.



Valerie handing over memento to the ED



ED Md. Shafiqul Islam giving his departing speech



Group photo



Assistive Device handover programme by PVH

## Donation from PVH Corporation

Bangladeshi branch of the UK based fashion and lifestyle company PVH has donated 5000 USD to CRP. On 14th of December 2020, 50 children with disabilities from William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School received wheelchairs, special seats and assistive devices with this donation.

## Donation from Muslims Around the World, Australia

Muslims Around the World, Australia has donated ten thousand Australian dollar to CRP for supporting the under privileged persons with disabilities. A total of 96 beneficiaries received wheelchairs and other assistive devices through the Social Welfare Department of CRP.



Social Welfare Officer of Savar Upazila handing over a wheelchair by MATW fund



## Blanket donation at CRP-Pabna

CRP-Pabna, Diabetic Shamity has distributed 40 blankets among 40 poor patients with disabilities donated by Pabna Pioneer Lions Club on 26th December 2020. Lion Quazi Rafiqul Alam, Vice President of Pabna Diabetic Association and Regional Chairperson of Lions Club International District C15A2 Bangladesh headquarters was present as the Chief Guest.





## Happy New Year 2021

From  
Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed

Please donate to support CRP's  
activities to help the poor persons  
with disabilities of Bangladesh.

For Donation, Zakat & Membership  
Please contact:

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP)  
Donor Liaison Officer  
Cell: 01713 016 587, 01730 059 611, Phone: 02-7745464-5  
E-mail: fundraising@crp-bangladesh.org  
frd@crp-bangladesh.org

Send your Zakat to:

Account name: CRP Zakat Fund  
Account number: STD# 36000409, National Bank, Savar Branch, Dhaka.

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HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2021

WE WISH YOU  
SAFETY, JOY,  
AND SUCCESS  
THIS COMING  
YEAR!

