

NEWSLETTER

"Service to Sufferers is
Service to God"

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Annual picnic for patients

CRP organized an annual picnic for the spinal cord injury inpatients on 12th January, 2018 at Savar Military Farm. A total of 215 people including patients, carers and staff members joined in the picnic. It was a fine winter morning with a lot of excitements. After having breakfast everybody started playing. There was also a cultural programme where many patients and staff performed. A delicious lunch was served afterwards. When people finished lunch, they went to visit the mini zoo around. The day ended with raffle draw and prize distribution among the lottery winners. Everybody enjoyed the wonderful outing. It was a nice break for all from their routine life.



Farewell programme of the first batch of P&O School



A farewell programme for the first batch of Diploma in Prosthetics & Orthotics was held at P&O school premises on January 29, 2018. The final year students of the P&O School organized the programme in the presence of CRP's Founder & Coordinator, Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, BHPI's Principal Mr. Nasirul Islam and ICRC Bangladesh representatives at CRP. During the programme they also bid farewell to one of their senior faculty members Mr. Nkhoma Samuel who had been teaching for the last four years, and also to ICRC advisor Mr. Hamo, who is also leaving.



CRP organized its Annual Sponsored Walk on Friday 2nd February 2018 at 8.00 a.m. at Gulshan-2 Lake Park. The purpose of the walk was to increase awareness among the general public about disability issues as well as to raise funds for patient rehabilitation. The slogan for this Sponsored Walk was, 'Remove all the barriers to ensure access for persons with disabilities'

A total of 90 Students from Chittagong Grammar School, Dhaka Central International Medical College and College and Sahabuddin Medical College joined the walk with their parents and teachers. Members from Gulshan Club, Gulshan Society and foreign volunteers also participated. Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP and Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director of CRP also joined in. Many patients, children of William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School and CRP staff participated in the event. A walking person accompanied each wheelchair user. The event was supported by Transcom Beverages Ltd., who provided rice meals and Decathlon who provided T-shirts.

Annual Sports Competition of WMTS

The William and Marie Taylor School annual sports day was held on 6th February 2018. CRP's Founder & Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor along with CRP's Executive Director, Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, BHPI's Principal, Nasirul Islam, BHPI's Coordinator, Sultana Nasrin and a foreign volunteer, Andrew Rochford, jointly inaugurated the event. A total of 250 students, teachers, parents and support staff participated in 13 games. The special needs students received 46 prizes in total. After all the events had finished, there was a prize giving ceremony. All the children were very excited. Prizes were distributed among the winners by Andrew. The day ended with concluding remarks by Abdullah Al Zubayer, Principal, WMTS.



Valerie's birthday celebrated at CRP

On 8th February, 2018 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 the birthday cake with the children and thanked everyone for her birthday surprise. The cake was distributed among the patients and children at CRP.



Annual Sports event for CRP Staff

CRP organized its annual inclusive sports and cultural competition for its staff members. All staff participated actively in different events, which were held between 10th and 12th February. The events included wheelchair basketball, cricket, ball throw, dirt throw, musical pillow, volleyball and many others. The prize giving ceremony was held on 13th February, when CRP's executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam handed over the prizes to the winners. It was a refreshing event for all staff and a nice break from their workloads for everyone. Moreover, staff displayed their potential through games and stage performance.



Celebrating first day of Spring

CRP celebrated the first day of Spring of Bengali month Falgun, of the Bengali calendar. The first of Falgun (Spring) usually falls on 13 February of the Gregorian calendar. This day is marked with colourful celebration and traditionally, women wear yellow and red saris to celebrate this day. This celebration is also known as Basanta Utsab.





International Mother Language Day 2018

At present, 191 countries observe International Mother Language Day on 21st February across the world. Bengalis are the only nationals who sacrificed their lives in order to attain the right to speak their mother tongue, Bangla. As every preceding year, CRP observed this day with a program at Savar. The day started with a morning rally, which included offering flowers to the martyrs of the language movement. A short cultural programme, arranged by the teachers of the school, then followed. Many students participated in drawing, recitations, singing, speeches 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.

Book fair and book launch programme at CRP

CRP held an internal book fair for CRP's special needs children and book opening ceremony in its Reddaway Hall on 24th February, 2018. Renowned children's author Nazia Zabin organized the programme in collaboration with AB Bank.

The program began at 11a.m. and included a cultural performance put on by special needs children from CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School. Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP, was the Chief Guest of the programme. In addition, the guest of honour was Md. Abu Taleb, Vice President, AB Bank Foundation and Kazi Palash Hossain, Director, AB Bank, Savar Branch. The special guests were Layla Hasan, Freedom Fighter and cultural personality; Yasmin Rahman, Director, Paragon Group and Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP. A total of 40 students from South Bridge School also joined the programme.

The programme started off with a welcome speech by Md. Shafiq-ul Islam who greeted all the guests. Then the special guests and Mrs Zabin delivered their speeches and all of them together inaugurated four books, the titles of which are Mithila, Bonvojon, Toru and Ka Kha Ga er Golpo. Following the inauguration, Valerie admired Nazia Zabin's work and thanked all the guests for participating in such a wonderful event with CRP's disabled patients, children and students. Mrs Zabin then distributed her books among all the children. Later, the guests handed over seven wheelchairs, five of which had been funded by AB Bank and the other two by the children of South Bridge School. The programme ended with the guests offering lunch to the children and disabled patients of CRP.





Annual Picnic of WMTS

CRP's William and Marie Taylor School organized its annual picnic on 26th February, 2018. The venue of the picnic was Anarkoli, Kolma, Savar. A total of 300 students, parents, teachers and support staff took part in the picnic. There were many sports events and cultural performances by the students. All the fun resumed after lunch and carried on throughout the afternoon. All the children enjoyed it a lot and returned happy.

Marks and Start Cultural Exchange programme

On 28th February 2018, a special event was held at CRP's head office in Savar. CRP, in collaboration with Marks and Spencer, organised an annual get-together program for disabled ready-made garment factory workers who had previously received their vocational training at CRP. Representatives, owners, and officials from around 70 factories were present at the event. The program opened with a welcome speech given from the dais by the country director of Marks and Spencer, Shwapna Bhowmik, who welcomed all the guests to the event. She was followed by Mr. Ramesh Chandra Halder, Vocational Training Coordinator, CRP, who gave a brief presentation on the Marks and Start project activities. Other representatives from different factories, present on the dais included Mr. Maher Matin, Vice Chairman & CMO, FCI (BD) Ltd; Mr. Naimul Basher Chowdhury, Director, Interstoff Apparel Ltd; Mr. Asif Ashraf, Managing Director, Fakhruddin Textile Mills Ltd; Mr. MD Junaid Abu Salay Musa, Director, Epyllion Style Ltd; Mr. K.G. Subramaniam, Head of Operation, Sparrow Apparels Ltd. and Major A M Md. Nasir ul Alam (Retd.), Director, HR & Compliance, Tusuka Denim Ltd. All guests on the stage including Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Senior Compliance Manager, Marks and Spencer, Md. Saidur Rahman, Chairman, Trust for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, and Md. Shafiq-ul Islam, Executive Director, CRP, gave speeches. Then the special guests gave out awards in several categories, including best employer and best employee. Finally, Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Founder and Coordinator, CRP, thanked all the attendees for their presence. After the photo session, a group of physically challenged employees put on a performance for the guests. The second half of the day's program consisted of a spectacular cultural program involving many of the disabled participants.



Inauguration ceremony of BHPI and Nursing College academic session 2017-2018

The Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) and Nursing College of CRP organised an inauguration ceremony for newly enrolled students on March 3, 2018. The chief guest of the programme was Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Honourable Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka. Professor Dr. Khan Abul Kalam Azad, Honourable Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Dhaka, Dr. Djenana Jalovcic, CBR and Disability Specialist, Overseas Faculty Member, BHPI, CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam attended the programme as the special guests. 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.



International Women's Day celebrated at CRP

CRP celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March, 2018 in CRP's Reddaway Hall. The theme this year was "Press for Progress". The event started with a welcome speech by CRP's Founder and Coordinator, Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, which was followed by a cake cutting ceremony. CRP's Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam was also present. A female staff and a patient from CRP's female ward shared their life experiences. This was followed by a panel discussion on a set questionnaire. The four panelists discussed the present situation and measures to improve and ensure a discrimination-free work environment at CRP. The four panelists were, Shahnaz Sultana, Asst. Head of Programs, Iffat Rahman Bristy, Incharge, Special Seating Unit, Dr. Sayeed Uddin Helal, Head of Medical Services Wing and Md. Mansur Rahman, Manager, Human Resource Department. A short video clip was shown to the audience on the theme "Equality through dignity". Then two male patients from CRP's ward sang a song in celebration of the day. Sweets made by female patients and pieces of cake were distributed among the attendees. The programme finished with the signing of resolutions on a white banner. The programme was partly sponsored by CBM funded RRED project and many of CRP's male employees.



Open Day 2018

This year, CRP celebrated its Open Day on 9th March, 2018 to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities and to increase their participation of as full members of society.

The chief guest was Shykh Seraj, Founder Director and Head of News, Channel I, and who is also an agriculture development activist. The programme started with a greeting to the guests and was followed by a cultural programme. Special children from CRP's William and Marie Taylor Inclusive School sang a song and two physically challenged staff presented an exceptional dance in wheelchairs. Later, all the guests helped launch "Reaching Higher", a book published by CRP about its history. CRP's Founder and Coordinator Dr. Valerie A. Taylor and Executive Director Md. Shafiq-ul Islam accompanied the guests to the fairground, where all of them inaugurated the fair and the Open Day together. Patients, staff members, volunteers, and students all were present in the inauguration ceremony. Imdadul Haque Milon, Novelist and Editor of the Daily Kaler Kontho and Abul Hasnat, Editor of Kali and Kolom also joined the programme later.

Every department displayed their services in their individual stalls in the fair. Other activities included a Merry-Go-Round, horse riding for children, fishing, an 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 dancing, singing, and other entertainment, including a band. The evening finished with a raffle draw.



Donation from TIKA



The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has kindly donated gym equipment, computers for disabled vocational trainees and medical equipment to A. K. Khan-CRP Chittagong recently. The handover programme was held on 22nd March 2018 at CRP-Chittagong. MD. Salahuddin Kashem Khan, Trustee Secretary of A. K. Khan Foundation was the chief guest of the programme. On behalf of TIKa, Mr. Ahmet Refik Chetinkaya, Coordinator of Dhaka Office handed over the equipment to the Centre Manager. The chief guest appreciated their support and requested for further collaboration. After the programme finished, all guests had a tour of all the activities going on at the centre.

Newly added Occupational Therapy treatment equipment

In accordance with their curriculum, B.Sc Occupational Therapy students at BHPI underwent their basement placement in the Neurology, Paediatric, Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) departments at CRP. The objectives of basement placements are to allow students to explore their clinical and practical knowledge and to understand the relation between theory and practice. The latest basement placement ran from September 2017 to 8th January 2018. A total of 38 second year OT students, divided into four groups, were placed. All of them worked at the SCI Occupational Therapy Dept. for one month on rotation. During the placement, the students submitted designs for innovative developmental resources to facilitate patients' functional performance. Design submission was an essential requirement of the placement. The students first developed an equipment plan and worked under the supervision of me, Rakib Husain, In charge of SCI Occupational Therapy and Luthfun Nahar, Clinical Occupational Therapist of SCI unit. The students then submitted a total of ten effective and potential equipment designed by their own on 8th January, 2018. They then presented and narrated about their equipment to CRP's Founder & Coordinator, Valerie A. Taylor on 10th January, 2018.

Short descriptions of all the equipment are given below-

1. "Adjustable Reading Frame"

Purpose: Promote Leisure activities.

2. "Square peg board"

Purpose: Improve fine-motor skills and improve attention.

3. "Fine-motor box"

Purpose: Improve fine-motor skills and eye to hand co-ordination.

4. "Book holder frame"

Purpose: To improve client's ability to read books or newspapers with adjustable setting.

5. "Modified Seesaw"

Purpose: To improve client's functional position during task.

6. "Modified accelerator"

Purpose: To improve client's functional position during task performance and endurance.

7. "Functional therapeutic band"

Purpose: Improve functional ability.

8. "Writing Splint"

Purpose: To facilitate writing skills.

9. "Dressing box"

Purpose: To make a client independent in upper half dressing.

10. "Modified grooming tools" (modified nail polish, modified nail cutter, modified brush, modified body cleaner, modified body wiper stick)

Purpose: Improve personal hygiene skills.

Kaniz Fatema

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Japanese Professors' visit in CRP!

Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) is a public university that includes seven graduate schools located in different areas of Tokyo. The Graduate School of Human Health Sciences is one of them, and offers post-graduate courses in Nursing Science, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Radiological Science.

On 2nd February 2018, two honorable professors from TMU visited CRP. One was Prof. Peter Bontje, expert in 'occupational Science' and 'Inter-professional collaboration' and the other was Prof. Ryuji Kobayashi, an expert in 'work rehabilitation processes' and 'the development of intervention programs'. They stayed for five days at CRP to observe research areas such as persons with spinal cord injury (SCI) living in the community, elderly people living in specialised care homes, and ongoing rehabilitation activities in Savar. They also visited the metal workshop in Ganakbari. One aim of this visit was to explore the idea of collaboration between the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) and TMU. Several issues were discussed during joint meetings; the development of academic resources, higher educational opportunities in Japan, exchanging education, fieldworks and collaborative research areas for further development.



A snapshot with undergraduate final year students



Workshop with post-graduate international students

On 4th February, the professors visited the Old People's Rehabilitation centre, Gazipur to understand the situation of elderly people living in care homes, and to sound out the possibility of conducting research activities related to occupational therapy in elderly people's lives.



Workshop with Clinical Occupational Therapists

The aim of the next visit that the team undertook was to meet three SCI patients living in their community in Dhamrai Upazila. The team observed the patients in their home environment and their daily activities. Moreover, the patients also received gifts and plain Nelaton- Ch12 catheters from the professors. The visit gave us a real insight into the rural living conditions in low and middle income countries.

On 6th February, the professors conducted a day-long workshop with undergraduate and post graduate students. The first session included 3rd year and 4th year occupational therapy students. It was a motivational session on professional successes and academic excellence in this sector. The next session started with Rehabilitation Science M.Sc. students on the topic of 'inter-professional collaborative practices'. It was a nice platform for students coming from multi-professional sectors. The team shared their opinions with regard to setting successful rehabilitation goals. Students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the session. In the afternoon, the team conducted a session with clinical occupational therapists on the subject of assessment tools used in Asia, such as 'Management Tools for Daily Living Performance'.

To conclude, it was a fruitful cultural exchange that helped our team to learn more about the rehabilitation process in low income countries. Before returning to Japan, the professors donated a few books to the department of occupational therapy, BHPI, and expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality that they received from everyone at CRP.



Picture with Clinical and academic Occupational Therapists



Books from Japan handed over to the head of occupational therapy department, BHPI

Yeasir A. Alve, PhD Fellow,
Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan



Passionate about travelling the world? Studying abroad is a good way!

Recently I have posted a photo on Instagram with a quote from Debbie Millman that said: "If you imagine less, less will be what you undoubtedly deserve. Do what you love, and don't stop until you get what you love. Work as hard as you can, imagine immensities, don't compromise, and don't waste time. Start now. Not 20 years from now. NOW." These are the words I believe in my life. That's how I am now a step ahead to my ambition!

Studying abroad has been one of my biggest dreams since I was an undergraduate. I wanted to make it come true regardless of how difficult it might be for me. Finally, after 3 years of working experience, I had the opportunity to pursue my Master of Philosophy (MPhil) program at Department of Occupational Therapy in Monash University, Australia through the Australia Awards Scholarships. This scholarship is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Government offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development.

Australia gave me a whole new experience of "education". I got the chance of getting supervised by renowned Professor Ellie Fossey and Dr. Linda Barclay for my program. In addition, I am learning about the diverse background which is beyond the four walls of the classroom here as well from my mentor, Russell Sir (Former Head, Department of Occupational Therapy, BHPI). Each day is like a discovery process of learning, un-learning and re-learning. Being a Higher Degree by Research student, I am learning how to implement the self-directed learning. It might sound very fancy, but being a Bangladeshi student, I have to give a lot of effort on this as the education system is completely different between the countries. But setting own goals and do onwards will make me more target oriented and foresighted on its course.



Australian Awards' Scholars in Monash 2018

Apart from academic life, I am learning to view life in different seasons and keeping trust in the process. I am learning patience, as I am meeting new people every day and everyone has something different to offer. I am trying to get more open in the process of accepting "new" to live, which will hopefully improve my critical thought process. Accepting the different culture, tasting the foods and the afternoon walk with myself will eventually make a better version of me, I believe.



Meeting Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor of Occupational Therapy, Neurology and Social Work, Washington University



Me in my research office room

Studying in abroad is an experience I believe everyone should have! It really changes people and the way we see the world. If you are homesick, don't worry. Dealing with homesickness will teach you to empower to choose, courageous to decide and act on opportunities on point. But, still, there is no place like home. I miss my home, I miss every pulse of CRP, my other home! I would love to offer my gratitude to everyone out there for being a part of my lovely journey here. Love and cheers from Melbourne!

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Socialization Activity for the Children with Autism by Paediatric Occupational therapists

Some hallmarks of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are lack of social interaction, lack of reciprocity and failure to spontaneously share enjoyment and interests with peers, siblings or anyone else. All children with ASD can benefit from early intervention and social group activities such as outreach. They may eventually gain enough skills to be able to participate in mainstream social activities. To achieve this attainable goal, the paediatric occupational therapy services of the CRP Paediatric Unit, Savar, organized a pleasure outreach event for ASD impacted children. The title of the event was 'Sometime in Pleasure outreach: Socialization Activity for the children with autism - Just an initiative for the inclusion mainstream society' and was held at Aladdin's Park, Dhamrai, Dhaka on 14th February 2018.

For more than a decade, paediatric occupational therapists have run an Autism Group Therapy session for children with ASD. It is currently held every Wednesday afternoon and lasts for two hours. Out of this regular group activity, the pleasure outreach event emerged. The active participation of 18 children with ASD including siblings, mothers, five clinical occupational therapists, 4 intern occupational therapists and 2 international occupational therapy students from York St. John University made the day into a delightful experience. During the outreach, the ASD children and their siblings enjoyed riding different pleasure kids' rides at the park, as well as active involvement in different group events. All the mothers not only actively participated in this outreach program but also showed their appreciation for this initiative from CRP. They also requested us to organize this type of outreach program for their children on a regular basis.

For Donation, Zakat & Membership
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