

# KAILAKURI HEALTH CARE PROJECT

(Project of Dr Baker's Organisation for Well-Being NGO)

Kailakuri Village, Madhupur Thana, Tangail District, Bangladesh



## October 2020: Business as usual?

The world is greatly affected by COVID -19 at present. During this pandemic everyone (including doctors, nurses, paramedics, village health workers, Police, administrative teams, journalists, electronic media, bank staff and some non-profit organisations) are doing their best to combat coronavirus, despite the risks. Those who are working and serving in these risky situations should receive recognition for their efforts. We cannot but express our gratefulness to those who are helping to run this project smoothly (especially many individual donors and donor agencies). We humbly express our respect, appreciation, and thankfulness for what you are doing. We pray for those who are affected by Covid-19 and the families of those who have passed away from this virus. Kailakuri Health Care Project (KHCP) is running its activities as usual during the pandemic, with your help and support.

### COVID -19 in Bangladesh - Dr Sonia Sultana, Intern Doctor (GSVMCH)



Bangladesh confirmed the first Covid -19 case on March 7, 2020. On March 15, the country banned all flights coming in from Europe because it was speculated that Covid -19 entered Bangladesh through migrant people returning from Italy, a Covid-affected country.

To protect the people the Govt declared "Lockdown" throughout the country from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 30 May. On July 5, Bangladesh reached two grim milestones of 160,000 cases and 2,000 deaths. Medical experts feared that not enough tests were being conducted because Bangladesh had a severe shortage of testing kits. The country received some testing kits, PPE, and masks from China to deal with the crisis. Bangladesh, as a lower middle income country, has numerous limitations to fight against the virus. Above all, may Almighty help Bangladesh to fight the lethal virus.

*Left: Dr Sultana treating a patient at Kailakuri*

## Rumi's Story

We would like to share about a patient who has recently been treated for paralysis. Rumi Nokrek is from Shainamari village, about 6 kilometres from Kailakuri Health Centre. Rumi's mother passed away and her father lives in India. Rumi is the fifth amongst six siblings. According to the traditions of the local Garo community, a husband moves to his wife's/mother-in-law's home after getting married. All Rumi's brothers have moved to their wives' houses and settled there. Rumi could not complete her schooling due to poverty and went to Dhaka as a teenager to earn money as a beautician. She got to know a Garo boy and they got married in 2009. After one year they had a baby son. They were passing life as a happy family. Rumi got pregnant again when her son turned 6. This time Rumi experienced a few health issues including Edema, Hypertension, Convulsion and Urine albumin, which are signs of Eclampsia. This is a risky situation for mother and baby. Rumi's husband admitted her to at KHCP.



Having been looked after by KHCP, Rumi bore a daughter. We were incredibly happy for their family. Unfortunately a few months later Rumi developed persistent eyesight problems. KHCP sent her to the specialist eye hospital in Mymensingh. After her examination, the doctor discovered an optical nerve problem, which is not curable. Her eyesight deteriorated badly after a few months and she was not able to see anything properly. As if her life stopped all of a sudden. She could not even walk alone. She had to take help from her husband to do any type of work. As her husband was helping her at home, he could not work either. Some of their relatives helped by giving food very often. How long could they rely on the help of relatives?! They starved many times. Her husband started day labour work again after nominating their son to look after them. He was trying heart and soul with his small income.

In January 2020, Rumi got an extremely bad headache. She received some treatment, but it did not cure her. She was unable to move her legs well and after a few days, she lost her ability to walk completely. The paralysis and optical nerve problems are a neurological issue and the headaches could be related to this. Rumi's husband brought her to KHCP for the second time in March. By that time, her legs were paralysed and sore. On 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2020, we sent her to Centre for Rehabilitation for the Paralysed (CRP) for better treatment. After six months' treatment at CRP, she came back to KHCP and then returned home on 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. Rumi looks happy now. She has regained some movement although she is not able to walk on her legs. Thankfully CRP provided her a wheelchair to use. Rumi and her husband have struggled with her illnesses for a long time. But Rumi's husband has



handled these difficult situations by showing his love, passion, and commitment to his wife, which sets a good lesson for all of us. They are very happy and grateful to KHCP, and its donors and supporters.

**KHCP's vegetable and fruit garden:** We grow vegetables for consumption by our staff and patients. Shakil, one of our donors from London, has committed to cover the annual cost of the garden.



#### **Update from Drs Jason and Merindy Morgenson**

Jason and Merindy and their four children flew back to USA on 7 September (after receiving negative COVID tests in Dhaka) and then isolated as a family for two weeks. With the coronavirus hot spots, and many people unwilling to follow the corona virus social distancing and mask wearing precautions, they are cautious about going out and about, especially with the kids. This has made it almost impossible to travel to different places. Currently they are focusing on the kids' home-schooling and trying to get a routine going for them. According to Merindy the kids are really enjoying their time with their grandparents. "They miss mangoes and have already said the bananas here aren't as good. Many times they have commented that they miss their Kailakuri friends."

#### **In Other News:**

- British Women's Association in Dhaka recently provided a grant so that Kailakuri can build a new dressing room, separate from the inpatient office. Everyday about 13-15 patients, including burns patients and those with diabetic foot ulcers, need their dressings redone.
- One of our paramedics, Nazma Begum, has recently received a scholarship from Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service (JOCS) to study a 3 year paramedic diploma.

*Kailakuri is dependent on your support. Donations can be made by ...*

- From New Zealand:
  - Making an online payment to our New Zealand bank account (ANZ, Whakatane). Account name: Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group; Account number: 01 0486 0185024 00.  
Please email Glenn Baker at [treasurerkhcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerkhcp@gmail.com) with your donations and contact details for receipts, also details of any regular automatic payments set up.
  - Posting a cheque to “Kailakuri Health Care Project – Link Group” to KHCP-NZ Link Group, PO Box 522, Whakatane 3158, New Zealand.
- Internationally:
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  - Please get in touch with Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersorganisation@gmail.com) for options to donate within Bangladesh.
- If you live in the United States, you can write a cheque to “Asia Connection Inc”. Please indicate on a separate note that the donation is for Kailakuri and send to Ted Rose, Treasurer, Asia Connection Inc, 1920 Ralston Ave, Richmond, CA 94805, and give your contact details for a receipt.

For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email please contact Pijon Nongmin at [drbakersorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:drbakersorganisation@gmail.com) (international) or Hilary Lynch at [tui\\_eden@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tui_eden@xtra.co.nz) (NZ)

*Thank-you so much for your support.  
Our greatest need is gifts towards on-going running costs.*

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