



Impact Foundation Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

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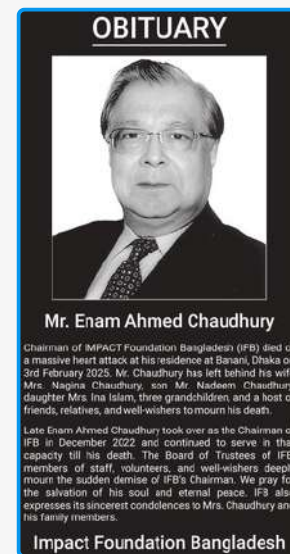
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Enam Ahmed Chowdhury Passed Away

Mr. Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, former Chairman of Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), breathed his last at his residence in the evening of February 3, 2025. He passed away of a massive heart attack at the age of 88 years. A distinguished visionary and a retired secretary of the Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Chowdhury assumed the role of IFB's Chairman in December 2022. During his tenure, he dedicated himself to the welfare of IFB's programs and its staff.

IFB staff at the Dhaka and project offices mourned the passing of the late Chairman and paid tribute by offering a special prayer (dua) for his eternal peace.



Rezaul Haque, PhD, Elected As The new Chairman of IFB

Dr. Rezaul Haque, Founder Trustee, was elected unanimously as the 4th Chairman of IFB at the 70th Board Meeting. The new Chairman held the IFB's steering wheel on February 13, 2025. Dr. Haque has been a guiding force for IFB since its inception in 1993. A visionary leader who has dedicated to the well-being of the disadvantaged population, especially women and children, in Bangladesh. His vast experiences and deep understanding of community-based development have guided IFB through transformative phases of growth and impact.

Dr. Haque's extensive experience in the fields of civil society and NGOs, democracy and governance, human rights, public policy, development aid, disability & development, public health, and non-formal education will lead IFB toward a new height in the coming years. Over the past decades, he has served in leadership and senior management and technical positions in international NGOs, donor agencies, and think-tanks, including at USAID/Bangladesh, Counterpart International, Lutheran World Service/RDRS, Save the Children, Sightsavers International (formerly RCSB), and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. Also, he has taught Development Studies and International Business at leading private universities of Bangladesh as an Adjunct Professor.

Dr. Haque's long and proven experience in the development sector is backed by solid academic credentials. He has a PhD in International Relations, and higher training in development management and leadership from Harvard University Kennedy School, US Federal Executive Institute, and Cranfield University, UK.



Off-Site Planning Meeting

At the beginning of the year, in early February, senior and mid-level staff from the Impact Foundation Bangladesh's Dhaka office and projects gathered under one umbrella at the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, for a three-day planning meeting. The purpose was to discuss current challenges and develop future action plans for their respective programs. The meeting served as a discussion hub where Dr. Rezaul Haque, Founder Trustee, Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Founder Trustee, and Dr. S.M. Akbar, Trustee, IFB, shared their insights and strategic vision for IFB's future through plenary and group discussions.



Participants actively engaged in developing action plans for the next three years based on the future needs of beneficiaries.

All of the IFB staff enjoyed a wonderful time at the river cruise, taking in the beauty of nature. However, toward the end of the event, the sad news of the passing of IFB's Chairman, Mr. Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, caused a sudden shift that overshadowed everyone's joy. The meeting was cut short and ended with prayers for the late Chairman, and the entire team returned with broken hearts.

Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Vice Chairman of BDRCS, Meets With IFB Staff



Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), paid a visit to Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB)'s Dhaka office in Mohammadpur in February. During his visit, the future scope of collaborations between BDRCS and IFB was discussed. He also emphasized the importance of using digital platforms to reach the underserved people of the country. During the meeting, Dr. Ahmed appreciated IFB's impactful work in the humanitarian sector. He also highlighted future possibilities of partnership to improve lives and promote inclusive development.

Dr. Rezaul Haque Visits The Programme Sites

After assuming the role of IFB's Chairman, Dr. Rezaul Haque, visited the three project sites at Chuadanga, Meherpur, and the Jibon Tari Floating Hospital. Dr. Haque emphasized the significance of beneficiary satisfaction, bolstering community outreach activities, and enhancing clinical care. His visit provided a renewed sense of motivation and a stronger commitment towards the attainment of sustainable achievements in all aspects of delivering accessible, high-quality healthcare services.



IFB Attends The 10th IFIO Conference

The 10th International Federation of IMPACT Organizations (IFIO) Conference was held at Ardingly College in West Sussex, United Kingdom (UK) from 26 to 29 May 2025, with the theme - Future Focus: Opportunities and challenges of the next 40 years. The four-day event brought together the IMPACT organizations to discuss the project highlights and Future Plans. Dr. Hasib Mahmud, CEO, made a brief country presentation describing the existing program and plans of Impact Foundation Bangladesh.

Dr. Rezaul Haque, Chairman and Founder Trustee, Impact Foundation Bangladesh, presented the keynote speech and the 7th Sir John Wilson Memorial Lecture. He opened the keynote speech with a special thanks to the late Sir John Wilson, Lady Jean Wilson, and their daughter Claire Hicks. Throughout the speech, Dr. Haque highlighted the emergence of IFB as an idea to alleviate poverty with the help of local knowledge and technology. He also highlighted the intertwined linkage between disability and poverty, and how disabled people are left out of mainstream development. He also expressed gratitude to IMPACT Foundation UK and other Impact organizations, including IMPACT Norway, for their continued support.

Dr. Haque concluded his speech with a vote of thanks to the organizing committee, Honorable Chair, and everyone present at the event.

Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Founder Trustee, IFB, shared a few words of thanks and acknowledgment to Lady Jean Wilson at the 'Sir John Wilson Commemorative Dinner' on 27th May, 2025. In his speech, he recalled his fond memories with the Late Sir John Wilson and Lady Jean Wilson, and their contributions towards the establishment of the Jibon Tari floating hospital and many other initiatives, like the Mothers' Club that supports and empowers rural women with knowledge towards a better society. A crest was presented to Lady Jean from Impact Foundation Bangladesh on this occasion.



World Leprosy Day 2025

World Leprosy Day—a day celebrated to highlight the challenges faced by people affected by leprosy, raises awareness in society regarding leprosy and calls to end stigma and discrimination surrounding leprosy. Celebrated on the last Sunday of January every year, the day advocates for actions to eliminate leprosy. This year, the day was celebrated around the world on 26th January, with the theme, "Unite, Act and Eliminate Leprosy". With the support from The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh (TLMI-B), Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB) celebrated the day by arranging a rally with colorful festoons, placards, and leaflet distributions to spread awareness. Discussion meetings were held at three Upazila (sub-district) health complexes and the Civil Surgeon (CS) office of Chuadanga district.



World Glaucoma Week 2025

Impact Foundation Bangladesh's Chuadanga Programme joined the world to celebrate the World Glaucoma Week, with the theme "Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World. Glaucoma, a leading cause of irreversible blindness, affects thousands of people worldwide. To mark the event this year, Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, Chuadanga, organized a public awareness rally. A total of 58 glaucoma patients were identified and treated by an Ophthalmologist during March 9-13.



Dr. Mohammad Shaheen completes fellowship training in Advanced Post Graduate Training on Glaucoma

Dr. Mohammad Shaheen, Director, Programmes, has completed a six-month Advanced Post Graduate Training in Ophthalmic Subspecialty Fellowship Training from the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital. The intensive training further strengthens IFB's capacity in advanced eye care. Keeping in mind the welfare of the eye patients in Chuadanga and the neighboring districts, IFB plans to establish a state-of-the-art Glaucoma Centre at the Chuadanga hospital for the treatment of the irreversible eye condition.



Newly Constructed House For The Flood-Affected In Feni District

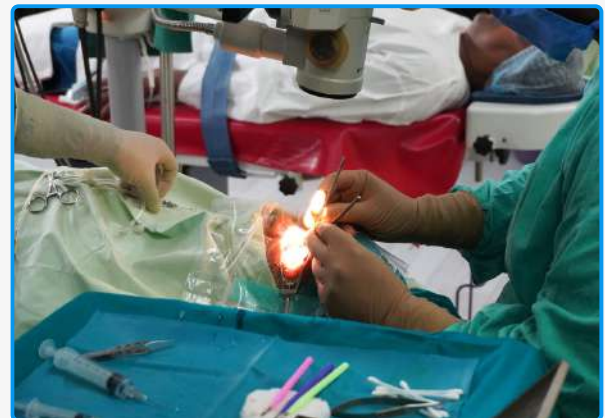
Social Services and Management Trust (SSMT), a national Charitable organization, supported the flood-affected people at Parshuram Upazila (sub-district) of Feni district by constructing new houses for the poor families whose houses were demolished in the deadly flood in August 2024. With financial support from SSMT, Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB) built ten houses. This initiative provided a new hope for ten families, helping to restore their lives in post-flood recovery. The newly constructed houses with latrines were handed over to the families in April 2025. An MoU for proper maintenance of the house was signed between IFB and beneficiary families during the handover.



BACHAO, USA, Supports Poor Cataract And ENT Patients

Bangladeshi American Charitable Organization (BACHAO), based in California, USA, has been supporting Impact Foundation Bangladesh since 2014 to treat eye and ENT patients living in rural, riverside areas, who are denied essential medical services due to their distant location and poverty. Through the 'Jibon Tari' Floating Hospital, IFB has restored sight and hearing for hundreds of vulnerable individuals, many of whom would not have access to such treatments otherwise.

With BACHAO's support this year, IFB has supported 130 poor patients with surgical interventions in eye and ENT for improving the quality of their lives.



DAK International Network of Australia's Support For Rural People

Dave and Kerry International Network, formerly DAK Foundation, has been supporting Impact Foundation Bangladesh to implement a project - ***Prevention and Cure of avoidable disability through the Impact Meherpur Programme*** for the benefit of rural women, children, and underprivileged people in the district. The project aims to uplift the lives of marginalized people for a more inclusive society.



Proshanti Project

Uterine prolapse, also known as Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) is a serious health condition that significantly impacts a woman's physical well-being and daily life. The condition is more prevalent, particularly among women in less developed countries.

The **Proshanti** Project, funded by the Dave and Kerry International Network, provides free surgical treatment to women suffering from uterine prolapse in the rural and underserved areas, in 18 districts in Bangladesh. Locally trained surgeons provide free surgical treatment to improve and alleviate the sufferings of women. Under the project, hands-on training is provided to the local Gynecologists with a new surgical technique called "sacrospinous fixation" and also nurses at the project hospitals, ensuring quality surgery and the after-care of operated patients.



The Jibon Mela Nursing Academy, A New Academic Building For The Impact Nursing Institute



The Jibon Mela Nursing Academy, a seven-story nursing education facility in Amjhupi, Meherpur, has been built next to the Impact Jibon Mela Health Centre. The academy will include modern classrooms, spacious practical labs, a library, student accommodation, an administrative block, separate dining areas, a kitchen, and a gymnasium.

The Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council required a dedicated academic building for the smooth operation of the Impact Nursing Institute.

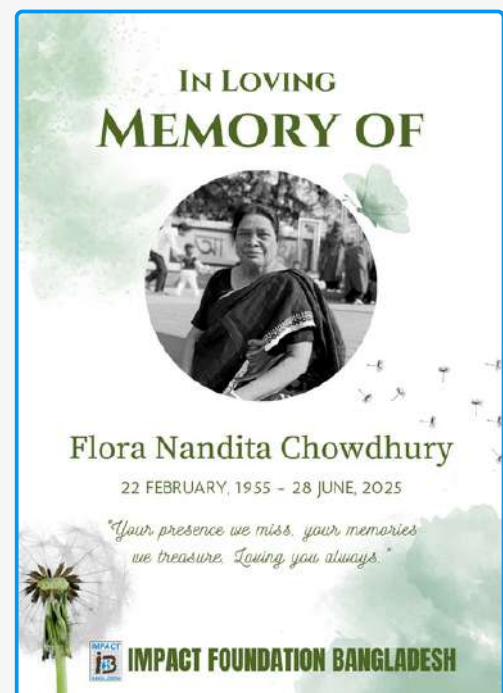
Classes have started at the Jibon Mela Nursing Academy building in June 2025. The new academic building, a symbol of resilience and sustainability, was made possible with kind donations and initial support of Taka 32,297,988 (21%) from an anonymous donor through the UK IMPACT Foundation, and later Taka 120,190,681 (79%) from the Lutz and Hedda Franz Charitable Trust (LHFCT) Hong Kong for completing the construction of 7 storied new building. The total Taka 152,638,869 was spent for foundation work, fees for professional engineering firms to develop building designs, structural and other plans, and, most importantly, technical monitoring of the construction to ensure full compliance with all legal and building requirements/codes, including fire and environment by various authorities of the Bangladesh Government. Additionally, with their support, a separate building for the kitchen, dining area, and gymnasium has been constructed within the nursing academic building campus for the nursing students and staff members.

Mrs. Flora Nandita Chowdhury, Principal, Impact Nursing Institute, Passed Away

Mrs. Flora Nandita Chowdhury, Principal, Impact Nursing Institute (INI), departed at the age of 70 years, in the early hours of 28th June, 2025. A pillar of strength, Mrs. Chowdhury, has led the institution with determination and dedication since December 2013. In these eleven years of dedicated service, she earned the respect and love of her students and colleagues.

She was laid to rest at a local graveyard in Meherpur after a formal farewell from her colleagues and students in Meherpur and Chuadanga.

The IFB family and all supporters of the Impact Nursing Institute expressed their profound sadness over the untimely demise. Special prayers were arranged for the eternal peace of her soul.



Shaheda Akter Hashi, Senior Nurse, at Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, Shares Her Story

Shaheda Akter Hashi has been working at the Impact Chuadanga programme since 2016. Joined as a Senior Nurse, Ms. Hashi is currently working as Nursing Supervisor at Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre. A smiling face who serves the ailing patients with compassion and care. Hashi's empathetic care towards patients has earned her a wide reputation among the patients and staff members.

Born and raised in Chuadanga, Hashi earned a Diploma degree in Nursing and Midwifery from Chuadanga Government Nursing Institute. Mother of two sons, her life has been a delicate balance between serving the patients and taking care of her family.

Driven by her enthusiasm to contribute to the well-being of society, Hashi has experienced times of challenges as well. Quoting her, "The journey was not smooth. I earned respect and love through hard work and dedication. The time during the COVID-19 pandemic was very difficult. We were passing days of uncertainty. I had to always bear in mind the well-being of my family, especially my children. I used to stay confined in a room after reaching home. I recall not seeing my sons for weeks after returning home from duty. I will never forget the hardships we passed through during those days."

Recalling the days when she joined the Impact Chuadanga Programme, she stated, "I struggled during my earlier years when I joined as a Senior Nurse. Patient care with limited medical resources was difficult. I tried to overcome the struggles by working tirelessly with the team, ensuring the best possible care for every patient."

After joining as Nursing Supervisor, Hashi's supportive nature, her commitment, and high levels of morale instilled trust among the other Nurses, contributing to the hospital's growth and success. Her hard work and diligence remain an inspiration to those working around her.



A Leg to Stand on (ALTSO) continues to support children with Clubfoot deformity.

The story of Sadikul

Eight-year-old Sadikul was born to Shahjahan and Reshma in a small village in Magura district. A student of grade two who suffered from clubfoot, a congenital condition, since his birth. It was twenty days after his birth when his parents noticed that his legs were slightly bent inward. The problem became more visualized in a few days.

Sadikul was taken to a hospital in Faridpur, where the doctors diagnosed him with a leg deformity. He had a tenotomy surgery when he was just 45 days old, and the Surgeon advised to have plaster applied to his leg. Over his early months, Sadikul underwent this treatment three times, but despite the efforts, there was little improvement.

His parents were heartbroken as they did not see any improvement in Sadikul. Days went by, and Sadikul kept struggling with the condition. His parents learnt from a relative about Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre in Chuadanga, where children like Sadikul are treated. Without further delay, his parents took him to the Chuadanga hospital. After a thorough examination, Sadikul was provided orthotic shoes for his condition, and the doctor recommended that his parents do some exercises.

Little Sadikul now attends school. He plays with his classmates. Sadikul's father could not hold his tears seeing the little boy walking and playing just like any other child of his age. His parents are overwhelmed with joy seeing him grow stronger and enjoying a normal life. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre for the support, which helped their son regain the ability to walk and play. Little Sadikul now enjoys life to the fullest.

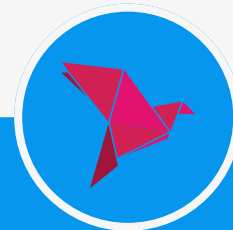


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