



## BANGLADESH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION\*<sup>1</sup>

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### COUNTRY REPORT

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#### Introduction

- Bangladesh Medical Association ( BMA ) engages itself in the welfare activities for its members as well as for the development of health sector of Bangladesh in order to ensure good health for the citizens of Bangladesh
- From the very inception of Bangladesh BMA had to struggle hard to ensure equal rights for its members that is enjoyed by other employees of the state
- Doctors of Bangladesh were denied of their legitimate rights in terms of remuneration, promotion, housing and other facilities by the bureaucratic impediment
- in 1996, after swearing in as the Prime Minister, Ms. Sheikh Hasina could realize the grievances of the doctors' community and materialize the genuine demands of BMA

#### Introduction

- Although the misery of the doctors in terms of remuneration, position etc. have been overcome, doctors of Bangladesh are facing new challenges in discharging their duties because of the undue interference by the hooligans in the name of aggrieved relatives of the patients
- The law enforcing agencies take the side of the miscreants in most of the cases due to so called 'sympathy'
- BMA is trying to inspire the government to enact a law forbidding such sort of illegal activities and protecting the healthcare professionals from such untoward situation

#### Cont.....

BMA publishes a scientific Journal on a quarterly basis.



BMA conducts a free Friday clinic for the poor. Its branches also do the same.



\*<sup>1</sup> This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 30th CMAAO General Assembly and 51st Council Meeting, Yangon, Myanmar, on September 23-25, 2015.

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**BMA participated in a campaign for launching Measles – Rubella vaccine**



In Bangladesh, Speciality based societies organize clinical seminar, symposium and other social activities regularly-BMA as national organization cooperates with those societies.

BMA has observed with due solemnity the International Mother Language Day, Death anniversary of the Father of The Nation – Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated along with his family members in 1975.



It also observed the death anniversary of the Martyr Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, ex- joint secretary of BMA, who was killed by the miscreants supported by the then autocratic regime to stop the movement of BMA



BMA has organized protest rallies and human chain against the yellow journalism of a media tycoon where the victim was a female doctor



BMA engages itself in policy dialogue with the government for the overall development of the health sector




- It supports the government for the implementation of Universal Coverage of healthcare (UCH)
- Recently BMA's representative visited Thailand as a member of the delegation to assess the impact of UCH



- BMA is working closely with the government to update the health workforce strategy.
- BMA inspires the government to take up a systematic programme to improve the quality of healthcare. Recently the government has set up a Quality Improvement Secretariat for this purpose
- Likewise it is working with the government to introduce the accreditation system in medical education and hospital care


**Brief presentation on ongoing activities in Health Sector**

- Government has taken strong initiative to improve the life pattern of autistic children. Child Development Center has been set up in 22 hospitals
- Institute of Paediatric Neuro disorders and Autism in Children is established in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University



**Community Clinic**

- Community clinics each serving 6000 population have expanded its services in the field of health, family planning, nutrition, health education, healthy living, minimal curative care, screening of non-communicable diseases etc
- These clinics are run by a non-doctor staff-CHCP (community healthcare-provider)
- In some clinics, doctors visit once a week. The patients are referred to higher center if needed



**Community Clinic** Cont.....

- 30 types of medicines are given free of cost.
- Almost 85% patients are female and children
- Normal deliveries are conducted by the trained skilled birth attendants in nearly 1000 centers
- WHO in its World Health Report termed Community Clinics as effective
- The activities of Community Clinics were applauded in the side meetings conducted during WHA in 2013, 2014 and 2015 having the theme – Community based healthcare

**Extension of immunization programme :**

- In 2008, 7 types of vaccines were given to protect from Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, TB, Polio, Measles and Hepatitis B
- In 2009, Haem. Influenza was included
- In 2012, Measles 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and Rubella vaccines were included
- In 2015, Intramuscular Polio Vaccine and Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine were included
- In 2014, Bangladesh was awarded with the polio-free certification by WHO



**Extension of immunization programme :                      Cont.....**

- Leprosy has been eradicated almost
- Neonatal tetanus is no more in Bangladesh
- Due protection against Ebola disease was built- Thermal scanners were posted in the entry ports for screening
- TB, Anthrax, Nipah Virus, SARS, MERS Corona virus and Dengue are in full control
- To eradicate Rabies-Tissue culture vaccine for the victims and vaccine for the dogs to keep Rabies virus free have been procured and provided

- In case of reduction of under-5 mortality rate, Bangladesh Has reached the set target well ahead
- National Food Safety Laboratory has been set up
- Bone Marrow Transplantation has been started
- Liver Transplantation has been experimented
- Medical Biotechnology centers have been established

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