

Report from Bangladesh

Assalamuwalaikum! I arrived in Bangladesh on December 5th, 2024. **Due to having an unwell family member, I spent most of my time at home.**

MAMM's Institute of Fistula and Women's Health

- **Mission:** MAMM's is dedicated to addressing the critical issue of obstetric fistula and women's health in Bangladesh. Their focus areas include prevention through education, providing medical and surgical treatment, and rehabilitation for affected women. They also advocate for policy changes.
- **Funding:** BDT 382,055 was directed to MAMM's, funded by Zakat, Sadaqah, and donations. This amount will support the treatment of six patients.
- **Acknowledgment:** Prof. Dr Sayeba Akhter expressed gratitude to LWFB donors for their continued support. MAMM's is currently seeking to procure land for building a Fistula Hospital and Training Centre, preferably in Dhaka. Unfortunately, a potential land donation by an LWFB donor worth BDT 250 million in Chittagong fell through after a feasibility test.



Professor Dr Sayeba Akhter on the right.

Thangamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS)

- **Incident and Recovery:** On December 21st, I reached Bogura in the evening. Unfortunately, I sprained my leg earlier that day and had to use a wheelchair upon arrival. I received ongoing treatment at TMSS Hospital's Physiotherapy Department until December 23rd and was on crutches for 4-5 days. Alhamdulillah, I am much better now.
- **Visit:** At TMSS, I visited the Limbs Prosthetics Centre, spoke at the AGM, and visited some patients in the field.
- **Donor Contributions:** LWFB donors have contributed approximately BDT 4,900,000 over three years, changing over 325 lives. This funding has allowed many children to walk for the first time and enabled amputees to regain their livelihoods through artificial limbs. The success of this project even attracted a visit from Dr.

Saidur Rahman, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, who spent half an hour at the Limbs Centre.

- **Research:** I also met with the TMSS Research Team, headed by Dr. Aminur Rahman. They were grateful for the support provided by Dr. Olav Muurlink in terms of research training, which has enhanced their international journal publications.
- **Inauguration:** The LWFB and TMSS Friendship Corner was inaugurated, providing a dedicated area for patient exercise.







lwfb

Let's Work For Bangladesh (LWFB) & TMSS
(RCH) Limb Centre

Friendship Corner

Artificial Limbs & Orthosis Support For
Amputees & Disabled Child's

Co-Operating and Implementation Partner

TMSS Medical College & Rafatullah Community Hospital
Bogura, Bangladesh.



Video links of patient interviews:

<https://youtu.be/3MacBXciU7U>

<https://youtu.be/TGbkyIbzo-8>

<https://youtu.be/OZLDplis8-Y>

Universal Amity (Blanket Distribution)

- **Activity:** Distributed 100 blankets at Fulbari Ponchopirtala Primary School in Bogura with the help of volunteers from Universal Amity.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/BdFs7Ll8Xc0>



Fred Hyde Schools (Cooperation in Development Australia Inc)

- **Travel Change:** Due to my sprained ankle, I had to cancel my trip to Bhola as the journey from Chittagong to Bhola is a difficult one.
- **Upcoming Visit:** Olav, the Chair of Fred Hyde Schools, will visit Bhola in January and visit the Bangladesh Canberra Friendship School.
- **Meeting:** As the Deputy Chair of Fred Hyde Schools and member of the Operations Committee, I had a 3-hour meeting with the auditors (MABS & J Partners) in Chittagong and advised the Fred Hyde School EC and Char Fassion Team on best practice auditing requirements.



Spectra School of Autism (Fund Raising)

- **Past Support:** LWFB has previously supported Spectra School of Autism by providing a Smart TV that facilitates video conferencing with Music/Speech therapists and other trainings.
- **Tablet Donation:** A tablet was gifted to a disadvantaged student, enabling him to use applications to enhance his communication skills.
- **Emotional Intelligence Tool:** LWFB gifted a 'CAT KIT', an emotional intelligence tool aimed at helping students develop their emotional intelligence.
- **Meeting with Dr. Fahmida Islam:** I met Dr. Fahmida Islam, a renowned gynecologist and autism expert, who sought LWFB's assistance in raising funds for the permanent Autism School construction. We discussed potential pathways for

support, and I visited the construction site. I will discuss this further with the LWFB Executive Committee upon my return to Australia.





Thank you for your continued support and dedication to these meaningful causes.

Finally, I also met Mehedi Hasan (Founder Universal Amity) in Bogura and Ashfaql Huq (LWFB Rep – NY) in Dhaka (photos below).



Happy New Year and best wishes for 2025.

For any questions, please drop me an email.

Gratefully Yours,

Borhan Shafi (Bijoy)

Head of Bangladesh Operations.