

NEWS LETTER

Bangladesh Medical Association of North America
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(Founded by Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists of Bangladeshi origin)

December 1995

1995 MEETING WAS A SUCCESS

The Annual meeting of BMA of north america was held on August 4, 5 & 6th 1995 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Once again a unique combination of professional, social and cultural intermingling renewed the spirit and the bond among the members and the families. A reception was held Friday evening followed by children's cultural program. A variety of talented performances including of songs, dances, music and speeches by the youths were extraordinarily impressive. The show was organized by Mrs. Piyari Sobhan. A slide show on The children of Bangladesh was presented by Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D. Next on the agenda was the members cultural night. The evening was alive and full of fun. The excellent presentations of songs by Shikha Sarker, Rebeca Costa and Syed Showkat Hussain, M.D. music in guitar by Kiron Devanath, M.D. and recitation by Dilip Sarkar, M.D. were of professional quality. As usual Golam Gazi, M.D. was outstanding in telling jokes. Spontaneous participation by Belayet Hussain, M.D. and Dr. Haq were highly welcomed.

Saturday morning's scientific seminar

was conducted by Dilip Sarkar, M.D. Among the significant presentations were: Alim Khandekar, M.D. describing his unique experience and endeavor of initiating cardiac bypass surgery in Bangladesh. Ehsanur Rahman, M.D. giving his account of doing coronary angioplasty in Bangladesh without any surgical backup. Both of them discussed in depth as well as the the problems and the possible solutions and the future of these procedures in Bangladesh.

Nripen Devanath, M.D. presented an in depth review of MRI in clinical practice.

The Business meeting was presided by Dhiraj Shah, M.D. president of BMA NA. Ajmal Sobhan, M.D. the general secretary and Shafique Rahman, M.D. the treasure gave their reports. The Business meeting was dominated by discussions of the BMA NA's roles and obligations in various activities in Bangladesh and in USA. The participants were Dhiraj Shah, M.D., Ajmal Sobhan, M.D., Basharat Yunus, M.D., Hamiduzzaman, M.D. (President NY chapter), Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D. and Nazmul Khan, M.D.

The election of BMA NA 's executive body of year 1995-1997 was conducted by Golam Gazi, M.D. Ajmal Sobhan, M.D. and Shafique Rahman, M.D. were reelected as secretary and treasure respectively. The new members at large became G.G. Nawaz, M.D. and Moazzam Hussain, M.D.

Badruzzman, M.D. was elected as president-elect. Once again every one was invited for the next annual meeting of BMA NA which will be held in Orlando, Florida on August in 1996. Faruq Azam, M.D. and A. Hafiz, M.D. are the coordinators of the upcoming meeting. The 1995 BMANA Humanitarian award was given to Ronald Garst, M.D. He founded the orthopedic hospital of Bangladesh after the war of Independence in 1972 and for over a decade dedicated himself into making it one of the most reputable institutions in the whole sub-continent. Dr. Garst was in Ethiopia at the time but he will be present during the next meeting to receive the award. After an exquisite dinner the much awaited cultural show began. A Baltimore based professional dance group performed spell bounding show on various themes. The Dallas based famous Bangladeshi folk singer Tajul Imam created an unforgettable evening with his beautiful voice and style. Another very famous visiting musician Mr. Shill played a traditional string 'Dotara' and made everyone speechless. The conference was great. Conference arrangement was excellent. The coordinator Dr. Ajmal Sobhan was the man behind the successful meeting. Local members and their families provided extraordinary services to make the meeting a very memorable one.

AN APPEAL FOR HUMANITY

A Bangladeshi Physician Dr. Anwar Chowdhury recently came to USA with a cystostomy tube accompanied by constant terrible pain.

A motorvehicle injury resulted in the rupture of his urethra. Treatment in India and Singapore failed to provide any relief or even mere hope. In the USA he is pursuing the treatment but enormous financial burden is becoming a major hindrance for his last chance. President of BMA Dhaka The Prof. M.A. Majed and The President BMANA Prof. Dhiraj Shah jointly appealed to the general members for urgent financial contribution to help Dr. Anwar's struggle with this very sad situation. Dr. Saduzzaman Choudhury, Dr. Masud Dr. Abul Kalam Azad and others have participated in providing much support. Dr. Shafique Rahman, Treasurer of BMANA is playing a very significant role to help out his whole situation. Some donations are coming in, Dr. Showkat Jahan of Virginia generously donated \$1000 immediately. The surplus money if any will be kept in BMANA fund for future need. Please hurry and send your generous tax deductible contribution to BMANA NA, C/O Shafiq Rahman, M.D. Treasurer, BMANA. 11 stirrup lane, Roslyn hight, NY 11577, (516) 484-2806

THE CONTINENTAL HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Continental Hospital Inc. Bangladesh, a new state of art 500 bed hospital in Gulshan Dhaka is in near completion. This hospital initially for 5 years will be managed by the famous and experienced Apollo Group of Hospital, India and this is expected to be an institute of excellence in the whole subcontinent. State of art technology, experienced physicians and other personnels are being sought from all over the world including USA.

Bangladeshi USA physicians who want to relocate, temporarily serve for 2 years for J-visa waiver or are even willing to provide short term fee for service during vacationing are encouraged to apply for employment. The following areas are considered: all subspecialities of Medicine, Surgery, ObGyn, Pathology, Radiology and Radiation therapy, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, ENT, Neurology, Psychiatry, Dentistry, Dermatology, Medical physicist, Hospital administrations, Pharmacy, Senior nursing (Cath. lab, OR, Critical care etc.)

Equity share of the Hospital of Taka 10 lacs to 1 crore (equivalent to \$25,000 to \$250,000) amount are offered at this moment before going to public. It is considered to be a very good investment because it is expected to attract many affluent Bangladeshi who are now going to India, Singapore, Bangkok and other places for quality treatment. Committed for the best of care the country's eminent physicians and business magnets are in the management of the hospital.

Please response if interested to The Continental Hospital Inc. PoBox 286, Morton, Pa. 19070.

THE LOAN IS REPAYED

A small loan (\$1000) for the first time was provided by BMANA 3 years ago to a Bangladeshi woman physician in USA, who was in extreme need due to an unexpected disability of her spouse who was the earning member of the family. She is still struggling with her life in USA but recently repaid the loan before even starting her professional carrier.

The Grameen bank like idea of providing short term loans to Physicians in need has been floating around for several years but a dedicated fund has not yet been created. This example may inspire the community to initiate a full scale program to help out people in need. Please voice your support and donate to this fund and be a part of a new beginning. It is

amazing how much people can accomplish when they work together.

BIRDM (Bangladesh Institute of Research in Diabetic and Metabolic Diseases) NEEDS CARDIAC TEAM.

Dr. Azad Khan, MRCP Director of BIRDM Dhaka recently requested us to help them in recruiting a cardiac surgery team which includes a cardiac surgeon, an Anesthesiologist, a Perfusionist, and a Respiratory therapist. He is planning to start cardiac bypass surgery in BIRDM from January 1996. Both short or long term contracts are possible. Attractive salary and benefits will be provided. Please spread the word to coworkers and help Dr. Khan recruiting the team. For any information contact Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D. 924 Stewart ave, Springfield, Pa. 19064.

RESEARCH IN BANGLADESH

Researcher members of BMANA are planning to start joint ventures in clinical research in Bangladesh. Initial contacts with Physicians and Researchers in Bangladesh are encouraging. If you have any interest, plans or activities please join the team. Contact Prof. Basharat Yunus, M.D. 2726 W. Fountaindale Dr. Peoria, IL 61614

PROCURE EQUIPMENT FOR BANGLADESH

Medical equipment can be taken to Bangladesh without any custom fees. This new regulation opens the opportunity so you can help different Bangladeshi Institutions by buying or collecting new or used medical equipment from your Hospital and donating. Transportation of light equipments also can be arranged if needed. Some members of BMANA have started donating books and equipments to different Institutions in Bangladesh. Recently Maleka Z. Ahmed, M.D. of Iowa donated a humidifier and pulse oximetry equipment to Dhaka Children Hospital after a request. Dr. Humayun Kabir of Albany agreed to send a large list of books to the Physical therapy department of the Orthopedic Institute of Bangladesh after their appeal.

President of BMANA Dr. Dhiraj Shah has approved to send CPR equipments including a full set of manikins to IPGM after a request from Dr. Omar Faruq an emergency physician who has now relocated to Bangladesh. BMANA will be collecting the requests from Bangladesh and will pass these requests on to the interested members who wish to participate in this most rewarding venture. Please also share your experience and contribution with us.

A HOUSE FOR SALE

UTTARA, DHAKA: About 2 blocks off the main road (on a 9.5 Katha plot) in sector IV : Three bedrooms with attached bath/shower, kitchen, a centrally located family room and a drawing or living room. Also a 2 car garage and driver's living area. Each unit may be sold individually. For further information, contact Dr. Chowdhury, 8 N. 11th street, Reading, Pa. 19601 (610)-374-0128.

NEED HELP IN PLANNING

Mashuk Chowdhury, CPA of Jhonson Moore & Associate, PC is specialized in the following areas: Income tax return, planning, retirement and financial planning, Practice management review, Managed care contract evaluation and negotiation, Practice fee schedule review, Practice setup, Practice evaluation and sale, Audits of Health care related entities, and human resources consulting. Call 1-800-530-4804 between 8AM and 5PM CST.

BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE(BDI)

In August 1995 BDI's meeting on development of Bangladesh in Pittsburgh was a great success. Many experts spoke on very vital issues regarding socio-economic development policies and priorities that are right for Bangladesh. The members of BDI are working relentlessly to propagate the idea that "Bangladesh should give highest priority to the production of value-added commodity". A syllabus of the conference will be available in the near future. Anybody interested to be part of this unique endeavor may call Ashraf Ali (412) 833-9372.

EDITORIAL

During my recent visit to Bangladesh it became apparent to me that support and contribution in academics, research, technology or financial aspects in any institution in Bangladesh is in great need. Any gesture is enormously appreciated. BIRD, IPGMR, Orthopedic Hospital, Children Hospital, Cardiac Hospital, BMA, Private Practice Association, CMH, are all very interested to be a part of receiving and sharing expertise and knowledge in many different fields of Medicine. Repeated discussions among BMANA members about providing an organized and fruitful service during their Bangladesh trip seems now very viable and much needed reality.

Renewed enthusiasm is observed and widespread participation is anticipated. It is

time to take advantage of this spirit and launch mutual ventures.

Many proposed changes in USA policies left many foreign born physicians nervous and the future of new graduates very uncertain. Never before has the unity among the members of an ethnic society is so much desired. Therefore a strong unity among our members is imperative in order to gain strength in this complex and confused climate. All out help is needed for the new graduates this year otherwise they will be left in cold. The members of BMANA should immediately organize a committee to network and oversee the problems and provide any support that can be given.

PROJECT BANGLADESH

The activities of The Project Bangladesh are running in full swing. The free clinic continued to provide service to the indigent. If anybody is interested to be a part of this Bangladesh based charitable organization formed by Bangladeshi US physicians contact Ajmal Sobhan, M.D. (804) 826-6692.

A Reunion on the 50th anniversary of Dhaka Medical College will be held in December, 1995. We send our greetings and whole hearted support to the nation's 1st medical Institution.

INVESTMENT IN HIGHTECH.

SyntheGen Systems (SGS) is a Boston based Bangladeshi Scientists owned biotechnology company in the development and commercialization of high quality reagents for molecular biology and immunology. The company envisions immediate development and patenting of two molecular biology kits. Also SGS offers custom services to the molecular biologists and immunologists. The company has several novel patentable technologies to create a niche for itself in the rapidly growing biotechnology reagent market (of \$18 billion by year 2000). Moreover, alliances have been established with major research institutions in South Asia to screen ancient Asian medicines, and use the company's proprietary breast cancer drug screen program for the development of novel and proprietary drugs against breast cancer. The company projects \$998,000 dollars start-up expenses for the next three years. The company also expects to generate revenue of \$922,600 dollars during this period of three years. The company is trying to raise a start-up fund of at least \$1,000,000 dollars from interested investors (at least \$20,000/each).

The management and advisory teams of the company include reputed scientists from Harvard medical school and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For full information fax your request to (610) 543-3577.

**JOIN BMANA, FUND THE PROJECTS,
HELP IN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, TAKE
THE LEADERSHIP**

The Newsletter is edited and published by Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D from 924 Stewart Ave, Springfield, Pa. 19064. (610) 543-7018

**The Executive committee of BMANA
1995-1997**

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