

Friendship welcomes the *Rongdhonu* in Chittagong

On 29th August, 2011, Friendship, its well-wishers and friends welcomed the ship *Rongdhonu* to Bangladesh. It was also an occasion for the foreign crew to bid farewell to the ship and the local crew to take over. Among the speakers at the occasion were Capt. Mike Fincken, who led the ship in the past, and Friendship's Executive Director Runa Khan.

Rongdhonu, formerly known as Rainbow Warrior II, was a Greenpeace International vessel that has contributed greatly to history through being an integral part of Greenpeace's campaigns against nuclear testing, whaling and others. On 16th August, through a ceremony in Singapore, it was handed over to Friendship, to be converted into a floating hospital. *Rongdhonu* will enable



Friendship to bring health care to people living in some of the vulnerable and marginalized areas, along the coastal belt of country. The floating hospital will provide primary, secondary and emergency health care to these populations who have little or no access to basic health care facilities.

Rongdhonu will provide more accessible primary and secondary health care to the remote coastal belt of the south, in a manner similar to and from experiences learned

from the Lifebuoy Friendship Hospital and Emirates Friendship Hospital. Additionally it will have the facilities to provide emergency health services in areas all along the Bay of Bengal coast, whenever the need arises. The ship will be equipped with basic primary and secondary facilities as are on the other two hospital ships of Friendship, which includes eye care, dental care, pediatric care, women health care, investigation services, ward services, etc. Specialized health camps will also be organized providing secondary healthcare with different types of surgeries made available including eye, dental, reconstructive, paediatric, women health camps, etc. A number of local and foreign specialized doctors will help in this work. Depending on the weather and water level, the hospital will move to be accessible to selective communities.

Visit of Crucell's Fourth Footprint team to Friendship's working areas

The fourth group of Crucell staff consisting of eight persons working in various sites and departments worldwide visited Friendship's work areas in northern Bangladesh from June 26 to July 1, 2011. They visited the *chars* of Shukur Keranir in Gaibandha district and Montola in Kurigram district.

In the duration of their visit, the team attended an EPI (Expanded Program on Immunization) session which was in progress. The EPI team usually vaccinates the children on

the *char*, and disseminates information regarding nutritious, healthy meals; health issues; and meets with pregnant women of the community. They also attended a formal inauguration and planning workshop of the Kurigram EPI programme. In addition to Crucell team, this was attended by government officials based in the district, and Friendship staff. Additionally, they visited Friendship's other work, including a primary school, plinth that Friendship had helped local people build, and a weaving centre which trains *char* women in an income generating skill.



Crucell team in EPI session

Friendship's New Endeavor- Good Governance

Friendship has been working with local populace in its working areas to reduce poverty and improve their living standards, through various initiatives which are part of an integrated development system. Although Friendship had always endeavored to incorporate the principles of good governance in all its departments, it has now decided to give it more emphasis, in order to create awareness among its beneficiaries. Friendship will incorporate policies on ethical practice, legal compliance, and honesty and public disclosure, to firmly establish the principles of good governance in all its activities. Friendship's Rural Social Education Project will be the platform and point of action for this.

The Human Rights and Good Governance department is in the process of formulating and publishing books and manuals on this, suitable to be used in adult and child education. Presently Friendship is working on women's rights in an ancillary fashion. In its 'Access to a Better Life' project, initiatives are taken to improve livelihood and dignity of both men and women beneficiaries. Friendship however recognizes that women are the backbone of the society and they require special support because in reality the responsibility to take care of the children and family falls on them. Through this initiative, Friendship will be better able to stand by its beneficiaries in protecting their rights.

Friendship Awarded the Best Performing NGO in Gaibandha

The Department of Family Planning under the Ministry of Health and Family Planning gave an award to Friendship for its commendable work in the field of family planning, child health and mother care in Gaibandha district. The award is for the year 2010-2011. The award giving ceremony was held on July 11, 2011 at the Zilla Parishad Auditorium, Gaibandha. Among the other guests, Deputy Director of Family Planning and Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha district were also present in the ceremony.



Friendship's representative receiving the certificate from the Chair and the certificate is shown below

Orientation Programme on Human Rights and Good Governance

Friendship organized a day-long orientation programme on human rights and good governance at the conference room of Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Office at Gaibandha on Wednesday under its Access to a Better Life Project funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation.



The day-long orientation

The speakers stressed that the living standard of the impoverished *char* people to be improved if the services on health, education, agriculture and communication from the government and non-government organizations are to be effectively provided to the people of that area. Upazila Parishad Chairman Abdur Rashid Sarker attended the function as the chief guest while UNO Ashib Ahsan was the chair.

Emirates Friendship Hospital Featured on National Geographic Magazine



National Geographic Magazine has published a photograph of our distinguished ship Emirates Friendship Hospital (EFH) in its May issue.

Runa Khan Invited as a Panelist at the ALFI Conference

Runa Khan, Founder and Executive Director of Friendship, attended the 3rd ALFI (The Association of the Luxembourg Fund Industry) Microfinance conference on 17th March 2011 in Luxembourg as a key panelist. It was featured on the cover of a monthly publication of Luxembourg Parliament.

Friendship Observed World Population Day

World Population Day was observed in the *char* area of Gaibandha district on July 11, 2011 in a befitting manner as elsewhere in the country and across the globe. Friendship chalked out elaborate activities on the occasion under its Access to a Better Life project activities. A discussion was held by the Department of Family Planning and Friendship. Different speakers highlighted the significance of the day at the auditorium of Zilla Parishad of the town with the deputy director of DFP Dr. Ferdous Hossain Manju in the chair. The speakers in the meeting stressed the need for establishing planned family in every section of the society to build a poverty and hunger free country. Besides, a big colorful rally led by DC was brought out and ended at the campus of Zilla Parishad after parading the main roads of the town.



The World Population Day rally

Students of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) Visit Friendship's Work Areas

26 students of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) visited Gaibandha on a three-day field trip on April 20, 2011 where they visited primary schools set-up by Friendship in two *chars*, Shidhai and Baitkamari.

The trip was arranged by ULAB-ISD (Institute for Sustainable Development) which is a proposed research institution in ULAB. Students from three other courses, "Seminar on International Grassroots Development," "Introduction to Community Development" and "Environmental Impact Assessment" visited the *chars* to conduct research work. The students went door to door to find out the present scenario of the *chars* and what kind of support they can avail from the schools that Friendship has set up.



Students of ULAB



Secondary Health Care Camp

Secondary Health Camps in April 2011 in EFH

From April 09-30, 2011 secondary health camps were organized in EFH where doctors representing a number of international organizations from different countries visited. Orthopedic surgery camp was headed by Dr. John Harve Simonnet from HumaniTerra International France. 70 patients were screened and 20 patients had surgeries. Pediatric surgery camp was headed by Dr. Arnauld Delarue from HumaniTerra International France where 71 patients were screened and 54 patients had surgeries. In the plastic surgery camp conducted by Dr. Neuhann-Lorene, Dr. Toni Zhong, and Dr. Michelle Locke from Women for Women Germany, 40 patients were screened and 31 patients had surgeries. Physiotherapy camp was headed by physiotherapist Luc Max Walle and Richard from HumaniTerra International France where 92 patients received physiotherapy.

Story of Shafi - a Successfully Operated Patient

6 month old Shafi, son of Shahin Parvez who lives in Shal More village, Kurigram, had club foot in his right leg. During the Orthopedic Surgery Camp (9th to 16th April 2011 at EFH) he was successfully operated on by Dr. John Harve Simonnet of HumaniTerra International, France. Shafi will now be able to walk normally; stand on his feet to face the challenges of life.



Shafi before surgery



Surgeons operating on Shafi



Shafi with his surgeon after the surgery