Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence said by Colin Powell.

With this belief Bandhu is sincerely continuing to serve the communities with undivided commitment and is paving the way for obtaining their social justice, equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We would like to convey our heartiest thanks and gratitude to each and every compeer of our journey. At the same time, it is our strong belief that by working simultaneously we must be able to defeat any obstacle and turn the limitations to success in the upcoming year.

In this edition of Spandon, Bandhu's current programs and events have been published in brief along with some international affair news which defray great magnitude to our motive.

For the successful publication of the quarterly newsletter, we would like to show appreciation to the writers and editorial team who have made this turn out. At the same time, we convey our advance thanks to our readers as they are the only source of our inspiration for this publication.
Access of Gender Diverse Population to Public Health Facilities: Expectation from Government & Non Government Hospitals

To create conducive environment for HIV infected and affected gender diversified people in health service settings, Bandhu arranged an orientation program on 18th April, 2017 at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

In the meeting, Brigadier General Md. Jalal Uddin, Director of CMCH was the Chief Guest. Dr. Mohammad Didarul Islam, Deputy Director of CMCH and 41 participants from CMCH, PLHIV (Person Living with HIV) network, NGO and community people were present in the meeting.

In his speech Chief Guest said that, We will provide treatment under NASP (National AIDS/STD Program) to Hijras with proper care and need to know basis. Mentioned, Bangladesh Government has promised to ensure all the basic rights for Hijra by keeping these people safe.

The meeting was organized to create awareness among the Hijrat community on accessing public health facilities. It was emphasized that the government has promised to provide equal rights to Hijras and Hijras are encouraged to get themselves treated and participate in social activities.

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their identity as third gender. Dr. Monsurul Alam, Professor and Head Department of Dermatology, notified Government hospital is right place to take treatment for HIV patient without any doubt because this is the place where patient can get a holistic approach for their treatment due to accessibility of different department facilities together in one place. He also commented on Bandhu’s objective to find out more strategic way of health services for Hijra and other gender diversified people.

Some Recommendation raised from meeting about, patient’s referral card introduction by which the PLHIV can get service from hospital and keep record and to ensure that each PLHIV patient can get treatment services from anywhere in Bangladesh. Different NGO will have different color card to maintain patient confidentiality while visiting public health services. Also suggested, Medical board will include one more column in their prescription format with ‘X’ for identifying Hijra and gender diversified people.

Event conduct by the project Stigma and discrimination free environment for HIV infected and affected MSM and supported by ViiV Healthcare’s Positive Action MSM & Transgender Programme.

Building bridges:
Panel Lawyer’s Conference to create better understanding on human rights of Gender Diverse population

To build up a keen relation between Lawyer’s and Gender Diverse population, Bandhu has arranged a daylong Divisional Lawyer’s Conference in Rangpur Division on 27th May 2017. 22 lawyers from all the districts of Dhaka division participated in the conference. The participants showed their motivation to render legal support to the sexually diverse population in case violation of right. Provide

্যানেল আইনজীবিদের
সমন্বয়ের লেখিক বৈচিত্রের
মানুষের মানবাধিকার রক্ষার
অঙ্গীকার

আইনজীবি ও লেখিক বৈচিত্রের মানুষের মধ্যে আরো ফলস্বরূপ ও অন্যান্য সম্পর্ক গড়ে তোলার উদ্দেশ্যে বস্তুগত গত পর্যায়ে। ২৭ মে ২০১৭ তারিখে রপ্ত ভারতের আইনজীবিদের নিয়ন্ত্রণ ব্যাপারে সমন্বয় করে। রপ্ত ভারতের ভিত্তিতে জেলা থেকে ২২ জন আইনজীবি সহযোগী করে। আইনজীবিগণ লেখিক বৈচিত্রের মানুষের অধিকার লক্ষ্যের গৃহস্থানে আইন সংস্থা দেয়ার জন্য তাদের পুরুষ মনোভাব শ্রবণ করে। তারা বলেন, লিখিত পরিচয়ের ভিত্তিতে যারা নিজেদের অধিকারের রক্ষার কার্যক্রম চালান তারা সব প্রাথমিক জনগণের জন্য আইনি সংস্থা দেবে। সমন্বয়ের অধিকারীদের মধ্যে অধিকাংশই সমর্থন এর কারণ, সামাজিক ও অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থার ভিত্তিতে লিখিত
better legal support to the marginalized community who identify themselves minorities based on their gender identity.

In the conference, most of the participants were agreed on the point that, the intensity of gender discrimination differs based on socio-economic status. In this point of view, third gender people face discrimination beyond description. They also felt, it's time to speak out against this type of discrimination & violation of human rights. As lawyers, how
they can fight for third gender population and as human beings how their dignity and rights can be protected, it's time to rethink. Chief guest Mr. Khondoker Golam Faruk, BPM (Bar), PPM, DIG, Rangpur said in his speech that, our Prime Minister declared Hijra population as ‘Third Gender’ in 2013. It was a great initiative, but most of the people do not know about the Hijra gazette. We may hope that within next five years there will be no Hijra member on streets, he comments.

However, Bandhu offered lawyer fellowship, where they have the opportunity to apply for fellowship by which they will be to work more closely with SOGI issue.

Giving Memorandum to 4 Divisional Commissioners

In Bangladesh Hijra community is one of the most forlorn clusters of the society. They are living a very turbulent life due to their different culture, sexual orientation and gender identity.

But as a rightful burgher they have equal rights like others. They are even deprived from availing any basic rights from the
society. To soothe their pain and vindicate their social rights, Bandhu started working since 1996. In this long way till date, Bandhu and its 27 partner Community Base Organizations (CBOs) worked in different way of advocacy to ensure Hijra population’s health care needs, health service and human rights issues.

Bandhu believes that without government's support, proper expectancy can never be
achieved for Hijra community in Bangladesh.

With those views, Bandhu and its 27 CBOs from all over the country has planned to give memorandum to District Commissioner of four divisions. Bandhu and Different group of Hijra representatives on behalf of 27 CBO's visited DC offices of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet to hand over a memorandum to the respective District Commissioner. The main objective of the event was to draw attention of the government to minimize their miseries from their daily life and abidingly set up their rights by which they can live a humanly life.

India's First Transgender Sub-Inspector Takes Charge

This is a story about beating incredible odds.

K PrithikaYashini has made history by becoming the first transgender person in India to become sub-inspector in the police force. She has already reported to duty to serve the country in Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu.
Prithika's journey towards becoming an officer has been informed by her sheer resilience as she had to fight social stigma every step of the way. It was right after completing her undergraduate degree that Prithika, who was born as Pradeep and underwent a sex change surgery.

And it was then that she decided to reach for her dreams of becoming a police officer. It nearly did not come true as the first time she applied, was rejected. The reason being she had filed her as a transgender person and she had been told that there was only a 'Male' and 'Female' option in the application form. Not one to accept defeat, she went to court to fight for her right and ended up winning the legal battle.

As for Prithika herself, she was the picture of optimism while speaking to the Times of India about her first day as a sub-inspector, noting, "I was not at all tense since all the senior officers and my colleagues were very cordial. In fact, I was very excited on my first day in duty."

Prithika's achievement is particularly bittersweet, given the kind of societal rejections that members of the transgender community face on a daily basis. In Rajasthan, a trans woman called Ganga Kumari could have been the first transgender person in a state police force in 2015 if she had only been allowed join as constable. Like Prithika, Ganga is fighting back in the courts and has filed a writ in the Rajasthan High Court.

And Prithika will be at hand to ensure no one breaks the law as she continues to break the glass ceilings.
Divisional level Media Fellowship Award: First step to reach the divisional level journalists

Media is an effective policy influencing tool for advocating issues to the general public and policymakers regarding HIV/AIDS, gender violence and many other issues around the world. Media fellowship is a great invention of Bandhu to raise awareness among the general population about those burning issues. Till 2011 Bandhu has given 7 media fellowships to national level journalists but for the first-time media fellowship was offered to the divisional level journalists under USAID’s HRID project. During this fellowship period, each fellow produced and published reports (for print and online media) and media reports (for radio and television channels) in newspaper, TV and radio. On 15 June 2017, Bandhu has arranged the media fellowship giving ceremony where, 13 journalists were awarded.

As Chair of the program Mr. Shale Ahmed described the crucial functions of Bandhu. He mentioned that Bandhu works regarding the health and human rights of Gender Diverse population. Experiencing from other Media Fellowship program, Bandhu realized the importance of down streaming the fellowship in divisional level. As Chief Guest, Justice Md. Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, (Chairman, Bangladesh press council) requested to keep the Hijra child in family. He emphasized on the socialization processes of Hijra children at

বিভাগীয় মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপের প্রথম প্রদানকালীন
স্থানীয় সাংবাদিকদের কাছে পৌঁছানোর প্রথম প্রাঙ্গণ

সারা পৃথিবিতেই এইচআইডি- এইচডি, লিঙ্গ সহিষ্ণুতা এবং অন্যান্য অনেক বিষয়েরই সাধারণ মনোযোগ ও নীতি নির্ধারকদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণের জন্য আড়ালতের কারণে স্বাধীন মাধ্যম শিক্ষাধীন এবং কার্যকর প্রভাব হিসেবে কাজ করে। তবে জনসাধারণ এবং নীতি নির্ধারকদের মধ্যে এইচআইডি-এইচডি, লিঙ্গ সহিষ্ণুতার আন্তর্জাতিক আঞ্চলের জন্য আড়ালতের কারণে মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপের উদ্যোগ মনোযোগ নিজের প্রাঙ্গণের মাধ্যমে প্রচার করা হয়। ২০১১ সাল থেকে তাদের কাজ শুরু করে ২০১৭ সাল

পর্যন্ত জাতীয় প্রাঙ্গণে ৭টি মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ প্রদান করেছে। এই প্রাঙ্গণের মতো বিভাগীয় প্রাঙ্গণের সাংবাদিকদের জন্য এই ফেলোশিপ আয়োজন করা বড় এবং ইউএসএইচ এর রিড (HRID) প্রক্ষে এর জন্য আরও সহযোগিতা যে হয়। ফেলোশিপ চালানো প্রতিটি দিন নিজ গঠন গবেষণা মিডিয়া গ্রাহক, প্রকাশ ও প্রচার করেন (ডিবিএফ, আন্তঃজাতিক ও ইন্টারনেটের মিডিয়া)। ১৫ জুন ২০১৭ মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ প্রদানের জন্য একটি অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করা হবে। এরপর ১৩ জন বিভাগীয় প্রাঙ্গণের সাংবাদিকদের মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ নেয়া হয়।

অনুষ্ঠানের সভাপতির বক্তব্যে বড়ুর নির্দেশক পরিচালক সাহেব আহমেদ, বড়ু শেষ কিছু ওগুলুকুপূর্ণ কার্যকরী বিষয়ে তুলে ধরেন। পর্ববর্তী মিডিয়া ফেলোশিপ কর্মসূচিসমূহ জনকে অর্জিত অভিজ্ঞতা বড়ু মনে করে, বুধ জাতীয় প্রাঙ্গণের মতো বিভাগীয় প্রাঙ্গণেই এই ফেলোশিপ কর্মসূচি উদ্যোগ দেয়া প্রয়োজন ছিলো।

প্রধান অভিষেক বক্তব্যে বাংলাদেশ প্রেস কল্যাণের চেয়ারম্যান ফাইন্যান্স মেইনমান নিজের মত মনোযোগ আহ্বান দেন, ছবিতে শিষ্যদের নিজ পরিবারের রাখার অনুরোধ জাতোন। পরিবারের পরিবারের রেখে সামাজিকসহকর্মীদের ওপর কাজ করেন তিনি। অন্যান্য অভিষিক্ত হনন, ছবিতে শিষ্যদের করা জনমূর্তির কারণ ও কারণ কর্ম সম্পর্কে একপ্রকার সমন্বয়ের মূল মনোযোগ দেন। মিডিয়া এই প্রস্তুতি ওগুলুকুপূর্ণ ভূমিকা আছে বলে মত প্রকাশ করেন তিনি।
family level. Other guests mentioned that, the story of sufferings of some particular types of people like Hijra usually remain untold and unheard, media can play a crucial role in this aspect.

Besides, Bandhu has developed a Media Handbook which contains all about how to prepare report on issues around sexual minority.

"Social Concern about Unprivileged Hijra community in Bangladesh": Advocacy meeting with National Curriculum and Textbook Board

It's high time to disseminate the Third Gender issues among general population of Bangladesh. Bandhu felt that to include this issue in National curriculum will be a proper action to create mass awareness. That's why Bandhu is trying to negotiate with National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB). As part of this advocacy Bandhu has organized its second dialogue with NCTB with titled 'Social concern about unprivileged Hijra community in Bangladesh'.

In dialogue, Professor Narayan Chandra Shaha, Chairman, NCTB expressed his
sincere thanks and gratitude to Bandhu for this noble initiative. In his speech, he suggested that for inclusion of Hijra issue in the National Curriculum and Text Books, Bandhu can develop content or can prepare the supplementary reading document and submit to the NCTB through Ministry of Education. As per approval of ministry, NCTB will take initiative to include that in the text book under Health Science and/or Family chapter. Other distinguished guests and participants also imposed as same as NCTB Chairman to Bandhu to make a resolution and share it with NCTB respective person.

The dialogue held at CIRDAP auditorium in capital on 25 May 2017. The meeting was ornamented with the presence of around 52 distinguished guests like Professor Narayan Chandra Shaha, Chairman, NCTB, Dr. Enamul Haque- Member, NCCC, Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique- Member (Text), NCTB, Professor Dr. ASM Aman Ullah- University of Dhaka, Dr. Jobayda Nasreen- Asst.Professor, DU, Farzana Rupa- Senior Journalist, Anisul Islam Hero- Chairperson, Bandhu. And other representatives from National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Universities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Electronic and Print Media, NGOs, NASP, DG Health and Hijra community leaders treasured the convention with their valuable comments and suggestions. Mejor recommendations from this program are-

- Include Hijra issues in the secondary level curriculum where 'Saririk Sikkha and Sastho' can be considered as more relevant chapter.
- Bandhu can draft a content on Hijra issues and share it with NCTB specialists for their review and guidance to identify and explore the appropriate section and scope for inclusion in the curriculum
- Submit a letter to the Education Ministry with the need and importance of inclusion of Hijra issues in the National curriculum and Textbook.

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- Submit a letter to the Education Ministry with the need and importance of inclusion of Hijra issues in the National curriculum and Textbook.
• Place the recommendation to the National Curriculum Coordinator Committee (NCCC) for their approval
• Develop a module on Hijra issues for including in the teacher's training manual and arrange training for teachers
• Organize Social media campaign about Hijra community using Facebook for awareness.

What have we learnt and where to now?

On 25-26 April 2017, a regional conference held to celebrate the 10 years of Yogyakarta Principles in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu, invited and participated in 2-day regional conference. Apart from National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh Ms. Meghna Guhathakurta, Commissioner and M. Rabiul Islam, Sr. Assistant Director also participated the conference.

The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) entered into an 18-month partnership agreement to ‘increase

एক দশকের শিক্ষা ও অগ্রগতি!

যোগাযোগী নীতিমালার ১০ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে গজ ২৫-২৬ এপ্রিল, ২০১৭ ব্যাংককে একটি আঞ্চলিক সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। বর্ষীয় নির্বাচিত পরিচালক সদস্য আহমদ আমিনী আতিথী হিসেবে হয় দিনের ওই সম্মেলনে অংশ নেন।

বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় মানবাধিকার কমিশনের কমিশনার মেহমন গ্যাটার্কুটি এবং সিদ্ধার্থ পরিচালক এম। রবিউল আলমও এই সম্মেলনে অংশ নেন।

জাতীয় মানবাধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠানের সমুদ্র এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগর ফোরাম (APF) ও জাতিসংঘের উদ্যোগ তুর্কিল ইউএনডিপি) ১৮ মাসের একটি পার্টনারশিপ চুক্তিতে অবদান হয়। এই চুক্তির লক্ষ্য, এসএজিঅই জনগণী সম্পর্কে এশীয় ও প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলের জাতীয় মানবাধিকার
knowledge and cooperation between NHRIs (National Human Rights Institutions) and CSOs in relation to SOGI in the Asia Pacific. As a part of the partnership APF and UNDP hosted this important conference.

This conference celebrates 10 years of the Principles and it will look towards the future. It brought together all 24 APF members, 2 observer NHRIs to the APF, International experts, civil society, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, UN agencies, and APF secretariat.

DIC Manager of Narayanganj has received the 'Best Organizer' Award

Senior DIC Manager Mr. A. K Humayun Kabir of Narayanganj Drop in Center (DIC) of the Bandhu Social Welfare Society has received the 'Best Organizer' Award from the Narayanganj District Administration. It needs to be mentioned that different Non-government Development Organization worked for public health during 2016. Their work had been thoroughly evaluated and participation of different development activities of the government the District administration selected.

‘বেস্ট অরগানাইজার’
অ্যাওয়ার্ড পেয়েছে বন্ধু নারায়ণগঞ্জ ডিইআইসি ম্যানেজার

২০১৬ সালে জনব্যাপী কাজ করা বিভিন্ন সেবাকর্মী উন্নয়ন সংস্থার কর্মকারী মূল্যায়ন, বিশ্লেষন ও সরকারের উন্নয়ন কার্যকে সত্যিকার অন্যায়সংস্থার ভিত্তিতে বেসরকারি উন্নয়ন সংস্থা ‘সোশাল ওয়েলফেয়ার সোসাইটি’র নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলা ইন সেন্টার-ডিইআইসির লিনিয়ার ডিইআইসি ম্যানেজার এ কে হুমায়ুন খান কর্মকর্তা বেস্ট অরগানাইজার অ্যাওয়ার্ডের জন্য মনোনিত করে নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলা প্রশাসন।
Bandhu for their active participation in the government programs.

A planning meeting was held at the Civil Surgeon’s office to celebrate the World Health Day (7 April 2017) of Narayanganj on 22 March 2017. The Civil Surgeon of Narayanganj District Dr. Ehsanul Haque had declared the award in that meeting. Representatives of all government and non-government organizations of the Narayanganj District had attended the Planning Meeting.

The Civil Surgeon of Narayanganj District informed the meeting about the programs to celebrate the World Health Day. He emphasized to celebrate the day at all District and Upazilla levels with due fervor. At the same time he requested all development organizations to take part actively in the programs of the day.

Number of programs was organized at the Civil Surgeons office to commemorate the World Health Day on 7 April 2017. Programs were organized on 8 April 2017. Programs included rally from Civil Surgeons office to the office of Deputy Commissioner, discussion meeting and prize distribution.

Work oriented training: Hijra Community have become self reliant

B. Baria district Department of Social Welfare had organized Work Oriented trainings to improve the life & living of the Hijra Community. The members of the


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Kormoosi Prashikshhon Niyon Swabsher Hiqqu\a

Bij, Baria Sab Diacisirir Abidura Hijqu\a Jiboomin Ulunadon Loboko Kormoosi Prashikshhon Ayanan Karo Bij, Baria Jolob Sajnoon Sajnoon Afinshor.
Hijra community listed within the Sub-DICs of the B. Baria. The two month long training program began on 16 April 2017 and continued up to 16 June 2017 at the office of the Department of Social Welfare. 50 members of the Hijra Community were given trainings as beautician and they were provided with Taka 30 thousand each in order to engage them in to employment. Many of them have established beauty parlour by the grant provided to them and in the mean time they have become self reliant with the support provided.

During the grant giving ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner of B. Baria Mr. Rezwanur Rahman asked the District Social Welfare Officer to organize longer version of trainings for the Hijra Community. He also mentioned that the longer version trainings for the Hijra community would help them in improving their life & living very quickly. He also asked the Deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare Mr. Mostofa Sarwar to submit the application to the related department for longer version of trainings as quick as possible. The Social Welfare Officer Mr. Jamal Miah coordinated the two-month long training for the Hijra community.
WRITERS OF THIS EDITION