

Ten bedded Comprehensive Palliative Care Unit Inaugurated at NICRH on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2022

On 08 October 2022, the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) celebrated World Hospice and Palliative care day and inaugurated the 10 bedded Comprehensive Palliative Care unit. It is a unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care worldwide. It takes place on the second Saturday of October every year. This year the theme was “Healing Hearts and Communities.”

The director of NICRH, Prof. Dr. Swapan Kumar Bandyopadhyya chaired the session. The chief guest Prof Dr. Ahmedul Kabir, Additional Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and the special guest Prof Dr. Md. Robed Amin, Line Director at the Department of Non- Communicable disease control Program (NCDC), have joined the program virtually. The stage is also ornamented with Dr. Afreena Mahmud, Director, Planning and Research, DGHS, and Dr. Shahidul Islam, Program manager, Noncommunicable disease, as Special Guests.

Dr. S. M. Humayun Kabir, Associate Professor and Head of the Palliative Care unit of this institute, welcomed the guests and talked about how palliative care can heal the hearts of people and communities who have already lost their loved ones.

Dr. Lubna Mariam, Assistant Professor and focal person of the Palliative care Unit, NICRH, was the Keynote speaker. She analysis the present scenario of palliative care services in Bangladesh and what facilities are available, and how to get those services at NICRH.

The chief guest Prof. Dr. Ahmedul Kabir, in his speech, says, “The need for palliative care is growing, but progress in access to care is moving very slowly. Governments and leaders in health care must realize and take steps to move forward.”

The special guest Prof Dr. Md. Robed Amin, talked about why cancer and other chronic disease need palliative care and the challenges to mitigate the need of these services.

Dr. Afreena Mahmud and Dr. Shahidul Islam emphasized the need for training of health care providers and how the DGHS can collaborate with NICRH and uphold these Services in Bangladesh.

The Chairperson, Director of NICRH, Prof. Dr Swapan Kumar Bandyopadhyaya has proudly announced the inauguration of a comprehensive palliative care unit. He also shared a collective vision to increase the availability of hospice and palliative care in our country.

