

Glimpse

International Centre for
diarrhoeal disease research, Bangladesh
NEWSLETTER

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Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Chief Guest at the opening ceremony addressing the National Workshop on Oral Rehydration. The Workshop was jointly organized by the National Oral Rehydration Programme (NORP) and the ICDDR,B. More picture on page two.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ORAL REHYDRATION

A National Workshop on Oral Rehydration was held from 26-28 September, 1979 at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, jointly sponsored by the Centre and the National Oral Rehydration Programme (NORP). The Chief Guest for the opening ceremony was Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, formerly Minister of Health and at present Secretary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Special Guest was Professor M. A. Matin, Minister of Health. The meeting was chaired by Mr. M. K. Anwar, Secretary of Health.

Both guests and Mr. Anwar are members of the Board of Trustees of ICDDR,B. During the opening session Dr. Mustaqul Huq, Project Director of NORP and Dr. Mahboob Rahman, Additional Project

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CALL TO ADOPT ORAL REHYDRATION

A *Seminar on Oral Rehydration*, organized by the National Oral Rehydration Programme (NORP) was held on September 8, 1979 at the premises of the Local Municipality Library, Narayanganj, Dacca.

The speakers discussed the various aspects of oral rehydration

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ICDDR,B TEAM VISITS MANILA

During the week of August 12 to 18 the Director, Dr. W. B. Greenough, Development Director, Mr. Bashir and the Health Secretary for Bangladesh, Mr. M. K. Anwar who is also a Trustee of ICDDR,B visited the International Rice Research Institute at Los Baños, the Philippines. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the Director, Development Director and the Trustee who is a member of the sub-committee to advise on personnel management policy, with the administration and management of an international research

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SWEDISH SCIENTISTS CONTINUE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Dr. Jan Holmgren and Dr. Ann-Mari Svennerholm from the University of Goteborg, Sweden are visiting the Centre for two months to continue research collaboration with scientists in ICDDR,B.

Three studies are conducted. The first one examines the ability of a newly developed cholera subunit toxoid to give rise to a local immune response in the gut of immunized persons, and also evaluates which route of immunization - by mouth or by injection - is most effective.

The two other studies concern anti-diarrhoeal agents. One study aims at evaluating whether treatment with the antisecretory drug chlorpromazine is compatible with oral fluid therapy and whether such treatment will reduce the failure rate of oral therapy in cholera and non-cholera diarrhoea. The other study intends to evaluate the effect of orally administered receptor ganglioside (GMI) adsorbed on charcoal.

YEMENI DOCTOR RECEIVES TRAINING AT ICDDR,B

Dr. Abdul Rahman Ali Ishak, Paediatrician/Technical Director, Kuwait General Hospital, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic received two weeks training at ICDDR,B on different aspects of management of diarrhoeas, especially paediatric diarrhoeas. During his stay in August, Dr. Ishak visited WHO Office in Dacca, Shishu Hospital, the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Matlab Field Station of ICDDR,B, National Oral Rehydration Programme Office, Matlab Thana Health Complex, Matlab MCH-FP Project and the Rural Health Centres at Tongi and Joydebpur, Dacca. He also familiarized himself with the research and training programmes of ICDDR,B. Dr. Ishak delivered a lecture on *Health Problems in the Yemen Arab Republic* in a seminar on August 10, 1979.



Special Guest Professor M. A. Matin, Minister for Health (left) and chairperson for the meeting and Mr. M. K. Anwar, Secretary, Ministry of Health (right) addressing the seminar.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP

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Director of NORP spoke about the oral rehydration programme in Bangladesh. Dr. W. B. Greenough, III, Director, ICDDR,B spoke on the role of ICDDR,B in research, training and extension. Dr. K. M. S. Aziz, Scientific Director, ICDDR,B spoke on training resource personnel for National Oral Rehydration Programme. There was a General Session on the stages of dehydration in diarrhoea. In the general session, details of the National Oral Rehydration Programme were discussed and 13 papers were presented on individual projects. Five discussion groups covered the following topics :

- a. Operational Procedures (Implementation)
- b. Training Materials: Training Materials used by various organizations
- c. Composition of Solutions
- d. Discussion on Cottage Industry: (1) Preparation of Packets (2) Home Made Solutions (3) Quality Control of Cottage Industry and Home Made Solutions
- e. Coordination and Evaluation

Dr. Lincoln C. Chen, ICDDR,B chaired the concluding session. It was noted in the concluding session that many different groups are working with oral rehydration. All of them have the single objective of reducing morbidity and mortality through oral rehydration.

ICDDR,B TEAM IN MANILA

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institution. The delegation over a two-day period met Mr. Hugh Murphy, the Director of Administration, Mr. Salacup, the Controller and other members of the IRRI staff. Detailed documents on organization and management were acquired for the Trustee's Sub-Committee on Personnel Management and Policies. This sub-committee has as members, the Director, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and Mr. M. K. Anwar.

The delegation had discussions on how the Asian Development Bank might participate in the health sector, both with respect

to developing countries and the ICDDR,B.

Meetings were also held with Dr. Nakajima, the Regional Manager for the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization and Dr. Lindner of WHO, Manila.

ORAL REHYDRATION

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and its use as a substitute for saline. In Bangladesh, a large number of children under five years die of diarrhoea.

The speakers called the people to adopt oral rehydration as a simple method for the treatment of any sort of diarrhoea as it can easily be prepared in the home with a minimum expenditure.

ICDDR,B PUBLICATIONS

Isolation, Purification and Characterization of Shigella Phage by *M. I. Huq* and *M. A. Salek*. July, 1979. (*Scientific Report No. 27*).

Of the typing methods of bacteria used for the epidemiological investigation of the disease bacteriophage typing appears to be the most sensitive. Many authors have published papers on the use of cholera phage in the epidemiological studies of cholera and differentiation of biotypes of *V. cholerae*. Studies on shigella phages are limited to *S. flexneri* and *S. sonnei* phages. During the routine research for bacteriophage from stool of patients or bacterial cultures from them we have isolated a phage which produces round creanated pluck, has a burst time of about 18-22 minutes, is neutralized by its homologous anti-phage serum and lyses all the *S. dysenteriae* type 1 and all the *S. flexneri* type 2, part of type 3 and 4 and none of type 1, 5 and 6. It does not attack any of the other Shigella sp. Salmonella, *E. coli*, Paracolon, Proteus and *V. cholerae* or other vibrios and *Aeromonas* sp.

TRAINING ABROAD

Dr. Abu Eusof, Deputy Chief Physician of ICDDR,B returns from abroad after completing a summer course of Epidemic Intelligence Service, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, U.S.A. During his stay in U.S.A. for 1½ months, Dr. Eusof participated in the investigation of an outbreak of Serratia Marcense at the V.A. Hospital, Philadelphia. He also attended a laboratory course on enteric diseases in C.D.C.

Mr. Md. Akbar Ali, Head, Biochemistry Branch of ICDDR,B attended a 10 month course on medical technology from September 1978, at the Oxford Polytechnic and Radcliffe Infirmary, U.K. Participation of Mr. Ali, in this course, was assisted under the British Technical Cooperation Training Fellowship sponsored by the British Council. He returned to ICDDR,B this September.

VISITORS DURING JULY 1979

Richard Hodes
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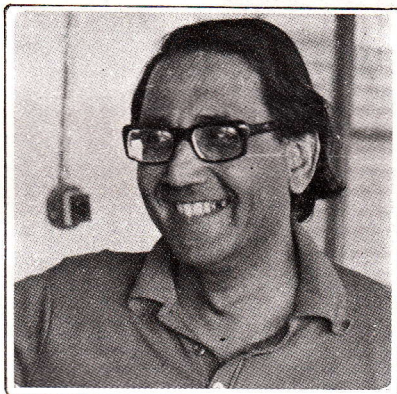
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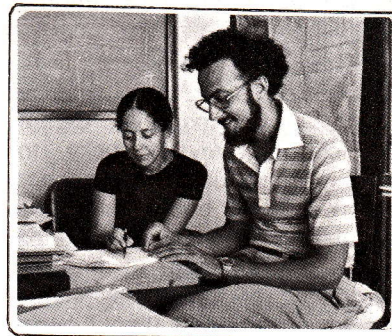


Dr. Shahjahan Kabir has joined the ICDDR,B as a Scientist. He has worked on immunological aspects of the cell surface antigens of enteric bacteria (e.g., *Vibrio cholerae*, *Salmonella typhimurium*) at several international institutes such as the Max-Planck Institute for Immunobiologie, Freiburg, Federal Republic of Germany, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland and Biomedicum, Uppsala, Sweden. He obtained a Ph.D. degree from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in 1971. During his stay at the ICDDR,B he will conduct research on immunology of diarrhoeal diseases.

NEW SCIENTISTS JOIN ICDDR,B



Dr. Stan D'Souza has joined the ICDDR,B as Senior Scientist from September 21, 1979 on a one-year UNFPA contract. Dr. D'Souza hails from Goa, India. He has studied in Louvain, Belgium and obtained his Ph. D. in Statistics from Princeton University, U.S.A. For 5 years he has been on the Faculty of the Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U. S. A. and worked as Resident Advisor in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. He was the UNFPA census advisor to the Census Commission, Dacca, from November 1975 to April 1977 and was the Director of the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, during the period 1977-79. He has worked as consultant to the UN Statistical Office, New York, in which capacity he has visited Statistical Offices in over 17 countries. He has taught, for short terms in Kinshasa, Zaire and Namur, Belgium. His scientific interests are related to statistical demography with special focus on problems of social concern.



Dr. Barbara Stoll, a pediatrician with special interest in newborns, joined the staff of ICDDR,B in September. She just completed a Fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta and at ICDDR,B will be involved with clinical research on pediatric infectious diseases. Her husband Dr. Roger Glass, replaces Dr. Robert Black from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Dr. Glass will be involved with the 1980 Cholera Vaccine Trial and with other epidemiologic studies of diarrhoea.

TRAINING ABROAD

Mr. Md. Imdadul Huq, Head of Microbiology Branch of ICDDR,B returned from U.S.A, in August. During his 3 month stay in U.S.A, Mr. Huq worked on the *characterization of group organisms and marine vibrios* at the Department of Microbiology, University of Maryland. In addition he visited Prof. Stan Falkow at the Department of Microbiology, University of Washington, Seattle and Dr. John Murphy at the Harvard Medical Center, Boston to carry forward the collaborative research programme between them and the ICDDR,B. He also visited Prof. T. O'Brien at the Peter Ben Brigham Hospital and discussed with him our participation in the computerized programme of global surveillance of antibiotic resistance. Mr. Huq attended the 15th Joint Conference of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program in Washington.

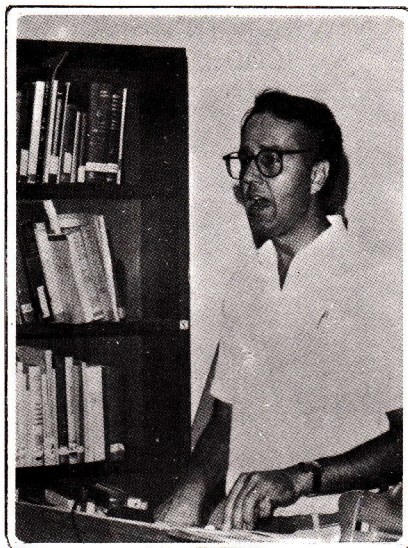
LETTER TO THE EDITOR- IN-CHIEF

SIR,— It is indeed a great pleasure for me to work in the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B). It is my first experience to visit an International Centre and I consider myself lucky to have this opportunity. One cannot learn by reading books only, one must work with one's own hands and see the working techniques. This posting of mine has helped me a lot. I am very thankful and give regards to the persons working in Microbiology Branch for their cooperation in teaching me. I wish I were in the staff of such a well organized and well equipped institution.

Dr. S. SHARMA
M. G. M. Medical College
Indore, India.

EMINENT SWEDISH MICROBIOLOGIST VISITS BANGLADESH

Dr. Thomas Rosswall, Secretary, UNEP/UNESCO/ICRO Panel on Microbiology, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, SCOPE/UNEP International Nitrogen Unit, Fack, S-10405 Stockholm, Sweden, visited Bangladesh from 15th to 17th August, 1979. During his stay in Bangladesh, Dr. Rosswall visited ICDDR,B and gave a



Dr. Thomas Rosswall addressing the seminar at ICDDR,B.

seminar on *UNEP/UNESCO/ICRO Panel on Microbiology*. Later, Dr. Rosswall and Dr. K. M. S. Aziz of ICDDR,B went to Mymensingh and had discussions with the Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, and also with the Director and Co-Director of the Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, in connection with the *Panel Course in Microbiology* to be offered at the Mymensingh Agricultural University. Dr. Rosswall and Dr. Aziz met the Microbiologists at Mymensingh and gave a seminar at the Institute of Nuclear Agriculture.

SEMINAR AT ICDDR,B

On August 21, 1979, Dr. Maurice Becker, previously Chief of Virology, Michigan State Health Department, U.S.A. and father of Dr. Stan Becker, Biometrician of ICDDR,B, presented a seminar on *Some Aspects of Diagnostic Virology at a State Laboratory*. Dr. M. Becker, who was paralyzed by the virus of poliomyelitis at the age of 31, was responsible for setting up virus diagnostic facilities for the State of Maryland, 1954–1960 and for the State of Michigan, 1960–1978. His lecture dealt with the virus diseases common to Michigan and the methods for isolating and identifying viruses.

ICDDR,B ANTHROPOLOGIST HONOURED ABROAD

Mr. K. M. A. Aziz, Anthropologist of ICDDR,B is selected as one of the members of the Editorial Board of *South Asian Anthropologist*, a new journal expected to be published from 1980 by the Sarat Chandra Roy Institute of Anthropological Studies, Ranchi, Bihar, India. This news has recently been communicated to Mr. K. M. A. Aziz by Dr. P. Dash Sharma, Honorary Executive Secretary of the Institute.

U.S. DEMOGRAPHER AT ICDDR,B

Dr. Wayne Stinson, a demographer from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio, worked at ICDDR,B for four months during the summer of 1979. During this time, Dr. Stinson utilized data from the ICDDR,B's Demographic Surveillance System to analyze the fertility impact of the Matlab Contraceptive Distribution Project.

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