



1/2

PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS

227 East, 45th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 867-3434 • Fax: (212) 972-4038 • E-mail: bangladesh@un.int
web site: www.un.int/bangladesh

Fax Message

To : Chief Editor and Managing Director, UNB, Dhaka.

From : First Secretary

Date : 17 November 2007

With request to please arrange appropriate coverage.

Md. Abdul Alim

Press release

Bangladesh honoured with prestigious "Charles H. Best Medal" for efforts in raising global awareness about diabetes

New York: 17 November 2007

The People's Republic of Bangladesh and the United Nations have been jointly awarded Charles H. Best Medal, 2007, for their distinguished service in the cause of diabetes at a ceremonial event of the American Diabetes Association today, in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Ismat Jahan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations received the award on behalf of Bangladesh.

The Award is named after Charles H. Best, the co-discoverer of insulin. The award honors distinguished services in the field of diabetes, including both scientific and nonscientific endeavors. According to a message received in Dhaka, today.

John Buse, President of American Diabetes Association in his award citation says "on behalf of the American Diabetes Association, we are honored to present this prestigious award to the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the United Nations for their efforts to make every citizen of the world aware about diabetes". "The adoption of the World Diabetes Day Resolution would not have been possible without their involvement" he stated.

Accepting the Award on behalf of Bangladesh, Ambassador Jahan thanked the American Diabetes Association for honouring Bangladesh with this award. She added "that diabetes being a silent killer, Bangladesh's aim was to raise global awareness. And that we believed could best be done through a UN resolution". She noted that diabetes was

rising faster in developing countries like Bangladesh, which can ill afford to cope with the disease on its own.

Ambassador Jahan said that Bangladesh's Comprehensive diabetic health care delivery was well recognized. The Bangladesh PRSP and the Health, Nutrition, Population Sector Programme (HNPSP) had identified diabetes mellitus-as one of the major public health problems. "We have established a strong public-private partnership in addressing this challenge in Bangladesh" she added. In this context, she recalled that the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) along with and its affiliates played a strong role of 'advocacy' and awareness raising in Bangladesh. It was also the major provider of diabetes care in the country.

Ismat Jahan underscored that the severity of the threat that diabetes posed on the world economy, required a coordinated international action. Bangladesh took the lead in sponsoring a UN resolution on world diabetes day. The resolution was adopted in the UN General Assembly by consensus on 20 December 2006. It was a milestone achievement for the diabetes world. For the first time, all the 192 members of the United Nations and by extension the larger international community recognized that a non-infectious disease was as serious a global threat as the infectious epidemics. In commemorating the First UN World Diabetes Day , various countries around the world undertook special programmes.
