

Bangladesh

4

CHAPTER



Founded 2005

A. S. M. Monirul Alam



Brief History

Bangladesh, a land of 6000 years old history and heritage, is situated in South Asia. Once a part of Undivided British India, it became Independent in the year 1971. Now it has 150 million people, 88% of them are Muslim and others are Hindu, Buddhist and Christian. The longest sea beach in the world- Cox'sbazar and the largest mangrove forest Sundarban are situated in Bangladesh.

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh with 9 million inhabitants. Fifty thousand graduate doctors are serving the nation in the health sector. There are 38 medical colleges, 64 District Hospitals, one medical university and 11 specialized Institutes. Four hundred and twenty-five rural hospitals form the skeleton of the Health Service. There is one 500 bed specialized Trauma & Orthopaedic hospital in Dhaka. There are

only 400 Orthopaedic and Trauma surgeons and less than 50 Plastic surgeons. There are no separate Hand Surgery units.

Hand surgery is a very new speciality in Bangladesh. A few interested Orthopaedic and Plastic surgeons are performing Hand Surgery. More than 25% of the injured patients who are attended in the emergency departments have hand injuries. These cases are managed by inexperienced surgeons and doctors who have no training in the management of hand injuries. So most of the time management is insufficient. In addition, other problems like congenital anomalies, hand infection, deformity, and arthritis go unmanaged due to lack of facilities.

In 2005 a few orthopaedic surgeons and plastic surgeons sat together to organize a separate Hand Society. Prof. R. R. Kairy and Dr. A. S. M. Monirul Alam became the convener and secretary of the Society. Twenty-seven surgeons became Life members and nine became general members. The convening committee wrote a constitution with the help of the Indian Hand society. The Society was established with the following objectives:

1. To promote and direct the development of the Hand surgery,
2. To foster and coordinate Hand education.
3. To arrange Hand courses and Instructional lectures for surgeons.
4. To establish an independent specialty in the future.

We are grateful to Dr. S. Raja Sabapathy, India, for helping us form this Society and to Prof.

Ulrich Mennen, South Africa, who gave us the opportunity to attend World Hand Congress in Sydney in 2007.

Training & Activities

In last three years the Society organized three National Conferences and 11 Instructional Courses in different cities of Bangladesh. The membership increased to 55.

A weekly out patient department and day case surgery unit for patients with hand problems have been established in the National Trauma Hospital (NITOR). This Unit has also become a training center for junior surgeons. The Hand Team organized a Basic Hand course conducted by a foreign (Indian) Hand faculty in October 2009. Training on Hand and Micro surgery (one year duration) for junior Ortho- Plastic surgeons is available, in India at Ganga Hospital.

Prof. R. R. Kairy who was trained in Singapore (N. U. H.) is the pioneer hand surgeon in Bangladesh. More than 50 Hand surgeons are practicing in the country since the formation of the Society.

The members are well informed about the updates of hand management and are encouraged to participate in conferences abroad.

** At the 2008 delegate meeting of the IFSSH in Switzerland, the Society became the 50th Member nation of the IFSSH. We appreciate Prof. Michael Tonkin for his help. We also express gratitude to Hand societies of India, Australia, U. K. ,USA, Spain, Switzerland, Korea for sponsoring us to become an IFSSH member.*