



# Kidney Foundation Sylhet

## **Prologue: A description of our journey**

Kidney Foundation Sylhet is a not for profit organization dedicated to provide state of art kidney care to the patients who cannot afford expensive dialysis therapy and overall kidney care in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Kidney disease burden became so high that its disrupting the lives and social fabrics in any country where government support is not optimum. Early detection and prevention of Kidney disease are the most important method for reducing the burden of kidney diseases. Kidney transplantation is the best option in advance kidney failure but its not readily available even in developed nations.

Luckily kidney is the only organ which function can be sustained artificially by dialysis until the transplant or even rest of the life.

Unfortunate once the patients in end stage kidney failure any disruption of routine dialysis will result in sure death who are having a reasonable normal life otherwise on dialysis. Mostly the disruption occurs due to cost of dialysis treatment at least two to three times a week is not affordable by most self paying patients in Bangladesh.

The only way to resolve this funding issue is either getting a big grant or get small financial support for cost of the dialysis by members from the same locality. Many people from Sylhet region either in Bangladesh or in other part of the world could be motivated to support in sustaining this outstanding services.

Initially we built the state of art dialysis center in Sylhet with funding from our family foundation Shaheed Dr. Shamsuddin Ahmed trust and Col (rtd) Salam's support. The program was initiated by its founding secretary Col. (rtd) Abdus Salam Bir Protik constructing a state of art beautiful dialysis unit in a rental space in Uposhohor, Sylhet.

Col. Salam is a decorated freedom fighter of Bangladesh liberation war in 1971 and served rest of his career as a strong leader in the Bangladesh army and also as a diplomat in UK and chairman of Khulna development authority with honor and dignity. Mr Zahin Ahmed the

Executive director and founder of one of the most trusted NGO the “Friends in village development in Bangladesh (FIVDB) became its founding president.

A very dedicated team was formed from the members of family and close friends and construction of dialysis center was initiated. Because of our personal relationship with Professor Harunur Rashid the founding chairman of Kidney foundation Dhaka Bangladesh he agreed to support in formation of the unit as a branch of Kidney foundation Dhaka. His wife Tiny Rashid who is the Managing director loaned us few dialysis machines and all the technical help including all training of our new staff. Bothe them including other Nephrologists travelled many times to Sylhet to supervise the process for delivering best patient care.

Slowly our group became self reliant and a vibrant team was developed to accept the challenges of our dream.

Our goal is to eventually provide free of cost to every dialysis patient to avoid disruption of their families due to financial burden. This has been only possible if we could get donor who could contribute to this endeavor.

Since we are non-profit organization, we received a grant from the Government of Bangladesh which would cover the 80% cost of the Hospital building but not the land. Luckily one of the local businessmen Mr. Zubayar Ahmed Chowdhury and his family donated a prime land with value of 3 to 4 crore taka. The 10-story building is being constructed and we are hoping to shift the dialysis by the middle of 2024.

The Kidney and multidisciplinary hospital in Sylhet also dedicated to support the whole health care delivery system in Sylhet to deliver affordable and improved the health care in greater Sylhet and beyond.



Ziauddin Ahmed MD FASN,

President, Kidney Foundation Sylhet

Professor of Medicine and nephrology, Louis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University, Philadelphia,

Professor Emeritus Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia.

Recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor, USA 2018.



The historical First formal Meeting to establish Sylhet Kidney foundation at 69 Housing Estate Amberkhana Sylhet was presided by Founding President Zahin Ahmed and conducted by founding secretary Col. Salam. Members present were. Dr. Najmus Saqib, Zubair Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr. Shahazaman Choowdhury Bahar, Begum Sufia Khanam and Farida Nasreen ( taking the picture).



Opening ceremony of Sylhet Kidney Foundation. Professor Harunur Rashid, Chairman and Founder of Kidney Foundation Dhaka Bangladesh



Rasheda K Chowdhury, Ex Advisor of care taker Government and advisor of KFS.  
Mrs Zebunesa MP and Col.(rtd) M A Salam, *Bir Protik*.



Prayer session by the gathering with high hope and expectation



A 12000 square feet building at Shahjalal Uposhohor has been rented and fully renovated with modern design for a state of art dialysis center, outpatient clinic and a modern medical laboratory. The Kidney foundation activity already has been started since September 15th 2018. The aim is to provide international standard kidney care for minimum cost and also affordable to the disadvantaged people. It will provide substantial subsidies to the people who may not be able to pay.



SKF has excellent new dialysis machines, best water treatment plant, expert nursing and a full time onsite physicians. Dr. Najmus Saqib a renowned and well-respected Kidney specialist is the medical director of the Kidney center. Now SKF have 25 dialysis machines providing 3 shifts dialysis session six days a week.



The Clinic ensured support, guidance and education for both patients and families so that the best clinical outcomes and ongoing quality of life can be achieved.



About 165 patients are getting the discount services amongst many are free. The cost of per session dialysis is Tk. 1,600/-. SKF patients provide as much as they can afford including 500 or 1200 or 1600 taka. A significant number of patients are getting totally free of cost.



During the full month of Ramadan all the patients get free dialysis due to donor support. We are hoping to make it free of cost for each and every dialysis patients



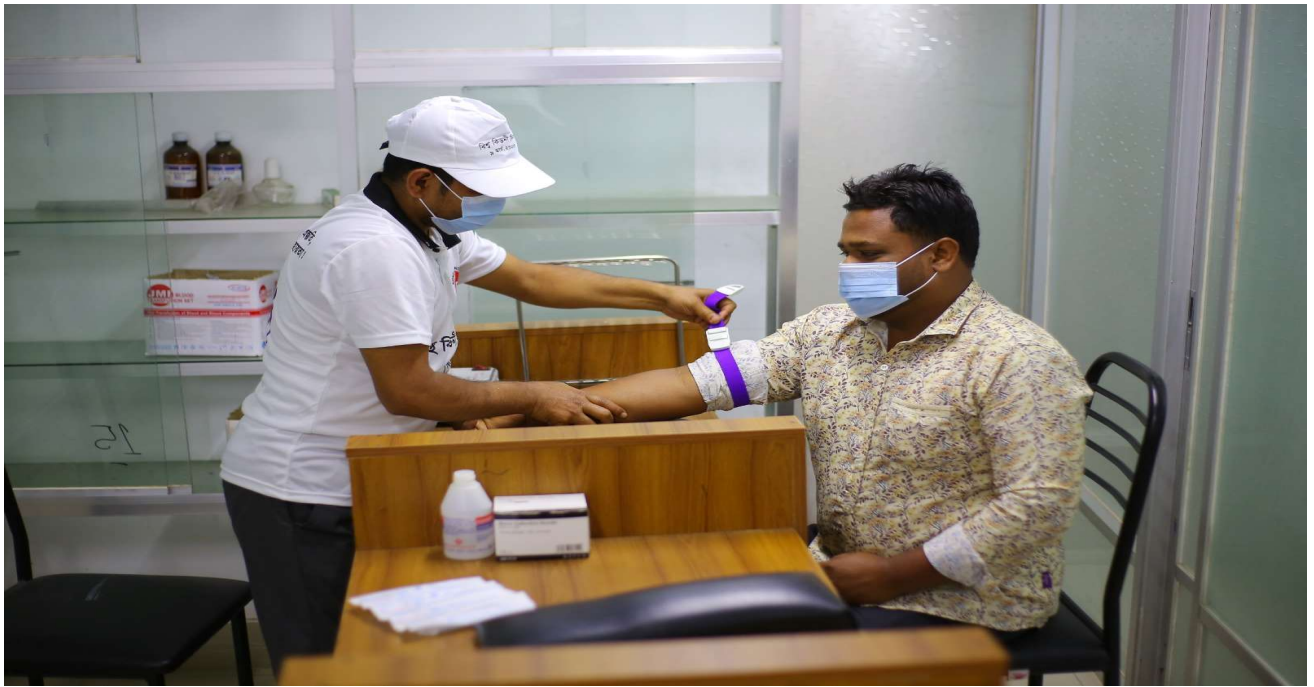
**Patient first:** This center is dedicated for providing best patient care with dignity and respect. Special attention will be provided for international standard of medical ethics and patient satisfaction and public relations.





**The outpatient Kidney center** is designed to implement all the strategies available to diagnose early and also provide treatment to slow the progression of existing chronic kidney disease. The services are provided to manage Hypertension, Chronic Kidney disease, Urinary tract infection, Kidney stones, Prostate problems, blood in the urine, Protein in the urine, Electrolytes disorders, Acid base problems, Fluid management, Anemia management, Metabolic bone disease and hyperparathyroidism management, Nutritional counselling and management.





**Multispecialty Clinics:**

The multispecialty clinic is providing care for Hypertension, Diabetes, heart condition, cholesterol management, pulmonary illness, etc





**Medical laboratory:**

A most modern laboratory is established to provide services for many tests with much lower cost.





**Out patient Surgery:**



The center is providing surgical services to create dialysis fistula and placement of dialysis catheter, to all the patients in Sylhet area.



KFS also providing free 3 months training and stipends to dialysis nurses so they can get jobs and provide state of art dialysis treatment elsewhere



Visiting Professor from UK sharing his experience

Frequent Visitors from local abroad always acknowledged the state of art dialysis unit and the sincerity of the staff in providing the bast and affordable medical care with dignity and humane and ethical services to each and every patient.



Mr M A Mannan MP , minister of planning visiting the Dialysis unit. He is the most supportive from the inception of the KFS.



Deputy Commissioner Sylhet was visiting the center and was very appreciative of the standard of care.



Ariful Haq , Mayor of Sylhet was visiting and was very grateful to see the support provided to the disadvantaged patients .



KFS been doing outreach services to the communities to identify high risk patients so we can prevent the progression to end stage kidney disease





### **Community Service during Disaster:**

**Kidney foundation Sylhet organized and managed two COVID isolation and treatment centers in two Government Upozila (Khadim Para and South Surma) in new unfurnished hospitals in early Pandemic. It was a dangerous time when there were dire need of patient care but only a one small Government 100 bed Shaheed Dr Shamsuddin Hospital was dedicated for COVID care. It was very ill equipped and inadequate during such a crisis.**

Initially KFS organized support in providing PPE, cleaning equipment and supplies, along with 8 staff cleaners hired by the NGO named FIDVB, hot water to each and every bed and medicines when needed by our member Dr. Nazra Chowdhury. But the need was overwhelming and needed more centers.



Due to fear all hospitals including medical college hospitals in the city closed doors for all COVID patients who were dying when shuttling from one place to the other.

The Kidney foundation with permission and support from the local administration furnished the two hospitals with beds, all necessary equipment, PPE, oxygen supplies, foods for patients and staff, training the Physicians and nurses and also hiring 45 health care workers





KFS provided full funding even depleting its own reserve. KFS ran these centers for 6 months until all the private and Government hospitals opened their doors for the patients. Kidney Foundation never got any financial support or reimbursement, but we are very proud of the services we had provided during such national crisis.



KFS received some support local concerned individuals and from the Diaspora groups from UK, USA and Canada.







KFS provided training to physicians and nurses how to handle COVID patients and pandemic as much was known at that time.









The team was fearless and provided exemplary and courageous service for the humanity during most uncertain time in recent history.



**KFS also donated oxygen concentrators and equipment to Lion's Children Hospital**

Kidney foundation also acknowledged and rewarded other COVID warriors.



Brigadier Dr. Younus for his courage and leadership during the early pandemic who was Director of Sylhet Osmani medical College and in charge of Shaheed Dr Shamsuddin hospital which was the only designated COVID hospital at that time.



Mr. Abdul Halim an ambulance driver of Shaheed Dr. Shamsuddin Hospital who was the only driver who was single handedly carrying patients from street to hospital and dead bodies to the grave and cremation area initially.



**KFS gratefully acknowledged their team of all 45 fearless and dedicated health care workers who were hired for 6 months gave their undaunting service during dangerous period of Pandemic.**



**They were given certificates with strong recommendation for their future job and career.**



**KFS team is always very active in creating awareness for prevention and support for kidney diseases**



## The Kidney Disease Prevention Program



A program to prevent kidney diseases by increasing awareness and early detection for timely management is undertaken. An outreach program is being launched by sending health care workers to the communities and also collecting health information from other NGO's or Government clinics for appropriate guidance. Dr. Mushfique Ahmed is the director of the Kidney disease prevention care.



KFS has been doing outreach services to the communities to identify high risk patients so we can prevent the progression to end stage kidney disease.





## Medical service during flash flood



The foundation provided medical service during sudden flood in 2002. Bangladesh army supported the team with engine boats and logistic support which is a rare joint venture between public entity and Bangladesh military institution.







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## **The center is dedicated in improving the health care in Sylhet**

by an effort in integrating health delivery by complimenting in improving the standard of care. This will be orchestrated by sharing resources, increasing trust, and assuring quality of health care in every other clinic or hospitals in the area. The center already sent two American cardiologists twice to Sylhet heart Foundation, hosted two workshops for ICU doctors in Sylhet.



American ICU specialist Dr. Nahreen Ahmed training the point of care Ultrasound at KFS





KFS arranged American "Smile Bangladesh" Team to perform successful cleft surgeries on total of 120 children during two separate camps in few years' interval.





Sylhet Diabetic Hospital received a boost up from KFS



Kidney Foundation Sylhet has restarted the Dialysis unit of Sylhet Diabetic hospital and running it for free of cost for few years.

Col (rt'd) Salam on behalf of KFS personally funded the face lift of the Diabetic hospital which is another non profit institution in Sylhet but needs support to run it with full capacity.

## Public participation:

The center welcomes public participation to support the goal of the project by being member of the Foundation, giving generous donation for facility expenses, outreach program and most importantly sponsoring treatment of disadvantaged patient by donation or zakat fund etc.



Donation of a dialysis machine



BRAC Bank giving a large donation



Nurul Haq Iqbal one out trustee and donor handing over a check to Dr. Majid for buying dialyzers and supplies for the patients.



KFS was awarded by BRAC in recognition of its service. Major General (rtd) Azizur Rahman receiving the check on behalf of KFS.



## Sylhet Kidney Foundation Hospital and research center:



**Picture:** Site selection of Kidney foundation Hospital and research visit by KFS advisor late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and KFS Founding President late Zahin Ahmed.



***Prayers offered by all the leaders including Professor Ziauddin Ahmed, Col (Rtd) Abdus Salam Bir Protik, Late Zahin Ahmed, Zubair Ahmed Chowdhury (land donor), Dr. Najmus Saqib, Dr. Fatema Ahmed, Mostafa Shariar, Farida Nasreen, Nurun Nahar Salam for the dream project.***



*A meeting was organized to honor some distinguished visiting member from USA and uplift the spirit of the journey. Syed Nuruz Zaman Esq and CPA , Farhat Zaman , Syed Zaki Hossain, Rahat Hossain among others were present . Syed zaki Hossain already donated an ambulance and also announced a significant donation especially if the process become stranded due to lack of fund. He did later contributed in large part of construction when Government funding was delayed during COVID time.*



Ground Braking Ceremony was inaugurated by Mr. M A Mannan, MP and minister of Planning, Government of Bangladesh.









**The main Hospital is a not profit project under PPP (Public Private Partnership) program for a 200 bed 10 stories Kidney and general hospital and research center.**





A 60 decimal land on the main road of Badahaghat near Shahjalal University approximate cost about 3/4 crore is **donated** by a **philanthropist businessman Mr. Zubair Ahmed Chowdhury** now treasurer of SKF.



The hospital will be furnished with most modern equipment and is committed to provide highest quality services for kidney care to everyone including lower income people.





The Hospital has been under construction and is expected to start in early 2024

## Annual general meeting



Annual general meeting of KFS is always filled with spirit and vibrant participation by all ages and section of people from home and abroad.



## Integrated health service and medical education in Sylhet

An effort will be ultimately made to integrate the whole health care delivery system in Sylhet so the people can get best health care in all specialties in Sylhet. The effort will be provided to involve everyone for training and ensure technology support to improve the standard of all health care delivery in all health care institutions in Sylhet.



Professor Qazi Quamruzzaman founder of Community Hospital and Medical College Dhaka became partner of KFS in developing its general Hospital wing and Nursing college.





This will be a unique model by KFS initiative how to improve the local medical institutions and population by sharing resources together to generate a positive impact on affordable health care of people, avoid patients seeking health care abroad, improve trust between patients and health care team secure transparency and develop state of art health care with highest ethical standard.

## Kidney Foundation Sylhet Celebrate it's 5<sup>th</sup> year of service to Kidney patients and other humanatarian services



Kidney Foundation Sylhet Celebrate it 5<sup>th</sup> year of service to Kidney patients and other humanitarian services with Honorable Minister M A Mannan.







কিডনী ফাউন্ডেশন সিলেট  
৫ম বর্ষের বর্ষপূর্তি

২১ জুলাই-২০২৩, শুক্রবার

আমরা শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করি  
আমাদের উন্মোহের উন্মোহ



হোসনে আরা আহমদ



স্যার ফজলে হাসান



যেহীন আহমদ



তাদের আত্মার শান্তি কামনা করি



KIDNEY FOUNDATION SYLHET  
WE ARE WITH YOU ALL



Syed Zaki Hussain  
&  
Rahat Hussain Nazu

On the Occasion of  
5<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
21 JULY 2023



Mr M A Mannan MP also visited the newly built Bangladesh war Martyrs Memorial garden which was built in 2022 by Col. (rtd) M A Salam and Professor Ziauddin Ahmed of KFS along with others on a mass grave of martyrs of 1971 during Bangladesh liberation war. The killing ground was neglected for 51 years. The families of victims for the first time found the names of their fathers and mothers honored in marble head stone. This has created tremendous interest to learn more about the history and sacrifice for the independence of Bangladesh.







KFS also lead the massive tree planting effort for protection of Environment along with Omoraboti and other organizations.



## KFS Going Globally



Kidney Foundation Sylhet is creating UK Chapter as Friends of KFS leading by Mr. Mahmud Hasan MBE as its president and support from many individuals, groups and Media including veteran journalist Nazrul Islam Bashon, Mr. Ahmedus Samad Chowdhury, MBE.

**Sylhet Kidney foundation multi specialty group:  
Physicians from USA**

1. Professor Mohammed Saduzzaman Chowdhury, MD, FACS  
Professor and head of Urology,  
New York Medical College.
2. Ziauddin Ahmed MD. FASN  
Professor of Medicine and nephrology  
Temple University Medical School. Philadelphia.
3. Dr. Fatema Ahmed MD.  
Internal medicine specialist,  
Philadelphia city health center
4. Dr Maleka Ahmed MD  
Assistant professor of Hematology Oncology.  
Cancer center  
Duke University medical center, North Carolina
5. Dr. Mutahar Ahmed, MD  
Associate Professor of Urology. New Jersey
6. Dr. Syeda T Zaman, MD  
Critical care and Pulmonary specialist, New Hampshire
7. Dr. Syeda T Hossain MD  
Gastroenterologist, Long Island, NY
8. Dr Nahreen Ahmed MD  
Critical care and Pulmonary specialist and medical director of Med Global,  
University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia.
9. Dr. Nausheen Hakim, DO  
Hematology and Oncology specialist, Queens, NY
10. Dr. Maliha Ahmed, DO  
Infectious disease specialist, Philadelphia.
11. Dr. Shoib Chowdhury, MD, Nephrologist.  
Cadillac, Michigan.

12. Dr. Shymol Palit, MD  
Nephrologist, North Carolina

13. Dr. Dewan Majid PhD  
Professor of Medical research, Tulane University. Neo Orleans. Louisiana.

14. Dr. Arindom Chowdhury, MD. Professor of Surgery  
VA hospital, Salem, Virginia.

15. Dr. Devasmita Dev Choudhury. MD  
Professor of Nephrology  
VA hospital, Salem, Virginia.