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Bangladesh Oxygen Summit 2026 at IUB

Govt recognises oxygen therapy as essential health service: State Minister

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Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) hosted the “Bangladesh Oxygen Summit 2026” on October 3-4, 2026, bringing together stakeholders to discuss ways to ensure safe,

reliable and equitable access to medical oxygen.

The two-day summit, held on the IUB campus, featured scientific sessions as well as a high-level policy dialogue. It was organised by the Bangladesh Oxygen Network in collaboration with IUB's Center for Health, Implementation and Policy Sciences (CHIPS), under the theme "Journey to Achieve Equitable Access to Medical Oxygen."

The second day of the summit featured a High-Level Policy Dialogue at the IUB Multipurpose Hall, with State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. M A Muhit as the Chief Guest. IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim chaired the session.

Dr. M A Muhit said the government is undertaking a project in the current fiscal year to quickly establish an integrated medical oxygen management system in at least 20 districts. The government plans to gradually expand the system across the country in the next fiscal year.

Thanking IUB and the organisers, Dr. Muhit said the government has, for the first time, recognised oxygen therapy as an essential health service. The government is working on an oxygen roadmap for 2026-2030, he said, adding that the information, data, research and declaration presented at this year's Oxygen Summit would contribute significantly to the development of the roadmap.

The policy dialogue was also attended by Md Nasser Shahrear Zahedee, Chairman of Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited; Prof. Dr. Sayeba Akhter, President of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC); Prof. M. Monir Hossain Khan, Secretary General of SOSB; Prof. Dr. Shohael Mahmud Arafat, President of APB; Dr. Kazi Ahmed Zaki, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR); and Dr. Shahnewaz Dewan, Director of Planning and Research at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Other participants included Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Senior Scientist at icddr,b; Dr. Kazi Saifuddin Bennoor, Joint Secretary of the

Bangladesh Lung Foundation; Dr. S K Md Mamunur Rahman Malik, former World Health Organization Representative to Somalia; public health expert Dr. S M Asib Nasim; and Dr. Md. Alamgir Hossain, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer of Harinakunda, Jhenaidah.

On the opening day on October 3, CHIPS Director Dr. S M Moazzem Hossain delivered the welcome remarks. Bangladesh Oxygen Network Convener Dr. Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman outlined different aspects of the summit. Dr. Malalay Ahmadzai, Chief of Health at UNICEF Bangladesh, also spoke at the session. Prof. M. Tamim formally inaugurated the summit.

The first scientific session, titled “Medical Oxygen Need, Production Capacity and Supply,” was chaired by Md. Alamgir Hossain, Director General of the Directorate General of Drug Administration. Prof. Dr. Abid Hossain Molla of BIRDEM served as co-chair, while CHIPS Director Dr. S M Moazzem Hossain moderated the session.

The discussion featured Dr. Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Dr. Md. Ali

Saifullah Sajib, Farid Sikder, Redwan Al Hamid, Shorab Uddin Ahmed, Maruf Hasan, Dr. Than Cho, Dr. Hasnain Ahmed, Engineer M N Nashid Rahman and Dr. Suraiya Jemy.

The second scientific session focused on "Medical Oxygen Education, Research, Measurement and Innovation." Prof. Dr. Nazmul Hosain, Director General of the Directorate General of Medical Education, chaired the session. Dr. Shams El Arifeen served as co-chair, while icddr,b scientist Dr. Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman moderated it.

Speakers included Prof. Dr. Abid Hossain Molla; Dr. Kamran ul Baset, Dean of IUB's School of Pharmacy and Public Health; Dr. Sabina Ashrafee Lipi; Dr. Abu Ahammad Al Mamun; Md. Hasib Mamun; Mostafa Ashrafuzzaman; Dr. Sabit Saad Shafique; Dr. Sabbir Ahmed; Dr. Kazi Sefayet Enam; and Dr. Manal Mizanur Rahman.

CHIPS Director Dr. S M Moazzem Hossain delivered the closing remarks on the first day. A special session titled "Meet the Oxygen Champions" was also held at the Multipurpose

Hall that day, featuring Shams El Arifeen, Mohammod Jobayer Chisti and Dr. S K Md Mamunur Rahman Malik. The session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Sayeba Akhter, President BMRC.

Over the two days, government officials, public health experts, researchers, development partners, healthcare professionals, academics and private-sector representatives discussed the availability, quality, safety, production and supply of medical oxygen. They also exchanged views on coordinated measures to strengthen Bangladesh's medical oxygen system and ensure safe, reliable and equitable access across the country.

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