



Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir receiving the Sheikh Hasina Initiative Gold Medal from the President H.E Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin

Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir awarded the Sheikh Hasina Initiative Gold Medal

Freedom Fighter, Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir was awarded the prestigious **Sheikh Hasina Initiative Gold Medal** in a national event organized by the Community Clinic Health Trust and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) at the Osmani Auditorium Dhaka on 30 April 2024. He was one of the three leading health sector professionals, who received the first ever prestigious award on health sector from the Government of Bangladesh. The award ceremony was attended by the Honorable Minister and the Secretary, MOHFW as special guests. The event was Presided by Professor Syed Mudassar Ali, Chairperson of the Community Clinic Health Trust.

The Government of Bangladesh has initiated the award from 2024 based on the spirit of unanimous United Nations resolution, which has adopted the first-ever resolution on community-based health care. The resolution, titled "*Community-based primary health care: a participatory and inclusive approach to universal health coverage*," acknowledged the important role community clinics play in promoting primary health care, women's empowerment, community engagement and mobilization towards achieving universal access to health. The resolution, in recognition of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's stellar contribution in establishing model community clinics in Bangladesh, highlighted "the Sheikh Hasina Initiative" as an exemplary innovative model of public-private partnership.

Honoring the award winners, the Honorable President of Bangladesh recognized the contributions of award recipients in making the revolutionary initiative of the Community Clinic a success to provide universal health care services to the door steps of the poor masses in Bangladesh. The success of the Community Clinic has been applauded worldwide a role model of health services for the poor at walking distance. By introducing the 'Community Clinic Model of Bangladesh', the UN resolution asks member states to explore measures to scale up and reference best practices to benefit from successful national experience. He also noted that it reflects Bangladesh's commitment to improve health and well-being of its citizens and to contributing to global health equity.

The speakers of the event noted that the award and recognition have a far-reaching impact in promoting international cooperation for universal health coverage as the UN has invited international financial institutions, multilateral and regional development banks and donors to

provide appropriate resources, especially for developing countries, to strengthen community-based health services towards the full implementation of the SDGs.

Dr. Ahmed Al Kabir is working in Public Health Program since 1978. He is the Founder and Chief Advisor of RTM International and SHIMANTIK (two national level NGOs). He is also working as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of RTM Al-Kabir Technical University, Sylhet and the Chairperson of the International Medical College and Hospital, Tongi. He has also established many hospitals/clinics, schools, colleges, madrasas and nursing/paramedics institutes. A dedicated human resources development specialist, he is committed for the development of youths and adolescents.