Today ICDDR,B celebrated the 8th anniversary of the opening of the first VCT centre in Bangladesh. ICDDR,B started Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) for HIV after training two psychologists, Arunthia Zaidi Urmi and Md. Zahir Uddin from India in 2001 and then Jagori, the VCT Unit, was launched in the first week of January 2002. Today Jagori completed eight years of its services and it is no longer just a VCT centre but has increased its working sphere with an in-patient unit in Dhaka and expanded VCT services in Chittagong. The birthday was celebrated at the Jagori office, ICDDR,B Dhaka. Dr. Nashaba Matin, Head of Jagori, Dr. Tasnim Azim, Dr. Mark Pietroni and senior staff from ICDDR,B and staff of Jagori unit were present at the celebration.

Under new leadership, Dr. Nashaba Matin (HIV expert from the UK), has been appointed to lead the Jagori team in new directions and further develop and enhance the services provided to the patients and populations most at risk from HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh. The work of Jagori has received funding from the UNAIDS, World Health Organization and Family Health International and since 2006 Jagori is funded by ICDDR,B itself. Jagori continues to provide this essential service for Bangladesh with an increased number of clients flowing in from all over the country.

For further information regarding this media release please contact

Sumona Liza
Dissemination Manager,
Communications Unit
ICDDR, B
sliza@icddrb.org