



# E-NEWS

## Addressing the Eye Health Crisis in Hatiya

The people of Hatiya, who are the residents of Bangladesh's coastal regions, are increasingly suffering from eye conditions such as Cataracts, Refractive Error, Trachoma, River Blindness, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy. Among these, the most commonly witnessed are Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy. These conditions often go undetected due to a lack of awareness and inadequate healthcare services. Recently DUS launched a new project known as "Stop Blindness", that aims to change these conditions by providing crucial early diagnosis and treatment to prevent blindness.



### Project Overview:

- **Screening & Diagnosis:** Our goal is to screen the entire population of Hatiya Island, focusing on individuals over 35, to identify cases of glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.
- **Target Population:** We plan to provide eye care services to 50,000 residents in the initial phase.
- **Collaborative Effort:** This initiative is a joint effort between the Dwip Unnayan Songstha, Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), Data Yakka, and the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP).



### Inauguration Event Highlights:

On August 23, 2024, we officially launched the project at the Island Development Organization's Foundation Office. Mohammad Saidur Rahman, Executive Director of BDPC, stressed the importance of early detection in preventing blindness caused by these conditions.

"Through the 'Stop Blindness' project, we're committed to providing eye care services to 50,000 people in Hatiya. Detecting glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy early is critical in preventing blindness."- Mohammad Saidur Rahman, Executive Director, BDPC

## Community Involvement:

Success hinges on the support of local volunteers and community members. We've called upon adolescent program members and CPP volunteers to spread the word and encourage residents to participate in the free screenings.



## Call to Action:

We encourage all residents over 35 years of age in Hatiya to take advantage of the free screenings offered by the "Stop Blindness" project. Early detection can make all the difference.

## Stay Informed:

For more information on Dwip Unnayan Songstha, visit us here:

- **Dwip Unnayan Songstha Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/dwipunnayanongstha>
- **Radio Sagor Dwip 99.2 FM Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064560077648&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Are you ready to join as a volunteer in DUS? University Students are especially encouraged to join our program at Noakhali district.

## Understanding the Risks:

- **Glaucoma:** Increased intraocular pressure damages the optic nerve, leading to vision loss.
- **Diabetic Retinopathy:** Uncontrolled diabetes can damage the retina's blood vessels, risking blindness.



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