

Special Supplement

World Polio Day 2020

24th October, 2020



**Rotary
Bangladesh
National
PolioPlus
Committee**



বাণী

বাংলাদেশের রোটারি ক্লাবসমূহ কর্তৃক 'বিশ্ব পোলিও দিবস' উদযাপনের উদ্যোগকে আমি আগত জানাই।

পোলিও শিশুদের জন্য একটি মারাত্মক রোগ। এ রোগে অক্রিয় শিশুরা প্যারালিসিসের শিকার হয় এবং ক্ষেত্রবিশেষে মৃত্যুও খাটতে পারে। অজীবে পোলিও মহামারী আকার ধারণ করলেও বিশ্বব্যাপী পোলিও ভ্যাকসিনেশন কার্যক্রমের ফলে বর্তমানে এ রোগ প্রায় নির্মূল করা সম্ভব হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশও পোলিও নির্মূলে সাক্ষ্য অর্জন করেছে। বেশবাপী বছর ধরে চলা টিকাদান কর্মসূচি পোলিও নির্মূলে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রেখেছে। উপমহাদেশের সব দেশ সম্পূর্ণ পোলিও মুক্ত না হওয়ায় দেশে পোলিও টিকাদান কর্মসূচি অব্যাহত রাখা জরুরি হয়ে আসে সনে কবি।

বাংলাদেশে পরিচালিত নিয়মিত টিকাদান কর্মসূচি সারা বিশ্বে একটি অনুকরণীয় দৃষ্টান্ত। দেশের প্রায় প্রতিটি মা ও শিশু টিকাদান কর্মসূচির অওকায় অগ্রবৃত্ত হওয়ার মতকৃ ও শিশু মৃত্যুরার উদ্বেগবোধ্যভাবে কমেছে। মা ও শিশুর টিকা প্রদানে সাক্ষ্যের স্বীকৃতিস্বরূপ বাংলাদেশ প্রবাল এলায়েন্স ফর ডেভেলপিং এন্ড ইমুনাইজেশন (গ্যাভি) কর্তৃক পুরস্কৃত হয়েছে। শিশুদের নিয়মিত টিকা প্রদানে উৎসাহিত করতে আমি সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারি-বেসরকারি সংস্থাসমূহকে এগিয়ে আসার আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি।

বিশ্ব পোলিও দিবসে আমি একটি পোলিও মুক্ত বিশ্বে প্রত্যাশা করছি।

আমি বাংলা।

মোদা হাফেজ, বাংলাদেশ ডিরেক্টরী হোক।

মেঃ আবদুল হান্নিদ



Dear Fellow Rotarians, Friends, and Esteemed Guests

On the eve of the World Polio Day, let me tell you about the story of over three decades. The story that Rotarians have been telling everyone that a polio free world is possible. Polio is a global disease and was affecting over a hundred country in the middle of 1980s and was the reason that over 300,000 children were affected every year. However, as Rotarians we do not give up and have been able to reduce the cases to just about a hundred children in with only two countries in the world. In Rotary, we do not give up.

The Rotary Foundation is how our dreams of a better world come true. Over a century ago, Rotary established an endowment 'for the purpose of doing good in the world'. Over thirty years ago, we spearheaded the movement to end polio, surprising the doubters by doubling our fundraising target, and ever since we've made amazing progress. Working with our dedicated partners, we have raised more than \$2 billion for the cause. We are advocates, fundraisers, unofficial diplomats, conveners, and leaders on the frontlines. On the eve of the World Polio Day, I urge upon all the Rotarians around the world to continue their good work to get us over the line to present everyone with a polio free world. Today, we are a major force for lasting change, and we are needed now more than ever. We have had to adapt to harsh new realities of a global pandemic and economic turmoil. But The Rotary Foundation has endured challenges like this before, and with your leadership, we adapted quickly to meet these challenges, helping Rotarians provide assistance to those in need and protect their communities.

This is what Rotary is all about – we are people of action, dedicated to working together to create lasting change at home and abroad. The Rotary Foundation belongs to the world, but without your support, none of the work we do around the world is possible. It's up to each of us to make sure our Foundation stands ready for the challenges of tomorrow.

For the coming days and months, we need the following steps for the Rotarians in Bangladesh and in elsewhere. These are as follows:

- i) We will engage your club and the community to raise awareness about polio;
 - ii) We will start a social media conversation to get everyone connected;
 - iii) We'll hold an event like the World Polio Day on 24th October and throughout the year;
 - iv) We'll advocate to the GoB to continue supporting our efforts to end polio;
 - v) We'll make a contribution and will invest in one of the largest global initiative.
- Be a character in our story. Be a solution to our challenge. Polio eradication is possible. So let's keep our promise.



বাণী

'জাতীয় টিকা দিবস-২০২০' উপলক্ষে বাংলাদেশের রোটারি ক্লাবগুলো পোলিও টিকাদান কর্মসূচি সম্পর্কে একটি বিশেষ ক্রেডেন্সেল বের করতে যাচ্ছে বলে আমি আশঙ্কিত।

সারা বিশ্বে পোলিও নির্মূলে রোটারিয়ানদের স্বীকৃতি অর্জন করা। বাংলাদেশ পোলিও নির্মূলে অনেক দেশের চেয়ে এগিয়ে আছে। ২০০৬ সালে বাংলাদেশ পোলিও মুক্ত হয়েছে কিন্তু পার্শ্ববর্তী দেশ যেমন পাকিস্তান ও আফগানিস্তান এখনও পোলিও ব্যাকায় আমরা শঙ্কামুক্ত নই। এজন্যই পোলিও টিকাদান কর্মসূচি চালিয়ে যেতে হবে।

টিকাদান কর্মসূচিতে বাংলাদেশ অনেক অগ্রগতি লাভ করেছে। বাংলাদেশের প্রায় প্রতিটি শিশু টিকাদান কর্মসূচির অওকায় এসেছে, যার ফলে শিশু ও মাতৃমৃত্যু হার অনেক কমেছে। বাংলাদেশ ২০১৯ সালে Gavi দ্বারা Vaccine Hero Award লাভ করে, যা আমি ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯ এ নিউইয়র্কে গ্রহণ করি।

এই মুহুর্তে টিকাদান কর্মসূচি বিশেষ গুরুত্ব বহন করে কারণ বিশ্বব্যাপী কোভিড-১৯ মহামারী আকার ধারণ করেছে যার ফলে বিশ্বব্যাপী বহু প্রাণহানী ঘটেছে। টিকাদান কর্মসূচি অব্যাহত না থাকলে করোনা ভাইরাসের প্রাদুর্ভাব আরও জটিল হবে। আমি আশা করি, কোভিড-১৯ এর জটিল পরে হলে রোটারি ক্লাবগুলো জার্সিন প্রদানে সম্পৃক্ত হবে।

রোটারি ইন্টারন্যাশনাল কর্তৃক ড. ইশতিয়াক জামান বাংলাদেশের পোলিও টাচফোর্স কমিটি চেয়ারম্যান নির্বাচিত হওয়ার তীক্রে অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। তাঁর খলিত নেতৃত্বে দেশে রোটারি পোলিও আন্দোলন আরও এগিয়ে যাবে- এ আমার প্রত্যাশা।

আমি 'জাতীয় টিকা দিবস-২০২০' এর সার্বিক সাক্ষ্য কামনা করছি।

আমি বাংলা, জয় যববৃত্ত বাংলাদেশ ডিরেক্টরী হোক।

শেখ হাসিনা



Message from K. R. Ravindran, TRF Trustee Chair

Throughout our 115-year history, we have adapted in the face of pandemics, war, economic crises and other hardships. And so too, must we continue to persevere today because the world and Bangladesh needs Rotary now more than ever.

The key is to present our humane vision for creating lasting change. Rotarians of Bangladesh are already doing so. Investing in Rotary is nothing less than an investment in our future health and prosperity. We are close to eradicating Polio. In fact Bangladesh did it many years ago. Once polio is eradicated in the world, the assets we have built up over three decades will make health systems stronger. In fact, those assets are already playing a crucial role in the fight against COVID-19. Once we overcome coronavirus, Rotary's support of frontline workers, of those struggling for work, of businesses trying to rebuild – all this will help economic and societal recoveries, and foster resilience. Ultimately, the values which have taken us this far against polio – the values of protecting our fellow human beings, of equal opportunities for vaccination against disease and primary healthcare, of building an infrastructure against public health threats which cross borders – these are the values which will also define this generation's success in the struggle against the Coronavirus. In order to perpetuate our shared values and provide more financial resources to the next generation of Rotarians to do good, consider creating your own Rotary legacy with a contribution to our Endowment. Help Rotary build a better world.

Sincerely,

K.R. Ravindran, Chair, The Rotary Foundation 2020-2021



Message from RI President Holger Knaack

Dear 2020 International Assembly Training Leader Ishtiaque: This year is challenging for us all. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way Rotary and Rotaractors meet, connect, fundraise, and perform acts of service. As a leader, you should see these challenges as a great opportunity. In your club, you have a rare opportunity to make a difference immediately by rising to these challenges and helping to adapt the Rotary experience to changing times. You will need all of your years of experience as a Rotarian and a leader to make this happen. You will need to use new tools to work together which will help build a stronger and more active club. By doing so, you will also help strengthen your community. Opportunity is Rotary's future and we must work to export it to everyone who shares our values.

In Rotary, we are not afraid of challenges when we meet it in the case against polio. On the eve of the World Polio Day, I hope all the Rotarians in Bangladesh as in elsewhere will continue with their efforts to ensure that we reach our destination of a polio free world. The world needs Rotary now more than ever and I am relying on you. Together, we will bring hope to the less fortunate. And Rotary opens opportunities for ourselves and the people we serve. Thank you what you are doing for Rotary and your communities.

Sincerely,

Holger Knaack
2020-21 Rotary International President



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Dear PDG Ishtiaque, Rotarians around the world are engaged in varied and effective activities to address poverty, health, education, importantly aimed at promoting sustainable development initiatives at the grassroots level. Rotary's global polio eradication campaign is an excellent example of government, international organization and civil society partnership for the benefit of children around the world. I wish you as the Chairman and your country's National PolioPlus team in your continued work to end polio. On the occasion of World Polio Day, I urge all the Rotarians around the world, including those in Bangladesh, to continue to work hard to present everyone a polio free world. I wish everyone a great Rotary journey.

Shekhar Mehta
President Rotary International 2021-22



Message from Chairman, International PolioPlus Committee

Dear PDG Ishtiaque On the eve of the World Polio Day, I congratulate and welcome you to the PolioPlus team as the National Chairman of Bangladesh's PolioPlus Committee. I hope you have a successful year in leading all the stakeholders in Bangladesh to promote a polio-free world.

Polio has been the cornerstone of Rotary's humanitarian face for years. The sustained efforts of past leaders have allowed us to reach to a point where we are very close to getting rid of polio from the face of this earth. Now that it is so near, we must not relent and keep up our efforts to ensure that we get this over the line. I urge you and your team to continue to work hard and liaise with all the stakeholders in your country in achieving this cherished goal for all of us.

I wish you well in your work as the National Chair.

Mike McGovern

The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International



Message from Press Conference Chairman Rtn. M. A. Kashem

Over the last three decades, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative or GPEI – a unique public-private partnership comprised of national governments, Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – has made incredible progress toward eradication. In 1988, there were 350,000 annual cases of wild polio from 125 countries.

In 2020, wild polio continues to circulate in just two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the World Health Organization's African region has been certified wild polio-free. This achievement comes four years after Nigeria – the last polio-endemic country in Africa – recorded its final detection of the wild poliovirus following decades of effort from Rotary members, GPEI partners, local and national leaders, and health workers throughout the African region. In the midst of a global pandemic, we recognize that attention to polio eradication may be diverted, but this makes it all the more vital for Rotarians to remain strongly committed to fighting polio and not let our progress be eroded. On the eve of the World Polio Day, I congratulate the Chairman and the members of the Rotary Bangladesh National PolioPlus Committee a very successful endeavor.



Message from DGE Barrister Mutasim Billah Faruqui, RID-3281

The polio story is an extraordinary tale of dedication and effort. This is the largest joint endeavor in peacetime, and one of the most successful public health campaigns in history. Through its PolioPlus program, established in 1985, Rotary was the first to have the vision of a polio-free world. As a Rotarian, it has given us a lot to be proud of. Rotary's primary responsibilities include fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer recruitment.

In Bangladesh, Rotarians gave millions of volunteer hours in immunizing the children on all NID's. The country received about taka 1250 million in the form of polio vaccines and other logistics support from The Rotary Foundation of RI. Despite being a polio-free country since 2006, the Great News came on 27 March 2014, The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) congratulated Bangladesh along with the 11 countries in the South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) on being certified polio-free, a historic milestone in the worldwide effort to end polio and realize the broad benefits eradication will bring. Let me remind a call from our PRI/John Germ: "As fear of polio wanes, so does awareness of the disease. It's our responsibility to keep that awareness high and keep polio eradication at the top of public and government agendas. We must finish the job and End Polio Now, through Rotary Serving Humanity." Let's together make a smiling world by opening opportunities with our works and words through Rotary.



Message from DGN Engr. M. A. Wahab, RID-3281

I am happy to know that Rotary Bangladesh National PolioPlus Committee, led by committee Chairman Ishtiaque Zaman, PhD has taken several initiatives to observe World Polio Day. World Polio Day is a time for Rotarians all over the world to celebrate what we have accomplished and to raise awareness about our continuing efforts to eradicate polio for good. In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus program to globally eradicate polio through the mass vaccination of children. Rotarians volunteered to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries since its initiation. While significant strides have been made against the paralyzing disease, wild poliovirus is still a threat in parts of the world. Rotary has committed to raising \$50 million a year, yielding \$450 million for polio eradication activities over a three-year period. From Bangladesh we are committed to contributing to this goal. I wish the World Polio Day a grand success.



Message from DGE Dr. Belal Uddin Ahmed, RID-3282

World Polio Day is celebrated on 24 October annually to raise awareness about the polio disease and efforts for eradication. Rotary International established the World Polio Day over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. The use of inactivated vaccine of poliovirus and subsequent widespread use of the oral poliovirus which was developed by Albert Sabin

led to the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988. According to WHO, by 2013, GPEI had reduced polio worldwide by 99%. Polio is a fatal infectious disease. There is no cure, but due to safe and effective vaccines, it can be prevented. That is through immunization it can be prevented. For eradication of polio, the strategy was to provide immunization to almost every child until transmission stops and to make the world polio-free. Rotary is an international community that brings together leaders who step up to take on the world's toughest challenges, locally and globally. The eradication of polio is one of our longest standing and most significant efforts. Along with our partners, we have helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. We have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good. Thanks to the Chairman of the National Polio Committee PDG Ishtiaque Zaman to arrange for the publication of today's special supplement.



Message from DG Md Rubayet Hossain, RID-3281

It is an immense pride and honor for Rotary and Rotarians in Bangladesh to observe "World Polio Day" with great enthusiasm. This is because, the eradication of polio is one of our longest standing and most significant efforts. With the intensive maneuvering as well as financing, Rotary has been able to ensure the safety of millions of children around the world. promote a polio-free world.

World Polio Day is this October 24 and Rotary is once again gearing up to help eradicate polio. We need to tell the world and our local communities not only what we do, but let them know how they can be involved. What I believe is, the lessons learned from the successes around polio vaccination campaigns can help guide other health interventions, including the current pandemic of COVID-19. On this day, I do express my gratitude to the 'lighthouse' of Bangladesh Rotary, late PDG Iftekharul Alam for his dedicated services in our path of success in eradicating polio from Bangladesh. Past National PolioPlus Committee Chair PDG Salim Reza also had contributed a great deal in this regard. Finally, I do congratulate the current chair of National PolioPlus Committee, PDG Ishtiaque A Zaman and his team and hope, they will be able to carry forward all activities related to polio in Bangladesh more efficiently than ever. Let's continue working for the community and spread around that Rotary Opens Opportunities. I wish every success of the observance of World Polio Day 2020.



Message from DGN Ruhela Khan Chowdhury, RID-3282

I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to Past District Governor Rtn. Ishtiaque Zaman PhD, Chairman, Rotary Bangladesh National Polio Plus Committee to celebrate "World Polio Day" in Bangladesh. Rotary launched Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. There were 350,000 of polio in 125 countries every year. Today Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9%, and just two countries continue to report cases of wild polio virus: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Rotary's people of action have used their passion, intelligence and energy to improve lives through service. We wish NO child should have to suffer from a vaccine preventable disease. A Polio free world is possible, but we can achieve it by taking action together. We remain committed to the END. I wish this program a huge success.

