



**We Serve**  
—1917 75 Years 1992—

# LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 315-A BANGLADESH

5th Annual Convention  
15th-16th May, 1992



Saturday May 16, 1992

Special Supplement

## Lionism in Bangladesh

Lionism came to this country in 1958 through Lions Club of Dhaka. Lions Club of Dhaka and Lions Club of Chittagong, the first two clubs of the then East Pakistan were organised and sponsored by the Lions Club of Karachi. Growth and expansion of Lionism have been very satisfactory till 1970. It suffered a great setback during the liberation war. Number of clubs and its activities were drastically reduced. The clubs of the then East Pakistan were under the jurisdiction of Multiple District 305 having its Head Quarter in Karachi. Under the leadership of Ln. M R Siddiqui and Ln. M Khaled, Lions Clubs were reorganised during '72-73 in Bangladesh. In 1973 a full-fledged Lions District 315 was formed in Bangladesh. Since then there has been rapid growth of Lionism which led to the formation of Multiple District 315 in 1987. In the Lions family of Bangladesh we have at present over 12 thousand members. Our Lion, Lioness and Leos are very active to run major service projects and activities. They have been doing their best to uphold the image of Lionism through their activities. Services rendered by our Lions Clubs have been both nationally and internationally ally praised and recognised. In December 1989 we had the first ever Lions International Regional Forum held in Dhaka with representatives and participants from as many as 57 countries of the world. And in the history of Lions International Forum it was the largest and well organised forum. Lions, Lioness and Leos of the country were able to achieve the cherished goals of Lionism through their attiring efforts and dedication. Service minded female and young people also joined this movement and made the organisation stronger through their active support and co-operation. As a matter of fact, in many cases, our Lioness and Leos have been able to run several service activities independently

**Ln. Moslem Ali Khan**  
Past Chairman  
Council of Governors

and quite successfully.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club of the world. And it is the only service club to have consultative status in the United Nations. In Bangladesh we are again the largest of all the service clubs. It's great honour for us. We have our National Headquarter and service complex in Dhaka. We run an eye hospital of 80 beds with out-patient facilities. Over 300 patients are given free treatment daily from

this hospital. Around 30 thousand cataract operation are being performed annually through eye camps organised by the Lions Clubs. We have another full-fledged eye hospital in Chittagong with 120 beds and out-patient department. Voluntary blood donation and motivation programme is also one of our main activities. We have eye clinics, rural health care projects, schools, specialised hospitals and centres, family planning pro-

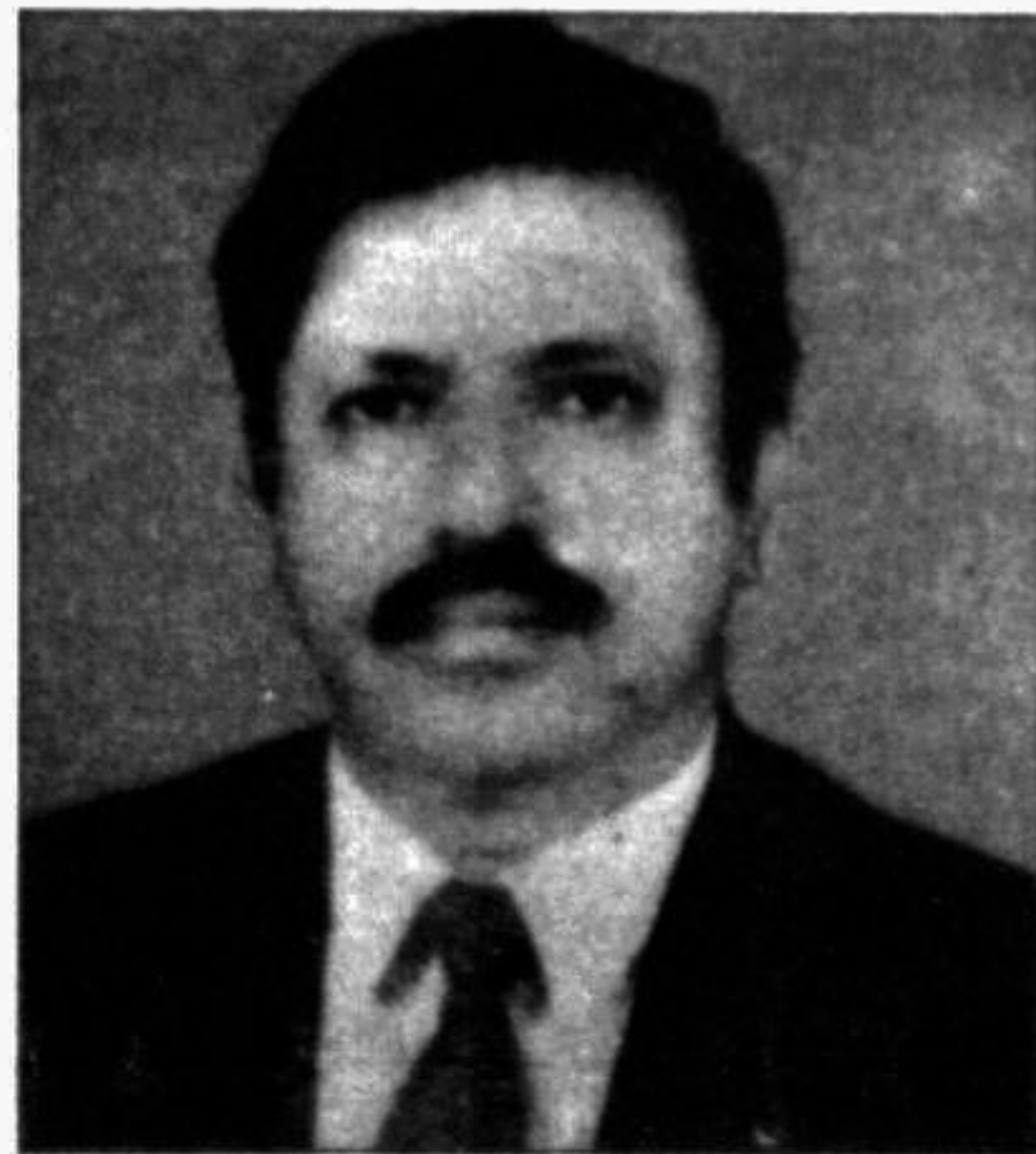
jects, adult education programme, programme for relief and rehabilitation for distressed and aged people. Lions are the first one to attend and provide immediate relief to the people affected by floods, cyclones, tornados, fire-victims and other natural disasters. In countries like ours, joint efforts of government and non-governmental organisations can bring positive results in resolving problems, achieving cherished goals and helping the distressed and needy people. We have allthrough worked in close and good co-operation with the government of Bangladesh. For the flood victims of 1988 and cyclone affected people of 1991 — we undertook and carried out emergency relief and rehabilitation activities in our own. At the same time we supported government activities. A cheque of one lac taka was handed over to our Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and also a huge quantity of medical supplies and relief materials were given/ distributed through the government and its agencies. We want to supplement the government efforts. And in this context we are happy to mention that our mutual cooperation has made things easier to reach our common goal. Lions Multiple District 315 Bangladesh has undertaken a massive programme to



বাণী

লায়ল জেলা-৩১৫ এর পঞ্চম বার্ষিক জেলা সম্মেলন অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে জেনে আমি অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত।  
অর্থ মানুষের কল্যাণে লায়ল জেলার অবদান অত্যন্ত প্রশংসনীয়। তাদের সেবামূলক মানসিকতা দেশের কল্যাণে নিবেদিত প্রাণ হতে উৎসাহ ও অনুপ্রেরণা যোগায়। মানুষের সেবার মহত্তর লক্ষ্য অর্জনে লায়লদের সার্বিক উদ্যোগ ও আন্তরিক প্রয়াস সকলের প্রশংসাধন্য।  
আমি লায়ল জেলা-৩১৫ এ সম্মেলনের সাফল্য কামনা করি।

**আবদুর রহমান বিশ্বাস**  
রাষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ  
ঢাকা



MESSAGE

I take this privilege to felicitate fellow Lions, Lionesses and Leos on the occasion of 5th Annual District Convention.

Lionism is a great virtue, a realisation at heart and a commitment which drives a Lion to selfless service for alleviating the sufferings of the less fortunate.

The World today is tremendously stricken with violence, hostility, restlessness and war. But the Lions, Lionesses and Leos and the other peace-loving people of the world are striving towards a peaceful world and a healthy society in order to ensure smooth living and happy life to the poor people.

We pray to the Almighty to bestow on all of us the wisdom of the heart to contribute for having a trouble free world.

I urge each and everyone of you, to use an opportunity like this Annual Convention to renew our commitment to serve the humanity better.

I wish the convention a grand success.

Yours-in-Lionism  
**Ln. Humayun Zahir**  
District Governor  
District-315 A  
Bangladesh.

## Lionism - A Movement For Humanitarian Services

**Ln Touhidur Rahman**  
Multiple Council Chairman

Lions Clubs International has attained 75th Anniversary this year. Since its inception in 1917, this humanitarian service organisation has grown as the greatest of all service clubs of the world spreading through 173 countries and geographical areas. It is indeed a golden chapter of love and service to mankind.

Lionism, therefore today is well-known in the world community for its humanitarian and welfare services. The ideals and objectives of this great service organisation have made tremendous impact on the social life in our part of the universe where the population pressure is very heavy which causes enormous socio-economic problems.

Since its emergence in Bangladesh 1958, Lionism has been expanding and maintaining a steady growth in Bangladesh and thereby expanding its ambit of diversified services

convening wide range of community needs. The Lions, Lioness and Leos of Bangladesh have dedicated themselves for betterment of the society and working relentlessly to ameliorate the sufferings of the distressed people. As a welfare service oriented force, it has not only developed excellent working relationship with the govt organisations but in also playing a complimentary role in many areas of human and social needs such as Sight related Programme, Family Planning, Mother and Child Health Care, Women in Development, Literacy, Environment, Medicare Programme, Disaster Management etc. Commendable works are progressing in these fields through short term Programme and permanent Projects as well.

The most remarkable achievements are being made in sight conservation and Eye care programme.

Lions Eye Hospital in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Jessore, Kushia and other places have been rendering invaluable services to the needy people. It has therefore been very appropriate to call the lions on 'Knight of the Blind'. In 1925 Helen Keller called



upon the lions to become knights of the blind in crusade against darkness. We responded and have saved the sight of the Millions; millions more have had their blindness made more tolerable and their lives

more productive through our efforts. Now we face our greatest challenge. If we succeed we will help bring blindness under control for the first time in the history. And we will attain success because our long history has prepared us for this challenge. The challenge which has been accepted by all in the lions family — "SIGHTFIRST" — Lions conquering blindness the most ambitious programme ever taken by the Lions Clubs International to address the problem of world blindness.

Lionism is a great cause, the cause of humanity. It is commitment of service that leads individuals to serve selflessly for ameliorating the sufferings of the humanity since they believe for certain that happiness in life is to live for others.

Lions must keep up the spirit of dedicated services and continue the efforts to serve better together for brighter tomorrow.



বাণী

লায়ল জেলাবাসী অর্থ মানবতার সেবার নিয়োজিত। ইতিমধ্যেই এ জেলাবাসী মানবতার সেবার অনুকরণীয় দুইটি স্থাপনে সক্ষম হয়েছে।  
আমাদের অনেক সমস্যা। সম্পদও সীমিত। তাই সরকারের একাধিক পক্ষে সকল সমস্যার সমাধান সম্ভব নয়। এ জন্য প্রয়োজন লায়ল জেলার মত বেসরকারী সংগঠনের আয়োজন। ব্যাপকভাবে সরকারের সম্পূর্ণক হিসেবে জনকল্যাণে এগিয়ে আসা। আমি আশা করি, লায়ল জেলাবাসীরা জনগণের সেবার আয়োজন সম্পন্ন করে কৃতিত্ব নিয়ে এগিয়ে আসবেন।  
আমি লায়ল জেলা - ৩১৫ এর ৫ম বার্ষিক সম্মেলনের সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।

**খালেদা জিয়া**  
প্রধানমন্ত্রী  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

## We serve the world

**Lion M. Anwarul Haque**  
Lieutenant Governor  
District-315A

"There can be no progress without service". Melvin Jones told the handful of men who gathered in 1917 to see what they could do to improve their communities.

At that time, the very concept of people organising for the purpose of serving others was progressive. But although Melvin Jones had big plans for the association that came to be called Lions Clubs International, he could not have foreseen how far the organisation would progress in to service is others in the 75 years since it was founded.

Today the idea "Think globally; act locally" is promoted on car bumper stickers. When the Association of Lions Clubs was formed, the automobile was just coming into general use. Whether people at that time even considered the global consequences of their actions, the notion must have been at least as rare. Nevertheless, thinking globally while acting locally was something the Lions already had begun to do. If the association could export its dedication to

gether to make their world a better place. For little by little the associations ability to act internationally increased.

International Projects : The most crucial way Lions Clubs can participate in international activities is by supporting the associations major service initiative : Sight First. The Project started in June 1990 with a proposed budget of US \$130 million. Sight First aims to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness by providing vision care and treatment services around the world where critical needs exist.

Every club can support Sight First by contributing to the Lions Clubs International Foundation. These funds help launch key Sight First Projects in countries around the world. They include Sight First : Project used eye glasses collection pilot project, and Sight First: Project cataract, which provide funding for ophthalmic teams to treat patients and reduce the instances of blindness due to cataract.

Friendship Programme : Creating international goodwill is the particular aim of service activities promoting friendship. These include club and school training, the annual amateur radio operation contest, international hosting, pen-pal correspondences, Lions Day with the United Nations and World Peace Day.

We Serve the World : If the garden of international relations is to grow and thrive, Lions need to help new clubs establish their roots and support those that have recently been planted. Look around the opportunities abound.

Although Lions have been developing international relations for 75 years, in a way the possibilities for the association to expand internationally are just beginning. With the recent increase of clubs in new countries, the international awareness factor is increasing correspondingly. It is amazing to consider how one person desire to serve has expanded into a global network of people extending humanitarian service to others around the world. It can even be overwhelming when you realise the members of people affected. Overwhelming, that is, until you remember that it all comes back to one : one person, one club, working together with others to make a difference.



humanitarian service to clubs throughout the world, the opportunities for improving human conditions would be tremendous.

Service to the local community was and always will be the foremost concern of Lions. In many regions the needs for medical, dental and eye care clinics remain high. And communities looking to build schools and bus shelters, create recreational areas, install wells, provide books for their libraries and emergency aid in times of crisis, will continue to turn to their neighbours, the Lions for assistance.

But if local service is the bedrock of the organisation, global service is the garden that grew from the aspirations of the people who came to



December 1995. But because of the restriction imposed on the Lions Clubs in holding eye camps by the NGO so long funding the programme, the target is going to be a failure. That is why the Lions of Bangladesh are hammering again and again for SightFirst support in organising eye camps as well as setting up of permanent eye care centres. If today green signal is given with necessary financial assistance, in 6 years time from now it is absolutely possible to clear all cataract backlog in Bangladesh.

## LIONS - Pioneer of Mass Eye Care in Bangladesh

**Ln Abu Baker Siddique**  
Past Council Chairman MD-315

Bangladesh is a developing country. Its medical facilities are no doubt poor. Common Eye Care Service only is available in most part of the country. But the need is much more than what we are able to cater from the existing facilities.

Out of dire necessity we are organising eye camps in Bangladesh. All the available hospital beds in the eye wards in the country can perform around 10,000 cataract extractions in any given year. It is estimated that at this time there are 333,000 persons blind from cataract. It is also estimated that every year 40,000 new cataract cases are joining this case-load. So the temporary crash programme to clear the backlog through the EYE CAMP is a must.

To carry out the above mentioned programme, we have to provide financial support in the form of eye camp grants to the Lions Clubs of MD-315, who will be organising eye camps in different parts of the country. One International NGO has been supporting the eye camp programme in Bangladesh with fund since 1973. They were giving it to any organisation holding eye camp in the rural areas of the country, but since the middle of 1990 this NGO is now only assisting Lions Eye Camps in a very very limited scale. As a result most of the Lions Clubs have become unable to organise eye camps and consequently the number of cataract extractions as well as screening of patients and giving treatment to patients suffering from eye diseases have substantially dropped down creating a situation which will perpetuate field eye camps.

This situation has created the necessity on the part of the Lions to come forward in a bigger way

with appropriate preparation with SightFirst assistance so that they can play their part in clearing the backlog of extractable cataract as early as possible and we move from field eye camp to DST eye camp.

You will find from the foregoing that there is already an Eye Care Network, but that is insufficient. So some more facilities are to be built to cope with the magnitude of the problem. At the same time a Tertiary Eye Care Centre has to be set up where complicated eye surgeries are to be performed and at the same time Doctors and Paramedics to man the base hospitals could be trained.

There was a target to clear all cataract backlog by