



# YEAR OF ACTION & VISION

## Rotary District 3280

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### Build the Future with Action and Vision

Rtn. M. Ali Mahbub, PHF  
District Governor 1996-97



Rtn M A Mahbub  
District Governor, 3280

It is a great feeling to begin a new Rotary year. As the District Governor of the Rotary International (R.I.) District 3280 Bangladesh, I have the privilege and honour to exchange my vision with the 2,500 dedicated Rotarians of Bangladesh so that we can join hands to carry forward the good work of Rotary into yet another year.

At the 1996 RI Assembly at Anaheim, like all the fellow governors I was reposed with a trust by the 1996-97 RI President, Rtn. Luis Vicente Giay. He called us the Governors "Plus." I, in turn, would name the Rotarians of Bangladesh as the Rotarian Plus. The word "Plus" - which has become so familiar to Rotarians since 1985, thanks to the PolioPlus programme - signifies the challenge to maximum effort, additional output, the extra mile, achievements never before achieved that all of us hope for and need. I am confident that Rotarians of Bangladesh would once again prove to be just that and even more by providing services in our communities. The Rotarians of Bangladesh would work hand-in-hand with the Government, NGOs, and other service providers to help alleviate the sufferings of our people.

In 1996-97, I wish and hope for us to be a motivated, vibrant, active, and visionary generation. We must carry Rotary's flag and its principles of service to all corners of Bangladesh. We must lead our Rotary District with dedication, responsibility, and commitment. We should reinforce Rotary in all areas, giving special emphasis to the membership development campaign and improve the level of information to the new Rotarians since a substantial number of Rotarians in our District have been club members for less than two years. We shall commemorate three important dates: the 50th anniversary of Rotary's founder Paul Harris' death, the 80th anniversary of the endowment fund called The Rotary Foundation, and 50 years of success in the Scholarships programme of our Foundation. Above all, we shall support The Rotary Foundation by all available means, especially achieving the eradication of polio. These we wish to undertake both at the club and the district levels during the 1996-97 Rotary

year.

This year, the RI President chose "red brick" as the colour for the jackets that would be worn by the 1996-97 class of Rotary leaders. To him, civilization is like a big building made out of bricks - thousands and thousands of bricks. Each of us is a brick supporting the grand structure we call humanity. Brick is the most versatile and vital element of any structure. In essence, it has the potential of becoming something more. Its potential is endless. Placed just right, bricks can become a supreme creation of the human spirit. The only limitations are those imposed on it by the builder - the creativity, energy, and talent of the architect. My fellow Rotarian Plus: we are the bricks of Rotary. We are the base, the pillars, and the foundation of the building we call Rotary.

Today we have no way of changing the past, but today we have endless ways of changing the future. Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. The future is not an op-

portunity to be wasted but rather a work to be built.

Nobel scientist Jonas Salk once said, "Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors." We can best pay our own debt to the past by building a better future for new generations on the framework our forebears established.

Rotary has a vital role to play in the times that lie ahead. Our ideals are universal. Our global organization is effective, and our programmes address the basic needs of humankind. As Rotarians, we are indeed architects of the future to the extent that we act on our commitment to service. If we are to achieve our destiny, if we are to participate as architects in the 21st century, it is time now to unfold a new blueprint. We must affix our personal stamp to a design for tomorrow.

Our first task as architects is to give our dream for the future a solid underpinning. As a living organization, our pillars are built on action. Every service we undertake is part of our testimony that Rotary's true value lies in

its

### Rotary's programme for new generations in Bangladesh

Rtn. Dr. Iftikharul Alam  
District Editor

not been exposed to the many options and opportunities that exist in today's complex world. Many Rotary clubs help out by maintaining career information shelves in schools and public libraries stocking them with guidebooks to careers and jobs, and relevant pamphlets, trade journals and audio-visual materials.

i. Service to youth is essential since...

Serving youth keeps Rotarians in step with the changing character of the society and community in which they live.

ii. Involvement with young people helps integrate club members into their communities.

iii. Keeping in step with the young helps Rotarians stay flexible and hopeful - two vital qualities that become renewed whenever youth and Rotary work together.

No matter how ardently Rotarians pursue their good

Rotary is the biggest service organization of all times. It made a very humble beginning in 1905 with four men in Chicago. Its founder, Paul P. Harris, thought of building eternity. He added to our everyday life the idea that every man has a positive obligation - concern for the well-being of his neighbour. "Service above self" has been the guiding spirit of Rotary to inspire millions in 170 Nations and geographical areas to dedicate themselves to create world neighbourhood into a world brotherhood.

In Bangladesh Rotary symbolizes new horizons of hope, with a humble beginning through the founding of Rotary Club of Dhaka in 1937. Rotary has recorded a steady growth despite difficulties, which at times seemed unsurmountable. The 2nd World War, the partition of India, the creation of Pakistan and the War of Liberation of

1971 stalled the progress of Rotary at relevant times but the indomitable spirit of voluntary personal involvement in selfless service enabled Rotarians not only to survive but also to move forward with determination and commitment.

Rotary Club of Dhaka was organized by Rtn. Herbert Bryant under the sponsorship of Rotary Club of Calcutta, India of R.I. District 329 (the then District 89). Rtn. Phiroze Sethna was the District Governor of R.I. District 89 (India) at that time. The club held its first ever meeting, attended by 17 Rotarians, on 22nd December 1937 of the first floor of the Imperial Bank of India

Building at Victoria Park (renamed Bahadur Shah Park), Dhaka. The Club was admitted to Rotary International on 26th February 1938. Those charter members displayed worthiness of their selection in encouraging and fostering the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise in response to the need of the society. Instead of weekly meetings, in those days the regular club meetings were held fortnightly and the Founder Members used to meet at each member's place by rotation - in real Rotary fashion. It was indeed an exciting beginning.

The success of Rotary in Bangladesh is indeed a tribute to

the worthy pioneers, who founded the first Club - the Rotary Club of Dhaka. These pioneers have been succeeded year after year by persons, whose leadership, faith and devotion has built a glorious tradition of selfless service, fellowship, goodwill and understanding. To know the past is to build for the future. Contemporary Rotary - the present-day Rotary in Bangladesh is a dynamic, evolving movement, which has left a mark of excellence by providing services to those who need it most.

The spirit of Rotary's selfless service found in Bangladesh is a land ready for speedy and

In January 1995, The Rotary International Council on Legislation, with representatives of all Rotary clubs in the world, declared the eradication of polio to be a goal of the highest priority. It was proposed by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation and the Board of Directors of Rotary International. It passed unanimously. The significance is great. The Council is the same body that in 1986 authorized the campaign to raise the most ambitious that the representatives of 27,370 clubs said highest; not just the International leaders although they agreed.

While the nations themselves are providing about 80% of the cost to eradicate polio in their countries, it is not enough alone to immunize all their children. The shortage will amount, worldwide, to about 650-750 million dollars in the critical years from now until the year 2000. Most of the money will be needed to purchase vaccines. Where will it come from? Some from Rotary International may be as much as \$85,000,000. Rotary is the largest non-governmental donor and there are other donors. The polio-endemic country governments themselves do the most. However, it must be the governments of presently polio-free countries, the governments of those people who will benefit the most. For instance, the United States can save a quarter of a billion dollars a year, every year after polio is eradicated, when it no longer needs to immunize its children. Large amounts also can be saved by the governments of polio-free Japan, Korea, Taiwan, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Great Britain, and others.

#### Polio is preventable

Polio is a virus disease and is preventable. Poliomyelitis is a virus disease and is preventable. Government of Bangladesh and Rotarians are jointly working together with EPI to eradicate Polio from Bangladesh. Even if we remove Polio by the year 2000 yet remains the post polio problems and effects.

Polio usually affects the children below 5 years and may occur in some children even after the vaccine duly taken. It affects the nervous system and the muscles of the body. Mostly the lower limbs are affected or paralyzed. This polio virus was isolated in 1957 and the injectable vaccine was invented in the year 1954 and in 1958 polio vaccine oral drops was invented.

Of 100% patient 30% have no residual effect, 30% are mildly affected that is one/two limbs

### PolioPlus: Rotary's greatest service project

Rtn. PDG Iftikharul Alam  
Chairman, Bangladesh National PolioPlus Committee

are partly affected, 30% patients are severely paralysed and the rest 10% dies. The affected limbs may be surgically corrected. Another method is to give aid by calipers (Surgery). Rehabilitation and physical medicine is one of the important method of treatment. Cold orthopaedic cases may be treated by very little expenditures.

#### Polio Eradication - promising but challenging goal

At the 1993 World Health Assembly in Geneva,

500 millionth child through PolioPlus.

Both events underscore commitment to achieving a polio-free world. But eradicating the disease also poses a tremendous challenge. Vaccine shortages in Asia and the former Soviet Union could hamper eradication, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

China, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan account for about 70 percent of the world's polio cases. India is

making progress in reducing the incidence of polio and achieved a

them."

It will take an estimated 11 billion doses of vaccine over the next ten years to eliminate polio, WHO estimates. That means, says Dr. Henderson, that the developed world will have to see polio eradication as a sound, long-term investment if the necessary funding is to be found.

Since 1985, Rotarians of the world have worked to fulfill a dream - to protect all the world's children from a cruel, crippling disease, poliomyelitis. By raising more than US\$ 247 million, they enabled The Rotary Foundation to provide a five-year supply of vaccine for any developing country to immunize its children. One hundred countries have received PolioPlus grants. The Foundation's commitment, thus far, is more than \$200 million to buy vaccine, to improve vaccine quality, and to support mobilization efforts. The results have been impressive.

Millions of children are alive and healthy today because of PolioPlus. But unless the virus that causes polio is eradicated, future children will be at risk and hundreds of millions of dollars will have to be spent every year to vaccinate them. To help the world end the threat of this disease once and for all, Rotary has embarked on a new phase of action. In addition to encouraging regular immunization programs, it is now encouraging and supporting national immunization days twice a year for three years, systematic reporting of all suspected cases, laboratory networks to track the virus, and community wide vaccination activities to contain outbreaks of the disease.

Through PolioPlus, Rotary is part of a strong international partnership that is working to eliminate polio. The global Polio Eradication Network or partnership includes the World Health Organisation, the Pan American Health Organisation, UNICEF, Task Force for Child Survival and Development, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### The Rotary Foundation

PDG Aziz-Ul Haq  
Chairman, The Rotary

name of Paul P. Harris as the Founder of Rotary. Less known, even to the Rotarians, is the name of Arch Klumph. He was President of Rotary International in 1916-17. It was he who proposed to the 1917 convention of Rotary in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the creation of an endowment

Foundation Committee 1996-97

Arch Klumph, the sixth President of Rotary International, called for the establishment of an endowment fund for the purpose of "doing good in the world." He said, "...we should look at the Foundation as being not something of today or tomorrow, but think of it in terms of the years and generations to come. Rotary is a movement for the centuries."

Rotarians, the world over, readily recognize and identify the



District Governor M A Mahbub meets R. I President Luis Vicente Giay at R. I. Convention. Also seen in the picture are Rotary Ann Vicente Giay and Rotary Ann Gul Afroz Mahbub.

### Rotary movement in Bangladesh

PDG Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman  
District Trainer 1996-97

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many fields. In 1955, there was no facility in the country for providing education to the blind. Rotary Club of Dhaka established the first School for the blind. It had a very humble beginning but the school succeeded in providing much-needed education to blind children. It is worth mentioning that, a young blind boy, who got his education in the Rotary School, is now a successful young man and a dedicated Rotarian. The school has been handed over to the Government.

Education has always received keen attention of Rotarians. About 40 years ago, Rotary Club of Dhaka established the first Adult Literacy Centre in Dhaka. At first, the Centre did not receive the expected response but gradually succeeded in attracting interested adults. Later Rotary Club founded a Night School for the adults also.

Rotary Foundation programmes support various humanitarian services, such as, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Grants for University Teachers to serve in developing countries, Group Study Exchange, Matching Grants, Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants, Rotary Volunteers to serve in countries other than their own, Polio eradication, Peace Forum, etc.

Started in 1947, The Rotary Foundation Scholarships programme supports about 1,200 scholars each year for graduate or undergraduate study in various disciplines. So far approximately 25,000 scholars from about 130 countries have received scholarships at a cost of about US\$ 250 million. The scholarships are ambassadorial in nature, and scholars have a responsibility to speak to Rotary Clubs in their home and host countries.