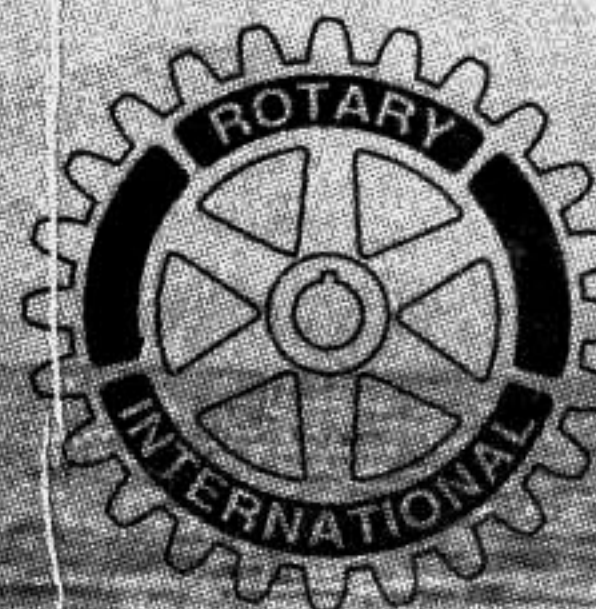




CONFERENCE OF DREAM & REALITY

XV Annual District Conference, RI District 3280 Bangladesh

12 & 13th Feb 1999 Chittagong



Service Above Self

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

THE DAILY STAR, 12 FEBRUARY 1999

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Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians
Assalamu' alaikum/Good Day

It is my proud privilege and pleasure to welcome you and your families in the Port city of Chittagong during the biggest event of 1998-99 "THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE". The Conference has been named as **Conference of Dream & Reality** and is being held on 12th & 13th February at Chittagong. I sincerely thank all the participants for braving the uncertain situation in the wake of General Strike in the country. I am confident you will take back home with rewarding experience during your stay in Chittagong. The Conference Committee is endeavoring their best to give you a memorable Conference along with entertainment programs and mouth-watering foods etc.

This year is generally named as Dream Year of Rotary. It is perhaps due to the Rotary International theme given by our World Leader James L. Lacy "Follow Your Rotary Dream". We all have dreams and Rotarians are no exception to it. Rotary itself is the dream of one person i.e. the Founder of Rotary Paul P. Harris. He said "Dreaming is not bad if one dreams good dream and make them come true within a specified time". Paul Harris never thought in his life time that the organization he started will grow so big globally. Rotary is now spread in 194 countries and geographical region of the world. Originally Rotary was established to inspire the basic value of friendship and fellowship along with high ethical standard in business and professional life. Later this movement spread into various branches as it grew world wide.

February is a historical month for the citizens of Bangladesh. This month is also very significant in Rotary because it was borne on 23rd February, 1905. I feel proud to state that our great organization not only expanded globally but also expanded in humanitarian and various social activities worldwide.

Civilization comprises of past, present and future. We the Rotarians honour our past, recognize our present and dream for the future. Our World Leader James L. Lacy said that "we can not talk about the future unless we think about our children because they are the future. In his message on community concern he urged the Rotarians worldwide to give special attention on children and to realize their dreams. He has announced a pilot project this year amounting US\$ 20 Million for the benefit of the neglected children who are below 15 years of age. This project is known as "Children Opportunity Grants" and over 30 projects from our District have been forwarded to Rotary International for consideration. These are being currently reviewed by Rotary International and hopefully expect some of them to be granted in favour of the clubs in our District.

Rotarians are not only dreamers - they are achievers as well doers. We the Rotarians assembled in this Conference well get inspired for doing good to the community. Rotary is generally an association of professionals and business leader. No other organization in the world has such powerful human resources. We need to employ fully these resources and put them for the benefit of our community. This idea may be termed as lofty, but I like to add here who else will give the idea other than the leaders of the community and many of whom are Rotarians. We are entering into a new century - a new millennium and century of Rotary. We must prepare ourselves for the future and we should start thinking how we can do it. That is where the Rotary International theme for 1998-99 "Follow Your Rotary Dream" will make a difference. As Rotarians and leaders in our respective community it is now the responsibility of Fellow Rotarians to follow and act on the theme of our world leader James L. Lacy. Bangladesh is an under-developed country and possesses many vices of a developing nation. The spirit of Rotary with its values through various community service activities of the existing 93 clubs of our District may be emulated for the benefit of our community.

Rotary started in this part of the world on December 22, 1937 and the 1st Club Rotary Club of Dhaka was chartered in early 1938. During British-India there was only this club and later expanded by another 6 clubs during Pakistan. The first District came into being in independent Bangladesh with 34 Clubs during 1984-85. Now it expanded rapidly and as of today we have about 2500 Rotarians in 93 clubs in the geographical region of Bangladesh.

One Past RI President once said, "Rotarians are good citizen". It is perhaps can be seen from the statistics of other Asian countries like Japan, Korea, Taiwan. Japan with the same size of population like Bangladesh have 34 Districts with about 130,000 Rotarians, Korea with a population of just about 45 million have 17 Districts with 45,000 Rotarians and small country Taiwan having a population of 21.5 Million have possesses 7 District with 15,000 Rotarians. These statistics will prove the RI Past President's above comments.

The 6th R.I. Past President Arch Klumph sphere-headed the establishment of The Rotary Foundation in 1917 for doing good in the community. From a poultry US\$ 26.5 this Foundation is now almost a Billion Dollar Foundation. Rotary Foundation is the pacesetter and window for Rotary's humanitarian and community activities. The single biggest achievement so far of Rotary through this foundation is POLIO-PLUS program. RI committed to eradicate Polio by the year 2000 globally which will cost RI approx. US\$ 450 Million. RI District 3280 Bangladesh received so far for this program US\$ 20 Million apart from other programs like-3-H and Matching Grant Projects. It is in this background the District Conference of Dream & Reality is being held here in Chittagong which is some-what affected due to Political General Strike. Even with all the limitations may I say let us enjoy the best as available and in-calculate the habit of tolerance as prescribed by our founding father Paul P. Harris who said "Rotary was borne out of the spirit and tolerance, goodwill and services". - God Bless all of us.

Mohammed A Awwal
District Governor
RI District-3280 Bangladesh

Founder of Rotary
Paul Percival Harris, 1868-1947



Global PolioPlus Program and Bangladesh Perspective

PDG Prof. Jalal U. Ahmed

Rotary's image started to shine and reflected with the building of the Endowment Fund in 1917 which later on transformed into a trust thus giving the name of *The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International*.

In the quest for betterment of humanity and enhance international understanding and peace, during the 1970s, Rotary International began a search for a universal humanitarian cause that would unite and drive its membership into the 21st century. A program where members could actively participate not just by fund-raising, but by volunteering in their communities and across the world-the cornerstone of Rotary's character.

In 1985 Rotary created PolioPlus a program to immunize all the world's children against poliomyelitis by the year 2005 when Rotary would celebrate its first centennial. PolioPlus is one of the most ambitious humanitarian undertaking make by a private entity ever. It will serve as a paradigm for private and public collaborations in the light against disease well into the next century, the same year. Rotary set a goal to raise US\$ 120 million to provide to the oral vaccine (OPV) to newborns in the developing world. When the campaign ended, Rotary had doubled its goal collecting more than US\$ 247 million. To date, the PolioPlus program has contributed US\$ 313 million to the protection of more than one billion children. By 2005, Rotary's financial commitment will exceed US\$ 425 million. In addition, millions of dollars of "in-kind" and personal contributions have been made by and through Rotary Clubs and Districts for polio eradication activities. More than one million Rotarians worldwide have contributed towards the success of the polio eradication effort. Till now 119 nations around the world have benefited from PolioPlus grants for polio immunization and eradication efforts. Because of this, as many as four million children who might have been polio victims are walking and playing normally.

This joint efforts enabled the Western Hemisphere to be polio-free by 1994. In 1997, 160 countries reported zero polio cases. Polio can be eradicated for as little as US\$ 0.50 worth of vaccine per child, today, four out of every five of the world's children receive polio vaccine.

Since 1988, polio cases have been reduced by about 85 percent. Still, it is estimated that upto 100,000 new cases occur each year in more than 60 countries, primarily in Africa and Asia. High levels of routine immunization must be supplemented by national immunization days (NID), rigorous surveillance to determine where the polio virus still circulates, laboratory support and mop-up campaigns where pockets of the disease remain. WHO estimates that special measures needed to eradicate polio by the targeted date will cost US\$ 120 Million a year, in addition to the amounts which nations currently spend on routine immunization. But when polio immunization is no longer needed, global savings will exceed US\$ 1.5 billion every year.

Coming to Bangladesh in respect of PolioPlus program, the situation in the early stage in 1986 was almost hopeless. Only 21 percent children were covered under the immunization efforts. In order to improve the condition, Rotary offered to help the Government of Bangladesh by supplying all the polio vaccines for routine immunization and also offered to provide doctors if need be for an initial period of five years through EPI authorities. In the process, Bangladesh received oral polio vaccines worth about US\$ 8.2 million from The Rotary Foundation to immunize all children in the country.

Encouraged by the success of immunization, the Bangladesh National PolioPlus Committee took necessary steps to convince the government to hold National Immunization Days (NID) in Bangladesh. With Rotary's efforts, supported by PolioPlus partners, it has been possible to implement 5 NIDs with 2 rounds in each year in Bangladesh. Rotary has been instrumental in providing additional Funds for these 5 NIDs to the tune of US\$ 7 million for OPV plus over US\$ 2 million funds for social mobilization, laboratory support and surveillance. RI District 3400 Hongkong has provided funds for communication materials for the 5th NID. So far, Rotary has given about US\$ 19.2 million for the PolioPlus program in Bangladesh.

Rotary's efforts for eradication of Polio in Bangladesh cannot be measured only in terms of funds provided for purchase of vaccines. The personal and active participation of the Rotarians and the related volunteers who have given hundreds of hours of tireless service alongwith the fund resulted in reaching a near miracle stage in Bangladesh with the coverage of over 98 percent immunization of under-five children in the NIDs.



Presidential Message on Community Concerns

As Rotarians working at the grassroots level, we are striving constantly to address critical community concerns. These concerns cover a wide range of problems from drug and alcohol abuse to hunger and homelessness to illiteracy and high unemployment. We are concerned also with problems facing the elderly, with the quality of education provided to our young people, and with the availability of clean drinking water and adequate health care for everyone. In all of our 28,000 communities worldwide, we see people suffering and in need and we try to help. But there is one group that I believe suffers far more than others and which needs our help most all - the children.

In our world today, some 34,000 children under the age of five die each day from hunger and preventable diseases. That amounts to 24 every minute. During that same sixty seconds 50 children are born into abject poverty - facing a life of chronic hunger and stunted physical and mental growth. Of those children who do live to reach school age, 140 million are not able to attend school. And almost 100 million children worldwide are homeless or destitute street children, which an equal number must work often in applying conditions - to help their families make a living.

Even in affluent nations, children face and uncertain future - marred by violence in the home and on the streets, drug and alcohol problems, poor schools, and splintered families. Children born into poverty in the industrialized world may no longer die from easily preventable diseases, but they often do not have access to the quality of health care, nutrition, education, and emotional support that can help them live productive lives.

Few Rotarians can see a child's tears and not want to wipe them away. Through Rotary, we can translate our desire to comfort one troubled child into projects that will help hundreds and even thousands of other children as well. In 1998-99, as you Follow Your Rotary Dream, I ask you to make sure that your dream includes the children of the world, who cry out for our help and compassion in a special way.

As you work to solve the challenging problems of your community, always keep in mind the very great needs of its most innocent and helpless members. Let us strive to replace the fear and despair that marks so many young lives with love and hope for a brighter future. Through our own Rotary dreams, let us make dreams come true for children in all the communities of the world.

Women in Rotary

Since service is central to Rotary women are naturally Rotarians at heart. However, formal inclusion of women as members took place only after considerable debate and drama in 1989. In admitting women Rotary has shown its resilience, adaptability and dynamism. Women now serve in their dual role-as Rotarians and as Anne's.

In Bangladesh, although occasionally we hear the complaint against Rotarian husbands that wives are not informed about Rotary activities. In the whole, the women have given sustained support to their husbands, sharing and participating in Rotary life-whether it be opening their homes to welcome Rotary guests on running projects.

I recall back in 1984 when the District first become an independent unit of R. I., the excellent work of the Anne's of Dinaipur who were involved in running two projects: one was a health and sanitation programme which included running a modest clinic with provision for doctor's attendance and regular supply of medicines, the other was a novel project for providing goats to needy women on the understanding that they would have to sign their names on the document of ownership. The later programme had acquired enough momentum to enable some of the destitute women to purchase cows after selling goats in the Eid market. We were fortunate to participate on one such occasion which we named a "double graduation ceremony" from illiteracy to basic literacy and from goats to cows. The shy smile of the women and the happy faces of children scrubbed enthusiastically clean for the important occasion were our special rewards. These examples show how small community welfare projects can yield significant results.

Today, efforts of government and non-government agencies are directed towards bringing women into the main stream of development. In Rotary women have steadily increased and intensified their attempts to improve the plight of the less fortunate women and children. In addition, they have exceeded the area of their voluntary work by bringing the family, the handicapped, the unemployed, and young people into focus. Metropolitan women have impressive records of meeting the occasional challenge such as flood relief and flood rehabilitation work, as also sustained projects such as micro-credit and literacy programmes assigned at ameliorating the condition of the underprivileged. Women in Rotary from one laudable component of the massive global joint venture to eradicate polio and other communicable childhood diseases indeed, RI's selection of Sadako Ogata, former united nations high commissioner for refugees, Dr. Catherine Huimin, expert in the treatment of Fistula in women, Masa Hashimoto another of a former prime minister of Japan as recipients of Rotary's highest awards is a symbolic recognition of the significance of the contribution of women in global welfare.

At the R. I. convention in Taipei, Dr. Yunus was asked why his micro-credit lone were given to women, not to men. The reply was that women can be depended upon to whistles every bit of the lone for the welfare of the family. Much rests on the seemingly frail shoulders of our women take. As women all over the world take on the challenges of the time Rotary women here will surely play their part with arsenic in our water and lead in the air. We can hardly complain of a look of opportunities. From the tradition of the part we can look forward to the future in 'great expectations' of a brave new world'.

By PP Husniara Haq.



James L. Lacy

Dear Governor Mohammad Awwal

Rotary District 3280 is undoubtedly one of the premier districts in the Rotary World. It produced several Rotary Leaders over the years and carried out excellent humanitarian projects in all avenues of service.

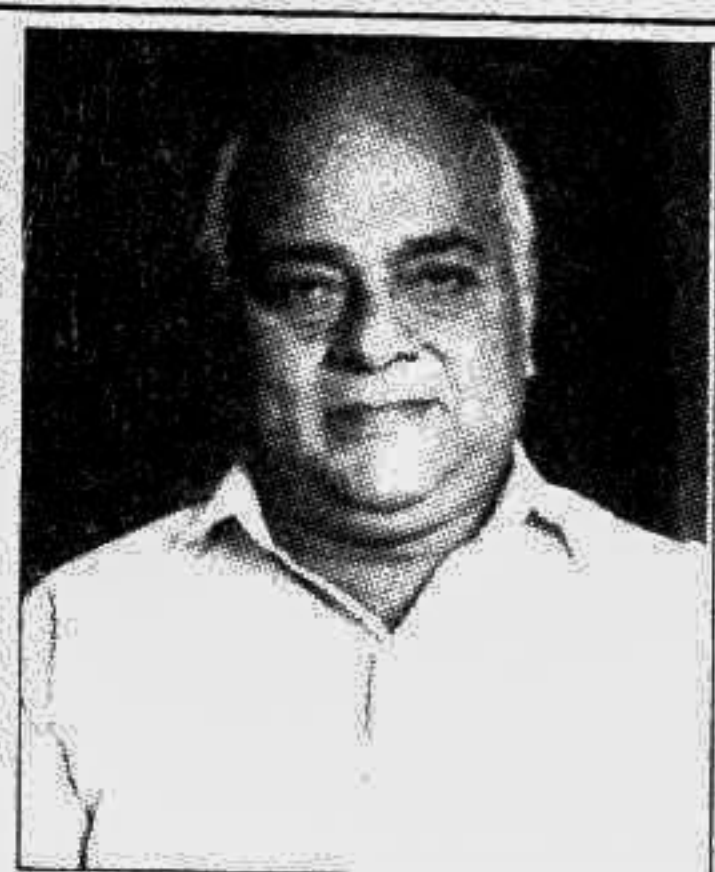
District Conference is an occasion for looking back with pride on the achievements since the on set of the Rotary year 1998-99 under the leadership of Mohammad Awwal who was able to successfully Marshall the troops of voluntary service organization in the district, and for looking ahead with anticipation of further triumphs on various fronts.

This year our world leader James Lacy has given us the theme "Follow Your Rotary Dream". He has asked us to dream of a world in which children are loved, healthy, well nourished, educated and protected. As a Rotarian, we should dream of a world in which elderly can live in dignity with respect and support they deserve. He also said, we should dream of a world in which all who are hungry are fed, all who cry out are listened to etc. etc.

The Government in developing countries like ours are not in a position to provide all these facilities to the people of our country. Only NGO's like Rotary can take on these issues and it is not possible to achieve all these in a year. It is a continuous process. We Rotarians should put our hands together and ensure that all the dreams come true.

Wishing your conference all success.

Yours sincerely
PDG Capt. V V K Mani.
RI Representative



XV Rotary District Conference In Bangladesh Conference of Dream and Reality

Rtn. PP. Engr. Abdul Ahad
Conference Chairman.

The most important event for Rotarians in a year is the Rotary Conference. This is for all club members and their spouses not just for club officers and committee members. The purpose of a District Conference is for fellowship renewing old friendship and making new friends. Listening to inspirational speech from knowledgeable speakers is another major attraction. Every person who attends a conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experience, insight and acquaintances developed at the District Conference. These conferences are considered so important that Rotary International President selects a knowledgeable Rotarians as his personal representative and who gives keynote address and a brief status report on Rotary. This year Past District Governor, Capt. V. V. K. Mani from India will come as personal representative of Rotary International President James L. Lacy.

Rotary embraces more than 1.2 million men and women in more than 28,000 Rotary Clubs. Its diversity is parallel to the United Nations with which it has a rich tradition of co-operated service. Rotarians live, work and serve in the community. Rotary brings together people of all means, religious faith and political beliefs in a friendly impartial and democratic atmosphere. Every year Rotary has a theme and keeping in line with this theme Rotary District Conference has also a theme. This year Rotary theme is Follow Your Rotary Dream given by International President James Lacy and theme of the District Conference is Dream and Reality given by our District Governor Mohammed A. Awwal.

Rotary brings together people of all races religious faiths and political beliefs in friendly, impartial and democratic atmosphere. This bond of fellowship is the springboard for serving others, providing fulfillment to Rotarians in their personal, professional and community lives. Great poet Rabindranath has said "I slept and dreamed that life was happiness. I woke and saw that life was service. I served and learned that in service happiness is found." Rotary is giving. "When people ask me what we get out of giving I tell them what does anyone hope to get out of Life? Happiness, joy, peace. All I can say is that we have received far more than we have given", said Past District Governor late William Cable. Past District Governor Arch C. Klumph said "No one can tell us what Rotary will be tomorrow, but one thing is certain, what Rotary will be tomorrow depends upon what we Rotarians do today."

ইনার হুইল ও রোটারী সেবায় সহায়ী

বিশ্ব শতাব্দীর গোড়ার দিকে রোটারী আন্দোলনের সূচনা হয় বহুত্বের বিকাশ ও মানবতার সেবার জন্য। প্রায় সেই সময় থেকেই ইংল্যান্ড ও আমেরিকায় রোটারীয়ানদের সহধর্মিনীদেরকে রোটারীর সমাজকল্যাণমূলক বিভিন্ন কাজে তাদের রোটারীয়ান স্বামীদেরকে সক্রিয়ভাবে সাহায্য করতে হতো। সাধারণত রোটারী ক্লাবের প্রেসিডেন্ট পত্নীকে সভানেত্রী করে একটি মহিলা কমিটি গঠন করে তাদেরকে নানা দায়িত্বভার দেয়া হতো। কিন্তু বিশ্বের দশকে রোটারীয়ানদের পত্নীগণ নিজস্বের একটি ক্লাব গঠনের প্রয়োজন ও তার বিভিন্ন সুবিধার কথা উপলব্ধি করলেন। বহুত্ব বলা যায় তাঁরা নিজস্বের একটি স্বাভাবিকভাবে চাইলেন-সমাজসেবার নিজেদের অবদানকে একটি পূর্ণাঙ্গ রূপ দেবার জন্য। তাইই সূত্র ধরে ১৯২৩ সালের ১৫ই নভেম্বর কুয়াশামু বিবেকলৈ ম্যানচেস্টারের ডিনসেট অঞ্চলের হারিউটস টার্সিখ বাথ নামক ছোট্ট রেস্টোরাঁর একটি মহিলা রোটারী ক্লাব গঠনের প্রস্তাব করা হয়। সেই ক্লাবই ইনার হুইল ক্লাবের গোড়াপত্তন করে। ১৯২৪ সালের ১০ই জানুয়ারি সভায় এই ক্লাব ইনার হুইল নামে আখ্যায়িত হয়। মিসেস অলিভার গোল্ডিং প্রেসিডেন্ট ও মিসেস ও ডব্লিউ এম নিলসনকে সেক্রেটারী মনোনীত করে ইনার হুইল আন্দোলনের ভিত্তি স্থাপন হয়।

রোটারী ও ইনার হুইল দুটি আন্তর্জাতিক সংগঠন। যাদের উদ্দেশ্য মূলত একই সমাজ সেবামূলক কাজ করা এবং পারস্পরিক সমঝোতার মাধ্যমে বহুত্বের বিকাশ সাধন। এ দুটি সংগঠনের জন্মগত থেকেই এরা পরস্পরকে সাহায্য করতে প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ। যদিও সময়ের ব্যবধানে কর্ম ক্ষেত্রেই পরিষ্টি বিস্তৃত হয়েছে উভয়েরই। আন্তর্জাতিক অঙ্গনে দুটি সংগঠনই নিজেদের ক্ষেত্র প্রস্তুত করেছে সুদূর ভাবে এবং সারা বিশ্ব জুড়ে তাদের সমাজ সেবামূলক কাজের জন্য সমাদৃতও হয়েছে। তবে কালের প্রবাহে কিছুটা ব্যবধানও হয়েছে তৈরি হয়েছে উভয়ের অজান্তেই। কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও একটি বিনিসৃতোর মায়ায় উভয়েই আবদ্ধ। কেননা ইনার হুইল সদস্যদের একটি পূর্বশর্তই হলো তাঁকে রোটারী পরিবারের সাথে সম্পর্কযুক্ত হতে হবে। তাই ইনার হুইলের যিনি সদস্য, একজন রোটারীয়ানের তিনি কদর্যের কারণে মানুষ এবং সুখে-দুখের অংশীদার। রোটারী ও ইনার হুইল এই দুটির আখ্যায়িত সম্পর্কে অস্বীকার করার কোনই উপায় নেই। একজন রোটারীয়ান সমাজসেবায় উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে যখনই কাজে এগিয়ে যান তাঁর স্ত্রীর সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা ও অনুপ্রেরণা থাকে তাকে। আবার ইনার হুইল সদস্যের যে কোন কাজে সাহায্যের হাত বাড়িয়ে এগিয়ে আসেন তাঁর রোটারীয়ান স্বামী। যে কোন কাজেই তারা একে অপরের সহকর্মী ও সহধর্মী। ইনার হুইল ও রোটারী সদস্য ব্যক্তি জীবনে যেমন একে অপরের সুখে দুঃখের অংশীদার তেমনি সমাজসেবায়ও তারা সহায়ী। তাদের মিলিত প্রচেষ্টায় গড়ে উঠতে পারে একটি সুখী, সুন্দর ও উন্নততর সমাজ ব্যবস্থা এবং বিশ্বকে দিতে পারে একটি উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যৎ আগামী প্রজন্মের জন্য।

বাংলাদে আউয়াল
পাঠ প্রেসিডেন্ট, ইনার হুইল ক্লাব অব আশাবাদ

