



The Daily Star



Lions Clubs International District 315A2, Bangladesh

5th Annual Convention 2000

Date: May 12 & 13

Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka

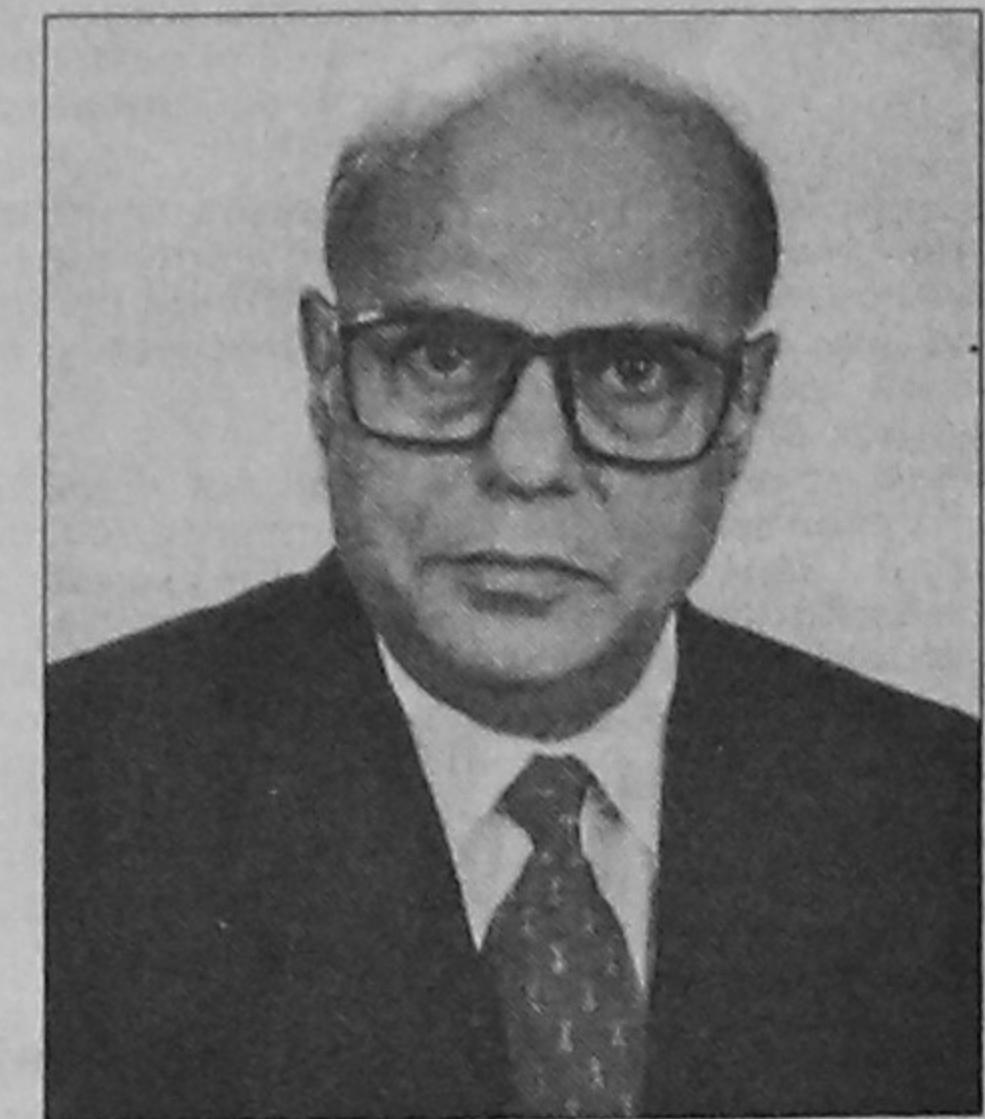
Special Supplement

May 12, 2000

Message

I am glad to hear that Lions Clubs International, District 315 A2, Bangladesh will hold its 5th Annual District Convention 2000 on 12th May, 2000 at Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka. It is, of course, well-known that the endeavours of the members of the Lions Clubs are to improve the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged people in our country. Bringing about improvements in the fields of health care, adult education, and in the condition of women and children and helping the slum-dwellers are indeed worthy objectives. It is gratifying to note that the members of the Lions Clubs International are planning to enlarge their humanitarian activities through this Convention. The members of the Lions Clubs believe in friendship and togetherness which prompted them to carry for the noble mission to improve the quality of life of people in our country. Members of the Lions Clubs International are citizens of the World, and I am confident that they would continue to engage themselves in the constructive work of helping the less fortunate people of our society.

I wish this Annual District Convention a great success and Godspeed.



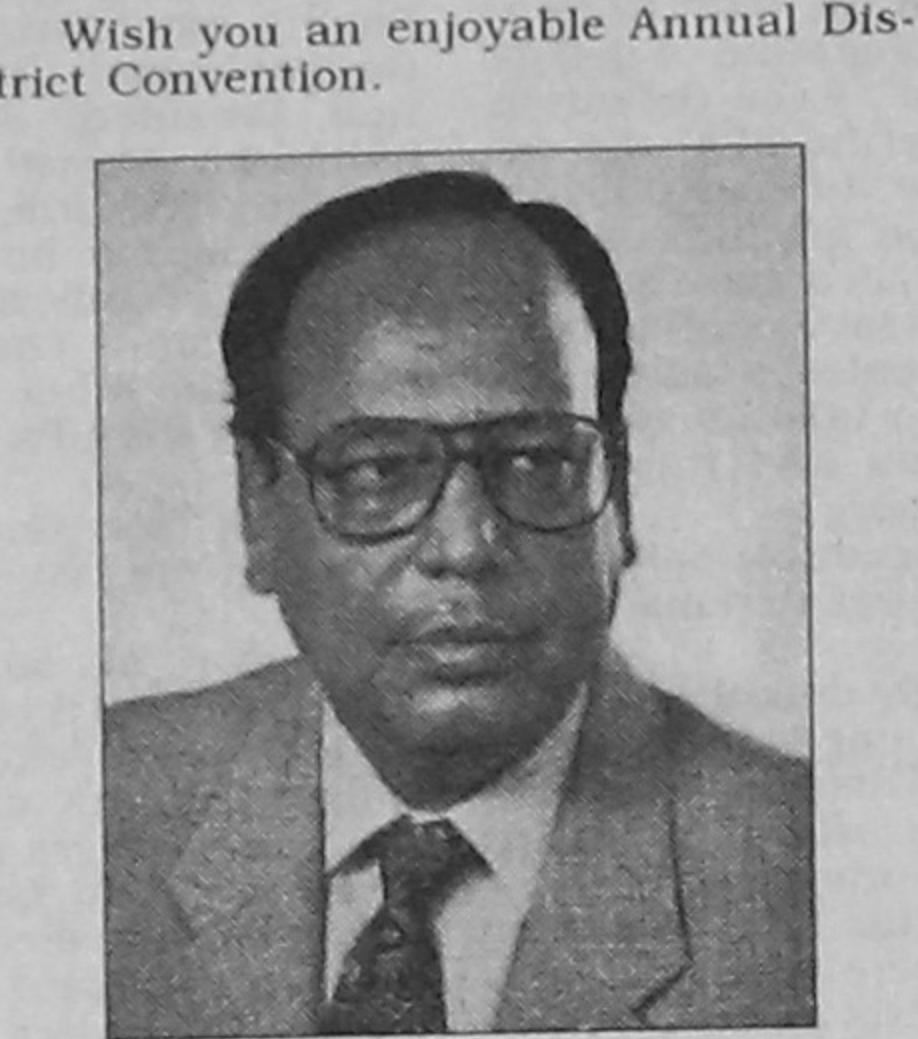
Justice Latifur Rahman
Chief Justice
Bangladesh

Message

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that a colourful Souvenir will be brought out on the occasion of your Annual District Convention. I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings to the members of District 315 A2 Bangladesh.

Annual convention provides a unique opportunity to exchange views, share ideas and promote friendship and fellowship. I am sure that the participating Lions will avail this opportunity and enrich their knowledge and abilities to work better. And it will help them greatly to work in partnership for a comfortable world. We have our proud past, we shall do our best to make our future Bright and Brighter. We can do it if we work in Harmony.

District Governor Lion Al-haj Md Shawkat Ali has given very successful leadership to run the activities of the District efficiently and smoothly. I congratulate him and his Cabinet colleagues for the wonderful work they have done during 2000-2001.



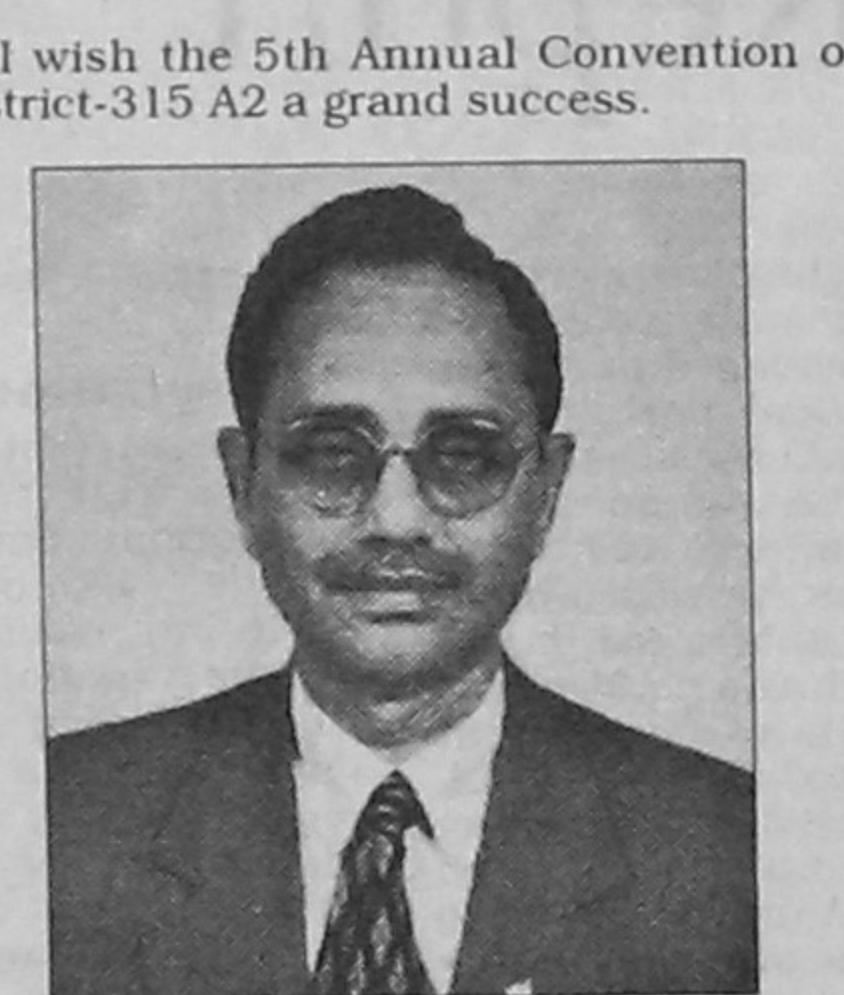
Moslem Ali Khan
Chairman
Convention Committee

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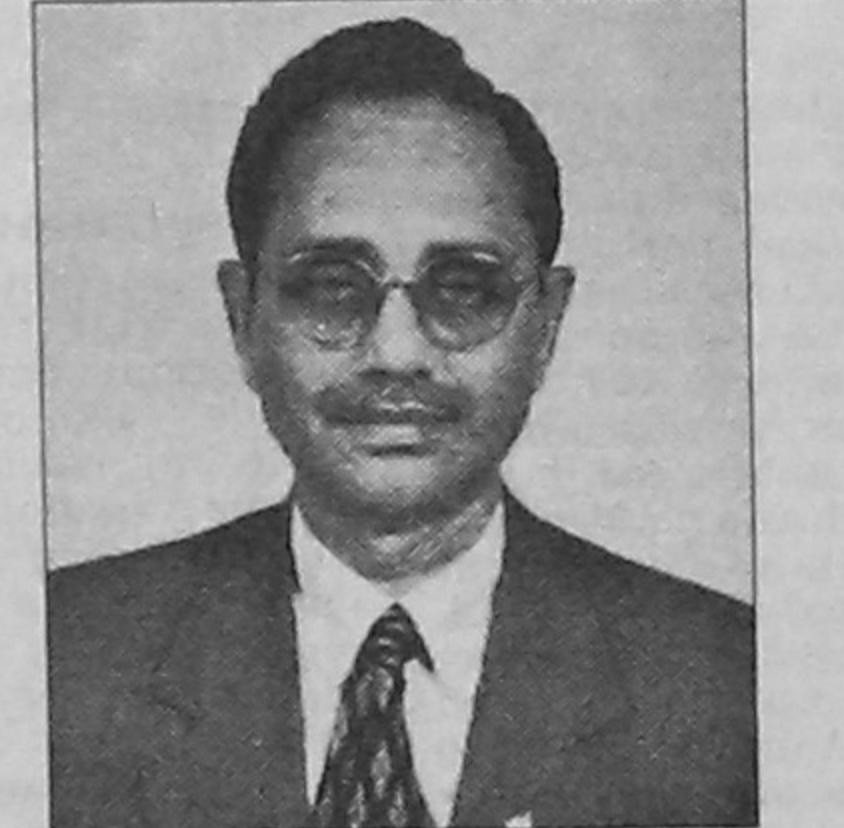
I am happy to learn that 5th Annual District Convention 2000 of District-315 A2, Bangladesh will be held on May 11-13, 2000 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, and on this auspicious occasion a colourful Souvenir will be published.

I am in firm conviction that the Annual District Convention will stimulate all the Lion members of District-315 A2 and will create far reaching positive impact to uphold the image of Lionism in Bangladesh and also to fulfill our motto "We Serve."

District-315 A2 has carried out commendable services to the community, and has upheld the image of Lionism under the dynamic leadership of District Governor, Ln. Adv. Md Saukat Ali. We are confident that the District-315 A2 will continue to render more intensive and valuable services for the cause of Lionism and for fostering fellowship and friendship among the Lion members through imparting dedicated service to the "less fortunates" in the society.



I wish the 5th Annual Convention of District-315 A2 a grand success.



Ln. Sk Kabir Hossain
Past Council Chairman
ID Nominee and Chairman
Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Message

The International Association of Lions Clubs began as the dream of a Chicago insurance man Melvin Jones. Melvin Jones' idea struck a chord within his own group, the Business Circle of Chicago, and they authorized him to explore his concept with similar organizations from around the United States. His efforts resulted in an organizational meeting at a local hotel on June 7, 1917. The 12 men who gathered there overcame a natural sense of loyalty to their parent clubs, voted the "Association of Lions Clubs" into existence, and issued a call for a national convention to be held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of the same year. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states heeded the call, approved the "Lions Clubs" designation, and elected Dr. William P. Woods of Indiana as their first president. Guiding force and founder Melvin Jones was named acting secretary. Thus began an association with Lionism that only ended with his death in 1961.

The Emblem throughout the World: Lions are recognized by the emblem they wear on their lapels. It consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular purple field. Bordering this is a circular gold area with two lion profiles at either side facing away from the centre. The word "Lions" appears at the top, and "International" at the bottom. Symbolically, the lions face both past and future — proud of the past and confident of the future. Lions wear their emblem with pride.

The Motto: The motto of every "Lions" is simply "We Serve." What better way to express the true mission of Lionism?

The Slogan: The slogan of the association is "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety (Lions)."

Official Colours: The royal

colours of purple and gold were selected as the official colours when the association was organized in 1917. Purple stands for loyalty to friends and to one's self, and for integrity of mind and heart. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgement, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and purpose toward humanity.

Community leaders soon began to organize clubs throughout the United States. This Lions Association did not become International until 1920, when the first Lions Club was organized in Canada outside America. The third Lions Club country was China where Lionism became prohibited after the revolution in 1948. The fourth Lions Club country is Mexico. Central America, where Lionism was established in 1926. In 1927 Lions Club was formed in Cuba but with the establishment of communist government in 1960's Lionism was prohibited in Cuba. In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club, with the first South American club being organized in Columbia the following year. Lionism reached Australia in 1947 and Europe in 1948, as clubs were chartered in Sweden, Switzerland and France. In 1952, the first club was chartered in Japan.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is today the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in more than 44,500 clubs in 740 Districts covering 185 countries and geographic areas. The first International Headquarters was in Michigan and at present the International Headquarters is at 300 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois, USA. The first Chief Executive Officer of Lions Clubs International is International

President. There are two Vice Presidents and 32 International Directors in the executive body. The term for Int'l President is for one year and the term for Int'l Directors for 2 years. Lions Clubs are not social clubs, although there are social benefits to membership. Lions Club members give their time, skills and resources to raise funds for charitable activities both in their communities and internationally.

The major focus of Lions fund raising activities is sight conservation, although other projects are pursued such as drug awareness programmes in high schools, diabetes awareness programmes and other programmes that are specific to individual Clubs and Districts. Lions took up sight conservation as their major goal after a speech given by Helen Keller at the Lions International Convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1925. At that time, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind," a challenge that has become a rallying cry for Lions projects around the world.

Lions work in the area of sight conservation is carried out at many levels. Individual Clubs sponsor free eye screening programmes using mobile eye clinics. In many countries, Clubs sponsor eye surgery camps where cataract surgeries are performed at no charge for those that can't afford the cost of this medical care. Many clubs collect old eye glasses for distribution to the places that most need them.

There are 8 Lions Code of Ethics:

To Show: To show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end

and the World Health Organization to raise funds for an international programme of sight conservation. It has been estimated that 40 million cases of curable and preventable blindness exist on this planet today. Without intervention this is projected to become 80 million by the end of 2000.

The International Association of Lions Clubs began a programme of fund raising that they called "Campaign Sight First" in order to cure/prevent 40 million cases of blindness worldwide. Over \$14.86 million have been raised by Lions all over the world for this programme. Eye hospitals are being built in the places that most need them.

There are 6 Lions Clubs Ob-

jectives:

To Create: To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world.

To Promote: To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.

To Take: To take an active interest in the civic cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

To Unite: To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

To Provide: To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club member.

To Encourage: To encourage service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.

To Hold: To hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

Always: Always bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my Nation, my state and my community and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.

To Aid: To aid my fellow men by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my deed to the weak and my substance to the needy.

To Be Careful: To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise, to build up and not destroy.

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