



YEAR LAUNCHING CEREMONY 2017

Rotary International District 3281, Bangladesh



1 July, 2017

BICC, Dhaka, Bangladesh

80 YEARS OF ROTARY IN BANGLADESH

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● **Rotary Primary School:** In 1951-52, RC Dhaka founded the Rotary Primary School in East Rajabazaar in Tejgaon, presently running as Rotary Government Primary School. It is the oldest Rotary project in Bangladesh.

● **The Rotary Blind School:** the first in the country, was founded in 1956-57 by RC Dhaka. It is the nucleus for a number of Drishti Protibondhi Biddalaya (School for the Disabled Eyesight) in the country under the Jatyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (Foundation for the Development of the Disabled).

● **Relief Work during 1970 Cyclone:** The Rotary responded immediately to 'Great Bhola Cyclone' that struck the coastal areas of Bhola and Patuakhali on 12-13 November 1970. An unique seminar was organised, which attracted worldwide Rotary response in launching the project 'Home for the Homeless' with financial assistance from 'World Community Service' (WCS) program of Rotary and other foreign Rotary Clubs.

● **School-cum-cyclone shelters:** In 1972-73, the Club rehabilitated a large number of people affected by the 1970 cyclone in Char Fassion and built four school-cum-cyclone shelters at Manpura in Bhola, with prefabricated steel structures donated by Rotary Clubs of Japan. Subsequently, hundreds of such school-cum shelters were built along the coastal region by the government, participated by a number of Rotary Clubs, donor agencies and NGOs.

● **Walkathon Program & Terry Fox Run:** From 1978 to 1999, walkathon programs and Terry Fox runs was organised by RC Dhaka jointly with the Canadian High Commission to raise funds for combating cancer.

● **The Rotary Cancer Detection Unit (RCDU)** was founded in 1980 by RC Dhaka in a tin-shed in Dhaka Medical College under a MOU signed between Ministry of Health and RC Dhaka.



● **National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH):** In 1982, the government founded NICRH under the MOU with RCDU as the nucleus. In 1985-86 a permanent three-storied building was constructed for NICRH at a cost of 3.5 million taka, raised through the 'walkathon' program. It was the first building for NICRH. In 1986, the NICRH and RCDU was shifted to the permanent building. The Club supplied lab equipment for NICRH with the support of Rotary Club of Balwyl, Australia. Over one million cancer patients have been treated in the RCDU in the last 36 years.

● **Sleeping Kits Distribution (SKD) program:** has been organised every year by RC Dhaka from 1983. It is the longest running program of Rotary. The program is funded by Canadian NGO 'Sleeping Children Around the World' (SCAW). Until now (2015-16) over 3.5 million Canadian dollars and 15.0 million takas have been spent for over 100,000 kits for boys and girls in equal numbers from age 5 to 12 from the poorest of the society.

● **Inland Fisheries Project:** In March 1984, RC Comilla launched the Inland Fisheries Project under the 3-H grant of Rotary Foundation. The project included training of fish culturists, developing nursery ponds and supply of quality fish fries. Over 250 Union Fish Nurseries were set up in Comilla and neighboring areas.

● **Eradication of Polio & NID Program:** In 1985, Rotary Clubs participated in the Rotary International initiative for eradication of polio from the world under the PolioPlus program. Rotary in Bangladesh Bangladesh played a leading role in organizing the National Immunization (NID) program started by the govt in 1995 with the financial support of Rotary. PDG Iftekharul Alam was the Chairman of the National Committee for Polio program. Rotary volunteers together with the government, NGOs, and volunteers participated in the program and immunized hundreds and thousands of children every year from 1995 to 2014, when the country was declared free of Polio.



● **Low Cost Shelter (LCS):** The project was launched in 1987-88 by RC Narayanganj Midtown with support of Rotarians from Germany. 530 LCSs were built costing 434,000 US\$ and 4500 people benefited from the project. Another 43 LCS was built in 2008 costing 135,469 US\$ supported by RC Hamilton.

● **Limb Centre:** In 1989-90, the RC Khulna founded the Limb Centre in Khulna with the support Jaipur Limb Society. 9,735 artificial limbs for the amputees, 11,226 clippers and 45 wheel chairs were provided by the project.

● **Rotary Health Centre:** The project was founded by RC Jessore and inaugurated in November 1997. The 5-storied health centre including a 'old home' was developed on piece of land donated by Mr Rizia Sarder. The project includes both outdoor and 50-bed indoor facilities with modern equipment.

● **Jalalabad Rotary Disabled Rehabilitation Centre and Hospital:** The project was founded by Rotary Club of Jalalabad with the support of RID 5790, Texas in USA. The centre provides physical, occupational and other therapies to the physically handicapped. Over 100 patients are treated in the outdoor facility. There are 25-beds for indoor treatment. It has workshop for providing equipment support such as splints, braces, etc.

● **Rajshahi Cancer Hospital and Research Centre Trust:** The project was founded by RC Padma Rajshahi. The project provide modern treatment facilities both indoor and outdoor, including awareness training for prevention and early detection of Cancer.

● **Rotary Eye Hospital in Kushtia:** The project founded by Dhaka North, includes a 6-storyed building with modern facility for treatment of eye diseases. It served over one million people till now.

● **Livestock & Poultry Development and Integrated Farms Development project:** The project was developed by RC Mymensingh at Biolar in Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway. The project was supported by 3-H grant of Rotary Foundation and involved rearing of livestock and poultry farming that benefitted a large number of families in the area.

● **Rotary Betagi Union High School:** In 1989, RC Agrabad took up the 40 years old private secondary high school in Rangunia and converted it into Rotary Betagi Union High School. A new building covering 26,000 square metres was constructed on a 30,000 square metres land with the assistance of RI District 2770, Japan under the Rotary WCS program. The school taught Japanese language with teachers trained in Japan.

● **Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE):** Modern teaching method under CLE program was launched by RC Dhaka in 1996 with RI 3-H Grant amounting 500,000 USD. The program was supported by Rotary Club of Footscry, RID 9800, Australia and Rotary Foundation. The program was executed jointly with the Department of Primary Education and covered 555 government and 290 Rotary primary schools in 33 districts of Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions.

● **Boat Clinic:** The mobile clinic 'HASUK', on a self-propelled steel boat, was launched in 1997 under RI's matching grant program. It provided medical care, including dental and eye care facilities for 50-60 patients every day covering 68 villages in the marshy areas in Kishoreganj area. Rotary volunteer doctors from abroad provided their services in the project.

● **Rotary Medical Centre:** The project was founded by Rotary Club of Dhaka South West and Dhaka in 2000 with the support of RC Gilford in Nebraska, RID 3630, USA and Rotary Foundation. The project provides basic healthcare facilities from a two-storied building in a remote area Kishoreganj. Apart from the major projects and programs, Rotary Clubs in Bangladesh have been a large number of projects and programs on regular basis in keeping with the Rotary's Six Focus Areas, which include –

A. Prevention of Diseases and Treatment:

1) In 1961, the first eye-camp in the country was organised by RC Dhaka with the support of IPAC (Australia) and BNSB (Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds). Since then hundreds of eye camps and dental camps are organised every year by Rotary Clubs benefitting thousands of people. The programs are supported by eye and dental hospitals and NGOs with volunteer doctors from home and abroad. Programs for School Eye Examination (SEE) and Dental Care for children under ABCD (Aussie-Bangla Care for Dental) are organised regularly.

2) Every year the Clubs organises number of health camps jointly with various hospitals and healthcare organisations providing basic and specialized treatment to mostly poor and vulnerable patients with limited access to formal healthcare facilities.

3) Rotary Clubs in Bangladesh has been supplying medical and laboratory equipment including Ambu bags, medical gas analyzer, freezer, wheel chairs, ambulances, equipment & reagents to various hospitals and healthcare units including Bangabandhu Medical University, NICRH, Kumudini Hospital and others.

4) The Clubs organizes awareness program for prevention of cancer and other life threatening diseases including HIV and AIDS.

5) Clept Lip and Palate, including Burn reconstruction surgery was organized supported by Rotary Club of Nepean and Penrith of Australia.

6) The prosthetic hand project was introduced, providing active functional hands jointly with LN4 of USA and CRP of Bangladesh.

7) The Rotary Pacemaker Bank was formed in 2007 jointly by Rotary Clubs of Dhaka Buriganga, Dhaka Cosmopolitan, Dhaka Midcity, Dhaka and Dilkusha and the Heartbeat International (a US based NGO) and National Heart Foundation.

8) Over 150 patients was treated for Prolapse & VVF surgery from 2012-15 with support of volunteer doctors from DAK foundation of Australia.

B. Water and Sanitation:

1) Every year hundreds of hand/shallow tube wells are set along with sanitary latrines keeping in view the overall improvement of hygiene and sanitation of the common people, especially in rural areas.



2) Rotary has undertaken a program for mitigation of arsenic in Kushertia, Jessore and other Arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh supported RI which contributed 500,000 US\$ in 1999-2000.

3) An unique sand pond filter was installed in Shayammagar, Dhaka supplying pure drinking to an entire village affected by salinity.

4) Rotary has also initiated program distribution of re-usable sanitary napkins designed 'DAYS FOR GIRLS', an US based NGO. The program was introduced by RC Dhaka and Gulshan Green.

C. Maternal and Child Health:

1) Rotary organises a number of Free Friday Clinics for mother and child in the city slums and rural areas with volunteer doctors from home and abroad including NGOs. Hundreds of poor patients are benefitted from the clinics.



2) Rotary supplied life saving medicine to Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute and Hospital for treating pregnant women with child birth complications.

3) Regular vaccination program for children against life threatening diseases are undertaken by the Clubs. RC Dhaka organised vaccination program against Pneumonia (Hib) jointly with 16 Rotary Clubs of Nagasaki, RID 2740 and Rotary Foundation.

D. Basic Education and Literacy:

1) Rotary organizes a number of literacy programs including running free community schools and education centre in bastees (slums) and rural areas.

2) Shamima Memorial Girls School was constructed at Charfassion, Bhola sponsored by RC Uttara and funded by RC Give Denmark and RID 1450.

3) Text books, writing material, backpack, computers, training aids and manuals, furniture and school bus, including school meals are supplied regularly. The Club also provides financial assistance to meritorious poor and underprivileged students.

E. Economic and Community Development:

1) Since 1950s Rotary has been involved in relief and rehabilitation works and disaster management every year during flooding, cyclones and other natural disasters. In 1970s and 1980s, Rotary has rehabilitated hundreds of families with 'home for the homeless' program, including supply of agriculture implements, seeds, etc. for people affected by tornadoes and floods including cyclones Sidr (in 2007) and Aila (in 2009).



2) The first passenger shed for bus passengers in Dhaka was developed in 1955 in front of the Press Club in Topkhana.

3) Tree plantation program is organised every year jointly with the Forest Department and the community. Thousands of trees/saplings are planted every year creating definite impact on the environment.

4) Low cost shelters have been developed throughout Bangladesh with the support of Rotary Foundation and other Rotary Clubs.

5) A large number of income generation programs are undertaken every year by the Rotary Clubs under micro-credit and self finance schemes in agriculture, fishery, poultry, cattle and goat farming. Besides programs are undertaken for distribution of rickshaws and rickshaw vans, etc. for income generation with especial focus on underprivileged people.

6) Special programs are undertaken for empowerment of women including skill development and literacy, awareness in hygiene and self defence, distribution of sewing machine for income generation, etc.



7) Vocational training are organised by the Clubs for job creation. training in garments-making under 'WCS' and other programs of the Foundations. A number of computer training centers have been set up for development of IT skill.

8) Model villages Nanduine in Gazipur and Ramsara in Kushtia were set up for integrated rural development that include improvement of homes, schools and healthcare facility together with with income generation programs in agriculture, fishery, livestock and poultry farming including training through micro-credit.

9) Distribution of winter clothing, blankets, emergence food and medicine are organized every year among the underprivileged people mostly in remote areas.

F. Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution:

1) In this world of numerous conflict zone Rotary plays a vital role in prevention of conflict and establishing peace around the world. Bangladesh Rotary has been actively participating in the RI initiative for Peace and Conflict Resolution, organising various awareness programs.

2) An RI Peace Award program was organised in 2013 to mark the 75 years Rotary in Bangladesh with Prime Minister as the Chief Guest.

Events and Programs:

● The districts organises numerous events with the participations of all Clubs and Rotarians. District Assembly, PETs and TETs, Rotary training and awareness programs and District conferences are held regularly every year with large participations Rotarians, Presidents, Prime Ministers, RI Presidents and dignitaries.



● The first RI Presidential Conference was held in 2000 which was participated by RI President Carlo Ravizza as the Chief Guest and Professor M Yunus as key note speaker. The program included month long blood donation program.

● The Centennial Bell Program, marking the 100th year of Rotary, was celebrated in 2005. The Bell was received by RC Dhaka. The program was participated by all Rotarians when the bell was taken round the country. The program concluded with fellowship dinner participated by Kallayan Bannerjee (later RI President).

Rotary in Bangladesh has passed through the test of time in this long 80 years when the district named, divided and re-named in keeping with the growth of Rotary in Bangladesh. In Middle Asia (covering whole of British India, Bhutan, Ceylon and Burma) a new district, RI District 89 was formed in 1937-38 with Sir Piroze Sethna as the first District Governor. Later the district was re-numbered as RID 3280.

Subsequently, more districts were created with increasing number of Clubs. Bangladesh Rotary in succession came under RI Districts 89 (in 1937-38), 88 (in 1939-40), 90 (in 1943-47), 91 (in 1946-47), 49 (in 1948-49), 53 (in 1949-50), 325 (in 1957-58), 310 (in 1966-67), 307 (in 1969-70), 325 (in 1971-72) and 329 (in 1977-78). From 1984-85, the RI District 328 was formed covering whole of Bangladesh with 40 Rotary Clubs. The district was re-numbered as RI District 3280 (in 1991-92). In 2013-14 the district was divided in two districts – RI Districts 3281 and 3282.

Over 46 dedicated Rotarians from Bangladesh has graced the offices of the District Governor through various timeline, leading the Bangladesh Rotary through the long 80 years history of motivation and dedication to 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF'.

