



Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



PRESIDENT :
Santanu Ghosh

SECRETARY:
Sajal Kumar Dutta



RI PRESIDENT:
Kalyan Banerjee

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Angshuman Bandopadhyay

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Rotarians have reason to celebrate as Rotary reaches 107 years

*By Arnold R. Grahl and Wayne Hearn
Rotary International News – 23 February 2012*

The Turku Cathedral in Finland is illuminated with an End Polio Now message on 2 February during a benefit concert. Rotary clubs around the world are lighting up iconic structures with the End Polio Now message the week of 23 February to celebrate Rotary's anniversary.

Rotarians have significant reasons to celebrate Rotary's 107th anniversary on 23 February.

Major gains have been made in the fight to eradicate polio, Rotary's top priority. In January, India reached a historic milestone by marking a full year without recording a new case of polio. The country has been an epicenter of the crippling childhood disease.

Worldwide, fewer than 650 polio cases were confirmed for 2011, less than half the 1,352 infections reported in 2010. Overall, the annual number of polio cases has plummeted by more than 99 percent since the initiative was launched in 1988, when polio infected about 350,000 children a year. More than 2 billion children have been immunized in 122 countries, preventing 5 million cases of paralysis and 250,000 deaths.

Also in January, Rotary leaders announced that Rotary clubs raised more than US\$200 million in response to a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In recognition of Rotary's commitment, the Gates Foundation contributed an additional \$50 million. All of the resulting \$605 million will be spent in support of immunization activities in polio-affected countries.

"We'll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn't mean that we'll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication," Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told Rotary leaders at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. "We can't

stop until our entire world is certified as polio-free."

A Report on Polio Summit

An International Polio summit was held on 25th and 26th February at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi. This important event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime minister Sri Manmohan Singh, commemorating the 14 month long Polio Free India. This event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Rotary International. R.I. President was assigned for an welcome address followed by an inspiring speech by Hon'ble Health Minister Sri Gulam Nabi Azad. In his speech he announced that WHO has removed India from the list of Polio endemic country. dr. manmohan Singh in his speech while lauding the achievement, said the real credit goes to 23 lakh volunteers who repeatedly vaccinated children even in the most remote areas. He said the success of the effort shows that "team work pays". He also said, "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the earth."

The summit was successful by the participation of high level delegates from WHO, Unicef, Officials of Health Dept. of Govt. of India and Rotary International. The Governors of different Districts World wide also attended the summit. PDG's Rtn Siddhartha S. Basu, Rtn Raju Rajgharia, DG Angshuman Bandhopadhyay and a team of polio workers led by PPrtn Swapan Paul also attended from Dist. 3291. Seven plenary session emphasised on sustaining the good work done for a Polio free World. The summit ended in a very positive note.

Wedding Anniversary

7th March:

Rtn. Debasish Chakraborty & Ann Soma

We meet every Friday, 7.30pm. at ' HARMONY ', 20A, Kali Mohon Banerjee Lane, Kolkata 700025

How Do I know there is no Polio

By Chris Offer, past governor of district 5040 and member of the Rotary Club of Ladner, Canada

I have often asked the question: "How do we truly know there is no polio in a particular country?" In January, I had the opportunity to find out. I arrived in Khartoum, Sudan, on 17 January as the Rotary representative on an Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance team. AFP leg and arm paralysis is one of the primary indicators of polio. In countries at risk of polio transmission, an AFP surveillance system helps ensure that a polio outbreak is caught early and stopped quickly. AFP has many causes other than polio, including Guillain-Barré Syndrome, forms of tuberculosis, trauma, hypocalcaemia, and others. However, to avoid missing cases of polio, all children under age 15 with AFP should be tested.

Although its last case of polio was in 2009, Sudan is a difficult place to sustain efficient polio surveillance. Sudan has suffered many years of civil war, tribal strife, and poverty. In July, what was the southern third of Sudan officially became the world's newest country, South Sudan.

Our team's task was to find out whether the surveillance system in Sudan is sensitive enough to detect cases of polio. After two days of meetings and security briefings, surveillance team members, which included experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), travelled to each of Sudan's 15 states. I went to the state of Kassala, which is near the border with Eritrea, and worked with CDC epidemiologist Dr. Noha Farag.

With a driver and local health worker, Dr. Farag and I set off on an eight-hour drive along course, winding highways. We spent the next five days visiting hospitals, pediatric clinics, vaccination centers, refugee camps, health offices, and traditional healer huts. Records were reviewed, ledgers checked, and staff interviewed. We saw Rotary posters printed in Arabic that explained the symptoms of AFP and the importance of reporting cases in every site we visited.

In Kassala, risk groups include nomads who wander between Libya, Egypt, Eritrea, and Sudan, along with migrant workers, refugees, and isolated tribal groups. Tracking AFP cases in these groups requires an extraordinary effort by the local health workers. While visiting a refugee hospital near the Eritrea border, I had the opportunity to see a child with AFP being examined. Fortunately, this child's paralysis was most likely caused by acute diarrhoea and malnutrition, which can lead to a severe loss of potassium. Stool-sample analysis and a 60-day follow-up would be done to rule out polio, but this child will recover.

Overall, I was impressed by the commitment to polio eradication of the local health workers I met. My conclusion after two weeks in Sudan is that there is a good AFP surveillance system in place there. If a polio case is imported, it will likely be quickly found and isolated.

Rotarians should feel confident that their dollars are well spent and soundly invested in polio eradication in Sudan.



NEXT SNID - 18th March, 2012

Entire District of 24 Pgs (N), 24 Pgs (S), Howrah, Hoogly, Kolkata. For Murshidabad, entire district except Raninagar-I, Raninagar-II, Jalangi and Domkol

Minutes

Meeting no: 1040 dated 17.02.2012

President called meeting no. 1040 to order.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Rana Safui

Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

Dicussions:

- o President discussed the upcoming projects of the club.
- o President discussed the telephonic request by members of the RCC for development of School run by Usthi Janakalyan Samity.
- o President and other members of the club joined a discussion for formation of a Trustee body which may help the club in taking up bigger projects.
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- o Members present unanimously decided to put off the meeting scheduled on 24th February 2012 and hold the next meeting on 2nd February 2012

President announced the receipt of Bulletins from the neighbouring clubs.

Having no other business the President terminated the meeting

Members present: 10

Sunshine collected: Rs.200.00

District Programme

March – 3 & 4 : RCC District Conference – ANUPRERONA – at Salt Lake Stadium.

Regn. @ 100/- for RCC members without accommodation and @ 150/- with one night accommodation. For Rotarians @ 250/-, 3 major meals. Forms are being couriered to all clubs & details can be downloaded from District Website. March 10 (Saturday) : District Holi Meet – ABIR (Basantotsav) – Swabhumi Urban Zone.

Regn : @ 400/- with Dinner. Details with cards availability are being separately mailed. A Team from Santiniketan will perform Basantotsav.

March 31 (Saturday) : ICM on Literacy: Rotary Sadan: from 3.30 pm. : No Registration.

April 01 (Sunday) : President, Secretary AG, ZS, Coordinators, Secretariat Meet at Rotary Sadan from 6.30 pm. Registration : Rs. 300/- with Dinner

April 15 (Sunday) : Nababarsher Baithak – ADDA – at Town Hall from 6.30 pm. Registration @

300/- with Dinner. Eminent Celebrities will take part.

Four Way Test

Is it the TRUTH ?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and better
FRIENDSHIP?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all *concerned*?