Rongdhonu

Club ID No: 72098
Organised: 03 January 2006
Chartered: 22 February 2006

UNITE FOR GOOD
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
2025 - 2026

Rotary Club of Baridhara

Issue 05 | Fortnightly Bulletin | Rotary Year 2025-26
07 September 2025



Basic Education & Literacy Month

Rotary
Club of Baridhara



জাতীয় সংগীত

আমার সোনার বাংলা, আমি তোমায় ভালোবাসি।
চিরদিন তোমার আকাশ, তোমার বাতাস, আমার প্রাণে
বাজায় বাঁশি॥
ও মা, ফাগুনে তোর আমের বনে ঘ্রাণে পাগল করে,
মরি হায়, হায় রে–
ও মা, অঘ্রানে তোর ভরা ক্ষেতে আমি কী দেখেছি
মধুর হাসি॥
কী শোভা, কী ছায়া গো, কী স্নেহ, কী মায়া গো–
কী আঁচল বিছায়েছ বটের মূলে, নদীর কূলে কূলে।
মা, তোর মুখের বাণী আমার কানে লাগে সুধার মতো,
মরি হায়, হায় রে–
মা, তোর বদনখানি মলিন হলে, ও মা, আমি
নয়নজলে ভাসি॥

Rotary Invocation

We, the Rotarians are dedicated to the ideal of service to maintain a high ethical standard in our business and profession and to dignify our vocation by enhancing international understanding, goodwill and peace through people united in the ideal of service

Rotary Club of Baridhara, D-64, Bangladesh
Club ID No. : 72098
Chartered on : 22 February 2006
Website : www.rotaryclubbaridhara.org

Vision Statement

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change-across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Mission Statement

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1) Is it the TRUTH?
2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotary Motto

1) Service Above Self
2) One Profits Most Who Serves Best Service Above Self is the principal motto of Rotary.

Rotary Club of Baridhara

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
– Nelson Mandela

Editorial Note

Dear Rotarians,

Assalamu Alaikum.



The Four-Way Test of Rotary remains one of our most cherished guiding principles. Since its introduction by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932, it has served as a moral compass for Rotarians across the globe. Its four simple yet profound questions remind us to uphold truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit for all in everything we do.

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

In today's world, where trust and values are often tested, the Four-Way Test inspires us to act with honesty, compassion, and responsibility. It strengthens our relationships, enriches our service, and ensures that "Service Above Self" remains at the heart of all our endeavors.

As members of the Rotary Club of Baridhara, let us continue to practice these timeless principles in our personal lives, professional duties, and community service. Together, we can create a stronger, kinder, and more meaningful impact.

With best regards,

Rtn. Aleya Ferdous Diptee
Editor, Rongdhonu
Rotary Club of Baridhara

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Fortnightly Regular Club Meeting of
Rotary Club of Baridhara (RCB)
Meeting No: 689
Date: 24 August 2025 | Time: 6:30 PM | Venue: The Westin Hotel, Dhaka
(Draft for approval)

1. After calling the 689th meeting to order, President of RCB Rtn. Meherun Nessa Islam requested Rtn. Ambassador Mahbub Uz Zaman to read out the Rotary Invocation.

2. President requested Rtn. PP Saiful to read out the birthday and wedding anniversary greetings.

3. Afterwards, Club Secretary Rtn. PP Ambassador Mosud Mannan ndc MPHF B read out the 688th meeting minutes held on 10th August 2025 which was adopted with minor corrections.

4. First VP Rtn. Mr. Sudip suggested to add ongoing/upcoming rotary projects in future Newsletters.

5. Club President Rtn. Meherun Nessa Islam agreed requested all club members to clear their semi annual dues.

6. At this point Club President invited Guest Speaker

Dr. Tahmid Ahmed, Executive Director of ICDDR,B to the Head Table.

7. At the request of Club President, Rtn. Mr. Aramgir Moshed introduced the Guest Speaker.

8. Dr. Tahmid Ahmed shared the experience of his 38 years long career with the audience. The salient points of his speech covered.

- Information on the various services provided by ICDDR,B which runs the world's largest "Cholera Hospital".
- Developing two life-saving innovations:
- IV Fluid ("Dhaka Solution") – discovered in 1960s, still standard for severe dehydration.
- Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) – simple, low-cost solution that has saved ~70 million lives globally.
- Treatment of Cervical Cancer.
- Caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).
- Current vaccine (Gardasil) is costly and requires two doses.
- ICDDR,B trialed a single-dose, cheaper vaccine with equal effectiveness. Endorsed by WHO as a global solution.
- Family Planning & Population Control.
- Research in Matlab field station in the 1970s–80s influenced Bangladesh's national family planning program.
- Resulted in a dramatic fertility decline (from 6.5 children/woman → 2 children/woman).
- Kala-azar Treatment.
- Spread by sand flies, previously deadly with painful treatments.
- ICDDR,B developed vector control methods and improved medications.
- Bangladesh became the first country to eliminate Kala-jor, recognized by WHO.
- Child Malnutrition.
- Trials in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Tanzania, Mali show strong results.
- Revolutionary in treating severe acute malnutrition in children.
- Tuberculosis (TB).
- Introduced portable backpack X-ray machines for field diagnosis.
- Deployed in 22 districts of Bangladesh, helping early TB detection.
- Dengue.
- Now a year-round threat in Bangladesh.
- ICDDR,B conducted the first trial of an NIH-developed dengue vaccine.
- Preparing for a large-scale trial with 5,000 participants.

9. President and Secretary both thanked the Guest Speaker after the Q & A session. Formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by First VP Nazmul Ahsan Khan.

10. Club Secretary requested Club Treasurer Rtn Wahid Anwar to present the Club accounts. In response Rtn. Mr. Wahid Anwar gave the following details - Current amount of money in the AB Bank club account - Tk. 2,13,000. Till date the club is expecting to receive Half Yearly Club subscriptions from 19 members. The club already paid RI dues. In future the club is planning to open new FDR with IPDC depending on the club savings and payment of any other arears. Finally, he happily acknowledged the receipt of one more half yearly membership subscription on that day.

11. Club President proposed to have the 690th regular meeting of RCB to be held on 7th September Sunday instead of 14th September as she will not be available on that date. All the Rotarians agreed and voted in favour of the proposal.

12. Club Secretary at this point requested the Rotarians whose birthday were announced at the beginning of the meeting to cut the special birthday cake presented by Club President. All members and Guests joined in the Photo Session during the cutting of the cake.

13. Club secretary announced the club meeting statistics of 24th August 2025 of RCB. He also announced the schedule of the Board Meeting on 27th August 2025 at the Office of IPP Rtn. Javed Hyder Kareem to be jointly hosted by IPP and Rtn. PP Dicon.

14. Finally, before adjourning the meeting, Club President Rtn. Meherun Nessa Islam proposed for the formation of an Installation Committee in the next regular meeting for making all necessary preparations (including fundraising) to successfully hold the event on 26th October 2025.

Club Statistics of 689th Regular Meeting

- Date - 24th August 2025
- Venue - The Westin
- Members Present - 20
- Members Absent - 28
- No. of Make up - 01
- Guests present - 02
- Percentage of attendance - 40.81%

R.C. Baridhara
Adopted Minutes of the 1st Board Meeting

Held on 31st July 2025

Hosted by Club President Rtn. Meherun Nessa Islam

At the beginning of the meeting with some discussion on the minutes of the last board meeting of the preceding Rotary Year 2024-25, it was adopted at the second Board Meeting held on 1 September 2025 at the Office of IPP Javed Hyder Kareem jointly hosted by IPP and Rtn. PP Dicon.

1. Accounts - R.I. Dues (semi annual) for the current year 2025-2026 has been paid. Action has been completed to change the signatories of the club bank account with AB Bank Gulshan Branch.

2. Membership - It was decided by the Board to give emphasis on retention of old members while inducting few new Rotarians of good social standing.

3. Meeting unanimously decided to open a new FDR of RCB for Tk. 1,50,000 with IPDC. Club Treasurer will be the custodian of all the current and new FDRs.

4. A notice will be circulated among all the Club Members of RCB seeking suggestions for future Guest Speakers for the regular club meetings.

5. After a long discussion it was decided to not hold the joint film show event with R.C. Dhaka Mahanagar as proposed by Rtn. PP Dicon.

6. The following Rotarians volunteered to host the next three monthly Board meetings of RCB :- Rtn. Dicon & Rtn. Javed jointly followed by Rtn. Ahsan and Rtn. Nasim jointly and Rtn. Saiful will host the third one.

7. President Rtn. Meherun Nessa and Rtn. PP Saiful will prepare the annual club calendar of activities during the month of August and present it at the second Board Meeting.

8. Rtn. PP Syed Ershad Ahmed and Rtn. PP Ali Ashfaq have contributed Tk. 60,000/= each which the club in turn has distributed to three Scholarship Recipients and Jaago Foundation respectively. It was decided to invite our Scholarship Recipients to one of the regular club meetings soon.

9. Installation Ceremony of the new Club Board will be held on 26 October 2025.

10. The club board agreed to do a joint legal project with R. C. Dhaka Premier for the poor and needy people where Rtn. PP Mosud Mannan ndc will contribute Tk. 25,000/=

11. It was proposed by the Board to raise the annual contribution of Tk. 1,80,000 for Shishu Hospital during the first half of the Rotary year taking also into consideration the Zakat Fund contributed by Club Members.

12. As a new project the possibility of creating employment opportunity for Trans Gender people were discussed with special focus in the security companies like Elite Force, Securex and Max.

Message from Rotary International President 2025-26

September 2025



President, Rotary International, 2025-26

Francesco Arezzo

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.

Club Secretary's Column

Rotary's views and projects on Basic Education and Literacy



Secretary 2025-26
Rtn. PP Mosud Mannan MPHF B

The Rotary theme for the month of September is Basic Education and Literacy, which usually brings to mind activities to ensure education and learning skills for children across the globe that will support them in later life.

Rotary's commitment to basic education and literacy focuses on ensuring sustainable access to education, increasing adult literacy, and promoting gender equity in education, primarily through projects supported by The Rotary Foundation and the Basic Education and Literacy Rotarian Action Group (BELRAG).

This area of focus is one of Rotary's key areas of service, with clubs worldwide implementing projects to strengthen communities' ability to provide education and literacy.

Key aspects of Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy focus:

1. Access to Education: Projects aim to ensure that everyone has sustainable access to basic education.

2. Adult Literacy: Rotary works to increase literacy rates among adults in communities.

3. Gender Equality: A core goal is reducing the gender disparity in education.

4. Support and Training: The Rotary Foundation supports various activities and training programs to enhance education.

5. Project Funding: Rotary clubs and the Foundation provide resources for projects that improve basic education and literacy.

How Rotary addresses this focus:

1. Local Club Initiatives: Individual Rotary clubs identify and address the specific educational needs and opportunities within their own communities.

2. BELRAG: The Basic Education and Literacy Rotarian Action Group (BELRAG) is a resource that helps increase awareness among Rotarians about illiteracy's impact and promotes ways to implement effective projects.

3. Global Support: Rotary projects, often funded through The Rotary Foundation, extend globally to improve educational access and literacy.

Why it matters:

1. Economic Impact:Literacy has a significant positive impact on the global economy, reducing unemployment and improving economic opportunities.

2. Social and Personal Development: Literacy skills are crucial for civic participation, employment, healthcare access, and an individual's emotional and intellectual development.

3. Reducing Inequality: Basic education and literacy are vital tools for reducing inequalities based on gender, race, nationality, and religion.



Birthday Greetings

7 September

Rtn. Md. Yousuf, PHF

Wedding Anniversary

9 September

Rtn. Md. Mahsudur Rahman FCMA, FCA, PHF
&
Shahanaj Rahman

Profile of the Esteemed Guest Speaker



Dr. Ranjan De Silva
Leadership & Organisational Development Catalyst

Dr. Ranjan De Silva, Managing Director and Chief Catalyst of Purposeful Leadership (Pvt) Ltd., is an experienced Organisational and Leadership Development Catalyst and Success Coach, helping CEO's and Senior Leaders create more purposeful, aligned, passionate and emotionally engaged teams to deliver spectacular results. He has an ideal mix of practical and theoretical grounding.

His practical experience comes from 40 years of corporate experience, from his time as Director of the food business of John Keells Holdings from 1992 to 1998, CEO of Rahimafrooz Superstores Ltd. Bangladesh from 2009 to 2012 and Director Strategic Executive, Apollo Hospitals, Bangladesh from 2012 to 2014 and Director of Organisational Development of Unisnacks Europe Ltd, UK from 2023 to 2025. In between these assignments, as Director/Senior Management Consultant at Sensei Lanka, he provided leadership development consultancy, coaching and training for various multinationals, conglomerates and local companies in 30 countries from 1998 to 2023.

Ranjan was awarded the Hult Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Organisational Change for his thesis on 'Purposeful Living - An Inquiry into the Life of a Leadership Development Practitioner'. He also holds an MBA from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka, and is a world price winner of the Chartered Institute of Marketing UK. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing UK (FCIM) and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Branch in 1998 and 1999.

Ranjan is the author of two books, 'Mind Programming for Sales Success' and 'A Better Way to Sell'. His paper on creating passionate work places, at the Bangalore HR summit in 2011 received the 2nd runner-up award out of 22 papers presented.

He has also networked with management gurus of the calibre of Tom Peters, Edward De Bono, Jack Trout, Ron Kaufman, and Robert Holden, all of whom have spoken at various events he and his team organised.

Club Activities

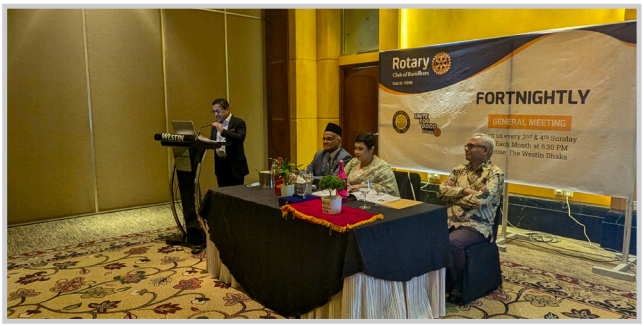
Glimpses from 689th Fortnightly Regular Club Meeting











Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

AS A ROTARIAN, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: Mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians

Rotary

Introducing President of Rotary International (2026-27)

September 2025



President, Rotary International, 2026-27

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1988 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi six years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

Babalola received a university degree in engineering in 1988. He has worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC and carrying out projects on four continents. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals, and the Association of Change Management Practitioners. He is a member of Jericho Business Club, an organization in his home city that provides input to governments on economic and social policy.

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. A trustee of ShelterBox UK and director of the Safe Blood Africa project, he is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership for the organization. As the spokesperson for the global network, the president visits clubs around the world to promote Rotary's values and represent the organization at major events. Rotary chooses its president from members who have demonstrated extensive leadership experience within Rotary, including service as a club president, district governor, and member of the Board.

— 28 August 2025

Rotary Club of Baridhara

Unite for Good

Board of Directors 2025-26



President 2025-26
Rtn. Meherun Nessa Islam



IPP 2024-25
Rtn. Javed Hyder Kareem



President Elect - 2026-27
Rtn. N K A Mobin, FCA, PHF



Vice President-1
Rtn. Nazmul Ahsan Khan (Shudip)



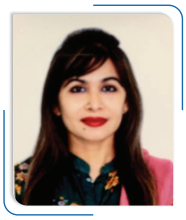
Vice President-2
Rtn. Rizwana Tabassum



Secretary
Rtn. PP Mosud Mannan MPHF B



Treasurer
Rtn. Wahid Anwar



Joint Secretary
Rtn. Kamrun Alam Dahlia



Sergeant at Arms
Rtn. Niamul Haque



Club Trainer
Rtn. Noor Mohammad Dicon, PHF



Director, International Service
Rtn. Syed Enamul Husain, PHF



Director, Club Service
Rtn. Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury, FCA, PHF



Director, Youth Service
Rtn. Ajanta Israt, PHF



Director, Vocational Service
Rtn. Ali Ashfaq, FCA, MPHF



Bulletin Editor
Rtn. Aleya Ferdous Diptee

Committee Heads for 2025-26



Rotary Foundation
Rtn. Syed Ershad Ahmed, MPHF, MD



Membership
Rtn. Sheikh Nasim Imam, PHF



Service Projects
Rtn. Saiful Huq, FCA, PHF



Club Administration
Rtn. Khaled Shams, PHF



Public Image
Rtn. PP Mohammed Ali

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