

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

**Club Meeting 2006-07
at Nehru Childrens' Museum
at 6.30 p.m.**

on 15th February, Thursday.

Topic - Freedom of Religion and
Secular State in India.

Speaker - PP Rtn. Gita Halder.

a few members of Rotary Club of
Calcutta will pay good will visit today.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES IOL CAMP

Rotary Club of North Calcutta is
organising an IOL Camp for Cataract
& Power Detection with S.B. Debi
Charity Home on 18th February
2007 at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Venue : S.B. Debi Charity Home, 5
Gulu Ostagar Lane, Kolkata - 6.

**15th March '07 Dist. Governor
Debashis Mitra** will visit our club.
All the members are requested to
attend the meeting.

On **25th March '07** another IOL
Camp will be organised near Raja
Bazar. Details will be notified later.

GREETINGS OF THE DAY

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO – 

Rtn. Sudip Krishna Dutta 17th Feb.

Rtn. Amit Choudhury 19th Feb.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Rtn. Ranjit Kr. Ghosh 18th Feb.
Ann Papia

Rtn. Shilendu Mukherjee 21st Feb.
Ann Bharati

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Dear Fellow Rotarians,
Thirty-one years ago, Muhammad
Yunus, then a professor of economics
at Chittagong University in
Bangladesh, discovered a harsh reality
of extreme poverty; The difference
between self-sufficiency and virtual
slavery is much smaller than one might
think. In the village of Jobra, he found,
it was just a few cents.

While talking to a bamboo-stool maker,
Yunus learned that the woman
purchased her supply of bamboo on
credit, for roughly 25 US cents, every
morning. Lacking the money for even
a single day's supply of bamboo, she
would never be able to repay the loan.
Throughout the village, Yunus found
many in similar straits. Their total debt?
Twenty-seven US dollars. Yunus did
what was, for him, the natural thing; He
paid their debts. The new entrepreneurs
quickly turned a profit, his loan was
repaid and micro credit was born.

The idea of giving small loans to the
very poor was a revolutionary one and
it has had revolutionary results. In 2005
alone, 100 million micro credit loans
helped people in 130 countries. Today,
Rotarians are involved in more than 60
micro credit projects around the world.
In 1999, Yunus was honoured at the RI
Convention in Singapore. In October,
he received the Nobel Prize.

The simple principle of micro credit is
also a principle of Rotary. Small
changes can become great changes
and seemingly inconsequential act can

have tremendous consequences. Just
as 25 cents in that Bangladeshi village
meant so much more than merely a
quarter of a dollar, the prosperity of an
unnoticed individual or village has
international implications.

As we enter World Understanding
Month, we are reminded by Yunus'
achievement that we can never know
every consequence of what we do. His
loan of \$27, given in compassion, led
to far more good than he could possibly
have imagined. Our Rotary work also
leads to benefits we'll never see; new
friendships, new connections, warm
feelings among people who may have
little in common.

Poverty, as we know too well, is a
tremendous obstacle to peace and
stability. So, every intelligent act of
generosity, every project that helps
others to lead better lives, is also an
act of hope. We Rotarians share the
belief that love for others does make a
difference. Each small act of kindness,
from one human being to another,
brings us closer to each other and to
the kind of world we hope to leave to
our children.

We may think we are only helping to
equip a school, supply a clinic, or build
a well for a faraway community. But in
truth, what we are doing is helping to
build a better, more stable and more
peaceful future.

William B. Boyd
President Rotary International

Editor's Desk

Hallo Rotarians,

This is the 21st Century – if there is major progress, there are also major problems. There is too much suspicion, distrust and too many unrealistic expectations people have from each other, which lead to more problem. In such a situation, awareness is important, warmth is also important.

All the Best.

Thank you,

INCOMING BOARD 2007-08 MEETING

Incoming Board Members of 2007-08 joined in a meeting at the residence of PE Dr. Amit Kumar Roy, Apex Nursing Home.

SRADH

Late Shankar Mullick's 'Sradh' will be performed on 17th February 2007.

5 LESSONS

As he leaves office after leading the United Nations for a decade (1996-2006), **Secretary-General Kofi Annan** ponders on lessons learnt.

First in today's world we are all responsible for each other's security. Against such threats as nuclear proliferation, climate change, global pandemics, or terrorists operating from safe havens in failed States, no nation can make itself secure by seeking supremacy over all others. Only by working to make each other secure can we hope to achieve lasting security for ourselves.

This responsibility includes our shared responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. That was accepted by all nations at last year's UN Summit.

Second, we are also responsible for each other's welfare. Without a measure of solidarity, no society can be truly stable. It is not realistic to think that some people can go on deriving great benefits from globalisation while billions of others are left in, or thrown into, abject poverty. We have to give all our fellow human beings at least a chance to share in our prosperity.

Third, both security and prosperity depends on respect for human rights and the rule of law. Throughout history, human life has been enriched by diversity, and different communities have learnt from each other. But if our communities are to live in peace we must stress also what unites us; our common humanity, and the need for our human dignity and rights to be protected by law.

My fourth lesson, therefore, is that governments must be accountable for their actions, in the international as well as the domestic arena. Every state owes some accounts to other States on which its actions have a decisive impact.

As things stand, poor and weak States are easily held to account, because they need foreign aid. But large and powerful States, whose actions have the greatest impact on others, can be constrained only by their own people.

So my final lesson is that those institutions must be organised in a fair and democratic way, giving the poor and the weak some influence over the actions of the rich and the strong.

Developing countries should have a stronger voice in international financial institutions, whose decisions can mean life or death for their people. And new permanent or long-term members should be added to the UN Security Council, whose current membership reflects the reality of 1945, not of today's world.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 1310th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of North Calcutta held on Thursday 8th February 2007 at 7 p.m. at NCM Kolkata.

Secretary Rtn. Arun requested PP Rtn. Pratap Kumar Roy to preside the meeting in absence of President Rtn. Dr. Anupam.

PP Rtn. Pratap Kumar Roy called the meeting to order followed by National Anthem.

PP Rtn. Pratap Kumar Roy asked the members to observe one minute silence in memorium of Rtn. Shankar

Mullick who suddenly passed away on Tuesday 6th February 2007 at Woodland Nursing Home.

Members shocked on the news of sad demise of Rtn. Shankar Mullick at the age of 49 years.

PP Rtn. Dr. Sujit Basu briefed the members on the diagnosis of massive heart attack of Rtn. Shankar and the doctors could not get the time to start the treatment.

PP Rtn. Dr. Sujit Basu recalled his memory in remembrance of Rtn. Shankar and told that Rtn. Shankar was a kind hearted Rotarian to render financial assistance for any project particularly in tube-well or cost of medicine for the health check-up camp.

PP Rtn. Gopinath Ghosh also mentioned that Rtn. Shankar joined the rotary in 1997 and took interest to render services in RCC Project/fellowship.

Secretary Rtn. Arun spoke on the charming personality of Rtn. Shankar and his fellowship.

PE Rtn. Dr. Amit Roy, IPP Rtn. Gita Haldar and Rtn. Dr. Hina Karia expressed their deep feelings towards Rtn. Shankar.

PE Rtn. Dr. Amit Roy also mentioned about Rtn. Shankar's luxurious food habits and careless attitude towards health.

PP Rtn. Pratap Kumar Roy along other members expressed their griefs on untimely departure of Rtn. Shankar from this world and all members prayed for his soul to rest in peace.

After the condolence meeting, Rtn. Dr. Hina Karia reminded the members on the subject – SMOKERS – "Nuclear Assassins" published in Northern Venture on 1st February 2007 and explained its effects on our body.

As there was no other business PP Rtn. Pratap Kumar Roy terminated the meeting.

Members Present

14

Rtn. Arun Roy
Secretary

PP Rtn. Pratap
Kumar Roy
Past President