



# Breakfast Chatter



**Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town**  
District 3292, Club 26776, Chartered 08 Nov. 1989

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Weekly Bulletin

Vol. 24 of '08/'09

## This Week's Speaker




This week's speaker is Dr. **Shankar Sharma**, former Vice-chair of the National Planning Commission of Nepal.



The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the advisory body which formulates development plans and policies for the country under the directives of the National Development Council (NDC). The NPC explores and allocates resources for economic development and works as a central agency for monitoring and evaluation of development plans, policies, and programmes.

## Calendar

Date	Theme
Jan. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Shankar Sharma (see photo above)
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mid-Town Club Assembly. Please note: no guests at Club Assembly.
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mid-Town Family Pot Luck Cook-off Contest. Details to follow.
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	To be announced.
Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	 Dr. Hem Sagar Baral is Nepal's first ornithologist and Chief Executive Officer of Bird Conservation Nepal will talk to us on the discovery of a new sub-species of Rufous-vented Prinia in Nepal.

## Rotary International News

*Thanks to a Rotary Foundation Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant in Brazil, 10-year-old Ângelo Gabriel Lacas dos Santos learned to read and write poetry -- his passion. Ângelo is one of 72,600 children who benefited from the concentrated language encounter program.*

*Rotary Images/  
Alyce Henson*





## Colonel Jeremy Ellis visits Mid-Town

Colonel Jeremy Ellis was Mid-Town's speaker this week. Col. Ellis who has held his present appointments as the British Defence Attaché, Commander British Gurkhas Nepal and Director, Gurkha Welfare Scheme since 2005, regaled Mid-Town with a short history of the origins of the British Gurkhas and of their present status. Britain has recruited Gurkhas since 1815

thus the connection between Britain and Nepal is very well established. It is estimated that the Brigade of Gurkhas is the fourth largest foreign currency earner for the Nepali economy. This includes the cost of BGN, salaries of serving British Gurkhas, pensions for ex-serving personnel and the combination of individual and community aid provided by the Gurkha Welfare Scheme (GWS).

Mid-Town sat in wrapped attention as he told of the gruelling and demanding tests that young recruits are submitted to in the selection process. This year's recruiting process received 17,000 applications coming from 73 districts throughout Nepal from which 283 young men were selected. Colonel Ellis heads out on Monday to accompany the new recruits to the UK where they will begin their intensive 18 months of training and will join the 3,800 Gurkhas presently serving in the British Army.



In October 2008 **Prince Harry** was made an honorary Gurkha by the fearsome Nepalese warriors he served with in Afghanistan. The renowned soldiers paid the royal officer the ultimate tribute by presenting him with a Kukri – as a token of their esteem. Lance Corporal Bhim Garbuja, 25, from the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR) served under Harry in Helmand Province earlier this year. They described him as a favourite among the troops and even cooked the young royal a goat curry with meat sourced from the Afghan army as a treat.



### *Mid-Town gets Lele Drinking Water Project and Lamjung Girl Child Education Begins*

Community Service Director Rtn. Pratap was happy to announce that the matching grant for the Lele 'drinking water project' with RC South San Francisco Rotary is finally through. The \$500USD deposit from the Mid-Town side was being arranged and now the work can begin.

Retired Lt.(retd.) Damar Bahadur Basnet from Lamjung joined us for the breakfast meeting this week.

Lt.(retd.) Damar Bahadur Basnet is an ex-service man who had served under Rtn. Pratap. He was in town this week to bring the completed forms for the girls who will be enrolled in the Gorkha-Lamjung Girl Child Education Project MG #63246. The completed files, which included short

profiles of the girls who would be enrolled was passed around – and just from the sheer weight of the file folder – we could all tell that the folks in Lamjung had been very hard at work indeed to complete all of the forms. Mid-Town wishes them all good luck in completing the process and looks forward to updates.



## BBC World Challenge

### *Shanti Sewa Griha Second Runner-up in BBC World Challenge*



The BBC World Challenge has announced the winner of the BBC World Challenge '08. The second runner up was Nepal's own **Shanti Sewa Griha**, an initiative dedicated to giving leprosy victims and others afflicted by disease and physical disability, a productive place in society. Shanti Sewa was awarded US\$10,000 by the Shell Corporation who sponsored the awards. The first prize winner is a Pakistani honey project 'Plan Bee' which helps female beekeepers boost their income by selling high quality honey.



Rhona Murphy, Publisher and Managing Director, Newsweek International says: "World Challenge 08 has shown that the efforts of ordinary men and women all over the globe can make a huge difference, reinvigorating our communities while helping to restore the Earth. We are proud to collaborate with Shell and BBC World News on this solution-oriented programme."

The photo shows a visit by Mid-Town to **Shanti Sewa Griha** in October 2008 on World Food Day when we donated 1000kgs of rice.

In addition to Mid-Towners and Rotaracts note Director Mr. Krishna Gurung (second from right), and Rtn. DGE Ratna Man Sakya (third from right).



### *Bill Gates meets with business leaders in India*

By Dan Nixon (adapted from Rotary International News -- 22 December 2008)



At top; Bill Gates Jr. meets with Harshad R. Mehta. Middle; Rajashree Birla welcomes Gates to a meeting with Rotarian business leaders in New Delhi, with Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo seated at left. Bottom; Gates with Rajnikant D. and Sandra Shroff. Photos courtesy of the India PolioPlus Committee



A shared desire to protect the world's children from the ravages of polio brought Bill Gates Jr. and Rotarian business leaders together in New Delhi on 5 November. The meeting resulted in three major commitments to help fund Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge.

"The worth of a person is measured not by what he possesses but what he gives," said Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo in introducing Gates at the event, hosted by the India PolioPlus Committee and Rajashree Birla, a member of The Rotary Foundation's Arch C. Klumph Society. "The Gates family has proven

this by committing their resources through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation toward global development and improving public health worldwide."

Gates spoke about his visit to India, where he observed polio surveillance, immunization, and outbreak response activities and met with health officials and experts to learn firsthand about the country's progress in ending the disease.

"The commitment from everyone involved is impressive, especially Rotary International, which has launched their worldwide program," said Gates, cochair of the Gates Foundation. "I am more than glad to be among you and share our vision of a polio-free world."

Birla, an honorary member of the Rotary clubs of Bombay and Mulund, Maharashtra, expressed her hope that India's business leaders would emulate Gates and help support polio eradication through their companies' social responsibility programs.

"We strongly believe that business and industry is uniquely positioned to contribute significantly towards polio eradication not only in India but across the world," said Birla, who contributed \$1 million to Rotary's challenge earlier this year. Then she added, "We in the Aditya Birla Group are pleased to commit an additional \$1 million today."

#### **Additional commitments**

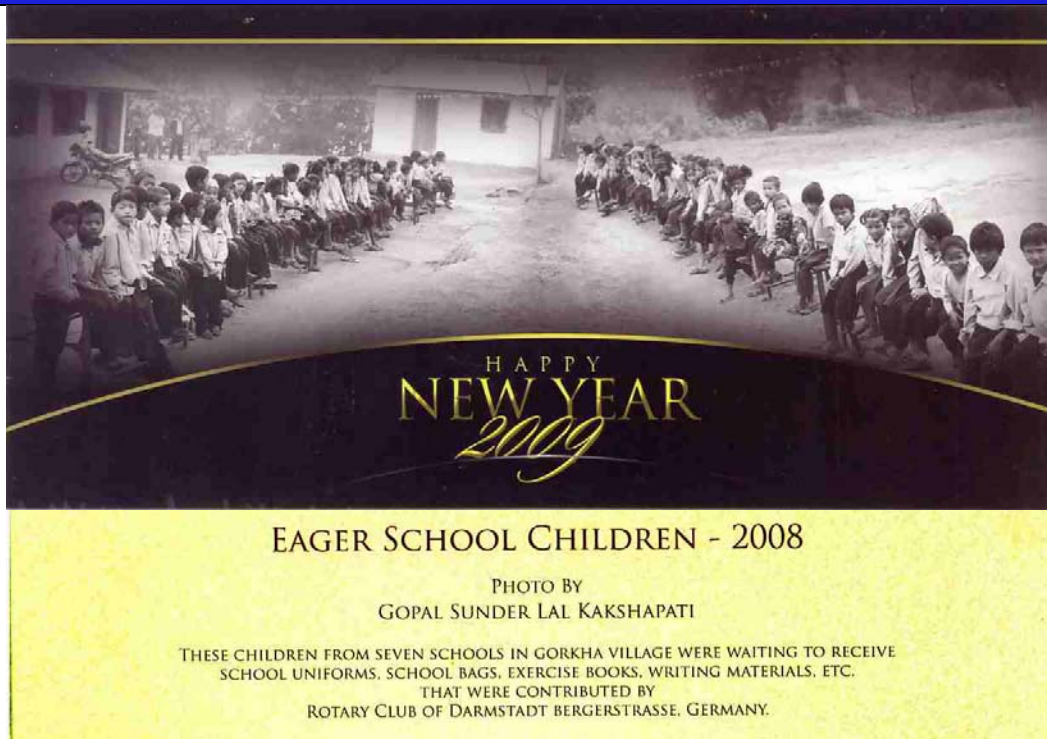
Harshad R. Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan, committed to giving \$2 million to Rotary's challenge last December. He stepped forward at the New Delhi meeting to pledge an additional \$1.5 million.

"On being advised that additional funds would be required for polio eradication and seeing the commitment and resolve of the Gates family, I was duly enthused to increase my commitment," Mehta said. "It is a good investment in the future of the children of the world. I would appeal to all Rotarians and like-minded friends to improve on their commitment and support of The Rotary Foundation's effort for polio eradication."

In addition, Rajnikant D. Shroff and his wife, Sandra, both members of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat, committed \$250,000 to the challenge. "Looking at the problem of polio in India, I feel whatever we have done is a very small contribution," Shroff said of the pledge. "I am confident that if everybody decides to contribute in a small way, we will be able to make India polio-free and eradicate this disease from the world."

Gates Foundation Co-chair William Gates Sr. and his daughters, Kristi Blake and Libby Armintrout, also attended the meeting. "Rotary is one of the finest organizations on earth, with an army of thousands and thousands of dedicated and committed Rotarians, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is honored to support their fight against polio," Gates Sr. said.

## Mid-Town Happy New Year



## Mid-Town Visitor from Abroad



### *A visitor from warmer climes*

This week Mid-Town welcomed PP Rtn. Chike Madueke from the Rotary Club of Victoria Island East, District 9110, Nigeria. Rtn. Chike, classification corporate law, is in town visiting with Mid-Towner Rtn. Onuora and family for the holidays. He told Mid-Town that the cold weather here takes a little getting used to – in Nigeria the temperatures stay in the low to mid 30s for most of the year.

## Mid-Town Economic Hard Times Humour



"Real estate cannot be lost or stolen, nor can it be carried away. Purchased with common sense, paid for in full, and managed with reasonable care, it is about the safest investment in the world."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

"The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis'. One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger-but recognize the opportunity."

John F. Kennedy

Please send information/suggestions/photos for the next volume to:

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