

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Chronicle of Aziz Memon's Bustling Activities



SYED KHALID MAHMOOD



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Syed Khalid Mahmood

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*“Aim for the sky.
At least you will reach the stars”
(Aziz Memon)*

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Aziz Memon unveils ESUP's new logo

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

The English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP), which has become more proactive and vibrant than ever before since Aziz Memon has taken over as its President, added another feather to its cap by unveiling a new logo on November 13.



It coincided with the visit of Mian Raza Rabbani, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, as a large number of the ESUP members turned up at the Beach Luxury Hotel for another successful meeting.

Elin Burns, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi, was also present on the occasion.

Aziz Memon, President, ESUP, in his welcome address, observed that the colour of the logo has been changed from red to blue in line with the organization's objectives of promoting goodwill and peace.

The guest speaker, Mian Raza Rabbani, also touched about the subject of the new logo of the ESUP which he described as an impressive one.

It may be recalled that the ESUP was founded in 1961 with the objective to develop friendship and goodwill between the English-Speaking people of Pakistan and other countries, by actively encouraging communication, discussion and debate through the medium of the English language.

The ESUP hosted the meeting of the ESU international Council in 1997. The English-Speaking Union is an educational charity which was founded on June 28, 1918 on the initiative of an English writer and journalist, Sir Evelyn Wrench.

It received a Royal Charter, with Queen Elizabeth II as the royal patron. Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, has been President since 2013, having taken over from her father Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh who served from 1952 to 2012.

Headquartered at Dartmouth House, Mayfair, London, its many activities are coordinated by the Director-General.

The seventeen-member Board of Governors meets four times a year. During its long history, the ESU has played an important part in fostering cultural links between people of different nationalities.

The original ties between Great Britain, the United States of America and Commonwealth countries have, in recent decades, been extended to most countries throughout the world. It is an independent, non-political body, operating with the support of many distinguished public figures. Corporate members support the ESU's activities through sponsorship of individual awards and events



Aziz Memon calls on Abdul Aziz Memon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017



Two of the top leaders of the Memon community, Aziz Memon and Abdul Aziz Memon, had a meeting in Karachi on November 10, vowing to work with even greater zeal in future in order to accomplish the mutual cherished goals.

Aziz Memon, President of the United Memon Jamat of Pakistan, called on Abdul Aziz Memon, President, All Pakistan Memon Federation, at the Memon Federation House and both of them, being key members of the World Memon Organization, expressed the eagerness to expedite the intensity of social services.

Aziz Memon, having become a legend in his own lifetime for being generous in the aspects of giving and sharing, lavishly praised Abdul Aziz Memon, on verge of completing his fourth term as President of the All Pakistan Memon Federation, for having worked tirelessly for the cause of the community in particular and the people of Pakistan in general.

Being one of those philanthropists having made Pakistan proud with his notable humanitarian services, Aziz Memon wished the 66-year-old Abdul Aziz Memon, a former parliamentarian, the very best of luck in the next year's general elections.

Aziz Memon, a renowned entrepreneur, has also been the Chairman of the Cutchi Memon Markazi Jamat.

He was conferred the most prestigious Pride of Performance award by the President of Pakistan on March 23, 2011 in recognition of his community and humanitarian services particularly in health sector.

Abdul Aziz Memon, who was elected as the Secretary General of the UBL Labour Employees Federation of Pakistan in 1979 before being elected as the President of the All Pakistan Memon Federation in 1980, has also been an active politician having joined the Pakistan Peoples Party in 1969.





He had won the National Assembly seat in the 1993 general elections. He was later appointed as Chairman of the Labour Task Force of Pakistan with the status of Minister of State.

He has also established his own charitable trust for the welfare of masses in the memory of his loving parents for extending the financial and material assistance to needy families to help them meet their domestic needs irrespective of their cast and creed.

Rotary gives \$49.5 million to help eradicate polio: Aziz Memon

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

With just 11 confirmed polio cases so far in 2017, the world is on the brink of eradicating polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that once paralyzed hundreds of thousands of children each year.



To recognize this historic progress, Rotary clubs worldwide will host events in conjunction with Rotary International's fifth annual World Polio Day celebration on October 24.

This year, the event will be co-hosted by Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and held at the foundation's headquarters in Seattle.

The programme will feature an update on the global fight to end polio and an array of guest speakers, celebrities, and public health experts.

"Rotary is giving \$49.5 million in grants to support immunization and surveillance activities led by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative," Aziz Memon, National Chair, Pakistan Polio Plus Committee, disclosed.

"Some of the funds will support efforts to end polio in the three countries where polio remains endemic are Afghanistan (\$9.32 million), Pakistan (\$8.94 million), and Nigeria (\$7.71 million). Further funding will support efforts to keep six vulnerable countries polio-free: Chad (\$2.37 million), the Democratic Republic of Congo (\$4.5 million), Guinea (\$961,000), Somalia (\$1.62 million), South Sudan (\$3.77 million), and Sudan (\$2.56 million). An additional \$7.74 million will go toward surveillance activities in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean region," he added.

"Rotary and its partners are closer than ever to eradicating polio," Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary's International Polio Plus Committee, which leads the organization's polio eradication efforts, observed.

"World Polio Day is the ideal opportunity to celebrate our successes, raise public awareness, and talk about what is needed to end this paralyzing disease for good."



Without full funding and political commitment to eradication, the disease could return to countries that are now polio-free and put children everywhere at risk.

In a show of solidarity and to raise awareness and funds for polio eradication, Rotary clubs around the globe will host nearly 1,900 events for World Polio Day.

They include a viewing party of the live stream in Fond du Lac, a Rock versus Polio music event in Curitiba, Brazil, placing of End Polio Now piggy banks in local businesses to collect donations in Viljoenskroon, South Africa, a soccer game in Cairo, Egypt between the street children of Hope Village Society and students from local engineering colleges and golf fundraiser in Yoshiwara, Japan.

“To protect all children from polio, world governments and donors must see through their commitments to fund critical work and support rigorous disease surveillance in both endemic and at-risk polio-free countries,” McGovern added.

Rotary has committed to raising \$150 million over the next three years, which will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, yielding \$450 million for polio eradication activities, including immunization and surveillance.

Rotary had started its polio eradication program Polio Plus in 1985, and in 1988 became a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Since the initiative launched, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases in 1988 to just 37 cases in 2016. Rotary has contributed a total of more than \$1.7 billion, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries from polio.

Pakistan, EU enjoy strong bonding: Ambassador

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

The Ambassador Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan, Mr Jean-Francois Cautain has remarked that the EU-Pakistan Five Year Engagement Plan was a proof of strong ties between the EU and Pakistan.



He added that the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus granted to Pakistan by the EU in 2014 had been very successful in building ties. He was speaking at a programme, organized by the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, on September 26.

The President of the ESUP, Aziz Memon, formally introduced the distinguished guest who candidly shared his views with the august gathering present on the occasion.

“We may have several issues such as migration, human trafficking, etc, but we are working with Pakistan to tackle all that. We need to look at legal ways of migration. We also need to fight smugglers together. But after GSP Plus, Pakistan’s exports have gone up by 38 per cent. The EU provides the GSP Plus facility to 10 countries including Pakistan,” Jean-Francois Cautain observed.

“The EU also provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds to Pakistan, especially for education. This is my third visit to Pakistan. Earlier, I was here working with an NGO in Peshawar. Pakistan is a country that I appreciate and love,” he added.

“The UK is still there but a change would take place in 2019. The EU was sad to be losing UK but politicians should not be blaming the EU for their own national failures. The EU was not a project of the past that had lost its ambition. The ambition is still very much there.

The EU remains the best tool to strengthen sovereignty. With the USA’s collapse of ambition, we work on climate change, human rights, building peace amid hostility, stability of borders and we are still the largest global market, and we will continue to play a key role in trade. We are capable of producing one-quarter of the world’s wealth,” he said, confirming that the EU still comprised of 28 member countries.



“The EU works at building bridges between its nations for lasting peace. But even if you have peace you don’t take it for granted. From Syria in the Middle East to India there are refugees in search of safe harbours. During the last several months a number of countries have approached the EU, seeking cooperation and a sense of direction while the US takes a back seat in such endeavours. We have given 75 billion euros for human assistance,” Jean-Francois Cautain elaborated.



Replying to a question about why Turkey was still not a part of the EU, the ambassador said that Turkey needed to meet EU’s standards in mode of government and fundamental values to be able to be a part of the EU.

Answering to another question concerning the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, he considered it a tragedy, stating that the issue was close to their heart and they were looking for the solutions.

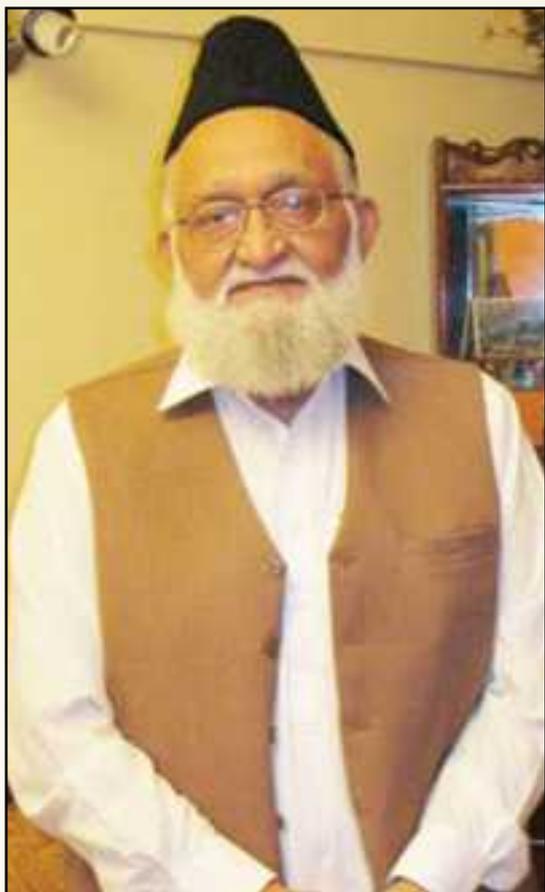
Jean-Francois Cautain was uncertain how the EU could persuade India to talk with Pakistan to discuss Kashmir.

“We are not sure in what capacity the EU could help in this matter. The issue of Kashmir and the human rights issues there need to be dealt with by Pakistan and India on their own,” he opined.

Haji Hanif Tayyab motivates Rotarians for complete polio eradication

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

Haji Mohammad Hanif Tayyab, an eminent religious scholar, a former federal minister and the chairman of the Ulema Committee of Rotary, while congratulating the newly installed office-bearers of Rotary International in Pakistan, has urged them to work with renewed enthusiasm for the complete eradication of polio from Pakistan in the very near future.



He praised the efforts of the Pakistan Polio Plus Committee, headed by Aziz Memon, and expressed the hope that the new Rotary leadership will sustain the efforts in throwing the deadly disease out of this world.

“Rotary has worked actively for polio eradication in Pakistan. They have conducted Ulema workshops in different cities to dispel the misconceptions around polio vaccine. Shariah has made this clear that there is no harm in it rather the treatment is an obligation,” Haji Hanif Tayyab remarked in his motivational talk to the incoming Rotary leaders.

“We are very close indeed to eradicating polio. Now it becomes the responsibility of the new Rotary leadership to do it. Your efforts are needed and your commitment is desired to accomplish this cherished goal,” he reminded the Rotarians.

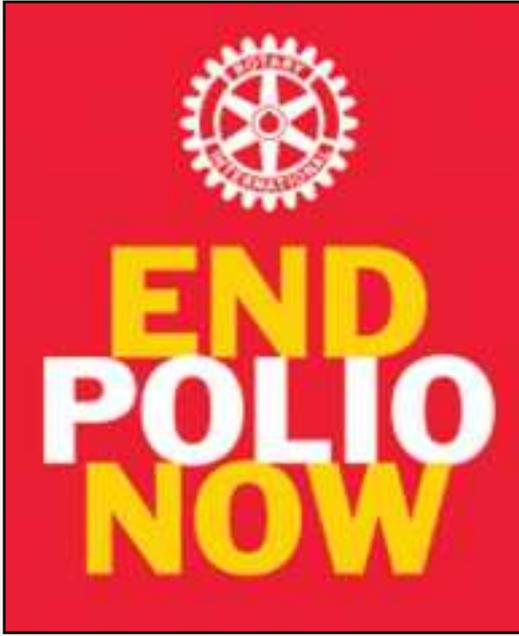
Having rendered monumental social services under the banner of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, Haji Hanif Tayyab has been in the forefront in galvanizing the efforts for the eradication of polio.

As chairman of the Ulema Committee of Rotary, he has addressed many workshops all over the country organized by Pakistan Polio Plus Committee with the aim of increasing interactions at grassroots through religious scholars and leaders in madrasas, educational institutions and mosques.

He has been highlighting the understanding of all Ulemas in principle and as per the Islamic point of view, that polio vaccination did not harm children, it was safe and approved by the Organization of Islamic Council (OIC).



He has elaborated that Islam has stressed the health of our child was the prime responsibility of all parents. Therefore as per Islamic rules it became the responsibility of all to provide full vaccination to their children to save them from diseases and ill health.



The Pakistan Polio Plus Committee Chair, Aziz Memon, has remained confident all along that Rotary's global contribution for polio eradication will make the world free from the crippling disease in not too distant future.

"We have had to focus on missed children and refusals. Therefore extra effort is imperative through our learned religious scholars and Ulemas at district, union council and grassroots level communities especially to address Pashtun communities migrating from Afghanistan, South Waziristan to other parts of the country," he remarked.

Highlighting on the important role of Ulemas, he said that all Ulemas must spread the word to other Ulemas and religious clerics in mosques, and madarsa's to allow vaccinators to administrate polio drop to children and save them from this crippling disease which has no cure.

He stressed that awareness and motivation was not only needed in poor communities but it was equally needed for intellectual segment of affluent civil societies.

Bill Gates appreciates Rotary Pakistan's efforts for polio eradication

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, while announcing a commitment of up to \$450 million to support the eradication of polio, has appreciated the role of Pakistan's Rotary Polio Plus Committee, headed by Aziz Memon.



Speaking to an audience of nearly 40,000 Rotary members attending the humanitarian organization's annual convention in Atlanta, Gates recognized the good work being done in Pakistan by the Rotary Polio Plus Committee as he made a special mention of the Resource Centre developed in Nowshera.

Besides exchanging views with the Chair of Pakistan's Rotary Polio Plus Committee, Aziz Memon, Gates also had a one-to-one meeting with Senator

Ayesha Raza, the focal person for the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Meanwhile Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation renewed their longstanding support for ending polio, a paralyzing, life-altering scourge on the verge of becoming the second human disease ever to be eliminated. Rotary committed to raise \$50 million per year over the next three years, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation.

This expanded agreement will translate into \$450 million for polio eradication activities, including immunization and surveillance over the next three years. This critical funding helps ensure countries around the world remain polio-free and that polio is ended in the remaining three endemic countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"In 2016, fewer children were paralyzed by polio than ever before, thanks to the dedication of Rotary members and our partners. The paralysis of even one child by a preventable disease is unacceptable



and I'm proud to see our members redoubling their commitment to ensure we reach every single child with the polio vaccine," John Germ, President, Rotary International, observed.

In a partnership spanning a decade, Rotary and the Gates Foundation, along with the other Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, have led the effort to end polio worldwide.

This funding extension reaffirms a commitment established at the 2013 Rotary Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, when the Gates Foundation pledged to match Rotary contributions two-to-one, up to \$35 million per year through 2018. Rotary, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, has donated more than \$1.6 billion to polio eradication.

"The vision of eradicating polio began with Rotary, and its support of that effort has been unwavering for more than 35 years. Rotary's commitment to raise \$150 million over the next three years to end polio forever is a testament to the compassion, generosity, and kindness of more than a million Rotarians around the world," Gates stated.

The announcement came on the heels of the news that world governments and other donors have pledged to contribute US\$1.2 billion total to the GPEI for polio eradication efforts.

The government funding, also announced at the Rotary Convention, will substantially help to close the US\$1.5 billion funding gap, allowing partners to immunize 450 million children every year and support rigorous disease surveillance in both endemic and at-risk polio-free countries.

While the government funding announced made considerable headway in the fight to end polio, continued support from donors remains vital to achieve a polio-free world.

The global eradication of polio has been Rotary's top priority since 1985.

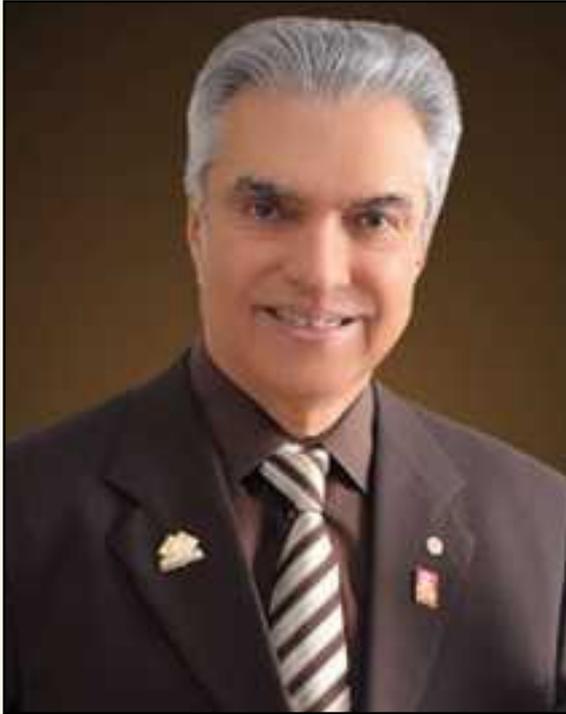
Through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year at the start of the initiative to just 37 cases in 2016.

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteers dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Aziz Memon elected United Memon Jamat's President

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016



The popular figure of Aziz Memon, a successful entrepreneur and an acclaimed social activist, has been elected as the President of the United Memon Jamat of Pakistan (UMJP).

According to a press release of the UMJP, its elections were held on November 6 in which Aziz Memon was elected as the President and Younus Bandukra was elected as the Senior Vice President.

Ashfaque Memon, Mahmood Parekh and Abdul Ghani Suleman Bhangda were elected as Vice Presidents while Abdul Ghani Sabunwala, Mohammad Afzal Bhujwala and Faisal Khanani were elected as Honorary Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General respectively whereas Saleem Memon was elected as Finance Secretary and Shahzad Sabir was elected as Information Secretary.

Those elected to the Managing Committee of the Jamat were Umar Motlani, Rashid Jumbo, Allah Bachayo Memon, Abdul Nabi Memon, Abdul Qadir Memon, Talha Maqbool Memon, Abdul Sattar Memon, Aslam Mullah, Abdul Ghafoor Jafrani, Moula Bux Memon, Manzoor Ahmed Memon, Pervaiz Madrassawala, Zubair Habib and Hanif Janoo.

Aziz Memon, Bill Gates discuss polio eradication

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

Aziz Memon, Chairman of the Pakistan Polio Plus Committee, and Bill Gates, Co-Chair, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, met at the foundation's headquarters in Seattle, USA, on January 12, in which they discussed at length about the initiatives aimed at the eradication of polio from Pakistan.



The two philanthropists had a detailed discussion on the health-related projects in Pakistan with the focus on eradicating the deadly disease from the country.

Aziz Memon, who has been heading the Rotary International's polio committee for quite a few years, apprised Bill Gates, who foundation has been generously donating for helping people lead healthy and productive lives, about the measures being taken for eradicating polio from Pakistan.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, dedicated to discovering and disseminating innovative approaches to addressing extreme poverty and poor health in developing countries, remains one of the major donors for the Rotary International's various projects.

Aziz Memon urges aggressive approach towards SMEs

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

“Pakistan needs adopt aggressive approach towards Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and follow the modules of Japan, Korea and Taiwan in this direction to transform the economy.”



This was stated by Aziz Memon, one of the leading entrepreneurs of the country, in an interview in which he threw light on the importance of the SMEs and the decisive role they play in boosting the economy.

“The banking sector should prefer to finance small business like PM youth loan and the government should provide all basic facilities to the SMEs, like road, electricity, gas and water. Let there be more friendly policies to boost the SMEs in Pakistan,” he advised.

Having presided over and addressed many meetings, workshops and lectures in Japan, Korea and Taiwan regarding SMEs growth and activities, Aziz Memon, Chairman, Kings Group, reckoned that Pakistan has no other option but to develop the SMEs if the country is to expand the industrial growth at par with world level.

“At first, Japan sets a module to develop its small business. Then there are Korea and Taiwan who followed in the footsteps. They all are very successful,” he remarked.

“If the government has a plan and can give attention to the SMEs then we can change our economy. Every small business as a different issue and we have to solve it,” he reckoned.

“The PM loan scheme is not a game changer for the SMEs as this is not ensuring basic facilities for growth of the SMEs but it is touching just one aspect of financing. No skills development, no provision of basic needs like water, gas and electricity with this scheme. A successful plan may not be enough for the small business in Pakistan,” Aziz Memon added.

“As we are now promoting big industry, it will assure good for small business, job market and overall tax collection as well.

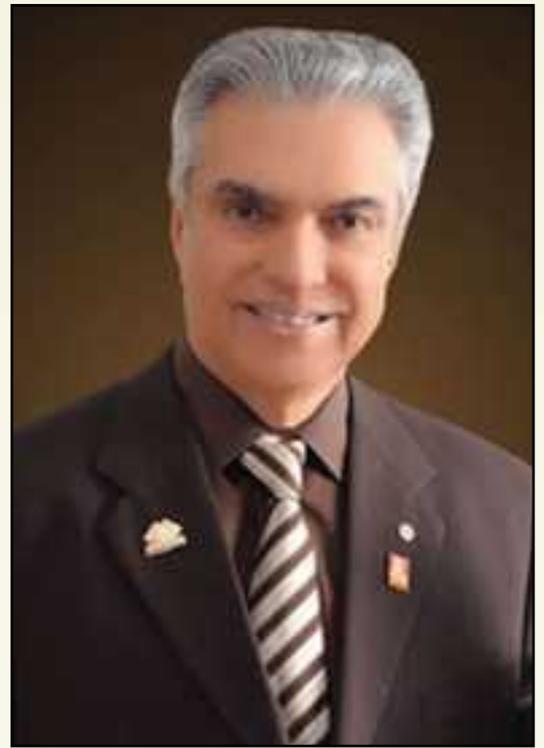
We cannot provide jobs to all graduates and frankly speaking it is almost impossible for us to provide good jobs to all young people, so it is imperative to guide them towards entrepreneurship.

If every entrepreneur gives jobs to five people, then you can say it is taking care of at least 50 persons directly or indirectly,” he observed.

“I have a clear module for development of small business in Pakistan. First of all, the banks should start schemes for start-up capitals and the government should encourage them to do so or give a friendly policy,” he suggested.

“Secondly, there should be skill development and proper training for all people who want to start their entrepreneur and manage their own business. Every year there should be at least two batches of the classes or workshops for them. After trained them mentally, and prepared them for risk management, they should be provided with a guide to most suitable business areas,” he explained.

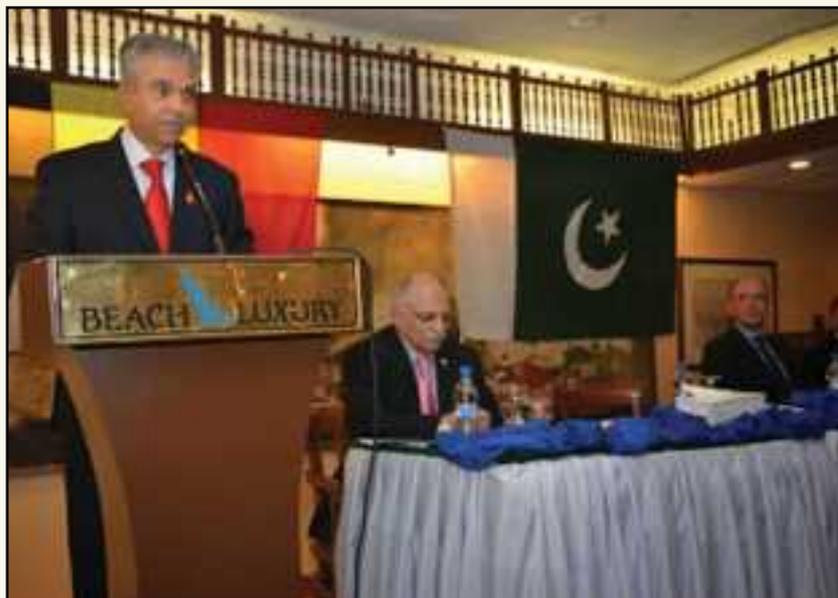
“On the government part, all basic facilities should be provided without any delay. So, if any area has some SMEs, it must have roads, gas, telephone, electricity and water available,” Aziz Memon concluded while volunteering his services to the government for advising them on this matter if needed.



Ambassador Claes revisits Belgium and beginning of Great War

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

The role of Belgium before and during the World War-I was highlighted by the Belgian Ambassador, Peter Claes during an exhaustive discourse at a get-together of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan, held the Beach Luxury Hotel on December 4.



The function was chaired by the ESUP's President, Aziz Memon, who, in his welcome address earlier, spoke about growing Pakistan-Belgium relationship.

The Belgian Ambassador's topic of the talk was "Belgium and the beginning of the great war" during which he dwelt at length about his nation's role at the beginning, during and after the war. Marking the centenary of the First World War, Ambassador Peter Claes recalled the history of Belgium and how it became a country.

In his discourse, he recalled when European leaders gathered in Vienna in 1815 to redraw the map of their region and thereby the Southern Catholic Netherlands and Northern Protestant Netherlands were united to form the Kingdom of Netherlands with two capitals, one in Amsterdam and the other in Brussels.

However, this union, he stated, lasted only for 15 years after the Belgians living in the kingdom revolted and seceded in 1830. After it became independent, the Belgians offered to Leopold to become their king which he accepted and the decision to do so, Ambassador Claes opined, had far-reaching implications since Leopold was related to the royal family of England, firstly as the son-in-law of King George IV and then as a maternal uncle of Queen Victoria.



It ensured two things-one the Great Britain recognized and supported the new country and the other Great Britain became the guarantor of its neutrality, which was one of the pre-requisites of European leaders in order to recognize the new country.

Ambassador Claes said Belgium invested more in industry and neglected its military aspect. Nevertheless, Belgium did safeguard its cities by erecting forts, perhaps foreseeing the developing militarist intentions of neighboring countries like France, Germany and Russia. Continuing, the Ambassador said that in essence First World War was a Balkan

war. Austria-Hungary had declared war on Serbia. Russia had mobilized its forces against Austria-Hungary. Germany was supporting Austria-Hungary. Germany faced a terrible choice because it had to fend off two enemies: France and Russia. France was particularly hostile to Austria-Hungary and Germany. The hostility between France and Germany dated back to the Franco-Prussian War in 1870.”

“Germany promised us all kinds of help even going to the extent of promising us territorial compensation from France. We were given only 12 hours to decide. Everyone from the king to the Prime Minister to the parliament rejected the ultimatum. This automatically led to war and on Aug 4, 1914 the Germans entered Belgium and Liege was the first Belgian city that Germany attacked.”

The Ambassador said the battle lasted for seven days, which is a considerable period of time, since our policy of neutrality meant that our military strength was negligible and yet we defended ourselves which was a no mean thing especially against the enormous German forces who used heavy artillery and destroyed forts in the city.

According to Ambassador Claes, Belgium tried to organize as best as they could, but because of their policy of neutrality, they did not have a tradition of defence. Germany didn't expect resistance from Belgians In fact in the Battle of the Silver Helmets the Belgian cavalry defeated the German troops.

The Germans kept advancing through Belgium and torched several towns and killing many defenceless civilians. Giving the example of the Battle of Ypres, he said the town was completely ruined by the Germans during the Great War. Speaking about Belgium's stance of neutrality in the Great War, he said during the first days of the war, Belgium maintained its neutrality. Officially it was never part of the alliance.



"We controlled our own forces." But this policy was challenged again in 1940 when Germany invaded Belgium without warning. This is why his country lost faith in this policy and invested in the multilateralism and hence it was one of the founder members of Nato, United Nations and European Union.

While concluding, Ambassador Claes became emotional when he recounted the services rendered by the soldiers of the subcontinent who had participated in the First World War.

“Nearly one-third of people of this soil that had nothing to do with the war, came in cold, misery and mud, away from their beloved to fight and defend our freedom and our homeland. The first Muslim to be awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery was given to a private named Khudadad Khan," he recalled.

On the occasion President ESUP, Aziz Memon, presented the ESUP plaque to Ambassador Peter Claes. Secretary General, Majyd Aziz, Senior Vice President, Abdul Kader Jaffer, Senior Vice President Byram D Avari, were also present on the occasion.

Aziz Memon urges Pakistan, India to shun differences for moving forward

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

Aziz Memon, a successful entrepreneur and an acclaimed social worker, has urged the governments of Pakistan and India to move forward in the larger interest of the peoples of the two neighbouring countries who share common problems like floods and poverty.



He made these observations during his presidential address in a recent meeting of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) at Karachi in which the Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr T C A Raghavan, was the guest of honour.

“We can select our friends but we have to live with our neighbours. Politics divides us but geography binds us,” the ESUP President remarked as the topic of discussion was the current trends in Pakistan-India relations.

“There are some positive signs. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the installation ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has recently offered to support in flood relief operations. The secretary level talks should resume to move forward,” Aziz Memon suggested.

“Let the political leaders take the cue from Rotarians who have been working together in different fields for the past 109 years. Heart surgeries of 200 children born with congenital heart disease are being done in India every year through the sponsorship of Rotary. Liver transplant and cancer treatment are also being done at 300-bed Dr Shetty Cardiac Hospital. A project of Rotary Friendship Hospital in Karachi is also there in the offing,” Aziz Memon, who was the Governor of Rotary International’s District 3270, covering Pakistan and India, pointed out.



“The eradication of polio presents a huge challenge in Pakistan. We learn from the Indian experience who have been successful in making their country polio-free after strenuous efforts. Literacy is another area where the Rotarians of the two neighbouring countries are working together,” he added.

“Trade can be immensely helpful in building bridges. Let’s work together for achieving our mutual objective of bringing about positive changes in the lives of our people. Let’s do it now,” Aziz Memon stressed.

Australian High Commissioner addresses ESUP gathering in Karachi

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014

The Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Peter Heyward, impressed everyone with his thorough understanding of the game of cricket during his keynote address to the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) at the Hotel Beach Luxury, Karachi, on June 21.



The topic of his speech was 'Cricket in Australia' and he dwelled at length at the various aspects of the gentleman's game.

He enlightened the audience by sharing the historic perspectives in a candid manner and the intensity was sustained throughout half an hour as he combined his own thoughts while recalling the incidents having brought out about the most significant changes.

The High Commissioner touched upon the bitter memories of the early 20th century when six of the leading

cricketers of his country, including the legendary Victor Trumper, had revolted against the board. He also recalled the crisis of the 1970s when a man called Kerry Packer had taken on the cricket establishment of Australia.

The ESUP function, for a change, began with a presentation as Ehsan Qureshi, a veteran sports journalist and a prolific author, was invited at the stage to present copies of his World Cup books to the Australian High Commissioner who was appreciative of the gesture.

Aziz Memon, President, ESUP, while introducing the Australian High Commissioner prior to his speech, described Peter Heyward as an articulate foreign service officer, having brought laurels to his country during his long and illustrious diplomatic career which took him to different corners of the world.



In his welcome address, Majyd Aziz, ESUP, talked about some of the memorable cricket matches having taken place between Pakistan and Australia over the years. He particularly recalled the Melbourne Test of 1979 when Sarfraz Nawaz had turned the tables around by dismissing seven batsmen for only one run.

The man who had been in the thick of things during that match, having watched that magnificent spell from behind the stumps, Wasim Bari, was also present in the front row of the audience and the former Pakistan captain was duly recognized by the ESUP President at the start of the proceedings.



The interactive session turned out to be an interesting one and the Australian High Commissioner tried to do justice with every query posed to him.

He pointed out that those desiring to travel to Australia for the Cricket World Cup 2015 will have to submit the normal visa forms and their cases will be processed in a routine manner.

Abdul Kader Jaffer, Senior Vice President, ESUP, and a former Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, presented the vote of thanks in the typically lively style of his.

Pakistan eager to learn from polio-free India: Aziz Memon

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014

The typically enlightening speech of Aziz Memon, Chairperson, Pakistan National Polio Plus Committee, was one of the highlights of the 'Polio-free Conclave 2014' which was organized by the Rotary International to commemorate India's victory over Polio.



The two-day event, reaffirming Rotary's commitment to ending polio not just in India but from all parts of the world, was held at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, India, on March 29 and 30.

Besides the three endemic countries, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, the participating countries included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

The representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as the top functionaries of the Rotary International were also present on the occasions along with the functionaries of other donor agencies.

The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, was the chief guest in the inaugural session held at 12 noon on March 29 while the historic Rotary's Polio Free Conclave concluded the following afternoon.

Aziz Memon, pursuing the mission of eradicating polio from Pakistan with missionary zeal, expressed his profound appreciation to the thousands of Rotarian volunteers for their unprecedented commitment, along with the Government of India, the polio partners and the dedication of millions of community health workers who were the implementing force in the process.

"It's really gladdening that India is no longer a country with polio flourishing in it. The country has now completed three years without a case of polio in January 2014, earning the WHO's regional Polio-free certification," he noted.



“India's three-year Polio-free triumph is a huge achievement for the global polio eradication initiative, spearheaded by Rotary and national governments. This milestone in India makes the global polio-free dream a step closer while boosting the fight in the remaining polio endemic countries like Pakistan and motivating the global community to support the Polio eradication endgame,” Aziz Memon remarked.

Representing the Rotarians of Pakistan in the august gathering, he shared that the Rotary family, despite the numerous challenges, continued working relentlessly with the Government of Pakistan and polio partners to optimize coverage of children in hand to reach to even the farthest regions of the country.



“We are also working closely with the tribal leaders in the FATA through moderate Ulemas and politicians who have assured us of their cooperation and support in getting the area children vaccinated,” Aziz Memon informed.

“We are determined to meeting the challenge despite the heaviest of odds. We are mobilizing all our resources in achieving the cherished goal of ours. The government is on board with us and together we are marching ahead in the right direction,” he observed.

“Rotary International is proud to see a Polio-free India. We will follow suit to make Pakistan polio-free in the near future,” he concluded while quoting the great Nelson Mandela: It always seems impossible until it is done.”

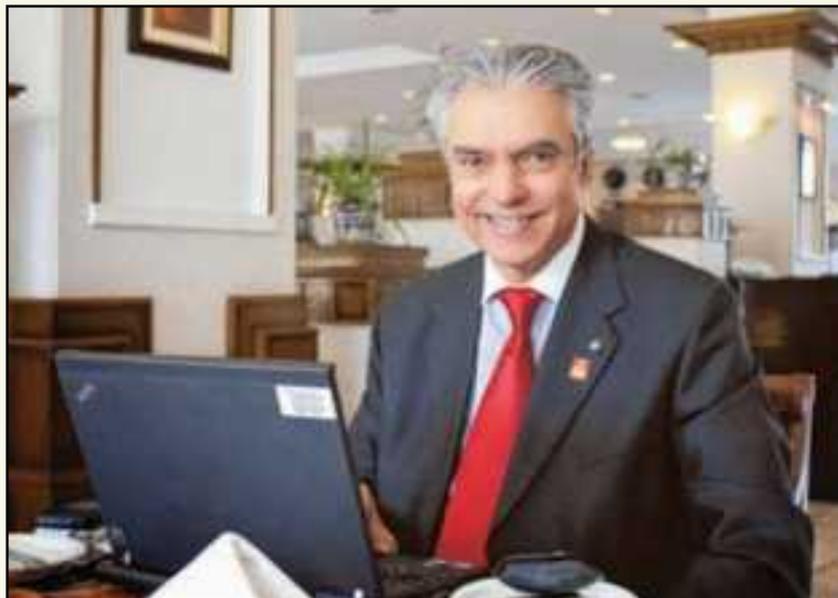
Ayesha Raza Farooq, Prime Minister of Pakistan’s Focal Person for Polio Eradication, in her earlier address, expressed similar sentiments, adding that the prevailing challenges did not deter the government and the people of Pakistan will continue to fight polio with courage and a resolute commitment.

"We have arrested the spread of the virus and restricted it to three reservoirs. Majority of cases this year and last year were from security compromised areas in the country. Most of Pakistan has been without a polio case or virus transmission for a considerable period of time," she stated.

Aziz Memon optimistic about making Pakistan polio-free

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

Aziz Memon, one of the leading entrepreneurs of the country, remains optimistic about making Pakistan polio-free despite numerous operational challenges being faced in the efforts aimed at its elimination.



“We are one hundred per cent optimistic and we will make Pakistan polio-free. This is our commitment,” the national chair of Rotary International Polio Plus’s programme in Pakistan observed in an interview with a Gulf daily on March 6.

“We have been frequently travelling to the far flung areas of the country to organize Jirgas (meetings with tribal elders) and religious scholars, all in an effort to increase awareness about the disease,” Aziz Memon, one of the leading Rotary leaders, remarked.

Rotary International has been playing a vital role in the eradication of polio throughout the world, especially in Pakistan’s tribal areas, including Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA), Kashmir, Sindh and Balochistan, having allocated \$100 million to Pakistan for this particular cause while its global programmes are funded to the tune of more than \$1.2 billion.

“We have mobilised all the sectors including the Rotarians and people from all walks of life. We have created six resource centres across the country. We have 14 permanent immunisation centres and one recent milestone for Rotary International was the construction of 12 Permanent Transitory Points (PTPs) at various borders of the country,” Aziz Memon observed.

“Permanent Transitory Points are the basic requirement for polio eradication because, when Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees migrate, they are a major source of spreading the Polio virus, so now they are vaccinated at these points.

Besides this, we have provided the vaccine carriers with Speaking Books to raise awareness among children. We are doing quite a number of other things as well, like the cellphone project and we are encouraging our every club to have a permanent immunisation centre,” he added.

“I have been a Rotarian for more than two decades and being the National Chair on Polio, I have been carrying out my responsibilities for the last four and half years.

So I have high hopes that we should be able to overcome the hurdles make Pakistan polio-free,” he asserted.

“I have just one belief that if you are working for a good cause God is with you and I have my full faith in God.

I know that I am doing something that is good and my God is with me. He helps, protects and guards me so that we can fulfil the promise we have made with the children of this world and our country particularly.

And I am sure that there will be a day in our lives when no child will be crippled because of this disease,” Aziz Memon hoped.

“According to the latest figures, we have 19 polio cases reported so far in 2014 and in 2013 there were 93 cases reported throughout in the country.

In 2012 we were close to realising our goal to make Pakistan Polio-free but then there were attacks on polio workers and the fresh cases reported from the areas that were inaccessible to immunisation workers but we are now hopeful and committed to end this disease because this is a war for the survival of our future generations.

Our future generations are at stake. We have to do this, to end polio now,” he stressed.

Aziz Memon remembers Haji Abdul Razzaq

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014

Aziz Memon, one of the leading entrepreneurs of the country and an icon in the field of community service, has paid glowing tribute to Haji Abdul Razzaq Yaqoob, the founder of ARY Group, who passed away after a protracted illness recently.



“Haji Abdul Razzaq Yaqoob, besides being a visionary businessman, was also a great social worker who cared for the society. I had the good fortune of having interacted with him on numerous occasions and always found him a humble and noble person,” Aziz Memon, Vice President, United Memon Jamat (UMJ), recalled.

“Haji Abdul Razzaq Yaqoob was one of the founders of the World Memon Organisation (WMO) and he worked enthusiastically for its cause all along. He believed in working with missionary zeal and inspired others with his leadership qualities. He will surely be missed,” Aziz Memon felt.

Haji Abdul Razzaq Yaqoob was the owner and chief executive officer of the country’s prominent business group, which includes gold trading, communications and the television network.

Aziz Memon desires level playing field for Pakistan's textile products

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014

Aziz Memon, a famed entrepreneur, firmly believes that Pakistan's textile products have the desired attributes to compete in the international market. He, however, sought a level playing field to be able to flourish.



In his presidential address at the reception of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) held at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, on January 29, he spoke about the significance of the bilateral with neighbours.

The ESUP President was convinced that Pakistan's business community stands a very good chance of breaking into the Indian market if the access was granted to the Pakistani products without any barriers.

The Canadian High Commissioner, Greg Giokas, who was the chief guest of the evening, enlightened the audience with his thoughts on 'Role of Agriculture in Pakistan's Economic Development and Trade with India' which generated tremendous interest.

Canadian envoy advises Pakistan to boost farm products

The Canadian High Commissioner, Greg Giokas, has advised Pakistan to further mobilize its resources in the agriculture sector to achieve a better market share internationally.



In his thought-provoking speech as the chief guest in a reception of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) held at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi, on January 29, the Canadian envoy described Pakistan's agriculture sector as robust one which had potential to do even better.

The topic of his speech was 'Role of Agriculture in Pakistan's Economic Development and Trade with India' in which he spoke about the benefits on offer to Pakistan if they capitalized on the opportunities.

On the occasion, he was presented a plaque by Aziz Memon, President, ESUP, in the presence of the Union's office-bearers Majyd Aziz (Secretary General), Byram D Avari (Senior Vice President), Tariq Ikram (Vice President) and Tariq Rangoonwala (Treasurer).

Polio must be stopped in Pakistan

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2013

As the new year dawns, our respective neighboring states, India and Pakistan, both are in the news because of their efforts to eradicate the crippling childhood virus, poliomyelitis but due to completely opposite circumstances.



India, once projected by many experts to linger as polio's last stronghold, now has every hope of marking its third full year with no new cases on January 12. Once that milestone is reached, it will set the stage for a national celebration a month or so later, when the World Health Organization is expected to certify WHO's entire South-East Asia Region to be polio-free.

Unfortunately, the anti-polio campaign in Pakistan, which is in a different WHO region, is garnering international coverage for the wrong reasons as more than 30 health workers or their security escorts have been killed trying to reach children with the oral polio vaccine.

The escalation of violence keeps the Pakistani children at risk of contracting this incurable, disabling - but completely vaccine-preventable - disease. As of this writing, Pakistan had recorded 75 new cases of polio this year, up from 58 for all of 2012. Most of the infected children live within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, notably North and South Waziristan, where the vaccination activities were banned.

And the concern now is that the virus will spread back to other areas of Pakistan where it had previously been stopped, as well as to other countries.

Indeed, this is happening right now in several previously polio-free countries, such as Syria, where WHO has determined through genetic sequencing that a recent outbreak was caused by a polio strain originating in Pakistan.

The spread of polio in Pakistan also poses a threat to neighboring India's hard-earned success, which is exactly why anyone entering India from Pakistan after January 30 will be required to show proof of vaccination.

It is clear that remaining three polio-endemic countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria – especially the latter two – constitute the reservoir where this opportunistic virus thrives and from which it can spread. As of mid-December, new polio cases in non-endemic countries in 2013 outnumbered the cases in the endemic countries 224 to 136.

At stake is the incredible progress achieved by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, launched in 1988 by Rotary International, WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and now also supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.





Since 1988, the world has spent more than \$10 billion on polio eradication, and the return on that investment has been a reduction in polio cases of more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to only 223 in 2012, the lowest annual total ever. If we don't finish the job and stop polio in the endemic countries, we risk losing all of the ground we've gained and jeopardizing the health and lives of millions of children.

The outbreaks in the non-endemic countries this year are proof positive that the risk is real. Fortunately, India's success in stopping the transmission of polio provides practical lessons already being put to use in Pakistan. India's 116,000 Rotary clubs members contributed immensely to the nation's effort against polio, especially in raising awareness and maximizing public participation in national polio immunization days, which reach more than 172 million children under the age of five years.

This included engaging and working closely with Islamic leaders, ulemmas, and scholars in the predominantly Muslim communities of northern India to obtain their support to help quell any parental misconceptions or misgivings about the vaccination program.



The eradication volunteers among Pakistan's 3,500 Rotary members likewise are working hand-in-glove with local leaders to secure their buy-in. As a way to avoid entering communities where the risk is deemed too high for vaccination teams, Rotary has set up mobile health clinics at key transit points, such as toll plazas and military checkpoints near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, enabling thousands of children to receive the vaccine as families enter and exit the country.



Rotary also established permanent immunization centers to improve routine vaccination and organized health camps in high-risk districts, an approach that proved effective in India. Rotary also recently provided 5,000 copies of a "speaking" story book about polio vaccination - with audio in the Urdu and Pushto languages - as an advocacy tool for social mobilizers/health workers at Pakistan's Rotary Resource Centers.

It is through persistence, perseverance, and patience that the war against polio will be won in Pakistan. India proved polio can be beaten under the most challenging conditions.

But it was not easy, and it clearly will not be easy in Pakistan. We must find a way to end the violence. We must reach every last child with the polio vaccine in Pakistan and in the other endemic countries and we will. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative's commitment to the world's children demands no less.

Benetton's new outlet dazzles at Park Towers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013

The Kings Group, having pioneered the concept of franchise business in Karachi by bringing in the United Colours of Benetton more than three decades ago, opened an outlet of the famous global brand in the bustling Park Towers Mall, located in Karachi's posh locality of Clifton.



The presence of Benetton has been hailed as a welcome addition to the list of the high-profile brands which attract shoppers from the various corners of the ever-expanding metropolis.

“Karachi surely gets a little more colourful with the arrival of the United Colours of Benetton at the Park Towers Mall. The Benetton's Autumn Winter is in town now and the season's collection brings together exciting clothes and accessories for men, women and kids,” Naheed Memon, Director, Kings Group, remarked during the inauguration ceremony on December 21.

The Sindh Senior Minister for Education, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, who had performed the opening of the first-ever Benetton outlet in the early 1980s, was again the chief guest in the inauguration ceremony of a new premises three decades later.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, he expressed the optimism that the steps taken by the government will help in roping in more foreign investment in Karachi, the commercial capital of the country. “It's very heartening indeed that the foreign brands have continued coming in and our people have the access to the best in the world. The franchises are playing their role in boosting the economy,” the Senior Minister noted.



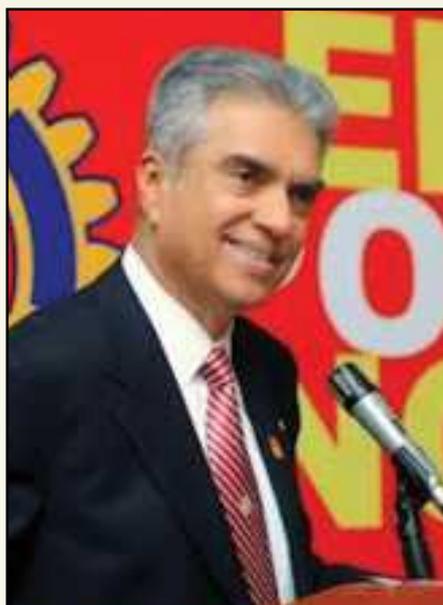
The Consul General of Italy, Roberto Franceschinis, who was the guest of honour in the ceremony, attended by the elite of the town, was also delighted with the opening of the new outlet.

Aziz Memon, Chairman, Kings Group and one of the most respectable names in the business circles, was excited with the opening of the latest outlet of the Italian franchise in the bustling Park Towers, home to some of the leading brands of the world

Rotary to highlight global efforts on World Polio Day 2013

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013

Rotary International will highlight progress in the global effort to end polio on the occasion of the annual World Polio Day to be observed on October 24.



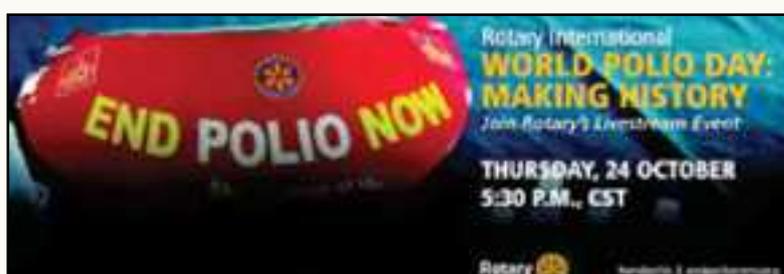
“World Polio Day 2013 provides a golden opportunity for Rotary and its partners to build public support for the historic final push now underway to wipe out this disabling viral disease once and for all,” Rotary International’s Pakistan PolioPlus Chair, Aziz Memon, remarked.

“In Chicago, where the humanitarian service organization was founded in 1905, Rotary and Northwestern University’s Center for Global Health will convene an international panel of experts to discuss the progress of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which Rotary co-launched in 1988. The event, World Polio Day: Making History, will be streamed live to a global online audience at endpolionow.org from Northwestern University’s John Hughes Auditorium, 303 E. Superior St., Chicago, beginning at 5:30 pm. CST on October 24,” he disclosed.

The confirmed panelists included Dr Bruce Aylward, the world’s leading expert on polio eradication and assistant director-general for polio, emergencies and country collaboration at the World Health Organization; Dr. Robert Murphy, director of Northwestern University’s Center for Global Health; and U.S. Paralympian Dennis Ogbe, a polio survivor and ambassador for the United Nations Foundation’s Shot@Life program. An executive with Brown-Forman Co, Ogbe is originally from Nigeria, one of only three countries where the wild poliovirus has never been stopped.

Also invited is Emmy award-winning actress Archie Panjabi, one of Rotary’s End Polio Now celebrity ambassadors. In 2012, Panjabi helped Rotary volunteers immunize children in India, where she spent part of her childhood.

Once considered the nation facing the most serious challenges to eradication, India was removed from the polio-endemic list in January 2012. If Panjabi is unable to attend in person, the Chicago program will include exclusive video of her work in India.



“This year, World Polio Day fundraisers will have greater impact due to the new fundraising campaign, End Polio Now: Make History Today, recently launched by Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation will match two for one every new dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication up to US\$35 million per year through 2018,” Aziz Memon revealed.



“World Polio Day provides an important and timely opportunity for us to let the world know that every dollar contributed to Rotary for polio eradication will work three times as hard,” Dr Robert S. Scott, MD, Chair of Rotary’s PolioPlus programme, observed in his message. “Rotary invites everyone, private citizens, businesses, non-profits, to join us in this historic effort. Only one other human disease (smallpox) has ever been beaten. Now is our best chance ever to make polio the second,” he stressed.

Rotary clubs in every region of the world have planned an array of activities on or leading up to World Polio Day. Rotary clubs in India planned a nationwide series of outdoor illuminations carrying Rotary’s “End Polio Now” message on World Polio Day. In January, India will celebrate three years of no new polio cases, a huge milestone for a country once considered to harbor the most serious challenges to eradication.

Scores of Rotary clubs worldwide working with local schools to organize Purple Clothes Days encouraged each student to wear a purple item of clothing and make a small donation to Rotary’s polio eradication program.



The concept began with Rotary clubs in England, inspired by the purple dye that health workers in polio-affected countries place on children’s pinky fingers to show they have received the oral polio vaccine.

Similarly, many Rotary clubs in England, Kenya and elsewhere are selling fabric “purple crocus” lapel pins in support of polio eradication. In Kenya, Rotary clubs will work with partnering agencies and the national government to use World Polio Day to launch the next round of national polio immunization activities in early November, a campaign deemed critical due to the recent outbreak of imported cases throughout the Horn of Africa.



Rotary clubs in Lagos, Nigeria, will be partnering with the Cycology Riding Club to do a six-hour relay bicycle ride to promote World Polio Day and the national immunization rounds set for early November. The event is reportedly Nigeria’s first-ever bike-a-thon.

In partnership with UNICEF, Rotary clubs in Pakistan, another polio-endemic country, on World Polio Day will begin distributing 5,000 copies of a 16-page “speaking book” that health workers and parents can use to teach young children the importance of polio vaccinations and basic hygiene. The audio version of the text is in the regional languages of Urdu and Pashto.

In Spain and Portugal, Rotary clubs are generating public support for polio eradication via the crowd-speaking platform, Thunderclap, in a campaign that concludes on World Polio Day.

Historically, Rotary had helped launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since then, Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than \$1.2 billion and countless volunteer hours to the polio eradication effort. Overall, the annual number of new polio cases has plummeted by more than 99 percent since the 1980s, when polio infected about 350,000 children a year.



Only 223 new cases were recorded for all of 2012. More than two billion children have been immunized in 122 countries, preventing five million cases of paralysis and 250,000 deaths.

Polio today remains endemic in only three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, although “imported” cases in previously polio-free areas, such as the Horn of Africa, will continue to occur until the virus is finally stopped in the endemic countries.

Rotary is a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary’s 1.2 million members hail from more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

KCCI eager to explore untapped Suriname

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013

Haroon Agar, President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), has expressed the eagerness to explore trading opportunities with the South American countries like Suriname.



“It is the need of the time to explore trading opportunities with South American countries including Suriname.

The government has to take meaningful steps to explore this huge market where our competing countries have already entered a long time ago and enjoying handsome business,” he remarked after a recent meeting with Mr Anwer S Lall Mohamed, Ambassador-at-Large and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of

Suriname, at the Republic’s Honorary Consulate General in Karachi.

The Honorary Consul General, Aziz Memon, was also present on the occasion. “We are already late to enter there however, Pakistan can capture its share on the grounds of its talented and skilled manpower and production of high quality products,” the KCCI President reckoned.

“The trade between Pakistan and Suriname is nominal at the moment. Commercial counsellors and trade officers should be appointed in the South American country in order to enhance the bilateral trade. Let’s explore the untapped South American, African and Central Asian markets besides focusing on North American and European Union (EU) trading blocs,” he suggested.

“The government should induct qualified and professional commercial counsellors who could act as the marketing managers of Pakistan and they should be given clear periodical targets for enhancing trade and investment. The regular exchange of information between the commercial section abroad and the leading chambers also played a vital link,” Haroon Agar emphasized.

He assured the visiting envoy of the KCCI’s fullest support in respect to enhancing trade and exploring possibilities of businesses with its counterpart Surinamese Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Anwar Lall Mohamed was of the opinion that immense possibilities for trade between Pakistan and Suriname did exist but they were yet to be explored.

He disclosed that Suriname, whose population is over half a million, has an emerging economy which grew 4.5% in 2012 backed by strong growth in commodity exports and local construction activity.

“The IMF assessed economic outlook of Suriname as favourable and the growth is expected to accelerate due to continued high commodity prices.

The economy will also benefit from large investments that are underway in the mining of gold, petroleum, bauxite and the renewable energy sectors of hydro-electric and solar,” he revealed.

“The Government of Suriname has established the Investment and Development Corporation to promote both local and foreign investment. The targeted sectors for investment are agriculture, forestry, Water Resources, Manufacturing, Tourism, Healthcare and Housing while those for exports are agriculture, timber, gold, alumina and bottled water,” Anwar Lall Mohamed informed.

He advised the interested investors and traders to contact the Investment and Development Cooperation of Suriname, based in capital Paramaribo, through the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).



Suriname desires greater bilateral trade with Pakistan

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

Anwer S Lall Mohamed, Ambassador-at-Large and Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Suriname, held a series of meetings with dignitaries and business leaders during his recent visit to Karachi, the commercial capital of Pakistan.



He called on the President-Elect, Mamnoon Hussain, at the State Guest House. Besides congratulating the newly elected President of Pakistan, who will be taking oath on September 9, he also extended him the invitation to visit Suriname. The President reciprocated by inviting his counterpart from Suriname, Desi Bouterse. The date of visits will be coordinated by Aziz Memon, the Republic's Honorary Consul General in Karachi.

Anwer Lall Mohamed also discussed with the President the possibilities to increase the import and export between the two countries aimed at enhancing trade and investment opportunities.

Initiating the programmes of scientific research and establishing cultural ties were also considered. Then he had a detailed meeting with Haroon Agar, President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), in which the various proposals to boost the bilateral trade came up for discussion.



The KCCI President accepted the invitation to participate in the Trade Fair to be held in Suriname in November. He recognized that there existed a potential to enhance the trade between Pakistan and Suriname particularly in the fields of timber, wood, pharma products and investment opportunities.

The visiting Suriname official agreed that the visa process should be simplified in order to boost the relations and facilitate the business community in particular. It was pointed out to him that the current visa procedure was very discouraging to tourists, business travellers and investors.

During his four-day visit to Karachi, Anwer S Lall Mohamed held sessions with Tarek Moinuddin Khan, Chairman, OBS Pharma, and Syed Shahab Balkhi, Managing Director,



A J M Pharma as both the companies showed the inclination for exporting their products to Suriname.

Shahzad Sabir, Director, K U Trading, one of the largest importers of timber/wood based products in Pakistan, called on him to explore the possibilities of joint cooperation with Suriname companies.

Mohammad Faiz Kidwai, Director, Consultants Group, held discussions with the Suriname envoy in

connection with building low-cost housing projects over there.

Anwer Lall Mohamed, who was on his third visit to Karachi, also had a meeting with a delegation led by Haji Hanif Tayyab, President, Al Mustafa Welfare Society, and Chairman, Rotary International's Muslims Ulema Committee, who pledged support in boosting joint collaboration efforts between Pakistan and Suriname.

During his recent visit, he was presented a copy of Jumbo Karachi Guide, the first-ever travel guide of any city of Pakistan, having been published by Jumbo Infomedia. He was thoroughly appreciative of the book and praised it wholeheartedly.

Suriname President's Envoy appreciates Jumbo Karachi Guide

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013



Anwer S Lall Mohamed, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Suriname, has appreciated the publication of Jumbo Karachi Guide a copy of which was presented to him by Aziz Memon, the Republic's Honorary Consul General in Karachi, on August 8.

The visiting dignitary went through the various chapters of Jumbo Karachi Guide and he described it a worthy travel guide which could help considerably in Pakistan on the tourist map of the world.

Anwer Lall Mohamed expressed his delight when informed about the phenomenal contribution of Aziz Memon in bringing out Jumbo Karachi Guide, acclaimed as the first-ever travel guide of any particular city of Pakistan.

"I am also particularly pleased to find the presence of Suriname in the book as one of the messages in the Words of Encouragement section relates to His Excellency Aziz Memon, our Consul General in Karachi," he observed.

"Such ventures do need the support of the institutions as well as the individuals. It's very heartening to know that a new edition of Jumbo Karachi Guide is being printed and there are plans to bring out travel guides of other major cities of Pakistan as well.

I wish the publishers (Jumbo Infomedia) the very best of luck in the project," Anwer Lall Mohamed remarked.

Aziz Memon considered Jumbo Karachi Guide a very handy tool in business promotion as well because of its contents and presentation.

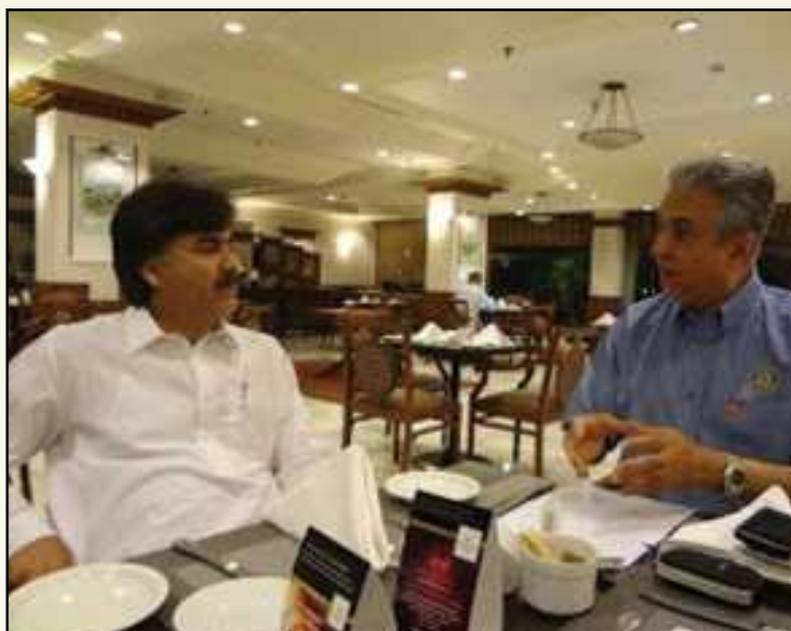
He reckoned that it was comparable to the established travel guides being published in the developed countries.



Aziz Memon, KP Health Minister discuss polio eradication strategy

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2013

Aziz Memon, National Chairman, Pakistan Polio Plus Committee, held a meeting with Shaukat Yousufzai, Minister of Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at Peshawar on July 30 in which the strategies to stop the transmission of polio in high risk areas was discussed in detail.



They agreed that it's the right time to act to stop the transmission of polio with 18 of the 22 cases in Pakistan arising from KPK and FATA.

Charsadda, Mardan, Bannu and Nowshera in KPK are the main reservoirs of polio virus while Bara Tehsil in the Khyber Agency and North Waziristan in FATA are classified as high risk zones where polio vaccination has not been possible since June 2012.

Aziz Memon and Shaukat Yousufzai discussed the security issues as two polio workers were gunned down in Peshawar a few weeks ago while a number of other volunteers had lost their lives in earlier campaigns.

“The polio virus circulating in the vulnerable areas can be transmitted through the IDPs and it has the potential to spread in areas previously free from polio. Therefore urgent steps are needed to vaccinate the children and better security arrangement was sought in the high risk areas,” they resolved.

They also assessed the possibilities of military support to administer polio drops in FATA on priority basis while also making efforts to negotiate with the religious scholars and leaders to support polio vaccination there in the larger interest of the whole community.

Aziz Memon suggested to the Government of KPK to contact the families of polio victims and make them ambassadors to help advocate against polio in their districts.

He also advised them to seal all transit points to and from FATA through establishment of permanent transit posts at entry/exit points.

He further said that the specific bus terminals in KPK must also have polio booths to take care of the travelling children. He urged for the commissioning of polio points at all railway stations across the country.

The KPK Health Minister appreciated the gesture of Aziz Memon for coming over all the way to Peshawar to discuss the polio issue and he pledged the wholehearted support of his government to this cause.

He commended the proactive role of Rotary International in eradicating polio.



Aziz Memon, a former District Governor of Rotary International, was also impressed by the eagerness shown by the Minister in tackling the situation on an emergency basis.

“Shaukat Yousufzai is young and dynamic. He is also a former first-class cricketer. He has tremendous enthusiasm to contribute for worthy causes. He has realized the gravity of situation regarding polio and he has promised to act quickly. I hope that he gets the support of the Chief Minister and other authorities in order to drive polio out of the region,” Aziz Memon concluded.

New York Times eulogize Aziz Memon for highlighting Rotary's role in fight to end polio in Pakistan

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013

Aziz Memon, a leading entrepreneur and philanthropist, has been hailed by the Rotary International's Headquarters in Chicago, USA, as well as by the New York Times for his efforts in the fight to end polio from Pakistan.



The popular figure of Aziz Memon, who heads Rotary International's Pakistan National Polio Plus Committee, has been also been commended for his monumental efforts in mobilizing the resources to eradicate polio from the country.

"You have done a great job of highlighting Rotary's role in the fight to end polio, and showcasing all of the hard work being done in Pakistan," Petina Dixon-Jenkins wrote in a recent communication.

"The country's new determination has also brought Rotary International back to the front lines. The club, founded in Chicago in 1905, started the global polio eradication drive in 1988.

It has had chapters in what is now Pakistan since 1927, and is now led by Aziz Memon, a hard-driving textile magnate," Donald McNeil reported in a recent article which appeared in the New York Times.

"Mr. Memon and other Rotary-affiliated executives have used their money and political connections to keep the pressure on. They compensated the killed vaccinators' relatives and held news conferences at which the families urged others to continue fighting," McNeil wrote in his article about polio in Pakistan.

"In March, Aziz Memon hosted Dr Robert S Scott, the 79-year-old Canadian chairman of Rotary's polio committee, who flew in to vaccinate children to prove that the fight would go on despite the December killings," he added.

"About 90 percent comply, sometimes after a public argument between a father who believes the rumors and a mother, outside their home and at times backed by other women on the bus, insisting the children be protected," the report mentioned.

Aziz Memon was quoted by the New York Times having opposed what he called coercive gimmicks.

"We can't twist arms. We want to win them over with love and affection," he stressed.

"He takes pride in mentioning that among hundreds of men wearing turbans and topees at Karachi's main train station, the Rotary volunteers stand out in their blue baseball cap with Rotary's bright yellow gearwheel," the New York Times report highlighted.

Aziz Memon, known and respected for working with missionary zeal, has had to overcome obstacles to achieve the cherished goal of eradicating polio from Pakistan. The road was mostly bumpy but he has never retreated.



Gates Foundation joins hands with Rotary to boost polio endgame support

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013

An announcement at the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, has set the stage for a bold new chapter in the partnership between Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the campaign for polio eradication.



Jeff Raikes, Chief Executive Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, addressed Rotarian during the third plenary session via a prerecorded video message.

“Going forward, the Gates Foundation will match two-to-one, up to US\$35 million per year, every dollar Rotary commits to reduce the funding shortfall for polio eradication through 2018. If fully realized, the value of this new partnership with Rotary is more than \$500 million. In this way, your contributions to polio will work twice as hard,” he remarked.

The joint effort, called End Polio Now - Make History Today, comes during a critical phase for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The estimated cost of the initiative’s 2013-18 Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan is \$5.5 billion.



Funding commitments announced at the Global Vaccine Summit in April, total \$4 billion. Unless the \$1.5 billion funding gap is met, immunization levels in polio-affected countries will decrease. And if polio is allowed to rebound, within a decade, more than 200,000 children worldwide could be paralyzed every year.

Rotary and the Gates Foundation are determined not to let polio make a comeback. “We will combine the strength of Rotary’s network with our resources, and together with the other partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), we will not just end a disease but change the face of public health forever,” Raikes added.

In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave The Rotary Foundation a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, and in 2009, increased it to \$355 million. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012, but Rotarians in fact raised \$228.7 million toward the challenge.

“Now is the time for us all to take action: Talk to your government leaders, share your polio story with your social networks, and encourage others to join you in supporting this historic effort,” Raikes observed.

“When Rotarians combine the passion for service along with the power of a global network, you are unstoppable, and the Gates Foundation is proud to partner with you. Let’s make history and End Polio Now,” he declared.

Bruce Aylward, assistant director-general for Polio, Emergencies and Country Collaboration at the World Health Organization - a GPEI partner - said that the finish line for polio eradication is in sight, but cautioned that “it is one thing to see the finish line; it is another to cross it.”

Sharing details of the latest polio eradication strategic plan, he said the plan is historic in finally setting out the endgame, the final steps needed to wipe out polio. “We now have the plan to complete the program of PolioPlus,” Aylward said. “And we have backing of you, Rotarians around the world, to get the job done.”

Actress Archie Panjabi, a Rotary polio eradication ambassador, recounted how, as a 10-year-old living in India, she had seen children crawling along the streets, propelled only by their hands. The image troubled her for years.

When she was asked to join Rotary’s This Close campaign in 2011, she said she realized that the children she’d seen were polio victims, and that by working to eliminate polio, she could help prevent others from suffering in that way.

“I came to realize that we still have work to do, and how important it is for people like me - people like you - to use our voices to raise awareness of, and support for, the global effort to eradicate polio,” Panjabi said.

“As a Rotary polio ambassador, I will continue to do whatever I can to spread the word.”

John Germ, vice chair of the International PolioPlus Committee, asked Rotarians to reach out to their



non-Rotarian colleagues to raise money for polio eradication. He also introduced Sir Emeka Offor, a Nigerian Rotarian, who announced that he is making a new US\$1 million contribution to PolioPlus.

During a PolioPlus Advocacy workshop a day earlier, Offor had explained that his contributions to a number of causes are motivated by his humble origins. Now, as a successful businessman, he enjoys giving in order to help others avoid the circumstances he faced.



As a Rotarian, he said he takes pride in Rotary's good work and in the organization's leadership in the polio eradication campaign. "I hope my means will inspire others to join the fight to end polio in Nigeria," Offor said. "Polio can be eradicated in my country in my lifetime, and it will be."

Also during the plenary session, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Wilfrid Wilkinson reviewed The Rotary Foundation's accomplishments, all of which were made possible by a 1960s decision by Rotary leaders to use Foundation grants to fund Rotary service.

"Because of the one moment. Because of their ambition, I can look back with all of you at 50 incredible years of achievements through our Foundation - lives that we have touched, lives that we have saved, lives to which we have brought health, education, and hope. And we can look ahead, in just a few years now, to a world free of polio," Wilkinson stated.

Robert Scott, Aziz Memon urge for reinstatement of Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring and Coordination Cell

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013

Dr Robert S Scott Chair, International Polio Plus, Rotary International and Aziz Memon, Chair, Pakistan Polio Plus, Rotary International, have urged the government to take steps to re-establish the essential functions that were previously undertaken by the Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring and Coordination Cell in the interest of the children of the country.



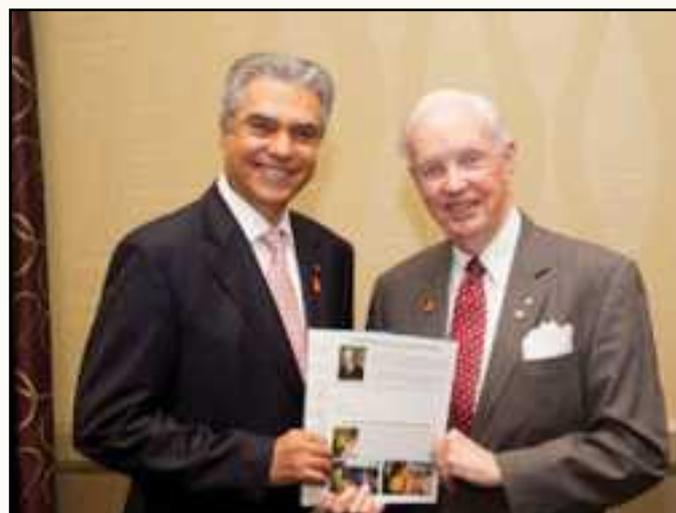
In a letter addressed to the Caretaker Prime Minister, Mir Hazar Khan Khoso, with a copy sent to the Prime Minister-in waiting, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Rotary officials have regretted the recent closure of the Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring Cell, merged with the old system, which is incapable of delivering routine immunization or running the Polio Eradication Initiative, due to serious administrative issues.

The senior Rotary officials have drawn the attention of the concerned authorities towards the particular deficiencies of the EPI were highlighted by the Federal Ombudsman in his recent 'Report on Measles Outbreak in Pakistan.'

'The decision to close the Monitoring Cell was done in haste, without giving any thought to future action or implementation. The programme will stall key initiatives taken by the polio cell to completely stop transmission of polio from Pakistan by the end of 2013,' they said in a jointly signed letter sent to the Office of the Prime Ministers.

"Eradication of Polio is a global priority. Pakistan, being one of the only three polio endemic countries of the world, is under intense pressure from the international community to take drastic steps for eradication of this disease and actively contribute in the Global Eradication of Polio," Scott and Memon stated.

"The Government of Pakistan in collaboration with partner agencies approved the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for Polio Eradication with responsibilities of implementation to the District Administration," they added.



“To achieve this objective, the Government of Pakistan had in 2011, established a Cell known as the Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring & Coordination Cell, to monitor and coordinate efforts being made at the National and International level on Polio Eradication.

In addition the PM monitoring cell also assisted the National Task Force on Polio Eradication headed by the Prime Minister,” the Rotary officials recalled.

“The Cell comprised of Public Health Specialists and Experts in Polio Eradication.



It has achieved major success, and witnessed tremendous progress in this area, which has been recognised and appreciated by the International Health Forums like the World Health Assembly and the Independent Monitoring Board based in London.

Due to untiring efforts, polio cases have dropped from 198 in 2011 to 58 cases in 2012 and 9 cases in 2013,” they concluded.

Rotary observes World Polio Day with unprecedented enthusiasm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012



Pakistan's Rotary Polio Plus Committee, headed by Aziz Memon, observed the World Polio Day 2012 on October 24 with unprecedented enthusiasm throughout the country.

The various Rotary Clubs, with the collaboration of the Polio Plus Committee, organized numerous programmes all over Pakistan while a lot of people around the globe participated in the World's Biggest Commercial, promoting the international effort to eradicate the devastating disease.

The innovative, interactive online initiative provided everyone a chance to join Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bill Gates, Jackie Chan, Angelique Kidjo, and other world figures and celebrities having already joined in Rotary's This Close campaign in support of polio eradication.

The participants uploaded photos of themselves to Rotary's polio eradication website, endpolionow.org, edited into the constantly expanding promotional spot. They were sent an email with a direct link to their image and comment within the commercial.

Rotary International also released End Polio Now, an eclectic album of songs performed by its celebrity polio eradication ambassadors from the music industry. The album is available for download on iTunes, and soon as a CD from shop.rotary.org, with all proceeds from sales going to PolioPlus.

The Rotary Club of Karachi Creek and the Rotary Club of Karachi Kolachi joined hands to put up a Polio Awareness Stall on World Polio Day, on the ground floor of the Park Towers Mall, located in main Clifton.

Visited by hundreds of people on a daily basis, more so these days, due to the forthcoming festival of Eid, the EPN banners on pillars caught many people's attention.

A volunteer doctor was made available at the stall screened for blood sugar free-of-charge, attracting adults.



Pakistan's National Chair, Polio Plus Committee, Aziz Memon, led by example which was followed by District Governor-Elect Dr Pir Ebrahim Shah, Media Coordinator for Karachi, PP Jamsheed Zahidi, PP Tahira Khan, PP Irfan Qureshi, Rotaractors who volunteered to man the stall and distribute IEC and social mobilization material to children and adults.



Dr Nadia Farhan Essa from RCK Creek was instrumental in organizing the polio camp and stall which became a centre of attraction at Park Towers.

Similar stalls were set up in many other bustling shopping malls of Karachi and other cities of Pakistan.

A three-page newspaper supplement was also brought out by the Polio Plus Committee to mark the occasion.

“Coinciding with World Polio Day, Rotary is ramping up its advocacy work in the 200 countries and regions where Rotary

clubs exist to encourage every national government to commit to help meet a \$700 million funding shortfall for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative through 2013,” Pakistan’s National Chair, Polio Plus Committee, Aziz Memon, disclosed.

“Although new polio cases are at an all-time low, there were fewer than 180 worldwide in 2012 as of October 16 the funding gap has already curtailed scheduled immunization activities in polio-affected countries.

If eradication fails and polio rebounds, up to 200,000 children per year could be paralyzed,” he warned.

‘The governments need to step up and honour their commitments to polio eradication if we are to achieve our goal of a polio-free world. We are at a true tipping point, with success never closer than it is right now.

We must seize the advantage by acting immediately, or risk breaking our pledge to the world’s children,” the Chair of the Rotary Foundation, Wilfrid J. Wilkinson, remarked in his message on the World Polio Day 2012.

Pakistan-India Trade and Economic Relations improving: High Commissioner Sabharwal

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012

India's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Sharat Sabharwal, has expressed the hope that the trade and economic relations between the two neighbouring countries will continue to improve and the ties will be further strengthened in the coming years.



The Indian envoy delivered an address on the subject of Pakistan-India Trade and Economic Relations in a gathering of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP), which was also attended by a large number of diplomats, at Hotel Beach Luxury, Karachi, on October 16.

Sabharwal updated the audience, predominantly from the business community, about the measures taken to boost the bilateral trade.

He pointed out that his country has allowed foreign direct investment from Pakistan, while a new gate has been opened at Wagah border crossing point to facilitate movement of goods.

He observed that both two countries have already taken a number of measures in liberalising visa issuance, adding that the businessmen were being issued multiple visas for a number of cities.

“Besides working on enhancing the bilateral trade both Pakistan and India have taken a number of steps to improve people to people relations,” the Indian High Commissioner noted.

Sabharwal revealed that the visit of Makhdoom Amin Fahim in 2011 to India was the first by Pakistan's Commerce Minister in 35 years while Anand Sharma, earlier this year, became the first-ever Indian Commerce Minister to visit Pakistan.

“Both of these, therefore, were landmark visits because the Commerce Ministers were accompanied by large delegations comprising of key businessmen who showed keen interest in expanding trade across the border,” the Indian High Commissioner added.



In his welcome address, Aziz Memon, President, ESUP, stressed the need for greater trade with neighbouring India.

“Fostering the process of regional trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and India will bring peace and prosperity in the region. It will be a mutually beneficial deal and people of both countries will benefit from it immensely,” he reckoned.

Aziz Memon did not mince words in stating that many European countries had fought wars with each other in the past but they realized the importance of doing trade with the neighbours and they continued business activities despite difference of opinion on political matters.



The ESUP President lauded the recent initiatives of the Indo-Pak governments, hoping that these decisions will open the floodgates in both the countries.

The question-answer session turned out to be a lively one as the Indian High Commissioner, with a smile on his face, came up with befitting replies to some testing queries.

Although the audience was being urged to restrict their questions to the topic of the day, a few unrelated queries were still

made but they were taken care of in a very calm and composed manner.

India's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Sharat Sabharwal, was presented a plaque on behalf by the ESUP by Michael Dodman, Consul General, United States of America (USA) in Karachi.

It turned out be an enlightening and informative session in line with the tradition of the ESUP of holding such special programmes for the benefit of its members in particular.

Aziz Memon highlights cross-border lessons in saving lives

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

Aziz Memon, Chairman of Rotary International's PolioPlus Committee, has expressed the eagerness to learn from India's success in eradicating polio from Pakistan, one of three nations still registering indigenous transmission of wild poliovirus.



"India have not recorded a single case of polio since January 13, 2011, a fact acknowledged by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Their success in the eradication of polio, serves as a beacon of hope for the nations like Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria who are still struggling to control polio," Aziz Memon, having served as the Governor of Rotary International's District 3270 covering Afghanistan and Pakistan, remarked in an interview with the PNFS in Karachi on September 25.

"Pakistan could imbibe invaluable lessons from its neighbour about eradicating polio. This is vitally important because Pakistan had experienced the world's largest nationwide outbreak of polio in 2011 with 198 reported cases," he added.

"As of June 8, 2012, Pakistan had reported 21 cases of wild poliovirus, compared to 52 cases during the same period in 2011.

Insurgency and security-related dangers don't allow our national polio programme to consistently reach children in certain areas of FATA.

Also the sub-optimal management of the programme at the sub-district level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan has seen inconsistent polio campaigns, with many children being missed during immunisation drives," the Rotary official regretted.



'In order to overcome the challenges, Rotary International has undertaken vigorous efforts in promoting the Polio Eradication Campaign in Pakistan, just as it did in India. Along with its partners, UNICEF and WHO, Rotary's PolioPlus Committee in Pakistan has been overseeing eradication efforts.

Pakistan has emulated India by roping in celebrity ambassadors to advance the cause of polio eradication and the most popular cricketer of the country, Shahid Afridi, is a part of the Polio Eradication Campaign," Aziz Memon noted.

“We have also adopted best-practice modules from India like the identification of high-risk blocks, roping in religious leaders from different sects in door-to-door campaigns, conducting health camps to augment abysmal healthcare services, and producing social mobilisation materials for Information, Education and Communication on Polio.

During NIDs (National Immunisation Days) and SNIDs (Sub-National Immunisation Days), Rotary Clubs in Pakistan work alongside government health workers during immunisation drives and also collaborate with multinational companies to boost awareness levels,” he added.



“The Rotary Clubs in Pakistan have been more proactive and persist with polio camps, walks and workshops that drive awareness and eradication efforts. Pakistan PolioPlus Committee has installed billboards in high-risk districts for national campaigns, with some billboards being permanent. As per the government’s request, an additional 45,000 vaccine carriers have been made to ensure quality of activities don’t suffer,” he disclosed.

“The Pakistani authorities are firmly committed to implementing eradication efforts to ensure polio spikes within its borders are curbed. To facilitate the success of its anti-polio initiatives, we sought India’s support in this drive.

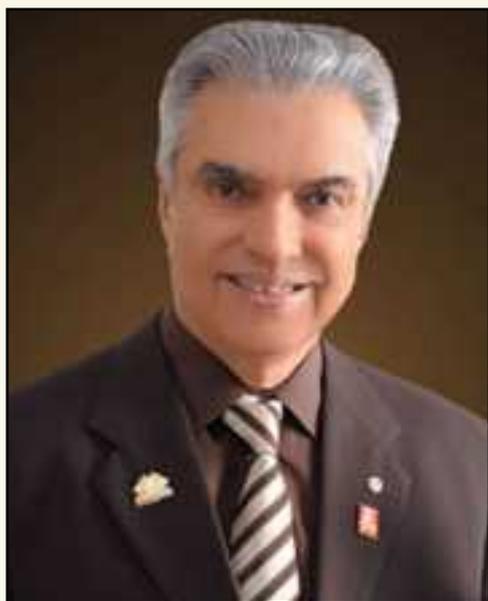
Apart from the exchange of delegations between the two nations, Pakistan’s serious intent is also evident from the fact that Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari is personally involved in the campaign against polio,” Aziz Memon explained.

“Concerted and sustained efforts on the part of all stakeholders, public and private entities, partnerships and the public, for polio to be finally eradicated from Pakistan are essential because a failure to do so will leave open the perennial threat of wild poliovirus making a surreptitious comeback in other geographies too; that is something Pakistan, and the world, can ill afford at this crucial juncture,” he warned.

Aziz Memon's election as President set to take ESUP to another level

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

Aziz Memon, one of the luminaries of the business world, who has also distinguished himself in the field of community service, is all set to bring the English Speaking Union of Pakistan to life following his unanimous election to the post of President recently.



"We have to do some restructuring to create more awareness about our activities. We need to mobilize our resources to be more visible in the civil society. Ours is a historic body and we are proud of our heritage.," Aziz Memon, having a proven track record in working at a fast pace and delivering against the heaviest of odds, observed in a brief statement after being elected to the coveted position of President, ESUP.

"I consider it a great honour to be elected as the President of this august body of which I have been a part of for a couple of decades now. I am grateful to the worthy leaders of the ESUP to have chosen me for this top slot. My predecessors have performed a nice job and I will leave no stone unturned in raising the bar," the newly elected ESUP President, known for making things happen, vowed.

Aziz Memon, who was conferred Pride of Performance Award by the President of Pakistan in 2011, has succeeded Barrister Shahida Jamil as the President of the ESUP which was previously led by the likes of Lt. Gen. Attiq-ur-Rehman, Chief Justice A R Cornelius, Ahmed E H Jaffer, Major Gen Nawabzada Mohammad Sher Ali Khan Pataudi, Ahmed Amjad Ali, and Justice Sajjad Ahmed Jan.

It may be recalled that Aziz Memon had set many records of sorts during his tenure as Governor of Rotary International's District 3270 covering Pakistan and Afghanistan, in 2007-2008.

Having held numerous other positions at various levels during a remarkable career, he has been the Chairman of Rotary's National Polio Plus Committee for the past couple of years.

Aziz Memon, who is Chairman of the Kings Group, a conglomerate of five companies, is expected to take the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP), founded in 1961 with the objective to develop friendship and goodwill between the English-Speaking people of Pakistan and other countries, to another level with his proactive approach.





The English Speaking Union (ESU), an educational charity, was founded in 1918 on the initiative of an English writer and journalist, Sir Evelyn Wrench.

It was established by Royal Charter with Her Majesty The Queen as Patron and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as President.

During its long history, the ESU has played an important part in fostering cultural links between people of different nationalities.

The mission of the ESU is to promote international understanding and human achievement through the English language.

The centre of all these activities is the international Headquarters at Dartmouth House in London, which not only manages the international programmes but also provides advice and support for ESU, both nationally and internationally.

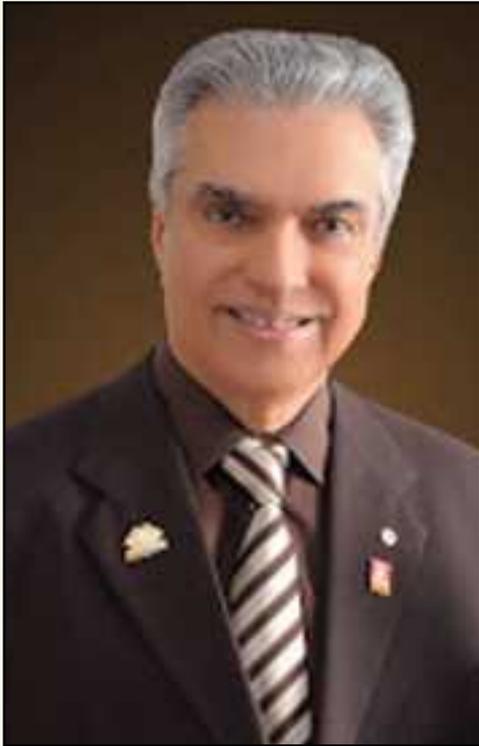
Thousands of ESU members all over the world are able to share their ideas and culture through the ESU global network.



Brief Profile: Aziz Memon

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

Aziz Memon, a famed entrepreneur and an acclaimed social worker, has made the country proud with his accomplishments. Last year he was conferred the prestigious Pride of Performance award in recognition of his outstanding and exceptional contribution in the field of public service for a number of decades.



It's another feather in the cap of Aziz Memon whose contribution in humanitarian and community services has been legendary.

He has been the recipient of the Rotary International's highest award 'Service Above Self' as well as the coveted award of Leader of the Leaders.

He was the District Governor of Rotary International for Pakistan and Afghanistan in the year 2007-08.

He is currently heading the Polio Committee in Pakistan. He has also been Chairman of the Cutchi Memon Markazi Jamat.

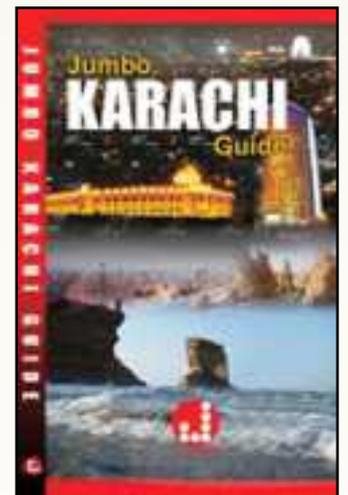
He is acclaimed as a role model in the field of industry and commerce. He is Chairman of the Kings Group, a conglomerate of eight companies, with the core business being manufacturing and exporting knitted garments to the European and USA markets.

He is Honorary Consul General, Republic of Suriname, besides being Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Karachi.

Garment City, a project of Ministry of Textiles, Government of Pakistan.

He holds the honour of being the Founder President of Pakistan Japan Business Forum, President of Pakistan Italy Business Forum, Former Director Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and senior member of Pakistan German Business forum.

He has been Chairman of Citizen Police Liaison Committee.



Aziz Memon on Jumbo Karachi Guide



“It’s quite an accomplishment having first conceived the idea and then more significantly put the pieces together to bring out this worthiest of publication.

It involved a lot of research and legwork besides persistence as it didn’t take months but a few years to produce this wonderfully compiled guide containing a wealth of information in a matter of little over 100 pages.”

“I have personally known the compilers as well as the publishers of this handy publication.

They had undertaken a gigantic task, considering the lack of availability of updated information on various subjects they were working on.”

“They kept me posted about their progress or the lack of it and I facilitated them as much as I could.

It went to their credit not to have given up the project in frustration because of the countless hassles and hurdles that came their way.

I am really delighted that they have managed to do it finally after so many hiccups.”

