





It was by chance.....

In 2005 I walked into a ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. I remember his huge eyes, just staring at me. I guess a foreigner was a rarity. He had an untreated cleft lip and was in hospital for an unrelated matter.

The doctor explained that the cleft unlikely to be corrected : “he won’t die”.

His family : struggling day laborers.

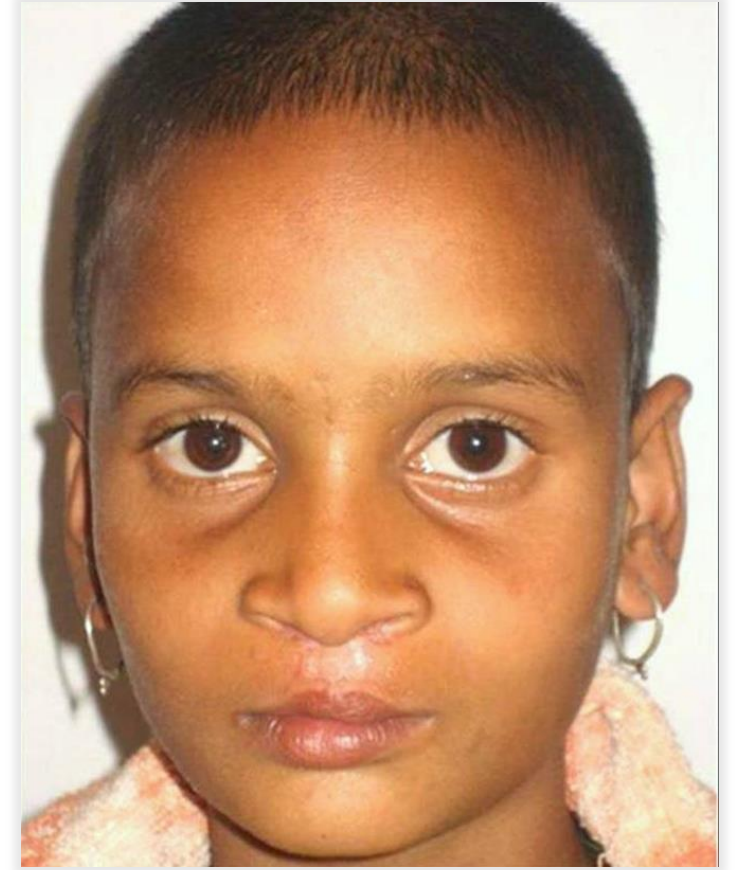
Twenty four hours later I had negotiated with an experienced Bangladesh plastic surgeon to correct 60 clefts. The only stipulation : the patients had no capacity to pay.

That was the start of Operation Cleft.



**21 000 lives transformed 2005 to 2024...
and continuing to count**

**Living
full and
healthy
lives**



One of the most common birth defects worldwide

Worldwide incidence:
1 in 800 live births

In US: 1 in 750

1:500 Asians

1:1000 Caucasians

1:2000 Afro Americans

In US: 1 in 750

Male: Female – 2:1



Unilateral Cleft

Cleft Plate



Bilateral Cleft

What are the causes of cleft lip and palate?

No one knows exactly, but most experts agree that the causes of cleft lip and palate are multifactorial and may include a genetic predisposition.

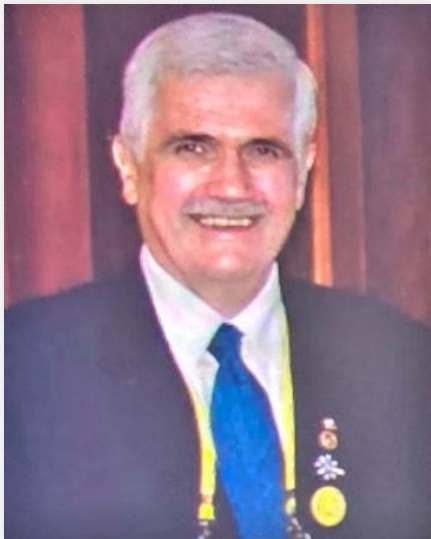
Maternal illness, infections, lack of vitamin B may also contribute.





In 2005 the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central and The Glencoe Foundation joined together to form Operation Cleft. Brian Martin became the very effective chair.

Maybe I exaggerate, but I recall speaking over 250 times to Rotary Clubs around Australia clubs over the next 3 years.



Brian Martin



Colin Macfarlane



Md. Moinul Islam,
Goodwill Ambassador

In the first year \$A200 000 was donated. To 15th July 2024, Rotary in Australia has raised \$A 4 ,751, 774.

By 2018 Glencoe Foundation's "Walk for Life" was expanding very quickly needing additional time and resources. Reluctantly we withdrew from Operation Cleft. We were very fortunate that Deutche Cleft took up the challenge with Rotary.

Bangladesh ex pat Moinul Islam is a member of Rotary Club Box Hill Central and a very enthusiastic goodwill ambassador for the cleft program. He regularly hosts Australian Rotarians visiting cleft programs in Bangladesh. Moinul has a long association with Walk for Life and Operation Cleft.

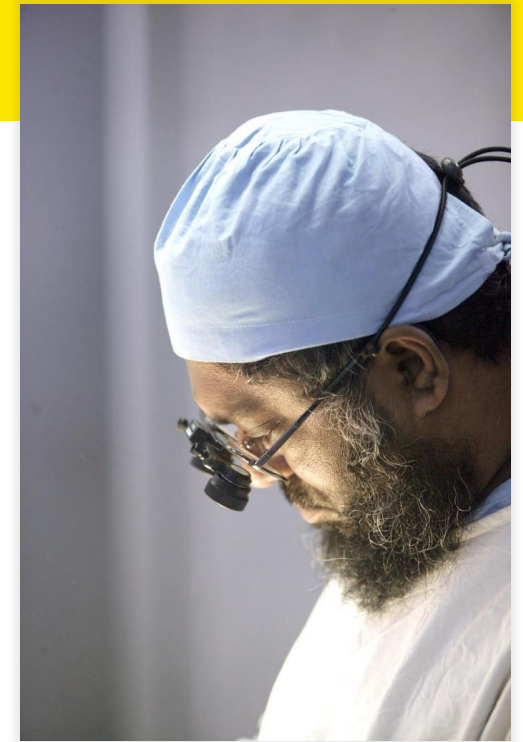
Our first
surgical camp.
Jessore
February 2006.
Over 150
enrolled.
Overwhelming.



An emotional
experience
for parents...
..and for me.



Prof. Shafquat Khundkar,
Professor of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Dhaka Medical College Hospital was surgical team leader in Bangladesh.

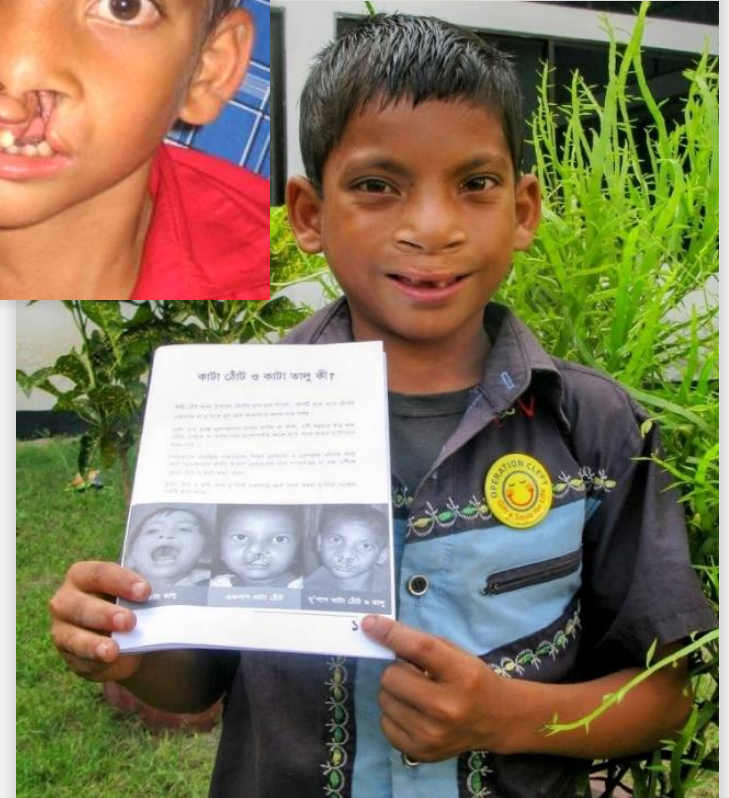


Prof. Muhammad Quamruzzaman,
Now the lead surgeon for Operation Cleft. Over 25 years experience in correcting clefts.

One of the most touching moments is the reaction of the parents seeing their child for the first time after surgery.



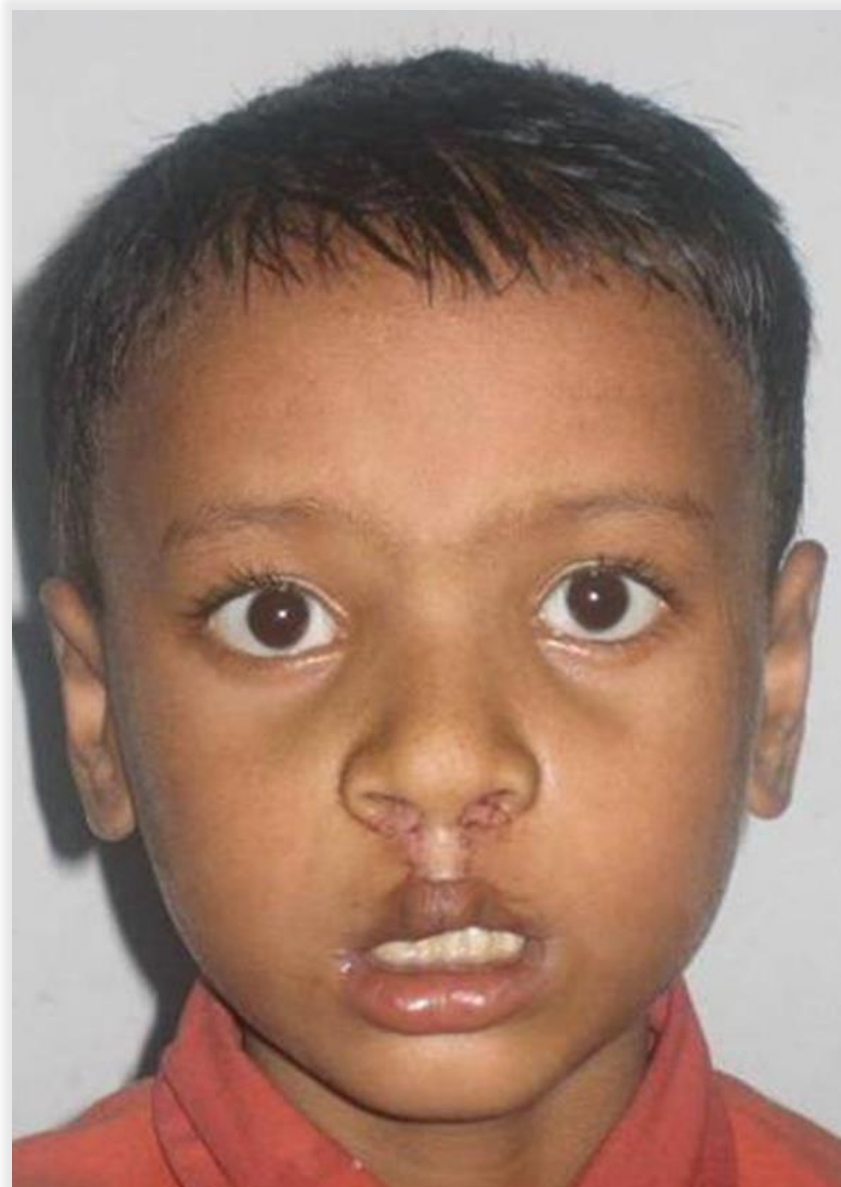
When this father sees his child it is just too much for him. Combine the stress of a long journey, malnutrition, apprehension and excitement. He faints.





Readul is a ten month old little boy from Bodorgonj. He is an only child. His father is a rickshaw driver. The post repair picture was taken two days after surgery. Readul couldn't stop smiling. Amazing!





SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY WORKSHOP

VENUE: NASROTHPUR UNION OFFICE.

DATE: 10th JANUARY, 2008

ORGANISED BY: DISABILITY PROGRAM, LAMB-PLAN.

SUPPORTED BY: OPERATION CLEFT. CRP DHAKA, BANGLADESH.



Many children with corrected clefts have problems speaking.

Speech therapists have a valuable role.

The Operation Cleft Speech Therapy Outreach program is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.



Operation Cleft and the Glencoe Foundation also held surgical camps, and financially contributed ,to cleft organisations in



Myanmar



Sri Lanka



Loas



India



Vietnam



Congratulation!!

Zaw Win Naing (24 years) and his beloved son Aung Ko Minn (1 year)

Clip Lip
And
Clip Palate
Program
In
Myanmar



Thura Aung (M)
11 Month

Gin Gar Nyaung Gone Group,
Thar Baung Township,
Ayeyarwady Division.
09 493 589 03

6.4

Clip Lip

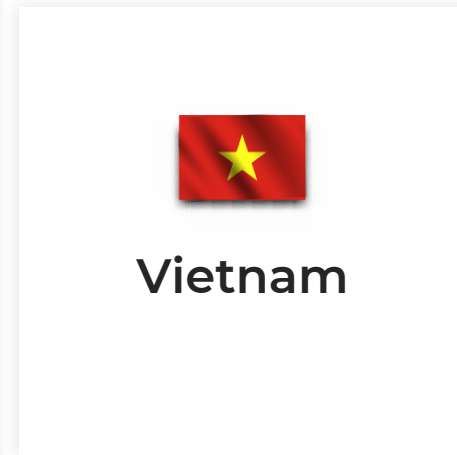


Yangon,
Myanmar



Promoting
operation cleft
in India.







Operation Cleft™

"Gift a smile for life"