

BANGLADESH AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OF WA Inc.

Annual General Report (2011-12)

Nazmus Sadat, General Secretary, BAAWA

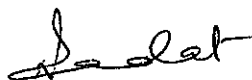
The Bangladesh-Australia Association of Western Australia (BAAWA) Inc. is an incorporated not-for-profit community organization registered under the Association Incorporation Act 1987. The association is secular and not affiliated to any political party. It was founded in 1982 by a small group of enthusiastic Australian citizens/residents of Bangladeshi origin to promote and enhance intercultural understanding and communal harmony. BAAWA's vision is to nurture Bangladeshi culture among the younger generation of Bangladeshi-Australians and promote it to the wider Australian community. In the process, it aims to foster and promote understanding and friendship between Bangladeshi Australians in Western Australia and the rest of the community, including Australians from all other ethnic backgrounds, through the exchange of ideas and culture. BAAWA members have worked tirelessly over the past few decades to contribute to multiculturalism in Australian society through creating awareness of Bangladeshi culture (songs, dance, and drama), sports and food. In this regard, BAAWA hosts a number of multicultural events throughout the year adding colour to Australia's multicultural fabric. In 2011-12, BAAWA had a busy social calendar of various cultural functions, sporting activities, picnic, celebration of various festivals, publication of annual magazine, and interactions with the wider community. BAAWA events are funded by membership subscriptions, government grants, and individual and corporate donations.

The present Executive Committee was elected by the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29 October 2011 at the Woodlupine Community Centre, Forrest field, Western Australia.

BAAWA continues to experience a strong growth in membership, and in the scope and scale of various social, cultural and sporting activities. The following is a brief description of key BAAWA events organised in the last 12 months.

Social Events

- Eid ul Adha/Puja Reunion - Saturday, 12 November 2011 at Woodlupine Community Centre, Forrestfield.
- Picnic and Annual Sports - Sunday 04 December 2011 at Jubilee Oval, City Beach.
- Bangladesh Fair and Bengali New Year 1419 celebration - Sunday 15 April 2012 at Bush Court, Murdoch University, Murdoch
- Drama *Gyanbrikhher Phol* – Saturday 19 May 2012 at John Curtin Theatre, Fremantle
- Life Time Achievement Award to Legendary Singer Firoza Begum – Saturday 23 June 2012 at John Curtin Theatre, Fremantle.
- Eid ul Fitr Reunion - Saturday 25 August 2012 at Lesmurdie Hall, Lesmurdie
- Annual Concert – Saturday 22 September 2012 at Hadley Hall, Methodist Ladies College, Claremont.



Commemoration of Bangladeshi national days

- Victory Day of Bangladesh and BBQ – Friday 16 December 2011 at Beeliar Community Centre, Beeliar.
- International Mother Language Day - Sunday 26 February 2012 at Woodlupine Community Centre, Forrestfield.
- Independence Day of Bangladesh- Saturday 25 March 2011 at Amherst Village Community Centre, Southern River.

Community assistance events

- Consular Camp by the Bangladesh High Commission in Australia - Saturday 8 September 2012, Moresby Street Hall, Moresby St, South Perth.

Community Assistance to a noble cause

On 17 November 2011, we lost one of our beloved community members, Shah Md Touhiduzzaman, in a tragic road accident on Brand Highway. His wife and 9 month old daughter were seriously injured and hospitalized. Under BAAWA's leadership, community members including members from the eastern states were mobilized to help support his family. Members of the Bangladeshi community in Perth, as well as members from the eastern states, along with the Bangladesh High Commission, Canberra and the Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh in Perth, showed extraordinary generosity and community involvement in raising up a generous amount of money for the family. The Australian High Commission in Bangladesh also responded to BAAWA's request to issue urgent visas to the late Touhid's parents-in-law. BAAWA would like to express its gratitude to all who supported this noble cause.

Shamahar – BAAWA's Annual Publication

This year BAAWA has published its annual publication "Shamahar". It contains 21 articles written by our community members and includes business advertisements to promote local businesses. Thanks to all in the Magazine sub-committee, writers and advertisers for their contribution.

Sports

Besides our Annual Sports in December 2011 BAAWA organized the following sports:

- Cricket
- Badminton,
- Volleyball,
- Auction bridge,
- Soccer
- Lawn Tennis
- Carom
- Table Tennis and
- Chess.



Full details of the various sporting events and their outcomes are provided in the Sports Secretary's Report.

Pathshala Bangla School

Pathshala Bangla School (PBS) has stepped into its third year on 20 September 2012- thanks to all the stakeholders. The School is managed by the Pathshala Bangla School Management Committee (PBSMC). PBSMC is chaired by Professor Abu Siddique and run by a committee of seven members constituted by the Executive Committee of BAAWA under the current arrangement. Dr Nasim Iqbal has been acting as the Registrar and Mr Mintu Haque as the School-in-Charge of the School since its inception. The overall activities of the School are run by the Registrar in consultation with the PBSMC.

The overall performance of the PBS during 2011-12 has been quite impressive. The School currently has 20 students, 6 voluntary teachers (namely, Mr Kamrul Ahmed, Mrs Jahanara Islam, Ms Laboni Omar, Ms Sohela Parveen, Ms Raksinda Sayeed and Ms Anu Sharma) as well as numerous enthusiastic parents and patrons.

The School has not confined its activities to teaching and learning activities alone. Numerous other events were also organised in order to enhance better awareness of the school's activities among parents, teachers, students, and other community members. The events included a BBQ, end of term get-togethers and lunch throughout 2011-12. The PBSMC celebrated the 2nd anniversary of the School with a lunch on 23 September 2012, which was attended by students, parents, teachers and BAAWA executive committee members. The students were awarded with certificates of achievement for their progress in learning Bangla. PBSMC is pleased to report that about 90% of the students successfully completed 8 terms of the School.

The School runs as a self-funding entity currently under the umbrella of BAAWA. Each student pays a fee of \$50 each term, with siblings receiving a 20% discount. During 2011-12 the PBSMC collected \$3775 from fees and spent \$4785. A balance of \$3469 was forwarded from the previous year (2010-11). The following are some activities of the School during 2011-12:

- Students of PBS performed at the annual concerts of BAAWA in both 2011 and 2012
- PBSMC organised a stall at the 2012 Banglar Mela to promote the School
- Since Term 4, 2011, the School is being held in two classrooms for beginners and intermediate levels
- PBSMC has acquired three new volunteer teachers in 2011-12
- The School has purchased two penrite porcelain whiteboards in 2012
- PBSMC has decided to pay a very small honorarium to all participating volunteer teachers in appreciation of their hard work and contribution to the school effort.
- A committee is currently working to finalise a curriculum for the School.

It should be noted here that the expectation of BAAWA was that "the School would be an independent organisation, but would be supported and guided by BAAWA during its first two years" (vide resolution 6, 4th EC Meeting of BAAWA, held on 25 April 2010). This issue needs to be addressed now and if the PBS is to run as an independent entity, details of its structure, principles of management etc. should be left with the newly constituted management committee.

The PBSMC and BAAWA wish to thank students, parents, community members and voluntary teachers for their untiring efforts to make it a success. The chair of the PBSMC wishes to personally thank to Dr Nasim Iqbal, the energetic Registrar of the School, for his selfless and untiring efforts to run the day to day activities of the School as well as to the members of the PBSMC for their invaluable support and contribution to manage the affairs of the School during the last two years.

PBSMC is of the view that the School is now in very good shape and with continuous support from the community members it will be an exemplary institution in the near future.

BAAWA Membership

Total Member at present: 317

Number of Members at the end of 2010-11: 279

BAAWA website

Wed address: <http://www.baawa.org> . Dotmix has sponsored the website. Tasneemul Galib Amit administered the web site. Thanks to Amit for his effort and Dotmix for sponsoring.

BAAWA Storage Shed

BAAWA has a storage shed at Mr. Mintu Haq's property in Wattle Grove where reusable items are stored.

BAAWA music system

BAAWA owned its own music system which was successfully used at various events. Thanks to all those who volunteered as sound technicians especially Shibly Hassan.

Finance and Budget:

Full details of BAAWA financial statement 2011-12 are reported in Treasurer's Report.

Sponsorships

BAAWA has been successful in obtaining grants from a number of government organizations, universities and corporate bodies. These include Lotterywest, Curtin University, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University. The grants have been invaluable in supporting BAAWA activities such as the Annual Concert, Bangladesh Fair and the sound system.

The Sports Secretary in his report will acknowledge names of the BAAWA members who have donated money or sponsored prizes in various sports events.

Acknowledgements

BAAWA gratefully acknowledges the generous help and support of the following organizations, businesses and groups of individuals. The people who helped us are far too many to list individually in

this annual report; we gratefully acknowledge their selfless help, dedication and service for BAAWA during its various functions and activities:

1. Lotterywest
2. Office of Multicultural Interests
3. Curtin University of Technology
4. Murdoch University
5. Edith Cowan University
6. The Honorable Ed Dermer, Member of the Legislative Council
7. Mr. Graham Droppert, Honorary Consul General, Government of Bangladesh
8. Members of the various BAAWA sub-committees, including the Cultural, Constitution Review, Food, Annual Sports and Picnic, Bangla School and Bangladesh Fair sub-committee.
9. Ausbangla Enterprise, Holly Indian Groceries, Bengal Groceries, Pharmacy 777 Nollamara and South Lake, Dotmix and Mahi's Homeloans & Financial Services.
10. Various individuals who has been involved in organizing in Bangladesh Fair 2012 and Annual Concert 2012, including the performers, their parents, MCs, choreographers, volunteers, etc.

Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the help of all who helped us with food preparation and serving in various BAAWA functions, including the Annual Concert, Bangladesh Fair, Annual Sports and Picnic, Eid/Puja reunions and other occasions. Without their help, these events could have not been as enjoyable social gatherings as they were.

Conclusion

BAAWA is a voluntary community organization run on the time, effort and goodwill of members involved. While we note with great pleasure and pride that 2011-12 has been another eventful and productive year for BAAWA, we acknowledge that we can improve our standards further. The various social, cultural and sporting activities of the community make it one of the most active and dynamic community organizations in Western Australia and we are eager to further improve the running of the organization. We urge our members to be more proactive and constructively contribute any suggestions they may have. We are grateful for the love and support of our community members towards making BAAWA an effective and harmonious organization. We wish all community members another happy and productive year ahead. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sadat', is written over the text of the conclusion.