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	BANGLADESH AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
	A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SINCE 1982
	15 Timbrell Way, Leeming, WA 6149, Tel: 0439 974 038, Email: President@baawa.com.au
	ABN: 46 446 858 132

General Secretary's report

BAAWA Annual General Meeting 2015

Kardinya Community Hall, Kardinya - 10 October 2015

Bangladesh–Australia Association of Western Australia was founded in 1982 by Bangladeshi residents living in Perth. The Bangladesh-Australia Association of Western Australia (BAAWA) Inc. is a registered, not-for-profit community organization serving Bangladeshi Australians living in Western Australia. BAAWA serves to nurture the cultural identity of Bangladeshi Australians in WA and at the same time helps to integrate them with the wider Australian community in the spirit of multiculturalism. In the last 33 years we have seen a vast growth in our community; from few Bangladeshi families to a well-established and vibrant community in WA. BAAWA has catered the recreational needs of the growing Bangladeshi community in Western Australia by organising sports and games, cultural events, social events etc.

The following are the key BAAWA events organised in the last 12 months:

Cultural and Social Events

1. Eid ul Adha/Puja Reunion – Saturday 11 October 2014 at Bentley Community Centre, Nyamup Way, Bentley
2. Picnic and Annual Sports – Sunday 16 November 2014, Woodman Point Recreation Reserve, Munster
3. Bangladesh Fair and Bengali New Year 1422 celebration – Sunday 19 April 2015 at Bush Court, Murdoch University, Murdoch
4. Natok "Konjoos" – Saturday 23 May 2015 at John Curtin College of the Arts, 90 Ellen Street, Fremantle
5. Eid ul Fitr Reunion – Saturday 25 July 2015 at Lynwood Wandarrah Hall, Edgeware Street, Lynwood.
6. Annual Cultural Show – Saturday 19 September 2015 at Rixon Theatre, Penrhos College, Como.
7. Eid ul Adha Reunion – Saturday 26 September 2015 at Kardinya Community Hall, Kardinya

Commemoration of the national days Bangladesh

1. Victory Day celebration, Friendly Soccer match, Cultural night & Kid's Art Competition – Sunday 14 December 2014 at Kardinya Community Hall, Kardinya.
2. Celebration of International Mother Language Day & Kid's debate competition – Saturday 28 February 2015 at Cockburn Youth Centre (Main Hall), 25 Wentworth Parade, Success.

Community Assistance Events

1. Consular Camp by the Bangladesh High Commission in Australia – 11-14 June 2015 at The Agonis – Carson Room, 2232 Albany Highway, Gosnells, WA 6110.
2. Community Iftar Mahfil – 12 July 2015 at Murdoch Worship Centre, Murdoch University, Murdoch

Commendations and Recommendations for Cultural Events

BAAWA Cultural Subcommittee very successfully organized various cultural events. The team organised cultural events in Bangladesh Fair, Victory Day Celebration, Eid Reunion and in Annual Cultural show during 2014-15. The subcommittee displayed and demonstrated excellent team work, passion, skills and professionalism in their works. They also guided our young talents to show an excellent performance in those programs.

Banglar Mela/Bangladesh fair has grown bigger and better over the last few years, and has become the biggest public event of BAAWA where more than thousand people were attracted from Bangladesh community and other communities. The day long program started with traditional Mongol Shovajatra and was the platform for our aspiring cultural talents to show what they are capable off. Kid's art competition was held during the interval of the cultural program in Banglar Mela and a large number of kids participated in that art competition. There were some fun games during the interval.

Bangla Natok 'Konjoos' directed by Bapi Mazhar was staged in the state-of-the-art performing arts centre at John Curtin College of the Arts, Fremantle. That particular drama had a history of being staged in Bangladesh more than 600 times. By staging the drama in Perth by local artists, BAAWA become part of that legendary history. The artists' performances were commended by the audience thanks to their talent, dedication and hard work.

BAAWA also organised a debate competition participated by our future leaders. Kid's participated in that debate on a contemporary issue and showed us their skill in such debates. That program was unique in nature and organised for the first time which was a huge success.

A spectacular BAAWA Annual Cultural show 2015 was held this year. We were overwhelmed by large audience presence in the full house event. Thanks perthbashi to come in large numbers, your presence made the event a colourful and successful one!

Thanks BAAWA Cultural secretary Kamrul Ahmed, Assistant cultural secretaries Bapi Mazhar & Doyel Sahreen Khaleque for your efforts to make this event successful. You were instrumental in your works since early this year and spent lot of time organising events, rehearsals, scripting etc. The amount of load you had to bear for this cultural program just cannot be described in words. Thanks to you all for your love to Bangladesh Culture, arts, music which made it possible to present such a gala night.

Pathshala Bangla School performed national anthems of Bangladesh & Australia. I am pretty sure; their melodious voices touched us all. A large number of kids participated in the group songs, dance and fashion show: Anonya Sharma, Promi, Tanisha, Adib, Ariz, Mehvish, Maliha, Raisa, Raha, Adib, Adiba, Ariyan, Elora, Faiza, Promiti, Shahnaila, Sharaf, Shadward, Safin, Sahil, Tamid. Their colourful dresses glittered all Rixon Theatre that night. Surjoprovo Mazhar's solo song with piano was spectacular event! It definitely touched Bangladeshi and foreigners alike.

Tanmoy Debnath's mellifluous song with polish attire was a mirror of our modern contemporary music. Amit & Swarna were admired for their harmonious voices. Together you showed us again why Bangladesh is so rich in music. With their voices, many audiences got back to our golden era of music.

The energetic performance by Absolutely Bollywood was well entertained by all audience particularly the youngsters. The group is well known to Bangladeshis already. Their seamless performance with heartthrob music took us in the realm of Bollywood. Thanks Doyel Shahreen Khaleque for her tireless effort to lead the team. Dance Battle was between East or West tussle where Shehab, Deepak, Pranto, Sami, Kinjal, Farhana, Mitali & Silvee were all winner. Thanks to their relentless and perky effort which touched us all.

Perthbashi got the flavour of Bangladeshi band songs from the duo Rashed & Towsif. Rashed's enchanting voice with Towsif's vibrant guitar took the audience to their youthful university days!! Our well known performers Pasha, Afnan, Polash, Romel, Arif, Nabeel, Roni, Muammer, Moonmoon were praised for their lively acting in the skit. With the time passed, the skit got more juice in it. It was well entertained by both Bangladeshi elders and kids. All is well that ends well; thanks to Moonmoon's ultimate appearance and save the victim!!

The group song which was sang by Deepa, Romel, Ishita, Swarna & Mithu are famous Perthbashi faces and well known for their talents. Together they made a tremendous presentation of Bangladesh culture. It was well supported by colourful pictures of our native Bangladesh. The song's choreography was praised by all audiences.

Our Emcees: Avishek Barua, Tasnuva Khalek & Sumaiya Ahmed were lauded for their lively presence during the whole show. The background staff consists of: Skit and light & sound coordinator Bapi Mazhar, Backstage coordinator Arif Qureshi, stage supporters Fiyaz, Samy, Pranto, Audio Video coordinator Meehan Kathan, Pathshala Bangla School coordinator Jahanara Islam Mimi, Fashion Show & Dance coordinator Silvee, Tania Urmees, Tuli, Group song coordinator Deepa, Shaoli Mazhar, food prepared by Lina and Chobi bhabi.

Perthbashi also enjoyed the show of Paul Shearer & Julian Van Rhee, performers of Romanian Dance Group, Chung Wah Association, Wadumbah Dance group, Absolutely Bollywood.

BAAWA EC members worked like a team, well done!

Some feedbacks from our guests: Our chief Guest Mr. Matt Taylor, MLA for Bateman who had a long day due to Canning by-election event stayed until the last event. He expressed his satisfaction of the program and wanted to participate in any future BAAWA programs we organise. Few non-Bangladeshi guests who wanted to leave during break-time reconsidered and stayed till the end of the program, thanks to a vibrant cultural night.

Sports

BAAWA sports team led by Sports Secretary Shakil Ahmed, assistant Sports Secretary Shehab Haque organised regular sports activities throughout the year. They organised Cricket, soccer, badminton, Volleyball, Auction Bridge competition and different sports at the picnic. This year they were unable to organise Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis & Chess tournament due to lack of interest from the community. I am sure, BAAWA will try to organise those tournaments in future.

BAAWA Sports team this year worked together with Australian Soccer Federation and sold tickets for FIFA World Cup Qualifying match between Socceroos & Bangladesh which was held in NIB stadium in Perth.

Pathshala Bangla School

Bangla School formally opened on 22 August, 2010. The School aims to impart knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking and basic numeracy in Bangla, along with an introduction to Bangladeshi culture, people, geography and history, all within an enjoyable, play-based setting that is attractive to children. Currently classes are being held every Sunday afternoon during the Western Australian Primary School term at the Canning Vale Community Centre. The school is non-profit and self-funding, with a nominal fee being charged from each student to cover the costs of venue hire and learning materials. So far, the response and interest from the community have been exceptional. The school is managed by BAAWA through a school sub-committee headed by Dr. Nasim Iqbal as convenor. Other members in the committee are Md Wahiduzzaman Khan Nipu, Kamrul Ahmed, Dr. Muhammed Ali, Nazmus Sadat Shibly, Anu Sharma, Maksud Zaman, Dr Prabir Kumar Sarker, Laboni Omar and Dr Fiaz Shaikh Rubel. Current teachers are Anu Sharma, Jahanara Islam Mimi, Kazi Johora Islam and Sharmistha Saha.

The Bangla School is very proud that its students presented the national anthems of Bangladesh and Australia at the BAAWA Annual Concert for last several years, and also participated in the other programs like Banglar Mela. The school continues to be fully self-funded with the help of a small fee per term charged from each student to cover the hire of the class venue and other running costs.

We thank everyone in the community, the parents, and our volunteer teachers for supporting our school. We need your continued support and help to run the school, which is such an essential link for our younger generation to nurture their cultural heritage.

BAAWA Membership

Total Member at present: 366

Number of Members last year: 342

Finance and Budget

Full details of BAAWA financial statement 2014–15 will be presented by the Treasurer.

Sponsorships

BAAWA executive committee maintained relationship and received funds from a number of government organizations, universities and businesses. These include Lotterywest, Department of Sports and Recreation, Murdoch University and Curtin University. These grants and sponsorships were invaluable in supporting BAAWA activities.

We also received handsome donations and sponsorships from the local and interstate community businesses namely Ausbangla Enterprise, Holly Indian Grocery and Alvina's Collection.

BAAWA Web page: www.baawa.org.au

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/baawa>

Acknowledgements

BAAWA is a community organisation which is run by volunteers. I am very fortunate that I had the opportunity to work with a very skilled, hardworking, talented and efficient team in the last twelve months. I like to especially thank BAAWA President Sabbir Hussain, Vice President Naweed Omar, AGS Wahid Khan Nipu, Cultural Secretary Kamrul Ahmed, Sports Secretary Shakil Ahmed, Treasurer Morshedul Hasan, Social Welfare & Communication Secretary Syed Muzaffar Ahmed, Assistant Cultural Secretaries Bapi Mazhar, Assistant Cultural Secretary Doyel Khaleq, Assistant Sports Secretary Shehab Haque and ex-officio members Dr. Nasim Iqbal & Dr. Ruhul Amin Salim for their hard work.

On behalf of BAAWA Executive Committee 2014–15 I like to extend our hearty thanks to the following individuals and groups of people for their generous and selfless support.

Mr. Peter Abetz, MLA, Member for Southern River, WA Legislative Assembly

Mr Matt Taylor, MLA, member for Bateman, WA Legislative Assembly

Mr. Graham Droppert, Honorary Consul General in Western Australia, Bangladesh High Commission

Nineta Barbulescu, Romanian Ambassador to Australia & New Zealand

Members of BAAWA executive committee 2014-15 as well as the Cultural, Food, Annual Sports and Picnic, Pathshala Bangla School, Constitution Amendment, Bangladesh Fair and Annual Concert sub-committees.

Volunteers and coordinators who were involved in organising various events specifically Bangladesh Fair 2015, sports events, Natok and Annual Cultural show 2015 including the participants, performers, their parents, Emcees and choreographers.

Conclusion

While we note with great pleasure and pride another eventful and productive year for BAAWA, we acknowledge that we can improve our standards further. In the last one year, few new Bangladeshi families have come to Western Australia and join BAAWA. It is a crucial period which requires congeniality, tolerance and team effort from all its members to prevent the fragmentation which has occurred in so many larger Bangladeshi communities elsewhere. Large community participation in the various social, cultural and sporting activities arranged by BAAWA made 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 all our community members towards making our BAAWA an effective and harmonious organization. We wish all community members another happy and productive year ahead.

Thank You.



Sharif Ahmed
General Secretary, BAAWA Inc.