



BANGLADESH AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SINCE 1982

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Report of the General Secretary BAAWA Annual General Meeting 2014 South Perth Community Hall, South Perth - 21 September 2013

Assalamualaikum. Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

BAAWA was founded in 1982 by residents from Bangladesh in Perth. In the last 32 years we have seen a vast growth in our community and BAAWA has catered the recreational needs of Bangladeshi community in Western Australia. In 2013 – 2014 BAAWA Executive Committee organised 20 cultural, social and sports events including Annual Sports and Picnic, Banglar Mela and Annual Concert. The cultural team headed by Tasneemul Galib Amit and assisted by Arif Qureshi and Shibly Hassan has again displayed excellence in planning, organising and managing BAAWA cultural events and days of National significance for expatriate Bangladeshis. On financial side BAAWA executive committee has also maintained a strong account which will be explained in full detail in the Treasurer's report. BAAWA Sports Secretary Khandker Rahman Shampad and Assistant Sports Secretary Dr Shakil Ahmed quietly achieved their target with the help of lots of selfless volunteers. Sports subcommittee member Mustofa Basher Raju again was instrumental in getting a handsome fund from the Department of Sports and Recreation for kid's cricket training.

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

Cultural and Social Events

1. Eid ul Adha/Puja Reunion - Saturday 26 October 2013 at Kardinya Hall, Murdoch
2. Picnic and Annual Sports - Sunday 8 December 2013, Hinds Reserve / Riverside Gardens, Bayswater
3. Bangladesh Fair and Bengali New Year 1421 celebration - Sunday 13 April 2014 at Bush Court, Murdoch University, Murdoch
4. Natok "Chirkumar Shobha" - Saturday 24 May 2014 at John Curtin College of the Arts
5. Eid ul Fitr Reunion - Saturday 2 August 2014 at South Perth Community Hall, South Perth
6. Annual Concert – Saturday 6 September 2014 at Rixon Theatre, Penrhos College, Como.

Commemoration of the national days Bangladesh

1. Victory Day – Sunday 15 December 2013 at Jones Lecture Theatre, Curtin University
2. International mother language day – Saturday, 22 February 2014 at Cockburn Youth Centre, Success
3. Independence Day - Saturday 22 March 2013 at Jones Lecture Theatre, Curtin University.

Community Assistance Events

1. Consular Camp by the Bangladesh High Commission in Australia - 14 & 15 June 2014 at Amherst Village Community Centre, Southern River
2. BAAWA Iftar-Dinner Party - 4th August 2014 at Murdoch Worship Centre, Murdoch University, Murdoch

Commendations and Recommendations for Cultural Events

BAAWA Cultural Subcommittee very successfully organized various cultural events. The subcommittee displayed and demonstrated excellent team work, passion, skills and professional delivery. The team organised 10 events in total in 2013-14 which also put lots of pressure of the team members who were involved.

Despite the hard work and dedication of BAAWA cultural team and the significance of some days few events were unsuccessful in attracting a good size audience such as Independence Day and Victory Day. Thus, the future executive committee may consider organising one single grant event accommodating the significance of Independence Day, International Mothers Language Day and Victory Day.

Banglar Mela/Bangladesh fair has grown bigger and better over the last few years, and has become the biggest free public event of BAAWA. Thus care should be taken both in organising it and selecting performers. Preparation should start six months before the event date.

Bangla Natok 'Chirokumar Shobha' director Mazharul Islam and the 16 performers were commended by the audience for their talent, dedication and hard work. However, the story was unable to retain more than half of the audience after the first half. It is my recommendation that Natok should not be a regular event of BAAWA calendar in near future and should be on a contemporary topic for a while. Considering the size of our community it should be in smaller venues and should also subject to external funding.

BAAWA Annual Concert 2014 was praised by most community members along with the invited guests and Tasneemul Galib Amit was highly praised for his ability to portray the classic and rich culture of Bangladesh. Especially the acknowledgement of this event in the WA State Parliament by Mr Taylor MLA was an honour for BAAWA.

Sports

BAAWA sports team organised 10 events in the financial year of 2013-14. Sports Secretary Khandker Rahman Shampad will present full details of these events in the Sports Secretary's Report.

Pathshala Bangla School

Pathshala Bangla School has stepped into its fifth year on 20 September 2014 - the school is a self-funded initiative of BAAWA to impart Bangla language and numeracy skills to children of Bangladeshi Australians living in WA. It is managed through a management committee consisting of Mohammed Ali (Chair), Faiz Shaikh Rubel (Registrar), Nasim Iqbal, Prabir Sarker, Anu Sharma, Md Zayedur Rahman, Kamrul Ahmed, and Nazmus Sadat Shibli.

Notable achievements of the school in the last one year include: (1) the completion of a standardized curriculum consisting of ten modules (2) the use of individualized lesson plans and work plans in each class (3) the strengthening of the teaching pool with the recruitment

of an additional three volunteer teachers and (4) the use of a teacher roster with relief pool to ensure adequate number of teachers are always available at each class.

Currently, the school has seven volunteer teachers: Jahanara Islam, Anu Sharma, Kamrul Ahmed, Sohela Silvee, Sharifa Tusmin, Ali Hossain, and Sharmistha Saha. We take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Mrs Laboni Omar for her central role in establishing the school.

The School's student enrolments have varied from 8 to 14 students per term this year. While we would like student numbers to increase, we also recognize that parents may have other commitments and priorities, especially on Sunday afternoons when the classes are held. Accordingly, we will look into the possibility of holding the classes on Sunday mornings, subject to parents' interest and availability of class room venue.

Among other activities, the school held an Open Day with refreshments for interested parents and their children to attend the beginning of the school term. The Bangla School is very proud that its students presented the national anthems of Bangladesh and Australia at the BAAWA Annual Concert for the fourth year running, and also participated in the dance drama at this year's Concert. Special thanks to BAAWA Cultural Secretary Tasneemul Galib Amit, Jahanara Islam, Anu Sharma and all parents for their enthusiasm and hard work in this regard.

The school continues to be fully self-funded with the help of a small fee of \$50 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: 342

Number of Members last year: 312

Finance and Budget

Full details of BAAWA financial statement 2013-14 will be reported 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 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, Mahi's Home Loans & Financial Services, Sevenoaks Halal Butcher, TJ Group and Blue River Financial Services Pty Ltd. A very warm thank you to Wahid Khan Nipu, Managing Director and Senior Financial Advisor of Blue River Financial Services Pty Ltd (accredited by AMP Financial Planning) for sponsoring an extravagant prize of two airline tickets to Bali from Perth in our raffle draw during Annual Concert.

Sports Secretary Khandker Rahman Shampad will acknowledge names of BAAWA members who have donated money or sponsored prizes in various sports events.

BAAWA Honorary membership

Barrister Graham Droppert, Honorary Consul-General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Western Australia, has been recognised as the first honorary member of BAAWA for his years of service to Bangladesh in the 2nd executive committee meeting on Sunday 9th March 2014.

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 Associate Professor Ruhul Salim, AGS Wahid Khan Nipu, Cultural Secretary Tasneemul Galib Amit, Sports Secretary Khandker Rahman Shampad, Treasurer Morshedul Hasan, Communication and Social Welfare Secretary Deepon Kar, Assistant Cultural Secretary Arif Qureshi, Assistant Cultural Secretary Shibly Hassan Assistant Sports Secretary Dr Shakil Ahmed and ex-officio member Nazmus Sadat Shibli for their hard work.

On behalf of BAAWA Executive Committee 2013-14 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

Ms Liz Behjat MLC, Member for North Metropolitan region, WA Legislative Assembly

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

Members of BAAWA executive committee 2013-14 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 2014, sports events, Natok and Annual Concert 2014 including the participants, performers, their parents, MCs and choreographers.

Conclusion

BAAWA Executive Committee 2013-14 organised 20 cultural, social and sports events successfully and efficiently last year. BAAWA is as strong now as ever due to selfless supports of many admirable individuals which were evident in planning, organising and management of every event in the last twelve months especially in cultural and sports events. I like to finish thanking those individuals whom I missed to mention by name but you are the gem of our community.

Thank You.

Signature, _____

Signature, _____

Dr Nasim Iqbal, General Secretary, BAAWA Inc.

Associate Professor Ruhul Salim, President, BAAWA Inc.