

46th BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



March 26, 2016

COMMEMORATIVE
ISSUE



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland



My Golden Bengal – National Anthem of Bangladesh



বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় সংগীত

আমার সোনার বাংলা, আমি তোমায়
ভালোবাসি।

চিরদিন তোমার আকাশ, তোমার বাতাস,
আমার প্রাণে বাজায় বাঁশি ॥

ও মা, ফাগুনে তোর আমের বনে ঘ্রাণে পাগল
করে,

মরি হয়, হয় রে

ও মা, অঘ্রাণে তোর ভরা ক্ষেতে আমি কী
দেখেছি মধুর হাসি ॥

কী শোভা, কী ছায়া গো, কী স্নেহ, কী মায়্যা
গো--

কী আঁচল বিছায়েছ বটের মূলে, নদীর কূলে
কূলে।

মা, তোর মুখের বাণী আমার কানে লাগে
সুধার মতো,

মরি হয়, হয় রে--

মা, তোর বদনখানি মলিন হলে, ও মা, আমি
নয়নজলে ভাসি ॥

My Golden Bengal

My Bengal of gold, I love you

Forever your skies, your air

Set my heart in tune as if it were a flute.

In spring, O mother mine, the fragrance
from your mango groves Makes me
wild with joy

Ah, what a thrill!

In autumn, O mother mine,
In the full-blossomed paddy fields,
I have seen spread all over
sweet smiles!

Ah, what a beauty, what shades, what an
affection And what a tenderness!

What a quilt have you spread
at the feet of banyan trees
And along the banks of rivers!

Oh mother mine, words from your lips
Are like nectar to my ears!

Ah, what a thrill!

If sadness, Oh mother mine,
casts a gloom on your face,
My eyes are filled with tears!

Bengal of Gold, I love you.



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

46th Independence Day Celebration

5:00 PM – 11:00 PM



Start Time	End Time	Duration
5:00 PM	5:10 PM	Check in MC - Papia Huque
5:11 PM	5:14 PM	Surah Recitation from Quran
5:15 PM	5:20 PM	National Anthem - Katrina and Marjiah
5:20 PM	5:22 PM	MC - RIMA FA and TANIA RAHMAN
5:23 PM	5:33 PM	Key Note Speaker - Dr. Shafiqur Rahman
5:34 PM	5:35 PM	MC
5:36 PM	5:41 PM	Song - Akh Sagorer Rakhter Binimoy - Marjiah Ahmed
5:42 PM	5:48 PM	Dance - Bangladesher Shadhinata Lakho Paner Dun-Ridwanul Islam
5:49 PM	5:54 PM	Kids Dance - Karar Oiye Lauho Kopath - Directed by Shawon Huq
5:55 PM	6:00 PM	Poem - Independence - Recitation by Rawshan Ara
6:02 PM	6:07 PM	Dance - by Raida
6:08 PM	6:09 PM	MC
6:10 PM	6:20 PM	Song - by Moutushi Tanjia Zakir
6:22 PM	6:37 PM	Song - by Munir Islam
6:40 PM	6:55 PM	Song - Lubna Anwar and Mehedi Hasan
7:00 PM	7:10 PM	Song - Nazma Zaman
7:11 PM	7:14 PM	MC - Zahra and Nazah Ahsan
7:15 PM	7:50 PM	Dance Performance – Abar Ashibe Phire-Directed by Ranga Monzur
7:51 PM	7:55 PM	MC - Thank you to all our Sponsors. Members and Donors
7:55 PM	8:55 PM	Dinner Intermission
9:00 PM	9:01 PM	MC Welcome the President
9:02 PM	9:12 PM	BAC President's Speech
9:12 PM	9:20 PM	President Introduce his current BAC Board members
9:22 PM	9:25 PM	MC - Introduce the Guest Artist - Santoneel Dhar
9:25 PM	10:55 PM	Song - Guest Artist from New York - Singer Santoneel Dhar
11:00 PM		End of the celebration



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন অফ শিকাগোল্যান্ড

Established 1980. Non-Profit IRS Tax ID# 36-3660036



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ruknul Islam, President
Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

Today is March 26. It is very important day in Bangladesh history and also to all Bangladeshi living abroad. On this day Bangladesh declared to be liberated from the tyranny rule of Pakistan, wanted to be independent and live with dignity and liberty, as an independent country. I salute to all the men and women sacrificed their lives for the independence of Bangladesh. We will never forget them.

We are now living in the USA, a great example for mankind how everybody feels to live in a free world, free and as an independent country. This is a country so diverse in culture, so many different societies living together. This country runs in a political and social system, protected by the Constitution. As a Bangladeshi American we can hope and pray, Bangladesh will function under a political system, use all resources and talents to become a vibrant economic power in the Asian region and eventually in the whole world. It's not too far away when Bangladesh will become an economic power in the world.

Today Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland (BAC) is moving forward with a mission in mind. BAC will be more effective and pro-active in our community bonding friendship and also be engaged in the mainstream activities. We have to reach-out to all societies and cultures. For 35 years, BAC is providing community service, promoting Bangladeshi heritage and facilitated cultural exchange by sponsoring social events and activities in the Chicagoland area in various ways. Our vibrant Bangladeshi American community always makes significant contributions to the cultural and economic life in this great City of Chicago and surrounding areas.

BAC will be involved in lot of charity works, such as, collecting clothes, foods and toys etc. in our upcoming events to provide supports for our local needy community members in the Chicagoland area. Also, BAC has a plan to help out in the fall, Bank of America marathon. We are going to stage a fund raising event at the end of this year. It will be very helpful for the future of BAC. Please watch for the date. I urge all of you here today to help BAC in its noble cause to succeed in this endeavor. Please support us to be competitive in this highly skilled society.

For BAC to be competitive in this society, we have to be big, we have to be financially solvent and we have to have stronger manpower. These three criteria will give us stronger voice in this society to tackle any issues.

BAC is dedicated to promoting friendships and mutual understanding among its members and others in the community. BAC seeks to preserve and enhance Bangladeshi culture by organizing cultural and educational activities for the community.

BAC is an organization committed to helping businesses, immigrants, visitors and students from Bangladesh and other country to acclimate to the American way of life and system.

Lastly, I request all of you, please complete and register with BAC so it will give us manpower strength to carry on BAC's mission in the future. Let's be proud of our organization and leave a long lasting impression for our future generation. Thank you for letting me to lead the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland. Long live Bangladesh, Long live U.S.A.

Thank you





Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

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Established 1980. Non-Profit IRS Tax ID# 36-3660036



Board of Directors 2016-2017

President:	Ruknul Islam (773) 791-1182	bod@bacillinois.org president@bacillinois.org
Executive Secretary:	Borhan Ahmen (312) 324-4869	executive@bacillinois.org
Treasurer:	Mohammad Khan (617) 768-7473	treasurer@bacillinois.org
Vice President – Social Affairs:	Farhad Alam (224) 456-4725	vpsocial@bacillinois.org
Vice President – Cultural Affairs:	Papia Huq (773) 653-4731	vpculture@bacillinois.org
Vice President – Public Relations:	Rumpa Ahmed (773) 290-4049	vppublic@bacillinois.org
Vice President – Sports Event:	Syed Parvez Iqbal (347) 443-2915	vpsports@bacillinois.org

Election Committee: 2016 - 2017

Chair	Nurul Ambia Chowdhury	chow517@yahoo.com
Member	Mohammad Shuja Shahriar	ms_shahriar@yahoo.com
Member	Dilara Ahmed (Pinni)	pinniahmed@hotmail.com

Thank
You!

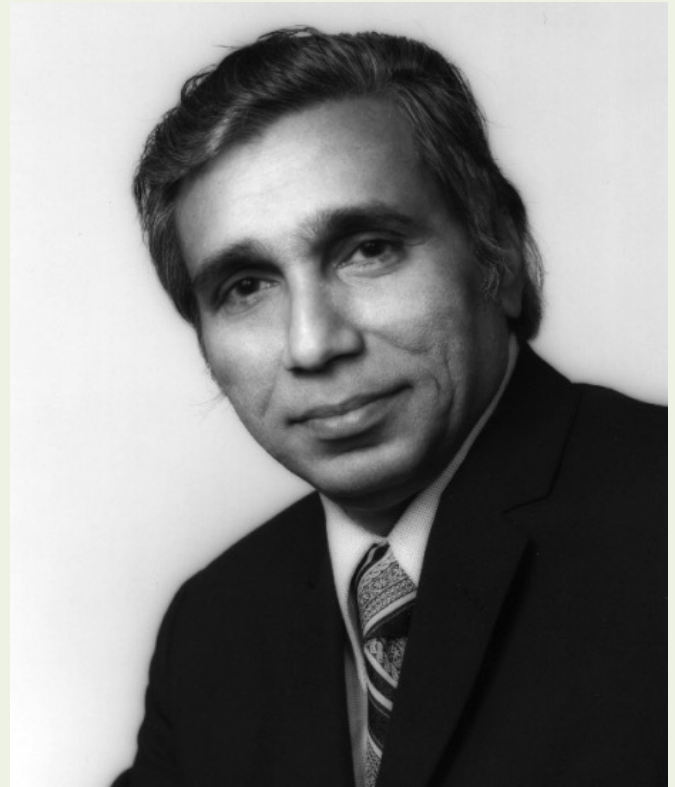


OUR FOUNDING PRESIDENT:

"The technical man must not be lost in his own technology; he must be able to appreciate life, and life is art, drama, music, and most importantly, people." - Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan

Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan was a Bangladeshi American structural engineer and architect who lived and worked in Chicago. He is world renowned for his invention of tubular structural systems and other systems for building skyscrapers. His engineering inventions influenced the design and construction of tall buildings all over the world, including the previous World Trade Center in New York and the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. His most famous buildings in Chicago are the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) and the John Hancock Center.

There are several other buildings in Chicago which were also designed by him. In the U.S., he designed the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Internationally, he designed the award winning Hajj Terminal in King Abdulaziz International Airport in Saudi Arabia. In addition, he designed notable buildings in Bangladesh and Melbourne, Australia.



Dr. Fazlur Rahman Khan

He pioneered the concept of a sky deck or lobby at the top of skyscrapers, and using computers in structural engineering architecture.

He was born on April 3, 1929 in Dhaka, but was brought up in Faridpur. He went to Armanitola Government High School in Dhaka. He did his undergraduate work at the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Calcutta University (formerly Bengal Engineering College) in Shibpur, and received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET - formerly Ahsanullah Engineering College, Dhaka University). He received a Fulbright Scholarship and a Pakistan government scholarship, and came to the U.S. to study at University of Illinois at the Urbana Champaign campus (UIUC). He earned two master's degrees in only three years, one in structural engineering and one in theoretical and applied mechanics. He was employed by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, one of the largest architectural firms in the world, right after and was made partner eleven years later and then general partner. He also went on to receive his PhD in structural engineering. In addition, he received Honorary Doctorates from Northwestern University, Lehigh University and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.

During his career, he received numerous awards and honors for his seminal work in structural engineering. He passed away from a heart attack on March 27, 1982, in Jeddah, and was brought to Chicago for burial. Dr. Khan's personal papers, are held by the Ryerson & Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago. The Fazlur Khan Collection includes manuscripts, sketches, audio cassette tapes, slides and other materials regarding his work.



Proclamation

Presented this 1st day of March 2016

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland is the only democratic organization serving the Bangladeshi community of greater Chicago and Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association is an organization committed to helping immigrants, visitors and students from Bangladesh acclimate to the American way of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association is dedicated to promoting friendships and mutual understanding among its members and others in the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association seeks to preserve and enhance Bangladeshi culture by organizing cultural and educational activities for the community and working together with likeminded organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the Bangladesh Association has enriched the cultural life of Illinois for more than three decades by supporting various cross-cultural activities that have contributed to the social and cultural vitality of Illinois;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, officially recognize and commend the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland on its outstanding service to the Bangladeshi community and our great state.



Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois



RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

March 26, 2016

Dear Friends:

I'd like to express my best wishes to the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland as you celebrate Bangladesh Independence Day.

For more than 35 years the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland has provided community service and promoted Bangladeshi heritage in the Chicagoland area. I appreciate your commitment to cultural exchange while being a unifying force for the Bangladeshi community in Illinois.

Again, my warmest regards to the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Jan Schakowsky
9th District
Illinois



Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.
202-225-2111

March 26, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct honor to congratulate the Bangladesh Association of Chicago (BAC) and the Bangladeshi community as you celebrate your Independence Day. The contributions of Bangladeshi Americans are numerous and the 45th anniversary of the establishment the People's Republic of Bangladesh is an amazing milestone.

The BAC has set an example for community involvement and activism that is truly commendable. The BAC has distributed over tens of thousands of dollars of charitable aid for victims of natural disasters in South Asia, sponsored the first North American Bangladesh Convention, and has successfully advocated for the recognition of Bangladesh Independence Day in Illinois.

Bangladeshis are a vibrant part of our community here in the 9th District and the BAC provides cultural services and conduct events and activities that are vital to the preservation of Bangladeshi identity in America. The BAC's activities are an integral part of helping to foster the inclusive and multicultural fabric of our community. Bangladeshi Americans add yet another unique and special element to the diversity that is the 9th District.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, please accept my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for your continued excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Schakowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

March 26, 2016

Ruknul Islam
President
Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland
P.O. Box 59849
Chicago, IL 60659

Greetings,

As Illinois Secretary of State, I am proud to welcome all guests to this year's Bangladesh Independence Day Celebration for the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland (BAC).

The BAC's annual Bangladesh Independence Day Celebration brings community members together year after year for inspirational words, excellent performances and delicious food. I am honored to share in this celebration with the Bangladeshi-American community as they commemorate the declaration of independence of Bangladesh in 1971. For 35 years, this organization has done wonderful work fostering a climate of international support, economic development, professional networking opportunities and a sense of community for Bangladeshi-American residents here in Illinois.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I would like to congratulate the BAC on celebrating this wonderful occasion and for many years of service to our local Bangladeshi-American community.

Best wishes for a successful event and a bright tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White
Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

March 26, 2016

Mr. Ruknul Islam
President
Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland
Post Office Box 59849
Chicago, Illinois 60659

Dear Mr. Islam:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased to extend warmest greetings to all those gathered to celebrate Bangladesh Independence Day, in honor of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Chicago is proud to have such a vibrant Bangladeshi American community that makes significant contributions to the cultural and economic life of our city. As Chicago has long been a city of many cultures, traditions, and faiths, it is this diversity that has cemented the city's reputation as a true international and cultural hub. Chicago has welcomed people from across the world as neighborhoods have grown into historic communities with thriving families. The Bangladeshi American community continues to play an integral role in Chicagoland's growth.

This auspicious day represents pride and empowerment for Bangladeshis around the world. As you celebrate the Independence of Bangladesh, I join you in honoring the many traditions and accomplishments made by the Bangladeshi American community.

On behalf of the people of Chicago, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable Independence Day celebration and much continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor



CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL—ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-6855/6106

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

COMMITTEES, RULES & ETHICS

LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

PUBLIC SAFETY

SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AUDIT

DEBRA SILVERSTEIN

ALDERMAN, 50TH WARD
PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE
2949 WEST DEVON AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659
TELEPHONE 773-262-1050
FAX 773-381-2970

March 26, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

Congratulations to the Bangladeshi community of the City of Chicago and the 50th Ward on the occasion of 45 years of independence! Since Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971, Bangladeshi-Americans have made a tremendous contribution to our nation, our city and this neighborhood. I would like to congratulate all of the Bangladeshi residents of the 50th Ward, as well as the Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland on this momentous event.

The 50th Ward has a vibrant Bangladeshi community. Their influence on our neighborhood's cultural and social development has been profound. I am very pleased to be able to celebrate Bangladeshi culture and independence together with all of my neighbors. Happy Independence Day to everyone!

Sincerely,

Debra Silverstein
Alderman, 50th Ward



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland (BAC)

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Sahil
Holiday Inn
Fish Corner
Albany Bank
Devon Realty
Radiant IPTV
Najilas Fashion
Al-Amin Grocery
Mithai Restaurant
Bando Khan BBQ
World Fresh Market
Zabiha Meat Market
Regal Jewelry and Sari
Dhaka Fish
Safa Market &
Safa Café & Grill
Shalimar Grocery & Restaurant
Sundarban Grocery & Fish Bazar

Villages Farnaz Islam (Suha)

No Shoes, just dirt.
Nothing flashy, just pieces of cloth.
Chickens roaming around, cows on the side.
Baskets on heads, hands in fields.
Jumping in the lake, to get clean or have a
good time?
He goes out in the waters, looking for a catch.
She prepares to supply the market.
Toiling from the sun to the moon,
Dripping sweat.
But right before the moon,
As the sun is about to say goodbye,
They look out into the distance,
And see the bright yellow and orange stretch
across the sky.
Soft chirping fills their ears.
There's a serene breeze that brushes against
them,
And makes the verdant trees and grass dance.
A moment of breath.

These faraway lands of Bangladesh.
Where they work incessantly to survive,
And provide.
Where nature exhibits its true beauty.
The backbone of the country.
Villages.



FREEDOM and US

Rumpa J. Ahmed
Vice President, Public Relations



Happy Independence Day to everyone living in Chicago. As you know, today is the day that we gained our motherland. Today is the day that we celebrate knowing we have no worry about being conquered.

Getting our freedom was not as easy as it seems. We had to work hard to get what we deserved. Blood was shed, mothers were left childless. Our country is what we stand for no matter what. The freedom fighters did what they could to gain our freedom. Without them we would not be happy as we are today. We would not have been able to speak our own language.

With great pleasure, we are happy to celebrate such achievements. It is a time of happiness when we are to give our gratitude to the ones who sacrificed their lives for our country. To those who left their families; Sons, daughters, mothers, and wives that suffered. Every single person; men or women, child or adult, they helped us gain this freedom. They fought back knowing that the consequences could be death, but they did anything to help us achieve the freedom.

We will forever be grateful that we have your support. As long as we have you, our BAC will thrive. We are glad to have everyone at our side and enjoy our program. It takes us a lot of hard work to put together everything, but in the end we are all happy knowing that you have enjoyed everything we put together.

Thank You

উত্তরাধিকারী

মাহফুজা আলম

অতোটা অধিকার কে দিল তাদের,
বুকের রাজপথ দখল করে বলে এ আমার,
কত কালো রাত্রি একা একা,
জেগে থেকে দেখেছে এ রাজপথ --
অতীত -- বিষন্ন আঁধার,
বন্ঝাবিখুঁক রাত, দেখেছে --
দেখে দেখে -- বুক পেতে দিয়েছে,
নিয়েছে, নিয়েছে শুষে,
বয়ে যাওয়া লাল রক্তের নহর,
রাজপথ, এ রাজপথ - অংশিকারবদ্ধ তাদের কাছে,
যারা তাদের রক্তের চিহ্ন রেখে গেছে বুক,
তাদেরই আগামীর উত্তর পুরুষের কাছে,
অংশিকারবদ্ধ রক্তে ভেজা পতাকার কাছে,
তাই কারো অনায়াস দাবী মানেনা রাজপথ,

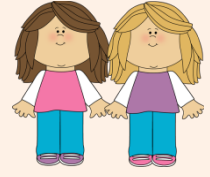
মানবেনা,
এ রাজপথেই আছে শহীদ মিনারের রক্ত সোপান,

সেখানে পা ফেলে দেখো -----

সে সোপানে কান পেতে শোনো --
রক্ত ঝরানো শত শহীদদের আর্তনাদ সম ক্রন্দন,
কে তাদের দিয়েছে অধিকার --
এই রাজপথকে বলে আমার,
সরো, সরে দাড়াও এ দাবী থেকে,
নইলে সেদিনের সেই জাগ্রত অতীত আবার উঠবে জেগে,
প্রতিহত করবেই করবে --- শক্ত হাতে
তাড়াবে তাদের এই রাজপথ থেকে,
তুলে দেবে আবার নতুন করে
রাজপথ তাদের হাতে --
যারা সত্যিকারের উত্তরাধিকারী ---
এ রাজপথের নায্য দাবীদার ।
অতোটা অধিকার কে দিল তাদের,
বুকের রাজপথ দখল করে বলে -
এ আমার ॥

“Looking for Sister”

By Marjia Ahmed



My name is Paris McAndrews. I'm not too fond of my name but I like it. I am getting ready to go to Bangladesh to go see my aunt. She lives in Barisal, but she has plans to go to Dhaka, Bangladesh and stay there until I leave, which is only a week.

I am at the Airport and my plane starts boarding in an hour, do I sit down and look through my phone. I put my earphones in and started listening to a song. I started crying because this song used to be my twin sister's favorite song. Now I don't know what her favorite song is anymore because she was kidnapped and never found. Oh how I miss her. Everyone thinks she is dead but I never lost hoped. My dream is to one day find her.

I just got onto the plane and it is a long trip. I will have to go on two different planes just to get there.

I got on the second plane which will take 7 hours to land. I just listen to music and watch movies the whole flight. When we land I had to go through many security checks until I could go through the gate. As I walk out I see my aunt waving at me with a big smile on her face. I smile back and run to her.

“Paris I haven't seen you in a long time, tomar sathe onek din por dekha holo!” she exclaimed

“ I have to show you everything here. First stop: Fantasy Kingdom.”

“Shouldn't I unpack first?” I ask.

“No.” she answers.

Our journey to Fantasy Kingdom begins there.

We got to Fantasy Kingdom and I saw someone very familiar.

“Khala, will you wait here?” I ask my aunt.

“Tik ase, but do not get lost.” my aunt says wearily.

I walk up to the familiar figure and say “Natasha?” instantly she turns around. It is as if i am face to face to my own reflection. It has been two years since i have seen my sister. As soon as i see her there are tears in my eyes.

“Oh my god! It's you Paris! I haven't seen you in... what... 2 years!” she exclaimed engulfing me in a hug. I found it really funny that her accent hasn't wore off on bit. she is still the same Natasha.

“Paris! Tumi kothai, where are you?” I hear my aunt calling.

“Is that who I think it is? Boro Khala?” Natasha asks.

“Yes and will she be glad to see you.” I say as we walk towards our aunt awaiting our future.

ফুলজানের জবানবন্দি
মোর্শেদা রুমা
(বরিশালের বীরঙ্গনা নারী ফুলজান স্মরণে)

আমার নাম ফুলজান। ছোডবেলায় বাবায় আমারে আদর কইরা ডাকত.....।
ফুলু, ফুলুরে। মাঝে মাঝে আবার ডাকত...গেউদ্যা। হেইদিন কত্ত সুহের আছিল!
আমার না সাদা কইতর আছিল। কানে কান পাশা আর গলায় সাত দানার পুঁছি আছিল।
চুলে রাঙ্গা ফিতা আর ঠোঁট পালিশ দিয়া হারা দিন আমি উইড়া বেড়াইতাম। কিন্তু একদিন কি যে অইলো.....
হারা গেরামে খালি ফিসফিস ফিসফিস। হুনলাম..... ম্যালিটারি না কি জানি আইব। আমি এত কিছু বুঝলাম না।
আমি আর কাঞ্চন পাখির বাসা খুঁইজা বেড়াইতাম বনে বনে.....। হায়! আল্লাহ!
কাঞ্চনের কতা তো আপনাগো কওয়াই অইলনা। হে আছিল আমার পরান.....!
মায় বারে বারে কইত.....। “এহন বড় অইছস ফুলু। অত লাফলাফি বালা না। আর দ্যাশের অবস্থাও ভালা ঠ্যাকতাছিনা”
আমি তহন গুনগুন গুনগুন কইরা গান গাইতাম আর মনে মনে শুধু কাঞ্চনের কতাই ভাবতাম। কেডা হোনে মার কতা?
তয় মার কতা কইল মিছা অয়নায়। হেসম অই চেয়ারম্যানের পোলা আমারে দ্যাহাইয়া কি জানি কইলো।
হেইদিন রাইতেই খট্টাস খট্টাস কইরা একপাল মেলিটারি আইল। আমার সামনে... আমার বাবারে, আমার মায়রে,
আমার ছোডো বুইন রুপজান.....হ্যাগো মাইরা হলাইলো। আমারে ধইরা লইয়া গ্যালো...অত্যাচার করলো, ওহ! কি অত্যাচার!
হেই শুয়োরের দল আমার কোন কতা গায়েই লাগাইলোনা.....। আর দ্যাশ যহন স্বাধীন অইল!
কত্ত জায়গায় একটা কামের লাইগা ঘুইরা বেড়াইলাম...সবাই আমারে থু থু করলো, থু থু.....।
এক বিয়ালে হেই চেয়ারম্যানের পুতেরে খুঁইজা পাইলাম। চিৎকার কইরা হিসাব চাইলাম। হিসাব...।
ফোঁটা ফোঁটা রক্তের হিসাব। কিন্তু অরা আমারে পাগল সাজাইলো, ফুল্লা পাগলী, ফুল্লা.....
কেউ একটু আদর কইরা পাশে বওয়াইয়া এক মুঠো ভাত মুখে তুইলা দেয়না। ক্ষুধার জালায়
আমি মরুভূমির লাহান খাঁ খাঁ করি। মনে হয় তামাম দুনিয়াডারে কচকচ কইরা চাবাইয়া খাই।
এহনও গভীর রাইতে আমি হপ্পন দেহি, দেহি...আমাগো ধলা গাইডারে উত্তরের মাঠ থেইকা কচি কচি ঘাস খাওয়াইতাছি।
আর ধলার বাচ্চাডা কি এক আশ্চর্য আনন্দে মায়ের চারপাশে ঠাই ঠাই কইরা লাফ মারে। আর আমার বুইন.....
রুপজান বাঁধভাঙ্গা নদীর লাহান ছুইটা বেড়ায়...এ বাড়ী থাইকা ওবাড়ী, ও বাড়ী থাইকা এ বাড়ী.....
আর আমার কাঞ্চন.....আমার ভালবাসার পাখিডা এই বুকের পিঞ্জিরার ভেতর ছটফট ছটফট করে...।
হপ্পন গুলান বুকের ভেতর বাইন্দা আমি পইড়া থাকি। কিন্তু ঘুম ভাঙলে দেহি আমার চারপাশে খট্টাস খট্টাস শব্দ।
কি অসহ্য যন্ত্রনা! আমি মুক্তি চাই। আমি ফিরা পাইতে চাই আমার হেই আগের জীবন।
আমারে ফিরাইয়া দ্যাও.....।

A special thank you:

Ali Ahmed and Zubida Ahmed

Mahbubul Kabir and Nila Kabir

for your generous support!



By Ameera



By Mahinur Chowdhury



By Tashima Ahmed, Age 7



Anonymous



By Emily Sarker, Age 14



Anonymous



By: Ishaan & Shiuly
Independence War

শুধু সিরিয়া তে নয়

মানুষ থেকে মানুষ গুলো

কেনও ছোট ছোট প্রাণ গুলোর রক্তহীন সমাপ্তি?

এই ভীষণ অন্যায়, ফাঁসির অপরাধ।

গভীর উপলব্ধি সেতো জ্বলছে দাবানলে

যুদ্ধ শুধু সিরিয়া তে নয় উত্তর- দক্ষিণ, পূব- পশ্চিম গৃহযুদ্ধের বসেছে বাজার!

বৃষ্টি হয়ে নামছে কারা,

সময়টা বড় বেশী প্রতারণক

গোলাগুলি মেতেছে পুতুল খেলায়,

কোমল হাতে কঠিন অস্ত্র

কেনও সাজো নকল মহারাজ।

প্রথম থেকে তৃতীয় সারির গুরুদের

অস্ত্র নিয়ে মুছে যাক মিথ্যা অহঙ্কার,

আর কতো প্রাণ দিলে

যুদ্ধ শব্দ টি পাবে দাপন!

প্রতিটি সকাল হাসুক নীলের সাজে

সবুজ পৃথিবীটা

যা হতে হবে যুদ্ধ হীন।

শিরীন ফজিলেতুন



Freedom not land

by: Emily Sarker

The fight for independence grows
one by one they fall down
In war, there are no friends but foes
and slowly we break down

To serve our country we fight
death exchange for our freedom
blood red dawns and gloomy dark night
one down, two down, kill em

Fellow soldiers at our feet dead
no time to grief for them
no one knows what might lie ahead
war is such great mayhem

months into war we see the light
flickers of good and bad
we move on with all or might
for our country will be glad

great news as war comes to an end
victory at our hand
freedom is now due to spend
at last, freedom expands

Anonymous





P A S T E V E N T P I C T U R E S



Past Events



Past Events



স্বাধীনতা
সে আমার প্রিয় মানুষের রক্তে কেনা
অমূল্য ফসল

✓ A Special thanks to: Ranga Monzur and Monzurul Hoque,
for their sincere support and total dedication to
accomplish BAC's program



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন অফ শিকাগোল্যান্ড

Established 1980. Non-Profit IRS Tax ID# 36-3660036

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Acknowledgement

Amrin
Annie Hassan
Bably Khan
Borhan Ahmen
Emily
Farhad Alam
Farheen
Farnaz
Farzana Ahmen
Inaya
S. Parvez Iqbal
Kamrul Ahmed
Katrina
Lubna Anwar
Monir Islam
Moutusi Tanjia
Nafisa
Nasrin Islam
Naz Akhter
Nazeef
Nishat
Nure Parveen
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Saira Sultana
Faiza Islam
Mouyid Islam (Bipul)
Emon
Shawon Haq
Ehsan
Soma (Shammi Afroze)

Himi
Asif Haq
Mary Chowdhury
Shakil
Shumon
Tishma
Marjia
Trina





Remembering the Memories of the Past - Mouyid Bin Islam

After leaving my motherland, the most adorable memories that come to my mind are my family – father, mother, my siblings and close friends. These memories become more distinct and significant especially on celebrations such as Eid, many cultural festivals, and social and political holidays. In addition, the memories of living in the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) campus in Comilla, makes me want to fly back to those golden moments. Anyone living outside of his or her motherland will agree that those memories back home are always melodious and incomparable to our busy life in the United States (U.S.). How many of us reflect on those childhood memories in the daily monotonous moments abroad? However, the social aspect of life in the foreign countries are about living and enjoying special moments closely with family, relatives, and friends from school and/or college. These social gatherings get more enjoyable and immensely celebratory on big holidays such as Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas day followed by New Year’s Eve in the U.S.

The memories that keep coming back to me during major holidays such as February 21st – International Mother Language Day, March 26th – the Independence Day, and December 16th – the Victory Day, makes me feel like a proud Bangladeshi. When I was a young child, I remember waking up early morning to join the parade (probhat feri) singing the patriotic song – “amar bhai-er rokte rangano – ekushe february, amiki bhuli-te pari.” I still remember my father used to keep us awake in the early morning to walk barefoot with him to join the parade, holding flowers in our tiny small hands and walking around campus until we offered the flowers at the designated monument (similar to “martyr tomb”) inside BARD campus. That day was ironically special to us (my younger sister and I) because I would count time when we would come back home and able to sleep back to compensate for early morning wake-up in the winter month of February. Nonetheless, as I grew up, I started realizing the significance of waking up early morning and holding the flowers to honor the sacrifice of our brave brothers and sisters in 1952 during those protests against the political decisions made by the leaders of West Bengal. I do not think these memories would come back to me till today unless my father, being a freedom fighter of 1971 liberation war, would encourage us from the early age to participate in those great national days. Moreover, living inside BARD, we grew up in a more culturally conscious community that was actively involved in celebrating these events with patriotic songs, dramas, and poems through the participation of people of all ages. Standing at this instant in my life, my memories always keep me conscious about those days and strongly appreciate my father. He taught us that value and appreciation being the next generation of a freedom fighter. In the past, being in the graduate school in the U.S., I tried to attend the cultural rehearsals and complete programs at Purdue campus. I still cherish those great memories back home and here in two different dimensions.

The decisions and opportunities have led us to reinvent our identity being Bangladeshi, our communal strength and cherish our memories in our busy life. Like many other Bangladeshis, I also moved from Bangladesh to start a new chapter in life and embrace the positive change in life by pursuing higher education that leads to a better quality of life. I have noticed the vast differences here in comparison to the life in Bangladesh. In the U.S., people have the mindset that everything can be attained by materialistic attainment, whereas, that is not true in my understanding. I believe there are some things that are undoubtedly priceless in our life. Being able to spend time with family, friends and creating memorable experiences is more important than materialistic gains. Would we not stop for a moment and think progressively?

In order to create a balance between the Bangladeshi and American cultures, we, as a society, have to re-unite people by bringing different generations of people together through our own glorious history. We need to take the necessary steps to implement cultural synthesis by strengthening a collective social value through the effective cultural and social programs. This will enable all people to have an avenue for their individual expressions and participation. We need to become alive with our Bangladeshi cultural songs, dances, dramas, parades and food stalls for all to see and enjoy and become unified through well-organized programs by Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland.



Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন অফ শিকাগোল্যান্ড

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SAVE THE DATE

Invites you to join us on April 30th 2016 (Saturday) for

POHELA BAISHAKH Celebrations

Time: 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Place: Devonshire Cultural Center,
4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, IL 60076

VARIOUS TYPES OF **FREE FOOD**

LOCAL AND GUEST ARTISTS WILL PERFORM

Time: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm Ticket: \$14 (12 years & up)
\$10 (8 to 12 years) under 8 free

For more Information: Please contact:

Papia Huq: (773) 653-4731

Farhad Alam: (224) 456-4725

Rumpa Ahmed: (773) 290-4049

পুহেলা বাইশাখ





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- i. Independence Day Commemoration (Mar 26, 2016)
- ii. Pohela Boishakh Celebration (Apr 30, 2016)
- iii. Ramadan month – Iftar Party (Jun 25, 2016)
- iv. BAC Annual Picnic (Aug 07, 2016)
- v. Bijoy Dibosh Observance (Dec 17, 2016)



BBO





BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGOLAND

বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন অফ শিকাগোল্যান্ড

P.O. Box 59849, Chicago, IL 60659

www.bacillinois.org

email: bod@bacillinois.org

PayPal ID: bachicagoland@gmail.com

Established 1980 - Non-profit IRS Tax ID# 36-3660036



Membership advantages:

- members get discount on admission tickets
- voting in Special Meetings
- voting for new Board Members during election,
- it gives the members the ownership of the Organization.
- by joining BAC gives the strength to participate in the mainstream programs, so we can help in various causes

Please check: New member? _____ Renewal? _____

Membership is renewable annually by January 31st. New membership enrollment is open all year. Please fill out form, including the fee and donation schedule below and enclose your payment of cash or check or pay by PayPal or mail to the address above. If mailing, please do not send cash. Checks should be made payable to BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGOLAND. If paying in person please submit to an officer of the Board.

(PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS)

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

- ❖ Would you be willing to volunteer for programs and activities of the association? _____ Yes _____ No
- ❖ If yes, which of these areas would be of interest to you?
Program production _____ Table Support/Sales _____

Schedule of Fees and Donation		
Membership	Fees	Enclosed
Individual	\$10.00	
Individual & Spouse	\$20.00	
Donation		
Sponsor \$250-\$499.....		
***Patron >\$500.....		
Total		

**Please donate Generously!
Your Donations are Tax deductible!**

*****Patrons who donates \$500 or more each year recieves free entry to all events organized by BAC for two people.**

Signature _____ Date _____

..... Tear here and retain for your records for tax deduction purposes.....



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Donation amount: _____

Date: _____

**On behalf of BAC Board Members, we
Thank to all our Members for their
Donations!**

BEAUTIFUL BANGLADESH-FEW ATTRACTIONS



Jafong, Sylhet



Nafakhum Waterfall, Bandarban



Kuakata Sea Beach, Patuakhali



Sajek Valley, Rangamati



Nilgiri Resort, Bandarban



Shuknachara Falls, Rangamati



Raikhong Lake, Pukuarpara, Rangamati



Ratargul Swamp Forest, Sylhet



Saint Martin's Island Bangladesh



Shat Gambuj Masjid



Sonargaon



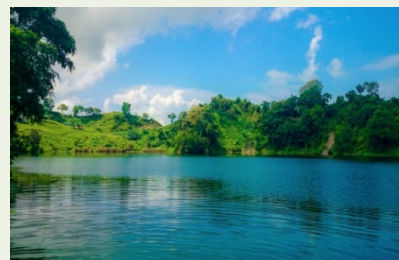
Teknaf, Chittagong



Sonapura Mahavihara



Tara Mosque



Boga Lake, Bandarban



Sonargaon

