



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

43RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT 2023-2024



SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

Contents

A. General overview	3
B. Highlight of the activities in 2023-2024	4
a. Formation of SBS Management Council 2023-24	4
b. Formation of SBS Advisory Committee	5
c. Events in 2023-2024	6
1. Community Engagement Events:	6
2. Integration and Social Inclusion Events:	6
3. Health and Wellness Promotion:	6
4. Humanitarian and Relief Efforts:	6
5. Cultural Preservation and Community Building:	7
6. Recognition and Achievement:	8
7. Promotion of the Singapore Bangladesh community:	8
8. Social Welfare and Support:	8
9. Upgradation and alignment	9
10. Introduction of New Award – The SBS President Awards	9
d. SBS- CFA Activities	13
C. Membership & Gyro	14
D. Financial Drive	15
E. Challenges to address	15
a. Permanent Office space	15
b. Reducing Number of CFA students	15
c. Decreasing Revenue and over dependence on the Sponsorship	15
d. Shortage of active members for Volunteering and for the Management Council	16
F. CONCLUSION	16



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

A. General overview

As we gather here today for the Singapore Bangladesh Society's Annual General Meeting, I am honored to welcome each of you to this auspicious occasion. Our theme for the entire tenure 2023-2024, "Our Community, My Responsibility," encapsulates the essence of our shared commitment to serving our community.

My reflection is 2023-2024 has been a journey filled with fulfillment, where we managed to mark our presence in a bolder manner, within Singapore landscape, and our enhance cooperation with various government organization. This was confirmed by the presence of Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of National Development, as the Guest of Honor, along with more than fifty dignitaries from various government, non-government, and other communities, during our annual dinner.

Collaboration has been at the heart of our endeavors, as we worked alongside the Ministry of Manpower, Assurance, Care, and Engagement group (MOM-ACE) in migrant engagement initiatives, including a cricket tournament and participation in International Migrants Day. Our partnership with MUIS has also flourished further, with initiatives such as the Bangla translation of Friday Khutbah and organizing Eid prayers with Bangla Khutbah. In line with SBS legacy, we have organized two blood donation camps, contributing eighty-two units of blood to the Singapore Red Cross, bringing our total blood donation to an impressive 462 units. As we embark on the new year 2024, our aim is to achieve the milestone of five hundred units.

Furthermore, we have made significant strides in our digital presence, successfully migrating to a new website, and enhancing our society logo to better align with contemporary needs. We have also been actively involved in organizing and supporting various cultural, religious, and physical activities.

In 2023, Singapore Bangladesh society has completed 42 years of Community service. To mark this long legacy, and to express our deepest gratitude to the trailblazers who have paved the way for us, we have introduced "SBS President Lifetime Achievement Award." We also started to commend the dedication of our volunteers, who tirelessly serve our community, through the "SBS President Volunteer Services Award."

We have also published our biannual magazine, "Rongdhonu," which encapsulates our community's achievements and embodies the essence of our collective journey. Those who could not collect a copy earlier are requested to collect a complimentary copy from the registration counter before departure.



SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

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would like to take this opportunity to share the key events and activities which were organized by the SBS Management Council (2023-2024).

B. Highlight of the activities in 2023-2024

a. Formation of SBS Management Council 2023-24

The 42nd AGM of Singapore Bangladesh Society (SBS) was held on 26 February 2023; a new Management Council 2023-24 was formed. The noteworthy part of the newly formed Management Council was the return of Mr. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, as the President who led the SBS as various capacity, including president, and Advisory Committee Chairman in the past. Under his leadership, a dynamic and ardent representative from every fold of the community formed the management council. The following members were inducted in the Management council in 2023-2024.

1. Mr. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui
2. Capt. Apu Istaque Hossain
3. Capt. Ataul Majid
4. Mr. Shah Md. Nurul Islam
5. Mr. Shahid Bhuiyan

Management Council 2023-2024:			
	Name	Position	Remarks
1.	Mr. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui	President	
2.	Dr. Shabbir Ahammad Khan	Vice President	Completed Tenure
3.	Mr. Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman	General Secretary	Completed Tenure
4.	Mr. Md Arshad Ali Mondol	Joint Secretary	
5.	Mr. Pronotosh Roy Chowdhury	Treasurer	
6.	Mrs. Tauhida Rahman	Cultural Secretary	Completed Tenure
7.	Mr. Md. Mohosin Mia	Welfare Secretary	Completed Tenure
8.	Capt. Apu Istaque Hossain	Sports Secretary	
9.	Mrs. Mahbuba Hossain (Mili)	Council Member	Retired
10.	Mr. Shankar Basu	Council Member	
11.	Capt. Ataul Majid	Council Member	
12.	Mr. Moshir Rahman Khan	Council Member	Retired
13.	Mr. Shah Md. Nurul Islam	Council Member	Retired
14.	Mr. Shahid Bhuiyan	Council Member	
15.	Mr. Md. Humayon Kabir	Council Member	Completed Tenure
16.	Mr. Subrata Poddar	Auditor	Completed Tenure



SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

17.	Mr. Mohammed Ashraful Rahman Khan	Auditor	Completed Tenure
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As we have 5 Council members who will be completing their tenure, and another 3 Members request of retirement accepted by the Management Council, the election committee will conduct election to induct eight new members in 2024-2025 tenure.

b. Formation of SBS Advisory Committee

As dictated in the Singapore Bangladesh Society Constitution, Management council has invited following esteemed personnel from the community to become a part of Advisory Council, and upon their acceptance, Advisory council was formed as follows. SBS Advisory committee of 2023-2024 was formed within the right mix of experience and agile members to support the Management Council to serve the Community. Considering that the Advisory Committee tenure of one year, newly Management council of 2024-2025 will invite new members for next year.

Advisory Committee- 2023-2024		
	Name	Position
1.	Muhammad Hafizur Rahman	Chairman
2.	Md. Bassu Mia	Secretary
3.	Md. Habibur Rahman	Assistant Secretary
4.	A.H. Ahsanul Kabir	Member
5.	Altaf Hossain	Member
6.	Chowdhury Soofi Noor Ul Mowla	Member
7.	Jahangir Alam Jhonny	Member
8.	Khorshed Alam Chowdhury	Member
9.	Mohammad Hasan Miah	Member
10.	Mohammad Zahirul Islam	Member
11.	Sanwer Dito	Member



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SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

c. Events in 2023-2024

1. Community Engagement Events:

- **SBS Grand Iftar 2023:** In line with SBS tradition a grand iftar was arranged for 2500 guest, at Assyakirin Mosque on 9th April 2023.

2. Integration and Social Inclusion Events:

- **SBS International Migrants Cricket Tournament In partnership with the MOM):** In partnership with the MOM, the tournament was arranged at Penjuru Recreation Centre, on 21st May 2023. 8 Teams representing various organization participated the event. The event was graced by His excellency Md Tauhedul Islam ndc, Honorable high commissioner of Bangladesh in Singapore.
- **Celebration of International Migrants Day (In Partnership with MOM):** in partnership with the MOM, SBS team participated in celebrating International migrant day, on 17th Dec 2023. SBS has donated goody bags, set up stall showcasing the Bangladeshi culture, and SBS artiste participated in the cultural show entertaining the migrant's workers.
- **Participation in Singapore Pooram:** As invited by the Singapore Program committee, SBS artiste participated in Singapore Pooram.

3. Health and Wellness Promotion:

- **Step Challenge :** To promote healthy living SBS sports wing organized the step challenges from 10th July 2023 to 8th August 2023. Eighty-two participants altogether covered a total distance of 26,650 KM, equivalent to distance covering Singapore-Milan-Singapore.

4. Humanitarian and Relief Efforts:

- **SBS Blood Donation Drive:** we have organized two blood donation camps, contributing eighty-two units of blood to the Singapore Red Cross, bringing our total blood donation to an impressive 462 units. As we embark on the new year 2024, our aim is to achieve the milestone of five hundred units.



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SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

- **Contribution for Turkey Earthquake:** SGD6500 donation was collected for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey. Same was handed over to Mr. Johnny Tang, Head of Resource Development Outreach, at the Singapore Red Cross. The donation was handed over by our Welfare Secretary, Mr. Md. Mohosin Mia, in the presence of our President, Mr. Zillur Rahaman Siddiqui, former President Mr. Mohammad Zahirul Islam, and General Secretary, Mr. Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman.
- **Cheque Handing Over for Gaza Relief:** SGD21,660 was collected for humanitarian relief in Gaza, and the collected donations have been officially handed over to the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) in a simple ceremony held at the Masjid Yusof Ishak auditorium on October 27, 2023. RLAF will, in turn, direct these funds to The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), an organization actively engaged in supporting the people on the ground.
- **Visiting Sri Nayana Mission:** The Singapore Bangladesh Society Management Council and Advisory Committee made a remarkable visit to Sree Narayana Mission (SG) on May 13, 2023, to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the community and to show their strong support for the mission's initiatives. During their visit, the Society donated lunch and clothes for the elderly residents, who come from diverse multicultural backgrounds. The Society's members, with the help of the mission's staff, distributed the food to the multinational residents and engaged in productive discussions about potential collaboration opportunities. As an umbrella organization for the Bangladeshi community in Singapore, the Society is committed to working with other organizations to convey a strong message of unity and solidarity, in line with Singapore's multicultural heritage.

5. Cultural Preservation and Community Building:

- **Annual Community Dinner & Cultural Program:** Annual community dinner 2023: Annual community dinner 2023 was held on 20th January 2024, in The Grand Ballroom, HomeTeamNS Khatib, 2 Yishun Walk, Singapore 767944. The Honourable Assoc Prof Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Minister of State for National Development, graced as the "Guest of Honour." In addition to those fifty dignitaries from various governments, non-government, and other communities attended the dinner. A total of 500 guests enjoyed this highly anticipated dinner and cultural shows. SBS president lifetime achievement awards, and SBS president volunteer service award was introduced during this dinner. SBS bi-annual magazine "Rongdhonu" was unveiled during this event as well.



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

- **Cultural Night 2023:** SBS Cultural night was held on 2nd September 2023, in REKC auditorium. Renowned artiste from Bangladesh and India including actor Apu Biswas performed in the program.
- **SBS Magazine Publication:** SBS Bi-Annual magazine was published and unveiled during the annual dinner.

6. Recognition and Achievement:

- **CFA Award Giving Ceremony:** SBS-CFA graduation award giving ceremony, and cultural show was arranged in NTU One -north Auditorium. More than two hundred guests attended and enjoyed the captivating performance of SBS-CFA students and other artiste.

7. Promotion of the Singapore Bangladesh community:

- **Meeting with the President of Bangladesh:** A team of Singapore Bangladesh Society (SBS) delegates met with the Honorable President of Bangladesh, His excellency Mohammad Abdul Hamid, on 1st April 2023, to discuss critical issues affecting the Bangladeshi community in Singapore. SBS delegates presented a letter with four proposals, including requesting identification cards for non-resident Bangladeshi origin citizens of Singapore, relaxing visa restrictions for Bangladeshi mariners in Singapore, naming a road in Singapore "Dhaka Road" to honor cultural ties, and recognizing the contributions of the Bangla Language and Literary Society, and the Bangladesh Language and Cultural Foundation. The SBS believes these proposals will strengthen the bond between Bangladesh and *Singapore and* benefit the community.

8. Social Welfare and Support:

- **Donation to the student in need of financial support:** In line with the society's commitments to stand by to the community members in need, Management council has vetted, and allocated a sum of SGD2,500 to a student who was unable to pay the tuition fee dues.



SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

9. Upgradation and alignment

- **Development of New SBS website:** We were facing severe issues with our website where the vendor was not providing necessary services. After discussion the management council has decided to redevelop the website. And a new website (www.sbsociety-sg.org) was developed, along with new email addresses. At the same time a new database platform was made, for which upgradation work is in progress. Unlike previous websites, new website hosting was purchased in SBS name, so the possibility of losing the right will not be there. Management Council member Mr. Shahid Bhuiyan worked tirelessly on this matter and is still following up on this matter actively.
- **Upgradation of SBS Logo:** This year we have faced several issues where people could not recognize the Singapore Bangladesh society with its logo, as original logo does not bear the name of the society. After much deliberation, the management council has decided to upgrade the logo, by addition necessary information, and objective of the society, while keeping the original logo intact at the middle, to honor the forebears who conceptualize this logo, which reflects the cultural richness of Bangladeshi origin communities in Singapore. Necessary permission was obtained from the ROS before putting the logo in use.

10. Introduction of New Award – The SBS President Awards

- **The SBS President Lifetime achievement Award:** To remind everyone of the people, whose dedication and resilience paved the way for the success of the society, the management council has decided to introduce "The SBS president lifetime achievement Award". This award will be given every year to a senior member of the society who has made a significant contribution to society, as an office bearer, and volunteers, and will be handed over during the annual community dinner. This year the award was given to Mr. Zafrul Alam, for his outstanding contribution to society.
- **The SBS President Lifetime achievement Award:** To recognize the volunteering efforts of council members or members of the society who made outstanding contribution every year, the management council has decided to introduce "The SBS president volunteer services Award". This award will be given every year to a person who has made a significant volunteering contribution to society, within or outside the management council, *and will be handed over during the annual community dinner*. This year the award was given to Mr. Md. Mohosin Mia, for his outstanding contribution to society. In my years of volunteering services in various organizations.



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY



SBS Grand Iftar 2023 (With Support from Assyakirin Mosque)



International Migrants Cricket Tournament 2023 (In partnership with MOM)



International Migrants Day 2023 (In partnership with MOM)



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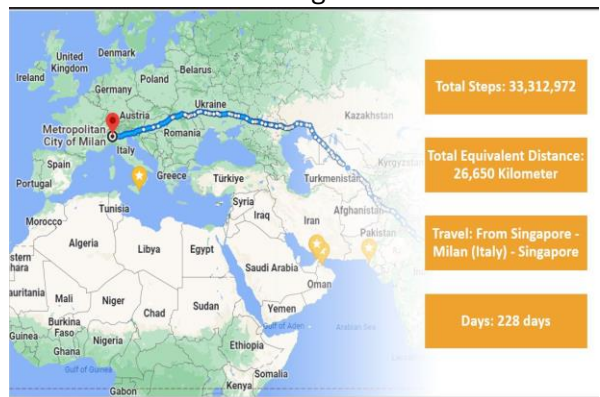
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Participation in Singapore Pooram



Cultural Night 2023



SBS National Day Step Challenge 2023



Blood Donation Drive 2023



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Donation for Turkey earth Quake Victrom



Donation for Humanitarians Aid for Gaza



Annual Community Dinner 2023



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Unveiling of Bi-Annual Magazine “Rangdhonu”



SBS-CFA Certificate Awarding ceremony & Cultural Show



Meeting with President of Bangladesh



Visiting Old age home- Shri Narayana Mission

d. SBS- CFA Activities

Despite various challenges SBS-CFA continued its operation. Ms. Zinia Sharmin has taken over as SBS Co-Ordinator responsibilities, from Ms. Mahbuba Rahman. Mr. Adnan Ahmed Ansari and Mr. Shahriar Khalid taken over as the advisor of the SBS-CFA. Under their capable leadership we



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

expect SBS-CFA will restore its glory and continue to serve the community as desired. In 2023-2024 CFA has started a new activity of Painting classes, with a very positive response.



C. Membership & Gyro

In 2023-24, though we could not conduct any specific membership drive, a total new 5 Life Members, 2 Ordinary Members and 5 Associate Members were added to the SBS member list. However, the Gyro program did not pick up during our tenure, and regrettably any substantial drive could not be taken due to prevailing conditions.



SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

D. Financial Drive

In 2023-24, the Management council felt a need to increase the earning of SBS and decided to create a sperate accounts to invest a portion of available fund in fixed deposit. As approved in the MC meeting, we have opened a new bank account in May bank, and created an affixed deposit worth SGD100,000, with a one-year tenure, with a return of 3.6% per annum. At the same time MC decided to use the May Bank account solely for welfare purposes, segregating the main expense account from the welfare activities.

E. Challenges to address

a. Permanent Office space

Permanent office space continues to remain as a dream as no significant progress has been made. However, as guided by the advisory committee, the management council has decided to set aside 10% of yearly earnings to support our dream of having permanent premises in future. At the same time the management council hopes there will be someone from the community who may support this cause, with substantial donations.

b. Reducing Number of CFA students

Despite our various efforts, the number of students in CFA kept reducing and only a few remaining. In 2023-2024, we have formed a high level of committee to assess the CFA present condition, possibility of reconciliation of all the stakeholders for a unified CFA. However, the efforts failed, and the final suggestion of the committee was to continue the CFA operation with the resources available. It will require the support from all the members and well-wisher of SBS, for the SBS-CFA to continue its journey.

c. Decreasing Revenue and over dependence on the Sponsorship

Despite the financial statement for the 2023-2024 suggesting a positive balance, SBS remains dependent on the support of sponsors within the community. While I do appreciate the generosity of some community members, it is not sustainable as we had to approach the same sponsors every time we have any program. This needs to be diversified with revival of gyro, Organizational Sponsorship, which required support from the community leaders, with business and strong network.



OUR COMMUNITY, MY RESPONSIBILITY

SINGAPORE BANGLADESH SOCIETY

d. Shortage of active members for Volunteering and for the Management Council

In continuation of previous year, this year also we have seen less volunteering intention from the community members, which was evident in various program, and submission of nomination for the management council position. It is understandable that present lifestyle in Singapore before more hectic with gaps between earnings and living expenses widening. Members are busy meeting the ends need. However, I would like to point out to all the members here that, it is our duty to keep the Singapore Bangladesh Society strong, to highlight the presence of Bangladeshi Society here in Singapore, and earn the recognition we rightfully deserve for the contribution we are making for the development of the Singapore, in every area of the society. For that active participation of all our community members, with a “ Essence of Volunteerism” is required. I am very hopeful there will be more participation in the coming days.

F. CONCLUSION

I extend heartfelt appreciation to all our members, patrons, who continue to support us in our endeavors. Their unwavering commitment is a testament to our enduring partnership.

In conclusion, as we embark on the tenure of 2024-2025, let us renew our commitment to serving our community with dedication, compassion, and integrity. Together, let us strive to uphold the values of the Singapore Bangladesh Society and work towards a brighter future for all, and fulfill our obligation to “ Our Community, My Responsibility.”

Thank you.



Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman
General Secretary
SBS Management Council (2023-24)