



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends, thank you all for coming to our last event of the year. It was my pleasure to serve BASGH during the past year, and I did my best - given the limited resources we have in our organization.

First, I want to thank our Board of Directors who trusted me with the position of President. We also have a very good group of volunteers – without them our organization could not have been where we are today - I want to thank them all without mentioning any name. And finally, I want to thank you all for believing in BASGH and keeping abreast with BASGH.

When I look back at the beginning of the year, I remember what I have said during my first deliberation at the event of Ekushey February. We did not achieve all that we have planned, but we took BASGH another step forward and brought harmony to our organization and most importantly within the community.

Without events and activities, members do not get excited and they don't see any life to an organization. To keep this excitement, we had a variety of events in almost every other month.

We had a spring outdoor picnic at Bush Park in March, although it became an indoor picnic due to windy and rainy weather, but look how everybody enjoyed along with the Independence Day celebration.

Many of our members felt that we are a social organization and thus we needed to do some true social work. Several of us went to volunteer for Houston Food Bank in April.



We invited Bangladesh Embassy consular services from Washington, and officials came during the month of May to serve our community.

The most notable event for the year was the visit of Ambassador of Bangladesh in our town. Bangladesh Association-Houston, that did not consider BASGH as a bona fide organization, worked with us to welcome the ambassador. We showed them how to work together and still keep identity of individual organizations. It is our tolerance and respect to other organizations that made this possible.

To show our tolerance further, we accepted an invitation to visit the existing Bangladesh-American Center where many of our members donated significantly. We had a friendly but honorable discussion with the authorities of Bangladesh Association; however, it did not bring any fruitful result yet. We will keep our doors open for further discussion for a united community center involving all Bangladeshi organizations in town.

We also spent a lot of time to raise funds and looked for lands to build our own community center. We have received significant support from our members; however, we could not conclude the process yet. Please keep the dream alive and we will succeed one day.

Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti was held in May, and it was one of the best melodious events of all.

In June, we had an indoor sports competition for two days, which drew many players from town in a variety of games.

High school graduation was held in July, and we had an artist from Bangladesh, making it a very successful event – enjoyed by all groups of people.



In August, we hosted an iftari for fasting people in the community.

In October, we had our fall picnic with some traditional games of Bangladesh - enjoyed by all.

As we progressed during the year, our website took a new look. Please visit our website for current activities.

After few years, we again brought our beautiful magazine *Unmesh* to life. I want to thank the editors- Dr. Anisul Islam and Mrs. Shahida Islam for their diligent work. I also want to thank Mr. Farid Uddin to provide artistic support as well as our General Secretary Khondker Islam Riaz for his non-stop work in raising funds to publish the magazine.

This year we have also created an Advisory Committee for BASGH. The members are: Dr. Anisul Islam, Dr. Shafiq Khondker, Dr. Sohela Hasan, Mr. Mohammad Amanullah, and Mr. Amir Khosru. I want to thank these respected members of our organization to serve in the most respected committee of BASGH.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our Election Commissioners of the year – Dr. Shafiq Khondker, Dr. Sohela Hasan and Mr. Mohammad Amanullah. They have done an excellent job in completing the election process in a diligent and timely manner. We have new members joining to our Board as they will be introduced today.

Our membership topped 400, with over 100 life members; however, only one-third regular members renewed their membership this year. Please renew your membership for 2011 and ask your friends to join BASGH.

Today, we are celebrating Bijoy Dibosh. We will have a beautiful program for you - please enjoy.

Again, I want to thank you all for supporting BASGH. Long live BASGH.