



## Bangladesh-American Society of Greater Houston

A Non-Profit Organization, EIN: 03-0531290  
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### President's Message on Ekushey February Maharaja Hall, February 21, 2010

আমার ভায়ের রক্তে রাঙানো একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারী, অমিকি ভুলিতে পারি। সালাম, বরকত, রফিক, জব্বার, আমরা তোমাদের ভুলিনি। তোমাদের ত্যাগের বিনীময়ে আমরা আজ সাধীনতা পেয়েছি।

আসুন মহান একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারীর শহীদদের জানাই শ্রধাঞ্জলি। আমরা সবাই দাড়িয়ে শহীদদের আততার মাগফেরাতের জন্য এক মিনিট মৌনতা অবলম্বন করি ও দোয়া করি।

বাঙালীর একুশে ফেব্রুয়ারী আজ International Mother Language day হিসেবে সিক্তী পেয়েছে। আমরা যারা এই দেশে আছি, আমরা ইংরেজীতে কথা বলি। আসুন আজ আমরা আমাদের প্রচলিত ভাষায়ই কথা বলি।

Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you to this memorable and historic day of our country of birth, Bangladesh - good morning.

BASGH Goals & Objectives will remain the same. Our activities will focus on educational, cultural, and social services. Please bring your concepts and ideas to us. We will do our best to accommodate your ideas.

BASGH website is the main gateway of information delivery to our members and other constituents. Please keep up with our website.

An organization is as good as its members. We are proud to have a unique group of membership enriched in education, religion, and culture. We want to thank you for believing in BASGH manifesto.

In the same token, please renew your membership or become a member if you have not done so yet. We cannot run without your support. We want to go back to the Bangla school that we had before. We also need someone to revive and run our SAT program. We need someone to edit our magazine, Unmesh. Also, please visit our website to find our upcoming Events and join us in those events.

An organization cannot run without a strong leadership and we are proud that we had such leaders in the past, and we will continue to have them in the future. I want to thank our past presidents who brought us to the point where we are today.

In reality, the success of an organization depends on the sincerity and hard work of its volunteers. For us, they are the Board of Directors and our friend-circle who are always at service whenever they are called. I want to thank all past and present Board members as well as our friends, who are keeping this organization alive.

We have a unique system of governing our organization, through a Board of directors - you all elect them at the end of each year. To make future leaders and for better governance of the society, please join in the Board whenever there is an opening. You cannot sit behind and expect everything will be perfect. We all can make our organization better and stronger, so that no one can break us.

According to our revised By-Laws, we can now create an Advisory Committee. Please propose names for the committee to the Board. The By-Laws provide the guidelines for the membership to the committee. Even though we have gone through a revision of our By-Laws starting 2008, we feel some need for further amendments. The By-Laws should be a living document and should not be a significant hindrance for smooth operation of the society.

For the benefit of the membership, we also need some changes. For example, we may think of membership cycle to go through a full-year starting from the day of membership payment, rather than starting in January and ending in December. This will make some of our members happy. We will form a By-Laws Committee to look at various issues that came into discussion recently.

Our new General Secretary suggested that we should have an automated calling system to call our members before all events. He said that it will cost about \$1500. I will request all of you to donate some money today to create this fund.

To other organizations and groups in Houston, I want say that like any other big city in USA, Bangladeshi population in Houston is growing as well. It is natural to have more than one organization that has different beliefs, focus, and actions.

During the past 20 years that I lived in Houston, I always found two opposing Bangladeshi groups or organizations in this city. I consider that to be healthy. We as BASGH, we are what we are - unique and different – and strong as always.

However, we all can work together towards the betterment of the Bangladeshi people living in Houston. We can have common community center. We can create a little Bangladesh here. And all organizations can participate in the development process, as long as we respect each other and trust each other. Just look at other communities in Houston.

Today, we will have our own fund-raising event to discuss how we can build a center for BASGH, where we can perform our educational, cultural and social activities like before. Friends, please join us in the fund-raising presentation during the breakfast.

God bless us and God bless BASGH.

Thank you all.

*Dr. Mohammad A. Rob*  
President, BASGH