

Bangla-O-Biswa

2019-2020



"MEMORIES 2019"



A Message from the President of Bangla O Biswa

Nomoshkar. Happy New Year to all our dear friends and members of Bangla O Biswa from the entire executive committee team. It is again our privilege and pleasure that you have entrusted us with the responsibility of coordinating the annual activities of Bangla O Biswa and managing the organization's resources for the year June 2019-June 2020. Over the last few years, we have assembled a great team consisting of a perfect blend of senior and junior members to serve on our committee. We have very successfully arranged the picnic, Durga Puja and Kali Puja, in the year 2019 and looking forward to organizing Saraswati puja in January 2020. During our biggest event, Durga Puja-2019, more than 1300 people attended in all three days. Most importantly, we have been able to actively involve our senior, junior members, trustees, all internal and external community members in all of our events.

We held a very successful picnic event on 27th July 2019 at Hopkinton State Park. We were fortunate to have a sunny, warm day. We were able to walk along the water, play various games and musical chairs, cooked barbecue chicken at the venue, and enjoyed home-cooked delicious food, including Jhal Muri, chili chicken, fried rice, watermelon. Post picnic, after 6-8 weeks of in-depth planning via teleconference and in-person meetings, we successfully hosted a three-day Durga Puja celebration (instead of a general two days event) on October 4th, 5th and 6th 2019 at Chelmsford Mc Carthy Middle School. This year three days Durga Puja event was a unique event in the Bangla O Biswa's history; it was a very successful and well-attended event. From epar and opar Bangla (West Bengal and Bangladesh), we invited three artists to present three mesmerizing performances. With collaboration with NEBAF (New England Bangladeshi American Foundation Inc.), Zee Bangla reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa participant, famous singer Noble (mainul-ahsan) performed on Friday, October 4th evening. Famous Bengali playback singer Lagnajita Chakraborty with a live band performed on Saturday, October 5th evening. Legendary singer, pioneer of anyodharar gaan (alternative music), reminiscent of western folk music Anjan Dutta along with Neel and Amit Dutta performed with a live band on Sunday, October 6th afternoon. In addition to that, we presented an excellent line up of local programs. Our local artists practiced hard and showcased their creative talent. "Philomela" and "Bandish" performed band songs taking us through down the memory lane and Kolkata nostalgia. Children's program "Aajker Kabuliwala" was an educative dance ensemble program presented by our kids and young members. A perfect comedy play based on Durga puja "Gouri and Co." was staged by some talented local play enthusiasts. Swaralipi Music school presented a musical tribute to Kalikaprased through a program "Rabindranath O Kaliaprasad." "Swarankar School of Music presented a classical music program that was participated by local young and adult members. All the programs, including the invited and local artists, were well organized and well attended. We continue to push towards organizing unique programs by invited artists and mixing it up with our homegrown talent with excellent food, and fun ways of bringing the community together. A sumptuous and mouth-watering authentic Bengali food menu was served, including Kolkata style biriyani, Kichuri, Beguni, Goat curry, Rui macher kalia, polao. The joyful celebration ended with sindoor khela, dhaker naach and bisarjan. The puja arrangements, prasad-bhog, decorations, Kitchen, and the front desk management was perfectly executed. From the bottom of my heart, I thank all the participants, volunteers, members of our community, executive members, patrons, grand patrons, and their spouses. Without all of your tireless support, such an accomplishment would have been hard to achieve.

We have made a few significant changes to reduce our costs: by moving the puja event in a middle school from high school to cut down auditorium rental expenses for the cultural programs. Employ priests from our community members wherever possible, sharing the cultural program expenses with other collaborating organizations.

We celebrated Kalipuja on 2nd November 2019. The highlights of the cultural event were song and dance programs by the children and by a few other local participants. A play "Ek Jora natok." was staged by a few local play enthusiasts. Light snacks (samosa & jhaal moorie) and a sumptuous Bengali dinner including fried Rice, Chilli Chicken, Chingri macher malaikari, Misti were served.

Saraswati puja is planned to be held on 25th January 2020. Like each year, we are planning to organize a cultural program consisting of children's program, song, and dance by our local artists. We will offer hathe khodi to the interested kids. An authentic lunch will also be served.

We welcome and invite all the new and old members and families to get involved in all aspects of the committee operations. I have been involved with the organization for the last ten years and always felt Bangla O Biswa is my home away from home; I believe you will also feel the same. Together we can go forward towards reaching our goal to include fostering and collaborative culture within our organization and make a difference in the lives who are less fortunate by assisting any way we can. My best wishes always remain with the Bangla O Biswa organization.

Yours sincerely
Debraj Roy (President)

From the Desk of the Editors

As Bangla-O-Biswa reaches its thirty-seventh birthday, we, the members of this organization are delighted to bring to you our magazine for 2019-2020. The sapling planted by our founding members more than three decades ago and nurtured with care by many committee members and the members of our commune, now stands tall and firm, spreading its roots deep within the community. It is just amazing to glance back and see how this organization continues to grow. Every year Bangla-O-Biswa is fortunate to find very energetic individuals whose sincerity amazes us. The infants and toddlers who grew up with Bangla-O-Biswa are now young adults themselves and that vacant spot have constantly been filled with a new generation of bright eyed youngsters whose laughter continues to echo in our hallways. The torch passes on.

With limits set on time and funding, our plan for this magazine was to focus more on the quality rather than the number of pages and we are quite confident that you will be pleased with what we have to offer. Thanks to our authors and poets for sharing your talent, and finally, our advertisers and members for all your support. We look forward for your active participation in our future events.

Soumitro Pal and Sharmila Biswas

Bangla O Biswa Executive Committee (2019-2020)

Debraj Roy (President)

Subhayu Basu (Vice President)

Basab Datta (General Secretary)

Sanjit Sanyal (Cultural Secretary)

Sourav Mukherjee (Treasurer)

Sagar Dey (Member At Large)

Anindya RoyChowdhury (Member At Large)

Note: Bangla O Biswa is not responsible for the contents of the advertisements or the articles.

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The Amazing History of Lexington

Rajarshi Mandal

A long time ago in 1700s, the British started taxing the colonies because the Kingdom was in debt from war. The colonists were unhappy about it. As a result, they started boycotting stores and protesting against the taxes. These protests and other incidents eventually led to the beginning of the Revolutionary War at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This history is still preserved in monuments, statues, and tours. Buckman Tavern, built in 1709, still stands in Lexington. This essay highlights the two most important events, the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party, that precipitated to the Revolutionary War as well as the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

The Boston Massacre, which happened on March 5th, 1770, is the first main historical event that enraged the colonists as it led to many deaths. The incident started out with people harassing British soldiers and provoking them to fire. This mob was led by a former slave named Crispus Attucks. At first, the soldiers were restrained. However, when Crispus threw a snowball that knocked out Private Montgomery, a British soldier, they started firing randomly into the crowd resulting in the death of eleven people. Eight soldiers were tried for murder. However, only two were convicted of manslaughter while the others were acquitted. The colonists did not appreciate this at all, so it led to even more boycotts and protests.

The Boston Tea Party played an important role in the lead up of the Revolutionary War. On December 16th, 1773, some Patriots dressed up as Native Americans boarded ships full of tea. They chopped barrels of tea in half and threw them overboard in the Boston Harbor. The goal of this was to tell the British "No taxation without representation," which is a famous quote still used today. The Boston Tea Party cost the British millions of dollars. As a result, they started the Quartering Act where people must let the British soldiers inside their houses with proper lodging and food. This made the Patriots furious.

Finally, the Battles of Lexington and Concord, considered the beginning of the Revolutionary War, happened on April 19th, 1775. The taxes on tea, paper, and sugar levied by the British fired up this conflict. At the time, there were British camps where the British would stay until they were given orders to capture and destroy the secret stock of weapons held by the colonists in Concord. Fortunately, through secret intelligence gathering, the most famous Patriot

leader – Paul Revere – found out about this couple of weeks before the orders were given. As a result, most of the weapons were moved to other hideouts. Before the day of the raid, Paul Revere and two other Patriot leaders, Samuel Adams and William Dawes, rode their horses from house to house saying, “The British are coming.” They stopped at Samuel Prescott’s house at Lexington and invited him to join them. Later, some British patrols tried to detain these Patriot leaders. Prescott and his horse jumped over a wall; Dawes also escaped but fell off his horse a while later; and Paul Revere was detained. The soldiers asked him questions and he answered them truthfully. The Redcoats released the prisoner and went back to warn their commander. This journey of the four leaders is known as the Midnight Ride. The next day, the first soldiers came marching onto Lexington Battle Green just as the sun rose. The Patriots suffered eighteen deaths in the gun battle while the British merely had one casualty. At North Bridge in Concord, the colonist warriors outnumbered the British 4:1 resulting in casualties on both sides. By the end of the day, more than one hundred colonists died as the British proceeded on their journey to Concord.

As thousands of lives were lost during the Revolutionary War, today we commemorate the Battles of Lexington and Concord by reenacting it on the 3rd Monday of April every year here in Lexington. Because of so many sacrificed souls, the colonists won their independence from the Great Britain, paving the way that we know United States today.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Massacre

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Tea_Party

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Revere

<https://www.lexingtonma.gov/patriotsday>

A Dream Come True



Once upon a time, there were two little princesses playing on a beach near the sparkling blue ocean, making small sandcastles. The sun sank lower in the sky as the princesses played, giving way to the night that was coming. Fireflies were flying, little flashes of light that gave warmth wherever they went. Little fairies were fluttering leaving a trail of pixie dust wherever they went. The stars sparkled and twinkled, looking like an ethereal work of art. The two princesses fell asleep on the sandy beach, their eyes fluttering away to the world of dreams. They dream

of a

magical kingdom, one they could call home, with lots of friends and family laughing with each other every night. The princesses slept peacefully, and the magic started. The moon, the stars, and the Earth themselves worked so hard on a project for the whole night. The sun rose in the sky, leaving a blaze of fire in its wake. Flowers blossomed with a burst of petals, and sun woke the princesses. Rubbing their eyes to rid the sleep, the two princesses found something before them...

A magical kingdom.

A magnificent castle stood at a distance, and at its large doors were the king and queen with the princesses' bestie, Leah. The princesses ran towards their mother and father, and they wondered if they were still dreaming.

Oh, but this was not a dream; it was real, and it was true and they were seeing everything before their very eyes! The two princesses laughed and smiled and ran around, seeing the buildings and parks and gardens that had been made especially for them. The king and queen called for a celebration and invited all the princesses' friends.

They had found their home sweet home.

- **Rianna Santra**

How You Should Help People!

Aheli Roy

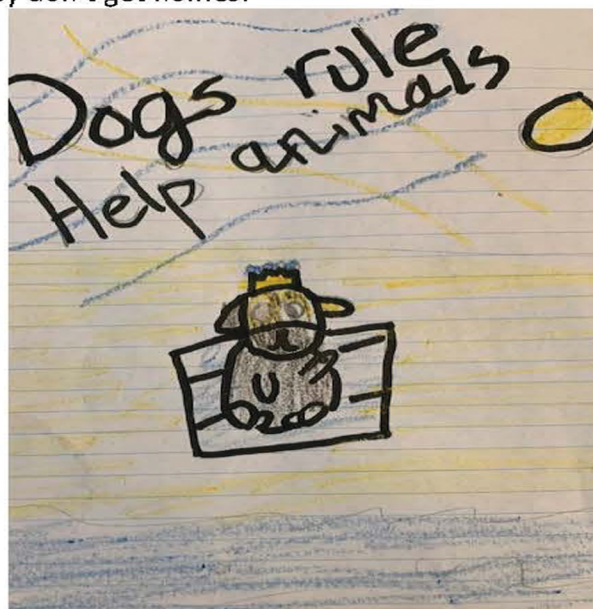
Have you always wanted to be a Doctor? I do. Remember if you want to become a doctor , it takes a lot of work. It would help people if you had the right cure for each disease. It's an excellent profession and it is very kind to help people, including children. You have to take an exam before you become a doctor. So, if you help people, it will make the world a happy and helpful place to live. Let's make this world a happy and helpful place to live!



Why you should help and donate to dog shelters.

Aindri Roy

Imagine you are walking down the street, you pass by a shelter and see many dogs there. You feel very sad by seeing it. You should always donate to shelters because dogs get into a miserable situation if they don't get homes.



LIGHTS

Arundhati Sarkhel

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রাহুল রায়

সত্তরের দশকের মাঝামাঝি আমি যখন এ দেশে আসি, তখন হাতে গোনা কয়েকটি দেশ ক্রিকেট খেলত, আর তাদের মধ্যে টেস্ট ম্যাচ হত। পরে আরও কিছু দেশ যোগ দেয়, যেমন বাংলাদেশ। আমি এসবের কিছুই খবর রাখি নি। তাই যখন আমার কেম্ব্রিজের বাংলাদেশী বন্ধু মোমিন ক্রিকেট খেলার জন্য আমায় আমন্ত্রণ জানালো, তখন আমি বেশ অবাক হয়েছিলাম। বাংলাদেশীরা আবার ক্রিকেট খেলে নাকি!

জুন মাসের প্রথম দিক। দারুন ঝকঝকে একটা দিন। শীতের কামড় শেষ হয়ে বসন্ত এসেছে। আমি নির্দিষ্ট দিনে কেম্ব্রিজে চার্লস নদীর ধারে খেলার মাঠে গিয়ে হাজির হলাম। মোমিন তার বন্ধুদের সাথে আমার পরিচয় করিয়ে দিল। শীগগিরই বেশ ব্যক্তিত্বসম্পন্ন একতি যুবক একেবারে বাংলাদেশী উচ্চারণে আমায় জিজ্ঞাসা করল -

“আপনি কোন পজিশনে খেলেন?”

“আমি আদতে ব্যাটসম্যান, তবে কীপিং ও করতে পারি। তবে বহু বহু বছর আমি কিছু খেলি নি।”

“তার জন্য চিন্তা করবেন না। আমরা কেউ প্রফেশনাল নই। তা ছাড়া ভাল উইকেট কীপার পাওয়া সহজ নয়।”

“ভাল-মন্দ জানি না। তবে এক কালে কীপিং করেছি। সেটাই আমার সম্বল।”

এইভাবেই যে খেলা আমি বহু-বহু বছর পিছনে ফেলে এসেছি তা আবার নতুন করে আমার সামনে এসে দাঁড়াল। আমি বলতেই পারতাম আমার শরীরে ওঠা-বসা করার ক্ষমতা অনেক কমে গেছে। বয়সে অনেক ছোট ছেলেদের কাছে বেইজ্জত হওয়া কী ভাল। কিন্তু কোথা থেকে অনেকদিনের লুকিয়ে থাকা একটা গর্ব আমার মুখ চেপে ধরল।

প্রথম কয়েক ওভারে অনেকগুলো বলই আমার পাশ দিয়ে হু-হু করে বেরিয়ে গেলো। ধরার চেষ্টা যে করি নি তা নয়। কিন্তু তাদের ধরার আমার সাধ্যে কুলায় নি। বেইজ্জতির একেবারে একশেষ। মোমিন এদের কি বলেছে কে জানে। যদি বলে থাকে আমি কলকাতায় ডিভিশন লীগে খেলেছি, তা সে সেকণ্ড ডিভিশন তো কী, এই কী তার নিদর্শন?

সেই মনের মধ্যে লুকিয়ে থাকা গর্বের ব্যাপার। এরা সবাই বাংলাদেশী আর আমি একমাত্র ভারতীয়।
আমিই যেন আমার দেশের প্রতিনিধি। আমি ভাল না খেললে আমার দেশের মুখ রক্ষা হবে কী করে!

একটু 'ব্রেক'-এর পর আবার খেলা শুরু হবে। তার আগে আমি একটু জল খেয়ে নিলাম। জুতোর
ফিতে ভাল করে বেঁধে কয়েকবার ওঠ - বোস ও করে নিয়েছি। তাতে পায়ের পেশিগুলো অনেক দিনের তেল না
পাওয়া এঞ্জিনের মতো প্রায় ককিয়ে উঠলো। আবার খেলা শুরু হল। আমি পয়ে প্যাড লাগিয়ে উইকেটের
পিছনে 'ক্রাউচ' করে রইলাম। গ্লাভস-পর্যাহাত দুটো সামনে বাড়ানো, বল এলেই ধরে ফেলবো।

দেখতে পাচ্ছি উইকেটের অন্যদিক থেকে বোলার ছুটে আসছে। সে বলটা হাত থেকে ছেড়ে দিল।
একটা 'ইন-স্যুয়িং'। অনেক-অনেক দিন আগে শেখা ক্রিকেট খেলার বইটা আমার সামনে খুলে যেতে লাগল।
দেখতে পাচ্ছি বলটা ব্যাটসম্যানের কাছে এসে অল্প একটু ভিতর দিকে বেঁকে যাচ্ছে। আর ব্যাটসম্যান সেটা
মারতে ব্যাক ফুটে গিয়ে ব্যাট তুলল। ব্যাস, তারপরে আর কিছু মনে নেই। হঠাৎ দেখি বলটা প্রচণ্ড গতিতে
আমার ডানদিকে ফাস্ট আর সেকণ্ড স্লিপের মধ্য দিয়ে মাটির কয়েক ইঞ্চি ওপর দিয়ে উড়ে যাচ্ছে। আর কানে
এলো 'ক্যাচ' বলে একটা সমবেত চিৎকার। জানি না কি ভাবে ডানদিকে ঝাঁপিয়ে পড়ে বলটা মাটি ছোঁয়ার
আগেই ধরে ফেলেছি ডান হাতের মুঠোয়, আর আমি পপাত ধরনীতলে। হাতে কিন্তু বলটা ধরা আছে।
'আউট' চিতকারে তখন আমার কান ফেটে যাওয়ার জোগাড়। সেই ক্যাপ্টেন ছেলেটি আর অন্যেরা এসে
আমায় ঘিরে ধরেছে - 'কী ক্যাচ ধরলেন দাদা, টেস্ট ম্যাচেও এরকম দেখতে পাওয়া যায় না!'

খেলা শেষ হওয়ার আগে আমি আর একটি 'বিহাইণ্ড দ্য উইকেট' সহজ ক্যাচ ধরেছিলাম। সেটা কিছু
নয়, তবে খেলা থেকে ফিরে আসার সময় নিজের মনে বিড়বিড় করতে করতে এসেছি - 'আই হ্যাভন্ট লস্ট ইট!
আই হ্যাভন্ট লস্ট ইট!' সেদিন যেন আমি ছিলাম আমার দেশের, অর্থাৎ ভারতের প্রতিনিধি - আর আমি
আমার দেশের সন্মান মাটিতে লুটিয়ে দিই নি! চোখের জলে আমার চশমাটা ঝাপসা হয়ে উঠলো।

Burning Ship

The sky, a raven's wing adorned with diamonds.

The sea, a lake of black ink, desolate as the scripted words from my hand.

Our ships, lit by the fires of jealousy and hatred blazing in the hearts of the crew.

It is only a matter of time before I burn with them.

Daggers of gold and gems fly past us,

bound to hit us each in our hearts,

content to watch us suffer.

I

By Pompi



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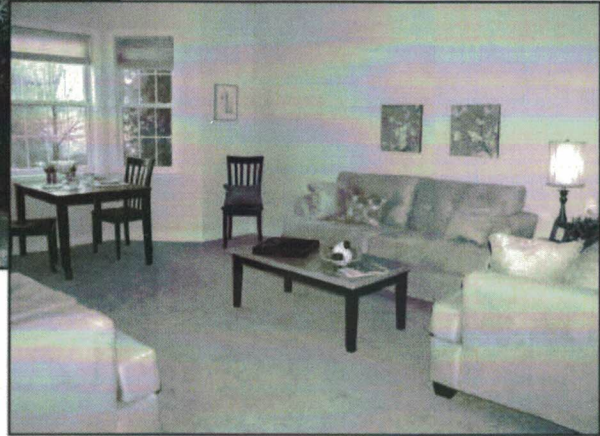
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