



Life in Festive Virginia

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7th Annual Prio Bangla Multicultural Street Festival

September 22, 2018

Arlington



arlington on arts

Message from Prio Bangla Board of Directors

Greetings to all our community members in Washington Metro Area! We, Prio Bangla board members, would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our community members, patrons, volunteers and well wishers for their great contributions towards achieving our goals in the past years. It's a profound pleasure to walk the journey together for our community. To make a difference in a community is a huge task and it takes a lot to make it happen. We have been trying our best to leave a positive impact in the community and translate the same into actions through our efforts. Prio Bangla, as a non-profit organization in Washington Metro area, has been making a strong stride with its best to bring about a change in our Bangladeshi American community, where we Bangladeshis can stand with our head high and be a part of the mainstream. Our main objective is to help the Bangladeshi community to move forward with a special emphasis on our young generation, as they are the future leaders of our community. We have to kindle the light of hope in them.

Prio Bangla has designed its programs and services keeping the community in mind, so that our efforts can bring about a change in society. Our focus is also on fostering unity and brotherhood to build a better community together and uphold the cultural heritage to merge with the mainstream.

For our dedicated services towards our community, we have earned U.S. Special Recognition Awards in the past including many proclamations from county, state and Federal. Virginia's honorable Governor and Secretary jointly recognized the "Prio Bangla Street Fair" as "Virginia State Bangla Festival" and we are so proud to see all these achievements and awards. We are committed to build a better community with you all!

Prio Bangla Management Team, Arlington, Virginia

About Prio Bangla Humanity Publication Project

This Publication Project highlighting the news, community history, traditions and stories of the diversity community in its 7th annual Prio Bangla Multicultural Street Festival, on Sept 22, 2018, Arlington, Virginia. Since we live in a multicultural community, working among the community- we felt their struggle for survival and identified their basic acute needs to settle down in a new land. Therefore, we wanted to offer different services for them including bringing their stories of struggle and success and publish in the special publication to create awareness among the people, as well as motivate people to come forward to help.

Part of many activities in our Prio Bangla Multicultural street festival, we published this an annual publication. Our this year publication is different than it's been in years past; that it's more focused in 2018 on history, culture, and stories—the Humanities in other words—than previous editions have been. The special issue/publication which carries news, community history, traditions, the social and humanitarian stories to reflect on their struggle as well as success stories to encourage and inspire others to stand strong and move with confidence to overcome the struggle. Our goal is to serve Northern Virginian including parents and a new generation. Encourage them to be a productive human resource in our community and help them merge with the mainstream to be a contributing member of the society. While participating in the Prio Bangla Multi-Cultural Street Festival, you feel aligned with the community and inspires others with new hopes and aspirations with history, traditions and learning for a better life by getting real life's examples and stories.

With our humanitarian approaches, we are trying to connect with the communities to help out and connect with all possible resources to help face the challenges and survive the hardship. Educate new generation with humanities, hates crime issues, specially, for the racism and immigrant issues, how to respect and live within each other's cultures, adjust within diverse community and get an advantages and to build a better life, learn and respect diverse cultures and grow with better edition and better careers. Education, training, counseling, advices, publication, presentation, arts exhibition, theatrical and cultural workshop and festival are our methods and delivering of or humanitarian approaches.

Members of the editorial board, their experience and qualifications:

Dr. Ashraf Ahmed: He is a renowned writer, teacher, researcher and a scientist. Besides his professional achievements he has been deeply involved in creative writing and publishing books every year for the last few years in our national book fair. So far, he has published six books and has many articles and research works in various journals and publications to his credit. His writings have been highly appreciated by the readers. A very educated, talented writer and scientist from Washington metro area, who has been contributing tremendously for the community.

Mr. Anis Ahmed: He has been working with Voice of America (VOA) for many years as an international broadcaster, news analyst and moderators for shows with his rich experiences and wisdom. Before joining VOA, he has worked with BBC (British Broadcasting) and worked as an English teacher at different universities in UK and Bangladesh. Besides his media profession, he has been writing for many years in different journals and publications and in the last few years, he has published four of his own poetry books in the Bangladesh national book fair acclaiming a high appreciation. He is a very creative writer as well as editor for several publications and his writing talents spans from poetry to articles to research works including that of our national poets in Bengali literature. An enlightened personality, a great writer in our community, his creative writings enriched with his wisdom and knowledge will pave the way for sharing with the greater community bridging up the multicultural communities in the greater Washington metro area.

Mr. Anthony Pius Gomes: Mr. Gomes has been involved deeply in the community works for more than three decades and more than a decade in greater Washington metro area. He has been contributing to community development tremendously and playing a strong role as a social activist right from the beginning of his social involvement. He brings a wealth of experience in community development as well as literary publications as writer and an Editor.

He excels in writing and editorial skills. He has been involved in editorial works for more than thirty years carrying on the responsibility as an editor in various local publications. He is also a writer and has numerous articles, interviews and community development based research works to his credit. He has been involved as the Editor-In-Chief of the local publication namely "Akangkha" for the last 12 years, including special publications for several conventions in Washington Metro area as well as in New York. Also, he has been working as the Editor-In-Chief for a quarterly literary publication called "Swedesh Shoilee" since last year and going to be the Editor-In-Chief for an online news portal namely- "Bengali Herald" to be launched in July, 2018. He brings a huge experience as a writer, editor and special correspondent covering the community development and cultural news in various news media and online portals.

Mr. Pryalal Karmakar: Mr. Karmakar is a Marine Veteran and currently serving as a Civilian in the Defense Health Agency as Project Manager. Mr. Karmakar's profession and deeply involved with the community works, specially catering to the multicultural communities in Washington metro area. He is the founder and present Director of the Washington based popular Bangladeshi organization- "Prio Bangla", who holds the street festival in Arlington and been recognized for his efforts. Under his leadership the Multicultural Street Festival has been a huge success in the greater Washington metro area and mostly Northern Virginia. Besides the regular Street Festival, Prio Bangla is also undertaking special services to the communities with consultations, free medical camps, photo exhibitions etc. Helping under privilege community members and educate new generation by history and tradition. He has been also involved with writing and publications. He also have been conducted many interviews in Bangladeshi national TV. He has worked as the Editor of the Prio Bangla special publication for the last six years with remarkable success, he also contributes articles whenever an opportunity knocks locally and internationally. He has been moving Prio Bangla forward with his able leadership and great efforts.

Photographers:

We also have multiple well known Photographers and Photograph's Journalist who contribute photographs needed for this publication. Mr. Andrew Biraj, national and international award winning photographer who is contributing and work with us. Mr. Lloyd is a very talented Photographers who has done 100s of photography exhibition around the world. He is also a chief Photographers for Columbia Pike Documentary Project (CPDP) who is helping Prio Bangla since 2012. Lloyd Wolf, Phone: Arlington, VA, Andrew Biraj, Hyattsville, MD, Rajib Barua, Arlington, VA, Biplab Dutta, Springfield VA and Shaon Rahman, Arlington, VA and many more.

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Virginia Humanities

August 25, 2018

Prio Bangla Festival
819 Oakland Street
Arlington, Virginia 22193

To the organizers of the Prio Bangla Festival:

Virginia Humanities is thrilled to be a supporter of this year's 7th Annual Prio Bangla Festival.

Our work explores the story of Virginia in all its complexity. This includes the stories of Native peoples who were living in the place we now call Virginia for 15,000 years before the first English settlers arrived; and whose descendants still live in Virginia today.

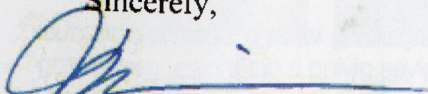
It also includes the stories of European and Africans people whose cultures braided with each other and with Native traditions to create a Common Wealth that, especially in recent decades, has been joined by immigrants and refugees from all parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

We applaud the success of Prio Bangla and the work you are doing to showcase the cultural diversity of Northern Virginia. In many ways, this Festival is a mirror of what Virginia is becoming, and we honored to be a part of this extraordinary international and multi-cultural celebration.

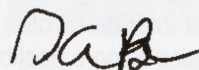
We hope that audiences and Festival participants alike will be inspired by this living 'portrait' of Global Virginia. We hope the educational programs that are also part of the Festival will spark curiosity and a desire to learn more about the complex history of Virginia and the braid of cultures and traditions that enrich us all.

Congratulations on another very successful event in 2018. On behalf of all our colleagues at Virginia Humanities, board and staff, we wish you continued success and look forward to joining the many thousands of others who will participate in this wonderful event.

Sincerely,



Matthew Gibson
Executive Director



David Bearinger
Director, Grants and Community Programs

ABOUT US:

Prio Bangla is a non-profit organization in Washington DC Metro area and our management team is dedicated souls with strong commitment to make a difference in the community by volunteering their time and efforts to build a better Bangladeshi-American community in the area. The organization's idea sprouted to nurture Bangladeshi rich cultural heritage and bring it to the mainstream to proclaim our glorious history and traditions. We are wholeheartedly committed to create a platform to support, guide and facilitate Bangladeshi community in the DC Metro area to move forward, face the new era challenges and merge with the mainstream.

Our prime focus is also on our young generation, who will be the leader and architect of our community in the coming years. Prio Bangla encourages exchange of students, artists, athletes among different cultures and communities to promote mutual understanding and respect for all.

Prio Bangla started it's journey not too long ago and we are confident that we will be able to make a difference with our dedicated efforts in time to come. Our Achievements and awards in the last few years already shows the sign of positive impact that we have been able to create in the society. We are extremely proud of our Prio Bangla team and very grateful to all of our team members, advisors, volunteer, sponsors, supporters and well-wishers. Let's all walk this journey together to demonstrate shared prosperity in the community.

PRIO BANGLA SERVICES:

Cultural Exchange:

The cultural exchange is a process of looking at the factors that have determined our makeup and our personality and to assess whether we have made the right choices. By witnessing other people's lifestyles and making comparisons with our own, we often find that there is a lot we can learn from each other and that no culture is better than another. Cultural exchange is basically a two way process, a process of education, evaluation, reflection, understanding and learning to enrich and enhance the personal as well as the community life.

Charity:

The word charity comes from the Latin "caritas," meaning, costliness, esteem, affection and loving-kindness. But the current usage of the word "charity" typically implies an action in assistance of someone, who is in dire need of financial or any other type of help and support. Prio Bangla is dedicated to the cause of giving. Charity recipients of Prio Bangla serve as a confirmation of the fact that person(s) in need deserve kindness and charity of others and that our moral responsibility in society is to share and help the needy.

Student Internship and Counseling Program:

It's one of our efforts to guide and advise the undergraduate students seeking internships with top companies, to show them the way to shine in their internship program to get hired. We are dedicated to assist our young students as well as the interested individuals in the community for professional career development.

USA Military Career Advice:

We are offering advices and counselling about how to join the United States Military including our United States Armed Forces, Air Forces, Coast guards and Marines. We provide advices on different aspects such as military training, military technologies, state of the arts ops centers and much more.

Immigration/Legal Counseling:

Influx of people from different countries around the world is making Immigration in the United States harder and harder to handle and manage. And new immigrants are often ignorant of the immigration policies as well as recent changes, that affects their immigration process. Prio Bangla is here to assist those who are looking for legal help or assistance in immigration matters. It means a lot for those in the community, specially who are new and have no one to help them in these matters.

Medical Advice and Free Dental Clinic:

Prior Bangla medical advice center intends to offer formal, professional opinion regarding what a specific individual should or should not do to restore or preserve health. Typically, medical advice involves giving a diagnosis, prescribing a treatment for medical conditions. Also Prio Bangla free clinic project is a medical facility that intends to offer community healthcare on a free or very low-cost basis to individuals with marginal or no healthcare benefits. We already started our free dental services. If you need help in these areas, please call us for your free consultation and guidance.

Miscellaneous Advise Line:

Driver License or improvement program advise, Student Exchange Program, Senior Disability Advise , etc.