

Message from the Chairman



Despite facing a period of political unrest and uncertainty, Special Olympics Bangladesh stood strong and continued to thrive in its endeavor with the support of SOI, SOAP, SOBD Board Members, we have expanded our activities throughout Bangladesh. Our growth of athletes, coaches, families, volunteers, unified partners are remarkable.

This yearly publication of SOBD reflects our shared commitment to inclusion, dignity and opportunity for all. Thanks to all the Board Members, advisors, sponsors, staffs of SO Bangladesh, coaches, volunteers, family members, organizations working with Intellectual disabilities and everyone who has been a part of our journey last year. Hope to have support from all concern in moving forward.

Together, we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Journey of Special Olympics Bangladesh Floorball Team at SOWWG 2025, Turin, Italy



Special Olympics Bangladesh Floorball Team proudly represented the country at the Special Olympics World Winter Games from 8-15 March 2025 in Turin, Italy showcasing exceptional talent, perseverance, and unity on the global stage. Under the leadership of Engr. Sheikh Abul Hashem (HOD) and Ms. Quamrun Nahar Dana (AHOD), the team completed six months of intensive training at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP). Medical and logistical support from Dr. Nishat Parveen and Ms. Subarna Chakma ensured athletes' fitness and smooth participation. The team emerged as Champions after defeating Special Olympics Ukraine in the final, inspiring families, communities and international audiences.

Upon their return, the champions received a warm reception at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from SOBD Chairman Mr. Moshir Rahman and board members. This historic achievement marks a significant step toward inclusion and empowerment of persons with intellectual disabilities.



Masrur Ahmed Himel Joins Special Olympics Asia Pacific RALC

Special Olympics Bangladesh proudly celebrates Masrur Ahmed Himel's selection to the Regional Athlete Leadership Council (RALC) of Special Olympics Asia Pacific (SOAP). His journey reflects the impact of SOBD's Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs), held in Singapore from 15 March - 23 March 2025 where continuous training strengthened his communication, leadership, and advocacy skills, enabling him to confidently represent athlete voices at the regional level.

Himel is also professionally engaged as a designer with POTO Company, demonstrating creativity, employability, and independence. Mentorship from Mobarak Hossain played a key role in his development. His selection is a personal milestone and a proud moment for SOBD, inspiring other athletes with intellectual disabilities to lead, contribute, and succeed both on and off the field.



SOBD Delegates Participated in SOAP Strategic Meeting, Singapore

From 25-28 June 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) participated in the Special Olympics Asia Pacific (SOAP) Strategic Meeting in Singapore. The delegation, including Chairman Mr. Moshir Rahman, Treasurer Mr. Kamran Sunjoy Rahman, Director Ms. Yasmin Rahman, National Director Mr. Faruqul Islam, and Manager Mr. Mofazzal Hossain, engaged with SOAP and Special Olympics International officials on organizational development and strategic planning. SOBD delegates shared its progress, structure and vision.



Empowering Young Athletes under Health Impact Grant Activities



In 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh supported by Special Olympics International (SOI) and local partners, successfully implemented Young Athletes (YA) programs across all 64 districts, reaching 8,836 children with intellectual disabilities. The initiatives were delivered by 200 trained YA trainers and volunteers, with active support from families, caregivers, and teachers, ensuring quality training and grassroots engagement. The program enhanced physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development through structured play and sports-based activities, promoting inclusion from an early age. SOBD introduced the SOI Young Athletes App to trainers for efficient session planning, activity tracking, and reporting



Young Athletes kit bags were also distributed to encourage participation at program sites and at home. These initiatives strengthen early childhood development and foster a culture of inclusive sports nationwide.

Connecting Athletes under Program Emergency Relief Fund (PERF)

SO Bangladesh has successfully recruited 150 community mobilizers at the beginning of the (PERF) grant period to connect, collect data and train athletes though we faced some challenges in starting the project activities. These community mobilizers were typically from special schools and physical education teachers. All these community mobilizers were tasked with outreaching individuals with intellectual disability those had no exposure to SO Programming before. These community mobilizers were trained in basic SO programming and can conduct basic fitness and developmental skills session with the athletes. This session typically lasts 2 hours. These community mobilizers worked tirelessly to register athletes from remote areas in Bangladesh.



They first collected the data of the athletes manually, ensure that athletes are exposed in basic SO programming and then this data was stored on a database at the national office. Every community mobilizer with help of their schools and organizations organized competitions with these athletes. They also supported and organized Young Athletes Programs. These local training sessions will be conducted throughout this project period. As a result of these efforts, 11,859 athletes were successfully connected and trained in their local communities. Families also reported positive changes as athletes got opportunities to participate in Special Olympics activities and became more active and enthusiastic about participating in sports.

Honoring Champions: Celebrating SOBD's International Sporting Success

Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) organized reception and recognition programs to honor the outstanding achievements of its Floorball, Badminton, and Football Teams at major international competitions. The Floorball Team was warmly received on 21 June 2025 following their remarkable success at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025.



Subsequently, the Badminton and Football Teams were honored at a joint reception on 20 December 2025, celebrating their achievements at the SOAP Badminton Competition 2025 in Malaysia and the Special Olympics Southeast Asia Football Competition 2025 in Indonesia, where both men's and women's teams secured First Position in Division-1. All receptions were hosted at the residence of the SOBD Chairman, creating a warm and family-like atmosphere. Monetary awards were presented to athletes in recognition of their dedication, discipline, and excellence. These events reaffirmed SOBD's commitment to empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities and inspiring inclusion through sport.



Youth Leadership Activity and Activation Programs at IUBAT



Special Olympics Bangladesh, in collaboration with the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), conducted two Youth Leadership Activity and Activation Programs on 12 April 2025 and 20 December 2025 celebrating inclusion, leadership, and community engagement. The first program brought together 28 youth leaders, and the second engaged 23 leaders, both with and without intellectual disabilities, providing a platform to share ideas, develop leadership skills, and promote inclusive communities.

Promoting Health and Inclusion Through Fitness (Weekly Fitness Program)

In 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh expanded fitness programs to promote health and inclusion for athletes with intellectual disabilities, their families, and communities. Weekly fitness program is an ongoing activity of SO Bangladesh since 2017 with support from Dhaka University and the National Stadium, involve siblings, families, and caregivers, fostering inclusive participation.



Empowering Coaches through Sports Development Grant (SDG) Program

With support from the Gallagher Grant, Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) successfully organized six Coaches Development Training Sessions to strengthen inclusive sports coaching nationwide. A total of 106 new and existing coaches participated, gaining updated knowledge and practical skills aligned with Special Olympics International coaching standards.



The trainings were held across five districts- Dhaka, Dinajpur, Khulna, Jamalpur, and Chattogram with strong support from local partners. Sessions took place at accessible venues such as the National Stadium, Khulna BKSP, and intellectual disability school playgrounds. Led by Ms. Khurshida Khatun Khushi of the Bangladesh Athletic Federation, the trainings emphasized athlete-centered, safe, and inclusive coaching practices.

Following the sessions, coaches expanded sports activities in their districts, improving athlete engagement, confidence, and community collaboration. Through this initiative, SOBD continues to invest in quality coaching to promote inclusion and lasting positive change.



Special Olympics Bangladesh Shines at Asia Pacific Badminton Tournament, Malaysia

Special Olympics Bangladesh proudly represented the nation at the Asia Pacific Badminton Tournament held in Malaysia from 16–21 September 2025. The delegation included ten athletes and four coaches, competing in two age categories (16–21 and 22–33 years) alongside teams from ten countries. The Bangladesh team delivered an exceptional performance, winning 11 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze medals across 15 events, marking a historic achievement.



Bangladesh Crowned Champions at Southeast Asia Special Olympics Football 2025

Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) male and female football teams achieved a historic First Position at the Special Olympics Southeast Asia Football Competition 2025, held in Bandung, Indonesia from November 10–14. Competing against teams from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, both Bangladeshi squads remained undefeated, reflecting exceptional discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship following two months of intensive training. The men's team claimed First Position in Division-1 with a 3–1 victory over host Indonesia, while the women's team secured Division-1 First Position after a thrilling 5–3 win against Thailand.



Family Health Forum Events – Strengthening Knowledge and Inclusion

From 01 June to 30 September 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh, supported by Special Olympics International (SOI), organized eight Family Health Forum (FHF) events across five districts, reaching 331 family members. Four events were held in Dhaka, with others in Chapainawabganj, Moulvibazar, Manikganj, and Lalmonirhat, ensuring inclusive access to health information nationwide.



Family Support Network 2025: Strengthening Families, Inspiring Athletes



In 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh's Family Support Network (FSN), led by Ms. Yasmin Rahman with guidance from Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, empowered families as key partners in athlete development. Engaging 364 family members, FSN organized programs across Dhaka and other districts, supporting Family Health Forum events and year-round awareness and community initiatives. Highlights included workshops and sibling programs at Beautiful Mind School, where families and athletes participated in interactive sessions, cultural activities, and fitness programs.



Athlete Leadership Training Program – Empowering Leaders

Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) organized three Athlete Leadership Program (ALP) sessions on 24 March 2025, 29 April 2025 and 21 Dec 2025 empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities to assume leadership roles in their communities. A group of athlete leaders, supported by dedicated mentors, participated in interactive training focused on communication, decision-making, teamwork, and self-advocacy.



Through practical exercises, participants significantly enhanced their confidence and capacity to lead and inspire others. Families expressed heartfelt appreciation, witnessing positive transformations in their children, including increased self-esteem, social interaction, and a strong sense of purpose. These sessions reinforced SOBD's commitment to nurturing leadership and inclusion among athletes.

Unified Sports Activities of Special Olympics Bangladesh

Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) successfully implemented Unified Sports activities to promote social inclusion, mutual respect, and teamwork between athletes with and without intellectual disabilities. The initiative emphasized ability over disability, fostering friendship and understanding through sport.



Inauguration of Sub-chapters– 2025



To accelerate and expand the activities of athletes with intellectual disabilities across the country, under the official guidelines of Special Olympics International (SOI), Special Olympics Bangladesh has undertaken initiatives to establish sub-chapters in different districts of the country. Up to the year 2024, the number of sub-chapters under Special Olympics Bangladesh stood at 21. Now its continuation in 2025, two more new sub-chapters of Special Olympics Bangladesh were formally inaugurated, one in Naogaon District on 26 August 2025 and two in Munshiganj District on 31 August 2025.



Healthy Young Athletes Screening Program – Promoting Early Health intervention

Special Olympics Bangladesh, supported by Special Olympics International (SOI) and local partners, organized eight Healthy Athletes Pediatric Screening events to promote early health assessment for Young Athletes. Coordinated by Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, Clinical Director, the sessions were held in Dhaka (6), Kishoreganj and Rangpur. A total of 223 Young Athletes were screened, benefiting from timely identification of health needs. In addition, drawing and activity sessions engaged children and families, creating a lively, inclusive environment. Supported by medical and non-medical volunteers, the events received positive feedback from families and physicians.



Special Smiles Event: Promoting Oral Health

On October 22, 2025, Special Olympics Bangladesh hosted the Special Smiles program at Kallyani Inclusive School, Malibagh, providing specialized oral health screenings to 26 athletes. Led by Clinical Director Dr. Ibrahim Khalil and supported by Dr. Orpita Barua, each athlete received professional care in a respectful, supportive environment. Athlete Leaders guided and encouraged their peers, demonstrating inclusive leadership, while a family awareness session equipped parents and caregivers with tools to prioritize oral hygiene at home. By combining clinical expertise with community engagement, the event promoted health, empowerment, and the message that every smile deserves a healthy future.



SOBD Board Meeting



In 2025, five SOBD Board Meetings were held with active participation from Board Members and Advisors. To further strengthen the sports and health activities of Special Olympics Bangladesh, the SOBD organogram was reorganized and two new positions were created: Manager Sports and Manager Health. Mr. Md. Shameem Al Mamun was appointed as Manager Sports and Mr. Mofazzal Hossain was appointed as Manager Health.

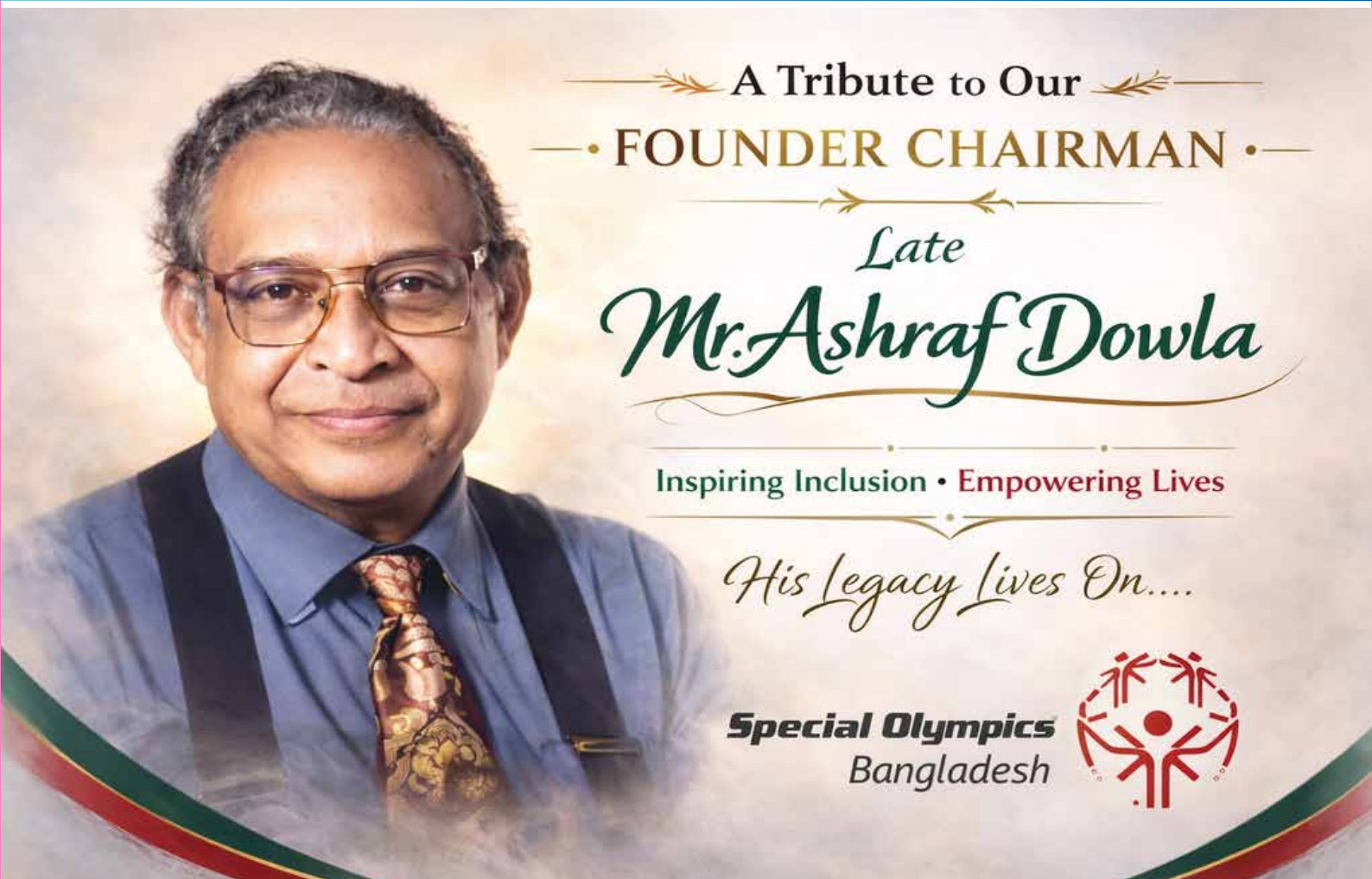


SO Bangladesh Board

Mr. Moshiur Rahman	Chairman	Mr. S M Khalequzzaman	Director
Ms. Mamtaz Sultana	Vice Chairman	Mr. Md Masudur Rahman	Director
Mr. Kamran Sunjoy Rahman	Treasurer	Mr. Md Rasel Kabir Sumon	Director
Eng. Sheikh Abul Hashem	Sports Director	Mr. Didar A Husain	Director
Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha	Family Director	Mr. Mohibbul Quader Ashequl Islam	Director
Mr. Md Nahid Hassan Khan	Director	Mr. S M Ferdous Ikram	Director
Ms. Yasmin Rahman	Director	Mr. Masrur Ahmed Himel	Director
Ms. Yasmin A Rahman	Director	Mr. Faruqul Islam	National Director
Dr. Zafar Ahmed	Director		
Ms. Shalina Parveen	Director		
Ms. Quamrun Nahar Dana	Director		
Mr. A Matin Chowdhury	Director		
Mr. Fakrul Alam	Director		
Mr. M Shoeb Chowdhury	Director		
Ms. Subarna Chakma	Director		
Mr. Tahrin Aman	Director		
Mr. Md Mahbubul Monir	Director		
Mr. Md Sanwar Hossain	Director		

Advisors of SOBD

Dr. Shamim Matin Chowdhury	Advisor
Lt. Col. Dr. Md Habibul Islam (Rtd)	Advisor
Mr. Rezwan Rahman	Advisor
Mr. Khan Md Iqbal	Advisor
Mr. Md Rejaul Hossain Badsha	Advisor
Ms. Zeenat Aziz Latif	Advisor
Dr. Shahnewaz Chowdhury	Advisor



Mr. Ashraf Dowla (1932-2025)

And

The Birth of Special Olympics Bangladesh

Mr. Will Hoen Droph, Vice President of Special Olympics International, visited Bangladesh in 1993. After a discussion with Mr. Ashraf Dowla, the then Secretary General of SWID Bangladesh, Mr. Droph entrusted Mr. Dowla with the responsibility to form an ad hoc committee of Special Olympics Bangladesh. Accordingly, a six-member Executive Committee was formed in the same year. Under his guidance, steps were taken to draft the Constitution of Special Olympics Bangladesh, with valuable contributions from Mr. Will Hoen Droph. Subsequently, Special Olympics Bangladesh Foundation was officially registered with the Ministry of Law in July 1994. Mr. Ashraf Dowla became the Founder Chairman of SO Bangladesh. The first Executive Committee of Special Olympics Bangladesh was formed with the following 6 members : 01. Mr. Ashraf-Ud-Dowla, 02. Mr. Matiur Rahman, 03. Mr. Anwarul Kabir, 04. Mr. D.P Barua, 05. Dr. Shamim Matin Chowdury, 06. Mr. Md. Ali Shaheed Khan. Under the leadership of Mr. Dowla, SOBD Sports Team participated in the SO World Games in USA in 1995. Bangladesh athletes achieved outstanding success, bringing honour and pride to Bangladesh. After that, till today, the successive success of the Athletes of Special Olympics Bangladesh has continued in every Special Olympics World Games.

Our Special Athletes, who are intellectually disabled hold unparalleled, matchless record of successive success in the International Competitions and brought laurels for Bangladesh

Year	Games Meet	Country	Result
1995	SO Summer World Games 1995	New Haven, USA	6 Gold, 7 Silver, 7 Bronze
1996	SO 1st Asia-Pacific Games 1996	Shanghai, China	6 Gold, 1 Silver, 9 Bronze
1999	SO Summer World Games 1999	North Carolina, USA	21 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze
2003	SO Summer World Games 2003	Dublin, Ireland	10 Gold, 6 Silver, 6 Bronze
2005	SO 1st Asia-Pacific Bocce Games 2005	Brunei	6 Gold, 6 Silver, 2 Bronze
2006	1st International Cricket Tournament	Mumbai, India	Runners up
2007	SO Summer World Games 2007	Shanghai, China	32 Gold, 15 Silver, 24 Bronze
2008	SO 2nd Asia Pacific Bocce Games 2008	Brunei	11 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze
2009	International Asia Pacific Cricket Carnival	Delhi, India	Runners up
2011	SO Summer World Games 2011	Athens, Greece	35 Gold, 16 Silver, 07 Bonze
2012	South Asian Football Tournament 2012	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Champion
2012	4th SO Asia Pacific Bocce Games 2012	Brunei	12 Gold 2 Silver, Champion
2013	SO World Winter Games 2013	Pyeongchang, Korea	Champion in Floor Hockey
2013	World Cup Unified Football Qualifier	Bangkok, Thailand	Runners up
2013	Asia Pacific Regional Games	New Castle, Australia	35 Gold, 15 Silver, 7 Bronze
2014	SO South Asian Unified Cricket	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Runners up

Refresh Memory-2025

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2015	SO Summer World Games 2015	LA, USA	18 Gold 22 Silver 14 Bronze
2015	SO Regional Unified Floor Hockey 2015	Seoul, Korea	Champion
2015	SO 5th Asia Pacific Bocce Games	Brunei	12 Gold, 1 Bronze, Champion
2016	SO 2nd South Asian Unified Cricket	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Champion
2017	SO Winter World Games 2017	Austria	Female Team-Champion Male Team-Runners Up
2017	Special Olympics Unified Bocce 2017	Macau, China	5 Gold, 2 Silver
2017	3rd SO South Asia Unified Cricket 2017	India	Champion
2018	Special Olympics MENA Games 2018	Abu-Dhabi	Champion-Football
2019	SO Summer World Games 2019	Abu-Dhabi	22 Gold, 10 Silver, 06 Bronze
2019	SO Unified Beach Cricket	Srilanka	Champion
2019	SO Unified Badminton Championship	Thailand	01 Gold, 01 Silver, 02 Bronze
2023	SO World Games Berlin 2023	Germany	24 Gold, 04 Silver, 05 Bronze
2024	SO South Asia Unified Football 2024	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Champion
2024	SO Asia Pacific Bocce Competition 2024	New Delhi, India	04 Gold, 04 Silver, 03 Bronze
2025	SO World Winter Games 2025 (Floorball)	Torino, Italy	Champion
2025	SOAP Unified Badminton 2025	Malaysia	11 Gold, 02 Silver, 01 Bronze
2025	SO South East Asia Football 2025	Indonesia	1st Position

