



Greetings from Special Olympics Bangladesh

Special Olympics Bangladesh Hosts Successful SO South Asia 7-a-Side Unified Football Competition with Support from Bangladesh Football Federation



Special Olympics Bangladesh organized & hosted SO South Asia 7-a-side Unified Football competition at Bashundhara Kings Arena stadium, Dhaka from 16th to 20th April 2024. Bangladesh Football Federation supported the event by nominating match commissioner, 10 male & female match referees for conducting the football competitions. More than 200 volunteers, liaisons, technical staffs, grounds men were engaged. 10 local organizing committee were formed to organize the events.

As part of our Family Support Network program, we recently organized a special discussion meeting with the parents of children with special needs. The event served as a platform for parents and educators to come together, share experiences, and explore ways to better support their children. In addition to the insightful discussions, we also hosted a drawing competition, providing a wonderful opportunity for the children to express their creativity and emotions through art. The colorful and imaginative artworks were a testament to the unique perspectives and talents of each child. The day was filled with inspiration, learning, and a deepened sense of community, reinforcing our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every family feels supported and empowered.

Special Olympics Bangladesh Hosts SO South Asia 7-a-Side Football with Young Athletes' Demonstration



Special Olympics Bangladesh organized a successful SO South Asia 7-a-side Unified Football competition at the Bashundhara Kings Arena stadium in Dhaka from April 16th to 20th, 2024. The event, supported by the Bangladesh Football Federation, featured thrilling football matches with the guidance of a match commissioner and 10 male and female referees. In addition to the competitive football games, the event included a special demonstration by Young Athletes, who are children with intellectual disabilities. This demonstration showcased their talents and skills in a supportive environment, adding a unique and heartfelt element to the competition. The presence of these young participants underscored the event's commitment to inclusion and the celebration of every individual's abilities. Their involvement brought an extra layer of inspiration and unity to the event, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.



Weekly Fitness Program for Special Children

Every Friday, the Bangabandhu National Stadium transforms into a vibrant hub of activity, energy, and joy as Special Olympics Bangladesh hosts its weekly fitness program. This initiative is not just about exercise; it's about creating an inclusive environment where special children can thrive, grow, and build confidence through physical activity. Each week, the stadium is filled with the sounds of laughter, encouragement, and the determination of these young athletes as they participate in a variety of fitness activities tailored to their abilities and needs. The program is designed to promote physical health, but its impact goes far beyond that. For these children, Friday fitness sessions are an



opportunity to connect with others, build friendships, and experience the sense of achievement that comes from setting and reaching personal goals. The supportive atmosphere fostered by the coaches and volunteers ensures that every child feels valued and celebrated for their unique strengths. Parents and caregivers also play an integral role in this program, with many joining in to cheer on their children, share in their successes, and witness the positive changes that regular physical activity brings. The fitness program is a testament to the power of sport to bring people together, break down barriers, and create lasting memories for everyone involved. As the weeks go by, the transformation in these children is evident—not just in their physical abilities but in their increased self-esteem and social skills. The program is a shining example of how Special Olympics Bangladesh is dedicated to empowering special children,

Every Friday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium is a celebration of their potential, and a reminder that with the right support, every child can achieve great things. Special Olympics Bangladesh's Friday fitness program at Bangabandhu National Stadium is more than just an event—it's a movement. It's about breaking down barriers, celebrating diversity, and building a world where every child, regardless of ability, has the chance to thrive. These sessions are a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to support its most vulnerable members, making every Friday not just another day, but a day of transformation, joy, and endless possibilities.



As the sun sets on Friday evenings, the impact of the day's activities lingers long after the last exercise has been completed. For many of the children, these fitness sessions have become a highlight of their week—a place where they are not defined by their disabilities but celebrated for their abilities. The smiles, high-fives, and words of encouragement exchanged during these sessions create lasting memories that bolster their self-esteem and reinforce the belief that they can achieve anything they set their minds to. With each passing week, the program strengthens its foundation, laying the groundwork for a future where every child, regardless of their challenges, has the opportunity to live a full, active, and fulfilling life.



Family Engagement Program of Family Support Network (FSN).



The Family Engagement Program was successfully held at the Autism Welfare Foundation, Keraniganj, Dhaka, on June 9, 2024, under the guidance of Mrs. Yasmin Rahman, Chairman of Family Support Network. This program is the third episode of FSN.

There are 15 parents, 15 athletes, SOBD coordinators, AWF teachers, and volunteers. This program is illuminated by the presence of Mr. Faruqul Islam, National Director of SO Bangladesh, as the chief guest. The program is presided over by Mr. Khan Md. Iqbal, Secretary General of FSN and Advisor of SOBD (Ex-Director of SOBD). Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, FIC member of SOAP and Director of SOBD; attended as special guest. Dr. Rownak Hafiz, Principal of Kanon & Founder and Chairperson of AWF; present there to enrich the program.

There are several events-

1. Introductory Session; member of FSN Keraniganj Zone introduced themselves.
2. Art Competition; 15 athletes participated in the art competition.
3. Tree plantation program.
4. Cultural Events; music and dance performed by the athletes.
5. Family Engagement workshop; the workshop is conducted by Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, FIC member of SOAP and Director of SOBD. In this workshop there is discussion on the role of parents, families and other social workers. Also, there is discussion on the mental health of parents and athletes.
6. Certificates are awarded to the FSN family members who attended the workshop.
7. Gift distribution among the athletes, competitor and performer.
8. Refreshment (snacks).



Tree Plantation Program-2024 of Family Support Network.



Due to global warming, in line with 5 June, World Environment Day and National Tree Plantation Program 2024, Family Support Network has adopted "Tree Plantation Program-2024" to increase the tree resources of the country and preserve the balance of the environment. On the occasion, under the guidance of Mrs. Yasmin Rahman, Chairman of Family Support Network; a tree plantation program was held at Autism Welfare Foundation (AWF) school on June 6 and on June 22 at Lalmonirhat, in addition to the Family Engagement program.

At this time, Family Support Network & Special Olympics Bangladesh's officials, special athletes, Trainers, special teachers, families & volunteers participated in the tree planting program by planting saplings. Mr. Faruqul Islam, National Director of SO Bangladesh; Mr. Khan Md. Iqbal, Secretary General of FSN and Advisor of SOBD (Ex-Director of SOBD); Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, FIC member of SOAP and Director of SOBD; Dr. Rownak Hafiz, Principal of Kanon & Founder and Chairperson of AWF; Mohammad Ullah, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate of Lalmonirhat and Other eminent personalities were to enrich in the said programs. Through this program Family Support Network planted saplings of various fruit, forest and medicinal plants.

Discussion Meeting with Parents of Children with Special Needs



We recently hosted a meaningful discussion meeting with the parents of children with special needs, creating a supportive space for sharing experiences, challenges, and insights. The event emphasized the importance of collaboration between families and educators in fostering an inclusive environment. Through open dialogue, parents and professionals worked together to explore new strategies and resources, ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. The meeting was a testament to our commitment to empowering parents and enhancing the lives of children with special needs.



Highlights from Our Drawing Competition



As part of our Family Support Network program, we recently organized a special discussion meeting with the parents of children with special needs. The event served as a platform for parents and educators to come together, share experiences, and explore ways to better support their children. In addition to the insightful discussions, we also hosted a drawing competition, providing a wonderful opportunity for the children to express their creativity and emotions through art. The colorful and imaginative artworks were a testament to the unique perspectives and talents of each child. The day was filled with inspiration, learning, and a deepened sense of community, reinforcing our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every family feels supported and empowered.

