



Greetings from Special Olympics Bangladesh

In 2024, Special Olympics Bangladesh continued its mission to empower individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) through inclusive and impactful programs. Besides year activities of SO Bangladesh, the following 07 Significant Special Olympics International funded project activities were successfully implemented:

- i. Christmas Records Trust (CRT) Grant Project
- ii. Health Impact Subaward Grant Project
- iii. Program Emergency Relief Fund (PERF) Project
- iv. Family Health Forum Subaward Grant Project
- v. Healthy Athletes Subaward Grant Project
- vi. Family Registration Support Grant Project
- vii. Metlife Funding Project

GLIMPSES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS BANGLADESH SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Local Coaches Training Program: Organized in three districts, focusing on building the capacity of grass roots coaches. A total of 114 local coaches participated, equipping themselves with skills to train athletes effectively and foster inclusivity.

Training Sessions for Athletes: Conducted by both Local and National-level Coaches at National and Grass root levels. These sessions aimed to develop athletes' technical and tactical abilities.



SOBD organized 13 Talent Hunt events at district and divisional level with the support of BKSP regional centers. 1292 athletes participated in those talent hunt events to show their potentiality.

In 2024, SOBD organized training Camps for the athletes of the Special Olympics World Winter Games (SOWWG) 2025, SO South Asia 7-a Side Unified Football Competition 2024, Dhaka and SOAP Regional Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024, Delhi.

These activities reflect Special Olympics Bangladesh's commitment to fostering talent, promoting inclusivity, and athlete empowerment at local, regional and global levels.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BANGLADESH SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED SO SOUTH ASIA 7-A SIDE UNIFIED FOOTBALL 2024 AT DHAKA

Special Olympics Bangladesh hosted and organized SO South Asia Unified 7-a Side Unified Football Competition in Dhaka from 16 to 20 April 2024. More than 100 delegates from 05 Special Olympics Programs namely Bangladesh, Bharat, Hongkong, Indonesia and Maldives participated. The Games were inaugurated at Bashudhara Kings Stadium by Mr. Md Shah Alam, Managing Director, NDD Protection Trust, Ministry of Social Welfare.



The Occasion was graced by the presence of several distinguished special guests including Mr. Dipak Natali, President and Managing Director, SOAP; Mr. R Aaravin, Sports Specialist, SOAP; Ms. Preethy Janarthanan, Senior Sports Manager, SOAP; Mr. Avin Tan, Manager, Communications and Development, SOAP; Ms. Avi Tania, Manager, Health and Program Development, SOAP and Dr. Shamim Matin Chowdhury, immediate past Chairman and Advisor, Special Olympics Bangladesh. 03 (Three) Days of excitement on the football grounds showed the determination of the players to make their team win was clearly visible.

On the concluding day of the tournament trophies, medals, prizes and souvenirs were handed over. Mr. Moshir Rahman, Chairman, SO Bangladesh graced the occasion of the Closing Ceremony as chief guest to close the games. SO Bangladesh B (Male) Team and SO Bangladesh A (Female) Team became the Champion of the Tournament. Both the team of SO Bangladesh was headed by Ms. Quamrun Nahar Dhaka as HOD. Beyond Football, Special Olympics Bangladesh offered Healthy Athletes screening events for all athletes and unified partners of the tournament. Also, the Young Athletes Program was organized at a time aside from the tournament.





PARTICIPATION OF SO BANGLADESH BOCCE TEAM IN SOAP REGIONAL BOCCE AND BOWLING COMPETITION 2024, NEW DELHI, INDIA

Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition 2024 was arranged by SO Bharat from 18 – 23 November 2024 in New Delhi where 250 athletes, coaches and officials from 15 countries participated. This tournament was aimed at advocating for and empowering senior athletes (Age more than 22 years).



15 members SO Bangladesh Bocce Team participated in the competition and our special Athletes won 04 gold, 04 silver and 03 bronze medals. S M Khalequzzaman played the role of Head of Delegation of this team. After achieving a successful result, the team returned from New Delhi on 23 November 2024.

YOUNG ATHLETES INITIATIVES

With the support of Special Olympics International, local partners, YA trainers and volunteers, Special Olympics Bangladesh successfully organized Young Athletes programs in 64 districts for 6223 Young Athletes. Families, caregivers and teachers played active roles in implementing and reaching the targeted number. These events created opportunities for the Young Athletes to develop their physical, mental, cognitive, emotional development and social inclusion.





GLIMPSES OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS BANGLADESH IN 2024

Special Olympics Bangladesh continues its dedication to promoting the health and well-being of individuals with intellectual disabilities through impactful initiatives. Below are key highlights of health activities in 2024:



Organized 04 awareness Seminars for 190 families and volunteers in Dhaka, Moulvibazar and Gaibandha. These sessions focused on health education, preventive care, and the importance of inclusive healthcare for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Conducted 03 Health Advocacy training sessions for 139 families and caregivers in Dhaka, Jamalpur and Chattogram. The training aimed to empower them with knowledge and skills to advocate for better healthcare and support services for the athletes and ID people.

Arranged 02 Health Messenger Training Program for the Athlete leaders of SO Bangladesh. 18 Health Messengers participated in these training programs. These athletes served as role models, spreading awareness about the importance of healthy living. Also activated them who are now advocating for health and fitness within their communities.



With the support of Women Medical College Hospital, SOBD conducted training sessions for health professionals and students outside Healthy Athletes events on 26 Dec 2024. This program emphasized inclusive healthcare practices and understanding the unique needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. 57 Health professionals and students attended the training session.



FAMILY HEALTH FORUM EVENTS ORGANIZED BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS BANGLADESH

In 2024, Special Olympics Bangladesh (SOBD) successfully hosted 06 Family Health Forum events, gathering 303 participants to engage families of those with intellectual disabilities (ID) in Special Olympics and offer an environment where parents and caregivers can gain direct access to health information, resources, and support. Among them, 03 were organized in Dhaka and the other 03 were in Narsingdi, Jamalpur and Rangpur District. Renowned physicians, nutritionists, psychologists, physiotherapists, trainers and coaches were invited to deliver their presentations on the topics of Healthy Eating, Parent and Caregiver stress management, Fitness/ Physical Activity and Diabetes Prevention/ Management.



With generous support from various partner organizations, the events provided a collaborative environment for sharing knowledge and resources among the participants. Families were delighted and felt empowered, expressing heartfelt gratitude to Special Olympics and its partners for the insights, guidance and initiatives. Government Officials, Lions Club members and community leaders were present at these events.

HEALTHY ATHLETES PEDIATRIC SCREENING EVENTS

Special Olympics Bangladesh organized 06 (six) Healthy Athletes' pediatric screening events that were supported by Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shahid Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital. Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, Clinical Director, SO Bangladesh coordinated the events. A team of eight specialist physicians and volunteers' effort made the event successful. The first event was honored by the presence of the hospital's director Brig. General Dr. Md Asaduzzaman who has provided strong support for this initiative. A total of 204 pediatric screenings were done in these 06 events supported by the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shahid Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital.





Families expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Special Olympics International for offering such a beneficial program for their children, which provided essential health assessments and guidance for them. Special Olympics Bangladesh also offered activities and drawing programs for the Young Athletes to keep them joyful which also attracted the attention of the families and other spectators.

HEALTHY ATHLETES EVENTS



In collaboration with the Partners, Special Olympics Bangladesh conducted 04 Healthy Athletes screening events (02 Health Promotion, 01 Opening Eyes and 01 Special Smiles). On 18 Apr 2024, SOBD offered Healthy Athlete screening events (Health Promotion and Special Smiles) for the participants of SO South Asia 7-a Side Unified Football Competition 2024, Dhaka. SOAP Officials, SOBD Board Members and Clinical Directors were present at those events.

With the support of Lions Eyes Institute Hospital, SOBD conducted the Opening Eyes event on 21 Sep 2024. Another Health Promotion event was held on 05 October 2024 at Beautiful Mind School. A total of 162 athletes got the opportunity to participate in these Healthy Athletes events.



ENGAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS OF DHAKA SOUTH CITY CORPORATION IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS MOVEMENT

Special Olympics Bangladesh successfully conducted a training program for Community Health Workers (CHWs) on 25th November 2024, with the generous support of Dhaka South City Corporation. The training aimed to provide education and capacity building to CHWs, specifically on working with individuals with ID and fostering their engagement in the Special Olympics movement. A total of 26 Community Health Workers actively participated in the training session. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Health Officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, Dr. Fazle Shamsul Kabir as the Chief Guest.



Dr. Nishat Parveen, Clinical Director of Special Olympics Bangladesh conducted the training sessions with the support of expert speakers from Dhaka South City Corporation.



INITIATIVES OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS BANGLADESH FOR THE EXPANSION OF FITNESS PROGRAMMING

Special Olympics Bangladesh has taken significant strides in promoting fitness and well-being among athletes, families, and communities through targeted training programs (School-based fitness programming, weekly fitness programming, Fitness Captain training and training on fitness programming for the Community mobilizers, local trainers/coaches). These initiatives aim to enhance physical health, foster community engagement, and especially empower individuals with intellectual disability to lead healthier lives.



Recognizing the importance of fitness from a young age, Special Olympics Bangladesh initiated school-based fitness program in 20 special schools and organizations of Dhaka City and Jamalpur District. With the support of the Health Impact Sub award Grant, Special Olympic Bangladesh distributed unified fitness kit for facilitating structured fitness sessions.



13 Athlete leaders participated in the programs. Families, mentors and local coaches were actively engaged throughout the program, reinforcing a supportive environment for the captains to thrive in their roles. Special Olympic Bangladesh organized 02 fitness program sessions for 124 community mobilizers, local trainers and coaches. Both events were held at Beautiful Mind School on 15 November 2024 and 21 December 2024. Experts from Bangladesh Athletic Federation conducted the training sessions. The training also included participation from Health Messengers and Fitness Captains.

To ensure consistent progress and engagement, weekly fitness sessions have been organized by Special Olympics Bangladesh since 2017 with the support of Dhaka University and Bangabandhu National Stadium. Siblings, families and caregivers of the athletes also keep their active participation in these weekly fitness sessions.

Special Olympics Bangladesh introduced Fitness Captain training programs for the athlete leaders, so that, they can use their leadership and communication skills to encourage and empower other fellow athletes.





EXPANSION OF FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK IN BANGLADESH

In 2024, Family Support Network (FSN) was actively engaged families in the Special Olympics movement to promote inclusion and empowerment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Under the leadership of Ms. Yasmin Rahman, SOBD Board Director and the guidance of FIC member Dr. Ajanta Rani Saha, the FSN has undertaken impactful initiatives to strengthen family involvement and community awareness.



Successfully connected 07 organizations of Dhaka and Lalmonirhat district, creating a platform for the families of ID athletes to actively participate in the Special Olympics movement which promoted holistic development through collaborative efforts in sports, young athletes' activities, fitness, health and environmental initiatives. The initiatives successfully reached and impacted more than 300 families' engagement in the Special Olympics movement.

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