



**MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE 2008/09**

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Circular 11 2008/2009
Date 07 Sep2009



Dear Members,
The song ... *bajlo tomar alor benu...* has started ringing in our ears. Our festival begins with.....

Mahalaya

Mahalaya ushers in the aura of Durga Puja. The countdown for Durga Puja begins much earlier, from the day of 'Janmastami'. It is only from the day of Mahalaya that the preparations for Durga Puja reach the final stage.

The midnight chants of hymns that reverberate until the first light of the day fill our hearts with joy and excitement reminding us that Pujo is not far away..

Mahalaya is an auspicious occasion observed seven days before Durga Puja, and heralds the advent of Durga, the Goddess of supreme power. It's a kind of invocation or invitation to the Mother Goddess to descend onto Earth - "Jago Tumi Jago".

This is done through the chanting of mantras and singing devotional songs. The day of Mahalaya is also the day of remembrance. On this day, people offer 'tarpan' in memory of their deceased forefathers. The banks of River Ganga become a sea of humanity.



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Mahalaya will be presented on our website www.bengaliassociationsg.com on 18Sep09

Durga Puja

Durga Puja, the most happening festival of the Bengalis can be sensed with its spurt of fanfare on all the four days of the festival. This autumnal festival recalls the power of female Shakti symbolized by the Goddess Durga who slays asura to reestablish peace and sanctity on earth again.

Bengalis all over the world during these days of Durga Puja rejoice to their heart's content reconnecting with friends and relatives. Durga Puja is an occasion when the familiar sound of Dhak, the exuberance of Dhunuchi Naach and the mild fragrance of Shiuli give a familiar tug to every Bengali heart.





BENGALI ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE
SINDA Building, 1 Beatty Road, Singapore 209943
www.bengaliassociationsingapore.com

Durga Puja, will be held from Thursday, 24th Sep to Monday, 28th Sep09.

Lakshmi Puja will be held on 3rd Oct09.

Puja Dates and timings

Please see the *Puja Samay Suchi* attached for your convenience.

Venue

The event will be held in Khalsa Association, 2 Tessensohn Road. BAS has rented the Khalsa field and a 'pandal' will be constructed for the festival.

Parking in Khalsa is limited. Please use the Civil Service Club or the HDB car parks nearby.

Priest

Dr. Satyananda Chakraborty will perform our Puja.

He is a professor of Sanskrit in Calcutta University teaching Veda, Upanishad and related areas. He trains other priests in sholakas to conduct Durga Puja in the city. In 1987, he was conferred a PhD in origin and development connected to Durga Puja and Indian Religions from Calcutta University.

Shechha Shebok (Volunteers) Please respond by 10Sep09 for all positions

We need your help to make our Puja successful. We need volunteers for the following events.

Please email mc@bengaliassociationsg.com with "volunteer for" in the subject field. You can also call the MC members directly to volunteer. Please call between 7pm – 10pm.

Anondomela

Please email mc@bengaliassociationsg.com state "Volunteer for Anondomela" as subject.

We have 20 tables for this event and will be allocated on a first come basis.

If you are successful in being allocated a table, we would appreciate if you could donate \$30.00 towards the Puja fund.

Cultural Programs

Please contact Nikhilesh Gupta at 67898986 between 7-10pm or email nikhilesh.gupta@bengaliassociationsg.com

We need volunteers to participate in musical programs. Adults and children are invited.

Puja, Preparing Bhog and Kumari Puja

To volunteer for any of the above events please call Swagata Chakraborty at 63889049 between 7-10pm or

email: swagata.chakraborty@bengaliassociationsg.com

Bhog Ranna

There are 3 groups preparing Bhog for Saptami, Ashtami and Navami. New volunteers will be allocated one of these groups. Please note that volunteers bear all costs of preparing the daily Bhog. Bhog preparations start at 6.30am.

Kumari Puja

Please submit names of children aged between 5-9 years. If there is more than one suitable candidate, we will hold a ballot to pick the Kumari.



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Puja

Daily Puja: Volunteers will be divided into groups to assist. We will call for a meeting of volunteers to discuss roles and time slots.

Dhunuchi Naach

Please contact Surojit Dutta at 97709262 between 7-10pm or email surojit.dutta@bengaliassociationsg.com

Decoration

Please contact Soumyesh Banerjee at 98423060 between 7-10pm or email soumyesh.banerjee@bengaliassociationsg.com.

Pandal decoration will be done on the evening of 23Sep, from 6pm until late. Volunteers are also requested to assist with repacking of Protima on 28Sep.

Pujor Mela (Stalls)

Please contact Indranil Ray Chaudhury 96953724 or email indranil.raychaudhury@bengaliassociationsg.com

There will be approximately 10 stalls on the field next to our *pandal*. The stalls are available for rent to the membership at \$500 per stall over the duration of the Puja.

We need 20 eager and enthusiastic volunteers aged between 10 and 20 years to be our youth brigade to look after BAS drinks and souvenir stall. Please note the youth brigade will also be spread around the event to render assistance wherever required.

Registration Desk

Please contact Indranil Ray Chaudhury 96953724 or email indranil.raychaudhury@bengaliassociationsg.com

We need 10 volunteers to assist at the registration desk. Volunteers will be requested to sit at the desk for 1hr every evening. A meeting will be held to discuss specific roles and timings.

Sponsorship of prayer items, garlands, saris etc.

Please contact Swagata Chakraborty at 63889049 between 7-10pm or email: swagata.chakraborty@bengaliassociationsg.com

You may register your interest in sponsoring any of the above items. If there is more than one sponsor, you will be requested to share your sponsorship.

Please note that Mishti, Flowers, Fruits, Pan, Dhup and other Puja items will be available at one of our stalls for your convenience. We request you to buy all the required Puja items from this stall.

Sponsorship of Puja Lunches and Dinners

Please contact Swagata Chakraborty at 63889049 between 7-10pm or email: swagata.chakraborty@bengaliassociationsg.com

We invite individuals, families or groups to sponsor any of the lunches or dinners during Puja.

Payment amount and method

Membership Subscription: Our recent EGM resolved to change the financial year from 01August-31July to 01January-31December. The attached payment voucher reflects membership subscription for Aug09-Dec09 only i.e. \$37.50 family membership, \$19.00 Single membership, \$7.00 senior membership.



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Puja Donation is \$120.00 for family members and \$80.00 for single members.

You are requested to kindly consider making an additional donation to help with the overall cost of organizing this event.

Please complete the attached payment voucher, sign, attach your cheque and send it back to us using the BAS addressed envelope.

Please send us your payments by 15Sep09 to allow us sufficient time to update your profiles by Puja and allow us to pay the bills.

Lucky Draw Prizes

We are planning a lucky draw event during Puja. You are invited to sponsor prizes for this event.

Please note the request for organizing Puja on the payment voucher allows the MC to organize this event.

Guests

Please bring your friends and non-member relatives to our Puja. It will allow us to showcase our culture and traditions.

Kindly purchase guest coupons from the Guest Registration Desk.

Please pick up your copy of the Milon from the Registration Desk during Puja.

With warmest regards,
Mrs. Swagata Chakraborty
Hon. Secretary
Bengali Association Singapore.

Kindly Note that this circular comes attached with paid advertisements. These company sponsorships allow us to subsidise events for our members.

You should receive your hard copy circular in the mail containing payment voucher and BAS self addressed envelope.