



Banglar Kantha

70A Desker Road, Singapore 209593

## 1. Organisation Background

**Banglar Kantha (Voice of Bengal)** is a monthly Bengali newspaper published in Singapore. Banglar Kantha is the only Bengali Language Newspaper in South East Asia. Founded by Mr AKM Mohsin since 2006, he seeks to provide a news platform for approximately 120,000 Bangladeshis low-wage migrant workers in Singapore.

The newspaper covers topics from current news affairs in Bangladesh and Singapore, migrant workers regulations, cultural and entertainment to keep the Bangladeshi community up-to-date about what is happening in both their home and host countries. More importantly, the newspaper serves as a platform to voice the community's opinions and showcase their literary talent.

Literary contests have been organised by Banglar Kantha as a creative outlet for the community to celebrate their culture and express self-identity. These events also attracted the participation of many local writers and facilitated the promotion of cultural exchange and understanding between the migrant and local communities.



Above: Singapore Writers' Festival 2015

***Dibashram*** (meaning ‘day care’ in Bengali) is a physical space founded by Mr AKM Mohsin for the purpose of providing the Bangladeshi migrant workers a place to get together and further their cultural interests such as music and poetry writing, or simply a place to rest and catch up with fellow countrymen during their free days. At times, *Dibashram* also serves as a place for displaced migrant workers to seek shelter temporarily or seek advice while they are resolving the problems encountered.



Above: Founder, Mr AKM Mohsin (in teal shirt) with fellow Bangladeshis at Dibashram

## **2. About Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Mr AKM Mohsin**



*Above: Founder of Banglar Kantha and Dibashram, Mr AKM Mohsin*

For 14 years, Mr AKM Mohsin has dedicated his time fully to champion the rights and providing aid and advice to Bangladeshi workers who encountered difficulties working or living in Singapore.

He arrived in Singapore back in 1991 to further his studies and realised that most of his countrymen came here and focus on making a living, as such, he decided to undertake the responsibility to be the bridge between the Bangladeshi and Singaporean community and help establish the Bangladeshi identity in our multicultural and multilingual society.

Through Bangla Kantha, Mr Mohsin aims to extend a cultural footing to the migrant workers, and bring this marginalized community into the mainstream conversation through music, drama and poetry.

Banglar Kantha has since been involved in curating several cultural programs involving poetry, theatre, dance, music, and photography. One notable accomplishment is the initiation of the first Migrant Worker Poetry Competition that was held back in 2014, with the second and third editions held in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

### 3. Banglar Kantha Newspaper Fact Sheet

**প্রকাশনার ১৪ বছর**  
আগামীর পথে প্রবাসীর সাথে  
MCI (P) 037/02/2020  
১৪ বর্ষ | ১৪ মার্চ | ১৯৭৬-২০১০ | ১৪২৭  
১৫ ২০১০ | Year 14 | May 2020  
মুদ্রা | সিঙ্গাপুর ১ জনার | মাসিকের ২ খণ্ডের  
বঙ্গদেশ ২০ টাকা | বঙ্গ দেশ ই-কনটেন্ট ১ জনার

সিঙ্গাপুর থেকে বঙ্গদেশি মতামত-পূর্ণ এশিয়ার অভিযান্ত্রিকের বাংলা বাসার

# বাংলা কান্থা

**Banglar Kantha**  
www.banglarkantha.net voice @ banglar.kantha.blogspot.com

১৪২৭ বঙ্গ বর্ষের প্রথমখণ্ড



বাংলা কান্থা পত্রিকা বাংলাদেশি মতামত-পূর্ণ এশিয়ার অভিযান্ত্রিকের বাংলা বাসার

## করোনার প্রকোপে বিপর্যস্ত শ্রমবাজার

# দিশেহারা রেমিটেন্স যোদ্ধারা



**শ্রমিকের শ্রম**

শ্রমিকের শ্রমের কারণে দেশের শ্রমিকেরা দৈনিক জীবিকা আঁকছে। তারা তাদের পরিবারের জন্য অর্থ আনছে।



**সিঙ্গাপুর সরকারের উদ্যোগে রপ্তিতে রয়েছে বাংলাদেশি কর্মীরা**

সিঙ্গাপুর সরকারের উদ্যোগে বাংলাদেশি কর্মীরা রপ্তিতে রয়েছে।



**৩ লাখ ২৩ হাজার বিদেশি শ্রমিকের করোনায় পরীক্ষা করবে সিঙ্গাপুর**

সিঙ্গাপুর সরকার ৩ লাখ ২৩ হাজার বিদেশি শ্রমিকের করোনায় পরীক্ষা করবে।

-Frequency: Monthly  
-Extent: 20 pages, full colour  
-Circulation: 10,000  
-Readership: 50,000  
-Retail price: SGD 1.00

**প্রবাসীদের অনানুষ্ঠানিক জমিতে সরকারের উদ্যোগে চাষাবাদের পরিকল্পনা**

প্রবাসীদের অনানুষ্ঠানিক জমিতে সরকারের উদ্যোগে চাষাবাদের পরিকল্পনা।

**শ্রীলঙ্কা হারানোর ঝুঁকিতে বিশ্বের শ্রমশক্তির অর্ধেক মানুষ: আইএলও**

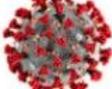
শ্রীলঙ্কা হারানোর ঝুঁকিতে বিশ্বের শ্রমশক্তির অর্ধেক মানুষ: আইএলও।

**ভয়াবহ দর্শনিক পড়তে যাচ্ছে বিশ্বের ৫ দেশ**

ভয়াবহ দর্শনিক পড়তে যাচ্ছে বিশ্বের ৫ দেশ।

**এশিয়া-প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলে সামাজিক সুরক্ষায় পিছিয়ে বাংলাদেশ: ইউএনডিপি**

এশিয়া-প্রশান্ত মহাসাগরীয় অঞ্চলে সামাজিক সুরক্ষায় পিছিয়ে বাংলাদেশ: ইউএনডিপি।



**করোনা পরিস্থিতিতে ব্যাজেট প্রণয়ন করতে হবে বাস্তবতার নিরিখে**

করোনা পরিস্থিতিতে ব্যাজেট প্রণয়ন করতে হবে বাস্তবতার নিরিখে।

Above: Sample of Banglar Kantha Newspaper

View Banglar Kantha's newspaper in full [here](#)

#### **4. Other Services Provided by Banglar Kantha**

##### **A. Migrant Research and Translation**

Banglar Kantha has worked with various agencies and organisations such as TWC2, National University of Singapore, National Arts Council, Health Science Authority, and JTC Corporation for migrant issues consultation work, providing valuable insights to policy-making and effective communications between the Bangladeshi community and their host country. Its editor, Mr AKM Mohsin, is a Research Consultant to the Centre for Culture Centered Approach to Research & Evaluation (CARE) at the National University of Singapore.

In pursuit to appeal to key stakeholders to provide migrant workers with nutritious catered food, Mr Mohsin had also previously approached the Secretary-in-charge for Labour Welfare of Bangladesh High Commission, various consumers of catered food and catering companies, members of the civic society of various professions including medical profession, for their inputs on food catering for migrant workers.

##### **B. Migrant Literature Publications**

Banglar Kantha has published and co-edited various literary works from the migrant community in Singapore, providing a platform to express their thoughts through writing. At times, these publications would involve collaborations with local writers and provide the communities opportunities for a deeper understanding through this cultural exchange. Some of these are “A Thousand and One Days: Stories of Hardship from South Asian Migrant Workers in Singapore”, “Chasing Dreams In The Dream City” and many others.

##### **C. Migrant Cultural Development**

Mr AKM Mohsin facilitated the participation of Bangladeshi writers during The Singapore Writers Festival, a literary event organised by National Arts Council. This event promoted new and emerging Singaporean and Asian writers writing to an international audience, celebrating literary works in Singapore in multiple languages.

Banglar Kantha also key organised the Migrant Worker Poetry Competition in 2014, a significant event which showcased and celebrated the literary talent and helped uncover a different perspective of the migrant workers’ lives to a wider audience.

## 5. Funding

The production and operational expense of the newspaper in print and digital versions, are fully funded by advertisement placements. Banglar Kantha hopes for more regular support to help sustain its works:

Monthly Expenses Overview	Print (SGD \$)	Digital (SGD \$)
Articles Writing	6,000	1,500
Content Curation		
Editing		
Design and Layout		
Printing <i>(For print versions)</i>		
Webhosting <i>(For digital versions)</i>		
Programming <i>(For digital versions)</i>		

Its monthly expenses for maintaining the physical newspaper and the digital version are SGD 6,000 and SGD 1,500 respectively.

## 6. Donation Information

To support Banglar Kantha's efforts and continue giving a voice to the migrant worker community in Singapore, you can donate via the following options:

	Method	Details
1.	PayNow	via UEN No. <b>200511929E</b>
2.	Internet Bank Transfer	<b>Bengal Consortium (S) Pte Ltd</b> Bank: United Overseas Bank (UOB) Bank Account No.: 372-300-528-9 (Current Account) Swift Code: 7375 Branch Code: 046-UOB Coleman Street
3.	Cheque	Please make cheques payable to: <b>Bengal Consortium (S) Pte Ltd</b>  Mail cheques to: <b>70A Desker Road, Singapore 209593</b>

## 7. Contact Information

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## 8. For more information on Banglar Kantha:

[\[Website\]](#)

<https://banglarkantha.net/>

[\[Facebook\]](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/bksg10/>

[\[Instagram\]](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/banglar.kantha/>