

# Atlanta Bengali Forum , ING Georgia Marathon & American Red Cross ... Yes We Can relate them together

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ABF Staff Report, Atlanta, GA, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010:

Atlanta Bengali Forum, for the first time for any Indian Bengali association, tied up with US Road Sports and Entertainment of Georgia LLC to volunteer for ING Georgia Marathon 2010.

The ING Georgia Marathon is a true showcase of historic Atlanta, beautiful Decatur and all of the neighborhoods in between. The staging area for the Start and Finish was in Centennial Olympic Park in the heart of downtown Atlanta. Atlanta Bengali Forum reached out to its members to sign up for Volunteering during this prestigious event and be a part of Georgia culture and history and celebrate the excitement and stage with more than 18,000 runners from around the world who participated in the 4th annual ING Georgia Marathon weekend.



## The Trail Blazers

You might already be wondering, where does the Red Cross comes into the picture. As a Trail Blazer, Atlanta Bengali Forum donated all its Volunteering proceeds to American Red Cross in Atlanta. So now You know and feel proud to be an ABF'er.

ABF Volunteers were Arun Saha (ABF VP), Biplab Biswas (ABF Secretary), Amalkanti Mukherjee, Ranjit Saha (ABF members), Indraneel Chatterjee and Kunal Saha (ABF BOD). While, ABF President Dip Narayan Das ran the ING Georgia Half Marathon of 13.1 miles and crossed the finish line in 2 hours 37 mins.

**View ABF @ ING Georgia Marathon Volunteer Site:** <http://www.inggeorgiamarathon.com/Page25.aspx>

**See more Georgia Marathon photo:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/34976250@N04/sets/72157623667275794/show/>

**ING Georgia Marathon Site:** [http://www.inggeorgiamarathon.com/Home\\_4.htm](http://www.inggeorgiamarathon.com/Home_4.htm)

It was an awesome experience being a part of it as it was clear as we spoke to ABF VP Arun Saha, in his own words " It was an experience to see persons of 60 + years of age, running the Marathon with such an enthusiasm".



ABF Secretary Biplab Biswas was already promising on next years involvement, " I am so much encouraged at this point, I am convinced next time You will see me running the Marathon".

ABF BOD Indraneel Chatterjee and Kunal Saha commented," We felt a shiver, as we are volunteering across the Full Marathon, and saw Jyoncel Basweti of Miami, FL, breezing past us in a continuous running rythm to set the pace for the 26.2-mile journey finishing first in 2:20:49".



We reached out to Dip for the closing comments, in his own words, "I think it's a self realization as You run past the various miles, it's just your body and the running shoe all you need. Thought comes to mind as Your near and Dear ones, Your friends - all are waiting at the finish lines and along the running path volunteering and looking out for You. This provided me a continuous enthusiasm all along the way as I inched towards the finish line".

Congratulations to each of these people and all the ABF members in supporting and showing the way ABF view charity. As you meet these people in your day to day life, do extend Your congratulations and listen to their experience of the event.