

33rd FOBANA CONVENTION 2019, NEW YORK, NY



**PROMOTING THE CULTURAL
HERITAGE OF BANGLADESH**

FOBANA Annual Report 2018-2019

**NY
CB** **LIVE**
NASSAU COLISEUM



August 30 - September 1, 2019

**1255 Hempstead Turnpike
Uniondale, NY 11553**



FOBOANA 2020 HOSTED BY:

**BANGLADESH
ASSOCIATION OF NORTH
TEXAS (BANT)**

**CONTACT INFO:
SIED HASAN
CHOWDHURY
BANT PRESIDENT
(469) 334 - 7484**

**CONTACT INFO:
HASHMAT MOBIN
MEMBER
(972) 935- 4750**



Federation of Bangladeshi Associations
in North America



Established in 1987

FOBANA



FOBANA®, is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory, IRS 501c(3) tax-exempt (Tax ID 26-1747615) organization, established 1987. Only qualified Bangladeshi Associations in North America can be the members of FOBANA. One of the most important goal of this organization is to preserve and promote the language, culture and heritage of Bangladesh. This organization of Bangladeshi Associations in North America has been recognized as an umbrella, where all the Bangladeshis living in North America can gather to celebrate their successes and deliver cultural talents through stage performances. Since its inception in 1987, FOBANA® has been working tirelessly in this land far away from our ancestral homeland to keep our indigenous culture and commence it to our next generation growing in North America, primarily.

In addition, FOBANA® has recently received appreciation for its work to assimilate our people with the mainstream of North American people and culture. Those of us who are working in spite of all obstacles in different communities all over the continent are getting recognition from this organization. In other words, FOBANA® is a symbol of our hope and aspiration and a unifying force for bringing our communities together and for moving it in forward direction.

Please join us if you haven't already done so and encourage other organizations to join FOBANA too!

Registered Agent: Legalzoom

Mailing Address:
4 Adelphia Rd. Wayne, NJ, USA
Phone: (973) 493-3898
Website: www.fobanaonline.com
E-mail: jjmchowdhury@optonline.net
fobanaec@gmail.com



Official FOBANA Theme Song

ফোবানা, ফোবানা
প্রতি রক্ত কনিকা উঠল নেচে ফোবানার গানে
উঠল জেগে বাঙালীর চেতনা
এই মুক্ত আকাশ প্রান্তরে, প্রতি বাঙালীর অন্রে,
উঠল জেগে বাঙালীর চেতনা ।।।।।
বাংলাদেশ আমার প্রেরণা, বাংলাদেশ আমার সাধনা
স্বাগত জানাই ফোবানায়, স্বাগতম ফোবানা ।।

অনেক কষ্টে এনেছি আমরা দেশের স্বাধীনতা,
প্রবাসে পাড়ি দিয়েও আমরা ভুলতে পারিনি তা ।
তিরিশ লক্ষ প্রাণ দিয়েছে, যুদ্ধ করেছে জয়,
অত্যাচারীর উদ্ধতশির লুটিয়ে পরেছে পায় ।
স্বাধীনতার চেতনা, বিশ্বকে আজ জানিয়ে দেব তা ।
ফোবানা, ফোবানা ।।।।।

রবি ঠাকুরের গীতি মালার সুরের মূর্ছনায়,
আমি চলে যাই মেঠ পঠ ধরে দুরের কোনো গায় ...
নজরুলের কবিতা আমায় আজ দেয় সাড়া,
বিদ্রোহী হতে শিখিয়ে দেয়, মনটাকে দেয় নাড়া ।
এ আমার চেতনা, এ যে আমার বাঙালী চেতনা ।
ফোবানা, ফোবানা ।।

জীবনানন্দের রূপসী বাংলা, কোথাও খুঁজে না পাই,
সবুজে ঘেরা আমার স্বপ্ন বাংলাতে খুঁজে পাই ।।
লালনের সেই একতারাটা আবার বেজে ওঠে,
বাউলের সুর, রাখালের বাঁশি, আমার বুক বাজে ।।।
দরদিয়া, রাখালিয়া, গেয়ে যাব আজ সবার হৃদয়ে তা ।
ফোবানা, ফোবানা ।।।।।



Written and composed by

Rommel Khan (Feedback, Atlanta)



Original singers:

Rommel Khan and Polly Kabir.



Federation of Bangladeshi Associations
in North America



Established in 1987

FOBANA®



A Message from the FOBANA Chairperson



Welcome to New York City! It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to the 33rd annual convention of the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA®). This convention is hosted by Drama Circle of NY, a prestigious and well-known socio-cultural organization in New York. Over the last two years, the host committee has worked very hard to present a fabulous convention for all Bangladeshis living in North America. We sincerely appreciate the tremendous efforts by the 2019 host committee members.

The 2018-19 has been a very challenging year and we had to work very hard to handle multiple organizational issues. At the very beginning of the term we had to tackle the illegal use of FOBANA name in Ottawa, Canada. Then we had to undertake a huge task to stop those who have been trying to sabotage the 2019 FOBANA convention. However, with all your support, the legal committee has been bravely handling this issue and fortunately the court has ruled so far in our favor. We will fight this battle until we are victorious, and this will stop any such illegal attempts in the future. We need all your continued financial support to complete this process.

One of my goals for this term was to bring new organizations under FOBANA and campaign to bring more people to the 2019 conventions. For this we made several trips to several states including Texas, Oklahoma, Canada, Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia. During these trips we had face-to-face meetings, press conferences etc. to motivate people to attend the FOBANA 2019 and support financially. We always looked for opportunities to physically attend any local or national programs, small or big in any parts of the North America to promote FOBANA and drive the membership up. We visited Bangladesh Embassy in DC, Nazrul Conference in DC, Food Fair in Florida, Local program in Los Angeles, numerous local programs in New York/New Jersey and many more. We did our very best to promote FOBANA and I sincerely thank all the FOBANA executives and volunteers for their support. I would highly appreciate if such initiatives are continued in the future by the new executive committee of FOBANA.

I am extremely grateful to FOBANA® Leaders, member organization leaders, and volunteers for given me the opportunity to serve for the 2nd time as a Chairperson. My sincere thanks to all my team members for their generous support in my tenure. We tried our best to fulfill our duties and responsibilities. I am requesting all Bangladeshis living in North America to come forward and help FOBANA® become a nationally recognized socio-cultural institute.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Convener Ms. Nargis Ahmed, Member Secretary Mr. Abir Alamgir and the entire host Committee members for their dedication and hard work to make this convention successful. I am grateful to all the member organizations, donors, supporters, volunteers, media partners, artists, and respected guests for their enthusiasm and support. Special thanks to all who cared to attend this convention and make this convention successful.

Mir H. Chowdhury,
FOBANA Chairperson, 2018-2019

A Message from the Executive Secretary



A very warm welcome to another year of FOBANA Convention. This year we are celebrating the 33rd FOBANA convention that is taking place at the capital of the world, New York. To accommodate the rapidly growing Bangladeshi community, here in New York and all over the North America, we have selected one of the largest venue in New York, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Every single member of the Executive Committee and the Host Committee worked very hard for the whole year to make this year's convention successful.

Back in 1987, FOBANA was formed with a mission of keeping Bangladeshi culture and heritage alive in our hearts of all Bangladeshis living in North America. Every year a convention is organized to keep our hearts connected to Bangladeshi culture and heritage and make our future generations exposed to our rich cultural roots. The goal of the convention is to bring Bangladesh closer to our new generation of Bangladeshi American/Canadian children who have little to no experience with the rich cultural heritage of our beautiful country. The history of our country, our legacy, rich culture and colorful heritage set us apart from many other countries of the world. Through this convention we proudly celebrate being uniquely Bangladeshi. Our executive leaders, standing committee chairs/members, host committee team/members, advisers, donors and sponsors worked hand in hand around the clock throughout the year to make this dream come to a reality.

FOBANA is a nonprofit organization. Initially, we primarily promoted our Bangladeshi culture and heritage through only cultural programs. Over the years, FOBANA has come a long way since its formation. It has become multi-dimensional and much more dynamic. Currently, FOBANA has 26 standing committee doing various social services throughout the year allowing us the scope to do more for Bangladeshis living in North America. Through this well-structured dynamic organization, we can now very easily flourish our culture, establish our voice here in America and help our fellow Bangladeshi-Americans/Canadians. As we hare growing, FOBANA needs more resources and funding to be able to carry out such programs in a sustainable manner. Please come forward whatever way possible and strengthen this organization for our common good.

As the Executive Secretary, I sincerely thank all the volunteers, sponsors, and donors for their hard work and dedication. A very special thanks to our convener Ms. Nargis Ahmed, member secretary Mr. Abir Alamgir and the entire host committee members for their hard work, time and energy. I am immensely thankful to all the print and electronic media for their unprecedented support and coverage.

Finally, I am very grateful for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Executive Secretary of FOBANA. It has been a real honor to serve FOBANA and I hope to serve whatever way possible for the continued growth and success of our beloved organization. I wish the future FOBANA executives and host committee the very best for their continued success.

Sincerely,
Zakaria Chowdhury, Executive Secretary
FOBANA 2018-2019

FOBANA Executive Committee (2018-2019)

Outstanding Members



Chairperson
Mir H. Chowdhury
New Jersey
(973) 493-3898



Outstanding Member
Atiquer Rahman
Boca Raton, Florida
(954) 818-2970



Vice-Chairperson
Shah Haleem
Houston, TX
281-748-9880



Outstanding Member
Jashim Uddin
Atlanta, GA
(770) 882-1293



Executive Secretary
Zakaria Chowdhury
New York, NY
(646) 226-7144



Outstanding Member
Nahidul Khan Sahel
Atlanta, GA
(770) 722-5369



Joint Exec. Secretary
Dr. Rafiq Khan
Houston, TX
(281) 460-9101



Outstanding Member
Duke Khan
Atlanta, GA
(770) 317-8229



Treasurer
Masud Rob Chowdhury
Los Angeles, CA
(818) 730-1020



Outstanding Member
Rehan Reza
Tokepka, KS
(785) 554-0586

FOBANA Executive Committee (2018-2019)

Outstanding Members



**Outstanding Mem-
ber**

Rabiul Karim Belal
Wichita, KS
(316) 393-0920



**Outstanding Mem-
ber**

Bedarul Islam Babla
New York, NY
(917)-885-8887

Executive Organization Members



Drama Circle

Abir Alamgir
New York, NY
(347) 724-9518

(770) 882-1293



**Texas Bengali Cultural
Alliance**

Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury
(Hero), TX

(512)-413-9193



**Bangladesh Associa-
tion of North Texas**

Hashmat Mobin
Dallas, TX
(732) 983-7566



**Bangladesh Associa-
tion of New Jersey**

Golam Faroque
Bhuiyan,
Sayerville, NJ
(732) 983-7566



**Bangladesh Associa-
tion, Houston (BAH)**

Khaled Zulfikar Khan
Houston, TX
(832) 352-3329



**Bangladesh Associa-
tion
of Georgia Inc.,
(BAGI)**

Arif Ahmed
Atlanta, GA

FOBANA Executive Committee (2018-2019)

Executive Organization Members Cont..



Bangladesh Association of Florida (BAF)
(M Rahman Jahir)
(561) 876-2255



Bangladesh Association of America Inc. (BAAI)

Shafi Delwar Kajol
Springfield, VA
(703) 300-0870



Bangladesh American Women's Association of Texas

Nahida Ali
(347) 724-9518



Shatadal Inc.
Kabir Kiran, NJ
(201) 314-1933



Bangladesh Association of Los Angeles

Mr. Syed Hossain Babu
Los Angeles, CA



USA Bangladesh Cultural Inc

Shahidul Mallik Badhon
(631)327-2400



Atlanta Cultural Society
M. Dilu Mowla
Atlanta, GA
770-912-9169

Message from the Vice Chairman



Welcome to FOBANA 2019. This is the 33rd annual FOBANA convention that will be held in New York. After a yearlong of hard work today Bangladeshis in North America will gather to witness the opening ceremony of the 33rd annual FOBANA convention. As a Bangladeshi-American, I feel really proud of being part of this dynamic organization.

FOBANA is the leading organization to uphold Bangladeshi culture and heritage in North America. Our executive leadership team, subcommittee members, donors, and sponsors have been working throughout the year to promote FOBANA's mission and vision. This year we strongly emphasized on improving the team spirit and distributed the FOBANA work load to the talented members to build future leaders. As you may already know, only the state registered organizations can join FOBANA and we invite all such Bangladeshi organizations join FOBANA.

FOBANA has the critical infrastructure that can support promoting our culture and heritage across North America. It can provide variety of services that our community needs. However, we need more resources and funding to support such programs in a sustainable manner. Hence, we must develop programs and execute those very diligently. Let's be forward-looking and carry out our conscience and obligations to help our fellow Bangladeshi-American. We hope that you come forward and support FOBANA in whatever ways possible.

Article X, section 2 of the FOBANA operating procedures states that Vice Chairperson shall oversee the function of all sub-committees including providing guidance and making decisions needed for its operation. FOBANA is a nonprofit organization and we are all volunteers. As the Vice Chairperson of FOBANA, I thank all the volunteers, sponsors, donors for their hard work and support. On behalf of the FOBANA Executive committee, I thank each of you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Let's congratulate the 2019 host committee for uniting us here in New York for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Shah Haleem

Vice Chairman , FOBANA 2018-2019

Treasurer's Report 2018-2019



Masud Rob Chowdhury
FOBANA Treasurer 2018-2019
Los Angeles, CA 91406
Phone: 818-730-1020

Dear FOBANA Executives & EC member organizations,
Salam and Greetings!

Treasurer report on August 17, 2019 for the EC teleconference meeting.

Summary:

- Bank Account balance on August 17, 2019 is \$13435.00
- PayPal Account balance on August 17, 2019 is \$11515.00
- Scholarship fund still being collected total is \$ 4200
- Holding \$1000 deposit from 2019 New York Host committee
- Holding \$1000 deposit from 2020 Dallas Host committee
- Estimated 2018-2019 operating expenses \$6000.00
- Received \$50 membership fee/renewal from 75 organizations
- Received \$250 HC registration fee from 55 organizations

Account Receivable:

- Account receivable from Utshob.com \$1500.00, for 2017 Florida Convention's annual report title sponsor.



FOBANA Standing Committees

2018-2019

Throughout the year FOBANA works through various Standing Committees. As per the Operating Procedure, these committees must be chaired by one of the present or past EC members.

1. Alumni Committee – Mahabub Rahim Reza (AZ)
2. Awards & Guest Selection Committee – Nahid Chowdhury (NJ)
3. Bangladesh Liaison Committee – Rabiul Karim Belal (KS)
4. Business & Investment Committee – Atiquer Rahman (FL)
5. Budget & Finance Committee – Masud Rob Chowdhury
6. Constitution & Procedure Review Committee – Mahmud Musharraf Hussain (MD)
7. Convention Liaison Committee – Bedarul Islam Babla (NY)
8. Convention Review Committee – Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury (TX)
9. Cultural Committee – Duke Khan (GA)
10. Executive Logistics Committee – Dr. Rafiq Khan (TX)
11. Following Year Convention Liaison Committee – Shah Haleem (TX)
12. Fundraising Committee – Z. I. Russel (DC)
13. Goodwill and Promotion Committee – Abir Alamgir (NY)
14. Health and Wellness Committee – M. Rahman Jahir (FL)
15. Legal Committee – Mir H. Chowdhury (NJ)
16. Mainstream Liaison Committee –
17. Media & Public Awareness Committee – Zakaria Chowdhury (NY)
18. Membership Verification Committee – Jashim Uddin (GA)
19. Newsletter Committee – Anthony P Gomes (VA)
20. Seminar Committee – Nahida Naser Yasmin (TX)
21. Social Networking Committee – M. Mowla Dilu (GA)
22. Scholarship Committee – Rehan Reza (KS)
23. Unification Committee – Mir Chowdhury (NJ)
24. Women Empowerment Committee – Nahida Ali (TX)
25. Youth Forum Committee – Arif Ahmed (TX)

Alumni Committee



Chairperson
Mahabub Reza Rahim

Awards Committee



Chairperson
Nahid Chowdhury
Mamun (NJ)



Atiquer Rahman (FL)



Mahabub Reza Rahim
(AZ)



Duke Khan
(GA)



Golam Faroque
Bhuiyan (NJ)



Bedarul Islam Babla
(NY)



Maqbul Ali



M. Rahman Jahir
(FL)

Bangladesh Liaison Committee

	Rabiul Karim Belal Chairperson		Atiquer Rahman (FL) Member
	Golam Faroque Bhuiyan (NJ) Member		M. Mowla Dilu (GA) Member
	Enamul Haque Enam, Member		Mohammed Alamgir, Member
<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Polash Khan Member	<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Shamol Dutta Member
<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Dewan Habib (Binodon Bichitra) Member	<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Nayeem Nezam Member

Business & Investment Committee

	<p>Atiquer Rahman (FL) Chairperson</p>		<p>Rabiul Karim Belal Co-chair</p>
	<p>Enamul Haque Enam -TX Co-Chair</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Aniur Rashid Dipu (Dhaka, BD) Co-chair</p>
	<p>Golam Faroque Bhuiyan Co-chair</p>		<p>Nahidul Khan Sahel (GA) Co-chair</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Nowshad Chowdhury (FL) Co-chair</p>		<p>Arif Ahmed Ashraf (FL) Co-Chair</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Akter Hussain -VA Co-Chair</p>		

Constitution and Procedure Review Committee

	<p>Mahmud Musharraf Hussain (MD) Chairperson</p>		<p>Rabiul Karim Belal (KS) Member</p>
	<p>Mahabub Reza Rahim (AZ) Member</p>		<p>Atiqur Rahman (FL) Member</p>
	<p>Kabir Kiran (NJ) Member</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Dr. Shoaib Chowdhury Member</p>







Convention Liaison Committee

	<p>Bedarul Islam Babla (NY) Chairperson</p>		<p>Nahid Chowdury Mamun (NJ)</p>
	<p>Golam Faroque Bhuiyan (NJ)</p>		<p>M. Rahman Jahir (FL)</p>
	<p>Khaled Rouf (IL)</p>		<p>Kabir Kiran (NJ)</p>

Convention Liaison Committee

	Shahidul Mallik Badhon (NY)		Z. I. Russel (DC)
	Md. Monir Patwary		




Cultural Committee

	Chairperson Duke Khan (GA)		Fahmida Nabi (BD) Advisor
	Nargis Ahmed (NY) Advisor		Azadul Haq (TX) Advisor
	Nahid Chowdhury (NJ) Advisor		Atiquer Rahman (FL) Member

Cultural Committee (cont..)

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Zahid Hossain Pintu (CA) -Member</p>		<p>Abu Rumi (DC) Member</p>
	<p>Goalm Mohiuddin Muhib (GA) Member</p>		<p>Guiden Hawkins (GA) Member</p>
	<p>Kabir Kiran (NJ) Member</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Dr. Ruby (CA) Member</p>
	<p>Shahid Kazi (Montreal) Member</p>		<p>Souda Kanta (NY) Member</p>
	<p>Nahida Naser (TX) Member</p>		

Executive Logistics Committee

	<p>Dr. Rafiq Khan (TX) Chairperson</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Emranul Haque Likhon IT Specialist, Co-chair</p>
	<p>Nafiz Hossain (TX) Co-chair</p>		<p>Selina Khan (TX) Co-chair</p>

Following Year Liaison Committee

	<p>Chairperson Shah Haleem (TX)</p>		<p>Mir H. Chowdhury</p>
	<p>Hashmat Mobin</p>		<p>Nahida Ali</p>
	<p>Rehan Reza</p>		<p>Jashim Uddin</p>
	<p>Atiquer Rahman</p>		<p>Dr. Rafiq Khan</p>



Goodwill & Promotion Committee

	Chairperson Abir Alamgir (NY)		Ahmed Hossain Sunny (TX) Member
	Fajle Rabbi Rajib (NY) Member	<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Pulak Mahmood (Chicago) Member
<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Jewel Sadat (Orlando) Member	<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Kazi Mashrurul Huda (LA) Member
	Shahidul Mallik Badhon (NY) Member		Anthony Pius Gomes (Virginia) Member
	Rumi Kabir (GA) Member		Anisul Kabir Jasir (Bangladesh) Member

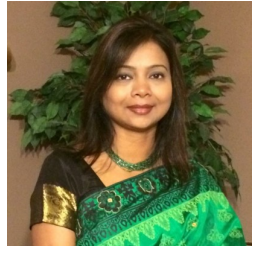


Legal Committee

	Chairperson Mir H. Chowdhury (NJ)		Atiquer Rahman (FL)
	Mahabub Reza Rahim (AR)		Bedarul Islam Babla (NY)
	Jashim Uddin (GA)		Rehan Reza (KS)
	Nahid Chowdhury Mamun (NJ)		Golam Faroque Bhuiyan

Health and Wellness Committee

	M Rahman Jahir (FL) Chairperson		Sultan Salauddin Ahmed Co-Chair
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Health and Wellness Committee

<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Ehsanul karim, MD Co-Chair</p>		<p>Nahida Ali Daisy Co-Chair</p>
	<p>Nahida Naser Yasmin Co-Chair</p>		<p>Tamanna Ahmed Co-Chair</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Munsuri Khanom Co-Chir</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Dipa Haldar Co-Chair</p>

Media and Public Awareness Committee

	<p>Chairperson Zakaria Chowdhury (NY)</p>		<p>Mohammad Emran Co-Chair</p>
	<p>Shibbir Ahmed, Khabor.com Co-Chair</p>		<p>Akbar Heider Kiron, VOA Co-Chair</p>
	<p>Dewan Habib- Binodon Bichitra Co-Chairperson</p>		<p>Abdul Hamid Member</p>

Mainstream Liaison Committee

No one accepted the Chair position


Newsletter Committee

	Chairperson Anthony Pius Gomes		Rumi Kabir Member
	Kabir Kiran Member		Shahidul Mallik Badhon Member
	Nahida Ali Member		Rabiul Islam Member
	Redwan Chowdhury Member		



Membership Review Committee

	Chairperson Jashim Uddin (GA)		Mir Chowdhury Member
	Zakaria Chowdhury Member		Shah Haleem Member
	Mahabub Reza Rahim Member		Nargis Ahmed Member
	Abir Alamgir Member		Rehan Reza Member

Seminar Committee

	Chairperson Nahida Naser Yasmin (TX)		Rabiul Karim Belal Member
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Seminar Committee (cont..)

	<p>Ahsan Chowdhury Hero Member</p>		<p>Shahidul Mallik Badhon Member</p>
	<p>Kabir Kiran (NJ) Member</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Mrs. Syeda Kusum Kali Member</p>

Social Networking Committee

	<p>Chairperson Anthony P. Gomes (VA)</p>		<p>Dr. Rafiq Khan Co-Chair</p>
	<p>Abir Alamgir (NY) Co-Chair</p>		<p>Rumi Kabir (GA) Co-Chairperson</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Akbor Hossain Rashel (GA)</p>	<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Mr. Wasiuddin Co-Chair</p>

Scholarship Committee

	<p>Chairperson Rehan Reza</p>		<p>Golam Faroque Bhuiyan NJ Chairperson</p>
	<p>Khaled Zulfiqar Khan- TX Co-Chairperson</p>		<p>Farzana Uddin (Nishat) - GA Co-Chairperson</p>
	<p>Perveen Patway Co-Chairperson</p>		<p>Dr. Rafiq Khan Co-Chair</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Sharmin Mohsin-NY Co-Chairperson</p>		<p>Nishat Khawaja-NY Co-Chairperson</p>
<p><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Syed Mostafa Al- Amin -NY Co-Chairperson</p>		<p>Tasnuva Haq-NY Co-Chairperson</p>

Scholarship Committee (cont..)



Khaled Ahmed -IL
Co-chairperson



Nahida Naser Yasmin
Co-Chairperson



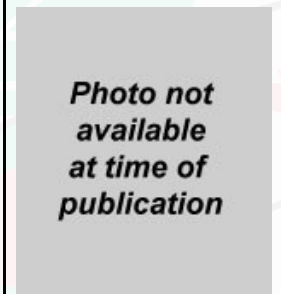
Nahidul Khan Sahel-
GA
Co-Chairperson



M Rahman Jahir-FL
Co-Chairperson



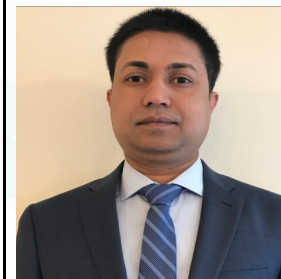
Shafi Delwar Kajol-DC
Co-Chairperson



Abul Ibrahim-CA
Co-Chairperson



Dr. Zainul Abedin -CA
Co-Chairperson



Mohin Uddin Dulal
Co-Chairperson



Alia Ferdosi
Co-Chairperson

Unification Committee



Chairperson
Mir Chowdhury (NJ)



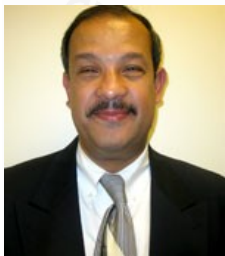
Dr. Nuran Nabi, NJ
Advisor



Atiquer Rahman (FL)
Advisor



Mahabub Reza
Rahim (AZ)



Hashmat Mobin (TX)



Rabiul Karim Belal
(KS)



Bedarul Islam Babla
(NY)






Jashim Uddin (GA)








Rehan Reza (KS)






Mahmud Musharraf
Hussain (MD)



Unification Committee (cont..)			
	Duke Khan (GA)		Nahid Chowdhury Mamun (NJ)
	Azadul Haq (TX)		

Women Empowerment Committee			
	Chairperson Nahid Ali (TX)		Nahida Naser, Houston (TX)
	Maggie Haleem Houston (TX)		Natalie Hossain, Austin (TX)
	Farzana Zafreen Uddin (GA)	<i>Photo not available at time of publication</i>	Shampa Banik - DC

Women Empowerment Committee (cont..)

	<p>Dr. Tahsina Atiquzzaman (FL)</p>		<p>Sauda Kanta (NY)</p>
	<p>Umme Sadeya (TX)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Jamila Rahim, Phoenix, AZ</p>




Youth Forum Committee

	<p>Chairperson Arif Ahmed (GA)</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Kabir Kiran</p>	<p>Kabir Kiran (NJ) Co-Chair</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Maruf Bhuiyan (GA) Co-Chair</p>		

Budget & Finance Committee

	<p>Chairperson Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)</p>		<p>Duke Khan, GA</p>
	<p>Nahidul Khan Sahel, GA</p>		<p>Dr. Niaz Muhaimen, CA</p>
	<p>Nahida Naser, TX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Dr, Niaz Muhaimen, CA</p>
	<p>Arif Ashraf, FL</p>		

Fundraising Committee

	<p>Chairperson Z. I. Russel</p>		<p>Monir Patwary Member</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo not available at time of publication</i></p>	<p>Akter Hossain Member</p>		<p>Shibbir Ahmed Member</p>

Convention Liaison Committee

	<p>Chairperson Bedarul Islam Babla</p>		<p>Nahid Chowdhury Mamun Member</p>
	<p>Golam Faroque Bhui- yan</p>		<p>M. Rahman Jahir</p>
	<p>Khaled Rouf</p>		<p>Kabir Kiran</p>
	<p>Shahidul Mallik Badhon</p>		<p>Z. I. Russel</p>
	<p>Md. Monir Patwary</p>		

Complete List of FOBANA Members 2018-2019

	Executive Members Voter	Position	ST
1	Mir Chowdhury	Chairperson	NJ
2	Shah Haleem	Vice Chairperson	TX
3	Zakaria Chowdhury	Executive Secretary	NY
4	Dr. Rafiq Khan	Joint Executive Secretary	TX
5	Masud Chowdhury	Treasurer	CA
6	Atiquer Rahman	Outstanding Member	FL
7	Jashim Uddin	Outstanding Member	GA
8	Nahidul Khan Sahel	Outstanding Member	GA
9	Duke Khan	Outstanding Member	GA
10	Rehan Reza	Outstanding Member	KS
11	Rabiul Karim Belal	Outstanding Member	KS
12	Bedarul Islam Babla	Outstanding Member	NY

	Executive Member Organizations Voter	Represented by	ST
13	Drama Circle	Abir Alamgir	NY
14	Bangladesh Association of North Texas (BANT)	Sied Chowdhury	TX
15	Bangladesh Association of Houston (BAH)	Khaled Zulfiqar Khan	TX
16	Texas Bengali Cultural Alliance (TBCA)	Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury	TX
17	Bangladesh Association of New Jersey (BANJ)	Golam Faroque Bhuyian	NJ
18	Bangladesh Association of Georgia, Inc. (BAGI)	Duke Khan	GA
19	Bangladesh Association of Florida (BAF)	M Rahman Zahir	FL
20	Bangladeshi American Women Association of Texas	Nahida Ali	TX
21	Bangladesh Association of Los Angeles (BALA)	Syed M Hossain Babu	CA
22	Atlanta Cultural Society	M. Mowla Dilu	GA
23	Bangladesh Association of America, Inc. (BAAI)	Kamrul Khan Lincoln	VA
24	Shatadal Inc.	Md. Kabir Kiron	NJ
25	USA Bangladesh Cultural Center	Shahidul Mallick	NY



	Active Member Organizations Voter	Represented by	ST
26	JAGORONI, INC	Mir Chowdhury	NJ
27	Bangladesh American Association of GA (BAAG)	Jashim Uddin	GA
28	Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City (BAGKC)	Rehan Reza	KS
29	Bangladesh League of America (BLA)	Bedarul Islam Babla	NY
30	Bangladesh Community of Los Angeles	Masud Rob Chowdhury	CA
31	Mid Continent Bangladesh Association (MCBA)	Rabiul Karim Belal	KS
32	Bangladesh Association of Greater Washington DC (BAGWDC)	Abu Sarkar	VA
33	Bangladesh Community of Greater Chicago	Khaled Rouf	IL
34	Bangladesh Academy of Los Angeles	Zahid Hossain	CA
35	Bangladesh Foundation of Florida (BFF)	Atiquer Rahman	FL
36	Bangladesh American Foundation of Central Florida	Babul Hai	FL
37	Bengali Boy's Cultural & Sports Association	Mohin Uddin	GA
38	Shadesh Bangladesh Inc.	Sharafath Hussain	VA
39	American Bangladesh Friendship Society Org.	ZI Russel	DC
40	NRB Business Association USA Inc.	Zakaria Chowdhury	NY
41	Prio Bangla	Pryalal Karmakar	VA
42	Friends and Families	Abu Rumi	VA
43	Bangladesh Association of California (BAC)	Dr. Zainul Abedin	CA
44	Ora Egaro Jon	Dr. Sattar	VA
45	Bangladesh America Friendship Foundation Inc.	Shibbir Ahmed	VA
46	US Bangladesh Foundation of Florida	Mohammed Mujib Uddin	FL
47	Bangladesh Foundation of Georgia (BFG)	Dr. Muhammad Ali Manik	GA
48	Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA)	Nilofar Jahan	NY
49	Bangladesh Association of Phoenix (BAP)	Noor Jamil Sarwar	AZ
50	B. D. Sur Chanda fovslhy Inc	Emdadul Haque	NY
51	Bangladesh Cultural Society of Atlanta	MD. M. H. Hossain	NY
	Active Member Organizations Non-Voter	Represented by	ST
52	Boishakhi Mela	Abul Ibrahim	CA
53	Taranga of California	Shiper Chowdhury	CA
54	Austin Bangladesh Association (ABA)	Marshall Hussain	TX
55	Bangla Institute of Performing Arts & Media (BIPAM)	Farhad Hossain	TX



	Active Member Organizations Non-Voter	Represented by	ST
56	Banga Foundation	Dr. Rafiq Khan	TX
57	Bangladesh-American Society of Greater Houston (BASGH)	Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed	TX
58	Bangladesh Cultural Society of Georgia	Mohammed arefin	GA
59	Bangladesh Theater Houston (BTH)	Muhammad Tareque	TX
60	Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland	Kamrul Ahmed	IL
61	Bangladhara	Mahbubur Bhuiyan	GA
62	Bangladesh Association of Georgia	Mostafa kamal Mahamud	GA
	New Member Organization Applications Received in 2019 Non-Voter	Represented by	ST
63	Bangladesh Youth ASSOCIATION of Texas (BYAT)	SM Lotiful Reza Tushar	TX
64	OPORAJEO BANGLA INC	Shampa Banik	VA
65	Bachonik Cultural Organization	Mary Rashedin	ON
66	Maryland Friends and Family Inc.	Mohammed Kazal	MD
67	Shilpangon	Amar Ashraf	NY
68	Bangladeshi American Community of Long Island (BACLI)	Mohammad Zillur Rahman	NY
69	Ekattor Foundation, Inc.	Parveen Patwary	VA
70	Bornomala Shikkhangong, Inc.	Nazneen Akter	VA
71	Shurubitan, Inc.	Kamrul Islam	VA
72	Bondhon Association of Washington DC, Inc.	Mohammad Jamal Hossain	DC
73	Bangladesh Association of New England (BANE)	Muhammad Numan Chowdhury	MA
74	Bangladeshi American Society	Mohammed S Haque (Sentu)	CA
75	Painted Poems	Mushtaq Mahmood Titus	OH
76	Sundorbon	Nurul Alim	VA
77	Bonoful	Dr. Ruby Hossain	CA
78	Manchitro Foundation	Mohammad A. Khan (Russel)	GA
79	Bangladesh Association of Pennsylvania, Inc.	Rabiul Karim	PA
80	Bangladesh-American IT Professionals Organization (BAITPO)	Shamsuddin Mahmud	VA
81	Friends and Families DMV	Mohammed Akter Hossain	VA
82	Banglaeshi American Association LA (BAALA)	Muhammad Ali Khan	CA
83	Global Youth Leadership Organization (GYLO)	Jesmin Ibrahim	CA
84	American Bangladesh Business Association	Sadek M Khan	VA
85	Karigor Production & Clutural Society	Zakia Chitra (Chitra Sultana)	FL
86	Anandadhvani USA Inc.	Dr. Pratap Das	NY
87	Bengali Association of Greater Nashville	Nripen Sarkar	MD



Awards Committee

Mr. Nahid Chowdhury Mamun
Chairperson

2019 award recipients are:

Mahabub Reza Rahim

Nazmun Nesa

Abdul W, Mahfouz



Scholarship Committee

Rehan Reza (KS)
Chairperson

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

For 2019 we are giving away 8 Scholarships to students from 5 States. 4 from New York, 1 from Missouri, 1 from Texas, 1 from New Jersey and 1 from Mississippi. Since its inception in 2015, in the last five years, we have given away a total of \$30,000 to 30 recipients from the States of New York, Washington DC, Florida, Georgia .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who have supported financially and otherwise to this program. It is my request to EC and future Host Committees to keep a budget for this program to ensure its continuity. The Scholarship Program has brought a lot of positive image for FOBANA and it would be a shame if we had to shut it down because of budget constraints.

Prepared by:

Rehan Reza, Chairman



Bangladesh Liaison Committee

Rabiul Karim Belal (KS)

Chairperson

The goal of the FOBANA Bangladesh liaison Standing Committee to promote the Bangladeshi socio-cultural heritage and encourage philanthropic activities amongst the next generation Bangladeshis in North America. For this FOBANA Bangladesh liaison committee plays a vital role. This committee can work on many areas but as the chairman of FOBANA Bangladesh liaison committee, I personally believe that besides the all socio-cultural activities FOBANA must work for two vital humanitarian issues:

1. Health care, water, and sanitation
2. Education

So I started the activities several nonprofit, for-profit and non-government organizations in Bangladesh such as TMSS, Gawnbahan (USA & BD), Aparajeya, DCI (USA & BD), Sigmatech BD (আমার গ্রাম আমার শহর) and Ahsania Institute/ Cancer Hospital . The missions of these organizations are shown below:

TMSS: School for the underprivileged children

Gawanbahan: the USA based on the Education underprivileged schools, colleges and universities

Aparajeya: Education and health for underprivileged children

DCI: Health and Education for underprivileged children

Sigmatechbd: Education and wellness of children

I believe that by partnering with these organizations FOBANA can achieve the "Service Excellence" to our community in Bangladesh as well as in the USA and Canada. Through solid partnership with such institutes, both Bangladeshis living in Bangladesh and North America can receive mutual benefits. Bangladeshis living in North America can get trusted sources with easy connectivity to do philanthropic activities in Bangladesh. Students here can get internship opportunities to these organizations leading to closer connection to their roots through FOBANA. On the other hand, Bangladeshis living in Bangladesh can have access to these organizations for their benefits. Through such interactions, FOBANA can become a trusted household name and touch millions of Bangladeshis living in Bangladesh and North America.



Membership Verification Committee

Jashim Uddin (GA)
Chairperson

Membership Committee members are:

1. Mir Chowdhury
2. Shah Haleem
3. Zakaria Chowdhury
4. Masud Rab Chowdhury
5. Nargis Ahmed
6. Mahabub Reza Rahim
7. Bedarul Islam
8. Rehan Reza
9. Duke Khan
10. Abir Alamgir

The Membership Review Committee works on Membership Due date, implementing all the criteria, deliberate and review the membership candidates for this year.

Committee met several times during tenure and made sure all Organization's criteria's are met. Committee also requested EC to implement certain new Guidelines for the betterment of FOBANA.



Media and Public Awareness Committee

Zakaria Chowdhury (TX)
Chairperson

This year FOBANA got maximum coverage from all sorts of print and electronic media here in the North America and back in Bangladesh as well. Whenever there was any FOBANA related gatherings we made sure media was there to cover it. I was personally interviewed many times in Bangladeshi TV channels regarding FOBANA. Since TV is still the main media to convey messages across the world, those TV interviews about FOBANA helped a lot to increase its familiarity. More and more people know about this organization now than ever before.

FOBANA got same kind of attention from the print media as well. All the leading newspapers gave us coverage throughout the year. This year's increased reportage from the media helped us get more sponsors and donors. We have also noticed increased community interests here in North America and in Bangladesh. Hopefully this year's media coverage will get us more crowd in the 2019 FOBANA convention.

With best regards,

Zakaria Chowdhury,

Chairman, FOBANA Media and Public Awareness Committee



Legal Committee

Mir Chowdhury (NJ)
Chairperson

It is my honor and pleasure to lead this very important committee and this term we had to tackle very challenging tasks right from the beginning of my tenure. Fortunately, our strong legal team members along with several executive members, volunteers and FOBANA lovers helped us to handle the issues.

In August 2018, we had to tackle an illegal program in Ottawa, Canada that used FOBANA's name and logo. We contacted Bangladesh High-Commission in Ottawa and formally requested the High Commissioner Mizanur Rahman requesting not to attend the such illegal program and he did not attend.

After that we had to fight another much larger battle to stop a group trying to arrange a convention illegally using FOBANA's name right in New York at the same time as our FOBANA convention. Initially, we communicated with this group requesting to stop such illegal program. Unfortunately we did not receive any cooperation from the group. Seeing no path forward, we had to seek legal help to tackle this matter. We hired a good local law firm at a reduced legal fees due to a long-term friendship between the chief lawyer of the firm and Nahid Chowdhury Mamun. However, we still needed large amount of money for the legal fee that is not been allocated for this purpose. I am very happy to share that we received loving donations from many members for this essential cause. Our attorney sent legal notices to this group regarding the consequences of this illegal activities. Once again, we did not receive any cooperation from this group and our attorney filed a case to the Federal Court in New York with a complaint. Before submitting the case to the court, we had to collect many essential FOBANA related supporting documents. Collecting the documents was very difficult and time consuming, since we did not archive our last 32 years of essential FOBANA documents. However, I am very pleased to inform you that the application of the opponent group to the Court to dismiss FOBANA's Complaint has been denied. Further, the Court has granted our request to amend the Complaint to add new claims against the defendants. This is indeed a great initial success. Through this process, our attorney also filed applications for two additional trademarks to expand and if necessary replace the current FOBANA registration. We also renewed the FOBANA alternate trade name with the Secretary of State of Washington, D.C. These acts will strengthen our rights in the FOBANA trademark.

I am very fortunate to have the help of some very experienced FOBANA leaders who is helping/guiding/suggesting time to time for this legal process. Whatever I am doing is a group decision/efforts along with the guidance of the Attorney. I would like to thank my legal standing committee members and EC members and others whoever have been helping me whatever way possible to support this legal process. Special thanks to all the donors who contributed to the legal fund. Unfortunately, the fund we collected is not enough to support the legal fees. Going forward, we need more fund to continue with this case.

Sincerely,

Mir H Chowdhury
Chairman, Unification Standing Committee



Newsletter Committee

Anthony P Gomes (VA)
Chairperson

Dear Community Friends:

It has been an honor for me to be a part of FOBANA serving in the Newsletter Committee. I am glad to have had the opportunity to work with many of our dynamic leaders of FOBANA and it was absolutely a great pleasure to have all the distinguished members of our community on board in our Newsletter Committee. Truly appreciate their kind cooperation and support to promote our rich cultural heritage in the greater community to leave an impact.

We, in the Newsletter Committee, tried our best to promote FOBANA and the upcoming 33rd FOBANA Convention by sharing the promotional contents and we tried our best to reach out to as many people as possible via social networks. I am grateful to our team members for their cooperation and support.

The Host Committee has been working extremely hard for the last one year in cooperation with the FOBANA EC and the Standing Committees to prepare for this huge convention and they deserve true appreciation for their heartiest efforts and unparalleled commitment and dedication. We wish them all the success!

By the passage of time, FOBANA has continued to grow bigger and stronger and now is the time to engage and build up our young generation to carry on the legacy towards the future. This will uplift the pride of our country down the line nurturing our cultural heritage and rich history. Let this journey continue with stronger strides and let our young generation make us proud! FOBANA, being the biggest platform of the NRBs and the diaspora in the USA, has the power to instill the philanthropic spirit among the young generation and let's extend our cooperation towards FOBANA to achieve the goals. Let's support each other, let's work together, let's grow together.... let's make ourselves proud keeping Bangladesh in our heart!!!

Congratulations and all the best for the 33rd FOBANA Convention!

Anthony Pius Gomes

Chairman,

Newsletter Committee, 2018-2019



FOBANA Website

The main website address is www.fobanaonline.com. This central website is managed using Joomla software and an improved layout of the site using WordPress software is being designed. The FOBANA 2019 convention website is hosted on a subdomain fobana2019.fobanaonline.com and a New York based website developer has been maintaining the site. We have purchased unlimited disk space, bandwidth and subdomains for the FOBANA website hosting and this is why we can keep all the convention websites under the main website. To share the cost it is mandatory for the host organization to pay an annual fee of \$500.00 to host the convention website under the main FOBANA website. This is the only way we can ensure that we can archive all the convention materials perpetually in FOBANA website.

FOBANA

FOBANA Central Website: www.fobanaonline.com

FOBANA 2019 Website: www.fobana2019.fobanaonline.com

FOBANA Past Chairpersons



Dr. Nuran Nabi
New Jersey (2001-2004)



Bedarul Islam Babla
New York (2011-2012)



Nurul Amin Chowdhury
Texas (2004-2005)



Rehan Reza
Kansas, (2012-2013)



Atiqer Rahman
Florida (2005-2006)



Mohamed Alamgir
*Washington, DC
 (2012-2013)*



Mahabub Reza Rahim
Arizona (2006-2007)



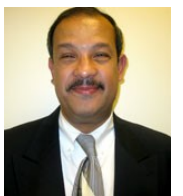
**Mahmud Musharraf
 Hussain**
*Washington, DC
 (2013-2014)*



Mir Chowdhury
New Jersey (2007-2008)



Duke Khan
Georgia (2014-2015)



Hashmat Mobin
Texas (2008-2009)



Nahid Chowdhury Mamun
New Jersey (2015-2016)



Rabiul Karim Belal
Kansas (2009-2010)



Azadul Haq
Texas (2016-2017)



Jashim Uddin
Georgia (2010-2011)



Atiquer Rahman
Florida (2017-2018)



Mir Chowdhury
New Jersey (2018-2019)





FOBANA Advisors (2018-2019)



Dr. Nuran Nabi



Rabiul Karim Belal



Nurul Amin Chowdhury



Mahmud Musharraf
Hussain



Mahabub Reza Rahim



Duke Khan

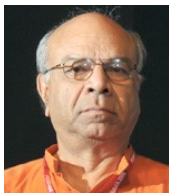


Mir Chowdhury



Dr. Zainul Abedin

FOBANA Past Advisors



Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury



Jashim Uddin



Hashmat Mobin



FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2019)

33 YEARS OF PROUD HERITAGE

1. WASHINGTON D.C.

Host: Bangladesh Association of America, Washington D.C.

Date: October 31, November 1, 1987

Venue: World Bank H Building Auditorium

Chairperson: Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury/Rashida Alam

Secretary: Wahed Hossaini

2. NEW YORK

Host: Bangladesh Society of New York & Bangladesh

Society of New Jersey

Date August 27 & 28, 1988

Venue : Thomas Edison Vocational High School Auditorium

Convener : Dr. M Yusuf

Member Secretary : Syed Tipu Sultan

3. BOSTON

Host : Bangladesh Association of New England

Date September 1-2, 1989

Venue : Kresge Auditorium, MIT

Convener : Prof. A.K. Abdul Momen

General Secretary: Prof. Nasir Ahmed

4. DALLAS

Host : Bangladesh Association of North Texas & Bangladesh Association of Houston

Date : September 1-2, 1990

Venue : Dallas Convention Center

Convener : Abul Kalam

Member Secretary Abdullah Hasan

5. NEW YORK

Host : Bangladesh Society of New York

Date : November 30, December 31, 1991

Venue : P.S. 131 Jamaica, New York

Convener : Awlad Hossain

Member Secretary : Dr. Moinul Islam Miah

6. CHICAGO

Host : Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland

Date : September 5-6, 1992

Venue Northeastern Illinois University

President : Dr. Mohammad Sirajullah

Executive Secretary : Zafar S. Ashraf

7. TORONTO

Host : Bangladesh Association of Toronto

Date : September 4 -5 , 1993

Venue: Skyline Airport Tower & Hotel

Convener: Shamsul Huda

8. NEW JERSEY

Host : Bangladesh Society of New Jersey

Date September 2-4, 1994

Venue : Brunswick Hilton & Tower

Convener : Dr. Siddiqur Rahman

Executive Secretary: Mir H. Chowdhury

9. MONTREAL

Host : International Society of Bangladesh & Bangladesh Association of Quebec

Date : September 1-3, 1995

Venue : Sheraton Laval Convention Center

Convener: Dr. Abu Lais Sher

Secretary: Masum Rahman / Niranjana Sarker

10. FLORIDA

Host: Bangladesh Association of Florida

Date: August 30 September 1, 1996

Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Miami

Convener: Dr. Abdus Sattar Khan

Member Secretary: Rashid A Sheikh

11. LOS ANGELES

Host: Bangladesh Association of California

Date: August 29-31, 1997

Venue: Burbank Airport Hilton

Convener: Dr. Zainul Abedin

Executive Secretary: Duke Khan



FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2019)

12. NEW YORK

Host: Bangladesh Society of New York
Date: September 1-3, 1998
Venue: Madison Square Garden
Convener: M. Akhtar Hossain
Member Secretary: M. Hossain Khan

13. ATLANTA

Host: Bangladesh Association of Georgia
Date: September 3-5, 1999
Venue: North Atlanta Trade Center
Convener: Mintu Rahman
Member Secretary: Abu Liakat Hossain

14. NEW YORK

Host: Bangladesh League of America, NY. Inc.,
Date: September 1-3, 2000
Venue: Madison Square Garden
Convener: Rani Kabir
Acting Convener: Emad Chowdhury
Member Secretary: Bedarul Islam Babla
Chief Coordinator: Saidur Rabb

15. MONTREAL

Host: Bangladesh Association of Montreal
Date: August 31 September 1-2, 2001
Venue: Renaissance Hotel
Convener: Mokbul Hossain Mukul
Member Secretary Iqbal Kabir

16. DALLAS

Host: Bangladesh Association of North Texas
Date: September 1-3, 2002, Venue: Dallas Expo Center
Convener: Nurul Amin Chowdhury
Member Secretary: Hashmat Mobin

17. DETROIT

Host: Bangladesh Association of Michigan
Date: August 29-31, 2003
Venue: Detroit Opera House
Convener: Akikul Hoque Shamim
Joint Member Secretary: Kamrul Huda Russel & Shafqat Chaudhury

18. WASHINGTON D.C.

Host: Bangladesh Association of America, Inc. (BAAI)
Date: September 3-5, 2004
Venue: Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia
Convener: M. Abu Solaiman
Member Secretary: Golam M. Farooque

19. FLORIDA

Host: Bangladesh Foundation of Florida
Date: Labor Day Weekend, September 2-4, 2005
Venue: Radisson Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Miami
Convener: Shameem G. Khan
Member Secretary: Atiquer Rahman

20. ATLANTA

Host: Bangladesh Association of Georgia
Date: Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3, 2006
Venue: Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA
Convener: Jashim Uddin
Member Secretary: Mohammed Arefin Babul

21. KANSAS

Host: Midcontinental Bangladesh Association & Bangladesh Association of Greater Kansas City
Date: Labor Day Weekend, August 31 - September 2, 2007
Venue: Century II Convention Center, Wichita, KS
Convener: Rabiul Karim Belal
Member Secretary: Rehan Reza

22. DALLAS

Host: Bangladesh Association of North Texas (BANT)
Date: July 4th Weekend, July 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2008
Venue: Dallas Convention Center Theatre Complex, Downtown Dallas, Texas
Convener: Hashmat Mobin
Member Secretary: Sarwar Kamal

23. HOUSTON

Host: Bangladesh Association, Houston
Date: July 4th Weekend, July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2009
Venue: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas
Convener: Afzal Ahmed
Member Secretary: Azadul Haq



FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2019)

24. LOS ANGELES

Host: Bangladesh Academy of Performing Arts
Date: July 4th Weekend, July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2010
Venue: Pasadena Convention Center, Los Angeles, California
Convener: Zahid Hossain
Member Secretary: Tawfiq Khan

25. NEW JERSEY

Host: Bangladesh Association of New Jersey
Date: July 1-3, 2011
Venue: Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, New Jersey
Convener: Mir Chowdhury
Member Secretary: Nahid A Chowdhury

26. FLORIDA

Host: Bangladesh Foundation of Florida
Date: August 31, September 1-2, 2012
Venue: Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Convener: Atiqur Rahman
Member Secretary: Mujib Uddin

27. ATLANTA

Host: Bangladesh American Association of Georgia
Date: August 30, September 1, 2013
Venue: Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, Georgia
Convener: Duke Khan
Member Secretary: M Mowla Dilu

28. LOS ANGELES

Host: Bangladesh Association of California
Date: August 29-31, 2014
Venue: Marriott Burbank Airport Convention Center
Convener: Dr. Zainul Abedin
Member Secretary: Belal Mustafa Syed

29. New York

Host: Bangladesh League of America
Date: September 4,5,6, 2015
Venue: York College Campus, City College of New York
Convener: Bedarul Islam Babla
Member Secretary: Zakaria Chowdhury

30. Washington DC

Host: Bangladesh Association of Greater Washington DC
Date: September 2, 3, and 4, 2016
Venue: Sraton Pentagon Hotel
Convener: ATM Alam
Member Secretary: Nurul Amin Nuru

31. FLORIDA (2017)

Host: Bangladesh Association of Florida
Date: October 6,7,8, 2017
Venue: Hyatt Regency Miami, Florida
Convener: M. Rahman Zahir
Member Secretary: Ali Ahmed Ashraf

32. GEORGIA (2018)

Host: Bangladesh American Association of Georgia
Date: July 26, 27, and 29, 2018
Venue: CNN Convention Center, Atlanta, Georgia.
Convener: Jashim Uddin
Member Secretary: Nahidul Khan (Sahel)

33. NEW YORK (2019)

Host: Drama Circle
Date: August 30, 31, and September 1, 2019
Venue: Nassau Coliseum, Long Island, NY
Convener: Nargis Ahmed
Member Secretary: Abir Alamgir



Constitution and ByLaws

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FEDERATION OF BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA (FOBANA)

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of the corporation shall be FEDERATION OF BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA. The abbreviated name shall be FOBANA.

Article II: Definition of the Organization

Section 1: FOBANA shall be a non-profit, non-political, non-religious and non-discriminatory corporation which was established in 1987.

Section 2: FOBANA shall be organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501 (c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article III: Goals and Objectives

Section 1: The objectives of FOBANA shall be but not limited to:

- a. Organize periodic Bangladesh Convention in North America. This period shall be determined by the Operating Procedures of the Corporation.
- b. Assign responsibility and provide guidance to a member organization to organize convention in North America.
- c. Organize activities to create awareness to help fight discrimination and prejudice against people of Bangladeshi origin in North America.



- d. Strengthen ties between North America and Bangladesh.
- e. Be the central contact point of Bangladeshi organizations in North America.
- f. Promote ethnic Bangladeshi culture enriching the multiethnic traditions of the communities living in North America.
- g. Work towards protecting interest of people of Bangladeshi origin especially women, seniors and alumni and assist them on social issues through member organizations.
- h. Promote participation of youths in social, cultural, educational and scientific activities in North America and Bangladesh. Encourage and assist the youths for future leadership role.
- i. Promote and assist NRB Investment and business opportunities in USA, Canada and Bangladesh.
- j. Promote charitable activities and conduct such programs, but not limited to, the power to accept money or property, whether real or personal, or any interest wherever situated and making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- k. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by Section 501 (h) of the Internal Revenue Code), and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
- l. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that this corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these articles.
- m. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- n. All references to sections of the Internal Revenue Code shall include such sections as of the date hereof and the corresponding section of any federal tax code.

Article IV; Membership

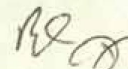
- Section 1;** The Corporation shall have members who subscribe to the above objectives and abide by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Operating Procedures of the corporation, and pay membership dues.
- Section 2;** Members shall have the right to vote, contest elections, and hold office.
- Section 3;** The Corporation reserves the right to deny membership to any organization who is considered to have not met the requirements outlined in the Articles of Incorporation and the Operating Procedures of the Corporation or have been involved in any activity detrimental to the Corporation's interest.

Article V; Organization

- Section 1;** The General Body of the corporation shall meet at least once a year to elect the officers of the Executive Committee following the guidelines outlined in the Operating Procedures of the Corporation.
- Section 2;** The Executive Committee of the Corporation shall include at least 21 but no more than 25 members as the Office Bearers. There shall be one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice Chairperson, one (1) Executive Secretary, one (1) Joint Executive Secretary, one (1) Treasurer, (7) seven Outstanding Members, and at least (9) nine, but no more than (13) thirteen Member Organizations.

Article VI; Management

- Section 1;** The Executive Committee shall manage the activities and affairs of the corporation. The activities and business of the corporation shall be managed and conducted in accordance with the Operating Procedures of the Corporation, provided the procedures are not inconsistent with the provisions of these Articles of Incorporation or contrary to the Laws of the USA or Canada.
- Section 2;** Detail explanation of terms mentioned in the Constitution shall be provided in the Operating Procedures of the Corporation. If a detail explanation is not provided for a particular term, then the decision taken by a simple majority of the Executive Committee shall prevail.
- Section 3;** The office bearers of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the preservation and safe keeping of basic documents pertaining to the corporation and for maintaining books of minutes and other operational records.





Section 4: The FOBANA general body shall elect host organization for FOBANA convention. In the case of the emergency or unavoidable circumstances or inability of the host elect organization, FOBANA Executive committee shall elect a new host organization or itself for the FOBANA convention.

Article VII: Amendment Process

Section 1: The constitution can be amended by following the guideline stated in the Operating Procedures of the Corporation.

Article VIII: Indemnification

Section 1: The corporation shall indemnify any member of the Executive Committee, Office bearer, former member of the Executive Committee or any person who may have served at its request against expenses actually incurred by him/her in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which he/she is made a party by reason of being or having been such member or office bearer, except in relation to matters as to which he/she shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty.

Article IX: Tenure

Section 1: The tenure of the Executive Committee shall end on the day of the termination of FOBANA Convention immediately after the new committee is sworn in and take over the charge from the outgoing Executive Committee.

Section 2: The tenure may be extended depending on the hosting of FOBANA Convention.

Section 3: The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Article X: Dissolution of the Organization

Section 1: Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the



principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 2: Provisions for the regulation of the internal affairs and the distribution of the final assets upon dissolution of the corporation shall be set forth in the Operating Procedures of the Corporation.

Article XI: Address

Section 1: The address, including street and number of the initial registered office of the corporation is 1090 Vermont Avenue, N. W., Suite 190, Washington, DC 20005 and the name of the initial registered agent at such address is National Registered Agents, Inc.



Handwritten signature or initials

Witnesses

We, the following members of the FOBANA hereby sign as witness to this historic document.

Name	Signature
BEDARUL ISLAM BANDA	
Duke Khan	
Moghad M. Ali	
Rabind Karim Belal	
Bashir Ahmed	
Aliqueer Rahman	
Muzib Uddin	
KHALED AHMED ROUF	
RUBEL CHOWDHURY	
Shah Saleem	
Mahmud Musharraf Hussaini (BAAT)	
ARIF AHMED ASHAUF	
JASHIM UDDIN (Bangladeshi American Association of WA)	
MAHAMUD RAHMAN (Bangladesh Association of WA)	
MOHAMMED MOWLA DILU	
Mulul Chowdhury (Shahin)	
Iqbal Ahmed	
ZAHID HOSSAINI	
JANET BISWAS (

Witnesses

We, the following members of the FOBANA hereby sign as witness to this historic document.

Name	Signature
Mir H. Chowdhury	
Wolam Faroque Khan (BAN)	
Dr. FARUQUE AZAM (BTA, President)	
SHAH MOJAMMEL (BCC) President (Bangladesh Community of Chesapeake)	
MUSHARRUF SHAH (BCC) (BCC) musharruf@gmail.com	
NAHIDA NASER Yasmin (BAH) Nahida nasyamin	
RANA WADUD (BANT) Ranawadud	
HASAMAT MOBIN (Outstanding)	
AZADUL HAQ HAQ	
Mahabub Reza Rahim	
AHSAN CHOWDHURY	
SARKEA	
Obayedur Khan - Bangladesh Association of Southwest Florida	
ZAHID REZA BANGLA INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA	

BRO



Memorandum Of Understanding "The Houston Accord"

June 8, 2013, Houston, TX

We, the undersigned agree to the following;

1. That effective as of June 8, 2013 FOBANA will be declared as united.
2. That there will be only one FOBANA convention this year and all of us will join the 27th FOBANA convention also known as FOBANA 2013 to be held in Atlanta, GA from August 30-September 1, 2013. There will be no concurrent FOBANA convention in another venue this year but a consecutive FOBANA convention in Los Angeles, CA in 2014.
3. That on principle we will support the host organization from Los Angeles for their effort to host the FOBANA 2014 in LA. We agree that we will cast our personal votes for the host organization from Los Angeles if there is any election and we will pursue others to vote for them.
4. That the host organization will follow the due process and guidelines as stated in the governing document of the organization.
5. That both the Central Committee and the Steering Committee will remain unchanged till the general body meeting to be held at FOBANA 2013. During the general body meeting a new Executive Committee will be formed for the next term. Till then both committee will work together.
6. That all incoming organizations will follow the due process and go through the review process. However, they will not be considered as new organizations and will have voting power.
7. That both committees will explore how to combine and come up with one governing document.

- s. That all media and press releases will go through a review process by both the Central Committee and Steering Committee or by a media committee having representation from both committees.
9. That this accord is binding upon the Central and Steering Committee.

We sign below on our own will on the Eighth day of Sixth month of the Christian year of Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Rehan Reza

Mohammed Alamgir

Mahmud Musarraf Hossain

Qudrot E Khuda

Azadul Haq

Dr. Zainul Abedin

Mir Chowdhury

Babul Hai

Duke Khan

MD Nuron Nabi

Maqbul Ali

Mahabub Reza Rahim

Hashmat Mobin

Hashmat Mobin

Rabiul Karim Belal

Rabiul Karim Belal

Tashim Uddin

Tashim Uddin

Ahsan Chowdhury

Ahsan Chowdhury

M Mowla Dilu

M. Mowla Dilu





**Operating Procedure of
FEDERATION OF BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA
(FOBANA)**

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Article I: Geographical Location

Section 1: FOBANA shall be a North America wide organization. It shall not be limited to a particular state, province or city. The mailing address of the Registered Agent, Chairperson or any of the authorized Office Bearers can be used as the permanent address for official business.

Article II: The Business and Fiscal Year

Section 1: The business year of the FOBANA shall be from one FOBANA convention to the next FOBANA convention.

Section 2: The fiscal year of the FOBANA shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Article III: Organization

Section 1: The General Body:

- a) The General Body of FOBANA shall consist of all member organizations in good standing and all individual members of the Executive Committee.
- b) The General Body shall meet at least once a year.
- c) The General Body of Members shall have the authority to modify or annul any decision made by the Executive Committee.

Section 2: The Executive Body:

- a) The Executive body of FOBANA shall consist of at least 21 (Twenty One) but no more than 25 (Twenty Five) members and shall be called the FOBANA Executive Committee.
- b) There shall be 1 (One) Chairperson, 1 (One) Vice Chairperson, 1 (One) Executive Secretary, 1 (One) Joint Executive Secretary, 1 (One) Treasurer and 7 (Seven) Outstanding Members and at least 9 (nine), but no more than 13 (Thirteen) Member Organizations as the Office Bearers.
- c) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Executive Secretary, Joint Executive Secretary, Treasurer, 7 (Seven) Individuals members (respected individuals who have outstanding contributions to FOBANA) and up to 13 (Thirteen) members representing FOBANA Member Organizations shall be elected each year by the General Body of FOBANA.
- d) The head of the member organization or his/her representative shall represent the organization in the Executive Committee.
- e) Each member representing an organization shall be elected for a period of one year. If the person's term of office (in his/her organization) expires, the person replacing the outgoing person in that office shall complete the rest of the one-year term.
- f) The outgoing Chairperson and Executive Secretary shall automatically become members of the FOBANA Executive Committee as outstanding members in the following year.
- g) The Convener and Member Secretary of the current FOBANA convention shall automatically become members of the FOBANA Executive Committee as outstanding members in the following year. However, they shall not be qualified to run as Chairperson or Member Secretary in that year.
- h) The term of office bearers shall be for one year.
- i) The top five positions of the Executive Committee that include Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary

Joint Secretary and Treasurer shall be eligible to run for second term for their office. This privilege shall be limited to 2 consecutive years. If any candidates running for second term, he or she must de-



clare his or her intent 45 days prior to the Election Commission appointed by the Executive Committee.

- J) Any Outstanding Member shall not be eligible for running for the same position beyond 2 consecutive years.
- k) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. The presence of one-third members shall make a quorum.
- l) The Executive Committee shall form as many committees as required in order to carry out the function of FOBANA.
- m) Each committee shall have a Chairperson who shall report to the Executive Committee upon completion of the task or as directed otherwise.
- n) The Executive Committee shall assign its members the roles and responsibilities to manage each functional area identified in the By-Laws.
- o) Elected host organization shall automatically become a member of the FOBANA Executive Committee out of 13 (Thirteen) member organizations.

Section 3: The Advisors

- a) There shall be at least 3 Advisors to be nominated and selected by the Executive Committee for a term of one year.
- b) Individuals who have made an excellent contribution to FOBANA in the past and or served FOBANA shall be eligible for this position.
- c) All ex-chairpersons of FOBANA will have an option to be automatically selected as Advisors after serving one year as outstanding members. This will not be valid for any chairperson or persons designated as "persona non grata".
- d) The Advisors shall provide advice and guidance to the Executive Committee and ensure participation in meetings as needed basis.
- e) The responsibilities shall include but not limited to, involve on broader aspects relative to legal matters, hearing grievances and conflict resolution, and mediate variances.
- f) The Advisors shall avoid any conflicts and direct participation in the election process or its operational matters.
- g) Advisors shall have no voting rights, shall not openly support any candidate and shall not influence the election. However, if an Advisor represents an organization, then the Advisor shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges including voting rights. In that special case, the Advisor will be requested to resign from the post of the Advisor.

Section 4: A member shall not be eligible for election as the Chairperson or Executive Secretary if he or she holds any Executive Office or Title of any political party from Bangladesh or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said party in USA or Canada.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: FOBANA shall be an organization of organizations. Individuals cannot be a member of FOBANA.

Section 2: Except those organizations prohibited in the Articles of Incorporation, any organization may apply for membership of FOBANA. In addition to the above, no political, religious, regional, business, charity, privately held foundation or company shall not qualify to be a member. FOBANA, however,



may offer non-voting Associate or student membership to organizations that may have a positive impact towards the common goal of the organization.

- Section 3: Prospective member organization must have at least 50 documented members on file when applying for membership. Proof of this could be a written list of members' names, an online video, a photo of a meeting or event showing members.
- Section 4: Prospective member organization must elect their officials democratically. Proof of this could be a written list of members' names, an online video, a photo of a meeting or event showing members.
- Section 5: Prospective member organization must be involved in community activities serving people of Bangladeshi origins in North America.
- Section 6: Membership application, in prescribed form, must be submitted to the Executive body of FOBANA.
- Section 7: The membership application must be recommended by at least one member organization of FOBANA. This can be waived by the Membership Reviewed Committee if they can verify it verbally.
- Section 8: The application must be submitted at least thirty days (30) before the scheduled meeting of the General Body of FOBANA or before any other deadline decided by the Executive Committee.
- Section 9: Membership application shall accompany application fee and yearly dues.
- Section 10: The application fee shall be non-refundable.
- Section 11: The amount of application fee and membership dues and late fee charge shall be decided every year at the annual general meeting of the General Body. In case no decision was taken, the charges of the immediately previous year shall prevail. The late fee for EC members will be \$50.00 and it will be effective from the beginning of the current tenure. Top 12 executives must pay \$100.00 nomination fee. The nomination fee for the Executive Organization Membership is \$50.00.
- Section 12: The Executive Body or its duly appointed subcommittee shall examine the application and if no irregularities are found, it shall recommend to the Executive Body to accept the membership.
- Section 13: In case any objection is raised at the Executive Body, it shall be placed for review by the General Body and the majority members' decision shall be accepted.
- Section 14: In case a membership application is not accepted, the General body shall, through the Chairman of FOBANA, inform the organization explaining the reason for denial. Membership dues shall be refunded but not the application fee.
- Section 15: When membership application is accepted by the General Body, the organization shall become a member of FOBANA beginning the next business year.
- Section 16: Yearly membership dues must be paid in advance. For example - membership dues for the year 2006 must be paid by November 30, 2005. If not paid by November 30, the membership shall be suspended beginning January 1. However the membership can be renewed by March 31, but a late fee charge shall be applied. If the membership is not renewed by March 31, the membership of the organization shall automatically be canceled. The organization shall have to apply as a new member.
- Section 17: A suspended member shall not have any privilege such as to participate in the organizational matter including exercising the right of vote in any decision making.
- Section 18: An organization may withdraw its membership by a written request signed by majority members of the Executive Body of the membership organization.
- Section 19: An organization that withdrew its membership may apply again. However, it shall be considered as a new applicant.
- Section 20: No two member-organizations shall have the same name.



Section 21: In the case where a member organization breaks up and two or more parties claim to be the inheritance of the parent organization, the head of the organization immediately before the break up shall identify the inheritance of the parent organization. To become a member of FOBANA, the other party or parties must come up with a different, not confusing name and shall have to apply as a new member.

Article V: Voting Rights

Section 1: Only member organizations in good standing shall be allowed to vote. The Membership Review Committee shall submit the list of potential voting members to the Executive Committee at the last EC meeting. The EC then shall finalize and approve the list. The Election Commissioner or Committee shall not have the right to make any changes to this list.

Section 2: New member organizations shall not be allowed to vote in the first two (2) years of their membership period. New members can vote on third (3rd) year.

Section 3: An organization must be a member in the immediate past year to be eligible to vote.

Section 4: Each EC member shall have an individual vote, but then they shall not be allowed to cast another vote as the head or a representative of a member organization. In that event, there has to be another person voting for it who has written authorization and met the approval of the Election Commissioner.

Section 5: The following rules shall apply for registration:

- (a) The FOBANA EC shall determine the amount of registration fee for the participating organization(s) each year to enable them to perform cultural program on the stage of the convention.
- (b) The participating organization(s) shall be required to register with the Host Committee on a pre-scribed form indicating their interest to perform on the stage of the convention. The registration fee must be paid directly to the EC within established time frame. The EC will provide the Host Committee a complete list of the registered organizations along with the amount of registration fee so collected 15 days prior to hosting the Convention.
- (c) A valid member organization must also pay the registration fee to the EC to be eligible to vote in the AGM even if their organization decides not to perform.

Article VI: Authority

Section 1: The General Body of FOBANA, consisting of its members, shall have the authority to remove any or all the members, including office bearers of the Executive Committee by a resolution of vote of no-confidence passed by 2/3 (Two-thirds) majority of members present at the meeting or by 2/3 (Two-thirds) majority of members in a mail ballot or by resolution adopted by a 2/3 (Two-thirds) majority of members present at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. Special General Meeting could be arranged via teleconference. However, impeachment, ousting or abolishment of the entire Executive Committee can only be done in a face to face general meeting.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall have the right to revoke the privilege of the Host Organization to host the annual convention and override the decision taken at the annual general meeting if the Host Organization does not adhere to the guideline set forth in the By-Laws for preparing for the convention.

Section 3: The authority of the Host Organization or Host Committee shall be limited to organizing the annual convention as defined in the By-Laws.

Section 4: The decision taken by the simple majority of the Executive Committee members shall have the final authority on any areas not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution or By-Laws.

Article VII: Annual Meeting

Section 1: There shall be at least one FOBANA General Body meeting.



Section 2: The simple majority of the member organizations (not a number of persons representing various organizations) shall make the quorum.

Section 3: The following businesses shall be conducted at the Annual General Body Meeting:

- a) Review the activities of the past year.
- b) Review the audited financial report of the past year
- c) Elect Officers for the following year
- d) Elect Host Organization for the next FOBANA Convention
- e) Miscellaneous matters included in the agenda
- f) Any other matters from the floor

Section 4: Proxy: Any member of a decision-making body such as FOBANA EC may delegate his or her voting right to any member of the "same body" to vote in his or her absence. As such, no member of FOBANA EC can designate another member from outside FOBANA EC to attend and vote during his or her absence during AGM or any EC meetings or teleconferences.

Article VIII: Amendment Process

Section 1: Amendments to the Article of Incorporation shall be jointly proposed in writing by at least two (2) member organizations and submitted to the Executive Committee at least forty-five (45) days in advance. Requests from an individual or single member organization shall not be entertained.

Section 2: Any amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall require the consent of a simple majority of the General Body of FOBANA and/or two-third (2/3) members of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by any single member organization of FOBANA and must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the yearly general meeting or Executive Committee Meeting or teleconference.

Section 4: Any amendment to the By-Laws shall require a simple majority of the General Body of FOBANA or members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Any amendments to the Operating Procedure shall require only the simple majority of the Executive Committee and that can be also be accomplished via teleconference calls and/or e-mails.

Article IX: Activities

Section 1: The main activity of the FOBANA shall be, but not limited to, hold an annual convention.

Section 2: The FOBANA shall either itself host the annual convention or give the responsibility to one of its member organizations to host the convention. The practice should be to choose an organization to be the host of the convention.

Section 3: FOBANA shall promote and uphold the interest of the Bangladeshi Community in North America.

Article X: Roles and Responsibilities of Officers

Section 1: **Chairperson:**

The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of this Organization. The chairperson shall lead, guide and Chair the Executive Committee meetings, represent FOBANA to outside bodies and the Committee to the General Body members. The chairperson shall maintain liaison and coordination with the Bangladesh Embassy, the Government, and contact with Advisors to seek guidance when needed.

Section 2: **Vice-Chairperson:**



The Vice Chairperson shall be the second person in the order of precedence to the Chairperson and shall carry out the Chairperson's function in the Chairpersons' absence or when authorized by the Chairperson. Vice Chairperson shall oversee the function of all sub-committees including providing guidance and making decisions needed for its operation.

Section 3: Executive Secretary:

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for all organizational matters and shall oversee the functions and operation of Mainstream, Media and Youth wings of the Organization. The responsibilities shall include but not limited to, all administrative matters, develop strategic plans both long and short term, develop marketing plan, keeping minutes of the meeting, distribution of the minutes of the meeting, maintain official files including updated list of membership and their contact addresses and telephone numbers, coordination in the execution on EC decisions, assisting Host Organizations, and communicating with media. The Executive Secretary shall also prepare and present the Annual report, assist in the formation of Election Committee and any other sub-committees.

Section 4: Joint Executive Secretary:

The Joint Executive Secretary shall assist the Executive Secretary and acts as the Executive General Secretary in his/her absence. The Joint Executive Secretary shall record minutes and prepare and submit draft copies to the Executive General Secretary for his/her attention. The Joint Executive Secretary shall assist in the development of local organizations and to become a member of FOBANA Organizations; assist the organization in outreaching the Youth, Mainstream arena, and neglected area.

Section 5: Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall hold the funds, manage all financial matters including maintenance of up-to-date records of all financial transactions, submit statement of receipts and expenses to the Executive Committee, preparation of accounts and budget, collection of dues, responsible preparation of annual balance sheet and income statement for audit, Tax Return to IRS, maintain annual registration status current, deal with insurance matters, and marketing. The treasurer shall also prepare and present the Annual Report to the General Body Meeting.

The account shall be maintained in a reputed banking institution; the account shall be operated by the Treasurer. The Chairperson may empower the Executive Secretary or Joint Executive Secretary to operate the account in the absence of Treasurer. The treasurer shall liaise and coordinate with Host Committee in tracking matters and seek information related to financial status in accordance with the policy guidelines of FOBANA.

Article XI: Standing Committees

Section 1: Each standing committee shall be chaired by one of the presents or past Executive Committee members and will have at least one other member.

Section 2: Standing committees shall have the right to co-opt any number of members of the Executive Committee, Member Organizations to be a part of their subcommittee. They may also co-opt technical experts, subject matter experts or consultants to carry out their responsibilities.

Section 3: Standing committees shall be required to give a progress report on the Executive Committee meetings.

Section 4: The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary will be officio members of all standing committees.

Article XII: Roles and Responsibilities Of the Standing Committees

Section 1: Roles and Responsibilities of Constitution and Procedure Committee

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and its Operating Procedures, all official forms, and guidelines and report their recommendation to the Executive Committee.



The Committee will periodically review the policies and procedures and draft revised versions to be presented to the Executive Committee for ratification.

The Committee will periodically review the forms used and revise them if necessary before presenting them to the Executive Committee for ratification.

The Committee will solicit input from other EC members and include their suggestions in the draft proposal.

The Committee will propose any new amendment to the Executive Secretary before the stipulated deadline for Annual General Meeting so that the Executive Secretary can inform the members.

Section 2: Roles and Responsibilities of Legal Committee

The Committee is responsible for handling all legal aspects of the organization.

The Committee will handle all legal issues affecting the operation of FOBANA, consultation with experts, select and hire and on call Attorney, initiate action to promote and protect FOBANA interest, represent FOBANA and handle all legal issues, guide to resolve disputes, mediate variances, and review important letters and documents before they are issued as needed.

Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities of Unification Committee

The Committee is responsible coordinating all matters related to unification efforts between different groups who like to join FOBANA.

The Committee will initiate dialogues with any individual, organization or group of organizations to a part of FOBANA.

The committee will create proposal and then present them to EC for approval before giving it to the negotiating parties

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of Media and Public Awareness Committee

This Committee will be responsible for all Media and public facing matters

This Committee will create all press release and send them to media outlets.

This Committee will write articles and publish them in FOBANA website to create public awareness for FOBANA

Section 5: Roles and Responsibilities of Business and Investment Committee

The core mission of this Committee is to provide service, promote and facilitate business opportunities between USA and Bangladesh by American, NRBA (Non-Resident Bangladeshi Americans) and Bangladeshi businessmen. As a non-profit organization, FOBANA will not engage itself in any for profit business.

The committee will not engage in any business directly on behalf of FOBANA

The committee is responsible for making contacts with potential NRBA (Non-Resident Bangladeshi Americans) looking for investment opportunities in both Bangladesh and USA.

Explore Retirement Planning and Retirement Investment, Investment in Real Estate and or properties by providing advice, and seed money or start-up capital, pre-IPO funds or franchising finance.

The committee will maintain contact with Bangladeshi Business Organizations, prepare and maintain all professional NRB database, prepare and maintain NRB investment database and formulate policies.

The committee will be responsible for open communication, leading and guiding on NRB issues, liaising with Bangladesh Embassy and Government at home, liaise with the US and Bangladesh Business Council, hold seminars and share information.



Section 6: Roles and Responsibilities of Budget and Finance Committee

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and its Operating Procedures, all official forms, and guidelines and report their recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Committee will develop policies and procedures and present them to the Executive Committee for ratification.

The Committee will handle all legal issues affecting the operation of FOBANA, consultation with experts, select and hire and on call Attorney, initiate action to promote and protect FOBANA interest, represent FOBANA and handle all legal issues, guide to resolve disputes, mediate variances, and review important letters and documents before they are issued as needed.

Section 7: Roles and Responsibilities of Youth Forum Committee

The Committee is responsible for all youth matters affecting their interest.

Help to meet their basic personal and social needs to be valued and useful, and build skills and competencies that will encourage them to function and contribute not only to their daily lives but also for the benefit of the community they belong.

Establish contacts and create a database, develop youth chapter, encourage leadership, participation in education, access to computers, learn languages and culture, educate in communication, guide to work with diversity in mainstream, host seminars, participate in volunteer service, assist necessary training and job search in local businesses which employs youth in meaningful and relevant work.

Find out talents among the young generations from across the nation, highlight them in FOBANA website, Facebook, and Newsletter.

Encourage young writers to write to FOBANA Newsletters, be contributors in FOBANA website.

Section 8: Roles and Responsibilities of Health and Wellness Committee

The Committee is responsible for providing guidance and recommendation on healthy living, nutrition, homemaking, mental health and general wellness.

One of the prime goals of this Committee would be to create a support portal with relevant contact information for the abused women (Those who are suffering in silence)

To create a hotline where the victim can leave a message in Bangla or English if necessary. Calls will be directed to Women Affairs designated person who will then re-route it to the right agency.

Invite and work with other local national agencies and industry leading experts in this area so that we can provide the necessary support on a national level.

Publish some useful papers in easy to read Bangla and create powerful messages in video and distribute via YouTube, FOBANA Facebook page and website.

Continue educating women in various cities and explain their rights and where they can go for help and create guidelines to women entrepreneurs who want to open a business (boutique, sarees, jewelry etc.).

Dos and don'ts of how to do a business from home (for women).

Educate how to form a company, run a business etc., and build an exchange portal where they can get in touch with vendors in Bangladesh for products.

Highlight successful Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs in our website and invite them to FOBANA convention.

Provide written articles about the nutritional values of our everyday ethnic foods.



Highlight risks among men of Bangladeshi origins supported by research

Invite the physicians of Bangladeshi origins to help build a network of support in the healthcare area.

Section 9: Roles and Responsibilities of Social Networking Committee

The Committee is responsible for leveraging online tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+ etc. to promote FOBANA and its activities.

The Committee will actively seek young volunteers who are visible and frequent visitors in the social media and groom them to become FOBANA promoter

The Committee will educate the young generation about FOBANA history so that they can spread the news.

The Committee will ensure that FOBANA is very visible in the cyber world, however, all messages will be in tune with FOBANA goals and mission.

Section 10: Roles and Responsibilities of Newsletter Committee

The Committee will be responsible for developing a periodic Newsletter

The Committee will actively seek writers to write articles for the newsletter

Section 11: Roles and Responsibilities of Bangladesh Liaison Committee

The Committee will work as a bridge between contacts in Bangladesh FOBANA EC in USA on all matters related to FOBANA interest.

The Committee will work with media, keeping contacts with professionals engaged in arts and culture, business, banking, education, industry, government, manufacturing, and media to project FOBANA mission and objectives and gain their support.

Assist in the selection of guests and artists for participation in the FOBANA Convention. However, the final decision will be made by Host Committee.

Maintain a database of all contacts in Bangladesh and share with FOBANA EC.

Hold press events at the Press Club or other suitable venues.

Promote and encourage Universities to participate in Seminars and other activities at the FOBANA convention

Help to set up meetings for FOBANA EC visiting Bangladesh with media, journalists and important personalities to gain their support and promote partnership in our effort to implement FOBANA mission and objectives.

Promote FOBANA in a positive manner and debunk any myths and misconception about FOBANA by participating in talk shows, interviews, and round table discussion.

Open dialogue with relevant parties in Bangladesh and recommend to EC how FOBANA can make a tangible impact to Bangladesh in an unbiased and non-political manner.

Seek sponsorships for FOBANA from prominent business entities.

Section 12: Roles and Responsibilities of Seminar Committee

The Committee will be responsible for inviting prominent academicians, scientists, research experts, subject matter experts, technical professionals to review papers, presentations submitted to FOBANA for Seminar presentation.

Presenters will be allowed to submit their papers online via FOBANA website, these papers will then be sent to a mailbox of this Committee.



The Committee members will review and catalog the papers.

All papers will be in a database so that anyone can do research on these valuable papers.

Invite Bangladeshi students in all major North American and Bangladeshi universities to submit papers.

All papers will be published online after the review process.

The Committee will pick the best papers among the submitted series then invite them to attend the FOBANA Convention. The list will also be presented to the host committee. The host committee will decide whom they want to pay for ticket and accommodation.

Liaise with the Host Committee and work with them closely to organize seminars and provide the topics selected by the Committee for presentation at the convention

Recommend prominent individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution in the field of arts, business, social, political, medicine and science & technology for recognition by the FOBANA EC at the convention.

Section 13: Roles and Responsibilities of Cultural Committee

The Committee is responsible for promoting the cultural aspects of FOBANA and maintain coordination with the Host Committee on the cultural affairs.

The Committee will help member organizations to promote their cultural events, dramas, dance groups, singers to attend other member states.

The Committee will lead and guide the Host Committee and its cultural committee to organize cultural events at the convention

The Committee will actively seek talents across North American and recommend them to Host Committee for inviting them to the convention.

The Committee will select judges during the convention to pick the best performer award

The Committee will help the host committee to arrange promotional tours or events leading to the convention.

The Committee will actively promote the FOBANA Artist Database.

The Committee may help the host committee to get artists from Bangladesh, but FOBANA will not be engaged in any business contract or financial dealing with Host Organization or the artist.

The Committee will not be responsible for any artist payments during the convention

The Committee will collaborate with the Media and Public Awareness Committee to publish FOBANA Newsletters.

Section 14: Roles and Responsibilities of Alumni Committee

The core mission of this Committee will be to invite, show proper respect and keep in touch with the FOBANA Alumnus.

The Committee will develop and maintain a database with the contact information for all FOBANA alumni

All alumni will be formally invited to the convention and to their special breakfast event.

An FOBANA pin will be presented to these Alumni (depends on budget approval)

All alumni will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for their contribution to FOBANA



All alumni will be requested to send their complete bio data and picture which will be permanently archived and promoted in FOBANA website.

FOBANA EC will provide special lanyard for the FOBANA Alumni distinguishing them all other guests.

Alumni will be invited to participate in the Committees.

Section 15: Roles and Responsibilities of Membership Verification Committee

The Committee is responsible for verifying the membership applications of organizations both new and old.

To assure that their registration is current with the State and also with IRS,

Verify if they have Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Verify if they have minimum number of paid members, held elections according to their Articles of Incorporation, paid membership dues,

Verify if they paid their registration fees with the Host Organization and validate their membership status so they can vote in the annual election held by the Executive committee.

Retain a database for a membership organization, maintain documentation with necessary registration forms including copies of Registration with state and IRS, identify deficiencies, provide opportunities to make a correction, and recommend any modification of processes and policies.

This Committee will present the membership application to the EC monthly meetings and recommend that their membership is granted to the organization. Once EC accepts the application, then the membership package will be sent to the organization.

Section 16: Roles and Responsibilities of Mainstream Liaison Committee

The Committee is responsible for communicating with the mainstream personalities and open dialogue with them

This Committee will invite mainstream politicians and prominent people in FOBANA convention

Section 17: Roles and Responsibilities of Awards and Guest Selection Committee

The Committee is responsible for coordinating FOBANA awards and help select guests for FOBANA Convention.

The Committee will prepare guideline and criteria to select candidates for FOBANA award and then present the list to FOBANA EC for final approval

The Committee will suggest and help in contacting guests for the FOBANA convention by working closely with the Host Committee. The Host Committee will have the final say on who they want to invite.

The Committee will order awards ahead of time, keep them and coordinate the award presentation ceremony when the FOBANA Chairperson will present the award.

The Committee will coordinate with the Host Committee to preserve the time slot for presentation

The Committee will work with the Cultural Committee for the best cultural performance awards

Section 18: Roles and Responsibilities of Scholarship Committee

The Committee is responsible for fund raising, selecting and finally awarding annual scholarships to talented students from Bangladeshi origin

The Committee will prepare guideline and criteria to select candidates for FOBANA Scholarships and present the list to FOBANA EC for final approval



This committee will raise funds for the scholarship

Donation for the scholarship program can be received from individuals and/or organizations in the USA and/or Bangladesh

Each scholarship will be for the amount of \$500. Donors can contribute in multiples of \$500. There is no maximum limit.

All donations to are tax-exempt to the maximum limit allowed by law

Money donated towards the FOBANA scholarship fund should only be used for the objective of the committee

All donations collected for a given year will be given away as scholarships for that given year.

The financial awards will be given to the students from the host city/state of the Convention for the respective year

The financial award will be a one-time financial award \$1000 per student

The Host Committee will work with the Scholarship Committee and Central Committee to seek and select the recipients

The awards will be personally presented to the recipients by the donors themselves during the FOBANA Convention

Each Donor will be given a Certificate of Appreciation from FOBANA for their contribution

The applicants must be Bangladeshi Americans residing in the State where the Convention is being held.

High School Graduates who have a cumulative GPA between 3.5 - 4.0 in the given year of the Convention.

Applicants must have community involvement

A properly filled out Application form, a color photo must be submitted by two months before the convention of each year. This date can be changed by the Scholarship Committee.

The recipients must agree to allow FOBANA to publicize their photo, name for promotion.

Each year the Scholarship Committee will come up with a topic for the essay

The essay (500 words or less) will be submitted to the Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee may invite other members of the community or academic to review the essay.

The Scholarship Committee will then short list the candidate and submit to FOBANA EC for final ratification

After the ratification, the award recipients will be officially notified

The awards will be given on the last day of the convention on the main stage

No members of current FOBANA Executive Committee or Advisers can participate in the scholarship program

This committee will have at least 3 past FOBANA Chairperson as members

The current Chairperson and the Executive Secretary will be the officio members

Section 19: Roles and Responsibilities of Goodwill and Promotion Committee

Details being drafted



Section 20: Roles and Responsibilities of Women Empowerment Committee
Details being drafted

Section 21: Roles and Responsibilities of Executive Logistics Committee
Details being drafted

Section 22: Roles and Responsibilities of Convention Liaison Committee
Details being drafted

Section 23: Roles and Responsibilities of Convention Review Committee
Details being drafted

Section 24: Roles and Responsibilities of Fundraising Committee
Details being drafted

Section 25: Roles and Responsibilities of Following Year Convention Committee

Article XIII: Eligibility to be a Host Organization

Section 1: The member organization shall be required to have prior experience to host at least a mini convention.

Any Member organization desires to host a FOBANA Convention shall be required to present to EC at AGM a proposal highlighting their intent, organizational strength, financial soundness including an operating budget, experience, probable location, possible venue, date and action plan to prove their ability to successfully host an event like FOBANA

Based on consensus reached at the AGM, the upcoming convention is awarded to a successful member organization known as the "Host Committee" to host it at their State of origin two years in advance under an agreement signed by both parties.

Host Committee shall coordinate and work with the EC in the initial planning and execution of hosting the event. In the process, Host Committee shall seek guidance from the EC from time to time in order to meet compliance with FOBANA guidelines and the requirements stipulated in the agreement or as directed by EC.

Host Committee shall be required to submit a comprehensive report confirming the formation of a full-fledged committee, acquisition of a venue, hotel and funding strategy at the following year prior to AGM for review by EC.

EC reserves the right to safeguard its interest and take any action against the Host Committee for their failure to comply with their requirement. The action could contemplate the termination of award made for hosting the Convention. The EC may decide to award the convention to another willing organization or hosting convention by themselves.

Host Committee must prepare a budget or estimates of income and expenditures for the tenure of the event. They must maintain accounts, prepare financial statements showing income and expenditures statements and perform their audit. A copy of the audited report must be submitted to the EC.

Section 2: The member organization shall be an active member of FOBANA for two (2) years.



- Section 5: Inclusion of EC names in Communication: The contact information of the Chairperson and Executive Secretary shall be included in every communication and promotional materials that the host organization will produce. This is especially necessary for posters, Television commercials, newspaper advertisement, press releases, a fund raising campaign and invitation letters. This will be the only way to prove that the host organization is approved by the Executive Committee.
- Section 6: Keeping Executive Committee informed: The Host Organization shall inform the Executive Committee for all media communication. Executive Committee can then be prepared to answer from the media about the organization. All convention related questions will be dealt by the Host Organization.
- Section 7: Official Letterhead: The Host Organization shall use an official letterhead template that has a reference to the Chairperson and Member Secretary of FOBANA.
- Section 8: FOBANA Theme Song: The Host Organization must play the FOBANA theme song during the opening and closing ceremony. They may also play it throughout the convention. The theme song is available on the website or will be provided to them by the Chairperson or Executive Secretary.
- Section 9: Flags: The Host Organization must display flags of three countries in equal size and with proper mount (Bangladesh, USA, and Canada) during the opening ceremony.
- Section 10: Joint Meet the Press session: The Host Organization shall organize at least one "Meet The Press" session in New York or any other suitable venue about 2-3 months before the convention. FOBANA Executive Members, Advisors will join at their own expense. The venue, food, a 4'x10' banner, media packets and other expenses shall be the responsibility of the Host Organization. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the Executive Secretary shall be seated at the head table along with the other officers from the Host Organization. In for any unforeseen reason, such session can't be organized, then the Host Organization shall spend the fund allocated for this session in television and newspaper promotion.
- Section 11: EC members in the opening ceremony: The Chairperson and the Executive Secretary shall be allowed to give a brief speech at the opening ceremony. The Host Organization shall allocate at least 3 minutes each. The Host Organization may invite additional Executive Members or Advisors at their own discretion.
- Section 12: All EC members on stage: Anytime during the 3-day convention the Host Organization shall invite all EC members (including the member organizations) on the stage and introduce them to the audience. This may be as simple introduction by announcing their names, organizations they belong to, or courtesy may be extended to allow few of them to speak. The latter would be at the discretion of the Host Organization.
- Section 13: Updates and statuses: The Host Organization shall provide periodic status on the progress of the convention to the Executive Committee. These updates can be in the form of e-mail or verbally in the teleconference.
- Section 14: Sponsorship Packet: The Host Organization shall send hard copy of sponsorship packets and posters to all member organizations as soon as they are prepared.
- Section 15: Convention Requirement: The Host Organization shall provide the following amenities to the Executive Committee during the convention:
- a) A meeting room that can hold up to 100 people for all three (3) days of the convention.
 - b) Either serve food or provide food coupons to all Executive Committee members on the day of the FOBANA Annual General Meeting
 - c) Provide specially marked Lanyard for the Executive Members, Advisors and FOBANA Alumni members



- Section 16: Executive Committee visit: The Executive Committee members will visit (at their own expense) the host city at least once before the convention at a mutually agreed date and time to witness the progress for the convention. The Host Organization shall provide a meeting room, food and if possible a tour of the venue. The Executive Committee members will meet with the members of the Host Committee and share their experience and wisdom.
- Section 17: Selection of Chief Guest: The Host Organization shall not invite any political or religious figures as the Chief Guest. This includes but not limited to any sitting ministers, head of opposition party, heads or senior members of any political or religious parties. The Host Organization must select the Chief Guest with consultation with the Executive Committee.
- Section 18: Invitation of dignitaries: The Host Committee shall invite the following dignitaries maintaining their official protocol to attend the convention. Providing travel, room, and board and other incidental expenses shall be at the discretion of the Host Organization.
- a) Ambassador, Government of Bangladesh, Washington DC
 - b) Consul General, Government of Bangladesh, New York
 - c) Consul General, Government of Bangladesh, Los Angeles
 - d) Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
 - e) High Commissioner, Government of Bangladesh, Canada
 - f) Minister for Commerce, Government of Bangladesh
 - g) Minister for Education, Government of Bangladesh
 - h) Minister for Labor & Employment & Expatriate Welfare & Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh
 - i) Minister for Tourism, Government of Bangladesh
 - j) Senators of the state where the convention will be held
 - k) Local Congressman of the city where the convention will be held
 - l) Governor of the state where the convention will be held
 - m) Mayor of the city or any Elected Officials of the County where the convention will be held
- Section 19: Website: The Host organization shall be a sub-domain to the main FOBANA website (www.fobanaonline.com). A pre-formatted template shall be provided to the Host Organization as soon as they are selected as per the Web Site Guideline. In return, the Host Committee shall pay a one-time fee of \$500.00 to the Executive Committee. If the Host Committee decides to purchase any additional domain names, they will have to be pointed to this central location. The address of the website for the convention shall be like www.fobanaYEAR.fobanaonline.com.
- Section 20: In the case when the name of the host organization changes due to any reason, FOBANA Executive Committee shall go by the Registered Charter number, 501 (c) (3) certificate number (if any), number of incorporation or any other indicative number that would prove beyond doubt that the previous member organization is the sole owner of the organization and only the name has changed.



Section 21: In the case of a situation as explained in Section 9 above, the member organization shall appeal to the Executive Committee in writing to change the name on record. The name of the member organization on record shall be changed upon verification of all documents and ownership.

Section 22: The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse a name change if there is a potential dispute. In that case, the convention shall be held under the name of the Executive Committee.

Section 23: The Host Committee must make special efforts to promote and give special preference to artists of Bangladeshi origin living in North America.

Article XVI: Election Procedure

Section 1: The outgoing Chairperson shall be the Chief Election Commissioner by default. In the case of any conflict of interest or if the outgoing Chairperson declines then the EC will choose a Chief Election Commissioner earlier or by the last EC meeting. The Chief Election Commissioner shall have the right to select minimum two (2) more Election Commissioners to form a minimum three (3) members Election Committee. The decision of the Election Committee shall be considered as final for all election matters.

Section 2: The Election Committee shall invite nominations from the members for positions in the Executive Committee no earlier than two (2) weeks prior to the annual General Body Meeting or as directed by the Executive Committee. The nominations can be accepted till the election begins.

Section 3: Only members duly certified in good standing by the Treasurer shall be qualified to be nominated for the Election.

Section 4: Prospective candidate for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Executive Secretary must meet at least one of the following two conditions:

- a) The candidate at any time in the past was either a Convener or Member Secretary of an FOBANA convention.
- b) The candidate was a member of the Executive Committee for at least 2 years.

Section 5: Members in good standing should submit duly signed nominations in writing to the Election Committee in a sealed envelope. The nominations must accompany the non-refundable nomination fee. The amount of the nomination fee will be declared by the Election Commissioner before the election procedure begins.

Section 6: In the General Body meeting, the Chief Election Commissioners shall open the nomination envelopes, verify their membership status, and shall enquire about the willingness of the nominee to serve FOBANA Executive Committee and announce their names for election.

Section 7: The elections shall be held by secret ballots under the supervision of the Election Committee.

Section 8: The candidates getting the largest number of votes shall get elected into the office sought by him or her.

Section 9: In the case of a tie, a runoff election amongst tied candidates shall be held. The Chief Election Commissioner shall decide the date and time for this runoff election.

Section 10: The Election Committee members shall not be allowed to vote in the election.

Section 11: A candidate can only run once and for one position in the election.

Section 12: The Election Committee shall decide the order of the election.

Section 13: The Election Committee may request other members of the Executive Committee to assist them in the election process.

Section 14: A spouse of an Election Committee member shall not be allowed to run for the election due to a potential conflict of interest unless the Election Committee member excuses him/herself from the committee.



Article XVII: Corrective Action

- Section 1: In case a current or past member organization or members of the Executive Committee or any member of the Standing Committees violates any provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws or Operating Procedures then the Executive Committee shall have the right to take corrective actions against them.
- Section 2: The Executive Committee may send a Show Cause Notice to the member asking to respond within 30 days. Consecutive notices may be sent at the discretion of the EC.
- Section 3: If no satisfactory response is received from the member within that specified period then further measures may be taken including but not limited to revoking the membership privileges, removing the names from the web site or making the member 'persona non grata' for any specified period as decided by the EC.
- Section 4: These corrective measures will not be in conflict with other measures if mentioned in the Constitution or By-laws or other procedures. The EC will have the right to choose any or all measures against a member.

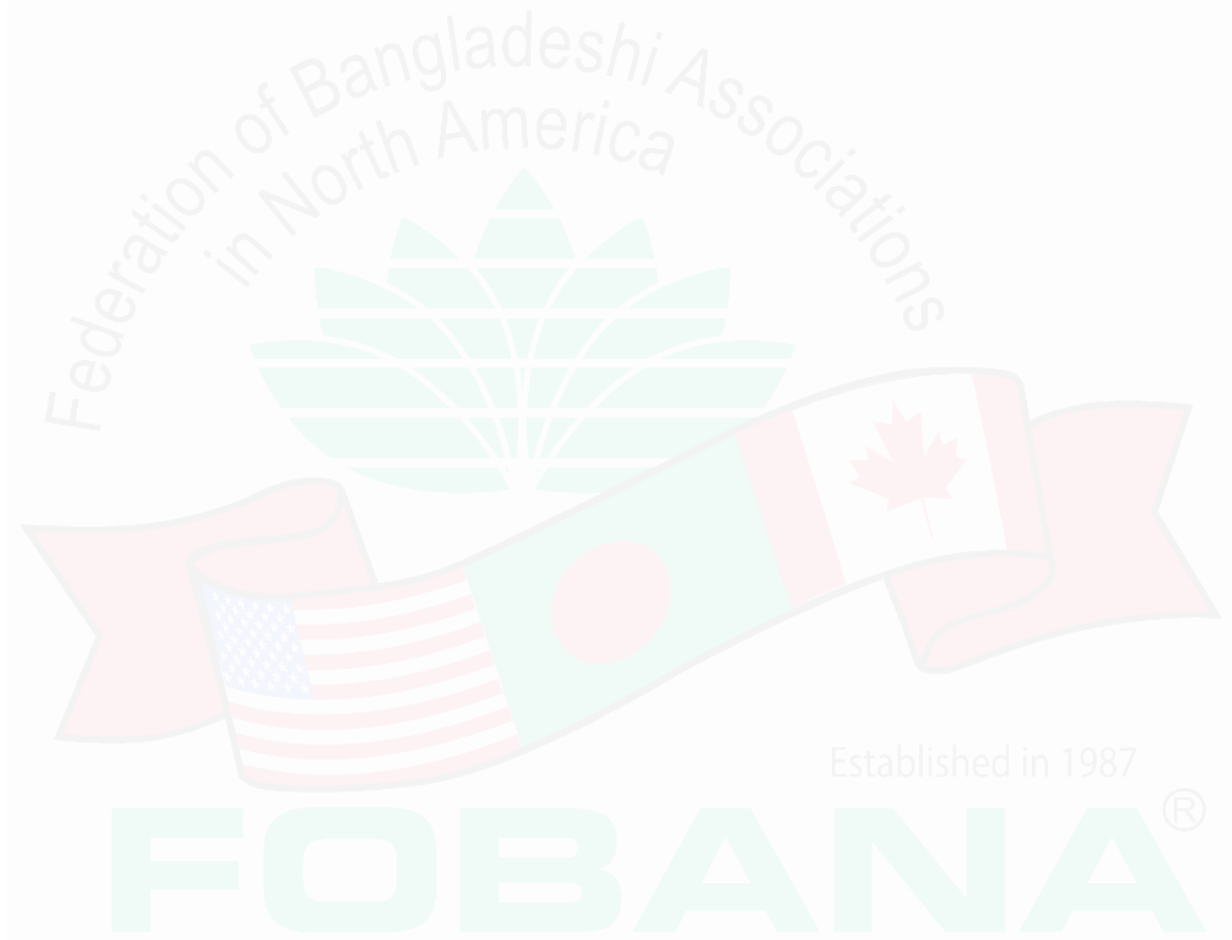
Article XVIII: Policy for Vendors Requiring Invitation Letters for Visa Purposes

- Section 1: All invitation letters will be issued by the Executive Committee signed by the Chairman, Executive Secretary, Convener and Member Secretary of the host committee
- Section 2: Only two invitation letters per vendor will be issued.
- Section 3: Vendors will be dealing directly with FOBANA and there will be no agents in Bangladesh for these purposes.
- Section 4: These letters will be either sent directly to the vendors or sent to host committee for dispatch.
- Section 5: Default dispatch method will be e-mail. However, vendors may pay the extra shipping cost (Fed-EX, UPS, DHL) if they would like to receive the original letters to submit to the US Embassy. The US Embassy may want to see the original letter.
- Section 6: The original letters will be embossed with the FOBANA seal to prevent any counterfeiting.
- Section 7: A record will be kept to track who was invited.
- Section 8: The EC or HC may independently verify if a vendor is legitimate.
- Section 9: The EC may engage its own committees such as the Business & Investment Committee or the Bangladesh Liaison Committee to gather information and/or take the interview to ensure that these are legitimate vendors.
- Section 10: The EC may request additional documents from the vendors or engage any 3rd party companies such as IBFB to verify their documents.
- Section 11: The EC may decline the request to send an invitation if they deem a vendor illegitimate. The host committee will have to comply.
- Section 12: Vendors must deposit the stall reservation fee (set every year by the host committee – for instance: premium stalls \$2000, standard \$1500 and general \$1000) before an invitation letter can be sent to them.
- Section 13: A Vendor Stall Agreement form must be signed.



- Section 14: The Vendor must notify the FOBANA Executive Committee or Host Committee in writing about their intention to cancel the reservation no later than 7 days prior to the convention. After that date, no refund will be issued because the stalls can't be allocated to any new vendors after that date.
- Section 15: Refunds will be issued within 90 days from the convention or a date set every year by the EC.
- Section 16: 50% refund minus any bank transfer and/or PayPal fee if they notify within 7 days prior to the convention. Vendors applying for a US Visa must show proof of visa cancellation for a refund.
- Section 17: No refund will be given if there are less than 7 days left of the convention.
- Section 18: No refund will be issued to vendors who will receive US VISA but will not attend FOBANA. They will be reported to the US Embassy about their absence in FOBANA.
- Section 19: A list of invited guests, vendors will be published in FOBANA website. Names that are not published will be called counterfeit and FOBANA will not be responsible for them.
- Section 19: There will be multiple ways to pay the vendor deposit
- i) Pay to FOBANA EC via wire transfer, ACH, check
 - ii) Pay FOBANA HC via wire transfer, ACH, check
 - iii) Pay online
 - iv) Pay to a bank in Bangladesh set by EC or HC

Established in 1987
FOBANA®





33rd FOBANA CONVENTION 2019, NEW YORK, NY



FOBANA® 2018-2019 Annual Report

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