

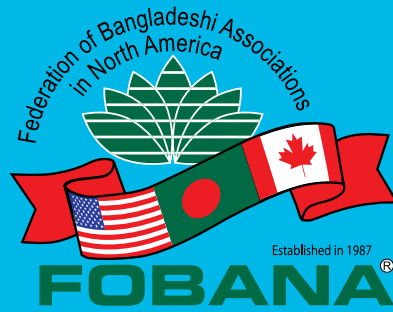


Established in 1987

FOBANA[®]

Annual Report (2016-2017)

October 6,7,8, 2017
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Miami, Florida



FOBANA®, is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory, IRS 501c(3) tax-exempt (Tax ID 26-1747615) organization. Year of establishment 1987.

This organization of Bangladeshi Associations has been recognized as an umbrella, where Bangladeshi Americans gather to celebrate their success and introduce their vibrant culture to this multicultural country. 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 the United States and Canada.

That is not all; 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 our 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
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A Message from the FOBANA Chairman



Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of FOBANA. This is the 31st time the organization is holding an annual convention which in itself is a proud achievement. FOBANA has grown significantly larger in the past few years. It now has year round activities and continuously introducing fresh new ideas. The organization is leveraging technology and social media as the backbone of its growth because, in today's world, the only way to succeed is to do a leapfrog using technology.

Last year was no different than the previous years. FOBANA had coined several ideas and projects. Some of these projects may take years to implement, but the organization was bold enough to experiment and venture out to explore how to make the organization even

more successful. Our standing committees did a marvelous job in various sectors. We had introduced FOBANA Matrimonial Site and Online database for the professionals of Bangladeshi origin. We had experimented with an online survey and online voting. We explored the possibility including prominent personalities who are not involved with FOBANA to bring them as advisors. We had explored how we can make the organization larger and bring in member organization from Mexico.

We had introduced a fresh new idea called Business Power Lunch to be held on the second day of the convention. This effort has generated a very positive response from the businessmen and we were able to invite a significant number of them to come this year.

Like any large nonprofit, the challenges are abundant preventing executing every project and task. But challenges gives opportunities for leadership. The harder the challenges, the bigger the opportunities. FOBANA is the incubator as well as the launching pad for national leaders. Every member of FOBANA is already a leader when they join FOBANA. Working in the Executive Committee provides them additional opportunities to hone their leadership skills.

Our host committee has worked extremely hard to organize this convention, especially dealing with the aftermath of the hurricane Irma. Many of their homes and businesses were damaged, but the host committee members were steadfast in making the convention a success. We salute their perseverance and dedication. It sets a very high standard of community service.

It is a distinct honor to serve the only national organization for the Bangladeshi diaspora living in North America. FOBANA. I have been serving FOBANA for the past four years as the Executive Secretary and the past year as the Chairman. This experience will remain as a precious part of my professional career. I wish FOBANA 2017 a grand success and welcome the members of the next Executive Committee.

Azadul Haq
Chairman

A Message from the FOBANA Executive Secretary



এম মওলা দিলু
এক্সিকিউটিভ সেক্রেটারি
ফোবানা

ফোবানার বাৎসরিক সভায় আপনাদের সবাইকে স্বাগতম। ফোবানাতে এক্সিকিউটিভ সেক্রেটারি হিসেবে কাজ করার সুযোগ পেয়ে নিজেকে আমি অত্যন্ত ভাগ্যবান মনে করি। এই বিশাল সংগঠনে যে কোন পদে কাজ করাটাই ভাগ্যের ব্যাপার। আমি বহু বছর ধরে ফোবানাতে জড়িত, তবে এই ফোবানা আর আগের সেই ফোবানা নেই। ফোবানার কাজের পরিধি এখন ব্যাপক। সারা বছর ধরে বিভিন্ন কর্মকাণ্ডের সাথে ফোবানা এখন জড়িত। এই কাজগুলো মূলত করে ফোবানার স্টাডিং কমিটিগুলো। আমি প্রতিটি কমিটির চেয়ারপার্সন ও সদস্যদের আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জানাই তাঁদের নিরলস কাজের জন্য। ফোবানার প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যানদের জানাই অভিবাদন কারণ তাঁরা সময় নিয়ে, যত্ন করে আমাদের ভুল ত্রুটি ধরিয়ে দিয়ে, প্রেরণা জুটিয়ে, সাহস দিয়ে ফোবানাকে আরো এগিয়ে নিয়ে যাবার জন্য উপদেশ দিয়েছেন। তাঁদের অভিজ্ঞতা আমাদের শক্তি।

ফোবানার আরো উন্নতি হোক, ফোবানার কলেবর আরো বৃদ্ধি পাক, ফোবানার নাম ছড়িয়ে যাক আরো বিশালভাবে এই কামনা করি। আগামী এক্সিকিউটিভ কমিটির সকল সদস্যদের অগ্রীম সাদর সম্ভাষণ জানাই। আমি ফোবানার একজন ক্ষুদ্র কর্মী হিসেবে সব সময়ই ফোবানার সাথে থাকব।

আপনাদের যে কোন ব্যাপারে আমার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হলে দ্বিধা না করে আমাকে জানাবেন। আমি ফোবানাকে সাহায্য করার জন্য সদা প্রস্তুত।

এম মওলা দিলু
এক্সিকিউটিভ সেক্রেটারি
ফোবানা

FOBANA Executive Committee (2016-2017)

FOBANA Executive Committee is the apex body that runs the organization according to the Operating Policies of the organization. They are elected every year at the Annual General Meeting.



Chairperson

Azadul Haq
Houston, Texas
(713)-249-1105



Outstanding Member

Nahid Chowdhury Mamun
Hawthorne, NJ
(201) 835-2473



Vice-Chairperson

Mohamed Alamgir
Anandale, VA
(703) 626-5814



Outstanding Member

ATM Alam
Maryland
(571) 237-5469



Executive Secretary

M Mowla Dilu
Atlanta, Georgia
(770) 912-9169



Outstanding Member

Nurul Amin Nuru
Maryland
(703) 930-2490



Joint Executive Secretary

Zakaria Chowdhury
New York, New York
(646) 226-7144



Outstanding Member

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



Treasurer

Shah Haleem
Houston, Texas
(281)-748-9880



Outstanding Member

Rehan Reza
Topeka, Kansas
(785) 554-0586



Outstanding Member

Jashim Uddin
Atlanta, Georgia
(770) 882-1293



Outstanding Member
 Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury
 Austin, Texas
 (512)-413-9193



Bangladesh Association
 of New Jersey (BANJ)
 (Golam Faruque Bhuyian)
 (732)-983-7566



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



Bangladesh Association
 of North Texas (BANT)
 (Hashmat Mobin)
 (972)-935-4750



Bangladesh American
 Association of Georgia
 (BAAG)
 (Duke Khan)
 (770)-317-8229



Bangladesh Friendship Society
 (BFS)
 (Z I Russell)
 (646) 533-1350



Bangladesh Association
 of America Inc (BAAI)
 (Shafi Delwar Kajol)
 (703) 300-0870



Bangladesh Community
 of Los Angeles (BCLA)
 (Masud Rob Chowdhury)
 (818)-730-1020



Bangladesh Association of
 Houston (BAH)
 (Dr. Rafiq Khan)
 (713) 896-3648



Bangladeshi Expatriate
 Society of Texas (BEST)
 (Maya Nehal)
 (972)-854-1232



Bangladesh Association
 of Georgia Inc., (BAGI)
 (Arif Ahmed)
 (678)-698-8105



Drama Circle (New York)
 (Abir Alamgir)
 (347) 724-9518



Mid Continent Bangladesh
 Association (MCBA)
 (Rabiul Karim Belal)
 (316) 393-0920



Bangladesh Association of
 Montreal (BAM)
 (Dewan Maniruzzaman)
 (514) 691-9779



Raihan Zaman

CEO
Utshob Group

UtshobGroup

Utshob.com

We are the largest South Asian E-commerce site. We have 10,000 plus satisfying customers around the globe delivering in 19 countries. Our inventory contains 35,000 products from 500 plus vendors. The logo is registered at USPTA. Utshob.com is our first venture.

Utshobbd.com

We debut this part of the E-commerce segment in Bangladesh for the people residing in Bangladesh. We launched in 2016 and received a great response. People can now send gifts all over the world from Bangladesh to their loved ones using Cash, Check, BKash and Credit Card. We have started seeing the overwhelming response in Bangladesh.

Infinite Media Group

This is our Media House for Utshob Group. We do brand development for the entire group. We have done many big events with Srikanto Acharaya, LRB, Bappa Mazumder, Partha Barua and many other renowned performers. Recently we have opened our studio in Dhaka for our own photo shoots and brand development.

Utshob Courier

Utshob Courier is a logistics service between USA and Bangladesh. We have started this venture in 2017 and it has picked up very quickly. We deliver all Bangladesh from the USA at a very reasonable price.

Global Process Point

Global Process point is a TPA for 401k, Pension Management System, and Automotive ancillary products. We are in business for last 6 years and we represent many Fortune 500 companies.

Utshob Agro

Utshob Agro is based in Sherpur District. We are mainly in fisheries and live stocks. Our ultimate plan is to export fish within 2019. Our project is based on 45 acres of land which we are expanding every year.

Utshob Styles

This is our premium brand platform. We have 36 top designers around the world showcasing their products on our website. This site is for people in Bangladesh. It is a complete solution for getting genuine watches, clothing, and shoes from top brands like Rolex, Cartier, Chanel, Prada and much more.

Utshob Pharma

This is our Pharmacy chain stores. This will provide a different kind of experience for the shopper. We pharmacies will showcase not only medicines but health food, baby care, and imported cosmetics. This pharmacy system will also do home delivery and automatic refill of medicine for the patient. We have opened our 1st pharmacy in Dhaka and planning to open 20 more throughout Bangladesh.

Utshob Care

This is groundbreaking Patient Health Data Management System. This system consists of patient care data management, Pharmacy Delivery system and also E Prescription. Our goal is to transform 90% physician into our management system where handwritten prescription and errors become obsolete.

Utshob Foundation

Our goal is to create an enabling environment in the communities where the dignity and respect for everyone, especially for the girl children. We work in partnership with global organizations, government actors, educational institutions, communities on children awareness.





FOBANA History (1987-2016)

30 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
Chairman : 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 / Niranjan 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. Jainal Abedin
Executive Secretary: Hadi Hasan Duke

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: Atiqer Rahman
Chief Coordinator: Abdul Wahid Mahfuz

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

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

30. Washington DC

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

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: Atiquer 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

FOBANA Past Chairpersons

FOBANA Executive Committee was formally formed in 2002 and the following respected individuals had led the organization as the FOBANA Chairperson since then.



Dr. Nuran Nabi
New Jersey
(2002-2003)
(2003-2004)



Jashim Uddin
Georgia
(2010-2011)



Nurul Amin Chowdhury
Texas
(2004-2005)



Bedarul Islam Babla
New York
(2011-2012)



Atiqer Rahman
Florida
(2005-2006)



Rehan Reza
Kansas
(2012-2013)



Mahabub Reza Rahim
Arizona
(2006-2007)



Mohamed Alamgir
Washington DC
(2012-2013)



Mir Chowdhury
New Jersey
(2007-2008)



Mahmud Musharraf Hussain
Washington DC
(2013-2014)



Hashmat Mobin
Texas
(2008-2009)



Duke Khan
Georgia
(2014-2015)

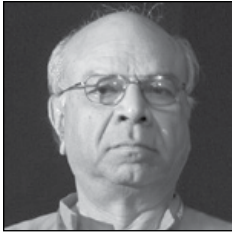


Rabiul Karim Belal
Kansas
(2009-2010)



Nahid Chowdhury Mamun
New Jersey
(2015-2016)

FOBANA Advisors



Wahed Hossaini



Dr. Zahurul Huq



Nurul Amin Chowdhury



Bedarul Islam Babla



Dr. Zainul Abedin



Dr. Zeenat Nabi

A tribute to Dr. Zahirul Huq



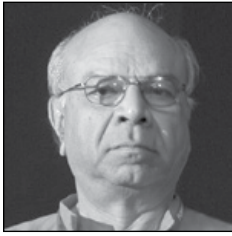
Dr. Zahirul Huq

Dr. Zahirul Huq, M.D,
Diplomat American Board of Surgery F.R.C.S (London).
Fellow American College of Surgeon.
Graduate from Dhaka Medical College and also College of Physicians and Surgeons, in (London).
Former Chief of Surgery in Holy Family Hospital, in (Dhaka) and General Surgeon Specializes in Surgical Oncology and Laparoscopic Surgery.

Dr. Huq was the Chairman of Surgery at Norwegian-American Hospital, Chief of General Surgery at St. Mary Resurrection Hospital in Chicago, Ill. Dr. Huq escaped from East Pakistan and later joined Late F.R. Khan and still is one of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Foundation, supporting Liberation of Bangladesh. Besides his professional achievements, he is currently the chairman of Surgery, President of the Medical Staff and Associate Professor of Surgery of the Chicago Medical School. Also, Standby Examiner of the American Board of Surgery. Dr. Huq is 5 time recipient of Teacher of the Year Award, Branch President of the Chicago Medical Society and one of the Founders of the Bangladesh Associations in Chicago. Dr. Huq was a Keynote Speaker of FOBANA Convention in 1996. Also, he was a Special Guest of Honor of FOBANA in 1997 in Atlanta. Besides many local awards Dr. Huq has great deal of personal contributions and believes in unity, peace and hamrony in all Bangladeshi communities across North America.

Dr. Huq passed away in peace in 2017. May Almighty Allah grant him the best in the heavens.

FOBANA Ex-Advisors



Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury



Dr. Nuran Nabi



Nurul Amin Chowdhury



Md. Mahabub Rahim



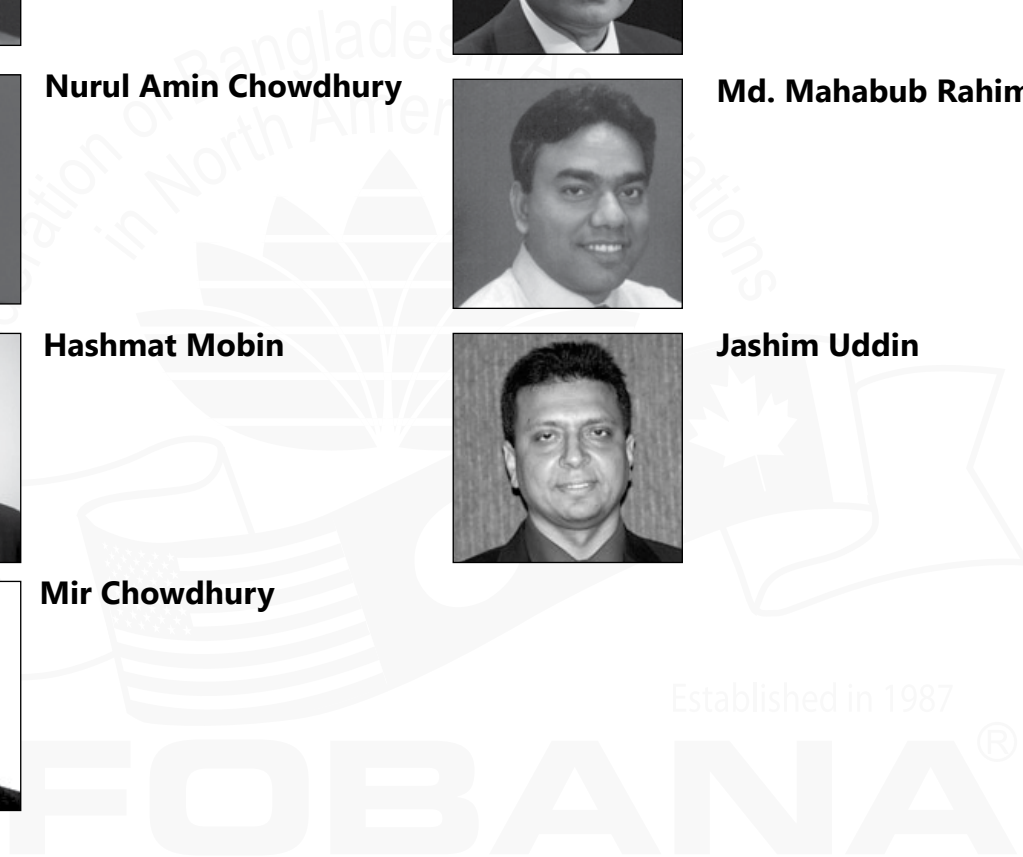
Hashmat Mobin



Jashim Uddin



Mir Chowdhury



FOBANA Member Organizations **(Not based on current membership status or any particular order)**

The following organizations were FOBANA member at least once.
Many new organizations applied this year to be a member.

FOBANA Membership fee is only \$50 per year.

1. Bangladesh Friendship Society Inc.
2. Bangladesh Association of Florida (BAF)
3. Bangladesh American Association of GA (BAAG)
4. Bangladesh Association of Houston (BAH)
5. Mid Continent Bangladesh Association (MCBA)
6. Bangladesh Association of America, Inc. (BAAI)
7. Bangladesh Association of New Jersey (BANJ)
8. Bangladesh Community of Los Angeles
9. Bangladesh Association of Georgia, Inc. (BAGI)
10. Bangladesh Expatriate Society of Texas (BEST)
11. Bangladesh Association of North Texas (BANT)
12. Drama Circle
13. Bangladesh Association of Montreal
14. Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City (BAGKC)
15. Texas Bengali Cultural Alliance (TBCA)
16. Bangladesh Association of Greater Washington DC (BAGWDC)
17. Bangladesh Community of Greater Chicago
18. Bangladesh Association of Phoenix (BAP)
19. Bangladesh Academy of Los Angeles
20. Boishakhi Mela
21. Taranga
22. Bangladesh American Foundation of Central Florida
23. Bangladesh Foundation of Florida (BFF)
24. Bangladesh American Multi Cultural Organization
25. Anandadhara Cultural Institute of Central Florida
26. Bangladesh Cultural Society of Florida
27. Bangladesh Association of Southwest Florida
28. Atlanta Cultural Society
29. Bengali Boy's Cultural & Sports Association
30. Bangladesh Community of Greater Chicago (BCGC)
31. Bangladesh Society of America
32. Bangladesh Association of Michigan
33. Bangladesh League of America (BLA)
34. USA Bangladesh Cultural Center
35. Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA)
36. Austin Bangladesh Association (ABA)
37. Bangla Institute of Performing Arts & Media (BIPAM)
38. Bangladesh-American Society of Greater Houston
39. Bangladesh Association of Greater Austin (BAGA)
40. Bangladesh Association of Los Angeles (BALA)
41. Bangladeshi American Women Association of Texas

42. Bangladesh-America Cultural Organization of DC (BACODC)
43. Shadesh Bangladesh
44. Shatadal Inc.
45. NRB Business Association USA Inc.
46. Shilpo Kola Academy
47. Bangla Academy
48. Dishary - US Bangla Cultural Organization
49. US Institute Of Performing Arts Of Bangladesh
50. Bornomala Shikkhangan, Inc
51. Dhroopod Inc.
52. Priyo Bangla
53. US Bangladesh Foundation of Florida
54. Friends and Families
55. Bangladesh Association of Arkansas
56. American Senior Housing Arrangement, INC (ASHA)
57. Ora Egaro Jon
58. Bangladesh Theater of America, Inc.
59. Prantik, Inc.
60. Jagoroni Shilpigoshti
61. Dallas Bangla Theater
62. Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland (BACIllinois)
63. Bangladesh America Friendship Foundation Inc.
64. Bangladesh Association of California (BAC)
65. Shur Chondo
66. Udichi USA
67. Queens Bangladesh Society
68. Sangeet Parishad
69. Bangladesh Society of Bronx
70. Bangladesh Sports Council of America
71. Choyanica Shilpi Goshti
72. Aggrodhut
73. Bangladesh Foundation of Georgia (BFG)
74. Bangladesh Association of Georgia (BAG)
75. Bangladesh Community of Chicagoland (BCC)
76. Bangladesh Association of Greater Chicagoland (BAGC)
77. Bangladesh Association of Central Ohio



Azadul Haq <azadulhaq@gmail.com>

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Reply-To: TMOfficialNotices@uspto.gov
To: fobanaec@gmail.com

Fri, Jun 14, 2013 at 10:01 PM

Serial Number: 77282020
Registration Number: 3435038
Registration Date: May 27, 2008
Mark: FOBANA(STANDARD CHARACTER MARK)
Owner: FEDERATION OF BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATIONS I etc.

Jun 14, 2013

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE UNDER SECTION 8

The declaration of use or excusable nonuse filed for the above-identified registration meets the requirements of Section 8 of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1058. The Section 8 declaration is accepted.

NOTICE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT UNDER SECTION 15

The declaration of incontestability filed for the above-identified registration meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1065. The Section 15 declaration is acknowledged.

The registration will remain in force for the class(es) listed below for the remainder of the ten-year period, calculated from the registration date, unless canceled by an order of the Commissioner for Trademarks or a Federal Court.

Class(es):
036

TRADEMARK SPECIALIST
POST-REGISTRATION DIVISION
571-272-9500

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING REGISTRATION

WARNING: Your registration will be canceled if you do not file the documents below during the specified time periods.

Requirements in the First Ten Years

What and When to File: You must file a declaration of use (or excusable nonuse) and an application for renewal between the 9th and 10th years after the registration date. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1059.

Requirements in Successive Ten-Year Periods

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS DIVISION



C E R T I F I C A T E

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Business Organizations Code have been complied with and accordingly, this **CERTIFICATE OF REINSTATEMENT** is hereby issued to:

FEDERATION OF BANGLADESHI ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Effective Date: 2/21/2017

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed as of 2/22/2017 9:33 AM



Business and Professional Licensing Administration

PATRICIA E. GRAYS
Superintendent of Corporations
Corporations Division

Muriel Bowser
Mayor

Tracking #: q13Uq54n

Receipt (Application)

Marks (Head Office) TM-1 Non-Textile Mark (H) H/BD/01/208615 received at 14/03/2017 02:36:21 PM by borhen:MD. ^{ট্রাডমার্ক নিবন্ধনের আবেদন} **FORM TM-1** ^{উদ্ভিদ-সংক্রান্ত} **UDDIN**
Payment details : Payment Order 14/03/2017 ৳৯৭18 Taka 3,500.00

Application for Registration of Trade Mark

[বিধি ১০(১), ১৩(৩), ২৯(১) এবং ৫৬(১) দ্রষ্টব্য]
Rule 10 (1), 13 (3), 29 (1) and 56 (1)

T. M. NO. 208615
14-3-17

১। যে মার্ক নিবন্ধনের আবেদন করা হইয়াছে (সংশ্লিষ্ট বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিন) ০৪

That mark has been applied for registration (Give tick in the concerned box)

ট্রেডমার্ক (পণ্য) Trade Mark (Goods)	<input type="checkbox"/>	সার্টিফিকেশন মার্ক Certification Mark	<input type="checkbox"/>
ট্রেডমার্ক (সেবা) Trade Mark (Service)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	সমষ্টিগত মার্ক Collective Mark	<input type="checkbox"/>
প্রতিরক্ষামূলক মার্ক Defensive Mark	<input type="checkbox"/>		

দ্রষ্টব্যঃ সার্টিফিকেশন মার্ক অথবা সমষ্টিগত মার্কের ক্ষেত্রে মার্কের ব্যবহার সম্পর্কিত প্রবিধানের কপি টিএম-৮ ফরমে সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে এবং প্রতিরক্ষামূলক মার্কের ক্ষেত্রে হলফনামামুদ্রে প্রত্যয়ন করিয়া আবেদনের সপক্ষে যুক্তি সঞ্চলিত একটি বিবৃতিসংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। (N.B. In Case of certification mark or collectivemark- enclose the copy of use concerned regulations of mark with FORM TM-8and in case of defensive mark- enclose an affidavit with logical statements in support of application)

২। মার্কের প্রতিরূপঃ (Trade Mark is given below):



৩। মার্কের বর্ণনা ০৪ (Description of Trade Mark) Word-Fobana & Logo

(আবেদনকারী যে মার্কটি নিবন্ধনের জন্য আবেদন করিয়াছেন তাহার সুস্পষ্ট বর্ণনা দিতে হইবে)

দ্রষ্টব্যঃ (ক) রক্ষিত স্থান অপর্খাপ্ত হইলে আলাদা A4 সাইজ কাগজে মার্কের প্রতিরূপ তৈরী করিয়া

ফরমের সহিত শক্তভাবে আঁটিয়া দিতে হইবে। (A) In case of insufficient space attach labels with A4 size papers)

(খ) পরস্পরক্রমে বিন্যস্ত ট্রেডমার্কের জন্য আবেদন করা হইলে

প্রতিটি মার্কের প্রতিরূপ দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (B) Submit the configuration of every mark for registration of successive serialized trade mark.

(গ) মার্কের প্রতিরূপ স্পষ্ট, টেকসই এবং ফটোকপি প্রক্রিয়ায় পুনরুৎপাদনের উপযোগী হইতে হইবে। (C) Mark should be clear, durable & photostatable.

(ঘ) ট্রেডমার্কটি রঙিন হইলে এবং ঐ রং-এর মধ্যে সীমিত রাখিতে হইলে বক্সে

টিক দিন (D) To limit the colour of the colourful mark in its same colour, give tick in the box.

(ঙ) মার্কটিতে ইংরাজি বা বাংলা ব্যতীত অন্য শব্দ বা অক্ষর থাকিলে উল্লেখ করুন Mention if there is any other word or letter in the mark except English or Bangla

ভাষা Language	মার্কটির অনুবাদ Translation of Mark	মার্কটির প্রতিবর্ণীকরণ Transliteration of Mark
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৪। শ্রেণি (একটি মাত্র শ্রেণির পণ্য বা সেবা) Class:

36

৫। পণ্য/সেবার ধরন অনুসারে পণ্য/সেবার তালিকা। বস্ত্র পণ্য/ চুকরা পণ্য হইলে পণ্যের বর্ণনার পর পঞ্চম তফসিলে বর্ণিতমতে বস্ত্র পণ্যের নম্বর উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে (অপ্রয়োজনীয়টি কাটিয়া দিন)।

Goods/ Services, Insurance, financial affairs, monetary affairs, real estate affairs and all other services included in class-36

(নোটঃ পণ্য বা সেবা একাধিক আন্তর্জাতিক শ্রেণিভুক্ত হইলে পৃথক আবেদন করিতে হইবে। পণ্য বা সেবার আদিকার জন্য প্রয়োজন হইলে পৃথক সীট ব্যবহার করুন)। In case of insufficient space for typing goods-use separate white sheet with it.

৬। নিবন্ধন কোন শর্ত, দাবী ভ্যাগ, সহযোগী মার্ক বা অন্য কোন বিধি-নিষেধ সাপেক্ষ হইলে তাহা নিচে উল্লেখ করুন। মার্কটিতে ইংরাজি বা বাংলা ভিন্ন অন্য বর্ণ বা শব্দ গুচ্ছ থাকিলে বা অনুরূপ বর্ণ বা শব্দ গঠিত হইলে অথবা ইংরাজি বা বাংলা ভাষা ব্যতীত অন্য ভাষা থাকিলে বা ভাষা সমন্বয়ে গঠিত হইলে ক্ষেত্রমত সত্যায়িত প্রতিনিধীকরণ এবং অনুবাদ দাখিল করিতে হইবেঃ (In case of registration mention below the condition, disclaimer, associate mark or any other conditional rules-regulations; and submit translation of the mark when the mark is in another language, when it is not in English or Bangla.)

(ক) আবেদনকারীরঃ (Proprietor's/ Partners):

নাম (Name) :
পদবী (Post) :
জাতীয়তা (Nationality) :
ফার্মের নাম (Firm) :
ঠিকানা (Address) :
ফোন / ই-মেইল: (Phone/ E-mail) :



(খ) আবেদনকারী কোন আইনগত প্রতিষ্ঠান হইলে- (In case of Limited Company/Organization):

নাম (Name) : Azadul Haq
(Post) : Chairman
জাতীয়তা (Nationality) : Bangladeshi
কোম্পানীর নাম (Name of Company/ organization) : Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America
ঠিকানা (Address) : 1, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
(Phone and E-mail) :

(গ) আমি/আমরা পূর্বোক্ত পণ্য/সেবার

I/We am/are

প্রস্তুতকারক (Manufacturer)

আমদানীকারক (Importer)

(প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে টিক চিহ্ন দিন)

Give Tick in Perfect Box

সেবাপ্রদানকারী (Service Provider) ✓

(ঘ) আমদানীকারকের ক্ষেত্রে মালিকানা বিদেশী উৎপাদনকারী/রপ্তানীকারক এর কিনা/

উত্তর হ্যাঁ হইলে- In case of importer: Whether the proprietor of this mark is foreign producer/ Exporter or not (Yes/ No) (জ) আপনি প্রস্তুতকারীর সমুদয় উৎপাদন কিনা হ্যাঁ না

Whether you buy all the products of the producer or not (Yes/No) হ্যাঁ না

(জ) প্রস্তুতকারীর মার্ক ব্যবহারের জন্য আপনার নিকট অনুমতি পত্র আছে কিনা

Whether you have permit to use the mark of the producer or not হ্যাঁ না

(ই) পণ্য/সেবার (শ্রেণি) Class:

(ঙ) পূর্ববর্তী আবেদনের সকল পণ্য/সেবা বর্তমান আবেদনে অন্তর্ভুক্ত আছে কিনা (উত্তর হ্যাঁ হইলে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করুন) Whether all the goods / services of the previous application are included in this application or not (Yes/No) in case of yes, enclose documents. হ্যাঁ না

৮। ট্রেডমার্ক প্রতিনিধি বা আইনজীবীর পূর্ণ নাম ও ঠিকানা, যদি থাকেঃ

(Name and address of Advocate) :

৯। ট্রেডমার্ক প্রতিনিধির নিবন্ধন (Registration Number of Agent)

Website

FOBANA has a very popular website backed by a robust and highly scalable web infrastructure. The main website is located at www.fobanaonline.com. However FOBANA also owns .net, .us and .org domains. The domains are registered till year 2022. FOBANA has unlimited disk space, bandwidth and subdomains. This is why all convention websites reside under the main website and 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. Currently we are grossing over 200,000 hits per month. **FOBANA website is designed and maintained by Azadul Haq.**

There is ONLY one FOBANA Organization with IRS 501 C (3) who owns the FOBANA™ Trademark. This is their website.

Home | FOBANA 2017 | Photo Gallery | Contact Us | Online Payment | FOBANA Webmail | Login | FOBANA Members

Welcome to the website of Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America FOBANA®, is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory, IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt (Tax ID 26-1747615) organization. Year of establishment 1987. This organization of Bangladeshi Associations has been recognized as an umbrella, where Bangladeshi Americans gather to celebrate their success and introduce their vibrant culture to this multicultural country. 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 the United States and Canada. That is not all; 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 our 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.

FOBANA Matrimonials
সম্মানের সাথে গুঁজে দিন
জানদবার জীবন সার্থী
Find your Lifelong partner
in a respectful manner
<http://matrimonial.fobanaonline.com>

FOBANA ONLINE
DATABASE FOR PROFESSIONALS OF BANGLADESHI ORIGIN
Click here to register.
It's FREE.

Executive Committee (2016-17)

	Chairperson Azadul Haq Houston, Texas (713) 249-1105
	Vice-Chairperson Mohamed Alangir Washington, DC (703) 626-5814
	Executive Secretary M Mowla Dillu Atlanta, Georgia (770) 912-9109
	Joint Executive Secretary Zakaria Chowdhury New York (846) 226-7144
	Treasurer Shah Haleem Houston, Texas (281) 748-9550
	Outstanding Member Nahid Chowdhury Mamun Hawthorne, NJ (201) 835-2473
	Outstanding Member ATM Alam (571) 237-5469
	Outstanding Member Nurul Amin Nuru (703) 930-2490
	Outstanding Member Abquer Rahman (854) 818-2970
	Outstanding Member Rehan Reza Tokepa, KS (785) 354-0558
	Outstanding Member Jashim Uddin

Facebook and Twitter

FOBANA is very active in social media such as Facebook and Twitter. FOBANA is known in Facebook with an id called FOBANA EC. The reason for making it FOBANA EC is because every year there can be multiple Facebook id with the convention name but there will be only one institutional identity. Once the convention is over usually the convention centric presence becomes idle or obsolete. However, FOBANA EC id is owned by the Executive Committee and it maintains a strict protocol in updates. FOBANA EC doesn't post anything personal or tag any personal photos. It only posts that are related to the organization. FOBANA promoted its Facebook presence by a open group names FOBANA. It is located at www.facebook.com/groups/386606778121605/. **Currently there are 3982 members in the group and it is growing every day.** Please be a friend of FOBANA Facebook and join the exciting ride!

FOBANA Twitter account is known as FOBANA which is linked to the web site. The Twitter pages are maintained by Azadul Haq.

Joined ▾ Notifications Share ...

Write Post Add Photo/Video Live Video More

Write something...

Photo/Video Poll Feeling/Activ... ..

PINNED POST

Fobana EC is with Golam Faroque Bhuiyan and 21 others. June 1

Please watch and share the FOBANA TV commercial in our Media Partner NTV:

FOBANA 2017 NTV TVC
FOBANA 2017 NTV TVC

YOUTUBE.COM

Shaila Parvin, Ayub Ali and 27 others 2 Comments 9 Shares

Like Comment Share

ADD MEMBERS

+ Enter name or email address...

MEMBERS 3,982 Members (21 new)

DESCRIPTION Edit
FOBANA®, is a non-profit, non-political and non-discriminatory, ... See More

TAGS Edit
FOBANA

LOCATIONS Edit
Washington, District of Columbia

CREATE NEW GROUPS

Groups make it easier than ever to share with friends, family and teammates. **Create Group**

UPCOMING GROUP EVENTS See All

Join us today at:

www.facebook.com/groups/386606778121605



Message from the FOBANA Vice Chairman



Dear All,

I always appreciate the opportunity to serve in FOBANA in different positions, starting as outstanding member to vice chairman, including the chairman of the legal committee.

Most of you also know what a challenge we have taken up as part of the legal committee. As chairman of the legal committee, I spent a lot of time conducting legal research and sending legal notices threatening lawsuits to others who were using the FOBANA name without our permission, and now you can see from the results that there is only ONE FOBANA. All of our FOBANA'S visionary leaders must acknowledge that we have only one FOBANA in the USA.

I strongly believe we unitedly have accomplished a great deal and are now in better shape than ever! I have no reservations to admit the fact that it is because of the past and present leaders of FOBANA. Especially FOBANA was also lucky to have some of the most talented individuals working for us who made us proud! We should always respect these outstanding individuals!

We as FOBANA family must think more creatively to develop and achieve more in future. My suggestions would be to make the central leadership more powerful not only position wise but also in finance, sponsorships, advertisements, guest selection, artist selection, seminars, cultural events, scientific fairs and many other aspects.

Our different committee chairs can play a pivotal role in assisting the host committee in those areas where they need the help most including finance. When EC can grow a huge cashflow through EC then EC will have a better way to operate the expenses. That will also be a big relief for the host committee. We should also look at the model of BANGO SHOMMALON to see how they are so organized and have created a Center that is so rich and authoritative. I think it is worthy to look into it.

We are growing bigger every day and we should encourage our young generations and professionals to take more active roles in FOBANA. We can make some changes, cutting some committees that are not needed or redundant and adding committees that would better serve FOBANA. We can have an open dialogue and come up with better ideas from everyone.

Sincerely,

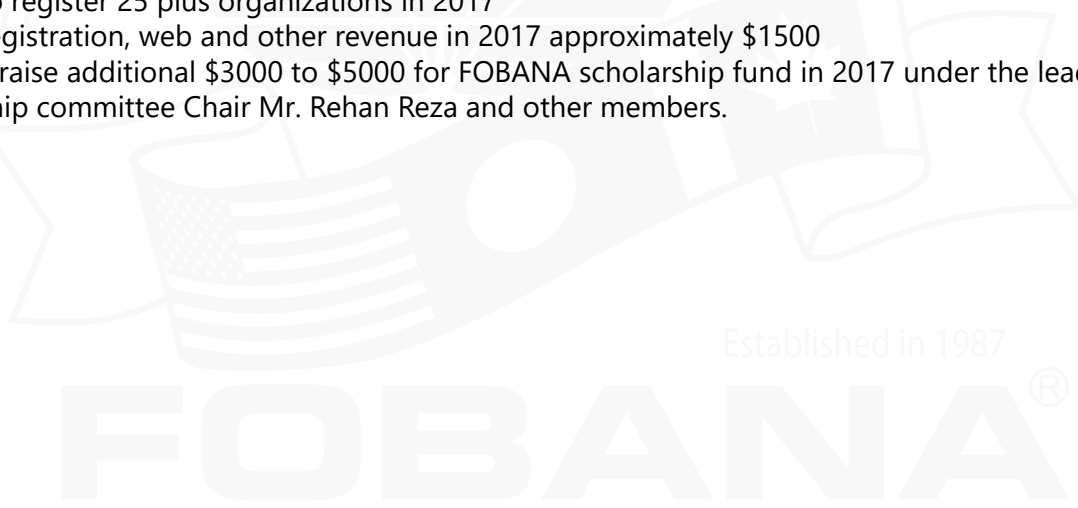
Mohamed Alamgir
Vice Chairman, FOBANA



Treasurer's Report

Shah Haleem
Treasurer

FOBANA operating account balance: \$10,290.88 as of 8/30/2017
FOBANA scholarship account balance \$1610 as of 8/30/2017
Estimated 2017 operating expenses \$3000 till end of the term
Holding \$1000 deposit paid by 2017 Host will be refunded at the end of convention
Holding \$1000 deposit paid by 2018 Host will be refunded at the end of convention
Projected to register 25 plus organizations in 2017
Projected registration, web and other revenue in 2017 approximately \$1500
Estimate to raise additional \$3000 to \$5000 for FOBANA scholarship fund in 2017 under the leadership of Scholarship committee Chair Mr. Rehan Reza and other members.



FOBANA Standing Committees

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.

We had the following committees last year.

Name of Committee

1. Alumni Committee
2. Awards Committee
3. Bangladesh Liaison Committee
4. Business & Investment Committee
5. Constitution and Procedure Review Committee
6. Convention Liaison Committee
7. Cultural Committee
8. Executive Logistics Committee
9. Goodwill and Promotion Committee
10. Scholarship Committee
11. Social Networking Committee
12. Seminar Committee
13. Legal Committee
14. Mainstream Liaison Committee
15. Media and Public Awareness Committee
16. Membership Verification Committee
17. Unification Committee
18. Youth Forum Committee
19. Women Empowerment Committee

Chairperson

- Mahabub Reza Rahim (AZ)
Nahid Chowdhury Mamun (NJ)
M Mowla Dilu (GA)
Rabiul Karim Belal (KS)
Mahmud Musharraf Hussain (DC)
Atiquer Rahman (FL)
Duke Khan (GA)
Azadul Haq (TX)
Abir Alamgir (NY)
Rehan Reza (KS)
Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Dr. Anwarul Karim (MD)
Mohamed Alamgir (DC)
Shah Haleem (TX)
Azadul Haq (TX)
Jashim Uddin (GA)
Mir Chowdhury (NJ)
Zakaria Chowdhury (NY)
Maya Nehal (TX)

FOBANA®

Alumni Committee



Chairperson
Mahabub Reza Rahim

Awards Committee



Chairperson
Nahid Chowdhury Mamun



Member
Mir Chowdhury



Member
Atiquer Rahman



Member
Mahabub Reza Rahim



Member
Hashmat Mobin



Member
Bedarul Islam Babla



Member
Rehan Reza



Member
Mahmud Mosharraf
Hussain



Member
Jashim Uddin



Member
Duke Khan

Bangladesh Liaison Committee



Adviser
Nasiruddin Yousuff
Bachchu



Chairperson
M Mowla Dilu



Co-Chairperson
Nazneen Ferdousi



Co-Chairperson
Umme Kulsum Shefa (Nina)



Member
Mahfuzur Rahman Palash



Member
Muhammad Anisul Kabir
Jasir



**Photo not
available
at time of
publication**

Member
Monjur Rahman Shahin



Member
Nuruzzaman Sarder

FOBANA[®]

Business & Investment Committee



Chairperson
Rabiul Karim Belal



Co-Chairperson
Mahabub Reza Rahim



Co-Chairperson
Shaun Chowdhury
Managing Partner
X-Gen Systems, LLC



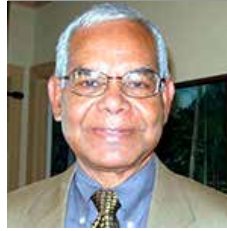
Co-Chairperson
Enamul Haque Enam



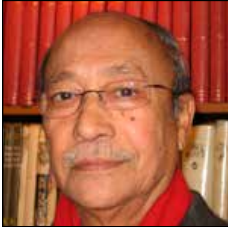
Constitution and Procedure Review Committee



Chairperson
Mahmud Mussarraf Hussain



Co-Chairperson
Dr. Sultan Ahmad



Co-Chairperson
Wahed Hossaini



Member
Mahabub Reza Rahim



Member
Rabiul Karim Belal



Member
Jashim Uddin



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Abir Alamgir



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Mohamed Alamgir

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Attorney at Law

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Advocate, Supreme Court,
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Shah Haleem



Member
Dr. Nuran Nabi



Member
Zakaria Chowdhury



Member
Rehan Reza



Member
Abir Alamgir



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Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury



Member
M Rahman Jahir



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Radwan Chowdhury



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Maya Nehal



Member
Dr. Rafiq Khan

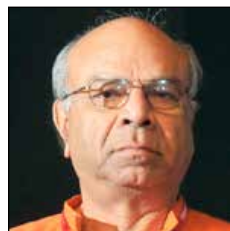


Member
Nahid Chowdhury Mamun

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Khabor dot com



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Shamsur Rahman,
CEO, Live2Web.tv



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Rehan Reza



Unification Committee



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Member
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Member
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Member
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Member
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Member
Mahmud Musharraf
Hussain



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Duke Khan



Member
Nahid Chowdhury

Women Empowerment Committee



Chairperson

Maya Nehal
Retired (City of Arlington)
Entrepreneur
Arlington, Texas



Co-Chairperson

Anna Ali
Project Manager Capital
One Home Loan
Plano, Texas



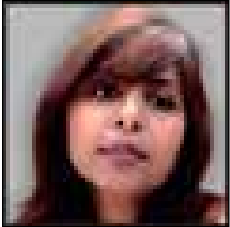
Member

Sarah Beg
Information System
Manager
T- Mobile
Frisco, Texas



Member

Iffat Hasan
Independent Marketing &
Communications
Consultant



Member

Selima Tasneem Chhonda -
Dallas Realtor at
KW PLANO and
Realtor at Keller Williams
Realty, Inc.



Member

Ayesha Rahman
Accountant Department of
Labor
Virginia



Member

Tahmina Watson
Owner / Attorney at
Watson Immigration Law
Seattle, Washington, Texas



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Nazreen Chowdhury
Hawthorne, New Jersey



Member

Anita Rahman
Works at Hyatt



Member

Rumi Islam
Atlanta, Georgia



Member

Sauda Kanta
New York Junior Architect/
Designer at
Office of Jose Velasquez -
PE



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Independent Contractor
APPS Paramedical

Youth Forum Committee



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Zakaria Chowdhury

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Member
Maisha Ahmed

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Member
Ashiqur Rahman



Mainstream Liaison Committee

Shah Haleem
Chairman

2017 Mainstream Committee Report

To promote Bangladesh-American Heritage in North America Mainstream Liaison 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

On behalf of the FOBANA Mainstream Committee we would like to thank everyone for their contributions.

Chairman- Shah Haleem

Co-Chair -Mr. Rehan Reza

Co-Chair –Rawdan Chowdhury

Co-Chair –Dr. Rafiq Khan

Members - Mr. Nahid Chowdhury Mamun, Mr. Atiquer Rahman, Mr. Jahim Uddin, Mrs. Maya Nehal, Mr. Azadul Haq, Mr. Mohammad Alamgir, Mr. Dilu Mowla, Mr. Mohammad Zahir, Mr. Arif Ashraf, Mr. Atiqure Rahman, Mr. G I Russeel, Mrs. Maya Neyal, Mrs. Nahida Ali



Legal Committee

Mohamed Alamgir
Chairman

The Legal Committee met soon after the 2016 FOBANA Convention to review FOBANA's legal position. In our review, we noted that individuals in Bangladesh have been misusing FOBANA's name for their personal gains. Given that we obtained additional clarifications on the way FOBANA's name had been exploited in Bangladesh and the U.S., we have taken legal action accordingly.

In addition, the Legal Committee advises our EC Chairman to enforce the trademark rights of FOBANA in Bangladesh in a way that no one could use FOBANA's name aside from us. Thus far, we have implemented several counter measures, including sending formal legal notices to people who have attempted to infringe upon FOBANA's legal rights, especially individuals living in New York. In follow-up conversations, the above individuals initially promised not to misuse FOBANA's name. However, the Legal Committee pressed this matter further and found that they continued to undermine FOBANA's name. Thus, it is imperative that we promptly send legal notices after consultation with the EC Chairman.

Furthermore, we recommend that an individual, Qudrot E. Khuda, become persona non grata in FOBANA. His outrageous activities are inconsistent with the FOBANA constitution and organization. The Legal Committee calls upon the EC to take appropriate action. We can assure everyone that we are keeping a watchful eye on activities here in the U.S. as well as abroad.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Alamgir
Chairman, Legal Committee



Women Empowerment Committee

Maya Nehal
Chairman

During the 2016 FOBANA convention in DC, we had a WEC seminar.

The seminar topic was related to family issues (domestic violence, divorce, child abuse, etc)

The key people who attended the WEC seminar were:

Anna Ali, Seminar Moderator
Dallas, Texas

Ayesha Papeya Ahsan, MC and Coordinator of the video presentation
Virginia

Tahmina Watson - Keynote Speaker (presented on women married to immigrants)
Watson Immigration Law
Seattle, Washington

Nazneen Ferdousi - Keynote Speaker (presented on women in domestic violence)
Freelance Media Consultant
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tania Hossain - Keynote Speaker (presented on empowering girls living in poverty)
Virginia

During the seminar, we received concern and feedback about domestic violence and child abuse. FOBANA established the FOBANA 24/7 Crisis Hotline for assistance in child and domestic abuse: 805-8-FOBANA or 805-836-2262

Starting in 2017, on a daily basis, we received several calls regarding domestic violence and child abuse. We helped two cases relate to domestic violence. Both cases required local resources and counseling, including attorney assistance.

Thanks
- Maya Nehal
Arlington Texas



Goodwill & Promotion Committee

Abir Alamgir
Chairman

FOBANA, The principle and major federation of different organizations administered and managed by Bangladeshi residents in different states of North America has been working for more than 30 years. FOBANA has attained and obtained a lot in 30 years. A new sub committee named Goodwill & Promotion has been formed 2 years earlier to endorse the overwhelming accomplishments of FOBANA. This committee has performed several tasks in last two years. It is worthy to mention that Goodwill & Promotion committee has filmed a documentary on some distinguished leaders who are involved with FOBANA. In Those Interviews leaders have shared their thoughts, experiences and opinions of last thirty years. This year Goodwill & Promotion committee has continued to telecast that documentary in different social media and other media. Apart from this, Goodwill & Promotion committee has been promoting a feature on the venue of 31st FOBANA convention and another one on interviews of the convention personals. Chairman and other members of the committee always kept continuing promoting the success of FOBANA in different states of North America.

Thanks

Abir Alamgir

Chairman

Goodwill & Promotion Committee

Established in 1987
FOBANA®



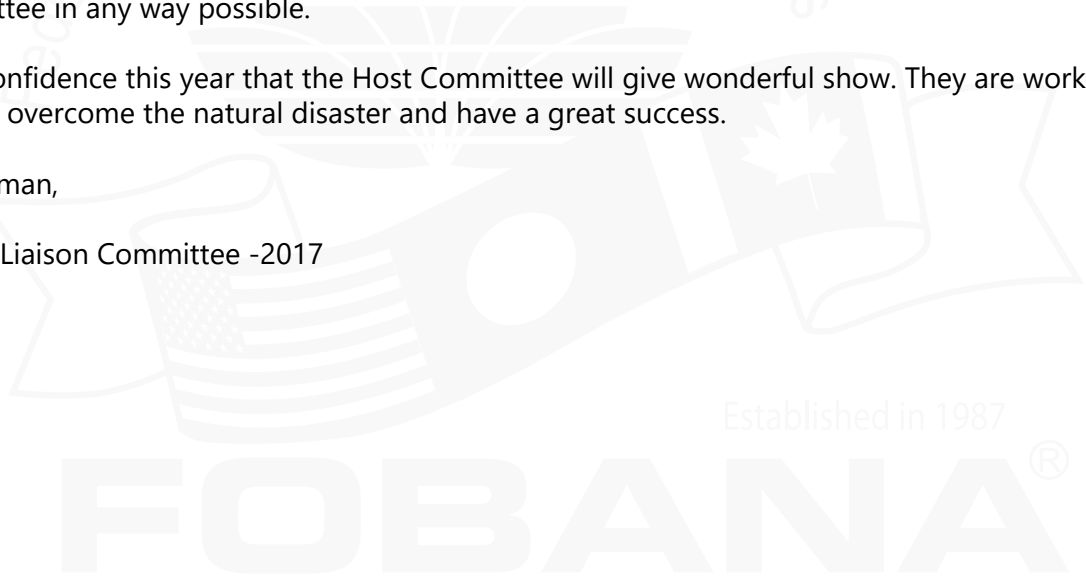
Convention Liaison Committee

Atiquer Rahman
Chairman

I was honored to be given the responsibility as a Chair of the "Convention Liaison Committee" by the FOBANA Executive Committee. My job is to help the Host Committee find venues and to communicate between the Executive committee and host Committee. My team and I are working hard to help the host committee in any way possible.

I have full confidence this year that the Host Committee will give wonderful show. They are working very hard to overcome the natural disaster and have a great success.

Atiquer Rahman,
Chairman
Convention Liaison Committee -2017





Scholarship Committee

Rehan Reza
Chairman

Despite our efforts to reach out to the Bangladeshi Community in Florida, we have received only 3 applications for the FOBANA Scholarship as of August 30, 2017.

The applicants are Lazna Saad, Sanjida Rauf and Sadia Sharmin. We have reached out to them confirming that we have received their applications and that we will be in touch with them shortly. We have also told them to send us a short 1 minute video of what they can do with the Scholarship money.

Below is the financial breakdown this year:

In Scholarship Account - \$1,600.00
Pledge to date - \$7,000.00
Matching by Host Committee - \$7,000.00

Total \$15,600.00

Prepared by:
Rehan Reza,
Chairman

Established in 1987
FOBANA®



Unification Committee

Mir H Chowdhury
Chairman

Unification Committee Report :

FOBANA Executive committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Executive Secretary and all previous Chairperson is the member of the Unification standing committee. Unification is a continuous process and we kept our door open discussing/meeting or having a dialog with any individual or organizations whoever till didn't join with us or having convention by the name of FOBANA or any other name.

We have established our procedure and formula how can we handle individual or group wise in unification process. It's clearly written on our website. We strongly believe in inclusion, not exclusion. This year we had two times unification committee meeting with full attendance when some of the good wishers of FOBANA made some kind of unofficial proposal to unified with Canada based some group. We welcome their initiative and had a meeting among us. However, nothing progressed as a formal proposal but we kept our door open for any future communication.

We strongly believe that there is no other FOBANA organization besides of us since we maintain all legal requirements in the USA, but we will welcome any individual or group who willingly accepts our Constitution & Bylaws and join under our umbrella to make FOBANA even stronger.

I thank the Executive Committee to give me the opportunity to serve as the Chairman of this important standing committee. Also, thanks to all the committee members to be a part of this prestigious committee to help FOBANA move forward in the right direction.

Thank you.
Best Regards,
Mir H Chowdhury
Chairman, FOBANA Unification Committee



Constitution and Procedure Review Committee

Mahmud Musharraf Hussain
Chairman

FOBANA Constitution and Procedure Review Committee

The Constitution and the Operating Procedure is the foundation of our esteemed organization and one of the core responsibilities of the Executive Committee members is to review the Constitution and Operating Procedure and suggest amendments if any, for making the organization better. Our Committee continuously remained engaged to work in close cooperation with the Executive Committee throughout the year. In the process, this Committee embarks upon soliciting input from the FOBANA members from time to time in line with the guidelines and recommendations of the Executive Committee.

In an effort to bring clarity to the procedures, the Committee presents appropriate verbiages for approval of the Executive Committee which gets updated on website as an official document. One typical amendment was proposed on Articles of Incorporation by the Executive Committee which was reviewed by this Committee. It reads on Article XI: Address. The existing verbiage was to be changed to read as: "The address, including street and number of the initial registered office of the corporation, shall be the Registered Agent on record which is to be decided by the Executive Committee."

FOBANA Constitution and By Laws which is also known as Articles of Incorporation is the ultimate guiding document of the organization. This constitution can only be amended by the general members at an AGM and it rarely changes. The Operating Procedures that dictates the day to day affair continually change and it can be changed by the Executive Committee members.



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;

- Organize periodic Bangladesh Convention in North America. This period shall be determined by the Operating Procedures of the Corporation.
- Assign responsibility and provide guidance to a member organization to organize convention in North America.
- 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

Witnesses

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

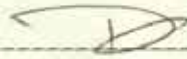
Name

Signature

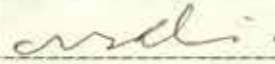
BEDARUL ISLAM RAHAT



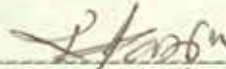
Duke Khan



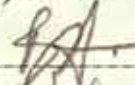
Moghad M. Ali



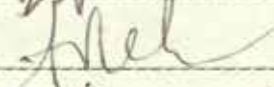
Rabind Karim Belal



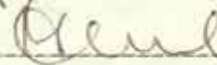
Bashir Ahmed



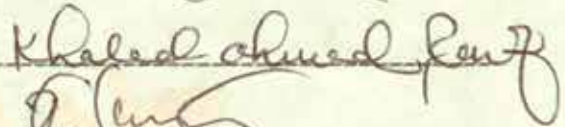
Aliquer Rahman



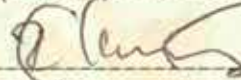
Muzib Uddin



KHALED AHMED ROUF



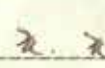
RUBEL CHOWDHURY



Shah Saleem



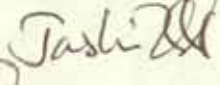
Mahmud Musharrat Hussain (BAAT)



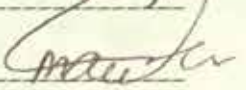
ARIF AHMED ASHRAF



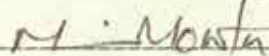
JASHIM UDDIN (Bangladeshi American Association of WA)



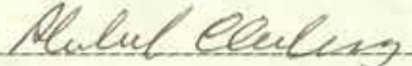
MAHAMUD RAHMAN (Bangladesh Association of WA)



MOHAMMED MOWLA DILU



Mulul Chowdhury (Shahin)



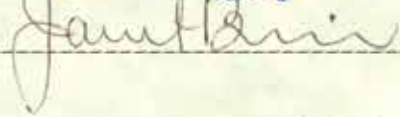
Iqbal Ahmed



ZAHID HOSSAINI



JANET BISWAS (



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Witnesses

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

Name

Signature

Mir H. Chowdhury



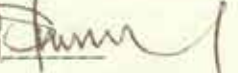
Lalam Faroque Dhruv (BAN)



Dr. FARUQUE AZAM (ISTA, President)



SHAH MOJAMMEL (BCC) President of Bangladesh Community of Chesapeake



MUSHARRUF SHAH (BCC) (BCC) musharrufe@gmail.com

NAHIDA NASER Yasmin (BAH) Nahida nasyamin

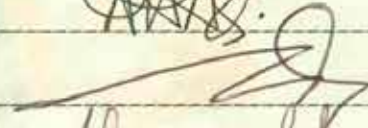
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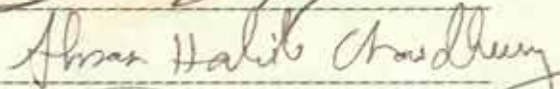
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Mahabub Reza Rahim



AHSAN CHOWDHURY



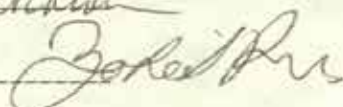
SARKER HANON



Obayedur Khan Bangladesh Association of Southwest Florida

ZAHID REZA

BANGLA INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA



BOB



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

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 Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. The presence of one-third members shall make a quorum.**
- j) The Executive Committee shall form as many committees as required in order to carry out the function of FOBANA.**
- k) Each committee shall have a Chairperson who shall report to the Executive Committee upon completion of the task or as directed otherwise.**
- l) The Executive Committee shall assign its members the roles and responsibilities to manage each functional area identified in the By-Laws.**
- m) 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.**

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.
- 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 year of their membership period.

- 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 prescribed 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

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.
- Section 2:** The member organization shall be an active member of FOBANA for two (2) years.
- Section 3:** The same member organization shall not be qualified to become a Host Organization again within five (5) years of hosting an FOBANA Convention.
- Section 4:** The member organization shall be required to sign an agreement with FOBANA to the effect that they shall abide by the FOBANA Constitution, By-Laws, and Guideline for Organizing FOBANA Convention without any reservation and pay by a certified check an amount of \$1000.00 in advance as Security Deposit. Member organizations will not be considered as a candidate and will not be allowed to participate in the election or selection process unless the agreement is signed and a \$1000.00 check is given to the Election Commissioner. In the case when a member organization is not elected or selected, then the check will be immediately returned and the agreement will be voided. This deposit shall be refunded to the Host Committee prior to hosting the event upon meeting the requirements as specified in the agreement. The deposit may be forfeited in case the member organization does not follow the FOBANA Constitution, By-Laws and guidelines.
- Section 5:** It is preferred that the member organization have IRS 501 (c) 3 status. In case that they do not have the status, FOBANA shall receive the corporate checks and within 7 days FOBANA Treasurer shall disburse the check to the Host Organization
- Section 6:** The member organization must have a sound organizational and adequate financial strength to function effectively.
- Section 7:** The member organization must submit proof that they are duly registered in their State as active organization/corporation.
- Section 8:** The member organization must certify that they have duly paid federal and local income taxes and any other required papers are currently in their said state.
- Article XIV: Host Committee**
- Section 1:** The Host Organization must form a Host Committee for the preparation of the convention.
- Section 2:** The Host Committee must have one Convener, one Member Secretary, and one Treasurer.
- Section 3:** Convener and Member Secretary of the Host Committee shall be included as members of FOBANA EC and attend all meetings during the term of the FOBANA Convention.
- Section 4:** The Host Committee can have as many co-convener; assistants, committees or members to carry out their responsibility, however, only the Convener and the Member Secretary will be allowed to act as the liaison between the Executive Committee and the Host Organization.
- Section 5:** Host Committee shall not create or designate any official position with the title that the leadership in hierarchy holds in the FOBANA EC so it creates any confusion for having two Chairmen in FOBANA Convention or on any publication materials that Host Committee will circulate.
- Section 6:** If the Executive Committee raises any fund for the convention then the host committee shall give 20% to Executive Committee.
- Article XV: Guideline for organizing an FOBANA Convention**
- Section 1:** The Host Organization must follow this guideline while organizing an FOBANA convention.
- Section 2:** Use of name: The proper name for the organization and the convention must be used. The name of the organization is Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America or FOBANA. FOBANA is also synonymous to the convention. Hence, FOBANA

followed by the year of the convention can also be used.

- Section 3:** Use of logo: FOBANA is a registered trademark; therefore, it is necessary to use the correct logo in all communication. The Chairperson or Executive Secretary shall provide the official logo to the Host Organization. No other version of the logo shall be allowed.
- Section 4:** Orientation Documents: A collection of templates and very useful information are stored in the FOBANA archive. The Host Organization shall review these files first before creating any new version. If however, a new version is needed to be created for a creative reason, the structure and content should be similar.
- 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 web site 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 a 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 figure as the Chief Guest. This includes but not limited to any sitting ministers, head of opposition party, head 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: Web site: The Host Organization shall use only the website that is provided by the Executive Committee. This website 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 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 Commissioner 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 election 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 website 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**



Lyrics of the official FOBANA theme song.
It was written and composed a Rommel Khan (Feedback, Atlanta).
The lead singer was Rommel Khan and Polly Kabir.

গানের মুখ:-

ফোবানা, ফোবানা'

প্রতি রক্ত কনিকা উঠল নেচে ফোবানার গানে

উঠল জেগে বাঙালীর চেতনা

এই মুক্ত আকাশ প্রান্তরে, প্রতি বাঙালীর অন্তরে,

উঠল জেগে বাঙালীর চেতনা । । । । ।

বাংলাদেশ আমার প্রেরণা, বাংলাদেশ আমার সাধনা

স্বাগত জানাই ফোবানায় , স্বাগতম ফোবানা । ।

অন্তরা ১ ।

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 । । । ।

অন্তরা ২ । ।

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 । ।

অন্তরা ৩ । ।

জীবনা নন্দের রূপসী বাংলা,কোথাও খুঁজে না পাই,

সবুজে ঘেরা আমার স্বপ্ন, বাংলাতে খুঁজে পাই । ।

লালনের সেই একতারাটা আবার বেজে ওঠে,

বাউলের সুর, রাখালের বাশি, আমার বুক বাজে । । ।

দরদিয়া, রাখালিয়া, গেয়ে যাব আজ সবার হৃদয়ে তা ।

ফোবানা, ফোবানা । ।



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