



FOBANA

Annual Report 2024-2025



39TH FOBANA CONVENTION 2025

Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America



FOBANA Annual Report 2024-2025

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2024-2025

Compiled by:
Anthony Pius Gomes
Masud Chowdhury
Abir Alamgir

Graphics Design & Compose:
M. M Afzal Baky
Ph : 880 1705 184749
Email : sazdigital4@gmail.com

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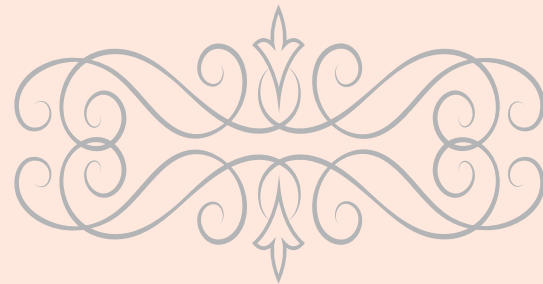
39th FOBANA Convention 2025
Gas South Convention Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, Georgia 30097
Date: August 29, 30 & 31, 2025

Hosted by:



Table of Contents

Title	Page
FOBANA Theme Song	4
About FOBANA	5
Message from the Chairman	6
Message from the Vice-Chairman	7
Message from the Executive Secretary	8
FOBANA Executive Committee-2024-2025	9
FOBANA Host Executive Committees 2025	10
Executive Secretary's Year End Report	13
Treasurer's Report	15
FOBANA Standing Committees	16
FOBANA Advisor Committee	26
FOBANA Past Chairman	27
FOBANA Election Commission 2025	29
FOBANA Voter List	30
Standing Committee Reports	33
FOBANA History	54
Constitution and Bylaws	57
FOBANA Operating Procedure	64



Official FOBANA Theme Song

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 ।।

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

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

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



About FOBANA

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

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

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

Website: www.fobanaonline.com

Message From FOBANA Chairman



As we embark on another inspiring year together, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable achievements we have accomplished as a team. Throughout this past year, FOBANA has continued to evolve and thrive, driven by our collective commitment to excellence and progress.

One of our key milestones this year has been the successful digitalization of FOBANA operations, making our resources and membership documents more accessible than ever before. This initiative has significantly improved efficiency, allowing both management and members to conveniently access and complete tasks online at their own availability. Looking ahead, we are planning to develop a centralized database to securely archive member documents for easy reference and long-term access.

We have significantly expanded our community engagement efforts, reaching new heights in both Bangladesh and the USA. Through strategic partnerships and dedicated outreach programs, we have fostered meaningful connections within our community and beyond.

As part of our growing philanthropic commitment, we are in the process of signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Comilla University in Bangladesh to provide scholarships to deserving students. This initiative complements our ongoing scholarship programs with Dhaka University and Jagannath University, reflecting our continued investment in education and community upliftment.

Our presence on social media platforms has amplified our voice and impact, enabling us to engage with a wider audience and promote our cultural heritage with pride. This digital footprint continues to grow, reflecting our dynamic presence in today's interconnected world.

FOBANA remains steadfast in nurturing leadership and empowering our youth. Through mentorship programs and leadership initiatives, we are shaping the future leaders who will carry our legacy forward. Furthermore, our dedication to women's empowerment initiatives has empowered countless individuals to achieve their fullest potential.

As we look ahead, let us continue to uphold our values of unity, inclusivity, and progress. Together, we will build upon these achievements, forging new paths and embracing opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to FOBANA. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Chairman
FOBANA EC 2024-2025

Message From Vice Chairman



It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Vice-Chairman of FOBANA for the 2024–2025 term. I am proud of the progress we have made together in pursuit of our shared goals. Our achievements reflect the strength of our unity and the collaborative efforts of all who are dedicated to the vision of FOBANA. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Committee, the Host Committee, our sub-committee leads, and every community member whose dedication has made these accomplishments possible. With your continued support, FOBANA will grow even stronger in the years ahead.

With strategic planning and a strong spirit of collaboration, we are moving forward with even greater energy. Our mission is simple but powerful: to bring positive change to our diaspora community across North America and to build a stronger future together.

I want to thank the Executive Committee, Host Committee, and all our sub-committee members for their incredible contributions, as well as our wider community for their trust and support. Together, we will continue to move forward and create a lasting impact.

Heartfelt congratulations to the Host Committee of the 39th FOBANA Convention, the Host Organization Bangladhara, and all who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. Your dedication and collaborative efforts have set a new benchmark for excellence and unity in our community.

I wish everyone all the best!

M Rahman Jahir

Vice-Chairman

FOBANA EC 2024-2025



Message From Executive Secretary

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for completing a wonderful and productive year with exceptional teamwork. The five Executive Officers have remained actively engaged throughout the year, working tirelessly to advance FOBANA's organizational activities. All members of the Executive Committee have participated in every EC meeting with creative agendas, constructive criticism, and valuable opinions, contributing meaningfully throughout the year.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to all general member organizations of FOBANA and to the leaders of each organization for staying engaged in FOBANA's activities. Through both their contributions to FOBANA and their own organizational work, they have continuously strengthened and enhanced FOBANA's positive image. FOBANA is a remarkable collective platform for Bangladeshi organizations across North America, which, over the last 38 years, has reached the height of a unique tradition. I have had the privilege of serving as Executive Secretary of this powerful federation for two consecutive years, and it has been a great honor for me to carry out the responsibilities of such a prestigious position. I thank our senior leaders and all FOBANA leaders who have guided me, encouraged me, and supported my work throughout this journey.

In addition to the year-end FOBANA Convention, the Standing Committees have been active throughout the year, advancing FOBANA through their dedicated initiatives. Each committee has maintained close collaboration with the Host Committee. I sincerely thank all Standing Committee Chairpersons and members for their hard work and commitment. I would also like to thank this year's Host Committee. Through their relentless efforts over the past two years, they have given us an extraordinary convention. My gratitude also goes to all Atlantans and every committee member whose creativity and dedication made this year's convention even more successful and elevated FOBANA's reputation to greater heights.

FOBANA is a globally recognized federation. My hope is that its activities will continue to expand into every city in North America, that more outstanding organizations will join its work, and that together we will further enrich FOBANA's traditions and pride.

Regards,

Abir Alamgir
Executive Secretary
FOBANA EC 2024-2025

FOBANA Executive Committee (2024-2025)



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Chairman



M. Rahman Jahir (FL)
Vice Chairman



Abir Alamgir (NY)
Executive Secretary



Khaled Rouf (IL)
Joint Executive Secretary



Dr. Pryalal Karmaker (VA)
Treasurer

FOBANA HOST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025



Nahidul Khan Sahel
Convener



Mahbubur Bhuiya
Member Secretary



Duke Khan
President



M. Mowla Dilu
Chief Coordinator



Kazi Nahid
Senior Co-Convener

FOBANA Executive Committee (2024-2025)

Outstanding Members



Rokshana Perven (VA)



Abu Rumi (VA)



Ahsan Chowdhury (TX)



Babu Hai (FL)



Jashim Uddin (GA)



Maqbul Ali (IL)



Nurul Amin (VA)



Rabiul Karim (PA)



Hashmat Mobin (TX)

FOBANA Executive Committee (2024-2025)

Executive Member Organizations



Mahbubur Bhuiyan (GA)
Bangladhara, GA



Dr. Zainul Abedin (CA)
Bangladesh Association California



Shamsuddoha Shagor (TX)
Bangladesh Association
of North Texas



Farhad Hossain (TX)
Bangladesh Group Dallas



Dilshad Chowdhury (DMV)
Bangladesh Association of
America, Inc. (BAAI)



Rehan Reza (KS)
Bangladesh Association of
Greater Kansas



Mohammed Kazal (MD)
Maryland Friends and Family



Asif Iqbal (MO)
Bangladesh Association
of Missouri



Azmal A Khan (TX)
Bangladesh Association,
Houston



Dr. Mohammad Ali Manik (GA)
Bangladesh Foundation
of Georgia



Akter Hossain (VA)
Friends and Family DMV (VA)



Nadim Bhuiyan Apu (TX)
Friends and Family Houston



Shafiqul Islam Jewel (FL)
Bangladesh Associatio
Of Florida Inc.



Kazi Nahid
U S Bangla Association
of Georgia (GA)



Mohin Uddin Dulal (GA)
Bangali Boys Cultural
Association Inc.



Shamsuddin Mahmud (VA)
Bangladeshi American IT People's
Organization (BAITPO)



Anthony Pius Gomes (VA)
Oporajeo Bangla

Executive Secretary's Yearly Report



This year, the Executive Committee has carried out its organizational activities with remarkable efficiency and excellent teamwork. We held six Executive Committee meetings, in which a significant number of members participated spontaneously. They actively contributed with insightful opinions and played their part in shaping decisions. In every meeting, members brought forward various FOBANA-related, issue-based agendas, and discussions were conducted in a logical, thoughtful, and constructive manner.

The host organization for the 39th FOBANA Convention, Atlanta, organized a Meet & Greet event this year, attended by a notable number of Executive Committee members as well as several former Chairpersons. Additionally, a Meet & Greet was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, attended by host committee officials, the Chairperson leading the Executive Committee delegation, several Executive Members, past Chairpersons, and well-wishers of FOBANA. On that occasion, FOBANA leaders also took part in several television programs and media interviews, promoting the convention and FOBANA's activities. In Los Angeles, at the invitation of a FOBANA member organization, the Chairperson attended their Annual Ananda Mela Festival as the Chief Guest and represented FOBANA with distinction.

This year, a total of 20 Standing Sub-Committees were formed. Each Sub-Committee developed its own annual work plan with its members and operated accordingly. They also coordinated with the Host Committee to jointly prepare for the convention. Host Committee officials traveled to different cities to raise funds for the convention, and Executive Committee members based in those cities provided active support, helping secure a significant number of sponsors. When Host Committee officials visited New York, they met with representatives of the local media at a Meet & Greet event, jointly organized with full support from the Executive Committee.

As part of FOBANA's ongoing scholarship project, scholarships were awarded this year to students from two universities in Dhaka and to meritorious students from the host city during the convention. Following the sudden passing of Soumitra Dey—a long-time friend of FOBANA, member of FOBANA's Bangladesh Liaison Committee, and a distinguished journalist in Bangladesh—FOBANA extended assistance to his family. The Executive Committee raised a special fund to provide this support.

Early in the year, the Executive Committee formed a respected Advisory Committee, comprising former leaders of FOBANA and prominent members of the community. The Chief Election Commissioner was also appointed at the beginning of the term. At the start of this term, when the new Executive Committee took office, two positions in the

31-member team were vacant: one Executive Organizational Member position (as there was no organization from Canada at the time) and one Outstanding Member position (vacated when last year's Chairperson did not continue). The Executive Committee authorized the Election Commissioner to fill these vacancies through an election, and two members were duly elected.

Due to questions raised about the Business Committee's Networking Lunch and host committee accounts from the previous convention, the Executive Committee formed an Audit Committee to review the matter and submit a report. The Audit Committee later presented a detailed, analytical report to the Executive Committee.

FOBANA's operating procedures state that the Chairperson and Executive Secretary may not hold top positions in any political party. This year, a proposal was introduced to extend the same rule to the Vice Chairperson position. The EC discussed the matter, unanimously supported it, and passed the proposal. When a proposal was made to consider reinstating or re-engaging old organizations, those once affiliated with FOBANA but suspended or inactive for various reasons, the Executive Committee tasked the Constitution Committee with developing a policy. The Constitution Committee prepared and submitted their proposal to the Executive Committee.

One of the major achievements of this year's Executive Committee was creating separate folders for each organization on FOBANA's Google Drive, archiving and updating all relevant information. Each organization now has its own unique login credentials to access its folder and upload information directly. This year, 5 Executive Officers, 9 Outstanding Members, and 47 organizations were designated as voting members. Additionally, 22 non-voting organizations remain affiliated with FOBANA.

Throughout the year, the five-member Executive Team worked with exceptional teamwork, and the full Executive Committee made valuable contributions through their opinions and suggestions. I sincerely thank and express my gratitude to all for their cooperation in making this year a success.

Abir Alamgir

Executive Secretary

FOBANA EC 2024-2025

Dr. Pryalal Karmaker
Treasurer
FOBANA EC 2024-2025

FOBANA Standing Committees 2024-2025

Alumni Committee 2024-2025



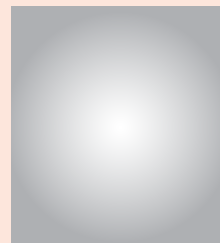
Dr. Zainul Abedin (CA)
Chairperson



Kazi Nahid (GA)
Co-Chair



Shamsuddin Mahmud (VA)
Member



Urmi Ather (CA)
Member

Awards and Guest Selection Committee 2024-2025



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Acting Chairperson



Shah Haleem (TX)
Co-chair



Jashim Uddin (GA)
Co-Chair



Dr. Zainul Abedin (CA)
Co-Chair



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-Chair



Yasmin Naser (TX)
Co-Chair

Convention Liaison Committee: 2024-2025



Rabiul karim Belal (PA)
Chairperson



Anthony Pius Gomez (VA)
Co-chair



Duke Khan (GA)
Co-chair



Maqbul Ali (IL)
Member



Syed Ahsan Koko (IL)
Member

Bangladesh Liaison Committee 2024-2025



Duke Khan (GA)
chairperson



Rehan Reza (KS)
Member



Nahid Kazi (GA)
Member



Enamul Haque Enam (BD)
Member



Anisul Kabir Jasir (BD)
Member



Tamanna Rabbani (BD)
Member



Syed Hossain (NY)
Member



Eliza Parveen (BD)
Member



Bipu Chowdhury (BD)
Member



Prof. Dr. Shaheda Obed (BD)
Member



Mahamudur Rahman Bhuiyan (BD)
Member



Sanjit (BD)
Member

Constitution and Procedure Review Committee 2024-2025



Ahsan Chowdhury (TX)
Chairperson



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-Chair



Md. Mahabub Reza Rahim (AZ)
Co-Chair



Mohamed Alamgir (VA)
Co-Chair



Syed Ahsan Koko (IL)
Co-Chair

Budget, Finance & Fundraising Committee



Dr. Pryalal Karmaker (VA)
Chairperson



Dr. Muhammad Ali Manik (GA)
Co-chair



Rabiul karim Belal (PA)
Co-chair



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-chair



Babul Hai (FL)
Co-chair



Imtiaz Ahmed Pavel (TX)
Co-chair



Shamsuddin Mahmud (VA)
Co-chair

Convention Review Committee 2024-2025



Syed Ahsan KoKo (IL)
Chairperson



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-Chair



Nahidul Khan Sahel (GA)
Co-Chair



Shamsudduha Sagor (TX)
Co-Chair

Business & Investment Committee 2024-2025



Mohammad Alamgir (VA)
Chairperson



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-chair



M Mowla Dilu (GA)
Co-chair



Enamul Haque Enam (TX)
Co-chair



Mahbub Bhuiyan (GA)
Co-chair



Sajedul Chowdhury (TX)
CO-CHAIR



MD. Sahariar Hasan Jisun (BD)
Co-chair



Anthonoy Pius Gomez (DC)
Co-chair

Cultural Committee 2024-2025



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Acting Chairperson



AZ Iqbal Khan Asif (KS)
CO-CHAIR



Shafiqul Islam (DC)
co-chair



Farhad Hossain (TX)
Co-Chair



Khaled Rouf (IL)
Co-Chair



Dr. Pryalal Karmakar (VA)
Co-Chair

Legal Committee: 2024-2025



Mohammad Alamgir (VA)
Chairperson



Rubina Wadwah, Esq (VA)
Co-Chair



John Kapoor, Esq (VA)
Co-Chair



Raju Mohajon, Esq (VA)
Co-Chair



Zubaida Iqbal, Esq (FL)
Co-Chair



Rasheda Haq Generous, Esq (VA)
Co-Chair



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-Chair



Jashim Uddin (GA)
Co-Chair



MD. Mahabub Rahim Reza (AZ)
Co-Chair

Mainstream Liaison Committee 2024-2025



Mohamed Alamgir (VA)
Chairperson



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Co-chair



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-chair



Mahabub Reza Rahim (AZ)
co-chair



Dr. MD Rabbi Alam, PHD, JD
Co-chair

Media & Public Awareness Committee 2024-2025



Abir Alamgir (NY)
Chairperson



Anthony Gomes, Pius (VA)
co-chair



Sabet Sathi (Bangla Press)
Member



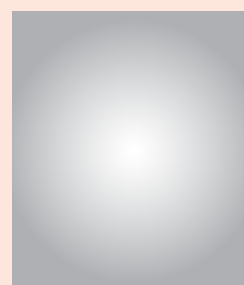
Jewel Sadat (FL)
member



Pulak Mahmud
Member



Mahfuzur Rahman (Bornomala News)
Member



Foysof Ahmed Munna (MI)
Member

Membership Review Committee 2024-2025



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Chairperson



Mohamed Alamgir (VA)
Co-chair



Rabiul Karim Belal (PA)
Co-chair



Rehan Reza (KS)
Co-chair



Ahsan Chowdhury Hero (TX)
Co-chair



Abir Alamgir (NY)
Executive Secretary



Khaled Rouf
Joint Executive Secretary



Dr. Pryalal Karmakar (VA)
Treasurer



Nahidul Khan Sahel (GA)
Host Convener

Scholarship Committee 2024-2025



Rehan Reza (KS)
Chairperson



Golam Faruque Bhuiyan (NJ)
Co-chair



Mohamed Alamgir (VA)
Co-chair



Duke Khan (GA)
Co-chair



Nahidul Khan Sahel (GA)
Co-chair



Anthony Pius Gomez (DC)
Co-chair



Shamsuddoha Sagor (TX)
Co-chair



Naushin Laila Mithila (GA)
Co-chair



Sabina Chowdhury (GA)
Co-chair



Mahbub Sultana (GA)
Co-chair

Social Networking & Goodwill Promotion 2024-2025



Farhad Hossain (TX)
Chairperson



Rabiul Karim Belal (PA)
Co-chair



Anthony Pius Gomez (VA)
Co-chair



Nahida Naser (TX)
Member



Kazi Nahid (GA)
Member



Asif Iqbal (KS)
Member



Reza Rahman
Member



Farhana Cynthia (Canada)
Member

Seminar Committee 2024-2025



Shamsuddin Mahmud (VA)
Chairperson



Dr. Jamal Uddin
Co-chair



Raju Mohajon (VA)
Co-chair



Shahid Alam (CA)
Co-chair

Unification Committee 2024-2025



Nahidul Khan Sahel
Chairperson



Mahabub Rahim Reza (AZ)
Co-chair



Duke Khan (TX)
Co-chair



Mohamed Alamgir (VA)
Co-chair



Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury Hero (TX)
Co-chair



Syed Ahsan Koko (IL)
Co-chair

Web and Technology Committee 2024-2025



Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)
Chairperson



AZ Iqbal Khan (KS)
Co-chair



Shafiqul Islam (VA)
Co-chair



Farhad Hossain (TX)
Co-chair



Syed Ahsan Koko (IL)
Co-chair



Shamsuddin Mahmud (VA)
Co-chair



Anthony P Gomes (VA)
Co-chair

Youth Forum Committee: 2024-2025



Mohin Uddin Dulal (GA)
Chairperson



Malika Begum (Kushum) (GA)
co-chair



Shafiqul Islam Jewel
Member



Tanjina Islam (GA)
Member



Mohammad Bhuiyan (GA)
Member



Fariba Haider (GA)
Member



MD Maksudul Hasan Rahat (GA)
Member

Women Empowerment Committee 2024-2025



Nahida Naser Yasmin (TX)
Chairperson



Rafia Rasu (TX)
Member



Ismat Jahan Shuporna (TX)
Member



Nishat Hayat (TX)
Member



Reshmi Chowdhury (TX)
Member



Seema Shamsudduha (TX)
Member



Zinat Jahan (OK)
Member



Sunzeda Mukta (TX)
Member



Shaheen Shahanaz (TX)
Member



Ishrat Pervin Mita (NY)
Member



Tania Sultana (TX)
Member

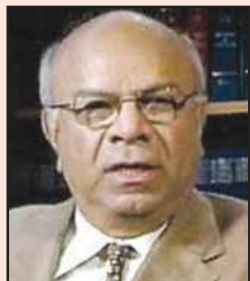


Salma Saif (MI)
Member



Jebunness Chapola (Canada)
Member

FOBANA Advisory Committee 2024-2025



Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury (MD)



Nurul Amin Chowdhury (TX)



Mahabub Reza Rahim (AZ)



Mir Chowdhury (NJ)



Hasmat Mobin



Duke Khan (GA)



Azadul Haq (TX)



Nahid Chowdhury Mamun (NJ)



Shah Haleem (TX)



Mohammad Alamgir (VA)



Shahjahan Mahmood (VA)



Kali Pradip Chaudhuri (CA)



Nargis Ahmed (NY)



Golam Faruk Bhuyan (NJ)

FOBANA Past Chairpersons



Dr. Nuran Nabi
New Jersey (2001-2004)



Hashmat Mobin
Texas (2008-2009)



Nurul Amin Chowdhury
Texas (2004-2005)



Rabiul Karim Belal
Kansas (2009-2010)



Atiquer Rahman
Florida (2005-2006)



Jashim Uddin
Georgia (2010-2011)



Mahabub Reza Rahim
Arizona (2006-2007)



Bedarul Islam Babla
New York (2011-2012)



Mir Chowdhury
New Jersey (2007-2008)



Dr Zainul Abedin
California (2012)



Rehan Reza
Kansas, (2012-2013)

FOBANA Past Chairpersons



Mohamed Alamgir
Washington, DC
(2012-2013)



Mir Chowdhury
New Jersey (2018-2019)



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



Shah Haleem
Texas (2019-2020)



Duke Khan
Georgia (2014-2015)



Zakaria Chowdhury
New York (2020-2021)



Nahid Chowdhury Mamun
New Jersey (2015-2016)



Rehan Reza
Kansas (2021-2022)



Azadul Haq
Texas (2016-2017)



Mohamed Alamgir
Washington, DC
Washington (2023-2024)



Atiquer Rahman
Florida (2017-2018)



Masud Rob Chowdhury
Atlanta (2024-2025)

FOBANA ELECTION COMMISSION 2025

Election Commission of Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA) has declared detail election schedule of FOBANA Election 2025.



MD Mahabub Reza Rahim
Chief Election Commissioner



Duke Khan
Election Commissioner



Mohamed Alamgir
Election Commissioner



Avishek Chakraborty
IT Consultant

Important FOBANA Election Dates 2025

Nomination Call – July 31, 2025

Nomination Paper Submission Last Date – August 8, 2025

Preliminary Candidate List Release – August 10, 2025

Finalized Voter List from Executive Committee to Election Commission – August 8, 2025

Withdraw or changes with a penalty- August 12, 2025

Final Candidate/Voter List Release – August 16, 2025

Election Date – August 26, 2025

Nomination Fee:

All Executive positions & Outstanding Member: \$200

Executive Member Organization: \$ 100

Please pay your nomination fee at **Online Payment** at FOBANA website.

For more information please Contact : MD Mahabub Rahim

email – cec.fobana@gmail.com; Phone – 602-367-3963

FOBANA Voter List 2025

SL.	Executive Members	Positon
1	MASUD ROB CHOWDHURY	Chairperson
2	MOHAMMAD ZAHIR	Vice Chairmen
3	ABIR ALAMGIR	Executive Secretary
4	KHALED ROUF	Joint Executive Secretary
5	PRYALAL KARMAKER	Treasurer
6	ROKSHANA PERVEN	Outstanding Member
7	ABU RUMI	Outstanding Member
8	AHSAN CHOWDHURY	Outstanding Member
9	BABUL HAI	Outstanding Member
10	JASHIM UDDIN	Outstanding Member
11	MAQBUL ALI	Outstaning Member
12	NURUL AMIN NURU	Outstaning Member
13	RABIUL KARIM BELAL	Outstanding Member
14	HASHMAT MOBIN	Outstanding Member

SL.	ORGANIZATIONS NAME	PERSON NAME
15	ATLANTA CULTURAL SOCIETY	M. Mowla Dilu
16	B. D. SUR CHANDA SHILPY GOUSTHY	Esmat Haque
17	BANGALI BOYS CULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC.	Mohin Uddin Dulal
18	BANGLADEDH ASSOCIATION, HOUSTON, TX	Azmal A Khan
19	BANGLADESH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GA (BAAG)	Jashim Uddin
20	BANGLADESH AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	Babul Hai
21	BANGLADESH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREATER HOUSTON	Imtiaz Ahmed Pavel
22	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. (BAAI)	Dilshad Chowdhury (Chhuty)
23	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA	Dr. Zainul Abedin
24	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGOLAND	Suzud Kondokar
25	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA	Shafiqul Islam Jewel
26	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA	Mahabubur Bhuiyan
27	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI	Asif Iqbal
28	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON-DC (BAGDC)	Rokshana Perven
29	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH TEXAS (BANT)	Sham Sudduha
30	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF PHOENIX (BAP)	Hamid Kazi

SL.	ORGANIZATIONS NAME	PERSON NAME
31	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY (BAGKC)	Rehan Reza
32	BANGLADESH COMMUNITY OF GRATER CHICAGO	Khaled Rouf
33	BANGLADESH COMMUNITY OF LOS ANGELES	Masud Rob Chowdhury
34	BANGLADESH CULTURAL SOCIETY OF GEORGIA	Mohammad Arefin
35	BANGLADESH FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA	Dr. Mohammad Ali Manik
36	BANGLADESH MELA	Tawfiq S Khan
37	BANGLADESH THEATER HOUSTON (BTH), TX	Nahida Naser Yasmin
38	BANGLADESHI AMERICAN IT PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (BAITPO)	Shamsuddin Mahmud
39	BANGLADESHI AMERICAN SOCIETY	Ilias Sikder
40	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA	Rabiul Karim
41	BANGLADHARA	Nahidul Khan
42	DRAMA CIRCLE, NEW YORK	Kanta Alamgir
43	FRIENDS AND FAMILY, HOUSTON	Nadim Bhuiyan Apu
44	FRIENDS AND FAMILY, DMV	Akther Hossain
45	FRIENDS AND FAMILY, INC	Abu Rumi
46	KARIGOR PRODUCTION & CLUTURAL SOCIETY	Tipu Alam
47	MANCHITRO FOUNDATION	Mohammad Khan Russel
48	MARYLAND FRIENDS AND FAMILY, MD	Mohammed Kazal
49	OPORAJEO BANGLA ,INC	Anthony P Gomes
50	ORA EGARAJON	Dr. Mohammad Sattar
51	PRIO BANGLA	Dr. Pryalal Karmakar
52	SHADHIN BANGLA CULTURAL ORG.	Mojnu Mia
53	SHURUBITAN, INC.	Kamrul Islam
54	SUNDARBAN	Nurul Amin
55	TORONGO	Shiper Chowdhury
56	TEXAS BENGALI CULTURAL ALLIANCE (TBCA)	Dr. Ahsan Chowdhury, Hero
57	US BANGLA ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA	Kazi Nahid
58	US BNAGLADESH FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA	Mohammed Mujibuddin
59	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN	Jabed Chowdhury
60	BANGLADESH AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANZIATION (ABCO)	Tabasum Rahman
61	DHAKA CLUB OF FLORIDA INC	Noorun khan

Non-Voter Organizations

SL.	ORGANIZATIONS NAME	PERSON NAME
62	BANGLA GROUP DALLAS	Farhad Hossain
63	EKATTOR FOUNDATION, INC.	Parveen Patwary
64	BANGLA AMAR GORBO ASSOCIATION	Rana Wadud
65	BA FOUNDATION	Shaiful Bhuiyan Dulu
66	BANGALIR PRAN	Shahid Alam
67	BANGLADESHI AMERICAN FOUNDATION, Inc	Hasan Chowdhury
68	LOVE SHARE BD US	Zakir Chowdhury
69	PEOPLETECH FOUNDATION, INC.	Ariful Islam
70	GEORGIA BANGLADESH SOCIETY, LTD	Mamun Sharif
71	ANANDADHARA INC	Syed Milu
72	BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA USA, INC.	M Rahman Jahir
73	BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	Moin Uddin
74	BANGLADESH COMMUNITY OF INDIANA	Md Arafat Hossain
75	BANGLADESH AMERICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (BACA)	Shah Badruzzaman

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Convention Review Standing Committee

The Convention Review Standing Committee held the kickoff meeting on May 13, 2025, to develop strategy for reviewing the 39th FOBANA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The committee members decided to build this year's assessment mechanism on the framework developed during the 38th convention in Washington D.C. to ensure continuity of the process. Based on this strategic decision, the 2025 convention review would include the following focus areas:



- Assessment of convention activities based on guidelines provided in the Operating Procedure.
- Administration of an online survey to gather information on stakeholder experience and expectation.
- Implementation of recommendations provided in the 2024 Convention Review Report.

The committee members established the following goals for success:

- Collaboration between the convention host and the review committee: Effective communication and solution-focused collaboration can significantly improve quality of the Convention and align activities with requirements outlined in the Operating Procedure. A copy of the 2024 Convention Review report was provided to the Convener of Atlanta FOBANA Convention for review and actions.
- Fact based decision making: Any observation documented in the report must be accompanied by fact and/or evidence. Ambiguity must be avoided.
- Focus on action and not on individual: The objective of Convention Review Report is to identify potential areas of improvement and highlight successes so that future convention host teams can learn from past experiences. Finger-pointing is counter-productive and works against the mission of the Convention Review team.

- d. Increase response rate of the survey: Data is important for strategic decision-making process. However, response rate of the survey in 2024 was far below expectation and male respondents with age over 50 years dominated in the survey results. One of the goals for 2025 was to increase response rate in all demographic categories so that future convention hosts can plan activities to match stakeholder expectations. Information collected through the survey can also help FOBANA leaders in developing plans for the future of FOBANA organization.

A post-convention meeting will be held to collect observations from committee members to finalize the report. The standing committee will submit the final 2025 Convention Review Report to the Executive Committee (2025-2026) within thirty days after the end of the 39th FOBANA Convention.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Syed Ahsan, Chair of the Convention Review standing committee at 773-837-6884 or ahsan27syed@gmail.com.

Syed Ahsan (IL)

Chairperson

Convention Review Standing Committee



Established in 1987
FOBANA®

Scholarship Committee Report

It is my privilege to present the annual report of the Scholarship Committee for the Year 2024-25.

FOBANA scholarship is one of the iconic and unique programs in the convention.

Our journey started 2015 with two students in New York, FOBANA convention. As of today, we give away almost 70 students around \$70k scholarship last Ten years.

I am pleased to share that, as in previous years, we are actively preparing to award scholarships to deserving high school graduates in Atlanta, Georgia. This initiative has been a meaningful tradition, and with your continued support, we hope to make this year's effort even more impactful.

We are currently seeking donations to help fund this important cause. This year, our goal is to raise \$30,000, which will not only support students in Atlanta but also provide scholarship grants to students at Dhaka University and Jagannath University in Bangladesh.

Your generous contribution can make a lasting difference in the lives of these young students, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential. We warmly invite you to join us in this initiative and be a part of something truly transformative.

To contribute, please visit the FOBANA website and access the scholarship donation account.

Let's come together to make a positive impact—because good deeds never go in vain, and your support truly matters.

With gratitude,

Rehan Reza
Chairperson



Business and Investment Committee

It is with great honor and humility that I present this year's annual report as Chairman of the Business and Investment Committee. This marks my first term leading this committee, and I am both proud and deeply grateful for the remarkable journey we have undertaken together.



From the outset, I was fortunate to be surrounded by a highly effective and dedicated team. Their enthusiasm, cooperation, and commitment to the shared vision of advancing FOBANA's business and investment initiatives have been truly inspiring.

Over the course of the year, our committee conducted three key meetings. These included an introductory meeting, where we laid the groundwork for our strategic objectives; a coordination meeting with the host committee, which helped us align our efforts effectively for the annual conference; and a progress meeting, where we assessed our achievements and refined our plans moving forward.

Each of these meetings played a vital role in shaping our collective progress. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the host committee, whose support, collaboration, and professionalism greatly enhanced the effectiveness of our work.

Additionally, I am very pleased to acknowledge the outstanding cooperation with the house committee. Their consistent engagement and responsiveness have been instrumental in enabling smooth coordination and successful outcomes.

One of the highlights of this year was the addition of new members to our team. In particular, I want to recognize Mr. Muhammad Enamul Haque, whose resourceful contributions and proactive approach have added substantial value to our initiatives. His involvement has already made a noticeable impact, and we are excited about the future possibilities his leadership brings.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this year, I am filled with optimism about what lies ahead. The foundation we've built through teamwork, communication, and shared purpose is strong. I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of the committee, both old and new, for your unwavering dedication and positive spirit.

Let us continue to strive for excellence and work collaboratively to foster business innovation and sustainable investment opportunities across the FOBANA network.

Mohamed Alamgir

Chairperson

Business and Investment Committee

Seminar Committee Report

Overview

In 2025, the FOBANA Seminar Committee successfully executed its annual agenda, which included strategic planning, collaborative coordination, and the successful organization of four major seminars for the FOBANA Annual Convention. This report outlines our key accomplishments, seminar highlights, and partnerships with the Host Organization.



Committee Meetings and Engagement

The committee held three focused meetings throughout the year to ensure effective planning and execution:

- February 20, 2025 – Initial planning session and topic selection
- June 20, 2025 – Mid-year progress review and speaker confirmation
- July 16, 2025 – Final preparations and logistical coordination

FOBANA Convention 2025 – Central Committee Seminars

The Central Seminar Committee organized four high-impact seminars focused on critical topics relevant to the Bangladeshi-American community:

1. Empowering Bangladeshi Immigrants: FOBANA's Perspective on Accessing Community Services

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Faisal Quader

Focused on expanding access to community resources and FOBANA's role in empowering immigrants.

2. Navigating Immigration Law: Examining Social Perspectives and Implementation Strategies

Keynote Speaker: Attorney Raju Mahajan

Provided a practical and strategic overview of immigration challenges and solutions.

3. Secure Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh for Expatriates: Potential and Prospects

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Amir Mohammed Nasrullah (Bangladesh)

Offered insights into secure, sustainable investment opportunities for expatriates.

4. Facilitating IT Job Opportunities: FOBANA's Role in Supporting the Bangladeshi Community

Keynote Speaker: Engineer Abubakar Hanip

Highlighted career development in the IT sector and FOBANA's initiatives for professional growth.

Collaboration and Coordination with Host Organization

Joint Planning Model

- Dual Track Programming: The Host Organization coordinates four additional seminars while the Central Committee leads four primary seminars.

- Collaborative Efforts: Both committees worked in tandem to finalize venue arrangements, scheduling, and resource allocation.
- Shared Resources: A unified approach was adopted to optimize the seminar program for all attendees.

Logistical Support by Host Committee

The Host Committee ensured full logistical support, including:

- Reserved conference rooms
- LED lighting and professional-grade sound systems
- Seminar-specific amenities and technical equipment

Leadership & Governance

All seminars organized under the Central Committee's purview were chaired by the Committee Chair, Shamsuddin Mahmud, ensuring continuity, coordination, and consistent quality across all sessions.

Outcomes and Community Impact

The 2025 seminar series addressed a wide range of community needs, offering both educational and professional value in the following areas:

- Access to community services
- Immigration law and legal guidance
- Economic development and investment strategies
- Career advancement and IT employment pathways

Looking Ahead

The Seminar Committee remains committed to fostering educational enrichment, dialogue, and community engagement. We aim to further enhance collaboration with host organizations to expand reach, efficiency, and impact.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- All committee members for their dedication
- Our distinguished keynote speakers for their valuable insights
- The Host Organization for their partnership and logistical support

Together, we have created a seminar program that reflects the spirit, resilience, and ambition of the Bangladeshi-American community.

Shamsuddin Mahmud

Chairperson

Seminar Standing Committee

Youth Forum Committee Report

Report on Activities of FOBANA Youth Forum Committee 2024-2025
Prepared in anticipation of the upcoming FOBANA Convention

Introduction:

In anticipation of the upcoming FOBANA Convention, the FOBANA Youth Forum Committee has been actively working in collaboration with the FOBANA Host Committee over the past few months. Our efforts have been directed toward ensuring a well-organized and inclusive convention, where youth voices and energy are reflected through effective support and coordination.

Collaboration with the Host Committee:

The Youth Forum Committee has closely aligned with the Host Committee, offering consistent support across multiple areas of event planning and execution.

We have conducted 2–3 Zoom meetings, along with in-person discussions, to explore how best to assist in implementing the Host Committee's plans. Regular communication has been maintained with the Host Committee to stay updated on progress and provide timely assistance wherever needed. Our members have actively contributed ideas and manpower in various aspects including logistics, volunteer coordination, outreach, and promotion.

Ongoing Support and Engagement:

The Youth Forum continues to act as a bridge between the Host Committee and the wider youth community. We are supporting the Host Committee in areas such as program coordination, participant engagement, and technical support for virtual and physical sessions. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to making FOBANA 2025 a success through collective effort and intergenerational teamwork.

Acknowledgment:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the FOBANA Youth Forum Committee for their dedication, hard work, and collaborative spirit. Your continued involvement and enthusiasm are what make this initiative impactful and meaningful. I like to thank the FOBANA EC to give me the opportunity to serve as a youth forum chairman 2024-2025.

Conclusion:

The FOBANA Youth Forum remains committed to fostering the spirit of community, leadership, and cultural pride among young Bangladeshi-North Americans. Through consistent meetings and engagement, the forum is on track to present a dynamic and inclusive set of activities at the upcoming FOBANA Convention.

Mohin Uddin Dulal

Chairperson

Youth Forum committee



Mainstream Liaison Committee Report



The Mainstream Liaison Committee of FOBANA is responsible for communicating with mainstream personalities and open dialogue with them. This Committee has plan to arrange a NRB and Global Diaspora Seminar/discussion on Challenges, opportunities, cultural differences, Immigration, and other issues diaspora issues at the FOBANA Convention 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. We have invited mainstream politicians and other prominent people of diaspora global communities to participate in the event. This year, the Committee has served diligently to fulfill the goal of the federation and as a bridge between the FOBANA Executive Committee (EC) and the Host Committee (HC). We have arranged combine discussions, and meetings.

We have had informal meetings & discussions. Our online meeting on June 10, 2025, was a great success where FOBANA Chair, Host Convener, Vice Chair, Executive Secretary, and Host Committee Convener, Member Secretary, & President offered welcome remarks and their thoughts to arrange a meaningful discussion forum at the seminar. Chairperson of Host Global & FOBANA NRB Diaspora Committee Attorney Raju Mahajan, and Chairperson of Host Mainstream Liaison Committee Tanjina Islam have presented their valuable ideas, thoughts and plans to implement at the upcoming seminar.

Thanks!

Mahbubur Rahman Bhuiyan
Chairperson
Mainstream Liaison Committee

FOBANA Convention Liaison Committee

The FOBANA Convention Liaison Committee plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth planning and execution of the FOBANA Convention. This committee serves as the bridge between the Executive Committee and the Host Committee, fostering clear communication, mutual understanding, and collaborative decision-making for presenting a successful convention.



Purpose:

The Liaison Committee's primary purpose is to coordinate efforts between the central FOBANA leadership and the local organizing team in Atlanta, ensuring that every aspect of the convention aligns with FOBANA's mission, standards, and vision.

Goals:

- Facilitate Communication: Maintain an open and continuous flow of information between the Executive Committee and the Host Committee.
- Ensure Consistency: Align local event plans with FOBANA's established guidelines, values, and brand identity.
- Support Problem-Solving: Address challenges quickly and efficiently through coordinated discussions and joint solutions.
- Promote Efficiency: Help streamline workflows and timelines to ensure timely progress toward convention milestones.

Operations for This Year:

For the 39th Convention, the Liaison Committee has been focusing on strengthening collaboration between all parties through regular communications with the EC and HC leaders. The committee has:

- Monitored planning progress and provide feedback on major program components.
- Assisted in coordinating the major programs with input and feedback.
- Ensured the understanding of the FOBANA standard and quality to uphold the legacy of the FOBANA Convention.
- Worked jointly with the Host Committee to resolve logistical challenges, financial and other related issues.
- Served as a direct point of contact to ensure no communication gaps occur between the executive leadership and the local host committee.

With its strong commitment to teamwork, transparency, and mutual respect, the Liaison Committee is determined to help make this year's convention a resounding success, reflecting the unity, culture, and shared vision of the Bangladeshi diaspora in North America.

Rabiul Karim

Chairperson

Convention Liaison Committee

Web and Technology Committee Report



The Web and Technology Sub-Committee convened this year to assess FOBANA's digital needs and enhance its online presence. Productive discussions among committee members have resulted in several updates to our website, with more improvements planned as resources become available.

Completed Updates Based on Committee Recommendations:

- **Enhanced Event Coverage:** A new section now highlights recent kickoff events held in Atlanta, Virginia, New York, Los Angeles, and Bangladesh. These events feature improved visibility with photos, video links, and summaries.
- **Youth Engagement Online:** Online youth engagement submissions have been optimized. Our goal is to connect with youths by featuring key updates and highlights from youth-led programs through an active online presence.
- **Scholarship Information:** A scholarship announcement banner has been added to the homepage, featuring key dates. A streamlined online application form is now available on both the EC and host committee sites.
- **FOBANA Talk Show Page:** A new "Media" section includes previews and recaps curated by the FOBANA Talk team. In the coming days, we aim to archive videos in a shared location to reduce website bandwidth usage.
- **Convention Review Preview:** With input from the Review Committee, we are developing a featured page to provide a detailed preview of the upcoming FOBANA Convention.

In Progress / Pending Resources:

- Increased automation for membership management and verification
- Expanded media gallery and document archive
- Fully integrated event registration and ticketing system
- Personalized member dashboard for easier access to updates

We recognize that some initiatives are still pending due to limited resources. These will be implemented in phases as we expand website capacity and increase technical support hours.

Sincerely,

Masud Rob Chowdhury

Chairperson

Web and Technology Committee

Bangladesh Liaison Committee Report

This year, the Bangladesh Liaison Committee has served diligently as a vital bridge between the FOBANA Executive Committee (EC) and the Host Committee (HC).



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit Bangladesh along with representatives from both the EC and HC to promote the 39th FOBANA Convention. During this visit, we actively engaged in press conferences, TV interviews, talk shows, and various meet-and-greet events with FOBANA sponsors. These efforts not only raised awareness but also strengthened our network and outreach.

In addition to promotion, we secured new sponsorships for FOBANA and contributed to the selection of special guests and artists for the upcoming convention in Atlanta.

FOBANA leadership also proudly participated in the Global NRB Business Conference in Bangladesh, showcasing the growth and success of FOBANA on an international stage. Through these visits and engagements, we highlighted FOBANA's positive impact and initiatives, gaining the support of media professionals, journalists, and influential business figures. This support has greatly bolstered our mission and objectives.

Throughout the year, our committee collaborated closely with the Host Committee to ensure a well-planned and successful convention. It is the collective effort, dedication, and teamwork of every member that has laid the foundation for a strong and impactful FOBANA.

On behalf of the Bangladesh Liaison Committee, I would like to warmly welcome you all to the 39th FOBANA Convention in Atlanta. We wish you a memorable and successful event.

Sincerely,

Duke Khan

Chairperson

Bangladesh Liaison Committee

Media Standing Committee Report

The Media Standing Committee of FOBANA is one of the most significant committees within the organization. Throughout this year, the committee has diligently and efficiently executed its responsibilities by covering FOBANA's diverse activities and overseeing extensive promotional efforts.



This year, we brought together journalists from various cities across North America—each representing local and Bangladeshi media outlets. All of them have long-standing relationships with FOBANA and played a vital role in promoting our mission.

We organized two meetings this year, where committee members discussed how to further enhance FOBANA's media coverage and outreach. These sessions were marked by valuable suggestions and constructive feedback, which the committee used to refine its media strategy and strengthen communication efforts.

At the beginning of the year, FOBANA's 39th Annual Convention preparations began with two "Meet & Greet" events—one at the Gulshan Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and another in the host city of Atlanta. These events received significant media coverage facilitated by this committee. Additionally, a "Meet & Greet" event was held in New York with members of the press, which was also coordinated by the Media Committee under the guidance of the Host and Executive Committees.

Throughout the year, the Media Committee took the lead in promoting the 39th FOBANA Convention across multiple television channels and news outlets. The committee also played a key role in utilizing social media platforms to share timely updates and generate public interest.

With regular press releases and consistent news dissemination across all major outlets, the committee ensured that FOBANA's preparations and activities remained visible, thereby helping to build momentum and anticipation for the convention.

Media always plays a crucial role in the success of any major event. Positive and strategic media coverage is often a key ingredient in that success. In this regard, every member of the FOBANA Media Standing Committee has performed exceptionally well. The collaborative teamwork displayed throughout the year is truly commendable.

Warm regards,

Abir Alamgir
Chairperson
Media Standing Committee

Unification Committee Report



This year, the Unification Committee has held just one meeting. They have prepared and submitted several recommendations to the executive committee for review and approval, and these are as follows:

The committee discussed and unanimously recommended the following proposals:

- a. Take the initiative and connect with the inactive organizations, encouraging them to join the convention this year.
- b. Engage with Canadian organizations and communicate with them to become a member of FOBANA.
- c. We are submitting the recommendation to the Executive Committee to streamline the process for suspended organizations that wish to rejoin FOBANA.
- d. This year, the unification committee decided not to participate in any unification talks with the other FOBANA representatives (Shah Nawaz and Kazi Azam).
- e. The committee generally believes that reinstating those organizations that were suspended due to their wrongdoings and exploitation by the terminated ex-chairmen would be beneficial for FOBANA.

The Executive Committee discussed the line item "C" at the 4th EC meeting on June 27, 2025. And decided to send the matter to the Constitution committee for a recommendation on the pathway for the inclusion of those organizations.

I request the officers' team to include the inclusion pathway recommendation in this year's annual report, and I believe this was a positive achievement.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 770-722-5369 or khannahidul@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Nahidul Khan (Sahel)
Chairperson
Unification Committee

Cultural Committee Report



The Cultural Sub-Committee met several times to finalize the 2025 Cultural Committee guidelines for the Cultural Performance Award and judging process to ensure it's fair, exciting, and truly showcases the incredible talent within our community. We reviewed last year's criteria and policies, making updates where needed. The EC Cultural Committee and Host Cultural Committee worked jointly to circulate forms, manage communications, and review intake submissions.

1. Organizational Cultural Performance Slot – Priority Criteria
 - a) Each participating organization must submit a demo of their most recent original performance for review by the Cultural Committee (EC + Host).
 - b) Participants must complete the intake form, including required details and performance descriptions.
 - c) A joint review committee (EC and Host subcommittee members) will evaluate submissions and determine priority. Disagreements will be escalated to the Executive Committee (EC) for resolution.
 - d) Approved entries will be shared with FOBANA GM, EC and host committee via email.
2. Best Cultural Performance – Organizational Award Nomination Criteria
 - a) This year's committee recommends two award categories:
 - Best Organization Performance (group or solo) from host registration paid organizations.
 - Best Organization Performance (group or solo) from the host city.
 - b) Performances will be judged on:
 1. Time Duration
 2. Theme Relevance
 3. Performer Interaction
 4. Costume/Outfit Appropriateness
 5. Narration, Voice, and Pronunciation
 6. Creativity
 7. Overall Presentation
 8. Originality / Copyright Compliance
 9. Transitions, including Entry and Exit Flow
 - c) A diverse jury panel will be formed, including experts in music, drama, dance, and fine arts. Panelists may include members from the Cultural Committee (EC and Host) as well as guest judges.
 - d) Each judge will evaluate specific factors and submit individual scores.
 - e) Final scores will be reviewed, signed by all judges, and aggregated to determine award recipients.

The Cultural Sub-Committee remains committed to ensuring a fair, engaging, and high-quality cultural program that celebrates the diverse talents and heritage of the FOBANA community.

Masud Rob Chowdhury (CA)

Acting Chairperson, Cultural Committee

Budget, Finance & Fundraising Committee

Overview

The Budget, Finance & Fundraising Committee continued its dedicated work throughout the 2024–2025 term, building on the foundation laid in previous years. Our mission remains focused on ensuring financial transparency, strategic planning, and sustainable fundraising to support FOBANA's growth and success.



Key Initiatives & Accomplishments

1. Annual Budget Planning
 - Approved comprehensive budget at the start of the fiscal year.
 - Outlined projected income sources and anticipated expenditures.
2. Host Committee Financial Oversight
 - Collaborated with Host Committee leaders and treasurers.
 - Reviewed financial conditions, budgets, and fundraising strategies.
 - Ensured accurate tracking and reporting of all convention-related transactions for post-event transparency.
3. Ongoing Financial Monitoring
 - Proposed continuous tracking of all financial activities related to the convention and EC.
 - Provided timely updates to the EC to identify potential risks and offer support when needed.
 - Recommended applying the same monitoring framework for future conventions.
4. Fundraising Strategy Development
 - Design a unified fundraising approach for both EC and Host Committees.
 - Encouraged regular joint meetings to pool resources and ideas.
 - Promoted the use of open-source tools and marketing materials to engage community members and attract mainstream sponsors.
5. State Corporation Compliance
 - Maintained vigilance to ensure FOBANA remains in good standing with the State Corporation Register.
6. Financial Reporting & Tax Filing
 - Maintained accurate records of all income and expenditures.
 - Recommended consulting a reputable tax firm for annual filings when necessary.

7. International Fund Transfers
 - Explored secure and transparent methods for transferring funds internationally.
 - Focused on initiatives like the Bangladesh Scholarship, disaster relief Fund etc.
8. Transaction Transparency
 - Emphasized the importance of clear documentation for all financial transactions.
 - Required invoices and receipts for any payments made from EC funds.
9. Marketing & Promotion
 - Proposed building a robust promotional platform via the EC's website and social media.
 - Aimed to enhance visibility and attract sponsorships and donations.
10. Membership, Benefits Enhancement
 - Recommended creating a more attractive membership benefits package where member can see their invested benefit some sort of financial savings.
 - Encouraged regular renewal and fee payment by general members.
 - Restrict and no exception of missing deadline, late fee applied for late registration within extension period. This year 100% implied.
11. Online Financial Management Tools
 - Proposed subscribing to a reliable online accounting software to improve financial tracking, auditing, and reporting.
 - Recommended tools include QuickBooks Online, Xero, Wave, FreshBooks and Zoho Books

Closing Remarks

The committee remains committed to upholding the highest standards of financial integrity and strategic foresight. We thank all members and stakeholders for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we are building a stronger, more transparent FOBANA.

Dr. Pryalal Karmaker (VA)

Chairperson

Budget, Finance & Fundraising Committee

Social Networking, Goodwill and Promotion Committee

FOBANA Social Networking, Goodwill and Promotion Committee
Annual Report (2024-2025)

FOBANA Social Networking, Goodwill and Promotion Committee has
been an integral part and important team for FOBANA.

The team has continued its work from last year with the emphasis on
how to enrich the goodwill of FOBANA. The team has been active on social media through-
out the year. Like previous years, this year, the team has actively arranged FOBANA TALK, a
live talk show streaming on social media, inviting the key leaders from both EC and HC as
well as all the chairmans, co-chairs and members of the committees to promote FOBANA as
a whole as well as hosting the convention.

We conducted online meeting. The objective of the meeting was to engage in a general
discussion and brainstorming ideas for future planning. We set the goals for our tenure and
a timeline to achieve those goals. We shared input, ideas and efforts those were crucial in
shaping the direction of our committee's work. I highly appreciated the team's commit-
ment to volunteering for this important task for FOBANA.

We focused on

- Social Networking
 - o Use of social and news media
 - o Use of Facebook page, group and other communication platform
- Goodwill Promotion
 - o Promote FOBANA's history and achievements
 - o Promote FOBANA's significant milestones, activities and accomplishments

Sincerely,

Farhad Hossain

Chairperson

Social Networking, Goodwill and Promotion Committee



Membership Review Committee Report

Introduction

Throughout the year, the FOBANA five officers and FOBANA Membership Review Committee convened multiple times to ensure the integrity and accuracy of our membership records. This report summarizes our activities, challenges, and outcomes from the past year.

The Membership Review Committee met a few times to discuss (i) Membership Fees and Milestone Dates (ii) Defined Documents Required for New Members and Existing Members' Renewal (iii) Reviewed the list of last year's applicant who weren't approved in the previous year and new applicants in 2025.

Document Collection and Review

FOBANA's five officers diligently attempted to collect, reviewed and updated new member documents. These documents are organized in Google Drive within their respective folders for easy accessibility and management review.

Committee Actions

Membership Review Committee members met to review collected documents for eligibility and completeness. An interim report detailing our findings and recommendations was submitted to the 5th Executive Committee (EC) meeting for review and approval.

Current Status

As of the writing of this report, the Membership Review Committee has identified the following membership statuses and once we receive pending documents by Aug 3, the committee will reconvene to review and finalize:

- 47 Eligible Returning Voters
- 2 Returning Voters - Pending Proof of Active Registration in 2025
- 4 Pending Proof of Socio-Cultural Activity for 1st time Voter Eligibility
- 12 New Members (applied in last year) Pending Supporting Documentation Verification
- 3 New Applicants Pending Membership Committee's Document Review for approval

Challenges and Next Steps

Despite significant progress, challenges remain, particularly in verifying documents for new members and ensuring all eligible voters meet criteria. Moving forward, the committee will continue its efforts to finalize pending reviews and maintain accurate membership records. I strongly believe that a collaborative effort among members, along with the involvement of five designated officials, is essential to effectively collect and archive key documents for compliance and future reference.

Conclusion

The Membership Review Committee remains committed to upholding FOBANA's standards of membership integrity and inclusivity. We look forward to addressing remaining challenges and enhancing our processes in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Masud Rob Chowdhury

Acting Chairperson

Membership Review Committee



Constitution and Procedure Review Standing Committee Report



The Constitution and Procedure Review Standing Committee met several times during the 2024-2025 term to set goals, monitor progress and produce artifacts for documenting recommendations.

The Committee worked on several initiatives during course of the year. They are summarized below:

1. Review the FOBANA Constitution and the current version of Operating Procedure to ensure that the content is clear and consistent throughout the documents. This process should be repeated by the members of future Constitution and Procedure Committee.
2. The primary focus revolved around discussing a topic assigned by the FOBANA Executive Committee (EC) to establish a clear and detailed process, including criteria for evaluating cases based on the severity of violations for re-entry pathways for the suspended individuals and organizations. After in-depth discussions and thorough deliberations, the Committee developed a framework for recommendations to the EC. The proposed guidelines were submitted to the EC on July 20, 2025. The measure was approved by the EC on August 6, 2025. Three categories of suspended individuals and/or organizations are recommended for pathways to re-enter FOBANA:
 - a. Hosted an event at the same metro city as the FOBANA convention during the same timeframe of the convention.
 - b. Used FOBANA name and/or logo for events during the same timeframe of the FOBANA convention anywhere.
 - c. Actively participated in events and/or activities described in (a) and/or (b) above.

To facilitate the reentry process, a set of conditions must be met, and several steps must be taken. These include waiting periods, letter of intent that acknowledges actions that led to suspensions, sincere regret for such actions, and compliance commitment to uphold the FOBANA Constitution, Code of Conduct, and all relevant guidelines moving forward.

If a re-entry is approved, then a re-entering organization will be considered a new member organization. In addition, a re-entered individual or organization will be ineligible to participate in any FOBANA election for two (2) years following reinstatement.

Ahsan Chowdhury (TX)

Chairperson

Constitution and Procedure Review Committee

Award & Guest Selection Committee Report



The FOBANA Award and Guest Selection Committee has met a couple of times to review and finalize the criteria for the 2025 FOBANA Awards as per operating procedure Article XII Section 17. I am pleased to share the committee's recommendations for your review and confirmation.

This committee's recommendation was shared with the EC for approval, and no objection was received, as a result have announced the criteria to the FOBANA members so they can begin submitting nominations. Have asked members to submit their nominations by the August 7, 2025, deadline and give the subcommittee enough time to verify supporting documents.

1. Best Member Organization Award Criteria:

1. Must have valid 501(c)(3) status
2. Active and continuous FOBANA membership for the past 5 years
3. Must host 2–3 socio-cultural programs annually
4. Must conduct elections every 2 years, resulting in a new committee (proof required)
5. The organization must not have received this award in the past 5 years

2. Outstanding Service Award Criteria:

- Individual demonstrating exceptional dedication and impact in service to FOBANA
- Organization or individual with significant contributions to the broader Bangladeshi community in the US
- Educators, scientists, or philanthropists with notable achievements in the US
- Recognized for substantial nonpolitical service in Bangladesh or among Bangladeshi communities in the U.S.

Thank you in advance for your timely review and response. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Masud Rob Chowdhury
Acting Chairperson
Award and Guest Selection Committee

FOBANA Legal Committee Report

1. Introduction

The Legal Committee of FOBANA was established to provide legal guidance and oversight for the organization's activities, ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations and advising on any legal issues that may arise.



2. Meetings Held

Introductory Meeting: An initial meeting was held to introduce members, outline the committee's role, and discuss our approach for the year.

Counsel Meetings: Several follow-up counsel meetings were held during the reporting period. These focused on committee operations as well as preliminary discussions on a few issues that were brought forward.

3. Issues Reviewed

The committee reviewed a few minor issues presented to us. After analysis and discussion, it was determined that no substantial legal action or formal response was required at this time. All matters were resolved or deferred without escalation.

4. Summary & Outlook

While the volume of legal matters was minimal this year, the Legal Committee maintained readiness and provided oversight as needed. The professionalism and preparedness of the committee were evident, and all discussions were handled with due diligence.

The committee remains available and prepared to assist FOBANA with any future legal concerns or guidance.

5. Acknowledgements

The Chairman acknowledges and appreciates the continued support and dedication of all Legal Committee members. Their willingness to serve and contribute has been invaluable, even in a relatively quiet year.

Submitted by:

Mohamed Alamgir

Chairperson

Legal Committee

FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2025)

39 YEARS OF PROUD HERITAGE

1. WASHINGTON D.C.

Host: Bangladesh Association of America,
Washington D.C.
Date: October 31, November 1, 1987
Venue: World Bank H Building Auditorium
Chairperson: Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury/Rashida Alam
Secretary: Wahed Hossaini

2. NEW YORK

Host: Bangladesh Society of New York & Bangladesh
Society of New Jersey
Date August 27 & 28, 1988
Venue : Thomas Edison Vocational High School
Auditorium
Convener : Dr. M Yusuf
Member Secretary : Syed Tipu Sultan

3. BOSTON

Host : Bangladesh Association of New England
Date September 1-2, 1989
Venue : Kresge Auditorium, MIT
Convener : Prof. A.K. Abdul Momen
General Secretary: Prof. Nasir Ahmed

4. DALLAS

Host : Bangladesh Association of North Texas &
Bangladesh Association of Houston
Date : September 1-2. 1990
Venue : Dallas Convention Center
Convener : Abul Kalam
Member Secretary Abdullah Hasan

5. NEW YORK

Host : Bangladesh Society of New York
Date : November 30, December 31. 1991
Venue : P.S. 131 Jamaica, New York
Convener : Awlad Hossain
Member Secretary : Dr. Moinul Islam Miah

6. CHICAGO

Host : Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland
Date : September 5-6, 1992
Venue Northeastern Illinois University
President : Dr. Mohammad Sirajullah
Executive Secretary : Zafar S. Ashraf

7. TORONTO

Host : Bangladesh Association of Toronto
Date : September 4 -5 , 1993
Venue: Skyline Airport Tower & Hotel
Convener: Shamsul Huda

8. NEW JERSEY

Host : Bangladesh Society of New Jersey
Date September 2-4, 1994
Venue : Brunswick Hilton & Tower
Convener : Dr. Siddiqur Rahman
Executive Secretary: Mir H. Chowdhury

9. MONTREAL

Host : International Society of Bangladesh &
Bangladesh Association of Quebec
Date : September 1-3, 1995
Venue : Sheraton Laval Convention Center
Convener: Dr. Abu Lais Sher
Secretary: Masum Rahman / Niranjana Sarker

10. FLORIDA

Host: Bangladesh Association of Florida
Date: August 30 September 1, 1996
Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Miami
Convener: Dr. Abdus Sattar Khan
Member Secretary: Rashid A Sheikh

FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2025)

11. LOS ANGELES

Host: Bangladesh Association of California
Date: August 29-31, 1997
Venue: Burbank Airport Hilton
Convener: Dr. Zainul Abedin
Executive Secretary: Duke Khan
FOBANA History (1987-2020)

12. NEW YORK

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

13. ATLANTA

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

14. NEW YORK

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

15. MONTREAL

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

16. DALLAS

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

17. DETROIT

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

18. WASHINGTON D.C.

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

19. FLORIDA

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

20. ATLANTA

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

FOBANA HISTORY (1987-2025)

21. KANSAS

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

22. DALLAS

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

23. HOUSTON

Host: Bangladesh Association, Houston
Date: July 4th Weekend, July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2009
Venue: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas
Convener: Afzal Ahmed
Member Secretary: Azadul Haq
FOBANA History (1987-2020)

24. LOS ANGELES

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

25. NEW JERSEY

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

26. FLORIDA

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

27. ATLANTA

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

28. LOS ANGELES

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

29. NEW YORK

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

30. WASHINGTON DC

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

31. FLORIDA (2017)

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

32. GEORGIA (2018)

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

33. NEW YORK (2019)

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

34. VIRTUAL (2020)

Host: FOBANA Executive Committee
Date: November 28-29, 2020
Venue: fobana.tv
Chairperson: Shah Haleem
Executive Secretary: Ahsan Chowdhury Hero

35. WASHINGTON DC

Host: American Bangladesh Friendship Society (ABFS)
Date: November 26-28,2021
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Maryland.
Convener: ZI Russel, Co-Convener: Ms Parveen Patwary
Member Secretary: Shibbir Ahmed.

36. CHICAGO, IL

Host: Bangladesh Association of Chicagoland (BAC)
Date: September 2-4,2022
North Shore Center for The Performing Arts, Chicago, IL
Convener: Maqbul M. Ali
Executive Secretary: Syed Ahsan

37. DALLAS, TEXAS

Host: Bangladesh Association of North Texas (BANT)
Date: September 1-3, 2023
Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas
500 W Las Colinas Blvd. Irving, TX-75039
Convener: Hasmot Mobin
Executive Secretary: Nahidul Khan

38. WASINGTON DC

Hosted by: Bangladesh Association of Greater Washington DC (BAGWDC)
Date: August 30, 31, September 01, 2024
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
Convener: Rokshana Perven
Member Secretary: Abu Rumi

39. ATLANTA

Hosted by: Bangladhara
Date: August 29, 30 & 31, 2025
Gas South Convention Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, Georgia 30097
Convener: Nahidul Khan (Sahel)
Member Secretary: Mahbubur Rahman Bhuiya



Constitution and ByLaws

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

Article I: Name

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

Article II: Definition of the Organization

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

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

Article III: Goals and Objectives

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

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



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



Article IV: Membership

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

Article V: Organization

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

Article VI: Management

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

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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

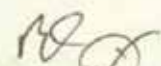
Section 1: The tenure of the Executive Committee shall end on the day of the termination of FOBANA Convention immediately after the new committee is sworn in and take over the charge from the outgoing Executive Committee.

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

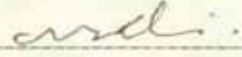
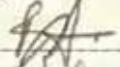
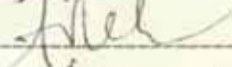
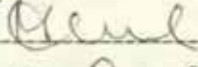
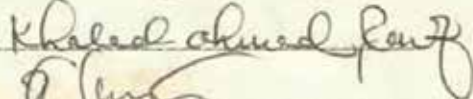
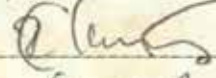
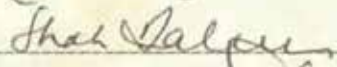
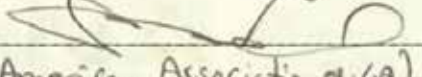
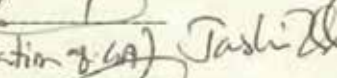
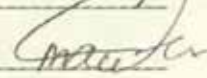
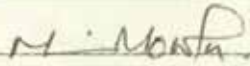
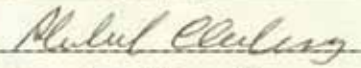
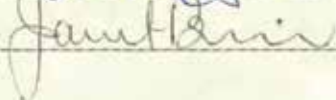
Section 1: The address, including street and number of the initial registered office of the corporation is 1090 Vermont Avenue, N. W., Suite 190, Washington, DC 20005 and the name of the initial registered agent at such address is National Registered Agents, Inc.



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Witnesses

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

Name	Signature
BEDRUH ISLAM BAKH	
Duke Khan	
Masbun M. Ali	
Rabind Kari'm Belal	
Bashir Ahmed	
Aliquer Rahman	
Mujib Uddin	
KHALED AHMED ROUF	
RUBEL CHOWDHURY	
Shah Hafeem	
Mahmud Musharraf Hussaini (BAAT)	
ARIF AHMED AHMAD	
JASHIM UDDIN (Bangladeshi American Association of LA)	
MAHAMUD RAHMAN (Bangladesh Association of LA)	
MOHAMMED MOWLA DILLI	
Rashed Chowdhury (Shahin)	
Iqbal Ahmed	
ZAHID HOSSAINI	
JANET BISWAS (	

Witnesses

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

Name	Signature
Mir H. Chowdhury	
Lolam Faroque Bhui (BAN)	
Dr. FARUQUE AZAM (ISTA, President)	
SHAH MOJAMMEL (BCC) President (of Bangladesh Community of Chesapeake)	
MUSHARRUF SHAH (BCC) (BCC) musharruf@gmail.com	
NAHIDA NASER YASMIN (BAH) Nahida nasyamin	
RANA WADUD (BANT) Rana Wadud	
HASHMAT MOBIN (Outstanding)	
AZADUL HAQ	
Mahabub Reza Rahim	
AHSAN CHOUDHURY	
SARKER Hossain	
Obayedur Khan Bangladesh Association of Southwest Florida	
ZAHID REZA BANGLA INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA	



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

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ARTICLE I:	GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION.....	2
ARTICLE II:	THE BUSINESS AND FISCAL YEAR	2
ARTICLE III:	ORGANIZATION	2
ARTICLE IV:	MEMBERSHIP	3
ARTICLE V:	VOTING RIGHTS.....	5
ARTICLE VI:	AUTHORITY	5
ARTICLE VII:	ANNUAL MEETING.....	6
ARTICLE VIII:	AMENDMENT PROCESS	6
ARTICLE IX:	ACTIVITIES	6
ARTICLE X:	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS.....	6
ARTICLE XI:	STANDING COMMITTEES	7
ARTICLE XII:	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES	7
ARTICLE XIII:	ELIGIBILITY TO BE A HOST ORGANIZATION	16
ARTICLE XIV:	HOST COMMITTEE.....	17
ARTICLE XV:	GUIDELINE FOR ORGANIZING A FOBANA CONVENTION.....	17
ARTICLE XVI:	ELECTION PROCEDURE.....	19
ARTICLE XVII:	CORRECTIVE ACTION	22
ARTICLE XVIII:	POLICY FOR VENDORS REQUIRING INVITATION LETTERS FOR VISA PURPOSES	22





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 no more than 31 (Thirty-one) members and shall be called the FOBANA Executive Committee.
- b) Two Canadian member organizations are guaranteed to hold an EC seat uncontested, provided they meet all other membership eligibility requirements. If more than two Canadian
- c) If more than two organizations request the EC position, then two Organizations will be elected from the group. They need to participate in the regular Executive Member Organization election, and the highest-voted Canadian organizations will be selected to hold two seats.
- d) There shall be 1 (One) Chairperson, 1 (One) Vice Chairperson, 1 (One) Executive Secretary, 1 (One) Joint Executive Secretary, 1 (One) Treasurer, 9 (Nine) Outstanding Members, and 17 (Seventeen) Member Organizations as the Office Bearers.
- e) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Executive Secretary, Joint Executive Secretary, Treasurer, 9 (Nine) Individual members (respected individuals who have outstanding contributions to FOBANA) and up to 17 (Seventeen) members representing FOBANA Member Organizations shall be elected each year by the General Body of FOBANA.
- f) The head of the member organization or his/her representative shall represent the organization in the Executive Committee.
- g) 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.
- h) The outgoing Chairperson and Executive Secretary will automatically become outstanding members of the FOBANA Executive Committee in the following year.
- i) The Convener and Member Secretary of the current FOBANA convention shall automatically become outstanding members of the FOBANA Executive Committee in the following year. However, they shall not be qualified to run as Chairperson or Member Secretary that year.
- j) The term of office bearers shall be for one year.



- k) The top five positions of the Executive Committee include Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, Joint Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be eligible to run for a second term for their office. This privilege shall be limited to 2 consecutive years. If any candidate is running for a second term, he or she must declare his or her intent 45 days prior to the Election Commission appointed by the Executive Committee.
- l) Any Outstanding Member shall not be eligible to run for the same position beyond two consecutive years.
- m) Any member organization that has served as the Executive Member Organization for three consecutive terms is ineligible to participate in the EC election for the fourth term. However, organizations that have previously hosted the FOBANA convention are exempt from this rule and may participate in consecutive terms.
- n) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. The presence of one-third of the members shall make a quorum.
- o) The Executive Committee shall form as many committees as necessary to carry out FOBANA's functions.
- p) Each committee shall have a Chairperson who shall report to the Executive Committee upon completion of the task or as directed otherwise.
- q) The Executive Committee shall assign its members the roles and responsibilities to manage each functional area identified in the By-Laws.
- r) The elected host organization shall automatically become a member of the FOBANA Executive Committee out of 17 (17) member organizations.
- s) An individual can't represent more than one organization in EC. However, he or she can occasionally cast a proxy vote for another EC member in his or her absence.

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 provided both EC and Advisory agree and approve the individual
- c) All ex-chairpersons of FOBANA will have the 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 advise and guide the Executive Committee and ensure participation in meetings as needed.
- e) The responsibilities shall include but are not limited to, broader aspects relative to legal matters, hearing grievances and conflict resolution, and mediating variances.
- f) The Advisors shall avoid conflicts and participate directly 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 Advisor post.

Section 4: Restriction on Powers and Duties:

- a) A member shall not be eligible for election as the Chairperson or Executive Secretary if he or she holds any Executive Office or Title of any political party from Bangladesh or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said parties in the USA or Canada.
- b) Key FOBANA Official Chairman, Executive Secretary, Convenor and Member Secretary shall not post any politically biased comments in any social media including FOBANA shared social media groups.



Article IV: Membership

- Section 1: FOBANA shall be an organization of organizations. Individuals cannot be a member of FOBANA.
- Section 2: Except for those organizations prohibited in the Articles of Incorporation, any organization may apply for membership in FOBANA. In addition to the above, no political, religious, sports, regional, business, charity, professional, privately held foundation, or company shall not qualify as a member of FOBANA. However, FOBANA may offer non-voting Associate or student membership to organizations that may positively impact the common goal of FOBANA. This includes specific nondiscriminatory socio-cultural-focused branches in existing organizations that would otherwise not be accepted for membership.
- Section 3: Prospective member organizations must have a minimum of 5 (Five) documented officers on file when applying for membership. Organizations are welcome to include additional officers or members so long as a minimum of five (5) is reached. Proof of this needs to be provided to the executive body of FOBANA as per their prescribed method.
- Section 4: Prospective member organization must elect their officials democratically. Proof of this could be a written list of members' names, an online video, and a photo of a meeting or event showing members.
- Section 5: Prospective member organizations must be involved in community activities serving people of Bangladeshi origins in North America.
- Section 6: A membership application must be submitted to the executive body of FOBANA using the prescribed form.
- Section 7: The membership application must be recommended by at least one member of the FOBANA organization. The Membership Reviewed Committee can waive this 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 the application fee and yearly dues.
- Section 10: The application fee shall be non-refundable.
- Section 11: The amount of the application fee, membership dues, and late fee charge shall be decided every year at the annual general meeting of the General Body. In case no decision is made, the charges of the immediately previous year shall prevail. The late fee for EC members is \$50.00 and will be effective from the beginning of the current tenure. The top executives (5 (five) Officers and 9 (nine) Outstanding Members) must pay a \$200.00 nomination fee. The nomination fee for the Executive Organization Membership is \$100.00.
- Section 12: The Executive Body or its duly appointed subcommittee shall examine the application, and if no irregularities are found, it shall recommend to the Executive Body that the membership be accepted.
- 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: If a membership application is not accepted, the General Body, through the Chairman of FOBANA, will inform the organization and explain the reason for the denial. Membership dues will be refunded, but not the application fee.
- Section 15: When the General Body accepts the membership applications, the organization shall become a member of FOBANA beginning the next business year.
- Section 16: Yearly membership dues must be paid by the due date set by EC. For example, membership dues for 2022 must be paid by May 31, 2022. If not paid by May 31, the membership shall be suspended beginning June 1; the membership can be renewed with a late fee by the date set by the Executive Committee. Suppose the membership is not renewed with the late fee by the due date set by the Executive Committee; in that case, the Organization will lose its active status. However, an Organization can be reinstated as an active status with all due fees and payments; however, the Organization cannot be a voter for that year.
The executive committee can change this provision for any natural disaster or exceptional circumstances.
- Section 17: A suspended member shall not have any privilege to participate in the organizational matter, including exercising the right to vote in any decision-making.



Section 18: An organization may withdraw its membership by a written request signed by the majority of 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. No two member organizations shall have the same name.

Section 20:

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

Article V: Voting Rights

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

Section 2: New member organizations shall not be allowed to vote in the first two (2) years of their membership period. New members can vote in the third (3rd) year. This must be in compliance with sections 2a, 2b, and 2c of Article III of the Operating Procedure.

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

Section 4: To be eligible to vote, each member organization must fulfill the following conditions:

- Need to organize at least one successful socio-cultural community event in the last year. The event must be non-political, non-religious, non-profit, open to the general public, and have a large enough audience.
- The organization must have a current operational bank account in North America.
- Submit proof of the above two requirements to the Membership Review Committee for its review and approval.

Section 5: 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 6: The following rules shall apply for registration:

- The FOBANA EC shall determine the registration fee for the participating organization(s) each year to enable them to perform cultural programs on the stage of the convention.
- The participating organization(s) shall be required to register with the Host Committee on a prescribed form indicating their interest in performing on the convention stage. The registration fee must be paid directly to the EC within the established time frame. The EC will provide the Host Committee with a complete list of the registered organizations along with the amount of the registration fee so collected 15 days prior to hosting the Convention.
- 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- 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. A 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 guidelines 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:
- Review the activities of the past year.
 - Review the audited financial report of the past year
 - Elect Officers for the following year
 - Elect Host Organization for the next FOBANA Convention
 - Miscellaneous matters included in the agenda
 - 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 the 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-thirds (2/3) members of the Executive Committee.
- Section 3: Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by any member organization of FOBANA and must be submitted to the Executive Committee thirty (30) days before the yearly general meeting, 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 also be accomplished via teleconference calls and/or e-mails.



Section 6: All amendments to the Operating Procedure approved by EC throughout its tenure need to be presented at the AGM for notification to the General Body of FOBANA and their approval.

Article IX: Activities

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

Section 2: The FOBANA shall either 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 host the convention.

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

Section 4: FOBANA shall conduct a continuous fundraising program, such as the **FOBANA Emergency Disaster Relief Fund (FEDRF)**. This program aims to collect money exclusively for FEDRF throughout the year for FOBANA to quickly help any humanitarian emergency disaster situation at any time in the community.

FOBANA must ensure that any funds raised exclusively for FEDRF have been distributed through FOBANA Emergency Disaster Relief Fund (FEDR) operation to the disaster victims in North America and Bangladesh.

Section 5: To properly manage/upgrade on a regular basis, the FOBANA website shall be maintained by a professional 3rd party vendor with limited security access to the site. The FOBANA Logistic Chairperson should be the point of liaison between the site vendor and EC. The vendor should maintain all changes and updates while Logistic Chairperson will monitor and hold the vendor accountable for content accuracy and site sustainability.

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 and represent FOBANA to outside bodies and the Committee to the General Body members. The chairperson shall maintain liaison and coordination with the Bangladesh Embassy and the Government and contact 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 Chairperson's absence or when authorized by the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall oversee the function of all subcommittees, including providing guidance and making decisions needed for their operation.

Section 3: Executive Secretary:

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for all organizational matters and oversee the functions and operation of the Organization's Mainstream, media, and Youth wings. The responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, all administrative matters, developing strategic plans both long and short term, developing a marketing plan, keeping minutes of the meeting, distribution of the minutes of the meeting, maintaining official files, including an updated list of members 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, assisting in forming the Election Committee and any other sub-committees.

Section 4: Joint Executive Secretary:

The Joint Executive Secretary shall assist the Executive Secretary and act 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 local development.



Organizations and becoming a member of FOBANA Organizations; assist the organization in reaching the youth, mainstream arena, and neglected areas.

Section 5:

Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall hold the funds, manage all financial matters, including maintaining up-to-date records of all financial transactions, submit statements of receipts and expenses to the Executive Committee, prepare accounts and budgets, collect dues, be responsible for preparing the annual balance sheet, and income statement for audit, prepare the Tax Return to the IRS, maintain the annual registration status current, deal with insurance matters, and market. 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. Any release of funds above \$499 (Four Hundred Ninety-Nine) would require the approval of the Executive Secretary, the Chairman, and the Treasurer. The Chairperson may empower the Executive Secretary or Joint Executive Secretary to operate the account in the absence of the Treasurer. The treasurer shall liaise and coordinate with the 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 a present or past Executive member who served two terms, including the current term or a past chairman, and will have at least one other member.

Section 2:

If there is more than one Chairman candidate applying for the same standing committee position and each applicant meets the required criteria, then the final selection /election will be made by EC voting.

Section 3:

Standing committees shall have the right to co-opt any number of members of the Executive Committee or 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 4:

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

Section 5

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

Section 6:

Standing Committee Chair term limit – Standing Committee Chairpersons cannot serve as the Chairs for more than two consecutive years for the same committee

Article XII:

Roles and Responsibilities of the Standing Committees

Section 1:

Roles and Responsibilities of the Constitution and Procedure Committee

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and its Operating Procedures, as well as all official forms and guidelines, and reporting 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 and revise the forms, 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 the 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 FOBANA's operation, consult with experts, select and hire an on-call Attorney, initiate action to promote and protect FOBANA's interests, represent FOBANA and handle all legal issues, guide the resolution of disputes, mediate variances, and review important letters and documents before they are issued as needed.

Section 3: Roles and Responsibilities of the Unification Committee

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

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

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

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Media and Public Awareness Committee This Committee will be responsible for all Media and public-facing matters. It will create all press releases and send them to media outlets. This committee will write articles and publish them on the FOBANA website to create public awareness of FOBANA.

Section 5: Roles and Responsibilities of the Business and Investment Committee

The core mission of this Committee is to provide service, promote, and facilitate business opportunities between the 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 the USA.

Explore retirement planning and retirement investment, as well as investment in real estate and/or properties, by providing advice, seed money or start-up capital, pre-IPO funds, or franchising finance.

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

The committee will be responsible for open communication, leading and guiding on NRB issues, liaising with the Bangladesh Embassy and Government at home, liaising with the US and Bangladesh Business Council, holding seminars, and sharing 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, as well as all official forms and guidelines, and reporting 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 an 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 to their daily lives and the benefit of the community to which they belong.

Establish contacts and create a database, develop youth chapter, encourage leadership, participation in education, access to computers, learn languages and culture, education in communication, a guide to working with diversity in the 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 talents among the young generations from across the nation and highlight them on the FOBANA website, Facebook, and Newsletter.

Encourage young writers to write to FOBANA Newsletters and be contributors to the FOBANA website.

Section 8: Roles and Responsibilities of the Health and Wellness Committee

The Committee provides guidance and recommendations on healthy living, nutrition, homemaking, mental health, and general wellness.

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

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

Provide written articles about the nutritional values of our everyday ethnic foods. Highlight risks among men of Bangladeshi origins supported by research.

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

Section 9: Roles and Responsibilities of the 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 on social media and groom them to become FOBANA promoters.

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

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

Section 10: Roles and Responsibilities of Newsletter Committee



The Committee will be responsible for developing a periodic Newsletter and will actively seek writers to write articles for it.

Section 11: Roles and Responsibilities of Bangladesh Liaison Committee

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

The committee works with the media and engages with professionals in arts and culture, business, banking, education, industry, government, manufacturing, and media to promote FOBANA's 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 the Host Committee.

Maintain a Bangladesh contacts database and share it 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.

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

Participate in talk shows, interviews, and roundtable discussions to promote FOBANA positively and debunk any myths and misconceptions about it.

Open dialogue with relevant parties in Bangladesh and recommend to EC how FOBANA can make a tangible impact on 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, and technical professionals to review papers and presentations submitted to FOBANA for Seminar presentation.

Presenters will be allowed to submit their papers online via the FOBANA website. These papers will then be sent to this Committee's mailbox.

The Committee members will review and catalog the papers.

All papers will be in a database so anyone can research 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 from the submitted series and invite them to attend the FOBANA Convention. The list will also be presented to the host committee, which will decide who will pay for tickets 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 fields of arts, business, social, politics, 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 FOBANA's cultural aspects and maintaining coordination with the Host Committee on cultural affairs.

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

The Committee will lead and guide the Host Committee and its cultural committee in organizing cultural events at the convention.

The Committee will actively seek talents across North America and recommend them to the 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 arrange promotional tours or events leading up to the convention. The

Committee will actively promote the FOBANA Artist Database.

The Committee may help the host committee recruit artists from Bangladesh, but FOBANA will not be engaged in any business or financial dealings with the 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 is to invite, show proper respect, and keep in touch with FOBANA Alumni. The Committee will develop and maintain a database with the contact information of all FOBANA alumni.

All alumni will be formally invited to the convention and to their special breakfast event. A FOBANA pin will be presented to these Alumni (depending 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 pictures, which will be permanently archived and promoted on the FOBANA website.

FOBANA EC will provide a special lanyard for the FOBANA Alumni, distinguishing them from all other guests. Alumni will be invited to participate in the Committees.



Section 15: Roles and Responsibilities of Membership Verification Committee

- a) The Committee is responsible for verifying the membership applications of organizations, both new and old.
- b) To ensure that their registration is current with the State and with the IRS, verify if they have Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.
- c) Verify if they have a minimum number of paid members, held elections according to their Articles of Incorporation paid membership dues,
- d) 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.
- e) Retain a database for a membership organization, maintain documentation with necessary registration forms, including copies of Registration with the state and IRS, identify deficiencies, provide opportunities to correct them, and recommend any modification of processes and policies.
- f) This Committee will present the membership application to the EC monthly meetings and recommend that their membership be granted to the organization. Once EC accepts the application, then the membership package will be sent to the organization.
- g) To ensure fairness and impartiality, the outgoing Chairman will lead this committee, as they are ineligible to contest any position and have no personal stake in the election's outcome.
- h) The Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, Joint Executive Secretary, and Treasurer will serve as Officio members of this committee, providing support for document and payment verification. However, any Officio member who decides to run for any positions will forfeit their voting rights in the Membership Review Committee.
- i) Any member of the Membership Review Committee, other than 5 Officio members, who intends to run for any Executive Committee position must resign from this sub-committee.

Section 16: Roles and Responsibilities of Mainstream Liaison Committee

The Committee is responsible for communicating with mainstream personalities and open dialogue with them. This Committee will invite mainstream politicians and prominent people to the FOBANA convention.

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

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

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

The Committee will work closely with the host committee to suggest and help contact guests for the FOBANA convention. 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, at which the FOBANA Chairperson will present the award.

The Committee will coordinate with the Host Committee to preserve the time slot for the 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 fundraising, selecting, and finally awarding annual scholarships to talented students of Bangladeshi origin.

The Committee will prepare guidelines 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.

Donations 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 are tax-exempt to the maximum limit allowed by law.

Money donated to the FOBANA scholarship fund should only be used for the committee's objectives. All

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

The students from the host city/state of the Convention will receive the financial awards for the respective year. The

financial award will be a one-time financial award of \$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 and 4.0 in the given year of the Convention.

Applicants must have community involvement.

A properly filled-out Application form and a color photo must be submitted two months before the convention of each year. The Scholarship Committee can change this date.

The recipients must agree to allow FOBANA to publicize their photo and 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 academics to review the essay.

The Scholarship Committee will then shortlist the candidate and submit it 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 the current FOBANA Executive Committee or Advisers can participate in the scholarship



program. This committee will have at least three past FOBANA Chairpersons as members.

The current Chairperson and the Executive Secretary will be the official members.

Section 19: Roles and Responsibilities of Goodwill and Promotion Committee

The Committee is responsible for promoting FOBANA's mission and vision to our communities in North America and Bangladesh.

The committee must clarify and correct any misconception that people may have due to social propaganda or negative publicity through the electronic, print media, or any other ways.

The committee must attend local programs and TV channels to express a positive image of FOBANA.

Section 20: Roles and Responsibilities of Women Empowerment Committee.

To create a support portal with relevant contact information for abused women and children and to maintain a 24-hour telephone hotline where the victim can leave messages in Bangla or English if necessary. Calls will be directed to the WEC-designated person, who will then reroute them to the right agency.

To invite and work with local and national women support agencies and industry-leading experts in respective areas so that WEC can provide the necessary support to all member organizations of FOBANA.

To manage and update the WEC Facebook page, publish useful papers in easy-to-read Bangla, create powerful video messages, and distribute via YouTube, the FOBANA Facebook page, and the website.

To continue educating women about their rights and list resources where they can go for help To encourage women to higher education and financial independence

To create guidelines for women entrepreneurs who want to open a business (Dos and don'ts of how to do a business, how to form a company, run a business, etc.), and build an exchange portal where they can get in touch with vendors from Bangladesh for products.

To highlight successful Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs and activists on the FOBANA website and invite them to the Annual FOBANA convention.

Established in 1987

To encourage, promote, and support women's participation and leadership among the member organizations of FOBANA

To organize WEC informational seminar in cooperation with the host committee at every FOBANA convention

Section 21: Roles and Responsibilities of Executive Logistics Committee

The Committee provides logistic and technical support to all FOBANA-related activities.

The tasks include preparing and editing formal FOBANA documents like Operating Procedures and managing/delegating technical tasks related to the FOBANA website, Facebook, etc.

This committee is also responsible for managing/delegating all FOBANA-related posters, banners, annual reports, videos, etc.

Section 22: Roles and Responsibilities of Convention Liaison Committee

This committee is responsible for communicating with the FOBANA Convention Host Committee and maintaining a transparent/healthy relationship between the Host Committee and the FOBANA Executive Committee.

This committee members must have a good understanding of the FOBANA Convention and must educate the Host Committee regarding the convention-related bylaws written in the FOBANA operating procedure



to ensure that the HC closely follows the convention guidelines

This committee must inform the FOBANA executive committee immediately if the HC conducts any unethical activities and engages in any activities that contradict the rules outlined in the FOBANA Operating Procedure.

This committee must provide a monthly report outlining activities related to the progress of the FOBANA Convention.

Section 23: Roles and Responsibilities of Convention Review Committee

This committee reviews the quality and standards of the FOBANA convention in detail.

This committee shall have a thorough understanding of the convention-related bylaws documented in the FOBANA Operating procedure and thoroughly review and document whether the bylaws are followed accurately to execute the convention.

The committee must inspect all aspects of the Convention and justify its findings through videos, pictures, public testimony, etc.

This committee must tabulate all aspects of the Convention and grade the performance from 0 – 5 (0 being unacceptably poor and five being excellent).

A written monthly report must be provided to the FOBANA Executive Committee

Section 24: Roles and Responsibilities of the Fundraising Committee.

This committee reviews FOBANA's current and future yearly budget and evaluates its financial needs.

This committee must pay attention to FOBANA's funding needs in all operations, including the general fund, scholarship fund, legal fund, emergency fund, etc.

This committee must develop a plan at the beginning of the term presenting how the funds will be realistically raised.

A written monthly report must be provided to the FOBANA Executive Committee

Section 25: Roles and Responsibilities of the Following Year Convention Committee.

This committee must work closely with the organization that is awarded the following year's convention.

This committee's goal is to ensure that the host organization continues to work towards preparing for a successful FOBANA Convention the following year.

This committee must thoroughly understand the Convention-related section of the FOBANA bylaws written in the FOBANA Operating Procedure.

This committee must tabulate all the important tasks to be completed by the Host committee and gather monthly updates. A written monthly report must be provided to the FOBANA Executive Committee.



Article XIII: Eligibility to be a Host Organization

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

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

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

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

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

EC reserves the right to safeguard its interests and take any action against the Host Committee for its failure to comply with its requirements. The action could contemplate terminating the award made for hosting the Convention. The EC may decide to award the convention to another willing organization or host the convention themselves.

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

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

Section 3: The same member organization shall not be qualified to become a Host Organization again within five (5) years of hosting a 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 Guidelines for Organizing FOBANA Convention without any reservation and pay by a certified check of the amount of \$2000.00 (two thousand dollars), non-refundable in advance as Security Deposit. Member organizations will not be considered as candidates and will not be allowed to participate in the election or selection process unless the agreement is signed and a \$2000.00 check is submitted to the Election Commissioner. When a member organization is not elected or selected, the check will NOT be refunded, and the agreement will be voided. EC will keep a \$2000 deposit from all organizations competing in the election unless the application is withdrawn before the deadline. This deposit received from the organization that wins the election/selection shall also not be refunded to the Host Committee.

Section 5: It is preferred that the member organization have IRS 501 (c) 3 status. If they do not have the status, FOBANA shall receive the corporate checks, and within seven days, the 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 an 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, Member Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 3: The Convener or Member Secretary may not hold any position within a political party based in Bangladesh, nor under any local or affiliated authority of such parties in the USA or Canada
- Section 4: Convener and Member Secretary of the Host Committee may attend the FOBANA EC meeting as non-voting attendees to provide updates on the Convention as needed.
- Section 5: The Host Committee can have as many co-conveners, assistants, committees, or members as necessary to carry out its responsibilities; 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 6: The Host Committee shall not create or designate any official position with the title that the leadership in the hierarchy holds in the FOBANA EC, so it creates any confusion for having two Chairmen in the FOBANA Convention or on any publication materials that Host Committee will circulate.
- Section 7: If the Executive Committee raises any funds for the convention, the host committee shall give 20% to the Executive Committee.

Article XV: Guideline for Organizing a FOBANA Convention

- Section 1: The Host Organization must follow this guideline while organizing a FOBANA convention.
- Section 2: Use of name: The proper name for the organization and the convention must be used. The organization is called the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America or FOBANA. FOBANA is also synonymous with 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, the correct logo must be used 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: The FOBANA archive contains a collection of templates and very useful information. The Host Organization shall review these files before creating any new version. However, if a new version is needed 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 material that the host organization produces. This is especially necessary for posters, Television commercials, newspaper advertisements, 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 of all media communication. The Executive Committee can then be prepared to answer the media's questions about the organization. The host organization will handle all Convention-Related Questions.
- Section 7: Official Letterhead: The Host Organization shall use an official letterhead template that references 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 ceremonies. They may also play it throughout the convention. The theme song is available on the website or will be provided to them by the Chairperson or Executive Secretary.
- Section 9: Flags: During the opening ceremony, the host organization must display the flags of three countries, equal in size and with proper mounts (Bangladesh, USA, and Canada).
- 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 and 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. If, for any unforeseen reason, such a session can't be organized, then the Host Organization shall spend the funds allocated for this session on 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: During the three-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, announcing their names and the organizations to which they belong, or a courtesy may be extended to allow a 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 copies 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 meeting room that can hold up to 100 people for all three (3) days of the convention.
 - Either serve food or provide food coupons to all Executive Committee members on the day of the FOBANA Annual General Meeting
 - 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-upon date and time to witness the convention's progress. 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 is not limited to any sitting ministers, the head of the opposition party, and the head or senior members of any political or religious parties. The Host Organization must select the Chief Guest in 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 other incidental expenses shall be at the discretion of the Host Organization.
- Ambassador, Government of Bangladesh, Washington DC
 - Consul General, Government of Bangladesh, New York
 - Consul General, Government of Bangladesh, Los Angeles
 - Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
 - High Commissioner, Government of Bangladesh, Canada
 - Minister for Commerce, Government of Bangladesh
 - Minister for Education, Government of Bangladesh
 - Minister for Labor & Employment & Expatriate Welfare & Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh



- i) Minister for Tourism, Government of Bangladesh
- j) Senators of the state where the convention will be held
- k) Local Congressman of the city where the convention will be held
- l) Governor of the state where the convention will be held
- m) Mayor of the city or any Elected Officials of the County where the convention will be held

Section 19: Website: The Host organization shall be a sub-domain to the main FOBANA website (www.fobanaonline.com). A pre-formatted template shall be provided to the Host Organization as soon as they are selected as per the Web Site Guideline. In return, the Host Committee shall pay a one-time fee of \$500.00 to the Executive Committee. If the Host Committee decides to purchase any additional domain names, they will have to be pointed to this central location. The address of the website for the convention shall be www.fobanaYEAR.fobanaonline.com.

Section 20: In the case when the name of the host organization changes due to any reason, the FOBANA Executive Committee shall go by the Registered Charter number, 501 (c) (3) certificate number (if any), number of incorporation or any other indicative number that would prove beyond doubt that the previous member organization is the sole owner of the organization and only the name has changed.

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

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

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

Section 24: The EC may consider hosting the FOBANA convention in a selected city as a pilot program, with a local organization from that city serving as the Co-host for that year's convention. No decision has been made regarding the timing of this initiative.

Article XVI: Election Procedure and Handover of Office and Accounts

A. Election Procedure:

Section 1: The Election Commission Committee (ECC) of FOBANA is an independent body under its constitution that will operate the election process of FOBANA.

Section 2: The body administers elections to all elective positions of the Executive Committee of FOBANA and assists in the election of a Host Organization that wishes to host the FOBANA Convention each year at the respective State where it belongs.

Section 3: The Election Commission shall consist of not more than five members. One person will be the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), and the remaining four members will be the Election Commissioners. To be eligible for appointment, the CEC must have previously served as Chairperson of FOBANA.

Section 4: The term of office for CEC or any Election Commissioner is one year or more from the date on which they take their oath to function in office. Any member of this body is not eligible to become a candidate for any elective position. The appointment of the ECC and the term of the Election Commission body will be decided at the last Executive Committee (EC) meeting, which takes place before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) through majority consensus based on the selection process by the EC members.



- Section 5: ECC shall function under the FOBANA constitution, and any other law enacted by the Executive Committee to act appropriately in the conduct of a free and fair election. Their function is to provide code of conduct guidelines and election schedule, maintain coordination, hold the election, administer ballots, count the votes, perform issue/validity resolutions, and announce the results under the conditions stipulated in the By-Laws.
- Section 6: ECC shall announce the election schedule at least 120 days before the expiry of the term of the current Executive Committee, and formally notify all the member organizations on time.
- Section 7: ECC shall maintain effective liaisons with the Executive Committee regarding the performance of their activities to avoid any conflict with the Executive Committee agenda.
- Section 8: ECC shall secure and work with a list of current members from the Membership Review Committee. Only members in good standing duly certified by the Treasurer shall be qualified for participation in the Election.
- Section 9: Prospective candidate for the position of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Executive Secretary, Joint Executive Secretary, and Treasurer must meet at least one of the following two conditions (a or b below):
- The candidate at any time in the past was either a Convener or Member Secretary of a FOBANA Convention plus remained a member of the Executive Committee for at least one (1) year.
 - The candidate remained a member of the Executive Committee for at least two (2) years.
 - Prospective candidate for the position of Chairperson needs to meet the following additional requirement: The candidate remained a chairperson Vice-Chairperson or Executive Secretary for at least one (1) year, or the candidate at any time in the past was a Convener and served as either Joint Executive Secretary or Treasurer at least total of two (2) years. This doesn't apply to the current Convener.
- Member(s) willing to contest any other elective position(s) must have served at least once as an office-bearer of his/her organization. The organization itself must be registered, functional, and have a valid membership with FOBANA.
- Section 10: A candidate for Chairperson may not be eligible to run if they are from the same city where the convention is scheduled to be held.
- Section 11: Prospective candidate for the position of Outstanding Member must meet at least one of the following three conditions:
- The candidate at any time in the past was either a chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Executive Secretary.
 - The candidate at any time in the past was either a Joint Executive Secretary or Treasurer for at least a total of two years in these two Officer positions.
 - The candidate at any time in the past was either a Convener or Member Secretary of a FOBANA Convention.
- Section 12: Organizations intending to host the FOBANA Convention must meet the eligibility requirement as stipulated under Section XIII of the Operating Procedure. In addition, they will be required to complete and submit a proposal in the prescribed form. In support of their submission, the proposal must include an organization profile, a List of Board members including their contact



numbers, a Bank statement showing financial stability, a working budget, a proposed venue and its location, Hotels, and transportation availability, and furnish evidence of the organization's healthy operation and activities, including meeting minutes of the AGM for the last three (3) years. All this information needs to be furnished to the EC no later than eight (8) weeks before the election date.

- Section 13: As per the election schedule, ECC shall invite nominations from members of the valid organization(s) registered with FOBANA for all elective positions forty-five (45) days before the election date. Nomination forms will be provided by ECC. A non-refundable nomination fee will be required for submission for each position, as determined by the EC.
- Section 14: Interested candidate(s) must complete and submit their nomination forms to ECC within the deadline date established on the form. One candidate can run for only one EC position.
- Section 15: ECC shall review all nominations received within the deadline date, scrutinize them for eligibility, certify them for validation, and prepare a list for use.
- Section 16: ECC shall release this list as in Section 13 to the candidates with options for withdrawal and or switching to another Executive Committee position. This must be done three (3) weeks before the election date. ECC allows candidacy withdrawal without forfeiting the nomination fee. Also, they allow candidate(s) to switch to another elective position by paying an additional \$100 fee. This must be done no later than two (2) weeks before the election date.
- Section 17: Membership Review Committee will release the final valid membership list to ECC, which will, in turn, be the voters in the election. This must be done two (2) weeks before the election date.
- Section 18: ECC will release the final list of candidates along with the voter's list to member/organization(s) ten (10) days before the election date. ECC will also release brief information on the Host Committee contenders.
- Section 19: General Body election will be held electronically. Election for all elective positions is one term of EC, Host Committee for the second year, and any proposition/amendment for the General Body to vote will take place in 'one-shot' through a single electronic ballot with a unique link provided to each eligible voter through their official email address. All elections will be decided by a simple majority of voting members. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot electronically; nobody including ECC will not be able to see who voted for whom - ECC will only know the vote count for each candidate through this electronic voting process.
- A person is eligible to cast only one vote for one elective position – no proxy voting will be allowed.
- Section 20: The general body election will be held remotely within the seven days preceding the AGM, with the exact date jointly decided by the CEC and the FOBANA EC. This ensures that election activities do not coincide with the AGM and other FOBANA activities.
- Section 21: The CEC shall announce the election result at the AGM. To make it official, the CEC shall sign and stamp the official election result printout, which will be derived through an electronic process.
- Section 22: In the case of a tie for any position, ECC will make its decision on the appropriate method to break the tie, such as a run-off election, coin toss, or any other method deemed practical at that time.



Section 23: The decision of the CEC shall be considered final and binding for all election matters.

B. Handover of Office and Accounts:

Section 1: CEC shall, after the elections, invite the Chairperson and the elected members of the new Executive Committee to take office. EC shall conduct oath-taking of the newly elected members of the Executive Committee on stage at the Convention. All the elected members must take the following FOBANA oath of allegiance:

'I pledge allegiance to the Federation of Bangladeshi Association in North America (FOBANA) organization, which I am elected to serve. I solemnly swear to uphold the FOBANA constitution, bylaws, and operating procedures to carry on my duties. I will always put the interests of the FOBANA organization first and fulfill my duties as an elected executive member with the highest integrity and honor. Long live FOBANA.'

Section 2: CEC shall get all the elected members of the Executive Committee, including the Chairperson, to sign a Code of Conduct that would guide their actions during their term.

Section 3: The outgoing Executive Committee would exercise their responsibility to hand over to the new Executive Committee all the completed accountings, books, and related documents, including income and expenses, within the date of remission of office.

Section 4: The outgoing Executive Committee would have the responsibility to get the returns of all The income and expenses of the Host Committee are duly certified, audited, and submitted to the new Executive Committee within the next month after the remitting office.

Article XVII: Corrective Action

Section 1: In case a current or past member organization, members of the Executive Committee, or any member of the Standing Committees violates any provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Operating Procedures, the Executive Committee shall have the right to take corrective action 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 conflict with other measures if mentioned in the Constitution, By-laws, or other procedures. The EC will have the right to choose any or all measures against a member.

Section 5: "Zero Tolerance" to establish basic decency and civility within FOBANA. Executive Committee members/subcommittee members must NOT personally attack other members, including but not limited to via email, messenger/text at the FOBANA official forums and during meetings that can cause disturbance and conflict within the organization, and No one can post a personal link or personal matter in FOBANA groups, the Chairman and Executive Secretary should be compulsorily added as Admin to all groups. If any member commits any such offenses, the following corrective action may be taken:

- a) FOBANA members may be expelled from attending any future EC, Standing Committee, Advisory Committee meetings, and AGM for an indefinite period of time, depending on the severity of the offense.



- b) That FOBANA member may be expelled from any/all official FOBANA forums such as EC, Standing Committee, Advisory Committee, and General Body member email/text or any such forums for an indefinite period of time depending on the severity of the offense.
- c) EC may ask the elected organization to send a replacement member to FOBANA, depending on the severity of the offense.

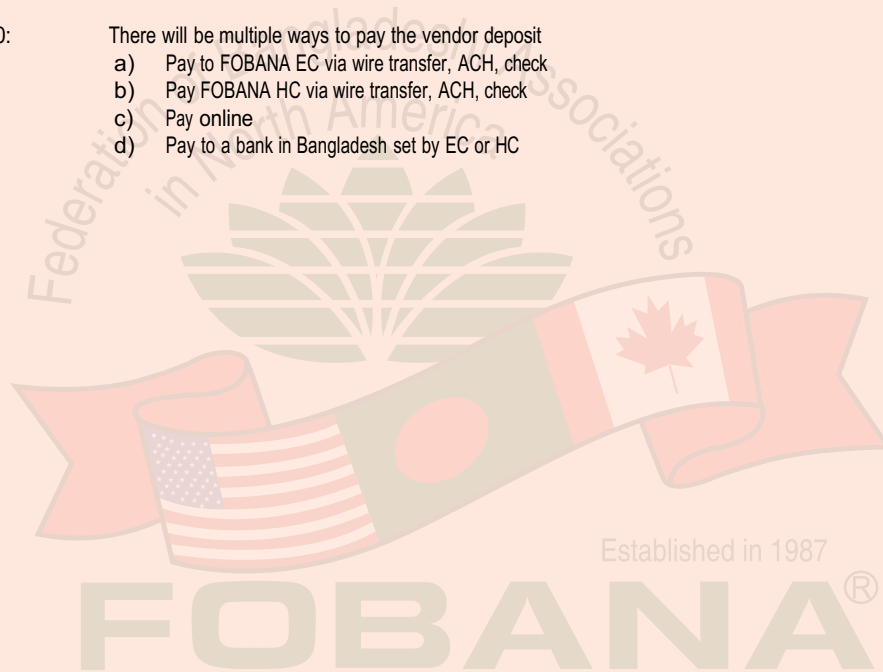
Article XVIII: Policy for Vendors Requiring Invitation Letters for Visa Purposes

- 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: For these purposes, vendors will deal directly with FOBANA, and there will be no agents in Bangladesh.
- Section 4: These letters will be sent directly to the vendors or to the host committee for dispatch.
- Section 5: The 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 and submit them 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 conduct an interview to ensure that these are legitimate vendors.
- Section 10: The EC may request additional documents from the vendors or engage third-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 seven days prior to the convention. After that date, no refund will be issued because the stalls can't be allocated to any new vendors.

- Section 15: Refunds will be issued within 90 days of the convention or a date set by the EC every year.
- Section 16: 50% refund minus any bank transfer and/or PayPal fee if they notify within seven 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 seven days left of the convention.
- Section 18: No refund will be issued to vendors who will receive US VISA but will not attend in FOBANA. They will be reported to the US Embassy about their absence in FOBANA.
- Section 19: A list of invited guests and vendors will be published on the FOBANA website. Unpublished names will be called counterfeit, and FOBANA will not be responsible for them.
- Section 20: There will be multiple ways to pay the vendor deposit
- a) Pay to FOBANA EC via wire transfer, ACH, check
 - b) Pay FOBANA HC via wire transfer, ACH, check
 - c) Pay online
 - d) Pay to a bank in Bangladesh set by EC or HC





Revision History

Version	Date	Updated By	Change Description
1.0	12-01-2020	Vice Chairman	1. Additional requirement for voting rights 2. Zero tolerance to maintain civility 3. Website management via 3 rd party vendor 4. FOBANA Emergency Disaster Relief Fund program
2.0	12-06-2021	Executive Secretary	1. Added Article III Section 2 (b) 2. Added Article III Section 3 (b) 3. Updated Article XI Section 1 4. Added Article XI Section 2 5. Updated Article XVI: Section 9 6. Updated Article VIII: Section 6
3.0	10-01-2022	Nahidul Khan (Executive Secretary)	1. Article III Section 2. (h) (Amendment passed in 2022 AGM) 2. Article IV Section 2 (Amendment Passed in 2022 AGM) 3. Article IV Section 3 (Amendment Passed in 2022 AGM) 4. Article IV Section 16 (Amendment passed in 2022 AGM) 5. Article XVI Section 10 (Amendment passed in 2022 AGM)
4.0	12-18-2023	Nahidul Khan (Outstanding Member)	1. Article IV Section, 16 Updated (passed 2023 AGM) 2. Article X Section, 5 Amended (passed 2023 AGM) 3. Article III Section, 2 (b) Added (Amendment passed 2023 AGM) 4. Article XVII Section, 5 Updated (Amendment passed 2023 AGM)
4.1	11-15-2024	Masud Chowdhury (Chairman 2024-2025)	1. Article III: Section 4 (b) Added (Passed in 2024 AGM) 2. Article XII: Section 15 (g,h,i) Added (Passed in 2024 AGM) 3. Article XIV: Section 3 Added (Passed in 2024 AGM) 4. Article XV: Section 24 – Added (Passed in 2024 AGM) 5. Article XVI: Section 10 & 19 - Added (Passed in 2024 AGM)

39th FOBANA CONVENTION 2025

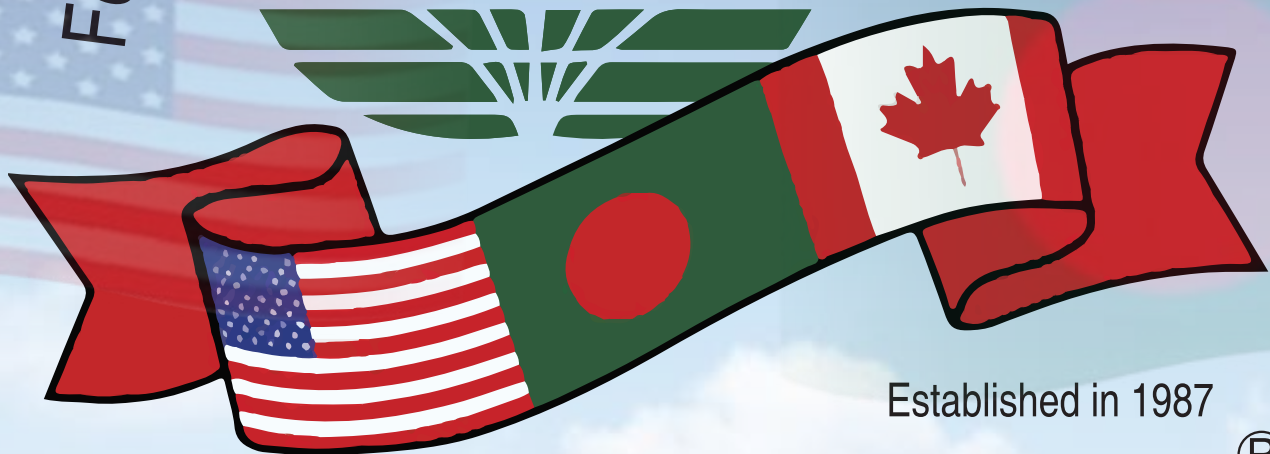


Date : Auguth 29, 30 & 31, 2025

Venue : Gas South Convention Center
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway
Duluth, Georgia 30097



Federation of Bangladeshi Associations
in North America



Established in 1987

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