



Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)

Head Office: 122 Taxter Road, Irvington, New York 10533, USA; Tel: +1914-231-7972
Bangladesh Office: House #806, Road #03, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabor, Dhaka, Tel: 910-4558
US IRS Tax Exempt 1.D 13-4034550, Website: www.vabonline.org
VAB Chapter in Canada located in Toronto: Tel: 647-349-1729, www.vabcanada.org

VAB Newsletter, November 2023

The Annual Meeting of VAB's Board of Directors was held on November 5, 2023, in Jamaica, NY, USA where elections for various positions of VAB's Board of Directors and VAB's Management Committee for the upcoming four-year term, January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027, were conducted. In the election, 7 uncontested nominees- two of the VAB Board of Directors and five of the VAB Management Committee were elected unanimously. The 15-member VAB's Board of Directors and the 5-member VAB's Management Committee for the 2024-2027 term stand as follows:

VAB's Board of Directors in USA, 2024-2027

Dr. Ehsanur Rahman, Chairman; Dr. Fazlur R Chowdhury, Vice Chairman; Mr. Khurshid Anwar, Dr. Maksud Chowdhury, Mr. Peter von Christerson, Mrs. Tanveer (Rumi) K Hoque, Dr. Delwar Hussain, Mr. S Samiul Islam, Mr. Anm Mostafa Khandaker, Mr. Matilal Pal, Dr. A T Rafiqur Rahman, Mr. Mizanur M Rahman, Ms. Nashra Rahman, Mr. Abdus Sikder, and Mr. Shahid Ullah.

VAB's Management Committee in USA, 2024-2027

Dr. A T Rafiqur Rahman, President, Dr. Maksud Chowdhury, President-Elect, Mr. Mizanur M Rahman, Vice President, Mr. Matilal Pal, Secretary, and Mr. Anm Mostafa Khandaker, Treasurer.

Decisions were taken to revise VAB Bylaws, prepare several pieces of documentation including the Financial Manual and Human Resources Manual, change the location of the Head Office of VAB from Irvington, NY to Jamaica, NY, and inform the US IRS and the NYS Bureau of Charities. The newly formulated Program of Work of VAB consisting mainly of two premier stipend/scholarship programs – one for skill training and the other for higher education up to the tertiary level– has to be developed fully and implemented. The Country Office of VAB, called VAB Bangladesh, has been instructed that it can develop and implement other programs, but the requisite funds are to be raised. The President is not planning to stay beyond 2024,

and the President-Elect will assume the office of the President after that. VAB should engage younger generations as well as have a program to direct unemployed youths for job placement. Young people with IT expertise must be sought, and certain financial incentives can be offered, if necessary. VAB would organize a Celebratory Event for 25 years of service by VAB sometime during the second half of 2024, provided that all planned changes take place in a timely fashion by the first half of 2024. VAB is going to be 25 on coming December 16. The Board was determined to prepare VAB for the next 25 years and beyond.

Collaboration with NSU

An excellent collaboration meeting with the English Department of North-South University took place on November 5, 2023. An MoU is being drafted so that VAB can use NSU's experience in English, Environment, and extracurricular activities such as sports, debate, Math Olympiad, robotics, etc. NSU might request VAB BD to engage some of their students as volunteers with or without minimal remuneration. They highly appreciated VAB's special scholarship program and mentioned that the fund would be of no issue if those students could cross the hurdles of their admission test.

VAB opens new doors of Technical Education in Bhangura, Pabna



VAB started a dress-making, tailoring, and handicrafts training program at Bhangura Jarina Rahim Girls' School in Bhangura of Pabna. VAB appointed a female trainer for the training. 52 women are receiving training in two batches. Within one month most of the trainees can make various dresses and handicrafts. VAB plans to donate a few sewing machines to top performers/potential entrepreneurs.

Awareness about climate change and prevention of violence against women during disasters



With the support of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and funded by the Malala Foundation, the project titled "Influence schools and sub-national and national decision-makers towards a more gender-responsive, climate-resilient, and digitally-oriented secondary education environment in Bangladesh" was initiated. As part of this project, VAB Bangladesh organized a program called "Create awareness about climate change and prevention of violence against women during disasters and reform environment club" at Dhukundi High School in Belabo in Narshingdi on October 23, 2023. 55 representatives including teachers and students from four schools, media workers, and upazila academic supervisors organized discussions and school-based debate competitions on those issues. Country Director of VAB Dr. M. M. Zahid Hassan was present as the chief guest, while Belabo Upazila Academic Supervisor Mr. Bhupati Ranjan Sutradhar, Senior Program Officer of CAMPE, Mr. Abu Reza, and Headmasters of the two schools were special guests. Assistant Country Director of VAB, Mr. Alim Khan conducted the awareness program and facilitated the discussions and the debate competition.

Shyamnagar VAB Technical Training Institute is going to receive the registration from the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) under the Prime Minister's Office. VAB applied for registration and deposited the fee for the Training Center, Course, and Assessment Center Accreditation. There are five courses: Computer Operation, Graphic Design for Freelancing, Website Design and Development for Freelancing, Tailoring and Dress-making, and Embroidery.

Local level dialogue on educational deprivation in Nageshwari of Kurigram

Under the Malala Fund Project, VAB Bangladesh organized a local-level dialogue on educational deprivation such as child marriage, child labor, disabilities, and SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights), on October 19, 2023 at Nageshwari DM Academy in Nageshwari of Kurigram. 32 participants including teachers, students, government officials, public representatives, and media workers involved in four schools were present in the daylong program. Nageshwari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mr. Kaushar Ahmed was present as the chief guest while Vice Chairman of Nageshwari Upazila Parishad Ms. Amina Begum Ananya, Upazila Secondary Academic Supervisor Mr. Nikhil Chandra Barman, Senior Program Officer of CAMPE, Mr. Abu Reza and Headmasters of the four schools were special guests. Assistant Country Director of VAB, Mr. Alim Khan conducted the dialogue.

VAB successfully completed the Rotary Global Grant Project # 1989638

VAB successfully completed a three-year project (Global Grant#1989638, "Quality education for poor children in Bangladesh through Teacher Training, in rural areas of Bangladesh") funded by Rotary Global Foundation and supported by E-Club of Heritage, NY and Rotary Club of Banani Dhaka. The project started in June, 2020 and ended on September 30, 2023. Because of the pandemic all the schools in Bangladesh were closed from March 17, 2021 to September 11, 2021. As a result, no in-person program activities were possible during this period. Once the schools were open in February, 2022 in-person program activities were started on March 8, 2022, and was completed on September 30, 2023. A total of eight programs were implemented under the project - 5 Project Launching Events, 25 Teacher Workshops, 25 Group-Based Teaching-Learning Facilitation Workshops, 25 Performance Evaluation in English, Computer, Mathematics, and Communication Skills; 25 Community Awareness Engagement Programs; and one program on Programs Monitoring & Evaluation. 125 Teachers were trained on ICT/Computer, and 75 Teachers in English.

In the USA, for donation, please pay online or send to VAB at P.O. Box 234, Irvington, NY 10533.

Bank account in Bangladesh: Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB), A/C-148.120.0005550, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, Ring Road Branch, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

For additional information, please contact Founder and President, Dr. ATR Rahman at +1914-231-7972 or E-mail: arahman10@aol.com, or Country Director Dr. M. M. Zahid Hassan, Mobile: +8801776934002; E-mail: mmzhassan@gmail.com