History of Origin

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF) emerged out of informal consultations between a group of eminent citizens and the Ford Foundation in the second half of the nineties following Ford Foundation’s decision to close its Bangladesh operations. The Ford Foundation expressed their interest in providing financial and technical support for the establishment of a national philanthropic foundation and requested to form an Advisory Committee to oversee the process. The Foundation was then formed and registered as a Trust in September 1997 with Mr. Mahfuz Anam, the Editor and Publisher of the Daily Star and Professor Rehman Sobhan, the Chairman of the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), as the founding Chairperson and Treasurer respectively.

Vision

BFF came out with the vision of ‘Freedom from poverty, ignorance, and oppression through philanthropy’, however, concentrated its thematic focus towards ‘Promoting Science Education at Secondary Level’ since 2010.

Registration

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation was formed as a Trust under the Bangladesh Trust Act 1882 on September 18, 1997. The Foundation then registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of Bangladesh on April 20, 1998 to be eligible to receive donations from abroad.

Governance

BFF is governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees comprising of a diverse group of nationally renowned activists, academics, journalists, industrialists, and social entrepreneurs. All Trustees are independent and are associated with the Foundation in their personal capacity.

The Board of Trustees sets policies relating to grant making, spending, investment, management, governance and independent financial audits. The trustees select the Executive Director who is responsible for implementing board policies and oversees the Foundation’s programs and operations on a day to day basis.