



Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles

BUFLA

"To enhance the symbol of unity among the healthy diversity of our Bangladesh community"
Website: www.bufla.com

President: Major (Retd) Enamul Hamid
Vice-President: Mohammed Sayedul Hoq
General Secretary: Lt (Retd) AFM Ziaul Islam
Finance Secretary: Mohammed Ashraf Hossain
Organizing Secretary: Ahsan Hafeez Rumi
Public Relation Secretary: Saiful A Chowdhury
ChowdhurySecretary: Shahnag Bulbul

STATE OF THE FEDERATION ADDRESS

BUFLA President Major (Retd.) Enamul Hamid

Delivered at the BUFLA – GA Meeting on September 13, 2015

Distinguished guests, respectable executive committee members and associate members, honorable members of the BUFLA Board of Trustees and Advisory Council, my dear Cabinet members, the Media personnel and the members of the Bangladeshi-American community, Assalaamu 'Alaikum and good afternoon. It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to the First General Assembly Meeting of BUFLA for the year 2015-2016. On behalf of the new cabinet, let me express our gratitude to you all for attending this GA meeting. We are very thankful to you and we are very obliged.

At the beginning of my speech, I want to congratulate all previous BUFLA Presidents, the Cabinets, the EC members, Associate members, the BOT and AC members, the BUFLA Charity Committee members, all the Standing Committee members and all other volunteers and well-wishers of BUFLA whose sincere hard work over the last almost a decade has brought BUFLA to this new height that I have been honored to preside over. Thank you all very much.

We are all sitting here in this beautiful BUFLA Office today that got materialized by the foresightedness of our previous President and the cabinet. They also added Float to the beauty of the parade on the longest parade route. Many thanks to my predecessor President and his cabinet.

The BUFLA Charity Committee has demonstrated exceptional services to the needy members of the local-and-global community and beyond and is changing the image of BUFLA very positively. Many thanks for the wonderful BUFLA Charity team for their outstanding performance.

My dear Friends,

You are all very familiar with the Mission and Goals of the Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA). BUFLA is a Federation of many different Bangladeshi organizations of greater Los Angeles area. BUFLA is the symbol of unity among the healthy diversity of our community. BUFLA promotes unity in our community to stand tall and shining in front of the broader society of USA, and to uplift both our motherland Bangladesh and our homeland America.

BUFLA is working hard to enhance the effective unity in our community and beyond. How do we do that? BUFLA offers a resourceful Website, several charitable activities for the needy people in America, Bangladesh and other countries of the world, and planning various Community Development Projects. However, above all, BUFLA Displays a Spectacular Annual Bangladesh Independence Day Parade and Festival on the last weekend of March, along the major roads in Los Angeles.



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Ladies and Gentleman, please let me admit that it is a big challenge for me and for our Cabinet to maintain the current high standards of BUFLA. However, with the genuine help from all of you, I want to list a few things here that we want to do in order to increase the height of BUFLA.

BUFLA Office Organizing:

The BUFLA office is a great milestone achieved by the previous cabinet. Now our aim is to organize the office with all the relevant and updated documents, marked and filed accordingly. That way the incoming cabinets do not have to scramble for the numerous permissions or licenses that we have to get every year for our Parade and festival. I have already started the process and inshallah within a month or so those support documents and copies of the various forms will be properly organized in the file-cabinet, minimizing the trouble and anxiety in the future.

BUFLA Bulletin:

In the past some people have aimed to tarnish the reputation of BUFLA by writing irrelevant and false items. In order to limit such happenings, we will begin our own news portal (the BUFLA Bulletin) where we will publish all happenings of BUFLA. This will allow us to reply to individuals with facts only, and thus will eliminate any false information or allegations against BUFLA. I believe that this will be a very strong tool to protect BUFLA. At the same time we will be able to lay down our mission and objective to the community regularly through BUFLA Bulletin.

Youth Committee:

We as a community have worked very hard to maintain our Bangladeshi heritage here in America. BUFLA is composed of leaders who strive to actively uphold this objective. I hope that in the future we will continue to have similar leaders. In order to do this, we need our children to take part in our activities.

Therefore, one key concern that I have in my term is to bring about active participation from our youth. We currently have a Youth committee in BUFLA, However it has never been managed properly, and I would like to begin making best use of this committee.

In order to attract the youth to help us with our vision, I would like every parent to bring their children to our events and explain to them why our culture is so important to us. Further, we would also like to hold recognition and award ceremony for the students who are graduating from high schools and colleges. This will show them that their Bangladeshi community is there to support them in their successes, and in turn we hope to get their support in BUFLA's successes as well in order to serve the community.

BUFLA-EC Membership

As you all know, BUFLA is a federation of many different Bangladeshi organizations. We are going to make every effort to encourage more organizations to join us and the BUFLA family. Together we will work shoulder to shoulder with these groups to make sure that both BUFLA and all affiliated organizations prosper.

Parade Participation



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Ladies and gentleman, BUFLA has been holding the Bangladesh Independence Day Parade for 9 years in the heart of "Little Bangladesh". Unfortunately, we have yet to attract the large Bangladeshi residents living in the area. This is very unfortunate for us and for the community members as well. This is the Bangladesh Independence Day Parade. All of us should forget any differences we may have, and join the parade to uplift our beloved motherland Bangladesh. This year the cabinet members and I are determined to go to the hundreds of homes of our fellow Bangladeshi's, and we will invite them in person. We are going to turn every stone to convince our community members to come and join us in the parade. This is a big challenge we are willing to take.

Sponsor Recognition

Ladies and gentleman, it is my understanding that we could have done a little better job in honoring our donors and patrons. This is a win win situation for us and the sponsors, as Belayet Bhai from Dhaka Homes was very candid on his speech on the inauguration ceremony. He said that he is a sponsor because he gets the opportunity to expand his business; the community members get the opportunity to buy their dream home in Bangladesh, and in between BUFLA gets an opportunity to raise funds which they really need for events such as the parade and festival. Above all, one name I must mention on the top of the list of sponsors is our Grand Sponsor for last two years Mr. Moazzem Hossain Chowdhury. He went to Bangladesh and participated in various TV shows and in every show he tried to uplift BUFLA. With his relentless effort, Channel I became our media partner in our last parade. He at his own expense managed Mr. Shaik Siraj to come to Los Angeles as our Parade Marshal along with a cameraman in our last parade. Channel-I aired our parade in Bangladesh and around the world a number of times. The relentless effort of Mr. Moazzem Chowdhury helped BUFLA to establish an identity in Bangladesh and worldwide. In the future, we must send the sponsors a thank you letter and should also invite these sponsors for a very formal thank you dinner after the parade.

Advisory Council (AC)

Another very important thing that we should discuss in one of our EC Meeting is about the Advisory Council we formed a while ago. It is my understanding that either we have not defined the objective of Advisory Council clearly, or we could not establish a reasonable communication with this council. However, we should discuss this matter vigorously in the next meeting so that our Advisory Council become bigger and more effective.

Board of Trustees (BOT)

We will work very hard to find additional potential personalities to make it a full 5 member BOT before the end of our term.

BUFLA-Charity

Last but not the least; I want to say a few words about the most important committee of all the BUFLA committees that is the BUFLA Charity Committee. **Ladies and Gentle, this is my firm conviction that BUFLA will flourish only when BUFLA Charity will flourish.** We now have our 501(c)(3) status and we must take the full advantage of this. We should expand the Charity Committee with



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genuinely interested members and we should go all out to achieve our goals for the BUFLA Charity Committee. We didn't have an office but now we have a rental office and very certainly now we can dream to have an office owned by us.

BUFLA has faced a number of crises during its journey. With the unconditional help and support from our BUFLA family and community at large, we thwarted every crisis and the federation is now stronger and united than ever before. I thank each and every one of you for your help in these victories. I will continue to ask for your support, and together let's start doing more to secure the status that BUFLA has earned over the years. Let's show our community that we are a family with a strong bond.

Ladies and gentleman, at the end, I would like to echo President John F. Kennedy and say **“Ask Not What BUFLA Can Do for You, Ask What You Can Do for BUFLA.”**