



Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA)

BUFLA Website: www.bufla.com
Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2011

Date: Sunday, January 23, 2011
Time: 2:00 PM-6:00 PM
Location: North Hollywood Community Police Station
11640 Burbank Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 91601.

● **Disclaimer:** Please note that the **Minutes of the Meeting** are intended for member's notification and acknowledgement. These Minutes of the Meeting will remain open for 7 (Seven) days for any feedbacks, comments or corrections that deem necessary. All feedbacks, comments and corrections will be accommodated into the Minutes of the Meeting and an Amended Minutes of the Meeting will be sent to the EC/GA members before the meeting. The Amended Minutes of the Meeting will be placed in the EC/GA meeting. No further feedbacks, comments or corrections will be entertained passed the deadline.

Please also remember that the purpose of the placement of previous Minutes of the Meeting in an EC/GA meeting is for approval / disapproval by the EC/GA members. The Minutes of the Meeting are not meant for discussion in the EC/GA meeting unless there is a major mistake noticed in the Minutes of the Meeting.

ATTENDEES: (Present in the EC Meeting. The names are exactly in the order it appeared on the Attendance Sheet)

Sl #	Name of the Attendees:	Position Title in BUFLA	Organization	Time in
1	Mr. Shafiul Alam Babu,	Organizing Secretary	Friends Club	2:30 PM
2	Mr. Deepak Mistry		Bengali Heritage	3:00 PM
3	Mr. Krishna Majumdar		Bengali Heritage	
4	Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda		BAVOA	3:20 PM
5	Mr. Khandakar Alam	Former President	DUAA	2:45 PM
6	Mr. AK Toha	Former BOT Chairman		2:40 PM
7	Mr. Shiper Chowdhury		Taranga of California	2:10 PM
8	Mr. Moazzem Chowdhury		Taranga of California	3:00 PM
9	Maj. (Retd.) Enamul Hamid		Taranga of California	2:00 PM
10	Mr. Ismail Hossain		Muldhara	2:30 PM
11	Mr. Maruf Islam		L. A. Bengals	2:45 PM
12	Dr. M. A. Hashem	Former President	Uttoron LA	2:45 PM
13	Mr. Shamsuddin Manik		Mukti Chetona	3:35 PM
14	Dr. Mahbub Khan,	AC Chairman	Advisory Council	2:00 PM
15	Mr. Zakir Khan		Individual	3:15 PM
16	Mr. Mohammed Hamid		Friends Club	2:30 PM
17	Mr. Ali Reza		S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	4:00 PM
18	Mr. Tarik Babu		NRBUSA Council	3:15 PM

19	Maj. (retd) Saif Kutubi		BDASEA	3:00 PM
20	Mrs. Denny Tayyib		BWOC	2:15 PM
21	Mr. Matab Ahmed		S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	3:50 PM
22	Mr. Ashraf H. Akbar		MUNA	2:35 PM
23	Mr. Anisur Rahman,	Treasurer	MUNA	2:30 PM
24	Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan	Public Relations Secretary	Boishakhi Mela	2:30 PM
25	Mr. Mushfiq Chowdhury	Vice-President	BNP	4:00 PM
26	Mr. Nazrul Alam,	Former Organizing Secretary	S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	3:45 PM
27	Mr. Badrul Chowdhury		S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	3:45 PM
28	Mr. Shahidul Islam		Uttoron	3:40 PM
29	Mr. Enamul Hoque Emran		Valley Association	5:00 PM
30	Dr. Shah Alam,	General Secretary	Jalshaghar Entertainment	2:45 PM
31	Mr. Ferdous Khan		Valley Association	
32	Mr. Nuruzzaman		S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	
33	Mr. Amzad Hossain		Uttoron LA	
34	Mr. Quazi M. Huda		DUAA	
35	Mr. Salik Sobhan			
36	Mr. Jashim Ahmed,	President	S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	
			Total Organizations = 20	

Opening of the General Assembly Meeting:

1. The General Secretary Dr. Shah Alam opened the meeting.
2. The Meeting started with **National Anthems** of United States and of Bangladesh, **BUFLA Theme Song** ensued (all 3 anthems pre-recorded).
3. Organizing Secretary Mr. Shafiu Alam Babu assisted the General Secretary in video-recording of the meeting. Mr. Anisur Rahman, Treasurer was assisting General Secretary with the operation of the sound system.
4. The General Secretary presented a clarification about the venue changes and urged all members to maintain restraint and civic manner while conducting a meeting in a community police station. Referring to one specific incident during the last EC meeting at Rampart Community Police Station, he mentioned that previous failure of maintaining manners and rules, the BUFLA and LAPD relations have been negatively impacted, which made the availability of a community police station harder, though not impossible. BUFLA Cabinet intends to save costs of renting meeting venues in favor of Parade spending and eager to maintain proper relationship with the LAPD and will continue such endeavors.
5. The General Secretary requested the President Mr. Jashim Ahmed to preside over the meeting.

AGENDA:

1. Agenda Item - 1 Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the Meeting has been emailed to the EC/GA members in advance. The EC members approved the Minutes of the EC meeting on November 28, 2010.

Statement of Condemnation: The President Mr. Jashim Ahmed made a statement of Condemnation of recent BSF indiscriminate and brutal killing of a young female Bangladeshi national and desecration of

her corpse at the Bangladesh-India international border. "BUFLA protests and condemns such heinous act of BSF which is a violation of international treaties and human rights."

2. Agenda Item - 2 Fundraising:

a. Collection of Fundraising Donation Pledges.

Mr. Maruf Islam of L. A. Bengals	paid \$500.00
Ms. Amy Ghosh	paid \$200.00
Dr. Shibly Nomani	paid \$100.00
Mrs. Anjuman Ara Sheuly	paid \$100.00
Several Children (Anika, Shahriar)	paid \$
Dr. Mahbub Khan	paid \$1,600.00 (\$500.00 in the Fundraising Dinner)
Dr. M. A. Hashem	paid \$1,000.00

Mr. Zakir Hossain of Awami League reiterated his support for BUFLA President and his leading of BUFLA.

Mr. M. A. Hamid (Friend Khokon) has made a commitment of \$500.00 and he mentioned that he will sit with his committee to see whether it is possible to donate \$1,000.00.

Mr. Shahidul Islam of Uttoron LA pledged to donate \$100.00.

Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi reassured that together with BAVOA, BDASEA will try to donate \$1,000.00.

Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, Public Relations Officer stated that the current status of the major donor Basundhara and reassured that he is continuing his effort to ensure the donation.

Mr. Mushfiq Chowdhury Khosru, Vice-President mentioned his continued effort of a \$5000.00 donation from a major sponsor, mainly from real estate businesses from Bangladesh.

Dr. Shah Alam, General Secretary stated that in addition to the pledge of \$300.00 made in the Fundraising Dinner and reassured that he will continue all sorts of support and Jalshaghar Entertainment's in-kind donations for BUFLA.

Mr. Moazzem Chowdhury of Taranga mentioned that membership fees for \$100.00 should be increased.

b. Fundraising.

Organizational Renewal Fees:

Every organization has been requested to collectively provide \$1,000.00.

Donation Forms have been made available. Membership Forms have been made available.

The following organizations paid their \$100.00 renewal fees and submitted the membership renewal forms;

1. Bengali Heritage of California
2. Dhaka University Alumni Association
3. Bangladesh Armed Forces Veteran Association (BAVOA)
4. Taranga (Nazrul Academy)
5. Friends Club of Valley
6. Bangladesh Women's Association of California (BWOC)
7. Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
8. Jalshaghar Entertainment
9. Southern California Jalalabad Association
10. Ideal School of Los Angeles
11. Uttoron Los Angeles Dr. M. A. Hashem has already paid check for an amount of \$1,000.00.
12. LA Bengals Mr. Maruf Islam has already paid check for an amount of \$500.00.
13. Bangladesh American Sheriff Employees Association (BDSEA) Pledged \$1,000.00 together with BAVOA.
14. Muldhara Pledged \$1,000.00
15. Dr. Mahbub Khan has already paid a check for the amount of \$500.00 and paid a check for the amount of \$1,100.00 in favor of Community Center to Mr. Shamsuddin Manik.

16. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)
17. Bikrampur Association
18. Bangladesh Association of Valley
19. Boishakhi Mela
20. Mukti Chetona

3. Agenda Item - 3 Action Committee Status Update:

- **Constitution Amendment Committee:** No discussion
- **Community Center Establishment Committee:** Casual report made by Mr. Shamsudding Manik.
- **BUFLA Office Establishment Committee:** No discussion
- **Fundraising Committee:** Discussion took place.
- **Fundraising Dinner Committee:** No discussion
- **Parade Design and Coordination Committee:** No discussion
- **Dignitaries Invitation and Hosting Committee:** No discussion
- **Venue and Parade Route Reservation Committee:** No discussion
- **Seminar Committee:** No discussion
- **Childrens Program Committee:** No discussion
- **Youth Sports Committee:** No discussion
- **Souvenir Committee:** No discussion
- **Cultural Committee:** No discussion
- **Stage set-up, Booth setup-&-Collection:** No discussion
- **Sound system:** No discussion
- **Stage Control:** No discussion
- **Publicity Committee (Media, Fliers etc.):** No discussion
- **Security, Parking & First-Aid:** No discussion

4. Agenda Item - 4 Closing Report by Mediation Team:

a. Mr. Khandakar Alam has been the Mediation Team spokesperson. Other 4 members were;

1. Maj. (Ret.) Enamul Hamid:
2. Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda:
3. Mrs. Denny Tayyib
4. Lt. (Ret.) Ziaul Islam

b. "Reformed Team" sent Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi as their selected spokesperson. Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi said he would have to leave early, so on behalf of the 'Reform Team' he asked for floor. He mentioned that everybody has pictured the 'Reform Team' as the rebels.

Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi discussed and presented 4 points as he believed he needed to do on his own motivation for the sake of integrity of BUFLA and the Bangladesh Day Parade 2011;

1. BUFLA "Reform Group" is consisting of 43 organizations out of which already 18 members are the EC members of BUFLA. Rest 25 organization of which all are included in BUFLA web site and also most of them have participated in any of the BUFLA Parade (2007- 2010) should be accepted as EC (executive) members of BUFLA as most of the organization mentioned before fulfilled the criteria of BUFLA members as per BUFLA Constitution and ready to pay the required amount of fee before the Parade 2011.

2. The total committee of the coming BUFLA parade 2011 should be distributed proportionately as there is no reason to be believed that some group is at the advantageous to lead the Parade.

3. The BUFLA Advisory Committee consists of 10 members should be selected immediately on the ensuing BUFLA EC meeting on February, 2011 and which will be proposed by 5 members from BUFLA Cabinet or rest of the EC and 5 members from BUFLA "Reform Group". The finally approved advisory council will select their chairman for leading the BUFLA Advisory council for next year or rest of the year as per BUFLA Constitution.

4. Last but not the least, no animosity, no personal conflict, no personal reason, and work together for BUFLA 2011 parade with great success and huge participation of all the Bangladeshi Community members and other Community members of Greater Los Angeles. Hope to see you all for my dialogue meeting and wish you all a prosperous new year for BUFLA as well as for Bangladesh Community.

Maj. (Ret.) Enamul Hamid commented that the relation between the members of the “Reform Group” is a “Marriage of convenience” and it is not going to last long. President Jashim Ahmed added that there is “Dowry” related to the relation.

Mr. Shiper Chowdhury: discussed and made following suggestions:

- Why the “Reform Group” needs one month time to become BUFLA members?
- Why Majib Siddiquee sent the letter to BOT instead of raising their concerns to the EC? He mentioned that he felt insulted as being a member of the EC because being disregarded.
- He can not call him a “Reform Leader” rather than an “Opportunist”.
- He pointed at other organizations failure of leading the community to right direction and ultimate dissolution. BUFLA is the only platform where we can have healthy discussion.

Mr. Moazzem Chowdhury of Taranga asked Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi whether he wants a “Die Hard” committee and a “Reform Group” run in parallel. He also mentioned that if such “Reform Committee” is to be formed that should be by the EC/Cabinet.

The President Mr. Jashim Ahmed mentioned that there is no reference to the word “Reform” anywhere in the Constitution.

Mr. A. K. Toha, former BOT Chairman wanted to make correction to the statement of Mr. Shiper Chowdhury that the BOT has not received any letter from the “Reform Group”.

Maj. (Ret.) Enamul Hamid opposed the statement made by Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi that the Mediation Team could not communicate with the Cabinet and the “Reform Group”. He mentioned that the Mediation Team did their mediation task accordingly and communicated with the Cabinet properly. It is the failure of Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi that he could not communicate with his “Reform Group”.

Mr. Deepak Mistry of Bengal Heritage mentioned the followings;

- There should not be any “Reform Group” because that brings grouping in BUFLA.
- There is no reference to the word “Reform” anywhere in the Constitution.
- “Reform Group” may indicate that the present Cabinet is not doing things right but in his opinion the Cabinet is running everything in BUFLA by law.

Dr. M. A. Hashem: discussed and made following suggestions;

- He urged the EC to continue supporting the election/selection process currently in place.
- He suggested that we should develop the culture of accepting victory and reconcile loss in the election.
- He mentioned that he was very proud to see that the victorious of the last election was congratulated by the others who could not get the mandate.
- It is unfortunate that afterwards it turned towards wrong direction, a “Dream Team” and “Real Team” which should not have existed, eventually turned worse, which gave birth to the “Reform Team”.
- BUFLA has been struggling since 2007 and when will that stop?
- He pointed out the fact that water flowing through the rivers the Meghna and the Padma run in parallel without mixing and he drew a parallel with the “Dream Team” and “Real Team” and these two rivers unmixable water flow, and he suggested such trend should stop.
- He pointed at other organizations failure of leading the community to right direction and ultimate dissolution. BUFLA is the only platform which has been able to bring unity and harmony in the community, no other entities.
- He made a prediction that what BUFLA will lead the community towards prosperity and will become the role model, not just in Los Angeles, but all over the North America.

- He mentioned two groups of people, one wants to break BUFLA and the other ones to keep it intact. He congratulated the later and urged them to break up themselves from the persons who want to divide. He urged all to remain united under the umbrella of BUFLA.
- He praised hard workmanship of Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi has been polluted by the so-called "Reform Team".

Mr. Khandakar Alam mentioned that;

- Mediation Team communicated with the Cabinet and the "Reform Group".
- He mentioned that the Mediation Team did their mediation task accordingly and communicated with the Cabinet properly.
- It is the failure of the "Reform Group" to accommodate the mediation deal.

Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi responded that he can not guarantee and can not take the responsibility of bringing 42 organizations to BUFLA. It is in his intention to give them a chance of getting accommodated into the parade to avoid taking blame later on.

Mr. Khandakar Alam continued in response;

- Whoever wants to be incorporated into the parade should not stop.
- A position is not a necessity in order to work.
- EC will decide from the listing of interested individuals that who should get the job.

Maj. (Ret.) Saif Kutubi responded referring to his bad experience in FOBANA Pasadena by Mr. Zahid Hossain Pintu that a position without responsibility and vice versa he can not accept.

Mr. Khandakar Alam continued in response that we are all on the same boat.

Mr. Quazi Moshoorul Huda made some interesting comments;

- We have a problem and to address it the "Reform Group" and Mediation Team surfaced.
- BUFLA President mentioned that there is no reference to the word "Reform" anywhere in the Constitution.
- So, the problem needs to be solved altogether by the EC.
- Basically the problem is due to five and a half people. A half person is the one who is on both sides.
- Let us all do one parade and one BUFLA. Let us have the job distributed fairly, not being member of a group, but as a member of the EC.

Mr. Salik Sobhan of Jalalabad Association stated that,

- Such problem is common and will always be there. We will need to work around.
- Some people do not really mean to do such nuisances but they do because they have to have something to do.
- He wished for a better day for BUFLA and appreciated the meeting.

Col. Huda also suggested the following;

- Either we swim together or sink separately, because BUFLA is the strength of unity which we enjoy.
- Community does not like what is going on in BUFLA.
- The "Reform Group" and Mediation Team brought 9 points and all have been met by the Cabinet and the EC, so BUFLA has been "reformed" already.
- We are a small community and BUFLA is the beautiful federation and he happily came back to the community because of BUFLA.
- BAVOA is formed because of BUFLA.
- Addressing the "Reform Group", he said that they do not have 42 organizations as they have claimed, because many of them are not organizations rather than individuals. Some of them will never come to BUFLA; so, bring the willing organizations to BUFLA. He guarantees them that such organizations will become BUFLA members.

Mr. Shiper Chowdhury urged the EC that any organizations (and members) can not personally attack another member and that should be harshly treated.

Mr. Shamsudding Manik made the following statements;

- BUFLA led the community towards prosperity.
- Some people wishfully think BUFLA is already destroyed but they are very wrong.
- We might have mistakes which caused the problem and let us find out how we altogether can solve it.

A motion was moved and passed by the EC that the deadline of accepting new membership applications and renewals applications of existing members will be extended from January 30, 2011 to February 15, 2011.

5. Agenda Item - 5 Miscellaneous:

Mr. Khandakar Alam moved the following motion seconded by Dr. M. A. Hashem:

Mandatory Participation in BUFLA Parade:

BUFLA was created with one idea - to have one day in a year when all of us will march together with our respective banners and present one single face to the larger LA Community - a face that says "We are a vibrant Community, with our own differences, interests and aspirations, but we are all together under one umbrella as Bangladeshi Americans."BUFLA has not only brought together many existing organizations, but many were born just to take part in the Parade - our BAVOA is one such organization. With that idea in mind, we propose that the PRIMARY objective of any organization that are in BUFLA, or join BUFLA, is to join in that one single event - BUFLA Parade. Let us make it mandatory for all EC members to participate in all BUFLA Parades (starting with 2011) with at least four members with their own organizational banner.

A short discussion about how the EC wants to enforce this requirement took place followed by a vote. Col. (Ret.) Omar Huda insisted that the motion was one of the four motions that were moved during the last EC Meeting and should be moved altogether. President ruled that the motions are separate and will move separately and in the order they were written.

The motion was passed by 14/2 votes with 1 EC members abstained.

Voting Details:

Mr. Shafiul Alam Babu,	Friends Club	Yes		
Mr. Krishna Majumdar	Bengali Heritage	Yes		
Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda	BAVOA		No	
Mr. Khandakar Alam	DUAA	Yes		
Mr. Shiper Chowdhury	Taranga of California	Yes		
Mr. Ismail Hossain	Muldhara		No	
Mr. Maruf Islam	L. A. Bengals	Yes		
Dr. M. A. Hashem	Uttoron LA	Yes		
Mr. Shamsuddin Manik	Mukti Chetona	Yes		
Mrs. Denny Tayyib	BWOC	Yes		
Mr. Matab Ahmed	S.C. Jalalabad Asscn.	Yes		
Mr. Ashraf H. Akbar	Ideal School of LA	Yes		
Mr. Anisur Rahman,	MUNA	Yes		
Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan	Boishakhi Mela	Yes		
Mr. Mushfiq Chowdhury	BNP			Abstain
Mr. Enamul Hoque Emran	Valley Association	Yes		
Dr. Shah Alam	Jalshaghar Entertainment	Yes		
Total Votes		14	2	1

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 6:30 PM.

Please send me your any feedbacks, comments or corrections within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this notification.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shah Alam

General Secretary

Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA)

www.bufla.com