



Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA)

BUFLA Website: www.bufla.com

Minutes of the EC Meeting

Sunday, October 31, 2010

Date: Sunday, October 31, 2010
Time: 2:00 PM-6:00 PM
Location: Bangla Barta Office, 135 S Vermont Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

Disclaimer: Please note that the **Minutes of the Meeting** are intended for member's notification and acknowledgement. These Minutes of the Meeting had been open for 7 (Seven) days for any feedbacks, comments or corrections that deem necessary. All feedbacks, comments and corrections have been accommodated into this Amended Minutes of the Meeting. This 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 and Signed the Attendance Sheet. The names are exactly in the order it appeared on the Attendance Sheet)

| SI # | Name of the Attendees: | Position Title in BUFLA | Organization | Time in |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Mr. AK Toha | Former BOT Chairman | | 2:25 PM |
| 2 | Dr. Mahbub Khan, | AC Chairman | Advisory Council | 2:00 PM |
| 3 | Mr. Mahtab Ahmed | | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | 3:00 PM |
| 4 | Maj. (Retd.) Enamul Hamid | | Taranga of California | 2:45 PM |
| 5 | Mr. Shiper Chowdhury | | Taranga of California | 2:45 PM |
| 6 | Mr. Mohammad Tarek | | Bangladesh Mela | 2:45 PM |
| 7 | Mr. Anisur Rahman, | Treasurer | MUNA | 2:10 PM |
| 8 | Mr. Ferdous Khan | | Bangladesh Association of Valley | 3:00 PM |
| 9 | Mr. Saleh M. Kibria | Former Treasurer | AABEA | 3:05 PM |
| 10 | Mr. Shafiqur Rahman | | Bangladesh Greater Valley Association | 3:00 PM |
| 11 | Mr. Ashraf H. Akbar | | MUNA | 3:00 PM |
| 12 | Abdul Mukit Azad | | Ideal School of LA | 3:00 PM |
| 13 | Mr. Khaleed Hossain, | Former Cultural Secretary | Jalshaghar Entertainment | 3:00 PM |
| 14 | Prof. Ali Akbar | | MUNA | 2:15 PM |
| 15 | Dr. M. A. Hashem | Former President | Uttoron LA | 2:15 PM |
| 16 | Illegible | | J. J. A | |

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|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 17 | Mr. Hossain | | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | 3:15 PM |
| 18 | Mr. Amzad Hossain | | Uttoron LA | 3:15 PM |
| 19 | Mr. Joy | | | 3:15 PM |
| 20 | Mr. Quazi Huda | | DUAA | 3:15 PM |
| 21 | Mr. Badrul Chowdhury | | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | 3:15 PM |
| 22 | Mr. Mohammed Hilton | | Friends Club | |
| 23 | Mr. Nazrul Alam, | Former Organizing Secretary | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | 3:45 PM |
| 24 | Dr. Shah Alam, | General Secretary | Jalshaghar Entertainment | 2:45 PM |
| 25 | Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan | Public Relations Secretary | Bikrampur Association | |
| 26 | Mr. Enamul Hoque Emran | | Valley Association | |
| 27 | Mr. Mushfiq Chowdhury | Vice-President | BNP | |
| 28 | Mrs. Denny Tayyib | | BWOC | |
| 29 | Lt. (Retd.) A F M Ziaul Islam | | BAVOA | |
| 30 | Mr. Shafiul Alam Babu, | Organizing Secretary | Friends Club | |
| 31 | Mr. Jashim Ahmed, | President | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | |
| 32 | Mr. Khandakar Alam | Former President | DUAA | |
| 33 | Mr. Abu Hanifa | | Rhythm | |
| 34 | Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda | | BAVOA | |
| 35 | Mr. Mohammad Hossain Babul | | Manikganj Association | |
| 36 | Mr. Jahan Hassan | | Ekush | |
| 37 | Mr. Shamsur Rahman Khan | | Guest | |
| 38 | Mr. Ali Reza | | S.C. Jalalabad Asscn. | |
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| | | | Total Organizations = 20 | |

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). Former Cultural Secretary Khaleed Hossain was in charge of the video-recording of the meeting upon request of the cabinet. Mr. Anisur Rahman, Treasurer was assisting General Secretary with the operation of the sound system.
3. 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. All feedbacks, comments and corrections have been accommodated into the **Amended Minutes of the Meeting** and emailed after the deadline. The EC members approved the Minutes of the EC meeting on October 3, 2010.

2. Unscheduled Miscellaneous Agenda :

The General Secretary mentioned about the development of disorderly situation in BUFLA after the incidence occurred in the EC meeting on October 3, 2010 and he did not read the agenda items. He appreciated the members for attending the meeting and he mentioned that there were some members of new organizations and previous members of BUFLA attending the meeting and he welcomed them.

President told the GA members that the meeting will not follow scheduled agenda items, instead the meeting will discuss the incidence occurred in the EC meeting on October 3, 2010 and the disorderly situation in BUFLA and its development.

President described the incidence during the last minute discussion in the **Miscellaneous Agenda: Humiliation and image distortion of BUFLA & its officials at different times;**

1. Members of BUFLA member organizations, under the banner of Little Bangladesh Community, Los Angeles, participated in the **NNO 2010 Anti-Crime & Anti Drug Rally** on August 3, 2010. Mr. Mojib Siddiqui claimed to have been coordinating Bangladeshi community with the NNO Rally event committee and he has claimed that he had been responsible for such coordination for 5 consecutive years.
2. On the August 3, 2010 event, Yonah Hong as the MC of the event introduced Mr. Mojib Siddiqui as the President of BUFLA and handed microphone to him for his speech delivery. Mr. Mojib Siddiqui did not correct Yonah Hong that he was not the President of BUFLA and delivered his speech before the Rally participants of several communities. Yonah Hong is an executive of **Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, KAFLA**, a counterpart of **Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles, BUFLA**. BUFLA President, Vice-President, Chairman of Advisory Council and past President were standing immediately behind Mr. Mojib Siddiqui during the misrepresentation.
3. In that event not being informed in advance about **NNO** protocol, several members and leaders of Bangladeshi community including some BUFLA officials walked up to the podium. The protocol was that none but the authorized individual can go there.
4. Mr. Mojib Siddiqui, in his email apologized on behalf of Bangladeshi community members for coming to the podium inappropriately. He mentioned that it was the first participation of Bangladeshi community, so they were unaware of the protocol but he should have taken the responsibility because he was coordinating between the **NNO 2010 Anti Crime & Anti Drug Rally** committee and Bangladesh community, besides he did not notify the community about any such protocol.
5. Mr. Mojib Siddiqui did not clarify about the misrepresentation of Mr. Mojib Siddiqui as the President of BUFLA in his email titled '**NNO 2010 on 8-3-10/Little Bangladesh**' dated Thursday, August 05, 2010 3:37 PM.

Mr. Mojib Siddiqui appeared distraught about the issue being brought up. Despite the available evidence and eye witnesses of those incidences, he remained firm in denial and instead he accused the Cabinet that the Cabinet purposely put on this issue to humiliate him. Major Kutubi announced that he would not come to next meetings. A tension sparked causing premature adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Tarik Babu appeared to be agitated again and he used foul language repeatedly. Mr. Mojib Siddiqui along with some EC members walked outside of meeting without maintaining formality. Mr. Shamsuddin Manik declared that he fired the President and now he is the President of BUFLA.

President continued his description of the development that the 'Walked Out' group led by Mojib Siddiqui have been involved in several activities, violating the constitution, which includes;

- **Declaration of another Federation with same name and objectives.**
- **Declaration of an EC Meeting on October 17, 2010.**
- **Declaration of a Parade on March 26, 2010.**
- **Continual misinformation along with some individuals suspended from BUFLA.**

The President also described that the Cabinet requested former President Mr. Khandakar Alam to talk with the 'Walked Out' group and also requested Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, Public Relations Officer to join in his reconciliation effort. The 'Walked Out' group led by Mr. Mojib Siddiqui did not seem to be interested in talking to the Cabinet.

Before any discussion took place on the development of disorderly situation in BUFLA, stated by President Jashim Ahmed, Col. (retd.) Omar Huda of BAVOA requested the President that he brought a letter from the 'Walked Out' group led by Mojib Siddiqui, addressed to the members of Board of Trustee. As permitted by the President, he read out the 5 pages letter before the GA members.

So, no discussion took place on the development of disorderly situation in BUFLA after the incidence occurred in the EC meeting on October 3, 2010. The GA meeting members started discussion the letter from the 'Walked Out' group. In that long letter, the following notable demands were made;

The constitution of BUFLA should be dissolved immediately and re-introduced with changes under the supervision of BOT incorporating following concepts:

- Cabinet should be dissolved immediately,
- Any organization can join BUFLA, no restrictions/scrutiny (?)
- No Cabinet plus etc. to by pass Executive Committee.

Several GA meeting members participated in that very long discussion, which took the meeting almost entirely. Most of the speakers seemed inclined on discussion on Second Amendment of Constitution and described below in the order as in the following.

Lt. (Ret.) Ziaul Islam: Discussed and made following suggestions:

- Urged the GA members to drop the Second Amendment of Constitution.

Mr. Ashraf Hossain Akbar: discussed and made following suggestions:

- Negotiation should be given a brief period because that will waste valuable time of the Cabinet.

Mr. Khandakar Alam: Described briefly about his effort of reconciliation with the walked out group. He made the following remarks and emphasized more on the followings.

- Both sides are responsible for the incidences.
- Cabinet was too late to start process of reconciliation.
- No reconciliation without holding the Second Amendment of Constitution.

Mr. Shafiqur Rahman: He had to leave early, so he asked for floor. He discussed and made following suggestions:

- Sit more with the walked out group.

Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda: He accused Dr. Mahbub Khan and Dr. M. A. Hashem that they were;

- Controlling BUFLA.
- Micro-managing BUFLA.
- Carrying out 'Election Engineering' function.
- Dr. Hashem, as the 'God Father' of BUFLA.

Col. Huda also suggested the following;

- Drop the Second Amendment of Constitution.
- BOT as the neutral party for reconciliation.

Mrs. Denny Tayyib: discussed and made following suggestions:

- The situation is serious and should not be underestimated.
- Stop the split of BUFLA.
- Cabinet is somewhat responsible for all of these incidences.
- Withhold the Second Amendment of Constitution.
- Start process of reconciliation before fund raising dinner.
- Some people contested and lost in BUFLA elections left but it's her, Lt. Zia, and Mohammad Tarek are still in BUFLA and supporting its cause.
- Miscellaneous agenda should not be more important than specific agenda items.
- Do no humiliate any body in the meetings.

Mr. Khandakar Alam: Again discussed and made following suggestions:

- BUFLA should take EC approval before involving in any other non-BUFLA activities, such as Little Bangladesh, Shahid Minar etc.
- Please do not be involved in Bangladeshi politics in the USA, which nonetheless is a matter of involving in foreign politics and that is constitutionally prohibited on the soil of USA.
- Please do not call anybody 'Razakar'. It is not only foreign in the USA, it is un-American as well.

Mr. A. K. Toha: discussed and made following suggestions. He read out articles and sections of BUFLA constitution regarding guidelines and responsibilities of the BOT.

- BOT can not do anything the constitution does not allow.
- BOT can not dissolve the Cabinet.
- BOT can only conduct election and can dissolve BUFLA in a certain situation, when it is a must.

Mr. Saleh Kibria: discussed and made following suggestions:

- A discussion on a negotiation is often pre-meditated. EC needs to keep that in their mind that the other side has been showing their uncompromising attitude.
- EC may select individuals for the reconciliation process.
- The Second Amendment of Constitution may be withheld.
- BUFLA may not surrender to all demands of the 'Walked Out' group because many of their demands are unconstitutional and derogatory in nature.

Mr. Shiper Chowdhury: discussed and made following suggestions:

- EC, not BOT should resolve the issues.
- 'Walked Out' group should have addressed the EC because EC are the main force of the BUFLA Federation.
- The 'Walked Out' group is branding EC members attending this GA meeting as the group siding with the Cabinet. If the EC members attending this GA meeting are not respected by the Walked Out group, they may not be respected as well.
- He spoke words of condemnation for the Walked Out group and their suggestion of BOTs involving in resolving this issue.
- The Second Amendment of Constitution may be withheld.
- Dr. Mahbub Khan and Dr. M. A. Hashem should not be accused of holding power and controlling BUFLA.
- There is no room for threatening BUFLA Cabinet and the loyal EC members, which is a punishable crime. Please let us do our part and if you do not want to take part you please stay away.
- There may be differences but that should not divide us.
- Let's respect the constitution.

Prof. Ali Akbar: discussed and made following suggestions:

- The letter sent by the 'Walked Out' group should not have been read out.
- No discussions took place on the President descriptions of the incidence during the last minute discussion in the October 3, 2010 EC meetings **Miscellaneous Agenda: Humiliation and image distortion of BUFLA & its officials at different times** and the development of incidences after that.
- BUFLA President has the right to discuss in the EC/GA meeting, members of BUFLA humiliates him and the Cabinet in public. Since the BUFLA President and his Cabinet were humiliated in public, there should be question asking the perpetrator to clarify and apologize, if necessary and it is very right.
- Islamic history tells us how a mediator cleverly put Khilafah of Khalifah Ali in controvercy and voided it, whereas justifying Muabia's Khilfah. This faulty negotiation initiated the tragic event in Islam later on.
- EC can bring no confidence on the Cabinet if there are good reasons to believe that the cabinet was not functioning. A two-thirds majority will be required to dissolve the Cabinet.
- Discussions should take place on the Presidents first agenda.
- The truth should prevail and the Second Amendment of Constitution should continue. The items such as minimum educational qualification may be discussed.

Dr. M. A. Hashem: discussed and made following suggestions. He also mentioned that silence means admission.

- No similarity between the suggestions made by Lt. Zia and Col. Huda.
- Lt. Zia suggested that holding the Second Amendment of Constitution will resolve the current situation but Col. Huda in his reading out of the letter from the 'Walked Out' group demanded, suspension of the constitution.
- EC is the most powerful body of BUFLA but this fact is being ignored. Why BOT is to negotiate instead of the EC?
- Col. Huda made YouTube statement with a number of misinformation about BUFLA and its cabinet that forced me to make statement on YouTube.
- Does the 'Walked Out' group and their spokesperson Col. Huda suggest that the Cabinet along with Dr. Mahbub Khan and Dr. M. A. Hashem are one side and the EC members (including 'Walked Out' group) on the other side?
- No discussion should be acceptable, if bypassing the EC.

Col. Huda accused the General Secretary for his meeting notice that there will be no discussions on the Second Amendment of Constitution in the GA meeting, which he inferred as a violation of constitution but no reference to any Article or to any Sections of Articles of Constitution was indicated.

General Secretary Dr. Shah Alam Clarified the claim of Col. Huda about this issue that he indeed mentioned in his meeting notice that there will be no discussions on the Second Amendment of Constitution in the GA meeting and it is because that was the decision of the Amendment Committee and he was not authorized to make any changes to that without further discussion with them. He also mentioned that since after the draft of Second Amendment of Constitution was finalized, some EC members voiced out their concerns, he asked the members of the Second Amendment of Constitution committee to further discuss the issue in question.

Dr. M. A. Hashem also gave an account for his involvement and contribution to BUFLA over the past 4 years since the inception of BUFLA. He mentioned that;

- He allowed BUFLA to use his office many times.
- He asked the GA members to show how much he has been benefited by being involved in BUFLA.
- He made an emotion plea to the GA members that all he did for BUFLA have not been recognized but some of the BUFLA members, such as Col. Huda very unfortunately called Dr. Hashem, as the 'God Father' of BUFLA.
- He asked the members to ask the Cabinet and Cabinet Plus members, if they ever have perceived him as the 'God Father' of BUFLA.
- He assured the members that he will do all he can to support the Cabinet performing their job and he would like to see BUFLA as a federation following all rules of law and discipline.
- He asked the members if he had been a dictator. He mentioned that he even handed over power to his successor before time.
- He told the members, if anybody can prove that he has done anything wrong in BUFLA, he will stay away from BUFLA for ever.

Lt. (Ret.) Ziaul Islam mentioned that Dr. Mahbub Khan and Dr. M. A. Hashem should not be accused of holding power and controlling BUFLA and they are true gentlemen. He made an emotional appeal to the GA members to drop the Second Amendment of Constitution.

Mr. Khandakar Alam made following acknowledgements:

- Previous BUFLA cabinet of Mr. Khandakar Alam recognized Dr. Hashem as the 'Outstanding Contributor' of BUFLA.
- Previous BUFLA cabinet of Mr. Khandakar Alam recognized Dr. Mahbub Khan greatly for his contribution to BUFLA.

Mr. Shiper Chowdhury: discussed and made following suggestions:

- He complimented Dr. Hashem for speaking out against wrong accusations and praised this courageous comment.
- He asked the accusers to come over and face Dr. Hashem with their accusations.

- He asked Dr. Mahbub Khan to avoid taking steps that may fuel misinformation of the accusers that he was controlling BUFLA.

In response to Col. Hudas comment on persuasion of the Second Amendment of Constitution Dr. M. A. Hashem discussed and made following suggestions:

- The Second Amendment of Constitution is not final.
- The Second Amendment of Constitution may be discussed in the GA meeting and may then be put on floor for voting.

Mr. Ferdous Khan: discussed and made following comments:

- There is no optimism he foresees in the process of reconciliation.
- He mentioned that most of the members of 'Walked Out' group he knows very well for the last 20 years and they can not be normally dealt with as we do with normal individuals.

Mr. Nazrul Alam: discussed and made following suggestions:

- Supported Mr. Ferdous Khans comments.
- Like Mr. Ferdous Khan, he also mentioned that he knows them very well for the last 20 years and they can not be normally dealt with as we do with normal individuals. He gave an example that how one of them fires the President and declared himself as the President in public. Some of them said the Cabinet is dissolved and BOT to take over. He mentioned these are all insane.
- He wished 'Good Luck' with the reconciliation effort.

Mr. Abu Hanifa: discussed and made following suggestions:

- BUFLA President should be given the authority to carry out reconciliation as the chief of the Cabinet and elected official of BUFLA.
- Cabinet should not be sensitive to odd comments made by the 'Walked Out' group members.
- Acknowledged Dr. Hashem for his involvement and contribution to the community and to BUFLA over the past years. He mentioned that he allowed using his office many times for cultural program rehearsals and for BUFLA meetings. He asked the GA members to think about how much he has been benefited by being involved in BUFLA and in the community activities.
- Uttoron, the cultural organization headed by Dr. Hashem has made a lot of contribution to BUFLA and to the community.
- Why MUNA and its members, including Mr. Anisur Rahman are now being branded as 'Razakar' after 4 years?
- How Mr. Anisur Rahman can be a 'Razakar' knowing that he was an infant at that time.
- In a meeting Bengali should prevail because all speaks and understands Bengali, much better than English.

Dr. Mahbub Khan: raised the following motions:

1. **Postpone the Second Amendment of Constitution until after the Bangladesh Day Parade 2011.**
This motion was passed with an overwhelming majority.

The following motions were not formally moved or seconded or discussed for voting.

2. **Dr. Mahbub Khan suggested that, the conflict is to be resolved in the EC meeting next Sunday**
3. **Dr. Mahbub Khan suggested that, all BUFLA EC members will discuss and decide on Dr. Mahbub Khan and Dr. M. A. Hashem about how they want to see them involved in BUFLA.**
4. **Dr. Mahbub Khan also suggested that, EC will decide about what would be the fate of Cabinet Plus entity.**

Col. (Retd.) Omar Huda: raised the following motion:

1. **BOT should step in to moderate one mediation meeting. EC will be the decision maker.**
This motion was unanimously rejected.

Mr. Badrul Alam: raised the following motion:

1. **EC will select a negotiation committee with some EC members, who will negotiate.**
This motion was passed with an overwhelming majority. A committee was proposed and formed with the following 5 EC members;

- I. Maj. Enamul Hamid
- II. Lt. Ziaul Islam
- III. Col. Omar Huda
- IV. Mr. Khandakar Alam
- V. Denny Tayyib

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 6:25 PM. Maghrib prayer ensued.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shah Alam

General Secretary

Bangladesh Unity Federation of Los Angeles (BUFLA)

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