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EMBASSY OF THE  
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## **Press Release**

March 26, 2014

### **43rd National Day and Independence Day celebrated**

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC hosted a reception to celebrate the 43rd National Day and Independence Day at the Bangabandhu Auditorium in its Chancery today (26 March 2014). Assistant Secretary of State Ms. Nisha Desai Biswal represented the US Government at the reception. Besides, a good number of high US Government officials & Congressional staffers, Ambassadors & members of diplomatic corps, representatives from think tanks, civil society, media and a large number of Bangladesh Diaspora members attended the reception. The guests were received by His Excellency Mr. Akramul Qader, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States, Madame Akramul Qader and other senior officers of the Embassy.

The reception started with the playing of the national anthems of Bangladesh and the United States. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Akramul Qader paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation *Bangabandhu* Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders and to all the individuals who sacrificed their lives & honour to achieve the independence. He also recalled with deep respect the contributions of the US nationals who stood for the cause of Bangladesh. Highlighting the various aspects of Bangladesh-US bilateral relations as well as multifaceted engagements between the two nations, Ambassador Qader mentioned that, the recent signing of Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (TICFA) has further broadened the scope for regular interactions between Bangladesh and USA. He also urged the US Government to allow Bangladesh with certain trade privileges which would further expand the already existing voluminous trade relations. He further reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to work with the US Government to advance the bilateral relations in depth and dimensions and also hoped that the two democracy loving and friendly peoples expect that relations would grow in multiple areas in future.

Ms. Nisha Desai Biswal, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asia Affairs, in her remarks congratulated the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of National and independence day. Quoting Senator Edward Kennedy, Ms. Biswal said that, the bilateral relations between

Bangladesh and USA is not only government to government relations, it is the relation between people to people, civil society to civil society and friend to friend.

Earlier, in the morning, His Excellency the Ambassador formally hoisted the national flag at the Embassy premises with all the officers and staff members of the Embassy. Messages from the His Highness Mr. Abdul Hamid, President of Bangladesh, H E Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Md. A H Mahmood Ali, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Mr. Shahriar Alam, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out on the occasion. Special recitations were made by Md. Aminul Islam and Mr. Nirupam Dev Nath respectively from the Holy Quran and the Bhagbat Geeta. A Munazat was offered to seeking eternal peace of the departed souls who had made supreme sacrifices to achieve the country's Independence in 1971 and for continued peace, prosperity and progress of the country and its people.

The reception was attended by almost 350 guests. The guest were served traditional Bangladeshi cuisine.

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দুদেশের সরকারের মধ্যেই সীমাবদ্ধ নয় বরং এ সম্পর্ক নিজ নিজ সরকারের গন্ডি ছাড়িয়ে দুদেশের জনগণ, সুশীলসমাজ এবং সর্বোপরি পারস্পরিক বন্ধুত্বের মাঝে বিস্তৃত।

এর আগে সকালে আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে জাতীয় পতাকা উত্তোলনের মাধ্যমে জাতীয় ও স্বাধীনতা দিবসের KgnPxi i iæ nq। রাষ্ট্রদূত জনাব আকরামুল কাদের দূতাবাসের কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দের উপস্থিতিতে `Zvevm প্রাঙ্গণে জাতীয় সঙ্গীত পরিবেশনের মাধ্যমে জাতীয় পতাকা উত্তোলন করেন। অতপর দূতাবাসের বঙ্গবন্ধু মিলনায়তনে gnvgb" ivóbcwZ মো: আব্দুল হামিদ, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা, পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রী ও পররাষ্ট্র প্রতিমন্ত্রীর বাণী পাঠ করে শুনানো হয়। মান্যবর রাষ্ট্রদূত উপলক্ষে সকলকে অভিনন্দন জানান। gnvb g||³ hদ্বৈ আত্মোৎসর্গকারী বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের আত্মার শান্তি এবং দেশ ও জাতির উন্নতি ও সমৃদ্ধি কামনা করে বিশেষ c#\_ঐv। মোনাজাত করা হয়। প্রার্থনাপূর্বে দূতাবাসের ব্যক্তিগত কর্মকর্তা জনাব আমিনুল ইসলাম পবিত্র কোরান থেকে তেলওয়াত করেন এবং দূতাবাসের প্রথম সচিব নিরম্পম দেবনাথ পবিত্র গীতা থেকে পাঠ করেন।

সংবর্ধনায় প্রায় সাড়ে তিন শতাধিক অতিথি অংশগ্রহণ করেন। অতিথিদেরকে এতিহ্যবাহী বাংলাদেশী খাবার পরিবেশন করা হয়।

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