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The US provides Bangladesh with hardware assistance, information sharing and military training to develop professionalism of the country's armed forces which is recognized all over the world, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin said.

Speaking at a reception marking the 45th Armed Forces Day, he said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who is also the Defense Minister is modernizing the armed forces and her efforts are effectively supported by the US government.

"Our government is keen to have this cooperation flourish," the Ambassador said.

Lt. Gen. Gina Gross, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the US Air Force, spoke at the reception as chief guest while Defense Attache' (Military, Navy and Air Force) Brig Gen Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, aowc, psc made welcome address.

Ambassadors, senior officials of the Pentagon, the State Department and other US agencies, defense attaches of the foreign missions in D.C., serving and retired Bangladesh military officers, politicians, media personalities and local elites attended the function in large number at the Bangabandhu auditorium of the Bangladesh Embassy.

On November 21 in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed forces comprising army, navy and air force came into existence and launched all-out attacks on the Pakistan Army, expediting Bangladesh's war of independence to a great victory.

Ambassador Ziauddin remembered the sacrifices and invaluable contributions of the Armed Forces during the war and the post-independence Bangladesh, saying Bangladesh Armed Forces is the pride of the nation. "Indeed, our men and women in uniform are an important part of our nation," he said.

The Ambassador mentioned the role of the armed forces during natural calamities, in critical issues of internal and external security, combatting terrorism and extremism, smuggling, human and drug trafficking and in supporting civil administration in times of crises.

Referencing to the UN peacekeeping missions, he said today, Bangladesh is one of the top troop contributing nations with over 7,000 blue helmets engaged in peacekeeping in 13 countries around the world. Till now, Bangladesh troops have served in 39 war-ravaged countries in 54 missions. Of them, 131 valiant peacekeepers laid down their lives for the cause of international peace and security.

"Bangladesh is now a BRAND name in the UN Peace Support Operation," he said amid applause.

The Ambassador said due to confluence of the work agenda and priorities, the cooperation between Bangladesh and the USA have got a significant momentum. Bangladesh thanks the US government for its technical assistance in setting up BIPSOT and turning it into a globally reputed institute for training the peacekeepers.

On Bangladesh-US military cooperation, he said recent collaboration include installation of automated identification system to enhance capacity of the maritime security of Bangladesh. Besides, the two countries hold annual Security Dialogue, and participated in the hallmark multinational Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange and the joint Navy Exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training. In December this year, the Military to Military Dialogue will take place in Hawaii.

Lt Gen Gina Grosso said bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and the USA is growing as the two countries have many shared interests. She said “successful partnerships rely on strong relationships, and that certainly can be said of our military to military relationship.”

She lauded Bangladesh’s airpower capabilities to provide humanitarian response to Nepal’s earthquake in 2015, and the leading role the country is playing in UN peacekeeping operations. “I want to assure you that the US Air Force is here for you,” Lt Gen Gina said.

Bangladesh Defense Attaché’ Brig Gen Shamsuzzaman said the history of the Bangladesh military began from the day one of the war of liberation. With the clarion call from the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, it started its journey on the night of 25th March 1971.

He said Bangladesh armed forces has earned its reputation as modern and professional military at home and abroad. “Alone we have not come this far. Our friends from across the world have supported us throughout, and in that, the unconditional support of the United States cannot be overemphasized,” he added.

Video clips highlighting the significance of the Armed Forces Day was screened and a celebration cake was cut at the reception. Traditional Bangladeshi cuisine was served for the guests at the dinner.







