PRESS RELEASE

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Bangladesh matters to Trump Administration: Ambassador Shannon

Dhaka keen to strengthen ties with Washington with support of new US govt: Ambassador Ziauudin

US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon Tuesday praised Bangladesh as a global example of tolerant, pluralistic and moderate nation and said Bangladesh matters to the President Trump administration.

“To Trump administration, Bangladesh matters, our friendship matters and our partnership matters,” he said speaking as guest of honor at the Independence Day reception at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C.

Ambassador Shannon who visited Dhaka in 2015 said he was impressed by idealism, optimism and resolution of the people of Bangladesh. During the visit, he said he gave a single message which is Bangladesh matters to the United States, it matters to South Asia and it matters to the globe.

“Bangladesh is our most important regional partner,” he told the reception attended by US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador William E. Todd, former US Ambassadors to Bangladesh, important officials from the Department of State, Justice, Commerce, Homeland and other departments of the US government.

Besides, envoys of foreign missions, politicians, intellectuals, academics, businessmen, high civil and military officials, senior journalists and leading members of the Bangladesh community attended the reception in large number at the Bangabandhu Auditorium in the evening.

Ambassador Shannon said although a relatively young nation Bangladesh has made tremendous progress, and what Bangladesh has accomplished in four-and-a-half decades other countries took century to accomplish.

Referring to Bangladesh's war of liberation in 1971, He said the people of Bangladesh fought and died for liberty which would inspire future generation to continue their struggle for liberty, democracy and tolerance.

Offering his condolence for the killing of six people in recent terrorist act in Sylhet city, Ambassador Shannon said the tragic event underscores the need for continued partnership in the fight against terrorism. He said Bangladesh and the United States will confront the challenges together with courage, resolve and strength.
Lauding Bangladesh’s achievements, he said when world looks for example of tolerant, pluralistic and moderate nation can accomplish by dramatic reduction of poverty, vast improvement in health sector and far more opportunity for women and education, they should look to Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh serves as a global example of tolerance and democracy. These fundamental principles inspired the people of Bangladesh to fight for their independence and provided foundation of just and stable society today.

Ambassador Shannon said the USA is proud of the partnership with Bangladesh. “We admire your achievement since independence,” he said and expressed US intention to work together with Bangladesh in the years ahead.

Earlier, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin said Dhaka is keen to further strengthen the existing relations with the support of the new US government.

“Today Bangladesh and the United States of America enjoy the best of relations. This enviable relationship have been built on the foundation of over four decades of friendship, common values, democracy, development cooperation and mutual respect,” he told the reception.

Quoting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s congratulatory letter to President Donald J. Trump immediately after his election, Ambassador Ziauddin said the Prime Minister wants to work closely with President Trump for “advancing our bilateral and multilateral interests” and contribute to create a safe and secured world.

He said the Prime Minister also invited President Trump and Mrs. Melania Trump to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time to see the phenomenal developments that took place in Bangladesh in the recent years.

The Ambassador said currently, Bangladesh and the USA work together on a host of areas of common interests that include partnership dialogue of senior officials, and security and defense cooperation.

“Our ongoing collaboration in combatting terrorism is very strong,” he said, adding the resolute stand against terrorism and violent extremism stems from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s personal experience of losing her parents and 18 members of her family in one of the most heinous terrorist attacks in human history.

“It is thus her personal experience and her strong belief in secularism and secular Bangladesh that has made her determined to exterminate this menace from the face of Bangladesh and to restore the country to its age old secular and inclusive social fabric.”

On bilateral trade and investment, the Ambassador said TICFA signed in November 2013 provides the platform to boost trade and resolve all other related issues.

He said Bangladesh also benefits from US’s generous support on health, food, security, equal opportunities for women, and development. ‘In these and other areas, our government looks forward to continue working fruitfully with the United States,” he said.

The reception capped off the 2-day programs to celebrate the 46th Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh.