Great Victory Day Celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C.

Washington D.C, December 16, 2017:

Amid patriotic zeal and enthusiasm the 47th glorious Victory Day was celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C. Saturday remembering with gratitude millions of freedom fighters who laid down their lives to liberate Bangladesh as an independent nation from the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

The two-day celebration reached a new height following the UNESCO’s recognition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s historic 7th March speech as part of world heritage. The iconic speech was included in the International Memory of the World Register.

The Victory Day celebration began with the hoisting of national flag and playing of national anthem on the embassy premises with a renewed pledge to build “Golden Bangla” imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation.
Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin hoisted national flag. Officers and employees of the embassy took part in the flag hoisting ceremony. The Ambassador placed floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation.

The Victory Day messages of Hon’ble President, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Hon’ble Foreign Minister and Hon’ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out by officers of the embassy and special prayers offered seeking divine blessings for the martyred freedom fighters and for building a happy Bangladesh.

A rally paraded through the street in front of the embassy celebrating the UNESCO’s recognition of the Bangabandhu’s historic speech that inspired and led the Bengali nation to the war of liberation to the final victory on December 16, 1971.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Ziauddin said after losing the political battle against Bangabandhu’s Awami league in 1971, the Pakistani regime in anger launched brutal genocide against the unarmed Bengalis to silence the Bengali nation from seeking a liberal, democratic and secular society.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman captured this sense of desperation in his emotionally charged iconic speech on March 7, 1971 and inspired the nation to liberate the country.

After the war, the Ambassador said the Bengali people under the leadership of Bangabandhu built the war-ravaged nation. And in a span of a few decades, the world is today all praise of Bangladesh as a role model of socio-economic development. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina envisions Bangladesh as a middle income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

During the war, the Ambassador recalled the American people took the side of the brutalized Bengalis. He remembered the contributions of Senator Edward Kennedy, former US diplomat and Consul General in Dhaka Archer K Blood, famous musician George Harrison and gifted poet Allen Ginsberg.

“Our efforts are greatly supported by our development partners. Of them, USA is a prominent in development and in foreign relations,” the Ambassador said.

On Friday evening, a spectacular cultural show was organized at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the chancery. Embassy family members and artistes of the Bangladeshi diaspora presented patriotic songs and dances highlighting the significance of the victory day.

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Simon Henshaw, foreign diplomats, senior officials of different departments of the US government and leading figures of the Bangladesh community largely attended the function.

Shamim Ahmad
Minister (Press)