

Phone: (202) 244-5071
Fax : (202) 244-2771/7830
E-mail: press.bew@gmail.com
Website : www.bdembassyusa.org



EMBASSY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
3510 International Drive, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

PRESS RELEASE

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96th Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation & National Children's Day Celebrated

Amid patriotic zeal, enthusiasm and merrymaking the 96th anniversary of birth of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day was celebrated at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC.

On this day back in 1920 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest son of the Bengali nation, was born at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

To celebrate the historic day, the embassy chalked out elaborate programmes including drawing, essay writing on "Bangabandhu: Today's Bangladesh", 'dress as you like' competition for children and screening of a documentary on life and work of the great leader.

Special prayers were also offered seeking divine blessings for the late lamented leader and peace and progress of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mohammad Ziauddin gave welcome address while messages of the Hon'ble President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out at the function.

Ambassador Ziauddin in his brief statement said the 17th March is a glorious and important day in our nation's history as Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign nation because of Bangabandhu's relentless struggle, uncompromising leadership and sublime sacrifice.

In 1996 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared the 17th March as National Children's Day marking Bangabandhu's unflinching love and affection for children and to build up our new generation imbued with the ideals of the Father of the Nation.

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The Ambassador said in 1974 Bangabandhu formulated National Children Act to recognize the rights of the children and free them from all kinds of ignorance, exploitation and repression. Later on, the National Children Policy was announced in 2011.

To mark the occasion, a 25-minute documentary film depicting life and work of the Father of Nation since his early life, 1952 Language Movement and War of Liberation to the reconstruction of the post-independence Bangladesh was screened at the Bangabandhu Auditorium largely attended by Bangladeshi Diaspora and a good number of children.

Mrs. Yasmeen Ziauddin, the wife of the Ambassador, distributed prizes and certificates among winners of drawing and essay competition titled Beautiful Bangladesh and The Honourable Ambassador cut a cake in celebration of the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation. A cake was cut to mark the occasion and guests were entertained with a dinner.





