

Phone: (202) 244-0183
Fax : (202) 244-2771/7830
E-mail: bdoot_pwash@yahoo.com
Website : www.bdembassyusa.org



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

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Press Release

Bangladesh urges U.S. to grant DFQF market access to LDCs

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin met with Congressman Dave Reichert in Washington D.C. Wednesday and discussed issues of mutual interest with special focus on the Duty-Free Quota Free (DFQF) market access to U.S. for all the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Mr. Dave Reichert is a Republican Congressman from Washington State and also the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Sub-Committee on Trade.

Ambassador Ziauddin apprised him of the sense of discrimination that prevails among fourteen LDCs for not getting DFQF market access to the USA. Currently 34 LDCs out of 48 are benefitting from U.S. DFQF scheme under AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act).

The Ambassador further informed the Congressman that all the 48 LDCs get DFQF facility from the European Union. Therefore, he said it is a matter of justice and fairness that the U.S. – which is champion of human rights and rule of law - should provide equal treatment to all.

The Bangladesh envoy also highlighted development activities in Bangladesh in various sectors including Education, Women Empowerment and Counter-Terrorism. He informed the Congressman of the brutal past of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her 'zero tolerance' policy against all forms of extremism and terrorism. He also mentioned the ongoing cooperation in counterterrorism between Bangladesh and its neighbours and the USA through intelligence sharing and other capacity building measures.

The Ambassador informed that more than four million garment workers in Bangladesh are women who are contributing to transforming society by alleviating poverty and containing the menace of extremism. Moreover, the Bangladesh government is modernizing its madrasa education system so the students can get rid of extremist ideas and can better adapt with society.

The Ambassador observed if the USA provides DFQF trade facilities to Bangladesh, then Bangladesh will be able to export more to the USA, which would ensure more empowerment of women, more development in education sector and containment of extremism in Bangladesh by using its own resources.

During an hour-long meeting Congressman Reichert agreed there should be fair trade among the countries. He suggested that a Congressional delegation can visit the LDCs including Bangladesh to explore further trade possibilities. The Ambassador thanked him for his interest.

Mr. Toufique Hasan, Minister (Political) of the Embassy and Mr. Joshua Snead, Trade Counsel of the Subcommittee of Trade were present during the meeting.



Bangladesh Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin and U.S. Congressman Dave Reichert met on March 15, 2017