Press Release

National Mourning Day observed in Washington DC with fresh pledge to finish unfinished task of Father of the Nation

Washington DC, 15 August 2017:

The National Mourning Day and 42nd anniversary of martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed at Bangladesh embassy in Washington D.C. Tuesday with due solemnity and renewed vow to finish the unfinished task of the great leader.

The National Mourning Day program began with ceremonial hoisting of national flag at half-mast by Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin. The Ambassador placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu. A special prayer was offered for salvation of the departed souls of the Father of the Nation and members of his family who embraced martyrdom on the fateful night of August 15, 1975. One-minute silence was observed in memory of the martyrs of the August 15 tragedy.

In the evening, the program started reading out verses from holy books and messages from Hon’ble President, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Hon’ble Foreign Minister and Hon’ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A discussion on the life and achievements of Bangabandhu was held in the evening at the Bangabandhu auditorium. Prime Minister’s Advisor (Political Affairs) H.T. Imam, Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin, Prof Zia Khan and Eng. Mizanur Rahman Majumder spoke at the discussion.
Anis Ahmed of VOA recited poems on Bangabandhu. A documentary on life and work of Bangabandhu was screened.

Foreign diplomats, officials of the US State Department, political leaders, members of the civil society, members of the Bangladesh community, mission officials and their family members largely turned up at the function.

H.T. Imam characterized Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as a great statesman, a great politician and a great patriot. He recalled how Bangabandhu reconstructed war-ravaged Bangladesh, its economy, infrastructure, administration, judiciary, armed forces as well as realized international recognition of the new born nation.

H.T. Imam called for completing the unfinished task of Bangabandhu under the dynamic leadership of her daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and materializing her vision to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021.

Paying glowing tributes to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin termed Bangabandhu the greatest ever Bengali and the architect of independent Bangladesh who liberated the Bengali nation by breaking the shackles subjugation of thousands of years. He said when the Father of the Nation was rebuilding the war-torn Bangladesh a group of disgruntled and renegade army officers committed the heinous crime in which Bangabandhu along with his family members was brutally assassinated.

The Ambassador hoped the killers of Bangabandhu who are hiding abroad would be brought back to Bangladesh to face justice.

(Shamim Ahmad)
Minister (Press)