PRESS RELEASE

16 December 2016

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

The 45th anniversary of the glorious Victory Day was celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C. Friday amid patriotic zeal and enthusiasm remembering with gratitude millions of freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices to liberate Bangladesh from the occupation forces of Pakistan in 1971.

The three-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 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 and prosperous Bangladesh.

In the afternoon, a brief discussion was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the chancery and a three-day film festival “Liberation War of Bangladesh in Celluloid” was inaugurated by the Ambassador. Dr. David Nalin, an American citizen who was conferred with “Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award” for his contribution in 1971 spoke as special guest.

Paying rich tributes to the liberation war martyrs, Ambassador Ziauddin said the genocide on the Bengalis was unleashed on the harrowing night of the 25th March 1971. The ruthless brutality of the genocide stunned the conscience of the whole world, he said, adding the Bengali nation liberated the country fighting a nine-month long war at the call of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Ambassador said in the USA, American people took the side of the brutalized Bengalis. Among them, leading for our cause and justice, were human rights champions like indomitable Senator Edward Kennedy, US consul general in Dhaka Archer K. Blood, famous musicians George Harrision, poet Allen Ginberg and many others.

The Ambassador said many other Americans and prominent personalities from all over the world were honored by the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for their heroic role in support of the Bangladesh’s liberation war in 1971.

The Ambassador said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is making relentless endeavor to materialize the dream of the father of the nation and build a Golden Bengal by eradicating poverty and hunger.

Dr. David Nalin who was posted at the ICDDR,B from 1967 to 1970 recalled how he and others of the Boston Group lobbied for the Bangladesh Liberation War and set up an information center in D.C. in 1971. They coordinated lobbying of the US congress and the senate to stop arms supply to Pakistan. They also raised US$ 50,000 to help Bangladeshi people who took shelter in India.

Later, “Matir Moina” (The Clay Bird) was screened. Foreign diplomats, US state department officials, political leaders, academics, artistes, journalists and leading members of the Bangladesh diaspora attended the program.

On December 17 films “Rabeya: The Sister” and “Joyjatra” and on December 18 “Amar Bandhu Rashed: My Friend Rashed” and “Guerilla” will be screened at the Bangabandhu auditorium.
Celebrating our Glorious Victory Day