

**Bangladesh Embassy
Washington DC**

Press Release

26 March 2021

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Independence and National Day

US President Biden and Secretary of State Bilken issue congratulatory messages

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC has celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh with due respect and enthusiasm. At the beginning of the day's program, Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States M. Shahidul Islam, along with the Guest of Honour, State Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, Ervin Massinga, officially hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh. Later, the Ambassador and the Guest of Honour placed a floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. After playing of the national anthems of Bangladesh and the United States, a video message by the Prime Minister Shaikh Hasina was screened. Afterward, the Ambassador and the Guest of Honour delivered their speeches.

Ambassador Shahidul Islam paid deep homage to the architect of independent Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and to the valiant freedom fighters who gave their lives for the cause of Independence. He expressed deep appreciation for the sustained humanitarian assistance and political support of the United States to the persecuted Rohingya population of Myanmar. He urged the United States to lead the international community to find a durable solution to the long-standing Rohingya crisis before it becomes a security threat for the entire Indo-Pacific region.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ervin Massinga extended greeting to the government and people of Bangladesh. He said that the USA sees Bangladesh as an important economic and security partner in the Indo Pacific. He added, "Bangladesh has established itself as a leading voice on how climate change solutions must protect the most vulnerable. This leadership will contribute to a successful COP26."

In the second part of the program, the messages from President Md Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, and State Minister for

Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam were read out. The day's program ended with a pleasant cultural program participated by the members of the Embassy family.

On this auspicious occasion, the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has issued a Press Statement congratulating the people of Bangladesh. "As we work together toward a safe and secure region and a healthy and prosperous future, we recognize the remarkable contributions Bangladesh has made to global development," Blinken said in the statement.

Earlier, the US President Joe Biden sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Biden said that Bangladesh's hosting of one million Rohingyas is an example to the world of humanity and generosity. He also said that the United States would continue to be a steadfast partner in finding a durable solution to the crisis.
