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Upcoming elections hold great potential for Bangladesh: Congressman Joseph Crowley

“The upcoming elections in Bangladesh hold great potential for Bangladesh, and it is time to return power to the people. Bangladesh could perhaps take some idea from "Obama playbook" to strengthen democratic process in Bangladesh.” This was stated by Co-Chair of Congressional Caucus on Bangladesh Congressman Joseph Crowley in his remarks at the hearing on “Religious Freedom, Extremism, Security and the Upcoming National Election” in Bangladesh, which was organized by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on 4 December, 2008 in Washington DC. Terming Bangladesh, a country which has a very special place in his heart, Congressman Crowley hoped that the coming elections would be free, fair, transparent and credible one.

Congressman Crowley, who returned to the US Congress with an impressive victory for the fifth time from New York in the November election, also announced that he would personally take initiative in the Congress for significant reduction of Bangladesh's debt to USA, grant of duty and quota free access of products from Bangladesh to the USA and offer support for fighting the impact of climate change.
change when the next democratically elected government assumes office in Bangladesh.

Appearing at the same hearing, US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F. Moriarty termed the forthcoming general election as "transformational" and stated that Bangladesh was "on the brink of a historic democratic transition which could make Bangladesh a model of governance for other moderate Muslim nations". Ambassador Moriarty also informed the Commission that the leaders of both the leading political parties in Bangladesh, namely Bangladesh Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) assured him of their total commitment to curb terrorism should they form government after the election. On a query on status of human rights condition in Bangladesh, Ambassador Moriarty informed the Commission that there was a positive trend toward improvement of human rights record in Bangladesh. In this context, he cited the example of declining trend in so-called 'extra-judicial killings' over the past year, among others.

Mr. Peter Manikas, Director of National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Ms. Kimber Shearer of International Republican Institute (IRI) also expressed their optimism about an excellent election in Bangladesh where voter turnout could be very high.

A number of speakers in the hearing underscored the need for maintenance of law and order situation after the polls particularly in areas with higher concentration of minorities.

Professor Ali Riaz of Illinois State University, Dr. Shapan Adnan, National University of Singapore, Mr. Asif Saleh, Executive Director, Drishtipat and Dr. Sachi G. Dastidar of New York State University also spoke on the occasion.

Professor Ali Riaz in his remarks called for more regional cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. He also urged US government to open its market for products from Bangladesh and to significantly invest in the education sector of Bangladesh. Mr. Shapan Adnan raised concerns at the lack of progress with the implementation of 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement and requested attention of the US government for enhanced economic capacity of the Hill people in the CHT. Mr. Asif Saleh of Drishtipat raised the issue of so-called perceived culture of impunity, which, according to him, negatively affects the process of development in Bangladesh. He suggested bringing back accountability in the governance in Bangladesh. Dr. Dastidar raised concerns about the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh and suggested a protocol for protecting the interests of minority communities after the election.

Ms. Felice D. Gaer, Chair of USCIRF presided over the hearing in presence of Commissioners Mr. Michael Cromartie (Vice Chair), Dr. Richard D. Land, Mr. James Standish and Mr. Leonard A. Leo.

On the whole, the Commission took a positive view on the progress in Bangladesh toward restoration of democracy and expressed the hope that the positive momentum would result in more religious freedom and improved protection of the rights of all people, particularly that of the minorities.

**Most voters in Bangladesh satisfied with election preparation: Survey**

As the nation goes to a much-awaited parliamentary election on 29 December 2008 a vast majority of voters said they are satisfied with the poll preparation, leading English newspaper The Daily Star reported on 24 December, 2008 quoting an opinion poll.

The opinion poll, carried out by The Daily Star and AC Nielsen, revealed that some 88 percent respondents covered in the survey are satisfied with the role of the Election Commission in preparing for the elections. Meanwhile, a thumping 95 percent of respondents are confident that they can cast their votes without coercion this time, and 98 percent said election environment and procedures have improved than before.

The majority of the respondents said honesty, capability and education of the candidates will determine their voting decisions, the survey showed. The Daily Star-Nielsen Election Opinion Poll was conducted on 5,040 voters in 90 constituencies of 44 out of total 64 districts. The respondents included equal numbers of males and females living in six divisions across the country.

More than 1,500 candidates are contesting for 300 seats of the ninth parliament. The numbers of voters are over 80.1 million, of which 50.9 percent are females.

**Bangladesh lifts emergency rule**

The Government of Bangladesh has lifted emergency rule on 17 December 2008 ahead of
general elections due to be held on 29 December 2008. State of Emergency was declared on 11 January 2007 to restore law and order situation following weeks of political turmoil.

It may, however be mentioned that even though political gatherings were banned under the state of emergency candidates for the upcoming general elections were allowed to campaign for elections from December 12, 2008.

National Human Rights Commission begins journey to ensure justice

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) formally began its journey on 1 December 2008. Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Chairman and Commissioners Munira Khan and Prof Niru Kumar Chakma assumed their offices on that day at the Office of the Commission at Hare Road in Dhaka.

"The authorities should work without fear or favour to ensure justice for all," NHRC Chairman Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury said and sought all-out cooperation from all quarters in checking violations of human rights. The people cannot live a meaningful life if they fail to enjoy their rights as a human being”, he said as the chief guest at a discussion titled 'Justice and Rights toward Prosperity'. The Law Ministry, in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), organized the discussion meeting in Dhaka to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Anybody subject to human rights violations anywhere in the country can report to the Commission. Prof Chakma, member of the Commission said that they are hopeful that the Commission would be able to upgrade the human rights status in the country. Speaking as the chair at the discussion, Hon’ble Law Adviser Mr. AF Hassan Ariff said the state policy recognizes the full human dignity of each and every citizen of the country. Bangladesh is also a party to most international human rights declarations, he said, adding, "we are confident that the commission will accomplish our mission of establishing human rights and justice for all." "Today is a historic day for Bangladesh, as the commissioners start their office," said UNDP Resident Representative Renata Lok Dessallien. "There are a lot of disturbances of human rights in Bangladesh and so, the task of the commission will be extremely challenging." "We live in a democratic country where the government, NGOs and individuals pledge to protect human rights," said NHRC Commissioner Munira Khan. National Human Rights Commission Ordinance-2007 came into effect on 1 September 2008 to establish the Commission, which will investigate reports or complaints about human rights abuses and maintain the standards of prisons or correction facilities. It will also mediate between disputing parties, if necessary.

38th Victory day celebrated at the Embassy

The glorious Victory Day was celebrated at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC with due respect and solemnity. In the morning of 16 December 2008 the national flag of Bangladesh was hoisted by His Excellency M. Humayun Kabir, Ambassador of Bangladesh in the presence of the officials of the Embassy. Messages from Hon’ble President, Hon’ble Chief Adviser and Hon’ble Foreign Adviser on this auspicious occasion were read out. The day’s program concluded with a special prayer seeking salvation of the departed souls of the valiant freedom fighters who had sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the country in 1971.

To celebrate the Victory day in a grand way, Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC chalked out an elaborate program on 20 December 2008 at the Embassy premises. It comprised a discussion program on the significance of the day followed by a cultural presentation by local Bangladeshi artists.

In his address of welcome, Bangladesh Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir said that Bangladesh greatly valued the support of the United States in her transition to democracy and expected more US support once the democratically elected government takes office next month. Ambassador Kabir underscored the importance of forthcoming elections in Bangladesh from several perspectives. He said that the elections were taking place in a transformed
political landscape and a series of reform measures undertaken to strengthen the democratic infrastructure and practices. He further asserted that the high aspiration of people to exercise their democratic rights with a view to ensuring good governance and continued struggle of Bangladesh to overcome the challenges of poverty, illiteracy and threat of extremism constituted a powerful backdrop for the electoral process.

Touching on the bilateral elations between Bangladesh and the United States Ambassador Kabir also said that beyond reinforcing the Bangladesh-US bilateral relations, Bangladesh was ready to work with the new US administration on fighting global poverty, meeting challenges of globalization and rebuilding the broken societies through peace keeping and peace building under the aegis of the United Nations. In his speech, Ambassador Kabir paid rich tribute to the valiant freedom fighters and millions of martyrs, who had shed their lives for making Bangladesh a free nation. He also expressed his gratitude to the friends and allies of Bangladesh who stood by the people of Bangladesh and made sacrifices during the liberation war in 1971.

Among others, Mr. Musharraf Hussain, President of Bangladesh Association of America Inc., Dr. Sultan Ahmed and Dr. Mozharul Hoque, two eminent Bangladeshi-American nationals, Mr. Praful Patel, former Vice President of World Bank, Mr. Peter Blood, son of the last US Consul General in Dhaka, Mr. Howard Schaffer former US Ambassador to Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Musharraf Hussain demanded the trial of war criminals of 1971. Dr. Sultan Ahmed and Dr. Mozharul Hoque recalled the contribution of Bangladeshi community in the US during the liberation war. Mr. Patel while highlighting the huge potential of Bangladesh commented that Bangladesh’s economy is perhaps one of the best-managed economies in South Asia. Ambassador Schaffer, referring to the turbulent days of 1971, elaborated on how the people of the United States and the officials of the State Department supported Bangladesh in 1971. He expressed his optimism that upcoming elections would usher Bangladesh into a more robust democratic phase and expressed his happiness at being a part of that process, as an election observer. Mr. Peter Blood mentioned that the values that drove Bangladesh to independence were the shared universal values of human rights and dignity. Mr. Peter Blood, son of Mr. Archer Blood, who was the Consul General of the United States in Dhaka in 1971, vividly recalled memories of his days in Dhaka, and read out segments of his father’s telegram that had courageously depicted true picture of atrocities inflicted on the innocent people by the Pakistani occupied forces. Mr. Peter Blood’s emotional and succinct presentation touched the hearts of many guests in the audience. A cultural Program presented by local Bangladeshi artists followed the discussion program.

From the diplomatic community Mr. Hussein Haqqani, Pakistani Ambassador to USA, Mr. Muhammad Hussain Munkan, Ambassador of the Maldives to USA, Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, CDA of Nepalese Embassy, former US Ambassador to Bangladesh Willard De Pree, Mrs. Du Pree former US Ambassador Mrs. Teresita Schaffer, among others, were present. Among the dignitaries from Bangladesh descent Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan, World Bank Alternate Executive Director, Professor Nurul Islam, former Vice Chair of Bangladesh Planning Commission and a large number of leaders and members of Bangladesh community in greater Washington DC area were also present on the occasion.

**Senator John McCain hopes for 'fairest' polls in Bangladesh**

At the end of his Dhaka visit on 2-3 December 2008, US Senator John McCain said that a democratic and prosperous Bangladesh is important for this region and the world to fight poverty and terrorism in a coordinated way. Referring to the incredible registering of 80 million people as voters, Senator McCain said that the forthcoming election in Bangladesh had the possibility of being one of the fairest ones, perhaps in the entire world.

Senator McCain thanked the caretaker government and appreciated the army for their contribution in 'strengthening' the foundation of democracy and urged all political parties to accept poll results and to work together for the country. He, however, said the work is not yet done, and it is now time for an elected successor to continue the reform process initiated by the caretaker government and to build democracy and enhance prosperity for the people of Bangladesh. Political parties in Bangladesh should
follow the examples in the US and accept the poll results for ensuring close cooperation between the ruling and opposition parties for the sake of the country, he added. The Republican Senator, who ran against Mr. Barack Obama in the November 4 presidential race, said his party is now in the opposition but 'we work and we will work very closely with president as the United States faces grievous economic crises. He also hoped that after the elections in Bangladesh that would also be the case with the opposition party that loses.

On the issue of climate change, the Senator said that he understands the issue and how vital it is for the future of Bangladesh. He agreed that Climate change is actually taking place and that the United States has to act and has to play leadership role. He admitted, the issue complicated somewhat by US economic difficulties, but was still guardedly optimistic that US will pass legislation addressing climate change and endeavor to join international agreements to address a global problem globally. Senator McCain has an adopted daughter of Bangladeshi origin and said he would be going to Bangladesh again in future. He reached Dhaka from New Delhi on 2 December 2008 and left next morning. Senator Joseph Lieberman and Senator Lindsey Graham accompanied him during the visit.

Capital punishment for two terrorists

On December 23, 2008 the Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge in Sylhet Shamim Md Afzal sentenced banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami commander Mufti Abdul Hannan and his two deputies, Sharif Shahedul Alam and Delwar Hossain to death, and two others, Mohibullah and Mufti Mayeen Uddin to life imprisonment for the 2004 grenade attack on Anwar Choudhury, who was then British High Commissioner in Dhaka.

The judge also fined Hannan, Sharif and Delwar Tk 10,000 each. The tribunal fined Mohibullah and Moyeen Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer five more years in jail.

Anwar Choudhury, a Bangladesh-born British diplomat, came under grenade attack in front of the main entrance to the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal in Sylhet on May 21, 2004. Three were killed and 70 were injured. The verdict was announced in the presence of the convicts.

BUSINESS

Board of Investment draws up special project to attract foreign investment

The Board of Investment (BoI) has recently drawn up an industrial map identifying special areas across the country for special industries mainly to attract foreign investments in those zones. The main objective of the mapping is to encourage foreign and local entrepreneurs to establish sector-wise industrial units in those places by averting unplanned industrialization. Outlining such map will be the first step to make available utilities and other infrastructure facilities on a readymade basis. According to BOI, as the country has shortage of land, such mapping would help grow industrialization in specific areas and reduce waste of land from unplanned industrialization. The mapping will also reduce the risks of environmental pollution caused by such a process. The mapping plan will make it mandatory for industrial units to set up effluent treatment plant (ETP) for their...
hazardous products. The BoI has recently submitted the draft mapping to the Chief Adviser's Office (CAO) for vetting. A meeting on the issue was held recently at the CAO where it was proposed to create a separate cell at the CAO to implement the mapping project.

According to the draft mapping, greater Dhaka and Chittagong were identified as separate zones for separate industries along with some especial sectors that include textile, knitwear, ICT, leather, light engineering, shipbuilding, glass, ceramic and agro-processing. Dhaka has been divided into Dhaka North (Tongi, Gazipur, Tangail) for textile, readymade garments and ICT industries, Dhaka South (Narayanganj, Munshiganj) for knitwear, shipbuilding and light engineering industries, Dhaka West (Manikganj) for cement, tobacco and ceramic industries, and Dhaka East (Narsingdi, Ghorashal, Madhabdi) for fertilizer, and oil-, gas- and agro-based industries. According to the mapping, Khulna has been outlined for shrimp and ICT industries, Rajshahi for silk and clothing industry, Sylhet for especial economic zones for non-resident Bangladeshis, Barisal and Mymensingh for agro-based industry, Rangpur and Dinajpur for coal-based power and iron industries. However Gazipur, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Feni and Comilla have been identified as the most potential industrial areas for the coming years.

Bangladesh to export 12 Ships to Europe by 2011

Western Marine Shipyard Ltd. (WMSL), a local shipbuilding company in Bangladesh, will export 12 ships, weighing 5,200 tonnes each, by 2011 to Germany, Holland and Denmark, BSS reported. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Adviser for Commerce and Education inaugurated building of the 12 ice class ocean-going multipurpose vessels at the WMSL yard at Shikalbaha on the south bank of the river Karnaphuli in the district on 23 December 2008.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman was quoted as saying that the export of such a big number of ships as a milestone for the country's shipbuilding sector and said it would definitely help Bangladesh find a secure place in global ship manufacturing market. "The sector has enormous potentials and it would contribute to making Bangladesh a middle-income country soon", he hoped.

"The sector has huge potential of contributing to the economy after garment sector and shipbuilding companies should not compromise with the quality in keeping the reputation in global export market," he said after the "keel-laying ceremony that symbolizes with hitting the hammer on iron-plate on the proposed structure of a ship to start the work. Also present in the ceremony were German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank Meyke, Danish Ambassador Bea M Ten Tusscher and Shipping Secretary ATM Mokter Hossain, Managing Director of AB Bank Ltd Kyser A Chowdhury and Managing Director of WMSL Sakhawat Hossain. Speakers stressed on the need for separate rules and regulations for the shipbuilding sector. Meanwhile Danish Ambassador Bea M Ten Tusscher said Bangladesh is not only a ship breaking country but also has emerged as a strong ship manufacturing and exporting nation through concerted efforts. She urged the concerned authorities to increase the facilities for flourishing the sector and to work with dedication to uphold the image of Bangladesh in the international arena.

WMSL has already built 54 various types of vessels. Of them, 49 were supplied in the local market and the remaining 5 for international market. Trade body leaders from Dhaka and Chittagong, and entrepreneurs and bankers also attended the colourful inaugural function.

Germany eyes larger share of business in Bangladesh

![Fact Box]
Germany targets Bangladesh as a lucrative investment destination considering its steady economic growth for the past several years despite other hindrances. As part of the move, a German trade delegation will visit Bangladesh in April 2009 to explore trade and investment possibilities in areas, such as light engineering, renewable energy, ICT and jute and other agro products. “Bangladesh with a population of more than 150 million is a big market. The economy is growing steadily,” Rolf Dieter Reinhard, Deputy Head of Mission and Counselor of Economic Affairs and Press at the German Embassy in Dhaka said this on 25 November 2008.

Bangladesh's economy witnessed a 6 percent growth for the last three fiscal years. The economy is poised to grow between 6.2 percent and 6.5 percent this year. He said an increase in purchasing capacity and a huge and dedicated workforce would help Bangladesh attract Germany's investment. He identified political stability and improved infrastructure as important prerequisites to investment. German investment in Bangladesh has so far been only 50 million euros, mainly in the textile sector. But the trade between the two countries is growing and the figure reached about 1.5 billion euros in the fiscal year 2007-08.

Being the biggest economy in Europe, Germany is seriously considering a big investment in Bangladesh to reduce the bilateral trade gap. It wants to cash in on the cheap workforce and rising economic activities in Bangladesh. Terming Bangladeshi workforce as one of its biggest assets, German Ambassador Frank Meyke hoped that this interest of investment would turn into a reality.

IKEA to treble purchases from Bangladesh

IKEA, a Sweden-based international home products retailer, plans to raise its purchases from Bangladesh, mainly home textiles, to 300 million euros from 100 million euros a year by 2013.

"Bangladesh is a big focus area for IKEA. Currently, the main business is textiles and many popular IKEA articles are produced here,” said Peter Wisbeck, the company's South Asian Regional Manager, at the opening ceremony of its office in Gulshan, Dhaka. IKEA started purchasing home textiles from Bangladesh in 1997 and it opened a small workstation in Dhaka in 2000. Mr. Peter Wisbeck said, "We have opened the new liaison office in Dhaka as we think Bangladesh is one of the potential sourcing centers for IKEA.” “The aim is to grow the Bangladesh business three times in the coming few years. Besides textiles, IKEA also buys carpets and ceramics,” he added.

The IKEA officials in Dhaka said there are 253 stores of the company in 24 countries, which were visited by 565 million people last year. Its turnover in 2007 was 21.2 billion euros. The top three markets, in terms of sales, of the IKEA products are Germany (15 percent), USA (10 percent) and France (10 percent). The IKEA Group employs about 127,800 workers in 39 countries, Mr. Wisbeck said. Ambassador of Sweden in Bangladesh Britt F Hagstrom inaugurated the new office.

Bangladesh could benefit from waterproof rice to tackle crop loss and adverse effect of climate change

"Waterproof" versions of popular varieties of rice, which can withstand 2 weeks of complete submergence, have successfully passed tests in farmers' fields in India and Bangladesh, and can tackle the problem of major crop losses due to flooding.

The flood-tolerant versions of the "mega-varieties" of rice, which are high-yielding varieties popular with both farmers and consumers that are grown over huge areas across Asia, are effectively identical to their susceptible counterparts, but recover after severe flooding to yield well. Several of these varieties are now close to official release by national and state seed certification agencies in India and Bangladesh, where farmers suffer major crop losses because of flooding of up to 4 million tons of rice per year.
The new varieties were made possible following the identification of a single gene that is responsible for most of the submergence tolerance. Thirteen years ago, Dr David Mackill, senior rice breeder at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), then at the University of California (UC) at Davis, and Kenong Xu, his graduate student, pinpointed the gene in a low-yielding traditional Indian rice variety known to withstand flooding. Typically, rice plants will extend the length of their leaves and stem in an attempt to escape submergence. The activation of this new evolutionary gene under submergence counteracts the escape strategy. "The potential for impact is huge. In Bangladesh, for example, 20 per cent of the rice land is flood prone and the country typically suffers several major floods each year," said Dr Mackill. "Submergence-tolerant varieties could make major inroads into Bangladesh's annual rice shortfall and substantially reduce its import needs," he added.

**Sustainable Renewable Biofuels for Bangladesh**

We live in an interesting time, when everyday are constantly reminded that the energy sector is in a continuous state of flux. US President-elect Obama has touted during the recent election campaigns to start building infrastructures for sustainable renewable energy. The two key operative words are "sustainable" and "renewable." The main sources of renewable energies are: solar (photo voltaic), geothermal, biomass, wind, hydropower, and ocean waves. Solar energy is attractive for power generation in small scale, and Bangladesh through the investment of NGOs (e.g. GRAMEEN Shakti) and private companies (e.g. Rahimafrooz) has embarked on a plan to provide electricity to millions of homes in the next five years. However, solar energy cannot be a solution to all energy needs such as transportation fuel needs. The wind energy is most useful in areas where average wind speed throughout the year is high (above 5-6 m/sec wind velocity). It has been reported that the average wind velocity in mainland Bangladesh is not very attractive for generating wind power. However, coastal areas of Bangladesh can easily accommodate significant number of wind turbines to generate electricity.

Karnafuli hydroelectric project in Bangladesh can produce up to 230 MW of electricity. The scope of any further power generation using hydroelectric means is not very promising as most of the rivers in Bangladesh are in the plains of the Ganges Delta. Biomass is mostly plant derived material. The common sources of biomass in Bangladesh are wood and wood products, forest wastes, agricultural wastes such as rice and wheat straws, jute sticks, bamboo and bamboo wastes, municipal solid wastes, sugar cane bagasse, cotton wastes from garment factories, etc. In Bangladesh, most of the biomass is burnt and is used as cooking fuel in the villages. However, recently GRAMEEN Shakti and some other organizations have started biogas projects in Bangladesh including some small-scale demonstration power plants in places such as Kapasia. Biomass can also be converted into liquid fuel such as alcohols, and green gasoline. These fuels can reduce the green house gas emission, and relieve the country of dependence on imported foreign oil.

Bio-diesel can be used extensively in the transportation sector in Bangladesh. Castor oil and oil from Jatropha plants (not used for human consumption) can be used for producing biodiesel. The biomass of the Jatropha plant waste or the castor oil biomass can be converted to green gasoline or biogas. Transportation sector (road, rail, river and air) consumes approximately 50% of the petroleum products imported in Bangladesh. If 10% of the diesel and gasoline can be replaced with biodiesel and ethanol, significant amount of hard earned foreign currency can be saved. The most cost effective raw materials for Bangladesh may be municipal solid waste and sugar cane bagasse, which can be collected easily from sugar plants. One important factor to be considered in the production bio-ethanol is that one of the byproducts from ethanol plant is DDG (distillers dry grain), which can be used for animal feed. There are sustainability issues with biomass to fuel processes. It has been argued by many that as long as one uses lands that are marginal for crop production, and as long as the biomass does not require significant water and fertilizer, the biofuel production is a viable alternative. In the Bangladesh context, it makes sense to utilize small scale operations. Currently, there are processes available, which can be mounted
on large truck beds, and produce either biodiesel or “bio-oil.” This will be useful in the rural environment where the biofuel trucks can be moved from one union council to another to convert the collected biomass to fuel for local use.

It is now obvious that the developed countries will invest significant amount of resources to develop sustainable renewable energy. The election of Mr. Obama to the presidency of the United States almost guarantees that fundamental “changes” will take place in the US energy policy, favoring research and development and construction of renewable energy platforms and infrastructures. Therefore, developing countries should start formulating policies to tap into the developed technologies at an early stage, in particular they should leverage their position with respect to green house gas and global warming through Kyoto Protocol initiatives, to obtain favorable dealings for appropriate technology transfers from the developed countries.

[This is an abridged version of an article is written by Dr. M. Nazmul Karim, Professor and Department Chair, Chemical Engineering, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. The full version is available at http://www.depts.ttu.edu/che/research/bio_eng/Bangladesh_Embassy_Sustainable_Renewable_Biofuels_for_Bangladesh.pdf]
PHOTO GALLERY

Audience at a hearing on Bangladesh by the US commission on Int’l Religious Freedom

Victory Day Celebration at the Bangladesh Embassy

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