

**LAUNCH OF U.S.-BANGLADESH BUSINESS COUNCIL**



Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC, in tandem with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, organized the launching of the U.S.- Bangladesh Business Council, which will focus on advocacy and engagement to strengthen the bilateral commercial partnership between the two countries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally announced the launching of the council and delivered her keynote remarks in a virtual event on 06 April 2021. She stressed on the adequate policy support to further expand the bilateral trade between the U.S. and Bangladesh. She also expressed hope that the U.S.- Bangladesh Business Council will help expand the economic partnership between the two countries. ICT advisor to Prime Minister Mr. Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, in his remarks, highlighted how Bangladesh became an ICT hub following the vision of 'Digital Bangladesh.' The inauguration of the Business Council is a milestone event in Bangladesh-U.S. economic ties and a significant achievement on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh and the birth centenary of the Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

**BANGLADESH AND THE U.S. TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**



U.S. Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry visited Bangladesh on 09 April 2021 to extend the invitation of the U.S. President Joseph R. Biden to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to participate in the 'Leaders Summit on Climate' on 22-23 April 2021. During the visit, John Kerry met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, and other ministers and senior officials. The meetings mainly focused on how Bangladesh and other climate-vulnerable countries could work more closely with the U.S. to advance climate resilience and adaptation and raise ambition for mitigation efforts in the run-up to COP26 in Glasgow. The Foreign Minister sought the U.S. support for increasing global climate ambition and commitment to accelerate the Paris Agreement's implementation. Mr. Kerry was highly appreciative of Bangladesh's adaptation and mitigation efforts. He also praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her leadership in the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF).

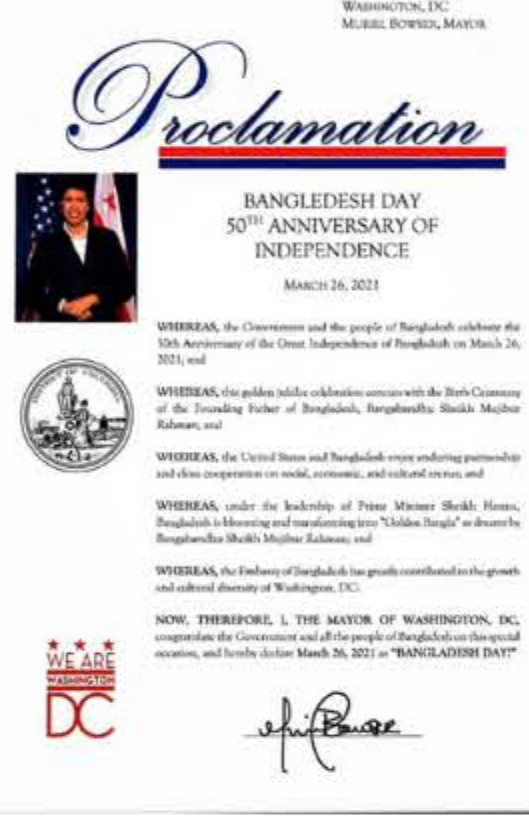
**BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAY**



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh on 26 March 2021 with due fervor and enthusiasm. Bangladesh Ambassador to the U.S. M. Shahidul Islam along with the Guest of Honor, State Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ervin Massinga placed a floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A video message by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was screened on the occasion. Ambassador Shahidul Islam, in his speech, expressed deep appreciation for the sustained humanitarian assistance and political support of the United States to the Rohingya issue. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ervin Massinga, extended greetings to the government and people of Bangladesh on its 50th anniversary. The day's program ended with a cultural soiree at the Embassy auditorium.

**WASHINGTON DC MAYOR DECLARES MARCH 26 AS 'BANGLADESH DAY'**

Mayor of Washington, DC, Muriel Bowser declared 26 March 2021 as "Bangladesh Day." She congratulated the Government and people of Bangladesh on the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence which concurs with the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A proclamation signed by Mayor Muriel Bowser said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is blooming and transforming into "Golden Bangla" as dream by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



**U.S. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ISSUES CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT ON GOLDEN JUBILEE**



U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, issued a congratulatory statement marking the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. He extended best wishes to the people of Bangladesh. Senator Menendez said that the members of Congress have a proud history of support for Bangladesh's freedom. "Senator Ted Kennedy's 1971 visit drew international attention to the repression the people of Bangladesh faced, and Kennedy became a champion for the importance of Bangladesh's independence," the Chairman said in the statement. "I look forward to strengthening the U.S.-Bangladesh relationship on the basis of those values to address major issues including, climate change, human rights, and humanitarian challenges," Menendez added. Senator Menendez expressed gratefulness for the contributions made by Bangladeshi Americans to the United States.

**BD FINANCE SIGNS MOU WITH U.S. BASED SOVEREIGN INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP**

Bangladesh Finance and Investment Group, BD Finance signed an MoU with U.S.-based Sovereign Infrastructure Group (SIG), a global financing company that works with project sponsors and multilateral development banks, and national and local governments. Among others, Bangladesh Ambassador to the U.S. M. Shahidul Islam and Chairman of BD Finance Manwar Hossain witnessed the signing of the MoU in the Embassy auditorium. The MoU is expected to mobilize up to US\$2 bn for infrastructural projects in Bangladesh in the next two years. In his remarks, BD Finance Chairman Manwar Hossain said, "this is the largest foreign investment effort by a financial institution in Bangladesh. This is our way of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence." Ambassador Shahidul Islam expressed hope that by setting a purposeful collaboration framework, the MoU would benefit Bangladeshi clients as well as both SIG and BD Finance.



**CONGRESSMAN TED DEUTCH TO WORK FOR STRONGER U.S.-BANGLADESH TIES**



U.S. Congressman Ted Deutch, an influential member of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed his interest to bolster Bangladesh-U.S. cooperation on a wide-ranging area including climate change, counterterrorism, and Rohingya issues. He said this when Bangladesh Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam met him at the latter's office in Florida on 04 April 2021. Congressman Deutch also agreed to help revitalize the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Bangladesh, a platform of Bangladesh's friends in the U.S. Congress. Ambassador Islam also attended a reception organized by the Bangladesh community in Florida. The City Mayors and County officials in Florida welcomed the opening of a new Bangladesh Consulate General in Miami. The Broward County Commissioner presented the 'Key to the Broward County' to the Ambassador.

**US CONGRESSMAN EVANS AND CONGRESSWOMAN SCANLON JOIN CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BANGLADESH'S INDEPENDENCE**

Congressman Dwight Evans and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon of Pennsylvania congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of Bangladesh on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. At a Reception in Philadelphia to welcome Bangladesh Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, Congressman Evans recalled his visit to Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar in 2019 and appreciated Bangladesh for hosting over one million Rohingyas who fled genocide in Myanmar. Terming herself as a "friend of Bangladesh", Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon expressed her interest in strengthening Bangladesh-U.S. cooperation on wide-ranging issues. Ambassador Shahidul Islam appreciated the Bangladeshi American community in Philadelphia for their leadership role in the mainstream American society. He stressed the importance of making friends in the U.S. society and requested Congressman Evans and Congresswoman Scanlon to help revitalize the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus to carry forward Bangladesh-U.S. relations.



**BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC OBSERVES GENOCIDE DAY**



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC observed the 'Genocide Day' on 25 March 2021 with due solemnity and respect. The day was observed by commemorating the massacre of unarmed people in Bangladesh by the invading forces of Pakistan on the night of 25 March 1971. In his speech, Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam called upon all to work hard to overcome the adversities and bring the benefits of independence to every citizen. A documentary titled "Genocide in 1971 and the Killing Fields" was screened at the event. A special prayer was offered seeking the divine blessing and peace of the souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and all martyred members of his family and the martyrs who sacrificed their lives on the night of 1971 and in the nine months of the liberation war.

**A GROUP OF 10 ENVOYS VISITS BHASAN CHAR**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a day-long visit on 03 April 2021 to Bhasan Char for High Commissioners/Ambassadors based in Dhaka. The group comprised Heads of Missions of Turkey, the U.S., UK, France, Germany, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the Netherlands. The diplomats visited various infrastructural facilities in Bhasan Char including embankments, buildings, shelters, and observed several capacity-building projects such as sewing, handicrafts making. The envoys freely interacted with the Rohingyas. During the interactions, the Rohingyas thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the exemplary humanitarian support extended to them which they fled genocide in Myanmar. At the same time, they expressed their willingness to return to their homes in Myanmar. The trip was preceded by a UN team's visit from 17-20 March 2021. Earlier on 28 February 2021, a team led by the Assistant Secretary-General of the OIC also visited Bhasan Char.

