



Press release

Canberra, 26 March 2021

Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence and National Day commences in Canberra

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence and National Day began at the famous City Walk of Canberra City at 7.30 am by hoisting the national flags of Bangladesh and Australia. Formal reception program was organised by the High Commission at the Federal Parliament over luncheon.

02. In the presence of dignitaries and Bangladesh community two Bangladesh's flags were hoisted by Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia Mohammad Sufiur Rahman and Attorney General and Leader of the ACT Greens Shane Rattenbury. Two Australian flags were hoisted by Chief of Protocol, Ian McConvielle and President Bangladesh Australia Association Canberra Aminur Rashid. National Anthems of both the countries were played by royal military band. Indian High Commissioner H.E. Mr Anumula Gitesh SARMA, Attorney General and Leader of the ACT Greens H.E. Mr. Shane Rattenbury, and First Assistant Secretary of DFAT, H.E Mr. Gary Cowan made congratulatory remarks. Two of the valiant freedom fighters present in the program were shown respect.

03. The formal reception program at the noon started with playing the national anthems of Bangladesh and Australia. Video message from Bangladesh Prime Minister was played to set the context of the celebration. Bangladesh High Commissioner recounter stewardship Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in crafting an independent nation. Mentioning about increasing trade and economic interaction between Bangladesh and Australia, the High Commissioner expressed his conviction that the bilateral relations with Australia will further deepen in years to come. First Assistant Secretary Mr. Gary Cowan underscored the potential of Bangladesh and hoped for strong economic ties between two countries. As flood devastated many areas of Australia and compelled many of the parliament members to stay in their own legislative constituency, the Vice Chair of Bangladesh Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group Joanne Ryan sent a video message.

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04. Chief of Protocol, H.E. Mr. Ian McConvielle read out the message given by the Australian Governor General David Hurley. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and leader of the opposition Anthony Albanese also provided special messages.

05. Representatives from the members of Bangladesh Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group, political leaders, more than twenty Heads of Missions including India and Russia and Government officials from the Australian Federal Departments and local elites were also present. The reception had around 120 guests were present there due to the restriction for pandemic. Video clips were also streamed on the history, cultural heritage and development of Bangladesh during the luncheon.

06. Bangladesh High Commission will organise a cultural program on Saturday 27 March 2021 at Awaken Church Auditorium to celebrate the momentous occasions with the Bangladesh community in Canberra to Mark the Golden Jubilee of Independence, and the birth centenary of our Father of the Nation. Recitation, song and dance performances will be performed by the local groups with the theme Bangabandhu and Bangladesh.

07. On 28<sup>th</sup> March a miniature of the National Parliament of Bangladesh will be inaugurated at Cokington Green Garden, one of the best tourist attractions in Canberra. Hon'ble State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP will formally inaugurate it virtually.



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