

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Bangladesh High Commission Canberra, 27 March 2009**

#### **Press Release**

This Mission has celebrated the 39<sup>th</sup> Independence and National Day of Bangladesh in a befitting manner. The National Flag was hoisted by H.E. the High Commissioner at the Chancery on 26 March 2009 in the morning. All members of the Mission and some members of Bangladesh community in Canberra were present at the Flag hoisting ceremony. This was followed by a discussion meeting on the significance of the day, organized at the conference hall in the Chancery. Messages from the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out at the beginning of the discussion meeting. Members of Bangladesh community in Canberra and officials of the Mission participated in the discussion meeting. The speakers paid their highest tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and highlighted his legendary leadership in the Historic War of Liberation. They also paid great respect to the four national leaders, three million martyrs, two hundred thousand women freedom fighters, and all the freedom fighters who fought for achieving the independence of our beloved motherland. They expressed hope that the democratically elected present Government with a huge mandate from the people under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will fulfill the dream of the Father of the Nation of establishing 'Shonar Bangla'. The speakers hoped that the trial of war criminals would be held in a speedy manner.

H.E. Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury, High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Australia, and Mrs. Jasmin Masud hosted a reception at the High Court of Australia in the evening. As per the standard practice, the Chief of Protocol from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) was present as the Guest of Honour. More than three hundred invited guests attended the Reception from 1830 to 2030 hours. The dignitaries attending the reception included among others the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Australia, Robert Shenton French, the Chief of the Defence Forces, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC, Chief of Army, Lieutenant General K.J. Gillespie, AO DSC CSM, high officials from the DFAT, Australian Federal Government, ACT Government, Foreign Diplomats, former Australian High Commissioners to Bangladesh, Academics, Media Persons, and members of Bangladesh community.

A two-page special supplement was published in a leading local daily newspaper *The Canberra Times* on 26 March 2009 on the occasion of the 39<sup>th</sup> Independence and National Day of Bangladesh.

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