



# 4th of July



## 237<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

### Raising her torch for freedom

THE Statue of Liberty is the most recognizable symbol of democracy in the world. The 93-meter-high colossus stands at the entrance to New York Harbor, where every Fourth of July she is illuminated by a massive fireworks display celebrating America's birthday.

A gift from the people of France in 1886, the statue is composed of thinly pounded copper sheets over a steel framework. She was created in Paris by sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and engineer Gustave Eiffel, then disassembled, shipped to New York and reassembled. In her right hand is a torch, representing enlightenment, and in her left is a tablet bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence: July 4, 1776.

In 1984, the Statue of Liberty was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of 936 sites worldwide considered to be of "outstanding universal value." UNESCO describes her as "a masterpiece of the human spirit."



### Ambassador's Message

THIS Fourth of July marks the 237th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. On this day throughout the United States, you will find men, women and children of all generations, races, creeds, beliefs and cultures celebrating our independence as a free nation. The beautiful traditions of picnics, parades and fireworks celebrate the deeply held and cherished beliefs that reflect the motto on the seal of the United States: "E pluribus unum" or "Out of many, one." While originally conceived to represent the unification of 13 colonies seeking independence from Britain, the phrase now reflects America's multi-ethnic and multi-cultural reality.

Since 1776, Americans have worked to create a more perfect union. Our democracy is a work in progress. Through civil war, the civil rights movement, and continuing up to the present day, the people of the United States endeavor to see our ideals manifested. On Independence Day, we reflect on the chal-

lenges of freedom, the ongoing work of democracy and how we can better become one, out of many.

Today, on our Independence Day, we think of all nations that have struggled for freedom and have undertaken to build democracy. Bangladesh, like America, is working hard to build and strengthen its democratic institutions. America is committed to help Bangladesh to build a peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy and democratic nation.

We hope that Bangladeshis here and around the world will mark this July 4 as a time to celebrate our friendship, our shared ideals and our abiding commitment to democracy.



Dan Mozena Ambassador of the United States of America to Bangladesh

### Revolution

THE American Revolution - its war for independence from Britain - began as a small skirmish between British troops and armed colonists on April 19, 1775.

The British had set out from Boston, Massachusetts, to seize weapons and ammunition that revolutionary colonists had collected in nearby villages. At Lexington, they met a group of Minutemen, who got that name because they were said to be ready to fight in a minute. The Minutemen intended only a silent protest, and their leader told them not to shoot unless fired on first. The British ordered the Minutemen to disperse, and they complied. As they were withdrawing, someone fired a shot. The British troops attacked the Minutemen with guns and bayonets.

Fighting broke out at other places along the road as the British soldiers in their bright red uniforms made their way back to Boston. More than 250 "redcoats" were killed or wounded. The Americans lost 93 men.

Deadly clashes continued around Boston as colonial representatives hurried to Philadelphia to discuss the situation. A majority voted to go to war against Britain.

They agreed to combine colonial militias into a continental army, and they appointed George Washington of Virginia as commander-in-chief. At the same time, however, this Second Continental Congress adopted a peace resolution urging King George III to prevent further hostilities. The king rejected it and on August 23 declared that the American colonies were in rebellion.

Calls for independence intensified in the coming months. Radical political theorist Thomas Paine helped crystallize the argument for separation. In a pamphlet called Common Sense, which sold 100,000 copies, he attacked the idea of a hereditary monarchy. Paine presented two alternatives for America: continued submission under a tyrannical king and outworn system of government, or liberty and happiness as a self-sufficient, independent republic.

The Second Continental Congress appointed a committee, headed by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, to prepare a document outlining the colonies' grievances against the king and explaining their decision to break away. This Declaration of Independence was adopted



on July 4, 1776. The 4th of July has since been celebrated as America's Independence Day.

The Declaration of Independence not only announced the birth of a new nation. It also set forth a philosophy of human freedom that would become a dynamic force throughout the world. It drew upon French and British political ideas, especially those of

John Locke in his Second Treatise on Government, reaffirming the belief that political rights are basic human rights and are thus universal.

Declaring independence did not make Americans free. British forces routed continental troops in New York, from Long Island to New York City. They defeated the Americans at Brandywine, Pennsylvania, and occupied Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to flee. American forces were victorious at Saratoga, New York, and at Trenton and Princeton in New Jersey. Yet George Washington continually struggled to get the men and materials he desperately needed.

Decisive help came in 1778 when France recognized the United States and signed a bilateral defense treaty. Support from the French government, however, was based on geopolitical, not ideological, reasons. France wanted to weaken the power of Britain, its long-time adversary.

The fighting that began at Lexington, Massachusetts, continued for eight years across a large portion of the continent. Battles were fought from Montreal, Canada, in the north to Savannah, Georgia, in the south. A huge British army surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, yet the war dragged on with inconclusive results for another two years. A peace treaty was finally signed in Paris on April 15, 1783.

The Revolution had a significance far beyond North America. It attracted the attention of Europe's political theorists and strengthened the concept of natural rights throughout the Western world. It attracted notables such as Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Friedrich von Steuben, and the Marquis de Lafayette, who joined the revolution and hoped to transfer its liberal ideas to their own countries.

The Treaty of Paris acknowledged the independence, freedom, and sovereignty of the 13 former American colonies, now states.



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God Bless America

American International University-Bangladesh(AIUB) Wishes a Happy Independence Day to the people of the United States of America on the 4th of July 2013

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