



Citizens have more ways than ever to get news about their governments. While the number of newspapers is shrinking, the survivors continue to report local, national and international news online, providing important scrutiny of government while trying to find ways of remaining profitable in the digital age. People have long taken for granted getting news from radio and television reporters. Now citizen journalists can bring neglected news stories to their community through online blogs.

Thanks to its fundamental openness, the United States today is among the most culturally and religiously diverse countries in the world — so much so that, within 30 years, its minority populations will outnumber the majority. Without fear of encountering institutionalized discrimination, American citizens are free to practice their religion, give voice to their views and use their creative energies to pursue their personal aspirations. The result is a dynamic marketplace of ideas where all have the right to express themselves, as long as they are respectful of the rights of others.



The dome of the Library of Congress reading room in Washington depicts important influences on civilization, including Islam.

Part of the American Mix

Like most aspects of American life, religious worship in the United States is infused with the spirit of inclusion and mutual respect. During the month of Ramadan, for example, mosques routinely open their doors to neighbors of other faiths to partake in the breaking of the fast at sundown. A couple of years ago, I had the pleasure of attending an iftar dinner at one of the oldest Jewish synagogues in Washington. The dinner was attended by religious leaders and practitioners from all the major faith traditions. Scenes like these have become common across the United States, as communities come together to share and celebrate the diverse and collective experience of what it means to be American.

Muslims in the United States contribute to the social and economic fabric of their communities. They are among the most educated and highest-income-earning groups in the country, and they participate at every level of society — from teachers, doctors, lawyers and engineers to elected officials at the highest levels of government. In fact, the very same day that I gazed upon the dome of the Library of Congress, I discovered another treasure housed in the great library. When the first American Muslim congressman, Keith Ellison, took the oath of office in 2007, he used a Quran that had belonged to Thomas Jefferson. This Quran, hand-marked with the initials “TJ,” is displayed in the library, next to Jefferson’s copy of the Old Testament.

The story of the United States began with the story of religious freedom. From the halls of government to the archives of history, it is a story that has reaffirmed itself time and again. It is a story that continues to shape the nation today.

In a world where many countries must come to terms with increasing diversity brought about by the triple forces of globalization, technology and travel, there is a lesson in the experience of the United States and the forging of American identity. It is a lesson that is embodied in the Latin words inscribed on the seal of the United States, and sums up the central theme of the American identity, "E Pluribus Unum" — Out of Many, One.

Samier Mansur is the founder of LiveSafe, a mobile app and law enforcement dashboard used as a tool for community safety.

Ambassador's Message

TWO hundred and thirty-nine years ago, the United States of America was founded on the belief that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These are values that continue to ring true for millions of Americans to this day. Over the years, however, our beliefs evolved to include an ever more diverse American people. We believe that all men – and women – are created equal. We believe that all people – from Mayflower descendant to recent immigrant, from deaf to hearing, from Mormon to Muslim, find and maintain unalienable rights, which we recognize and protect. These beliefs define America. Bangladesh, too, has a constitution that protects individuals' rights. The relationship between America and Bangladesh is multifaceted, and indispensable. With strong living in every corner of the world, and of other Bangladeshis who have a growing number of Americans as neighbors, we, the people of our two countries who love freedom, move forward. We invite our Bangladeshi friends to be celebrating the birth of our nation.



MARCIA BERNICAT
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH



Zara Afridi, center right, chats with friends outside the South Asian Youth Action building in Queens, New York.



CAT® DIESEL ENGINES & EQUIPMENT ARE BUILT TO LAST. Our diesel generators, ranging from 5.4 to 14,040 kW, are built to last. They're built to last because they're built to last.

BUILT TO LAST. Our diesel generators, ranging from 5.4 to 14,040 kW, are built to world-class standards for high efficiency, lower fuel consumption, and proper global emissions compliance. These heavy-duty engines have black load taking capacity, and can operate continuously amidst fluctuations. Our "new" and "used" CAT machines set the standards for the industry & are noteworthy for their high-level of productivity. As a total solutions provider, we offer more than 300 pieces of rugged and reliable equipment for construction and mining industries.

BANGLA TRAC

Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 4 Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.
Phone : +8802-9859812/3, 8831648, 8832756. Fax : +8802-9857650
Chittagong Office : 100 Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
Phone : +88031-2512767. Fax : +88031-2512768
E-mail : info@banglacat.com
Website : www.banglacat.com

 +8801755662228

HOMEBOUND

SERVING PEOPLE SINCE 1972

**HEARTIEST GREETINGS
TO**

**" THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE,
BY THE PEOPLE AND
FOR THE PEOPLE
OF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"
ON THEIR 239th INDEPENDENCE DAY**

ADDRESS:
SW(A) 26, GULSHAN AVENUE,
DHAKA-1212, BANGLADESH
TEL : 9894745-50, 9887872, 8811021-2
FAX : 880-2-8823416, 8823519
E-MAIL : info@homeboundbd.com
WEB : www.homeboundbd.com