



4TH OF JULY

243rd Independence Day of the United States of America



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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Earl Miller
U.S. Ambassador To Bangladesh

Assalamu alaikum.

Thomas Jefferson said he enjoyed celebrating America's birthday more than his own. The older I get the more I share that sentiment.

Welcome to the U.S. Embassy's celebration of the 243rd birthday of the United States of America.

Bangladeshe amar prothom shadhinota dibosh palon korte pere ami anondito.

I'm happy to be celebrating my first U.S. national day in Bangladesh.

Thank you to the U.S. Embassy

community, our generous sponsors, everyone who helped organize and support this year's celebration.

There is nowhere I would rather celebrate my country's Independence Day and founding principles than in this remarkable nation.

Bangladesh is one of the United States' most valued partners.

I am proud of what our two countries are achieving together. American commercial aircraft now hoist the green and red into skies across the world. American companies produce more than half of Bangladesh's natural gas, build power plants, supply locomotives, and train thousands of Bangladeshi workers to the highest international standards. Two way trade between the United States and Bangladesh totaled 8.2 billion last year, double what it was only a few years ago.

Our security and military relationship has never been stronger.

The United States is the leading contributor of humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya crisis, providing over \$541 million since August 2017. The United States salutes the people of Bangladesh for opening their borders and hearts to over one million persecuted Rohingya.

Since 1971, USAID has provided more than \$7 billion to Bangladesh in development assistance including \$219 million last year, to promote economic

opportunity, effective health and education service, food security, responsiveness to climate change and natural disasters. In partnership, we provide assistance to improve local governance, address gender-based violence and empower women, and combat human trafficking.

And, most importantly, our people to people ties remain the heart of our enduring support for one another. There are over 200,000 Bangladeshis in America. 7500 Bangladeshi students study in American college campuses each year. Senator Edward Kennedy said at Dhaka University in 1972 "the real foreign policy of America is citizen to citizen, friend to friend, people to people, foreign bonds of brotherhood that no tyranny can diminish. For in a sense, we are all Bengali, we are all Americans, and we all share the great alliance of humanity."

American kobi Walt Whitman likhechilen "Ami Khola rastay ber holam ekti Shusto ebong shadhin prithibir uddeshhe."

The American poet Walt Whitman wrote, "I take to the open road, healthy, free, the world before me"

Dr. Martin Luther King said in 1965, "The American dream reminds us - and we should think about it anew on this Independence Day - every man is heir of the legacy of dignity and worth."

The story of America is our striving, imperfect and ongoing, to live up to our founding ideals, to understand our country's



Fireworks light up the sky on the 4th of July

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meaning, its promise and possibilities. A struggle Dr. King and so many others gave their lives for. To live up to words that made the United States a beacon, inspiring people with ideals that still, that still, light the world:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." It is the singular honor of my life to be the

United States Ambassador to Bangladesh. How lucky I am. Everywhere I travel I meet courtesy and graciousness I think unique to this special country. How fortunate to be your privileged guest.

On behalf of the United States of America, I salute the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of the great nation of Bangladesh.

Happy Independence Day. Onek dhonnobad.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Independence Day is a time for Americans to celebrate the history of the United States. No parade would be complete without a fife-and-drum band in period costume.

THE founders of the United States knew that independence was something to celebrate. And although U.S. Independence Day celebrations have evolved over time, July 4th festivities remain an important part of American life.

But Independence Day wasn't supposed to be on July 4. In the spring of 1775, after more than a decade of agitation against British policies and the first battles of the War for Independence, the 13 American colonies sent representatives to the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia. After much debate about severing ties with Britain, the representatives voted unanimously for independence on July 2, 1776.

The next day, in a letter to his wife, Massachusetts Representative John Adams said the date "ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

Many representatives to the Continental Congress worried that a vote on independence wasn't enough: They wanted to explain their decision to the world. So two days after its momentous vote, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence and sent copies throughout the fledgling country. The declaration bore the date of July 4, which the new nation embraced as Independence Day.

Adams was right about the ways Americans would celebrate. Even as the new nation fought to make independence a reality, July 4 was quickly marked by parades, concerts, dinners and fireworks. The 1777 celebration in Philadelphia included music by a band of Hessian soldiers — mercenaries fighting for Britain who had been taken prisoner the previous winter.

Parades to celebrate Independence Day began as military displays but quickly became democratic affairs. The 1788 parade in Philadelphia was more than a mile long, with horse-drawn floats and workers of all kinds marching in costume.

The ways in which Americans mark July 4 have quieted down, according to James Heintze, a retired American University librarian and a historian of Independence Day. Through much of the 19th century, he says, it was a "loud, raucous time," and the noise was considered a show of patriotism — whether by small boys with firecrackers, miners with dynamite or towns with artillery firing salutes

throughout the afternoon.

A major feature of the holiday during the 1800s would have been a patriotic speech by a leading citizen, sometimes lasting as long as two hours. "That was kind of the media event of that time," Heintze explains.

Independence Day has also been used by Americans to express dissenting political views. In the years leading up to the American Civil War, leaders of the anti-slavery movement organized events — typically on July 5 — to remind people that, for African Americans, the Revolution's promise of liberty had not been fulfilled. And from the beginning of the Civil War, Americans in the South stopped celebrating July 4 out of loyalty to the Confederacy. July 4th celebrations did not return to parts of the South for more than 35 years, Heintze says.

Today, most citizens celebrate in much the same way as Americans did during the 18th century, with parades, picnics, neighborhood parties, outdoor concerts, sporting




A father and daughter enjoy the Fourth of July in Waveland, Mississippi.

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events and fireworks displays at night. Government offices and many businesses are closed, and workers typically have a paid holiday.

July 4 also remains a day for making a commitment to the country, as the signers of the Declaration did in 1776 when they pledged "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" to securing American independence. In many cities and at many historic sites, thousands of immigrants take an oath of allegiance and become U.S. citizens on Independence Day.

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American International University-Bangladesh(AIUB)
Wishes a Happy Independence Day
to the people of the United States of America
on the eve of 4th of July 2019



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH
WHERE LEADERS ARE CREATED



Bangla CAT

4TH OF JULY
The **243rd** Independence Day
of the United States of America

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