

## 126th Philippine Independence Day celebrated in Dhaka

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Bangladesh commemorated the 126<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Day this year with two grand events spread over two days at Dhaka Regency Hotel in the capital.

The events highlighted the Philippines' rich cultural heritage and culinary traditions while fostering stronger diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.

The grand celebration commenced with a traditional ceremonial flag-raising ceremony at the Philippine Embassy in the morning of June 11, 2024. The Philippine Ambassador to Bangladesh Leo Tito L Ausan, Jr, in his speech, delivered the Independence Day Message of their Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique A Manalo.

In the evening, a diplomatic reception was held at Dhaka Regency Hotel. The ceremony began with audio-video screenings and national anthems of the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Leo Tito L Ausan, Jr, Philippine Ambassador to Bangladesh, delivered the welcome address. In his speech, Ambassador Ausan highlighted the milestones and future of Philippine-Bangladesh relations, particularly the anticipated direct flights between the capital cities of both countries, anchored upon their updated Air Services Agreement.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Minister of Textiles and Jute of Bangladesh, was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The ceremony concluded with a toast, handover of token of appreciations and cake cutting, followed by cultural performances from the Filipino community organisations in Bangladesh.

On June 12, 2024, guests gathered for the Filipino Culinary Night held at Dhaka Regency. It featured Southern Philippine delicacies by Chef Datu Shariff Pendatun. The diplomatic reception featured traditional Filipino dishes, while the culinary night highlighted regional specialties.

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