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**REMARKS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY  
CRICKET TOURNAMENT  
AMERICA WEEK 2009 IN BARISAL  
JANUARY 27, 2008**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and young athletes: Assalam-u-Alaikum. I am pleased to be here with you today.

I have been talking about transitions here in Barisal. Today's event, a cricket tournament organized jointly by the U.S. Embassy and the Barisal police, emphasizes the transformation taking place in the profession of police officers. It also says something about the transformations that we would like to see take place among the young people with us today. And finally, I think it also says something about the role of diplomats in the 21st century.

I congratulate the Barisal District police for organizing this tournament. They have brought national cricket players, Barisal's youth, and the local police together for this sporting event. In the past, police in the United States as well as in Bangladesh were too often seen solely as those who imposed order, often through the use of force. Police were seen as an instrument of governmental control.

Today, police around the world understand that their role is different. Police are part of the community in which they work. Police officers understand that the community can be an important ally in preventing crime and ensuring security for citizens.

Those drawn to public service, like the Police officers here today can be important role models for the community. National sports professionals are also important role models for young people. I want to thank the national cricket players with us today for giving something back to the community and mentoring these young athletes.

Police officers and sports professionals often chose their careers based on a goal, a dream. They worked hard throughout their youth to achieve that dream. I encourage

the youth standing here before me today to find your dream and to work hard to achieve it.

A good education is crucial in today's world. A healthy body is just as important. Organized sports, such as this cricket tournament, provide exercise and build a healthier body. They also offer a means of developing a sense of teamwork and fair play. Young adults learn to dedicate themselves to a cause - to better themselves, advance their team, and show honor to their community. That is the beginning of a dream.

Finally, I hope that today's event, and the entire "America Week" also helps to demonstrate the evolving role of diplomats in the 21st century. In the United States Foreign Service, we refer to this as Transformational Diplomacy. Diplomats no longer spend all of their time in capital cities, meeting with other diplomats and foreign officials, delivering demarches and writing reports. Instead, they interact with citizens of their host countries at all levels. They get involved with programs designed to advance shared goals, such as building democracy, promoting development, or fighting terrorism. They even learn something about strange sports (to an American at least) like cricket.

I want to thank all of you for being part of our new Cricket Diplomacy initiative, and thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my colleagues from the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. Let's have a great day of sports and fun.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*