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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
U.S. TRADE SHOW  
OPENING DAY DINNER  
RUPOSHI BANGLA, DHAKA  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013**

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs Dipu Moni

AmCham President Aftab-ul-Islam

AmCham Vice President Geoff Strong

AmCham Executive Director Gafur

BanglaTrac

Most distinguished guests

Asalaam 'alaikum and good evening and a warm welcome to this gala dinner.

I wish first to thank the Honorable Foreign Minister for participating in this evening's event, which is a tribute to the growing economic relationship between America and Bangladesh. The Honorable Foreign Minister has worked hard and successfully to deepen and strengthen the partnership between America and Bangladesh, to the benefit of the people of both countries. Truly, never has this partnership been stronger and broader than it is today. This is due in large part to the Foreign Minister's personal engagement in building this relationship. Madam Foreign Minister, I am proud and honored to be your partner in this shared endeavor, and I commit myself and my government not to come up short in the months and years ahead as we take this partnership to new heights.

Speaking of new heights, I believe this year's U.S. Trade Show sets the standard in terms of quality exhibits that make clear how American business can help Bangladesh achieve its vision of becoming a middle income country over the next decade. Indeed, the nearly 100 booths representing over 50 American companies well showcased American technology, innovation and quality.

And I wasn't the only one who noticed. As I toured the exhibits earlier today, the exhibition hall was filled with an exhilarating buzz, as businessmen shared ideas, visions and possibilities, as they exchanged business cards, as they connected and began building partnerships and networks, as they laid

the foundations for deals that later can be consummated to the benefit of both Bangladeshi and American businessmen and women, and, more importantly, to the benefit of the people of both Bangladesh and America.

I mentioned last night at my reception for trade show participants that I believe that America and Bangladesh are natural partners. We share so many traits and aspirations. We both continue to build and perfect our democracies; we both aspire to build nations that provide for an ever improving quality of life for our people; we both recognize the power of the private sector in driving the economic growth needed to lift people out of poverty; and the people of both nations are energetic, innovative, and entrepreneurial.

This natural partnership between America and Bangladesh was everywhere evident today on the floor of the exhibit hall, and I am sure that tomorrow and the day after will be no different. AmCham Bangladesh, you must be most proud for orchestrating a most successful trade show, one that will continue to pay rich dividends over the months and years ahead as the connections and relationships that begin in the exhibition hall take root and flourish.

As I close, I wish to thank Vishal Wanchoo and his large delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce India, representing over 23 American companies, for participating in this trade show. Your presence here has certainly added greatly to the success of the show. I'm sure that each member of your delegation has a pocketful of business cards representing new contacts, new opportunities for doing business here in Bangladesh.

I wish, too, to thank BanglaTrac for sponsoring this dinner. As a distributor of Caterpillar equipment, BanglaTrac contributes hugely to America's exports to Bangladesh. I must say that every time I see a piece of Caterpillar equipment at work building the New Bangladesh, I feel a special pride as Caterpillar's world headquarters is only a hundred miles from my Iowa home. Again, BanglaTrac, thank you.

With that, I wish all my business friends, both those representing American business and those representing Bangladeshi business, all the best as they reach out to connect, to build relationships, to forge linkages that will result in ever greater business partnerships between the two countries, partnerships that will help realize our shared vision of Sonar Bangla, Golden Bangladesh, Middle Income Bangladesh, Bangladesh, the next Asian tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*