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REMARKS BY

**U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA'S REMARKS
AT THE INAUGURATION OF
DHAKA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF TELEVISION AND
FILM STUDIES**

**SENATE HALL
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2012**

Honorable Chief Justice Md. Muzammel Hossain

Honorable Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique

Dr. Janet Wasco, Professor of Communication Research, University of Oregon

Dr. Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, Head, Department of TV and Film Studies

Students, faculty, administrators of Dhaka University

Distinguished representatives from the government, media, colleagues, friends

I believe in having dreams, as dreams often come true.

My standing before you as the American ambassador is living evidence of dreams coming true, even ones that once were seemingly impossible, as was my aspiration a decade ago to return to Bangladesh as my country's ambassador.

Vice Chancellor Siddique, too, had a dream, a dream that over the years seemed impossible, a dream to establish here at Dhaka University a Department of Television and Film Studies. But Professor Siddique and his colleagues persevered and today that dream becomes a rich reality as we all join to inaugurate this new department.

Actually, we are launching much more than just a new department. We also are strengthening Bangladesh's democracy. The young media professionals who emerge from this department will have the values, skills and capabilities to use the powerful tools of television and film to inform the people, educate the people, engage the people.

These media professionals will be able to use television and film to tell the nation and the world of Bangladesh's rich culture, great history, tremendous development opportunities, and most especially the wondrous people, whose energy, dynamism, creativity, generosity, entrepreneurial skills and resilience are truly unsurpassed. The media experts will also be able to use television and film to expose corruption, malfeasance, incompetence, laziness throughout society. Exposing and identifying such problems is, of course, the first step towards resolving them.

I am pleased that America is partnering with Bangladesh in building a vibrant, free media, as a strong media is essential for the success of democracy. America has trained dozens of Bangladesh's leading journalists in the United States through our International Visitor Leadership Program. In addition, we have collaborated with the Bangladesh Center for Development Journalism and Communications, with News Network , and with the University of Oklahoma to train over 150 women journalists in investigative journalism, social media and other key reporting skills.

I am glad, too, that Dr. Janet Wasco from the University of Oregon is here today to mark this historic occasion. I congratulate Dr. Wasco on her selection as President of the International Association for Media and Communication Research. She exemplifies the quality and expertise that America offers. Just few weeks ago I was in her state of Oregon, which is Bangladesh's sister state in America. The relationship between Bangladesh and Oregon is strong and getting stronger as both seek new avenues for strengthening ties. I met with representatives of the Oregon University System, Dr. Wasco's home institution, and they are keen to deepen academic and research relations with Bangladesh. I know that as these relationships develop both American and Bangladeshi participants will find them rich and fruitful.

Our Fulbright Program is an ongoing mechanism for exchanging scholars. Niloy Biswas, who recently joined Dhaka University's International Relations Department, has just returned from a Fulbright Fellowship at George Washington University, where he received a prestigious award for greatest academic and leadership potential among all graduate and undergraduate students in the School of International Relations. I hope I haven't embarrassed him, but I wanted to make clear the caliber of individuals engaged in these exchanges between America and Bangladesh. I look forward to ever more Fulbright exchanges.

I believe the potential for academic and research exchanges between American and Bangladeshi educational institutions is enormous. From the American perspective, Bangladesh has so much to offer in terms of research and study opportunities, including climate change, public health, development studies, microfinance, social business, peacekeeping operations, agriculture, and the list goes on and on. Already American universities like Columbia and MIT are collaborating with Dhaka University to study groundwater arsenic and earthquake monitoring. I am pleased that the new Department of Television and Film Studies has already signed a memorandum of agreement with West Virginia State University for collaborative research and faculty and student exchanges.

My mission and I are eager to promote such relationships through our Fulbright and other programs.

I wish to emphasize as well the opportunities to study at American educational institutions. More and more Bangladeshis are studying in the U.S.; Bangladesh has the fastest rate of growth in South and Central Asia of students studying in the U.S., and the rate of growth is accelerating. My team is standing by to do everything possible to help students identify the best university to fit their needs and interests, to prepare for entrance exams, and to find scholarships.

This help is already available at our American Center in Baridhara. In September, students will be able to find this assistance much closer to Dhaka University when the newly launched Edward M. Kennedy Center for Public Service and the Arts opens its doors to the public. This innovative youth-outreach partnership between the Liberation War Museum and the American Center of U.S. Embassy Dhaka is located on Road 27 in Dhanmondi. I hope this magnificent space will become a second home for bright young students of Dhaka University.

As I conclude, I heartily congratulate Vice Chancellor Siddique, Dr. Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, head of the new Department of Television and Film Studies, and all the faculty of Mass Communication and Journalism on launching this exciting new adventure. My mission and I look forward to collaborating with this new department to strengthen research and study in both America and Bangladesh.

Thank you.

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