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REMARKS

by

U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA

AT THE

**2012 BANGLADESH YOUTH LEADERSHIP CENTER YOUTH
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT CLOSING CEREMONY**

**BASHUNDHARA CONVENTION CENTER II
DHAKA, APRIL 28, 2012**

Gowher Rizvi, Honorable Advisor to the Prime Minister

Mijarul Quayes, Honorable Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh

Dr. Marty Linsky, Professor, Harvard University, and Co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Chairman, BYLC

Mr. Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President, BYLC

Asalaam m'laikum

The future of Bangladesh is bright ...

Of this, I am certain ... the future of Bangladesh is bright.

You may wonder how I know this.

I will tell you ...

Young Bangladeshis ...

I talk to young Bangladeshis ...

I invite them to my home ...

I have my Youth Council, which includes a stellar BYLC graduate ...

I go to youth-led events ... this BYLC Summit is the gold standard ...

My Mission and I believe in you ... we support the work you are doing to build this nation ...

I look out now and see a sea of bright, dedicated young leaders ...

I see the teachers, businessmen, political leaders, traders, academics, civil servants, doctors, nurses, builders of tomorrow ...

I see the future of Bangladesh ...

... and I also see the present of Bangladesh. You have heard many people call you the future leaders of this great nation, but you are also the leaders of right now ... today.

Your path ahead is not an easy one.

Building the New Bangladesh, the Golden Bangladesh, the Middle-Income Bangladesh that brings an improved quality of life to the wonderful people of this great nation will not be easy.

But this Golden Bangladesh can be a reality within a decade or two ... yes, this Golden Bangladesh can be a reality within a decade or two.

Bangladesh is truly a blessed country ...

It has a unifying culture, language, spirit ...

Its people are energetic, dynamic, creative, entrepreneurial, generous, and resilient.

Its soil is rich and productive; water is ample; natural resources are abundant ...

The private sector and the entrepreneurial spirit thrive.

Bangladesh could be and should be the world's largest readymade garment exporter, the world's largest household textiles exporter and a major global player in building freighters, in information technology, in producing pharmaceuticals, in manufacturing finished leather goods, in exporting seafood, in producing and processing silk, in finding new uses for the fiber of tomorrow jute ... and the list goes on and on.

But this Golden Bangladesh will not just happen ...

Someone will make it happen ...

That someone is you.

You individually as a bright, educated, articulate, committed person, you will build the Golden Bangladesh.

And you, together, through organizations such as the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, will build the Golden Bangladesh.

America is your partner in this task.

We have supported BYLC since its early days ... and we are glad to support this historic summit.

We are excited about partnering with you.

In a few months we will open in Dhanmondi our new Edward M. Kennedy Center for Public Service and the Arts ... in collaboration with the Liberation War Museum.

The Edward M. Kennedy Center will be a new platform for engaging youth, building on the rich legacy of service in Bangladesh and America ... and inspired by the work youth are doing today.

We hope to see more of you ... come to our American Center ... nearby at Progati Sharoni in Baridhara.

For those from the Chittagong, Jessore and Sylhet areas ... visit our American Corners in those locations.

At each, you will find an EducationUSA Center, where you can learn about opportunities to study in America.

I really hope you will visit our American Center in Baridhara or one of our three American Corners ... I invite each of the delegates to become a member free-of-charge. We look forward to welcoming you.

Indeed, the challenge of building the Golden Bangladesh awaits you; the time is now; the moment is yours ... as you build your lives, your professions, your future.

I hope you continue to find joy in service to the wonderful people of this great nation.

For the sake of Bangladesh's people, I wish you well.

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As prepared for delivery

GR/ 2012