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**REMARKS
BY
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES, A.I. NICHOLAS DEAN AT
FOOD FOR PEACE COMMODITIES OFF-LOADING
CHITTAGONG PORT
June 26, 2012**

I am honored to be here on this occasion with Mr. Ahmed Hossain Khan, the Government of Bangladesh’s Director General of Food, and other distinguished guests to observe the off-loading of a major shipment of wheat made possible by the U.S. Government’s Food for Peace program and USAID.

The United States Government, through its development agency USAID, is a major supporter of Bangladesh’s food security initiatives and disaster mitigation efforts. Our programs include food assistance; agricultural productivity; disaster resilience and relief; and climate change and adaptation. The principles that guide our approach to food security include coordination among donors; support for pro-poor national food policy; and investment in livelihood, nutrition, agricultural productivity and disaster mitigation.

Our long-standing food assistance partnership with Bangladesh continues to address food security by upgrading community rural infrastructure, providing access to clean water and hygienic sanitation facilities, enhancing disaster preparedness, increasing agricultural productivity, improving maternal child health and nutrition, and supplying food for the Government of Bangladesh’s food safety-net programs.

The event that brings us here together today -- the off-loading of food for safety net programs -- is an important part of the American people’s support to Bangladesh. Since Bangladesh’s independence, the United States has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh. Food aid accounts for over half of that amount -- \$2.8 billion in cumulative food, amounting to approximately 3.2 million metric tons of food commodities.

The United States Government, acting through USAID, has had a long partnership with the Government of Bangladesh in improving Bangladesh’s food security situation through the Food for Peace program. The U.S. Presidential Feed the Future initiative reinforces these efforts to reduce poverty and improve nutrition in Bangladesh as part of a comprehensive effort to combat hunger around the globe.

Bangladesh faces enormous challenges to reduce poverty and malnutrition. Through the Feed the Future initiative and the Food for Peace programs we are here to celebrate today, I am proud to say that the United States is helping Bangladesh rise to those challenges.

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**As prepared for delivery*

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