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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
GRADUATION CEREMONY
ANTI-TERRORISM ACT (ATA) CRISIS MANAGEMENT
EXERCISE DESIGN COURSE
DHAKA METROPOLITAN POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY
RAJARBAGH, DHAKA
DECEMBER 4, 2014**

Acting Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Abdul Jalil

Officials from the police, fire, civil defense and other agencies

Course instructor

... and, most importantly, you the students, you who are so critical to ensuring that Bangladesh's crisis responders are best trained to respond effectively to crises ...

Asalaam 'malaikum, nameskar, and good morning

It was in a far-away place ...

... over 15 years ago.

The noise was great ... deafening ...

What could it be?

The building's inhabitants ran to the windows to see what had created the noise ...

And then the second, far greater bomb exploded ...

... the windows shattered and the shards of flying glass took with them the lives of over 200 people ... people who had run to the windows to see what was happening...

... people who were not trained on how to respond to a crisis situation ...

... such is the high cost of failure to train people on what to do in an emergency situation.

Bangladesh does not want to pay this high cost.

That is what this course is all about.

That is why you are here.

You are here to ensure that Bangladeshi crisis managers and first responders are properly trained so they know how to minimize casualties from crises ... any kind of crisis, whether man-made or natural.

Over the past eight days you have learned the power of exercises ... drills, tabletop exercises, full-scale, real-life exercises ... to train crisis managers so they know how best to respond in a real crisis.

You have honed your skills to design, develop, conduct and evaluate crisis management exercises.

You have learned how to develop exercises for testing and validating crisis response policies, plans, procedures, training, equipment, interagency coordination and so much more.

The exercises that you will design will expose the strengths and deficiencies of Bangladesh's current preparedness for crisis response.

The exercises that you will design will show the challenges of interagency coordination and communications.

The exercises that you will design will help individual crisis managers improve their performance in a crisis.

The exercises that you will design will reveal gaps in resources and shortcomings in the various crisis response agencies.

The exercises that you will design are the best means for ensuring that Bangladesh is well prepared to respond appropriately to crises.

Over the past decades, America has learned much about how to respond to crises, whether natural calamities like Hurricane Katrina or man-made crises like the attacks of September 11, 2001.

America has indeed learned so much about crisis response ...

... many of these lessons were learned the hard way, at great cost to the American people.

I am pleased that America is able to share these lessons with you ...

... and that we can exchange with each other our experiences on what worked and what didn't work in crisis situations.

These costly lessons from the past drive home the importance of establishing strong, effective, real-time communications among the various responder organizations to ensure coordination of response.

I think maybe that was the greatest lesson that America learned over the past several decades.

I am sure that the exercises that you create will be ever more effective as a result of this course.

I wish you the best as you endeavor to ensure that Bangladesh is best prepared to respond to the next crisis.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*