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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
COOPERATION AFLOAT READINESS AND TRAINING  
CLOSING CEREMONY  
DOCKSIDE, CHITTAGONG PORT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

Rear Admiral A.M.M.M. Aurangzeb Chowdhury, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff - Operations

Rear Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Chittagong Port Authority

Other Bangladesh Navy Area Commanders

Captain Fred Kacher, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SEVEN

... Our other guests from the Bangladesh Navy and the US Navy ...

... And all who believe in ever greater US-Bangladesh military-to-military partnership ...

Asalaam 'malaikum and good afternoon

The world is a dangerous place.

The world is witnessing the emergence of forces in the Middle East that seek to impose on all people their wretched beliefs of hatred, intolerance, violence and death.

These forces endeavor to destroy everything that Bangladesh, America and all freedom- and peace-loving countries hold dear.

Bangladesh and America are moderate, tolerant, pluralistic countries that believe in the worth and value of the individual.

On Saturday I brought to a close in nearby Comilla the quest that I began three years ago to visit each of Bangladesh's 64 districts.

This great journey crisscrossing Bangladesh, the eighth most populous country in the world, has taught me much about this wonderful nation and its great people.

In my travels I witnessed firsthand the great mosaic that is Bangladesh ... a mosaic of ethnic groups ... a mosaic of religious beliefs ... a mosaic of cultures ... a mosaic of traditions.

Everywhere I traveled I experienced the powerful Bangladeshi tradition of tolerance ... of tolerance for those whose ethnicity and religious beliefs may differ ... I experienced the centuries old tradition of Bangladeshis of whatever ethnic background or religion living together side-by-side in peace and harmony ... that is a great tradition of this nation ... a tradition that Bangladesh seeks to preserve.

The fourth CARAT exercise, which we are now closing, is about America and Bangladesh working together, training together, exercising together so each becomes more effective in defending the maritime domain against those who seek to do us harm and in securing the world's great sea lanes of trade and commerce.

Bangladesh and America are both maritime powers. Exercises like CARAT help our respective navies get to know each other better, understand each other better, and learn from each other.

Bangladesh has a vast, internationally-defined maritime domain.

The maritime partnership between America and Bangladesh has helped the Bangladesh Navy and the Bangladesh Coast Guard make great progress in making the Bay of Bengal more secure by slashing robberies on the Bay by 70%, which has brought shipping insurance rates down by 40%, and Chittagong is no longer listed as a high-risk seaport.

This partnership between America and Bangladesh has helped Bangladesh build ever greater capacity to secure its maritime border against those who seek to use the seas to advance terrorism and violent extremism, against those who seek to traffic drugs, people, and arms, against those who seek to steal Bangladesh's fish and other maritime assets.

... and Bangladesh is using this expanded capacity to great effect.

I am proud that America ... through engagements such as this CARAT exercise ... is Bangladesh's strong partner in making the seas ever safer. I am especially proud that America has offered Bangladesh a second cutter, the Rush, which at 378 feet will join the Somudro Joy as the two largest ships in the Bangladesh Navy. A team from the Bangladesh Navy is now in Hawaii undertaking a joint visual inspection of the cutter. This is my dream come true.

Bangladesh's success in securing its maritime borders and its vast maritime domain is good for all nations that support freedom of the seas. Safe and secure sea lanes are vital for the economic well-being of the people of Bangladesh, the people of America, and the people of South Asia.

Thanks to CARAT and the maritime partnership between America and Bangladesh, those sea lanes today are ever more safe.

Thank you.

*\*As prepared for delivery*