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REMARKS BY

**U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
AT THE RAJSHAHI COMMUNITY POLICING FESTIVAL**

**Rajshahi District Stadium
March 1, 2012**

RAJSHAHI , MARCH 1 – U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena gave the following remarks at the Rajshahi Community Policing Festival.

(Begin Text)

Rajshahi District Mayor Mr. AHM Khairuzzaman Liton

Rajshahi Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Mr. Siddiqur Rahman

Police Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Mr. Mohammad Obaidullah

Many honored dignitaries including our stars from the world of cricket

Representatives from district schools

And the good people of Rajshahi

Asalaam-alaikum

First, my wife Grace and I and my entire team from United States Embassy Dhaka wish to thank the government and people of Rajshahi for their warm hospitality over our five-day visit.

This is a wonderful place ... and we are lucky to have spent the past week discovering it ... you have good reason to be proud of your home.

And you have good reason to keep your home, your community safe and secure.

The police, too, want to help you keep your community safe.

That's why the Bangladesh National Police have partnered with the United States Government and The Asia Foundation to train police officers in a new approach to policing.

This approach is called Community Policing, and it is based on a different way of thinking about policing.

Community Policing focuses on collaboration and cooperation between the police and the citizens they are sworn to protect.

Community Policing uses problem-solving techniques to work with the community to identify and solve problems, often before troubles arise.

I believe the Community Policing Forum is the key to improving relations between the police and the citizens.

More than 185,000 citizens in Rajshahi Division volunteer to participate in these Forums.

I am pleased that my government has partnered with the Bangladesh National Police to carry out special training for police officers to help them work more effectively with the Community Policing Forums.

Already more than 1,900 police officers have been trained in working with the Forums ... and the training continues.

I believe this growing engagement with the citizens through the Community Policing Forums ...

... will bridge the gap between the police and the people ... and will make the communities of Rajshahi safer and more secure.

Rajshahi is entering a new era of improved relations between the police and the people ... and this is a very good thing.

I applaud the Police for their determined efforts to improve policing ...

I applaud the citizens of Rajshahi for volunteering in huge numbers to help build bridges with the Police.

And I join with all of you here at this festival to celebrate your enthusiasm and your dedication.

It's inspiring to see. And it bodes well for the future of wonderful Rajshahi and of this great nation.

Thank you.

(End Text)

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GR/ 2012