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REMARKS BY

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA BOOK DISTRIBUTION BY THE ASIA FOUNDATION HOTEL CASTLE SALAM, KHULNA MAY 10, 2012

Hasan Mazumdar, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Bangladesh

Sukla Dey, Books Coordinator, The Asia Foundation

Principals, teachers, students, guests ...

Asalaam m'laikum and good morning.

Students, what am I holding in my hands? Can anyone tell me?

Yes, these are books ...

... but they are more.

They are also keys ...

... keys to learning ... about anything you can think of...

... keys to discovery ... finding new things you don't even know exist ...

... keys to ideas ... different ways of doing things, different ways of thinking.

... indeed, these books and the many other books you will encounter on life's journey are the very keys of life.

I am so happy to be here today with The Asia Foundation to help distribute these books, these keys to life.

I must caution you of one thing however.

While these books are beautiful to look at on the shelf...

... they must be opened; they must be read and reread; they must be digested ... to have real value for you.

Teachers, I urge you to put these books to good work ... to inspire your students, to inform your students, to motivate your students ...

Please don't let the books gather dust and mold on the shelf.

Hasan and Sukla and all the wonderful people at The Asia Foundation, thank you for your generosity in making the books available to these young people.

Truly, you give the gift that keeps giving ... and I'm proud to stand with you as you bring these vital keys of life to these young people.

Thank you.

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Prepared for delivery

GR/ 2012