

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



**REMARKS BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
OPENING CEREMONY  
SAAD MUSA CITY CENTER**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

Mr. Saiful Hassan, CEO, Saad Musa City Center

Mr. Muhammad Mohsin, Managing Director, Saad Musa City Group

Asalaam M'laikum and good afternoon.

Today is a great day, a day of history ...

Today the vision of Bangladesh as the next Asian Tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger, comes a step closer to reality.

Asian Tigers do not just happen ... they are made to happen ... they are given birth by the vision, hard work, entrepreneurial skills of people ... people like Saiful Hassan, people like Md. Mohsin, people like so many others who believe in Bangladesh, who want to give back to Bangladesh, who want to build the New Bangladesh, the Middle-Income Bangladesh, the Sonar Bangladesh, the Bangladesh where all have the means to provide their families safe, secure shelter, ample, nutritious food, access to quality healthcare, and good education for the children. They dream/we dream of a Bangladesh where no child/no child/no child is stunted, unlike today when an estimated 41% of children are stunted for want of an adequate, nutritious diet.

I am especially impressed today that the sparkling facility that we just toured is the vision become reality of a fellow American, a Bangladeshi-American, Saiful Hassan.

I fervently believe that Bangladeshi-Americans have a special role to play in spawning Asia's next economic tiger. Recognizing this, I am engaging the Bangladeshi-American community to encourage them to bring their know-how, their problem solving skills, their resources back to Bangladesh, the land of their origin and the land that continues to capture their hearts. As Bangladeshi-Americans give back to Bangladesh through either philanthropy or business investment, they help build a peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy and democratic

Bangladesh. I deeply believe that such a Bangladesh is good for the people of America, good for the people of South Asia, and, most especially, good for the people of Bangladesh.

Just last week I was in Los Angeles, reaching out to that city's large and prosperous Bangladeshi-American community. A few months earlier, I ventured to New York City, to Washington, and to Portland, Oregon to meet with the growing and prospering Bangladeshi-American communities in each of those cities. And during my future trips to America, I intend to engage other Bangladeshi-American communities in places like Silicon Valley, Detroit, Texas ... I will go anywhere in America to find them.

And my message is always the same: Bangladeshi-Americans can be/should be part of the great things happening in Bangladesh...things unimaginable only a few years ago. Bangladesh is indeed poised to become the next Asian Tiger ... picture the Royal Bengal Tiger proudly and powerfully strutting across the global economic stage. That beautiful image need not be a mere vision; it can be a reality ... a reality of Bangladesh as the world's largest exporter of readymade garments, the world's largest exporter of household textiles, a major global player in production of generic pharmaceuticals, IT, small and medium freighters, frozen fish and shrimp, footwear, finished leather goods, bone china, jute, silk ... and the list goes on.

This Sonar Bangladesh is no empty vision of the distant future .... Indeed not ... think about what we have just seen here at Saad Musa City Center ... and I think about the exciting things that I have seen and continue to see as I travel throughout Bangladesh to see for myself the wondrous things that Bangladeshis are doing to build Bangladesh's industrial and manufacturing base, to see for myself the wondrous things that Bangladeshis are doing as they undertake an agricultural revolution under the leadership of Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury to make Bangladesh food sufficient within a decade. My travels in Bangladesh make me so optimistic about the future of this great nation.

Of course, we all know the constraints: inadequate ports, railroads, road networks, power, energy and the challenges of corruption, rule of law, respect for labor rights, and the threat of political instability ... these challenges are real, are serious, but each one/each one can be overcome, and that is exactly what I believe Bangladesh will do as it builds the Sonar Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi-Americans, too, are playing a major and growing role in building the Golden Bangladesh. I applaud the good work of Saiful Hassan and the Saad Musa City Group in

bringing Bangladeshi-American know-how and resources back to Bangladesh. I think Bangladeshi-Americans are poised to do even more in building the New Bangladesh inspired by the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of especially the many young and vibrant Bangladeshis here, who are determined to build the country of which they dream.

I am pleased/I am proud that America is Bangladesh's strong partner as Bangladesh emerges as the next Asian tiger. America is the single largest investor in Bangladesh, the single largest market for Bangladeshi exports, and the third largest source of remittances. And our development assistance partnership with Bangladesh, over \$200 million this year, is our largest in Asia outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan. This powerful and effective partnership helps Bangladesh create fertile ground for sowing the seeds of prosperity by helping Bangladesh slash under five child mortality, slash maternal mortality, enable Bangladeshis to have the family size they desire, promote expanded agricultural production, increase Bangladeshis' access to good, nutritious food, mitigate for the effects of global climate change, and this list goes on and on. Suffice it to say, America is Bangladesh's steadfast partner as it builds the Sonar Bangladesh.

As I said at the outset, this is a great day, this is an historic day for Bangladesh, as the nation takes yet another step to becoming the next Asian tiger. I am so honored to be a part of this grand occasion.

Thank you.

=====

*\*As prepared for delivery*

**GR/ 2012**