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PRESS RELEASE

AMERICAN SPORTS ENVOYS VISIT BANGLADESH

DHAKA, FEBRUARY 3 -- The American Center at the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, in partnership with the Bangladesh Football Federation, will host two American professional football (soccer) players in Dhaka from February 3 to 8, 2014. The sports envoys, Mr. Tony Sanneh and Ms. Linda Hamilton, are in Bangladesh through the U.S. Department of State's SportsUnited program. They will share their experience and skill with audiences and lead intensive intermediate and advanced skills workshops for young football players.

Mr. Sanneh is a former member of the Los Angeles Galaxy. In 2002, he was part of the U.S. national team that played in the FIFA World Cup. Ms. Hamilton is a former member of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. In 1991, she was part of the team that won the first Women's World Cup in China.

During their time in Dhaka, the two envoys will conduct workshops with students of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) and local schools. The SportsUnited program will culminate with final exhibition matches with the envoys, workshop participants, and noted players from the Bangladesh national football team. The exhibition match will be held at the Bangladesh Football Federation Turf in Arambagh on Friday, February 7 at 3:00 pm. The American Center invites the general public to attend and meet the players. Entrance is free.

SportsUnited is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs devoted to sports diplomacy. Sports diplomacy draws on the universal passion for sports as a way to increase dialogue and cultural understanding and bring people together. Participation in sports teaches leadership, teamwork, and communication skills that help young people succeed in all areas of their lives. Sports Envoys are athletes and coaches who travel overseas to lead programs developed by U.S. embassies and consulates in partnership with local host organizations. These American coaches and athletes hold sports clinics for young people and their coaches, participate in community outreach activities, and engage youth in a dialogue on the importance of leadership and respect for diversity. SportsUnited has involved thousands of people from over 100 countries in sports exchanges across the world.

Follow Mr. Sanneh and Ms. Hamilton during their visit to Bangladesh on the U.S. Embassy Dhaka's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy. To learn more about the SportsUnited program, visit <http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/sports-diplomacy>.

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