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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT LAUNCH CEREMONY
NARIR JOYE SHOBAR JOY
(WHEN WOMEN WIN, WE ALL WIN)
LAKESHORE HOTEL, DHAKA
NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, and Joint Secretary, Awami League

Begum Selima Rahman, Vice Chairperson, BNP

Professor Masuda Rashid Chowdhury, Presidium Member, Central Executive Committee, Jatiyo Party

Selima Ahmad, President, Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Ayesha Khanom, President, Mohila Parisad

Colleague Janina Jaruzelski, Mission Director, USAID Bangladesh

Katie Croake, Deputy Chief of Party, Democratic Participation and Reform in Bangladesh

... and, most especially, the women political leaders from Dhaka and across the nation who have just completed intensive training on how best to give voice to the aspirations of women

Asalaam 'malaikum, nameskar and good afternoon

I see before me a beautiful sight ...

Beautiful saris ...

... and beautiful, tough determination to build an ever better Bangladesh.

I see the builders of Bangladesh's emerging democracy ...

I see the builders who will strengthen Bangladesh's democratic institutions, starting at the grassroots and working up the political ladder.

Although my eyes are old, they are clearly focused on this beautiful, encouraging, inspiring sight before me ... you ... the builders of an ever stronger, democratic Bangladesh.

I know well of what I speak.

I began my work in developing countries 44 years ago, when I lived in remote villages of Nepal.

I served for two and one-half years as a Peace Corps Volunteer living in an isolated village in the Congo, working with farmers on improving chicken production.

My entire 33-year career as a diplomat has been in the emerging world.

Along the way I have learned that if you want to support meaningful development, if you want to make lasting, sustainable change, ...

...then you must work with the women.

This is especially true for building and strengthening democratic institutions.

Indeed, developing democracy is about women.

Women, women/you – builders of family ...

Women/you – builders of community...

Women/you – builders of nations ...

Today, we celebrate the success of women ... your success ... in developing and refining the skills that you need to give strong, effective voice to the aspirations of your community, including the women.

Indeed, today we are celebrating women, the power of women, the power of women to work with other women, the power of women to work with their communities so they ... you ... can build better lives for yourselves, for your families and for your communities.

America knows well the struggle of women to gain their rightful role in the political process. This struggle continues to this day as women endeavor to play their part in leading and building America.

If democracy is to be strong and effective, women must participate fully in the democratic process ... after all, they are over 50 percent of the population.

Bangladesh is showing the way by mandating a greatly expanded political role for women in the democratic process by 2020.

You join thousands of women across Bangladesh in the Narir Joye Shobar Joy campaign to help women prepare themselves to participate in the political process effectively.

The media campaign that we are launching today will help Bangladeshis better understand the need to engage women in building democracy.

I am pleased that America is helping women ... you ... prepare to be strong leaders in the political process.

I wish you ... the emerging next generation of women political leaders ... all the best as you undertake to build an ever better Bangladesh ... indeed, Sonar Bangla.

Thank you.

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**As Prepared for delivery*