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SECRETARY CLINTON'S MESSAGE ON BANGLA NEW YEAR

DHAKA, APRIL 12 -- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued the following Bangla New Year message:

(begin text)

I send greetings to all around the world who are observing Pohela Boishakh, the New Year festivities celebrated by those who share common Bengali cultural and linguistic traditions. As you welcome the year 1416, I salute the spirit of tolerance and shared linguistic and cultural heritage that brings so many together, regardless of religion or nationality, to usher in a new year with music, drama, and traditional foods.

All New Year celebrations reflect the hope of new beginnings. As the world faces the greatest economic challenges in generations, we all must stand together to embrace the New Year's promise of rebirth and renewal. It is our shared hope for the future - our shared dream of a better world for our children - that brings us all together to celebrate our common humanity.

I send my best wishes for a special day shared with family and friends. Shubho Nobo Borsho!

(end text)

The text is also available on the U.S. State Department website:

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/04/121596.htm>

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)