

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

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



PRESS RELEASE

AMBASSADOR MORIARTY HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN THREE-DAY VISIT TO SYLHET, HABIGANJ, AND SREEMONGOL

DHAKA, AUGUST 5 -- U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty traveled to Sylhet, Sreemongal and Habiganj August 3-5 to review development activities in the region. During visits to various U.S. Government-funded projects, the Ambassador reaffirmed America's long-term commitment to the development of Bangladesh. Mrs. Lauren Moriarty and Ms. Denise Rollins, Mission Director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), accompanied the Ambassador. Minister of Health, Professor Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque; Principal Abdus Shahih, Chief Whip, Bangladesh Parliament; Abdul Momin Talukder MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment and Forest, and other government officials of concerned ministries joined the Ambassador at visits throughout the week.

In Habiganj, Ambassador Moriarty and the Health Minister inaugurated a U.S. Government-supported Smiling Sun Health Clinic at Shastipur. Chevron Bangladesh is funding this clinic through a public-private partnership with the USAID-supported Smiling Sun Clinic Network. 320 Smiling Sun clinics across Bangladesh provide essential maternal and child health and family planning services to more than 20 million people - almost 17% of the total national population. Mrs. Lauren Moriarty discussed the role of students in a democracy with 50 students at the American Corner Sylhet, located on the campus of Sylhet International University. Established in 2005, the American Corner Sylhet provides reliable information about the U.S. as well as a place to browse books and magazines and access the internet.

In Sreemongol, Ambassador Moriarty attended a U.S. Government-sponsored dialog on conservation and co-management for the Lawachara National Park. This dialog is part of the U.S. Government-funded US\$ 12.7 million forest and wetland protection program called the Integrated Protected Area Co-management (IPAC). The event brought together civil society members, business leaders, government officials, academicians, and community members to discuss important issues related to conserving the national park. Ambassador Moriarty also opened a student dormitory in the Lawachara National Park and visited the Magurchara Khasia village where he met with Khasi community members. The Ambassador concluded his trip at the groundbreaking ceremony for a Community-owned Nature Interpretation Center (CONIC) at Lawachara National Park.

GR/2009

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)*