**Joint ground breaking of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline;**

**3rd-4th Dual Gauge Line on Dhaka-Tongi Section and**

**Double Line on Dhaka-Joydevpur Section Inaugural Ceremony**

Speech by

**H.E. Sheikh Hasina**

Hon’ble Prime Minister

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Tuesday, 18 September 2018, Ganabhaban, Dhaka

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Your Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India,

Hon’ble External Affairs Minister of India Shrimati Sushama Swaraj,

Hon’ble Indian Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri Dharmendra Prodhan,

Distinguished Guests.

**Assalamu Alaikum and a very good afternoon to you all.**

We are very happy to join Your Excellency Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi at this joint ground breaking ceremony of India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline project and two other railway projects through video-conferencing.

We inaugurated the supply of 500 megawatt electricity and two railway projects on September the 10th. Just after a week, today we are going to inaugurate another few important joint projects between the two countries. This intermittent contact between us, I believe, will further cement the ties of existing cooperation between Bangladesh and India. I extend my sincere thanks to you Hon’ble Prime Minister for your generosity.

**Excellency Prime Minister,**

An excellent environment of bilateral cooperation has been prevailing between us since we assumed office in 2009.

The mutual cooperation between the two countries enhanced many folds during the last nine and a half years in the fields of security, power and energy, trade, communication, infrastructure development, environment, renewable energy, education, culture, people to people contact, health and so on.

Today we are going to lay the foundation stone of two projects. These are:

1. Ground breaking of Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline between Siliguri of India and Parbatipur of Bangladesh; and
2. Inauguration of the work on 3rd-4th Dual Gauge Line on Dhaka-Tongi Section and Double Line on Dhaka-Joydevpur Section.

The train communication on South-western region through Padma Bridge and northern region through Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge, and on Chittagong-Sylhet routes from Dhaka will be easier and faster once the work on 3rd-4th Dual Gauge Line on Dhaka-Tongi Section and Double Line on Dhaka-Joydevpur Section is completed.

A total of 96 kilometres of dual gauge tracks along with other necessary infrastructure will be constructed under the project that stretches from Kamlapur to Joydevpur railway station.

**Dear audience,**

The 130-kilometre India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from Shiliguri of Assam to Parbatipur of Dinajpur in Bangladesh is a new milestone in the history of cooperation between the two countries. This will be first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Parbatipur Depot of Dinajpur of Bangladesh from Numaligarh of Assam in India. Initially, Bangladesh will receive 2.5 lakh metric tons of diesel per annum and it will gradually be increased to 4 lakh metric tons.

The first consignment of diesel from India reached to Bangladesh in March 2016 through rail wagon.

I would like to express my gratitude to you Hon’ble Prime Minister for your active role in implementing these projects. I also extend my thanks to all concerned associated with the projects in both Bangladesh and India.

**Excellency Prime Minister,**

Economic development is the biggest challenge for South Asian countries. The prospects for economic development will substantially be enhanced through undertaking bilateral projects like this.

Our bilateral cooperation has reached to a new height in the past few years. We have to work collectively for the development and prosperity for the people of both countries in the new areas, including energy, power, road and rail communications.

The people of Bangladesh and India have always been good neighbours. On this happy moment, I am recalling with gratitude the sincere cooperation of the government of India and its people during our war of liberation in 1971 led by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I look forward to continued support and cooperation from the government of India in our development pursuit. I am quite sure that we will get such many happy events in the days ahead for the welfare of the people of Bangladesh and India.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Long live Bangladesh-India Friendship.

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