

Inauguration of supply of Double Decker & Single Decker AC and Non-AC Buses and Trucks (under 2nd Line of Credit), 36 Community Clinics in 5 Districts (Jamalpur, Sherpur, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Brahmanbaria) under grant financing from India; 11 Water Treatment Plants in Bhandaria, Pirojpur (under grant financing from India); Extension of National Knowledge Network (NKN) (under NKN Extension to SAARC nations)

Through video conferencing

Remarks by

H.E. Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ganobhaban, Monday, 27 Falgun 1425, 11 March 2019

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and good afternoon.

I begin by expressing my utmost sympathy for the family members of the deceased personnel who were killed in the Pulwama attack in Kashmir last month. We reiterate our strong condemnation of this dastardly act. We remain steadfast in our resolve to root out the scourge of terrorism from our region and beyond through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. Bangladesh maintains a zero tolerance policy against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and will never allow its land to be used by any terrorist organization.

Excellency,

This is my first video conference with you after my assumption of office as Prime Minister for the third consecutive term. In this connection, I thank you once again for your congratulatory phone call immediately after the declaration of the election results.

I am elated to join this formal inauguration of the supply of Double Decker & Single Decker AC and Non-AC Buses and Trucks to Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (under the 2nd Line of Credit), 36 Community Clinics in 5 Districts (Jamalpur, Sherpur, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Brahmanbaria) of Bangladesh under grant financing of the Government of India; 11 Water Treatment Plants in Bhandaria Pouroshova, Pirojpur District, Barisal Division of Bangladesh (under grant financing of the Government of India) and National Knowledge Network (NKN) Extension to Bangladesh.

Excellency,

For us March is the month of Liberation. On 7th March 1971, our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made a clarion call to the Bengali people for the liberation of Bangladesh from the shackles of the then West Pakistan. Responding to his call, the people of the then East Pakistan joined the War of Liberation and we attained final victory on the 16th December 1971 after a 9-month bloody war. We gratefully recall the crucial contribution of the Government and the people of India during our War of Liberation, which remains an eternal milestone in the relations between our two countries.

Over the last decade, our two countries have witnessed remarkable progress on cooperation in different conventional and unconventional areas like security, power, trade & commerce, energy, connectivity, infrastructure development, environment, renewable energy, education, culture, people-to-people contact and health. At the same time, we have expanded our cooperation in newer areas e.g. blue economy and maritime cooperation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, cooperation in outer space, internet band width sharing, cyber security etc. As a result of such multifaceted and multi-dimensional cooperation, our bilateral relations have

become a role model of good neighborliness for the rest of the world. I strongly believe that this momentum will continue.

Excellency,

It is matter of great satisfaction that today some of the projects under the 2nd Line of Credit provided by India to Bangladesh are coming close to completion.

I am happy that under the LoC projects, 600 buses (300 double-decker, 200 AC Single Decker, and 100 Non-AC Single Decker) and 500 (350 16-tonne and 150 10-tonne) trucks will be added to the fleet of the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC). I hope it will provide relief to the daily commuters in Bangladesh and will also help in easing the traffic congestion on our highways to some extent.

We welcome the friendly gesture of the Government of India to establish 36 Community clinics in 5 districts and 11 water treatment plants in Bhandaria through grant financing. With more than 14,000 units operational across the country, Community Clinics are an integral part of the health system in rural Bangladesh and a hugely successful flagship program of my government. These are contributing towards making basic health care, family planning and nutrition services available right at the grassroots level.

I also appreciate the extension of National Knowledge Network (NKN) to Bangladesh. I hope this will increase the capability of our researchers by enhancing their access to the universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across India.

Excellency,

I thank you for your time to jointly inaugurate these four projects today. I also thank the teams in both India and Bangladesh for their efforts to put together today's inauguration ceremony. I look forward to jointly celebrating more such success stories of our collective endeavours in future.

I thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.
Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever
Long live Bangladesh-India Friendship.

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