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REMARKS BY

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**Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and Space
Partnership International
Signing Ceremony for the Satellite Project
BTRC Office**

March 29, 2012

Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju, Minister for Post and Telecommunications

Hasanul Huq Inu, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee for Post and Telecommunications

N.I. Khan, PS-1 to the Prime Minister and Project Director of Access to Information Program

Sunil Kanti Bose, Secretary, Ministry for Post and telecommunications

Major General (R) Zia Ahmed, Chairman, BTRC

Bruce Kraselsky, Co-founder of Space Partnership International

Good afternoon.

I speak often of my vision that within the next decade or two there will be a New Bangladesh, a Golden Bangladesh, a middle income Bangladesh, a Bangladesh that offers its people bright prospects for prosperity, good health and quality education for the children.

Today's signing ceremony, which launches a process that culminates in the launch of Bangladesh's first satellite, is further evidence of Bangladesh's bright future. Today's ceremony demonstrates concretely Bangladesh's determination to play a global role commensurate with its size as the world's seventh largest country.

The communications satellite that will be the end result of the work that begins today will contribute significantly to Bangladesh's economic development. It will augment Bangladesh's telecommunications capabilities; it will expand internet connectivity throughout Bangladesh. This satellite will help make real Bangladeshi determination to create a Digital Bangladesh, a Bangladesh that offers its citizens greater access to the world through information technology.

Bangladesh is making great history today. This project is a major undertaking that requires deep technical expertise to select and procure satellite technology, to negotiate with international regulators and other satellite operators on access to the spectrum, to plan and oversee satellite launch services, and to plan ground support services.

I am pleased that BTRC has turned to U.S. technology expertise to realize its vision of having its own satellite in space. I believe that BTRC has chosen well in selecting Space Partnership International to help make this vision reality. SPI is a leading U.S. firm in this area, and its extensive experience and knowledge of aerospace technology will serve BTRC well as it moves forward to implement this ambitious plan.

I congratulate BTRC; I congratulate Space Partnership International for achieving this important milestone today. This new partnership between Bangladesh and America is yet further evidence of how our two countries working together can make our shared vision of a Golden, Digital Bangladesh a reality.

I am deeply proud to represent my country here today to witness Bangladesh's giant leap forward in tapping the latest technology to bring ever greater prosperity to the people of this wondrous country.

Indeed, today is a great day in the history of Bangladesh.

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GR/ 2012