

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Finance  
Economic Relations Division  
ADB-1 Section  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

Today, a loan agreement amounting to USD 688 million for the "*Conversion of Existing Chattogram–Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track*" Project was signed in Dhaka between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Hoe Yun Jeong, Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission of ADB, signed the agreement on behalf of GoB and ADB respectively. Senior officials from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and ADB were present at the signing ceremony.

Bangladesh Railway, under the Ministry of Railways, will implement the "*Conversion of Existing Chattogram–Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track*" Project from July 2023 to June 2028. The main objectives of the project are to: (a) convert 52 km Chattogram–Dohazari (including Pahartali–Chattogram) meter gauge track into a dual gauge track; (b) provide uninterrupted railway service between the capital Dhaka and Cox's Bazar tourist destinations by connecting Dhaka–Chattogram rail corridor with Dohazari–Cox's Bazar rail corridor (currently under construction); and (c) improve design speeds to 120 km/h for broad gauge (BG) trains and 100 km/h for meter gauge (MG) trains, with operational speeds of 100 km/h and 80 km/h for BG and MG trains respectively.

The project also includes the procurement of 30-meter gauge diesel-electric locomotives. The loan is repayable over 25 years, including a 5-year grace period.

ADB is one of the largest multilateral development partners of Bangladesh, providing development assistance since the country became a member of the organization in 1973. To date, ADB's total loans to Bangladesh amount to nearly USD 35.00 billion, with total grants reaching USD 633.8 million. ADB's development assistance primarily focuses on the power, energy, local government, transport, education, agriculture, health, water resources, governance, and financial sectors of Bangladesh.

  
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