**Video Statement by Hon’ble Prime Minister at the 8th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, 10 February 2022.**

**UN Headquarters, New York, USA**

Recording date: 8 February 2023

 *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim*

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, we celebrate the women and girls who are making important contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

It is unfortunate that women represent only 12% of scientists and 30% of researchers globally. We must work to address the barriers in mindsets and learning environments to allow more women and girls to excel in science.

I also urge women and girls to act as the agents of change themselves. The women and girls in science and technology must remember that they are not alone. The steps they take would help open the door further for their sisters around the world.

In Bangladesh, I have made it a priority to have our women and girls lead in every sphere. Our women are doing very well in the field of research and higher education. Scholarships are being given to girls to carry out research in agriculture, industry, health, science, art, information technology - all fields. To encourage girls, 5,275 Digital Centers have been established across Bangladesh from where one girl and one boy entrepreneur are providing 200 types of services.

We have established Science and Technology Universities across the country to give our boys and girls easy access. Our Hi-tech Parks have created an inclusive environment where our girls can thrive alongside our boys.

We wish to see our women and girls fulfill their potentials for innovation and creativity in science. We must bridge the gaps in opportunities available for them in developed and developing countries. We want our girls to have their full share in building smart, knowledge-based societies.

I congratulate all on this International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

I thank you.