

➤ **Bangladesh: Story of an Emerging Nation**

➤ **Bangladesh-Turkey Relations : Friends Forever**

➤ **Rohingya Crisis**

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Ambassador of Bangladesh to Turkey

Contours of the Presentation

- **Bangladesh: The Emerging Tiger**
 - i. **Geography**
 - ii. **Demography**
 - iii. **History**
 - iv. **Politics**
 - v. **Culture**
 - vi. **Economy**
 - vii. **Technology**
 - viii. **Defence**
 - ix. **Foreign Policy & Diplomacy**
- **Bangladesh-Turkey
Bilateral Relations: Time-tested Brotherly Bonds**
 - I. **Overview of Relations**
 - II. **Way forward**
- **Questions & Answers**

Geography matters ...



Geography matters ...



Salient Geographic Features

- Bangladesh-the World's largest active delta;
- Bay of Bengal-the World's largest Gulf or, Bay;
- The Sundarbans-the largest mangrove forest ;
- Cox's Bazar-the longest unbroken sea beach (110 km);
- 2nd Largest water drainage system in the world comprised of Ganges-Brahmatra-Meghna rivers. More than 200 rivers-54 of them are international rivers;
- Average agricultural yield 3.4 crops a year.
- 6th largest fresh water reserve in Bangladesh
- 6 Seasons: a unique feature

History inspires...

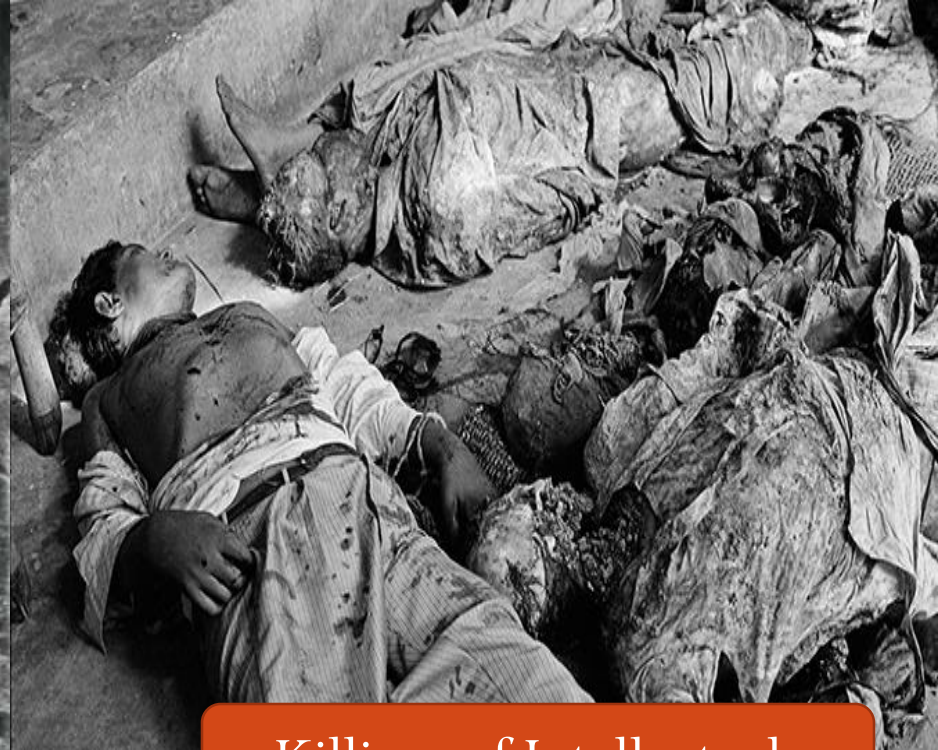
- Bangla's (Bengal) indomitable spirit to remain independent throughout its history;
- Finally, Bangladesh's emergence as a democracy in the comity of nation states in 1971 through bloodshed of nine months, that cost the lives of 3 million Bangladeshis;
- The riches of Bangla (Bengal); the richest province of Mughal India.
- Medieval Bangla-one of the largest GDPs in the world;

History inspires...

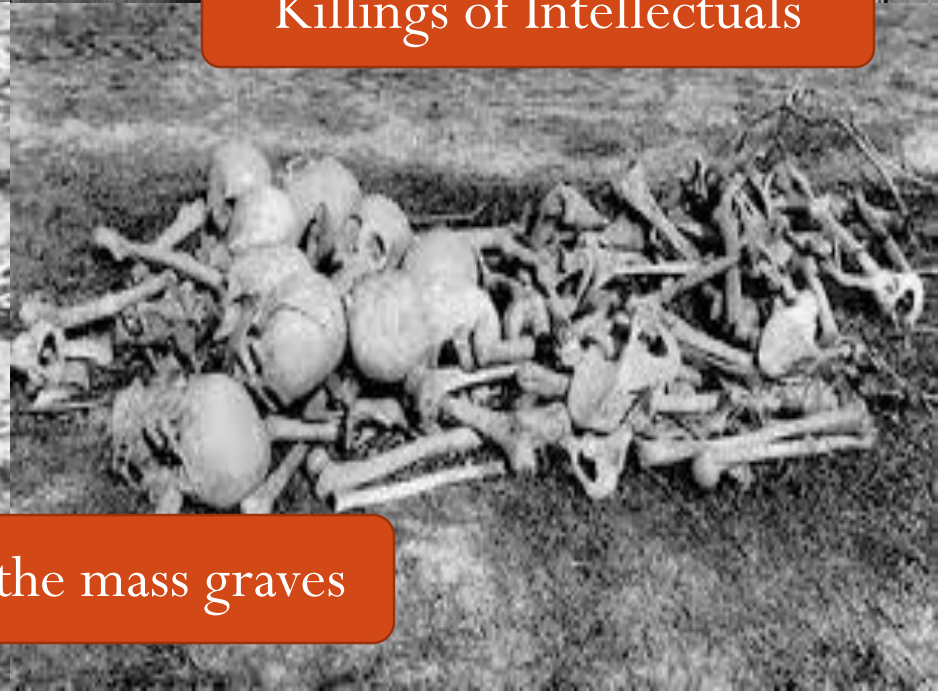
Independent Bangladesh



Atrocities
committed
during
1971



Killings of Intellectuals



Findings from the mass graves



Atrocities
committed
during
1971



History inspires...(cont'd)



History inspires...(cont'd)



Demography matters...

- Bangladesh is 8th largest country in population; Total Population 165.6 million (Jun 2019).
- Bangladesh has an increasingly younger population. 1/3rd of total population is youth;
 - 110 million economically-active by 2018;
- 2/3rd of the population will remain active till 2035.
- Bangladesh will continue to enjoy "*demographic dividend*" (2012 – 2035).

Government

- Responsible and representative Parliamentary democracy at the heart of the political governance;
- Bangladesh has a stable government for last 10 years, which is responsible and representative;
- Government is committed to spur equitable economic growth and development in tandem with the democratic expansion of the society;
- Every year 360 million books are distributed among school students free of charge.

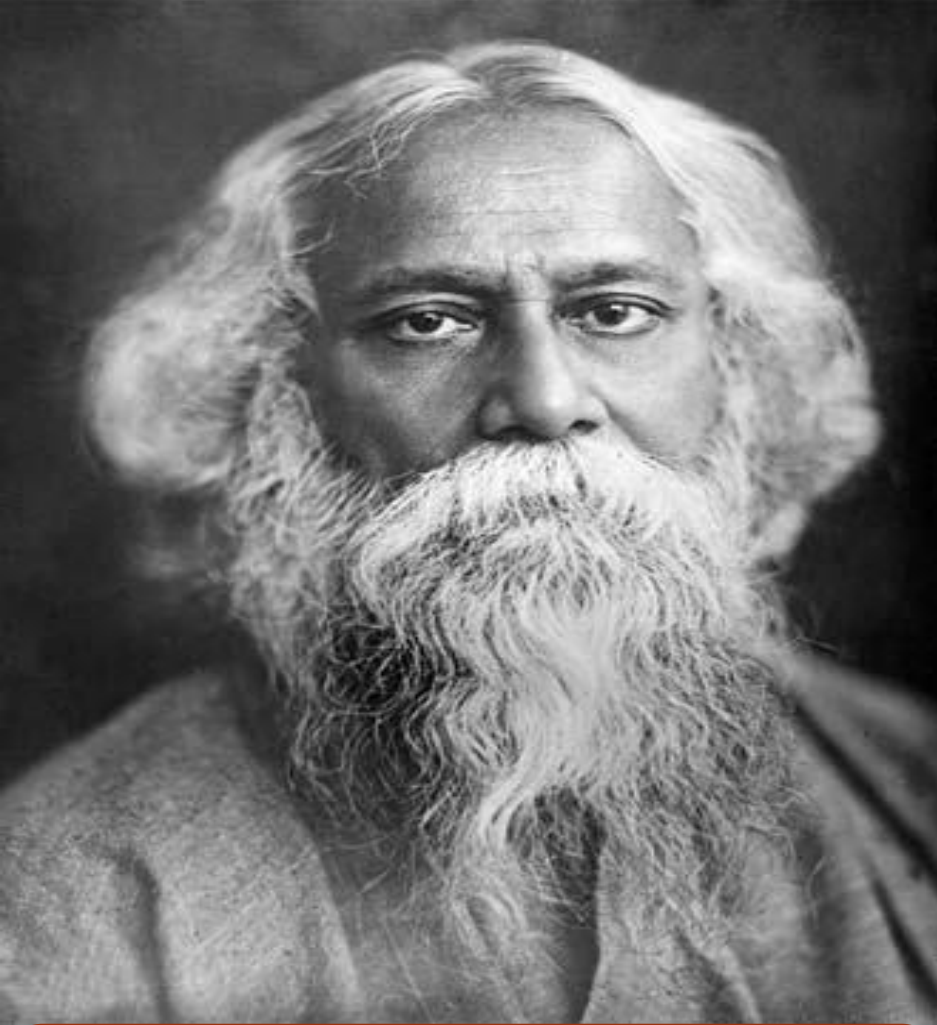
The Parliament Building in Dhaka



Culture matters...

- **Secularism and pluralism** at the heart of the cultural orientation of Bangladesh;
- The term '**Syncretism**' can best define the culture of Bangladesh;
 - For example, 'Pahela Baishakh' than any other particular religious festival is more widely celebrated by the people irrespective of their religion, caste, colour, race or language.
 - Bangla is the easternmost Indo-Aryan Language
 - Bengal: A melting pot of faiths and races
 - Bangladesh: Land bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia

Culture matters ...(cont'd)



রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর
Rabindranath Tagore



কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম
Kazi Nazrul Islam

Bangladesh in UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity

❖ Baul Song



❖ Traditional Art of Zamdani Weaving



❖ Mongol Shovajatra (Bangla New year Carnival)



❖ Traditional Art of Shitalpati Weaving



UNESCO Memory of the World Register

Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu



UNESCO Heritage Sites in Bangladesh:

❖ **Paharpur Buddhist Monastery (8th Century AD)**



❖ **Bagerhat Mosque City (15th Century AD)**



UNESCO Natural Heritage in Bangladesh:

❖ **The Sunderbans**



Culture matters...(cont'd)

Pahela Baishakh



Beauty of Bangladesh

Nature matters...

Sea in Bangladesh



River in Bangladesh

A Glimpse of Dhaka City



সংরক্ষিত এলাকা
এখানে সর্ব ধর্মাবলম্বীর
কসা নিষেধ।
আমরা সবাইকে সবার সাথে

Nature matters...(cont'd)





Night View of Hatirjheel in Dhaka City

Bird's Eye View of Dhaka City





Sailing Boats

Culture matters...(cont'd)

Country Boat Race



Culture matters...(cont'd)



Traditional Wrestling

Culture matters...(cont'd)



Traditional Bull Cart Race

Culture matters...(cont'd)



Traditional Cock Fight

Traditional Home Made Cakes



Traditional Main Courses...Rice & Fish; Tehari; Biryani

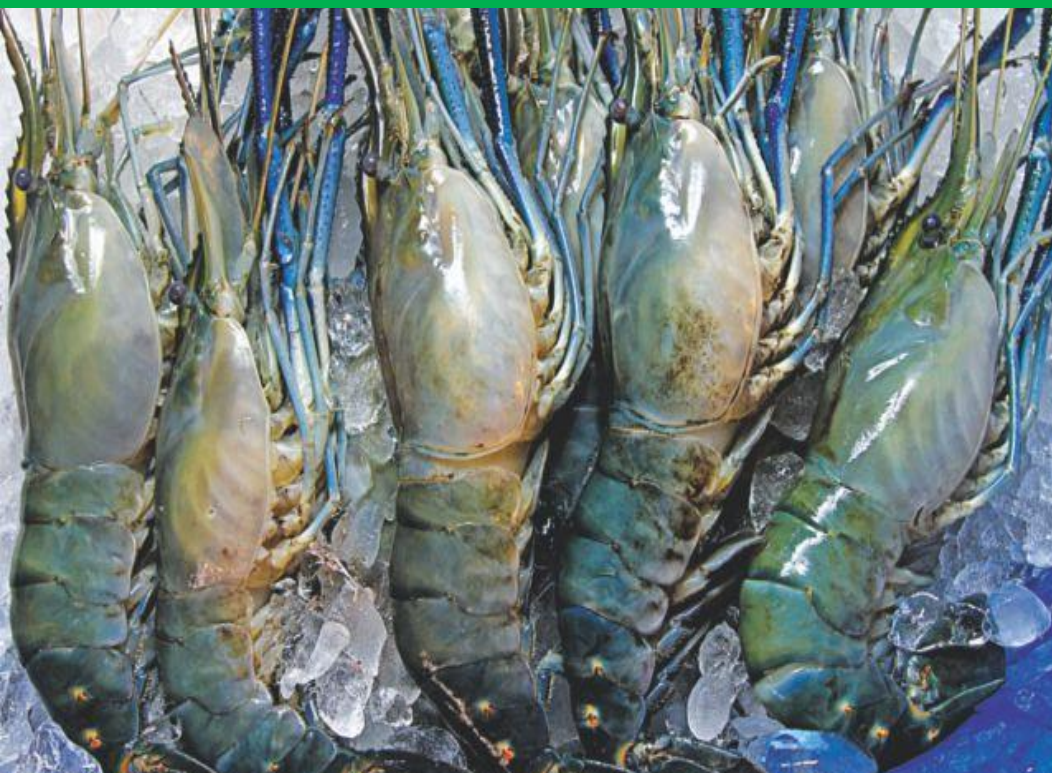
Pohela Baishakh's
Panta Ilish



Fishes of Bangladesh



Fishes of Bangladesh



Birds of Bangladesh



Education matters...

- **46 Public Sector Universities;**
- **80 Private Sector Universities;**
- **62 Medical Colleges;**
- **40 Dental Colleges;**
- **7 Engineering and Technical universities.**

Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021

- Bangladesh trained more than 65,000 Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITeS) professionals in the past year
- Bangladesh is committed to ensuring 100% internet connectivity by 2021. Currently more than 93 million internet subscribers and 160 million mobile subscriptions, making Bangladesh the fifth largest mobile market in Asia Pacific and the ninth largest in the world.
- Have two submarine cable connections with 1,700 gigabits per second (Gbps) and seven ITC connections with 400 Gbps. Plan to be an adopter of 5G. **By 2019, high-speed internet connectivity will reach even remote villages.**
- Building **28 high-tech parks** around the country and plan to increase this to 64.
- More than **120 companies** export information and communications technology (ICT) products worth nearly \$1 billion to **35 countries**. **By 2021, it's expected that this will increase to \$5 billion.** The growing strength of the ICT Industry underpins the four vital pillars that will support Bangladesh's transformation to a **digital economy by 2021**, and a **knowledge economy by 2041**.
- **E-governance** is the next step in driving the **Digital Bangladesh engine** forward. The government is proactively pursuing the digitalization of all government portals, such as passport applications and visa applications, by the year 2023. In 2014, we developed the **National Portal** which now houses more than **45,000 websites and services of different government offices**. We have developed more than **5,000 digital centres across the country** to help provide various digital services to citizens, while addressing the issue of a digital divide.

Technology matters...

**Bangladesh:
rapidly
connected,
digitized
Lifestyle**

- **Access to and penetration of digital connectivity:**
 - 140 million people connected over mobile in last 5 years.
 - Over 30 million in 2 metropolises only.
- **Over 50% population (30 million) using Internet. Projected to be over 50% (2020);**
- **15 million+ smart mobile phones!**
 - projected to grow to 30 million (2021);
- **Internet price fallen rapidly: 6 times in 6 years;**
- **Social Media Users: 34 million**



Technology matters...

- Bangladesh has set up 4454 Union Digital Center; Union Digital Centres was inaugurated in 11 Nov. 2010.
- 55 Million services provided to citizen from Union Digital Center in last 9 Years countrywide
- 50 Million birth registration electronically from Union Digital Center
- 50,000 local youths got ICT training from Union Digital Centers
- 100+ simplified Public services; offered through Internet
- E-procurement;
- Digital Mapping.

Defence matters



- Bangladesh has a standing Armed Forces composed of Army, Navy and Air Force
- Bangladesh Armed Forces is committed to global peace under the banner of United Nations
- Since 1988, it has participated in 54 United Nations peacekeeping missions in 40 countries.
- Bangladesh ranks 2nd contributing 6591 troops as of Jan. 2019.



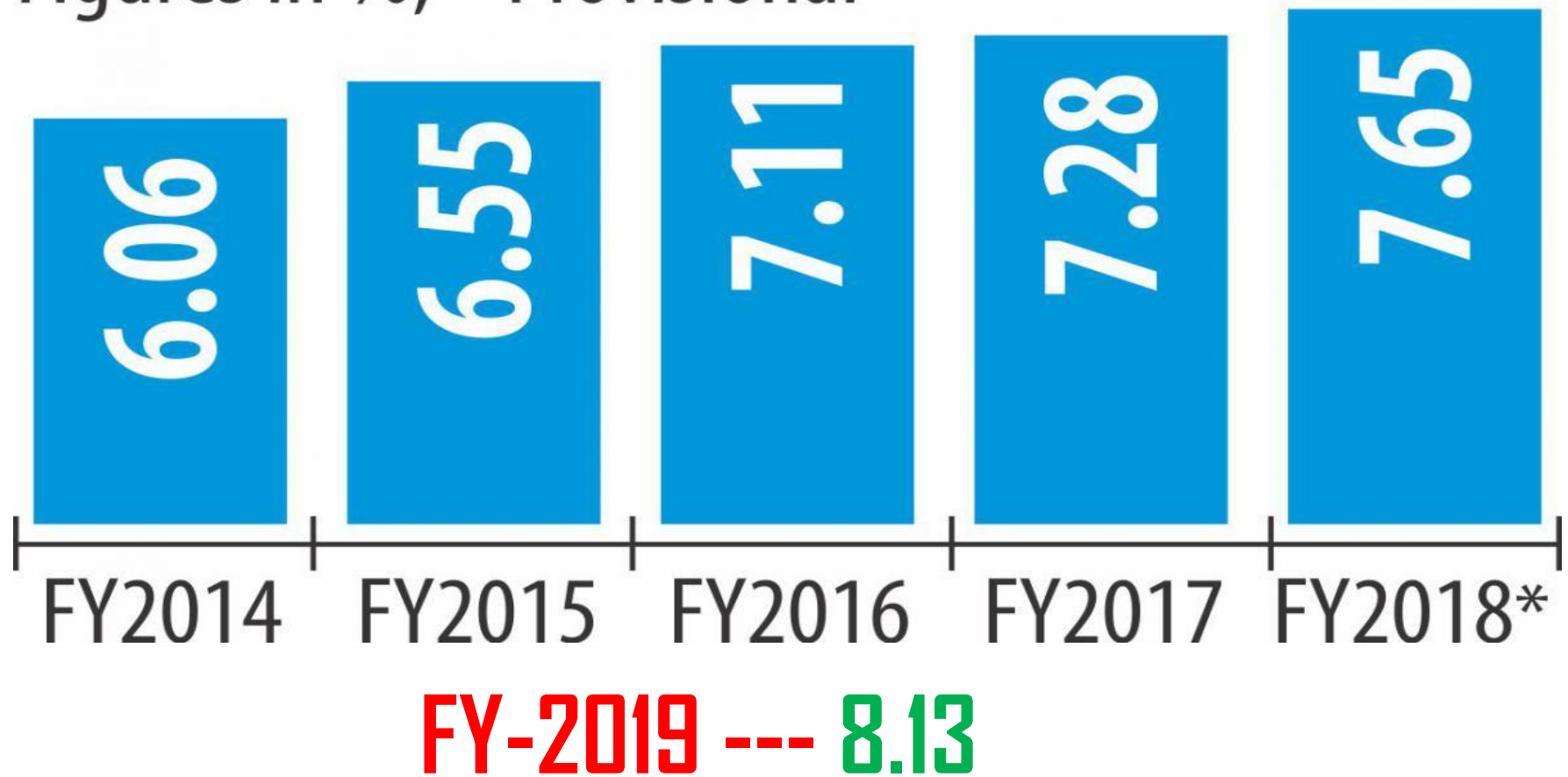
Economy matters ...(cont'd)

- In 2018, Bangladesh's GDP now stands at US\$ 751 billion in terms of PPP-Global ranking 30th;
- As per nominal market price GDP is now US\$ 320 billion-Global Ranking 40th.
- The country has become the 2nd biggest economy in South Asia and Bangladesh is the fastest-growing economy in the Asia-Pacific region (ADB, 2019).
- Per capita GDP (market price)-US\$ 1909/Per capita GDP (PPP)-US\$ 4805 (December, 2018);
- Bangladesh's GDP is expected to cross \$1 trillion mark, making the country **the 30th largest economy of the world in 2022** (IMF report April, 2017) and projected to be 24th by 2033(World Economic League Table, London, (WELT) Report 2019).
- Since 2009, Bangladesh's economy has **grown** 188 percent. According to the ADB, Bangladesh's economy grew **by 7.28% in 2017** and by 7.9% in 2018 GDP and is projected to grow 8.13% by 2019.
- Inflation was around 5.8% in 2018 and forecasted at 5.8% in 2019.
- It was also **the ninth year** in a row that GDP growth was greater than 6%. This will continue.

Economy matters...(cont'd)

GDP GROWTH TRENDS

Figures in %; * Provisional



Economy matters---

- Bangladesh obtained highest Trade Confidence Score [HSBC];
- Bangladesh in *Frontier Five* [JP Morgan];
- Bangladesh in *Next Eleven* [N-11: Goldman Sachs];
- One of the eleven '3G (Global Growth Generators)' countries [A Citigroup report];
- World's Next Great Growth Markets for Consumer Products [Boston Consulting Group].

Global Ranking of Bangladesh

- 2nd largest producer of RMG;
- 4th in Rice;
- 3rd in Winter Vegetables (5th largest Vegetable producer);
- 4th largest inland fish producer;
- 4th largest Mango producer;
- 7th in Potato production;
- 2nd in Jute;
- 8th in Footwear;
- 10th in Raw Hide;
- 8th in Shrimp Export;
- 9th in Tea.

Economy matters...(cont'd)

Striking Economic Sectors

- Readymade Garments
- Pharmaceuticals
- Shipbuilding
- Ceramics
- Software and Outsourcing

Investment Incentives

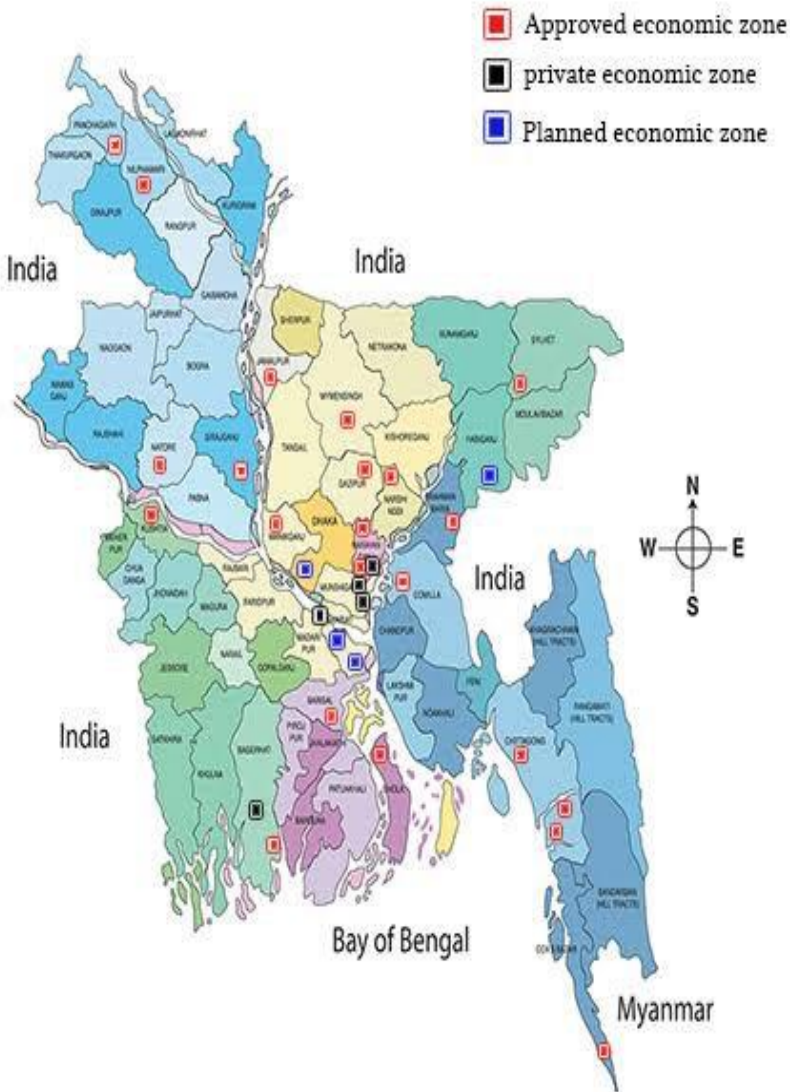
- ✓ **100% foreign equity with unrestricted exit policy;**
- ✓ **Remittance of royalty, equity and dividend;**
- ✓ **Fiscal and Tax incentives** (Tax holiday for 12 years, accelerated depreciation double tax avoidance, bonded warehouse, cash incentives, export dev. Fund etc)
- ✓ **DFQF Access to major markets;**
- ✓ **Large Domestic Market;**
- ✓ **Abundant skilled/ semi skilled manpower.**
- ✓ **Since 2018, net foreign direct investment has increased by 42.9 percent.** Mostly in the sectors of electricity, food, and textiles. Top investors come from China, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and South Korea.

Special Economic Zones

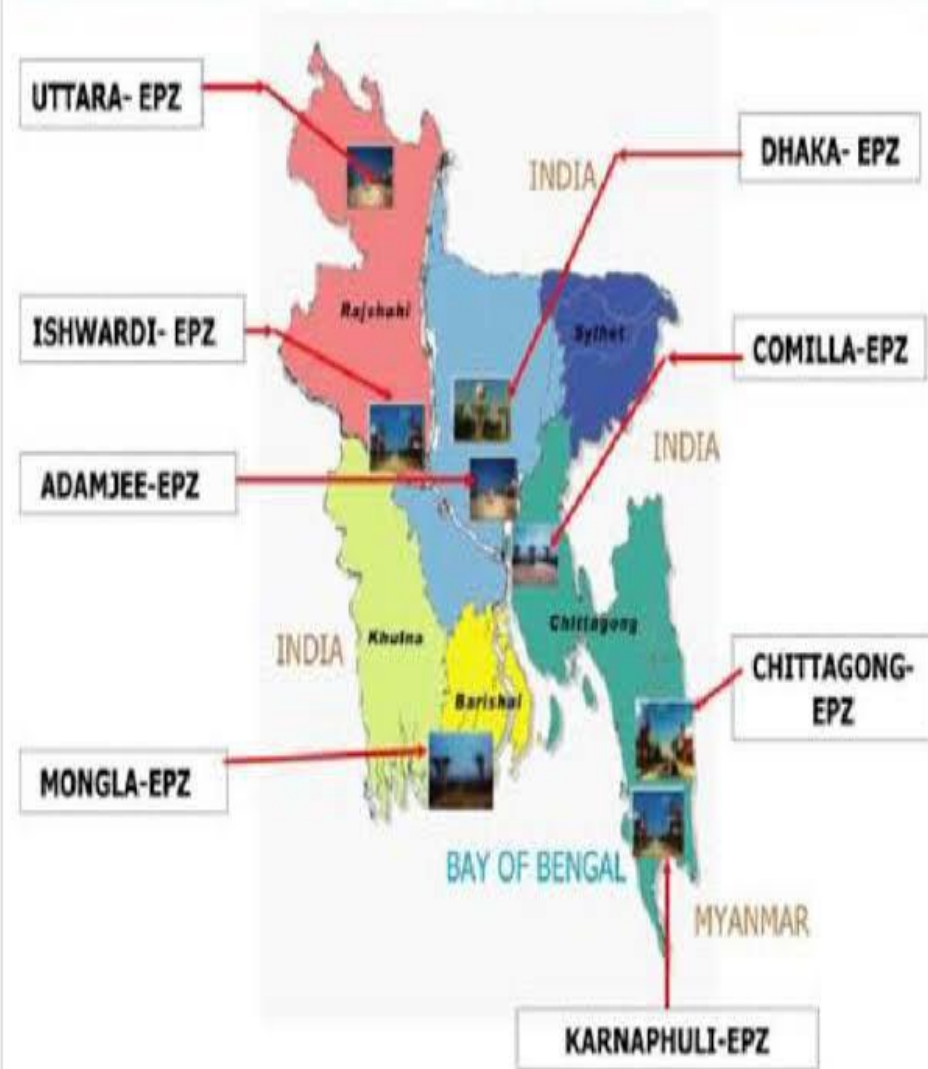
- ✓ 100 Special Economic Zones by 2030;
- ✓ Creation of 10 million jobs;
- ✓ Production worth USD 40 billion;
- ✓ 79 Zones selected for Development;
- ✓ 28 at advanced stage;
- ✓ PPP Economic Zones;
- ✓ Private Economic Zones;
- ✓ G2G Economic Zones.

Economy matters

SEZs of Bangladesh



EPZs in Bangladesh



Economy matters



Miresbarai Special Economic Zone

Economy matters...(cont'd)



Economy matters...(cont'd)



Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant being constructed in the Northern Part of Bangladesh

Economy matters

Floating LNG Terminal being built
in Moheskhali (South-Eastern
Part of Bangladesh)



Economy matters



Payra Deep Sea Port



Economy matters



**Matarbari Power Plant, Maheskhali
(1200 MW)**

Social Development

- Bangladesh at the Top in Gender Gap Index in South Asia and 48th globally in 2019 (World Economic Forum);
- Bangladesh 34th among 74 developing economics in 2018 (IMF);
- Bangladesh's performance in Human Capital Index (HCI) is better than South Asian average in 2019 (WB-IMF);
- Bangladesh's success in Immunization, Safe Drinking Water, Life Expectancy, Sanitation, Gender Parity in Education is remarkable.
- In Inclusive Development Index-2018 (IDI) by World Economic Forum, Bangladesh is ranked 34th among 109 countries; ahead of India (62nd), Pakistan (47th), Sri Lanka (40th) etc.

Bangladesh: Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Bilateralism

- “Friendship to all but malice to none” --Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman;
- **Article-25 of Bangladesh Constitution:**
“The State shall base its international relations on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, non interference in the internal affairs of other countries, peaceful settlement of international disputes, and respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter, and

Bangladesh: Foreign Policy & Diplomacy (cont'd)

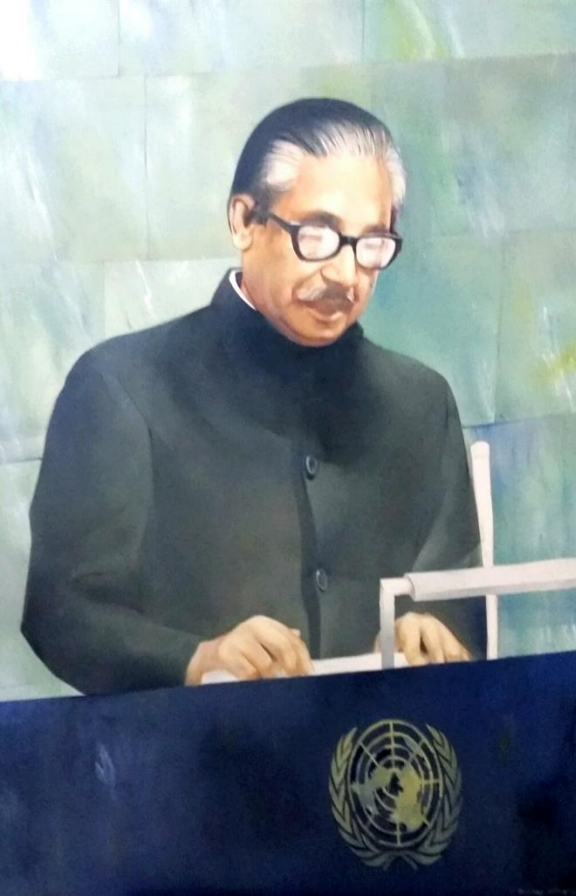
Multilateralism

“... Let us together create a world that can eradicate poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security for the well being of humanity. . .”

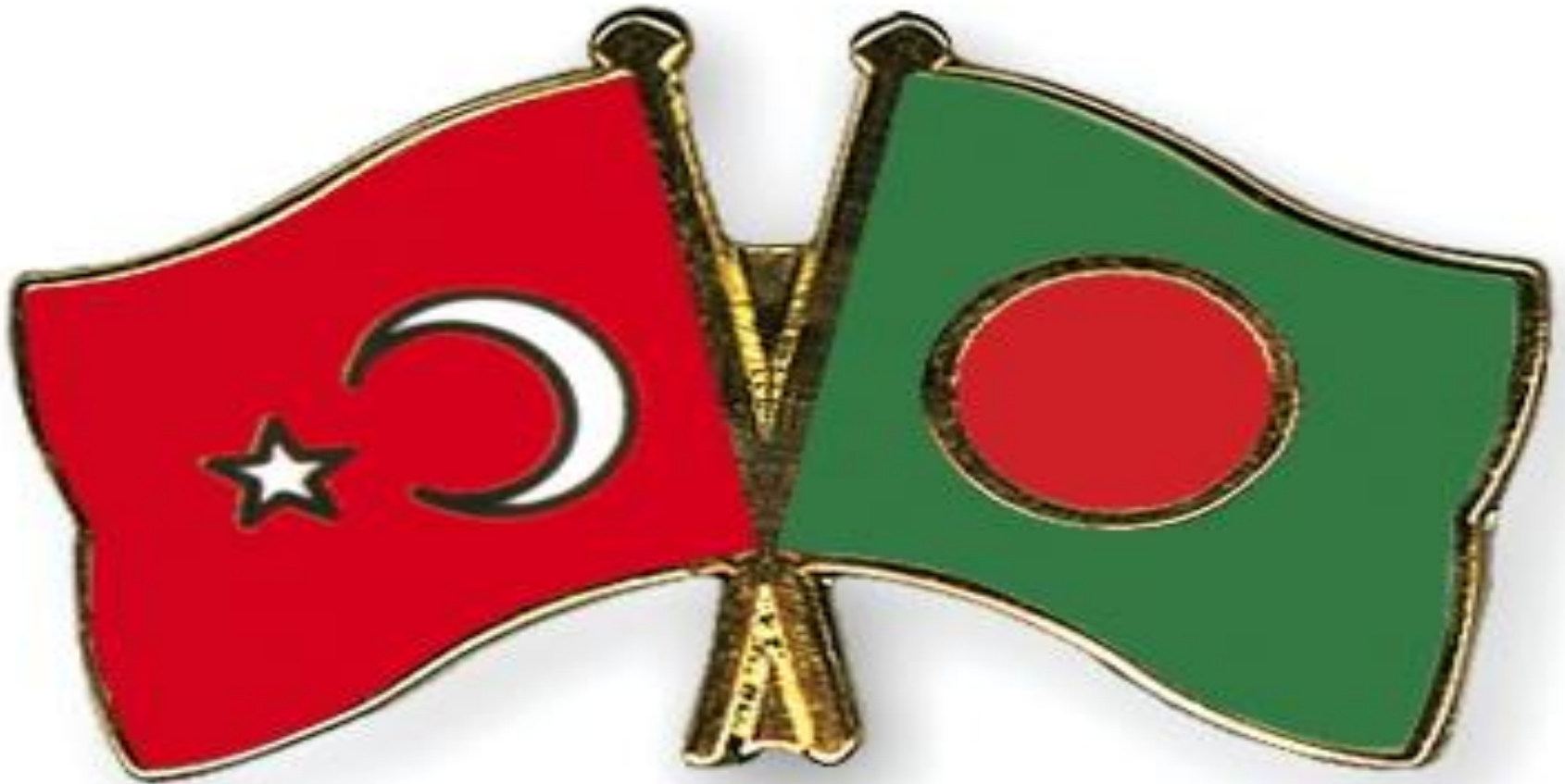
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Plenary of UN General Assembly, 1974

“... We cannot achieve sustainable development without durable peace and security. The volatile global security situation continues to pose significant challenge to international development. Bangladesh believes that threat to peace anywhere is a threat for the entire humanity. . .”

Sheikh Hasina
Plenary of UN General Assembly, 2014



Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations



Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations: Time-tested Brotherly Bonds

Common grounds strikes better chords

- Both the countries have Muslim majority;
- Moderate and Modern outlook characterize the societies;
- Mutual respect and affection;
- Partnership in OIC, D-8 and COMSEC;
- Rohingya Crisis Provided Fresh Impetus

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (2)

Overview of relations

Historical links and attachment

- Affinity to Sufistic, Liberal Islam
- Contribution of Turkish rulers in the history of Bangla;
- Muslims of Bangla extended support and solidarity to the Turkish war of independence (1919-22);
- Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's reference to Turkish independence in Bangla literature;

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

- 1971 -Bangladesh War of Independence
- Bangabandhu's participation at Lahore summit of the OIC (1974)
- Establishment of diplomatic relations-1976;
- Turkey opened mission-1976, Bangladesh in 1977;
- Bangladesh opened consulate general in Istanbul-2012;

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (3)

- Political relations: Phases
- 1976-2009: Regular healthy relations
- 2010-2012 : Bonhomie;
- 2012-2016: Trial of War Criminals in Bangladesh and misinformed reaction from Turkey - Unease in the relations - Bangladesh's support to Turkey facing the failed coup attempt-Turkey's support to Bangladesh over Rohingya issue- FOCs held-exchange of high level visits relations are healthy & cozy more to expect:

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relation (4)

VVIP visits to Bangladesh

- Former President of Turkey Mr. Abdullah Gül's official visit to Bangladesh, from 12-13 February 2010;
- Visit of H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, former Prime Minister of Turkey from 13-14 November 2010;
- Visit of the First Lady Madam Emine Erdoğan on 7 September 2017;
- Visit of Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım from 18-19 December 2017;

VVIP visits to Turkey

- Former President attended COMSEC Summit in Istanbul in 2009;
- HPM, from 15-18 May 2011, attended the LDC Summit;
- HPM had official visit from 11-13 April 2012;
- HP attended the OIC Extraordinary Summit on 13 December 2018;
- 12 Ministerial delegations visited Turkey from 2017 to 2019;

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (5)

Agreements/MOUs/Protocols signed (over 30):

- Trade Agreement;
- Joint Economic Commission Agreement;
- Economic and Technical Cooperation;
- Shipping/ Maritime Agreement between Bangladesh and Turkey;
- Consultation Mechanism between both Foreign Ministries;
- Air Transport Agreement;
- Avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Fiscal Evasion;
- Cooperation in Military Field of Training Technique and Science;
- Plots for Diplomatic Missions;
- Health and Medical Sciences;

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (6)

Agreements/MoUs/Protocols signed (cont'd)

- Customs Cooperation;
- Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders;
- Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments ;
- Sister City Protocol between Konya and Sylhet;
- Cultural, Scientific and Educational Exchange Programme;
- Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the field of Agriculture-intends to join IJSG based in Dhaka etc;
- Cooperation between Standards and Testing Institutions;
- SME Cooperation, etc.

Instruments under process

- Cooperation on Serious Crimes in Particular Terrorism and Organized Crime, etc.

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (7)

- **Bilateral trade:**
- **Export to Turkey:** \$527 million (2018) (Turkish Statistical Institute);
- **Major Export Items:** Woven Garments, Knitwear, Home Textile, Agro-products, Frozen Food, Leather and Leather Product, Footwear, Raw Jute, Jute Goods etc.
- **Import from Turkey:** \$269 million (2018) (Turkish Statistical Institute);
- **Major import items:** Live animals and animals products, Vegetable products, Animal or vegetable fats and oils, Prepared foodstuffs, Mineral products, Products of the chemical or allied industries, Plastic and rubber articles thereof, Raw hides and skins, leather, Textiles and Textiles articles, Machinery and mechanical appliances, arms & ammunitions etc.

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (8)

- Fifth Meeting of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to be held in Ankara on 19-20 November 2019;
- A Turkish energy sector company **FERNAS Construction** has completed 60-km-long Bakhrabad Siddhirganj Gas Transmission Pipeline.
- Turkey's **ARÇELİK** Secured 57% share of Singer Bangladesh Ltd;
- 31- member health delegation visited Bangladesh in April 2019 to potential of collaboration in health sector –MOU signed.
- ICT sector: A new thrust sector;
- **AYGAZ-United Group** Joint Venture in Bangladesh;

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (9)

- 3rd FOC held in Ankara on 20 May 2019;
- Educational exchange: Turkey gives education scholarship. Total number of students about 450;
- About 1200 Turkish nationals working in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh's University Grants Commission signed agreement with Turkish YOK in July 2016-15 Ph. D. programs offered to Bangladesh.
- Defense Cooperation: Turkish grants channeled through signing of Military financial cooperation Agreements and Implementation Protocols between the two countries. Bangladesh is a major buyer of Turkish defense equipments. Bangladesh takes part in military drills & exercises in Turkey.

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations (10)

- ❖ Seeking more engagement;
- ❖ Removing misperception about history, culture and potential of Bangladesh;
- ❖ Realizing untapped potentials;

Activism of Bangladesh Missions in Turkey (11)

- In order to change perception about Bangladesh the Embassy has published 2 substantial books on Bangladesh in Turkish language in 2017 & 2019;
- The Embassy has published the Turkish translation of “*The Unfinished Memoirs of the Father of the Nation*” in 2018;
- The Embassy has organized a total of 29 trade & investment roadshows/seminars in different cities since January 2016;
- The Embassy has organized 8 academic sessions on Bangladesh while the Consulate General in Istanbul has organized 10 such sessions;
- Bangladesh Missions so far organized visit of 4 business missions from Turkey to Bangladesh;
- The on-going Embassy Complex Project in Ankara to end by the end of 2019;

Bangladesh-Turkey Bilateral Relations: time-tested Brotherly Bonds (12)

Short-Term Goals (2019-2020)

- Organizing high level visits;
- Conducting a Survey of Turkish Market for boosting Trade;
- Arranging a host of business events involving the businessmen of the two countries;
- Holding of 5th round of JEC in Ankara in 2019;
- Completion of Embassy Building Project in Ankara;
- Publication of a new book on Bangladesh studies and another on Bangabandhu;
- Observance of Centenary of Bangabandhu: Celebration of Bangladesh Year of Culture in Turkey in 2020: 10 Cultural events in 2019 & 2020 in Ankara and other cities;

Mid Term Goals (2020-2023)

- Decision to pursue the PTA;
- Arranging high profile diplomatic visits;
- Helping establish on Turkish SEZ in Bangladesh;
- Signing and materializing PTA as an interim arrangement on the way to FTA;
- Launch Bangladesh-Turkey Friendship Group comprised of Eminent personalities.

Rohingya Crisis

- Background of Rohingya People
- Multi-dimensional marginalization of Rohingyas
- Ground Prepared for Ethnic Cleansing

Rohingya Crisis

- Bangladesh Opened its borders: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Courageous Leadership
- Silence or Muted Response of the International Community
- Warm response from Turkey, the EU & the OIC

Rohingya Crisis

- 2-pronged strategy of Bangladesh
- 3 approaches to Settle the Problem
 - Humanitarian Assistance
 - Resettlement
 - Reintegration
- Expectations from the International Community

Thank you for your patient hearing.

Questions & Answers