

26/03/2000

Towards better co-operation with Malaysia

TODAY we are celebrating the 29th Anniversary of our National and Independence Day. I extend my warm felicitations to all Bangladeshi national residing in Malaysia. On this auspicious occasion, we recall with deepest gratitude the father of our nation freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, independence and national liberty of the Bangalis.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of their souls. I would also like to record our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Malaysia for their full cooperation and support which they have extended to the High Commission and our nationals living in Malaysia.

We have great admiration for the remarkable socio-economic development in Malaysia under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Bangladesh too, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, has taken various measures to infuse dynamism in all activities of economy.

A favourable atmosphere for private and foreign investment had been created and a package of attractive incentives and facilities are being offered to draw foreign investments.

Bangladesh and Malaysia enjoy excellent relations on the basis of fraternal cooperation and mutual goodwill. There are as many as 10 agreements signed between Bangladesh and Malaysia covering trade, culture, air service, economic investment promotion, information cooperation, news exchange etc.

Malaysia exported to Bangladesh in 1999 US\$131 million (RM498 million) worth of goods, the trade balance is in favour of Malaysia. Also Malaysia is one of the major investors in Bangladesh. Recently Malaysia invested in the field of telecoms, LPG, oil exploration, energy and several joint venture projects are in the pipeline.

A large number of Bangladeshi professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled are playing a commendable role in fulfilling the human resources gap of Malaysia in one hand and contributing the economic development of Bangladesh on the other hand.

Bangladesh is committed to the principles and objectives of the UN, OIC, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement. Bangladesh has consistently striven to promote and strengthen good relations among the South Asian countries through regional cooperation under the aegis of SAARC.

In conclusion, I wish to convey our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Malaysia for their assistance, understanding and cooperation that we have always received towards enhancing the image of Bangladesh while contributing to the economic development of Malaysia.

May Almighty Allah bless us and help us to further develop all round cooperation between our two brotherly countries.

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