

27/03/2001

Message from the Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Kamaluddin

ON the auspicious occasion of the 30th anniversary of our National and Independence Day, I convey my good wishes and sincere and warm felicitations to the people of Malaysia and to my fellow citizens living in this friendly country. I would also like to record with deep appreciation and gratitude the Malaysian Government's cooperation and support to our High Commission.

We have great admiration for the remarkable socio-economic development in Malaysia under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Recently, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina visited Malaysia and this has further enhanced the cordial and fruitful relations between the two countries.

Bangladesh has also, under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of the Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, been working to bring back the nation on the path of democracy and economic emancipation.

In Bangladesh, following some initiatives, the per capita income has increased to US\$386 (RM1,466). The literacy rate has increased to 65 per cent and the level of poverty has declined substantially.

The Government has also focused on education, health care, poverty alleviation, population control, and empowerment of women.

It has encouraged the private sector to act as the engine of growth. It has offered lucrative investment incentives to lure foreign investors and entrepreneurs. It is noteworthy to mention that Malaysia is the third largest investor in Bangladesh.

A large number of Bangladeshi professionals, skilled and semi-skilled workers are working in Malaysia and their employment has been mutually beneficial. We are proud that they contribute to Malaysia's development.

Our workers can easily adapt to life in Malaysia due to similarities in culture and climate. We hope that the Malaysian Government will continue to recruit Bangladeshi workers as we are prepared to meet the requirements for a competitive and disciplined workforce.

On the international front, Bangladesh has always played a positive and constructive role to promote peace and stability in world. It has been elected unanimously as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term 2000-2001.

We are committed to the principles and goals of the UN, OIC, the Commonwealth and the Non-Alignment Movement. Both Bangladesh and Malaysia have similar views on major international, political and economic issues.

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 received towards enhancing the image of Bangladesh while contributing to the economic development of Malaysia.

May Almighty Allah bless and help us to further develop and to enhance the friendship between our countries.

Long live the friendship between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

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