

## **DEİK/Türkiye-Bangladesh Business Meeting**

**29 May 2025, DEİK, 13.00-14.00**

**State Minister and Executive Chairman of Bangladesh  
Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik,**

**Distinguished Representatives of Public and Business Sectors,**

I greet you all on behalf of Foreign Economic Relations Board-DEİK and grateful to be together with our friends after a webinar titled "Business and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh: Success Stories of Turkish Companies" that we held last month.

Foreign Economic Relations Board, DEİK, is a business organization that has been continuing its activities for 40 years in order to enhance bilateral economic relations between Türkiye and other countries. We continue our efforts with an understanding of "Business Diplomacy", operated on a voluntary membership basis without using public funds. And we carry out our activities with our 153 country based and sectoral business councils all over the world through membership fees and contributions.

DEİK/Türkiye-Bangladesh Business Council is one of them. It was founded in 2011 and, carrying on its activities with FBCCI (Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry) under the leadership of Hidayet Onur Özden and Hafizur Rahman.

Türkiye and Bangladesh enjoy deep-rooted and fraternal relations. 2024 marked as the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations.

Türkiye has also extended significant support to Bangladesh regarding the Rohingya refugees. Our institutions such as the Ministry of Health, TİKA, AFAD, the Turkish Red Crescent, and various NGOs have provided humanitarian assistance and services on the ground.

Last year our trade volume was \$1.3 billion. In addition to trade, there are mutual investments in both countries. Our target is to increase trade volume and mutual investments.

So let me underline a few points, which I believe will help to develop our cooperation;

- Construction, textile, infrastructure investments, maritime and shipyard sectors are the sectors we currently have mutual trade and investments. I believe we can go beyond these sectors and diversify our relationships by increasing our collaboration in new sectors.
- USHAŞ (International Health Services Corporation of Türkiye) operates health tourism activities in Bangladesh. So that means it will encourage other businesspeople to develop our health and health tourism sector, which has enormous potential between two countries.
- One of the key areas of growing cooperation is the defense industry. We all know that majority of Bangladesh's defense spendings are going to China and Russia. And the country wants to diversify this sector. I believe Türkiye can be alternative country. Just to give an

example we have good collaboration in maritime and shipyard and based on this we can collaborate more on investments in military shipbuilding as well.

- We also see strong potential to expand cooperation in the halal industry, where both countries can benefit from increasing collaboration.
  - Our country, which is the largest investment, manufacturing, and technology hub between Western Europe and China, has a foreign trade volume exceeding \$600 billion. We have significant investment opportunities in almost every sector, from energy to industry, agriculture to infrastructure and to information economics. I invite the Bangladeshi business community to invest in our country and take advantage of our investment opportunities especially in high technology sectors.

I would like to finish my speech with a Bangladeshi saying, “যে চেষ্টা করে, সে সফল হয়।” (**Cey çeşta hare şe şeyfel haye**) That means, “**He who tries, succeeds.**”

Sincere effort eventually leads to success. I believe, as Turkish and Bangladeshi business representatives, we will be successful by strengthening our trade and investment relations.

Now, I would like to give the floor to H.E. State Minister and Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Chowdhury Ashik.

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Thank you H.E.

Now I'll give the floor to private sector representatives to share their views on bilateral relations and their sectors. I have XX names here in my list, considering we should finish at 14.00 p.m, I'll ask as the moderator not to exceed time limit.

### **Private Sector Representatives**

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Now, I'll give the floor to the Minister to deliver his closing remarks.

Thank you Minister.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to Esteemed Minister, also all participants as well as to all those who made this event possible.

**Nail OLPAK**

**President of DEİK**