

**PROTOCOL OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF
THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

In accordance with the "Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation" between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed on March 9, 1979,

Pursuant to the Protocol of the Fourth Session of the Turkey-Bangladesh Joint Commission for Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation (hereinafter stated as the JEC) signed in Dhaka, Bangladesh on November 12, 2012,

Having agreed by the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Fifth Session of the Turkey-Bangladesh JEC was held on November 19-20, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey.

During the session, the Turkish Delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Mehmet Nuri ERSOY, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and the Bangladesh Delegation was led by H.E. Mr. A H M Mustafa KAMAL, FCA, MP, Finance Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The members of the Turkish and Bangladesh Delegations are listed in Annexes I and II respectively.

During his visit, H.E. Mr. A H M Mustafa KAMAL, FCA, MP had meetings with H.E. Prof. Dr. Mr. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Honorable Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, H.E. Fuat OKTAY, the Vice President of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Mehmet Nuri ERSOY, Minister of Culture and Tourism.

The meetings and discussions between the two Sides were held in a cordial atmosphere based on their desire to strengthen and further develop bilateral economic and commercial relations for their mutual benefit and progress.

At the Plenary Sessions of the JEC, the two Sides reviewed the trends in overall economic and trade relations between the two countries, and discussed ways and means to promote and enhance bilateral trade and investment relations.

During the technical meeting and the Plenary Session of the JEC, various issues of mutual interest were discussed and the results of those deliberations are summarized as follows:

I. REVIEW OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS

i. D-8 Summit

Both Sides welcomed the upcoming D-8 Chairmanship of Bangladesh as well as the D-8 summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka, in April 2020.

ii. Bilateral Trade Relations

Both Sides reviewed the recent developments in bilateral trade ties and noted that despite the growing trend, there is still need to develop more balanced bilateral trade relations.

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Both Sides agreed to diversify the composition of current trade basket through encouraging business circles/enterprises to forge more business transactions.

iii. Trade Promotion

Both Sides underlined the importance of exchanging official and private sector delegations with a view to maximizing the existing trade potential between the two countries. Both sides also expressed their belief that participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's country would pave the way for enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations, and decided to make every effort to promote such trade promotion activities.

In this respect, both sides noted with satisfaction that the Turkey supported and promoted the participation in 11 fairs in 2018 and 10 fairs in 2019 organized in Bangladesh as well as appreciated the trade missions organized from Bangladesh to Turkey in 2018 and 2019.

Both Sides appreciated the holding of 30 trade and investment seminars organized by Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara and Consulate General in Istanbul since 2016 with the support of Chambers and Government Agencies of two countries.

Bangladesh Side reiterated the proposal of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to sign a Free Trade Agreement between Bangladesh and Turkey. Turkish Side stated that prospect of signing a Free Trade Agreement/Preferential Trade Agreement between Turkey and Bangladesh should be in line with Turkey's commitment to the Customs Union with the European Union and its obligations under the WTO.

Both Sides agreed to continue the discussions regarding a Free Trade Agreement/Preferential Trade Agreement between the two countries.

Bangladesh Side raised its concern with regard to additional duties applied by Turkey. Turkey responded that the concerned duties are in line with its WTO commitments and it does not plan to change their implementation.

Both Sides pointed out that trade in jute and jute goods have potential for trade and in this regard, the Turkish Side agreed to facilitate networking events between relevant Turkish and Bangladesh companies and organizations.

iv. Investment and Industrial Cooperation

Both Sides will encourage effective liaison between Ministry of Trade of Turkey and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) so that investment related information may be exchanged.

Both Sides agreed to arrange joint workshop/seminar/symposium on investment and industrial development through investment seminar, roadshow and investment fairs in Bangladesh and Turkey at convenient times and places to attract the prospective investors of Turkey in Bangladesh.

Both Sides agreed to maintain effective communication and coordination between the two countries in order to exchange information on prospective investment and trade opportunities, in particular widespread and timely announcement of fairs, symposiums and roadshows on international and bilateral basis.

Bangladesh side welcomed the Turkish investors to take up a dedicated Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Bangladesh for the Turkish investors only.

In consideration of the business friendly incentives for FDI in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Side

highlighted the following industries to prospective Turkish investors:

- Garments & Garment Supporting Industries
- Agro-products and Agro-processing Products
- Integrated Textiles
- Leather and Leather Products
- Shipbuilding
- Oil Refinery
- Motorbike Assembly
- Food and Beverage Industries
- Paint & Chemical
- Paper & Products
- Plastics
- Light Engineering (including auto-parts and bicycles)
- Pharmaceuticals Products
- Cosmetic Products and Toiletries
- Industrial Chemicals
- Solar Park
- Real Estate Development
- Air Transportation
- Airfield Management

v. Turkey-Bangladesh Business Council

Considering the importance of effective functioning of private sector based platforms in promoting bilateral relations, both Sides expressed their willingness to regularly organize the meetings of the Turkey-Bangladesh Business Council.

Turkish side stated that Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) and The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) are engaged in the promotion of trade and investment in their respective countries, and FBCCI and DEİK are desirous of institutionalizing a mechanism to facilitate trade and investment between Bangladesh and Turkey. In this respect, Turkish Side expressed its interest for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DEİK and FBCCI.

vi. Contracting Services

Turkish Side emphasized the importance of developing existing bilateral relations in the fields of contracting and technical consultancy services and expressed the readiness of Turkish contracting companies to take part in the construction projects planned in Bangladesh.

As a fast developing economy, Bangladesh would like to welcome Turkey to invest in the mega projects in Bangladesh in road & rail communication, bridge, power, energy, health, agriculture etc.

II. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

i. Science, Technology, Innovation and ICT

Both sides agreed upon:

- Sharing best practices and experiences in science, technology and innovation and ICT areas.
- Supplying the medium/high or high-tech products that Bangladesh may need at a lower cost and higher quality for Bangladeshi Technopark firms.
- Doing activities for the purpose of bringing together technology based firms and entrepreneurs of both country and developing cooperation.

Both Sides agreed to encourage cooperation among the High-Tech Parks (HTP)/Software Technology Parks (STP) of both countries by signing a MoU. Both sides also expressed their mutual interest to identify the particular spheres of joint activities in this area.

Both Sides agreed to cooperate through sharing best practices with joint collaboration on technology development and technology transfer, organizing training in the field of science and technology.

The Turkish Side has also shown interest to work closely with Bangladesh through training and exchange programs in different areas like diagnostic, therapeutic use of nuclear medicine, boosting up agronomy with the application of nanotechnology.

ii. Standardization, Metrology and Quality Infrastructure

Scientific and Technological Research Council of the Turkish National Metrology Institute (TÜBİTAK UME) is interested in cooperation with National Metrology Laboratory, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (NML-BSTI), the primary metrology institution of Bangladesh in the fields of Metrology, Calibrations, Measurement Systems and Quality Control. Cooperation could take the following forms:

- Bilateral comparisons
- Exchange of personnel
- Development of metrological equipment/instruments
- Joint research projects in metrology
- Organization of joint meetings and conferences
- Providing traceability

Bangladesh Side took note of these proposals and would communicate the proposals to Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI).

Both Sides expressed their satisfaction with the existing cooperation within the scope of Memorandum of Understanding between the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) signed on December 19, 2017.

Both Sides will support each other at the international standardization organizations such as International Organization of Standardization (ISO) and International Electro-technical Commission (IEC).

Turkish Side invited the Bangladesh Side to become a member of the Standards and Metrology

Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC). Bangladesh Side noted the proposed issue and agreed to communicate its position to the Turkish Side after due consultation with the relevant Ministries/Agencies of Bangladesh.

iii. Cooperation in Halal Sector

Halal Accreditation Agency of Turkey (HAK) proposed cooperation in halal sector to develop a better working halal ecosystem between Both Sides. For this purpose, Turkish Side proposed to organize technical meetings, training programs for experts and expert visits which are expected to enhance harmonization of halal standards of both countries and bilateral halal trade.

iv. Cooperation on SMEs

Turkish Side expressed its willingness to deepen cooperation in the field of developing small and medium sized enterprises and to implement the activities stated in the “MoU between the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) and Small & Medium Enterprise Foundation (SMEF)” signed in Dhaka on December 19, 2017. In this respect, Turkish Side stated that the KOSGEB will submit an Action Plan. Bangladesh Side welcomed Turkish initiative in this regard and expressed its willingness to work jointly in this area.

v. Shipbuilding Industry & Maritime Affairs

Both Sides highlighted the opportunities for cooperation in the field of shipbuilding and declared their readiness to support cooperation in the following areas:

- Development and exchange of modern technologies for shipbuilding, yacht construction, ship repair and maintenance, ship recycling and dredging including automation of a process-layout preparation,
- Modernization/construction of shipyards (docks) in Turkey and the Bangladesh,
- Shipbuilding, yacht construction, ship repair and maintenance, ship recycling and dredging trainings for the engineers and technical personnel.

Bangladesh Side would provide a draft text for the revision of the Maritime/Shipping Agreement which was signed in 1986.

vi. Civil Aviation

Both Sides agreed to have negotiations between civil aviation authorities of both countries during ICAN Conference to be held in Jordan in December 2019 to discuss the issues regarding the Protocol amending the Articles of Capacity Provision and Establishment of Tariffs of the Air Transport Agreement, 5th Freedom Traffic Rights for Cargo operations and taxation for over flight operations.

Bangladesh Side requested the Turkish Side to recognize and validate the licenses of flight crews, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers and any other certificates of aviation personnel issued in accordance with ICAO Standard by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB). The Turkish Side will communicate the request to the relevant Turkish authorities.

vii. Cooperation on Energy and Power

Both Sides expressed their willingness to cooperate and exchange information in the fields of energy and power including renewable energy.

Both Sides expressed their willingness to cooperate in the field of capacity building of energy sector of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Side offered cooperation in the following fields of power sector:

- Human resources development/knowledge sharing/capacity building in different fields of consulting and engineering services pertinent to conventional energy based power plants including LNG based power plants;
- Turkish investment in the projects aiming at development of expertise and services in system design, installation, operation & maintenance of power plants.

Both Sides will also cooperate for capacity building through training programs on earth sciences and mineral exploration with details to be discussed.

viii. Cultural and Tourism Relations

Both Sides agreed to develop cooperation opportunities in Cultural and Tourism areas.

Bangladesh Side proposed for mutual cooperation on the following issues:

- Explore possibilities to participate in the International Book Fairs and the Cultural Exchange Programs in the two countries,
- Probable areas of cooperation in the field of archaeology,
- Human Resource Development in different fields of architectural conservation and documentation and archaeology,
- Exchange programs on painting, handicrafts, books and photographs exhibitions.

Bangladesh Side proposed for bilateral cooperation in the following areas of Tourism sector:

- Agreed to encourage possibilities of investment in development of tourism infrastructure in Bangladesh by Turkish investors,
- Cooperation between private sectors of both the countries in terms of organizing package tours centering around tourism attraction between the two countries etc.,
- Exchange of training in the fields of tourism marketing planning, destination management and hotel management,
- Exchange of tourism experts, travel writers and tour operators etc.

ix. Cooperation in Education

Turkish Side expressed its willingness to cooperate in the field of education and to initiate negotiations at the earliest convenience. Bangladesh Side noted the proposal and agreed to respond after due consultation with the concerned Ministry of Bangladesh.

x. Development Assistance

Turkish Side expressed its keen interest in investing in health, agriculture, industry, energy, capacity building, training, education and related fields. With regard to the construction of 10 community clinics, as a pilot project, Turkish Side informed that they require all the land acquisition deeds to expedite the implementation process. Bangladesh will take necessary action(s) accordingly in regard to the construction of 10 community clinics to speed up the implementation process.

Bangladesh Side proposed the Turkish Side to cooperate closely with the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance of Bangladesh in extending development assistance.

xi. Urbanization

Both Sides showed interest in cooperating in the following fields:

- Joint project for geo-technical mapping for urban development and land-use planning;
- Joint project for identification and mitigation of hazards caused by global warming;
- Capacity development through different trainings in land-use suitability for urban development.

Both Sides agreed to add new fields of collaboration under urbanization in particular the smart cities and urban information systems.

Technical cooperation in the field of construction works including project management, building safety, knowledge-sharing, engineering education, building inspection and damage assessment, debris removal and infrastructure coordination works related to disaster management.

xii. Disaster Management

Bangladesh Side requested to explore cooperation in the following areas:

- Exchanging experience, arranging training for the manpower of different stakeholders relevant to earthquake management, joint exercising and drilling, developing urban volunteer programs;
- Providing fellowship in Turkey on Earthquake resilient infrastructure for Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Structural Engineers, Architect and Urban Planner of Bangladesh;
- Supply of special equipment at the time of earthquake in the earliest possible time;
- Capacity building in use of equipment.

xiii. Cooperation in Agriculture

Turkish Side expressed its readiness to provide technical assistance through the Soil Products Office of Turkey (TMO) in the construction of chilled steel silo storage for rice.

Regarding to the demand of Bangladeshi Side, requirement of morphine and derivatives can be met by Afyon Alkaloids Factory.

Turkish Side stated its readiness to develop bilateral agricultural cooperation through the followings activities:

- Cooperation on food, agriculture, animal husbandry, and herbal production through exchange of experts and materials,
- Mutual cooperation and share of experience between the Turkish and Bangladeshi producer organizations operating in agriculture sector.
- Developing joint projects in particular on cotton, rice plant and wheat,
- Sharing technical experiences and enhancing cooperation about plant production
- Focusing on developing bilateral trade in certain agricultural products in particular citrus, tea, nuts, apple, olive oil, dried grape, fig and apricot etc.,
- To ensure the cooperation between governments of Turkey and Bangladesh in the field of livestock and to develop the economic and trade relations and increase the investment opportunities regarding to the mutual demands and needs ;
 - Technical cooperation on building modern husbandry systems like: protecting genetic resources of indigenous breeds, animal identification systems for animal breeding, herd book and progeny testing in line with the biotechnological improvements
 - Conducting projects for modernization of infrastructure of large and small ruminant and poultry animal farms in line with the biotechnological improvements, to supply high qualified, safe and fruitful animal products
 - In case of the convenience of geographic and climatic conditions, ensuring necessary initiatives to provide communication between the private sector agents of both Sides in the fields of apiculture, sericulture and production of fertile hatching eggs, meat type breeder chicken and layer chicken in poultry sector
 - Ensuring necessary initiatives to provide communication between the private sector agents of both Sides in the fields of dairy products, honey, poultry meat and table egg export
- Cooperation, sharing experience, information, and exchange of research, publication and experts in the field of aquaculture and aquaculture trade.

Bangladesh Side further sought cooperation on the following sectors relevant to agricultural cooperation:

- Local maize, barley & millets germplasm.
- Providing abiotic stress tolerant (drought, saline) maize & barley germplasm.
- Providing germplasm of specialized corn (baby corn, popcorn, sweet corn)
- Exchange the ideas and views of inbred development & hybrid maize seed production technology.

- Human Resource Development (DNA sequencing, gene cloning, C-DNA library construction, bio-fortification of special elements in maize)
- Agricultural Science and technology
- Agricultural production and research on commercial important crops
- Research on crop genetics and breeding through modern biotechnological tools e
Research and development of climate resilient varieties of crops
- Water resource management
- Agro-food processing and packaging
- Agricultural extension and consultancy
- Agricultural tools and machineries
- Seed production and
- Animal husbandry, fisheries and animal health research.

III. TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SESSION

Both Sides agreed to hold the sixth session of the JEC in Dhaka, Bangladesh on a date to be mutually determined through diplomatic channels.

Done and signed in Ankara, Turkey on November 20, 2019 in two originals in English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**MEHMET NURİ ERSOY
MINISTER OF CULTURE AND
TOURISM**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH**

**A H M MUSTAFA KAMAL, FCA, MP
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

LIST OF TURKISH DELEGATION

1. H.E. Mehmet Nuri ERSOY	Minister of Culture and Tourism	Chairman
2. Atilla BASTIRMACI	Deputy General Director, Ministry of Trade	Head of Technical Delegation
3. Ahmet TÜRK BEN	Member of Board, Turkish Maarif Foundation	Member
4. Çağatay ÖZDEN	Head of Department, Ministry of Trade	Member
5. Ümit Alpaslan KILIÇ	Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
6. Ulaş GÖNEN KIRLI	Head of Department Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Member
7. Arif ÇETİN	Head of Department Ministry of Health	Member
8. Dr. Rıza Haluk SONER	Head of Department Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency	Member
9. Gözde ŞAHİN	Bilateral Relations Coordinator Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Member
10. Dr. Yıldız BERKKAN	Director, Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Member
11. Yunus Emre CEYLAN	Expert, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Investment Office	Member
12. Hasan KÖSE	Export Promotion Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
13. Bengü KUM DEMİR	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
14. Mehmet Eray ARSLANTAŞ	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
15. Emrah SÜMER	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
16. İbrahim ERİŞ	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
17. Süleyman CANIDEMİR	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
18. Yeşim PİRİ	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
19. Savaş TARHAN	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
20. Sinan YÜZAL	Export Promotion Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
21. Çağatay TELLİ	Trade Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
22. Ayşe Banu ÖZCAN	Trade Expert, Halal Accreditation Agency	Member
23. Mehmet ORAL	EU Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
24. Burcu ÖZERGÜL ÇOLAK	EU Expert, Ministry of Trade	Member
25. Baran GÖRMEZ	Environment and Urbanization Expert, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization	Member
26. Aziz AKSU	Maritime Expert, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Member
27. Burak KEMERCİ	Maritime Expert, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Member
28. İlknur KAYABAŞI	EU Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Member
29. İsmail CANDAN	Health Expert, Ministry of Health	Member

30. Neriman BOZCA	Expert, Ministry of Industry and Technology	Member
31. Sinan DUYAR	Energy Expert, Energy Market Regulatory Board	Member
32. Murat Alper ÖZTÜRK	SME Expert, KOSGEB Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization	Member
33. Saadettin AKIN	Expert Turkish Patent and Trademark Office	Member
34. Canan ALPASLAN	Expert Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency	Member
35. Cihan DİNÇER	Expert Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency	Member
36. Hasan DENİZ	Assistant Expert Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	Member
37. Yasin BAHA KARABAĞ	Assistant Expert Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	Member
38. Hasan ÇALIŞKAN	Assistant Expert Ministry of National Education	Member
39. Nurettin ERDOĞAN	Assistant Expert Turkish Maarif Foundation	Member
40. H. Nur GÜNAY	Officer Ministry of Health	Member

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LIST OF BANGLADESH DELEGATION

1. H.E. A H M Mustafa KAMAL	Minister of Finance	Chairman
2. Monowar AHMED	Secretary, Economic Relations Division , Ministry of Finance	Member
3. Mohammad Shamsul ALAM	Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance	Head of Technical Delegation
4. H.E. M. Allama SIDDIKI	Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey	Member
5. Shaifullah Mokbul MURSHED	Executive Member (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Investment Development, Authority	Member
6. Subhash Chandra SARKER	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles and Jute	Member
7. Muhammad Akbar HUSAIN	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology	Member
8. Md. Azizur RAHMAN	Director General, Prime Minister's Office	Member
9. Dr. Md. Mosharrof HOSSAIN	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism	Member
10. Fahimul ISLAM	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs	Member
11. Noor Md. Mahbubul HAQ	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce	Member
12. Muhammad Ashraf Ali FARUK	Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance	Member
13. Md. Daud ALI	Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
14. Dr. Mohammad Monirul ISLAM	Consul General, Bangladesh Consulate General, Istanbul	Member
15. Md. RAIS Hasan Sarower	Minister & Deputy Chief of Mission, Bangladesh Embassy	Member
16. Md. Sabet ALI	Deputy Secretary, ICT Division	Member
17. Md. Raihan KABIR	Senior Assistant Chief, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance	Member
18. Sabuj AHMED	First Secretary, Bangladesh Embassy	Member
19. Gazi Towhidul ISLAM	Public Relations Officer, Finance Minister's Office	Member