

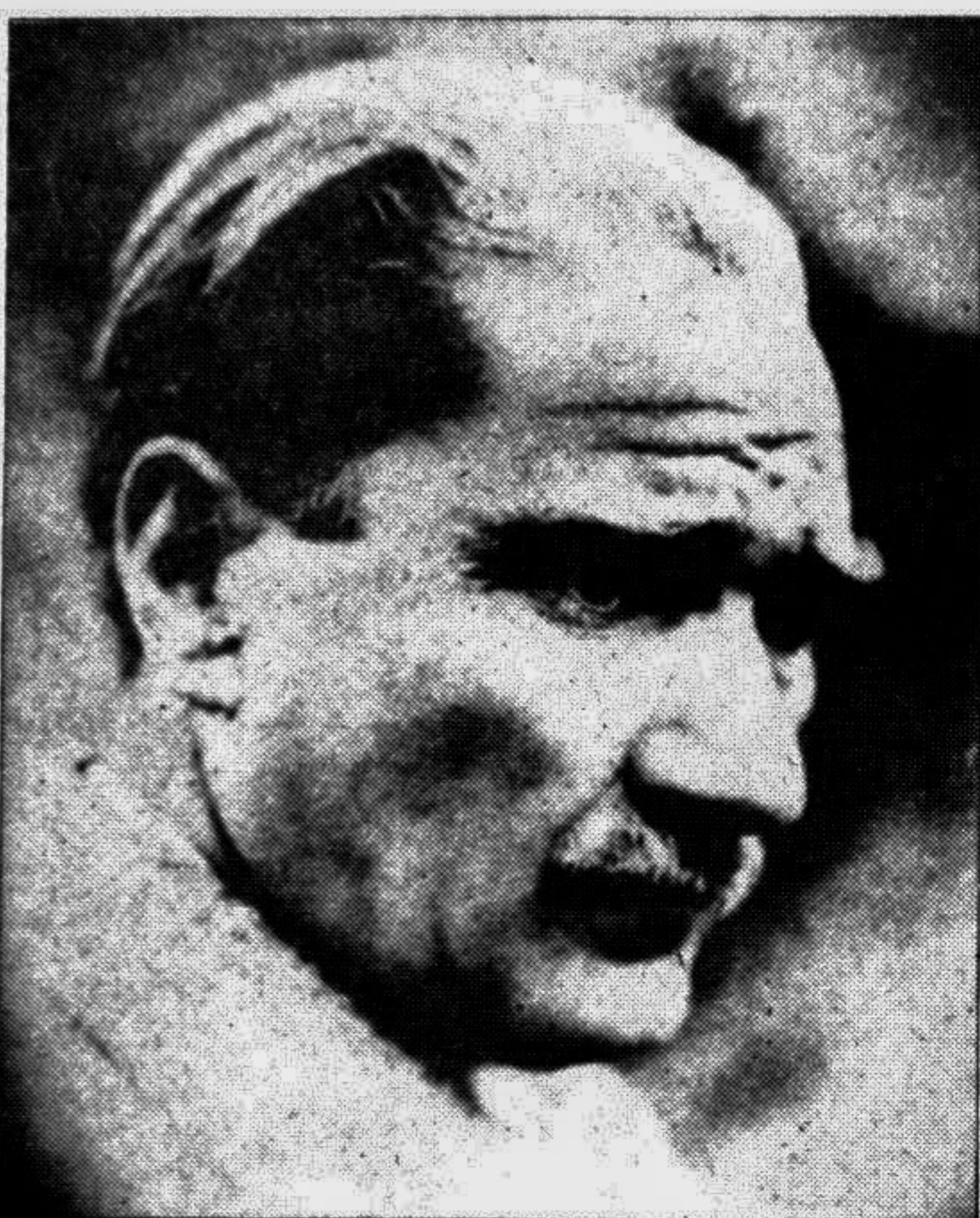


The Daily Star

Special Supplement

August 30, 1996

74th Anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Turkey



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The Founder of the Republic of Turkey and the First President of the Republic

Bangladesh-Turkey Trade Relations : Down to Earth Suggestions

by Mujtaba Fidaul Haq

THE vast trade and investment potentials between the seemingly brethren countries of Bangladesh and Turkey have mostly remained untapped by the business communities of the two countries owing to a scanty trickling flow of information between the countries and hence, reciprocal trade and investment opportunities have been destined to the fate of remaining grossly underutilised. Whereas, the currently existing bilateral yearly trade volume of a mere 20 million USD easily catapults to three digit figures if the existing trade and investment possibilities in both the countries can be properly harnessed. Moreover, with the breakup of the former Soviet Union leading to the emergence of the Turkic Central Asian Republics who look up to Turkey as their role model and with the materialisation of customs union between the European Union (EU) and Turkey, Bangladesh's chances of reaching out to these huge markets through Turkey have only increased.

The key point to be pondered is, Bangladesh and Turkey, due to their distinctly different geo-regional orientation in two disjoint yet key growth areas of the world and because of the fact that their major economic pur-

suits lie in dissimilar areas, can set up an economic relationship based on pure complementarity — not competition.

For instance, as an aftermath of the customs union with EU, Turkey applies no quota to yarns and threads, fabrics and ready-made garments (RMG) exported from Bangladesh and is going to offer the GSP (General Status of Preference) status to Bangladesh made RMG within the MFA (Multi-Fibre Agreement) framework very soon. Moreover, given the fact that Bangladesh has to import the lion's share of textiles and accessories for its RMG sector with EU being its one of the major markets vis a vis the fact that Turkey has an extremely developed textiles and accessories industry and is one of the major exporters to the EU at the same time, a happy marriage can be struck between the Bangladesh RMG sector and the Turkish textile and accessories sector for EU-bound products. Apparels made of high quality Turkish fabrics with costs cut down by the relatively lower cutting, making and trimming (CMT) charges of Bangladesh aided by the already established Turkish marketing networks in the EU can take the Bangladesh RMG sector to a higher plateau of dynamism not known to the sector hence far.

On the other hand, Turkish exports of apparel and textile which exceeded 7 billion USD in 1995 with the EU being the biggest buyer is expected to grow considerably from this year onwards thanks to the added impetus brought about by the customs union with the EU. At the moment, Turkey's textile and ready-made garments sector is undergoing a rapid modernisation process to meet the increased and technically more demanding requirements of the EU consumers. This event of rapid modernisation has risen the question of relocating or even discharging off its relatively older generation textile machinery to optimally positioned countries in terms of geographic and infrastructural orientation. This opportunity can be harvested by industrial entrepreneurs of Bangladesh, which according to a recent forecast by the Bangladesh Board of Investment is in need of a captive investment amounting to 5 billion USD in the textile sector only by the year 2005.

Turkey depends on jute yarns of various counts and carpet backing cloths (CBC) for its fairly important carpet industry and on jute sacks and hessian cloths for packing cotton, tobacco, food grains and hazel nuts while exporting them to EU and other countries. Consequently, the bulk of Bangladesh export to Turkey — around 90% of total exports — consists of jute and jute products. So, the logical step for the Bangladesh business firms are to use in these sectors would be to set up a fast mechanism for market intervention by maintaining an inventory in one of the free trade zones of Turkey — preferably in Mersin — to make

the most of the new situation. The same should be true for leather and any other sectors holding medium-range storing capability. By keeping optimal stocks at the Turkish free zones for the Turkish, EU and CIS markets — specially for the burgeoning markets of the Central Asian Republics — and by utilising the banking and transportation facilities in Turkey that is one of the best and most efficient in the region, Bangladeshi exporters can be armed with the proper tools to increase their export volume in this part of the world to a substantial level.

On the jute front, Bangladeshi exporters stand an excellent chance of increasing their export to Turkey by including diversified jute products in their item list. Two such items carrying potentials of almost instant marketability are jute handicrafts serving some sort of functional purpose and jute fabrics — pure or mixed with other fibres — for garments and accessories and footwear sectors.

On the other hand, a sector having the potential of huge manpower employment is the

Turkish construction sector involved in construction projects in the CIS countries. When almost 95% of construction projects carried on by Turkish contractors used to be located in the Middle East as late as the late 80s and Libya used to be the country where most of the construction work was going on, today Turkish contractors have relocated 70% of their foreign construction projects in the CIS countries with the Russian Federation topping the list. Though Bangladeshi workers are already working in the Turkish construction projects in the CIS according to information provided by the Turkish Contractors' Association, both the number of Bangladeshi workers and their working terms and conditions can be increased if the employment process is carried out by the proper channel.

It is high time Bangladeshi exporters and entrepreneurs put their all out efforts in scooping out new markets for their products and services as the grab for the established markets gets harsher everyday. The Turkish market and the markets belonging to the CIS and the EU countries reached through Turkey could be the best bet for them.



Suleyman Demirel

President of the Republic of Turkey

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Turkey it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to address to your esteemed readers and share with them my happiness to celebrate this day in this brotherly country, as sensitive as we are with regard to this particular event.

Every nation has exceptional days in their history. This one of ours, the 30th of August 1922, is one of that sort of days when the world, contrary to the then general expectations, had witnessed the rebirth of a nation, the emergence of a new Republic from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, condemned by the contentment of all the winners of the 1st World War, to a definite disappearance. This day marked therefore, and before everything, the resurrection of the "Sick Man of Europe".

This day also was, the first upheaval of a Muslim nation, against the colonialistic powers at the beginning of this century. This first example was bright, victorious and full of inspiration. This victory, in the meantime, put a definite end to some of ill-intentioned Western allegations degrading the Islamic civilisation of being the mere outcome of the "races inferieures", while the World witness the departure of all occupying forces from the motherland of Turkish nation. This was the first and undeniable defeat of the imperialistic forces of the time.

This final victory, on the other hand, in the course of Turkish War of Independence has shown and bring proof that a democratic form of conduct of the war and appropriate policies generated in such context could be applied, in form and essence, considering that the Turkish National Leader Mustafa Kemal, was answerable to an elected parliament, the Grand National Assembly of Ankara.

So this victory also paved the way to one of the most important, even revolutionary process of this century, remembering that a democratic, secular and modern state is being founded with great success, in lieu and over the ill traditions of centuries old autocratic rule.

This victory of 1922 had so far and somewhat different meaning and much larger impact beyond the boundaries of Turkey, mostly for the search of national identities, struggle and fights for independent and sovereign states for all the oppressed nations of the world.

In remembrance of the Chief Commander of that exceptional victory I would like to express

how much I am proud and happy when I cross almost everyday Kemal Ataturk Avenue, between Gulshan II and Airport road. Crossing this Avenue with my Bangladeshi brothers and sisters who I believe know by heart at least the refrain of the giant poem of Kazi Nazrul Islam, who very before of this day of 30th of August 1922, had already cried with passion in 1921, after the victory of Turkish army over the invaders at Sakarya:

"Brother Kemal: You have worked wonders
Yes Brother Kemal, you have really worked wonders"

I feel, on that very day of August 30th, we should always continue to walk on this Kemal Ataturk Avenue, of peace and enlightenment, hand in hand and in closer range, with faith and determination for a brighter future.



Kemal Ozean Dabaz

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Bangladesh

The Physical, Economic, and Social Geography of Turkey.

TURKEY is located at the southwestern extremity of Asia and at the southern extremity of Europe. With territories in two continents, Turkey is a bridge between them and at the same time a door leading from one to the other.

Turkey is situated between 36-42° north latitude and between 26-45° east longitude. Its maximum north-south distance is 650 km while the maximum east-length distance is 1,600 km. The country's area is 780,576 kFD. Turkey is bordered on the west by Greece and Bulgaria, on the east by the USSR and Iran, and on the south by Iraq and Syria. Turkey is also surrounded by three seas: the Black Sea in the north, the Aegean Sea on the west, and the Mediterranean Sea on the south. Located within Turkey are two vital straits: The Bosphorus, which connects the Black Sea to the inland Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles, which connects the Sea of Marmara to the Aegean Sea. Turkey's land borders measure 2,700 km in length while its coast measures 6,000km.

Topographically, Turkey is quite varied, its surface features developed during several geological eras with the result that one finds young mountains adjacent to ancient ones. The average altitude above sea level is 1,130 m. The Toros chain of mountains runs almost parallel to the southern coast, while the Anti-Toros mountains run very nearly the full length of the northern. The two mountain systems converge in eastern Anatolia. Between them, there are broad, high plateaus running east and west.

radeniz (Black Sea) region stretches along the Black Sea coast. This narrow, mountainous region begins at the border with the Soviet Union and extends eastward to Bilecik.

The Marmara region includes the northwestern part of Turkey and the area around the Sea of Marmara. It includes such historical cities as Edirne, Bursa, and Istanbul as well as the Istanbul and Canakkale straits.

The Ege (Aegean) region is the western reaches of the Anatolian peninsula bordered by the Aegean Sea. It begins at Cape Baba in the north and extends coastwise as far as Marmaris. The Aegean coast is extremely indented with numerous gulfs and promontories. It is intersected by mountains of average height extending from inland down to the sea between which there are broad plains and valleys. Izmir is Aegean Turkey's most important city and port.

The Ic Anadolu (Central Anatolian) region covers most of the heartland of the Anatolian peninsula and consists largely of a high plateau that is completely surrounded by mountains. Turkey's capital, Ankara, is located in the Central Anatolian region.

The Akdeniz (Mediterranean) region extends from the Aegean in the west along the coast. This narrow strip of land is bordered along the north by mountains. While it is somewhat mountainous in the west, the mountains recede inland around Antalya after which there is an extensive littoral plain. The Mediterranean region plays an important role in Turkey's tourism industry.

The Guneydogu Anadolu (Southeastern Anatolian) region begins where the Mediter-

anean region leaves off at the foothills of the Toros mountains.

In the Dogu Anadolu (Eastern Anatolian) region, the northern and southern systems of mountains collide producing an area of vast and lonely splendor. The average altitude of this region is nearly 2,000 meters. Turkey's highest mountain, Agri (Ararat), 5,165 m is located here as is the country's biggest lake, Van.

In addition to being a country of mountains and seas, Turkey is also a land of plains and valleys. Besides the vast Cilician plains (called Cukurova) in the south, there are also the Antalya and Ankara plains in that part of Turkey. In the north are the Carsamba and Bafra plains; in the west, the river valley plains of Gediz, Kucuk Menderes, and Buyuk Menderes; rivers; in western Trakya (Thrace), the Ergene plain, and in the east the Ilgaz plain. Turkey has a number of rivers including the Kizilirmak, Buyuk Menderes, Gediz, Kizilirmak, Yesilirmak, Sakarya, Fırat, Dicle, Seyhan, Ceyhan, and Coruh.

In general terms, Turkey's climate is hot and dry in summer and cool and rainy in winter though climate varies considerably from region to region with Mediterranean, temperate continental, and Black Sea climates prevailing according to one's distance from the sea also evident in vegetation and rainfall. Turkey's northern coast is heavily forested and forests still cover about 13% of the country.

According to Turkey's most recent census (conducted in 1990) the country's population is nearly 57 million. The great majority of Turkish citizens

are Sunni Muslims and speak Turkish though there are a number of small minority groups who maintain their own religious faiths and languages.

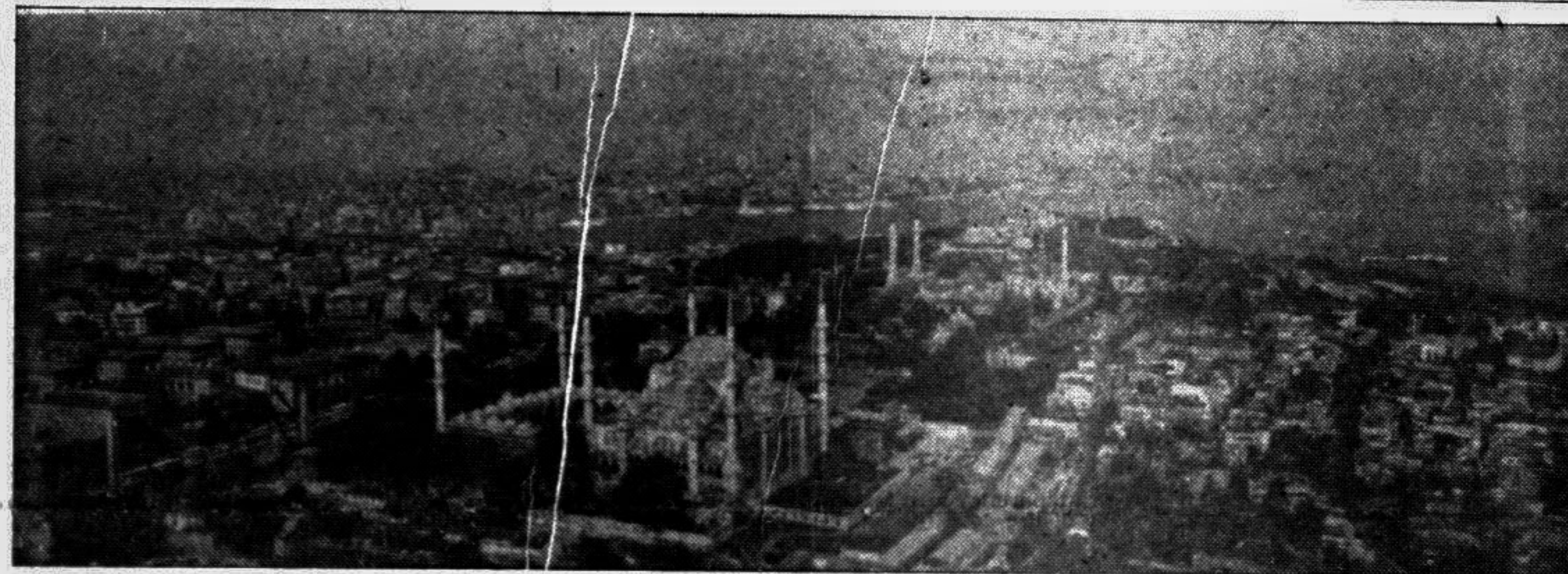
Fresh fruits and vegetables can be grown year round in some parts of the country. Principal crops include, in addition to these, grain legumes, citrus fruits, cotton, tobacco, grapes, hazelnuts, figs, tea, poppies, and sugar beets.

Livestock raising is an important industry in Turkey and the meat from animals raised on the lush grass of the high plateaus once tasted will never be forgotten. From Turkey's surrounding seas, a wide variety of delicious fish are available in every season.

Textiles—woolen, cotton, and silk have long been an important industry in Turkey and Turkish woven goods are now exported in substantial quantities. Other industrial activities include ceramics, leather, glass, metal goods food processing, iron and steel and paper. Anatolia is particularly rich in deposits of minerals and coal, iron, chromium, manganese, lead, and sulfur are all extracted.

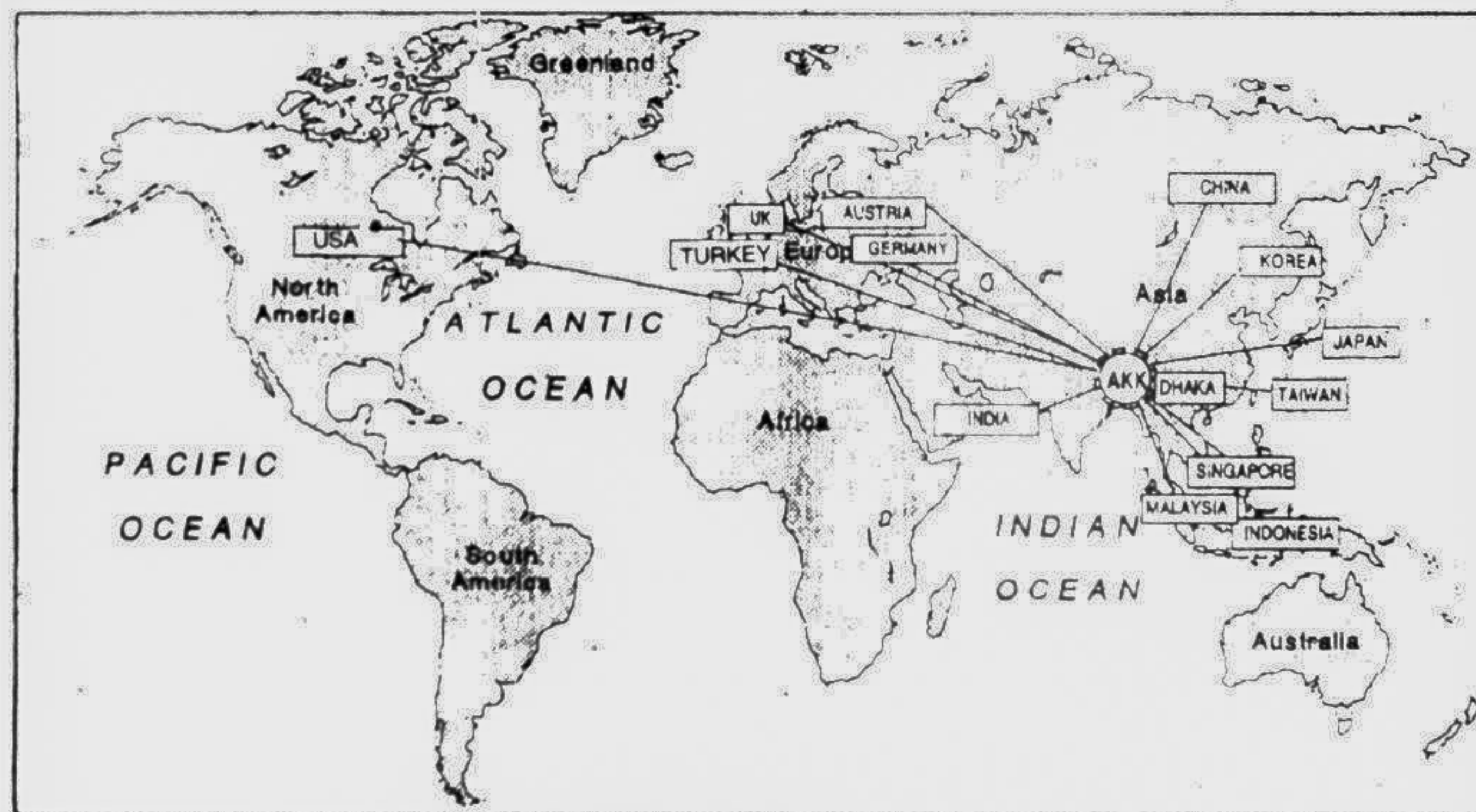
Turkey is a multi-party, parliamentary democracy. The prime minister, who represents the government, is chosen by the party (or parties) that can secure a majority in the Grand National Assembly. The assembly elects a president who represents the nation and who serves a term of seven years and cannot be re-elected. Government business is handled by ministries that are subordinate to the prime ministry.

Cultural and artistic activities are quite developed and they are aimed at a broad mass of the public.



Aerial view of Istanbul

FORGING STRONG LINKS INTERNATIONALLY OVER FIFTY YEARS INTO THE NEXT CENTURY



A. K. KHAN GROUP

AN INDUSTRIAL GROUP WITH SIXTEEN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDIARIES AND

Joint Venture Units : KHAN ELIN (ELIN-UNION AG), BENGAL FISHERIES LTD. (MITSUI & CO. MARUHA CORP.), TOOTAL THREAD (BD. LTD. (COATS-TOOTAL), INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MILLS, HTM, LTD.

Welcoming Joint Ventures and International trading links in:

Electronics, Toys, Textiles, Garments, Steel, Telecom, Fisheries, Fishing & Marine Foods Poultry, Jute based Pulp & Paper, Computer Software, Shipping, Engineering, Leather, Wood Products, Agro Industries, Plantations

For further details please contact :

HEAD OFFICE : Batali Hills, P.O. Box : 223, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Tel : 220191-3, 613084, 613953, Fax : 88-031-610596

Telex : 66417 AKKHAN BJ

DHAKA OFFICE : H.B.F.C. Building, 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Tel : 9552767, 9562492, 867331, Fax : 88-02-9561147

Telex : 642843 AKK BJ