

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I greet you with my most heartfelt feelings, affection, and respect.

Today, we altogether feel the pride and the enthusiasm of celebrating the 99th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye.

I congratulate the 29th October Republic Day of each and every one of our citizens in 81 provinces of our country and millions of our citizens in all corners of the world.

I also wish to express my gratitude to our friends who share our joy of celebration in our missions abroad, on behalf of myself, my country, and my nation.

On this occasion, I commemorate with gratitude once again Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, alongside our heroes who crowned our War of Independence with victory, and the patriotic members of the Grand National Assembly.

I wish the mercy of Allah upon our holy martyrs who lost their lives, as if they were stepping into a rosary for the sake of our independence, and I commemorate our veterans with gratitude.

We pursue our uninterrupted struggle to elevate the Republic of Türkiye, which we founded by paying heavy sacrifices 99 years ago under very difficult conditions, "above the level of contemporary civilizations".

Thanks to the democracy and development revolutions, which we have achieved in the last 20 years, we removed not only the obstacles raised before the national will, but also the thick walls placed between the people and the Republic.

We transformed Türkiye into a country with an exemplary democracy, an impressive economy, whose diplomacy is followed with interest, and which preserves its national unity and brotherhood in the strongest way possible, despite all attempts of sabotage.

It is a fact that Türkiye, whose struggle for independence was a beacon of inspiration to the oppressed people a century ago, remains within the range of the eye and hearts.

At a time when global uncertainties are on the rise, our efforts towards establishing peace, stability, and justice, are appreciated by all.

We strive to set up a peace and prosperity zone around us through our entrepreneurial and humanitarian foreign policy, from ending the humanitarian tragedy in Syria to finding a solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

As the country which provides the highest amount of humanitarian aid in proportion to its national income, we run to the rescue of all oppressed, victimized, and needy persons,



regardless of their origin, belief, and differences.

While we reinforce the standing and importance of our country on a global scale, we incessantly pursue investment and development efforts in our country.

Natural gas that we have discovered in the Black Sea, and for which we spend efforts night and day to bring it to our homes, has opened new avenues for us in the field of energy.

We have reached the capacity of designing, developing, producing, and exporting our own products in the field of defence industry.

We compete with ourselves in every field, from agriculture to tourism, from transport to education and health, and we constantly raise the bar higher for success.

A few days ago, we laid the foundation for the biggest social housing project of our history, which will meet the housing and land demands of approximately six million citizens.

On 29 October, we will be holding a celebration, as the first ever domestic and national electric car of our country, TOGG, will come off the production line.

Despite all the obstacles and injustices we endure, we lay the foundations of our vision for 2053 and 2071, with the precision of a chess master.

We are determined to build the "Türkiye Century" upon the infrastructure of works and services we have provided to our country.

May Allah clear our path and destiny.

With these thoughts, I would like to congratulate our 29 October Republic Day once again and wish our nation health, serenity, and well-being.

May the souls of our martyrs rest in peace!

Happy 99th anniversary to our Republic!

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President of the Republic of Türkiye

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

99 years ago today Turkish Grand National Assembly proclaimed the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye. This was achieved thanks to the Liberation War led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Founding Father of the Republic of Türkiye. We will never forget the helping hand of our Bengali brothers and sisters during these times of difficulty.

Turkish War of Liberation and foundation of the Republic of Türkiye on 29 October 1923 sparked joy and inspiration for other nations. Kazi Nazrul Islam, the National Poet of Bangladesh, expressed his joy in his epic poem titled "Kemal Pasha". During our Republic Day reception this year we will have a chance to listen to this extraordinary poem recited by eminent Bangladeshi artists.

The signs of respect for Mustafa Kemal was not limited to Nazrul's poem. His name was given to prestigious avenues in Dhaka and Chittagong and to a high school in Feni. Soon we shall inaugurate the bust of Atatürk and Kemal Atatürk Park in Dhaka just as we have done the same for the Father of the Bangladeshi Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in Ankara last December during Mujib Borsho.

Today, rising on the legacy of our Founding Fathers, both Türkiye and Bangladesh are thriving countries. Our current economic and social progress bodes well for a promising future. We will be stronger in every field if we develop our partnership further on this solid foundation.

We are on the right path. Our trade is booming and expected to reach 1.5 billion USD in 2022. This year one of the top destinations for Bangladeshi tourists is Istanbul. Turkish TV dramas are being watched by millions. Turkish Airlines increased the number of their flights to 14 times a week. On the other hand,

our investors have already recognized Bangladesh as a land of opportunities, and decided to expand their investments in key sectors of the economy such as energy, consumer goods and ready-made garments. Businesses from our countries have recently met in Istanbul and identified new avenues of cooperation.

In July this year, we have launched Bangladesh-Türkiye Business Forum (BTBF) in Dhaka. Bringing together six major Turkish companies operating in Bangladesh and eleven prominent Bangladeshi companies, BTBF will promote better economic and trade relations between our countries and facilitate partnerships based on our shared values.

Our shared values date back to the times of Hazrat Shah Jalal. Shah Jalal's mother was from Konya, a Turkish city where Sufi mystic Mawlana Jaleleddin Rumi lived and died. I visited Sylhet several times where Hazrat Shah Jalal's shrine is revered and visited by millions who respect him and his wisdom. Konya and Sylhet are sister cities, bringing us closer.

On this joyful day, I would also like to highlight another shared value of ours, namely the compassion towards the vulnerable people fleeing persecution and violence. Both of our countries host millions of refugees, 4 million Syrians in Türkiye and over 1 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh. That is why Türkiye is best placed to understand and stand in solidarity with the Government of Bangladesh.

In the years to come, Turkish Government is determined to further develop its partnership with Bangladesh for the mutual well-being of our people.

Long live Türkiye-Bangladesh friendship!

Mustafa Osman Turan
Ambassador of Türkiye to Bangladesh



Reinauguration of Turkish Field Hospital in Cox's Bazar by HE Süleyman Soylu, Minister of Interior of Türkiye on January 8, 2022.

Türkiye stands in solidarity with Bangladesh in responding to the Rohingya crisis

The Republic of Türkiye has spared no effort to provide its humanitarian and development support to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and Turkish Red Crescent offices in Dhaka help coordinate the humanitarian and development assistance in the fields of health, education, and humanitarian aid all around Bangladesh. Since 2012, more than 75 million USD was provided to Bangladesh by Türkiye in humanitarian and development assistance.

When the latest influx of Rohingyas to Bangladesh started in 2017, Turkey was one of the first countries to respond to the crisis. First Lady Emine Erdoğan visited the Rohingya camps and mobilised support. Ever since, Turkey continues its response through TİKA, Türkiye

Diyanet Foundation, Turkish Red Crescent, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and Turkish Field Hospital, which was founded in the beginning of 2018.

After the massive fire in the camps on March 22, 2021, the hospital was quickly rebuilt upon the instructions of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. More than 30 Turkish medical staff of the hospital continued their services under all circumstances, partnering also with Bangladeshi Red Crescent Society. In the field hospital, so far more than 550 thousand patients, both Rohingyas and members of the host communities, were provided medical services.

Turkish Government also supports Bangladesh at all international meetings for the early repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

BANGLADESH AND TÜRKİYE A friendship for the ages

Bangladesh and Türkiye's relationship has been deeply tied together in the history of both countries. This story of friendship and partnership dates back to before both countries had even emerged as modern nation-states.

If one were to look back, they would see that Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bengal's rebel poet, wrote in praise of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's bravery in the Turkish War of Independence: "To chase out the invading aggressor/ We need, indeed, a fearless Kemal/ Kemal, what a wonder you've worked!/ Ho Ho Kemal, what a wonder you've worked!" (Kemal Pasha, 1921).

After the Independence of Bangladesh, the relationship between the two countries grew even further, as Türkiye recognised Bangladesh as an independent state in 1974. Throughout time, their partnership has continued to be tied deeper. Now, Bangladesh and Türkiye cooperate in many areas including trade, defence, foreign investment and education.

Currently, the two-way annual trade between Bangladesh and Türkiye has crossed the \$1 billion threshold, with both countries aiming to reach the \$2 billion mark in the next couple of years. They plan to do this through increased cooperation among economic actors, simplification of trade rules, and diversification of trade products.

In July this year, the two countries have launched Bangladesh-Türkiye Business Forum (BTBF) in Dhaka which will promote better economic and trade relations between Türkiye and Bangladesh.

The two countries also stepped up their defence ties, with Bangladesh

signing several defence purchase agreements with Türkiye in the last couple of years. According to local experts, Turkish military products will equip the Bangladesh Armed Forces with NATO standard air, land and naval warfare capabilities.

If there is one thing that remains true in this world, it is that the mark of a true ally can be seen during moments of crisis. As such, it is clear to see why Türkiye has been such a great partner for Bangladesh, as they stepped forward with unconditional

support to Bangladesh in regards to the Rohingya issue at various multilateral fora such as the UN, ICJ, G20, and OIC.

Turkey has also been providing humanitarian aid—particularly in the field of health, education and rehabilitation—to Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. In 2018, a 50-bed field hospital—run by Turkish government organisation AFAD—was inaugurated at Rohingya camp No. 9, in the Palangkhali union under Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar. The hospital was completely rebuilt after

the massive fire in the camps in March 2021. Additionally, a soap factory and sewing atelier employing Rohingyas are run by the Turkish Diyanet Foundation, a Turkish development organization.

While both Bangladesh and Türkiye are Muslim majority countries, their ties run deeper. People of both nations follow Sufism and there is a wide appreciation of the works of famous Turkish poet and Sufi mystic, Mawlana Jaleleddin Rumi among Bangladeshis.

Turkish television programmes are also very popular in Bangladesh. Popular Turkish historical dramas such as "Dirilis: Ertugrul" (Resurrection: Ertugrul) and "Muhtesem Yuzyl" (Magnificent Century) have even been dubbed in the local language for Bangladeshi audiences.

Turkey is also a popular tourist destination for the people of Bangladesh. This year, Istanbul was one of the top destinations for Bangladeshi tourists.

On average, in recent years, 600 Bangladeshi students go to Turkish universities for their higher education. The government of Türkiye regularly provides scholarships to Bangladeshi students to study in their most prestigious universities. There is the potential to take bilateral relations between Türkiye and Bangladesh to even greater heights. New avenues of cooperation should be explored to deepen the ties between the governments and private sectors of both countries. The people-to-people contact between the two nations also needs to be promoted to consolidate the gains from the improved relationship.

