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**Featuring children’s winning artworks that celebrate a green and beautiful world while envisioning an AI-driven smart future, reflecting harmony between nature, technology, and human life at the Children’s Art Competition organised by KBCCI on 7 November, 2025.**



## Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry has been established in 2009 with the support and encouragement of the Embassy of Korea, KOTRA, and KOICA and incorporated as a trade organization in January 2010 under the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh. The trade relationship between the two countries dates back to 1973 when Korea recognized Bangladesh as an independent sovereign country. Businessmen from both nations felt the need to establish a joint chamber for the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries.

KBCCI holds significant importance, as it is classified as an 'A' Category Member of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI).

**The Objective** of KBCCI is to promote, develop and facilitate trade activities between the business communities of Bangladesh and Korea. Also, to explore new areas of investment and encourage the establishment of Joint Ventures, Direct Investment, Technological Transfer, Market Expansion and Knowledge Exchange through Exhibitions, Seminars and Workshops. Moreover, KBCCI undertake steps to overcome any areas of difficulties and trade barriers, such as supporting and facilitating the Legal Counselling Services to Korean companies operating in Bangladesh.

**The Vision** of KBCCI is to accelerate economic prosperity of Korea and Bangladesh through development of infrastructure, trade and investment.

**The Mission** of KBCCI is the commitment to serve the business communities of Korea and Bangladesh in every step of promoting trade and investment for economic development with the valuable expertise of the honorable members from different business fields in both countries. Moreover, to uphold its dedication to social welfare and sustainable development, KBCCI is committed to carrying out various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, including Tree Plantation, Student Scholarship, Language Learning Grant, and Relief Activities.

In the year 2023, with the association of the Korean Embassy and KOTRA, KBCCI has celebrated the 50 years of bilateral relationship between Korea and Bangladesh by organizing several prestigious events, including Showcase Korea (an exhibition of Korean products), Korean Film & Food Festival, Korean Pop Concert, Korean Cup Golf Tournament and Children's Art Competition.

KBCCI plays a vital role in fostering the growth and development of economic ties and strengthening bilateral relations between Korea and Bangladesh through socio-economic development, culture, education, infrastructure, know-how transfer, trade, business migration, human resource exchange with skilled manpower development, capacity building, and many other areas in the days to come.



## From The Desk of The President **SHAHAB UDDIN KHAN**

As we begin 2026, I am pleased to reflect on a productive and impactful year for the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI). Throughout the year, KBCCI remained actively engaged in strengthening trade, investment, and economic cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh.

We successfully organized and participated in a wide range of seminars, board and standing committee meetings, and sector-focused programs. These initiatives provided effective platforms for dialogue among government officials, diplomats, investors, and business leaders. Our investment and policy seminars, trade promotion events, exhibitions, and business networking programs helped our members identify new opportunities and address key challenges.

KBCCI continued to promote collaboration in important sectors such as manufacturing, cosmetics, agro-food, CSR, and export-oriented industries. We also supported capacity-building initiatives and financial facilitation programs to assist our members' growth. Cultural and people-to-people activities, including the Children's Art Competition and national celebrations, further strengthened mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

We were honored to work closely with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Government of Bangladesh. In December, we bade a heartfelt farewell to H.E. Mr. Park Young-sik the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh upon the completion of his tenure. KBCCI will always remain deeply grateful for his outstanding support, cooperation, and leadership, which greatly enriched our activities and strengthened bilateral relations during his term.

I sincerely thank our Board of Directors, members, partners, and stakeholders for their continued trust and support. KBCCI looks forward to building on this momentum and advancing stronger, more sustainable Korea-Bangladesh economic ties in the year ahead.

## *Message from the Director of Publication, Newsletter & Directory*

Dear Esteemed Members and Colleagues,

As we welcome the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings to all KBCCI members and your families. I sincerely wish you good health, peace, and continued growth and success in 2026.

At this meaningful time, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and respect to His Excellency Mr. Park Young-sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, who has recently concluded his approximately two and a half years of distinguished service and returned to Korea. During his tenure, Ambassador Park made valuable contributions to strengthening Korea–Bangladesh relations and offered unwavering support to the Korean community and KBCCI. We are truly grateful for his leadership, encouragement, and active engagement, and we wish him every success, good health, and fulfillment in the next chapter of his life. Despite the many challenges faced in 2025, our member companies demonstrated resilience, unity, and perseverance. I sincerely thank you for your continued commitment and cooperation.



**Million Park**

As we move into the New Year, I pray that the blessings and guidance of Almighty God will be with all our members, their businesses, and their families.

KBCCI remains committed to supporting our members through meaningful programs, transparent governance, and strong cross-border partnerships.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,  
Million Park  
Secretary General | KBCCI

## *Editorial Note*

Dear Valued Members,



**Edward Kim**

As we move forward together, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the steady progress and shared commitment that define the KBCCI community. The past period has highlighted not only our achievements, but also the strength of collaboration among our members.

Your active participation and continued trust have helped KBCCI grow as a meaningful bridge for business cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh. Through dialogue, engagement, and partnership, we are shaping a stronger and more connected business environment.

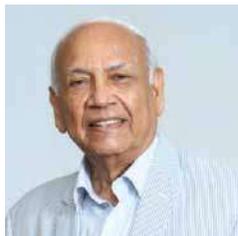
I am optimistic about the opportunities ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to create lasting value. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Warm regards,  
Edward Kim  
Editor | KBCCI



**Board of Directors**  
(2024 - 2026)

**SHAHAB UDDIN KHAN**  
President of KBCCI



**Jahangir Saadat**  
Sr. Vice President



**Gerald Chun**  
Vice President



**Million Park**  
Secretary General



**Jin Hur**  
Treasurer



**Mohammad Shahidul Islam**  
Director



**Shahriar Kamal**  
Director



**Edward Kim**  
Director



**Shameem Ahsan Khan**  
Director



**Shaikh Akber Hakim**  
Director



**Shaheen Mahmud**  
Director



**Abdul Mabud Masum**  
Director



**Md. Ruhul Alam Al Mahbub**  
Director



**Yong Oh Yu**  
Director



**Md. Monir Hossain (CIP)**  
Director



**Mostafa Kamal**  
Advisor



**Do-Kee, Park(Harry)**  
CEO



## ***Seminar Explores Ways to Accelerate Korean Investment in Bangladesh***

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) and the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) jointly organized a seminar titled “Accelerating Korean Investment in Bangladesh: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Reforms” at EBL Head Office, Gulshan ON 7TH May 2025. The seminar brought together senior government officials, policymakers, Korean investors, and business leaders to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. H.E. Park Young-Sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, is seen addressing the session, alongside KBCCI President Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan and other distinguished speakers.



# The Standing Committee Meeting of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) was held in July 2025 to discuss upcoming activities and future plans.



A meeting of the Standing Committee on Seminar, Events & Business Delegation was held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the President's Office, MMK Aakash Avenue (Level 7), Gulshan 2, Dhaka. The meeting covered the introduction of committee members and discussions on upcoming seminars, showcase Korea ,potential initiatives on Korean drama and scholarships, Korean food festible, Newspaper supplement on the occasion of Korean foundation day, seminar on Korean Healthcare and beautification Industry, Children's Art competition,the proposed Business Delegation to Korea , and other relevant matters.





## ***1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting Following the Election for the Tenure 2025–2026***

The first Board Meeting following the election for the 2025–2026 tenure of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) was held on August 28, 2025. The meeting formally marked the beginning of KBCCI's activities for the new term and brought together the newly elected Board members to set the direction for the Chamber's work ahead.

During the meeting, members discussed key priorities, strategic initiatives, and an action plan for the tenure, with particular emphasis on enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and overall economic cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh. The Board also reviewed proposed programs, upcoming events, and collaboration opportunities aimed at fostering stronger business linkages, promoting mutual investment, and supporting private sector engagement between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Directors, who engaged in constructive discussions on upcoming programs, member engagement, and future collaborations. The session concluded with a shared commitment to advancing KBCCI's mission and enhancing partnership between the two countries' business communities.



# Launching Training Session on Digital Customs Bond and Risk Management



Demonstrating its commitment to capacity building and trade facilitation, the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) took part in the launch of a three-day intensive training program on Digital Customs Bond and Risk Management organized by BGAPMEA at its training institute in ECB Chattar, Dhaka on September 23, 2025.

Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of KBCCI, attended the inaugural session as Special Guest and underscored the critical role of digitalization and effective risk management in enhancing transparency, regulatory compliance, and global competitiveness of export-oriented industries. He emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives align with KBCCI's mission to support industry readiness, strengthen trade practices, and equip professionals to adapt to evolving customs regulations and international trade standards.



## ***KBCCI President and Foreign Ministry Bilateral Secretary Discuss Strategies to Expand Bangladesh's Exports to Korea***



A snapshot from the meeting between the President of KBCCI and the Bilateral Secretary of Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nazrul Islam on 18<sup>th</sup> October, where extensive discussions were held on policy support and strategic measures to boost and diversify Bangladesh's exports to the Korean market. The dialogue covered strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations, identifying new and value-added export sectors, improving market access and compliance with Korean standards, and facilitating greater private-sector engagement. The meeting also emphasized coordinated efforts between government and business stakeholders to promote trade facilitation, attract investment, and ensure sustainable growth of Bangladesh's export footprint in South Korea.



## *to Celebrate Korea's National Foundation Day*



On the occasion of the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) successfully organized a colorful and engaging Art Competition for children of the Korean community and KBCCI member families. The event promoted creativity among young participants while strengthening cultural ties between Korea and Bangladesh.

The art competition was held on 7 November at 3:00 PM at the Gulshan Club, Lamda Hall. Children participated in two age-based categories, each reflecting important global and future-oriented themes.

Participants in Group A (6–12 years) explored the theme “Green, Our Beautiful World,” depicting Earth as a happy and sustainable home filled with trees, animals, and nature. Meanwhile, Group B (13–18 years) worked on the theme “AI and Smart Future,” creatively illustrating how artificial intelligence, robotics, and smart technologies could shape tomorrow’s world.

All participants received gift hampers generously supported by MGI. Prizes were awarded to the winners in recognition of their outstanding artistic talent.

The event was graced by H.E. Park Young-sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Dhaka, who attended as the Chief Guest, adding prestige and encouragement to the young artists.

Members of the Korean community and KBCCI families participated enthusiastically in the competition along with their children and grandchildren, creating a warm and inclusive family-oriented atmosphere.

The competition was organized by KBCCI with the valued support and sponsorship of MGI, Zeeshan Group, Yu Lee Cap & K-Village, whose contributions played an important role in the successful execution of the program.



# Winners

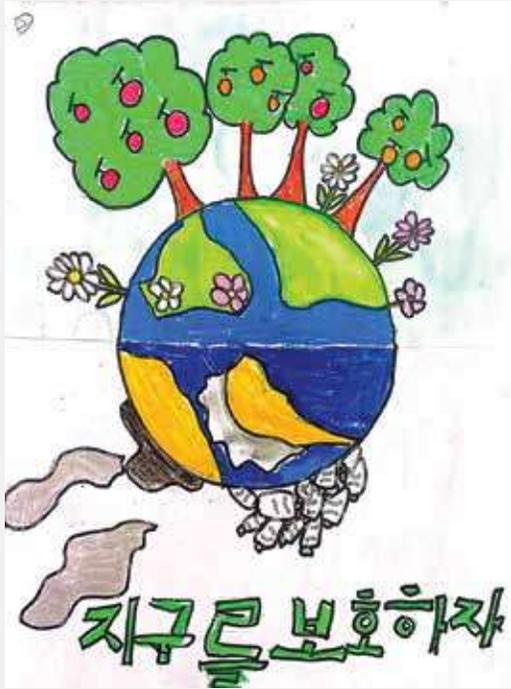


**1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Group A**  
Khondokar Asef





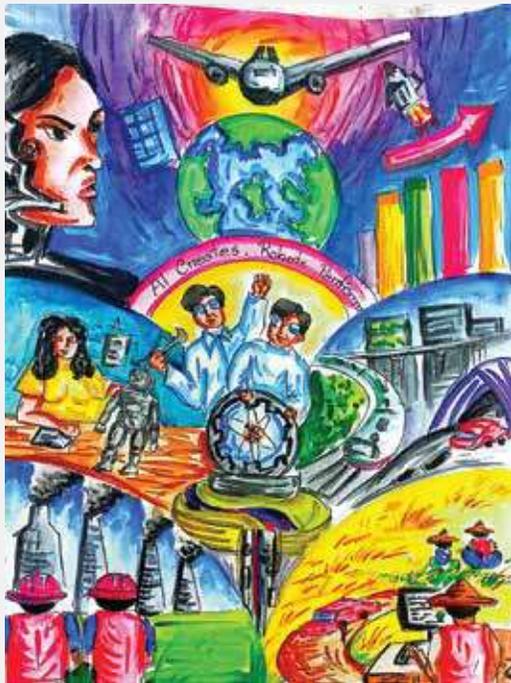
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**Group B**  
Rukaiya Tasneem



**2nd Prize  
Group A**  
Hayul Lee



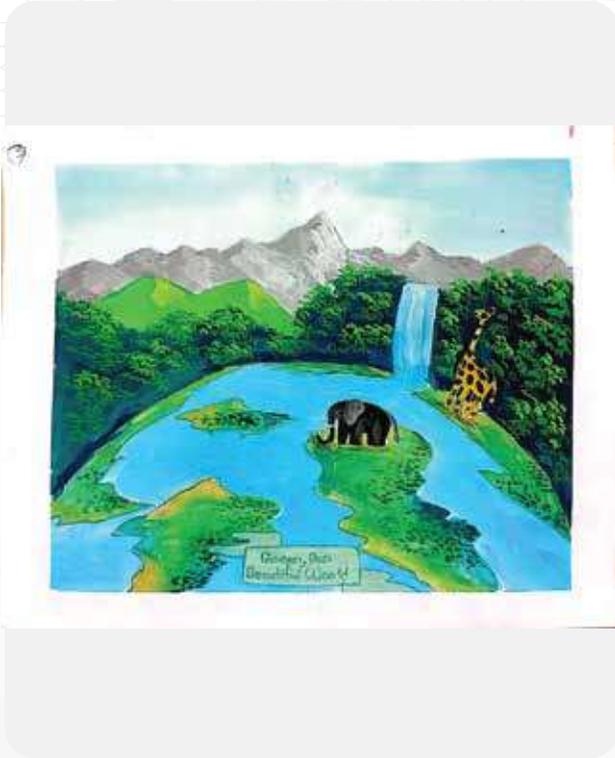
**2nd Prize  
Group A**  
Mehrin Islam



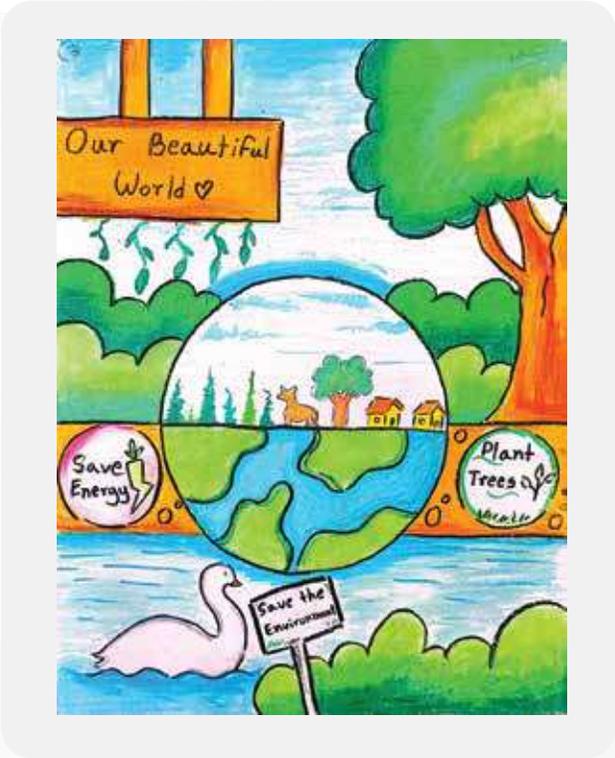
**2nd Prize  
Group B**  
Arafat Islam



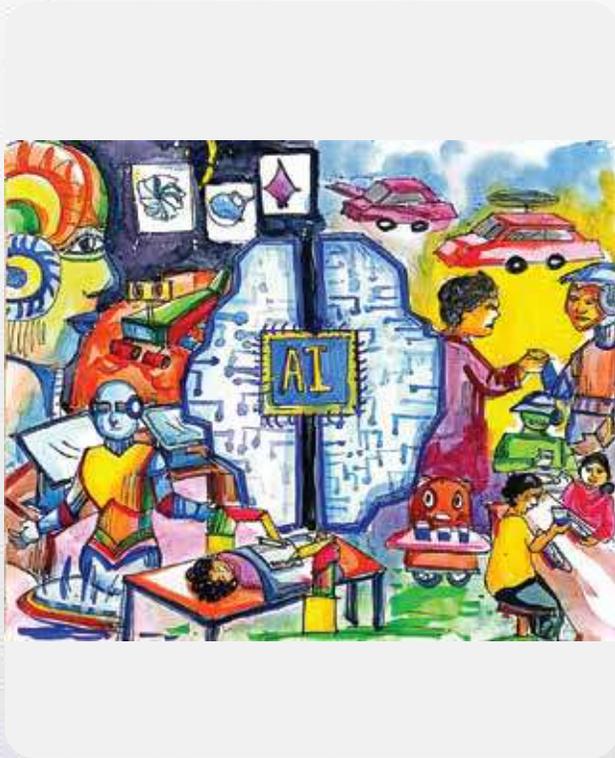
**2nd Prize  
Group B**  
Nora Islam Oishi



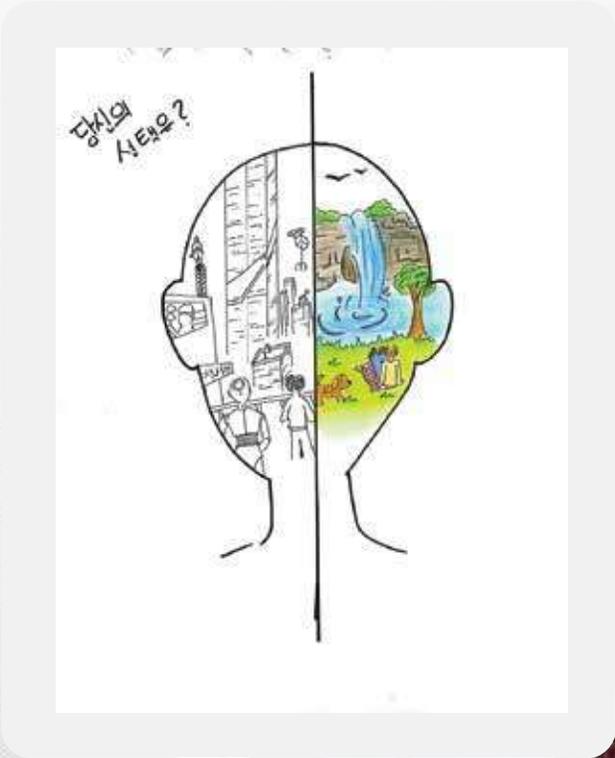
**3rd Prize  
Group A**  
Arisha Sadiya



**3rd Prize  
Group A**  
Juhaima Rahman



**3rd Prize  
Group B**  
Mithila Bhowmick



**3rd Prize  
Group B**  
Yoo Eun Seong



## NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea organized a grand celebratory program to mark the National Foundation Day on November 13, 2025, bringing together diplomats, business leaders, policymakers, and distinguished guests to commemorate this important national occasion. The event highlighted Korea's rich history, cultural heritage, and remarkable development journey, while underscoring the shared values and mutual respect that underpin Korea–Bangladesh relations.

Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI), attended the celebration alongside members of the KBCCI Board of Directors and other prominent representatives from the public and private sectors, reflecting the Chamber's active engagement in strengthening bilateral economic and institutional cooperation.

A special feature of the celebration was the exhibition of the winning artworks from the children's art competition, which added a vibrant cultural dimension to the event. The displayed artworks showcased the creativity and talent of young participants and symbolized the importance of cultural exchange and people-to-people connections in fostering long-term friendship between Korea and Bangladesh.

The celebration provided a valuable platform to reaffirm the strong and longstanding friendship between Korea and Bangladesh, while also highlighting the growing depth of bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, technology transfer, and cultural exchange. Interactions among diplomats, business leaders, and stakeholders during the event further reinforced opportunities for collaboration and dialogue on future initiatives.

KBCCI's presence at the event underscored its continued engagement with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and its commitment to promoting bilateral trade, facilitating investment partnerships, and strengthening institutional and people-to-people ties. The occasion also served as a reminder of the shared vision of both nations to deepen cooperation for mutual economic growth and sustainable development in the years ahead.



# NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2025



**Lee Jae Myung**  
President of the Republic of Korea

### Message from the Ambassador

The Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh established diplomatic ties on December 18, 1973. Over the past five decades, this close relationship has grown into a dynamic partnership that continues to expand across many fields. Our two countries have witnessed a remarkable journey of cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, development, and people-to-people exchanges.

The substantial bilateral relationship between Korea and Bangladesh traces back to the beginning of Bangladesh's RMG industry. The well-known story goes back to 1979, when Bangladesh Desh Garment partnered with Korea's Daewoo Corporation, planting the seed of what would become Bangladesh's RMG sector. Since then,

Korean garment enterprises have made great contributions to the rapid growth of this industry, which accounts for over 85% of the country's exports. The Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in Chattogram — the first privately developed, country-specific export processing zone—stands as a symbol of Korea-Bangladesh business ties, currently generating about 1.25 billion USD in exports and employing more than 70,000 workers in Bangladesh.

Today, the scope of Korean investment reaches far beyond textiles. Korea is currently the fourth largest FDI investor in Bangladesh. In recent years, investment has grown in manufacturing industries such as automobiles, mobile phones, and consumer electronics through joint ventures with local partners. Samsung Electronics produces consumer goods, including mobile phones, while Hyundai and Kia cars are also being assembled locally. These companies are creating high-quality jobs through domestic manufacturing. Korean firms would like to see opportunities for further investment as the business environment continues to improve—particularly in areas such as timely visa issuance and renewal, smooth customs clearance, lower tariffs on raw materials and intermediate goods, prompt payment in U.S. dollars after project completion, and the ability to repatriate profits with ease.

Trade between the two nations has gained remarkable momentum. Korea currently provides preferential market access to around 95 percent of Bangladesh's products through the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and World Trade Organization (WTO) arrangements. Bilateral trade reached a record high in 2022, surpassing 3 billion dollars for the first time. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), now under negotiations, is expected to further expand trade and investment in mutually beneficial ways. Korea hopes these talks will conclude in the near future.

Infrastructure has become one of the most promising areas for deeper Korea-Bangladesh cooperation. Bangladesh holds strong potential for infrastructure development, supported by more than two decades of steady economic growth averaging over 5 percent annually.

Its planned graduation from the Least Developed Country status in November 2026 is expected to attract essential foreign capital needed for the ongoing infrastructure development in Bangladesh. Korea aspires to remain a vital partner in Bangladesh's infrastructure journey, just as it has been in the RMG sector. Since 1973, 144 Korean companies have participated in 257 infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, representing investments totaling 8.82 billion USD as of April 2025.

Korean companies can bring distinct advantages that can significantly strengthen Bangladesh's infrastructure development. They consistently deliver high-quality projects—whether roads, bridges, or railways—while creating local jobs by hiring Bangladeshi workers and ensuring timely completion without unnecessary delays or inflated costs. In addition, the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) is available to Bangladesh on highly favorable terms, offering interest rates as low as 0.01–0.05 percent and repayment periods of up to 40 years. The fund has already been expanded to 3 billion USD through 2027, with the possibility of further increase. As not every infrastructure project can be financed by government budgets or international loans alone, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) offer an important alternative, with initiatives such as the Mirsharai Water Supply Project already under discussion.

Korea's support for Bangladesh's development is not limited to infrastructure alone. Bangladesh has long been an important partner in Korea's development cooperation efforts and currently ranks third among Korea's ODA recipients. Several ongoing projects focus on education, water sanitation, health, public administration, and transportation. This assistance also supports the strengthening of Bangladesh's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. There are more than 110 vocational training centers across the country, but they face significant challenges, including a shortage of qualified trainers, limited technological skills, and outdated teaching equipment. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is well positioned to help address these gaps by developing capacity-building projects that equip the Bangladeshi workers for future growth.

Korea's development partnership with Bangladesh also includes humanitarian support. Since 2017, Korea has provided USD 3 to 5 million through international organizations to support the Rohingya and their host communities in Bangladesh. In 2024, the total amount of humanitarian aid reached USD 36.6 million, and, in addition to this funding, Korea made its first rice donation—15,000 tons, enough to feed one million Rohingyas for one and a half months. This aid has supported a range of activities under the Joint Response Plan, including the provision of food, LPG, and education.

People-to-people exchanges continue to strengthen the bond between Korea and Bangladesh. Korea has become an important destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers; between 2008 and 2023, about 33,000 workers went to South Korea under the Employment Permit System. Korea's labor laws apply equally to domestic and foreign workers, and wages for Bangladeshi workers are generally higher than in many other countries. The Korean government remains committed to ensuring a safe and supportive working environment for them.

Cultural exchange is deepening mutual understanding. Korean culture—including K-dramas, K-movies, K-pop, K-art, K-food, and K-beauty—is gaining popularity in Bangladesh. This trend reflects the shared values and creative expressions that bridge the geographical distance between our two nations. I anticipate that the Hallyu (Korean Wave), a cross-border cultural phenomenon, will further strengthen mutual understanding and help build long-lasting cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh.

Looking ahead, there is great potential to expand our partnership into new sectors. Korea's approach centers on practical cooperation and shared prosperity. I am confident that our two countries can further deepen bilateral relations by collaborating in areas such as footwear and leather, ICT, pharmaceuticals, light industries, shipbuilding, the blue economy and deep-sea fishing, agriculture and agricultural machinery, greenhouse technology, and carbon trading. Korean companies will bring advanced technologies, while

Bangladeshi companies can create new businesses. There is strong potential for this kind of investment that combines technology and capital to flourish in Bangladesh.

Our shared history continues to light the path toward a stronger future. The great Bengali poet and first Asian Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, wrote a poem in 1929 for the Korean people, calling Korea "The Lamp of the East." His words inspired courage and determination among Koreans. Guided by Tagore's vision and our shared values of democracy, a market economy, and human rights, Bangladesh and Korea have cultivated a deep and reciprocal partnership across many fields. Building on what our two nations have achieved together over the past 50 years, we are committed to making the next 50 years even brighter and more prosperous in every area of cooperation.



**H.E. Park Young-sik**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea  
in Bangladesh

রিপাবলিক অব কোরিয়ার জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠা দিবস এক সাথে উদ্‌যাপন করার জন্য আপনাদের ধন্যবাদ। আমি আপনাদের সুখ, শান্তি ও সুস্বাস্থ্য কামনা করছি।



**Shahab Uddin Khan**  
President, KBCCI

### Message from the President of KBCCI

On the occasion of Korean Day, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to our Korean friends and well-wishers. This day stands as a celebration not only of Korea's rich heritage and achievements but also of the deepening ties of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh.



**KBCCI**  
Korea-Bangladesh Chamber  
of Commerce & Industry

In recent times, Bangladesh has faced certain political and economic challenges, which led to a lower-than-expected inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last financial year. Nonetheless, with the national elections expected in February 2025, we are optimistic that political stability will return, creating a more favorable environment for foreign investors. This confidence was also reflected in the recent meeting between the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and KBCCI, where we discussed strategies to attract and facilitate Korean investment in Bangladesh.

At the global level, ongoing economic unrest—partly arising from tariff policies introduced by the United States—has highlighted the need for countries like Bangladesh to diversify their export destinations. In this regard, Korea presents itself as a strong and reliable partner. Bangladesh must focus not only on expanding its current exports but also on identifying new sectors and product diversification to enhance trade with Korea.

Another critical area for future cooperation lies in the development of skilled human resources. Korea's Employment Permit System (EPS) has already created valuable opportunities for Bangladeshi workers, but to fully realize this potential, we must modernize our vocational training institutions. I earnestly request the Government of Korea, along with KOICA, to collaborate with Bangladesh in upgrading and reforming these institutions. By equipping our workforce with world-class skills, both nations will benefit: Bangladesh through employment generation and remittances, and Korea through the contribution of well-trained, dedicated workers.

On this Korean Day, let us reaffirm our shared vision of prosperity built on trust, collaboration, and mutual respect. I am confident that the Korea-Bangladesh partnership will continue to grow stronger, paving the way for new opportunities and enduring friendship between our two nations. Long live Korea-Bangladesh friendship.



# NATIONAL DAY of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL, CHATTOGRAM.

On the auspicious occasion of the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, on 3rd October 2025, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to the people of Korea. On this historic day, the people of Bangladesh join in friendship and shared goodwill with the people of the Republic of Korea.

The Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of Bangladesh have enjoyed close and enduring bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1973. We fondly recall the momentous celebration of the 50th anniversary of these relations in 2023, marked with great pride and significance. More recently, in September 2024, I had the honor of leading a business delegation to Korea, where we signed an MoU between KBCCI and various Korean business associations to further strengthen trade and investment cooperation between our two countries.

Today, more than 200 Korean companies are successfully operating in Bangladesh, particularly in Export Processing Zones and other sectors, contributing substantially to our economy. Their success underscores the depth of our partnership and the promise it holds. Looking ahead, there remains immense scope for expanding collaboration in trade, investment, and cultural exchange for the mutual benefit of both nations.

As the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Korea in Chattogram, I remain dedicated to fostering these strong economic and cultural bonds. I am confident that the friendship between our two nations will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.

On this special occasion of Korea's National Foundation Day, I once again convey my sincere greetings to the people of Korea and to the Korean community living in Bangladesh.

Long live Korea-Bangladesh friendship.

**Mostafa Kamal**  
Honorary Consul  
The Republic of Korea in Chattogram.



### CELEBRATING KOREAN FOUNDATION DAY



As the Chairman of the Korean Community, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Korean Foundation Day 2025. This day holds deep meaning for us, as it honors the spirit, resilience, and cultural heritage of Korea that continue to inspire generations.

Korean Foundation Day is not only a celebration of our proud history, but also a reflection of the values that unite us through hard work, perseverance, and harmony. It reminds us of the sacrifices of our forebears and calls on us to carry their legacy forward by strengthening friendship, cooperation, and cultural exchange within our community and with our Bangladeshi friends.

On this occasion, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering unity, embracing diversity, and creating new opportunities for mutual growth and understanding. Together, we can nurture a vibrant community that honors its heritage while striving toward a brighter and more prosperous future.

May Korean Foundation Day 2025 inspire us all to cherish our traditions, strengthen our bonds, and continue walking hand in hand toward shared progress and harmony.

Happy Korean Foundation Day!

**Mr. Yu Yongoh**  
Chairman, Korean Community in Bangladesh





## Discussions on Trade, Investment, & Joint Ventures Mark Sri Lankan Delegation's Visit to KBCCI

A delegation from Sri Lanka paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI), to hold comprehensive discussions on expanding bilateral and regional business opportunities. The meeting underscored the shared interest of both sides in deepening economic engagement and strengthening cooperation among the private sectors of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Korea.

The discussions focused on identifying priority sectors for collaboration, including trade facilitation, manufacturing, logistics, infrastructure development, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism, ICT, and emerging industries. Both sides explored ways to enhance trade flows, encourage reciprocal investment, and leverage each country's comparative advantages to develop competitive joint ventures and value-chain partnerships.

The Sri Lankan delegation shared insights into their country's economic landscape, investment climate, and sector-specific opportunities, while expressing strong interest in collaborating with Bangladeshi and Korean enterprises. The exchange of views highlighted mutual interests, complementary strengths, and the potential for trilateral cooperation that could benefit businesses across the region.

The meeting also underscored the importance of institutional cooperation, policy support, and private-sector engagement in translating discussions into tangible outcomes. Participants discussed possible follow-up initiatives, including business delegation exchanges, B2B meetings, joint forums, and knowledge-sharing programs facilitated by KBCCI.

The visit concluded on a positive note, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to maintaining close communication and working collaboratively to advance practical initiatives. The discussions laid a strong foundation for enhanced economic cooperation and long-term partnerships, reinforcing KBCCI's role in fostering regional connectivity and promoting sustainable business growth.



## Ambassador Park Young-sik Delivers Lecture at Daffodil International University

On June 24, Ambassador Park Young-sik visited & delivered a Lecture at Daffodil International University (DIU) at the Daffodil Smart City Campus. The lecture, titled Korea's Economic Development & Its Lessons, was attended by 150 members, including faculty and students from the University.

There was also a meaningful time to ask and answer questions about various fields of interest, such as Korean Government Scholarships, Korean Cultural Programs, and Exchange student Program of Bangladeshi students with Korean universities.





## **Ambassador Park Engages International Military Officials at NDC with Lecture on Contemporary South Korea**

On July 8, Ambassador Park Young-sik visited the National Defence College (NDC) and delivered a lecture titled “Contemporary South Korea: History, Democracy, Economy, Peace and Security, and Korea–Bangladesh Relations.” The presentation highlighted South Korea’s development journey, democratic evolution, economic transformation, and its approach to peace and security, while also underscoring the growing partnership with Bangladesh.

Following the lecture, Ambassador Park engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session focusing on South Korea’s economy, security outlook, cultural influence, and avenues for strengthening bilateral relations. The discussion drew active participation from military officials representing around 18 countries, reflecting strong international interest in South Korea’s development experience, regional role, and its approach to peace, security, and cooperation in an increasingly complex global environment.



# South Korean company to invest \$8.06m in Mongla EPZ



On 6 August 2025, South Korea's OCF Co. Ltd. announced plans to invest US\$ 8.06 million in the Mongla Export Processing Zone (EPZ) to set up a manufacturing facility producing tents, camping gear, furniture, accessories and bags.

The investment agreement was formally signed the same day at the BEPZA Complex in Dhaka, according to an official press release. The agreement was executed by Md Ashrafur Kabir, Member (Investment Promotion) of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), and Hyun Gil Kim, Chairman of OCF Co. Ltd., representing their respective organizations. The signing ceremony was witnessed by BEPZA Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, BSP, ndc, psc.

Under the project, OCF Co. Ltd. will manufacture a wide range of products, including tents and tent accessories, camping chairs and tables, furniture and furniture components, aluminum and carbon items, trekking and ski poles, walking sticks, bed cots, pet furniture, arrows, and various types of bags. The project is expected to generate employment for approximately 820 Bangladeshi workers.

Speaking at the event, the BEPZA Executive Chairman reaffirmed the authority's commitment to promoting investment in diversified manufacturing sectors. Noting that this is OCF Co. Ltd.'s second venture under BEPZA, he expressed appreciation for the company's continued confidence and encouraged it to help attract further South Korean investment to Bangladesh's EPZs. He also highlighted BEPZA's dedication to ensuring a secure and investor-friendly business environment



## **COSMETICA DHAKA 2025**

### ***Showcases Growing Korea–Bangladesh Collaboration in the Beauty Industry***

On 8th August 2025, H.E. Park Young-sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, along with Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI), jointly inaugurated the Cosmetica Dhaka exhibition at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka. On the occasion, the Ambassador delivered a congratulatory message highlighting the growing cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh in the cosmetics and beauty industry.

The event was organized with the cooperation of KOTRA, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and KBCCI, and was held from August 8 to 9. The exhibition featured a wide range of cosmetic and beauty products from Korea as well as from other participating countries, presented through various exhibition booths.

KBCCI's involvement in the event reflected its continued efforts to facilitate business networking and promote trade opportunities for Korean and Bangladeshi companies. The exhibition provided an effective platform for industry stakeholders to explore partnerships, exchange market insights, and strengthen bilateral cooperation in the rapidly growing cosmetics sector.





Bangladesh and South Korea hold the fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Seoul on 26 August 2025. Photo: MoFA

## **DHAKA & SEOUL** *Agree to deepen ties, explore strategic partnership*

Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea have reached a mutual understanding to deepen political confidence, broaden economic engagement, and assess the scope for upgrading their bilateral ties to a strategic partnership.

The consensus was reached during the fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), which took place in Seoul on 26 August 2025. The Bangladeshi delegation was led by Md Nazrul Islam, Secretary (Bilateral–East and West) along with Bangladesh’s Ambassador to South Korea, Mr Toufiq Islam Shatil, ndc at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Korean side was headed by Park Yoonjoo, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, according to an official press release. Both parties underscored the importance of high-level exchanges, particularly visits at the head-of-state or head-of-government level, describing them as essential steps toward elevating the relationship to a strategic footing.

Discussions covered a wide range of areas, including political dialogue, trade and investment, economic collaboration, and workforce cooperation under Korea’s Employment Permit System (EPS). The two sides also exchanged views on infrastructure development, potential relocation of Korean electronics and semiconductor manufacturing facilities, energy collaboration, and the humanitarian situation involving forcibly displaced Rohingya nationals from Myanmar.

The delegations reviewed progress made since the third FOC held in Dhaka in March 2022 and explored fresh opportunities for cooperation. Emerging sectors highlighted included science and technology, artificial intelligence, energy transition, fisheries, biotechnology, climate action, agricultural mechanisation, as well as the modernisation of marine ports and shipbuilding facilities.

Bangladesh emphasised the importance of continued Korean support for its priority infrastructure projects through financing mechanisms such as EDCF, KOICA, and EDPF. Dhaka also invited Korean companies to consider relocating production and manufacturing operations to Bangladesh to reinforce regional value chains and promote sustainable industrial growth in South Asia.

The Korean delegation praised Bangladesh's humanitarian role in hosting over one million Rohingya refugees and reaffirmed its support for their safe, voluntary and dignified return to Myanmar. Seoul also expressed interest in expanding its contribution to sustainable development initiatives across South Asia.

Separately, the two countries have launched negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). According to a report citing South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, the first round of negotiations began in Seoul and is scheduled to conclude today.

The report noted that the talks align with Korea's broader strategy to enhance engagement in South Asia amid shifting global trade dynamics. Kwon Hye-jin, Director General for FTA Negotiations at the ministry, stated that a CEPA with Bangladesh would provide Korean firms with a strategic gateway to the promising South Asian market.





**Bangladesh  
Investment  
Development  
Authority**

**FKI** The Federation of  
Korean Industries



**IFC** International  
Finance Corporation  
WORLD BANK GROUP

Gateway to Growth

# Invest in Bangladesh



## Bangladesh Calls on Korean Investors to Tap Growth Opportunities

The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has invited Korean investors to take advantage of Bangladesh's strong economic momentum, ongoing reforms and investor-friendly environment.

At the "Gateway to Growth: Invest in Bangladesh" seminar held in Seoul, a high-level Bangladeshi delegation led by Mr Ashik Chowdhury, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA, engaged with more than 150 Korean business leaders to present Bangladesh's priority investment sectors from 21st to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025.

Organised jointly by the Bangladesh Embassy in South Korea, the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) and supported by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the event highlighted the deepening economic ties between the two countries. South Korea is currently Bangladesh's fifth-largest foreign investor, with over USD 1.56 billion invested across textiles, electronics, footwear and automobile manufacturing.

In his keynote address, Mr Chowdhury described the current period as a prime moment for Korean businesses to align with Bangladesh's growth journey, citing regulatory reforms, macroeconomic stability and strong government backing for foreign investors.

BIDA's Head of Business Development, Mr Nahian Rahman Rochi, showcased opportunities in textiles, electronics, automotive manufacturing and renewable energy, highlighting Bangladesh's young workforce, infrastructure upgrades and BIDA's One Stop Service platform.

Sharing industry experience, Mr Min-Suhk Lee, President of Youngone Corporation, praised Bangladesh's transformation into a competitive manufacturing hub, noting the company's USD 600 million investment and employment of over 30,000 people.

Bangladesh's Ambassador to South Korea, Mr Toufiq Islam Shatil, ndc, emphasised Bangladesh's role as a gateway to South Asia, while FKI Vice-Chairman Mr Chang-beom Kim expressed optimism about the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The seminar was part of a five-day strategic mission to South Korea, during which the delegation held government-to-government and business-to-business meetings with Korean ministries, parliamentarians and corporate leaders.



Mr. Ashik Chowdhury, Executive Chairman (State Minister) of BIDA, delivering the keynote address at the “Gateway to Growth: Invest in Bangladesh” seminar in Seoul.

# K-CSR SEMINAR 2025

## Strengthening Korea-Bangladesh CSR Collaboration



**The Embassy of Republic of Korea held the K-CSR Seminar at the Westin Hotel in Dhaka on 19 October.**

The seminar, which was held under the theme of Korean Investors' CSR Activities and Future Together, began with a Welcome speech by Ambassador Park Young-sik and a Congratulatory speech by Mr. Shahab Undin Khan, the President of KBCCI and continued the presentation of CSR activities of LG, Samsung R&D Institute, Woori Bank, Dohwa Engineering, and Youngone. In addition, the NGOs such as Save the Children, Oxford Korea, Habitat, Good Neighbors, ADRA, and Global Care which have worked actively in Bangladesh also ha chance to present their activities through this seminar



## **EMBASSY OF KOREA & BAFISA** **CO-HOST K-FOOD EXPORT** **PROMOTION SEMINAR IN THE WSTIN, DHAKA**

Dhaka, Nov. 12 — The Embassy of the Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Association of Foreign & Import Food Suppliers Association (BAFISA), organized a “K-Food Export Promotion” seminar aimed at exploring emerging opportunities and addressing key challenges for Korean food products in Bangladesh’s fast-growing consumer market.

The event brought together diplomats, government representatives, and industry experts, creating a dynamic platform to strengthen bilateral trade cooperation in the food sector.

Nahian Rahman Rochi, Head of Business Development at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), attended the seminar as a special guest and highlighted Bangladesh’s growing potential as an attractive destination for foreign food and agri-business investments.

Speaking at the event, Park Young-sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, noted that the seminar provided a timely and meaningful opportunity to expand cooperation in the food industry, particularly as Korean food continues to gain global popularity worldwide.

In his address, Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI), emphasized the growing demand for Korean food products in Bangladesh and underscored the importance of strengthening partnerships between Korean exporters and Bangladeshi importers. He noted that KBCCI remains committed to facilitating market access, business networking, and collaboration in the agro-food sector, which will contribute to deeper and more sustainable trade relations between the two countries.

With active participation from BAFISA members and support from BIDA, the seminar offered valuable market insights, introduced key product categories and regulatory requirements—including halal compliance and quality assurance—and facilitated practical business linkages among stakeholders.

Korean companies have long been trusted partners of Bangladesh, playing a pivotal role in the development of the country’s ready-made garments (RMG) industry. Building on this legacy, the Ambassador expressed optimism that a future bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) could serve as a new engine for elevating Korea-Bangladesh relations over the next fifty years. The seminar also placed strong emphasis on the practical aspects of market entry, addressing regulatory frameworks, standards, and strategies for successful penetration of the Bangladeshi food market.





## South Korea Reaffirms Support for Rohingya Response with Rice Donation

South Korea has reaffirmed its strong humanitarian support for Bangladesh by providing a fresh rice donation to assist the Rohingya response, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

The handover ceremony took place on 12 November 2025 at WFP’s Alongkar Warehouse in Chattogram, attended by Disaster Management and Relief Secretary Md. Mostafizur Rahman, South Korean Ambassador Young Sik Park, and WFP Country Director Dom Scalpelli. The event coincided with Korea’s Farmers’ Day, honouring the contribution of Korean farmers behind the donation.

This marks South Korea’s second major rice contribution to the Rohingya response, following a 15,000-metric-tonne donation in 2024. The current shipment of 20,265 metric tonnes, provided through Korea’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), also includes fortified rice kernels enriched with essential vitamins and minerals.

The fortified rice will be blended locally before distribution in Cox’s Bazar, helping to meet the nutritional needs of more than 1.1 million Rohingya refugees. According to WFP, the donation is sufficient to feed the entire Rohingya population for nearly two months and forms part of Korea’s global commitment of 150,000 metric tonnes of rice to WFP operations worldwide.

Ambassador Park reiterated South Korea’s commitment to standing with Bangladesh and the international community in addressing the prolonged humanitarian crisis, now entering its ninth year.

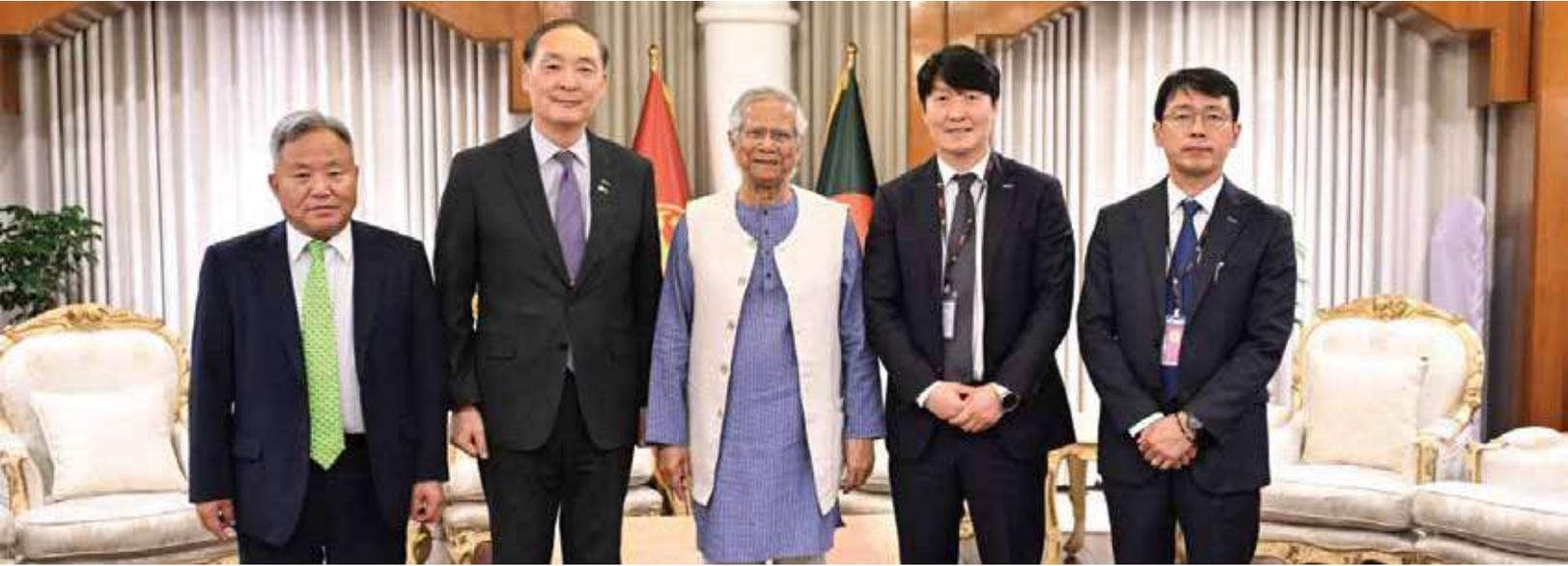


## *The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea* Graciously Hosts a *Distinguished Dinner* in Honor of the KBCCI Board of Directors

To mark the successful completion of his diplomatic tenure in Bangladesh, H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, together with his spouse, graciously hosted an exclusive farewell dinner at their residence in Baridhara, Dhaka, on November 18, 2025.

The evening served as a meaningful occasion to reflect on the Ambassador's contributions to advancing Korea-Bangladesh economic cooperation and to foster open dialogue among key stakeholders committed to further enhancing ties between the two countries. This farewell engagement underscored the enduring partnership between Korea and Bangladesh and highlighted KBCCI's pivotal role in building bridges between the business communities of both nations.





## KOICA President Concludes Official Visit to Bangladesh

The President of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), H. E. Chang Won Sam, has concluded a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reaffirming the strong development partnership between the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh on December 4, 2025.

During his visit, the KOICA President met with the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, where both sides reiterated their commitment to expanding cooperation in key areas, including public sector modernisation, digital transformation, human capital development, and climate-resilient growth. He reaffirmed KOICA's support through long-term, people-centred development initiatives.

H. E. Chang visited the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) to review KOICA-supported projects on road safety, traffic management and bridge maintenance using digital technologies. He also toured the Traffic Management Centre and handed over vehicles to enhance operational capacity, supporting Bangladesh's move toward a smarter transport system. In the health sector, the KOICA President visited the National Institute of Advanced Nursing Education and Research (NIANER), praising its role in strengthening Bangladesh's nursing workforce. He confirmed KOICA's support for launching the country's first PhD programme in nursing to advance research, leadership and healthcare quality. The visit also included meetings with senior officials of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to review ongoing projects and discuss future development priorities aligned with Bangladesh's national goals.

The visit highlighted KOICA's continued commitment to building resilient institutions, strengthening human resources and supporting sustainable development, further reinforcing the enduring Korea–Bangladesh partnership.



# FAREWELL CEREMONY

IN HONOR OF  
**H.E. MR. PARK YOUNG SIK**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN BANGLADESH

14 DEC 2025 | 6: 30 P.M | LAMDA HALL | GULSHAN CLUB



Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry



## **KBCCI Hosts Farewell Ceremony in Honor of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh**

14th December 2025 — The Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KBCCI) hosted a farewell ceremony in honor of H.E. Mr. Park Young Sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, recognizing his valuable contributions to strengthening bilateral relations and economic cooperation between Korea and Bangladesh. The Ceremony featured a special video highlighting the Ambassador's engagement in Bangladesh. The formal session began with a welcome address by Dr. Jahangir Saadat, Senior Vice President of KBCCI and President of KEPZ.

In his address, Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan, President of KBCCI, paid tribute to the Ambassador's leadership, humility, and unwavering support, noting that H.E. Park Young Sik always stood beside KBCCI with openness and encouragement, never refusing a request and consistently promoting collaboration.

Addressing the gathering as Guest of Honor, AM. Farooq Sobhan, Chairman of the CSR Centre, highlighted the long-standing friendship between Korea and Bangladesh and commended the Ambassador for his diplomatic foresight and commitment to deepening cooperation beyond trade, particularly in areas of human development, institutional capacity building, and regional engagement. He emphasized that the Ambassador's tenure had further strengthened mutual trust and understanding between the two nations.

In his farewell remarks, H.E. Park Young Sik expressed his gratitude to KBCCI and reaffirmed his confidence in the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation.

The Ceremony concluded with a crest and gift presentation to the Ambassador, First Lady & Guest of Honor followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Million Park, Secretary General of KBCCI.





*KBCCI President Mr. Shahab Uddin Khan with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and leading corporate representatives at the Korea–Bangladesh Investment Seminar by FICCI at the Hotel Amari.*



*Ambassador Park Young-sik visited the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on Monday, 14 July, and held a meeting with BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan and other executives. During the meeting, they discussed issues including the Bangladeshi labor law, the progress of the tariff negotiations with the United States, and future cooperation between the two countries.*



## ***Korean Ambassador Pays Farewell Call on Chief Adviser***

Park Young-sik, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, paid a farewell call on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on Wednesday, marking the end of his diplomatic tenure.

During the meeting, Ambassador Park expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers in a recent drone attack on a UN base in Sudan and conveyed his best wishes for Bangladesh's democratic transition and the upcoming election.

Both sides discussed strengthening bilateral ties, including increased Korean investment, progress on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement, human capital development, and expanded cultural exchanges.

Professor Yunus thanked the ambassador for his contributions and highlighted recent reforms to attract foreign investment, noting the resolution of long-standing issues related to the Korean EPZ in Chattogram. Ambassador Park said Samsung is keen to expand its operations in Bangladesh and that negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement are expected in February 2026, which could allow duty-free access for Bangladeshi goods to the Korean market.

# **Bangladesh–South Korea Trade Imbalance in 2025 Challenges and Strategic Pathways Forward**



## **SHAHAB UDDIN KHAN** *Chairman, Zeeshan Group*

Bangladesh and South Korea share a long-standing and expanding economic partnership driven by trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. South Korea is a major supplier of advanced machinery, electronics, and industrial inputs to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh's exports to the Korean market are led primarily by ready-made garments (RMG). As Bangladesh approaches graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026, ensuring a more balanced and sustainable bilateral trade relationship has become strategically important.

### **Trade Snapshot (2025 Estimates)**

Based on recent official statistics, Bangladesh–South Korea bilateral trade crossed USD 3.0 billion in 2022, according to data from the Korea International Trade Association (KITA). During that year, Bangladesh exported approximately USD 678 million worth of goods to South Korea, while imports from South Korea amounted to around USD 2.36 billion, resulting in a substantial trade deficit in Bangladesh's disfavor. Subsequent data and market trends indicate that Bangladesh's exports to South Korea have continued to grow gradually, supported by duty-free access and strong demand for ready-made garments, while imports of high-value machinery, electronics, and industrial inputs from South Korea have remained robust. As a result, although overall trade volumes have remained above the USD 3 billion mark in recent years, the structure of bilateral trade continues to be heavily skewed toward South Korea, reflecting persistent structural imbalances rather than short-term fluctuations.

## Export and Import Structure

Bangladesh’s exports to South Korea are highly concentrated. Ready-made garments represent nearly 75–80 percent of total exports, followed by textiles and yarn at around 10–12 percent. Other products such as footwear, home textiles, jute goods, and light manufactures hold marginal shares. Limited diversification and low value addition constrain export earnings, even as volumes increase.

On the import side, Bangladesh relies heavily on South Korean industrial machinery, capital equipment, electronics, chemicals, and automotive components. Machinery and capital goods alone account for roughly 40 percent of imports. These high-value imports are essential for Bangladesh’s industrial growth but significantly widen the bilateral trade gap.

### Key Drivers of the Trade Imbalance

The imbalance is rooted in structural factors rather than weak trade relations. Bangladesh’s industrial expansion depends on imported technology and intermediate goods, making short-term import reduction impractical. Over-reliance on garments limits export resilience, while strict Korean technical, environmental, and safety standards pose compliance challenges for many Bangladeshi exporters, particularly SMEs. Limited branding, innovation, and product sophistication further reduce export value.



### Why It Matters

As Bangladesh moves toward middle-income status, a sustained trade deficit increases pressure on foreign exchange reserves, heightens vulnerability to external shocks, and slows industrial upgrading. Addressing the imbalance is therefore essential for long-term trade sustainability and economic resilience.

### Strategic Pathways Forward

A gradual rebalancing of trade requires a focus on export growth rather than import suppression. Bangladesh has strong potential to expand exports to South Korea in pharmaceuticals, jute-based and eco-friendly products, ceramics, light engineering goods, and higher-end technical and home textiles. Progress toward a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** could help reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers and secure market access post-LDC graduation.

### Conclusion

The Bangladesh–South Korea trade imbalance in 2025 reflects differences in industrial maturity rather than a lack of partnership. With targeted policy alignment, export diversification, higher value addition, and deeper investment cooperation, Bangladesh can gradually narrow the trade gap and build a more balanced, resilient, and forward-looking economic partnership with South Korea.



# Life as a Bangladeshi undergraduate student in South Korea

In recent years, South Korea has become the new destination for Bangladeshi students who want to attain both quality education and the possibility of mobility, due to the country's emerging global universities and technological advancement.

Studying in South Korea might sound like a dream come true. Everyone back home thinks you're living a glamorous K-drama life: cherry blossom petals falling in slow motion, sleek subways, the soft glow of convenience stores, and every cafe encounter inevitably turning into a meet-cute. The reality is often different.

Two undergraduate students, Nusrat Jahan Alve and Sahara Tabassum Toishi, currently studying Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at Sejong University, Seoul, share their experiences to shed light on what life really looks like for Bangladeshi students pursuing their undergraduate studies in South Korea.

## The application process

When applying to Korean universities, the two most common routes available for Bangladeshi students who are looking for scholarships or financial aid are the Korean government scholarship or the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS).

The GKS is highly competitive and requires you to complete a mandatory one-year Korean language programme before you can start the actual degree. According to Toishi, she had not applied for GKS, as she did not want to lose a full academic year. She was also a bit unsure whether she could master the language well enough within that time frame.

There are also many English-track universities in Korea that offer tuition waivers for the first semester based on the applicants' IELTS scores. According to Alve, "If you have an eight in your IELTS, you usually get around an 80 percent scholarship for the first semester. With a 7 or 7.5, it's around 50 percent. Even 6.0 or 6.5 can get you 30 to 50 percent, depending on the university."

**Alve had prepared all her documents herself and consulted an agency only for the university application. "You don't really need an agency. The process is fairly simple. I only found the online portal a little confusing," she says.**

**Toishi, on the other hand, regrets using an agency. According to her, she paid BDT 1.1 lakh for paperwork she could've done herself.**



### Academic life

Academic years in South Korea consist of two semesters: Fall and Spring, with each semester lasting 16 weeks. Midterms are held during the eighth week, and finals are held around the 16th week. The grading structure at Sejong is as follows: finals carry 40 percent, midterms carry 30 percent, quizzes carry 20 percent, and 10 percent is reserved for attendance.

A few courses have no midterm, only assignments and finals. Attendance is taken very seriously, and missed classes greatly affect the overall grade.

Students may take 15 to 21 credits per semester. For CSE majors, the course load is heavier than in other disciplines. Most professors are strict but supportive, and research opportunities begin earlier than in Bangladesh, with many labs active in fields such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), big data, and quantum computing.

"The class environment is good. In the English-track majors, all the classes are conducted in English, so I haven't faced any problems," shares Toishi.

Interacting with fellow students is an integral part of academic life, which is often a source of anxiety for international students who find themselves in an entirely new environment.

"Local students tend to value personal space. If you need any help and ask them, they will surely help you. But they are not naturally sociable like Bangladeshis are," says Toishi.

"As I am in the English track, I don't get to interact a lot with Korean students. Student life is very busy: attending classes, going home, cooking, rushing to part-time jobs, and studying. The campus culture is very different from what I imagined," shares Alve.

#### Fitting in with locals

International students often find themselves worrying about whether natives will be welcoming towards them or not, especially in countries where there's a language barrier. According to Toishi, Koreans generally do not discriminate towards international students.

"Koreans treat international students normally, just like other students. They don't behave differently towards us. Sometimes, they are curious and happy to see international students studying here," says Toishi.

Alve shares a slightly different perspective, "Koreans tend to behave more positively with Europeans or white students. Older people occasionally show subtle signs of racism, but most people are good."

However, the real barrier is language.

"Halal food is easy to find. Muslim communities from Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan run halal marts where you can find nearly everything, and you can also order online. But most of the time you have to cook yourself," adds Alve.

The climate is also another shock. Winters often drop to -15 or even -20 degrees Celsius.

"Seoul is extremely cold. Three months of life below zero was the hardest part for me," Alve opines. "Working part-time in that weather is brutal."

Daily life in Korea is well-structured, private, and quiet. "People mind their own business. They don't randomly talk to you. People are also extremely hard-working as compared to Bangladesh," she adds.

The subway system is orderly, with no pushing or shouting. "In rush hour, the subways are overcrowded, even more than in Bangladesh, but people don't fight. Everyone somehow manages to get on and off," reveals Alve.

Some students tend to choose goshiwons or shared houses instead of on-campus housing to reduce costs. According to Alve, "Minimum goshiwon rent is 2.7 lakh South Korean won, but a decent one in Seoul costs around 3.5 lakh South Korean won. If you aim for a shared house, the rent would be lower, but you need to give a deposit of 3 to 4 million South Korean won beforehand."

Students spend all their time commuting, cooking, cleaning, attending classes, and working, leaving no time for leisure. "At the end of each day, you are completely exhausted and just have to lie down. There isn't much time for friends or outings," adds Toishi.

But the late nights, empty pockets, homesickness, and pressure have the potential to forge great qualities: independence, resilience, discipline, and control.

#### Part-time jobs

"Job hunting is quite difficult. I don't see how people say there are endless jobs here. I managed to get only one part-time job, and that too through a senior. When I was done with that one, I couldn't find another," says Toishi. "They may ask for work permits, which makes it harder."

According to Alve, "Hourly pay is usually 10,000 to 11,000 South Korean won (around 800 to 850 taka per hour). If you work 10 hours, you earn around 10,000 taka. Monthly expenses are at least 600,000 to 1,000,000 South Korean won, including tuition. Balancing studies and work is the main difficulty we face here."

For the students planning to stay in Korea long-term, whether it's for work or graduate studies, investing in Korean language study is a must. "If you know the language well enough, getting a job is relatively easy. Without Korean, you have to stick to harder work: dishwashing, cleaning, serving, and making cookies. I have done all of these jobs during my stay here," says Alve. "During semester break, I worked at a camping area about 100 kilometres away from Seoul. I stayed at the owner's house. Living with them has helped me learn a lot of Korean really fast."

For students with strong CGPAs, teaching assistant (TA) positions are also occasionally available.

If you are considering Korea as your undergraduate destination, the message from current Bangladeshi students is clear: the opportunities are there, the scholarships are real, and the path is open. But you can't show up expecting comfort. You have to have a plan and show up prepared, ready to work, and sacrifice.

Writer: Tasfiah Liakat. Courtesy by: The Daily Star



## A success story of Ledgers Bangladesh

### S M Rafique & Co | KBCCI Member

S.M Rafique & Co, Chartered Accountants (SMRC) has obtained foreign affiliation recently with JPA International, Paris, France. It has member firms more than 80 countries of the world including South Korea. A formal agreement was signed in this respect in the Board room of Astana International Financial Centre, Kazakhstan between Chairman of JPA International and CEO of SMRC followed by awarding a Certificate of full membership.

Though Bangladesh is an emerging economy, yet it has relatively small audit market which is becoming competitive due to growing demand of high quality audit reports from regulators, foreign investors, capital market participants and various stakeholders of our society. By nature, investors fly their capital to a country as choice of destination where they find that their investment are protected with the prior set rules, regulations, world-class business practices and reliable financial reporting. The high-ups of concerned departments and line ministries of Bangladesh Government are also applying their tireless efforts to strictly adhere to it despite the fact that they are experiencing some realistic constraints while dealing with the subject matters.

S M Rafique & Co is a full member firm of JPA International that means that its audit services are under the stringent quality control review of JPA in addition to the rigorous monitoring by the regulators like Financial Reporting Council (FRC), Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Bangladesh Bank, Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), ICAB, NGO Bureau Affairs and others. That is why foreign affiliation was really important for our firm that revolves around ethics, integrity and independence.

The benefits of affiliation with JPA International are immeasurable. Some of them could be as follows:

- - Exchange of knowledge- sharing country specific accounting, tax, auditing, training materials and advisory services
- - Camaraderie and networking- because JPA hold meetings and conferences for its members which open an avenue to meet, greet and establish trusted relationships with public accountants of other countries
- Multi-firm engagements- working with multiple firms across the world to serve clients and provide the services they need for all of their operations
- Meeting global requirements- a client will often not hire a firm unless they belong to an international association to ensure its efficient operations and uninterrupted future growth
- Access to Global Resources and Expertise—we believe that membership with JPA will help us to get access to the global pool of technical experts in various industries and regulatory environments so that we can tackle complex and diverse business operations and stay current with evolving regulations and changes occurring worldwide in addition to adherence with international standards
- Facilitating Cross-Border Business- consistent application of accounting and auditing standards (such as IFRS and ISA) through an international network may facilitate the growth of small or large-scale international enterprises as an integral part of their compliance and transparent reporting to make informed decision and many more.....

In conclusion, we can say that the full membership of JPA International is a great motivation for our entire audit team being consisted of partners, students and staffs because it will help to enhance the credibility and reputation of S M Rafique & Co that provide services to its local or multinational/international clients encompassing audit, accountancy, business/asset valuation, tax, consultancy, strategic planning, capital market supports and so on by combining multi-discipline skills and expertise. Thus, the methodology we apply to our valued clients could help to ensure global best practices to achieve the risk mitigation benchmarks and build a relationship of trust and transparency.

# Facilitating Service Export To Expand Export Portfolio

The 'Export' includes the sending out of goods by land, sea or air, on consignment or by way of sale, lease, hire-purchase, or under any other arrangement. In the case of software, 'export' also includes transmission through any electronic media. Another export item - Services being intangible in nature are different from export of goods. Goods are deemed to be exported once they cross the country's border but it is not always same in the case of export of services. Ironically many service firms are not even aware that they are exporting when they sell to visiting foreigners in their own markets. Serving a foreign tourist visiting Bangladesh are served by hotelier or other organization is export of service. The export of service occurs while the service exporter work from Bangladesh and service recipient overseas person or company having office or factory in Bangladesh or in other countries.

A wide range of services sold by firms in one country to customers in stationed in own countries or other countries such as accounting services, legal services, postal services, telecommunication services, financial services, office cleaning services, security services etc are exports. In recent time, most prominent service exports are done through computer and internet. There are companies providing customized software to foreigners. The local Internet Service providing website design or website hosting or website content management, data processing services, or database management services, Communication Services for foreign firms having office in own country or any other countries.

WTO formalize the recognition of service export with The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It is a treaty of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that entered into force in 1995. WTO categorized the 4 modes of services. (1) Cross-border exports, where the service moves across the border, (2) Sales to foreigners in own country (consumption abroad), (3) Commercial presence abroad, (4) Temporary migration to other countries for working (movement of natural persons). The treaty was created to extend the multilateral trading system to service sector, in the same way the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provides such a system for merchandise trade.

All members of the WTO are parties to the GATS. The basic WTO principle of most favoured nation (MFN) applies to GATS as well. All members of the WTO are parties to the GATS. The fundamental principles of the GATS apply, in principle, to all service sectors. Bangladesh and other developing countries are beneficiaries of the GATS and enjoying facilities to export services to developed EU, American and Middle eastern countries. Bangladesh government recognizing the service exports in 2015 incorporating in the Export Policy order in 2015 but some of the service exports were allowed for long time without formal recognition of all the services.

When a service provider goes abroad (expatriates working in other countries) and work there recognized as service exporter. Any organization provide education or training overseas citizens in another countries also service export since those trained persons to back to own country to serve their own nation. In all cases of export of services must earn in foreign currency. According to the rule of Bangladesh Bank and Export policy order of Bangladesh, the proceeds of all categories of service must remitted in to Bangladesh through official channels. Another category of service exports is distribution Services by Indentors (agent of overseas companies working in Bangladesh) or commission agents in one country who are paid by foreign companies for sell to local buyers on behalf of overseas companies. This service has been recognized by Bangladesh's Export Policy order in 2016.

It is obligatory on the part of the all exporters to realize and repatriate the full value of goods/ services/ software to Bangladesh within a stipulated period of four months from the date of export. The proceed of the exports may be retain in bank account of the exporter with banks in other countries subject to rule of BB. BB issued rule that these authorized accounts, retention of export proceeds abroad in any form without limiting to equity/portfolio investment, purchase of physical assets/virtual assets, maintenance of accounts regardless of currencies including cryptocurrencies constitutes contravention of Section 5(1)(e)(i) of the FER Act, 1947 and is subject to cognizance under Section 23(1) of the said Act as per SRO No. 59-LAW/2021 dated March 08, 2021..

These export proceeds should be converted to Taka through authorized dealer (AD) Banks. Exporter can retain the payment (received through inward remittance) in Export retention quota (ERQ) account and BDT account simultaneously. The account holder will have the option of retaining maximum 60-70% of the inward remittance in the foreign currency account.

Bangladesh enter into Internet based service export to provide service to overseas service recipients through online platforms. The service exporter individuals were facing problem to repatriate their export proceeds as service recipients preferred to pay through online remitters and through credit cards. BB not yet fully allowed to collect fund through credit or debit cards or any online platforms. Paragraph 23, chapter 8 of GFET outlines operational modalities on services delivered in non-physical form relating to ICT and other businesses. Service exporters can maintain notional/ merchant accounts to repatriate their income through concerned Authorized Dealers in Bangladesh as per FE Circular No. 44 of December 28, 2017, FE Circular No. 33 of October 18, 2021 and subsequent circulars. The central bank has advised service exporters to open notional accounts with the Online Payment Gateway Service Providers (OPGSPs) having arrangement with AD banks in Bangladesh. AD will enter into standing arrangements with the internationally recognised OPGSPs and maintain separate Nostro collection account for each OPGSP to repatriate the service export-related payments. It will be ensured that no funds are retained in such accounts, and all receipts will be automatically swept and pooled into the Nostro collection account maintained by the ADs, according to the circular. In this context, ADs have to obtain detailed information from their service exporter-customers regarding the maintenance of merchant accounts with international market places/platforms and/or notional accounts with eligible foreign payment operators.

The foreign exchange policy of India is much more flexible. Participants in international exhibition/trade fair have been granted general permission vide 8 Regulation 5(E)(5) of Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a person Resident in India) Regulations dated January 21, 2016 for opening a temporary foreign currency account abroad. Exporters may deposit the foreign exchange obtained by sale of goods at the international exhibition/ trade fair and operate the account during their stay outside India provided that the balance in the account is repatriated to India through normal banking channels within a period of one month from the date of closure of the exhibition/trade fair and full details are submitted to the AD Category – I banks concerned. A person resident in India being a project / service exporter may open, hold and maintain foreign currency account with a bank outside or in India, subject to the standard terms and conditions in the Memorandum of Instructions on Project and Service Exports (PEM). Bangladesh policy yet to provide to facilities to it's citizens.

Bangladesh policy has recognized the service exports in documents only and not fully recognize all 4 modes of export of service. Bangladesh rules are very flexible for expatriates working abroad and offer various incentives to them but others services such as consultancy services, tourism service, shipping agency services, freight forwarding, repair and maintenance of foreign ships and planes, travels agency services for selling tickets for overseas airlines, sales services (indenting services), training services and local staffs of overseas companies, educational fees of overseas students in Bangladesh educational institutes etc.

The National Board Revenue (NBR) has imposed income and VAT on all the export proceeds except wages and salaries of expatriate. Interesting the local staff overseas companies who get salary through remittance of foreign currency through AD banks ignoring the WTO agreement and Export Policy order of the government. The foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947 and relevant rules under the law may be revised to facilitate easy re-patriation of export proceeds. NBR should recognize the service exports and withdraw illogical income tax and VAT on all sorts export of services.

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## ***KOICA Commits US\$96 Million to Advance Bangladesh's Technology, AI, and Sustainable Development Goals***

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has announced a major new development package for Bangladesh, committing US\$96 million to five large-scale projects focused on advanced technology, artificial intelligence (AI), human resource development, and sustainable rural growth. The initiatives are scheduled to begin in 2026 and will be implemented over the following years.

KOICA President Chang Won-sam formally presented the proposal at a meeting hosted by Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division (ERD) on 2 December. The meeting was attended by ERD Secretary Shahriar Kader Siddiky and Additional Secretary Mirana Mahrukh. The planned projects, spanning 2026 to 2028 and beyond, aim to build a skilled workforce, strengthen digital security, and promote inclusive development.

One of the flagship initiatives is the “Fostering Smart and Eco-Friendly Ship Recycling Experts through Physical AI in Bangladesh” project. With a grant of US\$30 million, the long-term program (2027–2036) seeks to develop highly skilled professionals capable of applying advanced technology and environmentally responsible practices in the ship recycling industry.

Another major component is the Saemaul Plus End Poverty Program (SPEPP), which will receive US\$30 million starting in 2026. Running through 2034, the program focuses on strengthening local government capacity and accelerating sustainable rural development, drawing on Korea's Saemaul Undong development model.

KOICA is also allocating US\$26 million to boost Bangladesh's technology and digital security sectors through two parallel initiatives. The “Fostering Innovative Technology Experts with a Focus on AI in Bangladesh” project, funded with US\$13 million from 2026 to 2029, aims to strengthen educational institutions and workforce training to support AI-driven economic growth. Alongside this, the “Establishment of Bangladesh National Intelligent Cybersecurity Center and AI-Integrated Security Capacity Building” project, also valued at US\$13 million, will be implemented from 2028 to 2032 to enhance national cybersecurity infrastructure and institutional capacity.

**In the health and social sector, KOICA has earmarked US\$10 million for a project targeting adolescents and youth in Rohingya refugee camps and nearby host communities. Implemented in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the initiative will strengthen mid- to long-term healthcare and sanitation services for vulnerable populations.**

These new commitments build on KOICA's extensive development engagement in Bangladesh. In 2025 alone, ongoing KOICA projects are expected to total US\$17.39 million, including initiatives to develop a national statistics data warehouse and big data analysis platform, as well as to enhance education and research capacity in advanced nursing and healthcare policy.

As of 2024, the Republic of Korea ranks sixth among Bangladesh's development partners in terms of grants and concessional loans, with KOICA's cumulative assistance reaching approximately US\$232.85 million. The latest investment underscores the deepening strategic partnership between Bangladesh and Korea, with KOICA's Country Plan increasingly aligned with Bangladesh's long-term development priorities in technology, sustainability, and human capital.

## How Bangladesh Is Attracting South Korean Investment

By capitalizing on its large consumer base, strategic geographic position, and a forward-looking vision for digital transformation, Bangladesh is steadily emerging as a compelling destination for foreign investment. Often overlooked in favor of its larger regional neighbors, Bangladesh is quietly strengthening its profile as a rising economic force by actively courting foreign direct investment (FDI). With a resilient economy, competitive labor market, and expanding industrial base, the country is positioning itself as a gateway to South and Southeast Asian markets.

China, Bangladesh's largest trading partner, continues to play a leading role in this journey. Beijing has announced plans to invest in two new special economic zones dedicated to Chinese manufacturers, focusing on sectors such as textiles, ceramics, and renewable energy. These initiatives underscore Bangladesh's growing appeal as a manufacturing and export hub. At the same time, South Korea's expanding engagement with Bangladesh reflects a deepening strategic alignment. Korean interest is increasingly aligned with Bangladesh's ambition to accelerate digital transformation, modernize infrastructure, and move up the global value chain. High-level engagements between leaders of both countries further highlight the momentum in bilateral relations. As Bangladesh advances its reform agenda and strengthens its investment climate, South Korean capital is finding a fertile environment for long-term growth and partnership.

Together, these developments signal Bangladesh's evolution from a traditional manufacturing base into a dynamic, future-oriented economy—one that is steadily drawing the attention of South Korean investors seeking new opportunities in Asia.

# Bangladesh needs reforms to improve business climate, South Korean Ambassador tells FE

MIR MOSTAFIZUR RAHAMAN

Bangladesh remains a “promising destination” for South Korean investment, but further reforms to its business environment will be crucial if the country is to attract sustained foreign capital and manage a smooth transition beyond least developed country (LDC) status, South Korea’s ambassador to Dhaka has said.

In an exclusive interview with *FE*, Park Young-sik, the outgoing ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh, outlined Seoul’s growing economic engagement with the country, highlighting expanding investment in manufacturing, ongoing infrastructure cooperation and the strategic importance of a proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two nations.

Park, a career diplomat with extensive experience in trade and development cooperation, took up his posting in Dhaka amid a renewed push to expand South Korea’s economic presence in South Asia. Known for his emphasis on private-sector-led development and institutional reform, he has made diversification beyond garments and support for Bangladesh’s LDC transition central to his diplomatic agenda.

South Korea is currently the fifth-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh. In recent years, Korean companies have diversified beyond garments into sectors such as automobiles, mobile phones and consumer electronics, often through joint ventures with local firms.

Samsung Electronics produces consumer goods, including mobile phones, in Bangladesh, while Hyundai and Kia vehicles are assembled locally. These investments, Park said, are creating higher-quality jobs and helping to build domestic manufacturing capacity.

“Bangladesh continues to be a promising destination for South Korean investors, with its rapidly growing economy, strategic location and abundant labour force,” he said.

Despite this optimism, Park pointed to persistent structural challenges that could deter future investment unless addressed. These include delays in visa issuance and renewal, bottlenecks in customs clearance, high tariffs on raw materials and intermediate goods, and difficulties in accessing foreign currency.

“Prompt payment in US dollars after project completion and the ability to repatriate profits with ease are essential for foreign investors,” he said, adding that progress in these areas would “certainly encourage more Korean FDI”.

Such concerns echo those raised by other foreign investors, as Bangladesh grapples with foreign exchange shortages and a tightening of capital controls amid broader macroeconomic pressures.

Korean companies have played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's economic story, particularly in the rise of the ready-made garments (RMG) sector, which has driven export growth for decades. Park described the garment industry as the historical backbone of bilateral ties, but argued that the relationship is now entering a new phase.

“In recent years, we have seen remarkable developments in diversifying areas of cooperation beyond RMG, particularly in manufacturing and infrastructure,” he said.

South Korea, he stressed, does not pursue strategic interests in Bangladesh beyond economic cooperation. Instead, the focus remains on long-term development partnerships that support industrial growth and job creation.

The proposed CEPA, now under negotiation, could become the next major milestone in bilateral relations. Talks began in November 2025, with a second round scheduled for January next year in Dhaka.

Bilateral trade between the two countries peaked at around \$3bn in 2023 but has since stagnated, largely due to Bangladesh's limited range of export products to the Korean market.

“A CEPA could reduce trade barriers, expand market access and remove obstacles to foreign investment,” Park said, arguing that it would create new opportunities for businesses on both sides.

The agreement could also help Bangladesh strengthen its position in South Korea's garment market. At present, Bangladesh accounts for only about 5 per cent of Korea's RMG-related imports, while Vietnam enjoys a competitive edge through multiple trade agreements, including a bilateral free trade deal with Korea, the Korea–Asean FTA and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

**“A CEPA with Bangladesh would help improve its competitiveness in this regard,” Park said.**

With Bangladesh set to graduate from LDC status in 2026 — and preferential trade benefits such as GSP set to expire in 2029 — Park urged policymakers to focus on the quality of growth rather than headline expansion.

“Quality growth must be driven by innovation, knowledge and technology,” he said, warning that without sustained reforms the country risks falling into the middle-income trap.

Although international discussions are underway on a possible deferral of LDC graduation, Park said Bangladesh still has roughly four years to prepare and should use that time to align with international standards and embrace competition.

“Continued reforms in key sectors such as banking, energy and taxation are extremely important to ensure resilient and sustainable growth,” he added.

South Korea is also seeking to deepen its role in Bangladesh’s infrastructure development, building on decades of engagement. Since 1973, 144 Korean companies have been involved in 257 infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, with total investments reaching \$8.82bn as of April 2025.

Korean firms, Park said, bring distinct advantages, including high construction standards, timely project delivery and the creation of local jobs.

Bangladesh also has access to South Korea’s Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), which offers concessional financing with interest rates as low as 0.01–0.05% and repayment periods of up to 40 years. The fund has already been expanded to \$3bn through 2027, with the possibility of further increases.

As Bangladesh prepares for a critical economic and political transition, Seoul appears keen to anchor its partnership in trade, investment and infrastructure with the proposed CEPA emerging as a key test of whether the relationship can evolve from a garment-centred past to a more diversified and resilient future.



Courtesy by : The Financial Express

## Winter Reflections from Korea: Through the Lens of Ambassador Park Young Sik

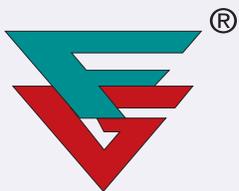
In a poignant moment of homecoming, H.E. Ambassador Park Young-Sik, upon the conclusion of his impactful diplomatic tenure in Bangladesh, has returned to the serene embrace of his Korean homeland. As he transitions between chapters, he offers a glimpse into the tranquil soul of a Korean winter.



These are not merely photographs of snow-draped hills and silent, wooded slopes; they are a visual meditation. They breathe with the quiet, profound emotion of reflection—a continuum of stillness that holds the gentle weight of transition. In their peaceful and enduring beauty, they mirror this bittersweet pause: a chapter of vibrant service abroad drawing to a close, making way for the familiar comforts of home.

His years in Bangladesh were far more than a posting; they were a season of purposeful growth and heartfelt connection. Every dialogue sown, every bridge of cooperation built, was an act of careful cultivation. Through unwavering warmth, deep respect, and mutual understanding, he nurtured the very roots of Korea-Bangladesh relations. The bonds he has strengthened and the legacy of friendship he leaves behind are imprints that will endure, cherished and alive, long after this winter's snow has melted and new seasons have dawned.

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