

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Commerce
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

Press Release

Tokyo, 6 February 2026

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of Japan today signed the Bangladesh–Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (BJEPA) in Tokyo, marking a landmark achievement in the longstanding and trusted partnership between the two friendly nations. The Agreement was signed by H.E. Mr. HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the Hon'ble Commerce Adviser of Bangladesh, Sk. Bashir Uddin. As an LDC, Bangladesh has signed an EPA for the first time with Japan, the world's fourth-largest economy, underscoring the depth and maturity of bilateral relations.

The conclusion of the BJEPA follows seven rounds of negotiations conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation, and shared ambition. The Agreement reflects the deepening strategic and economic ties between Bangladesh and Japan and reaffirms their joint commitment to an open, inclusive, and rules-based trading system.

Japan remains one of Bangladesh's most important trading and development partners. The BJEPA is expected to usher in a new era of enhanced trade and investment cooperation, ensuring continued and predictable market access for Bangladeshi products in Japan, while creating expanded opportunities for Japanese businesses in Bangladesh. The Agreement covers a comprehensive range of areas, including trade in goods and services, investment, tariffs, trade facilitation, and intellectual property.

Upon entry into force, 7,379 Bangladeshi products will receive immediate duty-free access to the Japanese market. In return, Japan will obtain immediate duty-free access for 1,039 products in the Bangladeshi market. Bangladesh's major export items, particularly ready-made garments (RMG), along with other key products, will benefit from duty-free access from the very first day of implementation. The RMG sector will also enjoy Single Stage Transformation facilities, further enhancing Bangladesh's export competitiveness.



In the area of Trade in Services, both countries have undertaken significant commitments. Bangladesh has agreed to open 98 sub-sectors across 12 sectors in accordance with the WTO Sectoral Classification List for Japan. Conversely, Japan has committed to open 120 sub-sectors for Bangladesh. These commitments are expected to boost Japanese investment in Bangladesh and accelerate technology transfer and knowledge sharing.

In their respective remarks, H.E. Mr. HORII Iwao and the Hon'ble Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Agreement and highlighted its significance as a milestone in bilateral relations. They emphasized that the BJEPa will strengthen mutual economic ties, expand trade and investment, and create new employment opportunities, thereby opening a new chapter in Bangladesh–Japan economic cooperation.

The BJEPa represents a transformative step in advancing shared prosperity and resilient supply chains between the two countries.


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Deputy Secretary
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