MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

PUTRAJAYA, 8 APRIL 2026

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT
ON THE BANGLADESH–MALAYSIA MEETING ON LABOUR MIGRATION

A bilateral meeting on labour migration between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Malaysia was held in Putrajaya in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

The Malaysian delegation was led by His Excellency Dato' Sri Ramanan Ramakrishnan, Minister of Human Resources of Malaysia, while the Bangladesh delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Ariful Haque Choudhury, MP, Minister of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Mahdi Amin, Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

1. Both Bangladeshi & Malaysian officials reaffirmed their longstanding and mutually beneficial partnership in labour migration, and their shared commitment to strengthening cooperation through a transparent, inclusive, and pragmatic framework that ensures safe, orderly, and regular migration, while addressing existing recruitment challenges.

2. Both sides agreed to expedite the reopening of the labor market for Bangladeshi workers based on Malaysia's sectoral needs, while committing to a fair, ethical, and transparent recruitment process. This includes addressing structural challenges to reduce intermediaries and migration costs, utilizing credible and qualified recruitment

agencies, as well as establishing measures to quickly facilitate the recruitment of remaining stranded workers.

3. The Malaysian side briefed on its initiative to introduce a technology-driven, AI-based recruitment system applicable to all source countries, aimed at reducing intermediaries, lowering migration costs, and ensuring that employers bear the full cost of recruitment, resulting in zero (0) cost to workers, in line with the Employer Pays Principle under the guidelines of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Bangladesh side expressed full support and readiness to collaborate in implementing such digital platforms as a global initiative engaging all other sending countries.

4. Both sides discussed concerns regarding ongoing legal cases related to human trafficking in worker recruitment. The Malaysian side emphasized the need to address any unfounded or malicious actions that may affect its international reputation, while the Bangladesh side reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, ensuring due process, accountability, and timely justice.

5. Both sides exchanged views on addressing challenges faced by irregular workers and enhancing cooperation in skills development, training, certification, and information-sharing, to better align labour supply with market demand and improve productivity.

6. The meeting concluded with both sides expressing satisfaction with the constructive discussions and agreeing to maintain close engagement through regular consultations.

7. The Bangladesh delegation expressed its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality and for hosting the meeting in Putrajaya.

H.E. DATO' SRI RAMANAN RAMAKRISHNAN

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES OF MALAYSIA

H.E. ARIFUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT OF BANGLADESH &

MINISTRY OF EXPATRIATES WELFARE & OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

09 APRIL 2026