

**Speech of H.E. Air Vice Marshal Javed Tanveer Khan, OSP, BSP, NDC,
AFWC, ACSC, PSC**

Non-resident High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Cyprus

At the outset, let me avail this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to H.E. Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, the Hon'ble President of the Republic of Cyprus for offering me the privilege to present the Letter of Credence and Letter of Recall. This is a matter of great honor, and I would like to convey the greetings from the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Chief Advisor of Bangladesh.

The bilateral relations between Cyprus and Bangladesh have been very warm, ever since Cyprus officially recognized the Independence of Bangladesh on 26th January, 1972.

Let me put it on record that Bangladesh is keen to contribute in expanding the bilateral relations with Cyprus, and in this regard our area of cooperation can extend in sectors such as trade and commerce, education, culture, and information and technology. I firmly believe that this will serve the common interests of both countries. In this interconnected world, collective development is a key idea and Bangladesh deeply embraces this concept.

I consider it relevant to mention that over the years Cyprus has become a chosen destination for thousands of Bangladeshi youths to avail higher education, both for its qualitative edge and affordable educational expenses. I remain thankful to the Cypriot Govt for offering this opportunity to our young generations. More so, human resources, both skilled and semi-skilled, from Bangladesh can immensely contribute in the IT, tourism sectors as well as in the hospitality industry. Hence, I would like to work closely with relevant ministries and offices of Cyprus to expand the possibility.

Bangladesh and Cyprus are the members of Commonwealth and others international organizations and share common views on the matters of international peace and security, mutual prosperity, human rights among others. Both the countries are equally concern about the effects of global warming and climate change. Based on our common standing on international issues and concern, our existing relations can be taken to higher heights through greater engagements, especially in the field of trade and commerce.

In this regard, let me present before you a few prospective sectors where further engagement will be meaningful for the mutual benefits of both countries. Currently Bangladesh is the second largest exporter of ready-made garments and this is one area where Cyprus can reap benefit from exploring our garments industry further. Pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh has also witnessed exponential growth over past years. While currently capable of meeting 98% of the domestic demand of medicines, Bangladesh exports medicines, mainly generics at a very competitive price, to over 150 countries including a good number of European countries. Besides, Bangladesh can be a good source of quality leather and plastic products. It may be worth mentioning here that Bangladesh has developed hundreds of Export Processing Zones all around the country, to attract foreign investment with attractive incentive packages.

In the end, I would humbly solicit Cypriot Government's support to enable me to discharge my duties successfully as the non-resident High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Cyprus.

I would conclude my statement with the hope that our collective efforts will contribute towards building a peaceful and stable world for the next generations to live in amity, harmony and prosperity. Thank you, the Hon'ble President, thank you excellencies.