

## Shaking hands with Japan

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Japan and Bangladesh signed six Memorandum of Understandings on economic, investment and other cooperations on the third day of the ongoing visit of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus to Japan on May 30, 2025. Photo: Facebook/Chief Adviser GOB

**Tribune Editorial**

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Just the day before, this newspaper editorialized that it was in the best interest of every nation in Asia to work towards stronger relations.

To that end, it is encouraging to see Bangladesh and Japan - among the most trusted and influential of our allies globally - take a significant step forward in their bilateral relationship by signing six memorandums of understanding (MoUs) spanning economic, investment, and strategic cooperation.

These agreements indeed mark a new chapter in a partnership that has grown remarkably in recent years, with Japanese companies in Bangladesh now numbering over 300 - three to four times higher than even a decade ago.

What is most encouraging is that the MoUs cover a wide spectrum - from energy sector collaboration with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, to major investments in Bangladesh's Special Economic Zones, including new manufacturing ventures for gas metres and apparel accessories, to investment in innovative pioneering information security projects, aiming to make Bangladesh a more resilient digital economy.

While these agreements are monumentally important for us, we must heed the words of Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus who rightly noted: "Now it is our task to implement."

Too often, agreements, plans, and talks have not yielded the results they promised, and it is imperative that Bangladesh works diligently to ensure these MoUs translate into concrete results - from delivering jobs to technology transfers and, eventually, towards the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development. This means prioritizing robust governance, transparency, and a commitment to reform.

Beyond Japan, we must continue to deepen ties with other regional partners. Our future prosperity increasingly hinges on our effectiveness with regard to diplomacy and regional cooperation.

Bangladesh and Japan continue to prove that there is an enduring friendship and shared vision between the two nations. The challenge - and opportunity - now lies in ensuring lasting progress for the people of Bangladesh.

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