

Japan-Bangladesh Joint Press Release

Tokyo, 30 May 2025

1. H.E. Mr. ISHIBA Shigeru, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan met with H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Hon'ble Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Tokyo during the latter's official working visit to Japan on 30 May 2025.
2. Recalling the long-standing friendship since the independence of Bangladesh, both sides reaffirmed their commitments to the *Strategic Partnership* between the two countries. They also reiterated their shared vision for a *Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)* to ensure peace, stability and shared prosperity for all. Both sides held discussions on international and regional matters and reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation for ensuring peace and stability in the region and beyond, upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter. Both sides also affirmed their support to multilateralism based on the rule of law, as well as to democracy.

3. Both sides held in-depth discussion on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest in a candid manner. Prime Minister Ishiba reiterated Japan's full support to the Interim Government of Bangladesh led by Professor Yunus for its nation-building efforts, its reform initiatives, and its endeavor towards a peaceful transition in Bangladesh. Professor Yunus expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continued support to foster sustainable economic growth and development in Bangladesh in advancing Japan-Bangladesh bilateral relations, especially for the projects under the *Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) Initiative*, including *Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI)*.

4. In this regard, both sides welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes for *the Development Policy Loan for Economic Reform and Strengthening Climate Change Resilience*, and the Loan for *the Project for the Construction of Dual Gauge Double Line Between Joydebpur-Ishurdi Section (I)*.

5. Both sides also welcomed the signing of MoUs and MoC including ones on *One Stop Service (OSS)* system in BIDA, installation of pre-paid gas meter, setting up factory for battery-run cycles, launching a pilot project for information security, and land agreements with the *Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ)*, to promote Japanese investment in Bangladesh. They underscored the importance of concluding the *Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)* in mutually beneficial way and instructed their respective ministries and negotiating teams to accelerate negotiations to reach an agreement at the earliest possible time.

6. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthening political and security cooperation, including early delivery of five patrol boats to Bangladesh Navy under Japan's *Official Security Assistance (OSA)*. They welcomed that the two Governments agreed in principle on the *Agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology*, and expressed their hope for early conclusion of the Agreement.

7. Both sides discussed ways to promote people-to-people exchanges, including skilled human resources, and concurred in strengthening cultural ties between the two countries. In this regard, Professor Yunus thanked Prime Minister Ishiba for Japan's continued support for human resource development in Bangladesh, including the *Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship*.

8. Prime Minister Ishiba commended Bangladesh for temporarily sheltering the Forcibly Displaced Persons from Rakhine State, Myanmar, and extending continued humanitarian assistance to them. Professor Yunus appreciated Japan's humanitarian assistance for these Forcibly Displaced Persons, including those in Bhasan Char. Japan reaffirmed its sustained efforts on this issue. Both sides shared the view that a sustainable, safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation of the displaced persons to Myanmar is the ultimate solution to this crisis for peace and stability across the region. Both sides also recognized the importance of sincere dialogue among all relevant stakeholders to resolve the crisis.

9. Professor Muhammad Yunus expressed sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Ishiba and the people of Japan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation, and invited Prime Minister Ishiba to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.
