



Embassy of Italy
Dhaka

Speech of H.E. the Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh, Antonio Alessandro, for the reception of the 79th Anniversary of the Republic of Italy.

*Honorable Adviser Asif Nazrul,
Ministry of Law, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment,
Dr. Sheikh Moinuddin, Special Assistant, Ministry of Road, Transport and Bridges
Other Authorities,
Members of the diplomatic and consular corps,
representatives of International Organizations,
business partners, Italian Nationals and friends,
Thank you for joining the Italian National Day celebration 2025.*

It is a great honor for me, my wife Paola and all the staff of the Italian Embassy to host this celebration. We are proud to contribute, with our every day's work and your active support, to the strengthening of relations between Italy and Bangladesh.

Let me thank in particular Prof. Asif Nazrul, representing the Interim Government today, who has been one of our main partners in our joint efforts to make migration to Italy safer, legal and higher in numbers. Honorable Asif Nazrul has recently signed an important MoU on mobility and migration with the Italian Minister of Interior Matteo Piantedosi.

I start my speech with migration because this is what makes our relations special, nowadays. More than 250.000 Bangladeshi citizens live in Italy, the fastest-growing foreign community in Italy and the largest in the European Union. Their contribution to the economy of both Italy and Bangladesh is significant, as well as their role in building stronger commercial, cultural and people-to-people ties between the two Countries.

Bangladeshi migration to Italy has not arrived by chance. It stemmed from two important Italian longstanding presences in this Country that I wish to acknowledge today:

The first is the garment sector. Italy is a textile superpower, especially for fashion and for the machineries and technology applied to the sector. You may know that the impressive growth of the textile industry in Bangladesh was largely due, in its early stages, to Italian visionary entrepreneurs, who chose this country for their de-localizations, bringing the necessary industrial equipment. I pay tribute to the many Italian companies and professionals that have contributed to make the Bangladeshi textile industry so prominent and advanced.

The second longstanding Italian presence that I wish to recall and praise today is the one of many catholic priests and sisters, who have come from Italy to all districts of Bangladesh provide education, health and support especially to disadvantaged people in Bangladesh. I welcome and greet those of these priests and sisters who are with us tonight.

Ladies and gentlemen,

the current year is of great significance for Italy-Bangladesh relations. There has been a crescendo of visits: Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Tripodi in February, Minister of Interior Matte Piantedosi in May, and now we are jointly working for a visit of the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni soon.

Italy supports the transition process led by Prof. Yunus and encourages all political parties to work together and reach consensus on the way ahead. Italy wishes for a stable, prosperous, free, independent, democratic and inclusive future in Bangladesh, where human rights are upheld, elections are free and fair, economic energies are unleashed, and young people migrate only if they want to, not because they lack opportunities here.

Bangladesh can count on Italy's support to achieve this.

Before concluding, I wish to draw your attention to the logos that we have chosen for our backdrop tonight.

One is for the 70th anniversary of Italy's accession to the United Nations. This expresses Italy's strong commitment to multilateralism, cooperation and solidarity among nations, something that we have in common with Bangladesh, that I wish to thank for being one of the largest troop contributing countries to the UN peacekeeping system and for hosting over one million Rohingya population.

The other is the logo of our candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2026-2028 term. If elected, Italy will use its seat to promote our priorities: fighting all forms of discrimination, defending women's rights, stopping human trafficking; ensuring freedom of expression, religion and belief; engaging against death penalty, among others.

Then, the logo of the Italian pavilion at EXPO Osaka. We are very proud of our pavilion, which reflects the tradition, innovation and creativity of Italian history and culture. We invite everyone to go to Osaka and see with their own eyes.

Finally, the logo of the winter Olympic Games that Italy will host in Milan and Cortina in February 2026, followed by the Para-Olympic Games. Sport is a key feature of the Italian lifestyle, and we want to offer the world a memorable edition.

Long live to Italy, long live to Bangladesh and best wishes to our ever-growing bilateral relations.