

**HPM's Message on
50th anniversary of establishment of Bangladesh-Japan
diplomatic relations**

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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim
Assalamu Alaikum and Good afternoon.

I am happy to join the celebration of the auspicious 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations of Bangladesh and Japan. Together with the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Fumio Kishida, on this historical occasion, I warmly congratulate the people of our two friendly countries. I express my gratitude to His Majesty the Emperor and Empress of Japan on their appreciation of this important occasion. I also recall my meeting with His Majesty Emperor Emeritus Akihito and congratulate him on becoming Japan's longest living emperor at 88 years of age.

Our two countries have been enjoying excellent relations since Bangladesh's independence in 1971 and Japan's early recognition on 10 February 1972. Our people remember with gratitude the precious support and contributions of Japan and its people, particularly school-children, during our War of Liberation. Japan was among the first few countries to open resident diplomatic mission in Dhaka.

Our bilateral relation is based on mutual trust, respect, friendship and cooperation. The historic visit of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Japan in October, 1973, set the tone of our bilateral relation. It laid the foundation of a steadfast and lasting friendship.

For me, it was an honor to carry on my father's legacy and visit Japan in 1992, 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 to further strengthen our two countries' relations. I am happy today to note that our time-tested friendship has evolved in depth and dimension. So much so, that our "Comprehensive Partnership" is now poised to be raised to "Strategic Partnership" in the near future.

I acknowledge the sustained economic cooperation and support of Japan. I am heartened by the increased Japanese investment in various sectors in

Bangladesh. I notice with delight that Japanese companies find the investment climate attractive in Bangladesh, and is ready to invest.

The logo of the 50th Anniversary celebration symbolizes the mood of “Bangladesh-Japan Friendly Relations”. It reflects our two countries’ celebrating this milestone year in a befitting manner with many events, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Here, I must thank the government and the people of Japan for their assistance to face the pandemic.

Bangladesh and Japan, as trusted partners and peace-loving nations, both have always worked in supporting one another in international forums to promote global peace, progress, prosperity, stability and sustainable development. Importantly, both share common views on resolving the crisis of forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar’s Rakhine State. We seek Japan’s support for an early voluntary, safe and sustainable repatriation of these displaced people back to their ancestral homes in Myanmar.

As I view our two countries’ bilateral relations today, I see so much opportunities for enhancement. Indeed, mutual initiatives are imperative to avail of these opportunities. As Bangladesh strives to be a prosperous, developed country, and our Father of the Nation’s “Sonar Bangla” or “Golden Bangladesh”, our last fifty years of enviable cooperation would remain an inspiration for the coming fifty years. Bangladesh is firm to engage with time tested friend Japan for mutually beneficial gains.

I wish all the events celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh and Japan, in both countries a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu!

May Bangladesh live forever!

Long live Bangladesh-Japan friendship.