

Japanese state minister for foreign affairs meets PM

Rohingya repatriation possible upon democracy resumption in Myanmar: Japan

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha . Dhaka



Japanese state minister for foreign affairs TAKEI Shunsuke pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official Ganabhaban residence in Dhaka, on Wednesday. — BSS photo

Japanese state minister for foreign affairs TAKEI Shunsuke said that sustainable repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas would be possible after resumption of democracy in Myanmar. He said this while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official Ganabhaban residence in Dhaka on Wednesday evening. ‘Japanese state minister for foreign affairs said Japan supports Bangladesh on Rohingya issue. In reply, the prime minister said that Japan can talk with Myanmar over Rohingya repatriation. The Japanese state minister said that it is required to wait for restoration of democracy in Myanmar for sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas,’ PM’s press secretary Ihsanul Karim told a briefing after the meeting.

Sheikh Hasina said that Rohingyas had become a heavy burden for Bangladesh as it had elapsed five years since they took shelter in Bangladesh and their number was increasing with the taking birth of new babies in the camps. ‘The biggest thing is that many of the Rohingyas are involved in drug and arms trafficking,’ she said, adding that they (Rohingyas internal groups) were fighting and killing each other. She said, ‘Myanmar should take back their nationals.’ Sheikh Hasina described the relations between Bangladesh and Japan as wonderful and said Bangladesh’s founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had laid the foundation of the ties. ‘The relations between Japan and Bangladesh have been growing from stake to stake,’ she said. The prime minister with due respect recalled the contribution of

Japan to the Liberation War of Bangladesh and in rebuilding the war ravaged country soon after the independence. She also recalled the Japanese cooperation of Bangladesh's development efforts, saying, 'They are still working in Bangladesh's various development projects including the Matharbari and third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.' Sheikh Hasina described the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as the 'Great Friend of Bangladesh'. Japanese state minister said, 'Japan feels proud of being a development partner of Bangladesh. Japan will continue assisting Bangladesh in development efforts.' He said that he visited Bangladesh five years ago and now he had become astonished witnessing the huge development took place in the last five years under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

TAKEI Shunsuke said that the Japan government was carrying forward the comprehensive Japan and Bangladesh partnership launched in 2014 by Japanese late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said that the operation of flight between Dhaka and Tokyo nearing 50 years and diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh would promote connectivity in the days to come. PM's ambassador-at-large Mohammad Ziauddin, PM's principal secretary Ahmad Kaikous and Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki were present, among others.

