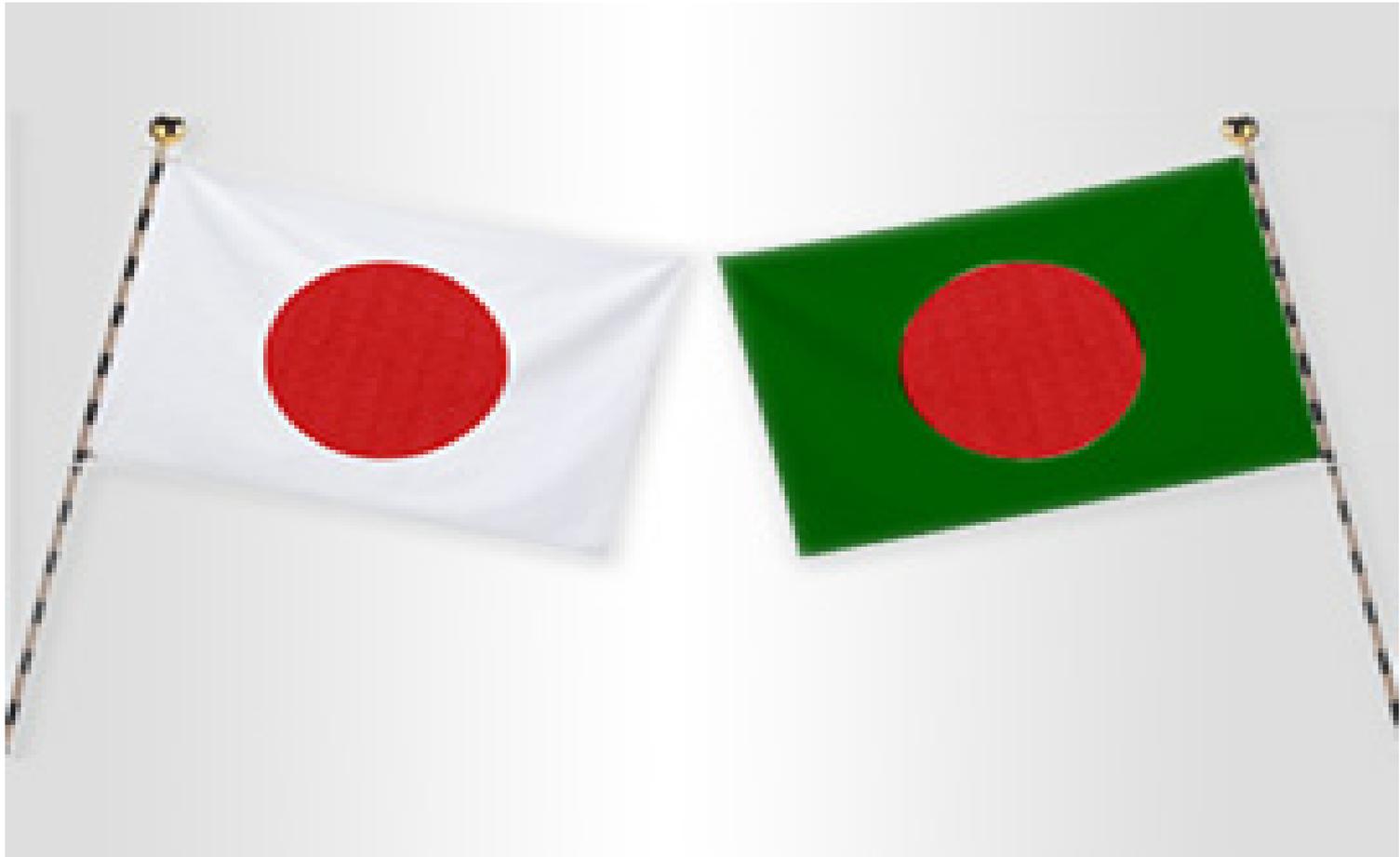
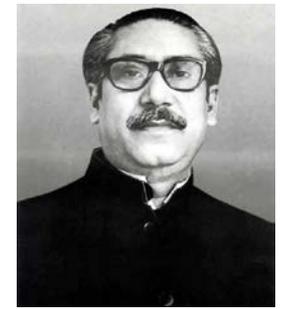


# Japan Bangladesh Relations



# Historical Perspectives

- Notable contacts between the Bengalis and the Japanese
  - Bengali woman named **Hariprabha Basu Mallick** from Dhaka married Japanese national Takeda San and moved to Japan in 1912.
  - Noble Laureate **Rabindranath Tagore** in 1916 at the invitation of his Japanese friend and poet Yone Noguchi San. His other friends were Tenshin Okakura (Japanese fine arts scholar) and Taikan Yokoyama, a Japanese master of painting.
  - Netaji **Subhash Chandra Bose**, a Bengali hero, joined the Imperial army to fight the British.
  - Bengali justice **Radha Binodh Paul** in the war crime tribunal was the lone dissenting voice after the world war II.



- **Cyclone in 1970** – More than ½ million people died. Ordinary Japanese people donated large sum of money meant for Bengali cyclone victims. Mr. Takashi Hayakawa (the then MP in Japan and later came to be known as Mr. Bangladesh) raised large sum of money for the Bengali cyclone victims. The money was sent to the authority but it did not reach the victims.
- **1970 election.** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won majority votes, but was denied the right to govern the country as he was Bengali speaking.

# Bangladesh- a Sovereign State

- Recognition of Bangladesh on 10 February 1972.
- **Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** visited Japan 1973.
- **Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince AKIHITO and Crown Princess MICHIKO** (currently Their Majesties The Emperor and The Empress) visited Bangladesh in 1975
- Japan has become the most important development partner-economic, social and cultural since its independence.
- The Government, people of Japan and the private companies have contributed significantly to the development of Bangladesh

# Why should Japan take more interest in Bangladesh?



- **Democratic:** Parliamentary system. Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party (5 year term)
- **Secular spirit** and moderate muslims. Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Buddhists. National holidays and celebrations for all 4 religious festivals. Bengali New Year- for all religious and socio-economic groups
- **Culture:** Bangladesh is enriched with arts- paintings, poetry, singing, dancing, theatres and you name it.
- **Women's empowerment-** Prime Minister, women ministers with important ministries and leader of the Opposition, Increased participation of women in the commercial economy- 80 % garment workers
- **People are smiling and are happy-** no time for depression and mental anxiety. London's World Happiness Survey and other surveys

# Bangladesh – Regional Context

- Bangladesh -the founding member of SAARC
- Centre for regional connectivity
- A gateway to a large market in South Asia- 1.64 billion people
- Can be a hub of transport and energy for Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India.
- A bridge between SAARC and ASEAN





- **Young population** with growing skilled workers
- **Fisheries and gas reserves** in the Bay of Bengal
- Opportunities to work together on disaster and climate change issues
- Bangladesh has **no records of defaults** in its bilateral & multi-lateral donors, and debt-service liabilities

# Bangladeshis love Japan

- **OSHIN**- TV drama series OSHIN broadcasted in Bangladesh (from 1991 to 1992).
- **Toyota** cars are the largest selling brand in Bangladesh
- **Sony** products are very popular
- **Japanese people are highly respected in Japan**
- While the Japanese **national flag** has a red circle on a white field, the Bangladeshi national flag has a red circle on a green field.

# Bangladesh honours four Japanese nationals

- Bangladesh confers State Honour to four Japanese nationals on March 27, 2012 in Dhaka.
- **Mr. Takashi Hayakawa**- Founder President of Japan Bangladesh Parliamentary League and former Japanese Lawmaker
- **Professor Tsuyoshi Nara**
- **Mr. Naoaki Usui**- Journalist
- **Mr. Takamasa Suzuki**- Entrepreneur

# Thank You

- I thank on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh to all the Japanese people who have understood our pain and was on our side during the war of liberation.
- I thank you for your continued moral and financial support to our development.
- I thank you for buying our products as it enables our workers, especially our female workers, to help their families and to strengthen their own positions within their families.
- Try to take internships in Bangladesh as there are many such opportunities for foreign students in Bangladesh. You will not only gain experience but also learn to appreciate your own life.