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Four accords signed with Japan

Four agreements for financing four new development projects and an exchange of notes for cultural cooperation were signed between Bangladesh and Japan here last night, reports UNB.

Japan will provide Bangladesh more than 16 billion yen under the five deals, including one on construction of the Rupsha Bridge and another on purchase of sports equipment.

Officials of the ERD said the accords were initiated at NEC Bhaban, ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit.

The details of the agreements will be formally announced during official talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, one official told the news agency.

Prime Minister Mori arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive Mori at the VIP lounge of Zia International Airport at 12:45 pm.

Mori to stay at Sonargaon Hotel

By Special Correspondent

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori will be staying at the International Suite at Sonargaon Hotel during his visit to Bangladesh.

The listed rent of the suite is 1100 US dollars a day. Japanese people were involved in construction of the hotel, owned by Pan Pacific.

Mori will be served with Japanese food by the hotel if he wants to dine at Sonargaon. Otherwise, food and a Japanese chef will be flown in from Tokyo.

Three floors of Sonargaon Hotel are now under Japanese security.

Some 170 rooms have been booked for the Japanese Prime Minister and his entourage.

The same suite along with several adjoining suites were kept reserved for US President Bill Clinton during his visit. Whether Clinton used the same suite or any of the adjoining suites is still not known since no personnel of the hotel or of Bangladesh security were allowed entry into the eight floor where the special suites are located.

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Prayer Timings

August 19 Azan 5:05
Sun Rises 6:29 pm
Aug 20 5:35 am

August 19

Fajr 4:30
Zohr 12:45
Asr 5:00
Maghrib 6:40
Esha 8:15

5:05
1:20
5:15
6:45
8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Warm welcome awaits Mori

By Diplomatic Correspondent

A warm welcome will be accorded to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori when he arrives here this afternoon on a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Japan is Bangladesh's biggest bilateral donor and development partner in infrastructure building, including the Bangabandhu Bridge.

Mori arrives in Dhaka on the first leg of his four-nation South Asian tour that will also take him to Islamabad, Delhi and Kathmandu.

The Japanese Prime Minister will be accompanied by 80 officials and nearly 50 newsmen. He and his core delegation will stay at Sonargaon Hotel during the visit.

Mori will be the second Japanese Prime Minister to visit Bangladesh. Toshiko Kaifu visited Bangladesh in May 1990.

Mori's visit is linked with building closer ties between Japan and South Asia. Japan and Germany are seeking support for permanent seats in the Security Council. Japan also believes in carrying out reforms in the UN system.

Increasing trade and investment, relocation of sunset industries and greater Japanese participation in infra-structure development in Bangladesh are expected to dominate the official talks between Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and his counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

The two prime ministers are expected to discuss regional cooperation with particular emphasis on Japan's ties with SAARC and BIMSTEC countries. The talks will be held at the Prime Minister's office.

Mori's itinerary includes a visit to the National Memorial at Savar, banquet to be hosted by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed.

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The same suite along with several adjoining suites were kept reserved for US President Bill Clinton during his visit. Whether Clinton used the same suite or any of the adjoining suites is still not known since no personnel of the hotel or of Bangladesh security were allowed entry into the eight floor where the special suites are located.

These listed criminals are used by the 15 thanas of the city when any of those comes under pressure from high-ups in the police administration or from political quarters after any sensational crime.

Their number varies from 150 to 200, he said.

Besides immunity from various criminal activities,

and opening a Maternal and Child Health Institute at Azimpur in the city.

Leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia is due to have a meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister.

Mori will also visit the Bangabandhu Museum. There

was disagreement between officials of the two countries on a visit to the Bangabandhu Museum. At one stage, Bangladeshi officials had said that the visit became 'uncertain'. When Japanese officials finally agreed to include it,

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