

**Bangladesh replaces army units in UNAMSIL**

UNB, Dhaka  
Bangladesh replaces its army units, including infantry, signal and logistic battalions, artillery regiment, medical contingent and engineers company, in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).  
A 164-member advance team

of 2,608 members of these units left Dhaka for Sierra Leone Thursday night on board a UN chartered aircraft, said an ISPR press release yesterday.

Col Shawkat Hossain, Col S M Shawkat Ali, Col Ashiful Hossain, Col Mokhlesur Rahman, Col Abdus Shohed Khan and Lt Col Shah Alam are commanding the

infantry, artillery, signals, logistic, medical and engineers contingents respectively.

The remaining 2,444 members of these contingents will leave for Sierra Leone by March 30 under the arrangement of the United Nations. The contingents will replace similar ones sent a year back, the release added.

**Japan keen on cultural exchange**

BSS, Dhaka

Japan is keen to exchange cultural delegations with Bangladesh, a Japanese diplomat said, expressing the hope that the process would start soon.  
Addressing a press conference at Shilpakala Academy, Yasuhiko Tanaka, director of information and culture at the Japanese embassy here, said Japan had wide cultural and linguistic similarities with Bangladesh.

Among others, Rabiul Islam, secretary, and Shafi Kamal, director of music, of the academy were present at the press conference.

They said as part of the programmes of Japan week, a six-member Japanese cultural delegation has arrived here to hold a

two-day folk concert at Sonargaon Hotel and National Museum auditorium today and tomorrow.

Bangladeshi instrumentalists will also perform on the occasion.  
The Japanese embassy here is celebrating the week to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Japan recognised Bangladesh on February 10, 1972.

The delegation, led by Shamsen artiste Shuichiro Takahashi, also includes Yukiko Kuboki, Keiichi Takahashi, Kazuichiro Takahashi and Mamoru Katono.

The programmes of the week began on February 26 at the Botanical Garden with a Bonsai workshop.



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