

Staff Reporter

President Abdul Hamid on Saturday hoped that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Bangladesh will further boost Dhaka's economic relations with Tokyo.

"Recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and his (Shinzo Abe) return visit to Bangladesh will strengthen further the economic relations between Bangladesh and Japan," he said when the visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. President Abdul Hamid recalled Japan's support and cooperation to Bangladesh's Liberation War and Tokyo's early recognition to the independent nation on February 4 in 1972.

"Bangladesh has honored the Japanese Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War with state award for their outstanding contribution in 1971," President's press secretary Ihsanul Karim told journalists quoting the President as saying.

Abdul Hamid said since the visit of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan, the country assisted to rebuild the war-ravaged Bangladesh.

The President told the Japanese premier that People of the country are very happy for Japan's six billion dollar assistance for development.

Abdul Hamid conveyed his regards to Emperor Akihito and invited the emperor to visit Bangladesh.

During the meet, Shinzo Abe said Bangladesh is a vibrant country and it has comprehensive development partnership with Japan.

Mentioning that many Japanese business leaders are accompanying him during the visit, Abe said that they are keen to invest in Bangladesh.

He apprised the President that he is taking a Royal Bengal Tiger from Bangladesh as a gift.

"People of Japan are awaiting to receive the tiger."

The Japanese Prime Minister was received by President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban.

Shinzo Abe also signed the Bangabhaban's visitors book.

Shiro Sadoshima, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, foreign secretary Shahidul Haque and concerned secretaries to the President's office were present.