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## Deepening bilateral ties with Japan

It is crucial that we continue to sustain these ties to reach our goals

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It is no secret that Bangladesh has benefited considerably with backing from its international allies, many of whom we have maintained long-lasting ties with.

Among those, one friendship that is most note-worthy is the one with Japan. The over 50 years of diplomatic relations have proven to be integral to our nation's progress.

In that regard, it is encouraging that both nations are in talks of strengthening ties further, with Japan looking to partner up with Bangladesh in more avenues of development.

During a recent meeting in Tokyo, the friendly neighbours discussed strategic ways to deepen bilateral ties, particularly in developing the Matarbari Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) project in the southern Chittagong area to improve connectivity.

Japan has expressed their support for all future development projects in Bangladesh that contribute to improved connectivity, facilitating more scope for Japanese investments into our country, which will undoubtedly be beneficial for both nations.

This is a welcome development, and one that will be an advantage to our long-term growth as a nation. Stronger relations with countries like Japan can assist us not only in terms of our development, but also on pressing global issues like the repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

Japan has been a strong ally to us for decades, and it is heartening to see that we have succeeded in not only maintaining, but also fostering the friendship initiated by Bangabandhu 50 years ago.

We have made impressive strides in terms of our development over the decades with the aid of our international allies, and it is crucial that we continue to sustain these ties to reach our goals of becoming a well-rounded, developed nation.

