

Delhi Studies Dhaka's \$1bn Project Details

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"We have sent the DPRs to the ministries concerned in our government and also asked for some additional input from Bangladesh government," he said while briefing the media on the visit of Indian vice-president M Hamid Ansari to Dhaka from Thursday to Friday.

Ansari will represent New Delhi at the inaugural ceremony of joint commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in Dhaka on Friday.

During his two-day visit to Dhaka, Ansari will also discuss progress of bilateral cooperation in several areas identified by the two countries during prime minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi in January 2010.

Prasad said that the Indian vice president would reiterate New Delhi's commitment to the economic development of Bangladesh during his visit to Dhaka.

During Hasina's visit to New Delhi, Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh had announced a Line of Credit of \$1-billion for a range of projects in Bangladesh, including railway infrastructure, supply of broad gauge locomotives and passenger coaches, rehabilitation of Saidpur workshop, procurement of buses and dredging projects.

India's Line of Credit for Bangladesh was New Delhi's single-largest one-time aid package for any other country.

VP IN DHAKA

Vice-president Ansari, who is also the chairman of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, is reaching Dhaka on Thursday.

He will call on president Zillur Rahman and prime minister Sheikh Hasina during his visit. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Leader of Opposition Khaleda Zia will also call on him during his stay in Dhaka.

The Indian vice-president will also be visit the National Mausoleum at Savar to pay homage to the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of 1971.

Besides, he will visit the Bangabandhu Memorial, where Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lived until the fateful night of 15th August 1975 when he was assassinated. "The Museum is an enduring symbol of the love and admiration that the people of Bangladesh feel for him," said Prasad.

Ansari will return after attending the inaugural ceremony of the joint commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore.

During Hasina's visit to New Delhi, India and Bangladesh agreed to jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore, who penned the national anthem of both countries.

The opening ceremony of the year-long commemoration will be held in Dhaka from May 6 to 8, and in Delhi from May 7 to 9. Planning Minister AK Khandaker will represent Dhaka in the opening ceremony in Delhi.

Apart from the joint celebration of Tagore's birthday, Dhaka and Delhi are planning to launch a tourism circuit called 'Rabi Tirtha', which would include Jorasanko, Shantiniketan, Shilaidaha, Kushtia, Shahzadpur and other places related with Gurudev's legacy in both Bangladesh and India.

India will also provide technical assistance for restoration of Tagore heritage sites in Bangladesh.

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