

Bangladeshi books import in India insignificant

CALCUTTA, Mar 30: Prof. Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, today inaugurated the 14 day-long exhibition of Bangladeshi books and graphic prints at the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission here as the chief guest in observance of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Mr Buddahdev Bhattacharjee, Minister for Cultural Affairs, government of West Bengal, was present on the occasion as special guest.

The State Minister in her brief speech said the exhibition of Bangladesh books and graphic prints in Calcutta was a bold step in strengthening the existing good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India.

She appreciated the continued efforts made by the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in this regard. She also referred to the opening of the Bangladesh gallery in the Deputy High Commission as a

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very significant step in promoting Bangladeshi art and culture in West Bengal.

She said the exhibitions would provide the art and book lovers of Calcutta an opportunity to know their neighbour well.

Referring to the development of Bengali language and literature and arts in Bangladesh, the Minister observed that balanced flow of books between the two countries would benefit the people of both the countries to know each other.

Explaining the Bangladesh's liberal policy of importing

books from various countries including India, the Minister observed that the import of Bangladeshi books in India was insignificant as compared to what Bangladesh imported from India.

She stressed the need for removing the barriers in order to ensure healthy atmosphere in the field of books and arts. She further urged the Indian importers to import more Bangladeshi books to bridge the imbalance in this field.

Mr. Budhadeb Bhattacharjee, in his address stressed close cultural cooperation between Bangladesh and India and underlined the need for knowing Bangladesh better through Bangladeshi books and arts.

Syed. Noor Hossain, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta presided over the function.