

Raj Bhavan: Assam

Press Release No:8

High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India calls on Governor; discusses issues of vital importance

Guwahati, February 23: High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Muhammad Imran met Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi in Raj Bhavan today and talked on a gamut of issues of bilateral interests.

Highlighting the potential areas where Assam and Bangladesh can collaborate for their mutual interests Governor Prof. Mukhi emphasized that taking into consideration the friendly relations between India and Bangladesh he emphasized that the volume of bilateral trade through land route should attain the maximum potential. He also said that the commodities that are presently allowed for exports are restricted to a specific list-the positive list. The Governor suggested that there should also be a negative list highlighting the items not to be exported so that the rest all other items can be exported. Also the positive list should be expanded to enhance the growth of trade. Both the countries should be able to trade the items freely thereby enhancing the exports and imports as per capability and requirement.

The Governor also pointed that a bilateral trade agreement with Bangladesh can be made in line with the Indo-Srilankan Free Trade Agreement in place of SAFTA. This move would shore up the bilateral trade through the land route in the North East.

The Governor also highlighted that the recent agreement with Bangladesh for allowing the use of its Ports by the vessels from the North East would go a long way in boosting exports of this region, as well as its trade with the rest of the country through Bangladesh. But although the Government of Bangladesh has consented with the text of the agreement, the

actual signing has not taken place. Therefore, the Governor requested to expedite the signing of the agreement along with the formulation and signing of its SOP. The High Commissioner assured that he would take up the matter with the Bangladesh government.

Prof. Mukhi also acknowledged the gesture of the Bangladesh High Commissioner of visiting Assam as he said that both the neighbors should keep working to strengthen bilateral relations to reap mutual benefits. Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur also accompanied the High Commissioner during the visit.

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