

Dhaka, Delhi can work together to strengthen democracy

President tells Indian Lok Sabha Speaker

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised the importance of regular contacts and exchange of visits by parliamentarians of Bangladesh and India to further bolster bilateral ties between the two countries.

He also said Dhaka and Delhi could work together to further strengthening parliamentary democracy in the region.

There are scopes for working together to make our parliament main centre of decision-making and accountability," he said while talking to Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee when he called on the president at Bangabhaban.

President Zillur welcomed the Indian Speaker and thanked him for visiting Bangladesh. "We believe people-to-people contact is essential to deepen relations between the two countries," he said.

He also mentioned that Bangladesh attaches high importance to bilateral relations with India as the two neighbours share not only the common border but also culture, history, values and traditions.

"Bangladesh always condemns all forms of terrorism



Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

as it is a common enemy to all of us," he added.

Referring to huge human resources of the two countries, he said both the countries could further boost the economy by utilising the human resources to their mutual interest.

The president also expressed his gratitude to the Indian government for its assistance in the wake of Cyclone Sidr.

He also recalled the cooperation from the Indian people

who provided shelter, food, clothes and other supports to Bangladeshi people during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Indian Speaker Somnath Chatterjee hoped that the practice of democracy would be further strengthened in Bangladesh under the leadership of President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said Bangladeshi lawmakers could benefit by receiving training on parliamentary norms at the training institute

in India, which is run by the Indian parliament, Lok Sabha.

The Indian Speaker also appreciated the enthusiasm of Bangladeshi people towards democracy they had shown during the last general election.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present at the meeting.

'Bangla still not practised in govt, private instts properly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A debate session titled 'The spirit of the language movement did not go in vain' was organised in the city yesterday to observe Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

Jointly organised by Hunger Project Bangladesh and Debate for Democracy at the National Press Club, students from various debating clubs of Dhaka University, North South

University, Saint Joseph Higher Secondary School and Bir Uttam Shaheed Anwar Girls' College took part.

The debaters pointed out that though Bangla is the state language, it is still not practised in every government or private institutions properly.

The language is highlighted only in February, they said.

Language hero Dr Halima Khatun was honoured at the programme for her leading role in the 1952's valiant movement.

She said, "The spirit of the language movement was to establish a mother language. So, every individual has the right to practise his or her mother language, be it a minor dialect in a locality or the language of a small community living in the farthest corner. We have to respect that."

Global Vice President of Hunger Project Prof Badiul A Majumder said, "The spirit of Ekushey is not only about a language. It is about protesting discrimination, promoting

equal rights and democracy, ensuring accountability and transparency and it is about fighting poverty."

"Ekushey is no longer a mourning day. It is an international occasion for the celebration of languages and cultural diversities," he added.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, writer Imdadul Haque Milan and Cambrian College Principal Lion MK Bashir also spoke.

ONE PLACE. BONDHU, ADDA, GAAN.



dial **2828** find new friends with djuice voice chat!

Booze free



• First minute tk. 3 and from 2nd minute onwards tk. 2
• applicable to all djuice and gramophone numbers
to know more, call 121 or visit www.djuice.com.bd
*charge, VAT and conditions apply

The First-ever True Condominium in Dhaka

digonto

home of wishes

at Paribagh



- 50 feet long temperature controlled indoor swimming pool for residents
- 6000 sft party hall for occasions
- 12 high speed branded elevators
- 600 feet long indoor walk-way
- Air-conditioned lavish reception lobby
- Central geyser system for hot water
- 3 iconic towers with 60 feet gap in between
- Separate gym for ladies and gents
- Water purification system
- Well-planned rooftop garden
- 265 car parking with adequate parking for guests
- Spacious terraces at different levels
- Branded split AC in all rooms
- Table tennis and Snooker rooms

SPL setting standards
SHANTA PROPERTIES

Shanta Properties Limited
Safura Tower, Level 3, 20 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213
Ph: 988 1194, 988 4323, 882 4213 Cell: 01713 424217, 01713 424218
01730 051580, 01730 051581, 01730 051582 Fax: 880 2 9882605
E-mail: info@splbd.com Web: www.splbd.com

