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## Ekushey Book Fair opens

# Peace a must for cultural, socio-economic uplift: PM

Staff Correspondent

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were rewarded instead of punishment.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asserted that her government would put the killers, terrorists and extortionists on trial whoever they were or whichever party they belonged to.

She said that her government since assuming power in June 23, 1996, was trying to establish the Bengali nation as a "dignified nation" in the world.

Congratulating the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and its members of board of governors for declaring Ekushey February as the International Mother Language Day on November 19 last year, she said that this had brought another recognition to the Bengali nation. She said that Rabindranath Tagore had introduced the Bengali language to the world by winning the Nobel Prize and while Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman crowned Bengali in world forum by delivering his speech in Bangla in UN session.

She said that her government wanted use of Bangla in all sphere of life. She called upon people of all walks of life including students, educationists and

political leaders to take sincere efforts to uphold the dignity of Bangla.

Saying that there was no conflict between acquiring knowledge through mother tongue and learning foreign language she said that her government would set up a mother language study and research centre for further flourishing of Bangla and other language of the world.

The Prime Minister said that her government was committed to help flourish the language of different ethnic and minority groups in the country alongside the development of Bangla language.

She said that Bangladesh is the only language-based state in South and South-East Asia.

Paying rich tributes to those who were martyred during Language Movement, Liberation War and other democratic movements, she said that the Liberation War virtually started through the Language Movement. So, she said, the Ekushey February was very much important to the nation.

She said that literary persons and cultural activists of the country were the conscience of the nation and added that they could create a peaceful and stable environment through their creative

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young readers crowded the book stalls at the

## Further ex of BSS st

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6:-Participants at a discussion here on Friday underlined the importance of further expansion of the work of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), the national news agency with a view to giving adequate coverage of all important socio-political, economic and other events of the country, reported BSS.

They also opined that the BSS coverage should be more broad-based and it should disseminate all sorts of news objectively to meet the changing needs of the hour.

"The national news agency could earn more credibility by ensuring coverage of all news up to the expectations of the readers", they said in an exchange of views

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