

Steps taken for observance of Ekushey reviewed

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An inter-ministerial committee meeting held in Dhaka on Tuesday reviewed the measures taken for the observance of "Amar Ekushey" with due solemnity on February 21 this year reports BSS.

The meeting held at the Cabinet Room of the Secretariat was presided over by Minister for Education Sports and Culture Dr Abdul Majeed Khan. It was attended by Home Minister Maj Gen Abdul Mannan Siddiqui Information Minister Syed Najmuddin Hashim and high officials of different ministries and departments.

February 21 will be a public holiday. National flags will be flown at half mast in educational institutions government and semi-government office buildings.

Dhaka University Shaheed Minar and the traffic islands of the adjoining main roads will be decorated with banners and fascions inscribed with Bengali alphabets.

The Council meeting decided to entrust the Dhaka University authorities with the responsibilities of coordinating the programmes of Shaheed Minar and its overall management.

Bangla Academy has chalked out a 22-day special programme including book fair and discussion meetings on the occasion.

As part of the observance of the day Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will put out special programmes beginning a week before February 21. Shapakala Academy has chalked out separate programme on the occasion.

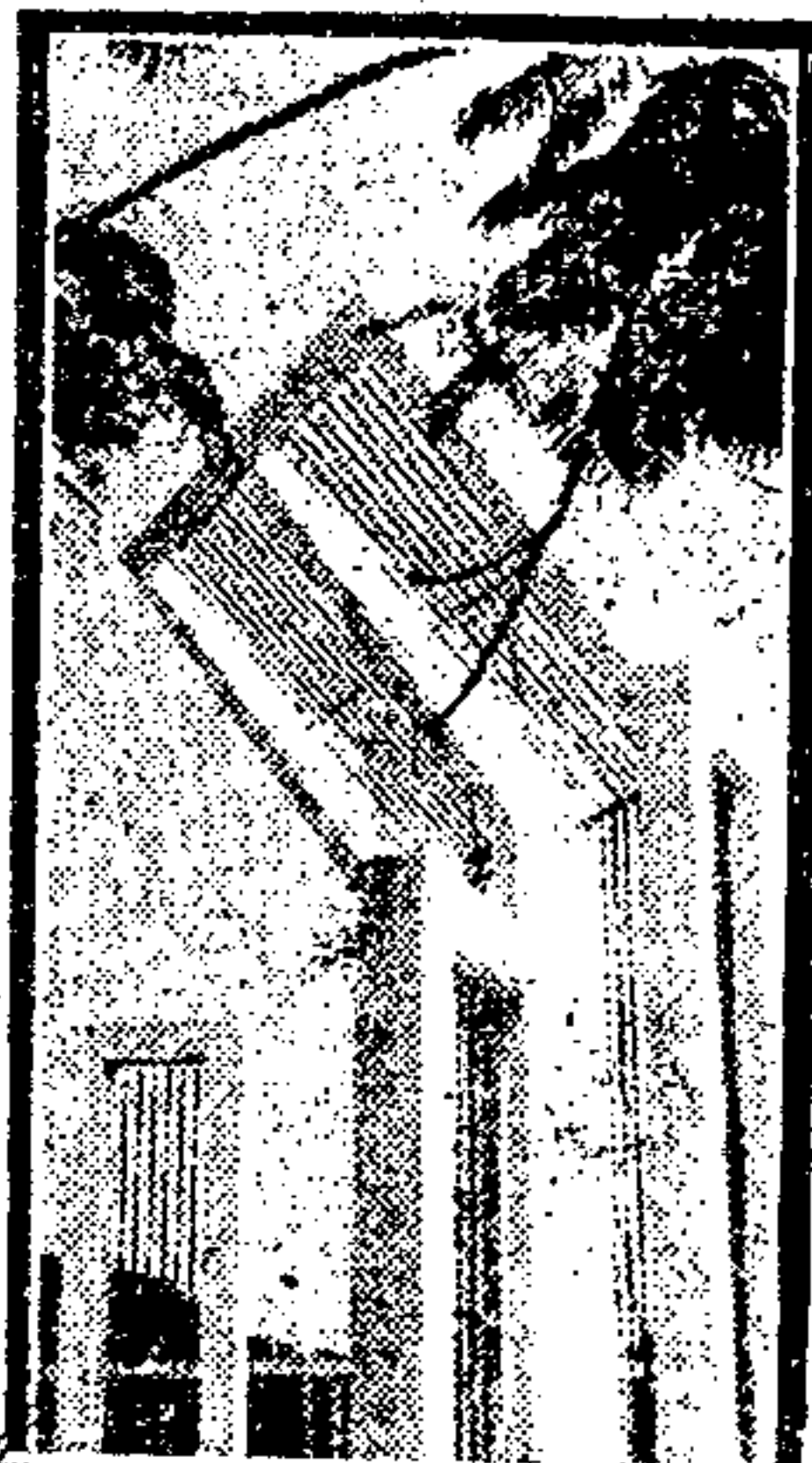
National newspapers will bring out special supplements on the day.

Prayers will be offered in mosques temples churches and all other places of worship for the salvation of the departed souls of martyrs. Arrangements will be made for Quran Khawani and Milad Mahfils in different mosques. On February 21 arrangements have also been made for offering of fatcha and special prayers for the shaheed at Azimpur graveyard.

Directives have been given to all Bangladesh mission abroad to take up appropriate programmes for the observance of Ekushey February. Besides necessary arrangements have been made for proper observance of the day in every district and upazila.

No permission will be need-

ed for holding sessions of patriotic songs at Ramna 'Batamuk' on the day. But the Public Works Department will fix up times for different cultural organisations on first-come first-served basis. All concerned have been advised to contact the Chief Engineer in this respect.



Bangla Academy

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last year's 7 such stalls.

The issue of sale of foreign books at the Ekushey "grantha mela" (book fair) has been settled by requiring the publishing houses to sell only local books, and allowing only display of imported books.

Inaugurating the fair Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim emphasised the need for publication of more books for enriching the mental horizon of the readers. Books should also be kept within the purchasing capacity of buyers, he said.

He said that the citizens could be kept healthier not only by immunising them from diseases but also by nursing and developing their minds. This could be done by giving citizens necessary books.

Dr Ibrahim thanked the organisers of the fair which he said would help increase reading habit among the people.

Mr Nurul Haq outlined the role played by Muslim Sahitya Sangsad in nursing the creative literary talents of Bangladesh by ensuring publication

and circulation of their books.

Mr Nurul Haq also dwelt on the obstacles created by reactionaries during the early days of the historic Language Movement.

The book fair will be kept open on all days through February 29. There will be discussion meetings, poetry, recitation sessions and musical soirees in the afternoon till February 21.

Today's (Wednesday) programme includes discussion on a science book at 5 p.m. It will be followed by a poetry recitation session in which poet Abdul Kadir will recite self-composed poems. The programme will be rounded off with a soiree of Tagore songs.

In observance of the Ekushey a committee with Mr Abul Kalam was formed at a meeting of Jatiya Jote.

"Noakhali Darpan" a literary magazine from Malzdi will be published by a group of youth in observance of the great Ekushey. Interested persons were requested to send their writings before February 14 to the Editor, "Noakhali Darpan" Post Box No. 16, Noakhali.