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Bangladesh book fair opens in Calcutta

Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of West Bengal inaugurated the Bangladesh book fair at the Calcutta Information Centre on Thursday evening, a message received from West Bengal State Capital, reports BSS.

The colourful opening of the exhibition was attended by members of diplomatic corps, intellectuals, senior government officials, publishers and elite of the city. Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sponsored the book fair. Jahangir Saadat, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta, attended the function as chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhattacharjee stressed the need for regular exchange of books between the two countries and expressed the hope the present fair would generate great interest among booklovers of Calcutta. He praised Bengali books published by Bangla Academy, Dhaka and stated that these are much ahead of West Bengal in this respect.

The West Bengal Minister hoped that Bangladesh will participate in the coming Calcutta book fair '96 in a big way.

Mr. Jahangir Saadat also hoped that this exhibition would pave the way for books from Bangladesh to enter the Indian market. He mentioned that there is a great deal of interest among Indian readers for Bangladeshi publications.

The book fair drew a large crowd.

The Minister went round the exhibition hall and showed keen interest.

Nine leading publishers from Bangladesh are participating in the book fair. The fair will continue upto December 19.

About 2,000 titles of recently published books from Bangladesh are on display in the book fair.

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