



Chief Advisor to the caretaker government Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurating the sculptures of the language movement martyrs at Bangla Academy premises on Thursday.

Book Fair begins

Ekushey teaches us to stand against wrongdoing: CA

DU Correspondent

Chief Advisor to the Neutral Caretaker Government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed Thursday formally inaugurated the month-long Amar Ekushey book Fair-2007 and also a monument of 1952 language movement titled "Moder Garab" made by Mofidul Alam Khan.

Dr Fakhruddin said, "Amar Ekushey is a shining symbol of patriotism and national unity. Ekushey teaches us to stand against wrongdoing and injustice. My belief is, with combined efforts of the countrymen imbued with the spirit of Ekushey--which is of paramount need at this juncture--we would be able to get at the target."

He made the call while inaugurating month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2007 on the Bangla

Academy premises, which is an annual festival commemorative of the first comprehensive victory of the people of this country in struggle for self-right, a precursor to the war of independence.

"Someone is making a mountain of ill-gotten wealth without any accountability, someone remain a hapless poor. Such anarchy and disparity cannot be allowed to continue," said Dr Fakhruddin, a former governor of the country's central bank.

His exhortations strung a cord of agreement in the audience at the venue with in Dhaka University campus--the vantage ground of all national movements--as the people present hailed his speech with claps.

A minute's solemn silence--all standing in home to the language

martyrs--was observed. Dua was also offered for the divine blessing for those who led down their lives for the mother tongue this month way back in 1952.

Education and Cultural Advisor Ayub Qadri presided over the inaugural function. Secretary to the Cultural Affairs Ministry ABM Abdul Huq, Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association president M Abu Taher and acting DG of the Bangla Academy Moinul Hasan also spoke at the function.

Members of the council of advisors, writers, litterateurs, journalists, publishers and members of Bangla Academy, among others, attended the function.

Dr Fakhruddin noted that the great language movement is a very significant event in the history of the nation. "Amar Ekushey, being the first bold step in democratic movement, is a symbol of our heritage, strength, intellect and patriotism and nationality."

He said an independent, sovereign Bangladesh emerged on the world map through a bloody armed freedom fight in 1971 in continuity of a long trek since the great Ekushey.

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Book

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He observed book is a history of a nation and carrier of literature, culture and tradition. Book is necessary for peace and development--book is necessary to awaken feelings and conscience.

"Book is a main tool to practice knowledge and build a knowledge-based society. Book, library, book fair are complementary to one another," Dr Fakhruddin observed and hoped that this book fair would help in enhancing love for book and book reading.

The CA drew attention of the book publishers that they must submit copy of their published book to the National Archives and Library. He also asked the Bangla Academy authority to take necessary step to preserve all publications and documents of the academy through computer technology and take modern steps to get those available on website or online.

BSS adds: Terming the Language Movement of 1952 as a very significant part of the country's history, the chief adviser said it was the first step of our all democratic movements, which led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state through an armed struggle.

"So, the importance of the Amar Ekushey is immense in independent Bangladesh and it has a far reaching impact," he said adding that the Ekushey strengthens our spirit, free-thinking and patriotism."

Dr Fakhruddin paid rich tributes to the memories of the martyrs of the immortal Ekushey and expressed gratitude to those who played an important role in establishing the Ekushey February as the "International Mother Language Day".

Referring to the Ekushey Book Fair, he said it has turned into a national festival with the presence

of intellectuals, writers, poets and other illustrious persons of society. He hoped that this fair would help increase reading habit among the new generation of the country.

Calling upon the authorities concerned to take steps for increasing readers to eradicate illiteracy, he expressed the hope that the writers should engage themselves in writing actual history of the country and philosophy of the general masses.

The chief adviser asked for ensuring timely implementation of the National Book Policy and emphasised the need for bringing changes to publishing books.

Dr. Fakhruddin also called upon the Bangla Academy authorities to preserve all important books and documents through the computer technology and take steps to make those available in the web-site.

Paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the country's Language Movement, he said their sacrifices would show the light to build a justice and repression-free soci-