

Ekushey Boi Mela opens today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2014 begins today on the Bangla Academy premises and on a part of Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital to accommodate more book stalls.

This year a total of 299 publication houses, government, non-government and autonomous organisations and socio-cultural bodies are participating in the fair through 534 units of stalls.

Of those, 432 units were allotted to 232 publication houses at Suhrawardy Udyan and the rest to 67 publication houses, including 24 for children and juveniles.

This year, special visiting hours for women and children will be available on four days.

The fair will keep open for all from 3:00pm to 9:00pm on working days and from 11:00am to 9:00pm on weekends. On February 21, International Mother Language Day, it will remain open from

8:00 in the morning till 9:00pm.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the month-long exhibition of books at 3:00 in the afternoon. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as special guest.

The inauguration ceremony will be broadcast live by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.

In the opening session, Bangla Academy Director General Shamuzzaman Khan will deliver the welcome address, while Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, chairman of the academy, will preside over it.

Regarding BNP's rally scheduled to be held at Suhrawardy Udyan today, the DG asked the political party not to create any disturbances on the fair grounds.

On the opening day, the winners of the Bangla Academy Literary Award 2013 whose names were announced Thursday will receive Tk 1 lakh each, a crest and certificate from the prime minister.

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Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi mime artiste Partha Pratim Majumder will be awarded honorary fellowship of Bangla Academy on the occasion.

The 31st Amar Ekushey Boi Mela is dedicated to recently deceased Muhammad Habibur Rahman, a language hero, former chief justice, and chief adviser of the country's first caretaker government.

In line with an inter-ministerial decision, the cultural affairs minister approved on January 20 the proposal of extending the fair ground to Suhrawardy Udyan.

This year, 65 new books of the host, Bangla Academy, will be up for sale in the fair.

Like previous years, a decorated corner for the children has been set up in front of the Nazrul Mancha.

Meanwhile, the dates for Shishu Prahar, a day or part of a day dedicated to children, will be announced soon, said organisers.

Two awards - Chhittaranjan Saha Smrity Purushka and "Munier Chowdhury Smrity Purushkar" - will be given to the best publishers for quality publications in 2013, a release.