

PM opens Ekushey Book Fair

Steps to use Bangla for higher education stressed

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged country's intellectuals, writers, academics, scientists and litterateurs to play a constructive role in introducing Bangla at all levels.

"I request intellectuals, writers, academics and scientists to play a constructive role to introduce Bangla at all level through solving

the scarcity of necessary books in Bangla language at higher levels, particularly scientific and technical books", said the Prime Minister while inaugurating the Amar Ekushey book fair at Bangla Academy premises on Friday.

Because we could not achieve expected success in introducing Bangla at all levels due to lack of

necessary support materials including textbooks, dictionary and efficient manpower and non-availability of scientific and technical terminology, she observed. She assured her government's support in this regard.

She laid emphasis on learning other important languages to present our culture and thoughts before the world and said that at the same time we have to acquire knowledge in computer and information technology to face the challenges of the 21st century.

"We will lag behind in the international arena if we fail to achieve efficiency in various important languages, including information technology and computer science side by side with our own language", she said.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman chaired the opening session of the 20-day long Amar Ekushey book fair. Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, Secretary General of Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association Abdur Razzak and Majibar Rahman of Bangladesh Srijanshil Prakashak Parishad addressed it. Acting DG of the academy Moinul Hasan gave votes of thank.

It was also attended, among others, by some ministers, MPs, some fellows of Bangla Academy, writers, teachers and poets.

The programme began with the presentation of the national anthem, followed by ekushey song-- Amar Bhaier Rakte Rangano Ekushey February and special munajat seeking divine blessing for the martyrs of language movement and liberation war. The Prime Minister and the audience observed silence for one minute, in memory of those martyrs, who

(See Page 15 Col. 2)

Steps to use

(From Page 1 Col. 4)

sacrificed their lives in the language movement of 1952.

After inaugural session, Begum Zia went round the book stalls at the academy premises.

In her speech the Prime Minister said the language veterans embraced martyrdom in Dhaka but there are no memorials after their names except the central shaheed miniar. She said roads and establishments have been named after the names of some people who have no contribution worth mentioning to the national history.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged the people to keep book in list of their gifts so that the publication sector could grow following the declaration of 2002 as the 'year of books' (grantha barsha).

She assured of her government's total support to the publication sector and create infrastructure facilities for the growth of the sector to meet people's demand.

In this context, she stressed the need for translation of our books into different languages and foreign books into Bangla hoping the country's writers and publishers would come forward in fulfilling this task.

UNB adds: To give right importance to the memory of language martyrs, the PM requested all concerned to think about naming of any remarkable establishments in the city after Language Movement martyrs and veterans.

There are no memorials to the martyrs in the city, except for Shaheed Minar, for upholding the prestige of mother tongue, she noted.

Begum Zia mentioned that many roads, avenues, squares, stadiums and important establishments of the capital city had been named after various local and foreign personalities.

"Many have been named after such persons who did not play so important roles in national history," she said in a veiled observation, adding: "I'm not saying that those should be changed."



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a bookstall after inaugurating the Ekushey Book Fair 2002 at Bangla Academy in the city on Friday.