



Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurated the month-long Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy premises on Friday.

Govt keen to formulate new book policy

Right to Information Act at final stage: CA

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed on Friday said his government, considering the importance of books in national life, is keen to formulate a new Book Policy to give a boost to the publication of books and their local and international marketing, reports UNB.

The present government, he said, is sincere in ensuring free flow of information in the country and has already taken an initiative to formulate a Right to Information Act, now at the final stage.

The head of the caretaker government made the remarks while inaugurating the month-long 'Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2008' and the month-long programme of Bangla Academy at its premises in the afternoon.

Terming Bangla Academy as the symbol of nation's intellect, Dr Fakhruddin said formulation of a time-befitting independent law for running the Academy is under active consideration of the government, as the Academy is now being run by an age-old law.

"I will try to make the law at the earliest possible," he said, adding that the activities of Bangla Academy would get further momentum with the implementation of the new law.

The Chief Adviser urged all concerned irrespective of creed, color and community to turn the country into a prosperous nation, well developed in knowledge and quality.

Earlier, at the beginning of the programme, a one-minute silence

was observed paying homage to the language martyrs, with the audience on their feet. The unforgettable music, 'Amar Bhayer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February, Ami Ki Bhulite Pari' was played at the time recalling the supreme sacrifice made by the Language movement heroes.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, Bangla Academy director general Prof Syed Mohammad Shahed and president of Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association Md Abu Taher also spoke at the inaugural function presided over by Bangla Academy president Prof M Harun-or-Rashid.

This time special arrangements have been made with increasing number of entry and exit points at

the Book Fair along with special entry points for women and children, it was informed at the function. Some bookstalls have also been set up inside Surhrawardy Udyana, just opposite to Bangla Academy.

Dr Fakhruddin said through the book policy guidelines, writing and publication of books and their marketing both at domestic and foreign markets would be accelerated.

Besides, he observed, the policy guidelines would have positive contributions in making the common people of the country more knowledgeable and involving them in nation-building activities through the creation of

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reading habits.

About the right to information he said any citizen has the right to get information from any government and private organization. Aiming at this, directives have already been given to various government, semi-government and autonomous organisations for the formulation of a Citizen's Charter.

Transparency and accountability of the government institutions can be ensured to the people through this charter, the Chief Adviser said.

He hoped that the Right to Information Act would have an epoch-making influence in building a well disciplined, creative and knowledge based society, free from corruption and terrorism.

Dr Fakhruddin underscored the need for building up an intellectual movement for increasing reading habits at the juncture of flourishing democracy and a new awakening in national life.

He hoped that the publishers, authors, readers and people of all strata would join the movement of raising the reading habits to materialize the aspirations of the nation.

In the present competitive era, he Chief Adviser said the country's people of all strata, including intellectuals, poets, litterateurs, scientists, technologists and cultural activists, have important roles to play in the building of an enlightened, dignified nation.

Mentioning the importance of the Book Fair on the occasion of Amar Ekushey, he said the authorities concerned could consider participation by international book publishers in the fair in the future. As a result, Amar Ekushey Book Fair will also turn into an international event in keeping with the emergence of Ekushey as International Mother Language Day.