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Dhaka Int'l Book Fair begins today

Dhaka International Book Fair 08 begins today at Dhaka University Central Playground, with 0 publishing houses participating, reports UNB.

Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the 15-day exhibition of books written by local and foreign authors.

The National Book Centre (NBC), under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, has organized the fair, styled Dhaka Book Fair since 1995. Welcoming the National Book Centre for organizing the fair, President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed said a message on the occasion, saying that book is the best medium of gaining knowledge.

"There is no alternative to books in grooming our mind and creating healthy lifestyle...book enlightens human faculty and plays an important role in creating moral conscience and social values."

He appreciated this year's theme for the book fair 'Book for a Peaceful World'.

Addressing a press conference at PID Auditorium at Bangladesh Secretariat, Cultural Affairs Secretary Md. Shariful Alam said this is the first time that the NBC is organizing the fair as an international book fair.

He hoped that this time the book fair would attract more visitors as the Dhaka University playground has been selected as new venue which would be more convenient for the book-lovers, to

visit.

"If this new venue succeeds in attracting the visitors, we'll try to continue to be there for next year as well," he said.

'Book for a Peaceful World' has been selected as the theme of Dhaka International Book Fair 2008.

Different book-publishing houses from different countries including India, Pakistan, China, Iran and Britain, are participating in the book fair that will continue till December 30.

The Cultural Affairs Secretary noted that 150 local and foreign publishing houses have confirmed their participation in the fair.

Entry fee for the fair has been fixed at Tk 5 per person. Schoolchildren will have free access.

The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 11 am to 7 pm on working days and from 1 pm to 8:30 pm on holidays.