

Ekushey book fair begins today

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Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2025 will begin on Bangla Academy premises and at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka today.

This year Bangla Academy organises the country's largest month-long book fair, commemorating the historic Language Movement of 1952, the War of Independence in 1971 and the participants in the recent student-led mass uprising under the theme of 'July Mass uprising- Rebuilding Bangladesh'.

The chief adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, will remain present as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony and inaugurate the fair.

The chief adviser will also hand over the Bangla Academy Literary Award 2024 at the inaugural ceremony.

Bangla Academy director general Mohammad Azam will deliver the welcome speech while cultural affairs adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki will attend the inaugural ceremony as a special guest while the session will be presided over by the academy's president Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq.

Addressing a press conference at Suhrawardy Udyan on Friday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Sheikh Md Sajjat Ali, meanwhile, said that they had special preparations to prevent mobs at Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

'The Dhaka Metropolitan Police will monitor the fair round the clock from their control room on the fair premises, and they have special preparations to prevent mobs at the fair,' said Sheikh Md Sajjat Ali, adding that the members from the intelligence and Rapid Action Battalion would remain deployed also at the fair.

The law enforcers have been alert to tackle any kind of disruption by anyone, including the banned Chhatra League, Sajjat Ali said, adding, 'At a meeting with Bangla Academy, I requested the academy not to allow displaying any provocative books at the month-long Ekushey Book Fair.'

DMP commissioner Sajjat also said that the publishers would get manuscripts verified by the Academy before publishing them at the fair from the forthcoming edition.

The fair premises will also remain free from street hawkers, rickshaws and other vehicles during the fair hours to ensure security.

'This year we will close the road from Doel Chattar point to Teacher-Student Centre only from 2:00pm to 10:00pm every day instead of closing the road permanently due to huge traffic congestion in the city,' DMP additional police commissioner for traffic Md Sarwar said, adding that no heavy vehicles would be allowed to operate in the DU area during the fair.