

## Bangla Academy programmes begin

By DU Correspondent

The traditional programmes of the Ekushey Book Fair began with a painting competition and a musical soiree on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday morning.

Some 1,200 children took part in the competition titled "Flood in Bangladesh."

Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Syed Anwar Hossain delivered the welcome address while renowned artist Quayum Chowdhury was the chief guest.

The musical programme held in the evening was participated by Shamim Akhter, Rathindra Nath Ray and Luna. A poetry recitation session was also held in the evening.

As thousands of people yesterday thronged the Ekushey Book Fair that began on the Bangla Academy premises on Friday.

Meanwhile, Sufia Kamal is expected to inaugurate the poetry festival organised by Jatiya Kobita Parisad on the

See Page 12 Col 7

## Bangla Academy

From Page 1

TSC island at 10 am on February 18.

Poet Rafiq Azad, president of the Parisad announced the programmes of the two-day festival at a press conference in the city yesterday.

A good number of poets from home and abroad are expected to take part in the festival, the organisers said.

This year for the first time poets of other languages living in Bangladesh and the "Adibasi poets" have been invited to the festival.

On the first-day, a colorful procession will be brought out from the festival venue toward Central Shaheed Minar and wreaths to be placed at the mazar of poet Nazrul Islam.

A poetry recitation session and an exhibition of books of poetry, will also be held the same day.

The second day's programmes include a session for foreign poets, announcement of the new committee of Kabita Parisad, award giving ceremony and poetry recitation.

Two seminars will also be held on the second day on the occasion of the birth centenaries of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jibananda Das.

Poet Syed Shamsul Haq has been selected for the Kabita Parisad Award '99, the organisers said.

Poets, interested to participate in the festival, have been requested to register their names by depositing the required fee. The fee for the poets of Dhaka is Tk 50 while for those from other districts is Tk 20.

The press conference was also addressed by Syed Shamsul Haq, Belal Chowdhury, Rabiul Hossain, Samudra Gupta, Mohan Raihan, Muhammad Nurul Huda, and Habibullah Siraji.