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### Bangla Academy book fair opens

Staff Reporter

A 22-day book fair as part of the Bangla Academy's month-long programme commemorating the Language Movement opened in the academy premises yesterday.

Like previous years, this year too the Academy has arranged the fair in collaboration with Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association (BBPSA).

Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf inaugurated the fair as chief guest in the afternoon. Chaired by Prof Mahmud Shah Qureshi, Director General of the academy, the inaugural function was addressed by Md Abu Taher, general secretary of BBPSA and Mr Ashfaqul Alam, convenor of the Book Fair Committee. Mr Mohammad Jahangir presented a key note paper on 'Readers' Test' in

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### Book fair

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Principal Azraf in his speech said the book fair, arranged to mark the historic Language Movement, was an integral part of our national history. He said, we must take more interest in printing and publishing books. The more we show our interest about books, the more would develop our nation he remarked.

The chief guest observed that due to different problems the percentage of literacy in our country was poor and this has also created a bottleneck for the Bangla Academy in arranging a book fair, but despite this, the number of the participants in the fair was increasing every year, he added.

Prof Qureshi paying tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement, said the book fair was a symbol of respect to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

He regretted that book publications were yet to be recognised as an industry in our country due to disinterest of the people in reading books and their poverty.

Mr Jahangir in his paper called upon all concerned to build up more public libraries with a view to increasing the habit of reading books. The reading habit of the people is decreasing due to political instability and moral erosion in the society, he said.