

Hasina opens Ekushey Boi Mela today

Staff Reporter

The month-long 'Ekushey Boi Mela' will begin today (Tuesday) at the Bangla Academy premises.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the mela at 10 a.m.

Addressing a press conference at the Academy on Monday, Mr. Farhad Khan, Deputy Director, said a total of 540 book stalls have been set up this year, of which 250 have been accommodated inside the Academy complex.

About 14 food stalls and six other social service stalls including Cancer Society, Sandhani, Rotaract Club and Red Crescent, are taking part in the fair.

"Bangla Academy will publish 60 new books on the occasion of the Ekushey Book Fair" Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, member secretary of Book Fair Committee said.

The fair will continue from February 18 to March 17.

Regarding the budget allocation for this year's 'Ekushey Boi Mela', Mr. Farhad Khan said that Taka 15 lakh 30

thousand has been allocated while the income from the 'Boi Mela' this year has been estimated at Taka 14 lakh 75 thousand. He said that Taka 15,00,000 was allocated last year while the income was Taka 13,50,000.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Steering Committee formed for the Ekushey Boi Mela was held on Monday to discuss ways of a successful holding of the mela with the cooperation from all.

The steering committee with representatives from different student organisations and cultural groups decided to conduct the traditional book fair, held every year in commemoration of the language martyrs of 1952 in peaceful manner.

Among others, acting director general of Bangla Academy Maidul Hassan, Dhaka University proctor Prof Nurunnabi, JCD leaders Habibunnabi Sohel, Abdul Khaleq and Monir Hossain and BCL leaders Enamul Haq

Shamim, Eshaq Ali Panna and Bahadur Bepari were present in the joint meeting.

Representatives from Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote and the Recitation Coordination Council also attended the meeting.

The meeting formulated a set of eleven decision to be abided by for maintaining discipline in the Boi Mela.

The decisions included restriction on erection of unauthorised stalls, no use of loud speakers inside the mela venue, no display of obscene posters or pictures in book stalls and no activity contrary to the spirit of the country's Liberation War.

It was also decided that all food stalls should display price chart at their respective stalls to avert any misunderstanding and no vehicle will be allowed to be parked inside the 'boi mela' area.

Mr. Farhad Khan said two

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fire brigade vehicles will be kept standby in the event of any fire and a generator has already been installed in the mela venue as a precautionary measure against erratic supply of electricity.

The Fire Brigade vehicles will also drench the area to ward off dust from time to time, he said.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman, member-secretary of the boi mela steering committee was also present on the occasion.