

42  
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Ekushey Book Fair begins tomorrow

## Govt urged to fix permanent venue

By DU Correspondent

The Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Syed Anwar Hossain urged the government to fix a permanent venue for the Ekushey Book Fair.

He suggested Suhrawardy Uddayan adjacent to the Bangla Academy as the venue which he said would also fall in the proposed 'cultural circle' (Sangskritik Boloy).

Prof Anwar Hossain was addressing a press conference in the city yesterday on the occasion of Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela.

Pointing at the awkward situation regarding the venue cri-

sis while organising the Dhaka Book Fair, he said that it was a disgrace that there was no permanent venue for holding a book fair.

\* The Ekushey Book Fair, a yearly event in February, will begin tomorrow. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the fair on the day. The fair will continue till February 28.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to lay the foundation of Ekushey Bhaban to be built inside the academy premises, the DG of Bangla Academy said.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Permanent venue

From page 1

Though the design of the proposed building is yet to be finalised, the DG said that there would be a museum in the building to display the documents and other mementos of the historic Language Movement of 1952.

This year the book fair would be arranged inside the Bangla Academy. There would be only 300 stalls in the fair. A total of 185 establishments are participating in this year's book fair, the DG said. Unlike in previous years there would be no stalls along the road stretching from Doel Chattar to TSC. The budget for this year's book fair has been fixed at Tk 16 lakh.

Replying to a question, the DG said that the book fair had lost its flavour for the chaotic and indecent situation created by the cassette sellers and poster sellers and other small traders outside the fair premises.

He urged all concerned to maintain the sanctity of the book fair. "This is not only a book fair, it is the manifestation of the respect for the martyred of the Language Movement and the measurement of cultural development of the

people of the country," he said.

The Bangla Academy will organise a lecture session every day till February 22 starting from February 8 during the fair hours.

There would be no food stalls in or around the fair premises, the DG said. However, there would be a canteen run by the Bangla Academy named "Lekhok Kunja" where the general visitors would also be allowed.

There would be two special stalls for the leaders and activists of the student organisations and cultural organisations inside the fair premises. When asked who would use the stalls, the DG said that he had invited all the student fronts and the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote to use the stalls reserved for them.

All the student fronts and cultural bodies had promised full cooperation for making the book fair a success, the DG added.

Several teams of plain-clothed police would be kept on constant patrol to avoid any untoward situation. Special care would be taken against anyone trying to disturb women in or around the fair premises, the DG said.