

Ekushey Book Fair concludes

By DU Correspondent

People in their thousands flocked to the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy on the concluding day yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the three-week long fair on February 5, which was later extended for another ten days.

Maula Brothers was awarded first prize for the best decorated stall, out of a total of 203 stalls. Batikkrom Prokasani and Pearl Publications were adjudged the second and third respectively.

Organisers estimated the total sale at the fair at about Taka 5 crore.

Some 799 new books of different publications were released at the fair. No untoward incident took place during the fair.

Poet Shamsur Rahman presided over the concluding ceremony of the fair held at Batamul of the Academy.

Former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain was the chief guest while Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury attended the function as special guest.

The Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Syed Anwar Hossain delivered the welcome address. He later distributed awards to the best stall owners.

Shamsur Rahman in his speech said book is the best friend of the peace-loving people and we can enlighten our lives by proper use of the book.

He expressed satisfaction over the arrangement of the fair this year, which, he said, was consistent with the spirit of the Amar Ekushey. "The spirit of Ekushey should be materialised through introduction of Bangla in every sphere of life."

Bangla Academy DG said book fair is the inspiration of the entire Bangalee nation. But, he alleged, a section of people was hatching conspiracy to tarnish the image of the Ekushey Fair.

Referring to the recent terrorist activities in the country, he said, "we don't want any firearm, we just need a book to be a perfect human being."

Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain cautioned the countrymen against the religious fanatics and called for a united movement to drive them out of the society.