

# Curtain rises on Ekushey Book Fair today

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CURTAIN rises on the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair, 2017 today as Bangla Academy is set to host the biggest get-together of readers, writers and publishers on the academy and Suhrawardy Udyan premises.

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the fair.

The premier will also distribute prizes among the winners of 'Bangla Academy Sahitya Puroshkar 2016' and inaugurate a four-day International Literature Conference 2017.

'Ocean of Sorrow', translation of noted Bengali novelist Mir Mosharraf Hosain's famous novel 'Bishad Sindhu' and 'Hundred

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poems from Bangladesh', published from Germany, will be handed over to the prime minister at the function.

The literary conference will be attended by prominent litterateurs from Austria, Germany, Puerto Rico, Malaysia, Russia, China and India.

Dong You Chen, Chinese researcher and translator of Rabindranath Tagore's works, Austrian Menfred Kebo, Luz Maria Lopez from Puerto Rica and Indian essayist Chinmoy Guha will

join the inaugural function as guests of honour.

The academy director general, Shamsuzzaman Khan, at a briefing on Monday claimed that they made all preparations for the month-long book fair at Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan.

He also assured that fool-proof security measures were taken.

This year, a total of 663 units of stalls have been allocated to 409 publishing houses and organisations to sell and exhibit their books and publications.

The stalls for the mainstream publishing houses have been placed inside Suhrawardy Udyan while those of government organisations and Bangla Academy will be inside the academy compound like previous years.

The fair time has been increased by half an hour from previous year. It will now open at 3:00pm and continue till 8:30pm.

On holidays, the fair will run between 11:00am and 8:30pm. On February 21, however, the fair will open at 8:00am and continue till

8:30pm.

Two main entry gates have been erected at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University and Doyel Chattar while three gates will be at Bangla Academy and eight gates at Suhrawardy Udyan for entry and exit.

Holding of the fair on the Bangla Academy premises began informally in 1972, but it became institutionalised in 1978. The fair was then named Amar Ekushey Granthamela and a guideline for it was formulated in 1984.