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Book Fair at Bangla Academy Opens

Conspiracy still on to destroy spirit of Ekushey: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said reactionary group that opposed the historic Language Movement is still active in destroying the spirit of the movement and values of Liberation War, reports UNB.

"Still now, we feel the shadow of that force which had struck the national spirit and values time and again," she said, calling upon all to remain alert against any conspiracy against independence and the spirit of Liberation War.

Inaugurating the Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair) at the Bangla Academy premises, the Prime Minister said this fair is

one of the main features of the Bangalee culture.

This book fair has been turned into the pride of the nation, she said, adding that the seed of liberation war has been dormant in the language movement, the most significant, non-communal and spirited movement of the country.

Hasina said it is an unprecedented incident in the history of the world that a nation had shed blood for its language.

Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dream of building a happy and prosperous Sonar

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Book Fair opens

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Bangla imbued with the spirit of the Ekushey, she added.

But a vested quarter always had tried to destroy the spirit and values of the language movement. The most heinous strike was made by them on August 15, 1975, when Bangabandhu was assassinated, she said.

They had tried to destroy the spirit of the language movement, but could not succeed for the resistance from the conscious section of the society, literateurs, intellectuals, and cultural activists, the Prime Minister added.

Conscious people were always active in all the progressive movement of the country, she said, calling upon them to remain alert and build up strong resistance against the reactionary groups.

The Prime Minister, who also laid the foundation of the multi-storied Ekushey Bhaban on the Bangla Academy premises, hoped that this building will be nerve centre for the activities of Bangalee culture.

This building will be used as a research centre of Bangalee culture for its proper grooming and flourishing, she said.

Stressing the need for using Bangla language in every sphere of life, the Prime Minister suggested publishing of the academic books in Bangla.

Presided over by Chairman of Bangla Academy poet Shamsur Rahman, the function was also addressed by educationist Dr Nileema Ibrahim, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Bangla Academy Director General Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Book Publisher and Sellers Association president Syed Fazlul Huq and Mela committee member secretary Habibul Alam.

Later, the Prime Minister formally opened the three-week-long book fair. She also visited different stalls of the book fair.

Some 185 book stalls have been set up this year.