



An army man runs a metal detector on the ground of Bangla Academy, the venue of Amar Ekushey Book Fair, in the city yesterday as part of security measures. The month-long book fair will be inaugurated today.

Ekushey Book Fair begins today amid tight security

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair-2005 begins on the Bangla Academy premises today amid tight security.

Six opposition-backed student organisations, including the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), yesterday vowed to resist the visit of the prime minister to the Dhaka University campus who is expected to inaugurate the book fair.

The prime minister has no right to inaugurate the book fair as she has formed the government with the anti-liberation elements, said BCL President Liakat Sikder at a press briefing.

The leaders of the student bodies also threatened to go for an indefinite student strike at Dhaka University (DU) if the student leaders and activists arrested during the 60-hour hartal are not released by 5:00pm today.

The book fair organising committee has completed all preparations and taken strong measures to avert any untoward incident.

The Bangla Academy authorities have already met the law enforcers and security agencies in view of the present political situation. The agencies have assured it of ensuring security in and around the fair venue.

"We have had several meetings with the law enforcers who assured us of a foolproof security during the fair," said Monsur Musa, director general of the academy.

DU teachers, publishers and writers have expressed their concern over security as last year's brutal attack on Prof Humayun Azad in front of the Academy still haunts them.

Md Nurul Huda, chief of the fair organising committee, said the members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) might be deployed to prevent recurrence of heinous

attack. Plainclothes police have already been deployed at the fair venue to keep a vigil. And number of security personnel are patrolling the university campus to check any untoward incident during the inaugural ceremony.

In a statement yesterday, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Mohammad Aktheruzzaman demanded that the government ensure security of the teachers, students and visitors at the fair venue.

They also expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

Rabin Ahsan, publisher of Sharab Prakashani, said they want security for the writers, teachers and the visitors.

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Prachyanat, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'A Man For All Seasons' authored by Robert Bolt. It has been translated by Shahed Iqbal and directed by Azadul Kalam. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony of Madrasa-e-Alia will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Madrasa premises, Bakhshi Bazar. Time: 3:00pm.

AL meeting

An emergency meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion

National Foundation for Disabled Development organises a roundtable on the 'Role of the family towards the disabled' with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 11:00am.

Rally

Gonotantrik Biplobi Jote will hold a discussion on the 'Unity in the struggle against imperialism'. Venue: 68/2, Purana Paltan. Time: 5:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Discussion

Islami Insurance Bangladesh Limited will hold a discussion on the 'Role of Islami insurance in the Islamic economy' with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Changes in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made some changes in the top level of the administration.

According to an official notification, Rafiqul Islam, secretary-in-charge of primary and mass education, has been transferred to shipping ministry.

AKM Shamsuddin, additional secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, has been made acting secretary of primary and mass education ministry.

The amount will be utilised for procurement of equipment for the Joydevpur-Kabirpur-Tangail 13.2 KV transmission line project, the release said.

Nargis Islam, joint-chief of ERD and Jan-Olaf Letman, vice-president, Nordea Bank Denmark A/S, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The Mixed Credit includes 11 million euro (Tk 85 crore) as loan and 3.5 million euro (Tk 20 crore) as grant.

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