

CULTURAL FEAST



Ekushey Boi Mela

Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Month-long book fair to be inaugurated today at 2:30pm

National Street Theatre Festival

Organisers: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation & Bengal Foundation
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: February 2-7
Time: 4:00pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: In Quest of Truth and Beauty
Artist: Samarjit Roy Choudhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 28-February 10
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

Folk Festival 2007

Organiser: Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation
Venue: Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation, Sonargaon
Date: February 3-17

Group Art Show

Title: Appointment 2007
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 3, House 26
Date: February 5-18
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm & 5:00pm-9:00pm

Environmental Films Screening

Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi
Date: February 4-8
Time: 4pm onwards

Amar Ekushey Granthamela

A feast for bookworms

are regular visitors to the fair.

Little Magazine corner is another attraction for visitors at the book fair, especially the youth activists as the magazines contains works of experimental nature.

A number of innovative programmes, including discussions and cultural events, are being held everyday at the academy stage where eminent litterateurs and academicians take part.

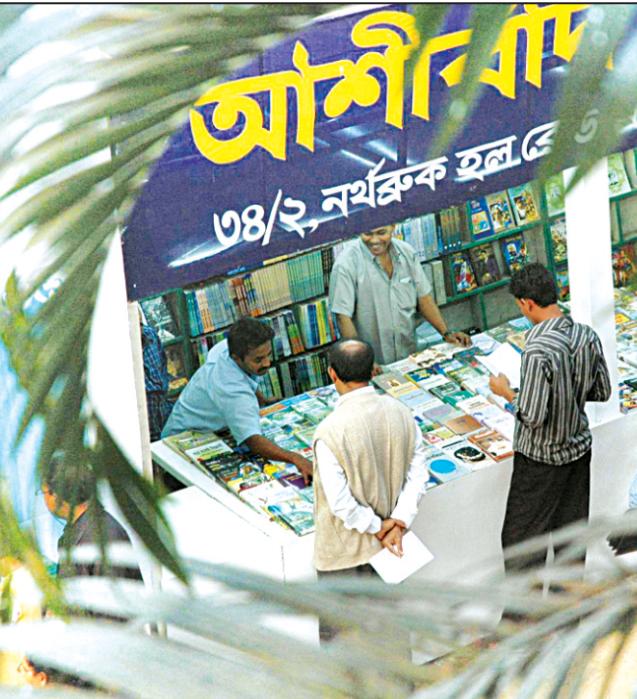
A sculpture (made of bronze and terracotta) titled 'Moder Garab', by Mohammed Mafidul Alam Khan, containing busts of five Language Movement martyrs - Rafiq, Salam, Jabbar, Barkat and Shafiq - was unveiled at the Bangla Academy premises on the first day of the fair.

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurated the month-long fair on February 1.

The fair remains open from 3:00pm to 9:00pm everyday. However, on Fridays, the fair is open from 11:00am with a two-hour break from 12:00 noon. On February 21, the fair will continue from 8:00am to 9:00pm without any break. All books at the fair are sold at 30 percent discount.

Views (top and below) of the book fair

Zafar Iqbal, Emdadul Haque Milon



the book fair were formulated and it was named 'Amar Ekushey Granthamela'. Ever since, the fair is held similarly as a national cultural event.

This year a total of 400 stalls have been allotted to 265 publication houses and some voluntary, government and non-government organisations. This year authorities reduced the number of stalls to provide the visitors more space to roam around on the premises.

'Amar Ekushey Granthamela', the largest book fair in Bangladesh, is closely linked to the cultural struggles of the people of Bangladesh.

The fair commemorates the Language Movement of 1952 that provided a momentum for cultural development in the country. The fair began in the post-Independence Bangladesh as part of the efforts to culturally awaken the nation.

The first Ekushey book fair was held under the open sky in 1972. In the following years a few publishers opened up stalls near the gates of the academy and received considerable public attention. As the number of visitors increased, Bangla Academy formally recognised the fair as 'Granthamela' (book fair) in 1978. In 1984, rules for

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