

AMAR EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

# Change of venue stressed

AMENA KHATUN

Publishers, readers and writers have suggested organising the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela at a larger venue as the Bangla Academy premises is not large enough to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

"I don't think it is mandatory to organise the book fair on the Bangla Academy premises every year. In future it would really be difficult to accommodate all these visitors only on the Academy premises," said popular writer Humayun Ahmed on Tuesday.

The publishers with the help of the authorities concerned can choose a larger

venue to hold the fair next year," he suggested.

Noted writer and researcher Prof Muntasir Mamun said, "Comparing with the other fairs across the world, we cannot say that the present venue is an ideal one to organise such a big one like the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, as hundreds of people throng the fair every day."

"In future, there might be a clash between the publishers and the Bangla Academy authorities when the latter would not be able to accommodate the increasing number of stalls on its premises," he added.

The association of the publishers through the cultural affairs ministry should

take proper initiatives to choose a larger venue," he also said.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, publisher of the Annesha Prokashan, said if the authorities decide to change it, they should fix only one venue like the International Trade Fair, otherwise it would lose its popularity.

The playground of the Dhaka University might be an ideal place to organise the fair as it is large enough to accommodate a large number of stalls. It will also encourage more visitors to come since many people feel reluctant to come to the fair now as the present venue is too congested."

Director General of the

Bangla Academy Syed Mohammad Shahed said, "Some publishers want to change the present venue while some others have opposed it apprehending that the fair might lose popularity and the sale of books might also be affected."

Bani Yasmin, a student of Dhaka University said, "I can't imagine the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela being held at some other place instead of the Bangla Academy premises as we have been accustomed to going there every year."

Instead of changing the venue suddenly, she suggested allowing more stalls in the adjacent areas like the Suvarnabhan Udyan to address the problem.

## 501 DU teachers condole loss of lives in BDR mutiny

UNB, Dhaka

Some 501 Dhaka University teachers yesterday expressed deep shock at the huge loss of lives in the two-day BDR mutiny at Pilkhana.

In a statement, they said a good number of senior army officials, a few BDR personnel and civilians were killed in the bloody incident that took place at the BDR Headquarters. "This is an irreparable loss to the country," the statement said.

The DU teachers also thanked the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her quick and pragmatic initiatives she took with patience, tolerance, firmness and wisdom that led to a peaceful solution to the unexpected trouble.

They urged all to exercise highest restraint in tackling the evolving situation.

The signatories to the statement include Dr M Anwar Hossain, Dr M Omiduzzaman, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Khandaker Bazlul Haq, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr M Akhtaruzzaman and Dr Hossain Mansur.

They also conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Eight hurt as BCL factions clash at BM College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five students and three teachers were injured in a clash between two Bangladesh Chhatra League rival groups in connection with the dining management at Aswani Kumar Hall of Barisal BM College yesterday.

Sources said tense situation is prevailing on the college campus between the factions -- one led by Moin Tushar and the other by Rafiq Serniabat who are joint conveners of the college unit.

They were engaged in clashes in the presence of teachers.

Students Chanchal Mokhles, Mizan, Liton, Walilullah, Saifur and Khokon, assistant hostel supers Akhtaruzzaman and Mojibor Rahman and Sardar Akbar Ali, teacher of history department, were injured in the half-hour-long clash.

Vice Principal Prof Ansaruddin told The Daily Star that they brought the situation under control and asked all students to maintain discipline, adding that they will take action against those involved in the incident.

On the other hand, a group of 12 to 15 miscreants riding on motorcycles came to Kuakata tourist zone on Friday night and collected tolls from residential hotel owners.

When they demanded toll from Hotel Razu, its Manager Zakir Hossain Bepari denied giving them any toll. At one stage, they beat him and snatched Tk 10,125 from the hotel counter.

Nurul Alam, a police constable of Kuakata police camp, arrested Saiful Islam Bayezid, 29, of Haludia union under Amtali upazila in Barguna.

The hotel manager lodged a case against the miscreants with Kalapara Police Station under speedy trial act.

The arrestee was sent to jail after producing him before Kalapara judicial magistrate's court.



Visitors flip through the books at a stall on the concluding day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair on the Bangla Academy premises in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## BDR MUTINY

# Call for probe to find out masterminds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties and other organisations and individuals yesterday strongly condemned the massacre at the BDR headquarters, which sent shock waves through the entire nation.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdul Hamid Advocate, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali and Chief Whip Abus Shahid expressed deep shock and condolence at the death of army officers. This is an irreparable loss for the nation, they said in separate statements.

The DU teachers also thanked the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her quick and pragmatic initiatives she took with patience, tolerance, firmness and wisdom that led to a peaceful solution to the unexpected trouble.

They urged all to exercise highest restraint in tackling the evolving situation.

The signatories to the statement include Dr M Anwar Hossain, Dr M Omiduzzaman, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Khandaker Bazlul Haq, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr M Akhtaruzzaman and Dr Hossain Mansur.

They also conveyed their deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

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