



Children browsing through books at a stall on the premises of Suhrawardy Udyan at the Ekushey book fair yesterday. A huge number of visitors poured into the fair on Language Martyrs' Day.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Aglow with Ekushey spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Imbued with Ekushey spirit, people from all strata of life thronged the book fair yesterday. Even the tight security and long queues at the venue gates did not dampen their spirits. Book sales also shot up yesterday, as people who came to pay their respects at Central Shaheed Minar dropped by to buy books. The Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the fair were crowded since 9:00am, and the crowd kept on increasing as the day rolled on. Many were seen buying books for their children and for themselves. Families should teach children about the Language Movement and also the martyrs, who laid down their lives for the recognition of Bangla as a state language, said Hasina Akhter, a housewife. "We need to inspire our children to speak in Bangla," she stressed. While, Mohammad Asaduazzaman, a private service holder, said the history of the 1952 Language Movement and the sacrifice



made by the martyrs should be spread among the young generation. Beauty Begum, another visitor, however, said the practice of speaking Bangla correctly and properly starts at home. "Many guardians hesitate to encourage their children learning their academic lessons in Bangla. Learning other languages is important but it's urgent to show respect to our mother language first." Talking to this correspondent, some publishing houses admitted that they do not publish books specifically for learning Bangla as few want to buy those. Meanwhile, "Shrestha Rohosso Upponnash", a collection of three novels -- Bidesh Jatra, Mrittuchumboon and Ghatok by writer Rakib Hasan was launched by Daily Star Books yesterday. Lyricist Shahidullah Farazi, Prof Shoab Gibrán, author Mohit Kamal and Emran Mahfuz were present.



Guests at the launch of "Shrestha Rohosso Upponnash", a collection of three novels -- Bidesh Jatra, Mrittuchumboon and Ghatok by writer Rakib Hasan, at the book fair yesterday. Daily Star Books published the book.

PHOTO: STAR SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Kids enjoy with Bangla alphabets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of children was drawing pictures whereas another group was taking part in a Bangla language writing competition. Meanwhile, some highly exuberant children were taking selfies with huge Bangla alphabets in the backdrop. This was the scenario of the eighth edition of Barna Mela-2017, a fair projecting the history of the 1952 Language Movement, on the premises of the capital's Residential Model College yesterday. Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the fair which was swarmed by the children accompanied by their parents. There were a number of stalls including Barnopohar, Barnacaricature, Barnabirál and Hatekhari. The fair-ground was also decorated with huge Bangla alphabets to create enthusiasm among the new generation for the language. Besides, colourful and decorated alphabets created by children with mud, rope, paper or metal, which earlier got selected by the organiser, were put on display in the middle of the field. The fair saw the cheerful presence of children who thronged there to participate in the competition in three age groups. Eminent Tagore exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya inaugurated the daylong programme that started at 9:00am.

Reverence for heroes

STAR REPORT

"Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February Ami Ki Bhulitey Pari..." The song that epitomises Amar Ekushey not only has a special place in the hearts of Bangalees, it also lifts their spirits. Humming the tune, thousands of people from all walks of life thronged the capital's Central Shaheed Minar and elsewhere to pay homage to the Language Movement heroes yesterday. Bare-footed and holding flowers, they wore black and white to honour the supreme sacrifice. The Shaheed Minar premises, adorned in different colours, wore a festive look with street paintings and graffiti in Bangla alphabets and selected verses about mother language on the walls. Programmes including discussions and cultural sessions nationwide and in Bangladesh missions abroad reminisced the sacrifice made by Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafique and others, according to

messages received yesterday. The day is being observed worldwide as the Unesco in 1999, declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day. On February 21, 1952, students and people from all walks of life took to the streets in Dhaka to protest the then Pakistan government's refusal to recognise Bangla as one of the state languages and imposition of Urdu as the only official language of Pakistan. Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Shafiq, Jabbar and a few others were killed when police opened fire on their procession. In Dhaka, people gathered at the Shaheed Minar since the early hours to pay homage to the language heroes. The national flag was hoisted at half-mast in all educational institutions and government, semi-government and autonomous offices to show respect to the language martyrs. President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin



CJ unhappy as Bangla not fully implemented at courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday expressed sorrow as the use of mother language Bangla has not been fully introduced in the court proceedings. "Though Bangla has been introduced at public offices, it has not yet been possible to implement this at courts.

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