

Book fair wears festive look

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

Amar Ekushey Book Fair wore a festive look as book enthusiasts of the city thronged the Bangla Academy premises yesterday evening.

Hundreds of book lovers, mostly youths, flocked to the academy premises, going around the stalls and looking for new arrivals. Some of them were also seen buying books.

"Usually the sale of books gets momentum after a week when the real book-worms gather here," said a publisher.

Visitors of the book fair welcomed some special measures of the authorities like the ban on polythene, smoking and use of loud speakers at the fair premises to hold it with due solemnity.

An information centre has been set up near Bardaman House to keep the visitors informed about new publications and other events.

A total of 20 new books came to the fair yesterday, said an official of the academy at the information centre.

Of them, Mukta Dhara published two books of popular novelist Humayun Ahmed titled *Chale*

Jai Basanter Din and Nil Manush. Anannya Publication house published three new books including *Shanta Paribar* of Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and two novels of Imdadul Haq Milon, named *Balo Tare* and *Abhijan Parbo*.

Smritir Patay Priyojan, a novel of Hasnat Abdul Hye published by Shirin Publications came to the fair yesterday.

Annya Dhara published *The Enigma of Arrival*, a novel by Nobel Laureate VS Naipaul.

Meanwhile, the discussion and cultural programmes of the book fair has begun.

A discussion on 'Fifty Years of Amar Ekushey: Progress of Science in Bengali Language' was held yesterday.

A discussion on 'Fifty Years of Amar Ekushey: Changes of Culture' will be held at 4.00pm today. Eminent singers will perform Tagore song following the discussion.

The book fair remains open for all from 2.00pm to 8.00pm every day and from 11.00am to 8.00pm during the holidays. On February 21, the fair will remain open from 8.00am to 9.00pm.

5.5 lakh tons of urea to be imported this yr

BSS, Dhaka

The government will provide Taka 380 crore as subsidy to urea fertiliser during the current (2001-2002) fiscal year, official sources said yesterday.

The government has decided to increase the level of subsidy to urea fertiliser by Tk 100 crore to keep the prices of fertiliser within the purchasing capacity of farmers, sources at the Industries Ministry and BCIC said.

They said the government would import 5,50,000 metric tons of urea fertiliser this year, which is 50,000 tons more than the previous year's import.

The government will directly import 2,87,000 lakh tons from different Middle-Eastern countries while 1,32,000 tons will be procured from KAFCO.

The imported fertiliser will be distributed among dealers at a price of Tk 5,000 per ton against its purchasing cost of Tk 9000, the sources said. That means the government will provide Tk 220 crore as subsidy to fertiliser import.

And BCIC would provide over Tk 160 crore as subsidy to fertiliser production this year, the sources said.



Opposition Leader and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina exchanged views with the leaders and activists of Dhaka district Chhatra League at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

'BNP-Jamaat govt distorts history in textbooks'

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League yesterday bitterly criticised the BNP-Jamaat government for "destroying the future of the young generation" by distorting history in textbooks.

"The students will suffer, rather than acquire knowledge from these textbooks," said party's Education and Human Resources

Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid at a press briefing.

He said the government, to serve its petty interests, created stigma for the nation through including erroneous information and distorted history in the school textbooks.

Quoting a book of Class-VIII where it was mentioned that Ziaur Rahman declared independence on March 26, 1971, Nahid said "It is a violation of country's Constitution."

In the revised textbooks, it was written that the literacy rate of the country is 48.7 per cent, which is actually 65 per cent according to official statistics, he pointed out.

All the students are yet to get their textbooks while the already printed books are full of wrong spellings, incorrect sentences, inconsistencies and contradictions, he alleged.

Nahid, who was the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry during the past AL rule, also narrated the politicisation in the educational arena.

He mentioned that the government has appointed their own party men removing the elected vice chancellors of different universities bypassing the existing rules and regulations.

Lack of necessary infrastructure obstacle to eco-tourism industry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has immense potential for eco-tourism industry that can contribute to economy by attracting foreign tourists in a large number, but lack of necessary infrastructure is the main obstacle to developing the industry.

This was viewed at a seminar in the city yesterday. The directorate of forest organised the seminar to mark the 'Eco-Tourism Year 2002' declared by the United Nations.

Pointing out that there are a number of attractive spots in the country, the speakers stressed the need for developing transportation and accommodation facilities for the foreign tourists.

Forest and environment secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation chairman Abdur Razzaq Prof. Amin Al Mohammad and chief conservator Golam Qudus Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

A Z M Shamsul Huda presented the keynote paper on 'Eco-

Tourism and Sundarbans'.

"The physical features and functional phenomena of the Sundarbans could be very potential tools to eco-tourism," said Sabihuddin Ahmed.

He underscored the need for identification of many other areas in the Sundarbans for eco-tourism and mentioned some of the identified corners, such as Karamjal, Katka-Kachikhal, Nilkamal Shakeret and Mandarbaria.

Shamsul Huda said although there are many forms of tourism developed recently, the eco-tourism has been found most popular and acceptable to many countries.

He said it offered a new way to attract more visitors and revenue for the country.

Apart from the Sundarbans, he mentioned a number of areas in the country which are suitable for eco-tourism.

The spots are Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Tamabil-Jallong, Borolekha, Kuakata, Rangamati, Kapitai Bandarban and Barisal.

The chairman of Parjatan Cor-

poration said ninety per cent areas of Bangladesh are suitable for eco-tourism.

"We are very rich in areas suitable for eco-tourism, the only need is to develop infrastructure and policy guidelines," he said.

The BPC chairman urged the private sector to help develop infrastructure and accommodation facilities to promote eco-tourism.

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It is notified to all concerned that we are going to replace our fishing trawler Deep Sea-03. The new vessel also will be named Deep Sea-03. If there is any objection regarding the name of the new trawler please inform the Principal Officer, Merchantile Marine Department, CGO Building No. 1, Agrabad, Chittagong within 7 days from the date of publication of this notification.

A. Rouf Chowdhury
Managing Director
Deep Sea Fishers Ltd.
113-116 Old Airport Road
Rangs Bhaban (4th Floor)
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.

D-79

Public Notice

It is notified to all concerned that we are going to replace our fishing trawler FV Hartford-10. The new vessel also will be named FV Hartford-10. If there is any objection regarding the name of the new trawler please inform the Principal Officer, Merchantile Marine Department, CGO Building No. 1, Agrabad, Chittagong within 7 days from the date of publication of this notification.

A. Rouf Chowdhury
Managing Director
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D-78



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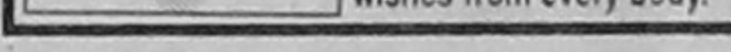
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C-287

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Contact
Al-Haj Mohd. Mostafa
Russell Marine Store
90-90A, Nawabpur Road, Dhaka.
Phone: 71157309, 7119016.
Mobile: 017-812623, 017-681557

C-287

QULKHWANI

Retd. Dist and Sessions Judge Mr. Shaikh Khorshed Ali passed away on 1st February, 2002 at 10.30 A.M (Inna Lillahi-----) His Qulkhani will be held on 3rd February, Sunday, 2002 after Magrib prayer at his residence (6/1, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhaka. Phone-9118551).

The bereaved members of his family request friends, relatives and well-wishers to be present at Qulkhani and pray for salvation of the deceased.

C-286

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