

631 NEW BOOKS AT EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR SO FAR

## Number of publications falls for price hike of paper

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amar Ekushey Book Fair, which began on Bangla Academy premises on February 1, has seen a total of 631 new books under different categories as of yesterday, the 10th day of the month-long fair.

The figure was 1061 during the corresponding period last year, according to Bangla Academy public relations office.

Among the new books of this year are 132 novels, 101 books of poems, 49 books of stories and 41 books of essay. And there are only five new books for children.

Publishers said they could not bring out new books in a large number due to price hike of paper.

They thought higher prices of books might discourage people from buying books, a publisher said. But as the sale of books is satisfactory, they are now willing to bring out more new books, he added.

The volume of new books will go up in the last 10 days of the fair, he hoped.

The fair yesterday saw the arrival of 90 new books -- 24 books of

poems, 16 books of stories and 15 novels.

Like every year, novels by eminent writers top the bestsellers' list. However, many readers have shown their interest in other topics such as history, politics, liberation war, essay, translation, research, science and computer, publishers said.

A discussion on 'Subject of Bangladeshi novels: Feature and changes' was held as part of regular programme at the Bangla Academy stage yesterday afternoon, followed by a cultural function.

'Ganotantrer Pathey Arthonitir Samriddhi', a book by Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank and founder-President of East West University, will be launched at the fair today.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will unveil the cover of the book, published by Moula Brothers, at 5:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Two models sashay down the catwalk during a French fashion show titled 'Paris Comes to Dhaka' at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

## Currencies worth Tk 40 lakh seized from Pak citizen at ZIA

UNB, Dhaka

Customs cops seized currencies of different countries, including some Bangladeshi taka, worth about Tk 40 lakh from the luggage of a Pakistani passenger at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday.

Customs sources said they, along with immigration officers, chased Mohammad Akbar, 49, who landed at the ZIA in a flight at about 11:40am, for his "suspicious movement".

As Akbar tried to cross the green signal, evading the eyes of security officials, the airport authorities held him. They recovered currencies, including 25 lakh Indian rupees, worth a total of about Tk 40 lakh, from his luggage after scanning.

Later, Akbar was handed over to Airport Police Station after filing a case against him in connection with the currency smuggling.