FROM PAGE 1

last caretaker government, recommended 54 out of 122 ordinances Sunday for ratification. The ordinances are required approval of the cabinet before those can be tabled as bills in the House.

Prevention (amendment) Ordinance, 2007, is among the 10 approved yesterday. Two other important ordinances approved by the cabinet are Electoral Rolls Ordinance, 2007, and Election Commission Secretariat Ordinance, 2008.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired yesterday's cabinet meeting held at the Cabinet Division of the meeting with Foreign Minister Bangladesh Secretariat.

around 11:00am, lasted for about five hours and discussed the 10 ordinances at length before approval.

The other ordinances are related to Rangpur university, university of professionals, trademarks, speedy trials, Tourism and money-loan

The cabinet also approved supplementary budgets of 2006-07 and 2007-08 fiscal years and the budget of 2007-

Offence Speedy Trial Act 2007, and place it before the cabinet in the next meeting for approval.

About money laundering, Bangladesh Bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed informed the meeting that a huge the United Kingdom.

to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting.

Azad, however, did not reply when he was asked whether any decision was made about getting the money back.

Asked whether there was any discussion on a tribunal for trying war criminals, he replied in the negative.

University Ordinance, 2008, renaming the institution to Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

The press secretary said the meeting amended the Bangladesh University of Professionals Ordinance to keep the president as univer-

net observed that a probe flawed voter list prepared during the BNP-Jamaat regime so that the people responsible could be punished and any attempts to hold farcical election in future could be prevented.

After Election Commission (EC) Secretary Humayun Kabir informed ministers that about two crore fake voters were found in that voter list, the cabinet discussed the matter.

persons should be brought to justice," Azad told reporters. They were of the opinion that crores of taka could be saved by stopping such the malpractices," he added.

Time not right FROM PAGE 1

Our former prime minister also did the same thing," he said without elaborating. Ispahani, a former ambas-

sador of Pakistan, was talking to reporters after holding a Dr Dipu Moni at her office. He The meeting started arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day visit.

He said it is not the right time to initiate trial of the 1971 war criminals involving the Pakistani Army, as there are many other issues of cooperation between the two countries.

"We should not go into the issue at the moment because there are many other issues on which we like to cooperate with Bangladesh," he said when a reporter asked about Pakistan's position on the present government's move to try the war criminals as many Pakistan Army personnel were accused of committing war crimes.

Asked if they will support the trial of war criminals, the special envoy of the Pakistan President said, "I don't want to make any comment."

He appreciated the present government's idea of forming a regional anti-terrorism taskforce as Pakistan is suffering from terrorist attacks.

Textbooks

FROM PAGE 16

Board (NCTB) is planning to reprint more 15 percent of the total printed textbooks (total 2.62 crore) to resolve the persisting textbook crisis at the secondary level, NCTB sources

NCTB may call tender within two or three days for reprinting the additional number of textbooks so that students can buy their necessary books easily He said the meeting gave from the market, according to

"It is true that 2.62 crore textbooks is not enough for secondary level students now. So, NCTB after consultation with the education minister and its top officials may take a decision of reprinting more 15 percent of the total printed textbooks," Colonel Reza-nur-Rahman Khan, chief of the taskforce on textbooks and additional director general of Rab told The Daily Star.

Replying to a question, the taskforce chief said publishers identified three main reasons behind the textbooks crisis include NCTB's decision of printing less textbooks against its actual demand, delayed release of white papers by NCTB and giving less time for printing the textbooks.

Publishers also said recently held Eid festival, parliament elections and upazila elections also have hampered the process of printing the textbooks and its marketing, he said.

Local govt to stay

And the special committee has decided to drop similar provisions from the ordinances on city corporations and municipalities when those will be sent to it for scrutiny after being placed as bills in parliament, committee members

In that event, mayors and councillors of city corporations and municipalities, and chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazila parishads will not face any legal barrier to continue in their party posts.

The new ordinances widened the jurisdiction of local government institutions. They imposed restrictions on the representatives' holding party posts on observation that local bodies fail to live up to public expectations due to the incumbents' involvement in politics.

had allegedly used their law. offices as means to meet political ends.

To do away with the practices, the ordinances say those elected to local governments must resign from their party posts before taking oath.

In compliance with the provisions, mayors and councillors of four city corpora- ters. tions and nine municipalities quit party positions before swearing-in in August last

Chairmen and vicechairmen-elect in the upazila polls are lucky in that they will not have to do that before oath.

Advocate Rahmat Ali, chairman of the special committee, said the local government representatives should be allowed to hold party posts.

"If members of parliament can hold party posts, then why

The committee will scrutiny provisions of the two ordinances on city corporations and municipalities when these will be sent to it after being placed in parliament as bills, Rahmat Ali said.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam too has expressed disapproval of the 'eliminate politics'.

create a leadership vacuum in the grassroots of political

AL, which won the majority posts in upazila parishads, city corporations and municipalities, will be the worst affected Representatives in the past if the ordinances are passed as

councillors elected in August 4 polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities belonged to AL and had to leave party posts before taking

The party however did not accept their resignation let-

Grassroots level leaders of the AL-led ruling alliance also won most of the upazila parishads. The Election Commission

(EC) Secretariat has lately published gazettes with polls results of 446 upazilas. As per the ordinances,

Contacted yesterday, chairmen and vice-chairmenelect will have to take oath in 30 days after publication of the gazettes.

ordinances lose legal force on February 24, they will not have to give up their party posts.

50 notices

FROM PAGE 16 Agreement (Tifa) with the

The other issues include deterioration of law and order, rise in incidence of extortion, hijacking and post election violence, textbook crisis, shortage of power, intrusion of Indian ships into Bangladesh's territorial waters, traffic congestion in Dhaka city, violence in various public universities, watersharing with India, trade deficit with different countries and decreasing of manpower

The opposition lawmakers demanded that the discussions on the issues should be held in parliament adjourning the scheduled business of the House.

Clarifying the rejection of all the notices, Speaker Abdul Hamid told the House that the ministries concerned will take appropriate actions on the issues of text book crisis, water sharing, traffic congestions and GDP growth.

Turning down the demands for discussions on law and order and extortion, the speaker said the matters can be dealt with under the existing laws.

He said the contents of other notices are not clear while some of them are based on assumption and not related to the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad.

"So, I am extremely sorry for not being able to accept any notice," he said.

Opposition lawmakers Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, ANM Shamsul Islam, AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Joynal Abedin Faruq, Shaid Uddin Chowdhury, Harun-ur Rashid, AKM Hafizur Rahman and Golam Mostafa submitted the notices. Earlier, the speaker

rejected 21 notices of the opposition lawmakers, who demanded holding discussions on various issues. The speaker usually does

not entertain such notices unless the treasury bench decides to hold discussion on an issue.

Ecnec to decide

FROM PAGER 1

by April 2010. If the country fails to become a member of ICAO. Bangladesh citizens' access to international manpower markets as well as obtaining all types of visas would be at risk. Some 115 out of 187 member

nations of the ICAO, including India and Pakistan, have so far issued machine-readable passports to their citizens. "We need Tk 350 crore for

software and hardware for the project and Tk9 crore to engage the consultant firm but we have Tk 2 crore in hand," said Abdur Rob Hawlader, director general of the Department of Immigration and Passport, while talking to The Daily Star last month.

Home ministry sources said the ministry will float an international tender to start the implementation of the project immediately after the cabinet approval.

Earlier in 2006, the home ministry sent a Tk 1,561 crore project for procurement of machine-readable passport, visa and national identity cards

to the purchase committee. Of the amount, about Tk 750 crore was set aside for MRP and visa. The proposal was sent to the purchase committee without approval of Ecnec to award the tender to a single company. But the purchase committee rejected the project at that time.

During the caretaker government regime in 2007-08, the home ministry revived the project but eventually decided to leave the project for the next elected government.

India goes

FROM PAGE 16 Ahead of the parliamentary

polls in April-May, the government in its budget announced several significant steps, and allocated Rs 1,31,317 crore for its flagship social sector schemes to boost a slowing economy. The budget makes no

changes in direct and indirect taxes, but for the extension of a two per cent interest subvention on pre and post-shipment credit to certain labourintensive sectors to support exports hit by the global economic slump. "The mandate of the gov-

ernment is coming to an end by May 22-23. Elections are due. I can neither indulge in reckless borrowing nor go on imposing taxes without the mandate of parliament. It will be a wrong thing to do," Mukherjee said as the Indian industry termed the budget a "big disappointment".

Jaitley.

for the common man.

people from the feuding groups The opposition dubbed the budget as offering "poll lollipops" with BJP leader Arun

complex. The Congress said it's a remarkable budget, especially

LGC sees red light

tant proposal before the local

government ministry where it

suggested that local govern-

ment bodies make their own

annual and five-year devel-

opment programme and

draft budget in line with the

national plan through discus-

proposal, the LGC chairman

said, "We made some propos-

als as the upazila parishad is

set to start activities and I

think it will be helpful for the

upazila parishad to involve

locals in decision-making

meetings which even the

He also said they want

When asked about the

sions with locals.

government."

focus if the activities of the commission are stopped.

commission could have formulated a policy so that the areas where opposition leaders are elected representative would not be deprived of due allocation for development

When asked, LGC Chairman Muhammad Faizur ment bodies."

said, "Besides ensuring balanced development, the commission as an institution could play a vital role in making the local government bodies accountable for its actions and their activities

The last caretaker government promulgated the ordinance on LGC May 11, 2008, but the commission was formed on November 1 Government appointed the chairman on November 9.

The government did not inform the LGC anything about its future.

dark." Sources said the commission already placed an impor- be ratified.

On the commission's necessity, Tofael told The Daily Star, "The commission can play a role in ensuring proper expenditure of local government bodies' funds through monitoring." "A separate national bud-

ensured, he added.

get for local government bodies can be placed before the parliament by the local government minister as there are six city corporations, 481 upazilas, 64 districts, 309 municipalities and about 5,000 union parishads," he said.

Sources said the LGC was also planning to urge the finance ministry to allocate money for local government bodies with due emphasis and mentioning it clearly in the national budget.

People concerned fear the ideas and plans of the commission are going to fall flat as the ordinance is not going to

'Luggage' issue maker, Muhith said a process is on to offload shares of 40 more

occurred long ago, adding, "I don't think enough progress could be made in the investiga-The finance minister how-

ever assured the lawmakers

that he will look into whether

FROM PAGE 1

an investigation could be launched. Awami League (AL) lawmaker Zillul Hakim brought the allegation during a question-answer session, saying the

luggage was filled with the national currency, dollars, and jewelleries. In response to Zillul's allegation, Muhith said reports to that effect were published in newspapers and he did not

know anything more about the "Even the National Board of Revenue does not have much information on it," the finance

minister said. In response to a query of AL lawmaker Meher Afroz Chumki on the much talked about issue of getting back the money allegedly laundered abroad by the former prime minister's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, the finance minister said a case was filed with a court of the District of Columbia in the US. "After the case is adjudicated, we hope we will get the money back," Muhith said.

In response to another query of BNP lawmaker ANM Shamsul Islam, the finance minister in a scripted answer said the country received remittance of \$8,979 million equivalent to Tk 61,587.15 crore last year.

the same lawmaker who was not present during the session as his party continued to boycott the House proceedings, the finance minister said the amount of foreign reserve was \$5,670.97 million on February

In response to another question of the same law-

55 hurt

FROM PAGE 16 Chowdhury and Aulad Shikdar of the village over land owner-

The latest trouble started when a cow of Kabul's supporter Shamim destroyed a crop field of Aulad's supporter Bashar Lashkar Friday.

In a sequel to the incident, both the groups, equipped with sharp weapons and sticks, locked in a clash at about 9:00am yesterday, resulting in a three-hour-long rioting. On information, police

attacked the law- enforcers, prompting them to charge baton to bring the situation under control. Sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman of Mollarhat Police Station, five constables and 49

were injured in the battle. Of the injured, 40 were admitted to the local health

market situation. Replying to AL lawmaker

Tajul Islam's query, the finance minister in a scripted answer said the GDP growth had been 5.7 during BNP-led alliance government's regime, which rose to 6.32 during the immedi-

In response to AL lawmaker Enamul Haque's question, the finance minister said the government has no plan to withdraw the certificate cases filed against farmers to recover defaulted loans.

WHITE PAPERS ON POST &

TELECOM GRAFT In the same question-answer session, Post and Telecommunication Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu said white papers on corruption in the post and telecommunication ministry during the BNP-

He also said the government has a plan to take land phone lines and internet to all villages for building the digital Bangladesh ruling Awami League promised during its election campaign.

Demand

Razzak at the ministry. Around 30 new titles on

science fictions have arrived in Star after the meeting.

CHT, he said.

ernment should activate the CHT Land Commission to demilitarise the civil administration in the CHT as per CHT accord.

government would take necessary measures in this regard and adding that it is also considering formation of a land commission to settle the disputes of the indigenous people both in hilly and plain areas. He sought help from the

Earlier, the delegation members called on Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office.

the CHT Peace Accord and added that it will be easier to solve any problem in CHT as peoples' representatives are in powernow.

bers.

Torture victim support centre for women, children opens

UNB, Dhaka

A 'Victim Support Centre' has been established to provide all kinds of legal support to women and children who are victim of repression or harassment.

Bangladesh Police and 10 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have partnered in establishing the specialized centre in Tejgaon thana compound with assistance from the donor-aided Police Reform Programme.

Khatun will inaugurate the centre today, said an official announcement yesterday.

local lawmaker can preside State Minister for Home over. Transparency and Affairs Tanjim Ahmed, Home accountability has to be Secretary Md Abdul Karim, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammd, Resident Coordinator of UNDP Renata Lok Dessallien and European Commission Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein will attend as special guests during the inaugurauon.

> Women and children victims of trafficking, acid attack, rape, sexual harassment or family repression will get service from the centre round the clock, said the release of the police headquarters. The victims will also get

and health advice along with legal support under the humanitarian venture. The centre will provide advice to the victim's family and

psycho-sociological counseling

work for creating public aware-"The support centre has been established in a women and children-friendly environment and will be run by trained

women police," it said. The well-trained women police will provide instant service as per victims' need with the help of 10 NGOs.

The 10 NGOs are Ain O Salish Kendra, Association for Community Development, Association for Correction and Social Reclamation, Aparajeyo Bangla, Acid Survivors Foundation, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and Mary Stopes.

Altaf, Falu

FROM PAGE 16

country yesterday. Sources said Falu with his wife, daughter and personal assistant got to the airport around 8:00am to fly to Jeddah on flight EK-583 scheduled to

leave at 10:00am. Meanwhile, Altaf reached the airport around noon to board on TG-322 for Bangkok. However, immigration officials told The Daily Star that they were barred from going abroad as there is ban on their leaving the country.

Fishing cat FROM PAGE 16

Informed by the local forest officials, police rushed to the spot but could not recover the dead fishing cat.

When contacted Amiruzzaman Amir, officer in charge (OC) of Gouranadi Police Station told The Daily Star that they went to the spot but the angry villagers had already killed and thrown the

cat into the river. We asked forest department to take action against the killers but they are yet to take any step said the OC.

Check graft

FROM PAGE 16 people there.

The commission made the call when its delegation led by its co-chair Lord Eric Avebury called on Food Minister Abdur

"There is a huge volume of corruption in rationing system," commission member Shapan Adnan told The Daily

The commission urged the government for providing rations to the Bangalee settlers who want to return to their previous houses outside the Lord Avebury said the gov-

The minister assured that

commission in resolving the land problems of the indigenous people.

Dipu Moni said the present government will take all the steps for full implementation of

The commission's resource person Yuko Shiva, Bangladesh secretariat Coordinator Shirin Sultana Lira, International Secretariat Coordinator Christina Nilsson and its member Dr Meghna Guhathakurta were also the delegation mem-

British, French nuclear subs collide in Atlantic

AFP, London

British and French nuclear submarines collided in the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, media reports said yesterday.

Britain's HMS Vanguard and France's Le Triomphant were both damaged in the crash in the early hours of February 4, but there were no reports of damage to the nuclear parts, said the Daily Telegraph and The Sun newspapers.

France's defence ministry said on February 6 that Le Triomphant, a ballistic nuclear submarine, was damaged when it hit an object under water earlier that week. It did not identify the object.

The British sub has now been towed to its Faslane base in western Scotland for repair, reports said.

The two submarines are equipped with sonar to detect other vessels. Both vessels -between them carrying about 250 sailors -- were reportedly submerged and on separate missions when they crashed. Britain's Ministry of

Defence refuses to comment on submarine operations but a spokesman said: "The UK's deterrent capability has remained unaffected at all times and there has been no compromise to nuclear safety." French officials made no

reports. France's defence ministry said on February 6 that no-one

comment on the latest media

was injured and there was no security threat from the incidentitacknowledged.

Le Triomphant, one of France's four nuclear-armed submarines, hit the object -said at the time to be probably a container -- while submerging, and immediately returned to base at Ile-Longue, near Brest

in northwest France. "The sonar dome situated in the front was damaged," said a statement from the navy, adding that the incident "did not result in injuries among the crew and did not jeopardise nuclear security at any moment."

Each vessel is 150 metres long and 13 metres in diameter, and can carry up to 48 nuclear warheads on a maximum of 16 missiles. The BBC, which also

reported the collision, said the vessels were both "seriously armed. HMS Vanguard, launched in 1992, is one of four nuclear submarines operated by the British military as part of its

Trident system, and one is always on deterrent patrol. France and Britain are two of the world's five declared nuclear powers, along with the United States, China and

Russia. France has maintained a sea-based nuclear deterrent force since 1971. Britain is planning to renew its Trident submarine nuclear missile system, at a cost of about 20 billion pounds (now 30 billion dollars/22 billion euros).

Gunbattle at JU

FROM PAGE 1

In the meantime, a few activists of Jony group took position in Bottola area and the activists of Ayon group attacked them with sharp weapons that left five injured.

Following the attack, over 200 activists of Jony group launched an attack on the activist of Ayon group with firearms at Battola.

Later, chases and counter

chases took place between the

two groups in Bangabandhu

Hall, Kamal Uddin Hall, Bhasani Hall and Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall and in front of the Social Science Faculty. Both groups used firearms,

iron rods, hockey sticks, machetes and sticks during an four demands before the hour-long clash that turned the campus into a battlefield. Fifteen of the injured, including bullet-hit students

were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the capital and in Savar. The bullet-hit students are Sagar and Robin, student of masters' degree in economics,

student, and Rubel and Sohel, first-year students. Rubel and Sohel, received bullets in their legs, and were undergoing treatment at Pongu Hospital in the capital.

Sujan, a second-year honours

Condition of two other injured students--Shubho and Sobhon--was stated to be critical at Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar. Sajib, Khokan, Rony, Ripon and Jihan were also admitted to that hospital.

An emergency syndicate meeting was held in the evening to discuss the campus situation but the vicechancellor of the university was not available to make any comments.

After the meeting, Assistant Proctor Abdullah Hel Kafi said they will stop such clashes by any means but he could not say how. "It is a political conflict and this issue will end through the interference of the top leaders of Awami

Govt assures

FROM PAGE 1 different public services.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Textiles Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui went to the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital where around 100 BCS candidates, unsuccessful in second phase of BCS exam, were observing hunger strike.

strike following the ministers' assurance of taking measures for the candidates demand. The candidates will organise a press conference at

The candidates ceased the

National Press Club at 4:00pm today. Following irregularities in the 1st phase results of the

27th BCS exam, the caretaker government ordered the Public Service Commission (PSC) to give viva voce again. Following the instruction, PSC arranged another viva voce and published 2nd phase results recommending a total of 3,239 candidates for different public services.

In the 2nd phase results, some 1108 candidates could not qualify. They have been raising questions against the refreshed results and displaying different types of protest programmes--press conference, rally and hunger strike-since PSC published the result September 23.

League," he told The Daily Campus sources said the conflict began between the two groups as Adnan Bhuiyan Ayon, leader of the Ayon group, gave shelter to former

JCD activists in JU Chhatra League unit. Additional police were deployed on campus and police will conduct raids in the

Witnesses said though all Chhatra League activities were banned in the university, both the factions have been showing off their muscles for the last few days. Executive council of JU teachers association in an

halls soon, police sources said.

emergency meeting placed university authorities including immediate arrest of those who attacked teachers' homes.

Sharia law

FROM PAGE 16

system," he added.

reporters in the regional capital Peshawar. "All laws against Sharia will be abolished and Sharia will be

enforced under this justice

Mohammad, a pro-Taliban

cleric, is considered more moderate than his son-in-law Fazlullah. The implementation of this agreement will be done with the establishment of peace in the region when the writ of the government is restored," said a copy of the

deal, signed by ministers and Maulana Mohammad Alam, Soofi's deputy. The Islamists vowed to disarm once Islamic justice

came into practice.

"We are satisfied. When Sharia is implemented practically, people will lay down their arms," said Mohammad Iqbal Khan, a senior follower of Mohammad. "We will soon convene a

meeting of our Shura (consul-

tative council) after which

Soofi Mohammad will visit

Swat and convince the Taliban

there to disarm," Khan added. Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan said Sunday that a 10-day ceasefire, announced as a "goodwill gesture" could become permanent if a deal was signed on Monday. Pakistan, under massive

Western pressure to clamp

down on extremists, has

deployed its poorly equipped military to try to flush out the militants and wrest back control of Swat, which locals say has fallen to the insurgents. The government has held that negotiations are the best

hope of restoring peace, although past deals have collapsed rapidly. A peace deal signed between Pakistan's government and pro-Taliban militants in Swat last May quickly unravelled after radicals

attacked security forces.

cials have criticised previous peace deals in Pakistan, saying that they have led to an increase in suicide attacks on international and Afghan forces across the border in Afghanistan. "It is my hope that the

US, Nato and Afghan offi-

armed people will disarm themselves, give up the path of violence and work for restoration of peace in Swat," chief minister of NWFP, Amir Haider Hoti, told reporters Monday.

"The prime minister and her cabinet colleagues discussed that the matter and said there should be an investigation and the responsible

The Money Laundering

08 and 2008-09 fiscal years. The cabinet, however, asked the home ministry to further scrutinise the Law and Order Disruption (amendment) Ordinance,

amount of money had been siphoned off to Malaysia and "He assured the prime minister of specific proofs in this regard," Press Secretary

final approval to the Rangpur

sity chancellor, instead of the prime minister, and approved The members of the cabishould be launched into the

local government representatives will be deprived of their political rights," he said.

> provisions for resignation, and said those were designed to Awami League (AL), now the ruling party, has all along been opposing the three ordinances. It believes this will

Most of 278 mayors and

If they take oath after the

FROM PAGE 1

upazila parishads operational and held accountable for their actions, a separate national budget for local government institutions, local government service structure, a policy for ensuring equal resource distribution to all areas and ensuring balance development may not get the due

Official sources believe the

Razzaque yesterday told The Daily Star, "If the commission stays effective, it could help the government by giving necessary recommendations to strengthen the local govern-Replying to a question, he

more transparent."

When asked, Tofael Ahmed, member of the commission, said, "We are in the

> government companies on the stock market to improve the

> ate past caretaker government.

In reply to another query of

Most of the science fictions I have read were by Muhammad Jafar Iqbal" Russelsaid. The boys said they have

came in and tried to disperse the two groups. But they also

Police arrested seven people, including Aulad Shikdar, from the scene.

led alliance government will be published soon.

FROM PAGE 16 fictions," Jewel said. The demand for new books on science fictions is ever rising in the fair. Publishers, besides other books, are also publishing new science fictions for

teenagers this season.

However, the boys regretted that new science fictions are not quite available in most of the stalls in the Boi Mela. Some authors are writing science fictions regularly and

there are not many publishers

translating foreign ones"

Mithun said

added.

different stalls in last 16 days.

been fascinated by science fictions since class VIII. Their first science fictions were of an English authoress "Frankenstein". Booksellers said there is a good demand for science fictions among the young readers. They said girls are also

purchasing science fiction

novels. Science fictions by

Mohammad Jafar Iqbal are the

best-seller this year, they

Meanwhile, the 87 new arrivals at the book fair include Kuwashar Borno Mala by Aminul Islam, Dinajpurer Tevaga Andolaner Prastuti Porbo by Mesbah Kamal, Firey Jai Firey Ashi by Hasan Azizul Haque, Samudro Gupta Kobita Shamogro by Samudro Gupta, Nari Bhubon by Baby Moudud and Charur Jonno Chhara by Elias Ahmed. The gathering at the fair is

increasing every day, Authorities and publishers are expecting highest ever sale at the Boi Mela this year.

Home Minister Sahara