



AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

THE month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2012 commenced on 1 February at the Bangla Academy as part of a comprehensive programme to commemorate the martyrs of the great Language Movement in 1952 through the pursuit of knowledge. A total of 360 institutions and publishing houses were given permission to set up stalls this year. Last year 3,334 new books were published but this year it could well have been more than 4000. The main activities of the fair were held at the Bangla Academy premises. The book fair witnessed a huge rush almost every evening. Chittaranjan Saha of Muktohdhara began it all way back on Shaheed Day, 21 February 1972, when he started a little sale of books before the Bangla Academy. Subsequently, he was joined by other publishers and thus a trend was set, with people relishing the thought of buying books from the stalls. It was not until 1978, however, that Bangla Academy accorded formal sanction to what is today the most significant book fair in the country. The term Amar Ekushey Boi Mela came into use in 1984. The rest, as the old cliché goes, is history.

Photo: PALASH KHAN

