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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Visitors from different generations browse books at a stall on the last day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair yesterday at Dhaka's Suhrawardy Udyan. Although publishers reported disappointing turnout and sales this year, ardent bookworms still turned up in droves. The fair continues to draw readers of all ages, offering something for everyone.

'Largely ceremonial' book fair ends

Publishers lament low turnout, poor sales

DIPAN NANDY

The Amar Ekushey Book Fair — one of the most cherished cultural gatherings in the country — ended yesterday, leaving many publishers disappointed as they felt the event was more symbolic than successful this year.

Despite initial uncertainty over its organisation, the fair was eventually held. However, many in the publishing industry said it fell short of expectations.

Farid Ahmed of Somoy Prokashon said, "This year's fair felt largely ceremonial. We took part, and readers also came, but neither participation nor sales met our expectations. We hope lessons from this year will guide the planning of future fairs."

Mahbubur Rahman, CEO of Adarsha Prokashoni, said the industry must begin preparing early for the next edition.

"This year's fair has ended, but discussions about the future

should start now. We need to rethink how the fair can be organised more effectively when it coincides with Ramadan again," he said.

However, Mohammad Azam, director general of Bangla Academy, said the shape and timing of future fairs largely depend on publishers.

"We are only the organisers. The main stakeholders are the publishers. They will decide what the next fair should look like and when it should be held. Of course, the government's goodwill also plays an important role," he said.

Even on the final day, sales remained slow. During the daytime, most stalls saw few visitors as many avoided going out in the afternoon heat while fasting during Ramadan.

Dhaka University student Sadia Rahman said she felt compelled to attend despite her busy schedule.

"I came late this year, so I

Police to probe constable hiring from 2014-24

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least 70,000 police constables recruited between 2014 and 2024 are set to come under scrutiny as Bangladesh Police has ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in recruitment during that period.

The decision was issued in an office order yesterday by Inspector General of Police Md Ali Hossain Fakir, directing district-level committees to probe allegations of corruption, rule violations, and other irregularities.

At least three senior officials at Police Headquarters confirmed the development to The Daily Star last night. "At least eight to ten thousand constables are recruited in the force yearly. In that way, the number of recruited constables during the period is not less than 70,000," said a PHQ official, requesting anonymity.

According to the order, district-level committees headed by superintendents of police (SPs) will conduct the inquiry and submit their findings, along with opinions, to Police Headquarters by April 15, 2026.

Each committee will also include the additional superintendent of police (administration), DIO-1 (district intelligence officer), and ROI/RO-1

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