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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

US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN 'It poses a serious risk to our economy'

Speakers warn at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing war centred on Iran could pose serious risks to Bangladesh's economy and public life through disruptions in energy supply, export trade and overseas employment, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They made the remarks at a seminar titled "Iran war and its impact on Bangladesh's economy and public life," jointly organised by Voice for Reform and Policy Exchange Bangladesh in the capital.

"Bangladesh faces three transmission channels through which the conflict may affect the economy: energy, exports and remittances," said Masrur Riaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh.

Masrur said around 80 percent of Bangladesh's crude oil comes from Gulf countries. Of the country's six million tonnes of LNG imports, about four million tonnes come from Qatar alone. Including Oman and the UAE, the figure rises to around five million tonnes.

"As of last Tuesday, among the LNG cargoes scheduled to reach Bangladesh by March 25, at least two will not arrive," he said.

Dust pollution worsens air quality in Khulna P4

Hailstorm, nor'wester damage crops, homes P4





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১ টির মূল্যে ৪ টি

*শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

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(একটি কার্ডে দিনে একবার এবং ক্যাম্পেইন চলাকালীন সময় সর্বোচ্চ তিনবার এই অফারটি উপভোগ করা যাবে)

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