

AMAR EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Publishers aggrieved at stall distribution plan

Tanzil Rahman

A TOTAL of 81 new books were launched on Sunday and the total number of new arrivals reached 240 so far on the fourth day of the country's biggest book fair that goes by the name of Amar Ekushey Book.

Many publishers and stall owners continued to express their anger over the stall distribution plan at the Suhrawardy Udyan and said that the Bangla Academy allotted pavilions in a cluster in one place while the stalls were pushed to the periphery, apparently destroying the beauty of the Amar Ekushey Book fair venue.

They said that the allocation of space for the stalls and the pavilions created discrimination against the general stall owners as all the pavilions have been set up in one place, which is the main centre of the venue and attracts the most viewers.

NEW ARRIVALS			
TITLE	AUTHOR	TYPE	PUBLISHING HOUSE
50 Premier Kabita	Anwara Syed Haq	Collection of Poems	Agamee Prakashani
Bhul Carvase Anka Chhabi	Zakia Sultana	Short Story	Puthiniloy
Zero Motive	Nuruddin Jahangir	Novel	Anyapakash
Desh Parichay	Muntasir Mamun	History	Somoy Prakashan

Delwar Hasan of Abishkar publishing said that they were discriminated against.

'Visitors would not be able to see our stalls. Few stalls are also still under-constructed on the fourth day of the fair. Bangla Academy has allocated four pavilions for itself, which is also unfair,' Delwar added.

Nishat Jahan Rana, executive director of publishing house Jukta said, 'We are really fed-up of the management as our stalls have been allotted at remote places of the fairground.'

Academic and Creative Publisher's Association of Bangladesh president Farid Ahmed said, 'When the fair

began, Jalal Ahmed told us that he would take all responsibilities regarding the distribution of stalls,' Farid Ahmed added.

Bangla Academy director Jalal Ahmed, also member secretary of the fair organising committee, told New Age that they allotted stalls in the three entry gates. I think people cannot enter the pavilion area without getting past the general stalls.'

'Stall owners need to display quality books. If you have quality books, people will come to the stalls,' said Jalal, adding, 'If they have issues, we will think of changing the plan next year.'

Publishers and editors

who have been allocated space at the Little Magazine Chattar protested at how the space distribution disadvantaged them and they also suspended exhibiting and selling books.

They demanded that the Chattar should be set up adjacent to the Mukta Mancha of the fairground.

Jalal Ahmed promised that the academy would change the location of the Little Magazine Chattar as soon as possible.

The little magazine corner features 135 small stalls and five open spaces. This year little magazine and children's corner have been set up in the Suhrawardy

part.

Organised by the Bangla Academy, the month-long fair began on March 18 and is being held at the Suhrawardy Udyan and on the Bangla Academy premises in the city following health guidelines.

Use of facemask was made mandatory at the fair and visitors go through fever screening before entry. Hand sanitiser is available at all entrances.

This year, 834 units have been allocated to 540 publishing houses and organisations, of which 154 units on the Bangla Academy premises were allotted to 107 organisations and 680 units in the Suhrawardy Udyan to 433 organisations.

The fair is open for visitors from 3:00pm to 9:00pm from Sunday to Thursday, and from 11:00am to 9:00pm from Friday to Saturday and on other public holidays. The fair is scheduled to end on April 14.