

AMAR EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Number of new titles lowest in three years

Tanzil Rahaman

THE number of new titles launched in the first week of Amar Ekushey Book Fair has dropped this year in comparison to the number of new books during the period in previous three years.

The number of new arrivals reached 691 in the first week of the book fair that is traditionally held in February, but shifted to March this year due to the COVID-19 situation.

In 2020, 841 books were launched in the first week while 4,919 books were launched in the month-long fair.

In 2019, a total of 832 books were launched in the first week while the total number was 4,685.

In 2018, total 794 books

NEW ARRIVALS			
TITLE	AUTHOR	TYPE	PUBLISHING HOUSE
Jibanbritta	Sanjida Khatun	Autobiography	Kathaprakash
Operation Nilanjana	Muhammad Zafar Iqbal	Juvenile novel	Anupam Prakashani
Dhaka Biswabidyalay O Nazrul	Soumitra Shekhar	Essays	Bibhas
Jal Sangsar	Tahsinul Islam	Novel	Anindya Prakash

were launched during the first week while 4,591 books were launched in the fair.

Most of the publishers said that the number of new books would decrease this year because of the COVID-19 outbreak, uncertainty over the book fair, lack of preparations and fear of suffering loss due to poor sale.

Publishers also said that the people were visiting the fair braving the risk of

COVID-19, but the sales were not satisfactory.

Sahadat Hossain, publisher of Anwesha Prakashani, said, 'We are going to launch 50 books this year but we launched 65 books last year. We were not prepared for the fair as we have to take preparations in a short time. We are a bit fear that we may incur huge loss.'

Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Pub-

lication, said, 'We started our works in full swing after the fair had begun. We could not work so much as the COVID-19 outbreak began after the inauguration of the book fair.'

'We are very glad that people are coming at the fair amid COVID-19 outbreak and excessive heat. We will launch 20 books at this year while we launched 37 books past year. We have many manuscripts but we could not

work on those,' Zakir Hossain added.

Monirul Hoque, the publisher of Ananya Prakashani, said, 'We will launch 120 books in this year though we have a capacity to publish 175 to 180 books every year. People are not buying books this year.'

Mustafa Selim, publishers of Utsa, said, 'We are going to launch 30 books. We launched more than 50 books past year. We have lowered our target as there was an uncertainty over the fair.'

Organised by the Bangla Academy, the month-long fair began on March 18 at the Suhrawardy Udyan and on the Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka following health guidelines. It is scheduled to end on April 14.