

Books help forge better ties among nations

By A Staff Reporter

The Education Minister Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, said that exchange of books, could help create better understanding among the peoples beyond the boundaries of states.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest the inaugural function of a six-day Indian book fair at National Public Library, Dhaka on Saturday afternoon.

The Minister said exchange of books and knowledge would help the peoples of India and Bangladesh to understand each other in the correct perspective.

tives.

Organised under Indo-Bangladesh cultural and academic programme the inaugural session of the book fair was also addressed among others by Mr Himachal Some, Acting High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh; Mr Fazlee Rabbi, Director, National Book Centre and Mr Sunil Sachdev, a leading book publisher from India. Mr Nurul Islam Khan, Chairman, Governing Board of the National Book Centre presided the function.

Indian Acting High Commissioner Mr Himachal Some gave a brief account of the publication industry in India and said that India was the 7th largest books publishing country in the world and was in the 3rd position in regard to publication of English titles.

Mr Sunil Sachdev said Indian publishers were looking forward to build mutual cooperation with their Bangladeshi counterparts to promote the publishing business.

About 1,200 books - mostles text book in English are on display at the exhibition.

Under the cultural and academic programme between the two countries two such fairs of Bangladeshi books will be held one in Delhi and another in Calcutta by the end of the current year.

...was transformed book piracy from a minor irritant into a sophisticated, lucrative global operation. There are ominous implications for book buyers everywhere.

A study by the Geneva, Switzerland-based international publishers estimated that in 1982 pirates in Asia accounted for more than \$A1.2 billion in such publications.

"It is a serious problem and it is growing at an alarming rate," said Alexander Burke. Mr Burke is executive vice president of the McGraw-Hill book company and chairman of anti-piracy committee formed last January by the Association of American Publishers. He and other leaders of the world publishing industry discussed the problem recently at the Frankfurt book fair.

FORGERIES

Sometimes the pirates make little effort to disguise their forgeries. A Singapore-produced book has on its cover the

pose of the CIA.

"They obviously thought Ludlum's name was a better draw than Agee's," said Ian Taylor coordinator of the campaign against book piracy, which was started by British publishers two years ago.

Increasingly, however, pirated books look like the real thing, and are marketed in much the same way. A well-financed South Korean operation publishes a glossy, four-colour catalogue four times a year. It lists more than 2500 titles.

Mr Burke said that in a book store in Seoul he found his company's Schaum series of college textbooks supplements neatly displayed for sale.

"It was hard to tell they were fake," he said. "The production was good and they even had the McGraw-Hill name."

According to people studying the problem, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have the largest unauthorised publishing

of books is said to be the "Oxford advanced learner's dictionary of current English."

Sales of a 20-volume dictionary of music published four years ago by MacMillan Publishers, London, which retails for more than \$A1000, were significantly damaged by South Korean and Taiwanese pirates, works marketed for less than \$A300.

According to Mr Taylor, some of these editions were advertised for sale on a student bulletin board of the University of California's Santa Barbara campus.

"Once saw how easy it was to duplicate something we had spent 12 years and \$75 million I realised it could mean the end of such works," said Nicholas Ryam Shaw, MacMillan's managing director.

The problem is not new. In the 1800s, Charles Dickens complained bitterly about American book pirates who robbed him of royalties. The Soviet Union ignored

a \$5 fine if you pirate a book," a US publishing spokesman said.

Elsewhere, there has been more substantive progress as governments weigh the cost of lost customs revenues and unstable markets. In Hong Kong not long ago, the police arrested 61 people and confiscated \$22,000 worth of printing machinery in a raid prompted by complaints from US and British publishers.

In August, 1984 the Indian Parliament enacted a tough anti-piracy law that carries a penalty of up to six months in prison and a fine of up to \$5500 for a first offence. This is expected to have an immediate effect on illegal printing activities there.

And when a Pakistani pirate began turning out copies of Henry Kissinger's 'The White House Years,' a note from the former Secretary of State to Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq promptly landed the culprit behind bars.

—The L.A. Times