

EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Books on folklore dig into roots

Sadiqur Rahman

BOOKS offering a mix of folk literature, music, dance, drama, food, medicine, crafts, and popular religion abound at the Ekushey Book Fair for people curious about local culture and tradition.

The demand for research-based books on folklore is increasing as curious readers collect such books to dig into their roots, publishers told New Age at the fair.

The Bangla Academy has been publishing a book series titled *Bangladesher Lokojo Samskriti Gronthomala* since 2011 as part of its programme for the development of folklore. As many as 61 volumes — each volume covering a district — have already been published.

Volumes covering the remaining three districts — Dhaka, Chittagong and Narayanganj — would be completed soon, said Aminur Rahman Sultan, deputy director at Bangla Academy.

The district-based volumes specialises in history of the district, folk literature and narrative, material culture, folk costumes and orna-

ments, songs and musical instrument, fairs and festivals, folk theatre and dance, rituals, food, games, medicine, technology, chants and belief, added Aminur, also associate editor of the book series.

Bangla Academy director general Shamsuzzaman Khan, also the chief editor of the project, said that the

Pinak Roy, a businessman visiting the fair on Thursday, said that he had collected a book on Sunamganj, his home district, while Sharmeen Sultana, a housewife from Mirpur, said that she had bought *Kishoreganjer Lokobiswas* by Jahangir Alam and published by Bateshwar Barnan, for his husband who

Lalon Shain: *Maromi O Drohi* by Abul Ahsan Chowdhury.

Annesha Prokashon has published 12 volumes of *Baul Fakir Padabali* edited by Sumon Kumar Das. Each of the volumes contains 100 songs by eminent bauls and bards, including Monomohan Dutta, Ukil Munshi, Hasan Raza, Duddu Shah and Lalon.

NEW ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Naribadi Upokatha | Sayeeda Sunny | Feminism | Uttaran |
| Pechhoner Natok | Ishak Khan | Novel | Mizan Publishers |
| Tepantorer Dak | Bulbul Zafar, Foez | Rhyme | Siddikiya Publication |
| Alo Andhare Bangladesher | Tawfiq Rahman | Tourism | Magnum Opus |
| Parjatan | Anu Hossain | Critique | Oitijhya |
| Bodh O. Bat | | | |

books of the series were the second highest sold items among the academy's publications after dictionaries.

The first editions of the volumes on Mymensingh, Comilla and Madaripur under the series have already been sold out, informed Aminur.

Fairgoers were seen buying books on local cultures and customs related to places of their interests.

is from Kishoreganj.

Private publishers have also brought new titles on folk culture and tradition to meet the increasing demands.

This year, Hawlader Prokashoni has published *Baul Bhabna* edited by Sumon Sikder; *Bidyaprokash* has brought out *Bangla Probad Probochan* by Subalchandra Mitra; and Bengal Publications has published

On the 23rd day of the fair, the academy announced awards for publication houses for their extraordinary contributions in various categories.

This year, Journeyman Books was awarded the Chittaranjan Saha Smriti Puraskar for publishing the highest number of titles while Batighar, Sangbed and Panjeree Publications were awarded the Quayum Chowdhury Smriti Puraskar for the best stall design.

The academy also awarded the Muneer Chowdhury Smriti Puraskar to Prothoma Prokashon published *Desh Shera Jagatshera Shilpikatha* by Rafiqun Nabi, Mawla Brothers published *Sangbadikata Amar Cameray* by Pavel Rahman and Acharya Prafullachandra Roy by Ranjit Kumar Mandal as the best quality books for 2016.

Chandrabati Academy was awarded the Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai Smriti Puraskar for publishing the highest amount of books for the children. On Thursday, 72 new titles hit the fair with 22 books of poem leading the tally.



Youths throng a stall at Ekushey Book Fair on Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka on Thursday as the fair has been nearing towards its end. — New Age photo