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Book trade in South Asian countries stressed

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Speakers at a seminar on 'access for book trade in South Asia:

scope for new opportunities' said that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries have tremendous scope for export of books. "Objectives of trading books could be achieved if the government of seven SAARC countries remove various countries in this regard", says a Central Vice Chairman of Pak Book Corporation M Iqbal Cheema at the seminar.

The Bangladesh Publishers Council in association with SAARC Book Development Council arranged the seminar on the occasion of the first SAARC Book Fair-2002 at CIRDAP auditorium on Friday evening. The book fair started on September 26 and will continue till September 29 next.

M Iqbal Cheema in his paper said unfortunately, reading and buying the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing. What is appalling is that the entertainment activities such as cinema, travelling liquor consumption etc receive a much higher priority than reading books.

Fazle Rabbi of Bangladesh in his paper said to broaden ties and mutual understanding among the SAARC states, there is a great need for translations of different publications, research works and popular literature into national languages of member states under government sponsorship. He suggested establishment of a SAARC book distribution centre in this region with sub-centres in all the regional countries for greater dissemination of indigenous books.

The seminar was also participated by Lubna Shahnaz (Pakistan), Ritu Menon (India), Abul Hassan Chowdhury (India), Ramanal Tewari (Nepal), Maleka Begum, Mofidul Huq, Meshba Uddin Ahmed and Monsur Musa from Bangladesh.

A roundtable discussion on 'awareness of copyright in SAARC countries and role of libraries in SAARC book development' will be held (Saturday) at the CIRDAP auditorium.