

সপ্তিশ ০৪ • JAN • 1997

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Book fair includes

Staff Reporter

The Third Dhaka International Book Fair concluded on Friday.

Inaugurated on December 15 last year to coincide with celebrations of Silver Jubilee of Independence the fair attracted over 150,000 book lovers, according to sources.

Organised by the Jatiya Grantha Kendra (JGK) at the ground adjacent to Bijoy Sharani the Fair was scheduled

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Book fair

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to end on January 1, 1997, but the authorities extended the duration of the Fair considering the large number of visitors and the request of publishers.

The theme of this year's book fair was "Bangladesh : Liberation War" and the slogan was "Book, the real friend".

One hundred twenty organisations participated in the Fair of which 99 book stalls put their publications on display. Fourteen pavilions, five food stalls, one blood bank sponsored by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and a "book lovers" corner" were also in the fair.

A stall of Muktijoddha Jadughar, at the centre of the Fair exhibited documents, photographs of battle fields and other Liberation War memorabilia. It was one of the most visited stalls in the fair.

About 500 new publications were put on display at the Fair. Two foreign publishers—Cultural Centre of Iran and National Book Trust of India—had stalls of the Fair, while some local agents put foreign books on display.

According to an unofficial estimate, books worth more than taka 6,000 were sold from each stall a day with 7,500 persons, non an average, visited the fair everyday. The highest number of visitors was recorded on the second day (December 16) 22,236.

The Fair authority Sunday declared prizes for best illustrations and best cover designs. The first prize for illustration in general book category was awarded to University Publishers Limited for the book 'Dreams, Miracle and Supplications in Islam' and the Shilpkala Academy received the second prize for the book 'SM Sultan Sarak Grantha'. In the "Shishutosh" category, Sahitya Prokash and Belia Press (UK) jointly were awarded the first prize for the book 'Paani' and Sahitya Prokash also got the second prize for the book 'Ek Mutho Chhao'.

Dhruba Esh received the first prize for cover design in general category for the book 'Tomaar Kachhe Jai Naa, Tobe Jabo' and Samar Majumder got the second prize for the cover of book 'Pencile Anka Pori'. In the Shishutosh category, Dhruba Esh got the first prize for the cover of the book 'Mushkil Asan Mama' and Rafiqunnabi got the second prize for the cover of the book 'Tulu O Khude Bandhur Mawla'. Brothers was awarded the first prize for best decoration while Samay Prokashana and Agami Prokashana received second and third prize respectively.