

Book fair reaches its crescendo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as it happens on February 21 every year, the Bangla Academy grounds was crowded from early morning.

The audience who came to listen to the poetry recitation at 7:30am stayed back to browse through books when the fair opened at 8:00am and the size of the crowd increased as the day rolled to dusk.

The street between the two portions of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 was jam packed with visitors, some just passers-by while others tried to get inside the fair boundary.

Sales too shot up yesterday, as people who came to pay their respects at Central Shaheed Minar during the day dropped by at the fair to buy books.

Johirul Abedin Jewel, publisher of Ittadi Granthaprokash, said, "Buyers were less compared to visitors but sales has picked up since Friday, though it is lower than other years."

Yesterday, 240 new books arrived at the

fair and 11 new ones were launched. Till date 2,890 new books came out in the fair.

Md Mobarak Hossain, director of Bangla Academy, yesterday announced an award, "Goonijon Smriti Puroshkar", presented to publishing houses in four categories.

"Chittaranjan Saha Smriti Puroshkar", for publishing the highest number of good quality books in 2014, was awarded to Mowla Brothers.

"Munier Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar", for the best book in 2014, was given to Bengal Publications Limited for Murtaja Baseer's "Amar Jibon or Onnanyo" and to Pathak Samabesh for

"Rabindra Samagra Khondo-23".

"Rokonuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai Smriti Puroshkar", for publishing quality books for children in 2014, was awarded to Somoy Prokashon.

University Press Limited received "Qayyum Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar" for the best decorated pavilion of 2015 and Prothoma and Journeyman Books received it for the best decorated stalls.

