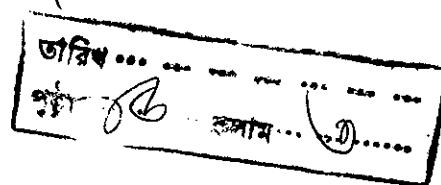


Daily Star

15/12/00



RU library in a shambles

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) library is in a shambles. As a result the students are suffering a lot.

The library has no collection of up-to-date books or journals. It has no recently published encyclopaedia, dictionary, yearbook, census report or other library materials.

Such is the situation for the last 10 years. This is because of indifference of the library authorities.

Students, teachers, researchers and other faculty members come to the library for recent library collections for research and other academic purposes, but in vain.

The library has two management-committees one Library Committee and the other Library Sub-Committee headed by the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university while the Administrator in-charge of the Librarian is the Member Secretary.

The two committees decide different development policies of the library including purchase of library materials. The library administration sources said that the library administration can not hold the meeting of the committees regularly, which subsequently stands in the way of the development of the library.

As most of the books and journals in the present collection of the library numbering three lakh are either outdated or obsolete. This results in degradation of the standard of education of the university.

Pages of important books are most often seen to have been cut down.

Besides, nonsense words are also seen written in the books.

The teachers borrow 'a good number of books' from the library, they do not return those in time keeping those with them for years together. The library administration never dares to issue warning letters against them.

The library personnel do not pay adequate attention to the proper management of the library including the reading rooms. They do not check arrangement of books whether those are in the proper order or not on shelves according to the catalogue cards. Some 'unscrupulous' readers displace important books and keep them in other shelves depriving others. Very often, the catalogue cards remain in a haphazard manner in card-cabinet desk. When the readers seek their help in addressing the problems, some of the library personnel straightaway deny to help them.

Again, the library workers inside the reading rooms gossip among themselves loudly and create disturbances for the readers. The users do not remedy to the problem even after lodging complaints to the library administration repeatedly, many of the readers have alleged.

Even some of the students practise private tuition inside the reading rooms. But the library administration does not take necessary measures to stop the trend.

However, when contacted, Prof Obaidur Rahman Pramani Administrator of the library, he said that the management of the library is aware of some of the problems. "Efforts are on to solve the problems of the library including the reading rooms."