




## LETTERS

### Bangladesh Central Public Library

Sir.—We fully endorse the views expressed by your correspondent whose letter under the above caption appeared on August 18 in your daily. We appreciate the action taken by Government for the merger/amalgamation of Bangladesh Parishad with Government Public Libraries and declaring 53 erstwhile Parishad Libraries as Government Public Libraries. Previously there were only three Government Public Libraries in Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong. Now there are 53 Government Public Libraries for the reading public of the country. This is a wise and timely decision. The highly trained and experienced personnel of the defunct Bangladesh Parishad who are also subject specialists along with the rich collection of books, furniture and audio visual material have enriched the government public libraries. By a wise decision of the Government a countrywide network of public library system has been created which was the crying need of the reading public since 1947. The British Council conducted a survey of public libraries in Bangladesh and in their report entitled 'Bangladesh Public Library Survey: Final Report' in three volumes by I. Stephen Parker 1979 they identified in paragraph 5.3.6: "The Bangladesh Parishad is an organisation, said to have been modelled on the British Council but operating mainly within Bangladesh which aims to promote a sense of national identity among the people of Bangladesh through organising cultural activities of various kinds including the provision of library facilities. In paragraph 5.3.65 the report says "...the Parishad libraries represent the nearest approach to a nation-wide public library network which exists in Bangladesh..."

In paragraph 9.8.2 the report says "....The only organised library system serving the general public is that administered by Bangladesh Parishad..."

In view of the above fact we request the government to ensure that in the changed and improved setup the reading public can get maximum facilities from increased number of government public libraries.  
—Yours etc. ABDUL QUDDUS SARKAR and SHAFTULLAH BHUYAN 34 North Shahjahanpur Dhaka.