

(Contd. from previous issue)

OTHER libraries grouped with this second category of ten libraries are Birchandra Public Library, Comilla; Khwaja Nazimuddin Hall and Public Library, Dinajpur; Jessore Institute Public Library, Jessore; Ananda Govinda Public Library, Pabna; Central Muslim Sahitya Samsad and Public Library, Sylhet; Kushtia Public Library, Kushtia; Rangpur Public Library, Rangpur; Sher-e-Bangla Public Library, Faridpur and Tangail Public Library, Tangail. The scheme provided for the allocation of grants totalling 230 lacs to each of these libraries with some variations here and there.

#### BIRCHANDRA PUBLIC LIBRARY, COMILLA:

Bearing the name of the Maharaja of Tripura, the Comilla Public Library and Town Hall was founded as back as 1885 and was reconstructed in 1933. The inscriptions in the Library and Town Hall foundation stone reads:

The foundation of the Public Library and Town Hall laid by His Highness Bir Chandra Manikya Bahadur, Maharaja of Tripura with the sympathetic efforts of F.R.B. Skrine, BCS District Magistrate and Collector of Tripura on the 1st of September, 1885.

The Library is said to have suffered a set back during the Second World War when its building was requisitioned, but later it functioned again in the Town Hall and before independence its book collection rose to 10,000 volumes.

In the post-independence first Five Year Plan this library should have received a total grant of 1.5 lacs for construction works, furniture and equipment and no less than 2.15 lacs for books and periodicals. Although provision for building

grant was intended for expansion of the existing library building, a completely new building was actually constructed for library behind the Town Hall. As recorded in the Parker Report, the book-stock of the library was raised to 16,000 volumes towards the end of the first Five Year Plan period and had a 4 part-timers including one graduate and one under graduate para professional with 400 users.

#### KHAJA NAZIMUDDIN HALL AND LIBRARY, DINAJPUR:

Founded in the name of Muslim Bengal Pathagar in 1931, on a land generously donated by

Scheme and Taka 20,000/- under the Rural Library Pilot Project in 1977-78. With additional grants from Rajshahi Divisional Development Board and Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs, the total grants during 1977-78 rose to Tk. 2,23,700/- for expansion of library building, purchase of books and equipments and as mobile Library grant.

The Library had a total book stock of 25,000 volumes by the end of the first plan period and maintained a staff of 12 including one full time graduate professional and two para-pro-

separate two-storied building and procured rich collections of books, furniture and equipments, with government grants totalling over Taka 5 lac under the First Five-Year Plan District Library Development Plan of Bangladesh. Towards the end of the plan period its total book-stock rose to about 30,000 volumes having 1,500 regular users and 852 borrowing members.

The book bank and mobile book-loan service of the library deserves special mention. Making a particular reference to this service of the library, Mr. Parker in his report says: 'Jessore Public Library is particularly noteworthy, however, for the enthusiasm and drive with which its extension services have been promoted under the dynamic leadership of its Secretary Professor Sharif Hussain. The Library extension services are based on a special section of the book stock known as the Regional Central Book Bank from which loans have been made to as many as fifty institutions in Jessore and Khulna Districts in recent years. Not all these are currently or equally active but those which are using the service activity at present include perhaps twenty or more schools, social clubs, welfare institutions and independent public libraries most of which are in the Jessore sub-divisional area, within relatively easy reach of the Public Library.'

Mr. Parker further comments: 'The extension services of Jessore Public Library and the library's own internal organisation and services are not without room for improvement; but there is no doubt that the extension services in particular provide an example which other district libraries in Bangladesh might, with advantage, follow.'

## THE STATE OF NON-GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

Syed Azizur Rahman

Mr. Md. Badiuzzaman and Alhaj Md. Hemayet Ali, the library was renamed Nazimuddin Hall and Library when Khwaja Nazimuddin laid the foundation stone of the new pacca building of the library in 1933.

The present two storied building of the library was constructed at a cost of Taka 25,000/00 collected from various sources including an amount of Taka 10,000/- allocated from social uplift fund. The library had a reading room and a children's section and its book collection reached well over 22,000 before independence.

In the post-independence first Five-Year Plan, the library received Taka one lac under the District Library Development

professionals.

#### JESSORE INSTITUTE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Founded in 1854 as one of the four pioneer libraries in Bangladesh through the initiative of the then District Collector, Mr. R. C. Recks, a few indigo planters and local educationists. Jessore Institute Public Library maintains its glorious tradition through the passage of time. Passing through trying circumstances during the war years of forties, shifting from one place to another, the library was finally merged with the Jessore Institute and housed in a two storied building prior to independence. It has since undergone further changes and acquired additional space in a