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## Rajbari Public Library lack reading facilities

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Aug. 7:—The Public Library in Rajbari town is beset with a host of problems hampering normal functioning.

The Public Library was set up in the early period of the British rule to develop and nourish the literary and cultural values of the people but the district Public Library has been running with a poor collection of books and journals for the last few years.

The Library failed to extend minimum facilities to the people because of fund constraints and poor collection of books and references on various subjects. No step has been taken for preservation of old dailies and weeklies published from the local press and other places of the country.

Moreover, important and valuable books of the Library are found missing and no attempt has been made by the management of the library to recover them. Many readers and Government officers who take valuable books do not return them for months together.

The library has no national and international journals, magazines and periodicals. Only one or two of ordinary journals are found. There are only four dailies and one weekly in the library.

In the past, the Public Library had the reputation of performing various literary activities, particularly on important occasions such as Shaheed Day, Victory Day, Independence Day, Bangla New Years Day and other festivals but for the last many years, the management of the library had done nothing to revive and highlight the traditional and cultural practice, it is alleged.

The library has neither a qualified librarian nor a catalogue keeper. Only one retired Government clerk along with an assistant and a part

time bearer have been conducting it. It has no separate office room. The office work is performed in the reading room which creates disturbance to the readers. The office work is performed in the reading room which creates disturbance to the readers. The readers are also disturbed by a Shilpakala Academy located adjacent to the library. The Shilpakala Academy holds its music classes in the evening creating noisy atmosphere around the Public Library.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to make the library attractive and more useful to the increasing number of readers, especially the students of the district by improving its amenities through collection of national and international periodicals, leading national Bengali and English dailies and holding literary and cultural functions thereby befitting our cultural heritage.

### Dacoity in college hostel

A daring dacoity was committed at the students hostel of Rajbari Government College on the night following July 15.

According to a report, 10 to 15 miscreants wearing mask and equipped with deadly weapons raided a room on the second floor of the building and looted one VCR, golden chain and cash money worth Taka forty thousand at dead of night.

When contacted, Alhaj Mohammad Ali Khan, Superintendent of the hostel confirmed the incident and said that a case has been registered with the local police station in this connection. He also informed that the college authority will take disciplinary action against the concerned students for enjoying VCR in the hostel without the permission of the relevant authority.