

DU library in disarray

Varsity Correspondent

The library using students of Dhaka University have been suffering a lot due to the mismanagement of the library authorities and the negligence to duty by a group of staff.

The students who do regular library work have also been facing various problems due to negligence to duty by a group of employees and the unexpected gathering of outsiders in the library reading room.

Some students found reading in the library told the Bangladesh Observer that some staff of the library were negligence to their duties and remained absent as they pleased.

A large number of students and outsiders huddle inside the library everyday just to chat and gossip and exact the aircooler facilities of the library. GM Abdul Gaffar, a Masters Final Year student of English Department of Dhaka University while talking to the Bangladesh Observer said, the library is no longer a place for study but it has become a venue for amusement. Lover couples come here every day and delve into amorous talks, he added.

Sometimes activists of various student organisations assemble at the library reading room after their participation in procession just to take rest in the air conditioned room. They gossip loudly which hampers studies of the students very badly.

Allegation also has that many students and even outsiders tutor their school and college-going students as part time job even without minimum objection by the library authorities.

Mr Faruq Hossain of Sociology Department of the University alleged that he sought a book to be issued him for a week but in vain as it was already issued by a teacher about one month and a half ago. This is the common feature of the library nowadays whereas the library authorities remain callous to it.

According to rule, a teacher can be issued ten books for a month but they are often issued more books and they don't return them in due time. So books are not normally available

to the common students.

While asked about it the librarian Dr Sirajul Islam said if the teachers themselves don't study how will they teach the students. He refutes allegation saying that teachers are issued books no doubt but in case of their failure to submit those in due time they are charged with late-fines.

A teacher of Bengali Department of Dhaka University on condition of anonymity, accused some corrupt officers and employees of the library for creating artificial shortage of books. "There are some library staff who hand over books to the students illegally in lieu of money and that causes troubles to the teachers and students as well.

The library has a section to preserve the national dailies and weekly magazines but unfortunately some of the preserved files are damaged due to the carelessness of library authorities. It is also notable that important news items are cut off from most of the files and there is none to resist it.

The librarian Dr Sirajul Islam however admits of some problems and has said that the university authorities are about to take necessary steps to resolve that. While asked about the illegal inflow of outsiders into the library he replied that the identity cards of the students would be checked to resist it very soon.

The university authorities have plans to modernise the library. As part of that a section of the library was provided with air cooler in 1994 and the remaining section was underway now. The librarian informed that the library also set up two computers with the assistance of BANSDOC as part of its planning to introduce Computer and Internet system to cope with the modern world. He also informed that an electric gate would be established at the entrance go as to resist the trespassers.

It may be stated that Dhaka University library was established in 1921. It has two sections—one is the University Central Library and the

other, the Science Library. The number of books and journals is about five lakh. Two hundred and twenty five officers and employees are engaged in its service. There are ten reading rooms six in the Central Library and four in the Science Library. Every year books and journals worth Taka 72 to 82 lakhs are purchased by the authority.