

Setting up of library in every locality stressed

Staff Correspondent

Chief Adviser of the former caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman on Tuesday stressed the need for setting up library in every locality to develop human faculties in people.

"Books have immense importance because the link the present with the past and library is the best place to preserve books. So every body should come forward to build libraries in every locality," he said.

The former Chief Justice was addressing the opening ceremony of the fortnight long "Fifth Dhaka Book Fair" at the open space near Chandrima Uddayan as chief guest. Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr.

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Shamsuzzaman Majumder presided over the function while State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader addressed it as special guest. N.M. Paniruddin Haider, Director of Jatiya Grantha Kendro (National Book Centre) delivered the welcome speech.

Emphasising the need for establishing library at all the union parishads and pourashavas, Habibur Rahman said, it is a tough job to build libraries at these levels by the crisis ridden government of Bangladesh."

He urged the government to impose new taxes for extra revenue income so that libraries could be built in each locality. He also called upon the conscious section of the people to encourage the general people to read book as well as to help establish libraries.

Earlier, Mohammad Habibur Rahman formally inaugurated the book fair by releasing balloons.

The opening session was followed by a number of cultural programmes.

A total of 93 publishing houses are participating in the book fair. Almost all the renowned publishing houses of the country, including Biddaya Prakash, Agami Prakashani, Suchi Prakashani, are participating in the fair. The only foreign organisation participating in the "Dhaka Book Fair" is the British Council.

On the first day of the 15-day long fair, the presence of visitors was thin. The number of new books was also very limited on the first day.

The book fair will continue till December 15.