

Century old building

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could be renovated and kept intact. If many buildings in Dhaka dating 500 years back stand firm after repair, this building would be able to.

The landscape and contents of a building, such as furnishing or equipment, could be a part of the historical resources.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer said that the decision of putting up a new building in place of the old one was lack of space and inability to accommodate all staff.

Another source from the commissioner's office, said that the

headquarters is housing the offices of the additional, deputy, several assistant commissioners and other officials and the space is not sufficient for all.

He also said that when the DMP was first formed this building was used as the police headquarters.

A few historians said such buildings need renovation and protection, and not lose the materials, ideas and knowledge indicated of our past.

However, there were differences of opinion.

Dr Muntasir Mamun, an eminent historian of Dhaka Univer-

sity's Department of History, when contacted said the building should be renovated and kept alive if possible, since difficulties have risen in accommodating the DMP officials.

"As far as historical values are concerned, a plaque can be built where the historical facts can be written instead of preserving the whole building," he said.

When DMP Commissioner Mizanur Rahman was contacted, he said; "I just know that a new building will be constructed in the premises of the existing one, but no decision has been taken regarding the old building".

Pirated copies sold openly at book fair

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

Pirated books and books written in other languages are being sold abundantly at most stalls of the book fair against Ekushey book fair regulations and the spirit of Amar Ekushey.

"Except for 20 to 22 stalls in the fair, all the other stalls are selling these pirated books. It seems that the fair authorities do not even care about these unethical activities," said an attendant of a stall at the fair.

Around 80 percent of the translated books on sale does not have the authorisation from the original authors and publishers, according to several publishers at the fair.

A few publishers like Ankur Prokashoni, Shahitto Prokash, University Press Limited, Shondesh and Bangla Academy spent a substantial amount of funds to acquire authorisation to translate some novels and essays from English and other languages to Bangla from the original publishers.

"It took us a significant amount of time and money to acquire the rights to these books. But other publishers have also printed these very items," said Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury, publisher, Shondesh.

Chowdhury pointed out that authorisation to translate and publish a book in a definite region



Mixed reactions were received from visitors and book-lovers at the fair.

"It is a good thing that some publishing houses are offering books to us at an affordable price and in our mother tongue," said Munir Ahmed, a teenager at the fair.

However, Mosharrar Haque, a government officer at the fair, was rather repulsed by the idea of pirated books in the fair.

"The same books, pirated and being sold by sellers at the various traffic signals of the city, are also being sold here. This is quite disappointing," said Haque.

When asked about the motive behind such practices, Matin, a salesman of a stall at the fair said: "We are just catering to the huge demand that most book-lovers have".

"If this goes on, publishing houses who dedicated their time, funds and effort to acquire these authorisation would no longer do so in the future," said Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury, publisher of Shondesh.

Bangla Academy authorities admitted that they are aware of the situation.

"We have identified around 70 stalls, who are currently selling pirated and foreign books. We will soon take necessary action against them," assured Dr Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed, Director General (DG), Bangla Academy.

English novels and essays are being sold by a number of stalls.

Also available are novels written by Indian authors like Sunil Gangopadhyay, Samosh Majumder, Suchitra Bhattacharya and others.

"This is quite appalling. The book fair had a reputation earlier for selling only authentic books. But a number of businessmen are currently tarnishing the image through these activities," said a publisher, under condition of anonymity.

Besides these, the pirated English versions of these books are also available in a number of stalls.

"My Life" by Bill Clinton, "Brick Lane" by Monica Ali, "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown and other

Some of the foreign authors whose novels and essays have been illegally translated and published by a number of publishing houses are Gao Xingjian, Willa Cather, Andrew Morton, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Dan Brown, Arundhati Roy etc.

Only the five publishing houses mentioned above have legal documents authorizing the copyrights, in each respective book.

Authorised translators of books originally written in English and other languages, are angry with the book fair authority for not doing much against those selling pirated

or nation is given to only one publishing house.

"But if we take the words of all publishing houses who are doing this, it may seem that the permission to print books like Harry Potter series or 'My Life' by Bill Clinton was given to at least 20 different publishing houses of Bangladesh," he said.

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Dog show

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Gulshan, Jays and Gauripur Kennels.

"Quirin of Dogmatrix", (a German shepherd -- adjudged BOB) owned by Al Haj Shahidul Islam of Gauripur Kennels bagged the title 'Best in Show', while Gold Rush (a golden retriever - BOB), was adjudged runner-up belongs to 6-year-old Faryal Faizee of Gulshan Kennels.

The third, fourth and fifth places went to Rajah (a Great Dane) of Jay Kennels belonging to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, secretary general of BKC, Ivan Drago (rottweiler) of Gauripur Kennels belonging to Shihab Ally, joint secretary of the BKC, and Prince (Irish Setter) belonging to Babu Romandra respectively.

Shahidul Islam commenting on Quirin's performance said his pet was only a year old and it was the first time the animal had taken part in a show. Imported from India, he feeds his dog pedigree dog food.

The show this year was better organised than the last and Dr Hosain said they were trying hard to meet international standards.

"We have now started dog training programmes," he said.

Dr NA Khan, a veterinary surgeon had a word of advice for dog owners. "Before you embark on the dog's education, you must first educate yourself," he said.

Menon, who has been in this business for over 15 years, said Bangladesh has come a long way in this field, but there is a lot of scope for improvement.

"Exhibitors themselves need training on how to handle dogs, as much as the dogs need training," he said.

Arabindra Singh too had some advice for dog lovers.

"There are some basic questions one needs to ask himself before wanting to own a dog," said Singh. "Make sure that all at home are dog lovers before bringing one home and when remember that having a dog is a 12-year commitment as that is an average dog's lifespan," he said.

"What creature in the world would let you give away its babies and still lick your hand in gratitude? And which animal would be awake for you at night even when your wife is asleep, other than your own dog?" asked Singh.

Load shedding

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prickly heat all over her body because of the scorching heat," she said.

Nasima Sultana, a garments worker from Mouloubirtek, buys water from the nearby Taltola market.

"After a tedious 10-hour working day, there is no water to bathe, wash clothes, do household tasks or even cook food, when I get back home. The electricity goes out so frequently, that we don't get time to preserve water," she said.

Those living in multi-storied apartment buildings are not better off either.

"In the 33-apartment build-

ing, that I live in, generators work during the load shedding period. Only an emergency light and fan or two could be used, not air coolers, computers, television and music systems. So, all we have to do is to wait chewing our nails in frustration," said Sabina Yasmeen, a teacher of Spectrum International School in Dhanmondi.

Shurovi, a resident of Muhammadpur had a gallbladder operation a few days back. "I am expected to take bed-rest, but it is impossible to lie in bed in this hot weather without a fan or air cooler," she said.

"We have no problem in our

system, but there is shortfall of supply. We are compelled to go through the load shedding process to meet the demand of electricity -- which is obviously higher than the supply," said AKM Mustafa Kamal, deputy general manager of Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (DESCO).

Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) sources said the city's average electricity demand is 3,800 megawatts (MW) whereas the average supply from the Power Development Board (PDB) is less than 2,500 MW daily, having a shortfall of 1,300 MW.

5x2

9x3

7x2

12X3