

# Renovations to Central Public Library progressing at snail's pace

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The renovations to the Central Public Library is progressing at a snail's pace due to bureaucratic tangles in the Public Works Department (PWD), sources said.

The authorities were able to finish hardly 10 percent work in the last six months which is scheduled to complete by this fiscal year, they added.

The renovations that started in September last year faced interruptions on several occasions, officials of the central library told Star City.

But they said they are discussing with the PWD to continue the work in full swing. The whole project will be completed by the next fiscal year.

"We had a meeting with PWD last week and we will resume the work within 15 days. We are hopeful to complete the work in time," said Abu Saleh, director of the library.

The renovations stipulated for this fiscal year include construction of a new seminar room, airconditioning of the reading areas, setting up of a cyber café and interior decoration of the library building and its auditorium.

But sources said the authorities have failed to make notable progress in the work and now planned to construct the

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seminar room and cyber café in the next fiscal year.

"As the renovations started behind the schedule, some works will be done in the next fiscal year," said Kazi Abdul Majed, assistant director of the library. He said the work on the cyber café is being delayed due to technical reasons.

"We are looking for a consultant to supervise the setting up of the café but we could not yet find a suitable candidate for this post," said Majed.

Under the project a 250-seat seminar room will be built at a cost of Tk 40 lakh. The cyber café with 15 computers will cost Tk 37 lakh.

The authorities will install 41 split type

airconditioners in the 19,984 square feet reading areas at a cost of Tk 94 lakh. Procuring new furniture will cost Tk 39 lakh.

The central library established in 1978 remains open 24-hours a day. On average, about 1,950 people visit the library daily.

Officials said a website of the library will be launched by the end of this month.

"Primarily the site will contain basic information about the library. We will update it gradually adding information about our collection," said the library director. "We will design it following the websites of the world's renowned libraries"



The Central Public Library still awaits completion of renovations.

5x3

7x3

12x2

12x3

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