

DU library automation fails to benefit students

IMRUL HASAN

Students of Dhaka University hardly benefit from its central library automation programme due to lack of adequate computers, efficient manpower and proper management.

The students alleged that they are deprived of proper facilities under the

programme launched 10 years ago. The first phase of the programme started with 27 computers. Last year three more PCs were installed. At present 16 computers out of the total 30 are usable and the rest are out of order.

Eight more PCs will be added within a year, library officials said.

Khandaker Fazlur Rahman, librarian in charge of planning and development of the

Central Library, said they are aware of the problems of the students and currently trying to resolve them.

The problem will be solved after setting up of a new cyber cafe, he said.

The students said the internet browsing facility at the library is inadequate. Each student can browse internet for only 15 minutes.

"All the books we need are not available here. You cannot find more than two books if

you look for five," said Raisul Islam, a third-year student of Economics Department.

When asked about the computers that have gone out of order, library officials said the PCs are ten years old and it is very difficult for them to manage the automation programme with these obsolete PCs.

"If a motherboard or a hard disk of a computer doesn't work, it has to be replaced by that of same model but these old versions are not available in market," an official of the computer section said.

A teacher of the Department of Information Science and Library Management said professional librarian, advisor and efficient staff are needed for the smooth running of the automation programme.

"A large number of students are completing their graduation from this department every year. They are performing very well in job. DU authorities can appoint them to run the programme effectively," he added.

DU launched the library automation project in 1995. It was renamed as library automation programme in November 1998.

"The programme is not running effectively due to lack of proper management. Employees of the library are not accountable for their activities," Samina Haque, a fourth-year student of Anthropology, said.

The students said the Central Library can follow the example of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research which is offering sufficient computer and internet facilities for the students.

Besides, there is a cyber centre at the DU Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) where the students, teachers and staff of the university can browse the web buying a prepaid internet access card at Tk 60.

Work on setting up another cyber centre has already been completed, officials said.



Dhaka University Central Library lacks adequate computers and manpower to attract students.

425 staff artistes of Betar demand regularisation

ERSHAD KAMOL

The services of 425 instrument players working as staff artistes in Bangladesh Betar have not yet been transferred to revenue budget. They are deprived of full facilities of a government job despite working in a state-owned organisation.

Since the establishment of the broadcasting centre during the British rule, instrument players have been working as staff artistes on contract basis. But the instrument players working in Bangladesh Television are appointed as permanent staff.

M Nazmul Ahsan, director general of Bangladesh Betar, said, "These instrument players' service has not been transferred to the revenue budget. As a result, they do not get facilities that other government service holders enjoy."

"During retirement they get one-month salary per year of

service. For example, after working for 14 years as a staff artiste, one will get only 14 months' salary at a time," he said. "We have already discussed the matter to resolve the problem."

Many renowned composers of Bangladesh Betar including Samar Das and Shujeeo Shyam retired as staff artistes. Shujeeo Shyam said, "During my retirement I received only Tk 150,000. I do not get pension or other facilities what a BTV artiste gets."

He said there should not be different policies for two similar organisations.

M Mahbubur Rahman, secretary of information ministry, said, "I have already asked the director general of Bangladesh Betar to prepare necessary papers for absorbing the staff artistes as regular government employees."

When contacted, Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said, "Within a few days we will talk about the matter with other ministries. We will try our best to absorb

the staff artistes of Bangladesh Betar as full-time staff."

Nijeshwa Sangeet Shilpi Shangstha (NSSS), an organisation of staff artistes of Bangladesh Betar, is demanding regularisation of the staff artistes.

Renowned flute player and Chairman of NSSS Gazi Abdul Hakim said many of the staff artistes have achieved international recognition but unfortunately they have not been recognised by Bangladesh Betar where they work.

"We demand immediate absorption of these staff artistes in the regular government service," he said. Renowned singers have also expressed solidarity with the demand of the staff artistes.

Singer Runa Laila said, "We cannot sing without the instrumental players. I request the government to take immediate step to allocate their salary from the revenue budget."



Instrumentalists who are also staff artistes of Bangladesh Betar are busy inside the studio with a recording.

12x3

12x2

9x3