

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



A treasure trove of knowledge

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

Chittagong University Library is one of the richest libraries in the country with collection of rare books, journals, audio-visual materials, manuscripts and Braille books for the students with disabilities.

The library started its journey in November 1966, with the inauguration of the university with limited staff and only 300 volumes of books at a temporary building.

Md Ataur Rahman was the first assistant librarian.

Shamsul Alam, first librarian, and 20 staff were appointed on October 16, 1968.

The library was shifted to the present administrative building in 1973 and its own building in November, 1990.

It has now 2,72,818 books, 31,470 journals, 2,157 rare books, 565 manuscripts and 200 Braille books.

The three-storied library building has separate reading rooms for the researchers, teachers and students of different faculties and institutes.

There is an administration section, office of the librarian, processing section, binding section and arts reading room on the ground floor.

Science reading room, BBA, Law and Social Science Reading Room, Manuscripts and rare books section are on the first floor and reference section, periodical section and research room are on the mezzanine floor.

There are 24 rooms for individual study and research for M Phil and Ph D students in the library.

The library remains open from 8:00am to 8:00pm in the working days.

A total of 66 staff and officials run the library.

Most of the 20,000 students use the library as buying of all books is not possible for them. Around 400 to 500 students use the library daily.

There is also an auditorium in the library for holding cultural programmes, meeting, seminar and symposium.

The library is providing the students and researchers with latest information through Internet services that encourage the students and teachers to increase their reading habit. Researchers from home and abroad also use the library frequently.

Most of the students use the library as buying of all books is not possible for them. Around 500 students use the library daily.

The photocopy section provides the service of photocopy at lower cost to the students as they are not allowed to take books outside the library.

There are rare collections of manuscripts in Bangla, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Urdu written during the period from 1872 to 1953.

Besides, there are around 2,157 old and rare books of Bangla, Persian, Urdu, French, Russian and Arabic languages. Apart from

these, there are around 1,200 audio-visual materials.

In the rare and old book sections, there are around 4,000 old magazines including Onusandhan, Prabaha, Purbavash, Praci, Sourav, Al Islam, Arya Darshan, Bulbul, Nabya Bharat, Dilruba and Protiva. Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharad collected these magazines during the period from 1878 to 1953. After his death, his nephew Dr Ahmed Sharif presented these collections to the CU library.

Almost all the national and local dailies are found in the library.

Rafiqul Islam, a student of history, said, "I think CU library is one of the largest and richest libraries in our country and it is greatly helping the students to spread their world of knowledge". He urged the authorities to enrich the magazine section of the library with magazines from home and abroad.

The university should modernise the library with full air-conditioned services as excessive heat of summers hampers the study here, said Simu Dey, a student of Social Sciences Faculty.

Around 35 students with disabilities are studying in the university. The university authorities opened a 'Disabled corner' in the library on December 4, 2010.

Zahirul Islam, a visually impaired student, said they are grateful to the authorities for opening a corner for them.

He said if the authorities provide more books in the corner for the students with disabilities related to their academic studies it will be more helpful for them.

Acting Librarian S M Abu Taher said they need more funds to enrich the library further.

Incidents of rape on rise in port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The incidents of rape are increasing in the port city at an alarming rate.

One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) sources said the number of rape-victims was 98 in 2010, 73 in 2009 and 58 in 2008.

Sources said the real figure is much more as all the victims do not come to take treatment in the OCC. Many of them take treatment in the private clinics and hospitals. It is very tough to dig out the actual figure as the private clinics and hospitals refuse to give the data, maintaining secrecy about their patients. Porno CDs are sold at different spots like New Market area and Station Road area influencing the youngsters for committing the sex-related crimes. Moreover, the cyber-cafes have become the centres of watching pornography for the students.

CMCH Deputy Director Dr Saroj Kumar Barua said real picture is more vulnerable than it is seen in black and white.

He said sex-education and adolescent health education should be included in the textbooks to lessen the sex-related crimes.

He said the easy access to pornography is one of the main reasons for increasing sex-related crimes in the city.

aired in different foreign media do not show respect to the women that impact directly on the youngsters.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Abul Kashem at a meeting on law and order situation on January 17 said 26 incidents of rape were recorded in 2010.

Kashem told journalists that some of the victims do not inform about the incidents to the police stations.

He said it is the moral degradation of the society for the reason behind the increase of sex-related crimes. "The moral lesson should be learnt at the family level to reduce this kind of crime," he said.

An adolescent girl was gangraped by five youngsters, one of them was her boyfriend, at the top of Matijharna hill in Lalkhan Bazar area under Khulsi Police Station in the port city at dead of night on January 1 this year.

The culprits threw her from the hilltop after rape. The girl, however, survived as she fell on the roof of a tin-shed house. The locals recovered her senseless body and rushed her to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police recovered the body of a woman from the top of Batali Hill under Khulsi Police Station on Monday morning. Khulsi



Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC)

"The incidents of rape and sex-related crimes are increasing in the port city," said Advocate Rehana Begum Ranu, president of Fight for Women's Rights. She said one of the main reasons for increasing such crimes is the girls' presence in outdoor activities.

Rehana said the figure recorded in the hospitals does not show the real feature of the incidents of rape as many of them are not admitted to the hospitals. "One will also be misguided with the figure recorded in the police stations as many of such incidents are resolved locally despite the incidents of rape are not negotiable according to law," she added.

Premier University Vice-Chancellor and renowned sociologist Prof Anupam Sen said decaying of social values, especially the middle-class values, is putting the society at stake in terms of morality. He said the young generations are now taking the bad lessons of western culture instead of taking the good lessons. Most of them are now detached from our own culture due to easy excess to the internet and electronic media, he said.

Prof Anupam said the television serials

Police suspect that the woman might have been killed after rape. Sub-Inspector Ekramul Huq said the body was sent to CMCH morgue for postmortem.

Mohammad Afzal Hossain, a former chairman of the Department of Psychology, University of Chittagong, said an adolescent can create a lot of social problems like committing rape and other anti-social activities if he does not grow up socially.

How an adolescent will react in the society completely depends upon how he is treated in the family, he added.

"If he is deprived of proper education as well as love and affection at family he will possibly be an anti-social element," Prof Afzal said, adding that mixing with spoiled men during adolescent period is another vital factor for him to commit crimes like rape.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Chittagong President Advocate Abul Hashem said many children are not getting proper affection and attention from their parents as their parents remain busy with their professions that become obstacles to their growth as a sensitive human being.

the week that was

Publication ceremony held

Publication ceremony of a book titled 'Chatgaia Bachan o Buli' of Mohammad Edrish was held on Thursday at Chittagong Press Club (CPC).

Dainik Azadi Editor MA Malek, columnist Mohammad Hossain Khan, Safiul Alam and Prof Dr Mahabubul Haq spoke at the function with journalist Arun Das Gupto in the chair.

Speakers said country should concentrate on research work on local culture to enrich Bangalee culture.

They said Edrish projected the local culture in his book to the new generation. It is an asset of the Bangalee culture.

Poetry festival concludes

A divisional poetry festival ended in the port city with a slogan 'Art and literature are language revolution, revolution will free the art and literature.'

Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir General Secretary Hasibur Rahman inaugurated the programme as the chief guest on the DC Hill premises on February 4.

Hasibur in his speech hoped that this kind of programmes would strengthen the cultural movement against fascism, imperialism and communalism.

Termining poetry an instrument to social revolution, he called on new generation poets to unite against discriminations through their writings.

Prof Nurul Islam Helalee presided over the

programme. Poet Ahmed Ilyus and Prof Ferdous Ara Alim spoke as the special guests. Later, the poets recited from their poems and read from noted poets' work featuring patriotism, anti-fascism, anti-imperialism and anti-racism.

'Remove all illegal structures'

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Abdul Karim at a meeting on preparation of World Cricket Cup 2011, asked the authorities concerned to remove all illegal structures and shift floating people from some designated areas immediately.

He also asked the organisers and the officials to maintain quality in work at the meeting at Circuit House auditorium.

He was addressing the high officials of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), Power Development Board (PDB). Meanwhile, CDA officials at a press conference said the construction work of approach road to Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium would be completed within mid-February. They, however, said to complete the beautification work it will need February.

Call to allot plots for hawkers

A meeting of Newspaper Hawkers' League (NHL),



Former Governor of Lions' Club Nader Khan speaks as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a programme titled 'The Daily Star-Banglalion Brainstorming Business Case - Solving Competition,' at the Public Administration Training Centre in the port city on February 4. Drishti organised the event in association with Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd and East Delta University.

STAR PHOTO

Chittagong unit was held on Tuesday at the Chasma Hill at the residence of former mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury.

Mahiuddin, an adviser of NHL, Chittagong, advised the hawkers to open accounts in the Krishi Bank.

Mahiuddin urged Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) to allot some plots for NHL to meet their housing problems.

He also urged the hawkers to keep in good terms with the agents as well as the owners of the newspapers.

NHL, Chittagong President Sarwar Alam presided over the meeting.

WCCI meet held

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) was held on Thursday at the chamber auditorium.

The senior vice-president of WCCI and Director of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Khaleda-A-Awal presented the annual reports.

The meeting thanked WCCI for being enlisted in

category "A" of FBCCI. It also thanked Khaleda-A-Awal for being elected a member of FBCCI for the first time as a representative of WCCI. WCCI President Manwara Hakim Ali presided over the meeting.

'Promote Bangalee culture'

State Minister for Culture Advocate Promod Mankin said "Our culture is the repository that conveys our history and heritage and help remove militancy from the country."

"If everybody becomes cultural minded, militant activities will not occur in the country", he said.

Mankin was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural function of a three-day programme of Dramatics Department of Chittagong University (CU) on Saturday.

Mankin said, "We have a culture and that is Bangalee culture".

He blamed a section of people for trying to penetrating kitsch culture to Bangalee culture.

He called on all to promote folk songs like jari and Lalan songs to resist the trend.

CU acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Alauddin, Dean of Arts Faculty Prof Dr Golam Kibria Bhuiyan, Chairperson of Group Theatre Federation Liakat Ali Lucky and Secretary General Jhuna Chowdhury also spoke at the function.

Dramatics Department Chairman Prof Quazi Mostain Billah presided over the programme.