

THAT the Key-report played a predominant role in the initial post-independence development strides in the field of libraries is evident from the planning of library development in the first five-year plan. Apart from the rehabilitation of the Central Public Library which, in all appearance seemed to be the primary concern of the administration, project-planning for the development of Divisional and District level libraries reflected the development pattern as envisaged in the Key-Plan.

Only two projects were undertaken for the development of libraries in the first Five-Year Plan. These projects are: 1) Development of Non-Government Public Libraries (Project-I) and 2) Development of Government Public Libraries (Project-II) with estimated costs of Tk. 58.00 lacs and Tk. 71.00 lacs respectively.

REHABILITATION OF CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

For obvious reasons the foremost concern of the planners was the formulation of projects required to complete the works left over before independence and the most vital project suspended during the struggle for independence was the Rehabilitation of the Central Public Library. Though no significant progress was made in the project during pre-independence days some partial construction was made and the under-construction building was utilised by different agencies along with the surrounding areas for different purposes, such as, Haji Camp, Export fair etc.

The situation created by the transfer of the original Central Public Library building opposite T.S.C. to the Dhaka University in 1961 called for the formulation

as it was dropped from the revised project in 1977. The work however was started again under a Presidential Order during the Two-Year Approach Plan.

Meanwhile the sub-project was made partially functional with the shifting of the Central Public Library from the University area to the under-construction building opening the library to the public in 1978. At the close of the Approach Plan in 1980, the present specious building at Shahbagh was complete except the third stack, the staff quarter and the auditorium.

However this sub-project was declared complete with the object of undertaking the remaining work in the Second Five-Year Plan under a new project.

CHITTAGONG DIVISIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The fate of the second sub-project of Project II, the construction of a new building for

ing all area of 30,000 sq ft included (a) Reading Hall and Stack area Processing section. Newspaper and periodicals Section and Administrative Block in the main building; (b) Prayer Hall and Cycle Stand; (c) Auditorium and (d) the Librarian's quarter and Staff quarter.

Here again the actual construction works could not be undertaken before liberation and not even in the first year plan of Bangladesh for want of availability of land and finalisation of Plans. Finally land was made available to accommodate the specious library building in the vicinity of Raishahi Medical College and actual construction began during the 2-year Approach Plan period. During the period brick works of the main building was completed. Mosaic work sanitary fittings window grills and glass panes water sup

POST-INDEPENDENCE LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: FIRST PLAN PERIOD

—Syed Azizur Rahman

The reason for non-implementation of these projects during the first plan period was ascribed to late approval of the projects. Only Tk 35.00 lacs and Tk 23.16 lacs are said to have been utilised in the two projects during the period and, as such, the Two-year Approach Plan (1978-80) was to be formulated in a bid to continue the efforts to reach the First plan target.

DEVELOPMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

In course of the 2-year Approach Plan period, Government grants were provided to non-government libraries under two groups. In the first group five non-government District Libraries were allocated Tk 3.50 lacs for construction of new building and Taka 0.75 lacs for procurement of books furniture and equipments for each of the libraries. The recipients are Barisal Public Library; Muslim Institute Public Library Mymensingh. Noakhali Public Library. Kazi Nazrul Islam Pathagar, Patuakhali and Rangamati Public Library.

In the second group, a sum of Taka 2.5 lacs were provided to each of the following ten libraries for expansion or improvement of the existing library building and purchase of books, furniture etc:—

- 1) Woodburn Public Library, Bogra; 2) Raja Vir Chandra Public Library, Comilla; 3) Sher-e-Bangla Public Library, Faridpur; 4) Khawaja Nazimuddin Hall and Library, Dinaipur; 5) Jessore Institute Public Library, Jessore; 6) Kushtia Public Library, Kushtia; 7) Ananda Govinda Public Library, Pabna; 8) Rangpur Public Library, Rangpur; 9) Central Muslim Sahitya Samsad and Public Library Sylhet and 10) Tangail Public Library, Tangail.

The second projects, which aimed at development of Government Public Libraries consisted of three sub-projects, viz (i) Rehabilitation of the Central Public Library (ii) Construction of a building for Chittagong Divisional Public Library and (iii) Establishment of Raishahi Division

of the Rehabilitation Scheme which was initiated in the pre-independence period. After liberation this Rehabilitation Scheme was taken up under a new project styled Development of Government Public Libraries in the First Five Year Plan and the Two year Approach Plan.

The first phase of the project the construction of the functional building except the stack-room in the second flood and the proposed staff quarter was completed at the close of the Two-year Approach Plan period. The work of the auditorium, started under the original project Rehabilitation of the Central Public Library was subsequently stopped

the Chittagong Divisional Public Library was again left to uncertainty as the first plan and two year approach plan period expired before the plans and designs of the proposed new building could be finalised.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RAISHAH DIVISIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

The scheme for the setting up of a Divisional Public Library at Raishahi was undertaken by the Education Department in course of the pre-liberation Second Five year plan period. A sum of Rs 12.90 lac was provided in the year 1967-68 for the following construction works.

The construction works covered

ply arrangement and electrical works were yet to be taken up. Besides, other remaining works include the auditorium residential quarters prayer hall and cycle stand. Compound wall and internal road system also remained incomplete. The project was therefore, revised for inclusion in the second five-year plan.

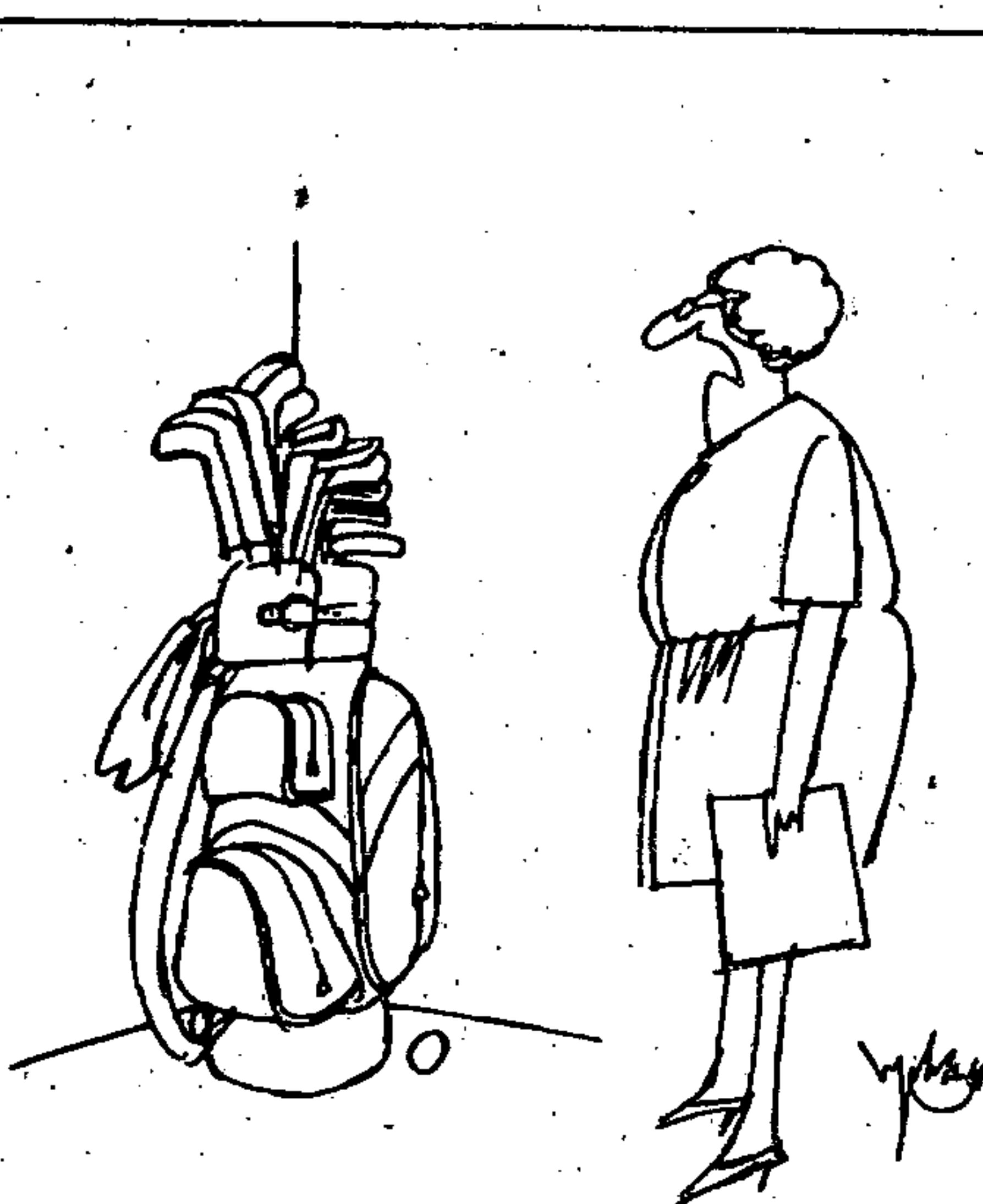
SURVEY OF LIBRARIES

Meanwhile, another development commensurate with the development objectives in the sphere was the launching of a systematic and objective survey of libraries under the joint auspices of the British Council in Bangladesh and the Ministry of Sports and Cultural Affairs in the year 1978-79. The survey which was conducted by a library consultant of international repute Mr J.S Parker aimed at probing into the actual state of the existing libraries with a view to suggesting measures for their improvement through proper planning.

The survey was carried out by a team of local Librarians under the general supervision of the consultant in 1978-79. It covered a total number of 176 public libraries in the country and results were tabulated and analysed by computer. The resultant report completed in three volumes was submitted to the government of Bangladesh in November 1979.

Shown in the concluding remarks as the first step towards the development of a dynamic public library service for Bangladesh the Parker-Report describes the methodology the background factors affecting public libraries in the country and the present state of public libraries as revealed by the survey and includes 31 recommendations for their future development under the second five-year plan.

Thus ended the second phase of Library Development in Bangladesh with some amount of progress in both public and private sectors. The outstanding achievement in the field of library development however the first detailed survey created suggestion



"Next time you see my husband tell him I said hello."

the development of the country as outlined in the Parker Report, the objective of the survey was to create suggestion