

Role of public library in consolidating democracy

A Correspondent
 PABNA, Nov 12: "Public Libraries are the best democratic Institutions as in them, books on different subjects carrying various ideologies, opinions and even with mutually contradicting ideas and viewpoints are preserved on the same almirah or racks. This sort of co-existence and that too peacefully, one with the others, is highly necessary in our society for consolidating the gains of our democratic movement and also for giving democracy a permanent shape."

Eminent poet and journalist Mr Shamsur Rahman said this while inaugurating recently the four-day long Centenary celebrations of the Ananda Govinda Public Library. Mr Ali Zaker, a renowned filmartist from Dhaka, Mr Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner M Mustafizur Rahman, Superintendent of Police, Mr Rashid Haider, eminent litterateur Mr. Atiqul Alam, Bangladesh Bureau Chief of Reuter, Prof. Moslem Ali Principal.

Government Edward College, Principal Shamsul Islam and many other eminent personalities were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Mr. Waziuddin Khan, President Ananda Govinda Public Library presided over the inaugural function. Besides the chief guest Shamsur Rahman it was addressed by Mr Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, Prof. Moslem Ali, Mr. Ali Zaker and Prof. Manwar Hossain Zahedi.

Shamsur Rahman earlier inaugurated the book exhibition. The Ananda Govinda Public Library, Bangla Academy, National Book Centre, Shishu Academy, Islamic Foundation and Edward College participated in the exhibition.

The Mobile Exhibition of the National Museum was also formally inaugurated by the chief guest.

Two sessions were held on the second day which was declared by the organisers as "Pabna Dibash."

The first session was presided over by Mr. Abdur Razzaq, Vice-President, Pabna District

Advocates' Bar Association. The session was marked by recitation competition, debate painting and essay-writing participated by over 200 boys and girls from different schools and colleges and the competitions were divided into two groups.

The second session was presided over by Ranesh Mitra, President Pabna Press Club.

In the second session the history of the Ananda Govinda Public Library was narrated by renowned personalities.

Dr. Abdullah Faruq, Chairman, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha, Mr. Abdus Salam, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Planning, Mr. Abdus Samad, a retired Secretary, Major General (Retd) Abdus Sammad, Alhaj Shaoquatul Islam, an industrialist Mr. Atiqul Alam, Dr. Abdul Khaleque, Dr. Saifuddin Chowdhury, Kazi Habibur Rahman Mr. Anisul Islam, a Rotarian from Dhaka, Mr Prasad Roy, Mr. Saidul Islam Roku, Rashid Haider of Bangla Academy Principal Fakhru Islam, Mr. Nazmul Haque Nannu, Advocate Amjad Hossain and Mr. Zahurul Islam Bishu, Chairman, Pabna Pourashava participated in the discussion.

A seminar on "Publications in Bangladesh. Some Related Thoughts" was held on Thursday. The main paper was presented by Dr. Indris Ali of Jahangirnagar University. The session was presided over by Professor Moslem Ali, while eminent litterateur Prof. Kabir Chowdhury was the chief guest.

On the concluding day, a discussion meeting was held on "Libraries are to be taken nearer to the people". Presided over by Mr. Anwarul Haque, former President of Pabna Press Club, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, an eminent litterateur attended as the chief guest.

Eminent film-director Hasan Iman, Shamsul Islam and Prof. Manwar Hossain Jahedi participated in the discussion. Prof. Siddiqui distributed prizes among the best literary competitors.

A colourful cultural function including musical soiree, recitation, Solo acting Bengali drama "Jibanta Poster" by Anushilan Ashee and variety show by the local artistes were also held.

A souvenir, "Shatabarsha Smaranika 1990", was also brought out on the occasion.

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