

# Publications of Dhaka University

Prof. Q.A.I.M. Nuruddin  
Deptt. of Mass Communication & Journalism.

The justification for a publication programme at the highest seat of learning was set forth brilliantly by Daniel Colt Gilman, the Prime President of the John Hopkins University of the USA nearly 110 years ago. I cannot resist my temptation to quote Gilman at the very outset. He used to say: "It is one of the noblest duties of a university to advance knowledge, and to diffuse it not merely among those who can attend the diurnal lectures—but far and wide."

Today's emphasis on the concepts of extra-mural and life-long education only accord more dimension to Gilman's statement. To perform the noble function of knowledge diffusion, universities nowadays pursue the act of publication through books, journals, microfiche and even computer diskettes. Needless to say that the relationship among the first-order roles of teaching, research and publication in a university setting are highly osmotic in nature. One cannot achieve a balanced growth without the aid of the other.

The University of Dhaka is steadily progressing with its publication programme, though supported by a very modest base of resources. The founding members of the University rightly realised that a university structure cannot be a composite one without a publication paraphernalia of academic nature of its own. A pole for top-level efficient dissemination of empirical, esoteric and simulated knowledge is a condition sine qua non for any centre of academic excellence. That is why we find that Dhaka University Bulletins, a forerunner of Dhaka University Studies, started coming out in 1921, the very year when the university itself was founded. The consequence of this vital germination in the annals of Dhaka University publications is for great significance.

The teaching faculty of the university regularly publish their research papers, findings and other pertinent data in the 'Dhaka University Studies' which is on print run since 1935. The above journal has been splintered in later years into five parts to accommodate more and more specialised scho-

larly articles. While the 'Studies' are published in English twice a year, another journal styled 'Dhaka Visyavidyalaya Patrika' comes out in Bangla thrice a year. The 'Studies' and the 'Patrika' are edited by a board of distinguished scholars.

Some of the teaching departments have got their own publications also. Shahitya Patrika (Bangla Department), Orchestra (English Department), Samikshan (Philosophy Department), The Nations (International Relations Department), Journal of Psychology (Psychology Department), Pushti Barta (Institute of Nutrition and Food Science) are, among others, the journals being brought out by the sole initiatives of the departments concerned. The Dhaka University Department of Mass Communication and Journalism is planning to bring out a half-yearly journal entitled "Bangladesh Journal of Communication" soon.

The book publication venture of Dhaka University originated with the publication of Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar's tome titled "Early History of Bengal" back in 1925. Since then, the University has added 91 more titles of scholarly books to its list of publications. These have been highly commended both at home and abroad.

Number-wise, the list may not be a very engaging one; but I am proud to mention that content-wise, the listing is fairly comprehensive covering the broad spectrum of academic disciplines ranging from anthropology to zoology. The complete list of all the prized books is available in the Public Relations office of the University.

"Bangladesh Voting Behaviour: a psephological study" by Professor Shamsul Huda Harun, "Quantum Mechanics" by Professor A.M. Harun Rashid, "Science, Technology and Development" by Professor M. Innas Ali, "Kalidasa as a dramatist" by Dr. Paresh Chandra Mondal, "Relativization in Bengali" by Professor Abul Kalam Manzur Murshed,

"Swifts moral satire" by Prof. M. Shamsuddoha are some of the recently published titles of the University of Dhaka.

Another important landmark in the University's publication network is the creation of Anubad Sangstha in 1977 which has been entrusted with the job of translating essential textbooks into Bangla for the benefit of teachers and students alike. Dhaka University Book Society has also taken up a crash programme of bringing out texts and reference books in Bangla.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) occasionally brings out periodicals. Materials of commemorative kind are also published by DUCSU from time to time. A newsletter under the nomenclature "Dhaka Visyavidyalaya Barta" is being regularly published by the Public relations office of the University to keep its various 'publics' informed about the going-on in the campus. This publication is very popular among the students.

The limited size of the Bangladesh market for specialised academic publications is forcing Dhaka University to restrict itself to small print runs. If the University can make out some arrangement to exchange its books and Journals with those of major scholarly publishers around the world on mutual basis, then hopefully, operational plurality will greatly expand and stimulate publication-production diversity of not only intellectual message but also of involved media.

Although the publication scenario of the University delineated above does not offer a very encouraging spectacle, it is not frustrating either. If we consider the dictum that there will always be a strong degree of correlation between the investment a country makes in her university education and the quality of scholarly publications she gets, then the niche carved out by the Dhaka University definitely shows a promising trend.