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Books worth Tk 3 cr to be donated to colleges

Staff Correspondent

The inaugural ceremony of the book donation by the Ministry of Education to 500 government and non-government colleges of the country was held at the Conference Room of the National Book Centre on Thursday.

The government for the first time distributed books worth Taka 60 thousand to each college of the country instead of giving money. This year books valued Taka three crore will be distributed to 500 colleges—200 government colleges and 300 non-government colleges through the National Book Centre (NBC).

Education Minister A.S.H.K. Sadeq attended the inaugural ceremony as chief guest while State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader as special guests. Presided over by Cultural Affairs Secretary Md. Azizur Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by Director of NBC N.M. Paniruddin Haider, DG of Bangla Academy Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain, Hamidul Islam, Prof. Muntasir Mamun and Sheikh Nurul Islam.

Addressing the function the speakers urged the writers to come close with the people at thana and district level to encourage the people in reading

books. "Reading of books will flourish the intelligence of the people, which is need for over—all development of a country," they said.

The Education Minister said books worth Taka three crore will also be given in next fiscal year. Books will be distributed to all colleges, schools and madrasahs in phases, he added.

Books of 125 publishing houses are being distributed in the first phase.