

ISESCO planning to open 50 literacy centres

Times Report
 Education activities under the assistance of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) is increasing gradually. Set up with the patronage of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), ISESCO looks forward to helping the OIC member countries to develop in the fields of Education, Scientific and Cultural activities.

It is gathered that since 1984 this agency of the Islamic countries is assisting the expansion of literacy programme in Bangladesh in a number of ways.

In 1984 a batch of 30 mass literacy organisers and supervisors from various governmental non-governmental organisations were imparted training to carry forward the programme. Another batch of 30 organisers and supervisors were trained in 1985.

In addition, primers for literacy learners, and follow up books for neo-literates are also being developed with assistance from ISESCO. The primers and follow-up books developed with ISESCO support are based on Islamic norms and values.

At present the Bangladesh National Commission for ISESCO is working on a project to open 50 mosque-based

literacy centres. These centres to be opened in and around Dhaka city initially, are expected to be sanctioned by ISESCO soon. Primers and follow-up books for these centres are expected to be ready by August.

Besides helping the literacy programme ISESCO is also offering scholarships to Bangladeshi teachers. Two teachers have recently been selected to undergo post-graduate studies in Arabic language at

the International Institute of Modern Arabic, Khartoum.

The organisation is also going to sponsor the participation of Bangladesh scholars in a meeting of heads of departments and institutions of Arabic of Islamic countries to be held in Fez, Morocco in March next year.

A meeting of distinguished scientists of Islamic countries will be held in Amman in October this year. Prof. Zakir Hossain, Dean of the faculty of bio-

logical sciences of Dhaka University has been nominated to represent Bangladesh in that meeting.

Two persons have been nominated to take part in a training course for typing in Arabic.

ISESCO has also undertaken the translation of important books pertaining to Islamic faith and has requested its member countries to present such books to it, according to sources.