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Introduction of library-based education system stressed

From A Correspondent

DHAMRAI (Dhaka), May 11:—The speakers in a seminar on 'grameen (village) library' services held here on May 3 demanded introduction of library based education system in the country.

The Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) in collaboration with the Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) and Dhamrai Thana Administration organized the seminar at the local TTDC auditorium on May 3. Mr M Shamsul Islam Khan, President of LAB, read out the keynote paper.

Mr Zillur Rahman, Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, and Mr Obaidul Kader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture, attended the inaugural session as the chief guest and the special guest respectively.

Dr Kazi M Badruddoza, Shah Mohammad Nazmul Alam, Mr AKM Abdus Nur, Dr Gul Hossain, Dr Fazlul Alam, Mr Madhab Chandra Dey, Mr Sultanuddin Ahmed and Mr Jasimuddin Ahmed took part in the discussion. Mr M Shamsul Islam Khan presided over the inaugural session.

Khandakar Fazlur Rahman in his address demanded introduction of 'library-based education system' and inclusion of librarians in the cadre

services.

Mr Obaidul Kader in speech said that the government would consider the demands and the suggestions. He announced grant of Taka 10,000 for the three experimental grameen libraries. The LAB set up three libraries in remote Dhamrai villages and agreed to restore financial support to the Institute of Library and Information Science. He disclosed that the government would open libraries at 100 thana headquarters in June.

Mr Zillur Rahman termed the grameen library concept as an 'information power-house'. Earlier, on arrival here, the Minister inaugurated the Dhamrai Public Library.

Mr M Shamsul Islam Khan in his keynote paper explained the need for and effectiveness of grameen library services for the rural people who cannot read and write.

In his presidential speech at the inaugural session, Mr Khan suggested that the Ministry of Culture should be rechristened as the Ministry of Library and Cultural Affairs under separate minister. He further said that the issue of library development ought to be included in the manifestos of all political parties.

Mr Sultanuddin Ahmed and Mr AKM Abdur Nur, former Presidents of LAB, presided over the technical sessions of the seminar.