

Mobile library in 42 more districts from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to spreading library facilities at the grassroots level across the country, Bishwa Sahitya Kendra expands its mobile library programme to 42 more districts.

With the start of the programme tomorrow, around 40000 people of 120 upazilas will be brought under the mobile library programme that will provide books to readers at their doorstep.

The programme will be operated with the technical and financial assistance of Manusher Jonno Foundation and Norwegian Embassy.

This was stated at a press conference organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra on the eve of its countrywide mobile library expansion programme at the seminar room of Public Library in the city yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, president of the Kendra, said although book reading is essential for enlightenment, enough opportunity does not exist in small towns and villages for reading books in library.

Expressing concern over the negligible number of library in the country and their dilapidated condition, he said it is also difficult for readers to go to library due to communication and financial problems.

Prof Sayeed hoped to provide books to everyone through mobile library programme by 2009.

He also called for forming cultural society in each area for mental

recreation and enlightenment.

The new districts include Faridpur, Rajbari, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Tangail, Narayanganj, Narshingdi, Munshiganj, Gazipur, Noakhali, Feni, Comilla, Chandpur, Kushtia, Natore, Pabna, Chuadanga, Lalmonirhat, Jhenidah, Kurigram, Magura, Naogaon, Nilphamari and Sylhet.

The mobile library has already reached around 27000 readers of four metropolitan cities Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.

Variety of literary genres including world famous novels, anthology of short stories, comedies, travel stories, biographies, poetry and translated literature will be available in the mobile library.

Appreciating the initiative,

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, hoped that the programme would help enrich the outlook of both male and female readers thanks to reading books together in mobile library.

Hans Peter Melby, counsellor of Norwegian Embassy, also spoke on the occasion.