

## MODERNISING LIBRARIES

# Govt to form committee for recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said a committee of experts will be formed within a month to make recommendations for modernising the libraries across the country.

"Most of the libraries in our country are lying in a shabby condition while the developed countries are emphasising on expansion of libraries and enriching their collection," he said.

The Minister was addressing a discussion organised by the Department of Information Science and Library Management, Dhaka University (DU) at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium yesterday to mark its golden jubilee.

He reassured that the stu-

dents of primary, secondary schools, Ibtedaye (primary level of madrasa) and Dakhil classes will certainly get free textbooks from their respective educational institutes at the first working day of the new year (today).

About the proposed education policy, he said, "It is not a education policy of any political party, rather it is a national education policy. This education policy has been formulated aiming at bringing changes in the education system and to ensure time-befitting and quality education."

He asked the teachers not to announce holiday on special days like February 21, March 26 and December 16. "On those days, classes will remain closed but the students will have to come to the institutions to learn

about the history and significance of those days," he added.

He defined the concept of 'Digital Bangladesh' as poverty, corruption, illiteracy-free and modern technology based prosperous Bangladesh.

Presiding over the meeting, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique stressed the need for increasing the number of libraries across the country.

"From educational institutions one can get academic certificate only, but one will have to go to a library for acquiring real knowledge."

DU Pro-VC Harun-or-Rashid, Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of Information Science and Library Management Department Dr Salma Chowdhury also spoke.