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'Grameen library' in all villages to be established

DHAMRAI (Dhaka), May 2: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today said that the government was actively considering to establish 'Grameen Library' in all villages of the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a seminar on "development of Grameen Library system for information support to the rural people of Bangladesh" here organised by Bangladesh Library Association in Cooperation with Bangladesh National Science and Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) and Dhamrai Thana administration.

Zillur Rahman said "no nation can prosper and achieve economic emancipation leaving aside the vast rural population into abject poverty."

He said grameen libraries would serve as information "power houses" for eradicating poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition.

The minister said "access to information" is a basic human right which the rural population were deprived of for a long time.

The seminar was also addressed by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, Professor Kazi M Badruddoza, AKM Abdur Noor, Librarian of Dhaka University Dr Fazlul Alam, Chairman of Library and Information Science of Dhaka University Professor Madhav Chandra Dev, M Shamsul Islam Khan, chief of Bangladesh Granthagar Samity presided over the inaugural ceremony.

The speakers urged the gov-

ernment to "frame a legal basis" to ensure sustainability of Grameen Library and information system in remote areas.

They also appealed to the government and the NGOs to start a concerted initiative in this regard.