

Adult Literacy Week begins

'Literacy rate has gone up by 11pc since '96'

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday said the rate of literacy went up to 58 per cent this year from 47 per cent in 1996 by dint of coordinated and sincere efforts of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

He said the present government, as part of its commitment to drive out illiteracy from the country in 10 years, would now be able to achieve total success much ahead of the deadline since some epoch-making programmes were being implemented, both by the government and the NGOs, in the field of education throughout the country.

"We have targeted 62 per cent achievement in literacy by next year and total literacy by the year 2006 but our present pace of success speaks of fulfilling our aim much earlier," he said while inaugurating the Adult Literacy Week marking the International Literacy Day on September 8.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy and Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division of the Education Ministry Dr Sa'adat Hussain were special guests on the occasion.

Besides, Director General of

the Non-Formal Education Directorate Khandker Shahidul Islam, former secretary Kazi Azhar Ali and Rasheda K Chowdhury of "Ganasakkharata Abhijan" spoke on the occasion.

Sadique said the present government since 1996 has been implementing the country's largest-ever project in the education sector with the aim to drive out illiteracy from the country within the year 2006.

He said the Taka 682 crore project named "Project-4" was being implemented with government's own funds throughout the country and at least seven districts have been totally rid of illiteracy so far.

"We have started the project in a coordinated way, irrespective of party and opinion, and I hope we will succeed in our mission much ahead of 2006 if the pace of such coordinated efforts continues in the greater national interest," he said.

The minister said country's people had now realised the importance of education and that is why such extraordinary success could be achieved in only three years. "But the greater task is to make people skilled manpower and the government has already launched the post-literacy drive in that regard," he said.