

## Literacy rate now 56pc

By Staff Correspondent

The country with its literacy rate at around 56 per cent at present is expected to achieve its illiteracy-free goal by 2006.

Dr Saadat Hossain, Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Department, revealed this at a seminar yesterday.

The last seven years has seen a sharp rise of the literacy rate, he said, adding that it will go up to 80 per cent within the next three to four years.

Four districts—Nilphamari, Chuadanga, Magura and Rajshahi—have been declared illiteracy-free in recent years due to all-out efforts in this regard, the secretary told the seminar on "Eradication of Illiteracy from Bangladesh and Lessons from Japanese Experience".

Jointly organised by Embassy of Japan and Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association, the seminar was held at the LGED Bhaban in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy attended the seminar as chief guest while Dr Saadat Hossain was present as special guest. Former minister AMA Muhit presided.

Minister of Embassy of Japan Shigeharu Maruyama was also present. Director General of Non-formal Education Directorate Khandaker Shahidul Islam, and president of Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association Momtazuddin Bhuiyan presented papers at the seminar.