

## Dhaka dist has highest literacy rate

The Dhaka district has the highest literacy of 68.3 per cent., followed by southern Jhalakati with 60.3, according to statistics presented in parliament on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The country's literacy rate, however, was 44.30 as per a Sample Vital Registration (SVR) in 1995. Education Minister ASHK Sadeq said in a written reply to a question from Dr. Rustam Ali Farazi (JP-Pirojpur).

People aged seven or more, who can at least write a letter, were considered literate in the survey.

The lowest literacy rate of the country was 27.7 in Sherpur district, followed by 32.1 in

Jamalpur, 32.2 in Nawabganj, 32.4 in Gaibandha and 32.8 in Kurigram district.

Literacy rate in all districts of the Barisal division was over 40, except Bhola where the rate was only 33.4. The rate was 58.4 for Pirojpur, 52.1 for Barisal, 48.3 for Barguna and 43.1 for Patuakhali.

Sylhet has the highest literacy rate in the Sylhet division of 44.1. Rajshahi district in Rajshahi division has 47.4, Khulna district in Khulna division 59.3 and Chittagong district in Chittagong division 53.6.

The rate of literacy was 47.5 in both Dhaka and Barisal divisions while it was 39.3 for

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Sylhet division, 39.6 for Rajshahi, 43.6 for Khulna and 46.2 for Chittagong.

BSS adds: Education Minister ASHK Sadeq on Wednesday informed the Jatiya

Sangsad that there were 2436 junior high schools with 5,74,343 students, 9,352 secondary high schools with 39,60559 students, 464 intermediate colleges with 1,65,023 students and 611 degree colleges with 9,62,393 students in the country in 1994.

Giving this information in reply to a question from Mr Md. Masiur Rahman (BNP Jhenidah) the Minister also said that these figures were 2562 junior high schools with 2,86,242 students, 6469 secondary high schools with 19,78,989 students 273 intermediate colleges with 55,815 students, and 338 degree colleges with 2,44,232 students in 1975.

A Total of 317 government and 13,530 non-government secondary schools exist in the country, Education Minister A.H. S.K. Sadeq told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday.

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench Member Dhirendranath Saha he said the revenue expenditure for the government schools was more than Taka 70 crore while more than Taka 409 crore for the non-government schools.

Answering another question from Awami League member from Comilla Abdul Hakim MP, the Minister said until June 30 last a total of 2,634 posts of teachers in the government primary schools were lying vacant.