

Staff reporter

Primary & Mass Education Minister Mustafizur Rahman on Sunday claimed that the country's literacy rate is now 65 percent as the number of uneducated population stands at 25 million. He came up with the information at a press conference held at the ministry ahead of International Literacy Day to be observed on September 8.

As journalists drew his attention to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics report-2010 that put the literacy rate at 59.82 percent, Mustafizur Rahman said, "The enrolment rate at primary level is almost hundred percent. We've been able to keep our expectation on the right track. What's the problem if it is above 65 percent?"

Primary & Mass Education secretary Kazi Akter Hossain said, "The literacy rate might be above 65 percent. We hardly get illiterate people in slums these days. I believe the rate has got close to 70 percent."

About primary school grabbing at different parts of the country, the minister said, "We're lawfully moving ahead to recover the land of the primary school at Dhaka city's Bailey Road. I've talked to the Attorney General in this regard. Hope, the civil society will help us."