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## Pry completion exam to continue: minister

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 01:09am on September 07, 2018

Primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman on Thursday reiterated that they would continue holding Primary Education Completion Examination after class V despite the criticism of academics and guardians.

‘We would continue the exam’ Mostafizur said, replying to a query at a press conference if the government would consider scrapping the exam that was termed by academics as unnecessary as it was creating mental pressure on children.

‘The exam will continue until the government takes any decision regarding it’ Mostafizur said while attending the press conference at the Secretariat on International Literacy Day 2018 on Sunday.

The government introduced PECE in 2009 by replacing the scholarship examination and since then it was facing criticism from academics and guardian.

Academics said that the public exam increased education expenses for Grade-V students making pupils more dependent on coaching, private tuitions and guidebooks for better results.

Mostafizur said that the extension of primary education until class VIII is still at an experimental level. Elementary education will be extended until class VIII after the completion of the experiment, he added.

After a meeting on implementation of the National Education Policy adopted by the government in 2010, education minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Mostafizur earlier at a press conference declared that primary education in Bangladesh had been extended to Class VIII.

But later the government backtracked from its decision.

Quoting Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Mustafizur says that the literacy rate in the country now stands at 72.9 per cent.

‘The rate is going up gradually due to multifaceted programmes adopted by the present government,’ he said.

Bangladesh along with other countries will observe International Literacy Day on September 8 with the slogan ‘Literacy and skills development’.

Commemorative postal stamps, posters will be released, special supplements will be published, rallies will be brought out and major roadways will be decorated marking the day.



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