

# 21,000 primary schools have no headmaster

*Int'l Literacy Day tomorrow*

## Staff Correspondent

BANGLADESH celebrates the International Literacy Day tomorrow in the unbelievable backdrop of 21,000, out of 63,607 primary schools of the government imparting education to tender learners without headmasters.

The glaring neglect of primary schools shows why the nation's rate of illiteracy still remains as high as 27.7 per cent.

The mockery is reinforced by the information that assistant headmaster's position fell vacant at 32,000 primary schools.

The shortage of teachers forces the existing teaching staff to overstretch which is

affecting the quality of education.

A head teacher has a vital role to play in almost every activity in schools – management of members on the staff, implementation of the academic calendar, monitoring of school discipline, co-curricular activities, daily schedule and the general atmosphere of the institutions, said teachers.

And all this incredible information was shared with reporters at a news conference by the honourable primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman on the eve of the literacy day celebrations.

The government, he said, was working to fill in the vacancies.

He said that government efforts were on to increase the rate of literacy from 72.3 per cent.

He said that this year Bangladesh would celebrate the International Literacy Day on the slogan: 'Let Us Be Literate, Make A Digital World' to keep pace with the UNESCO's slogan for the day: 'Literacy In A Digital World.'

The government as well as a host of socio-cultural organizations would celebrate the day throughout the country through various programmes.

UNESCO expressed concern over 774 million adults still lacking minimum literacy skills, two-thirds of them being women.