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Govt acts to harness demographic dividend: edn minister

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Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon on Saturday said the government is taking comprehensive steps to ensure the country fully benefits from its demographic dividend by eliminating academic session delays, reforming the curriculum and enabling students to complete their education on time.

Replying to questions from journalists after attending a discussion, marking the 'Gono Bishwabidyalay Dibosh' in Savar, the minister said the committee

responsible for formulating the country's syllabus and curriculum is working in a coordinated manner to introduce a modern and time-appropriate education system.

He said a two-year course must be completed within two years, while students should complete their studies up to the intermediate level within the 12-year education cycle by the age of 18 after enrolling at schools at the age of six.

'There should be no session jam and our children's time must not be wasted unnecessarily. In other words, measures are being taken so that the nation does not fall behind in benefiting from the demographic dividend,' he said.

Referring to past practices, the minister said government officials previously travelled abroad to learn how to cook khichuri or clear water hyacinths, but those days are over.

He said the government's election manifesto places emphasis on culture, sports, family values and joyful learning as the key pillars of education, which are highly appreciated by the prime minister.

'The prime minister wants to build a new generation that embraces education as an enjoyable experience,' he said.

The minister said joyful learning is being incorporated into the Class IV curriculum, while sports, culture, family values, Islamic values and ethics are also being included in the syllabus in phases.

He said impartial history is also being incorporated into textbooks, adding that this year's textbooks have been substantially revised.

'It is not possible to change the curriculum within a short period as it is a time-consuming process. We are moving forward accordingly to introduce a modern and time-appropriate education system,' he said.

Highlighting the government's emphasis on improving the quality of teachers, Milon said training programmes are being arranged for teachers and are being conducted under a new approach at different locations.

Referring to disparities between government and private primary schools, he said the primary scholarship programme will now reserve 20 per cent of scholarships for students of private kindergartens and 80 per cent for students of government primary schools, a measure that previous governments had not introduced.

He said education is a right for all and the government is working to ensure that right.

The minister also said examinations for students in the flood-affected areas of Chattogram have been suspended for the time being and will be held once the situation returns to normal.

Earlier, a colourful rally was brought out to mark the day with the participation of the university's teachers and students.

Dhaka-19 constituency lawmaker Dewan Mohammod Salahuddin, Dhaka-20 constituency lawmaker Md Tamiz Uddin and Gono Bishwabidyalay vice-chancellor Professor Md Abul Hossain were present, among others.

Tags

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