

Education sector needs to pole-vault: Ehsanul Hoque

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Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon and state minister for education Bobby Hajjaj address journalists at the education ministry conference room in Bangladesh Secretariat on Wednesday. | New Age photo

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The newly appointed minister for the ministries of education and primary and mass education, ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, said that the education sector needs a 'pole vault' jump on his first day as the minister on Wednesday.

'I believe the education sector needs a pole vault instead of a high jump,' he said while speaking to journalists at the education ministry's conference room at Bangladesh Secretariat.

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Replying to a question on whether he had any plan to bring changes in the national curriculum, he said, 'we will not change the curriculum, but review it.'

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Both Ehsanul Hoque and Bobby Hajjaj, newly appointed state minister for both ministries, joined office on the day.

The minister reminded the journalists that when during his tenure as state minister for education between 2001 and 2006, the pervasive practice of cheating and leaking questions was prevented.

'I hope these things will not be repeated,' he said and added that employment and skilled workforces were the two priority sectors for them now.

The country's standard of education needed upgrading to strengthen its competitiveness against that of the industrially developed countries, the minister stated, adding that the ministries' preparations and planning would be in accordance with that need.

Digital and English literacy were must in the context of the ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution, the minister stressed.

Answering another question regarding irregularities committed during the Awami League regime in appointing vice-chancellors in different universities, he said that his government did not want to drive the car 'looking at the rear view mirror' and move backward.

'We don't want to go back—we want to go ahead,' said the minister.

While talking on corruption in the sector, he added, 'our state minister Bobby Hajjaj and I—we will both stand before you in a few days, and then we will answer these questions.'

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Bobby Hajjaj stated that from primary to tertiary level, technical and madrassah education require complete renovation.

They said that they would follow the methods of the industrially developed countries to prepare textbooks and also expressed hope that in the future the country's education sector would become enviable to other countries.

Secondary and Higher Education Division secretary Rehana Parveen, primary and mass education ministry secretary Abu Taher Md Masud Rana and Technical and Madrassah Education Division secretary Muhammad Rafiqul Islam were also present, among others.