

Sports in curriculum to help children develop an interest in games from an early age: Milon

Govt plans nationwide school meals and uniforms for primary students, education minister says

4 JUNE 2026, 17:18 PM UPDATED 4 JUNE 2026, 17:18 PM EDUCATION

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Education Minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon today said sports are being included in the national curriculum to help children develop an interest in games from an early age.

“The prime minister is giving the highest priority to children. To ensure joyful learning, he has prioritised a happy and engaging learning environment,” he said while inaugurating the national round of the Primary School Gold Cup Football Tournament (Boys-Girls) 2026 at National Bangla High School in Mirpur, Dhaka.



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The minister said the government has also taken steps to make sports compulsory for students.

Milon also said the government has undertaken an initiative to provide school uniforms to children across the country.

He added that the mid-day meal, or school feeding programme, has been introduced to prevent malnutrition among children and help them concentrate on their studies.

Also speaking at the event, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj said, “You are the future of Bangladesh. The government is considering your needs, potential and development with the highest priority. We are working relentlessly to build a beautiful, prosperous and confident Bangladesh for you.”

PM’s Education Adviser Mahdi Amin said the government wants to develop the sports sector so that it becomes not only a source of entertainment but also a viable profession.

“We want to develop the education system in a way that helps students become skilled and worthy citizens of the state,” he said.

Director General of the Directorate of Primary Education Shahina Ferdousi delivered the welcome speech, while Primary and Mass Education Secretary Md Sakhawat Hossain chaired the programme.

The tournament began at union and municipality levels on April 6. Students from 65,569 government primary schools across the country are participating.

In the boys’ category, 1,110,814 players from 65,342 teams are competing, while 1,103,291 players from 65,321 teams are participating in the girls’ category.

The competition progressed through union and municipality, upazila/thana, district and divisional stages. The divisional-level contests concluded on May 23.

The national round began today with 16 teams, comprising eight divisional champion boys’ teams and eight divisional champion girls’ teams representing the country’s eight divisions. The final phase of the tournament officially got under way through the national-level matches.