

Monday, Apr 27, 2026

NEWAGE

Education minister calls on univs to take initiatives to protect intellectual property

Staff Correspondent 26 April, 2026, 23:50



Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon receives a crest at a workshop organised to mark World Intellectual Property Day at the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh at Agargaon in Dhaka on Sunday. | Press release photo

Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon on Sunday said that an integrated effort was needed from universities and relevant stakeholders to make the country's higher education world-standard and to protect innovative intellectual property.

He made the remarks while speaking as chief guest at a workshop at the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh at Agargaon in Dhaka, marking World Intellectual Property Day 2026, said a press release.



He said that universities should not be just a means of awarding degrees but should be developed as centres of excellence. 'At the same time, special emphasis should be given to research.'

The theme of the day was IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate.

Milon said, 'We are lagging behind in the international intellectual property index. We must be vigilant that our innovations and creativity are not registered in other countries. We must encourage innovators by removing administrative complexity of intellectual property registration.'

He proposed organising competitions on intellectual property among universities and awarding the best innovators at the state level.

Mentioning that a large number of talented people are leaving the country, the minister said, 'This "brain drain" needs to be stopped and a "reverse brain" policy needs to be taken.'

He, however, said, 'Many are still returning from abroad but that statistics need to be further enriched.'

Highlighting the limitations of the curriculum, Milon said that public universities were lagging far behind in industry-academia linkage or integration of industry and educational institutions.

'In many cases, it is seen that whatever subjects or courses are being introduced, which are of no use to students in the real workplace,' he noted, mentioning, 'Our course curriculum must be market-oriented.'

He stressed increasing the allocation for research in the budget of universities, mentioning, 'Work is under way to achieve the target of five per cent of GDP allocation, set by the incumbent government,

in the education sector.'

He also mentioned the lack of coordination in higher education, saying, 'A long time is being wasted in the admission process in universities after the SSC and HSC examinations.'

Asking the UGC to sit with all universities and create a 'uniform' admission calendar, he said that due to lack of coordination, valuable time was being lost from the lives of students and this wastage of time must be stopped.

About quality of education in private universities, Milon said that private universities should not be seen only as commercial institutions but the quality of education must be ensured.

The UGC should closely monitor this issue so that private universities can play a vital role in higher education without any hindrance, he said.

Expressing concern over the excessive use of social media and moral degradation of the young generation, the education minister said, 'It is very important to maintain respect and morality for teachers.'

Necessary changes are being made in the curriculum to transform the youth into skilled human resources, he said.

UGC chairman Professor Mamun Ahmed presided over the meeting, while UGC secretary Md Fakhru Islam delivered the welcome speech.

BUET's chemical engineering professor Mohidus Samad Khan gave a keynote address while BRAC University vice-chancellor Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar spoke at the meeting as main discussant.

UGC members and vice-chancellors and teachers and officials of different universities were present at the programme.

Tags [#Education minister](#) [#Education](#)



Editor: Nurul Kabir, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd.

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