

Education sector needs more fund: Nahid

Staff Correspondent

THE education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, on Tuesday said that budgetary allocation for education should be increased as the allocation of only 12 per cent of the total national budget was not enough for the sector.

He made the demand as he addressed a programme at the University Grants Commission on the signing of a contract for the second-round sub-projects of the Academic Innovation Fund component of the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project.

Education is a must for human resources development and the allocation of only 12 per cent of the national budget for the education sector cannot ensure the enhancement of the quality of education, the minister said.

According to the UNESCO declaration, the allocation for education sector should be at least 20 per cent of the national budget and 6 per cent of the gross domestic products, he added.

'We are getting only 12 per cent of the national budget and that too for three ministries,' Nahid said.

He said that the allocation for education is 40 per cent of the national budget in Senegal and 31 per cent in Kenya.

Presided over by the UGC chair, AK Azad Chowdhury, the programme was also addressed, among others, by Dhaka University vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, education secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, World Bank representative Mokhlesur Rahman, researcher Shahid Akhter Hossain, UGC member Muhibur Rahim and HEQEP project director Kaniz Fatema.