

Bachelor's to turn hybrid with technical courses



The interim government is planning to reduce the duration of the four-year bachelor's course under the National University to three years, said Prof M Aminul Islam, special assistant to the education adviser.

Speaking at an event at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday, marking International Education Day, Prof Aminul Islam said the revised three-year bachelor's programme would include an additional year of extensive technical education.



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"In the remaining one year, students will receive specialised training in technical subjects. Upon completion, they will be awarded two certificates – one for a bachelor's degree and the other for a widely recognised diploma," he said.

Prof Aminul explained that this initiative would allow students to achieve a bachelor's qualification while enhancing their employment prospects. "This will be an innovative and extraordinary decision," he added.

The professor said there is a stigma surrounding diplomas and technical education, which many view as inferior or embarrassing. "We are planning an initiative in the near future to break this mindset," he said.

He also highlighted significant gaps in resources within the education system.

Only 18 per cent of the required teachers are available, and despite the inclusion of practical and theoretical lessons in the curriculum, most students are only exposed to theoretical knowledge due to the lack of laboratories, trainers, and practical facilities.

"Currently, students are taught theoretical lessons, followed by viva exams, and then awarded certificates without any practical knowledge. This system will be completely reformed," he added.

Prof Aminul emphasised the need to ensure proper education, laboratory facilities, and qualified trainers. "Students will be trained to secure good jobs even while they are still studying," he said.

The event was also attended by Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, adviser on primary and mass education; Prof Saidur Rahman, a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC); and Kabirul Islam, secretary of the Technical and Madrasah Education Division. Siddique Zobair, secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division, presided over the programme.