



From the Desk of the Editor

The quality of education, particularly at the tertiary level, has become an important issue of discussion in Bangladesh. It is beyond any debate that quality matters. We live in a global village and if we want to survive in this digital age we must give utmost priority in ensuring quality of our education and research. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has, in recent years, earnestly addressed the quality issues. A Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) has been established at UGC under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) with a view to promote a quality culture within the higher education institutions in Bangladesh ensuring good practices and governance. The QAU has established 69 Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC) at 69 universities - 31 Public and 38 Private. The general objective of establishing IQAC is to promote quality academic culture within the university. One of the important functions of IQAC is to facilitate Self Assessment (SA) process at program level forming a Self Assessment Committee (SAC) in each entity. At present SACs of 812 program offering entities in 69 universities have been conducting SA process. The primary objectives of SA process are to record their best practices both in teaching and research as well as in governance followed by evaluation by experts including one foreign expert in quality issue. In the process the IQACs will have a chance to improve and sustain their program level and/or Institutional levels qualities. The Directors and Additional Directors have all been trained by foreign and local experts. The initial fund for this work came from HEQEP funds. The respective universities are required to incorporate future funding for IQAC activities into their annual recurring budgets. The Government has already enacted a law to establish Accreditation Council to evaluate and certify the program level and Institutional level qualities of universities. All of us need to clearly understand the significance and impact of quality education in the greater socio-economic development of our dear motherland. There is no time to think and ponder what to do. The world is moving ahead, and we must not fall behind.

Professor Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah
Member, UGC

Uniform Guidelines for Recruitment/Promotion of Teachers at Public Universities



Meeting with the leaders of Teachers' Associations of Public Universities

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh for formulating uniform guidelines for recruitment, promotion and upgradation of teachers of Public Universities. A six-member committee was accordingly formed with Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC, as the Convener and all Members of UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC were members of this Committee. The Director, in charge of the Public University Management Division was the Member Secretary. The Committee framed a draft guidelines after reviewing the existing guidelines of few public universities and placed it before a joint meeting on 5 April 2017 attended by the Leaders of the Federation of University Teachers association and Presidents and General Secretaries of the teacher's associations of Public universities.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC presided over the function. It was unanimously agreed by everybody present in the meeting that a uniform guidelines for recruitment and promotion is a demand of time to ensure quality of tertiary education in Bangladesh.

Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Additional Director of Public University Management Division, UGC among others were present on the occasion.

Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam unveils Strategic Plan for Higher Education

The Strategic Policy Unit of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) organized an event to handover the final version of Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2017-2030 to Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC on 29 April 2017. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, National Consultant of HEQEP, handed over the



final version of the updated Strategic Plan for Higher Education to UGC Chairman. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, HEQEP, and Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank, Dhaka, spoke on the occasion.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, in his speech, extended sincere thanks to the Members of the Expert Committees and National Consultant for updating the important document within the stipulated time frame. The Chairman of UGC expressed his optimism that the updated strategic plan would be an important document for bringing reform in higher education sector.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech mentioned that about 42% of Bangladesh's educated adults were unemployed according to ILO. If we fail to provide our youths with quality education they would turn into a burden rather than blessing for the country – he noted.

Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his speech mentioned that the updated strategic plan would not bring any result for higher education and research unless sincere and concerted efforts are made to implement it.

Conveners of the Experts Committees, officials and consultants from UGC and HEQEP, among others, were present on the occasion.

Symposium on Intellectual Property Creation and Management in Universities at Dhaka University

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) of Dhaka University and Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) jointly organized a national symposium on Intellectual Property Creation and Management in Universities at Dhaka University on 26 April 2017 to celebrate the World Intellectual Property (IP) Day.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University, inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Aravind



Chinchure, Chair Professor from Symbiosis University and also the International IP consultant of HEQEP, was the keynote speaker at the symposium. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmed, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka were present as Special Guests with Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Sub-project Manager, Dhaka University Technology Transfer Office, in the chair. Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP and Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank, were present at the event as Guests of Honour.

Professor Abdul Mannan, in his speech, mentioned that the universities are the hubs of creation of new knowledge. Our universities need to concentrate on producing skilled graduates. Otherwise, they will not be able to compete with global job markets-he observed.

Professor Mannan further said that Bangladesh is receiving 14 billion US dollar as remittance every year from nearly 8 million expatriates working in different countries. On the other hand, only half a million foreign workers are taking away more than 6 billion dollars every year from Bangladesh. If we had enough skilled people they could earn a handsome amount of money.

Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, in his inaugural speech, observed that the economic development of a country depends on the knowledge and innovation in the knowledge intensive 21st Century.

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind such as inventions, literary, artistic works, symbols, names and images used in commercial ventures. And Intellectual Property Law grants innovators, artistes and business owners certain exclusive rights to a variety of intangible assets for a specified duration- the DU Vice-Chancellor observed.

Inter-University Cultural Competition at Dhaka University

The prize giving ceremony of Inter-University Cultural Competition-2016 was held at Teacher Students' Centre of Dhaka University on 11 April



Cultural Affairs Minister handing over a crest to UGC Chairman

2017. Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, Minister for Cultural Affairs, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University were present as Special Guests. Professor Dr. Md. Alauddin, Vice-Chancellor, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University and also President of Association of Universities of Bangladesh, chaired the prize giving ceremony.

Association of Universities of Bangladesh, a platform of Vice-Chancellors and Dhaka University jointly organized the cultural event for the 5th consecutive time. Students of 38 public universities of the country took part in the competition. Dhaka University emerged champion and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University became runners-up.

Addressing the event, Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor, MP said that human development is not possible without practicing cultural activities. Students will be self-centered, anti-social and selfish in absence of proper education and culture. Communal force will raise their heads in the country over lack of education and cultural activities- he added.

Professor Mannan, in his speech thanked the organizers for creating a dynamic platform to practice cultural activities at university level. He said that students got the opportunity to share their views centering the cultural contest. Such activities should be undertaken more in future with a view to flourishing the merits of the students- he suggested.

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Arefin Siddique observed that education and cultural activities have a close relationship.

Workshop on Digital Library User Training at UGC

A day-long workshop entitled Digital Library User Training was held at UGC auditorium on 09 May 2017. University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) in association with Taylor & Francis Group organized the workshop. Professor Abdul Mannan,



The Chairman speaking at a workshop

Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP and Mr. Mahmudul Islam, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Education were Special Guests on the occasion with Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC in the Chair. Khandker Hamidur Rahman, Director, IMCT Division, UGC delivered the welcome address at the programme.

Professor Mannan said that the Digital Library is the best way to overcome time, space and money constraints. He stressed the need for promoting and expediting the use of digital resources among the students, teachers and researchers to enhance their knowledge and skills to compete in today's world.

He further opined that graduates are now searching for jobs. But 10-15 years later, job will run after our graduates if they get quality education and necessary training. He sought co-operation from all quarters to ensure quality in higher education.

Professor Akhtar Hossain, in his presidential speech highlighted the overall development of digital library. He said that 72 universities of the country are running digital library with 35,000 contents. A single platform will be formed shortly to make digital library more user friendly. He also informed that discovery tools and remote access services will be started soon.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah underscored the need for more use of library with a view to developing human civilization. He said that the concept of library has changed with the passage of time adding that the government and UGC have jointly undertaken Digital Library Project to keep pace with the globalized world. He also called for raising awareness among the students, teachers and researchers for use of digital library.

Neeti Verma, Sales Director, Journals and Online Resources, South Asia, Taylor and Francis, conducted a session on Product Training & Information at the workshop while Mr. Muhammad Jaminur Rahman, Senior Program Officer, UDL, spoke on the present status of UDL. Resource persons of the workshop also responded to the queries raised by the participants at the open

discussion session. There were also group discussion and presentation session where a representative of each group presented the outcome of group discussion. The workshop ended with the closing remark by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC.

Librarians from 72 public and private universities and research organizations of the country participated in the workshop. Senior officials from UGC, Ministry of Education, HEQEP and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, among others were present on the occasion.

Professor Mannan attends the Going Global Conference 2017 in London



Professor Mannan speaking at Going Global 2017

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh attended the Going Global 2017 International Conference organized by the British Council in London. The three day conference began on May 22 at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre. The theme of this year's conference was Global cities: connecting talent, driving change. Nine hundred participants from more than eighty countries participated in the Conference.

This year Professor Mannan was selected as a designated speaker. In his presentation, the UGC Chairman highlighted the achievements in the education sector under the current government and informed the participants that Bangladesh is the only country in the world where on day one of each year every school children is provided free text books by the government. He also informed that currently ensuring quality higher education is the main challenge of the government and the University Grants Commission and to institutionalize the quality aspect recently an Accreditation Council Bill has been passed in the parliament and the government has announced that the process of transforming

UGC into Higher Education Commission is in the process. The UGC Chairman also informed that higher percentage of females are entering into higher education and often their performance is better than the male counterpart.

South Korean delegation calls on UGC Chairman (In-charge) Professor Shah Nowaz Ali



South Korean delegation at UGC

A six member South Korean delegation led by Mr. Chang soo(Ben) Suh, Ph.D, Professor, Business Management, Dean of Center for Entrepreneurship and Startups, Soonchunhyang University, South Korea called on Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Chairman (In-charge), UGC on 25 May 2017.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, and Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC were present in the meeting. Mr. Lee Chul Hee, Director, Overseas Business Division, MarkAny, Mr. Md. Fazle Rabby, Program Coordinator, KOICA, Dr. Muhammad Shariat Ullah, Associate Professor, Department of Management, Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman, Assistant Director, Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, and Dr. B.M. Mainul Hossain, Assistant Professor, Institute of Information Technology, Dhaka University assisted Mr. Chang Soo (Ben) Suh.

The delegation informed the meeting that South Korea through KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) is willing to establish a incubation laboratory in Dhaka University for promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in Bangladesh.

The Acting Chairman of UGC, observed that South Korea has always been a development partner of Bangladesh. Terming the proposal as very positive one he said that University Grants Commission will extend necessary cooperation and assistance to South Korean Government in this regard.

International Conference on Material Science at Rajshahi University



Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah speaking at the conference

A two-day conference on Material Science and Nano-electrochemistry was held at Rajshahi University during 08-09 April 2017. The Conference was organized by the Department of Chemistry of Rajshahi University.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. Professor Md. Nazrul Islam, Chairman of the Department presided over the function. About 200 delegates attended the Conference. Professor Dr. Syamal Chakrabarty of Kolkata University presented the Theme Lecture on, Timeline Blossom in Chemistry. There were 5 Plenary and 53 oral presentations in the Conference. 100 abstracts were submitted. Professor Mollah said that Chemistry, as a central science, has made remarkable contributions in almost all areas of human developments like material science, chemical science & technology, pharmaceutical science, agricultural science, environment and biosciences. He also mentioned that HEQEP has made quantum change in both quality and quantity of higher education in Bangladesh in recent years.

US \$ 50m for ICT development at nine public and private universities

A three-member delegation led by Mr. Sungsup Ra, Director, Human and Social Development Division, South Asia Department, ADB called on Professor Abdul Mannan on 16 April 2017 and proposed to initiate a project in Bangladesh beginning 2019-2020 Financial Year involving 50 million US dollars for strengthening public and private universities in areas of ICT, science and technology. The tenure of the proposed project is expected to be from five to seven



ADB delegation with Chairman and Members of UGC

years. The project will involve areas of information technology, high-tech agriculture, marine science, textiles, bio-medical science and other related areas. ADB and UGC will jointly select the universities.

The Chairman of UGC termed the proposal by the delegation as very positive and said that the proposed project will help achieve the Millennium Development Goals of Bangladesh and immensely contribute to the capacity building of the universities. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will extend all necessary co-operations in implementation of the project, he added.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC were present. Besides, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and other high officials were present during the meeting.

Workshop on Annual Performance Agreement

A workshop on Annual Performance Agreement between UGC and public universities was held on 24 April 2017 at UGC auditorium for ensuring good governance and excellence in higher education. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC spoke on the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. Earlier, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC graced the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest. With UGC Member Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali in the Chair, Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC spoke on the occasion as Special Guests. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC delivered the address of welcome.

Professor Mannan, in his speech, urged all to discharge their duties with honesty, sincerity,



Professor Mannan speaking as the Chief Guest

integrity and best manners for establishing good governance and also excellence in higher education and research in their respective institutions.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, in her speech urged the university authorities to maintain transparency and accountability to increase the productivity while accomplishing financial and administrative functions. She called upon them to properly utilize the public money for a strong foundation of the next generation.

Professor Shah Nowaz Ali called upon all concerned to be respectful to the government rules and regulations and fervently urged them to reduce corruption.

Representatives from 37 public universities of the country attended the day long workshop. Officials from Education Ministry and UGC, among others were present.

The Chairman of UGC visits Chittagong Independent University



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, visited Chittagong Independent University (CIU) on 24 April 2017 to see Chittagong Center for Advanced Studies (CCAS) established in CIU for research on history, culture, economy, unnayan parikrama and strategic

issues of Chittagong. Dr. Shamsul Hussain, Member-Secretary and Researcher of CCAS informed the UGC Chairman about different activities of the Center. Professor Abdul Mannan also met Professor Mahfuzul Haque Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, CIU and high officials of the university. Professor Md. Zakir Hossain, Co-ordinator of Law Faculty, Mr. Badsha Miah, Teacher of Department of Law and Sarkar Kamrul Mamun, Acting Registrar, CIU, among others, were present.

Window-1 projects under HEQEP Round-4 awarded



Agreement signing ceremony

Seventeen universities (sixteen public and one private) signed agreement with University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh to implement 38 Window-1 sub-projects awarded under Round-4 of HEQEP for improvement of teaching and learning quality of the universities. A sum of Tk. 57.62 crore has been allocated against the sub-projects. The agreement signing ceremony was held at UGC auditorium on 30 April 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC chaired the function. Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, and Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC were Special Guests. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP delivered the address of welcome. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC signed the agreement on behalf of UGC.

The Chairman of UGC urged the Sub-Project Managers (SPM) to implement the sub-project in due time by properly utilizing the fund allocated for projects.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his presidential speech urged the SPMs to properly follow the procurement rules for implementing sub-project.

The Round-4 projects were awarded based on merits to Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Chittagong University, Jahangirnagar University, Khulna University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, JESSORE University of Science and Technology, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Sylhet Agricultural University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

Vice-Chancellors, Sub-Project Managers of the universities and high officials from UGC and HEQEP, among others, were present on the occasion.

Tk. 32.14 Cr. Supplementary fund to 48 completed sub-projects



Signing ceremony at UGC

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh allocated supplementary fund of Tk. 32.14 Crore to nineteen public universities against 48 sub-projects, earlier completed under Round-1 and 2 (W-1, W-2 and W-3). In this regard, an agreement signing ceremony between UGC and the concerned universities was held at UGC auditorium on 15 May 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC chaired the function. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP was present as Special Guest. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC signed the agreement on behalf of UGC. Mr. Ajit Kumar Debnath, Senior Procurement Officer

(Joint-Secretary), HEQEP delivered the address of welcome on the occasion.

The Chairman of UGC urged the sub-project managers (SPM) to implement the sub-project money timely by properly utilizing the fund allocated for projects.

The universities which signed agreement included Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Jagannath University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Comilla University, Sylhet Agricultural University, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

Vice-Chancellors, Sub-Project Managers of the concerned universities and high officials from UGC and HEQEP, among others, were present on the occasion.

Workshop on Curriculum Format



Professor Mannan speaking at the workshop

A day-long workshop on Curriculum Format was held on 17 May 2017 at UGC Auditorium. UGC in association with Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) organized the workshop. The objectives of the workshop was to formulate a time-befitting and standard curriculum for enhancement of quality of higher education in Bangladesh.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC presided over the function. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC was present on the occasion. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC delivered the address of welcome on the occasion. Renowned curriculum expert Professor Dr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, former Director of IER, Dhaka University and Professor Dr. Md. Mozahar Ali, Director, GTI, Bangladesh Agricultural University were present as Resource Persons at the workshop.

The Chairman of UGC Professor Mannan, in his speech, said that the standard of higher education is changing with the passage of time. A time-befitting and standard curriculum is, therefore, highly needed to survive in this competitive world. He stressed the need for incorporating contents on socio-economic demands, national development and the challenges of globalization in the curriculum. He further said that a huge number of the country's population is youth force. These young populations need to be equipped with the updated knowledge and skills. Considering the matter, UGC in association with HEQEP has taken the initiative for formulating a time-befitting and standard curriculum, he added.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his presidential speech, said that curriculum format is just a guideline. It should be designed on the basis of the country's socio-economic condition and needs. He sought co-operation and assistance of all concerned to make the curriculum standard and diversified one.

Representatives from 69 public and private universities of the country and high officials from UGC, among others, were present on the occasion.

Tk. 4151.51 crore approved for 37 public universities

The 147th meeting of the Full Commission of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) was held on 08 June 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC presided over the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting a condolence motion was adopted over the death of Mr. S.M. Moniruzzaman, Join-Secretary (Retd.), UGC.



Full Commission meeting

The annual original budget and revised budget of Tk. 3788.97 crore and Tk. 3843.54 crore respectively for 2016-2017 fiscal year for the public universities of Bangladesh were approved in the meeting. The meeting also approved the original budget and revised budget of Tk. 35.05 crore and Tk. 36.23 crore respectively for 2016-2017 fiscal year for UGC.

The original budget of Tk. 4151.51 crore for 37 public universities and Tk. 37.30 crore for UGC for 2017-2018 fiscal year were also approved. The Commission has increased budgetary allocation for public universities and UGC by 9.54 percentage compared to previous year.

It may be mentioned here that the allocation for research at university level for 2016-2017 fiscal year in original budget was Tk. 28.97 crore while the allocation for research for 2017-2018 fiscal year was Tk. 61.55 crore, which is 112.46% higher compared to previous year.

Mr. Md. Sohrab Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC, Professor Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University, Professor Dr. Md. Ali Akbar, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Professor Dr. Mohammad Alauddin, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology, Professor Dr. M Wahiduzzaman, Dean (in-charge), Social Science and Business Studies Faculty, Noakhali Sciece and Technology University, Mr. Md. Shahidullah, President, BMDC and Professor, Neonatology, BSMMU, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC and Khandker Hamidur Rahman, Director, IMCT Division, UGC were present in the meeting.

MoU signed between UGC and University of Wollongong, Australia



MoU signing ceremony

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 22 May 2017 between the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and the University of Wollongong, Australia at University of Wollongong, Australia for collaborative research, innovation and training. A-four member team led by Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC visited the University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia to sign a MoU between these two academic institutions.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, on behalf of UGC and Professor Alex Frino, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Strategy), on behalf of University of Wollongong. Both the sides agreed to collaborate in research, training and exchange of academic and administrative staff and establish twining programs between University of Wollongong and the universities of Bangladesh. The MoU will come into force immediately and will remain valid until May 2022 and shall be eligible for further renewable for successive terms. Professor Clive Schofield, Dean, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts, Siena Morrisey, International Relations Manager, Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Joint Secretary, UGC, Ms. Jinnat Rehana, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Solaiman, Faculty of Law and Humanities, University of Wollongong were present at the signing ceremony. University of Wollongong will arrange seminars, workshops, guest lecturers featuring research and publication expertise to relevant Bangladeshi higher education institutions and UGC on the basis of mutual agreement between Wollongong and UGC. Both sides also agreed to explore funding of Post-graduate Research and PhD programmes of University teachers.

Conference on Bangla Bhashar Sthanio Itihas Charcha at Dhaka University



The UGC Chairman speaking as the Chief Guest

Bangladesh Itihas Parishad organized the 47th international annual conference on Bangla Bhashar Sthanio Itihas Charcha (The practice of local history in Bangla language) at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University on 27 April 2017.

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, Honb'l Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism was present as the Chief Guest, while Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, inaugurated the conference. Professor Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Admin), Dhaka University, Professor Sandip Basu Sarbadhikary, History Department, Visva Bharati University, India, Professor AKM Golam Rabbani, General Secretary and Mr. Humayun Kabir, Treasurer, Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Addressing the conference, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon urged the young generation to learn the real history of Bengalis for upholding the spirit of Bengali nationalism.

In his speech, Professor Abdul Mannan said studying the history of Bangladesh in Bangla can grow the sense of patriotism as well as intensify the use of the mother tongue.

He also said that University Grants Commission has introduced two subjects- History of Emergence of Bangladesh and Bengali Language compulsory for all students of public and private universities. Through this, students will know about the real history of the Liberation War and language also. Around 200 historians, university professors and researchers from Bangladesh and West Bengal of India attended the conference.

37 public universities sign Annual Performance Agreement with UGC



Annual performance agreement signing ceremony

37 public universities of the country signed Annual Performance Agreement (APA) on 19 June 2017 with UGC for the fiscal year 2017-2018 for establishing good governance and excellence in higher educational institutions. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, graced the function as the Chief Guest. With UGC Member Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali in the Chair, Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Members, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC spoke on the occasion as Special Guests. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC delivered the welcome address. Professor Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University and Professor Dr. Kamrul Hasan Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, spoke on the occasion on behalf of the Vice-Chancellors. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and Registrars signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

Professor Mannan, in his speech urged the Vice-Chancellors to properly implement the annual performance agreement for establishing good governance and excellence in higher educational institutions. He called upon the university teachers to make the best use of the limited resources. Besides, he urged the university authorities to arrange national and international seminars on regular basis for mutual interaction and branding. He observed that University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has been relentlessly working for expansion and enhancement of higher education of the country. He also urged the newly appointed public university Vice-Chancellors to discharge their duties with sincerity and dignity.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his speech, stressed the need for ensuring proper utilisation of the budgetary allocation with honesty and accountability.

Professor Dil Afroza Begum said that the budgetary allocation for the public universities should be implemented sector-wise and timely.

Professor Shah Nowaz Ali, in his presidential speech, observed that Bangladesh is now on the high-way of development. He urged all concerned to work sincerely in maintaining the continuation of the country's development. For this, the implementation of Annual Performance Agreement is highly needed.

Professor Farzana Islam said that enthusiasm has started among the universities due to the APA. She wished the agreement a complete success.

Professor Kamrul Hasan Khan urged the university authorities to project the visible development of the country's tertiary education to the Nation. He termed the UGC's initiative timely and encouraging. He called upon the university teachers to perform their duties with honesty and devotion. He highly lauded the UGC for taking such an initiative.

Condolence was expressed for the victims in hill landslide in the country recently and sympathy was conveyed to the bereaved family members at the program.

Vice-Chancellors, Registrars of the public universities and high officials from UGC, among others, were present on the occasion.

Award of UGC Professorships and Fellowships

A meeting was held on 21 June 2017 at University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh to select candidates for UGC PhD Fellowships and to offer UGC Professorships. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, presided over the Selection Committee meeting. The Committee unanimously nominated four distinguished professors for UGC Professorships. The nominated Professors are Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman, Department of Chemistry, Dhaka University; Dr. Md. Abul Mansur Chowdhury, Former Director of Jamal Nazrul Islam Mathematics and Physical Science Research Centre, Chittagong University; Dr. Selimur Rahman, Department of Hepatology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Dr. M Alfaz Uddin, Department of Physics, Rajshahi University. The selection was made based on the contributions, in particular during last five years, of the applicants and their current academic activities.

The Committee also recommended 70 teachers out of 72 applicants from public universities and Government Colleges as UGC PhD Fellow for this year. The numbers of UGC PhD Fellow were 50 last year where the number of applicants was 65. The amount of Fellowship has been increased to Tk. 15,000/- from 10,000/- per month. The duration of the fellowship is for three years.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC, Professor Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University, Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Director, Research Support and Publication Division, UGC and Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Additional Director, Research Support and Publication Division, UGC, among others were present at the meeting.

11th Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies in Maldives



The 11th Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies was held in Malé (Maldives) during 02-03 April 2017. All Member States of SAARC participated in the Meeting. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC represented Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC at the meeting.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Abdullah Nazeer, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education of the Republic of Maldives. In his welcome address, Dr. Nazeer highlighted the importance of cooperation in the region to enhance the quality of education in SAARC countries. He also requested the delegations to engage in free and frank exchange of views to make the meeting fruitful.

The Chief Guest for the opening session was Dr. Aishath Shiham, Hon'ble Minister of Education of the Republic of the Maldives. In her speech, she highlighted the efforts of the Government of the

Republic of Maldives to increase the opportunities and the quality of education in the Maldives. Further, she said that the support from the Member States of SAARC is very important for effective regional collaboration in the field of education.

After the inaugural session the Committee -

- Reviewed the progress in the implementation of the decisions/recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies (Islamabad, 15-16 June 2015).
- Elected, as per SAARC practice, Dr. Abdullah Nazeer, Hon'ble Minister of State for Education of Maldives as Chairperson of the Meeting.
- Adopted the agenda of the meeting.
- After two days extensive deliberations the Reports of the meeting were adopted by acclamation. Among others the following issues have been addressed:
 - (i) creation of a dynamic common website to promote Higher Education in the region.
 - (ii) invitation of small study groups from Member States to facilitate exchange of best practices in the Higher Education.
 - (iii) Initiation of bilateral/multilateral MoUs/Agreements among Institutions of the Member States for travelling fellowship opportunities for student/faculty/researchers.
 - (iv) To Exploring possibilities of having joint seminars/conferences on topics of mutual interest.
 - (v) Circulating through the SAARC Secretariat information on the initiatives taken by the Member States on the SAARC Framework for Action: Education 2030, SDG4 and implementation matrix on the New Delhi Declaration.

Selected Nepal as the venue for the 12th Meeting of the Committee of Heads of University Grants Commissions/Equivalent Bodies. The date of the 12th meeting will be announced later.

UGC team visits Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

A-four member UGC team led by Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on 09 April 2017 to assess the physical infrastructure and other facilities for opening new faculties and departments of the university. BSMMU is proposing to open a new faculty, five departments and two courses. The proposed departments are: Respiratory Medicine, Pediatric Neurology, Palliative



UGC delegation holding meeting with BSMMU authority

Care Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology and Pedodontics. The MD courses under the Department of Pediatrics are Pediatric Neurology and Neuro Development and Palliative Medicine under Medicine Department. BSMMU currently has 7 faculties, 47 divisions and 91 courses.

Other members of team included Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Khandker Hamidur Rahman, Director (In-charge), Public University Management Division and Ms. Rukshana Laila, Senior Assistant Director, Public University Management Division, UGC. The Committee Members met the Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Kamrul Hasan Khan and other high officials of BSMMU.

BdREN and NORDUnet Strengthen Ties



Signing Ceremony of MoU

Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) and the umbrella network of 5 Nordic countries (NORDUnet) have agreed to work together in developing collaboration in the field of research and education network. A high level delegation headed by the member in charge of BdREN Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain on 12 – 20 June 2017 visited Denmark and Sweden to explore the possibility of building collaboration in developing country's internet connectivity and related services

to universities. The other members of the delegation were Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (University), Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), Mr. A K M Habibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, BdREN and Mr. Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Technical Officer, BdREN. The delegation had intensive interactive sessions with its Nordic counterpart during the visit. All matters related to management of REN with particular regard to its organogram, funding model, sustainability, services, network maintenance and operations, peering etc. were discussed. The delegation also visited the infrastructure facilities of DeIC (Danish e-Infrastructure Cooperation), the national REN of Denmark and Technical University of Denmark (DTU) at Copenhagen and Nordic University Network Operation Center (NUNOC) at Stockholm.

During the visit a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BdREN Trust and NORDUnet at the Headquarters of NORDUnet in Denmark on 16 June 2017. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Vice-Chairperson of BdREN Trust and Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and Mr. Rene Buch, Chief Executive Officer, NORDUnet signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organization.

Bangladesh Open University to install TV Channel for distance learning



A power point presentation on DPP (Development Project Proposal) of installation of Educational Television Channel at Bangladesh Open University (BOU) was held at UGC Bhaban on 02 May 2017. Professor Sufia Begum, Dean of School of Education, BOU, made the power point

presentation. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the meeting. The objectives of the project are to install a full-fledged TV Channel at BOU for reaching quality distance learning, formal and informal education to the doorsteps of the common people at easiest way. The estimated cost of the project is Tk. 18638.00 lakh.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Mr. Md. Abdur Rezaque, Director, Planning and Development Division, Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Additional Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC and high officials from BOU, among others, were present on the occasion.

Study report of BdREN by NIA delegation, South Korea



A delegation from National Information Society Agency(NIA), South Korea gave a presentation on study report of BdREN (Bangladesh Research and Education Network) 24/7 connectivity at UGC auditorium on 12 April 2017. Mr. Seon-hawn Baek, Senior Manager, Department of Global ICT Cooperation, NIA, South Korea led the delegation. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest while Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank were present as Special Guest. Mr. A.K.M. Habibur Rahman, CEO, BdREN was also present on the occasion.

The delegation identified the critical issues for availability of BdREN connectivity on 24/7 basis and made some recommendations especially on transmission redundancy, uninterrupted power supply, deployment of technical and resource persons.

Professor Abdul Mannan thanked the delegation for presenting the study report and expressed his willingness for further continuing the cooperation between NIA and BdREN. Concerned officials of BdREN were present on the occasion.

Awareness Programme on Digital Library at Islamic University



Professor Akhtar Hossain was the Chief Guest

Awareness building program on UGC Digital Library (UDL) was held at Islamic University (IU) in Kushtia on 18 April 2017. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, University Grants Commission, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M. Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, Vice-Chancellor, IU chaired the function. Professor Dr. M. Shahinoor Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. M. Selim Toha, Treasurer, IU and Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) were present as Special Guests.

Professor Dr. M. Saidur Rahman of Bangla Department of the university conducted the programme while Ms. Hasina Afroz, Librarian of BRAC University addressed the function as the resource person. About 300 faculty members, students, officials and employees of the university attended the workshop.

Regional Director, CELA, South Asia, India meets Professor Shah Nowaz Ali

Mr. Arunachalam,TK, Regional Director, Cambridge English Language Assessment (CELA), South Asia, India made a courtesy call on Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Chairman (In-charge), University Grants Commission of Bangladesh on 25 May 2017. Mr. Ameer Y. Khan, Managing Director, Cambridge English Language Assessment Centre, Bangladesh assisted him during the meeting.

During the meeting, they said that English is highly needed for getting employment and maintaining communication at national and international level.



They further opined that English should be treated not only as language but also as skills in present-day context.

Admission test for selection of candidates for MS and PhD programs at South Asian University, Delhi



Professor Mannan visiting the examination centre

South Asian University is an international university established by the Governments of the eight-member nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). The countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAU started its activities from the year of 2010. The university currently functions from New Delhi, India.

The admission test for selection of candidates for MS and Ph.D programs offered by SAU was held on 09 April 2017. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh conducted the admission test. The admission test was simultaneously held throughout the SAARC region at the same date and time. A total of 168 students participated in the examination for admission into Development Economics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Applied Mathematics, Sociology, International Relations and Legal Studies. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC visited the center during the admission test.

Workshop on Procurement and Finance at UGC



Professor Abdul Mannan speaking as the Chief Guest

A three-day workshop on Procurement, Finance and Monitoring and Evaluation was organized by the AIF Unit of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project during 04-07 April 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Mr. Sohel Ahmed, Deputy Project Director, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, delivered address of welcome at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop.

AIF Management System, AIF Fund Management, Books of Accounts Management, Procurement Issues (RFQ, OTM, ICB), Process of Monitoring and Evaluation System for HEQEP, PMIS Report Preparation, and Specification Preparation for Fab Lab sub-projects were discussed in the workshop.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech, urged the participants of the workshop to follow procurement guidelines properly during purchase of goods, works or services. He pointed out that the utilization of the disbursed fund in many sub-projects was not satisfactory.

Professor Mannan observed that there was a time when it was a challenge for us to receive funds. But we have available fund now and our main challenge is now to ensure maximum utilization of the fund. We have to develop our capacity on how to use project fund properly, he noted.

Review of development project submitted by Islamic University

A two-member delegation from Islamic University (IU) led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Harun-ur-Rashid Askari made a power point presentation on 24 April 2017 for various development projects submitted to UGC. Professor



Professor M. Shah Nowaz Ali presiding over a meeting

Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the meeting. Professor Dr. M. Shahinoor Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, IU accompanied the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Mr. Abdur Rezzaque, Director and Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Additional Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC were present at the meeting.

Professor Abdul Mannan completes two years as Chairman of UGC



The Chairman addressing the employees of the Commission

Professor Abdul Mannan completed two years of office as Chairman of University Grants Commission(UGC) of Bangladesh on 07 May 2017. Professor Mannan joined the UGC as 12th Chairman on 07 May 2015. He addressed the UGC officials on 09 May 2017 to mark the completion of two years of his office as UGC Chairman. He urged its officials to uphold the image of the Commission and enhance the quality of higher education through discharging their duties with dedication, honesty and sincerity. He sought cooperation and assistance of all concerned to successfully run the Commission.

He observed that UGC has significantly contributed to the higher education due to hard work and team spirit of its officials.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and officials of the Commission, HEQEP and BdREN were present on the occasion.

Best reporting awards to three journalists of Jahangirnagar University



UGC Chairman speaking as the Chief Guest

Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) awarded three journalists for their best reporting on the university. The award distribution ceremony was held at Zahir Raihan Auditorium of the university on 30 April 2017. The awardees were Mr. Belal Hossain Rahat of Daily Alokito Bangladesh, Mr. Dedarul Hoque of Daily Bonik Barta and Mr. Nur Alam Himel of Banglanews24.com.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Mr. Moudud Ahmed Sujon, President, JUJA presided over the function. Professor Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abul Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Md. Abul Khair, Treasurer, Jahangirnagar University and Mr., Dewan Hanif Mahmud, Editor, Bonik Barta among others, spoke on the occasion.

Professor Abdul Mannan and Professor Farzana Islam gave away the Investigative Journalism Awards-2016 to the winners. In his speech, Professor Mannan said that journalism is a challenging profession. He urged the university reporters to focus on research and positive works on their reporting. He called upon the journalists to be committed to their profession.

UGC Member visits Wari-Bateswar archaeological site



Lotus temple museum at Wari-Bateswar

A team comprising Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC, Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Mr. Qazi Munirul Islam, Joint Chief, Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education and Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Media Consultant, HEQEP visited the Wari-Bateswar archaeological site of Shibpur Upazila under Narshingdi district to evaluate the progress of the construction work of an on-site lotus temple museum on 29 April 2017.

It may be mentioned here that about one thousand years old remains of lotus temple museum was excavated and constructed under the HEQEP sub-project entitled Improvement of Research Capabilities for Post-graduate Programs of the Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University through Archaeological Survey, Excavation, Conservation and Tourism in Wari-Bateswar, Narshingdi.

Dr. Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, SPM of the Sub-project accompanied the team and appraised the various aspects of Excavation, Conservation and Tourism in Wari-Bateswar.

Prior to the visit of Wari-Bateswar the Team Members visited the historical site of Girish Chandra Sen museum near Narshingdi district town. Girish Chandra Sen was the first person to translate the Al Quran in Bengali.

Certificate distribution ceremony at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University

The certificate distribution ceremony for officers and employees of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) was held at its



Distribution of certificate

campus premises on 28 April 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest and distributed certificates to the participants. Professor Dr. Md. Alauddin, Vice-Chancellor, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University presided over the function. The university organized the professional training programme under Public Universities Development project to enhance the professional skills of the employees.

The Chairman of UGC said that there is no alternative to training for enhancing the professional expertise for serving any organization.

Dr. Mohammad Towhidul Islam, Register, MBSTU, Dr. Sajjad Waheed, Associate Professor, ICT, Department, MBSTU, among others, spoke on the occasion. A total of 176 officers and 75 employees of the university were given training in four month training programme.

Professor Akhtar Hossain attends workshop at Khulna University



Professor Akhtar Hossain speaking at the programme

The University Grants Commission Digital Library (UDL) established under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, organized a daylong awareness workshop on UDL at Khulna University on 19 April 2017.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC, graced the workshop as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman, Vice-chancellor, Khulna University presided over the meeting. Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, was present as Special Guest. Ms. Hasina Afroze, Librarian, BRAC University, was the resource person in the workshop. Mr. AKM Habibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) spoke on the BdREN connectivity in tertiary educational institutions of Bangladesh. Around 150 faculty members, students, officials and employees of the university attended the workshop.

Seminar at Cox's Bazar International University on 'Islam, Jihad and Militancy: Perspective Bangladesh'



The Chairman of UGC speaking as the Chief Guest

Cox's Bazar International University (CBIU) organized a seminar on Islam, Jihad and Militancy: Perspective Bangladesh at its campus premises on 07 May 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Shirin Akter, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Chittagong University, was present as Special Guest. Professor Md. Zakir Hossain, Department of Law of CU presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

Professor Md. Abul Quasem, Vice-Chancellor, Cox's Bazar International University presided over it. Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed CIP, Board of Trustees, CBIU delivered the inaugural speech. Lion Md. Mujibur Rahman, Secretary, Board of Trustees, CBIU gave the welcome address.

In his speech, Professor Mannan said that there is no room for militancy in Islam. The other name of terrorism is militancy. The UGC Chairman also said those who are killing general people in the name of religion, are modern terrorists. We have to save our young generation from their hands.

Researchers honored at Bangladesh Agricultural University



Bangladesh Agricultural University Research System (BAURES) honored five top researchers on the basis of publications at high-impact factor journals and in terms of global research impact. The inaugural session of the annual workshop on BAU Research Progress of 2015-16 was held at the conference hall of Bangladesh Agricultural University on 13 May 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the inaugural session of the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Md. Monjurul Alam, Director, BAURES presided over the programme. Professor Dr. Md. Atiqur Rahman Khokon, Associate Director, BAURES gave the welcome address. Professor Dr. Ali Akbar, Vice-Chancellor, BAU attended the programme as the Chief Patron. Professor Dr. Jasimuddin Khan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BAU, and Dr. F H Ansarey, Executive Director (Agribusiness), ACI Ltd, were the Special Guests.

In his speech, Professor Mannan said that research is a key to the development of a university. So, the university authorities have to expand the research activities for the sake of country's development. He observed that Bangladesh Agricultural University has been pioneering research over the years.

The awardees are Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Wahab, Fisheries Department, Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Soil Science Department, Professor Dr. M. Jahiruddin, Soil Science Department, Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Pathology Department and Professor Dr. Ehsanul Kabir, Farm Power and Machinery Department.

Prospects and Challenges of International Students in Bangladesh



The Round Table

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organized a roundtable on The Prospects and Challenges of International Students in Bangladesh to explore the possibilities for foreign students and scholars in Bangladesh.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC put emphasis on accommodation facilities, international desk and foreign faculties to make Bangladesh an attractive choice for the international students. Mr. Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman, IUB highlighted the features and facilities that the university provides to ensure quality education in tertiary level.

Professor M. Omar Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, IUB, Mr. Sohrab Hossain, Associate Editor, Daily Prothom Alo, Ms. Aasha Mehreen Amir, Deputy Editor, Editorial and Op-Ed, The Daily Star; Mr. Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui, Pakistan High Commissioner and Ms. Shaheen Khan, Fulbright Programs, The American Center also attended the event.

CEDP training programme at National University

The inaugural session of 28 day-long training programme for the teachers of government and non-government colleges affiliated with the National University started from 17 May 2017 at National University in Gazipur. Bangladesh government and World Bank are jointly implementing the College Education Development Project (CEDP) to improve teaching, learning and infrastructure of colleges offering honours and MS courses. Teachers from different colleges who are engaged in teaching Bengali, Political Science, Chemistry and Marketing took part in the training.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-Chancellor, NU presided over it.



The inaugural Session

Speaking as a Chief Guest, Professor Mannan said that Bangladesh achieved remarkable progress in a short span of time. Now, it is important to ensure quality education at all levels. The quality cannot be ensured without qualified teachers. College Education Development Project will play a significant role to the enhancement of higher education of the affiliated colleges.

Professor Dr. M. A. Mannan, Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Professor Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Mashiur Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Md. Noman Ur Rashid, Treasurer, NU, Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurul Huda, Acting Project Director, CEDP, among others, were present.

UGC Chairman attends South Asian University Convocation



UGC Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan attended the Second Convocation of the South Asian University (SAU) held at Pravasi Bharatia Kendra in New Delhi on 12 May 2017. Professor Mannan is a Board and Finance Committee member of the university. SAU was established at the initiative of all SAARC countries in 2005 and the academic session

began in 2010. The SAU is currently located at the Akbar Bhavan of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. It is expected that in about two years the university will be shifted to its sprawling campus being constructed in Maidan Gari, South Delhi. Three academic buildings are nearing completion of its construction at a cost of Rupees 400 crore on a piece of 100 acre land donated by the Government of India. Government of India is also bearing all capital expenditure of the university and it may go up to Rupees 25 hundred crores once completed. This year 185 students graduated with Master's Degree while 9 students were awarded MPhil degree which included 27 students from Bangladesh. Currently 62 students from Bangladesh are studying in Masters, MPhil and PhD level at SAU.

HE Mr. Deep Kumar Upadhyaya, the Ambassador of Nepal in India Presided over the Convocation as Visitor's (Chancellor) nominee while Mr. MJ Akbar the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs was the Convocation Speaker. Dr. Kavita A Sharma, the President (Vice Chancellor) delivered the welcome address.

Mr. MJ Akbar, in his address hoped that what SAARC could not achieve in last 32 years will be achieved by the present generation in next 32 years. He expressed the curse of poverty, illiteracy, social backwardness that is hindering the progress of the sub-continent can only be removed with the spread of modern education. He also said today's civilization stands on the crossroads of destruction that will endanger the existence of mankind and the current generation has more responsibility towards the mankind than their predecessors.

Mr. Shamsul Hoque, DG, SAARC of Bangladesh and a Member of the Board and Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, the Council Member of SAU also attended the Convocation.

Self-assessment of academic programs at BUP



The Chairman of UGC speaking at an inception workshop

Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) organized an inception workshop on Establishment

of IQAC and Self-Assessment of Academic Programs on 18 June 2017 at Bijoy Auditorium, BUP, Mirpur Cantonment. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest while Major General Md. Salahuddin Miaji, Vice-Chancellor of BUP was present as Special Guest. Professor Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary, Head of Quality Assurance Unit, UGC presented the keynote paper and Commodore Syed Misbahuddin Ahmed, Director of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), BUP chaired the workshop. High officials, teachers and a good number of students were present on the occasion.

Workshop at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University



Professor Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah speaking at the Workshop

The Digital Library (UDL) established under HEQEP organized a daylong awareness workshop at the auditorium of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) on 04 April 2017. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Md. Alauddin, Vice-Chancellor, MBSTU presided over it. Professor Dr. S.M. Zabed Ahmed, Department of Information Science & Library Management, University of Dhaka, Dr. Md. Anisur Rahman Anis, Associate Professor (English), Faculty of Engineering, MBSTU, Mr. Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Technical Officer, BdREN and Mr. Muhammad Jaminur Rahman, Sr. Program Officer, UDL also spoke on the program. About 170 participants including teachers, researchers and students were present at the programme.

China interested to recruit Bangladeshi students for higher studies

A three member Chinese delegation led by Ms. Shirley Zhang, CEO, Ningbo OSDA Solar Co. Ltd., OSDA, China called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of



Chinese delegation with Professor Mannan

Bangladesh on 10 April 2017. Dr. AKM Waliul Islam, Professor and Academic Adviser, Stamford University Bangladesh and Mr. ASM, Abdul Motin, Chairman, Global Resource Augmentation and Management Ltd. assisted Ms. Shirley during the meeting. Ms. Shirley offered to recruit Bangladeshi graduates for higher studies in China.

The Chairman of UGC briefed the delegation about the mandate of UGC in promoting higher education in Bangladesh. Terming the proposal as positive, Professor Mannan urged the delegation to submit a written proposal to UGC. He observed that Bangladesh is also willing to work with China on internationalization of higher education. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC were present during the meeting. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and other high officials, were also present.

20th Convocation of North South University



The 20th Convocation of North South University (NSU) was held on 09 April 2017 at its campus premises in the city. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Minister for Education presided over the Convocation Ceremony as the representative of Hon'ble President. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Special Guest. A total of 2,642 graduates received degrees at the convocation ceremony. Mr. Mikael Hemniti Winther, Danish Ambassador to

Bangladesh, was the Convocation Speaker. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU and Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees of the university, among others, spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP called upon all to stay vigilant so that students are not misguided and fall prey to militancy. The Honorable Minister warned those who entice youths by misinterpreting Islam. He urged the guardians and teachers to inspire students towards creative pursuits.

He further said that university must be a place of innovation to create new knowledge. He urged the private university authorities to take minimum tuition fees from students considering the country's socio-economic condition.

Professor Mannan said that the youths must be introduced to the sacrifices of Liberation War heroes to keep them away from militancy.

Mr. Mikael Hemniti Winther, in his deliberation said that dialogue between the parents and their children is needed to guide them properly.

4th Convocation of United International University



The 4th Convocation of United International University was held on 15 April, 2017 at its permanent campus at Vatara of Dhaka. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education presided over the Convocation ceremony as the representative of the Hon'ble President. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific delivered the Convocation speech. The Convocation ceremony was also addressed, among others, by Mr. Hasan Mahmood Raja, Chairman, Board of Trustees and Professor Dr. M. Rezwan Khan, Vice-Chancellor, United International University.

Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, in his speech, opined that the private universities must take measures to remove all the barriers for offering quality higher education. Sincere endeavours of the private universities are required to attain the desired goal. Congratulating the graduates, the Education Minister urged them to work for the interest of the common people of our country.

Professor Mannan, in his speech, said that university authorities must concentrate on conducting research works and collaborate with industries to meet the demands of our Nation.

Convocation Speaker Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, congratulated the graduates for their achievements and wished them every success in the new world they are entering.

A total of 1610 students from different disciplines were conferred under-graduate and graduate degrees while six meritorious students received Gold Medals for their excellent results.

1st Convocation of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University



The First Convocation of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNU) was held at its campus premises in Trishal on 19 April 2017. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh presided over the Convocation ceremony. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present as Special Guest. Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Professor Emeritus of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh was the Convocation Speaker. Professor Dr. Mohit Ul Alam, Vice-Chancellor, JKKNU also spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble President, in his speech, stressed the need for stopping commercialization of education in the country since it diminishes educational standards. He stressed the need for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JKKNU and Kabi Kazi Nazrul University of West

Bengal, India for exchange of teachers and students between the two universities to jointly conduct research on our National Poet- Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The Chairman of UGC said that higher education has significantly expanded in both public and private sectors but the expected standard of education is yet to be achieved at all levels of universities.

2nd Convocation at Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology



The 2nd Convocation of Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology (ADUS) was held on 14 May 2017 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka.

Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education, presided over the Convocation ceremony as representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred the degrees among the graduating students. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was Special Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Mozammel, Economics Department, Lucknow University, India was the Convocation Speaker. Professor Dr. Anwara Begum, Chairman, Board of Trustees and Dr. M. Nazrul Islam Khan, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The Education Minister sounded a note of warning for taking legal action against private universities which have already failed to fulfill conditions to run the university under the Private University Act. He also urged the private universities to keep all the expenditure including the admission and tuition fees in a tolerable limit considering the reality and the socio-economic condition of the students.

New Delhi Bureau Chief of The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan calls on UGC Chairman



Mr. Shigeki TAO, South Asian Bureau Chief, The Yomiuri Shimbun, the largest newspaper of Japan, called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC at the latter's office on 19 June 2017.

During the courtesy call, they discussed about the militancy and terrorism issues. The Chairman of UGC said that militancy and terrorism issues are not problems of Bangladesh alone, but has become a global issue. He also apprised Shigeki TAO of the steps taken by UGC and Bangladesh government to root out militancy and terrorism from the country.

He also informed Mr. Shigeki TAO that every university has formed a monitoring cell comprising of teachers under the direction of UGC to monitor the activities of students. The monitoring cells send their reports to UGC about their activities on a regular basis. He also said militancy and terrorism activities are now fully controlled in Bangladesh following the law enforcing agencies' time-befitting steps. He also observed that guardians, society and all concerned should work jointly to address the problem.

Professor Mannan highlighted the overall scenario of higher education of Bangladesh to Shigeki TAO. He also remembered with gratitude the contribution of Japan government in development activities of Bangladesh.

UGC Chairman and its Member condole death of its retired officer

Mr. S. M Moniruzzaman, Joint-Secretary (Retd.), UGC expired (Inna---Lillahi---) on 07 May 2017. In a condolence message, UGC Chairman and its Members expressed deep shock at the death of Mr. S.M Moniruzzaman and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

UGC Chairman Professor attends the meeting of 18th SAQS Committee in India



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC attended the meeting of 18th SAQS (South Asian Quality Assurance System) Committee held on 24 June 2017 in University of Hyderabad, India. He attended the meeting of 18th SAQS Committee at the invitation of Association of Management Development Institution in South Asia.

Agreement Signing Ceremony

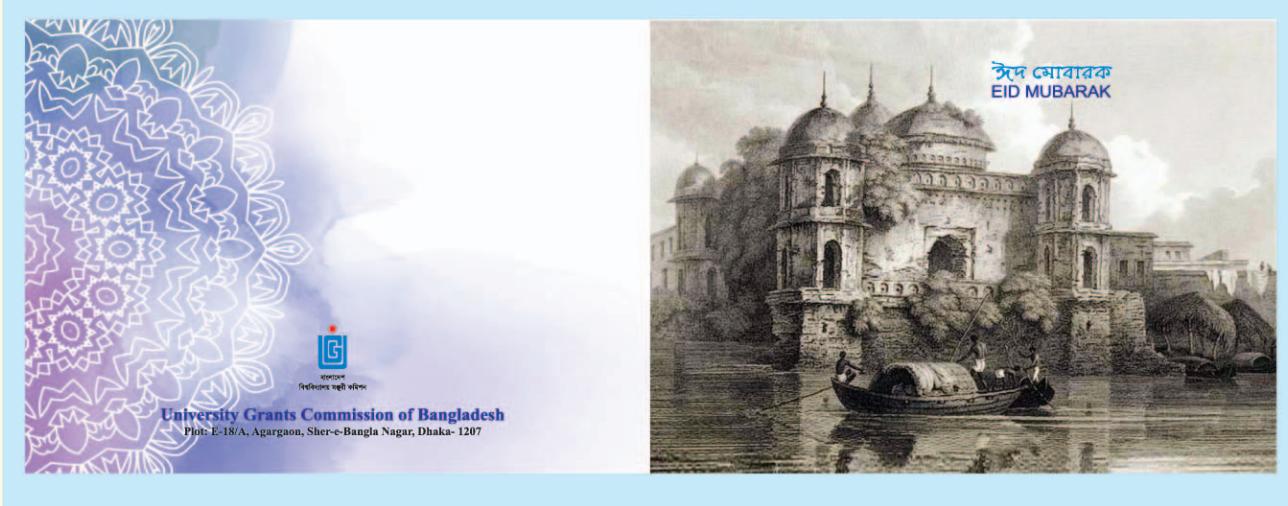


Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC signed an agreement on 20 June 2017 with Professor Dr. Yasmin Aara Lekha, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Uttara University, to reprint the book entitled, Faridpurer Upabhasa Annoik Gothon. The book was written by Professor Dr. Yasmin Aara Lekha and published by UGC.

Activities of Private University Division

- A high-level meeting of two members from 'No. 1 Sub-Committee' of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Education along with its technical advisory body was held on 06 April 2017 at UGC for drafting suggested amendment on Private University Act, 2010. Mr. Md. Abdul Kuddus, Honb'l MP from Natore-4 constituency, also Convener of the sub-committee, presided over the meeting.

- Mr. Md. Jahangir Kabir Nanok, Honb'l MP from Dhaka-13 constituency, and also a member of the sub-committee was also present there. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC, Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education and Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Director, Private University Division, UGC were present as nominated technical advisory persons. After threadbare discussion of almost all aspect of Private University Act, 2010, the Committee finalized a report on the draft amendment of Private University Act, 2010.
- A-three member committee headed by Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC visited the new campus of Rabindra Moitri University, Kushtia on 03 April 2017 to assess the suitability of the proposed site before giving permission.
- A-three member committee led by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC visited the proposed permanent campus of Prime University on 11 April 2017. The purpose of the on-site visit was to physically assess the overall conditions required for permission. Professor Akhtar Hossain led another three-member committee to visit the proposed North Bengal University, Rangpur on 16 April 2017 to verify the provisions executed for temporary permission according to the Private University Act, 2010.
- A-three member committee headed by Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC visited Gono Bishwabidyalay on 23 April 2017 to consider approval of the revised MS in Microbiology (1.5-Year) program.
- A-three member committee led by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC visited proposed permanent campus of the University of Asia Pacific on 30 April 2017 to assess its suitability for approval. Another three-member committee headed by Professor Akhtar Hossain visited Manarat International University on 03 May 2017 to investigate some allegations against the university authority.
- A-three member committee headed by Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC visited Laboratory, Library and other facilities created for proposed BSc in Mechanical Engineering program at City University on 04 May 2017 to consider approval of the program.





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Published by
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Tel: 8181631, 9122011, Fax: 8122948, 9114707
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Printed by
Natundhara Printing Press
277/3 Elephant Road (Kataban Dhal), Dhaka
Cell: 01711 019691, 01911 294855
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