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From the Desk of the Editor

Bangladesh is a developing country. The Government is democratically elected and the nation as a whole is progressive. The Government has initiated a Vision 2021 when there will be no corruption and the people will be free from poverty, unemployment and all forms of social injustices. The Vision also envisages quality education at all levels. In order to achieve these objectives the Government must ensure good governance at all levels, including educational institutions, and in particular at the university levels. Accordingly, the Government has formulated multifarious 'National Integrity Strategy' (NIS) for different Ministries and Divisions so that everybody associated with any organization practices the culture of virtuousness. NIS has a comprehensive set of goals, strategies and action plans aimed at increasing the level of independence, accountability, efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of state and non-state institutions for improving governance and reducing corruption in a holistic manner. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh recently organized two in-house workshops – one in BRDA in Bogra and the second one in BARD in Comilla. The Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of Public Universities were divided into two groups to participate in the Workshops. The Chairman, Members and high officials from UGC were also present in the Workshops. The high officials from the Ministry of Education and Cabinet Division were invited to share their experiences in establishing NIS in their respective Ministries. It is imperative that those of us, who are actively involved in academic, administrative and development activities of Public Universities must understand the core concept of NIS and exercise it in real life and motivate others to do the same. The sooner this is realized the better for the future of our beloved Nation.

Prof. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah
Member, UGC

UGC Annual Report-2016 submitted to the Hon'ble President



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh led a six-member delegation on 11 December 2017 to submit the Annual Report-2016 of the Commission to the Hon'ble President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid for consideration by the Parliament of Bangladesh. The Hon'ble President welcomed the delegation and thanked them for submitting the Annual Report. The Annual Report-2016 contains information about activities of the universities of Bangladesh. The Chairman of UGC informed the President about various recommendations and guidelines for future direction of higher education and research in Bangladesh. The Hon'ble President directed the Authority of UGC to play its due role to ensure quality education offered by universities of the country. He advised the Chairman to take stern action so that all public and private universities ensure quality education. The Hon'ble President underlined the importance of compliance of Private University Act-2010 by the Trustee Boards of Private universities for proper functioning. The question of holding unified admission test for enrollment into Public universities also came up for discussion.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, were also present. High officials of President's office were also present in the meeting.

Workshop on Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education

A workshop on 'Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education: 2017-2030' was held on 15 October 2017 at CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Honb'le Minister for Education graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Sohorab Hossain, Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE, presided over the meeting. Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) of the UGC gave the address of welcome.



Mr. Md. Alamgir, Secretary, Technical Education and Madrasa Division, Ministry of Education (MoE) and Yoko Nagashima, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank, addressed the programme as the Special Guests.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh presented the keynote paper on the *Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education: 2017-2030*.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC; Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin, former Governor of Bangladesh Bank and also a member of Expert Groups of Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education; Vice-Chancellors of different universities including Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-Chancellor, National University, Professor Dr. Mijanur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Jagannath University, Professor Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Professor Dr. M Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, high officials from Ministry of Education, UGC and World Bank, among others, were present on the occasion.

Addressing the programme, the Education Minister said that a pragmatic and goal oriented Strategic Plan is highly needed for improvement of higher education and research in the country. He urged the UGC to prepare the draft Strategic Plan by

incorporating recommendations and suggestions by experts and participants in the workshop. The Education Minister stressed the need to seek further expert opinions to make it realistic one and added that our main objectives are to equip our young generation with technological skills so that they can develop Bangladesh as a modern country. He further added that quality education is a big challenge for our country and university teachers have to take responsibilities to create skilled human resources as well as to create quality teachers at all levels for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

In his keynote presentation, Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah said that Strategic Plan is needed to transform human being into human resource and establish knowledge-based economy. In this regard, mid-term and long term strategies are needed to upgrade and update teaching and research at higher levels, he added.

In his presidential speech, Mr. Sohorab Hossain thanked the concerned persons for preparing the draft strategic plan.

Workshop on NIS implementation and Annual Performance Agreement in Bogra

A two day long workshop (Lab-1) entitled National Integrity Strategy (NIS) implementation and Annual Performance Agreement (APA) was held in Bogra on 06-07 October 2017. The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organized the event at Rural Development Academy in the district. The programme was organized at the national level for the first time for making the activities of universities transparent, dynamic and vibrant and also ensuring best practices by all employees at their workplaces.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the event as the Chief Guest with Professor Dr. M Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC in the Chair. Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and Focal Points of Annual Performance Agreement of 23 public universities were present in the two-day programme. Mr. N M Ziaul Alam, Secretary, Cabinet

Division; Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Members, UGC; Ms. Aruna Biswas, Additional Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education; Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education; Professor Dr. Abdus Sobhan, Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University, Professor Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University spoke on the occasion as Special Guests. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC delivered the address of welcome. Vice-Chancellors from Islamic University, Khulna University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Jessore University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh University of Professionals, Begum Rokeya University Rangpur, Pabna University of Science and Technology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Barisal University, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rabindra University, Bangladesh addressed at the event. Mr. Md. Belayet Hossain Talukder, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Mr. Kamrul Hassan, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division delivered the speeches as resource persons. Mr. Md. Abdul Matin, Director General, Rural Development Academy (RDA) Bogra, Mr. Kamal Hossain, Additional Director, UGC and Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, Additional Director, UGC, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech, the Chairman of UGC urged all concerned to maintain integrity at institutional and personal levels to prevent corruption and other malpractices. He also urged all to do their daily chores rightly and bring transparency and accountability on it.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah emphasized on the best use of resources provided by the government and UGC at university level. He also called on university teachers and employees to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity and devotion to make the organizations transparent and vibrant.

Professor Dil Afroza Begum said the student politics being practiced in the country's universities was completely different from the other parts of the world. Integrity should be ensured in student politics as well, she said.

In his presidential speech, Professor Shah Nowaz Ali said the objectives of universities are to create new knowledge but it's a matter of great regret that we have to teach them honesty and integrity. He also said UGC is working to raise country's tertiary education in a new height.

Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Farzana Islam said that most universities of the country could not complete academic activities, like conducting examinations and publishing results as per university academic calendar. "That's why students of the universities have to suffer from session jams. Public universities cannot run in this way" she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Abdus Sobhan, Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University observed that the agreements signed by public universities with UGC should be implemented to build a corruption-free society.

Professor Bishwajit Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra University, Bangladesh urged the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh to introduce a course on ethics at university level as compulsory to get rid of the corruption.

Professor Fayek Uzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Khulna University urged the UGC to set up a professional training center for the university teachers for disseminating knowledge and skills. He also sought necessary support from UGC and the government to make university pro-people and make it accountable.

Seminar on Strategies for Sustainable Research and Education Networks held

A-two day international seminar on *Strategies for Sustainable Research and Education Networks* was held at Samson H. Chowdhury Centre of Dhaka Club on 30 October 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest with Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC in the Chair. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Asia Pacific University and Mr. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education addressed the event as Guests of Honour. Professor Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) and Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank were present



as Special Guests. Mr. Rene Buch, CEO, NORDUnet and Dr. Simon C.Lin, Ex-Chair, Asia Pacific Advanced Network, presented keynote papers on the occasion. Mr. AKM Habibur Rahman, CEO, BdREN (Bangladesh Research and Education Network), gave the address of welcome.

The Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan, in his speech, observed that UGC has been working relentlessly to enhance the quality of education and research at tertiary level through uninterrupted high-speed internet connectivity provided by BdREN at the university level. Teachers, students and researchers of the country are being immensely benefited by it. He also said that internet connectivity is a must to have access to the world pool of knowledge in today's globalized world. Professor Mannan also said that Bangladesh has recently adopted latest IT technology to materialize the dream of Digital Bangladesh.

Professor Akhtar Hossain, in his presidential speech, said that BdREN will bring revolutionary change in research and education in coming days through expanding more internet connectivity to the higher educational institutions and other organizations of the country.

Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said that presently, the numbers of BdREN users are very low in the country. He suggested the UGC to include private universities and national level research organisations in BdREN internet connectivity. He urged the BdREN to make the policy transparent.

Professor Zafar Iqbal observed that the internet connectivity provided by BdREN has to be sustained and in this regard, more discussion are needed to make it more sustainable. Investment in education is very much important for ensuring quality at tertiary level, he noted.

Vice-Chancellors and faculty members from public and private universities, high officials from Ministry of Education, UGC, HEQEP and BdREN, among others were present.

Meeting between UGC and NBR to introduce Course on Income Tax at universities

A view exchange meeting between UGC and NBR to introduce diploma/ graduation/ post-graduation courses on VAT, Income Tax and Customs at public universities and internship programme on these issues under NBR was held on 07 November 2017 at NBR Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Najibur Rahman, Senior Secretary, Internal Resources Division and Chairman, NBR presided over it. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC was present as Special Guest.



Mr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Member, Tax Administration and Human Resources Division, NBR delivered the welcome address. Dr. Abdur Rouf, First Secretary, NBR presented the key-note paper on the issue. Mr. Md. Rezaul Hasan, Member and Project Director (VAT), NBR, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and Khandaker Hamidur Rahman, Director, Public University Management Division, UGC also spoke on the occasion.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech, said that introduction of course on income tax management at university level is the demand of the time. New courses are being introduced at university level to face the challenges of globalization. He termed the move to introduce this course as positive and assured the NBR authority of extending all kinds of necessary support for institutionalization of it.

He further said that payment of income tax is highly needed for the development of the country. Fear among the people to pay the income tax has been removed due to the pro-people policy taken by the NBR. He appealed to all to pay income tax on regular basis to become the development partners of the country.

Professor Shah Nowaz Ali said that socio-economic development of the country has been enhanced due to various initiatives taken by the government.

Consequently, the number of tax payers have increased in the country.

NBR Chairman, in his presidential speech, said that they are relentlessly working to implement the tax-friendly policy in the country. He called upon all concerned for contributing to build prosperous Bangladesh from their respective positions.

Workshop on Financial Management for Public Universities at UGC

A two day workshop on *Financial Management for Public Universities: Budgeting Framework, Financial Reporting and Auditing Approach* was held on 12 November 2017 at UGC auditorium. Finance and Accounts Division, UGC organized the workshop for concerned officials of finance, budget and audit of the public universities. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present at the closing ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC was in the Chair. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC were Special Guests. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC gave the vote of thanks on the occasion. Earlier, Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest on 11 November 2017.



The Chairman of UGC urged the concerned officials to properly follow the financial rules enacted by the government and UGC guidelines for ensuring transparency and accountability of universities. He observed that implementation of Annual Performance Agreement and National Integrity Strategy is highly imperative for ensuring good governance at the university level. He urged the participants to apply their knowledge at the workplaces.

He further said that the goals and objectives of the government are to take the higher education to a

new height and for this UGC has been working relentlessly.

In his presidential speech, Professor Shah Nowaz Ali said that Bangladesh is now on the highway of development. He called for optimum utilization of limited resources of the country.

Workshop on tackling extremism at university campus

A two day long workshop on making peaceful campus and eradicating risk of campus extremism and violence around the world including Bangladesh was held in a city hotel on 13 November 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest at the workshop. British High Commissioner in Dhaka Her Highness Ms. Alison Blake was present as Special Guest. The British High Commission and British Council in association with the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh organized the workshop.



Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC; Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Mr. David Ashley, Deputy High Commissioner of UK stationed in Dhaka; a number of Vice-Chancellors from Public and Private universities; high officials from Home Office in England, Higher Education Funding Council of England; Senior officials from the UGC and different Ministries, among others, were present at the workshop.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC among others, delivered the concluding speeches at the closing ceremony on 14 November 2017.

In his speech, the Chairman of UGC said that campus extremism is now a global issue. It is a global challenge and it requires collaborations to address the issue. He said Ministry of Education and UGC jointly took several steps to create awareness

to root out extremism and violence in the universities around the country. He further said UGC has already introduced a course entitled History of Emergence of Bangladesh in a bid to give real picture of our historic Liberation War to our young generation.

The Honorable High Commissioner observed that terrorism from higher educational institutions must be eradicated at all cost. She also noted that the cooperation between the British Institutions and UGC is imperative in this regard.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah said we do not want violence and campus extremism in the country. He said UGC is relentlessly working to ensure a smooth running of academic activities in universities. He also highlighted the measures undertaken by UGC to eliminate / minimize violence from our campuses.

Workshop on NIS Implementation and Annual Performance Agreement at BARD

A programme on National Integrity Strategy Implementation and Annual Performance Agreement was held at BARD in Comilla during 27-28 October 2017. The UGC organized the event which was participated by Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of a number of public universities. The main objectives of this event was to ensure the activities of the universities transparent, dynamic and vibrant and also to inspire the teachers and officials to inculcate the culture of righteousness and best practices in their workplaces. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the event as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the meeting. Mr. N.M Ziaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination and Reform), Cabinet Division was the keynote speaker. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members of UGC and Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary (Planning), Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE were Special Guests. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director (Finance and Accounts Division), UGC delivered address of welcome on the occasion.

The Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan called upon all concerned to discharge their duties

with utmost sincerity and dedication. He stressed the need for stopping corruption and other malpractices, maintaining integrity and implementing it in daily life for establishing good governance.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah said that efforts must be undertaken to ensure close collaboration among MoE, UGC and the universities for implementation of National Integrity Strategy.

Professor Dil Afroza Begum said National Integrity Strategy will play a significant role for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and building Sonar Bangla.

Professor Akhtar Hossain observed that there is no alternative to integrity for ensuring transparency and accountability at workplaces.

Professor Shah Nowaz Ali, in his presidential speech, observed that National Integrity Strategy and Annual Performance Agreement are highly needed to take the country to a new height.

Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-Chancellor of National University said that integrity stands for laying emphasis on time, establishing good governance, paying respect to rule of law and uprooting corruption from the society.

Professor Dr. Mijanur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Jagannath University observed that Vice-Chancellors posts are becoming lucrative due to lack of ethics. We have to get rid of this situation otherwise quality education can not be ensured.

Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE, Mr. Md. Belayet Hossain Talukdar, Joint Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE and Mr. Md Kamrul Hasan, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division were resource persons on the occasion. Annual Performance Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, 7th Five Year Plan, National Education Policy-2010, Policies on Higher Education and implementation of these issues at university level and review of annual performance agreement signed between UGC and public universities for 2017-2018 fiscal year came up for threadbare discussion.

Annual Performance Agreement has been signed between UGC and 40 public universities of the country with a view to making the activities of universities transparent, dynamic and vibrant. On the other hand, the government declared National Integrity Strategy Implementation for ensuring best practices in manners at workplaces of the employees of the state.

Vice-Chancellors, Registrars from 23 public universities of the country and focal points of Annual Performance Agreement participated in the workshop.



Asi@Connect Project Launching Ceremony in Dhaka

The Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) announced its linkage with Asi@Connect project at a launching ceremony held at Dhaka Club on 30 October 2017. Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Honb'le Prime Minister was present at the ceremony as the Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh presided over the meeting.



Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC; Professor Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University and also the representative of BdREN Board of Trustees; Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, MoE, Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank; Dr. Simon C. Lin, Ex-chair, Asia Pacific Advanced Network; Mr. Rene Buch, Chief Executive Officer, NORDUnet; Mr. Bayani Benjamin R. Lora, Representative of PREGINET, Philippines; Dr. Chalernpol Charnsriapiyo, representative of ThaiREN, Thailand; Dr. ByungKyu Kim, Executive Officer, TEIN*CC, South Korea and Mr. AKM Habibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of BdREN spoke on the occasion.

Asi@Connect project is a successor of Trans-Eurasia Information Network 4 (TEIN4). The Asi@Connect project is a 60-month project beginning from 01 September 2016, which is jointly funded by the European Commission and 23 Asian partners with a total budget of 36.5 million Euro and is managed by TEIN*CC (TEIN*Cooperation Center) based in Seoul, Korea.

Asi@Connect provides dedicated high-capacity internet connectivity for research and education communities across Asia-Pacific. It currently interconnects universities and research centers in 23 countries. It also connects 50 million European researchers and academics served by the GEANT network and supports collaborative programs in areas such as earth observation, disaster warning,

climate research, food security, delivery of e-health and e-learning etc.

The main target of the launching event was to create awareness on Asi@connect project among the researchers, educationists, government officials and other stakeholders.

In his speech, Dr. Gowher Rizvi thanked the foreign partners for coming to Bangladesh and launched the time-befitting Asi@Connect project. He said that the main objectives of universities are to create new knowledge through innovative research, particularly in applied research. He observed that Asi@Connect can help our researchers in wide range of areas.

Professor Abdul Mannan said that the literacy rate has increased and access to quality higher education has spread across the country. He said around 3.3 million people are taking tertiary education in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh and UGC are jointly working to enhance the quality of country's higher education, he added.

The Chairman of UGC said that researchers, teachers and students of the universities will find a new way to expand their knowledge and skills through Asi@Connect project. 'They can enrich their works with the help of Asi@Connect as it is connecting most of the Asian countries,' he added.

Vice-Chancellors' Conference

The Vice-Chancellors' Conference-2017 was held at the auditorium of International Mother Language Institute located at Segunbagicha on 14 November 2017. Access to Information (a2i) program of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) organized the event. It was disclosed in the meeting that a2i is going to launch innovation hubs at all public and private universities of the country soon to inspire students to innovate new ideas to address civic problems.



Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid MP, in charge of MoE addressed the conference over phone as the Chief Guest. Mr. Kabir Bin Anwar, Director General

(Admn.), PMO presided over the function. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC; Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and Mr. Sohrab Hossain, Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE addressed the function. Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Adviser, A2i presented a keynote paper in the Conference highlighting formation and functions of the innovation hubs.

The Education Minister urged the public and private universities to work together to discover new technologies for turning the country into a middle income one by 2021.

The Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan said that in universities MPhil and PhD courses are offered on a wholesale basis. UGC is planning to make a proper guideline for the universities to control the issue. Hinting on private universities, he said, 'Stern action will be taken against those institutions which are doing businesses in the name of providing higher education'.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury stressed on increasing the funding for research and development. He stressed on ensuring quality education and increasing funding for research.

Later, an open discussion session was held where Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC including a number of Vice-Chancellors from Public Universities participated.

Seminar on Government's Achievement in Education at Dhaka University

A seminar on Achievement of Awami League-led Government in Education Sector was held on 16 November 2017 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Education Minister graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC; Professor Dr. Md Aktaruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University; Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Dhaka University; Professor Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, former Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University and former Chairman, UGC; among others, addressed the seminar. Professor Abdul Khaleque, Chairman of Sub-Committee on



Education and Human Resources of Awami League was in the Chair. Professor Dr. Md. Abul Qashem, Department of History, Rajshahi University presented a keynote paper at the seminar. Ms. Shamsunnahar Chapa, Secretary of Sub-Committee on Education and Human Resources of Awami League gave the address of welcome.

The Education Minister noted that despite a number of challenges, Bangladesh has made remarkable and praiseworthy achievements in the education sector. 'We always encourage collaboration with different public and private bodies to build effective partnership to accomplish the journey of quality education'- the Honorable Minister emphasized. The Chairman of UGC underscored the need for increasing budgetary allocation in education. Professor Mannan stressed that the huge population is the biggest asset of our country and we need to exploit the population into human capital. For this, we have to ensure quality education at tertiary level'. He also noted that the country's tertiary education sector attained tremendous achievement and revolutionary changes. UGC has been working to enhance the quality of education and research through various projects like HEQEP and CEDP. Professor Abdul Khaleque said that the present government is relentlessly trying to streamline education sector with the support of country's educationists. He stressed the need for allocation of 3 per cent of GDP in education sector in the upcoming budget.

Mathematics Conference-2017 at Dhaka University

A-three day 20th International Mathematics Conference-2017 was held on 08 December 2017 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban at Dhaka University. The department of Mathematics of Dhaka University in association with Bangladesh



Mathematical Society (BMS) arranged the three day event with the theme 'Building Bridges with South Asian well-known Mathematicians'.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh inaugurated the Conference. Professor Sajeda Banu, President, Bangladesh Mathematical Society (BMS) was in the Chair. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, Professor Md. Abdul Aziz, Dean, Faculty of Sciences of DU, Professor Amal Krishna Halder, Chairman, Department of Mathematics and Professor Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam, General Secretary, BMS were present as the Special Guests.

While speaking as the Chief Guest, the Chairman of UGC expressed his optimism that the Conference will inspire the young mathematicians as well as the Bangladeshi students towards Mathematics and related research. He also said the conference will create a great opportunity for Bangladeshi mathematicians to interact with each other from home and abroad.

Professor Mannan also said that the requirement of science is immense as the world is becoming more and more complex and modernized day by day. He expected that the Conference will motivate the young mathematicians and students of Bangladesh to learn the latest developments in mathematics.

Professor Mollah narrated the gradual development of the subject and reminded the audience that mathematics is the mother of all sciences. We have to depend on mathematics at every sphere of human lives.

A total of 300 mathematicians including 20 from France, Germany, USA, Philippine, Japan, Sri Lanka and India took part in the Conference.

Conference on Physics for Sustainable Development and Technology in Chittagong

A two day long International Conference on Physics for Sustainable Development and Technology (ICPSDT-2017) was held during 10-11 December 2017 at Motel Shaikat in the Port City of Chittagong. Department of Physics of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology organized the event for the second time.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh inaugurated the Conference as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Rafiqul Alam, Vice- Chancellor, CUET, was present as Special Guest. Professor Dr. Faruk-Uz-Zaman, Chairman, Department of Physics and also the Chair of Conference presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the program, the Chairman of UGC observed that there is no alternative to sustainable development to realize the objectives of Vision 2041. He also noted that the world is on track towards Fourth Industrial Revolution and Information technology has emerged as a major force for the development.

A good number of researchers, scientists, professionals and entrepreneurs from home and abroad including Sweden, India, Japan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) attended the Conference.

16th World Bank Support Mission presents the draft Aide Memoire at UGC

The Members of the 16th World Bank Support Mission presented the draft Aide Memoire at the pre-wrap up meeting at UGC auditorium on 18 October 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC presided over the meeting while Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank presented the Aide Memoire on behalf of World Bank Support Mission. World Bank Mission



expressed satisfaction over the progress of the HEQEP. Progress of the activities of HEQEP and action plan for the next six months were also discussed in the meeting.

The Chairman of UGC welcomed the delegation at the meeting and thanked all concerned with HEQEP for contributing to the achievement. He also urged them to discharge their duties with sincerity and dedication.

The main objective of the project is to improve the quality of teaching-learning, research and connectivity in higher education institutions through encouraging both innovation and accountability within universities and by enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of the higher education sector.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum Members, UGC; Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP; Mr. Shiro Nakata, Senior Education Economist and officials and consultants of different units of HEQEP were present.

Rangamati Science and Technology University sanctioned 64 acres of land

The Government of Bangladesh offered the ownership of sixty four acres of land for permanent campus of Rangamati Science and Technology University (RSTU). The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rangamati handed over the relevant document to Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC on 04 November 2017. Later on, UGC Chairman handed over it to Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma, Vice-Chancellor of RSTU. Professor Dr. Manik Lal Chakma, former Dean, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Mr. Tarun Kanti Ghosh, Vice-President, CHT Development Board; high officials of Rangamati District Administration; representatives from local government and university teachers and officials were present. Located at Jagrabheel mouza, the permanent campus site is about six kilometers from the city centre. In a brief address, Professor Mannan observed that it is due to the personal initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the acquisition of the land has been possible in such a short period of time. The



Chairman announced that with the help of the local community it may be possible to shift some of the classes to the permanent campus by the middle of next year. Currently, around three hundred students are enrolled in the University and their classes are held in a local high school.

International Conference on World Peace, Security, Role of Islam at IIUC

A two-day International Conference on World Peace, Security, Role of Islam was held at IIUC campus premises during 30-31 December 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Professor K M Golam Muhiuddin, Vice-Chancellor, IIUC presided over it. Mr. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, PKSF and former Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister also spoke on the occasion. Islamic scholars from 18 countries including Bangladesh, Sudan, Algeria, Malaysia participated in the two-day seminar.



The Chairman of UGC said that Islam is a religion of peace and there is no conflict between Islam and peace. In the present world, a section of half literate and ignorant people are interpreting Islam incorrectly and imbuing them with militancy and violence. The despicable activities of these militants is tarnishing the image of Islam to the global community. As a result, misleading perception is being created among the people about Islam, particularly in the Western society.

Professor Mannan also said that when Hazrat Mohammad (SM.) formulated the first written constitution Madina Sanad 1400 years ago, it was the first charter of secularism and non-communalism. The fundamental tenets for governing the countries have been formulated based on this charter in the first era of Islam. He posed a question, 'why are a section of ultra conservative people creating divisions among the people by causing intolerance in the name of religion and killing innocent people'? He further said that we have to conduct research on the messages of Islam to free the peaceful religion from militancy and it needs to be spread out among the Muslim Ummah. He asserted that Islam is not safe in the hands of half-educated people, who are interpreting Islam falsely with ulterior motive. He added that when Pakistan occupation forces had killed innocent people during the Liberation War of 1971, only Iraq raised voice against it among the Muslim countries of the world, which was very painful. The participants from overseas countries present in the conference strongly condemned the ruthless persecution and genocide of Rohingya community in Myanmar.

Professor Mannan delivers Key-note speech on 'Victory Festival' in Kolkata

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata organized a 5-day long 'Victory Festival of Bangladesh' during 15-19 December 2017 at the premises of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission to mark the Victory Day celebration. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was invited to deliver the Key-note speech on Victory Festival of Bangladesh on 16 December 2017. Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, MP was also invited to share his wartime experience with the audience. The seminar session was Chaired by Mr. Towfiq Hassan, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh in Kolkata



Professor Abdul Mannan said that the unprecedented development of Bangladesh in last 46 years from the ashes of our Liberation War is like the story of the rise of the mythical Phoenix bird.

Professor Mannan said if the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not assassinated in 1975 Bangladesh would have become a high income country by this time. He lauded the role of the current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina under whose prudent leadership the country has achieved an enviable position in the global community.

Professor Mannan expressed his gratitude to the people of India, the Indian armed forces whose sacrifice have become an integral part of Bangladesh's history of its Liberation War. He paid tribute to the memories of the then Indian Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi who supported the cause of our Liberation war and contributed immensely in mobilizing the global opinion in Bangladesh's favour.

Workshop on Project Monitoring and Information System

A day-long workshop on Project Monitoring and Information System (PMIS) was held at the UGC auditorium on 21 November 2017. The Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) Unit of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) organized the workshop for the Accountants of W-1 and CPSF, Round-4 sub-projects. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC addressed the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest with Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director, HEQEP in the Chair. Mr. Shohel Ahmed, Deputy Project Director, HEQEP and Mr. Md. Isharat Hossain Khan, AIF Coordinator, also spoke on the occasion. A total of 86 Accountants of Roun-4 sub-projects took part in the workshop.



Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his speech, urged the participants to sincerely learn how to send project

information through PMIS software. 'The HEQEP is expected to be completed by 31st December 2018. Activities of all the Round-4 sub-projects need to be completed by September 2018. The sub-project management team should work keeping the time frame in mind. Otherwise, they won't be able to complete all the activities,' Professor Mollah stressed.

Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta stated that the PMIS software has been developed so that the sub-project management team can send reports of their activities easily. He urged the participants to send the quarterly and half-yearly report within the stipulated time. He also assured the participants of extending all sorts of assistance from project office for timely completion of all the activities of the sub-projects.

It may be mentioned here that a total of 86 subprojects (CPSF-48 and W-1-38) have been awarded to 24 public and private universities under Round-4 by HEQEP.

First meeting of National Strategic Planning Committee at UGC

The first meeting of National Strategic Planning Committee (NSPC) under College Education Development Project (CEDP) was held on 16 October 2017 at the auditorium of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC presided over the meeting. Professor Dr. Harun Rashid, Vice-Chancellor, National University; Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University; Professor Dr. Mijanur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Jagannath University; Professor Dr. Giash Uddin Miah Vice-Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University and Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam, Project

Director (Additional Secretary), CEDP, were present on the occasion.

The meeting was convened to have a detailed discussion on various aspects, including the action plan and role of expert groups of the proposed 15 years National Strategic Plan (2019-2033) of implementing CEDP. UGC and National University are jointly implementing the CEDP with the support of the World Bank.

The College Education Development Project will help to improve the teaching and learning environment of government and non-government colleges affiliated with the National University.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech said that the Strategic Plan for college education should be prepared in accordance with National Education Policy-2010 and other government policies for the development of college education to build a developed and modern nation.

Basic Training on UGC Digital Library at UGC

A-two day Basic Training Programme on UGC Digital Library was held at UGC auditorium during 22-23 October 2017. University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organized the professional training programme. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP presided over the programme.



Professor Mannan, in his speech, underscored the need for raising awareness about use of e-resources among the students, teachers and researchers of the university, who lag behind on using digital resources. He said, the demand of e-resources is growing in the country and UDL has provided easy access to e-resources to enhance one's knowledge and skills.

He said that the UGC and MoE are jointly working for internationalization of country's higher education. 'We want to reach country's tertiary education to a new height by 2021. We have to create smooth atmosphere for foreign students so that they come to Bangladesh to pursue higher education,' he said.

Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, in his presidential speech said that the objectives of UDL are to enhance the capacity building of the librarians and increase its usages. He urged the Liberians to work pro-actively on library management. He also said the training programme will help attain the goal of UDL and its management.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC distributed certificates among the participants as the Chief Guest in the concluding ceremony. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP presided over the programme.

Professor Dr. S. M. Zabed Ahmed, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Dhaka and Ms. Hasina Afroz, Librarian, BRAC University were the resource persons.

As of to-day a total 84 organizations including 81 universities of the country are subscribing over 34,000 high-quality scholarly e-resources through UGC Digital Library. Assistant librarians from 34 public universities of the country participated in the two-day long training programme.

Sushma Swaraj hands over laptops to UGC Chairman

H.E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India handed over few laptops to improve the computer lab facilities of the Sanskrit Departments of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong Universities. The computers were received from Smt. Sushma Swaraj by the Chairman of UGC, Professor Abdul Mannan on behalf of the universities while the



Vice-Chancellors of the respective universities were present. The handing over ceremony was held at a simple ceremony at the newly inaugurated Chancery of India at Baridhara on 23 October 2017. The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh H.E. Harsh Vardhan Shringla was present during the handing over ceremony.

UGC Chairman hands over his written book to the Hon'ble Finance Minister

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC handing over his written book entitled, Nation, People and Politics to the Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP at his office.



Seminar of Nutrition and Food Science at Dhaka University

The closing ceremony and dissemination seminar of a HEQEP sub-project entitled Advancement of food composition activities of the Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences with State-of-the-Art Instrument Laboratory was held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka on 27 December 2017.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present at the ceremony as the Chief Guest with Professor Dr. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-chancellor of the

University of Dhaka in the Chair. Professor Dr. Md. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Science, University of Dhaka, and Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director of HEQEP, were present as Special Guests. Professor Dr. Nazma Shaheen, SPM of the subproject, delivered welcome address at the ceremony.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Professor Mannan said that the UGC extends support for improving higher education and research in the country. He also noted that world class research on various topics are being conducted in the universities across the country, including Dhaka University'.

In his speech, Professor Akhtaruzzaman thanked Professor Dr. Nazma Shahin and her associates for successfully implementing the research project.

Faculty members and students of the different Departments of DU took part at the seminar. Officials and consultants of UGC and HEQEP were also present at the event.

International Conference on Electrical and Electronics Engineering at RUET

The inaugural ceremony of a three-day International Conference on Electrical and Electronics Engineering (ICEEE) was held at central auditorium of RUET on 27 December 2017. Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of RUET organized the Conference.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Rafiqul Alam Beg, Vice-Chancellor, RUET, Professor Saifur Rahman from Virginia Tech., USA, Professor Faz Rahman, New South Wales University, Australian and Professor Shila Shahnaj from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology spoke as special guests.

Addressing the programme, the Chairman of UGC said that more than Tk. 8,000 Crore were allocated for quality improvement of infrastructure, technical, education and research of the country's public universities during the last nine years under the present government.

He also said the public universities will get Tk. four Crore for quality improvement of research every year.

Professor Mannan said the conference is expected to provide a highly interactive platform in which leading experts and researchers in the field of electrical and electronic engineering can discuss recent scientific advances and seek cooperation from all over the world.

Alumni Meet of Accounting and Information Systems Department of RU

Accounting and Information Systems Department of Rajshahi University (RU) organized the first Alumni Meet at Kazi Nazrul Auditorium on the campus on 23 December 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, graced the reunion programme as the Chief Guest. Professor Salma Banu, Accounting and Information System Department, RU presided over the programme. Professor M Abdus Sobhan, Vice-Chancellor, RU, Professor Ananda Kumar Saha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, RU and Mr. Ayen Uddin, Law Maker, Rajshahi addressed the function.



In his speech, the Chairman of UGC said the allocation at Rajshahi University for developments of infrastructure and research work is poor only due to the universities' indifference in seeking funds from the government.

Pointing at the former students of the university, he said that the university's reputation and defamation depend on you. You should come forward to the development of your university from your respective positions.

Workshop on Innovation for Services to Citizen at UGC

A discussion meeting related to raising awareness on innovation for services to citizens was held on 19 November 2017 at UGC auditorium. University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organized the meeting to offer the services to the doorsteps of people at easiest way. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, presided over the meeting. Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC delivered their speeches as the Special Guests. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, delivered the welcome address on the occasion.



Professor Mannan, in his speech said that innovation is an integral part of national integrity strategy to offer services to the citizens. Innovative idea in offering services to the citizens is highly needed for making activities of an organization transparent, dynamic and easier. He urged its officials to discharge their duties with sincerity, skills and innovative way. Punctuality, economic management and national integrity strategy are essential for reaching citizen services to the people's doorstep, he opined.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his presidential speech, observed that the present government is relentlessly working in establishing good governance through undertaking various time befitting steps. He called upon all concerned to perform their duties systematically and effectively. Members and high officials of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh were present in the meeting.

Workshop on Advanced REN Services at UGC

The Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN), a component of HEQEP, organized a day-long workshop on Advanced REN Services at UGC auditorium on 07 October 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest with Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC, in the Chair.



Mr. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (University), Secondary and Higher Education Division, MoE; Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Mr. Mahmudul Islam, Joint Secretary (Development), MoE and Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank, were present as Special Guests.

Mr. AKM Habibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, BdREN, delivered welcome address. Mr. Mohammad Tawrit, CTO, BdREN, presented a briefing on Eduroam at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop. Mr. Sayedur Rahman, TST Consultant (Management), BdREN, gave a demonstration on the Eduroam.

Officials and Consultants of HEQEP and UGC were also present on the occasion. A total of 60 participants from different public and private universities of the country took part in the training programme.

International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence at DU

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of Dhaka University organized a day-long workshop on Artificial Intelligence(AI) and its applications on 18th December 2017. The workshop was organized on the eve of inaugurating the FabLab (Fabrication Laboratory) in the department. The FabLab project was awarded to the department by HEQEP. Professor Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC was the Chief



Guest at the meeting. Dr. Mollah highlighted the importance of FabLab as well as AI in inspiring the young minds toward innovation and popularizing science education in Bangladesh. A number of expatriate Bangladeshi scientists attended the workshop.

Delegation from KMUTT, Thailand calls on the Chairman of UGC

A-three member delegation from King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand led by Dr. Budsakayt Intarapasan, Assistant to the President for Student Development, KMUTT called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC at the latter's office on 15 November 2017. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC among others, were present during the meeting. Mrs. Kunyakamol Khiewvarn, Academic Services Officer, Admissions and Recruitment Office, KMUTT assisted Dr. Budsakayt Intarapasan during the meeting.



The delegation said that King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand is willing to provide scholarship to Bangladeshi students in Masters and Ph.D programme in areas of Engineering, Information Technology, Bio-technology and Business Studies. The KMUTT is willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UGC of Bangladesh for further progress of the move.

The Chairman of UGC termed the proposal by the delegation as positive and assured the delegation of extending necessary cooperation from UGC of Bangladesh. He also observed that UGC always

believes in internationalization of higher education and for this, the Commission has been relentlessly working.

KOICA delegation meets Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah

A-three member delegation from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) called on Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, at his office on 27 November 2017. Mr. Saang Keub LEE, Programme Officer, Economic Development Department, KOICA, led the delegation. Other members of the team were Ms. Yoo Jong-wha, Assistant Manager, Southeast Asia and Pacific, KOICA, and Mr. Md. Fazle Rabby, Programme Co-ordinator, KOICA, Bangladesh. Mr. Rashedur Rahman, Assistant Professor, University of Dhaka, was also present.



During the meeting, the delegation informed Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah that KOICA is willing to establish innovation and entrepreneurship center at Dhaka University. KOICA will gradually set up the Center at a number of public and private universities of the country. They will provide financial assistance in this regard. They also sought assistance from UGC for establishing the business incubators at the universities.

Professor Mollah assured the delegation that UGC will extend all kinds of support in this regard. He said UGC is eager to promote entrepreneurship programme at universities for enhancement of the country's tertiary education. 'It will be very effective and productive centre. We will play our role as monitoring agency'- he assured. Dr. Mollah further added that UGC wants university-industry collaboration for enhancement of country's development. Professor Mollah also said that the government is working to formulate curriculum on entrepreneurship programme at the tertiary level.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC; Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Additional Director, International Co-operation and Collaboration, UGC and Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, Additional Director (Public Relations), UGC, among others, were present during the meeting.

10th Governing Board meeting of South Asian University

The 10th meeting of the Board of Governors of South Asian University was held on 18 December 2017 at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi. Professor Parashar Prasad Koirala, PhD, Chairman, UGC, Nepal presided over the meeting. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh attended the meeting. A total of 15 members from eight SAARC countries participated along with senior officials of Ministry of External Affairs, India.



The meeting discussed the sustainability strategy along with academic and financial plans of the university. The Board expressed their optimism that within a decade SAU will become a Center of Excellence of Higher Education in the region. Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, DG, (SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh also attended the meeting.

13th Founding Anniversary of University of Liberal Arts of Bangladesh

The 13th founding anniversary of ULAB was held at the university auditorium on 02 October 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education, addressed the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh graced the programme as Special Guest. Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Member of Trustee Board and Professor H. M Zahirul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The Education Minister, in his speech, said the government will take legal action against the private universities which have failed to fulfill their commitment in running the universities under the Private University Act-2010. 'A number of private universities are yet to fulfill their conditions as per the Act and hence they have to face legal action' -the Minister warned. He also said the government has set a target of achieving 30 per cent enrolment in technical education by 2030 aiming at transforming Bangladesh into an economically developed



country. 'In 2009, there was only one per cent student enrolment in the technical education while the current enrolment is 14 per cent,'- he added.

In his speech, the Chairman of UGC noted that a remarkable progress has been made in the education sector as the government is working sincerely to expand and improve quality of education in the country. He called upon all including the private sector to supplement the efforts of improving standard of education to create skilled human resources.

148th Full-Commission meeting of UGC

The 148th meeting of the Full Commission of UGC of Bangladesh was held at UGC Auditorium on 13 December 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC presided over the meeting. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC; Professor Dr. Iftekher Uddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, CU; Professor Dr. Md. Giashuddin Miah, Vice-Chancellor, BSMRAU; Professor Dr. Anwar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor, JUST; Professor Dr. Md. Forhad Hossain, Department of Statistics, JU; Professor Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture, SBAU; ; Professor Dr. Md. Anowar Khashru Parvez, Treasurer, PUST; Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC; Mr. Md. Ekhlashur Rahman, Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance; Mr. S.M Golam Ali, Divisional Head, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission; Mr. Abdur Rezaque, Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC; Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC and Khandker Hamidur Rahman, Director, Information Management, Communication and Training Division, UGC attended the meeting.

The Commission nominated Professor Dr. Md. Giashuddin Miah, Vice-Chancellor, BSMRAU and Professor Dr. Md. Anowar Khashru Parvez, Treasurer, PUST as Members of UGC's Finance Committee for the next two years.



The Commission also approved Professor Dr. Iftekher Uddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, CU as Member of UGC Selection Committee-1, while Professor Dr. Md. Forhad Hossain, Department of Statistics, Jahangirnagar University as Member of UGC Selection Committee-2.

The Full Commission also approved few amendments proposed by the relevant sub-committee on framing uniform guidelines for teachers' recruitment and promotion at public universities. A proposal to expand and modernize residential facilities at UGC residential area for the next 50 years was also approved.

International Conference on Electrical Information and Communication Technology at KUET

The 3rd International Conference on Electrical Information and Communication Technology (EICT-2017) was held at KUET on 07-09 December 2017. Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering of KUET organized the Conference. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the inaugural ceremony of the seminar as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Alomgir, Vice-Chancellor, KUET was present as the Chief Patron. Professor Dr. Md. Abdur Rafique, President of Organizing Committee and Dean of Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, KUET presided over the ceremony.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech, stressed the need for optimum utilization of limited resources for



the development of the country and in this regard, he urged the researchers to work hard. He observed that EICT Conference will play a pivotal role in the advancement of Information Technology and Electronics.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member of UGC was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony of the Conference. Professor Begum noted that Information and Communication Technologies have to be infused with new strength to play a decisive and beneficial role in advancing the socio-economic system globally and more importantly, to build digital Bangladesh. Besides, the research findings on the articles related to power and energy can be very useful to meet up the rapidly growing demands of electricity in our country.

Vice-Chancellor of KUET said that such kinds of seminar will create a new horizon for the young researchers.



Professor Dr. Takajuuki Makino, Fukui University, Japan and Professor Subir Kumar Sarker, Jadavpur University, India presented key-note papers on the occasion. A total of 128 technical papers were presented at the Conference. Researchers from home and abroad teachers, renowned engineers and IT experts participated in the Conference.

Friends of Waldorf Education meets the Chairman of UGC

A two member delegation from the Friends of Waldorf Education called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh at the latter's office on 16 October 2017. The delegation comprised of Mrs. Kristina Wojtanowski, Head of Department and Mr. Lukas Mall, Coordination, Emergency Pedagogy, Friends of Waldorf Education.

During the meeting, Mrs. Kristina said that Friends of Waldorf Education is keenly interested in working for the development (education and community services) of traumatized children specially, the Rohingya children in refugee camps of Bangladesh as school is a rare sanctuary for them. Around



100,000 children are of school-going age at the Rohingya refugee camps and these children need to be sent to schools right away. She also sought support in this regard.

In reply, Professor Mannan said that UGC oversee the country's tertiary education and suggested the delegation to contact Primary and Mass Education Ministry, as it deals the primary education in the country. He also noted that a number of issues related to Rohingya refugee can be addressed for the development of Rohingya children. Professor Mannan also noted that the problems they are facing are not possible to overcome overnight.

The Germany-based charity association supports more than 600 Waldorf schools, kindergartens, curative education facilities and social projects worldwide in financial and legal matters.

Bangladesh Open University celebrates Silver Jubilee

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) celebrated the Silver Jubilee programme of the university in Gazipur on 26 October 2017. Hon'ble Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, inaugurated the day-long programme as the Chief Guest. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh, graced the function as Special Guest. The programme commenced with a colourful rally participated by its present and former students, co-ordinators, tutors, teachers, officers and employees. The day-long programme included discussion session, presentation ceremony and cultural programme.



The 16th World Bank Implementation Support Mission at MoE

The 16th World Bank Implementation Support Mission for HEQEP ended on 19 October 2017 with the wrap-up meeting held at the Conference room of the MoE. The World Bank Mission graded the overall performance of the project as satisfactory. Mr. Md. Sohorab Hossain, Secretary, MoE presided over the meeting. A four member team from World Bank led by Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, WB attended the meeting. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC of Bangladesh was present at the meeting. Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, MoE; Dr Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Mr. Md. Mahmudul Islam, Joint Secretary (Development) and officials and consultants from the MoE and HEQEP also attended the meeting.



4th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Professionals

The 4th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) was held at Mirpur Cantonment on 26 December 2017. Hon'ble President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, also the Chancellor of the university presided over the Convocation ceremony and distributed certificates among the graduating students. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Education Minister; Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Major General Salahuddin Miaji, Vice-Chancellor, BUP, among others, spoke at the Convocation.



Addressing the programme, the Hon'ble President said that Bangladesh should keep the new generation at the focal point of all its endeavors. The development and progress of a nation depend on the education of the young generation. So, the new generation should be at the focal point of all of our efforts, the Hon'ble President observed. Noting that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dreamt of building Bangladesh as a happy, prosperous and self-dignified country, he hoped that the new graduates will contribute towards materializing his dream.

Later, the President inaugurated the Bangabandhu Chair at the university aimed at conducting research on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

12th Convocation of BRAC University

The 12th Convocation of BRAC University was held on the university's residential campus in Savar on 13 December 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, M.P., in charge of MoE presided over the Convocation ceremony as the representative of the Hon'ble President and distributed certificates among the graduating students. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, Board of Trustees; Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University also addressed the Convocation Ceremony. Mr. Shahidul Alam, Managing Director of Drik Picture Library Ltd. was the Convocation Speaker.



A total of 1600 students were awarded certificates at the Convocation. The Chancellor's Gold Medal was conferred on two students and 30 others were awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal.

University of Development Alternative holds 6th Convocation

The 6th Convocation of University of Development Alternative (UDA) was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on 05 October 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Education Minister presided over the Convocation ceremony as the representative of the Hon'ble



President and distributed certificates among the graduating students. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present as the Special Guest at the event. Professor Dr. Ahmedullah Miah, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Iffat Chowdhury, Registrar, UODA also addressed the programme. Professor Emeritus of UODA Dr. Emajuddin Ahmed, also former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University delivered Convocation Speech.

Congratulating the graduates, the Education Minister said that educated youths are essential to build a prosperous future of a nation. He urged all to follow the Private University Act-2010 as it was formulated to ensure improvement of quality of education.

In his speech, the Chairman of UGC said that UODA is well-organized, rich in education and co-curricular activities. He hoped the new graduates will establish their career with multiplicity of knowledge. Professor Mannan urged them to start career with confidence, honesty, hard working and deep patriotism.

More than 1629 graduates and postgraduates were awarded degrees. A student of BBA programme was awarded Chancellor Award; 6 students Vice-Chancellor's Award and 14 students Dean's Award for their outstanding results.

2nd Convocation of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology

The 2nd Convocation of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology was held at the International Convention City Bashundhara, Dhaka on 27 November 2017.

Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Education Minister presided over the Convocation ceremony as the representative of the Hon'ble President and distributed certificates among the graduating students. Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque, Minister for Liberation War Affairs; Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Professor Dr. Kazi Md. Mafizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Shanto-Mariam



University of Creative Technology also spoke on the occasion.

The Education Minister urged the private universities authority to come forward to impart education to the students without selfish intention and adapt service mentality.

In his speech, Professor Abdul Mannan congratulated the graduating students and wished them good luck in their journey to new lives and expressed the hope that the graduates will be successful in life and overcome all challenges.

International Conference on Refugees in the Public Imagination: Discourse on (Dis) location and (Dis) placement

The inaugural session of a two-day International Conference on Refugees in the Public Imagination: Discourse on (Dis) location and (Dis) placement was held at the University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) in Dhaka on 22 December 2017. Department of English and Humanities of the university organized the Conference. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor H. M. Jahurul Haque, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, gave the welcome address. Dr Shamsad Mortuza, Head, Department of English and Humanities gave the vote of thanks.



Distinguished Professors and researchers from home and abroad including Dr. Devjani Sengupta, Dr. Fakhurul Alam, Dr. Niaz Zaman, Dr. Perween

Hasan, Dr. Razia Sultana Khan, Dr. Firdous Azim, Professor Afsan Chowdhury and Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam attended the discussion.

Inaugurating the session, Professor Mannan congratulated ULAB for arranging the Conference on such an urgent and pressing issues of our time as the global refugee crisis has been a pressing issue. Professor Mannan added that the ongoing Rohingya crisis is a global problem and Bangladesh has shown the highest level of humanity by letting the persecuted Rohingya in its territory despite numerous challenges facing the country.

UGC Chairman attends 19th SAQS Committee meeting in India

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC attended the 19th South Asian Quality Assurance System(SAQS) Committee meeting held at University of Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad. He also attended a meeting at South Asian University, New Delhi, India. The meetings were held during 08-14 October 2017.



Floral wreath at Rayerbazar Memorial

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh paid rich tribute to the Martyred Intellectuals at Rayerbazar killing field in Dhaka on 14 December 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC



along with UGC Officers' Association, Karmachari Union and other officials of the Commission placed floral wreath to mark the Martyred Intellectual Day.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC; Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, President, UGC Officers' Association; Mr. Md. Mohibul Ahsan, General Secretary, UGC Officers' Association; UGC high officials; Mr. Md. Anowar Hossain, President, UGC Karmachari Union and other officials of the Commission, were present on the occasion.

B.Ed (Hons.) Course of Education Department opened at NSTU

A programme to open B.Ed (Hon's) course of Education Department under Faculty of Education Science of Noakhali Science and Technology University was held at Korobi Hall of Prime Minister's Office on 27 December 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was present at the programme as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Wahiduzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University presided over it. Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Vice-Chancellor of Green University Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Abul Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, NSTU and Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, Additional Director, Public University Management Division, UGC, among others, were present.



UGC pays tributes to martyrs on Victory Day at National Mausoleum in Savar

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar marking the Victory Day on 16 December 2017. Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, President; Mr. Md. Mohibul Ahsan, General Secretary, UGC Officers' Association; Senior officials and Mr. Anowar Hossain, President, UGC Karmachari Union among others, were present. Later on, a friendly cricket match was held at UGC Residential area where Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC



was present as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes amongst the players.

Mother of Professor Mannan passes away

Alhaj Salema Khatun, mother of Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC left this mortal world (Innalillahi...rajiun) on 23 November 2017 due to old age complications at her own residence of Kazir Dewri in Chittagong. She was 93 years old. She was wife of renowned social worker Late Abdus Salam, former UP Member, Bagmoniram Ward. Late Salema Khatun left behind four sons, three daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death. Professor Abdul Mannan is the eldest child of the deceased.

Members, Secretary, Divisional Heads and all officials of UGC have expressed profound shock at the death of the mother of Professor Abdul Mannan. They prayed for the salvation and peace of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

UGC Chairman places wreath at graveyard of Bir Shresto Munshi Abdur Rouf

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh paid tribute to the memory of Bir Shresto Munshi Abdur Rouf by placing floral wreath at his graveyard at Burighat in Rangamati on 06 November 2017. Professor Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma, Vice-Chancellor, Rangamati Science and Technology University accompanied the Chairman of



UGC. Munshi Abdur Rouf was a Lance Nayek in the East Pakistan Rifles during the Bangladesh Liberation War. He was enlisted to then East Pakistan Rifles on 8 May 1963 and was attached with a regular infantry unit during the War of Liberation. Munshi Abdur Rouf died on 20 April 1971 at Burighat in Chittagong Hill Tracts after causing extensive damage to the Pakistani Army with his machine gun and forcing them to retreat. He valiantly laid down his life fighting the enemy and in the process saved many lives of many of our freedom fighters.

Prize distribution ceremony of Annual Sports of UGC Karmachari Union

Prize distribution ceremony of Annual Sports-2017 of UGC Karmachari Union was held on 03 December 2017 at UGC auditorium. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes to the players. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC were present as Special Guests on the occasion. Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, President, UGC Officers' Association and Additional Director, Strategic Planning, Quality Assurance and Right to Information Division, UGC also spoke. Mr. Md. Anowar Hossain, President, UGC Karmachari Union presided over the function.



Divisional heads and other officials of UGC were present at the prize distribution ceremony.

Reports from different Divisions of UGC

Planning and Development Division

- A-five member delegation from Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) led by its Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Gautom Buddha Das made a power point presentation on 17 September 2017 for development project proposal submitted to UGC. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the meeting. Mr. 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 were present at the meeting.
- A-three member delegation from Jahangirnagar University (JU) led by its Project Director Dr. Md. Razaul Islam, Planning Director of JU made a Power Point

Presentation on 12 November 2017 for development project proposal submitted to UGC. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the meeting. Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC; Mr. Abdur Rezaque, Director, Planning and Development Division, Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division and Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Additional Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC were present at the Meeting.

Research Support and Publication Division

- Research Support and Publication Division of UGC of Bangladesh provides financial grants to university teachers for conducting research. Research Support and Publication Division invited research proposals from the public university teachers of the country for 2018. A total of 575 research proposals were submitted in different sections. Among them, 250 proposals were primarily selected by different evaluation committees for review. An estimated amount of Tk. 4 crore will be given to carry out research in Science, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Business Studies, Medicine, Agriculture and Engineering fields for the year of 2018.



- The 90th meeting of the Equivalence Committee of foreign degrees was held on 28 November 2017 with Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC in the Chair. A total of 165 foreign degrees were considered for equivalence to Bangladeshi Degrees. UGC Members, eminent experts of different disciplines, were present at the meeting.

Private University Division

- A-three member committee consisting of a subject expert and led by Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC visited North South University on 08 October, 2017 to assess the suitability of laboratory, library and other facilities for the approval of BS in Biochemistry and Biotechnology revised syllabus.
- A-three member committee headed by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC visited permanent campus of International Islamic University, Chittagong on 16 November 2017 to evaluate its facilities and academic activities in order to consider permanent certificate.
- A-two member committee headed by Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC visited proposed Bandarban University, on 16 November 2017 to verify the provisions executed for temporary permission according to the Private University Act- 2010.
- A-three member committee consisting of a subject expert and led by Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC visited Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib University on 29 November, 2017 to inspect laboratory, library and other facilities for the approval of proposed B.Sc in EEE programme.



Chief Adviser
Professor Abdul Mannan
Chairman, UGC

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University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
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E-mail: chairman@ugc.gov.bd
www.ugc.gov.bd

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