

From the Desk of the Editor

There is no denying that education is the backbone of a nation. For giving learners access to quality education, institutions should update or reform their curricula after a certain period or when it seems necessary. The update or reform should be done in the light of the cultural needs, technological advancement and global competition, after reviewing the existing curricula critically.

Development and innovations are taking place in every branch of knowledge and new challenges are emerging with the passage of time. How will an institution keep its students abreast of the development and equip them with the knowledge and skills to face the challenges if it does not update its curricula?

In Bangladesh, curriculum reform is an ignored area in higher studies. Most of the higher educational institutions are offering courses based on curricula developed decades ago, resulting in the country failing to maintain the quality of education and falling behind in the global competition.

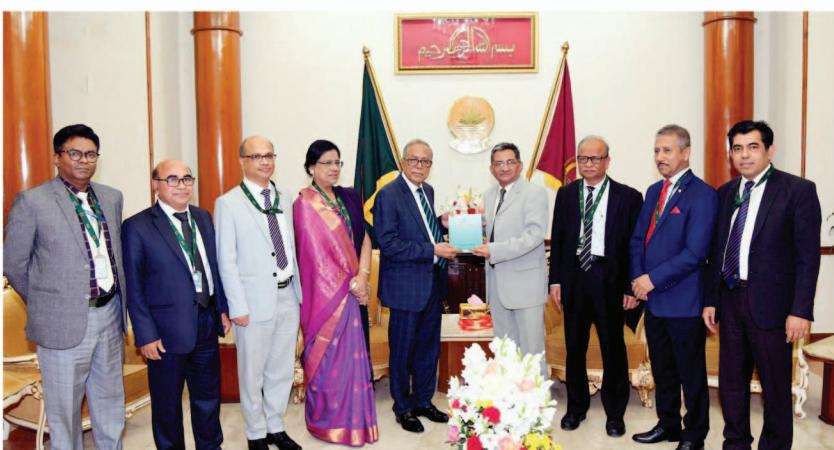
Let alone the global competition, many graduates in Bangladesh are devoid of the knowledge and skills required in the local job market. The struggle of employers to find suitable candidates despite the existence of numerous job-seeking educated people in the market, and hiring of many foreigners in industries in Bangladesh manifest the real state of higher education.

Had our higher educational institutions updated curricula when it was needed and offered time-befitting education, they themselves as well as the country would have been benefited greatly. As education providers, their image would have been brighter locally as well as globally while the country could have retained many students, who went abroad for better higher studies, and thus saved huge foreign exchange spent for them.

The educational institutions which are following the same curricula for decades should waste no more time to update and reform them. We need to keep in mind that quality is never an accident; it is always the result of efforts. Our institutions should make those efforts.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum
Member, UGC

Annual Report-2018 of UGC submitted to President



A delegation from University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh led by its Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah submitted the Annual Report-2018 to Hon'ble President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on 29 December 2019.

The President, who is the chancellor of the universities, asked the University Grants Commission to play its due role to ensure proper academic environment and quality education in the universities of the country.

"Take necessary steps to make education more time-befitting at all public and private universities," the President told the delegation.

He laid stress on the need for introducing time-befitting and world-standard academic curriculum to acquaint the graduates with the global competition.

The head of the state urged the UGC authorities to consider adoption of an identical teacher appointment policy as over 150 public and private universities are now functioning in the country.

He was apprised by the UGC chairman of different activities of the commission, including infrastructural development and curriculums.

The UGC chairman informed the President about holding admission tests at seven agricultural universities under the cluster system, which reduced the sufferings of admission seekers and their guardians.

He told the president that they had taken a strategic plan to introduce a uniform appointment policy for pro-vice chancellors and treasurers of the universities.

The UGC would set up a quality and time-befitting research centre, Shahidullah added, seeking the president's all-out cooperation in this connection.

President Abdul Hamid gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of his all-out cooperation.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, UGC Secretary Dr. Md. Khaled, Director (Current Charge) of Research Support and Publication Division Md. Omar Faruque and Deputy Director of Research Support and Publication Division Muhammad Nazmul Islam were in the delegation. Secretaries concerned to the president were also present.

UGC delegation meets Prime Minister



A delegation from University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh led by its Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah met Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 17 October 2019 at her office.

The Prime Minister directed the University Grants Commission not to go beyond the rules in overseeing public and private universities. "Don't go beyond the rules. Follow them properly," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said that the UGC would be empowered by enacting new law. She directed the UGC to strengthen its capacity and monitor the colleges affiliated with public universities.

The UGC delegation informed the Prime Minister about the activities and development of the apex

body entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the higher education in the country.

Professor Shahidullah said that there were currently 155 public and private universities in the country, but the manpower of UGC remain unchanged for long. So, the manpower of the UGC needs to be increased to deal with the large number of the institutes.

He also informed the Prime Minister that the UGC has prepared the research policy and said that the commission needs a training academy for the teachers like Public Administration Training Academy.

Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman and PMO Secretary Sajjadul Hassan were present at the time. UGC Members Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir were in the delegation.

Lab on implementation of NIS, APA held in Bandarban



A two-day long lab on implementation of National Integrity Strategy (NIS) and Annual Performance Agreement (APA) was held at Venus Resort of Bandarban district on 27-28 December 2019.

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organised the programme at the national level for making the activities of universities transparent, dynamic and vibrant and for ensuring the best practices in manners among the employees at their workplaces.

Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Bir Bahadur UShwe Sing was present at the inaugural ceremony of the lab as the chief guest.

With UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah in the chair, the ceremony was

attended by ICT Division Senior Secretary NM Ziaul Alam, Cabinet Division Secretary Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and UGC Members Professor Dr. Md Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir as special guests.

Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman Kyaw Shwe Hla was present on the occasion as the guest of honour. UGC Member Professor Dr. M Shah Nowaz Ali delivered the address of welcome.

High officials from the Cabinet Division, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and UGC were present at the inaugural ceremony.

In his speech, the chief guest said that the best practices in manners have to be cultivated from the grass-root level. He urged all concerned to do something good for the development of the country by discharging their duties with sincerity, honesty and integrity.

In his speech, the UGC chairman said that corruption is number one problem of the country. The development of the country is possible if the menace could be curbed, he added.

Annual Performance Agreement, Sustainable Development Goal-4, the 7th and 8th Five-Year Plans, National Education Policy-2010, relevant higher education policies and their implementation at the university level, election manifesto and review of annual performance agreements signed between UGC and 46 public universities came up for the discussion in the two-day event.

Annual Performance Agreement is signed between UGC and public universities of the country with a view to making the activities of universities transparent, accountable, dynamic and vibrant.

The government has declared National Integrity Strategy Implementation for ensuring the best practices in manners at workplaces of the employees of the state.

Develop curriculum based on technology: Palak

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak urged the academicians to prepare curriculum to keep pace with rapid technological advancement.



He made the call while speaking at a workshop on 'Skills Development of ICT Engineers on IT Engineers Examination (ITEE) Targeting Japanese Market' held at UGC on 13 November 2019.

The state minister said that significant number of jobs would be created in the IT sector through the workshop organised jointly by University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC).

Talking on updating curriculum, he said, "It's a difficult task to update curriculum every year. In this case, universities can initiate top-up training programmes to address the global needs."

The workshop was organised to raise awareness and facilitate the IT Engineers Examination so that the Bangladeshi IT graduates can enhance their knowledge and skills.

Mr. Palak laid emphasis on adopting 4IR (4th Industrial Revolution) programmes replacing labour-oriented jobs to get developed nation status by 2041. "We are working to create a pool of quality manpower, enhance graduates' employability and meet objectives of Digital Bangladesh. Academicians need to carry out research on 4IR. The ICT ministry in association with UGC will set up research and incubation centres, specialised labs in every university," he added.

In his presidential speech, UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said that skill requirements of jobs have changed enormously in the last decades with the advancement of technology.

"We need to take steps to prepare our youth force for the global markets. Our graduates need to be trained well with the updated knowledge and

skills... Japan has opened up market for our IT graduates. We have to take its full advantage," he said.

UGC Member and convener of the workshop committee Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, in his address of welcome, said, "Knowledge and technology will be exchanged through ITEE and it will also help transform our graduates into human resources."

ICT Division Senior Secretary NM Ziaul Alam, Minister at the Embassy of Japan Hiroyuki Yamaya, BCC Executive Director Parthapratim Deb and Japan External Trade Organisation Country Representative Yuji Ando also spoke at the workshop.

UGC members, vice chancellors from different public and private universities, faculty members of engineering departments and IT entrepreneurs were present.

UGC holds meeting with Bangladesh Accreditation Council



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh led by its Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah participated in a meeting of Bangladesh Accreditation Council on 08 December 2019.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir were also present in the meeting.

From BAC, its Chairman Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Members Istiaque Ahmad, Professor Md. Golam Shahi Alam, Professor Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary and Professor SM Kabir attended the meeting.

Get-together at UGC



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, on 06 August 2019, nominated four renowned researchers of the country as UGC Professors for the next two years in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

The professors are Dr. Fakrul Alam, retired professor of English Department at the University of Dhaka, Dr. Khorshed Ahmed Kabir, retired professor of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Dhaka, Professor Dr. ABM Abdullah, retired professor of Medicine at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, and Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan Akanda, former Vice Chancellor and retired professor of Plant Pathology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University.

Besides, the commission nominated Professor Dr. Amatul Laila Zaman of Bangla Department at the University of Chittagong as Rokeya Chair to commemorate the contribution of Begum Rokeya to education, empowerment and development of women in the country.

UGC arranged a get-together in honour of the new UGC Professors and Rokeya Chair at its auditorium on 26 October 2019. National professors, the UGC chairman and members, former UGC chairmen and members, former UGC professors, former Rokeya chairs, full commission members, vice chancellors from Dhaka-based public universities and divisional heads of UGC were present on the occasion. They exchanged views on various aspects of higher education at the event.

At the outset of the programme, UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah welcomed all participants. He expressed his optimism that the

newly appointed UGC Professors and Rokeya Chair will contribute more to nation-building activities from their respective positions. He said the commission feels proud to have nominated them for the dignified posts.

Meeting to evaluate activities of public universities under APA at UGC



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organised a meeting to evaluate the activities of the public universities in 2018-2019 financial year done under Annual Performance Agreement (APA) at its auditorium on 01 October 2019. UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah graced the event as the chief guest.

Earlier, UGC signed the APA with the public universities under Performance Management Framework Policy of the government to establish good governance and excellence in the higher educational institutions.

The chief guest called upon the vice chancellors of the country's public universities to ensure transparency and accountability in their activities. "It's now a major issue to ensure transparency and accountability at public universities. We have to remain alert for overcoming the current situation," he said.

He said that the registrar is the key person of a university on whom the performance of the institution depends a lot. "In the past, vice chancellors largely depended on the registrars to perform the administrative jobs efficiently. But at present, a number of universities are being run by acting registrars as the nation faces skilled and talented registrars," he added.

In his presidential speech, UGC Member Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali said that a volatile situation is prevailing in public universities. He urged the vice chancellors to discharge their duties properly to overcome the situation.

Registrars of 46 public universities, high officials from the Ministry of Education, UGC and focal points of APA were present on the occasion.

52nd Convocation of Dhaka University



The 52nd Convocation of Dhaka University was held on the campus on 09 December 2019 with the participation of 20,796 graduates. President Md. Abdul Hamid, who is the chancellor of the universities, presided over the convocation ceremony and conferred degrees on the graduating students.

Nobel laureate Dr. Takaaki Kajita, Special University Professor and also the Director of the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research at Tokyo University, addressed the programme as the convocation speaker.

The President said that commercial courses are turning public universities into business organisations and disrupting the atmosphere on the campus. "Thousands of graduates are being produced every year with these commercial courses. A section of teachers is making a mint [from these courses]... and turning the universities into business institutions," he said.

Abdul Hamid said that there is a question about how many students are benefiting from these degrees. "Many public universities assume the character of private universities at night... This is unacceptable."

The President said that some teachers are reluctant to take classes of regular courses, but are very serious about evening and diploma courses, and classes at private universities.

"It is because they get cash benefits from the private universities. But remember, the [public] universities are run with taxpayers' money. So, you have to be accountable to the people."

The chancellor said that it is the responsibility of the vice chancellors and other teachers to ensure proper use of university funds.

"But the activities of some vice chancellors and teachers make it seem like they have forgotten what the main work of the university is. The work is not just to impart knowledge, but to apply the acquired knowledge," the President added.

Terming research a very important and fundamental task of higher educational institutions, the President said that there is a lot of criticism about the quality of research. It has to be taken into consideration whether a research has been conducted for promotion or as a basic research work, he said.

Abdul Hamid said that many departments have more professors than teachers in other posts. "After having administrative posts, many teachers forget their identity as teachers."

He also criticised the authorities of some universities for a number of recent incidents. He said that the image of the universities and the reputation of students were tarnished by some inhuman and undesirable incidents. "These unexpected incidents could have been prevented in many cases had the authorities taken the right steps in time. The university authorities concerned cannot avoid the responsibilities." He expressed the hope that the authorities would take proper steps in this regard.

Thanking Nobel laureate Dr. Takaaki Kajita for his gracious presence at the convocation, the President said that his presence provided an impetus for talent of the graduates.

Ninety-eight students received gold medals from the President while PhD and MPhil degrees were conferred on 57 and 14 students respectively. Seven DU-affiliated colleges also joined the convocation ceremony from two venues -- Dhaka College and Eden Mohila College -- through videoconferencing.

11th Convocation of Rajshahi University



The 11th Convocation of Rajshahi University was held on 30 November 2019 at Sheikh Kamal Stadium.

President Md. Abdul Hamid, who is the chancellor of the universities, presided over the event. In his speech, the President urged university teachers not to compromise with principles and ideals to serve any narrow personal interest.

"It is seen that a section of teachers remains busy with lobbying to get better administrative positions ignoring their duties. Sometimes they use students or involve in illegal dealings to serve their narrow interests... But It is really disgraceful as well as undignified," he said.

The President said that the negative news items that different media outlets run involving teachers and students seriously hurt him.

He urged the teachers to uphold their dignity in their profession through their works as the teachers are the symbols of ideals and principles.

"You are politically conscious. There may be some differences in opinions and thoughts with each other. But you must ensure that this dissimilarity doesn't affect the institution and learners in any way," the President said.

Abdul Hamid advised those who speak against corrupt practices should stay away from all sorts of corruption and misdeeds.

Congratulating the new graduates, he urged them to remember the contributions of their parents, teachers, society, country and people to making them successful graduates.

"Don't forget your country and general people. Try to repay your debt through utilising your talent, works and honesty as you owe a lot to them for

their bearing your educational expenses in many ways," he said.

The President also called upon the graduates and family members to contribute to the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020 and Golden Jubilee of country's War of Independence in 2021.

Referring to the contributions of RU teachers and students to the struggle for independence and the liberation war, the President asked the authorities concerned to engage all in building a developed Bangladesh in line with that spirit.

At the convocation, degrees were conferred on 3,432 students.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, lawmakers, convocation speaker Vice Chancellor of Vidyasagar University of India Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, RU Vice Chancellor Professor M Abdus Sobhan, Pro-Vice Chancellor Chowdhury Professor M Zakaria and treasurer Professor AKM Mostafizur Rahman Al-Arif, among others, were present on the occasion.

6th Convocation of Khulna University



The 6th Convocation of Khulna University was held on its campus on 22 December 2019. President Md. Abdul Hamid, who is the chancellor of the universities, presided over the convocation. He urged the teachers not to compromise with ideals and to devote themselves to acquiring knowledge and disseminating it among students.

"When teachers move away from their ideals, it creates a negative impact on students," he said.

President Hamid said that teachers and researchers are valuable resources of the nation.

Terming universities a centre of hope and aspiration, he stressed the need for conducting international standard research.

He urged researchers of Khulna University to conduct more studies on biodiversity and coastal resources as the region's coastline is rich with marine resources.

Before attending the convocation, the President inaugurated a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled 'Kaljoyee Mujib' near the university's main gate, marking the birth centenary of the Bangabandhu.

The campus wore a festive look on the occasion of the convocation. Academic and administrative buildings, residential halls and the vice chancellor's residence were illuminated.

This year, a total of 4,478 students received their graduation certificates, 2,530 postgraduate certificates while MPhil degree was conferred on five researchers and doctorate degree on eight researchers.

Seventeen students received their postgraduate diplomas in education and 23 students were awarded gold medals.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah were present, among others.

Educationist and social scientist Dr. Anupam Sen delivered the convocation speech. Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Dr. Mohammad Fayek Uzzaman also spoke on the occasion. Secretaries concerned to the president were present at the event.

4th Convocation of CUET

The 4th Convocation of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) was held on its campus in Rangunia of Raozan upazila on 05 December 2019. President Md. Abdul Hamid, who is the chancellor of the universities, presided over the event.

Expressing concern over people's dishonesty in business, he urged the newly graduated students to keep their integrity intact when working for the welfare of the nation.



The President also expressed concern that a section of people have the tendency of hiking prices of essentials by creating artificial crisis and spreading rumours.

He suggested graduates to acquire world-standard knowledge and expertise to survive global competition. He said that engineers must have farsightedness and creativity in devising development plans for the country.

Abdul Hamid urged all to focus on initiatives that can offset the adverse impacts of climate change. "Bear in mind that we have to be economically self-reliant to uphold our dignity," he said.

Underscoring the need for proper use of resources, the President said that Bangladesh is a country with immense potentials as it has huge human resources and arable land.

On teacher-student relations, he said, "Friendly relations between students and teachers can play an effective role in maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere in universities."

Congratulating the new graduates, he reminded them of their responsibility towards the country, and asked them to work with devotion, honesty and sincerity.

Degrees were conferred on 2,231 graduates at the convocation. Three of them received gold medals for their outstanding academic results. Two achieved Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

Convocation speaker former Chairman of University Grants Commission Professor Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah; CUET Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, secretaries concerned to the President and graduates' family members, among others, were present at the programme.

UGC holds meeting with Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh



A meeting between the leaders of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) and University Grants Commission was held at the UGC Bhaban on 12 December 2019.

Presided over by UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, the meeting was, among others, attended by UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, APUB Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hossain, Vice-Chairmen Professor Abdul Mannan Choudhury and Professor Shafique Ahmed Siddique, Secretary General Benajir Ahmed, Treasurer KBM Moin Uddin Chisty, Joint Secretary General Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Kazi Nabil Ahmed and Nazrul Islam Babu.

Notre Dame University Bangladesh celebrates 1st Convocation

Notre Dame University Bangladesh held its first convocation or commencement exercises on 18 December 2019. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Education, presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees on the graduating students as the representative of the Hon'ble President.

Having once been a student at Holy Cross School and College in Dhaka, she recognised in her speech the extraordinary contribution of Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters to the education sector since their arrival in East Bengal in 1853.



Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, which oversees universities on behalf of the government, highlighted the promising future of Notre Dame University Bangladesh.

The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Fr. Thomas O'Hara, CSC, former President of King's College and former Superior of the United States Province. Fr. O'Hara spent a year in Bangladesh during his formation years.

Fr. Patrick Gaffney, CSC, Vice Chancellor of the University, welcomed those gathered for the auspicious occasion and congratulated the graduates, as did Fr. James Cruze, CSC, Superior of the Sacred Heart Province, which administers the university, Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, Archbishop of Dhaka, and Archbishop George Kocherry, Apostolic Nuncio of Bangladesh.

Given that this was Notre Dame University Bangladesh's first convocation, it presented an opportunity to establish certain traditions. In this vein, the University community extends its gratitude especially to Fr. Adam Pereira, CSC, Registrar, and Fr. Leonard Shankar, CSC, Deputy Registrar, for their careful and extraordinary planning of this important event.

Several awards were inaugurated, including the Chancellor's Gold Medal, the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal, the Quinlivan Award, and the Archbishop Theotonius A. Ganguly Award at the event. The Basil Anthony Moreau Award was also presented to two faculty members for their stellar teaching.

Diplomas were conferred on 548 students in Business Administration, Computer Science and Engineering, Economics, English, and Laws. The ceremony concluded with the graduates' alumni induction and pledge of loyalty.

Notre Dame University Bangladesh was founded just a little over five years ago.

BUBT holds 4th Convocation



The 4th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka on 10 October 2019.

Hon'ble Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP presided over the ceremony and conferred degrees on the graduating students as the representative of the Hon'ble President.

Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah attended the ceremony as the special guest. Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice-President of Central Queensland University, Australia Dr. Alastair Dawson was the convocation speaker.

While addressing the ceremony, Dr. Dipu Moni said that Bangladesh is the role model in global development. "The government is working to expand higher education and make education accessible to all. It will be possible to achieve desired demographic dividend, if proper investment is made to develop human resources."

She called upon the academics to ensure coordination of academia and demands with industries so that graduates can prepare themselves to face challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. She also expressed her deep concern over ragging or bullying in educational institutions.

Congratulating the graduates, the minister said, "You are the main driving force behind the attainment of Vision 2041."

The UGC chairman said, "Education should not be limited only to a means of employment; rather it should aim to make a knowledgeable society. Be prepared to take the challenges of real life. It starts from today."

The convocation speaker said, "Never stop learning, always try to gain wisdom from wherever

you can, and share what you know with others. And above all, be kind to your fellow citizens."

He told the graduating students that their education journey does not end with the completion of graduation. "In fact, this graduation ceremony represents the starting guide, not the finishing line."

BUBT Board of Trustees Chairman Professor Dr. Shafique Ahmed Siddique also addressed the ceremony while the university Vice Chancellor Professor Md. Abu Saleh delivered the address of welcome.

Graduation and post-graduation degrees were conferred on 3,192 students at the ceremony where five highly meritorious students were awarded gold medals.

Members of the BUBT Board of Trustees, Syndicate and Academic Council, faculty members, officers, graduating students and distinguished guests, including officers of the UGC and the Ministry of Education, were present.

4th International Conference on EICT held at KUET



The three-day long fourth International Conference on Electrical Information and Communication Technology (EICT-2019) was held at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology on 21 December 2019. KUET Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering organised the seminar.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah graced the closing ceremony of the conference as the chief guest while KUET Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Kazi Sazzad Hossain was present as the chief patron. Professor Dr. Basudeb Chandra Gosh of Department of EEE joined the ceremony as the special guest.

Highlighting the dependence of present society and economy on technology, the UGC chairman said that EICT would play an important role in building Digital Bangladesh.

A total of 117 technical papers selected from 374 research papers of 18 countries were presented in 20 technical sessions. Three of the papers and one poster were rewarded.

Apart from these, six keynote sessions and two technical workshops were held.

NU launches four mobile apps for teachers, students



The National University authorities have launched four mobile apps for the teachers and students of its affiliated college. The apps are NU Student App, NU College App, NU Teacher App, and NU Phone Directory App. Any teacher, student or college authorities can get easy service through the apps.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah launched the APPs at a programme held at the Senate Hall on the university's Gazipur campus on 09 October 2019.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said that it has already been possible to get rid of the session jam from National University. "Currently, almost 100 percent of the universities are offering their courses through ICT. Mobile apps are a new addition in this regard. The technology will play a vital role in the overall development of communication and education," he said.

"National University is currently ahead of other public universities in the use of information

technology communication. As a former vice chancellor of National University, I am delighted with these achievements of the university," he added.

NU Vice Chancellor Professor Harun Or Rashid presided over the programme while Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Hafiz Mohammed Hasan Banu and Professor Mashiur Rahman spoke, among others.

Dean Professor Mohammed Nasir Uddin and ICT Director Mominul Islam highlighted various features of the mobile apps at the beginning of the programme.

History researchers awarded at Dhaka University

Nine researchers have been awarded 'Mirza Banu and Sirajul Islam Endowment Fund Award' for their outstanding contribution to original research in history.

Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah distributed the award among the researchers as the chief guest on 29 October 2019 at Sirajul Islam Lecture Hall of Dhaka University (DU). Department of History of the university organised the event.

Chairman of the Department of History Professor Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Jamal presided over the programme while Dean of the Faculty of Arts Professor Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hossain and donor of the Endowment Fund Professor Dr. Sirajul Islam addressed it as special guests.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Shishu Academy and prominent writer Selina Hossain delivered Mirza Banu Memorial lecture. Professor Dr. Asha Islam Nayeem, daughter of Mirza Banu and Sirajul Islam, and other members of their family were present on the occasion.

The recipients of Mirza Banu and Sirajul Islam Endowment Fund Award are Murshida Binte Rahman, Shahid Kader Chowdhury, Ananda Bikash Chakma, Sayed Rezaul Karim, Milton Kumarn Deb, Ashrafunnahar, Md. Shahiduzzaman, Sanjida Khanom and Shuvashish Majumder.

UGC hands over cheque to BSMRAAU



Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah handed over a cheque for Tk 3.5 crore to Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU) Air Vice-Marshal AHM Fazlul Haque at UGC on 09 October 2019.

The university got the maiden revenue budget allocation from UGC for 2019-2020 financial year.

The government has established country's first aviation and aerospace university in a bid to produce skilled workforce in this sector.

UGC Member Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali along with high officials from UGC and BSMRAAU were present at the cheque handover ceremony.

UGC, World Bank hold meeting over HEAT project



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh held a meeting with the World Bank (WB) on 15 December 2019 to discuss the progress of the proposed 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation' (HEAT) project.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah presided over the meeting. World Bank Senior Operations Officer Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman led the 3-member delegation of the international lending agency.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Planning and Development Division Director Dr. Ferdous Zaman and other senior officials of the commission were present.

ADB to provide \$540m for human resources development



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$540 million as concessional loans to help build skilled human resource in the country's tertiary education sector.

Sungsup Roy, Director of Human and Social Development Division of ADB, revealed the information when a six-member ADB delegation called on University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah at UGC on 10 December 2019.

Delegation leader Roy said, "ADB will provide \$100 million for human resource development in the field of computer and software engineering, \$150 million in advance agriculture, \$190 million for digital university development and \$100 million for garment and textile innovations."

He further said that the UGC's supervision role is very much important in handling the projects. "For this, the DPP needs to be finalised soon. Strong leadership and necessary support from the UGC are essential to push the ADB initiatives," he added.

Professor Shahidullah said that successful implementation of the project will play a significant role in human resource development, employment generation, and ICT capacity building at universities.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir and divisional heads were present at the meeting.

UGC places wreath at Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh led by its Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah paid rich tribute to the Martyred Intellectuals by placing a floral wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur on 14 December 2019.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, officers and employees including presidents and general secretaries of UGC Officers' Association and Karmachari Union, among others' were present during the time.

Besides, they placed a wreath at the portrait of the Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 and at the Mural of Bangabandhu on the UGC premises.

UGC places wreath at National Memorial, Savar



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh led by its Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah paid homage to the heroes of the war of independence by placing a wreath at the National Memorial at Savar on 16 December 2019.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, officers and employees, including presidents and general secretaries of UGC Officer's Association and Karmachari Union, among others, were present.

Besides, they placed a wreath at the portrait of the Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 and at the Mural of Bangabandhu on the UGC premises.

Delegation from BCPS calls on UGC Chairman



A delegation from Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) led by its President Quazi Deen Mohammad called on

University Grants Commission Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah at the UGC Bhaban in Dhaka on 02 October 2019.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain were present during the meeting.

Other members of the BCPS delegation included its Honorary Secretary Abul Bashar Mohammed Khurshid Alam and Senior Vice-President TIM Abdullah Al Faruque.

Various aspects of collaboration between UGC and Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons came up for discussion at the meeting.

Training workshop on UGC Digital Library



A daylong training workshop on UGC Digital Library was held at UGC auditorium on 03 December 2019. UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah was present as the chief guest at the opening session while commission Members Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir joined it as special guests. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md Akhtar Hossain presided over the session.

In his speech, the UGC chairman urged the authorities concerned of universities to cope forward to take the advantage of the digital world.

"We have to learn more about information technology and work efficiently and effectively with the help of ICT. Otherwise, we will lag behind in this competitive world," he said.

Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said that Digital Bangladesh is no more a vision, it is now a reality. "The

country will get more benefits if all sectors adopt ICT. Digital Library will help improve the facility of universities in the country," he added.

Other speakers underscored the need for tech-based higher education in the country. They called upon university teachers to carry out research to become a self-reliant in IT.

Librarians from different universities and senior officials of UGC took part in the workshop.

Career fair held at North South University



The two-day national career fair-2019 was held at North South University (NSU) on 29-30 November 2019 with an aim to provide its students with employment opportunities.

NSU management in collaboration with the university's student club Career and Placement Center (CPC) organised the event.

Nearly 120 corporate organisations, NGOs, multinational companies, telcos, RMG manufacturers, beverage, electronics, travel and tourism and software companies, banks, financial institutions, non-profit organisations, pharmaceuticals, HR professional training institutes and companies from China and Japan participated in the fair. Bashundhara Group, the country's largest business conglomerate, also joined the fair.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session, Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, "A job fair is a great opportunity for both job seekers and employers where job seekers get the chance to find a job and companies from home

and abroad get the opportunity to find competent employees in most cost-efficient ways."

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, NSU Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam and Pro-VC Professor M Ismail Hossain also attended the inaugural session.

A large number of graduates and post-graduates thronged the stalls installed by different business groups at the fair on the campus.

The fair included on-campus recruitment as well as various training and seminars on career development and preparation. Besides, several sessions were held with businessmen and industry experts from different fields to help the students in job market preparation and career development.

Book unveiling ceremony at United International University

A ceremony was held to unveil a book titled 'Stochastic Processes and their Applications in Business' at United International University (UIU) auditorium in Dhaka on 05 October 2019.

The purpose of publishing the book is to help students and researchers understand the basic concepts of stochastic processes and to equip them with skills necessary to conduct stochastic analysis.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah unveiled the book as the chief guest. UIU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman presided over the ceremony. Its Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Hasnan Ahmed, vice chancellors of different universities, and UIU teachers, among others, were present on the occasion.

Programme of College Education Development Project at UGC

A programme of College Education Development Project (CEDP) was held at the auditorium of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 06 October 2019. UGC Chairman



Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah was present on the occasion as the chief guest.

Speaking at the event, he said that teaching is not a profession for becoming rich; rather it is a profession for building the nation. "Morality, dedication and commitment are highly needed to become a teacher. People in this profession should come by choice. Only the best candidates with right mental frame should get the job," he said.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah urged college authorities not to appoint wrong persons for teaching. "We have to suffer for a long time if disqualified and unskilled persons are recruited," he said.

Expressing UGC's concern over the quality of country's tertiary education, he said, "Quality education is very important for us and we're trying to improve the situation."

According to the UGC chief, there is mismatch between the actual knowledge acquired and the grade received by the students in their exam results.

"Earlier, we used to select students based on their merit position. Today, we're not happy with their knowledge level against their acquired grade points. Even, GPA 5 holders fail to get admitted to universities. It's creating problems in society," he noted.

"We have many students but they don't have the required knowledge and skills to get proper jobs, due to lack of qualified teachers. It is a teachers' problem as they are not properly trained. The situation will not improve until teachers' quality improves," he added.

Fresher reception at Northern University Bangladesh



A reception was organised for the newly enrolled students of the fall 2019 semester of Northern University Bangladesh on its permanent campus on 25 October 2019. UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah was present on the occasion as the chief guest. Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Anwar Hossain chaired it.

NUB Board of Trustees Chairman Professor Dr. Abu Yousuf Md. Abdullah, Northern University of Business and Technology, Khulna Vice Chancellor was the guest of honor while Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh President Engineer Md. Abdus Sabur, Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists President Engineer Shafikur Rahman and NUB Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Engineer Md. Humaun Kabir were special guests on the occasion.

The UGC chairman observed that Northern University is one of the private higher educational institutes which are offering modern and digital education to the students. He expressed satisfaction over the activities of the universities.

UGC Member Professor Dil Afroza Begum honoured with Muktoakash Sammanana

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh has been honoured with 'Muktoakash Sammanana' for her outstanding contribution to engineering education, research and practice. She received the award at a function held at Liberation War Museum, Agargaon in the capital



on 26 October 2019 from the Chief Guest of the programme. Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, MP, Minister of Home Affairs. Engineer Md. Abdul Awal, Advisory Editor of Muktoakash and former President of REHAB, presided over the event. Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Chairman of RAJUK, was present on the occasion as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum earlier received University Grants Commission Award, Birshrestha Medal and JONTA International Award of honours for her remarkable achievements in science and engineering education. Apart from these, she was also honoured with Best Chairman Award (twice) for her contribution to chemical engineering.

Daffodil ICT carnival held



The 2nd Daffodil ICT Carnival-2019 was held on the permanent campus of Daffodil International University (DIU) at Ashulia in the capital on 26 October 2019.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain was present at the closing and prize-giving ceremony of the carnival as the chief guest. DIU Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Md. Sabur Khan was present at the programme as the guest of honour. DIU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Yousuf

Mahbubul Islam presided over it. Daffodil Family CEO Mohammad Nuruzzaman, DIU Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. SM Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Dean of Permanent Campus Professor Dr. Mostafa Kamal, Department of CSE Head Professor Dr. Syed Akther Hossain, Department of Software Engineering Head Dr. Touhid Bhuyan, Department of MCT Head Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Allayer, and Department of CIS Head Mr. Sorwar Hossain Mollah were also present at the programme. Students of DIU and Daffodil Education Network took part in the carnival.

Professor Sazzad Hossain, in his speech, said that Bangladesh has now more than 8 crore young people who can take the country forward, if properly guided and educated.

He said that Daffodil International University is working keeping that prospect in mind. ICT carnival is an amazing idea for development of student's creativity, he further said, urging other universities to follow this idea.

Dr. Sabur Khan said that the future world would witness huge development in information technology. So, it is quite impossible to sustain in future without enhancement of ICT knowledge, which is why the carnival has been organised to encourage students of Daffodil Education Network to embark on new ICT ideas and projects.

He informed the students that DIU management is trying to turn the campus into a hi-tech park adding the facilities of innovation lab, startup market, and knowledge valley for the students. He urged the students to utilise the opportunity to develop innovative and internationally-viable products and services.

Sabur Khan also urged the students to develop ideas based on customer requirement in the present era of globalisation.

ULAB holds International Conference on Computational Intelligence



The Department of Computer Science and Engineering of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in association with Jahangirnagar University and South Asian University, India, hosted the '3rd International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence' on 25-26 October 2019 at ULAB auditorium in Dhanmondi.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain was present at the inaugural ceremony of the conference as the chief guest while Professor Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology was present as the special guest. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. H M Jahirul Haque and ULAB Board of Trustees' Special Advisor Professor Imran Rahman spoke on the occasion.

Hong Kong Blockchain Society President Lawrence Ma, who is also the co-founder, CEO and Chief Scientist at eMALI.IO Limited of Hong Kong, presented the keynote speech at the event chaired by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) CSE Department Professor M Kaykobad,

A panel discussion was held on 'Why AI and Blockchain are important for Bangladesh?' which was participated by ICT Division Joint Secretary Ehsanul Parvez, Hong Kong Blockchain Society President Lawrence Ma, BASIS President Syed Almas Kabir and ACI Group Managing Director Mr. Arif Dowla.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said that research and innovation are an integral part of the affairs of universities. University Grants Commission (UGC) is relentlessly working to develop international-standard research to face the challenges of the 21st century, he added.

CEDP holds workshop on IDG implementation at UGC



College Education Development Project of National University organised a day-long workshop on 'IDG Implementation: Challenges and Way to Overcome' at University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 07 October 2019. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain was present at the event.

In his speech, Professor Sazzad Hossain called upon the college authorities to inspire innovation and creativity among students for building Bangladesh as a developed nation.

"Japan and other developed countries are hungry for talented students. We need to enhance the capacity of our graduates and produce quality human resources," he said.

Professor Sazzad Hossain also urged students to undertake startups as it will help develop their ideas. "Don't waste time on Facebook and Twitter; rather concentrate on innovation and undertake startups," he told students.

Speakers participating in the workshop said that Bangladesh needs 60 percent graduate employability to become a middle-income country whereas at present 38 percent of the graduates are employable.

National University Dean Professor Dr. Md. Anwar Hussain, World Bank co-task team leaders Dr.

Shiro Nakat and Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, and CEDP Project Director Mr. AKM Mukhlesur Rahman, among others, spoke at the workshop, participated by representatives from 60 IDG-enlisted colleges of National University.

AIUB holds Virtual Reality Conference 2019



American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) held the first-ever Virtual Reality Conference (VR CON) in Bangladesh that focused on introducing the youth to the technology. Bangladesh Innovation Forum organised the two-day long event on 6-7 December 2019.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony. He said, "Virtual reality and augmented reality are wonders in the digital world. The whole world is excited about it. I hope that this initiative will inspire people to know more about the technologies."

Abdul Hye, Project Director of Skill Development for Mobile Game & Application at the Ministry of ICT, was the special guest while AIUB Vice Chancellor Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna chaired the programme.

There were 10 technical seminars on augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and gaming at the event and workshops on VR Game with Unity, VR Pipeline and Augmented Reality applications.

Moreover, a project display of the institutions which work with VR and AR gaming was also part of the programme. Live to Web was the Live

streaming partner, Techshohor.com was the media partner, and E-Soft was the e-ticket partner for the conference. Impressive VR and Bangla Puzzle supported the event.

Seminar on Robotics at Digital Device and Innovation Expo 2019 in Dhaka



A seminar on Robotics at Digital Device and Innovation Expo-2019 was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on 15 October 2019. Bangladesh government's Information Technology Division hosted the expo in association with Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, Bangladesh Computer Samity and Startup Bangladesh.

Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury graced the ceremony as the chief guest. UGC Member Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir was present on the occasion as the special guest.

He laid stress on curriculum reform to introduce subjects on artificial intelligence and robotics to meet the challenges of the industrial revolution better known as Industry 4.0. A comprehensive curriculum must be there to introduce latest technological innovation to equip students for better adaptation, he added.

The UGC member, in his speech, observed that Bangladesh must introduce robotics at the school level to meet the need of the time.

Daffodil International University Vice Chancellor Professor Yousuf Mahbubul Islam, National University Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Hafiz M Hasan Babu, Dhaka University Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Department Chairman Professor Lafifa Jamal, among others, spoke at the seminar.



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University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
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Tel: 58160218, Fax: 58160219
E-mail: publicrelations.ugc@gmail.com
www.ugc.gov.bd

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Natundhara Printing Press
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Cell: 01711 019691, 01911 294855
Email: natundhara2014@gmail.com