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Editor's Note

On 14th of December every year, people of Bangladesh observe Martyred Intellectuals Day with due solemnity and pay homage to the intellectuals who were brutally killed by the Pak occupation forces and their allies.

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) organized a special discussion and commemoration program on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals Day on 12 December 2022. Family members of five martyred intellectuals commemorated at the event. Minister and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, UGC Chairman, UGC Members and Vice-Chancellors of Dhaka University and North South University delivered speech at the program.

All the discussants at the event termed the killing of intellectuals as one of the most brutal and savage carnages in history. The intellectuals were picked up according to a very specific plan to devoid the soon-to-be-independent nation of its top brains so that the country turns out to be a failed state.

They urged the Vice-Chancellors of universities to work for spreading the spirit of humanity and building non-communal Bangladesh among the students. The emphasized on working together to fulfill the dream of building a golden Bengal for which millions of martyrs sacrificed their lives.

Letting the students know about the history of the war of liberation is a prime responsibility of the higher education institutes of our country. This will help sinking all divisions to build a golden Bangladesh which was dreamed by the father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Finally, we sincerely thank Chief Advisor, members of the editorial board, concerned officials of PRRI Division of UGC for their whole hearted cooperation to publish the bulletin in time.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher
Member, UGC

Education Minister calls for building a non-communal Bangladesh



University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) organized a special discussion and commemoration program on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals Day on 12 December 2022 at the auditorium of UGC.

Minister for Education Dr. Dipu Moni was present at the event as the Chief Guest. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury attended the function as Special Guest with UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah in the chair. UGC Member Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum delivered welcome address at the event. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, and Vice-Chancellor of North South University Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam spoke on the occasion on behalf of the VCs of public and private universities respectively.

Family members of martyred intellectuals Arma Dutta MP, Professor Dr. Nuzhat Chowdhury, Tanvir Haider Chaudhury, Shami Kaiser and Roquaiya Hasina Neely commemorated at the event.

Education Minister in her speech stated that the killing of intellectuals is one of the most heinous crimes committed against humanity in the war of liberation in 1971. All those who led, directly or indirectly involved in these massacres, must be identified and punished. Meanwhile, few identified war criminals have been executed. The nation can be exonerated only by prosecuting all the murderers and this can be possible during the regime of current government.

The education minister said to the Vice-chancellors of the university that only degrees or certificates should not be given

from the university. The spirit of humanity and building non-communal Bangladesh should be spread among the students. Everyone has to work together to fulfill the dream of building a golden Bengal for which millions of martyrs sacrificed their lives.

The education minister also said that the martyred intellectuals were the partners in realizing the dreams of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. They motivated people in various ways for an independent country. That is why the anti-independence evil forces brutally killed them.

Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury in his speech stated that the killings the Pakistani invaders started from the beginning of the war of independence turned into planned killings of the best people of the country at the very

end, just before the defeat. The Pakistani military junta, with the help of their local collaborators, selectively killed prominent teachers, writers, artists, journalists, doctors, lawyers, engineers, cultural workers and other people of various professions. The reason for these killings is clear. Knowing that the defeat is certain, they wanted to cripple the country intellectually.

He also said, we need work-oriented education now. At the same time, students should be developed as true Bengalis with a sense of patriotism and history. Teachers are the lighthouse of the nation. This is why they should play a greater role in this regard.

He called upon the teachers of the university to develop the youth with the aim of establishing a non-sectarian and exploitation-free society. He urged everyone to be ready to

accept any challenge to build a non-communal Bangladesh.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said that there was enormous sense of patriotism among the intellectuals. Young generation should be inspired by the patriotism of intellectuals. The young generation should lead the way in realizing Bangabandhu's dream.

The event was attended, among others, by the Chairman of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda and Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, Vice-chancellors of private and public universities and senior officials from Ministry of Education and UGC. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman conducted the event.

Workshop on research project evaluation held at UGC



A workshop to evaluate the research project proposals submitted by the public universities in the field of Information and Communication Technology and Engineering

Science in the fiscal year 2021-2022 was held in UGC on 11 December 2022. The workshop evaluated the 42 research project proposals received from 16 public universities.

The Research Support and Publication Division of UGC organized the workshop.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah was present at

the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest. UGC Members Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain were present at the event as Special Guests with Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam in the chair.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah in his speech stated that the UGC is giving emphasis on conducting quality and outcome based research in the universities of the country. Every research conducted under UGC's grant must be published in a recognized journal. He said that UGC's cooperation in publishing research reports in

index/impact factor journals will continue.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah also said that fund is not a big obstacle to conduct research. Teachers should also have an interest in conducting quality research. He said that there will be no cutback in the allocation of money in the research sector.

In the workshop, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that UGC is working tirelessly to ensure that research is practical and technology-based and welfare-oriented. He said that UGC is also working to strengthen industry-university collaboration and cooperation.

It may be noted that UGC has

taken the initiative to evaluate the research proposals through workshops so that researchers can start project work quickly.

Senior faculty members and researchers from the University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh University of Textiles and a director of BEXIMCO Group were present at the workshop as experts.

Additional Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Nahid Sultana and relevant UGC officials were present at the workshop.

UGC held views-exchange meeting with VCs of public universities



The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh held an opinion exchange meeting with the Vice-chancellors of public universities on 15 November 2022. The meeting discussed elaborately the policies UGC formulated for the proper management of public universities and improving the quality of higher education.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum chaired the meeting which was attended by the Members of UGC Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and Vice-chancellors of 51 public universities.

In the meeting, UGC Members urged the Vice-chancellors of the universities to maintain austerity in the expenditure of money in the current global situation. In this regard, the Vice-chancellors of the public universities were assured in the meeting that the UGC will provide all possible cooperation to maintain the quality of education and research and normal environment in the universities.

In the meeting, the members of UGC called upon the Vice-chancellors to run the universities as per rules and regulations. It was also informed in the meeting that if any change is required in the rules, the UGC authorities will consider it with due seriousness.

The Vice-Chancellors of the public universities were connected online and senior officials including members of the Commission were physically present in the meeting.

UGC emphasizes on publishing research articles in international journals



The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has emphasized on the publication of research articles in recognized international journals to ensure that the country's universities get a good place in the world ranking. UGC, in this regard, has decided to allocate necessary budget to teachers and researchers through universities for publishing research articles. A fund of Taka 20 crore has also been formed for this purpose.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher disclosed the UGC's plan at a workshop arranged to evaluate the research project proposals submitted by the public universities in the field of Business Studies and Business Administration in the fiscal year 2021-2022 held at UGC on 27 December 2022.

The Research Support and Publication Division arranged the workshop.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Professor

Shibli Rubayat-UI-Islam, Member of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council Professor Dr. SMA Kabir and Vice-Chancellor of International Standard University Prof. Dr. Abdul Awal Khan were present at the event as Special Guests with Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam in the chair.

Professor of the Department of Accounting and Information System of the University of Dhaka Dr. Mahfuzul Haque; Professor of the Management Department of Chittagong University Dr. Md Moazzam Husain; Director of the Institute of Business Administration of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. AKM Jahidul Islam; Director of the Institute of Information Technology of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. M Shamim Kaiser; Professor of the Institute of Business Administration Kamrul Arefin, Professor of the Management Studies Department of Jagannath

University Dr. AKM Moniruzzaman and Professor of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management Dr. Proshanto Kumar Banarjee were present at the workshop as experts.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher said that the journals in which the teachers will publish their research articles must have an impact factor. He said that UGC has also taken initiatives to preserve the research works and information of researchers.

He also said that the main duty of university teachers is to produce quality graduates. Therefore, quality research must be conducted to create new knowledge. The UGC has repeatedly asked universities to update the syllabus to produce competent graduates and to gradually increase the budget allocation for the research sector.

Additional Directors of Research Support and Publication Division Nahid Sultana and Md. Shahin Siraj and relevant officials were present at the event.

UGC Member calls for use of technology for quick delivery of higher education services

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has urged to ensure the use of modern information technology to facilitate the service delivery process in higher

education institutions. A new dimension should be added to service delivery to save time and cost of service seekers.

He made the call while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a workshop on the implementation

of E-governance and Innovation workplan for the year 2022-2023.

The Innovation Team of UGC arranged the workshop on 29 November 2022. Chief Executive Officer of March



Robotics & IT Solution Limited Engineer Kawser Ahmed conducted sessions at the workshop with Director of the IMCT Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan in the chair.

Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir said at the workshop that there is no alternative for on-the-job training for the skills development of the employees. The changing society has also

changed the nature of government services. Everyone should be made competent through training and expected services should be provided to the citizens at promptly and appropriately. He said that the citizen's suffering should be reduced in providing services to achieve their satisfaction.

He urged the universities of the country to implement innovation and e-governance workplan in

view of the socio-economic condition of the country. He said that instead of sitting idle with innovative ideas, we should focus on its implementation.

Senior Assistant Director and Innovation Focal Point of UGC Robiul Islam conducted the workshop where a total of 30 Senior Assistant Directors, Assistant Directors and equivalent officers took part.

UGC urges universities to be proactive in getting foreign grants for research



UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda remarked that the universities of the country should be more proactive in conducting research work with government funding along with foreign grants. At the same time, the industry-academia collaborations need to be strengthened and he urged the business and industrial institutions of the country to

come forward to invest in research.

He was addressing a meeting held at UGC regarding approval of receiving and spending foreign grants against 16 projects by BRAC University on 01 November 2022.

Registrar of BRAC University Dr. Dave Dowland, Deputy Director of the Private University Division

Dr. Md. Mohibul Ahsan and teachers and researchers involved in the projects were present at the meeting.

In the meeting, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda remarked that there was time when a lot of research works were conducted in the universities with foreign grants. Currently, a number of private universities are

conducting research with foreign grants and the number of research conducted with foreign grants is increasing. New information is coming out of these studies. He requested the researchers to undertake research projects keeping in mind the welfare of the people of the country.

He also said that several private universities of the country are doing well in the field of

fundamental research along with the public universities. He said that UGC will extend full support to carry out research at the universities.

COVID-19 and SMEs in Bangladesh: Innovation support programs to mitigate the gender gap and promote digital inclusion; Paternalistic disparity; Improving food and nutrition security by enhancing women's empowerment; Enhancing the

capacity and skillsets of potential women entrepreneurs towards renewable energy through two e-learning courses; Effectiveness of a low-sodium salt intervention to reduce blood pressure at the population level in rural Bangladesh: A randomized controlled trial and Research collaboration on technology, equity and health are among the 16 projects BRAC University is going to implement with foreign grants.

UGC for immediate solution to cluster admission to universities



UGC Member Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called for an immediate solution to the ongoing crisis in the admission process of first year (Honours) in 22 general and science and technology universities. At the same time, he advised universities to ensure maximum utilization of technology to make the cluster admission process student-friendly.

He made the remarks while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a workshop on "knowledge dominates the period of 4IR and IoT Business Application arranged by the Innovation Team of the Commission to face the challenges of 4IR.

Director of the IMCT Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the workshop, while Dean of Science and Engineering School

of Canadian University of Bangladesh Professor Syed Akhtar Hossain was the resource person.

'An unexpected crisis regarding the cluster admission test has created. The authorities of the 22 universities will have to find an effective solution to this crisis,' said Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, while addressing the event as the Chief Guest.

He said that the ongoing crisis could be solved if the admission process included student-friendly aspects and the proper use of modern technology.

UGC Member requested the committee concerned to take appropriate steps to complete the entire admission process smoothly soon so that the students did not face any untoward suffering.

He suggested the vice-chancellors of the universities for making efforts to ensure that a good system like such admission test won't face question.

Talking about the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), the UGC member urged the university teachers to produce graduates suitable for the 4IR as now it is the time for frontier technology.

He said that the officers and employees of higher education institutes should be trained to be adapted to the technology. 'In the 4IR era, skilled people will replace unskilled people and there will be a massive change in the type of jobs,' said Professor Alamgir.

A total of 32 Deputy Directors/equivalent officers of UGC took part in the workshop which was conducted by the UGC's Innovation Focal Point Robiul Islam.

Orientation training of newly recruited UGC officers held



A five-day long orientation training arranged by the Information Management, Communication and Training Division (IMCT) of UGC for the newly recruited 15 Assistant Directors or equivalent officers ended on 05 November 2022.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum was present at the inaugural ceremony of the event as the Chief Guest on 01 November 2022. UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda and Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman delivered speeches at the event as Special Guests.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum urged the newly appointed officials to carry out their duties honestly and to carry forward higher education programs following the principles and

ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain in his speech stated that the interests of the organization should be given top priority while performing official work. He urged the newly recruited officials to refrain from doing any activities that tarnish the image of the Commission. He called upon all to perform their duties with sincerity in enhancing the reputation of UGC.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda said, required communication and management skills need to be achieved to attain success in professional life. He urged the officials to ensure team work and follow the official rules and regulations while performing official works.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher urged the new officers to work hard and make effort to achieve

new skills for the professional development. He emphasized working with the attitude of service provider, acquiring leadership skills and maintaining official secrecy.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman urged the newly appointed officers to work for the welfare of the nation by being imbued with honesty and patriotism.

Senior Assistant Director of Public University Management Division and also the General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam Dostogir and newly recruited official Muhammad Sajidul Islam spoke on the occasion with Director of the IMCT Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan in the chair. Deputy Director of IMCT Division Mohammad Monir Ullah conducted the event where directors and officials of different divisions were present.

UGC directs universities not to construct unnecessary buildings

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher suggested that the public universities should include the issues related to construction of academic, administrative and residential buildings in the Development Project Proposal (DPP) based on need and priority. At the same time, he

also advised to implement the development projects of the universities on time and according to plan. UGC will strengthen supervision to complete these projects on time.

He made the call while delivering address as the Chief Guest in the workshop on the implementation, preservation of evidence and submitting reports

to the UGC according to the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) for the fiscal year 2022-2023 in public universities. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the workshop held at UGC auditorium on 01 December 2022.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher in his speech mentioned that the



residential buildings and halls for teachers, officials, staff and students are being constructed in a number of public universities under the development scheme. During onsite visits it has been found that the most of the flats in the multi-storied buildings built for teachers in some universities are lying empty. On the other hand, students are forced to live outside the campus due to the inadequate residential facilities. In such a situation, he urged the university authorities to include the issue of constructing buildings in the development project which are actually needed. Otherwise, it will only be a waste of state resources.

Regarding the slow pace of implementation of development projects, Prof. Md. Abu Taher said that the project work in many universities is not being completed on time. In this case, they are repeatedly applying for

extension of time causing increase in cost. About the irregularities in the development project, he said that the university authorities and the relevant teachers and staff have been found involved in the irregularities. The investigation of these irregularities against the teachers is very unfortunate.

He urged the university authorities to pay attention to the architectural design of the academic buildings of the newly-established public universities and ensure provision for passing of adequate light and air. Electricity consumption gets high due to poor ventilation facilities in many buildings.

Regarding the repeated repair of the internal roads of the university under the development project, Professor Md. Abu Taher said, there are examples of many universities where internal roads were

repaired three times a year. This is happening due to the use of substandard construction materials.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in his speech stated that the development projects need to be implemented on time with the specific targets. If the development projects of the universities are not implemented properly, the progress of the university and the country will be disrupted.

UGC APA Focal Point Md. Golam Dostogir conducted the workshop where Deputy Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education Md. Nur-E-Alam and Senior Assistant Director of UGC Robiul Islam were present as discussants. A total of 15 project directors from public universities and relevant UGC officials took part in the training.

UGC calls upon universities to comply with financial regulations

The government has issued several financial regulations at different times to address global and domestic challenges. UGC Member and also the Convener of UGC APA team Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher called upon the university authorities to properly follow these financial management rules and

regulations for the sake of sustainable development of the country.

He made the call while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a workshop arranged through virtual platform with the stakeholders as part of the implementation of National

Integrity Strategy (NIS) workplan. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman delivered introductory remarks at the workshop. Senior Assistant Director of UGC and also the alternative focal point of NIS Md. Mamun conducted the workshop where Joint Secretary of Administration Division Zafor



Ahommad Jahanger delivered concluding remarks.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher in his speech stated that the higher education institutions must ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in order to be among the developed countries by 2041. In the absence of good governance, higher education institutions will fail to play their desired role in developing skilled human resources. As a result, it will not be possible for our graduates to face the challenges of the global labor market.

He called upon every university to develop annual procurement

plan and upload it on the website as part of NIS workplan. He also urged the university authorities to be proactive in implementing the annual procurement plan effectively. He also emphasized on timely implementation of ongoing projects including organizing PIC and PSC meetings.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that everyone in higher education institutions should perform their duties by maintain ethics, honesty and behavioral standards. He said, it will be possible to establish integrity only if accountability and transparency can be

ensured in the performance of self-work.

Senior Assistant Director and APA Focal Point Md. Golam Dostogir delivered a presentation on the implementation of APA at the event while focal points of other components presented the progress of implementations of their respective components. Deputy Director of Finance and Accounts Division Mostafizar Rahman delivered his remarks at the workshop. A total of 20 participants from UGC and 3 public universities took part the workshop.

Workshop on research proposal evaluation held at UGC

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) arranged a workshop to evaluate the research project proposals submitted by the public universities in the field of Arts and Humanities for the fiscal year 2021-2022 at UGC on 29 December 2022. The Research Support and Publication Division arranged the workshop. A total

of 36 research proposals submitted from 11 public universities were evaluated in the workshop.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum was present at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md.

Sazzad Hossain was present at the event as Special Guest with Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam in the Chair.

Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) Soumitra Sekhar Dey; Professor of the Department of Philosophy of Dhaka University



Dr. Anisuzzaman; Professor of the Department of History Dr. Mesbah Kamal and Dr. Asha Islam Nayeem, Professor of the French Language and Literature Dr. KM Saiful Islam Khan; Professor of the Department of Archeology of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Sufi Mustafizur Rahman and Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque, Professor of the Department of Philosophy Dr. Monir Hossain Talukdar, Professor of the Department of History Dr. AKM Jasim Uddin and Professor of the Department of Bengali of Jagannath University Dr. Milton Biswas were present at the workshop as experts.

Deputy Director of Research Support and Publication Division Mohammad Monir Ullah conducted the workshop which

was attended by the Additional Directors of the same division Nahid Sultana, Md. Shahin Siraj and Mohammad Ziaur Rahman and other relevant officials.

On the occasion, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum said that UGC is taking various initiatives to improve the quality of education and research in the public universities of the country. Emphasis is also being placed on conducting humanitarian and life-oriented research and creating innovative education ecosystems, she said.

Stating that the government has not reduced any kind of allocation to the research sector despite the global epidemic and financial recession, she said that the allocation to the research sector has been increased in the

budget of the current fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year. Mentionable that Taka 150 crores have been allocated in the main budget for the financial year 2022-23. He requested the researchers to ensure proper utilization of the hard earned money of the people of the country.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that UGC has taken the initiative of formulating research policy to make Bangladesh innovative, research oriented and technology driven. The policy will focus on fund allocation and strengthening of industry-academia collaboration in conducting research. If this policy is implemented, demography or database of researchers will be developed in the country.

Review workshop on UGC's annual report held

The UGC organized a day-long workshop to review the 48th Annual Report at UGC auditorium 20 October 2022.

The annual report will include information related to education, research and infrastructure of 50 public and 108 private universities of the country including UGC for the year of 2021. Data received from the university was presented in the workshop for the review of the

stakeholders and decision was taken to finalize the report by incorporating their views. It is to be noted that according to the UGC Act 1973, UGC is mandated to submit its annual report to the National Parliament.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum was present at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman were present at the event as Special Guests with Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam in the chair.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum in her speech stated that the government is establishing new universities to expand higher education in the country. The



current government's initiative in expanding higher education is commendable. However, with the spread of higher education, Bangladesh is lagging behind in achieving the desired standard of education. Eminent educationists of the country should play an effective role in quality improvement and internationalization of education. Otherwise, our universities will fail to achieve a desired position in global rankings.

Regarding the digitization of the annual report, he said that initiatives have been taken to digitize the annual report of the commission. For this purpose,

the work of developing a dynamic software is ongoing. Once finalized, the annual report will be published in a timely and accurate manner.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain in the workshop suggested regular updating of information on the university's website to get the desired position in various international rankings. The importance of information-rich annual reports is immense in strengthening of industry-academia collaboration and student exchange programs. He urged the stakeholders to verify the information and submit it in

preparation of accurate annual report.

Additional Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Nahid Sultana and other relevant officials were present at the event which was conducted by the Additional Director of the same Division Md. Shahin Siraj.

Senior Assistant Directors of UGC Mohammad Nazrul Islam and Bishwanath Biswas discussed in detail about annual report and data table filling in the workshop.

The workshop was attended by relevant officials from 50 Public Universities.

Workshop on RTIA held at UGC



The Public Relations and Right to Information Division of UGC

arranged a training to increase public awareness about the

Right to Information Act and implement the Right to

Information Workplan in public universities on 24 December 2022 at its auditorium.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum was present at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as the Chief Guest. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman were present at the event as Special Guest with Director of the Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. AKM Shamsul Arefin in the chair.

In the speech of the chief guest, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum said that the people are the owners of the state. Therefore, people have the right to know about the activities of government organizations. For this, people's access to information should be ensured.

He said that instructions have been given to implement the Right to Information Act to establish good governance in the university. He called upon all concerned to work as the service provider to the citizen.

The UGC chairman also said that if the RTIA can be implemented, it will be possible to curb corruption in higher education institutions. She called upon the university authorities to upload the list of services and service delivery system on website. She also urged the universities to simplify the service delivery procedures.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher said that the Right to Information Act should be implemented to ensure transparency and accountability in the academic and administrative works of public universities. He urged the officials concerned to perform

duties properly for the implementation of Right to Information Act.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that the right to get information is a constitutional and legal right of the citizen. He urged everyone to play a responsible role to ensure free flow of information in higher education institutions.

Dr. Shamsul Arefin said that the university authorities should regularly update the website with publishable information. Besides, he emphasized on increasing public awareness in implementation of Right to Information Act.

RTIA Focal Point of UGC Mohammad Abdul Mannan conducted the workshop where Senior Assistant Director and APA Focal Point Md. Golam Dostogir was present as discussant.

UGC pays tributes to Martyred Intellectuals



The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh paid a rich tribute to the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur and at the mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on UGC premises on 14 December 2021.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Members Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor

Dr. Biswajit Chanda and Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of the General Services, Estate and Engineering Division Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of the Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. AKM Shamsul Arefin, Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Director of Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of the Public

University Management Division and also the President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Director (In-charge) of Strategic Planning, Quality Assurance Division Dr. Durga Rani Sarker, General Secretary of the UGC Officers' Association Md. Golam Dostogir, President and General Secretary of UGC Employees' Union Nurul Islam Bepari and Saiful Islam, among others, were present during the time.

UGC pays tributes to martyrs on Victory Day



The 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 2021. Later, UGC paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his Mural at UGC Bhaban.

UGC Members UGC Members Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of the Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. AKM Shamsul Arefin, Director of the Public University Management Division and also

the President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Director of the IMCT Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Director (In-charge) of the Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Division Dr. Durga Rani Sarker, General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam Dostogir, President and General Secretary of UGC Employees'

Union Nurul Islam Bepari and Saiful Islam, among others, were present during the time.

Meanwhile, a friendly cricket match was organized at the Commission's residential area in

the capital's Mirpur on the occasion of Victory Day by the UGC Officers Association.

UGC nominates Prof. Mamtazuddin for UGC Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Fellowship



Dr. Mamtazuddin Patwari, Professor of the Department of History of the Bangladesh Open University, has been awarded with UGC Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Fellowship 2022.

The relevant committee in a meeting chaired by UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah nominated Dr. Mamtazuddin Patwari for the fellowship.

He received the UGC Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Fellowship for his research proposal titled "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Thought of a State and Beginning of Building Bangladesh State".

UGC invited research proposals in the field of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education and Law, Social Sciences, Science and Technology through publication of advertisement in national

dailies for the fellowships. 10 researchers from across the country applied for the fellowship. The committee scrutinized the applications and nominated Professor Mamtazuddin Patwari for the fellowship.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda and Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, prominent educationists and former Chairman of UGC Professor Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Professor Dr. Lutful Hasan, prominent educationists Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Additional

Director of the same Division Md. Shahin Siraj and Mohammad Ziaur Rahman and other relevant officials of UGC were present at the meeting.

While talking about purpose of introducing the fellowship UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said that the UGC introduced the fellowship for carrying out advanced research on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's long struggle, leadership and sacrifices, political philosophy, his principles and ideals in running the state, Bangabandhu's educational thought and the whole aspects of Bangladesh. The proposal submitted by Dr. Mamtazuddin Patwari has close relevance to the objectives of the fellowship. He feels that the goals of the UGC Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Fellowship will be achieved through his research work.

Prof. Biswajit Chanda becomes Honorary Member of NHRC



UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda has been appointed as a Honorary Member of National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NRC).

The notification regarding this appointment was issued by the Legislative and Parliamentary

Affairs Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on 08 December 2022.

As per the provisions of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has appointed him to this post for the next three years.

As a Honorary Member of the Commission, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda will be entitled to honorarium and allowances at the rates determined by the Commission for attending the meetings of the Commission and performing other duties.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda expressed his gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for appointing him as a Honorary Member of the National Human Rights Commission. He said that

he will play an active role in the protection of human rights in the country and give constructive advice to the Commission.

Professor Biswajit Chanda is currently serving as a full-time Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. He is in charge of the Commission's Private University Division, Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Division and Cross Border Higher Education Section.

It may be noted that before joining UGC in 2020, he was the Professor and Founder Chairman of the Department of Law and Land Administration of Rajshahi University. He served as the Dean of the Law Faculty of the University. Besides, he was a Member of Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission.

UGC Chairman condoles the death of Prof. Alauddin

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah expressed profound shock at the death of Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed, a valiant freedom fighter and former Vice-chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University.

UGC Chairman in a condolence message said that Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed had vast knowledge in Chemistry. Besides, he was an enlightened person who was very politically and socially aware. As a teacher and Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, he contributed appreciably to the development of education,



research and physical infrastructure of the university.

He also said, Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed's death caused

an irreparable loss to the country and the nation. But he will be remembered by all through his actions.

The UGC Chairman prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his deepest sympathy to the bereaved family members of the deceased.

Professor Dr. Alauddin Ahmed who was a former education, social development and political adviser to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from 2009 to 2013, was undergoing treatment at United Hospital in the capital following old-age complications.



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