



বাংলাদেশ
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From the Desk of the Editor

The January-March 2017 issue of the UGC Bulletin is being published in due time. Mr. Faruque, in charge of Public Relation Division, and his team deserve special thanks for their efforts.

In recent years UGC's approach to enhancing the quality of higher education at tertiary level has received a paradigm shift. It goes without saying that 'quality matters', and this has become imperative to enhance and sustain the quality of teaching-learning and research at the universities of Bangladesh. In today's competitive world it has become all the more important to upgrade and assess the quality of education at all levels – particularly at the tertiary level. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has established a 'Quality Assurance Cell' (QAC) in the Commission and under the able guidance of QAC 'Institutional Quality Assurance cell' (IQAC) have been established at 63 Public and Private universities in Bangladesh. The initial financial support to establish IQAC at the universities came from 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)' being executed by UGC. Previously there was no mechanism in our country to assess the quality of education/programs offered by our universities. With the establishment of IQAC it has now become mandatory for all to evaluate their qualities. The respective university needs to carry on with IQAC and incorporate budgetary provision in the revenue budget. The Government has recently enacted a law to establish the 'Accreditation Council', and in due course all universities/programs must be certified by this Council. If properly implemented, Bangladesh under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shaik Hasina, will witness a quantum shift in qualities in higher education in near future.

**Professor Mohammad Yousuf
Ali Mollah
Member, UGC**

Prime Minister Gold Medal awarding ceremony



The Prime Minister with the Gold Medalists

Prime Minister Gold Medal awarding ceremony was held at Prime Minister's office on 22 March 2017. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. A total of 233 students were selected for the awards for securing the highest marks/CGPA in their respective faculties of the universities. University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organized the ceremony. The Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan presided over the function. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, M.P, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the occasion as Special Guest. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC delivered the address of welcome on the occasion.

The Prime Minister told the audience that spending on education is the biggest investment to prepare the Nation for 21st century and compete with others in today's competitive world. The Premier said that Bangladesh is now quite self-reliant economically and the government has given due importance to quality education at all levels. The Prime Minister said the world is moving very fast and becoming more competitive every day. The country needs to move fast to cope with the ever changing pace- she opined. She also mentioned that new technologies are being developed every day and children will have to adapt to those accordingly. The Prime Minister informed the audience that her Government has established subject-wise specialized universities across the country and there will be one medical university in each division. The Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasized that utmost importance must be given to higher education and advanced research to create skilled manpower, technical experts and scientists so that the country need not hire experts from abroad.



The Hon'ble Prime Minister awarding certificate to a student

Describing the teachers as the nation's conscience and architects of building human resources, the Prime Minister urged them to play their due role in improving the quality of education and creating the new generation in such a way so that they can lead the country in the competitive world. She also asked the students to be more attentive to practicing science and engaged in need-based research for sustainable economic and social development of Bangladesh.

Highlighting various steps of her government for expanding higher education, Sheikh Hasina said it has so far established 11 universities in Public Sector since 2009, while 44 more have been given approval under Private Sector. She said the UGC has been implementing the 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project'(HEQEP) of the Government to ensure world-class education and research at the universities. The Prime Minister also said the government is working to bring necessary amendment to the relevant laws to empower UGC to effectively monitor and guide the activities of the 42 Public and 95 Private universities in the country.

Ms. Jenifar Hakim Lupin of Dhaka University and Mr. Sajan Rahman of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology spoke on behalf of the recipients to express their feelings.

Advisers to the Prime Minister, Principal Secretary to PM, UGC Members, former UGC Chairmen, Members, Vice-Chancellors from different Public and Private universities, educationists, UGC Secretary, officials from Prime Minister's office and UGC, parents of the awardees, among others, were present on the occasion.

British Council evaluates the impacts of INSPIRE Project

The impacts of International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education-(INSPIRE) project was



The Education Minister speaking on the occasion

evaluated by the British Council and presented at a meeting held on 09 January 2017 at the British Council office in Dhaka.

The project INSPIRE was designed by the British Council in 2009 to foster high-level strategic relationships between UK and Bangladeshi higher education institutions.

The INSPIRE project is closing to an end with sustainable strategic partnerships that have worked in the following priority subject areas: Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering; English Language with a focus on Teaching Methodology; Renewable and Alternative Energy; Environment and Climate Change; Theatre and Fashion and Fine Arts. In total, INSPIRE has provided support to 23 projects involving 20 universities in Bangladesh and 23 universities in the UK.

Hon'ble Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, M.P, was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC, Special Guest, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Vice Chancellors, educationists. Ms. Barbara Wickham, Country Director, British Council, project leader of INSPIRE, external consultants and British Council officials were also present at the programme.

Ms. Barbara Wickham, Country Director, British Council said, "We are overwhelmed by the impact of INSPIRE on individuals, institutions, higher education sector and the society in general.

The Education Minister said "The projects played a key role in developing the higher education sector through sustainable partnership between Bangladesh and UK.

A review conducted by the British Council (and led by a UK consultant) showed that the strategic partnership is an effective initiative, both in terms of its scale and the impact created in both the participating countries.

German co-operation in upgrading Textiles education in Bangladesh



The German delegation with UGC authority

Mr. Christian von Mitzlaff, Programme Coordinator, German-Bangladesh Higher Education Network on Sustainable Textiles called on Professor Abdull Mannan, Chairman, UGC at the latter's office on 23 January 2017.

Mr. Mitzlaff informed the Hon'ble Chairman that the German Government through GIZ is interested in working with Bangladesh in areas of Textiles and higher education to produce high quality skilled manpower for socio- economic development of the country. GIZ is also willing to train the faculty members of the textiles universities to enhance the quality of teaching-learning and research at tertiary level.

They also stressed the need for establishing academic and research collaboration with the higher educational institutions of Bangladesh and Germany.

The Chairman of UGC observed that University Grants Commission always welcomes any assistance and co-operation from donor country for enhancement and internationalization of higher education. He added that teaching and learning process of textile education need to be modernized to meet the demand of the country's skilled manpower, particularly in Textile Sector.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC; Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC; Mr. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education; Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Joint-Secretary, UGC and Mr. Rafique Ahmed Siddique, Deputy Chief, Ministry of Education, among others were present on the occasion.

Mr. Christian Mitzlaff held a second meeting with UGC Chairman on 19 March 2017 to finalize the project proposal. After elaborate discussion, project document was finalized. Mr. Afsaruddin Ahmed,

Senior Advisor, Promotion of Social and Environmental Standards in the Industry (PSES), GIZ assisted Mr. Mitzlaff.



Meeting with the German delegation

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members, UGC; Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC; Mr. Abdur Rezzaque, Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC; Mr. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education; Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Additional Director, Planning and Development Division, UGC; Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Joint-Secretary, among others were present on the occasion.

Draft strategic plan for higher education

A daylong workshop on Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh 2017-2030 organized by Strategic Policy Unit under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project was held at UGC auditorium on 04 January 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC presided over the function. Mr. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education and Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank spoke on the occasion. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) delivered the welcome address. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC presided over the technical session. Professor Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam presented a draft report on Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh 2017-2030. Earlier, the Ministry of Education formed six Expert Committees to formulate strategic plan for tertiary education and research in universities of Bangladesh. On the basis of the reports prepared by the six Expert Committees, Professor Manzoorul Islam prepared the draft report in this regard.

The Chairman of UGC, in his presidential speech said that the report on strategic plan for Public and



Workshop on Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education

Private universities will play an important role for enhancement of quality higher education and research in Bangladesh, and in particular to upgrade the standard of science and technology in Bangladesh. He appreciated the Government for forming Expert Committees and thanked the members of the Expert Committees for extending cooperation and support in formulating the recommendations.

Terming investment in education sector as an asset, Professor Mannan observed that investment in education can transforms human being into human resources. Investment in education is always meaningful than other sectors, he added. He stressed the need for equipping the country's huge youth force with the updated ICT knowledge and skills for socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

The report presented by Professor Manzoorul Islam focused on redefining higher education; upgrading UGC into Higher Education Commission(HEC); increasing GDP from 0.65 % to 1% by the end of 2018; establishing university-industry linkage; bringing the university laws under single umbrella legislation; streamlining and decentralizing National University and Bangladesh Open University; amendment of the Private University Act- 2010; strengthening financial management capacity of public universities; establishing National Accreditation Council; formation of National Research Council; designing of course- curricula both in Public and Private universities in light with the needs of employment providers; elimination of political interference in the university affairs and clear policy guideline and supervision for Islamic Arabic University.

Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC; Mr. Md. Helal Uddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Conveners of the six Expert Committees, Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Senior Professors from Public and Private universities and

high officials from Ministry of Education, UGC and HEQEP, among others were present on the occasion.

A second Workshop on Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh 2017-2030 was held on 15 March 2017. Students, parents and other stakeholders were invited on this occasion. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC presided over the function. Mr. Mohiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Education Ministry, spoke on the occasion. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) delivered the address of welcome.

Professor Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam, National Consultant, HEQEP presented the draft report on Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh 2017-2030.



UGC Chairman speaking at the workshop

Besides, Professor Dr. Syed Rashidul Hasan, former Treasurer, Dhaka University presented a paper on 'Rationalization of Student Fees in Public University'; Mr. Faruq Mainuddin, Additional Managing Director, City Bank Ltd., Dhaka spoke on Student Loan Program for Public and Private Universities in Bangladesh and Dr. Md. Shamsul Arifeen Khan Mamun, Research Officer, HEQEP, UGC presented a paper on Student Loan Program in Bangladesh and other countries. After the presentations there was an interactive session participated by the invited students and guardians. Professor Manzoorul Islam wrapped up the discussion and informed that the valuable comments/ suggestions of the students and their guardians will be reflected in the strategic plan.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC, officials from different banks, students and their guardians from different universities, officials from UGC and HEQEP, among others were present on the occasion.

Delegation from University of Nottingham, Malaysia calls on UGC Chairman



A delegation from University of Nottingham in Malaysia called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC at the latter's office on 22 January 2017 to discuss issues relating to College Education Development Project (CEDP). College Education Development Project (CEDP) will be jointly implemented by the UGC and the National University for improvement of the standard of teaching, learning and governance of colleges affiliated with National University.

University of Nottingham, Malaysia under CEDP will impart training to the teachers of colleges of National University. The Chairman of UGC Professor Mannan said that University Grants Commission of Bangladesh is relentlessly working to enhance the quality of education at tertiary level. The government of Bangladesh is giving topmost priority to the education sector for attaining the status of developed country by 2041. He added that women enrollment at the tertiary level has increased over the years as the government has given special attention to the women education.

UGC will discharge its duties as facilitator in running the College Education Development Project under the dynamic leadership of National University Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid. He wished the project a success and meaningful.

Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaj Ali, Member, UGC; Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-Chancellor, National University; Professor Fon Sim Ong, Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning), University of Nottingham, Malaysia; Professor Ganakumaran Subramaniam, Head of School, School of Education, University of Nottingham, Malaysia; Mr. Md. Zahidul Islam, Project Director, CEDP (Additional Secretary) and Mr. Asabur Rahman, Consultant, World Bank, among others were present at the meeting.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University Selangor, Malaysia calls on UGC Chairman



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University Selangor handing over a souvenir to UGC Chairman

Professor Dr. Mohd Nor bin Nawawi, Vice-President / Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Global Engagement), University Selangor, Malaysia called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC at the latter's office on 16 January 2017. He was accompanied by Professor Dr. Mokhtar Bin Abdullah, Vice-President / Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research & Industrial Engagement), University Selangor.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the role and functions of UGC as well as overall scenario of higher education of Bangladesh.

Professor Nawawi said that University Selangor is willing to open its branch in Bangladesh to contribute higher education in the country. It may be mentioned here that University Selangor is a highly ranked public university in Malaysia. In this regard, they seek assistance and cooperation from UGC and Bangladesh Government.

The Chairman of UGC said that University Grants Commission always believes in internationalization of higher education but quality at tertiary level must be maintained. He assured the delegation of extending necessary cooperation from his side

Workshop on food safety at Dhaka University

The inaugural ceremony of a seminar on Food Analysis Laboratory Website and Training on Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Food Analytical Laboratories was held at the Centre for Advanced



Research in Sciences (CARS) of Dhaka University on 25 January 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Presided over the meeting. Dr. Nazma Shaheen, Director of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science and the Sub-Project Manager of the project gave the welcome speech at the seminar. The Chairman of UGC emphasized on maintaining the quality of food. He expressed his concern over the problem of food adulteration in the country by a section of unscrupulous traders disregarding the danger of adulterated food posing threat to the human health. The seminar is part of a project funded by the University Grants Commission under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) of the World Bank.

International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biostatistics for Agriculture, Health and Environment at RU



Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC, attended the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biostatistics for Agriculture, Health and Environment held at Rajshahi University during 20-23 January 2017 as Special Guest. The meeting was presided over by Professor Muhammad Mizanuddin, the Hon'able Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University. Fifty

scientists and researchers from USA, Fiji, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Chile, Australia and India presented 238 scientific papers during the four-day long Conference. There were 9 Plenary Lectures, 2 Keynote speakers and 191 oral presentations. There were 81 poster presentations. Professor Mollah highlighted the importance of statistical analyses in dealing with problems related to environment, agriculture and medical sciences, and in undertaking development programs of the country. He also narrated the contribution of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) in creating enabling conditions for teaching-learning and research; improving and creating common physical facilities in the universities of Bangladesh for digital connectivity; establishing IQAC at the universities; support University-Industry collaborative and innovative research; establishing Technology Transfer Office at the Universities and establishing Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) to inspire the young minds for nurturing innovation, popularize science & technology and create an awareness of the importance of Science and Technology for sustainable development of Bangladesh.

Workshop on Development of Curriculum Format at UGC



A day-long national workshop on 'Development of Curriculum Format' was held at UGC auditorium on 05 February 2017. The UGC and AIF sub-project of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) jointly organized the workshop. The objective of the Workshop was to exchange views with IQAC Directors from different universities to develop a 'common curriculum design' for higher education in Bangladesh.

The Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan was present as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC presided over the Workshop. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC delivered the address of welcome, Professor Dr. M Muhibur Rahman, former Member, UGC; Professor Dr. Md. Mozahar Ali, Graduate Training Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural University

and Professor Dr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, former Director of IER, Dhaka University were present as resource persons.

Addressing the event, Professor Mannan stressed the need for developing a unified curriculum format for tertiary level education to achieve the goals of Vision 2021. Criticizing the present curricula, he observed that students will not be able to keep pace with the present world using the existing curricula since these were developed about 10 to 15 years ago. We need to upgrade our curricula on regular basis considering the world and country's demand. Professor Mannan urged the university authorities to take necessary steps to develop communication and IT skills for the graduates to keep pace with today's world.

The Chief Guest also laid emphasis on university-industry collaboration and stressed the need for building up skilled manpower. 'There is no alternative to quality tertiary education to materialize the dream and aspirations of our Nation'- he observed. Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC and Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Joint-Secretary and Directors of UGC were also present at the event.

ICT parks in nine universities supported by ADB



ADB delegation holding meeting with UGC authority

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will support ICT related projects at nine universities in Bangladesh for the development of the ICT Sector of the country to produce IT skilled manpower and also help the country build its digital capacity by 2017. ADB will assist the proposed projects with US\$ 250 million. The project is likely to end in 2022.

The proposed project will be implemented in Dhaka University; Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Jahangirnagar University; Jessore University of Science and Technology; Islamic

University of Technology; East West University; Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology; BRAC University and Daffodil International University under the supervision of UGC.

A three member ADB delegation led by Mr. Ryotaro Hayashi, Young Professional, Human and Social Development Division, South Asia Department, ADB, held a meeting with the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 09 February 2017 to discuss the summary of the proposals sent by nine universities. .

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC; Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members of UGC, among others, were present during the meeting.

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

USA Professor calls on UGC Chairman



Dr. David H Mould, Professor Emeritus, Ohio University visits UGC

Dr. David H Mould, Professor Emeritus, Media Arts and Studies, Ohio University, USA, called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh at the latter's office on 12 February 2017. Dr. David was accompanied by Ms. Neha Kapil, Chief Communication for Development (C4D), UNICEF, Bangladesh and Professor Malabika Sarker, Director, Research JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Professor Mannan welcomed Dr. David and briefed him about the functions and activities of UGC and, in general, about higher education of Bangladesh.

The Chairman of UGC observed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University work with these issues. He assured Dr. David of extending necessary cooperation in this regard. During the

meeting issues regarding child mortality, community engagement and maternal health care also came up for discussion.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members of UGC and Mr. Md Shamsul Alam, Acting Secretary of UGC were present on the occasion.

IQAC Established at Eight universities



Signing ceremony between UGC and universities

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh signed MOU with six Public and two Private universities on 13 February to establish IQAC under Round Four. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC, was the Special Guest.

Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head of Quality Assurance Unit, UGC, delivered the welcome address. Mr. Sohel Ahmed, Deputy Project Director of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), presided over it. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, signed the agreement on behalf of the UGC.

UGC signs Annual Performance Agreement with 37 public universities

Thirty seven public universities signed Annual Performance Agreement (APA) with University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 14 February 2017 for establishing good governance and excellence in higher education and research in their respective institutions. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present at the agreement signing ceremony as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah,



Signing ceremony of annual performance agreement

Member, UGC was Special Guest. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC presided over the ceremony. Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Acting Secretary, UGC and representatives from universities signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Mr. Md. Mizanoor Rahman, FCMA, Director, Finance and Accounts Division, UGC delivered the welcome address.

Professor Mannan, in his speech urged all to discharge their duties by maintaining honesty, sincerity, integrity and best manners for establishing good governance and also excellence in higher education and research in their respective institutions. Besides, he stressed the need for upholding the best practices in manners and activities to curb the corruption. The Chairman of UGC called upon the university authorities to properly utilize the public money to turn Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country by 2041.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah urged the university authorities to perform administrative, academic and development activities with commitment, accountability and transparency to survive in this globalized world.

Professor Shah Nowaz Ali, in his presidential speech called upon the all concerned to be respectful to the government rules and regulations while accomplishing the duties to reduce corruption.

It may be mentioned here that the main purpose of Annual Performance Agreement is to make the activities of universities under Education Ministry dynamic, vibrant and transparent.

Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Treasurers, Registrars and Directors from 37 public universities and high officials from UGC, among others were present.

Workshop on Developing a Core Team for Guiding IQAC, QA Activities and Curriculum Design at UGC



The Chairman of UGC speaking at the workshop

The inaugural ceremony of a four-day training workshop titled Developing a Core Team for Guiding IQAC, QA Activities and Curriculum Design was held on 13 March 2017 at UGC auditorium. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC and Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank, were present as Special Guests. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, Project Director (Additional Secretary), HEQEP presided over the inaugural ceremony. Professor Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head QAC of UGC, delivered the address of welcome. Renowned Quality Assurance (QA) specialists Ms. Rozilini Mary Fernandez Chung, Ms. Harshita Aini Haroon and Dr M Habib Rahman were also present on the occasion as Guests of Honor.

The Chief Guest said the country has made significant progress in tertiary-level education but it needs to focus on quality education. Establishing a culture of quality in higher educational institutions is essential to this end - said the Chairman of UGC.

Terming education as an asset, Professor Mannan said that investment in education is always meaningful than other sectors. If the country's huge number of young population is equipped with updated knowledge and skills, the country will surge ahead in the South Asia region - he observed. The Bangladesh Government has passed Accreditation Council law in the parliament recently for quality enhancement of higher education- Professor Mannan added.

Directors and Additional Directors of IQAC and QA experts from different Public and Private universities of the country took part in the workshop.

Ms. Christine Hunter, Country Representative of UN Women visits UGC



Ms. Christine Hunter with UGC Chairman

Ms. Christine Hunter, Country Representative of UN Women paid a courtesy visit to UGC on 14 March 2017. Professor Mannan welcomed Ms Christine Hunter at his office and briefed her about the measures undertaken by the UGC and the Government of Bangladesh in preventing sexual harassment in the country. He also said sexual harassment is not a problem only for Bangladesh, but it is a global problem. Professor Mannan also underpinned the need for building awareness to curb the problem. He also said each university has a special Committee for preventing incidents of sexual harassment. UGC also formulated a guideline as per the directive of the High Court in this regard, he said.

Ms Christine Hunter expressed her willingness to work with UGC to prevent sexual harassment in all Public and Private universities of the country. Mr. Mahtabul Hakim, Coordinator of the EVAW of UN Women accompanied her. Dr. Md Khaled, Secretary, UGC was also present on the occasion.

Workshop on 'Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)' at UGC

Inaugural ceremony of a three-daylong workshop on 'Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)', the main dynamic routing protocol used across the internet, was held at UGC auditorium on 17 January 2017. Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) organized the workshop for 25 officials from Public and Private universities and UGC involved in network configuration management. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC presided over it. Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement project was present as Special Guest on the occasion.



Inauguration of Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Workshop

While speaking as the Chief Guest, Professor Mannan said that the use of Border Gateway Protocol will play an important role for establishment of internet connectivity with multiple providers and enhancement of the technical skills of the network engineers at university level. He also called upon the young generation to be acquainted with the latest information technology to survive in today's world. Transformation of IT knowledge from one person to another is very important, he added.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his presidential speech, underscored the need for maximizing the uses of internet facilities to reach its services to the doorsteps of the society.

1st Convocation of National University



A student receiving Gold Medal from the Chancellor

The first Convocation of National University was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on 15 January 2017. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of the universities presided over the Convocation ceremony and conferred degrees to the students. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Minister of Education; Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-chancellor, National University spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble President, in his speech, regretted that most of the country's Private universities have failed to ensure the quality of education, because business gets priority in these Private universities rather than education. He added that students are also forced to go to private tutors or coaching centers.

The Hon'ble President called upon the National University authorities to modernize its curricula so that students can build themselves as skilled human resources apart from getting university degrees.

Conference on Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering



Presentation of a crest to UGC Chairman

The closing ceremony of International Conference on 'Electrical, Computer and Communication Engineering (ECCE 2017)' was held in Cox's Bazar on 17 February 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of the University Grants commission attended the functions as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Rafiqul Alam, Vice-Chancellor, Chittagong University of Engineering & technology; Dr. Gouranga Chandra Mohanta, ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Professor Dr. Sheikh Anwarul Fattah, Department of EEE, BUET graced the occasion as Special Guests. Chairman of the Conference Technical Committee Professor Dr. Shamsul Arefin presided over the concluding session.

Professor Mannan, in his speech said that the public universities of Bangladesh will be modernized with more global standards in future to face global competitions.

3rd Convocation of BSMRAU

The 3rd Convocation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) was held on 22 February 2017. The Hon'ble President. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid presided over the Convocation Ceremony and conferred degrees to the students.



The Hon'ble Chancellor at the Convocation

Professor Dr. Mohammad Mahbubur Rhaman, Vice-Chancellor, BSMRAU; Professor Abdul Mannan, Convocation Speaker and Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), among others, spoke on the occasion.

Liberation War Affairs Minister Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque and BSMRAU Treasurer Professor Dr. Ismail Hossain Miah were also present.

The Hon'ble President urged the agriculture scientists, researchers and others concerned to ensure sustainable agricultural development by applying their acquired knowledge, efficiency and abilities.“ The Hon'ble president advised the scientists not to forget the agriculture and its resources. He urged them to keep engaged in inventing a sustainable method and technology to ensure a new revolution in country's agriculture sector. Referring to the expansion of higher education in Bangladesh, he said that the prime objective of the higher education is to promote humanity, build skilled manpower and ensure the welfare of the country and its people.

He urged the university teachers to play a pioneering role to make time-befitting the education system and emphasized the plan-wise development works in agriculture including crops, livestock, fisheries and forest. The University conferred degrees on 1,313 students in the convocation while 11 students were awarded gold medals for their outstanding academic performances.

Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities calls on Professor Mannan, Chairman of UGC

Professor John Wood, Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University



Professor John Wood with Professor Mannan

Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, at the latter's office on 08 March 2017.

Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nurul Islam, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Ms. Morshedha Chowdhury, Treasurer of World University Bangladesh and Professor Dr. Mushfiq Mannan Chowdhury were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed various aspects of higher education of Bangladesh and commonwealth countries, including Accreditation Council, tuition fees and students' enrolment.

The Chairman of UGC informed Professor John that the Bangladesh government has passed the Accreditation Council Act very recently for quality enhancement at tertiary level.

Visits to HEQEP projects at Jahangirnagar University campus



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, visited the on-going projects awarded to Jahangirnagar University (JU) under HEQEP on 01 January 2017. A team consisting of officials from UGC and HEQEP accompanied the UGC Chairman to see the progress of AIF and BdREN sub-projects being implemented in Jahangirnagar University. After visiting the projects, Professor Mannan also made a

courtesy call on Professor Dr Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Jahangirnagar University at the latter's office on the campus.

During the meeting, they discussed the academic and research activities of the university. Professor Farzana Islam welcomed and thanked Professor Mannan and his team for monitoring the on-going projects of the university.

Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah; Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC; Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director, HEQEP; Mr. Sohel Ahmed, Deputy Project Director, HEQEP; Professor Dr. M. Muhibur Rahman, AIF Management Specialist, HEQEP; Mr. AKM Habibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer, BdREN, were present on the occasion.

Professor Dr. Abul Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Abul Khair, Treasurer, Mr. Abu Bakr Siddique, Registrar, JU were present during the meeting.

Seminar at Uttara University



Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC attended a seminar on, Sports Science- a Wonderful Endeavor in Performance Development organized by the Department of Physical Education of Uttara University. The seminar was held on 4 March 2017. Professor Mollah was the Chief Guest at the seminar. Presided over by Professor Dr. M. Azizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of the university, the seminar was participated by Directors/Deputy Directors of Physical Education of a number of public and private universities. The objectives of the seminar were to highlight the importance of athletics/sports on human body and how to excel in any particular sports. In his deliberation as Chief Guest Professor Mollah said, 'Healthy mind in healthy body', and one can have healthy body if he or she is engaged in any form of sports. He also noted that only a healthy person with

healthy mind can work positively with motivation. Dr. Mollah highlighted the importance of physical education in personal as well as in social and national lives. Dr. Mollah said that every university – private or public should have a department of physical education.

18th Convocation of Independent University



Gold Medal awarded to a student

The 18th Convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) was held on its campus in the city's Bashundhara Residential area on 12 February 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Minister of Education presided over the Convocation Ceremony as representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred degrees to the students.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present as the Special Guest, while Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC was the Convocation Speaker. Mr. Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman of IUB Board of Trustees and Professor M. Omar Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of the university also spoke on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Minister said that the government will take action against the private universities which are yet to shift to their permanent campuses as per the Private University Act-2010. Mr. Nahid mentioned that a good number of Private universities could not fulfill minimum conditions. They have failed to shift to permanent campuses. He stressed that legal action will be taken against these universities if they fail to comply with the Private University Act-2010.

In his speech, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed urged the students to contribute to society along with building their careers.

Narrating the success of Independent University Bangladesh, the Chairman of UGC advised the graduating students not to forget the contribution of

the common people. He said that the students owe them a lot and the Nation as well.

Degrees were conferred on a total of 1419 students at the Convocation.

6th Convocation of Daffodil International University



A student receiving Gold Medal from Education Minister

The 6th Convocation of Daffodil International University (DIU) was held on 22 February 2017 at the permanent campus of the university located at Dattapara under Savar upazila. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, in charge of the Ministry for Education presided over the Convocation ceremony as representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred degrees to the graduates.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, of UGC; Professor Dr. Yusuf Mahbubul Islam, Vice Chancellor, DIU and Mr. Md Sabur Khan, Chairman of DIU Trustee among others, addressed the Convocation.

Speaking on the occasion the Education Minister reiterated that the government will take legal action against the private universities which have failed to fulfill their conditions to run the university under the rules of the Private University Act-2010.

Referring to advancement of female education, he said a significant change has been brought in expansion of female education in the country as the government has provided various facilities including financial assistances to encourage female education. Now both male and female students are equally advancing in higher education - he also added.

He called upon the authorities of both Public and Private universities to enhance research facilities along with updating the teaching methods and curricula to generate new knowledge as well as ensure quality education.

17th Convocation of American International University



Gold Medal awarded to a student

The 17th Convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) was held at Uttara in the city on 11 February 2017. Minister for Education Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, M.P, presided over the Convocation ceremony as representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred degrees among the students.

Mr. Anisul Huq, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation and Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC were present at the ceremony as the Special Guests while Indian High Commissioner Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla attended the event as the Convocation Speaker. Mr. Ishtiaque Abedin, Chairman of AIUB Board of Trustees and Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna, Vice-Chancellor of the university, also spoke on the occasion.

The Education Minister asked the private universities to fulfill all conditions under the Private University Act-2010 to run the institutions. "The government will take legal action against the private universities which are yet to fulfill conditions as per the Act," the Minister said.

The government is working to improve the standards of university education. Draft of "Higher Education Commission Act" is at the final stage which is aimed at strengthening the University Grants Commission, he added.

Mr. Annisul Huq and Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla congratulated the graduates for their remarkable achievements.

A total of 2,960 graduates were conferred degrees at the Convocation. Gold medals and other academic awards, including Chancellor's Award, Vice-Chancellor's Award, Dr Anwarul Abedin Leadership Award, were given to the deserving students for their excellence in academic performance, distinction and other extra curricular activities.

5th Convocation of Uttara University



The 5th Convocation of Uttara University was held 09 January 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Education presided over the Convocation ceremony and conferred degrees to the graduates as the representatives of the Hon'ble President. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was the Special Guest. Dr. Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka was the Convocation Speaker.

In his speech, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid urged the students to devote themselves for study for overall development of the country. He advised the graduating students to be ready to learn, be rational and devote themselves to the duties and responsibilities for their own country.

The Chairman of UGC underscored the need to disseminate the real history of Liberation War to the new generation. Professor Anisuzzaman, the Convocation Speaker, stressed the importance of ensuring education for all. He also noted that we need to concentrate on the development of Human Development Index (HDI). He also emphasized that the practice of research must be ensured by extending the research opportunities in universities.

Professor Dr. M. Azizur Rahman; Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Eaysmin Ara Lekha Uttara University; Pro Vice-Chancellor of Uttara University; Vice-Chancellors from different universities and renowned academicians, among others, were also present in the program.

4th Convocation of World University of Bangladesh

The 4th Convocation of World University of Bangladesh (WUB) was held on 09 March 2017 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Education presided over Convocation ceremony as



representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred degrees to the graduating students.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC; Professor Dr. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, World University of Bangladesh and Professor Mushfique M Chowdhury, Acting Chairman of University Trustee Board, among others, addressed the Convocation.

Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid said the government is relentlessly working for improvement the quality of education at tertiary level. The process of framing a law for constituting Higher Education Commission is now at the final stage for strengthening the University Grants Commission while the Accreditation Council Law has been passed in the Parliament for enhancement of quality education, the Minister said.

The Minister sounded a note of warning that the government will take legal action against the private universities which have failed to abide by the provisions enacted in the Private University Act. If they cannot run the university properly, they would not be allowed to enroll new students.

5th Convocation of Eastern University



Professor Mannan speaking at the 5th Convocation of Eastern University

The 5th Convocation of Eastern University (EU) was held at Basundhara Convention Centre in the capital on 12 March 2017. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP,

Hon'ble Minister of Education presided over the Convocation ceremony as representative of the Hon'ble President and conferred degrees to the graduates.

His Highness, the Canadian High Commissioner Benoît-Pierre Laramée graced the occasion as the Convocation Speaker. Professor Abdur Rab, Vice-Chancellor, Eastern University, Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC and Mr. Azizul Islam, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Eastern University also spoke on the occasion. A total of 1,901 students were awarded degrees in different disciplines in the ceremony.

21st February observed with due solemnity



Homage to the Language martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar

The Members, officers and employees of UGC led by its Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan paid homage to the Language Martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar on 21 February 2017. Professors Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, UGC; Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC; high officials of UGC and leaders of the UGC Officers' Association & Karmochari Union were present on the occasion.

International Conference on knowledge transfer at East West University

The Center for Research and Training (CRT- EWU) of East West University arranged a two-day International Conference on Knowledge to commemorate its 10th anniversary at its campus at Aftabnagar, Dhaka during 17-18 February 2017. CRT- EWU focused on research, which is the foundation of a good university. CRT- EWU brings out four publications every year, such as East West Journal of Humanities, East West Journal of Business and Social Studies, Abstract of Publication and Research Reports. The conference was partially sponsored by the Higher Education and Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP).



International conference at East West University

The inaugural ceremony of the Conference was held on 17 February 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grand Commission (UGC) Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. Professor Amitabh Kundu, from Institute of Human Development, India, was the Keynote Speaker on the session. Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, East West University was Special Guest. Professor Dr. M. Shahidul Hassan, Vice-Chancellor, EWU was the Guest of Honor. Dr. Rafiqul Huda Chaudhury, Chairperson, EWU Center for Research and Training (CRT) and Member, Board of Trustees, EWU chaired the program. Participants from India and Bangladesh took part in the Conference. Around 22 papers were presented in the Conference.

Orientation programme at Islamic University

Islamic University (IU) organized the orientation programme for the newly enrolled students for academic year 2016- 2017 on 08 February 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC attended the function as the Chief Guest. With Professor Dr. Rashid Askari, Vice-Chancellor of Islamic University in the chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by Professor Dr. Md. Shahinur Rahman, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Selim Toha, Treasurer and Professor Dr. Anwarul Haque Shopon, Students' Adviser of Islamic University.

Addressing the event the Chairman of UGC said that university should focus on quality education for producing quality graduates for facing global challenges. Terming University as the gateway to knowledge he urged the university students to acquire knowledge and skills alongside obtaining certificate.

Visit to Rangamati Science and Technology University



The Chairman is meeting the local community leaders

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, visited the permanent site acquired for the Rangamati Science and Technology University (RSTU) in Rangamati on 31 January 2017.

Dr. Pradanendu Bikash Chakma, Vice-Chancellor, Rangamati Science and Technology University and the faculty members of the university welcomed the UGC Chairman at the university's temporary office

The university started its journey in a part of Shah Multipurpose High School in November, 2015. RSTU currently has around 200 students enrolled in two departments - Department of Management and Department of Computer Science - with only eight faculty members. In the meantime 64 acres of land has been acquired by the government from the local land owners for the university campus.

Professor Mannan met a cross section of local community leaders, the high officials of district administration, including the DC, the local Brigade Commander of the Bangladesh Army and the Superintendent of Police. The Chairman of UGC sought co-operation and assistance of all concerned in making the local university a center of excellence in the Eastern part of the country. The community leaders, the faculty members and the students hailed the initiative of the UGC and its Chairman.

Orientation at Chittagong Independent University

Chittagong Independent University organized an orientation programme for the students enrolled students in Business Studies Faculty on 03 February 2018. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC attended the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mahfuzul Haque Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong Independent University presided over the programme. Professor Dr. Nurul Absar Nahid, Dean of Faculty of Business



Professor Mannan speaking at the orientation of Chittagong Independent University

Studies, Professor Dr. M Ayub Islam, Faculty Adviser and Engineer Rashid A Chowdhury, Proctor of the university also addressed the function.

The Chairman of UGC said that thirty two lakh students are studying at universities in Bangladesh at present, which is much higher than the total population of many other countries of the world. This young generation is our national assets. They need to be equipped with the updated knowledge and skills, he observed. Referring to women education he observed that the number of female students is increasing in the country with the passage of time. Presently forty seven percent female are studying at university level, he added.

Seminar on Proteomic approaches for identification and quantification of plant food allergens



Dr. M. Yousuf A. Mollah, Member of UGC was the Chief Guest at a seminar on, Proteomic approaches for identification and quantification of plant food allergens held at the Institute of Food and Nutrition Science (IFNS) at Dhaka University on 20th March 2017. Professor Md. Imdadul Hoque, Dean, Faculty of Biological Science was the Special Guest. Professor Nazma Shaheen, Director of IFNS and

SPM of a W-2 project supported by HEQEP presided over the meeting. Dr. Nagib Ahsan, Assistant Professor of Brown University, Providence, USA presented the Keynote paper on the occasion. Professor Mollah said that proteomic is a branch of biotechnology, biochemistry, and genetic engineering. The name was coined in 1990 by a PhD researcher at Macquarie University in Australia to mirror the term genomics. Proteomic apply the techniques from other branches of biosciences to analyzing the structures, functions and interactions of the proteins produced by genes of a particular cell, tissues or organism. Dr. Mollah explained how proteomics can be used to classify and quantify food allergens.

UGC Chairman attends week-long theatre festival at Jahangirnagar University



A week-long cultural theatre festival titled 'Muktishangram Nattoushab-2017' was held at Jahangirnagar University on 25-31 March 2017. JU authorities organized the programme at Teachers-Student Centre to mark Independence and National Day 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh joined the programme as the Chief Guest while Professor Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor, JU presided over it. Professor Nazrul Islam, former Chairman, UGC, was present as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Abul Khair, Treasurer, JU, among others spoke on the occasion.

Addressing the function, UGC Chairman sought parents support to root out militancy in the country. He said moral education, nurturing human values within family, might save the youth from anti-state activities.

JU authorities also honored Professor Abdul Mannan and Professor Nazrul Islam as educationists at the programme.

Orientation at Barisal University



Orientation at Barisal University

The orientation programme for the newly enrolled students of twenty departments of Barisal University (BU) in the academic session 2016-17 was organized on 24 January 2017.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh graced the function as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. A K M Mahbub Hassan, Treasurer, BU was present as the Special Guest. Professor Dr. Immanuel Haque, Vice-Chancellor, Barisal University presided over the programme. Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Registrar, Barisal University also attended the function.

Addressing the function, Professor Mannan urged the university students to develop themselves as worthy citizens of the country by taking quality education and to combat militancy in Bangladesh with an iron hand. He also said that Bangladesh is surging ahead under the dynamic and bold leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The UGC Chairman observed that Bangladesh is now a role model of success of every field.

Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research at ULAB

University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) launched the Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research (fLTR) for enhancement of higher education at its auditorium on 03 January 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh inaugurated the programme as the Chief Guest, while Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Chairman, VC of Asia Pacific university presided over it. Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head of Quality Assurance Unit, UGC and Mr. Jim Scarth, OBE, Deputy Director, British Council, Bangladesh were present as Special Guests on the occasion.



Professor Mannan speaking at the launching ceremony

While speaking as the Chief Guest the Chairman of UGC said that FLTR will play a vital role in improving teaching, learning and research practices to produce competent researchers at university level.

Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research has been developed on the basis of the findings of extensive research on the quality of teaching and learning at higher education in Bangladesh. The FLTR is a collective initiative of nine Vice-Chancellors of the reputed Private universities under the dynamic leadership of Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury with a view to improving learning and teaching practices and preparing competent, ethically driven learners' centered professional teachers and researchers at the university level.

Orientation programme at Noakhali Science and Technology University



Noakhali Science and Technology University organized the orientation programme for the newly enrolled students of eighteen departments on 19 January 2017 at its campus premises. Chairman of University Grant Commission (UGC) Bangladesh, Professor Abdul Mannan was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Wahiduzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Abdul Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Mominul Haque,

Registrar and Professor Md. Humayan Kabir, among others spoke on the occasion.

The Chairman of UGC said that forty eight per cent of the total population of the country falls in the category of youth force. Thirty two per cent out of the youth force are studying at university level at present. This huge youth force need to be equipped with the updated knowledge and skills for socio-economic development of the country. He advised the newly enrolled students to be alert on the militancy and extremism.

Orientation programme at Port City International University



The orientation of the newly admitted students of Port City International University authority was held at its auditorium on 07 January 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest, while Professor Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, Vice-Chancellor, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology was the Special Guest on the occasion. Professor Dr. Nurul Anwar, Vice-Chancellor, Port City International University presided over the ceremony. Mr. AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, Founder, President and Chairman and Mr. Zahir Ahmed, Vice President and Vice-Chairman of Port City International University also spoke on the occasion.

While speaking as the Chief Guest, Professor Mannan observed that University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh does not differentiate between Public and Private universities. Both Public and Private universities are contributing to the country's higher education.

Terming universities as the storehouse of knowledge, he observed that the main purposes of the universities are creation and dissemination of knowledge. Professor Mannan emphasized on effective education instead of certificate-based education for the welfare of the society and the nation. A total of 129 meritorious students of the university got Academic Excellence Award at the orientation programme.

4th IBA graduation ceremony at Rajshahi University



Gold Medal awarded to a Graduate

The 4th Graduation Ceremony-2017 of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Rajshahi University (RU), was held on the campus on 28 January 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of Bangladesh University Grants Commission graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr M. Shah Nawaz Ali, Member, UGC was present as Special Guests. Professor Dr. Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, RU was also a special Guest. Professor Dr. Muhammad Mizanuddin, Vice-Chancellor, Rajshahi University presided over the programme. Professor Dr Rafiqul Islam, Director of IBA delivered the welcome speech.

Professor Abdul Mannan, in his speech said that IBA is a unique platform and it can bring positive change through reflecting hopes and aspirations of the people in general. He added that the present government has been implementing massive development schemes to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income one by 2021 and developed one by 2041.

'We need huge skilled manpower to achieve the cherished goal and IBA has a vital role to this end'- he added.

A total of 448 Graduates from 12 batches of MBA and EMBA programs received certificates on the occasion. Of them, twelve students received gold medals for their outstanding academic performances.

Seminar on IT education at Daffodil International University



Daffodil International University(DIU) organized a day-long seminar on Recommendations for IT Education from WCIT 2016 at Bangabandhu International Convention Center (BICC) on 03 February 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was present at the seminar as the Chief Guest, while Mr. Md Sabur Khan, Chairman of Global Trade Committee, WITSA and the Chairman of Board of Trustees of DIU, presented the keynote paper.

Professor Dr. Yousuf M Islam, Vice-Chancellor, DIU; Mr. Mostafa Jabbar, President, BASIS; Mr. Ali Ashfak, President, Bangladesh Computer Samity; Engineer Mohammad Enamul Kabir, Director, Training, Bangladesh Computer Council; Mr. Tapan Kanti Sarkar, President, CTO Forum; Mr. Shahadat Khan, Managing Director, Sure Cash; Professor Dr. Syed Akter Hossain, Head of Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Dr. Touhid Bhuiyan, Head of Department of Software Engineering, DIU, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Professor Mannan condoles the death of former UGC Chairman Professor Zahurul Huq



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, expressed deep shock at the demise of Professor Zahurul Huq, Former Chairman of UGC. In a condolence message, he said the nation has lost a renowned educationist at his death. The death of Professor Huq is an irreparable loss to the nation.

Professor o Huq was the Chairman of UGC from 1999 to 2003. He was the President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association and Federation of University Teachers' Association. Professor Huq also served Dhaka WASA as its Chairman.

Training of University Officers



A two-day long training programme on Administrative Management for university officers to enhance efficiency and professional knowledge was held at UGC Auditorium during 6-7 February 2017. A total of 36 officers from different Public universities took part in the training programme. The training programme was initiated by the Information Management, Communication and Training Division of UGC. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member, UGC inaugurated the training programme as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC presided over the programme while Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC was present as Special Guest. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC, Divisional Heads and other officers were also present on the occasion.

South Asian Universities Festival-2017



Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Joint-Secretary, UGC led a team of 28 students from eleven Public and Private universities and four officials from University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh at the 10th South Asian Universities Festival (SAUFEST)-2017 held at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore in India during 28 February and 4 March 2017. Mr. Md. Shahin Siraj, Deputy Secretary, Ms. Mauli Azad, Senior Assistant

Secretary and Md. Mustafejur Rahman, Senior Assistant Secretary, UGC were also included in the team.. The students from Chittagong University, Khulna University, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Comilla University, Bangladesh Textile University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh Army University of Science and Technology, Southeast University and BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology of Bangladesh took part in the Festival. The students from Bangladesh took part in a number of events including light vocal, solo song, group song, classical dance, elocution, poster making, photography, debate and clay modeling and received the best performance award in the festival. About 300 students from 10 countries participated at the SAUFEST. The SAUFEST is annually organized to establish mutual cooperation and exchange of ideas among the students of the universities of South Asian Countries.

47th Independence and National Day at Jagannath University



Jagannath University Teachers' Association organised a discussion meeting marking the 47th Independence and National Day at its central auditorium on 27 March 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC) was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. President of the Teachers' Association Professor Dr. Priyabrata Pal presided over the function. Professor Dr. Mijanur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, Jagannath University was the Chief Discussant while Professor Md. Salim Bhuiyan, Treasurer; Professor Dr. Arun Kumar Goshwami, Chairperson, Department of Political Science and Professor Dr. Hosne Ara Joli, Department of Bangla, Jagannath University, among others, were present on the occasion.

The Chairman of UGC, in his speech said that since the students are the future of tomorrow, they can play a vital role to build a rich, bright and peaceful country through taking part in the anti-militant and anti-drug activities.

He also said that we gained independence through enormous sacrifice and struggle for a long time. The opponents of the Liberation are always trying to distort the history of liberation war in 1971. But their evil attempts to hide the true history regarding our independence will never succeed.

Workshop on QA Mechanism for Round-4 Universities



Professor Mannan speaking at the workshop

The inaugural ceremony of a two-day orientation Workshop on 'QA Mechanism for Round-4 Universities' was held at UGC auditorium on 29 March 2017. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC graced the function as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Gauranga Chandra Mohanta ndc, Project Director (Additional Secretary), Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) presided over it. Professor Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head of Quality Assurance Unit, UGC delivered the welcome address.

Professor Mannan, in his speech, said that the purpose of IQAC is to enhance the quality of higher education. Laying emphasis on quality assurance cell, he urged the universities to set up IQAC cells at its own responsibility to enhance the standard of tertiary education at respective universities.

He urged the Directors and Additional Directors of IQAC to maintain standard of quality education at their universities so that our graduates can compete in global stage. UGC has so far established Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in 69 Public and Private universities of the country.

Directors and Additional Directors of IQAC of Bangladesh Open University; Bangladesh University of Professionals; University of Development Alternative; Prime University; City University; University of Information Technology & Sciences; Bangladesh University of Business and Technology and Metropolitan University attended in the workshop.

UGC Member visits BAU



Prof. Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah , Member, UGC attended a Workshop on achievement of the sub-project entitled, Strengthening of Undergraduate Degree Programs for Agricultural Engineering and Food Engineering at Bangladesh Agricultural University on 23 March 2017 organized by the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. Professor Boran Uddin, SPM of HEQEP CP No -3006 presented the keynote paper at the Workshop.

Prof. Dr. Md. Ali Akbar, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh was present as Chief Patron. Prof. Dr. Md. Jasimuddin Khan, Pro -Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh was Special Guest. Prof. Dr. Monoranjan Das, Director, Planning and Development and Head of UAIFS, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh was present on the occasion as Special Guest. Prof. Md. Abdur Rashid, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh presided over the meeting. A large number of professors and Faculty members attended the Workshop and participated in the discussion. Professor Mollah visited a number of HEQEP projects awarded to BAU including W-4 and TTO projects and had discussion with the respective SPMs and their team members.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC attended Capstone Course-2017-1



Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC attended a two-week training program titled "Capstone Course-2017-1" held at the National Defense College (NDC), Mirpur Cantonment, Dhaka held during 12-23 February, 2017. Members of Parliament, Major Generals/ officers of equivalent rank and status from Army, Navy, Air force, Bangladesh Police, Additional Secretaries and equivalent officers of different ministries and government organizations, Vice Chancellors and distinguished Professors of Public Universities, professionals and business leaders, such as Directors of FBCCI, honorary consul of Portugal and Ethiopia, NGO-head attended the course. On successful completion of the course all the 28 distinguished participants were declared Fellows of the NDC on 23 February, 2017.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC delivered lecture at the training program for professors organized by the BSMMU

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University (BSMMU) organized two training sessions on "Administration & Management" for its Professors at Dr. Milton Hall on 03 and 29 March 2017. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC made a power point presentation on "Administration and Office Management" as a resource person. Altogether 56 professors/teachers of different academic departments of the universities attended the two interactive training session and took part in the lively discussion on various aspects of Administration and office Management.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC attended Farewell-2017 program organized by Southern University



Vice-Chancellor of Southern University handing over a crest to Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC

Southern University Bangladesh organized an exclusive "Farewell-2017" program for its students, graduated in BSc and MSc in Computer Science and Information Technology at hotel The Peninsula Chittagong on 24 March, 2017. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, UGC attended the program as the Chief Guest.

The Secretary of UGC in his speech urged the graduates to put their best efforts towards building the "Digital Bangladesh" in line with the Vision 2021 and subsequently becoming a developed, peaceful nation by 2041 as per vision-2041. He also urged them to be always vigilant about the anti-social and anti-state activities.

Private University Division

- A high level meeting chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Education Mr. Nurul Islam, M.P. was held in UGC on 07 March 2017. The Chairman of UGC, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Members of UGC, the Additional Secretary (University) and the Secretary, UGC, were among others to attend the meeting. The Prime agenda of the meeting was to assess the latest status of shifting private universities to permanent campus. A-4 member committee headed by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC, was constituted to look into and to examine the overall situation prevailing in the sector and to submit a report to the Ministry by 30 June 2017. Other Members of the Committee included Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, UGC and Mr. Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury, Additional Secretary (University), Ministry of Education. Ms. Jesmin Parvin, Deputy Director, Private University Division, UGC will act as Member-Secretary in the Committee.

- Four sub-committees headed by Professors Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah; Dr. Dil Afroza Begum; Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali were formed to frame standard syllabuses for Private universities. Experts on the relevant disciplines were selected from both Private and Public universities. The guidelines for standard syllabus for different academic programmes have been finalized by each sub-committee after series of meetings. The guidelines will now be sent to the Private universities. It is worth mentioning that in order to ensure quality education in Private universities, a number of significant decisions, including enforcement of dual semester instead of tri-semester for all academic programmes, have been taken. The Commission believes that the introduction of dual semester system will bring significant improvement in higher education.
- A two-member Committee headed by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC visited the proposed Rawson Ershad International University, Mymensingh on 16 January 2017. Other member of the committee was Ms. Jesmin Pervin, Deputy Director, Private University Division, UGC. The purpose of the visit was to see the infrastructure and other relevant facilities. The Hon'ble Member along with the Director and Deputy Director, Private University Division also paid a surprise visit to Presidency University, Gulshan on 25 January 2017. The purpose of the visit was to investigate few allegations brought against BoT of the concerned university.
- A three-member Committee led by Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Member, UGC and an Expert Member visited North South University on 11 January 2017 to assess the suitability of laboratory, library and other facilities for proposed B. Pharm Professional (5-Year) revised programme.
- Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC with two other members visited the permanent campus of Hamdard University, Bangladesh on 19 January 2017. The purpose of the visit was to see the academic environment of the permanent campus.
- A four-member Committee headed by Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Member, UGC visited University of Creative Technology, Chittagong on 28 January 2017 to assess the suitability of the campus for launching academic programme.

Observance of Independence day 2017



UGC officials placing floral wreath at National Mausoleum in Savar marking the Independence Day



Prize distribution ceremony on Independence Day



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