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From the Desk of the Editor

The journey of higher education began in present-day Bangladesh through the establishment of the University of Dhaka in 1921. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh in 1973, when the number of public universities in the country was only six. With the expansion of educational institutions at the secondary and higher secondary levels, the demand for higher education increased phenomenally. To accommodate the majority of the students wishing to pursue higher education, the government opened up tertiary education to the private sector through the enactment of the Private University Act 1992. A massive expansion of higher education has taken place in both the public and private sectors in the country since the nineties. The number of universities has now stood at 152 – 47 public and 105 private – raising the enrollment at the tertiary level to 40 lakhs. With the surge in the number of universities and students, a question has arisen regarding the quality of education imparted by these universities. The objectives of setting up higher educational institutions will not be fulfilled until and unless the quality and standard of higher education is ensured.

There is no alternative to quality higher education for a rapidly growing country like Bangladesh for building the nation. Entrusted with the responsibilities of overseeing activities of the universities, the UGC, under the dynamic and visionary leadership of its new Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, is attaching topmost priority to the quality of education and research. Keeping this in view, the Commission has started working to promote quality academic culture through the establishment of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in universities and materialize the Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2018-2030 approved by the government. The Commission is also planning to take other necessary steps to facilitate Bangladeshi universities securing prestigious places in the global rankings of higher educational institutions.

The April-June 2019 issue of the UGC Bulletin contains information about events pertaining to higher education of Bangladesh and activities of the UGC. It is hoped that the present issue will be useful to those who are interested to learn about the activities of the UGC and status of higher education in Bangladesh.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum
Member, UGC

UGC Chairman, Members pay tribute to Bangabandhu at Tungipara



Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, along with the five Full-time Members of the Commission, paid rich tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his grave at Tungipara in Gopalganj on 29 June, 2019. The UGC Members were Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir.

They also took part in special prayers seeking eternal peace for the departed souls of Bangabandhu and the martyrs of August 15, 1975 carnage.

UGC Chairman pays tribute to Bangabandhu

Newly appointed Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah paid rich tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Professor Dr. Shahidullah paid the homage by placing a floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi on 29 May, 2019.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC and also the President of UGC Officers' Association, Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, Vice-President of UGC Officers' Association, Mr. Zafor Ahommad Jahanger, Joint



Secretary of UGC, Dr. Md. Mohibul Ahsan, General Secretary of UGC Officers' Association and Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, President of UGC Karmachari Union, among others, were present.

SAARC University to celebrate Bangabandhu's 100th birth anniversary

South Asian University (SAU), popularly known as SAARC University, will celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020 with due respect and festivity. The decision was taken at SAU's Financial Experts Committee meeting held in New Delhi, India on 14 June, 2019. Dr. Kavita A Sharma, President of SAU, presided over the meeting where representatives from seven member states of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) were present. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, took part in the meeting and placed the proposal to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu on 17 March, 2020. Members participating in the meeting welcomed the proposal and unanimously approved it.

In the meeting, Professor Shah Nowaz Ali said a seminar, workshop or cultural programme may be organized to celebrate the birth anniversary of



Bangabandhu. The government of Bangladesh will bear the expenditure of the celebration.

Later Professor Shah Nowaz Ali said Pakistan initially opposed his proposal, but later accepted it. He said the celebration of Bangabandhu's 100th birth anniversary in SAARC University will be a great achievement for Bangladesh. "From this, youngsters of SAARC countries can enrich their knowledge about Bangabandhu and know his contributions to the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The celebration programme will play an important role in promotion of peace and prosperity in the SAARC region and develop relationship among its member countries."

South Asian University is an international university established by the eight member states of SAARC. SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010.

Int'l Convention of Vice-Chancellors held at SUST



An International Convention of Vice-Chancellors was held at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) on 05 April, 2019. Vice-Chancellors of 23 universities from Bangladesh and India took part in the convention. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Education, attended the inaugural ceremony of the convention as the Chief Guest.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Md. Farid Uddin Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of SUST, Dr. Mridul Hazarika, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, and Mr. Mahbubul Haque, Chancellor of Meghalaya Science and Technology University, India, among others, addressed the event. Professor Dr. Abul Mukid Mohammad

Mukaddes, Dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at SUST, chaired the programme.

Speaking at the programme, the Education Minister said Bangladesh and India should work together to enhance research work to improve the quality of education in both the countries. "Both Bangladesh and India will be able to advance the education sector, if the two countries strengthen their bonding on different disciplines of education, particularly science and technology," she said.

The Hon'ble Minister also said, "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established a historical relationship between Bangladesh and India. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is following his footsteps to further strengthen the bilateral relations of the two countries."

Welcoming the knowledge-sharing gathering among Vice-Chancellors of Bangladesh and India, the UGC Chairman said the convention will produce outcomes for improving quality of education at the higher level.

There is no alternative to sharing and exchanging knowledge, particularly on science and technology, he said. "A joint collaboration between Bangladesh and India should be developed in education sector to keep pace with the technologically advanced world."

46 public universities sign APA with UGC



Forty-six public universities of the country signed an Annual Performance Agreement (APA) with University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh for 2019-2020 fiscal year under the Performance Management Framework Policy of the government. The goals of the agreement are to establish good governance and attain excellence in higher educational institutions.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, attended the signing ceremony as the Chief Guest. With Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC, in the chair, the event was attended also by UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir.

Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, and registrars of the universities concerned signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at UGC on 20 June, 2019.

Speaking at the programme, Professor Kazi Shahidullah said the main responsibility of UGC is to ensure quality higher education and research in the country to keep pace with today's world. "Quality of education is slipping. Everyone questions about the quality of education. We need to seriously look into it," he said. Professor Shahidullah sought cooperation and assistance from the teachers' community and other stakeholders to ensure quality of tertiary education.

Speaking on the performance of Bangladeshi universities in international rankings of higher educational institutions, he said UGC will pay special attention to the matter.

Calling teachers the backbone of a nation, he said the teachers' community should be more committed and dedicated to the wellbeing of the country. "Nation expects more from the teachers' community. We need to be focused and result-oriented," he noted.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah laid emphasis on ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability at universities to curb corruption and other malpractices. He suggested producing skilled and accomplished workforce to meet the future challenges.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, and Professor Dr. Kanak Kanti Barua, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, also spoke on the occasion. Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, focal points of APA, high officials from the Ministry of Education and UGC were present.

NU, 74 colleges sign agreement to enhance quality of college education



National University (NU), Bangladesh and 74 colleges affiliated to the university on 25 June, 2019 signed an agreement at UGC to enhance the quality of college-level education. NU and the selected public and private colleges signed the agreement under College Education Development Project (CEDP). Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, was present at the agreement signing ceremony as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Vice-Chancellor of National University, Bangladesh, presided over the ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor of National University and Principals and representatives of the colleges concerned signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

The five-year long CEDP was designed in 2016 to strengthen the strategic planning and management capacity of the college education subsector, and to improve the teaching and learning environment of the selected colleges. CEDP is jointly being implemented by the UGC and National University, Bangladesh, which has taken the initiatives to provide development grants to the selected colleges, numbering 122, which are offering Honours and Master's programmes.

Speaking at the programme, the UGC Chairman said the agreement will certainly improve the environment of higher education scenario at the college level. He expressed the hope that the project will play a crucial role in reducing unemployment problem in the country.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Members of UGC, Professor Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University, Professor Dr. Mosiur Rahman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of National

University, Bangladesh, Professor Ahmed Sazzad Rashid, Director General of NAEM, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman, Project Director of CEDP, and Mr. Md. Ashabur Rahman, Consultant of World Bank, were present on the occasion.

UGC accords reception to new Chairman, 3 Members

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 20 June, 2019 accorded a reception to its newly appointed Chairman and three Full-time Members. Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, former Vice-Chancellor of National University, Bangladesh, has been appointed as the new Chairman of UGC. The three Full-Time Members are Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum (reappointed), Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir.



The Officers' Association and Karmachari Union of UGC jointly accorded the reception to the new UGC Chairman and Members. UGC Chairman Professor Kazi Shahidullah graced the event as the Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC and also President of UGC Officers' Association, presided over it.

Addressing the ceremony, the UGC Chairman said their main challenge is to fulfil the nation's expectation on tertiary education. He sought necessary cooperation and assistance from all concerned in this regard.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah stressed the need for modernization of higher education to build the new generation as worthy citizens of the country. He urged the UGC officials to discharge their duties with honesty, sincerity and devotion.

Other speakers expressed the hope that the new leadership will create a milestone in the field of tertiary education and research of the country.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali were the Special Guests. Divisional heads, officials and other employees of the Commission were present on the occasion.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah joins UGC as 13th Chairman



Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Supernumerary Professor of the History Department, University of Dhaka, joined the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh as its 13th Chairman on 26 May, 2019. He took over the charge from Professor Dr.

Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, the Acting Chairman of UGC.

The government of Bangladesh appointed Professor Kazi Shahidullah, also a former Vice-Chancellor of National University, Bangladesh, as the new Chairman of UGC for a four-year term. The term of immediate past Chairman of UGC Professor Abdul Mannan ended on 07 May 2019. Then, Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, senior most Member of UGC, served as its Acting Chairman.

Professor Shahidullah obtained his B.A. (Honours) degree in 1972 and M.A. in 1973 from the Department of History, University of Dhaka securing the first class first position in both the examinations. Subsequently, he pursued higher studies at the University of British Columbia, Canada, where he was awarded M.A. degree in 1979 and the University of Western Australia from where he received the PhD degree in 1984. In both the institutions, he was a recipient of University Graduate Fellowship.

Dr. Shahidullah did his post-doctoral research in the United Kingdom and Australia. At Curtin University, Australia, he taught a course on the History of the Indian Ocean Region in the School of Social and Asian Languages.

He started his teaching career as a Lecturer of History at University of Dhaka in 1976 and became Professor in 1991. During his long teaching career, he held important positions such as Member of Syndicate, Senate, Dean and Departmental Head.

Professor Shahidullah has authored two books titled 'Literacy in Mid-Nineteenth Century Devon and Suffolk' and 'Patshallas into Schools: The Development of Indigenous Elementary Education in Bengal, 1854- 1905'. He has many

research publications in reputed national and international journals to his credit.

Dr. Shahidullah is associated with a number of professional bodies and organisations like Asiatic Society and Bangladesh Itihas Samity for long.

Professor Dr. Engg. Dil Afroza Begum joins UGC as Full-time Member



Professor Dr. Engr. Dil Afroza Begum, (Date of Birth: 16 Feb., 1954), Chairman, Technical Committee (ICS), IDCOL, Adviser, Women Architects, Engineers and Planners Association, Bangladesh (WAEPA), Member, Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE), the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Member, Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment (BSCE), Member, Standing Committee of Academy of Sciences for Awarding Fund Regarding Agriculture, Vice-President, Chemical Engineering Alumni Association, Life Member, Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Science (BAAS), Life Fellow and Former Central Council Member, IEB, Life Member, the Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Science, former member, UGC, former Selection Grade Professor, and head of Chemical Engg. Department, BUET (3terms), joined UGC on 12 June, 2019 as a Full-time Member for a period of 4 years. She published 58 research papers and supervised many theses. One of her research papers has been patented in a foreign country and two research articles have been included in a chapter of a book published abroad. She served IEB for about 11 years as Vice-chairman, Chairman (Chemical Engineering Divisional Committee) and Central Council Member, member of different committees and Editorial Board of journals of IEB and BUET. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum received "University Grants Commission Award", "Birshrestha Medal", and "ZONTA International Award of Honor" for scientific achievements and "Best Chairman Award" (twice) for activities of Chemical Engg.

Divisional Committee of IEB. She worked as an expert in different committees of DOE, BCIC, BCSIR, BPC, Petro-Bangla, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, NILU, JICA and Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh. She also served 38 professional bodies and played active role in different national issues such as gas export, Fulbaria coalmine, catalytic converter, formulation of guidelines for ship breaking industry, feasibility study of Chittagong Chemical Complex, introduction of CNG fuel in Dhaka city, etc. She visited 12 countries of the world for professional development.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain joins UGC as a Full-time Member



Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, a renowned professor of Computer Science and Engineering of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), joined University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh as a Full-time Member on 12 June, 2019.

The government of Bangladesh appointed him as a Full-Time Member for a four-year term.

Dr. Sazzad obtained his B.Sc. in Electrical and System Network Engineering from Moscow Technical University, Russia. He did both his M.Sc. and PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Portland State University, Oregon, USA, one of the top ranking universities in the world. He joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of ULAB as a Professor as well as Head in 2009. He is the key contributor in developing ICT Master Plan for UGC and Secondary and Higher Education Division of Ministry of Education.

Professor Sazzad has substantial research experience in the area of Quantum Computing, Internet of Things, Big Data, Machine Learning and Fourth Industrial Revolution. He has published more than fifty research articles in national and internationals journals. It may be mentioned that, Professor Sazzad is the first ever PhD awardee in Bangladesh who completed his doctoral research in the field of Quantum Computing. He has long been working for building Digital Bangladesh and creating tech-based network throughout the country.

Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir joins UGC as a Full-time Member



Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, former Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), joined University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh as a Full-time Member on 16 June, 2019.

The government of Bangladesh appointed him for a four-year term.

Professor Alamgir obtained B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He did his PhD and JSPS Post-Doctoral Fellowship from Saga University, Japan. He joined in the Department of Civil Engineering at KUET as a Lecturer in 1986 and was elevated to the post of Professor in 2002. His research interest areas cover solid waste and faecal sludge management, geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering and climate change issues.

A Senior Faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Professor Alamgir had served as the Vice-Chancellor of the university for two consecutive terms during 2010-2018. In his long teaching career, he held important posts, including Syndicate Member, Dean and Departmental Head, Hall Provosts and President & Secretary of Teacher's Association.

Professor Alamgir visited more than 25 countries for research and professional purposes. He was the Visiting Professor in the Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany and the University of Padova, Italy. He has been organizing an International Conference 'WasteSafe' on solid waste and faecal sludge management in very odd year since 2009.

Dr. Alamgir has more than 240 research publications in reputed national and international journals and conference to his credit. He is associated with a number of professional bodies and other organisations. He was born in a respected Muslim family in Chandpur district on 16 June 1963.

Newly appointed UGC Members pay homage to Bangabandhu



The newly appointed three Full-time Members of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh paid rich tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain paid homage to Bangabandhu on 12 June, 2019 and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir on 17 June, 2019 by placing wreaths at his portrait at Dhanmondi-32.



Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, divisional heads and representatives from UGC Officers' Association, among others, were present.

Int'l workshop on research in Mathematics at Dhaka University

A 12-day international workshop titled "Research School on Dynamical Systems and its Applications to Biology" was held at Dhaka University in June this year. The Department of Mathematics of Dhaka University, International Center for Pure and Applied Mathematics

(CIMPA) and AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation jointly organized the event with the theme "Development of Research in Mathematics in Developing Countries".

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, as the Chief Guest graced the concluding ceremony of the workshop held on 21 June, 2019 at AF Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Professor Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam, Local Coordinator of CIMPA Research School, presided over the ceremony while Professor Dr. Muhammad Samad, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of Dhaka University, Professor Dr. Tofail Ahmad Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and Professor Dr. Perween Hasan, Trustee of AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation, spoke at the program as the Special Guests.



The UGC Chairman, in his speech, stressed the need for modernization of mathematics education to develop the education system in the country. "The overall development of Bangladesh depends on advancement in science and technology," he said, calling upon all to work together in this regard.

Academics and researchers from Bangladesh, France, Germany, Brazil, Austria, Cambodia, Ghana, Egypt, China, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and India participated in the event.

History Conference at Dhaka University

The 49th International Annual Conference of Bangladesh Itihas Parishad was held at Dhaka University on 22 June, 2019. Bangladesh Itihas Parishad organized the conference with the theme 'Women in History, in Context of South Asia'. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the National Parliament, spoke at the function as the Chief Guest. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Education, inaugurated the programme. Professor



Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, was present on the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Professor Dr. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, presided over it.

The Speaker in her speech said women's contribution to different fields must be discussed in all the forums and documented properly in all the documents of the Language Movement and the Liberation War.

Dr. Dipu Moni said women played a vital role in different movements of the country, including the Language Movement in 1952 and Liberation War in 1971, and that their contribution should be acknowledged.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah said women's contribution to different fields in the 21st century was vast and that should be documented so that future generations could know about them.

Distinguished historians, experts, university professors, researchers and students from home and abroad presented essays at the conference.

Workshop on National Integrity Strategy at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

A day-long workshop on National Integrity Strategy (NIS) was held at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) on 26 June, 2019. The core goals of the workshop were to ensure good governance and excellence in performance of educational institutions.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahamed, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, presided over the workshop. Professor



Sekender Ali, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Anwarul Haque Beg, Treasurer of SAU, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, and Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance (SPQA) Division of UGC, were the Special Guests on the occasion.

Speaking at the programme, the UGC Chairman said University Grants Commission is taking steps to elevate Bangladesh's universities to better positions in the international rankings. He said UGC's main responsibility is to enhance the quality of tertiary education and research. Professor Kazi Shahidullah urged all concerned to work jointly for the sake of country's overall development.

Workshop on National Integrity Strategy and Annual Performance Management at Jagannath University



Jagannath University organized a day-long workshop on 'National Integrity Strategy (NIS) and Annual Performance Management' on 27 June, 2019. Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Mizanoor Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University, presided

over it. The main goals of the workshop were to ensure good governance and excellence in performance of the university.

Speaking at the event, the UGC Chairman said Bangladeshi universities are now lagging behind universities in other Asian countries whereas the situation was different in the past. "We have to find out our shortcomings in education sector. We should avoid unnecessary opening of new departments in universities."

Professor Md. Selim Bhuiyan, Treasurer of Jagannath University, and Dr. AKM Shamsul Arefin, Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division at UGC, were the Special Guests on the occasion.

WB-BCC delegation holds meeting with UGC



A three-member delegation from the World Bank and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) led by Siou Chew Kuek, Senior Digital Development Policy Specialist, Digital Development Global Practices of World Bank, held a meeting with the UGC authorities on 13 June, 2019. Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of UGC, presided over the meeting.

During the meeting, various aspects of higher education, including research, innovation, training for university graduates, curriculum development at the tertiary level, graduates' employability and university-industry linkage came up for discussion under Leveraging ICT Growth, Employment and Governance Project-II.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. M. Shah Noaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, and Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Members of UGC and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, among others, were present.

World Bank delegation holds meeting with UGC Chairman



A delegation of the World Bank held a meeting with the UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah on 17 June 2019 at UGC Bhaban. They discussed the proposed 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation' (HEAT) project.

Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer of the World Bank, apprised the UGC Chairman of various aspects, including Development Project Proposal (DPP) of HEAT Project. The objectives of the HEAT project are to improve higher education and research, ensure graduates' employability and establish regional network.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Members of UGC, among others, were present at the meeting.

APUB delegation congratulates new UGC Chairman, Members



A delegation from Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) paid a courtesy call on Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah,

newly appointed Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, at UGC in June, 2019. The seven-member delegation led by Sheikh Kabir Hossain, Chairman of APUB, congratulated the new UGC Chairman and members of the UGC and thanked Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the appointment of the new UGC members from both the public and private education sectors.

The UGC Chairman called upon all concerned to work together to promote higher education and research in Bangladesh so that the country can hold its head high in global arena.

The three new Full-time Members are Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir.

Inauguration of first academic year of Khulna Agricultural University



The inaugural ceremony of the first academic year of Khulna Agricultural University was held on 03 April, 2019 on its campus. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

Ms. Monnujan Sufian, State Minister for Labour and Employment, Mr. Talukdar Abdul Khalek, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation, Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC, Mr. Md. Sohrab Hossain, Senior Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, Mr. Lokman Hossain Mia, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna, Wahida Akhter, PS-II to the Prime Minister and Mr. Sarkar Rakibul Islam, Commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The programme was presided over by Professor Dr. Shahidur Rahman Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna Agricultural University.

Dr. Dipu Moni said, "Khulna Agricultural University is capable of beginning an agricultural revolution with its capabilities. When the Padma Bridge will be completed, this region will boost the GDP growth by 1 percentage point."

The Education Minister said the Father of the Nation believed in ensuring food safety and job security for all citizens. She called upon the students not to feel concerned over being the first students of a new university, but to consider them part of history.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management held at RUET



A daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management' was held at Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) on 18 April, 2019. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Sheikh, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET), presided over the session. Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of SPQA Division at UGC, and Professor Dr. Md. Selim Hossain, Registrar of RUET, were the Special Guests.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Professor Shah Nowaz Ali urged the Vice-Chancellors to properly implement the Annual Performance Agreement for establishing good governance, ensuring accountability and excellence in tertiary education at the university level.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University



Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) organized a daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management' on 22 June, 2019. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. M. Abul Kashem, Vice-Chancellor of HSTU, presided over it.

The main objectives of the workshop were to ensure good governance, accountability and transparency in conducting the affairs of the university.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at Rajshahi University



University of Rajshahi organized a daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management' on 22 June 2019. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest.

The core goals of the workshop were to ensure good governance and excellence in performance in the educational institution.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at PUST



A daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management' was held at Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) on 18 April, 2019. Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. M. Rostom Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology, presided over it. Professor Dr. Md. Anowarul Islam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Dr. Md. Anowar Khasru Parvez, Treasurer of PUST, were also present.

The main objectives of the workshop were to ensure good governance, accountability and transparency in conducting the affairs of the universities.

Seminar on Mobile Apps Development and Personal Data Protection in Dhaka



A seminar titled 'Mobile Apps Development and Personal Data Protection' was held at the head office of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in Dhaka on 25 June, 2019. Computer Engineering Division of IEB organized the seminar, graced by Mr. Abdus Sabur, President of IEB, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Mohammad Mahfuzul

Islam, Chairperson of Computer Engineering Division of IEB, presided over the function.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, was present as the Special Guest. Engineer Khandker Manjur Morshed, Honorary General Secretary of IEB, delivered the address of welcome.

Speaking at the seminar, Mr. Abdus Sabur called upon the youths to engage in mobile application development and explore global market of digital business.

In his speech, Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain laid emphasis on technological advancement and innovation. He also underscored the need for focusing on opportunities in mobile gaming software.

Premier University accords reception to UGC Member Professor Sazzad Hossain



Premier University accorded a reception to Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, newly appointed Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh. The university organized the reception ceremony at its auditorium on 21 June, 2019. Dr. Anupam Sen, Vice-Chancellor of Premier University, was the Chief Guest at the event, presided over by Professor A.K.M. Tafzal Haque, Treasurer of the university. Mr. M. Ali Ashraf,

Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Premier University, also attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the programme, Professor Sazzad Hossain called upon all concerned to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and devotion for enhancement of the quality of higher education and research in Bangladesh. He put emphasis on

increase in research activities at the university level for creation of new knowledge.

Referring to university rankings, he noted that University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will pay special attention to the matter. "We'll try our level best so that our universities can secure better positions in international rankings," he said.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain joined University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh as a Full-time Member on 12 June, 2019. Prior to the new assignment, he was a Faculty Member of Computer Science and Engineering Department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

Meeting between UGC and World Bank



A meeting between University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and the World Bank was held on the proposed 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation' (HEAT) project at UGC on 25 June, 2019.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, presided over the meeting. Representatives from HiTech Park, ICT experts from different universities, and officials of UGC and World Bank were present at the meeting.

The meeting discussed promoting innovation, incubation and commercialization in universities.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain nominated Syndicate Member of Chittagong Medical University



Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, has been nominated as a Syndicate Member of Chittagong Medical University. The university authorities made

the nomination on 26 June, 2019.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain joined UGC as a Full-time Member on 12 June, 2019. Earlier, he served as the Senior Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

He has long been working for building Digital Bangladesh and creating Tech-based network.

Seminar on Climate Change Impact on Infrastructure: Role of Engineering Community in Khulna



A seminar titled 'Climate Change Impact on Infrastructure: Role of Engineering Community' was held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Khulna Centre on 29 June, 2019. Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Engr. Kh Mahfuz Ud Darain and Engr. Md. Shafique Uddin of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), among others, were present at the seminar.

National Conference on Communication for Development



A national conference on fostering Communication for Development (C4D) research to achieve results for children was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on 24 April, 2019. University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh in association with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Ohio University of the USA organized the conference to conduct research on social behaviour changes for child rights in higher educational institutions of Bangladesh.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, graced the conference as the Chief Guest. Chaired by Ms. Neha Kapil, C4D Section Chief of UNICEF, Bangladesh, the programme was addressed, among others, by Ms. Shairose Mawji, Chief of Field Services of UNICEF, Bangladesh, and Dr. Andrew Carlson, Associate Professor of Metropolitan University of the USA.

While speaking as the Chief Guest, the UGC Chairman said, "Children are our most valuable asset and they are the future leaders of the country. They'll take Bangladesh to the next steps of development."

Professor Mannan thanked UNICEF for taking new initiatives to focus on children. He said children's rights need to be protected and the conference will play a significant role in designing curriculum and conducting participatory research in C4D. Ms. Shairose Mawji said the initiative will open the avenues to demonstrate to the wider global community including Bangladesh the use of evidence-based social behaviour change strategies to achieve development goals,

including the rights of children and their communities. "It will also provide an opportunity for the academicians, postgraduate students and development professionals to establish a network and collaboration to achieve development agenda of the country," she added.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Professor Dr. Golam Rahman of Daffodil International University, academics from different universities, PhD students and representatives from government, development agencies and UGC took part in the daylong workshop.

View-exchange meeting on HEAT Projects

View-exchange meetings on the proposed 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation' (HEAT) project were held at UGC on 5-6 May, 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, presided over the meeting.



Professor Dr. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Members of UGC, Vice-Chancellors, Principals of Women Colleges, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer at the World Bank, representatives from the WB and officials from UGC were present.

Capacity-building workshop on Development of NQF for Bangladesh

A two-day long capacity-building workshop on Development of National Qualifications Framework for Bangladesh was held at UGC on 28 April, 2019. ILO in association with UGC organized the workshop to develop a harmonized National Qualifications Framework.



Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, opened the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Member of UGC, presided over it. Ms. Ligaya Dumaoang, TVET and Skills Development Specialist at Skills 21 Project, delivered the address of welcome.

Speaking at the workshop, the UGC Chairman said National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is expected to help develop one's knowledge and skills. Referring to a survey report published by BIDS, Professor Mannan said 39 percent of our university graduates are jobless. "It is very alarming for us."

"The report showed we are not giving the right type of knowledge and skills the country needs. There is a big gap in university-industry collaboration," he said adding that universities should update their curriculum on a regular basis.

Laying emphasis on entrepreneurship development, the UGC Chairman said, "We need to ensure proper education that helps the graduates get jobs, but at the same time we have to create entrepreneurs, who would provide jobs."

"A country doesn't only need job seekers but also need entrepreneurs. We have a lot of potential youths who need to be equipped with cutting-edge knowledge and technology," he observed.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah said National Qualifications Framework is a formula to ensure quality higher education in any country. "To survive the global competition, we need to have National Qualification Framework. It will provide opportunity to improve the quality of education," he added.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members of UGC, Professor Dr. Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary, Head of Quality

Assurance Unit at UGC, and Professor Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahamed, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, among others, were present.

UGC prepared NQF to ensure quality education at the tertiary level. ILO described National Qualifications Framework as a route to a harmonized quality assured qualification system.

155th Full Commission Meeting of UGC held



The 155th Full Commission Meeting of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh was held at its meeting room on 06 May, 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, presided over the meeting. The meeting approved a budget of Tk 8088.49 crore for country's 45 public universities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Of the amount, Tk 5089.46 crore will come from the revenue budget and the rest Tk 2999.03 crore from the development budget. The revenue budget is a 14.45 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Dhaka University got the highest revenue budgetary allocation of Tk 764.65 crore while Sylhet Medical University got Tk 3.60 crore. Sylhet Medical University, for the first time, has been included in the budgetary allocation. Besides, the meeting approved Tk 50.97 crore for UGC for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The meeting also approved the revised budget of Tk 4834.63 crore for the universities and Tk 49.03 crore for UGC for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The commission approved Tk 64.40 crore for research support in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The figure was Tk 62.36 crore in the last fiscal year.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz

Ali, Members of UGC, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Secretary (in-charge), Planning Commission, Professor Dr. Md. Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Professor Dr. Md. Giasuddin Mian, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Professor Dr. Md. Anowar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Jessore University of Science and Technology, Professor Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Professor Dr. Md. Anowar Khasru Parvez, Treasurer of Pabna Science and Technology University, Professor Dr. Md. Forhad Hossain, Statistics Department of Jahangirnagar University, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, Mr. Mafiz Uddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance and divisional heads of UGC, among others, were present at the meeting.

Seminar on Bangabandhu in Bangladesh's Literature and Culture at Rajshahi University



A seminar titled "Bangabandhu in Bangladesh's Literature and Culture" was held at the Senate Bhaban of Rajshahi University (RU) on 10 April 2019. Nirikh, an art and society-related periodical, organized the seminar. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest at the seminar, presided over by Professor Safiqunnabi Samadi, Editor of Nirikh.

Professor Ananda Kumar Shaha, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Chowdhury Md. Jakaria, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of RU, spoke at the function as the Special Guests. Professor Mustafa Tariqul Ahsan, Executive Editor of Nirikh, delivered the address of welcome on the occasion.

The UGC Chairman, in his speech, said the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will remain alive in people's mind forever. "Bangabandhu has become an integral part of the country's literature and culture. So, his name couldn't be deleted," he noted.

Professor Mannan said all people irrespective of political affiliation must follow the ideals of Bangabandhu and should listen to his speeches minutely. "Excepting a few anti-liberation thugs, the entire nation under the visionary leadership of Bangabandhu fought and brought independence of the country and that's why the Bangalee nation embraced him as their closest one, affectionately decorating him with the honour of Bangabandhu," he said.

The UGC Chairman urged the teachers and researchers to reach the books and periodicals written on the life and works of Bangabandhu to the new generation so that they can learn about his sacrifice and contribution to the nation and its independence.

Twelve research papers on the matter were presented at the seminar in its two sessions largely attended by teachers, researchers and students.

Certificate distribution ceremony at Green University of Bangladesh



The certificate distribution ceremony of a training course for teachers was held at Green University of Bangladesh (GUB) in the capital on 17 April, 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. He handed over certificates to 28 GUB teachers, who participated in 'Certificate Course on Teaching and Learning'.

The UGC Chairman, in his speech, urged the university teachers to improve their skills and

expertise. "A good teacher should achieve skills and be a good trainer and researcher," he said adding that teachers should not teach students only from textbooks; they should impart knowledge from other sources.

Urging the teachers to motivate students to love the country, Professor Mannan said teachers will teach students how to think and how to learn.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Vice-Chancellor of GUB said, "Both students and teachers need to improve their skills for the development of quality education."

Professor Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah, Treasurer, Deans of different faculties and heads of different departments of the university, among others, were present on the occasion.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at Khulna University



A daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management: Perspective Khulna University' was held on 18 April, 2019 at the university auditorium. The university organized the workshop, under the Performance Management Policy of the government, with the objectives to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in conducting the university activities and to attain excellence in tertiary education at the university level.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, graced the inaugural session of the workshop as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Muhammad Fayekuzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University, (KU) presided over it. Mr. N.M. Ziaul Alam, Secretary of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division, was the main discussant. Professor Sadhon Ranjan Ghosh, Treasurer of KU, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Director of Private University Division at UGC, also spoke at the inaugural ceremony. Professor Khan Golam Kuddus, Registrar (Acting) of KU, delivered the address of welcome.

The UGC Chairman, in his speech, observed that corruption and other malpractices have gripped the country's every sector including education despite the fact that the government has increased the salary of the public servants substantially.

Terming corruption a disease of the society, he stressed the need for cultivating integrity, implementing National Integrity Strategy (NIS) and ensuring accountability at institutional, social and individual levels to get rid of this malady.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at KUET



A daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management: Perspective Khulna University of Engineering And Technology (KUET)' was held on 20 April, 2019 on its campus. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the inaugural session of the workshop as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Kazi Sazzad Hossain, Vice-Chancellor, KUET chaired it.

The UGC Chairman, in his speech, said Bangladesh is now on the development highway and that skilled and accomplished workforce is highly needed for keeping the development trend. He further said KUET has been providing quality education and facilitating research for producing world-class graduates since the beginning of its academic journey.

Referring to malpractices in educational institutions, he called upon all to maintain integrity and work with utmost sincerity and honesty for the betterment of the country.

Workshop on Annual Performance Management at JUST



A daylong workshop on 'Annual Performance Management: Perspective Jashore University of Science and Technology' was held on 23 April, 2019 on its campus. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the inaugural session of the event as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST), chaired it

While speaking at the session, the UGC Chairman noted that one of the main challenges of Bangladesh is to transform its huge young generation into human resource to keep pace with today's world. He laid emphasis on imparting time-befitting education to students instead of traditional one to compete with other nations.

Professor Anwar Hossain, in his speech, observed there is no alternative to skilled manpower for sustainable development of the country.

Professor Md. Abdul Mazid, Treasurer, Dr. Md. Omar Faruque, Convener of Deans Committee, Professor Dr. Md. Ziaul Amin, Dean of Faculty of Business Administration and Convener of APA Committee, Engineer Md. Ahsan Habib, Registrar of JUST, and Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, Director of Public University Management Division at UGC, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Science conference at Chittagong University

A two-day long scientific conference titled 'Life Science in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals' was held at the University of Chittagong on 27-28 April, 2019. The Bangladesh Society for



Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BSBMB) and Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Chittagong University jointly organized the conference.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), was present at the inaugural session of the conference as the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, presided over it.

Professor Dr Md. Alauddin, Vice-Chancellor of Mawlana Bhasani Science & Technology University, and Professor Dr Shireen Akter, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, attended the event as the Special Guests.

Eminent scientists from home and abroad, researchers and scholars participated in the conference.

UGC holds bilateral meeting with FBCCI



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh held a meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at UGC Bhaban on 08 April, 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, presided over the meeting.

Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC, Mr. Md. Shaiful Islam Mohiuddin, President of FBCCI, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, and other officials of UGC and FBCCI were present at the meeting.

Budget meeting of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh



The meeting of UGC Budget Committee was held on 05 May, 2019 with its Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain and Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Members of UGC, and Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, were present.

Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader, Director (current charge) of Finance and Accounts Division of UGC, presented budget-related information about UGC and 45 public universities of the country. Various aspects of the Annual Performance Agreement also came up for discussion at the meeting.

Meeting on opening Public Administration Department at public universities and government colleges



A meeting on opening Public Administration Department in all public universities and government colleges of the country was held on 16 April, 2019 at UGC Bhaban.

The meeting followed a demand that leaders of Bangladesh Public Administration Study Centre (BPASC) placed to UGC Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan regarding the matter.

Professor Dr. Abul Kashem Mazumder, Convenor of BPASC and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Professionals, Professor Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Co-Convenor of BPASC and Vice-Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, Professor Dr. Mohammad Mohabbat Khan, Member of BPASC and former Member of UGC, Mr. Md. Shahin Siraj, Member of BPASC and Deputy Secretary of UGC, and Dr. Jebunnessa, Member Secretary of BPASC and Chairman of Public Administration Department at Jahangirnagar University, among others, were present at the meeting.

Meeting on development project of public universities at UGC



A meeting for reviewing the progress of development projects of the country's public universities for 2018-2019 fiscal year was held on 30 April, 2019 at the UGC auditorium.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, as the Chief Guest, graced the meeting, presided over by Professor Dr. M. Shah Nowaz Ali, Member of UGC. Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Planning and Development Division at UGC, moderated the meeting. Directors of Planning and Development Division and project directors' of the public universities were present.

Universiti Utara Malaysia delegation calls on UGC Chairman

A three-member delegation from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) called on Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, at UGC on 02 April,



2019. Professor Dr. Yusnidah binte Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UUM, led the delegation. The two sides discussed various aspects of higher education, including providing assistance to Bangladeshi students and researchers.

The UUM delegation informed UGC that they will provide tuition waiver for the Bangladeshi students under exchange programme. Professor Yusnidah said her university is eager to work closely with the universities of Bangladesh and sought cooperation from UGC in this regard. In response, the UGC Chairman assured the delegation of extending all necessary cooperation.

Mentioning that UGC always focus on skills and job-oriented education, Professor Abdul Mannan said the UUM move will pave the way for creating more skilled mid-level managers in Bangladesh.

A total of 59 Bangladeshi students are enrolled in UUM, the famed management university enjoying the 128th position in Asia in the QS World University Ranking.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members of UGC, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, Dr. Shamsul Arefin, Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division, and Ms. Jesmin Pervin, Additional Director of ICC at UGC, were present at the meeting.

UGC, Zurich University of Applied Sciences sign MoU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Dhaka on 15 April, 2019.

Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, was present at the signing ceremony. Dr. Md. Khaled,



Secretary of UGC, and Professor Dr. Daniel Perrin, Dean of Applied Linguistics of ZHAW, signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

The main objective of the MoU is to exchange research activities, especially in the field of Applied Sciences, amongst the public research institutions of both the countries. Under the MoU, ZHAW will provide seed money grants, mobility grants and bridging grants to the selected researchers.

The UGC Chairman said that under the deal, the public research institutions of Bangladesh and Switzerland will jointly carry out scientific research on mutual interest. "The agreement will facilitate higher education links with Switzerland. It will strengthen the bondage of the two friendly countries," he added.

ZHAW has been ranked 90th in World University Rankings 2019. It is a leading house for research collaboration, which carries out joint research with partner institutions in South Asia. It also promotes and fosters scientific cooperation with other key institutions of Asia.

Afghan delegation holds meeting with UGC on HEAT project

A meeting between an Afghanistan delegation and University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on the proposed 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)' project was held at UGC Bhaban on 23 April 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, presided over it.

The World Bank and the governments of Bangladesh and Afghanistan are expected to finance the five-year long HEAT project. The objective of the first-ever regional project is to



improve national and regional bodies involved in higher education and research. UGC will be the implementing agency of the project once finalized.

The UGC Chairman said the proposed HEAT project will improve tertiary education, enhance connectivity and create women leadership in a number of countries in South East Asia. "It will create a common platform for higher education and research in South Asia and encourage innovations in social science, science and technology," he said.

Speaking at the meeting, the leader of visiting delegation, Professor Hamidullah Farooqui, Chancellor of Kabul University, said, "It's a major challenge for the country to upgrade their higher education. The project will enhance capacity for the technical education."

Under HEAT project, joint research activities, exchange program and soft skills training facilities will also be provided for the member countries.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah and Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum, Members of UGC, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC, Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer of the World Bank, representatives from Afghanistan, and officials from UGC and the WB were also present.

Orientation programme at Jahangirnagar University



A freshers' reception and orientation programme for the newly enrolled students of Jahangirnagar University was held on 11 April, 2019 at its auditorium. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, graced the function as the Chief Guest. Professor Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, presided over the ceremony.

The UGC Chairman, in his speech, urged the newly enrolled students to make best use of their time in university life to develop themselves as worthy citizens of the country.

Deans of different faculties, chairpersons of different departments, faculty members, officials, newly enrolled students and their guardians were present at the programme.

Orientation programme of Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science & Technology University



The orientation programme of Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science & Technology University was held on 18 April 2019. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman of UGC, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

Professor Dr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the university, presided over it. Mr. Mirza Azam, MP, Mozaffar Hossain, MP, Mr. Rezaul Karim Hira, Former Land Minister, Professor Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul University, Khandakar Hamidur Rahman, Registrar of Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science & Technology University, among others, spoke on the occasion. Md. Kamal Hossain, Director, Md. Shahin Siraj, Deputy Secretary, UGC and senior officials of the university were present.

Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science & Technology University started its academic journey on 31 March, 2019 and has been offering courses in four subjects under four faculties.

Training workshop on Innovation in Public Services at UGC



A two-day long training workshop on 'Innovation in Public Services' was held on 12-13 May, 2019 at the auditorium of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. Information Management, Communication and Training (IMCT) Division of UGC organized the workshop for capacity building of innovation to reach the services to the doorsteps of the people at the easiest and innovative way under National Integrity Strategy. Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Acting Chairman of UGC, was present at inaugural and closing ceremonies of the training workshop as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest, in his speech, said innovative idea is imperative for making activities of any organisation dynamic and easier. He stressed the need for discharging duties in a systematic, innovative and effective way to keep pace with today's world. He called upon the participants to contribute to public services rising above self-interest.

He urged the participants to apply their knowledge and skills acquired from the training workshop in their respective organisations to take the services to the doorsteps of the people at the easiest and innovative way. He advised the participants to inculcate in them the core universal values, which include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship to become good human beings to render good services to the people.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahyman, Deputy Secretary of IMED at the Ministry of Planning, and Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Capacity Development Expert at A2i Programme, Prime Minister's Office,

were present as the resource persons at the workshop. Mr. Md. Abdul Wahab, Director (current charge) of IMCT Division, and officials of UGC were present. Thirty-four officials from UGC and seven public universities of the country participated in the training workshop.

Japanese university delegation calls on Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah



A three-member delegation from University of Hyogo, Japan called on Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Acting Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, at the latter's office on 09 May, 2019.

Mr. Makoto Kosaka, Executive Vice-President of University of Hyogo, led the delegation. At the meeting, various aspects of higher education, including scholarships and education exchange programme, came up for discussion.

The Japanese university is offering world-class business course for undergraduate foreign students including those from Bangladesh. University of Hyogo is willing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladeshi universities to attract students from here.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary, Ms. Jesmin Pervin, Additional Director for International Co-operation & Collaboration, and Mr. Md. Shahin Siraj, Deputy Secretary of UGC, among others, were present.

JICA delegation calls on UGC Acting Chairman

A three-member delegation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) called on Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Acting Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, at the latter's office on 22



May, 2019. Mr. Koji Motomori, Senior Representative (Urban Development) of JICA, Bangladesh led the delegation.

At the meeting, the delegation informed Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah that Japan International Cooperation Agency is interested in promoting higher education and research in Bangladesh. The delegation members said the agency wants to conduct a survey in higher education sector of Bangladesh and sought cooperation and assistance from UGC to this end.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah, in his speech, said the move will open up a new horizon in higher education and research between Bangladesh and Japan. He noted that University Grants Commission of Bangladesh always welcomes foreign assistance and cooperation for promotion and internationalisation of higher education of Bangladesh.

Referring to the fact that Japan is the largest development partner of Bangladesh, he said the friendly country has been immensely contributing to socio-economic sector, including education, of Bangladesh.

Professor Dr. Dil Afroza Begum and Professor Dr. Md. Akhtar Hossain, Members of UGC, Dr. Md. Khaled, Secretary of UGC and Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Director of Private University Division at UGC, among others, were present during the meeting.

Meeting on Standard Outcome-Based Education Curriculum Template at UGC

A meeting for preparing Standard Outcome-Based Education (OBE) Curriculum Template was held on 23 May, 2019 at UGC.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah, Acting Chairman of UGC, presided over the meeting. The Members and Secretary of UGC, officials of the SPQA Division of UGC and the nominated curriculum experts were present in the meeting. A draft OBE Curriculum Template was finalized in the meeting.

Professor Abdul Mannan completes his tenure as UGC Chairman



Professor Abdul Mannan completed his tenure as the Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 7 May, 2019. During his tenure, he discharged his duties with sincerity and devotion to successfully run the Commission and promote

country's higher education and research. Some of the outstanding jobs Professor Mannan did were publication of compulsory textbooks 'Bangla Language and Literature' and 'History of the Emergence of Independent Bangladesh' for public and private universities of the country, documentary book 'Achievements in Higher Education of Bangladesh: University Grants Commission' and booklet 'Achievements in Higher Education in Bangladesh (2009-2018)' by UGC. In addition, Professor Abdul Mannan guided the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Higher Education (2018-2030) by University Grants Commission which was approved by the government during his tenure. Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) jointly financed by the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank was successfully completed during the period.

Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah completes his tenure as Full-time Member of UGC



Professor Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah completed his tenure as a Full-time Member of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh on 28 May, 2019. During his service with the Commission, he also served it as the Acting Chairman after the term of

immediate past Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan came to an end. He took over the charge in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Education. Professor Yousuf Ali Mollah worked in UGC with sincerity and devotion and played important role in promoting country's higher education and research.

UGC Director Dr. Ferdous Zaman attends training programme in Malaysia



Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Planning and Development Division at University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, attended a training programme on Policymaker/Managers/Leader- level Officials under College Education Development Project held on 23-26 June, 2019 at University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC).

UGC congratulates Anisuzzaman for SAARC Literature Award



University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh congratulated National Professor Anisuzzaman for getting the SAARC Literature Award 2019. Professor Anisuzzaman, President of Bangla Academy, is the fourth Bangladeshi to receive the award.

Dr. AKM Shamsul Arefin, Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division at UGC, greeted Professor Anisuzzaman on behalf of the UGC Chairman with a bouquet.



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