



বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

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Editor's Note

The current government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has adopted Vision 2041 that is a continuation of Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021 and seeks to take the nation to the development path. Specifically, Vision 2041 seeks to include Bangladesh into the group of high-income country by 2041. To achieve this vision different policies and programmes have been chalked out which are at various stages of implementation.

The Vision 2021 was the political manifesto of the Bangladesh Awami League before winning the National Election of 2008. It stands as a political vision of Bangladesh for the year 2021. One of the major goal of digital Bangladesh was to take the government services to the door steps of common people and simplify the service delivery system of the government offices. The government has launched e-Nothi in government offices in March 2016 that replaces the manual, in person and paper-based public service delivery. Since its inception this system has seen steady exponential growth. e-Nothi system has recently been upgraded into D-Nothi [digital filing] system to improve transparency and efficiency in the government's decision-making process.

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC), the apex and statutory body of the universities of Bangladesh, has been using e-Nothi system since 2019. UGC has recently launched D-Nothi system, the upgraded version of e-Nothi. Almost 95% of UGC files are now being disposed through D-nothi system. UGC also arranged training for the relevant manpower of public universities to introduce D-nothi system. Currently, this system has been launched in a total of 18 universities in two phases. Gradually, D-nothi will be introduced in all public universities as a very useful tool of effective file management and record-keeping system so that it can ensure transparency, accountability and dynamism in university administration.

As part of automaton of the services of higher education institutes (HEI), UGC has adopted on-line based software 'Audit Management and Monitoring System (AMMS) 2.0' in the public universities. These initiatives will strengthen financial transparency and accountability and also ensure quick delivery of services in public universities.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher
Member, UGC

10 more public universities launch D-Nothi system



As part of setting up paperless offices, 10 more public universities of the country have launched D-Nothi (digital file) in the second phase. Earlier in first phase 8 public universities of the country joined D-Nothi system. With the launching of 10 new universities, the total number of public universities joined D-Nothi system now stands to 18.

Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Education, launched the D-Nothi system as the Chief Guest at UGC auditorium on 13 August 2023. Deputy Education Minister Mahibul Hasan Chowdhury was present at the event as a special guest with UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah in the chair.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. Md. Nurul Alam were present on the occasion as discussants. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman delivered welcome speech at the event while Director of Information

Management, Communication and Training Division (IMCT) Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan gave vote of thanks.

Minister of Education Dr. Dipu Moni said, files can be disposed of from anywhere through D-Nothi system. As a result, no files are stuck, the work speed is increasing. This creates a culture of transparency and accountability in official work and reduces chance of corruption. She urged public university authorities to implement the D-Nothi. For this, she called upon the officials and employees to develop their skills through necessary training. She thanked the UGC for taking necessary initiatives to implement the D-Nothi in public universities.

Mahibul Hasan Chowdhury said that the use of D-Nothi will bring dynamism in official work of universities. He urged everyone to avoid the traditional mindset and ensure maximum use of digital technology. He advised university students to acquire practical knowledge on ICT infrastructure

beyond classroom learning and ensure appropriate use of D-Nothi for their universities.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah said, we are entering into Smart Bangladesh from Digital Bangladesh. Implementation of digital file will reduce piles of files, service seekers will get smarter services and suffering will be reduced. He advised the university authorities to be serious in implementing digital files.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain

said in his speech that the universities should come forward to produce smart citizens. Higher education institutions should lead in innovation and research. He appealed to the university authorities to focus on ensuring that the students can acquire skills and grow with self-esteem.

UGC Members Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda and Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher; Vice-Chancellors of Islamic University; Shere Bangla Agricultural University; Jagannath

University; Khulna University of Engineering and Technology; Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; Jessore University of Science and Technology; Barisal University; Bangladesh University of Professionals and Rangamati University of Science and Technology and relevant officials of UGC, A2I and universities were present at the event.

Deputy Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Md. Monir Ullah conducted the program.

Discussion on National Mourning Day at UGC Call to be vigilant to fend off conspiracies against the country

As in the past, national and international conspiracies continue to hinder the progress of the country. Dr. Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Affairs urged the citizen of the country to play the role of watchman to fend off this conspiracy and continue the progress of the on-going development and prosperity of the country.

He made this call while delivering address as the keynote speaker at a discussion meeting on the life and ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman organized by UGC marking the National Mourning Day. The event was organized at the UGC Auditorium on 20 August 2023.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir presided over the event where UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda were present as the discussants. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman delivered welcome speech at the event which was facilitated



by the General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam Dostogir.

Dr. Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said on the occasion that after independence, Bangabandhu led the country from ruins to development through his visionary leadership. But due to the continued conspiracy of the defeated forces, Bangabandhu and his family were killed after only three and a half years. That kind of conspiracy is still going on. The people of the country should therefore be vigilant against all evil attempts. If not, Bangladesh will fall behind again.

He also said that the backbone of Pakistan Army was broken through the liberation war. Bangabandhu and four national leaders were killed in that outrage. Ziaur Rahman, Shah Aziz and the leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and the murderers of Bangabandhu benefited the most from this murder.

Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir in his speech stated that the greatest achievement of Bengalis is independence, and it was brought by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He called on everyone to work together to build Bangabandhu's

non-sectarian Bangladesh and bring smiles to the faces of the suffering people.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that the quality of education and research should be enhanced to build the golden bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu. Defeated forces are still active in hindering the ongoing progress of the country. He expressed optimism that indomitable Bangladesh will achieve its desired goal by ignoring all obstacles and conspiracies.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda said, the purpose of killing

Bangabandhu was not to kill the person Mujib, but the main purpose of the killers was to kill his ideology. But the purpose of the killers did not succeed. Bangabandhu lives on in the hearts of thousands of Bengalis. He called upon everyone to work for the creation of a true Sonar Bangla by holding this ideal.

Director of Public Relations and Rights to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin, Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Director of Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of Public University

Management Division and President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Director of Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Director of General Services, Estate and Engineering Division Zafar Ahommad Jahanger, Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Department Dr. Durga Rani Sarker and Director of Finance and Accounts Division (Additional Charge) Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader and the executive members of Officers Association and Employees Union and officers and employees of UGC were present at the event.

UGC recommends not to allocate fund to unnecessary sectors

Chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah directed the higher education institutions of the country to ensure transparency and accountability in financial expenditure including stopping unnecessary expenses.

He made the remarks at the inauguration of a two-day training on 'Payroll and Smart Accounting System' as the Chief Guest.

The Finance and Accounts Division of UGC organized the training on 09 July 2023 as part of building smart accounting system in the university.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher presided over the meeting where UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman spoke as special guest.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah said that funds will be allocated to the necessary sectors that benefit the university. He directed the concerned officials of UGC not to



allocate funds to unnecessary sectors. He called for maximum utilization of public money and ensuring transparency and accountability.

He also said that the universities of the country should be brought under automation quickly. UGC has to play an effective role in the field of automation. Otherwise, he fears that the higher education sector will fall behind.

Professor Abu Taher said, UGC has launched smart accounting system. Through this, forwarding,

vouchers, check deliveries are being done quickly. It eliminates unnecessary costs, reduces suffering and saves time.

He also said that payroll and smart accounting systems are currently in operation in 14 universities of the country. It will be introduced in all universities in future. Through this, the university's accounting monitoring will be easier and expenditure in unnecessary sectors can be identified.

He believes that the use of software will increase transparency,

accountability and dynamism in the financial sector and bring transparency in the audit process.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that although sending money to the university has become easier through using the software,

attention must be paid to ensure cent percent security.

Additional Director of Finance and Accounts Division Rezaul Karim Hawlader, Deputy Director Abdul Aleem, Senior Assistant Director Md. Nazrul Islam of UGC and CEO and CTO of Software Cell

Md. Oliullah and Hasnain Shukon respectively conducted sessions at the training as resource persons.

A total of 17 officers and employees of Finance and Accounts Division of UGC participated in the training.

UGC Chairman calls for smooth implementation of HEAT, ICSETP projects

Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah has called for the smooth implementation of the 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)' and 'Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education (ICSETP)' projects to improve and transform the country's higher education, strengthen regional networks and produce skilled human resources in the ICT sector.

He made the call while presiding over a meeting to inform the UGC officials about the activities of HEAT and ICSETP projects at UGC auditorium on 10 July 2023.

Members Professor Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman spoke at the meeting. Director of Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan delivered a brief presentation on the two projects in the meeting. Directors of different divisions of UGC and relevant officials participated in the meeting.

UGC Chairman Professor Kazi Shahidullah urged the concerned officials to ensure proper utilization of project funds. He said that there is a tendency in our country to increase the cost of project. You have to come out of



this position. We have to remember that these loans have to be paid from people's hard earned income. So this money should be spent appropriately.

He expressed hope that there will be a visible change in higher education through these projects. He called upon all those concerned with the implementation of the project to be sincere in their duties.

Professor Alamgir, Member-In-Charge of the Commission's Planning and Development Division, said that ADB has come up with the first investment in ICT project in higher education. UGC has already started the process of appointing project director for the implementation of the project. On the other hand, HEAT project has been taken up to improve the quality of education and research in higher education institutions as a whole, including the transformation

of the country's higher education, accelerating the pace, strengthening the regional network and increasing the participation of women as entrepreneurs.

He thanked Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury and the concerned officials of the Ministry of Education and Planning for playing an effective role in the approval of the two projects.

It is to be noted that the UGC has started working as an implementing agency of the two projects titled 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)' and 'Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education (ICSETP)' sponsored by the Ministry of Education to improve the quality of higher education in the country.

The five-year HEAT project will start from July this year. The cost

of the project is estimated at 4 thousand 16 crore 57 lakh taka. The Bangladesh government will bear 50.96 percent of the total project cost while the World Bank will bear 49.4 percent.

On the other hand, the implementation cost of the ICSETP project undertaken to

develop the ICT sector in Bangladesh and build skilled manpower has been estimated at around Tk 1300 crore. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will bear 87.72 percent of the total cost and the Bangladesh government will bear the remaining 12.28 percent. The five-year project is

scheduled to start in the current financial year.

The ICT project will be implemented in Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Jessore University of Science and Technology under the supervision of UGC.

Germany shows interest to assist in education, research and innovation in universities



The German government has expressed its interest in providing cooperation in various fields of higher education including creating opportunities for higher education in German universities for the university teachers of Bangladesh, conducting joint research programs in the universities of the two countries, conducting joint funding of education and research, establishing international centers in the universities of Bangladesh.

A three-member delegation of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAD) expressed this interest during a courtesy meeting with the Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh on 31 August 2023.

Led by Katja Lasch, Director of the German Academic Exchange

Service (DAD), two other members of the delegation were- Aditi Gosavi, Senior Advisor, Communication and Public Relations, DAD Regional Office, Delhi, and Mahmudul Hasan Sumon, Regional Officer, DAD Bangladesh.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan and concerned UGC officials were present at the meeting.

DAD Director Dr. Katja Lasch said that the German Academic Exchange Service provide fund to German universities to offer higher education opportunities to foreign students. A scholarship program has already been offered and eligible and interested candidates from Bangladesh can apply for the scholarship till 28 October 2023.

She requested UGC to encourage Bangladeshi students to apply for the scholarships.

She expressed interest in exploring the issue of cooperation in setting up International Centers in Bangladeshi universities to boost up correspondence with foreign universities. She informed the meeting that Bangladeshi teachers and researchers can also participate in various exchange programs by contacting German universities.

She also sought UGC's cooperation in introducing courses on German studies in Bangladeshi universities. She urged the UGC to take initiatives to create higher education opportunities for Bangladeshis in German universities with joint funding. In addition, she expressed interest in organizing necessary training and workshops to enhance the capacity of those concerned in the management of innovation and incubation centers in Bangladesh.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir assured that UGC will provide all assistance to implement the any German initiative to improve the quality of higher education and research in Bangladesh and urged the delegation to come up with specific proposal.

He also said that improving the

quality of Bangladesh's higher education sector is now the biggest challenge. He called upon the German delegation to cooperate in conducting joint

education and research programs in the universities of the two countries, establishing German language learning institutes in the

Bangladesh universities and increasing the management capacity of the Innovation and Incubation Center in Bangladesh.

Public Universities to get budget based on performance: UGC

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher stated that the UGC is considering to allocate budget to public universities of the country based on the performance of the universities and assessing the implementations of Annual Performance Agreement (APA).

He said that through the implementation of APA, result-oriented education can be ensured in public universities. Through APA, it is possible to ensure transparency and accountability of higher education institutions of the country. He said that the UGC is thinking about allocating of budget to the public universities after verifying the efficiency and implementation of the APA.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop on reviewing the implementation report of Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the public universities for the fiscal year



2022-2023. The workshop was organized at the UGC on 28 August 2023.

Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event while Deputy Director of UGC and Focal Point of APA Bishnu Mallick moderated.

Professor Dr. Abu Taher urged the public university authorities to ensure accountability while spending the people's hard-earned money. The universities of the country should play a leading role in achieving the SDGs by 2030 and government's vision to build a smart Bangladesh by 2041.

In the event, Ferdous Zaman said that an annual performance agreements have been signed to specify the major activities to be performed in the public universities of the country in the current financial year. He urged the focal points to specify the objectives of APA and focus on implementing these objectives.

Members of UGC's APA Implementation Committee and Focal Points of APA of 46 universities participated in the training. The annual evaluation report of the APA work plan was presented and reviewed at the workshop.

Academic seminar to assess relevance of PhD dissertation held at UGC

An academic seminar on "Assessing the relevance of PhD dissertation carried out by the teachers with the fields of their teaching' was held on 28 August 2023 at UGC Conference Room.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain was present at the inaugural ceremony of the event as the Chief Guest.

Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University Prof. Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of Bangladesh Open University Professor Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen, Professor of Public



Administration Department of Dhaka University Akhtar Hossain, Professor of Physics Department

Dr. Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Professor of IER Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib and Professor Dr.

Mohammad Monirur Rashid, Professor of Bengali Department Syed Azizul Haque, Professor of Chemistry Department of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Md. Nurul Absar, Professor of Philosophy Department Dr. Munir Hossain Talukder, Professor of Fisheries Biology and Genetics Department of Shere Bangla Agricultural University Dr. Kazi Ahsan Habib, Professor of Development and Poverty Studies Department Dr. Mohammad Mizanul Haque Kajal and Chairperson of Bangla Department of Jagannath

University Professor Dr. Milton Biswas were present as expert members at the seminar.

The academic seminar was organized by the UGC to assess the relevance of PhD dissertation carried out by the 16 teachers of various government schools and colleges with their teaching field.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain in his speech as the Chief Guest stated that there was no alternative to the research and innovation by teachers in building a smart Bangladesh. The research and innovation should be aligned with

the needs of the country people. He expressed the opinion that it should be seen whether the PhD degree earned by the teachers is of any benefit to the nation.

He also said that it should be ensured that teachers with PhD degrees in government schools and colleges are not deprived of additional financial benefits.

Director of Research Support and Publication Division of UGC Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Additional Director Md. Shahin Siraj and concerned officials were present at the seminar.

UGC's call to simplify higher education services

The service seekers are not much informed about the various services that country's universities are providing. Therefore, UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda called for the publication of citizen charter stating what services the university provides, the method of getting services and the time of getting services.

Besides, he urged the university authorities to simplify the service delivery process and provide the services on online platform.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop on reviewing and providing feedback on the evaluation report of the citizen charter work plan of the public universities for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The workshop was organized at UGC on 29 August 2023.

Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr.



Shamsul Arefin delivered speech at the event as special guest with UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in the chair.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda said that the assigned responsibility should be properly carried out keeping in mind that no kind of negligence occur in providing services. He advised the officials and employees of higher education institutes to develop a mentality of service provider and urged the service receivers to complain if they are not satisfied with the service.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, necessary training should be arranged for the concerned officials and employees to ensure proper service delivery. Apart from this, the existing rules must be properly followed in providing the service.

Deputy Director of UGC and the focal point of citizen charter Abdul Aleem conducted the workshop which was attended by the focal and alternative focal points of citizen charter of 46 public universities.

UGC for building capacity of universities to expand HE

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir suggested that the capacity of the country's universities should be developed in expanding higher education.

He said, many times in the

country, decisions are taken to provide higher education on various subjects without assessing whether the higher education institutions have the required capacity. It is creating various crises and the quality of education

is going down. Therefore, higher education institutions should perform various functions including student admission by building overall capacity.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop



regarding the review of the National Integrity strategy (NIS) work plan of the public university for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The workshop was organized by the UGC at its auditorium on 28 August 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event. The program was conducted by Deputy Secretary of UGC and Focal Point of National Integrity Strategy (NIS) Md. Asaduzzaman.

Professor Alamgir said that

residential halls and other infrastructures are being constructed in some universities without following the academic master plan. The university authorities should come out of this kind of tendency and infrastructure should be developed as per academic master plan.

Professor Alamgir also said that the government has taken a policy decision to establish universities in every district. He said that the aim of the university is to deliver

quality education and conduct quality research. He said, congenial environment for education should be ensured in all universities. How to ensure quality education and graduates can compete in the global job market needs to be addressed. Measures should be taken to ensure that university teachers get research oriented and publish research article in international journals.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman at the event urged the university authorities to be sincere to achieve the targets of APA. He also said that the government has introduced NIS Award as a reward for good work.

Members of UGC's National Integrity Strategy Implementation Committee and focal points of NIS of 46 public universities participated in the training. The implementation report of the NIS workplan was presented and reviewed at the workshop.

UGC advises to update university website

UGC Member and also the Convener of E-governance and Innovation Committee Prof. Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain advised universities to upload all relevant information like research, innovation and teacher-student ratio on the website to get a better position in world university ranking.

He made this suggestion while delivering speech as the Chief Guest at a day-long workshop organized by the E-governance and Innovation Committee of UGC on the need for regular updating of websites of public universities on 25 September 2023. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the inaugural ceremony of the workshop while Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam gave welcome speech.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said that the website of the country's universities should be informative,



updated and smart. He said that the UGC is formulating a policy to bring the universities of the country under a common website. Besides, he also said that the Commission is working to bring universities under automation and produce skilled human resources to lead Smart Bangladesh.

The workshop was conducted by Dwijendra Chandra Das, Senior Assistant Director of IMCT Division and Focal Point of Innovation Committee. Focal points and IT officers of Innovation Committees of 46 public universities participated in the workshop.

Elsevier shows interest in research support for universities to improve rankings

Elsevier, the world's leading publishing house, has expressed its interest in providing the necessary research support to the universities of Bangladesh to get a desired position in the global university ranking. Besides, the institute has shown interest to extend cooperation to advance the qualitative research of the country's universities.

Elsevier expressed its interest in a meeting with UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir on 27 September 2023.

Faraha Siddiqui, Senior Accounts Manager of Journals Elsevier delivered a presentation on the overall research scenario of Bangladesh in the meeting. She said that 51,335 research articles are published every year from Bangladesh. This number has been increasing gradually since 2018. Publication of research article has increased by 19 percent in 2022. She also said that the growth rate of qualitative research is only 2 percent. For this reason, she expressed interest that Elsevier wants to play a role in the development of quality research in the country.

Faraha Siddiqui also said that 90 percent of the research published in Bangladesh is from higher education institutions. Among these research articles, 45 percent have been published in Q1 journals, which is very promising, she said.



Mentioning Bangladesh's position of 53 in research in the world ranking and 13 in the South Asia region, she said, they are keen to work intensively on how Bangladesh can emphasize qualitative research.

Regarding qualitative research, Professor Alamgir said that 174 crore Taka have been allocated for research in the budget of UGC for the financial year 2023-24 so that the universities of the country can do well in qualitative research. Besides, the UGC is providing various research scholarships, fellowships and policies.

He also said that Bangladesh Government and World Bank funded 'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation' and ADB funded 'Improving

Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education' projects are in the process of implementation to help universities of Bangladesh do well in qualitative research. He expressed hope that if these two projects are successfully implemented, the country will move forward in qualitative research.

The meeting was attended by Director of Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, and Senior Solutions Sales Manager (Books) of Elsevier's South Asia region Arnab Kumar Dey. Deputy Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Nushrat Sharita conducted the meeting.

UGC calls to stop ragging in universities forever

Ragging or bullying in the universities is brutal and a criminal offence. That is why UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has urged the Vice-Chancellors to take appropriate measures to stop

barbaric activities like ragging in the university at any cost.

He appealed to the university authorities to take legal action against those involved in ragging and to ensure that the students can study in a congenial environment.

He made this call while delivering speech as the Chief Guest at a training session on the implementation of right to information work plans of public universities.

The training was held on 14

September 2023 at the UGC Auditorium. UGC Member and Convener of the Annual Performance Agreement Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman were present at the event Special Guest with Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin in the chair.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Alamgir said that ragging in the university was unimaginable at one time. Now the news of ragging is often published in newspapers. It is a sad and barbaric act. There was no ragging in the university even in 20 to 25 years back. There was compassion and courtesy among the students. A festive atmosphere was maintained in the campus. University is the best place to practice free intellect.

Torture is being done in the name of ragging in the campus. Students are suffering from mental trauma. We have to come out of this situation. He said that UGC will adopt zero tolerance policy to stop ragging in the university.

Addressing the Vice-Chancellors, he said that the admission of new students to the university has started. Provosts, Proctors and



law enforcement officials should look into these students. Professor Alamgir believes that if the university authorities had gone to the spot immediately after the incident of ragging, harassment and torture and taken measures, incidents like Abrar and Phulpari would not have happened.

The UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) urged concerned persons to be vigilant and take anti-ragging measures to avoid such untoward incidents in universities. He urged the university authorities to take legal action against those involved in ragging, however influential they may be. He further said that our students are very talented, creative and aesthetic. They are always against ragging and brutality. Therefore, initiatives should be taken to stop ragging forever in the university.

Prof. Md. Abu Taher in his speech said that the Right to Information

Act is the only law in the country where there is an obligation to provide information. The law also states that action will be taken against those responsible if this information is not provided within the specified time. He called for all information to be made public except in exceptional cases. Besides, he requested to update the website of the university and publish all the information through digital medium.

Bishnu Mallick, Deputy Director of the Commission and Focal Point of Annual Performance Agreement, was present as a resource person in the training.

The event was conducted by the Deputy Director of the Commission and Focal Point of Right to Information Act Mohammad Abdul Mannan. Focal/Alternate Points of RTI Act of 46 public universities and concerned officers of UGC participated in the training.

UGC recommends to make higher education services smarter

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda has advised to make the service delivery system of the country's higher education institutions smart and eliminate the suffering of the service recipients.

He made the recommendations while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a workshop on updating the citizen charter of public universities for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

He said, Prime Minister has announced to build Smart

Bangladesh by 2041. Digitization of UGC and university services and making the service delivery process easier is essential to build a smart nation. He urged the relevant officials of UGC and universities to be sincere in delivering services to the service seekers.

The training was held at the conference room of UGC on 10 September 2023.

AKM Aftab Hossain Pramanik, Additional Secretary, Secondary & Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, was present

at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop as key discussant with UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in the chair.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda said at the event that university services should be brought under automation quickly to achieve the satisfaction of the citizens. He urged to publish the list of higher education services, service delivery method, service price and information of the concerned officer on the website of the university.

Aftab Hossain Pramanik said that the people are the key stakeholders of the state. He advises service providers to be citizen-friendly and courteous to service-seekers. He elaborated on the need for civic services and its upgradation and Citizen Charter.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that professionalism should be maintained in providing services and the desired services should be provided easily. Because, getting service on time is the constitutional right of the citizen. He believes that transparency in the work of the university can be ensured if the



citizen charter is formulated and followed properly.

Deputy Director of the Commission and Citizen Charter Focal Point Abdul Aleem conducted the workshop which was attended by the Citizen Charter Focal Points and

Alternative Focal Points of 46 public universities. Director of Public Relations and Information Rights Division of UGC Dr. Shamsul Arefin along with the relevant officials involved in the implementation of Citizen Charter of the Commission were present at the event.

UGC urges universities to follow financial regulations properly

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher has called upon the public universities to strictly follow the public procurement rules 2008, National pay scale 2015, general financial rules, revenue guidelines, proper application of financial approval powers and proper submission of bills to bring down the audit objections to zero levels.

He made the call while delivering address at the inaugural ceremony of a training on the use of 'Audit Management and Monitoring System (AMMS) 2.0' as the Chief Guest on 30 August 2023.

UGC organized the training to train the concerned officers of 09 universities of Dhaka region on AMMS software. UGC has taken this initiative to strengthen financial transparency and accountability in public universities and ensure quick delivery of services through the use of software.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman was the special guest at the inauguration ceremony and Director of Finance and Accounts Division (Additional Charge) Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader gave the welcome speech at the event.



Deputy Director of Education Audit Directorate Sunil Kumar Singh and engineer of AMMS software development company Shariful Islam were present at the training resource persons.

Professor Abu Taher said that the public procurement rules should be followed, vouchers and VAT-tax should be paid regularly with the bills, and the national pay scale should be followed in the field of salaries and allowances in order to bring down audit objections in the university. In the interest of the University and to avoid audit objections, the financial regulations need to be followed properly.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, transparency and accountability in all fields including finances need to be ensured, proper utilization of

tax-payers money and financial order must be maintained in public universities. He also said that one of the goals of the UGC is to bring university services under automation quickly. He felt that this training on using AMMS software would be helpful in resolving audit objections.

UGC Deputy Director (Audit) Md. Abdul Mannan conducted the event which was attended by heads of audit cells and concerned audit officials from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shere Bangla Agricultural University, Jagannath University, Bangladesh University of Professionals, Bangladesh University of Textiles and Islamic Arabic University.

Proper planning in research needed to get a better ranking: UGC

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir remarked that the country's universities could not achieve the desired position in the world ranking this year due to lack of proper planning and decision-making in research and innovation fields.

He made the remark while speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of workshop marking the launching of 22 research and innovation sub-projects of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), which is being funded by the City Bank.

The day-long workshop was held at Syed Nazrul Islam Conference Hall in BAU on 30 September 2023.

Director of Bangladesh Agricultural University Research System (BAURES) Professor Dr. Mahfuza Begum presided over the program where Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Emdadul Haque Chowdhury spoke as the chief patron.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Alamgir said that the poor position in global ranking by country's universities is the result of the steps taken by our universities over the past years. To get a better position in the ranking, he urged the university authorities to ensure a congenial environment for research and innovation, recruit qualified teachers, increase the number of regular students in PhD programs, provide scholarships, increase industry-academia collaboration,



and give importance to citations.

He called upon the relevant authorities to give preference to PhD degree holders in the recruitment of teachers in universities and introduce a separate pay scale for teachers. Talented and young students with PhD degrees are not getting interest in teaching profession without attractive salary structure. For this reason, he thinks that a separate pay scale is necessary for university teachers. Besides, he discouraged young teachers from pursuing PhD degrees abroad. He said that there is a huge scope for research on socio-economic problems of the country. Hence, it is by no means advisable to go abroad for research and stay there after the degree.

Vice-Chancellor Emdadul Haque Chowdhury said that the reason for the poor position of the

Agricultural University in the world ranking is that the research works of the university is not cited sufficiently considering the relevance. He believes BAU would have been in the top 600 universities in the world rankings if proper citation had been done.

He called upon the domestic industries to come forward to improve the quality of education and research in the universities and to take various steps including internships to make the graduates suitable for job market.

Convener of BAU Dean Council Professor Dr. Md. Abul Mansur and Head of Commercial Banking of City Bank Mohammad Mahmud Gony spoke at the event as special guests.

In addition, Associate Professor Chayan Goswami of BAURES highlighted the various ongoing research projects of the university in the event.

UGC calls for publication of HE level textbooks in Bengali

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir urged the universities to publish the country's higher education level textbooks and research books in Bengali language.

Apart from this, he also called upon prominent academicians of the country to come forward to publish standard textbooks and research books in Bengali language.

He made this call at a separate MoU signing ceremony between

the manuscript writers and the UGC to publish 06 fundamental books at the higher education level on 12 September 2023 at UGC Meeting Room.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain spoke on the

occasion as Special Guest with Director of Research Support and Publication Division of the Commission Dr. Fakhru Islam in the chair. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman signed the MoU on behalf of the Commission.

Professor Alamgir in his speech of the Chief Guest stated that textbooks should be published in mother language at the higher education level. There is no alternative to the mother tongue Bengali as a medium of higher education. Therefore, we need to pay more attention to publishing textbooks and research books in Bengali language. Countries of the developed world including Japan, Germany, France, South Korea and China provide higher education in their mother tongue. Although they use English language for communication, they use their own language for imparting higher education and publishing. However, he urged to



be enriched in English language as well as mother language to acquire knowledge.

In the speech of the Special Guest Professor Sazzad Hossain said that UGC will continue to provide financial support for the publication of quality research books. UGC is committed to taking effective measures to properly evaluate the creative work and merit of researchers and writers. He said that the Commission is

giving more importance to the publication of research papers and books of international quality. He expressed hope that the authors of textbooks and research books will play a strong role in improving the quality of education.

Authors of the 05 books and relevant UGC officials were present at the event which was moderated by the Additional Director of Research Support and Publication Division Md. Shahin Siraj.

UGC and IEEE sign MoU on use of e-resources



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest international organization of engineers, and the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh regarding the use of e-resources in the country's engineering education and research on 18 September 2023.

Under the MoU, teachers-students and researchers of 30 universities of the country will have the opportunity to use the e-journals and conference proceedings of the US-based institute IEEE.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman and IEEE International Area Manager Colin D'mello signed the agreement on behalf of

their respective institutions.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan and relevant officials were present at the MoU signing ceremony. Deputy Director of UDL section Nushrat Sharita conducted the event.

Professor Alamgir remarked that teachers, researchers and students related to science, engineering and technology education in the country will have easy access to IEEE e-journals and conference proceedings with the signing of the MoU. He expressed the hope that there will be quality improvement and spread of knowledge in the field of education and research in the country with this agreement.

UGC training on AMMS software held

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) arranged a training for the concerned officials of the seven public universities of Sylhet division on 'Audit Management and Monitoring System (AMMS) 2.0' software.

The training was organized at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) on 29 July 2023. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher was present at the inauguration ceremony of the training as the Chief Guest with Vice-Chancellor of SUST Professor Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed in the chair.

UGC has taken this initiative to strengthen financial transparency and accountability in public universities and ensure quick delivery of services through the use of software. Besides, one of the goals of UGC is to bring university services under the scope of automation quickly.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of SUST Professor Dr. Md. Kabir Hossain and Director of IICT Prof. Dr. M. Zahirul Islam were present at the event as special guests. Director of Finance and Accounts Division (Additional Charge) of UGC Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader, Deputy Director of Education Audit Directorate Sunil Kumar Singh and Engineer Md. Shariful Islam of AMMS software development



company were present at the event as resource persons.

Professor Abu Taher said, the use of audit management and monitoring system software will ensure transparency and accountability in the financial sector of the universities. He felt that the audit process will also be completed in less time and lower cost.

Professor Abu Taher also said that the current government is determined to ensure transparency and accountability in all areas, including finances, in public universities. For this purpose UGC is implementing various action plans. This training has been organized in continuation of those actions. Participants in the training will find specific guidelines in conducting financial-audits, he said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Farid

Uddin Ahmed said that the importance of audit is immense to ensure financial transparency, accountability and good governance in every institution. The participants of the training will play an important role in ensuring the financial transparency and accountability of the organization by applying the knowledge gained from the experts in their respective workplaces.

UGC Deputy Director (Audit) Md. Abdul Mannan conducted the program which was attended by the heads of Audit Cell and Audit related officials of Sylhet Agricultural University, Sheikh Hasina University, Sylhet Medical University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University, Kishoreganj, Habiganj Agricultural University and Sunamganj University of Science and Technology.

UGC urges universities to lead in building Smart Bangladesh

Member of University Grant Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain urged the country's universities to lead in building Smart Bangladesh.

He said that the Bangladesh has entered into a Smart Bangladesh from Digital one. The existing curriculum of the universities should be updated to produce skilled human

resources to meet the demand of global labour market. Besides, the universities of the country should move forward through new innovations and research.

He said this while addressing as the Chief Guest at a workshop on reviewing the implementation report of the E-governance and Innovation work plan carried out

under the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) in the public universities for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The workshop was organized at the UGC on 28 August 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the function where Director of Research Support and Publication Division

Dr. Md. Fakhurul Islam spoke as a special guest. Probir Chandra Das, Assistant Secretary and Alternative Focal Point of Innovation Activities conducted the event.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman in his speech said that all concerned must work together to implement the targets of the APA.

The workshop was attended by members of the Innovation Activities Implementation Committee and focal points for implementation of



the Innovation activities of Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of 46 public universities. The annual

implementation report of innovation work plan was presented and reviewed at the workshop.

UGC calls for quick action in cases of harassment in universities

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir called upon the university authorities to act promptly if the female teachers, employees and students of the higher education institutions are subjected to any kind of harassment and oppression.

He requested the university authorities to install a transparent complaint box in a visible place of the university and regularly monitor whether complaints are being dropped. He called for the anonymity of the complainant and to ensure the protection of the individual.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop on reviewing and providing feedback on the annual evaluation report of Grievance Redress System work plan of public universities. The workshop was organized at UGC on 29 August 2023.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher delivered address at the event as Special Guest with UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in the chair. Deputy



Director of the Commission and Focal Point of Annual Performance Agreement (APA) Bishnu Mallick gave welcome speech at the program.

In the speech of the special guest, Professor Abu Taher said, if there is a complaint against any teacher, officer-employee of the country's higher education institution, it should be taken into cognizance quickly. Privacy and security of the complainant must be ensured. Besides, until the complaint is settled, its contents should not be shared in various places including social media.

He also said that an important part of the annual performance agreement is the grievance redress system which play a vital role in the proper management of

the university and increase the institutional capacity.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, although the participation of women in higher education has increased, women are lagging behind in employment. To come out of this situation, gender discrimination in the society should be reduced and patriarchal mentality should be avoided. Authorities should take initiative to ensure proper working environment in every organization.

Focal and Alternate Focal Points of Grievance Redress System of 46 public universities participated in the workshop which was conducted by the UGC Deputy Director and Focal Point for Grievance Redress System Mauli Azad.

UGC's call to turn young generation skilled

Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir called upon the university teachers to play a key role in turning the young generation skilled and well-educated to help them face the challenges of global job market.

He stated that "Teachers from foreign countries remark that the students of Bangladesh are very talented. They will do much better if given proper guidance. Therefore, teachers have to play the role of mentors. Only teachers can guide students in the right direction."

He made the remarks while addressing as the chief guest at the closing and certificate distribution ceremony of the 29th basic training of university teachers at the UGC auditorium on 04 September 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event where Senior Operations Officer of the World Bank Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman was special guest. Director of Graduate Training Institute (GTI) Professor Dr.



Bentul Mawa delivered the welcome speech at the function.

A total of 20 newly recruited teachers from 20 public universities of the country participated in month-long foundation training which was organized by the GTI of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). UGC has been funding and supporting this foundation training.

Professor Alamgir said on the occasion that due to the 4th industrial revolution and Covid there has been a great change in the curriculum and teaching method of the university. For this reason, the need for training of university teachers in the country has increased. He said that all the teachers of the university will be brought under the training in

phases. UGC has taken initiative to establish University Teachers Training Academy in this regard.

Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman said, interactive classroom activities and student assessment in the classroom have limitations in Bangladesh. He suggested more use of modern technology in teaching and training at the university level and urged teachers to play a strong role in nation building.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that training, especially basic training, is very important for young teachers to produce quality teachers at the university level. He urged the teachers to adapt to changing circumstances and aim to make graduates competitive in the global market.

UGC asks NU to stop on-campus courses

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has directed National University to not enroll new students in the undergraduate (honours) programme for the academic year 2022-23 in the main campus.

An office order issued by UGC on 19 September 2023 directed NU authorities to suspend all activities, including enrolling new students in on-campus undergraduate programs. At the same time, an explanation has been sought within 05 working days as to why the initiative has been taken to admit students to the on-campus graduation program.



বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

The UGC issued the directive stating that the process of admitting students to undergraduate programs at the university's main campus is a clear violation of the National Universities Act, 1992. This instruction has been given in view of the decision taken unanimously by the UGC authorities in a meeting on 18 September 2023.

It has been mentioned in the office order that a notification published on the website of the NU on 20 July 2023 regarding admission of students in the Graduate (Honours) program for the academic year 2022-23 at the main campus of the university which came to the attention of the UGC authorities. The notification invited applications for admission of students in LLB, BBA, Tourism and Hospitality Management and Nutrition and Food Science.

Citing the National University Act, 1992, the office order stated that the university was established to oversee colleges, enhance

nce curricula at both graduate and postgraduate levels, elevate educational quality, and improve teacher proficiency.

The order also referred to section 8 (1) of the Act, which states, "All recognised teaching of the university in connection with the conferment of degrees, diplomas, and certificates shall ordinarily be conducted by the colleges, schools, and centres either alone or cooperatively, or in cooperation with the university, or in cooperation with any institution of any other university approved in this regard by the Academic Council."

According to Section-28(1) of the Act regarding the School of Undergraduate Education "The School of Undergraduate Education shall organize the undergraduate education of the College under the overall supervision of the Academic Council and the Syndicate, prescribe the curriculum and syllabus, recommend the rules of examination for the consideration of the Academic Council, maintain the standard of training and will ensure the quality of education".

It is evident from the said sections of the Act that publication of

notification for admission of students to undergraduate program in the main campus of the National University (Gazipur) is a clear violation of the National University Act, 1992.

The office order issued by the Commission directed NU authorities to suspend all activities regarding admission of students and submit a statement to UGC explaining the position of the university along with necessary documents within 05 working days regarding the on-campus graduation program.

UGC calls upon stakeholders to play role in achieving excellence in HE

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called upon the stakeholders to play a strong role in advancing the country's higher education and research sector.

He made the call while addressing a meeting with the stakeholders on the implementation of UGC's National Integrity Strategy Workplan for the fiscal year 2023-2024 as the Chief Guest.

The meeting was held at UGC auditorium on 18 September 2023.

Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event. The program was conducted by Deputy Secretary of UGC and Focal Point of National Integrity Strategy Md. Asaduzzaman.

Professor Alamgir in his speech stated that the UGC has adopted various policies and plans to achieve excellence in higher education in the country. He called upon the stakeholders to give constructive suggestions to build trust in UGC and universities and take these institutions to the desired position.

The Member in charge of the



administration division of UGC also said that it is necessary to determine the rationale for opening new departments in the university. He recommended the university authorities to come out of opening unnecessary departments and take necessary advice of UGC for expansion of university infrastructure.

"Some universities are not conducting education programs after opening new departments. Before opening a new department few issues like requirement of necessary infrastructure, lab facilities and manpower should be considered. At the same time, necessary surveys should be

conducted to open the department," he said.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, the Commission takes logical suggestions from the stakeholders to make its achievements meaningful. He believes that the suggestions of the participants will play an important role in the implementation of Bangabandhu's higher education ideas. He further said that UGC's efforts to ensure quality education and research will continue.

The meeting was attended by relevant UGC officials, teachers and officials of various universities, media representatives and beneficiaries of higher education services.

UGC expects regional cooperation to advance education and research

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called for sustainable cooperation in academic and research activities between the higher education and research institutions of Bangladesh and the higher education institutions of South Asia.

He made the call in a panel discussion titled "Preserving the Past, Ensuring Access for the Future: A Rendezvous with Digital Education".

Elsevier, an international publishing house based in the Netherlands, organized the meeting in India. The closing ceremony of the three-day "Better Together Forum" was held at the Indiana Palace in Jaipur on 20 July 2023.

Professor Alamgir in the discussion stated that there was an opportunity for South Asian countries to work together in the field of higher education and research. We need to harness regional potential in higher education and research. He remarked that it was crucial for the higher education institutes of south Asia to exchange latest



technology, innovation and development activity models among themselves to move the higher education and research forward.

He also said that as a leading scientific publisher, Elsevier should help emerging countries like Bangladesh to use e-resources easily. Attention should be paid to ensure meaningful access of researchers in quality e-books and journals. He said that quality research is not possible without access to up-to-date and quality research results worldwide.

Professor Alamgir said, the UGC has taken several steps to ensure quality research in Bangladesh. He pointed out that in recent years

there has been a significant increase in the budgetary allocation to the research sector and scholarships for higher education abroad for university teachers.

Elsevier's Asia Pacific Research Solutions Vice-President Sourav Sharma said, Bangladesh universities will be given the necessary support in academic and research activities to achieve a good position in the world rankings.

Gwen Evans, Elsevier's Vice-President of Global Library Relations, delivered the keynote address at the event. 50 resource persons including deans and librarians of various universities and institutes of India and Bangladesh participated in the discussion.

UGC urges universities to ensure safety and security of the complainant

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir said that there are 170 universities in the country. Various irregularities, harassment and oppression are happening in these higher education institutions. He called upon the university authorities to create a congenial environment for the aggrieved person to lodge a complaint and ensure the safety and security of the complainant.

He made the remark while addressing a workshop on



Grievance Redress System and GRS software at the UGC on 25

September 2023. Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman

presided over the workshop.

Professor Alamgir said that the identity of teachers, staff and students of higher education institutions of the country should be kept secret if they are subjected to any kind of harassment and oppression. He called upon the university authorities to take the complaint

into cognizance and investigate and go for a quick action. He requested not to share the allegations of irregularities and harassment in social media before settling them.

He directed the focal point of the Commission's Grievance Redressal System to set up a transparent complaint box at the

UGC and regularly monitor whether complaints are received here.

26 UGC officials participated in the workshop which was conducted by Mauli Azad, Deputy Director, Public University Management Department and also the Focal Point for Grievance Redress System.

UGC Chairman calls for achieving excellence at individual level

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir remarked that excellence in action and practice at the individual level need to be ensured to brighten the image of higher education institutions. The officers and employees should perform their duties with sincerity and dedication with the mentality of delivering service.

Professor Alamgir said that the government has set different development targets. To move the country and organization forward, change must be brought from the individual level. For this reason, the mindset should be changed first. You have to do your work properly. No task should be underestimated. Institutions must be conceived from the heart. Then the skills of the person will increase, there will be changes in official work. The goal must be achieved through collective efforts of all.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop on National Integrity Strategy Work Plan for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

The training was held on 13 September 2023 at the UGC Auditorium. UGC Secretary Dr.

Feredous Zaman presided over the event.

Professor Muhammed Alamgir said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman provided autonomy to the universities in 1973 with the aim turn the higher education institutions as centers of education, research and free thoughts and established University Grants Commission of Bangladesh to take care of the universities. UGC, since its inception, is working to fulfill the wishes of Bangabandhu in higher education and research. To make Bangabandhu's dream a reality, higher education institutions should be developed as centers of quality education and research. Activities that malign the image of Commission must be avoided. He

urged the concerned to ensure the desired services to the universities.

Dr. Feredous Zaman said that accountability and transparency should be ensured in the performance of individual activity. He said that it will be possible to establish justice if the proper utilization of state resources is ensured.

The Deputy Secretary of the Commission and the focal point of the National Integrity Strategy Md. Asaduzzaman conducted the event where Additional Director of Research Support and Publication Division Md. Shahin Siraj was the resource person. A total of 96 employees of UGC participated in the training.



UGC recommends use of solar power in public universities

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has suggested the use of solar power in all public universities of the country to establish green

campuses with clean energy, and to save costs in the energy sector. In this regard, a time bound policy will be formulated for the use of solar power.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammad Alamgir made the remark while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a program titled Solar

Energy Development Model in Public University' at UGC on 21 September 2023.

Energy advisor of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of Daffodil International University Professor Dr. Shamsul Alam presided over the ceremony. Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Golam Shabbir Sattar and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman was the special guests at the event where Director of the Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan delivered welcome address.

Presentations were delivered in the event by Research Coordinator of CAB Engineer Shovo Kibria on 'Social Movement for Environment Protection and Solar Power Development: Perspective University'; Project Consultant of Novelty Energy Limited Engineer Md. Intikhab Alam on 'Solar PV System Development under OPEX Model for Public University', Associate Professor of Daffodil International University Tasmia Baten on 'Conducting Energy Audit in Public University' and Nusrat Chowdhury and Sihab Uddin of the same University on 'Off-Grid/On-Grid DC/AC Solar Power Plant Performance Study'.

Professor Alamgir, Member-in-Charge of Planning and Development Division of UGC, also said, "Under the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, the government has pledged to



ensure 40 percent renewable energy consumption by 2041. Therefore, steps must be taken to reduce the use of fossil fuels from now on. Ensure increased use of renewable energy to establish clean energy and green campuses. For this, time bound policy has to be formulated."

He said, the Renewable Energy Policy 2008 has mentioned ensuring use of 10 percent renewable energy by 2021. But, due to the lack of modern policies, even one percent of electricity production was not possible here. He urged the concerned authorities to look into whether electricity is being produced from solar panels installed in the infrastructure of the universities.

He also said that the use of solar power can be an important and timely step to mitigate the power crisis in public universities of the country. Using solar power will reduce carbon emissions, save

costs and have a positive impact on the environment. However, he suggested conducting a feasibility study before using solar power in the university.

Professor Golam Sabbir said, in the future, the university will need a lot of electricity. Use of solar power will reduce government costs, save energy and promote technology. Through the use of solar power, new technologies will be invented in public universities and skilled manpower will be created in this sector.

Professor Shamsul Alam in his speech stated that it will be possible to generate 500 megawatts of power if rooftop and ground solar power is used in OPEX model in the university. He also said that if the use of solar power is started in public universities, it will be possible to meet 20 percent of the total electricity demand in the next 5 years.

UGC calls for creating research culture in universities

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir urged the universities of the country to develop a culture of research to achieve a better position in the world university

rankings. UGC has taken initiatives to increase the allocation to this sector at a significant rate to encourage university teachers to carry out research.

The university should take the initiative to conduct research with regular students at Masters and PhD level and provide good amounts of fund as scholarships and residential facilities to these students for quality research.

He made this call in the speech of the chief guest at a workshop on evaluation of research project proposals of Bio Chemistry sub-discipline in the public universities of the country in the fiscal year 2022-2023.

A total of 36 research project proposals were evaluated in the workshop. Research Support and Publication Division organized the workshop at UGC Auditorium on 24 September 2023. Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam presided over the opening ceremony of the workshop.

On the occasion, Professor Alamgir said that UGC is giving importance to conducting quality and fruitful research in the universities of the country. To make universities interested in research, UGC has taken various initiatives including increase in allocation, grant for publication of research results in international journals, participation in international conferences, financial support in organizing seminars at the national and international level of the university. He thinks that universities will advance in research through these activities.

Dr. Fakhru Islam said that every research conducted under the funding of UGC should be published in recognized journals.



He said that a policy called University-Industry Collaborative Research Grants is being made to open up new horizons of research in the country. Besides, he informed that UGC is also working on strengthening university-industry and academia collaboration.

The workshop was attended by Professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Al-Naqib Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Sylhet International University Professor Dr. Md. Ashraf Alam, Professor of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Md. Nurul Absar, Professor of Jagannath University Dr. AKM Lutfur Rahman, Professor of Dhaka University Dr. Emran Qayyum, Professor of Jagannath University Dr. Mohammad Sayeed Alam, Professor of Dhaka University Dr. Sayeed Md.

Shamsuddin, Professor of the same university Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan, Professor of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Muhammad Motahar Hossain, retired professor of Dhaka University Dr. Nilufar Nahar, Professor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak, Professor of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Kaushik Shaha, Professor of Jagannath University Dr. Muhammad Zamir Hossain, Associate Professor of the same university Dr. Muhammad Rajibul Haque Akand and Associate Professor of Dhaka University Dr. Md. Delwar Hossain as experts.

Additional Director of Research Support and Publication Division Nahid Sultana along with relevant officers of the division were also present in the workshop.

UGC and IEEE agree to renew deal regarding use of e-resources

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest international organization of engineers, has expressed interest to provide continuous cooperation regarding the use of e-resources in engineering education and research in the country.

The US-based organization

proposes to deliver e-journals and conference proceedings to the country's teachers and students of engineering and related subjects through the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. To this end, both parties have agreed to renew the existing agreement between UGC and IEEE.

The decision was taken at a

meeting between the delegation of IEEE and UGC Member Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir. The three-member delegation was led by IEEE International Sales Director Paul Cuning. Other members of the IEEE delegation were Colin DeMello, International Area Manager, IEEE and Shaji John, Vice President (Sales) of

Ebsco Information Services India Private Limited.

Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division of UGC Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan and Director of Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan and concerned officials were present at the meeting. Deputy Director of UDL Nushrat Sharita conducted the meeting.

Professor Alamgir in the meeting stated that IEEE is a reliable organization for engineering, computing and information technology worldwide. With the mutual collaboration of UGC and IEEE, teachers, researchers and students involved in engineering education will have easy access to highly cited publications in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechatronics, Cyber Security, Internet of Things and other engineering disciplines.



Paul Cunning in his speech assured that IEEE would support the growth, innovation and improvement of engineering education by providing students, teachers, engineers and researchers in Bangladesh with the necessary and latest information on engineering education. He expressed interest in strengthening bilateral relations through joint discussions and cooperation.

Both the parties in the meeting discussed in details on the further

expansion of the use of e-resources in the universities of the country.

It is to be noted that UGC is emphasizing on developing an institutional open education resource policy to advance the country's higher education sector using technology. This will ensure easy and free access of students to educational resources. Besides, more than 34 thousand e-resources of 14 international institutions are being provided to universities through UGC Digital Library.

UGC urges universities to focus on research reducing post-graduate students

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has stated that the public universities of the country should reduce the admission of students at postgraduate level to focus on research.

He made the remark at a discussion meeting on the celebration of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) Day 2023. The meeting was held on 01 September 2023 at KUET Auditorium.

Vice-Chancellor of KUET Professor Dr. Mihir Ranjan Halder presided over the meeting where Vice-Chancellor of Sunamganj Science and Technology University Professor Dr. Md. Abu



Naim Sheikh and Pro-Vice Chancellor of KUET Professor Dr. Sobhan Mia were present as special guests.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Alamgir said that

graduation or honors degrees should be considered as terminal degrees in all universities. At the same time, the number of students admitted at postgraduate level should be reduced and more

attention should be given to research. Otherwise, universities will fall behind the desired goal, he opined. He suggested admission of 40 students at honors level in engineering education and 60 students in social sciences and humanities.

Professor Alamgir said that the university authorities can arrange scholarships for postgraduate students, if necessary. The amount of this scholarship should be such that a student can live comfortably in the current market conditions. Besides, he expressed the opinion that the university authorities can also arrange loans for postgraduate and PhD students.

He also said that the quality of any university cannot be measured by the number of students and departments. More focus on how to achieve quality in education and research should be given rather increasing number of students and departments.

Besides, he urged the concerned authorities to complete various development projects in public universities on time and in proper manner.

In the meeting, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Mihir Ranjan Halder said that the ongoing development trend of the university should be continued and KUET should

achieve the top position in engineering education.

He also said that within one year of taking charge, the organogram has been developed, the project money has been released. He is now giving full attention to the development of the educational system of the university. In this regard, he expects everyone's cooperation in improving the quality of education and improving the learning environment.

It should be noted that on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of KUET, a day-long event was organized on 01 September 2023.

3 new public universities get UGC's nod to launch education programs

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has approved three new public universities to start academic programs from the next academic year 2023-24. With this approval these universities will now be able to admit students from next year. A maximum of 40 students are allowed to be admitted in any subject to achieve the true objective of education and to ensure participatory teaching.

The universities are - Kurigram Agricultural University, Sunamganj University of Science and Technology and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology, Pirojpur.

The approval was given at a meeting of the committee formed to review the proposed faculty, department and manpower appointment for these three universities. UGC Member Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir presided over the meeting.

The meeting approved Faculty of Agriculture and Fisheries at Kurigram Agricultural University, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science and



Engineering Department under the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at Sunamganj University of Science and Technology, Mathematics, Psychology, Statistics and Computer Science and Engineering Department under the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology, Pirojpur. The meeting also approved requisite manpower for these universities.

In the meeting, the university authorities were advised to appoint talented, skilled and experienced teachers for proper management of the educational program.

The meeting held at UGC on 01 August 2023 was attended by UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, Vice-chancellor of Kurigram Agricultural University Professor Dr. AKM Zakir Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Sunamganj University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Md. Abu Naim Sheikh, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman University of Science and Technology, Pirojpur Prof. Dr. Kazi Saifuddin, Director of Public University Management Division of UGC Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Additional Director Md. Fazlur Rahman along with the concerned officials of UGC and universities.

Professor Alamgir in the meeting stated that faculty, department and manpower have been approved for the purpose of admitting students in three new public universities subject to conditions. He expressed optimism that these universities will play an important role in the

socio-economic development of the country through research and producing of skilled manpower for a building a smart Bangladesh. He advised the Vice-Chancellors to initially sign MoUs for the use of labs of nearby universities and research institutes for maximum utilization of resources.

Regarding student admission, Professor Alamgir said, the number of students admitted to higher education institutions will be determined based on the university's infrastructure, quality education and research management facilities.

UGC calls for construction of campus of Sunamganj University keeping characteristics of Haor intact

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has called for acquisition of land and construction of climate-tolerant infrastructure on the acquired land in Sunamganj University of Science and Technology while keeping the characteristics of Haor area intact.

Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member in-charge of Planning and Development Division of UGC, made the call at the review meeting held on the proposal of a survey project for adopting the development project of Sunamganj University of Science and Technology.

The meeting was held at UGC Meeting room on 17 July 2023.

Professor Alamgir said, no development project of the university can be implemented destroying the environment. Unplanned construction of infrastructure increases the risk of floods, inundation and waterlogging in Haor and the coastal areas. Therefore, the



characteristics of environment and the nature should always be kept in mind while acquiring land in Haor area.

He also said that socio-economic impact should be taken into account in the acquisition of land for Sunamganj University of Science and Technology. Besides, the development activities of the university should be planned without filling the reservoir.

Vice-Chancellor of Sunamganj University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Md. Abu Naim Sheikh, Registrar GM Shahidul Alam, Director of

Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Additional Director Shah Mohammad Aminul Islam and concerned officials were present at the meeting.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abu Naim Sheikh sought the cooperation of all concerned in order to acquire land for the newly established university and build an aesthetic and environment-friendly campus.

In the meeting, Registrar of the university GM Shahidul Alam highlighted various aspects of the development project.

Professor Haseena Khan joins UGC as a Member

Prominent researcher and retired Professor of the University of Dhaka Professor Dr. Haseena Khan has joined the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) as a full-time Member.

She submitted her joining letter to UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman on 07 September 2023 after the meeting with UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Mohammed Alamgir.

It is to be noted that on Tuesday (05 September 2023), the Ministry of Education issued an office order appointing her as a full-time member of the Commission for four years.

Professor Dr. Haseena Khan is a retired teacher in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the University of Dhaka.

Dr. Haseena Khan, a recipient of Swadhinata Padak, was directly associated with the decoding of Genome of hilsa fish and genome sequencing of jute. This distinguished researcher also served as a UGC professor.

Joined as a Member of the UGC Professor Dr. Haseena Khan was felicitated by Commission Chairman (Additional Charge), Members, Secretary, heads of Divisions, UGC Officers Association and Employees Union.



Prof. Sonia Nishat Amin selected as Bangladesh Chair of Heidelberg University

Honorary Professor of the Department History of Dhaka University Dr. Sonia Nishat Amin has been selected as the Bangladesh Chair (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Professorial Fellowship) of Germany's famous Heidelberg University.

In the new position Dr. Sonia Nishat Amin will teach the students from different countries at the South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University on Bangabandhu and Bangladesh during the current winter semester (October 2023 to March 2024).

The selecting was given at a meeting of the committee formed for awarding 'Bangladesh Chair' with UGC Member Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir in the chair. The meeting was held on 07 August on the Zoom platform.

The meeting was joined by UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr.

Md. Abu Taher, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, head of the Modern Indology Department of Heidelberg University, Germany Professor Dr. Hans Harder, Executive Secretary of SAI Dr. Martin Gieselman, Head of Anthropology Department Professor William Sachs, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Western Europe and EU) Kazi Russell Pervez, Minister of Bangladesh Embassy in Germany Kazi Mohammad Javed Iqbal and concerned officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UGC.

Professor Alamgir in the meeting remarked that Professor Sonia Nishat Amin will present the political philosophy of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangabandhu's outstanding leadership, works and ideals to the students, teachers and researchers of the outside world under the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Professorial Fellowship. Besides, she will highlight the culture,



current socio-economic progress of Bangladesh.

He also said that the Bangladesh chair will be selected at the beginning of April from next year.

Under the fellowship Prof. Sonia Nishat Amin will participate in departmental meetings, seminars and conferences of SAI. At the same time she will conduct research activities.

It is to be mentioned that the 'Bangladesh Chair' was established at Heidelberg University in 1999. In the first two

years of its inception, teachers from various universities joined under this fellowship. But after 2002 no teacher joined under this fellowship

On the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the government again took the initiative to launch the 'Bangladesh Chair'. In 2021,

the former Vice-Chancellor of the National University, Professor Dr. Harun-or Rashid was elected for the 'Bangladesh Chair'.

UGC appoints Prof Aftab and Prof Sachchidananda as UGC Professors

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh has appointed two eminent researchers of the country as UGC Professors.

The professors who got the 'UGC Professorship 2022' are Dhaka University former Professor Dr. Aftab Alam Khan, a teacher of the Department of Oceanography and Hydrography at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, and Professor Dr. Sachchidananda Das Chowdhury, a teacher of the Department of Poultry Science at Bangladesh Agricultural University.

The decision was taken unanimously in a meeting of the UGC professorship recruitment committee under the chairmanship of UGC chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah on 13 July 2023.

UGC Members Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr.



Md. Abu Taher, Pro-vice-chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University Mohammad Abdul Baki, Vice-chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Hafiza Khatun, Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. Md Nurul Alam and Member of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission Professor Dr.

Mubina Khondkar, Director of Research Support and Publication Division of Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, and Additional Director Md. Shahin Siraj, among others, were present in the meeting.

The two researchers of the country will perform the duties of the UGC Professorship for the next two years. Their tenure will be counted from the date of joining.

UGC Member Dr. Haseena Khan pays tribute to Bangabandhu's portrait

The newly appointed Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Haseena Khan paid tribute to the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She placed wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation along with the heads of different divisions of UGC on 14 September 2023 at Dhanmondi-32 in the capital.

Besides, a views exchange meeting was organized on the occasion of Professor Haseena



Khan's joining in the Commission. Chairman of the Commission (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Member of

the Commission Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman and heads of divisions participated the meeting.

It should be noted that distinguished researcher and retired Professor of Dhaka University Professor Haseena Khan joined the Commission as a full-time Member on 07

September 2023.

Professor Dr. Haseena Khan is a retired teacher in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the University of Dhaka.

Dr. Haseena Khan was directly associated with the decoding of Genome of hilsa fish and genome sequencing of jute. This distinguished researcher also served as a UGC professor.

UGC pays tributes to Father of Nation on National Day of Mourning

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) paid tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at the mural of Bangabandhu on the premises of UGC marking the 48th martyrdom anniversary and National Mourning Day on 15th August 2023.

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin, Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam, Director of Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of Public



University Management Division and President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Director of Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, Director of General Services, Estate and Engineering Division Zafar Ahommad Jahanger and Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Division Dr.

Durga Rani Sarker were present at the event.

Besides, General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Golam Dostogir, President of Employees Union, Nurul Islam Bapari, General Secretary Saiful Islam along with executive members of Officers Association and Employees Union and officers and employees of UGC were present.

UGC Chairman mourns the death of JU student

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Fabiha Afifa Srijani, a student of Economics Department of Jahangirnagar.

Professor Alamgir said such a death was unexpected. Her untimely death is an irreparable loss to his family. He urged the concerned authorities to investigate into the matter and



take action against the driver.

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

It should be noted that Fabiha, who was injured in a road accident, died on 03 September while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital. She was fatally injured after being hit by a reckless truck in city's Kuril area.



বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

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