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Editor's Note

The nation celebrated the 53rd Victory Day amid festivity, paying homage to three million martyrs and freedom fighters of the Liberation War on 16 December 2023. The country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces on that day 52 years back after a nine-month-long bloodstained War of Liberation. When the newly independent country of Bangladesh was born on December 16, 1971, it was the second poorest country in the world—making the country's transformation over the next 53 years one of the great development stories.

With the right policies and implementation, Bangladesh stands poised to become a rapidly growing middle-income country and achieve the SDGs. Bangladesh's success comprises many moving parts—from investing in human capital to establishing macroeconomic stability. Building on this success, the country is now setting the stage for further economic growth and job creation by ramping up investments in energy, inland connectivity, urban projects, and transport infrastructure, as well as prioritizing climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness on its path toward sustainable growth. The country now sets the vision to turn into a Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

Bangladesh will face significant challenges to achieve its vision to transform the country into a smart one. As Bangladesh lacks any significant mineral resources, the only thing remains as best option is to develop its huge workforce into human resources to boost up its economy. During last decade radical change has been accomplished in higher education sector in Bangladesh to produce the skilled manpower. The government has taken a number of significant steps through the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) to imparting quality higher education. A number of specialized universities have been established to produce highly skilled manpower with critical thinking and innovative ideas. The UGC also urges the university authority to pay maximum attention on fostering research and innovation and developing linkages between academia and industry/corporate professionals.

The HEIs have a very pivotal role to play to achieve the vision 2041. The 53rd victory day will work as inspiration to work shoulder to shoulder to build a Sonar Bangla as dreamt by our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher
Member, UGC

UGC Calls for increased budget allocation to implement SPHE



Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called for increasing the allocation of the higher education sector in the national budget to ensure quality higher education through implementing Strategic Plan for Higher Education (SPHE-2018-2030).

He called for an increase in 6 percent of the total budget allocated to the higher education sector by 2030 to solve the crisis of higher education in the country.

He made this call in the speech of the Chief Guest in the opening ceremony of a workshop titled 'Budget Formulation of Public Universities and Implementation'.

The Finance and Accounts Division of UGC organized the day-long workshop on 18 November 2023.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher presided over the event where Director of Finance and Accounts Division of the Commission (In-charge) Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader gave the welcome address.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Alamgir said that the number of universities is gradually increasing in the country. In proportion to that, the budget allocation for improving the quality of higher education has not been increased.

He also said that initiatives should be taken to implement the 'Uniform Financial Policy' formulated by UGC in all universities. UGC has already taken the initiative to revise this policy to ensure financial discipline of the universities. It will act as an 'umbrella policy' for the financial sector. Through this, public

universities financial irregularities and audit objection will come down to zero level, he opined.

Professor Abu Taher in his speech urged the university authorities including the Directors of Accounts Divisions to properly follow and enforce the government regulations in the public universities. He said that audit objections will continue to increase if government regulations

are not followed properly.

Besides, he advised public universities to form endowment funds to reduce their dependency on the government revenue budget.

Deputy Director of Finance and Accounts Division of UGC Md. Hafizur Rahman conducted the event which was attended by a total of 105 officials in charge of

the finance and accounting departments of 54 public universities of the country. Director of Finance and Accounting Division (In-charge) Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader, Deputy Directors of the same division Md. Amdadul Haque and Md. Hafizur Rahman conducted sessions on the formulation of budget of public universities and implementation in the day-long workshop.

UGC formulates guidelines for building Smart Bangladesh

UGC is preparing a guideline to include artificial intelligence, digital security, fourth industrial revolution, big data, blockchain, robotics and internet of things in the university curriculum to develop skilled manpower for building a smart Bangladesh.

UGC opines that these guidelines will be very helpful in introducing modern technology, specialized programs and training in the university curriculum at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The 1st meeting of the concerned committee was held at UGC on 14 November 2023. The meeting discussed in details about the quick drafting of the guidelines and various steps for implementation in the university.

UGC Member and Convener of the committee Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain chaired the meeting which was attended by the Member of the Commission Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University Professor Dr. Md. Giashuddin Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University Prof Dr. Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology Prof. Dr. Muhammad



Fazli Ilahi, Dean of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu, Director of IMCT Division of UGC Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Additional Director of IMCT Division Tahmina Rahman, Deputy Director Nushrat Sharita and Assistant Director Khandkar Sahabat Rizvi as members the committee.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that an initiative has been taken to develop a guideline to include technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Digital Security, Fourth Industrial Revolution, Big Data, Blockchain, Robotics and Internet of Things etc. in the curriculum of the university to produce skilled manpower for building a smart Bangladesh. This will be very helpful in implementing the Smart Bangladesh vision of the present

government. He further said that it is necessary to increase the knowledge and skills of the students to keep pace with the world. For this purpose, emphasis should be placed on the practical use of emerging technologies in the curriculum of universities.

He also said that the government is working to improve the quality of life of the people of the country and establish a knowledge-based economy through digitalization, innovation and research-based education. If these modern technologies are added to the university curriculum, skilled manpower will be produced in the country and a huge amount of remittance will be earned by exporting these manpower abroad.

It is to be noted that the draft of the guideline will be finalized this month which will help including the relevant technologies to the university curriculum.

UGC urges private universities to take services from BdREN

UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda urges the private universities of the country to take the services from the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) to achieve the desired goal in education and research.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at a workshop titled 'Development of private universities through taking the services of BdREN'. The workshop was held on 16 November 2023 at UGC Auditorium.

Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Executive Officer of BdREN, presided over the function where Director of Private University Division of UGC Md. Omar Faruque spoke as special guest.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Biswajit Chanda said, BdREN is providing various types of digital services by establishing a world-class network. BdREN is maintaining professionalism in providing these services and developing software applications to speed up the activities of UGC. He said that the private universities of the country can consider taking the services of



BdREN to advance education and research. He highly appreciated the BdREN's service to hold online classes through Zoom platform during Covid period.

UGC Director Md. Omar Faruque urged CEO BdREN to take steps to bring the quality services of BdREN to the doorsteps of private universities. He expressed his optimism that the teachers, students and researchers of the university will be benefited from this. He opined that private universities can continue the education program by providing online teaching during the time of disaster by accepting the services of BdREN.

BdREN CEO Mohammad Tawrit said, BdREN is moving ahead with

the slogan 'Research Haven'. Currently, they are providing various services which includes network, data and hosting identity to 195 organizations. With the help of UGC, BdREN is trying to provide services to public universities as well as private universities by accelerating its activities.

He also said that BdREN is working to expand its network to self-funded private universities.

In the workshop, BdREN CTO Ekhlash Uddin Ahmed presented a documentary on the activities of BdREN Trust. Vice chancellors, treasurers, IT directors and relevant officials of 32 private universities in Dhaka participated in the workshop.

Workshop on APA held in UGC



A workshop to review of 1st quarter report of Annual Performance Agreement (APA) work plan of public universities for the 2023-2024 financial year was held on 18 October 2023 at the

conference room of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh.

The 1st quarter reports of the APA work plans of 46 universities were

reviewed at the workshop and recommendations were made on how to preserve evidences of the activities.

Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher, Member of the UGC and also the Convener of APA team, was present at the workshop as the Chief Guest with UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in the chair.

In his speech as the Chief Guest, Professor Abu Taher said that annual performance agreements are very important in bringing dynamism in service delivery, increasing efficiency and ensuring responsibility and accountability in

the activities of public universities. Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that it is important to evaluate the performance of employees based on their work skills and innovation. If there is a system of rewards for good work, the competition in the work will increase and the employees will be interested in

performing the official activities with devotion.

UGC Deputy Director and APA Focal Point Bishnu Mallick conducted the workshop and UGC Additional Director Jasmin Pervin and Joint Secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education

Noor-e-Alam were present as discussants in the workshop.

The workshop was attended by the Focal Points of APA of 46 Public Universities and the Focal Points and Alternate Focal Points of APA and its five components of UGC.

Cluster admission test in upcoming academic year: UGC

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir stated that admission test will be held in cluster system in public universities in the upcoming 2023-24 academic year as well.

He said this while addressing a stakeholders meeting as the Chief Guest arranged at UGC on 29 November 2023 as part of the implementation of National Integrity Strategy Workplan for the financial year 2023-2024.

Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event where Director of IMCT Division Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan gave a welcome address.

In the meeting, Professor Alamgir said that according to the desire of His Excellency the President, the UGC has taken the initiative of conducting an admission test under a single umbrella of all the universities. A committee was formed in this regard and after detailed discussion also drafted an ordinance. But, due to unavoidable reasons, it is not possible to organize a uniform admission test from the upcoming academic year. However, like last year, the admission test will be held in cluster mode in the upcoming academic year as well.

He urged the universities outside the cluster admission test including Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and



Technology to join the cluster this year.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Alamgir also raised questions about keeping ward quota in public university entrance exams. He said that more than 92 thousand students got GPA-5 in HSC examination this year. Public universities have more than 60,000 seats. These students will not be able to get admission in their desired university and subject. Under such circumstances, there is no opportunity to keep ward quota in the university admission process at undergraduate level. He advised universities to come out of ward quotas.

The Member in charge of the UGC's Planning and Development Division also said that the Commission is now planning to logically decide what subject will be taught in which university, what will be the number of students, considering the domestic and international context. He said, the main objective of UGC is to

maintain quality in higher education, ensure suitable environment for research and allocate necessary funds.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, we are lagging behind neighboring countries in higher education. To build a developed and smart Bangladesh by 2041, quality education must be ensured. He said that UGC is formulating various strategic plans and policies in this regard.

Deputy Secretary of UGC and also the focal point of National Integrity Strategy Md. Asaduzzaman conducted the meeting which was attended by Professor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dr. Mirza Hasanuzzaman, Professor of Jagannath University Muhammad Zamir Hossain, Registrar of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology Professor Dr. Raju Ahmed, Additional Director of UGC Jasmin Parvin and Md Shahin Siraj and officials of UGC and various public universities and media representatives participated in the meeting.

UGC calls for building smart universities to provide quality education

UGC Member and Convener of the Innovation team Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain urged the teachers and researchers of the country's higher education institutions to lead in the building of Smart Bangladesh.

He advised the university teachers to play a role in the economic progress of the country through research, innovation and technological invention.

He said this while speaking as the Chief Guest at the workshop on the need for regular updating of information in the websites of public universities. The workshop was held on 28 November 2023 in the auditorium of UGC.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said that websites of all the universities should be updated regularly to highlight the country's higher education institutions in front of the world.

Faculty profiles, research and innovation related information should be uploaded to the university websites. Besides, he



opined that a research data base should be developed to show the real picture of the research.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman was present at the event as Special Guest with Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam in the chair. Additional Director of Research Support and Publication Division and Member of Innovation Committee Md. Shahin Siraj delivered closing remarks at the workshop.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, if the website is not updated regularly,

there is a chance that the university's position in the world ranking will go backwards.

Dr. Fakhru Islam said that education and research information should be uploaded on the websites appropriately for building of smart universities and get a position in world ranking.

Dwijendra Chandra Das, System Engineer of UGC's IMCT Division and also the Innovation Focal Point conducted the event which was attended by the relevant officials of 46 public universities.

UGC recommends issuance of Ordinance on uniform admission test



The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended the issuance of an ordinance to hold a uniform admission test in all public universities from the academic year 2023-2024.

The decision was taken unanimously by the committee constituted by the UGC to organize the uniform admission test in a meeting held on 10 October 2023.

It may be noted that a 15 members high-powered committee was

formed with UGC Chairman as the convener in July 2023 to arrange the uniform admission test.

It was decided in the meeting that it is necessary to issue an Ordinance to conduct a uniform admission test involving all the public universities of the country. Until the formation of National Testing Authority (NTA), the admission test will be conducted as per this Ordinance. This Ordinance shall prevail over anything contained in the University Act regarding admission test. Besides, a committee headed by a Member of UGC was entrusted with the task of drafting the Ordinance.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir chaired the meeting, Member of the Commission Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka Professor Dr. Maksud Kamal, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Golam Sabbir Sattar, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Professor Dr. Shireen Akhter, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. Md. Nurul Alam, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Professor Dr. Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Islamic

University Professor Dr. Sheikh Abdus Salam, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal Science and Technology University Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology Professor Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, Treasurer of Jagannath University Professor Dr. Kamaluddin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Professionals Dr. Khondkar Mokaddem Hossain and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman were present at the meeting.

Professor Alamgir in his speech said, His Excellency the President

is the Chancellor of all universities in the country. According to his intention, he urged the Vice-Chancellors and teachers of all public universities to work with a positive attitude to implement the order issued regarding uniform admission test in public interest. He said, there is no scope to hold the admission test by any university bypassing the intention or order of the chancellor.

The members present in the meeting highlighted the various aspects of the uniform admission test and said that the most needed is the goodwill of the universities regarding the uniform admission test.

UGC chairman urges newly appointed teachers to be research oriented

The chairman (Additional Duties) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has urged the newly appointed teachers of the university to be research oriented. Apart from this, he also suggested finding ways to solve various problems of the country through research.

He made the call while speaking as the Chief Guest at an orientation program for newly appointed teachers of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

The orientation program was organized by the faculty development program of BUP at UGC auditorium on 14 November 2023.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda was present at the event as special guest with UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman in the chair.

Lt. Colonel Khandaker Zahirul Alam, Director of the Office of the Evaluation and Curriculum Development Program of BUP, conducted the event.

Addressing the new teachers,



Professor Alamgir said that the various problems of Bangladesh must be solved by themselves. In this regard, university teachers can play an important role and can take the country forward by solving problems through research.

He also said that teaching is a noble profession. To enter this profession, one should be remained mentally prepared and must be conscientious and enjoy teaching and research. The habit of studying should be developed in pursuit of knowledge. At the same

time qualifications and skills and leadership qualities should be acquired according to the needs of the age.

Professor Alamgir also said that new teachers should be developed through training. UGC is working to set up an institute for training university teachers. Under this, four months long basic training will be provided to university teachers soon.

Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda said, new teachers should be made skilled for teaching through

necessary training. Besides, he expressed the opinion that the new teachers can find a way to solve the various types of civic problems of Dhaka city through research. Besides, he assured the university authorities to assist in publishing research article in quality journals.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said, BUP is setting a unique precedent by providing necessary training to new teachers. He opined that the BUP has started reaping the benefits and the organization is moving towards its desired goals. He thanked the BUP authorities for organizing basic training for the

new teachers. He urged the new teachers to make themselves competent to face the challenges of the future and fulfill the assigned responsibilities properly.

A total of 47 new teachers of 10th batch of BUP participated in the event.

UGC initiative to increase PhD scholarship benefit



UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain stated that initiatives have been taken to further increase the benefits for obtaining PhD degrees from domestic and foreign universities.

He said that during the economic crisis, the cost reduction policy was followed in various sectors of the university, but the PhD scholarship benefit was not reduced. Rather, scholarship facility has been introduced for teachers to complete their PhD degree in foreign universities.

He said this while delivering speech as the Chief Guest at an academic seminar on 'Assessing the relevance of PhD dissertation carried out by the teachers with the fields of their teaching'. The seminar was held at UGC on 21

December 2023.

Director of Research Support and Publication Division of UGC Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam presided over the opening ceremony where UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher spoke as special guest. Additional Director of UGC Md. Shahin Siraj conducted the program. Relevant officials of UGC were present at the event.

Professor Abu Taher said, every university should take necessary initiative to upload information about the researcher and research on the website. He also said that UGC is taking initiatives to develop a research database. Based on the results of the research, industrial entrepreneurs from home and abroad will be interested in investing in various

sectors, he expressed optimism.

In the seminar, the former Vice-chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University and Professor of Agricultural Plant Science Department Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Professor of Agriculture Extension and Information Systems Department Dr. Md. Sekander Ali and Professor of Fisheries Biology and Genetics Department Dr. Kazi Ahsan Bin Habib, Professor of IIT of Dhaka University Dr. Kazi Muheymin-Us-Sakib, Chairman of the Department of Zoology Professor Dr. Md. Niamul Naser, Professors of Political Science Department Dr. Muhammad Sohrab Hossain and Dr. Abeda Sultana, Professor of Nuclear Engineering Department Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Professor of Mathematics Department of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Laek Sazzad Andallah, Professor of Environmental Science Department Dr. Md. Khabir Uddin, Professor of Physics Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Dr. Md. Rafiuddin, Professor of Chemistry Department Dr. Abu Bin Imran were present as a learned members.

Publication ceremony of two books of Mujib Year held

The publication ceremony of two books UGC published marking the Mujib Barsha was held at UGC on 31 October 2023.

The two books are - 'Educational Philosophy of Bangabandhu:

Context Higher Education' written by Professor Dr. Biswajit Ghosh and 'Bangabandhu: Thoughts of a New Generation and Vision of the Future' written by Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman. On the

occasion of the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Commission took the initiative to publish two books based on interviews and research.



UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir was present at the event as the Chief Guest. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain presided over the function which was addressed by UGC Members Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher and Professor Dr. Haseena Khan as Special Guest. UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman gave a welcome speech at the event.

In the speech of the Chief Guest, Professor Alamgir said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established UGC for ensuring quality higher education and research in the

country. Out of a sense of responsibility towards him, the Commission decided to publish two books. From the point of view of the quality of the books published at different times on Bangabandhu, these two books are very good. He believes that the young generation will read these two books with interest. Young people will get to know new information about Bangabandhu's thought and education philosophy.

The authors in their speech stated that Bangabandhu's life and philosophy will inspire the young generation. They urged the youth to follow the thoughts and spirit of Bangabandhu.

Deputy Director of UGC and Member Secretary of Mujib Barsha Celebration Committee Bishnu Mallick conducted the event which was attended by the Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division of UGC Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of Public Relations and Rights to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin, Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam, Director of Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of Public University Management Division 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 division Dr. Durga Rani Sarker and Director of Finance and Accounts Division (In-Charge) Md. Rezaul Karim Hawlader and other relevant officials of UGC.

UGC Member urges researchers to consider practical aspects of research

Every year research works are being carried out on different subjects in the public universities of the country. A lot of good research ends up being published in research journals and in most cases these researches are helpful in getting teachers promoted. But in conducting research, whether its results will be able to contribute to the social and economic development of the country must be seriously considered.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain made the remark while delivering address as the Chief Guest at an academic seminar on "Assessing the relevance of Ph.D dissertation carried out by the teachers with the fields of their teaching" held at



UGC 12 October 2023.

Professor Sazzad Hossain also said that the universities of the developed countries of the world work as the main hub of research and innovation of new technologies. Nations benefit from the technology developed through research.

We need to create a favorable

environment for research and innovation in the higher education institutions of our country.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. Mohammad Mostafa Feroz, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University Professor Dr. Nasim Banu, Professors of Bengali Department of Dhaka University

Dr. Syed Azizul Haque and Professor Dr. Begum Akhtar Kamal, Professor of Arabic Department Dr. Mohammad Yusuf, Professors of Botany Department Dr. Mohammad Ajmal Hossain Bhuiyan and Dr. Mohammad Javed Hossain, Professor of History Department Dr. Mesbah Kamal and former director of IER Prof. Dr. Abdul Malek, Professor of Environmental

Science Department of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Syed Hafizur Rahman and Professor of History Department Dr. Mohammad Golam Rabbani, Professor of Anthropology Department of Chittagong University Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmad, Professor of the Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Agricultural University Dr. Tofazzal Islam and Professor of Arabic Department of Rajshahi University Dr. Muhammad Matior Rahman were present at the seminar as expert members.

Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam delivered welcome speech at the seminar and Additional Director Md. Shahin Siraj conducted the program.

UGC calls for completion of development projects in universities on time

UGC Chairman Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called for completion of development projects in public university on time.

He made the remark while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a review meeting on the implementation progress of the development projects in the financial year 2023-2024. The meeting was held at UGC Auditorium on 12 December 2023.

Director of UGC's Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan presided over the meeting.

In the event, Professor Alamgir said that teachers and students of the university are being deprived of its benefits development project as the work of the project is not completed within the stipulated time. He urged the Vice-chancellors of the university to supervise the work of development projects at the field level.

Regarding the preservation of development project information through digital means, he said that initiatives have been taken to preserve the information and implementation progress of the



university's new development projects through digital means. Through this, it will be possible to know the implementation progress of the development project from any time and place. He called for inclusion of project updates in the green leaf platform.

Director Maksudur Rahman said that it is necessary to carry out feasibility study, determine components, prepare estimation, figure out implementation time and planning properly while taking the project. He urged the university authorities to immediately inform the UGC and the Ministry of Education if there is any problem in the implementation of the project. He said that it is necessary to provide up-to-date

training to all concerned for the successful implementation of the project.

Project Directors of Islamic Arabic University, Khulna University, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Sheikh Hasina University, Islami University, College Education Development Project, Patuakhali University of Science and Technology, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Jagannath University, Bangladesh University of Professionals, Additional Director of Planning and Development Division of UGC Shah Mohammad Aminul Islam, Deputy Director Shibananda Shil, Rukshana Laila and related officers were present at the meeting.

UGC Member presents keynote paper at Bangladesh Development Conference

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher presented a keynote paper in a seminar on the challenges,

prospects and engagement of stakeholders in higher education of Bangladesh at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, USA. International Sustainable Institute

in Boston arranged the Bangladesh Development Conference Series where Professor Abu Taher presented the paper on 06 October 2023.

Professor Abu Taher in his keynote speech highlighted the various steps taken by the government of Bangladesh and the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh in the past years to promote and improve the quality of higher education in Bangladesh. In his presentation, he highlighted the significant steps taken by UGC to improve the quality of higher education which includes establishment of BdREN and Bangladesh Accreditation Council, providing research grants, Uniform Financial Policy and Financial Manual, Audit Manual, Outcome Based Education (OBE) Curriculum, Online Teaching and Assessment Policy, introduction of foreign PhD scholarships,



Teaching Load Calculation Policy, Blended Education Policy, Contractual Teacher Recruitment

Policy, UGC Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Fellowship, UGC PhD & Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Research/Teaching Assistance Fund, UGC Merit Scholarship, UGC Scholarship for the Visually Impaired, UGC Professorship, Rokeya Chair, International cooperation in the field of higher education and research and formulation of Open Education Resource (OER) policy.

It is to be noted that Bangladesh Development Conference-2023 was held from 03-12 October under the initiative of International Sustainable Institute. Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher left Dhaka on October 03 to attend the conference.

Existing fund allocation and disbursement system of UGC and public universities need to be continued

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and the public universities of the country have been established under separate laws and as autonomous institutions, it is recommended that the systems regarding allocation and disbursement of funds be continued following the existing financial regulations.

However, transparency and accountability must be ensured in the expenditure of allocated funds. In this case, the UGC and universities must ensure that the prevailing financial rules of the government be followed properly.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir made the remarks while delivering address as the chief guest at a workshop on implementation of PL account in UGC and Public Universities. As part of smart financial management, UGC and Finance Ministry's Integrated Budget and Accounting System (IBAS) Plus Plus program jointly organized the



day-long workshop at UGC Auditorium on 19 October 2023. Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Treasurers, Director of Finance and Accounts Departments of different public universities and Heads of different divisions of UGC participated in the workshop.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher presided over the workshop where UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Education AKM Aftab Hossain Pramanik, Additional Secretary of the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance Bilkis Jahan Rimi, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman,

Joint Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education Noor-e-Alam delivered speeches. A keynote presentation on the implementation of PL (Personal Ledger) Accounts in public universities was delivered by Abul Bashar Mohammad Amin Uddin, Joint Secretary, Finance Division and also the Senior Consultant of IBAS Plus Plus Program.

Professor Alamgir also said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established UGC to look after the universities in 1973. If the autonomy of these institutions is undermined, the current progress of the country's higher education

system will be disrupted. Therefore, before taking any measures, it is recommended to properly check whether it is in conflict with the basic character of the organization and its positive and negative aspects.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Golam Sabbir Sattar, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor

Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology Professor Dr. Habibur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Jessore University of Science and Technology. Dr. Anwar Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology Professor Dr. Hafiza Khatun delivered address at the workshop. Besides, the Treasurers and Directors of Finance and Accounts Divisions of various universities gave speeches. Open discussion

session in the workshop was conducted by UGC member Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Taher.

The meeting accepted a proposal to form a committee headed by UGC to further review the implementation of PL (Personal Ledger) accounts in public universities. Further decision regarding implementation of PL account will be taken based on the recommendations of the committee.

UGC calls for making higher education services trouble free



UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda has urged the concerned authorities to pay attention to ensure that the service recipients do not face any trouble while taking the services of the higher education institutions of the country.

He directed the concerned authorities to take measures to make all types of services of higher education institutions visible. Besides, he advised to reach the services to the doorsteps of recipients by making the service delivery system smart.

He made the suggestion while addressing a workshop on updating Citizen Charter of UGC

and public universities for the fiscal year 2023-2024. The workshop was organized at UGC on 07 December 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the inaugural ceremony of the workshop where Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin gave welcome speech. Deputy Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division of Ministry of Education and also the Alternative Focal Point of Citizen Charter Muhammad Delwar Hossain was present at the workshop as resource person.

Dr. Biswajit Chanda said that

everyone has to fulfill their due responsibilities to provide quality service in the university. A change in mentality is needed to make services seamless. He advised to complain to UGC if anyone deprived of higher education services on time.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that the people own the republic and various government institutions are run with their hard-earned money. So there is no scope for negligence in providing service. Care should be taken that the service receivers do not suffer any kind of suffering while coming to take higher education services.

Deputy Director of the Commission and Citizen Charter Focal Point Md. Abdul Aleem conducted the workshop. Citizen Charter Focal Points of 46 public universities and officers concerned with APA implementation of UGC participated in the training.

Workshop on building Smart Bangladesh held at UGC

A workshop on Education, Research and Innovation in Building Smart Bangladesh was held at UGC on 18 December 2023.

The day-long workshop was

organized as part of the implementation of UGC's E-Governance and Innovation Work Plan 2023-2024. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain spoke at the inaugural ceremony of the

workshop as the chief guest.

Director of the Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam presided over the event where Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman Digital University Professor Dr. Muhammad Mahfuzul Islam was present as expert discussant.

Dwijendra Chandra Das, System Engineer and Focal Point for Implementation of Innovation Program of UGC conducted the program.

In the speech of the chief guest, Professor Sazzad Hossain said that the teachers and students of the university should take the lead in building a smart Bangladesh and facing the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. Therefore, the right environment



for research and innovation should be created in the higher education institutions of the country and the young generation should be made fit for Smart Bangladesh.

Professor Mahfuzul Islam said that students in higher education institutions should focus on

acquiring skills. The youth should be made rich in information technology knowledge and suited to the needs of industrial establishments.

61 officers and employees of UGC participated in the training.

UGC finalizes draft Ordinance on central admission test

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has finalized the draft of the Central Admission Test Conducting Authority Ordinance, 2023 at the undergraduate level in public universities. The Ordinance will soon be sent to the Ministry of Education for further action.

The draft was unanimously finalized on 26 October 2023 in the meeting of the committee formed by the UGC to arrange an integrated admission test in all the public universities of the country from the next academic year 2023-24.

It was informed in the meeting that until the formation of a separate authority called National Testing Authority (NTA) to organize the entrance examination centrally, the examination will be conducted according to this ordinance. This Ordinance shall prevail notwithstanding anything contained in the University Act regarding the admission test.

It is to be noted that in the meeting of the committee formed to conduct uniform admission test held at UGC on 10 October 2023, it was recommended to issue an



ordinance quickly to take the admission test effectively as per the intention of the Chancellor of the universities.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir presided over the meeting which was attended by UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Professor Dr. Golam Sabbir Sattar, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Professor Dr. Nurul Alam, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Islami University Professor Dr. Sheikh Abdus Salam, Vice-Chancellor

(Acting) of Jagannath University Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmad, Professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology M. Tamim and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman.

Professor Muhammed Alamgir in his speech stated that the President is the chancellor of all universities in the country. Ordinance is required to turn his intention into reality. If the ordinance is promulgated, there will be no chance to conduct the admission test of any university beyond it.

Professor Alamgir also said that if central admission test is conducted in the universities, the

sufferings of the students and parents will come down and the admission process will be easier. He said that if the proposed ordinance is issued in a short period of time the initiative will be taken to hold the admission test to

the under graduate level in the academic year 2023-2024 within a shortest possible time after the publication of the results of the HSC examination.

In the meeting, UGC Member Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda

presented the details of the draft Ordinance for the Central Admission Test Conducting Authority. In addition, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman highlighted the context and importance of the Central Admission Test.

Emerald to give access to e-journals in business education and research

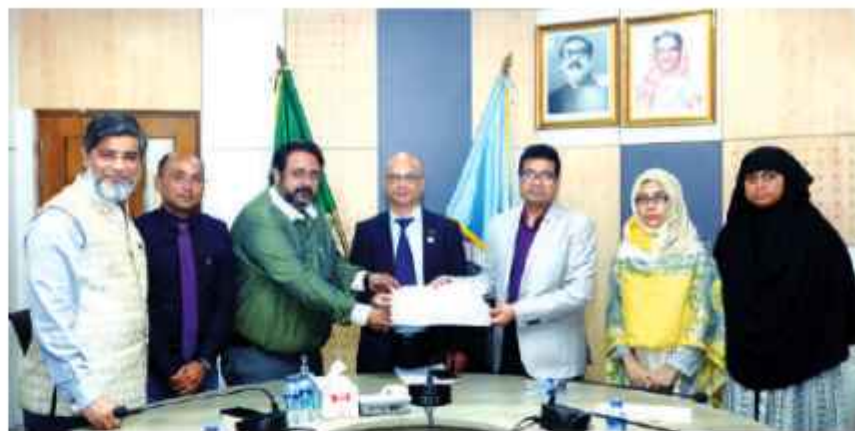
UK-based publishing company Emerald Publishing Limited will provide access to its e-journals to carry out research in the field business education and engineering in the country.

An agreement in this regard was signed with the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh on 28 November 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman and Business Manager of Emerald Publishing Limited Nirjhar Mukherjee signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

UGC member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain presided over the signing ceremony.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said that under the agreement, 55 universities of the country will have easy access to the latest



e-journals of Emerald Publishing Limited. Through this, he expressed hope that there will be quality improvement and spread of knowledge in the field of business education and engineering in the country.

He advised university teachers to use e-resources of world renowned publishing houses

including Emerald Publishing Limited to advance the quality of higher education and research in the country.

Director of IMCT Division of UGC Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Additional Director Tahmina Rahman, Deputy Director of UDL Section Nusrat Sharita and other relevant officials were present at the event.

UGC calls for quick disposal of complaints in universities



Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir urged the university authorities to take into

cognizance any complaint filed in universities and take appropriate action against the guilty persons.

He made this call while delivering

address as the Chief Guest at a dissemination meeting with stakeholders on grievance redress system at UGC on 30 October 2023. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman.

Professor Alamgir opined that no complaints or incidents should be viewed as small or big, rather remedial measures should be taken without delay. At the same time, even if the accused person is influential, equal application of the law should be ensured. If appropriate measures are taken to redress the grievances, the tendency to commit crimes in the

universities will come down. Measures should be done to ensure a suitable environment for education and research in the university.

He called for setting up a transparent complaint box in the university and regular monitoring of whether complaints are received here.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that transparency and accountability of the organization can be ensured if proper measures are taken to redress complaints. Incidents of crime in the university should be taken into consideration and appropriate remedial measures should be taken quickly.

Besides, a separate feedback workshop to review the progress of 1st quarter report of National Integrity Strategy Workplan of public universities for the fiscal 2023-2024 was held in the meeting room of the UGC.

Secretary of the Commission Dr. Ferdous Zaman presided over the event where Director of IMCT Division Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan delivered welcome address.

Addressing as the Chief Guest at the workshop, Professor Alamgir said, the university should come forward with new innovations and ideas. New opportunities to carry out research should be created

and due role should be played to bring social change.

Professor Alamgir remarked that the perception is not true that establishment of new universities under public and private managements will compromise quality of education. Rather, when a new university is established in the country, various initiatives are taken around it and new cities and towns are built.

UGC Deputy Director and Focal Point of Grievance Redress System Mauli Azad, Deputy Secretary and Focal Point of NIS Committee Md. Asaduzzaman and concerned officials of UGC and universities participated the workshop.

UGC Member urges to turn universities into hub of innovation

There is no substitute for research and innovation to transform Bangladesh into a smart country by 2041. In the developed countries of the world, universities provide solutions to various industrial problems through practical research. The universities of Bangladesh are far behind in this field. To develop Bangladesh as a prosperous country, the country's universities should be developed as centers of research and innovation.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain made the remark while delivering address as the Chief Guest at an academic seminar on "Assessing the relevance of Ph.D dissertation carried out by the teachers with the fields of their teaching" held at UGC on 30 October 2023. The seminar was held in the meeting room of UGC.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher was present at the inaugural ceremony of the seminar as Special Guest with Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam in the chair. Additional Director of



Research Support and Publication Division Shahin Siraj conducted the program.

In the speech of the chief guest, Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that the universities of the country should take joint collaborative research projects with industrial institutions and take appropriate initiatives to implement them. Innovation ecosystem should be developed in universities to bring down the dependency on imported technology. Initiatives should be taken to produce skilled graduates according to the needs of industrial institutions by making necessary changes in the education curriculum. Otherwise, students will be deprived of suitable employment opportunities

even after pursuing higher education.

In the speech of the special guest, UGC member Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher said that UGC is continuing its efforts to build a culture of research and innovation in universities. The research budget has been increased significantly in the past years so that the research work in the universities is not disrupted due to lack of funds.

In the seminar, UGC member Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Taher, Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Professor Dr. Soumitra Sekhar Dey, Vice-Chancellor of Islamic Arabic University Muhammad Abdur Rashid, Vice-Chancellor of Sylhet International University

Professor Dr. Md. Ashraful Alam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Shere Bangla Agricultural University Professor Dr. Alok Kumar Paul, Professor of Bengali Department of Jahangirnagar University Dr. Khaled Hossain, Professor of Bengali Department of Jagannath University Dr. Arjumand Ara Banu, Professor Dr. Milton Biswas and Professor of Mathematics

Department Professor Dr. Md. Sarwar Alam, Professor of the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University Dr. Maryam Begum, Professor of Islamic Studies Department Dr. Muhammad Shafiq Ahmed, Professor of History Department Dr. Abu Md Delwar Hossain and Professor of Tourism and Hospitality Management

Department Md. Afzal Hossain, Professor (retired) of the Department of Crop Botany of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University Dr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, and Professor of Islamic Studies Department of Chittagong University Dr. Muhammad Mumtaz Uddin Quadri were present as expert members.

UGC calls for protection of environment during implementation of development projects

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir has called upon the higher education institutions of Bangladesh not to accept any project that harms the environment. He commented that it will not be sustainable if the development work is carried out by damaging the environment. He advised the university authorities to properly follow the government regulations related to the project in implementing the ongoing development projects of the universities.

He made the remarks while delivering address as the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the workshop on input of valid data in the database related to monitoring and evaluation of university projects. Planning and Development Division of UGC organized the workshop 22 October 2023 at the Commission's conference room.

UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain and UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman were present at the workshop as Special Guests with Director of Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhulyan in the chair. Additional Director of Planning and Development Division Shah Mohammad Aminul Islam presented the theme of Project Monitoring (V.10) Software



developed under the initiative of Planning and Development Division.

Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir urges the universities to take up development projects in considering the needs of the universities. In his speech, he mentioned that residential buildings are lying empty in many universities due to construction of buildings for teachers-officers-employees without assessing the need. However, if the residential hall is constructed, the housing crisis of the students could be resolved. He remarked that implementation of unplanned development projects is nothing but waste of people's hard earned money.

In the speech of the Special Guest, Member of the Commission Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain said that the

country's universities should take the lead in building a smart Bangladesh. For this reason, everyone involved in providing services in the university should be skilled in using technology. He expressed hope that the use of monitoring and evaluation software will be able to bring transparency and dynamism to the work of the project.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that the use of technology has simplified the process of delivering information and services. The use of technology in the field of various services and reporting has increased in the universities of the country.

The workshop was attended by representatives of UGC and various public universities of the country.

KOICA expresses interest in providing PhD degree in Nursing

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has expressed interest in providing PhD degrees in nursing.

This interest was expressed in a views exchange meeting of the KOICA delegation with the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC).

The meeting was held in the UGC meeting room on 26 November. UGC Member Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain chaired the meeting. The KOICA delegation was led by Professor Dr. Li Heongqing of Yonsei University of South Korea.

Meanwhile, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Public Relations and Right to Information Division Dr. Shamsul Arefin, Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam and relevant officials of UGC and KOICA were present at the meeting.

Professor Li Heongqing said, Nursing is a noble profession. Nursing education in Bangladesh has come a long way and the profession has considerable



potential.

He also said that they want to start PhD degree in Nursing in Bangladesh through National Institute of Nursing Higher Education and Research (NIANER). NIANER currently offers a Master's Degree in Nursing. They have set a target of providing five thousand PhD degrees in this sector by 2030.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said that the current government is establishing medical universities at the divisional level with the aim of providing post-graduate education in medical science and creating opportunities for higher research. Government and private medical colleges have been

brought under medical universities to monitor the quality of education.

He also said that there is a lot of potential for nursing profession in the country. There is a shortage of skilled manpower in this profession. Regarding the launch of PhD degree in nursing with the assistance of KOICA, he said, it is a wonderful proposal. He advised the delegation to present the proposal through due process. He informed the delegation that the UGC recommends on-the-ground inspection whether any institution in the country has the necessary facilities, labs and skilled manpower before starting higher education, MPhil and PhD programs.

UGC calls for strengthening regional cooperation to improve quality of higher education

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir stated that strengthening of regional cooperation is essential to achieve the quality of higher education in the country.

He said this while participating in the panel discussion on 'Regional Cooperation in Quality Assurance in Higher Education'. The meeting was held on 13 December 2023 on a virtual platform.

Professor Alamgir said, to achieve

the quality of higher education, a culture of quality practices should be introduced in the university. If this can be done, it will be possible to ensure the quality of education and research in the university. For this, it is necessary to establish a network among universities in the South Asian region. He said that the best practices of these universities can be applied in the universities of the country.

Prof. Alamgir also said that South Asia will soon become the world's largest field of higher education and will continue to expand. The

'Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)' and 'Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education (ICSETP)' projects under implementation at UGC will play an important role in the development of regional cooperation.

He said that a conference will be organized in Dhaka in the 1st week of next June to discuss about bringing together the UGC network in the region and strengthening cooperative spirit in improving the quality of education

and research in the universities and what can be done in the field of higher education.

The panelists said regional networks, cooperation and quality assurance of education would not be possible without the empowerment of higher education regulatory bodies. Therefore, it is necessary to take appropriate step to empower the higher education regulatory bodies.

Sri Lanka UGC Chairman Professor Sampath Amaratunge delivered the welcome address on the occasion. Nina Arnhold of the World Bank introduced the Regional Cooperation in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in the programme.

Program Officer of the Higher Education Quality Council and



Qualifications and Professionals Certification Authority of Bhutan Sherab Jatsho, Joint Secretary of India UGC Dr. Archana Thakur, Chief Executive Officer of Maldives Qualification Authority Dr. Abdul Hannan Waheed, Nepal UGC Chairman Professor Debraj

Adhikari, Project Coordinator of HEDP of Pakistan Higher Education Commission Professor Mahmud-ul Hasan Butt and Director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of Sri Lanka UGC Dr. Nirmali Pallate took part in the panel discussion.

UGC calls for introducing digital administration system in universities



Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain urged the universities to build a digital administration system to establish a Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

He made the remark while delivering address as the Chief Guest at a workshop on education, research and innovation in building a smart Bangladesh arranged by the innovation team of UGC as part of the implementation of UGC's e-governance and innovation action plan for the fiscal year 2023-24 on 20 November 2023.

Director of the Research Support and Publication Division of the Commission Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam presided over the program where Dean of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Dhaka University Professor Dr. Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu was the expert discussant.

Professor Sazzad Hossain said, digital administration system should be developed in the university as a part of establishing Smart Bangladesh. Effective initiative need to be taken to establish paperless office and all transactions should be done electronically. Then transparency and accountability can be ensured.

By doing this, irregularities in the universities can be prevented and higher education services can be provided quickly to its stakeholders.

He also said that universities should be developed to increase the skills of students and make them fit for the job market. Universities should give importance to research and innovation to develop a modern science, information and technology friendly society.

Dr. Fakhru Islam stated that there is no substitute for skill in meeting the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution and establishing a knowledge-based society. He urged the universities to create new knowledge according to the needs of the times and disseminate it among the stakeholders to move the country forward. Besides, to implement the government's Smart Bangladesh vision, good governance, innovation and

research should be emphasized in the universities.

Professor Hafiz Md. Hasan Babu conducted a session on how to take Bangladesh forward through education, innovation and

research in the workshop.

Member of UGC's Innovation Team and Additional Director of Research Support and Publication Department, Shahin Siraj

delivered vote of thanks at the event. Dwijendra Chandra Das, System Engineer of UGC and also the Focal Point for E-Governance and Innovation Work Plan conducted the event.

Call to implement Bangabandhu's dream in HE



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh to supervise the activities of the universities for expanding and improving the quality of higher education and research in the country. UGC chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir sought the cooperation of all concerned to ensure the quality of the country's higher education institutions and realize Bangabandhu's dream.

He made this call while speaking as the Chief Guest at a training on integrity strategy organized as part

of the implementation of the National Integrity Strategy 2023-24. The training was organized at UGC on 13 November 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman chaired the event where Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan gave a welcome speech.

Professor Alamgir remarked that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman realized the importance of quality higher education to build a knowledge-based economy in

Bangladesh. For that purpose, he established the UGC on 15th February 1973 and entrusted the management of the UGC to eminent academicians of the country.

Professor Muhammed Alamgir also said that UGC had the responsibility of supervising only 06 universities at the beginning of its establishment. At present there are about 170 public, private and international universities in the country. The UGC is taking effective steps to improve the quality of education and research in these institutions and is strengthening the reform program to establish discipline in higher education institutions.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that higher education services should be made simplified and those concerned should be sincere and punctual in providing services.

The program was conducted by Deputy Secretary of UGC and Focal Point of National Integrity Md. Strategy Md. Asaduzzaman. A total of 75 employees of different levels of UGC participated in the training.

UGC and BSMMU sign MoU on healthcare

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Healthcare was signed between University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on 29 November 2023.

Registrar of the university Professor Dr. Mohammad Hafizur Rahman and Secretary of the UGC Dr. Ferdous Zaman signed

the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations in presence of the Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Md. Sharfuddin Ahmed.

Under the MoU, the BSMMU authorities will issue a Health Card/Medical Service Book with registration number to the officers, employees and their family members of UGC for a specified fee.

Through the said health card, UGC officials, employees and their family members will get discounted rates in receiving various types of medical services from BSMMU. Also, cabin/bed list is also earmarked for UGC authorities, officers, employees and their family members in case of hospitalization.

Pro Vice Chancellors of BSMMU

Professor Dr. AKM Mosharraf Hossain (Academic), Professor Dr. Md. Moniruzzaman Khan (Research & Development) and Professor Dr. Saif Uddin Ahmed (Administration), Director of UGC's Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of Public University Management Division and President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam Dostogir, President and General Secretary of UGC Employees' Union Nurul



Islam Bepari and Saiful Islam, and concerned officers and employees of UGC and BSMMU were present at the event.

UGC Chairman calls for advanced research for sustainable development



UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir said that sustainable development of any country is not possible without advanced and innovative research.

He advised teachers to pay more focus on masters and PhD courses in universities. Besides, he emphasized on producing quality and skilled graduates without increasing the number of graduates in higher education institutions.

He said this while addressing the closing ceremony of sixth International Conference on Electrical Information and

Communication Technology (EICT 2023) as the Chief Guest at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET).

The Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) organized the 3-day conference at the university auditorium. The closing ceremony was organized at Teachers Club of KUET on 08 December 2018.

Professor Alamgir said, in this era of the fourth industrial revolution, physical, biological and cyber issues should be integrated to find ways to solve the problems of the present era. The university teachers and researchers of the

country will have to produce graduates and professionals according to the needs of the job market. He also said that teachers need to play a more proactive role in establishing linkages between industry and academia.

He also said that the culture of carrying out research and implementing innovative ideas should be introduced in the university. He expressed the opinion that university teachers can take financial support from various private institutions in conducting research.

President of the conference organizing committee and Dean of the Faculty of EEE Professor Dr. Md. Shahjahan presided over the event which was addressed by Professors of EEE Department of KUET Dr. Rafiqul Islam and Dr. Monir Hossain.

In the conference, 138 selected technical papers out 472 from 13 countries of the world were presented in 27 technical sessions. Apart from this, 8 key-note sessions and 1 technical workshop were held in the conference.

UGC calls for use of digital technology to ensure good governance

Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and also the Convener of Innovation

Committee Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain urged the universities of the country to

simplify the service delivery system and ensure good governance and accountability in all activities by

using digital technology.

He made this call while speaking as the Chief Guest at a training on implementation e-Governance and Innovation Work Plan 2023-24 and skill development at UGC auditorium on 15 October 2023.

UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman was present at the inaugural ceremony of training as Special Guest with the Director of Research Support and Publication Division Dr. Md. Fakhrul Islam in the chair.

Speaking as the Chief Guest at the workshop, Professor Sazzad Hossain said that it is important to ensure transparency and accountability in higher education institutions to establish a skill-based, advanced and smart Bangladesh. The use of technology should be increased to carry out any task quickly, efficiently and impartially. Digital administration system should be



developed as part of paperless office system.

He also said that if the educational institution is to move forward, it should show efficiency in the work. About 5 crore students are studying in all educational institutions of the country. Appropriate education and training should be provided to turn this huge population into a human resource.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman said that education and research should be given attention to make Bangladesh a developed country.

Universities should lead research and innovation in national development. He opined that this is not possible without ensuring good governance in the university.

Dr. Fakhrul Islam said that to help country's universities getting a desired place in the ranking, education, research, citation and reputation of the university should be increased.

Dwijendra Chandra Das, Programmer and Focal Point of Innovation Team of UGC conducted the training. 17 officials of various levels of the Commission participated in the event.

UGC Secretary Ferdous Zaman nominated Member of the Press Council

Secretary of the University Grant Commission of Bangladesh Dr. Ferdous Zaman has been nominated as the Member of 21st Council of Bangladesh Press Council. The Section 4(3)(d) of the Press Council Act, 1974 states that one member of the 14-Member Council shall be nominated by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh. As part of the process UGC has nominated Dr. Ferdous Zaman for the membership. Publication of the list of all members of the 21st Council through notification is under the process in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Through this nomination Dr. Ferdous Zaman will serve as a



member of Bangladesh Press Council for the next 2 years. Note that as a Member of the 20th Council Dr. Ferdous Zaman has made important contribution to the

implementation of various decision adopted by the Bangladesh Press Council for the improvement of journalism in the country.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman completed his Honors from the Department of Sociology of Dhaka University in 1991 and Masters from the same Department in 1992. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in 2016. He joined the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh as a Senior Assistant Secretary (Administration) and has been serving with dedication in various departments of UGC for the past 24 years. As part of his professional duties he has traveled to different countries of the world.

Dr. Aminul Haque joins ICSETEP as PD

Eminent information technologist and Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Department of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) Professor Dr. Muhammad Aminul Haque Akhand has joined the Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education Project (ICSETEP) as a full-time Project Director (PD).

He submitted joining letter to UGC Secretary (Additional Charge) Dr. Shamsul Arefin on 19 November 2023. Director of Planning and Development Division of UGC Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan and senior officials of the Commission were present during the submission of joining letter. Dr. Aminul Haque Akhand paid a courtesy call to UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) and also the Member-in-Charge of Planning and Development Division of UGC Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir after his joining.



It is to be mentioned that Prof. Akhand joined KUET as a lecturer in 2001 and obtained a higher degree in Artificial Intelligence in Japan in 2009. Besides teaching, he was involved in the implementation of various projects including HEQEP and Hitech in KUET.

Professor Alamgir stated that this project will play an important role

in building a smart Bangladesh by 2041 through the excellence of information technology. He advises the project manager to perform his duties diligently and complete the project within the stipulated time.

Professor Akhand thanked the UGC, Ministry of Education and all concerned for appointing him as a full-time project director in the ICSETEP project.

The ICT project will be implemented in Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Jessore Science and Technology University under the supervision of UGC. Through the project, modern curriculum, infrastructure, modern labs of CSE department will be developed in these universities. Besides, assistance will be provided for conducting research on information technology in all universities.

Anwar Hossain and Shahadat Hossain elected President, Secretary of Employees' Union

Md. Anwar Hossain and Shahadat Hossain Khan have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Executive Committee of UGC Employees' Union at its election held on 19 December 2023 at the UGC Bhaban.

Other elected members of the Union are: Vice-president Md. Liton Mia, Joint Secretary Md. Asaduzzaman, Organizing Secretary Nurul Islam Jibon, Treasurer Md. Babu Hossain, Office Secretary Md. Aminul Islam, Publicity Secretary Md. Jakir Hossain and Cultural and Sports Secretary Ibrahim Sarder.

Voting ran from 10:00 am to 1:00



pm. After counting the votes, the chief of the election conduction committee Md. Nasir Uddin announced the results. Out of 183



voters, 182 exercised their voting right. The 9-member executive committee will serve for the next two years.

UGC pays tribute to martyred intellectuals

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) has paid profound respect to the illustrious persons of the nation on Martyred Intellectuals Day. UGC authorities paid their respects by placing wreaths at the altar of Mirpur Shaheed Intellectuals Memorial on 14 December 2023.

UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, 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 General Services, Estate and Engineering



Division Zafar Ahommad Jahanger, Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance Division Dr. Durga Rani Sarker, General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam

Dostogir and President and General Secretary of UGC Employees' Union Nurul Islam Bepari and Saiful Islam, among others, were present during the time.

UGC pays tributes to martyrs on Victory Day



The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation war by placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar marking the Victory Day on 16 December 2023. Later, UGC

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

UGC Chairman (Additional

Charge) Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, UGC Members Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Professor Dr. Biswajit Chanda, Professor Dr. Haseena Khan, UGC Secretary Dr. Ferdous Zaman, Director of Information Management, Communication and Training Division Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Director of Private University Division Md. Omar Faruque, Director of the Public University Management Division and also the President of UGC Officers Association Mohammad Jaminur Rahman, Director Planning and Development Division Mohammad Maksudur Rahman Bhuiyan, General Secretary of UGC Officers Association Md. Golam Dostogir, President and General Secretary of UGC Employees' Union Nurul Islam Bepari and Saiful Islam, among others, were present during the time.

UGC Chairman condoles death of JnU VC

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir expressed deep condolences over the death of the Vice-chancellor of Jagannath University Professor Dr. Md. Imdadul Haque.

Professor Imdadul Haque breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital on 11 November 2023. He was suffering from cancer. He was 66 years old at the time of his death. The deceased has a wife and a daughter.

In a condolence message, UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Alamgir said, Dr. Imdadul Haque was an eminent botanist, efficient administrator and organizer. He served as the



Professor of Botany Department of Dhaka University and as the fifth Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University. He played a special role in organizing the admission test of general, science and technology cluster of the universities.

He served in various important

positions including Dean of Biology Faculty of DU, Vice President and Member of Dhaka University Teachers Association, Treasurer and General Secretary of Bangladesh Botany Association, General Secretary of Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology.

He started work on the new campus of Jagannath University. In his death the nation lost a distinguished teacher and guardian. The death of this researcher is an irreparable loss for the country as well as whole education family.

Professor Alamgir prayed for the salvation of the departed soul of the deceased and expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family members.

UGC Chairman condoles death of KUET professor

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir expressed deep condolences over the death of Dr. Md. Bazlar Rahman, a Professor of Mathematics Department of the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET).

It should be noted that Professor Bazlar Rahman breathed his last on 03 November 2023 while undergoing treatment. He was suffering from cancer for some

time. He is survived by his wife, 2 sons, 2 daughters, relatives and numerous students and a well-wishers to mourn his death.

In a condolence message, UGC Chairman (Additional Charge) Professor Alamgir said, Bazlar Rahman was an eminent educationist. He successfully performed the duties of Vice-Chancellor of North Western University, Khulna. He served with great success as Dean, Provost, Head of Department, member of various recruitment boards of

KUET. He was supposed to retire from the university next December.

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

UGC Chairman mourns death of SAU VC's wife

Chairman (Additional Charge) of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Professor Dr. Muhammed Alamgir expressed deep condolences over the death of Jinnatun Nahar Sahana, a former Additional Secretary and also wife of the Vice-chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural

University (SAU) Professor Dr. Md. Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan.

It is to be noted that former Additional Secretary Jinnatun Nahar Sahana died in an Indian hospital on 02 November 2023 while undergoing treatment.

She was suffering from kidney

complications for a long time. She was 63 years old at the time of her death.

Professor Alamgir prayed for the salvation of the departed soul of the deceased and expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family members.



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Compilation of Information

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Senior Assistant Director, PRRI Division, UGC

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

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Color Campus
24-24/A, Dr. Nawab Ali Tower, Purana Patan, Dhaka.
Cell: 01713036386
Email: colorcampus123@gmail.com