

## UGC (Amendment) Bill passed

Parliament on Wednesday passed the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (Amendment) Bill, 1998 as amended by the standing committee, increasing the number of permanent members of the Commission to at least five from two, reports UNB.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique, piloting the bill, said the strength of the University Grants Commission needs to be increased to modernise the university curriculum, improving the standard of education and strengthen the monitoring of university activities.

In the objective of the Bill, it was stated that there were six universities in the country in 1973 and now the number of the government university has increased to 11 in addition to 16 run by the private management.

Besides, a project has been approved to set up 12 science and technology universities in old districts.

Sadique said it has become difficult for the Grants Commission with two permanent members to maintain the standard of education in 27 universities.

Opposition lawmakers opposed the Bill, saying it was intended to politicise the University Grants Commission.

They criticised the failure in improving the education system and curbing campus terrorism.

Some members spoke against the election procedure for the post of Vice-Chancellor to stop teachers' politics in universities.

They, however, suggested that number of the permanent members of the Commission be increased to six instead of five.

The House rejected by voice vote all the amendments moved by the Opposition members.