

UGC to review private universities August 13

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THE University Grants Commission would hold a meeting on August 13 with boards of trustee and vice-chancellors of private universities for proper implementation of the Private University Act 2010 and an expeditious shifting of the private universities to their own campuses.

The education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, made the announcement emerging from a meeting with the commission chairman and members on Monday.

He said, 'All the private universities must go by the act and shift their campuses

to their own places before the stipulated time.'

Commission chair Abdul Mannan said that the minister would attend the meeting and share his thoughts on increasing the standard of education at private universities.

The meeting would review the activities of the private universities, including shifting to own campus, Mannan said.

He said that the meeting would also discuss about irregularities including non-submission of audit report to the commission and illegal and outer campuses.

The education minister held the meeting with the

commission on Sunday, just one month and a half before the expiry of the deadline for the shifting of private universities to their own campuses.

In January 2014, the education ministry asked the private universities, who missed two deadlines to move to their own and permanent campuses, to do so by September 15, 2015.

If any private university, which is in operation for more than seven years, misses the third deadline, it will lose provisional approval and will not be allowed to enrol fresh students after the deadline, decided the Sunday meeting.

The Private University Act requires universities to move to their own campuses in seven years after establishment.

There are now 83 private universities in the country and 52 of them have completed seven years in operation.

In January 2012, the government gave private universities one more year to move to their own, permanent campus for the second time.

The government issued the first ultimatum to errant universities in December 2010 saying that they would not be allowed to enrol students from October 2011 on-

wards if they failed to move to their own campuses.

The act stipulates that a university must own a permanent campus on an acre of land in the capital and two acres outside the capital in seven years of its operation.

Seventeen universities have so far moved to their own campuses, said the commission chairman adding that some of the private universities had bought land and were building structure or waiting for approval of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha.

Commission officials said that some private

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 universities engaged in ownership conflict and in running illegal outer campuses.

They said that some of the universities did not submit audit reports to the commission.