

## Private varsities run short of teachers, facilities: UGC

Most of the private universities in Bangladesh are running without adequate teachers and infrastructure facilities, but have turned into profit making coaching centers, reports BSS.

These universities having no own campuses are running with part-time teachers from the country's leading universities as full time appointments are not made in these private institutions.

They have not even library and other infrastructures, which are key to running a full-fledged university. Professor A T M Zahurul Haq, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), said while speaking at a symposium on "Technology and Industry based Higher Education" at the BRAC center in Dhaka.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the function as the chief guest while State Minister for Industry Prof. Rezaul Karim as

special guest.

Prof. Zahurul Haq said there were 40 private universities in the country while five more such institutions were awaiting approval. He referred to the approval of the Private University Ordinance promulgated in 1992 and said it was aimed at expansion of education keeping in mind the seat scarcity in leading universities.

There is a provision to fulfil some conditions for setting up private universities but their authorities do not comply with that, the UGC chairman said adding that the students in private universities were being deprived of proper education despite huge costs in admission and on other heads. However, the desired goal for expansion of higher education through setting up private universities has not been achieved, he observed.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said the then government of 1992 had taken initiative to establish private universities to help the meritorious students get higher education at home.

He was happy to note that there were more than 40 private universities in the country but observed that part-time teachers from Dhaka University or BURET would not be able to provide better education in these institutions.

"They must appoint full time teachers," Barrister Sircar said and advised the concerned authorities to introduce time-befitting subjects in the universities to come up with the modern science and technology of the world today.

The Speaker, however, laid emphasis on Information Technology (IT) saying that India had gone a long way in this regard by putting more attention on the IT sector.

Dr. A. Majid Khan, founder-President of Independent University, read out the prospectus of the proposed "Information Technology and Science University".

Barrister Mirza Salam Ispahani, President of Chittagong Stock Exchange, gave the welcome speech in the symposium organised by Information Science and Technology Solution (ISTS).