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Applications for launching 53 private varsities rejected

DU Correspondent

Applications for launching 53 more private universities have been rejected, as the pending issues of the declaration of 56 private universities, mainly foreign campuses in the country as illegal by the University Grant Commission (UGC) are yet to be settled.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting on Sunday held in the education ministry with Prof. Montazul Islam in the chair.

Show cause notices were issued upon 53 private university authorities out of total 56 declared illegal ones and asked them to

have their own campuses and show the FDR. To mention, these universities did not get permissions from the UGC for running academic activities.

It was also decided at the meeting not to approve any more private university in Dhaka city which is already overcrowded.

The fate of the remaining three private universities out of 56 will be examined meeting sources said. These are Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS), Mazeda Khatun Agriculture University and Jalalabad University at Sylhet. The meeting urged the UGC to scrutinise these universities.

Meanwhile, the fate of around 40,000 students of different private universities already identified as "illegal" by the UGC now hangs in the balance. If the government or UGC authorities do not recognise the certificates of the students who have already passed out from these universities successfully and who are also going to complete their education in future.

The students and their guardians are now in deep frustration and anxiety as educational certificates of 56 private universities will not be accepted by the Bangla-

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desh Government or the UGC. These certificates will be considered illegal, as they will not be accepted for government services, sources said.

According to sources, the certificates of those who have already passed out from the UGC listed "illegal" universities and those studying now at these universities would not be acceptable either to the government or to the UGC.

As a result, the fate of more than 10,000 students who came out of these higher institutions and over 20,000 who are now studying at these institutions has become uncertain.

A deep sense of anxiety and frustration now persists among the students and their guardians following the UGC's listing of these 56 universities as illegal.

UGC Chairman Prof. Nazrul Islam said legal action must be taken against those who had illegally launched the branches of foreign private universities in the country. They ran their academic activities without prior permissions. He urged the authorities of these universities to abide by the UGC's rules and regulations.