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SAARC UGC meet stresses on quality education

Staff Correspondent

Professor Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh returned home from Sri Lanka yesterday after attending the 3rd meeting of the committee of the Heads of UGC and equivalent bodies of SAARC held in Colombo recently.

Other member of the team was UGC Member Prof Dr. M Faisal Islam Farouqui. UGC Chairman from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and representatives from Bhutan and Maldives also attended the meeting.

The meeting was inaugurated by Susi Premajayanth, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka, who underscored the need for quality education in achieving the socio-economic development.

The meeting reviewed the progress in the implementations of the decisions taken in 2nd meet-

ing of Heads of UGCs.

It agreed to implement common regional educational standards. It also focused on inclusion of a Chapter on SAARC in curricula at secondary level. The meeting noted with satisfaction that research areas for cooperation and some centres of excellence in areas of mutual interest for cooperation among UGC/equivalent bodies have been identified.

It was told that Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have allocated the required funds for the implementations of the revised SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarship schemes.

It also agreed to send the SAARC Secretariat the current list of focal points in UGC for effective implementation of the decisions. Debate and sports fixtures among SAARC universities also came up at the meeting. In this regard the meeting noted that Bangladesh has already allocated the required funds for sports fixtures among SAARC universities.

The meeting also underscored the importance of implementing the scheme more effectively and expressed the view that the scheme is instrumental in promoting increased cross fertilization of ideas through interaction among students, scholars and academics in the member states as envisaged in the SAARC social chapter.