

Integrated education policy a must for pvt universities

Says UGC chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam yesterday said the commission cannot guide private universities in the country due to lack of an integrated education policy.

We need an education policy, but it is very tough to get a policy approved in the country, he added.

The UGC chairman was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of Master's in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) programme at the department of General and Continuing Education (GCE) at North South University (NSU).

"We do not have an education policy. We cannot guide, control and monitor private universities, as there is no education policy," he said, adding that there are 51 private

universities in the country.

Blaming bad governance for not having necessary policies in the country, Prof Nazrul Islam said, "It takes some time to write a policy but it takes much time to get it approved."

Though urban policy was prepared back in 2006, the policy has not been approved yet and there is no urban policy in the country yet, he mentioned.

Presided over by NSU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Hafiz GH Siddiqui, the programme was attended by Tribhuvan University VC Prof Madhab Prasad Sharma, Vice Rector of University of Bergen Prof Kjersti Flottum, Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring, GCE Chairman Dr Khalikuzzaman Elias and NSU Board of Governors chairman MA Awaal.

Speakers said the newly introduced department would enhance the capacity of understanding theoretical and practical aspects of public policy and good governance.

NSU VC said, "Lack of policy resulted in bad governance in our country. I hope students of the department will formulate policy in organisational and national level and enhance the capacity of the country."

The two-year term MPPG programme has been introduced in collaboration with the departments of Administration and Organisation Theory of University of Bergen and Central Department of Public Administration at Tribhuvan University.

A total of 22 students from Bangladesh and Nepal are taking part in the programme at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.