

UGC recommends setting up Accreditation Council

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended the government to immediately set up 'Accreditation Council' to ensure quality education in the country's universities, reports UNB.

"It's really encouraging that the opportunity for higher education has expanded in the country undoubtedly over the last few decades, but it's also true that the standard of university education could not reach the desired level although there a numerical expansion," says the UGC annual report.

"So", the report says, "it's essential to set up an accreditation council to develop and control the standard of university education, keeping pace with other developed countries."

The UGC has already sent a draft of accreditation council to the Ministry of Education for immediate implementation.

UGC officials said the role of the proposed Accreditation Council will be to monitor the curricula of both the public and private universities so that the standard of education in the two sectors does not make asymmetrical difference.

A UGC delegation, led by its chairman Prof Nazful Islam, recently called on Presi-

dent Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban and submitted the 35th Annual Report-2008 of the University Grants Commission.

While submitting the recommendations, the UGC delegation urged the government for immediate implementation of its recommendations to improve the standard of higher education.

The report says it is necessary to formulate curricula for the country's universities in line with prominent universities of the developed world alongside providing training to teachers on the emerging education system and other relevant issues.

Describing research as the backbone of university education, the UGC suggested that budget should be enhanced to infuse dynamism into research activities and technological development.

It suggested that the universities should introduce subjects based on science and information technology equipped with modern laboratories for creating skilled manpower and facing the challenges of global competition in the 21st century. It's also essential to modernize and strengthen the existing labs, research institutes of the country's universities.

The UGC reports mentioned that academic session in public universities gradu-

ally falls behind and students as well as their guardians are facing financial losses due to unexpected session jam. "All concerned, irrespective of party and opinion, should come forward to free the public universities from session jam in the greater interest of students, guardians and above all the country," the UGC recommended.

About teacher-student politics, the UGC suggested that the universities and colleges could take initiatives by themselves to introduce a healthy trend of student-teacher politics in their respective institutions.

"So it's necessary to take initiatives for formulating appropriate guidelines on consultancy and teaching and that should be implemented immediately to keep such involvement at rational and acceptable level."