

**CURBING IRREGULARITIES****UGC wants observers  
in private univs****Mohiuddin Alamgir**

THE University Grants Commission has proposed appointing observers in all the private universities to end their irregularities.

In its annual report for 2015, the UGC said that the observers were needed to bring a balance in the powers of the trustee boards of private universities.

In the report submitted to the president on November 18, the UGC said that

it could be empowered to nominate its member or university teacher with 20 year's experience in teaching, research and administrative duty as observers.

In the report, the UGC also proposed empowering it to appoint the observers by amending the Private University Act 2010.

The UGC mooted the proposal having failed to make several private universities comply with the act.

The report states that 39

out of 52 private universities founded over 10 years ago were yet to move to their own campuses, though the law required them to do it in seven years.

In 2015, it says, 54 out of 85 private universities did not present their audit reports to the UGC.

In the same year, it says, 28 private universities spent not a single farthing on research.

In violation of the law

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several private universities appointed vice chancellors, pro-vice chancellors and treasurers by-passing the president, it says.

The report also reveals that many of these seats of learning failed to present audit reports to the UGC and did not enroll three per cent of their students from among the freedom fighters' children to provide education free of cost, as the law requires them.

UGC chairman Abdul Mannan told New Age that it became difficult to make some of the private universities law abiding as their main

goal was making money.

The Association of Non-Government Universities of Bangladesh called the proposal of sending observers to all the private universities as 'not a good idea.'

It said that the observers could be sent only to the universities facing the problems listed by the UGC.

According to the UGC report three private universities did not hold a single meeting of their trustee boards, syndicates, academic councils and finance committees.

In 2015, it says, 14 private universities did not hold a single meeting of their trustee

boards while 13 others held no meeting of their syndicates and finance committees.

It says that four private universities were crippled by ownership conflicts.

UGC officials said 18 private universities have vice-chancellors, pro vice chancellors and treasurers unapproved by the president.

They said that 47 private universities have vice chancellors unapproved by the president, pro-vice chancellors in 78 and treasurers in 61 were also unapproved.

'We would encourage private universities to abide by

the law, said Sheikh Kabir Hossain, chairman of Association of Non-Government Universities of Bangladesh.

Appointing observers in all the private universities can't be 'a good idea,' he said.

He said the government and UGC already send one member each in the syndicates of all the private universities.

He said that Article 35 (7) of the Private University Act 2010, empowers the president as the chancellor to intervene in the private universities facing instability or situations contrary to students' interests cropping up.