

UGC asks all public, private universities to introduce land faculty

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THE University Grants Commission asked the authorities of all the 110 public and private universities to introduce land faculty with courses to study land matters in their universities from the current academic session following a request from the land ministry.

But only two public and private universities have so far showed their interest to introduce course on land, said officials.

They said that the land ministry initiated the move as it felt the necessity of education on land considering that lack of knowledge and proper understanding of land matters among most of the people, even among the educated class, resulted harassment and corruption in the land offices.

Ferdous Zaman, UGC additional director for public universities, told New Age that they issued letters to all public university authorities in February this year requesting them to introduce land

faculty in their universities.

Until now only Patuakhali Science and Technology University has sought permission from the UGC to introduce B.Sc (honours) course on land from next academic year, he said.

A private university in Khulna has also showed interest to introduce a course on land, said another UGC official.

Land ministry senior secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam in a demi-official letter to education ministry secretary and UGC chairman on September 27 sought bold initiative from their respective parts to introduce land faculty in the universities.

In the letter, he said despite lives of hundred per cent people of Bangladesh were involved with land, none of the public and private universities has separate courses on land.

The land secretary said that people experienced harassment while seeking land related services mainly due to lacks of knowledge about land matters even among the

educated quarters.

He said that if awareness could be created among the educated class through introducing courses on land, public harassment would be reduced significantly.

In the letter, the land secretary suggested a syllabus for the students required to study while pursuing the course on land. The syllabus should include land related laws, acts, rules and policies, land management manuals, digital land management system and land administration.

In July 2014, the land secretary first wrote to the education secretary requesting him to take steps to introduce land faculty in the universities.

The UGC in a letter on February 15 this year asked all the public and private universities to introduce separate faculty to study land in compliance with a letter from the land secretary on December 23 last year in this regard.

According to UGC, there are 37 public universities and 83 private universities in Bangladesh.