

# Govt orders NU to close on-campus courses

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National University is finally closing its all enrolment activities for honours programmes on the main campus following a directive of the government.

After repeated directive from the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, on May 23 the Secondary and Higher Education Division under the education ministry issued a letter in this regard.

The letter, signed by joint secretary Md Parvez Hasan, read that directive has been given to close all enrolment activities of honours programmes on the NU main campus.

NU vice-chancellor professor Md Mashiur Rahman told New Age on Sunday that they had already stopped all activities to enrol students this year.

'We had started enrolment process in 2023 following advice from the government,' he said and added that they would discuss the status of the already enrolled students in the syndicate meeting and take advice from the ministry.

The loggerheads between the NU and the education ministry started in 2023.

In July 2023, NU started its admission process to enrol the students for graduate programmes in LLB, BBA, tourism and hospitality management and nutrition and food science departments.

Later in September, the UGC directed the NU to suspend all activities on campus, including enrolment of the students on undergraduate programmes, stating that the process was a clear violation of the National University Act 1992.

An explanation had also been sought asking why the initiative was taken to enrol students in the on-campus graduation programme.

At the same time, the NU authorities replied to the commission that the decision of enrolling students in the undergraduate, honours programme on its main campus in Gazipur was legal and appropriate.

At that time the NU also said that the order in 2023 came after the enrolment process had been complete.

The UGC again on February 11 this year directed the NU to suspend all enrolment activities on undergraduate programmes on its main campus for this year.

Prof Mashiur Rahman explained that they had started enrolling students on its main campus in 2023 following the academic master plan.

'We will follow the order of the president and the NU chancellor Mohammed Shahabuddin,' he said, adding, 'we are not sure about the status of the students enrolled in 2023 though.'

He also said that when the proposal of closing enrolment activities was sent to the chancellor they had stopped all activities in this regard.

Earlier he told New Age that NU was monitoring, evaluating results, making curriculum for around 800 colleges across the country and they wanted to make model honours programme on the NU campus to implement this at other colleges under it.

Currently 2,257 colleges (government and non-government) and Bangabandhu Muktijuddho Bangladesh Research Institute are affiliated with the university while the number of students studying in these educational institutes is about 35 lakh.