

## Govt plans to allow foreign univ branches

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THE government in a draft guideline allowing the operation of foreign universities, their branches and joint ventures with local universities said that they could have the approval if they had floor space of 15,000sq ft.

The Private University Act 2010, however, requires

local private universities to have floor space of 25,000sq ft and six departments under three faculties for temporary approval.

The draft of the Guideline on Higher Education Programmes by Foreign Institutions in Bangladesh 2012 is waiting for a law ministry vetting, an education ministry official told New Age.

Private university owners, meanwhile, opposed foreign universities being allowed to run branches in Bangladesh. They said that the guideline was in conflict with the Private University Act and discriminatory against local education entrepreneurs.

The University Grants Commission said that the

guideline was needed to allow renowned universities of the world to run programmes in Bangladesh.

The UGC chair, AK Azad Chowdhury, told New Age that there was no conflict between the existing private university act and the draft of the guideline for foreign universities, their branches or joint ventures

with local universities. The policy will help local students to have education of global standards, he said.

There are 72 private and 34 public universities in Bangladesh. There are two international universities in operation in Bangladesh — the Islamic University of Technology in Gazipur

funded by the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Asian University for Women in Chittagong.

The Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh vice-president, Abul Quasem Haider, said that the terms and conditions for the establishment of foreign universities, their branches

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