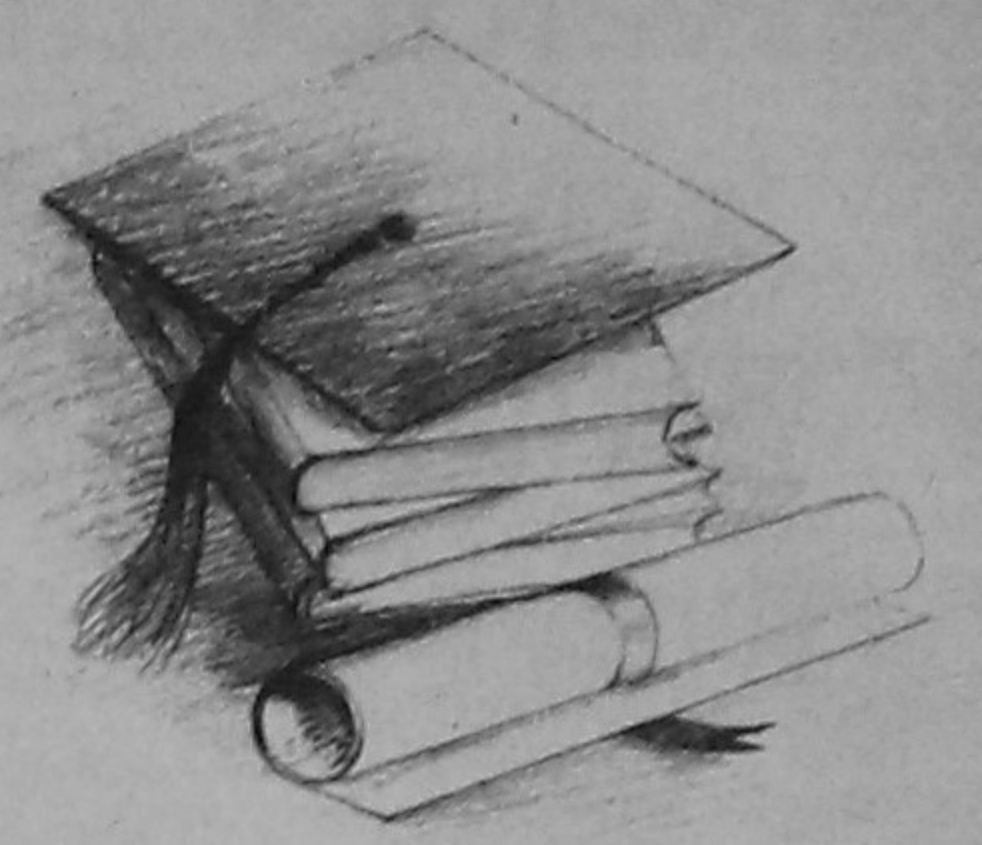


Independent University, Bangladesh

Fourth Convocation, 3 June, 2000

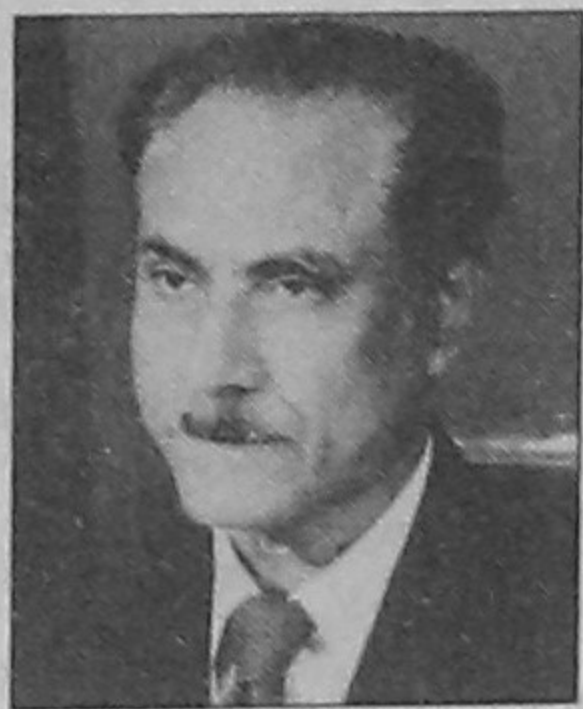


3 June, 2000



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

3 June, 2000



Message

I am glad to know that the fourth Convocation of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is going to be held today.

Education has enabled the human society to reduce the world of today into a global village by the information superhighway. With the scientific innovations and technological developments the world is progressing very fast. Therefore, there is the need to redesign the education to produce graduates possessing disciplined familiarity with the major concepts, theories and methods of science and an adequate understanding of specific natural resources issues, so that education can be related to career and the community. I am sure, Independent University, Bangladesh addresses itself to these changing phenomena.

I extend to the graduating students, the members of the faculty and the management of the University my warm congratulations and best wishes.

Shahabuddin Ahmed
Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

Live-in-Field Experience : An Exposure to Rural Bangladesh

Prof. Haroun-Er Rashid

The future leadership of Bangladesh must be well acquainted with the problems, hopes and aspirations of both the urban and the rural people of our country. However, with the growth of Dhaka into a mega-city, it was found that the majority of the urbanized young people had very vague ideas about our rural situation. It was with this in mind that IUB initiated a course which would take the students to the rural areas and keep them there for several weeks, so that they would be exposed to the rural physical and social setting. This course is called the Live-in-Field Experience (LFE). This unique course is taught every year in the winter months, and is generally taken by students in their third year.

The LFE course is not just an extended visit to villages. The students are required to make case studies and write group reports, and then make individual presentations. To impart rigour in their questionnaire surveys they have to present the results in statistical format. The areas of interest, which they are encouraged to enquire into concern gender issues, levels of poverty, access to education, environmental degradation



and population dynamics. It is obvious that the social science content is of paramount importance.

IUB has been offering the LFE course since December 1994, and it has attracted the attention of foreign universities for its course objectives, course content, methodology and fellowship experience. In January 2000 a group of students from various universities in Minnesota State, USA, arranged to participate in IUB's LFE programme. This was made possible through an arrangement signed between IUB and HECUA (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs). HECUA had organized many student visits and exchanges with universities in South America and Europe, but this was their first student visit programme in Asia. Their students participated with IUB students in the LFE programme. They also made a brief study of Durgapur Village near Comilla and submitted a report. The HECUA students had a rigorous course schedule, which included daily journals and a final report on their perceptions about village life and social structure. They were particularly interested in NGO work and made a special effort to track down the results of Grameen Bank and BRAC work in designated villages. The visit of the HECUA-led students was a great success. In the words of their final report "This happened in powerful ways for the HECUA students through their interaction with IUB students and through their discussion with NGO representatives". They also said: "The experience has significantly influenced the worldview and perspectives of many of the students. This they will carry with them into their future studies, community involvement, professions and personal lives."

The result has encouraged HECUA to begin organizing the second group of students to do their January Term in Bangladesh in 2001. At the same time, two other universities in the USA are also thinking of a similar program with IUB. The opportunity to work with foreign students has heightened the social consciousness of the IUB students and has given them scope to explain their hopes and aspirations. Over the years LFE is broadening the perspective of the IUB students not only about their own rural areas but also about foreign perceptions about life in Bangladesh.

Shaping the Future - IUB Campus Development at Basundhara

Towhid G. Kazi

Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) opened its door as an institution of higher learning in January, 1993 with only six students in rented facilities at Baridhara, Dhaka. IUB envisaged a self-contained facility on a 21 acre site at Kaliakoir. The distance and lack of supportive infra-structure has delayed the construction of the main campus at Kaliakoir. Today, over 1650 students are receiving their education in rented facilities at Baridhara, Basundhara and Chittagong. Responding to the community and in compliance with Bangladesh law, IUB purchased 8 bighas of land in 1999 to build its city campus at Basundhara.

Currently, IUB occupies approximately 75,000 sq.ft. in different buildings in Baridhara and Basundhara. However the rapid expansion of the University requires more space for quality education. To create a positive environment, IUB constructed a 5000 sq.ft. multi-purpose facility on its own land at Basundhara. This multipurpose facility at Basundhara was inaugurated on 23rd March, 2000 by the Honourable Education Minister A.S.H.K. Sadique MP in the presence of about 400 distinguished guests of the IUB community at large. Since January, 2000 this building has been utilized for classes, seminars and cultural functions.

In order to oversee the orderly development of IUB's campus, the Planning & Development Department was established in 1999. IUB is currently in the process of planning and designing the construction of its city campus at Basundhara. The proposed IUB campus will reflect the aesthetic values of Eastern culture as well as the internal compatibility in its functional layout for modern education of the West. IUB is currently in the planning process of building a 300,000 sq.ft. self contained facility in the first phase. At this initial stage, in addition to



the required class rooms and offices, a number of lecture halls for seminars, state of the art computer, language and science laboratories which can give students first hand opportunities in applied technology and research, a resource library with audio visual equipment; gymnasium, medical clinic, bookstore, student activities centre and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1000 for cultural functions are planned.

IUB's Planning and Development Department has solicited and received a number of proposals from renowned architectural firms of the country to design the campus at Basundhara. Currently, IUB's governing body is reviewing these proposals for the selection of an architectural firm to begin planning and design of the campus. Once the contract is awarded to an architectural firm, IUB anticipates beginning of construction of its campus facility for the first phase, by the end of this year.



Ministry of Education
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

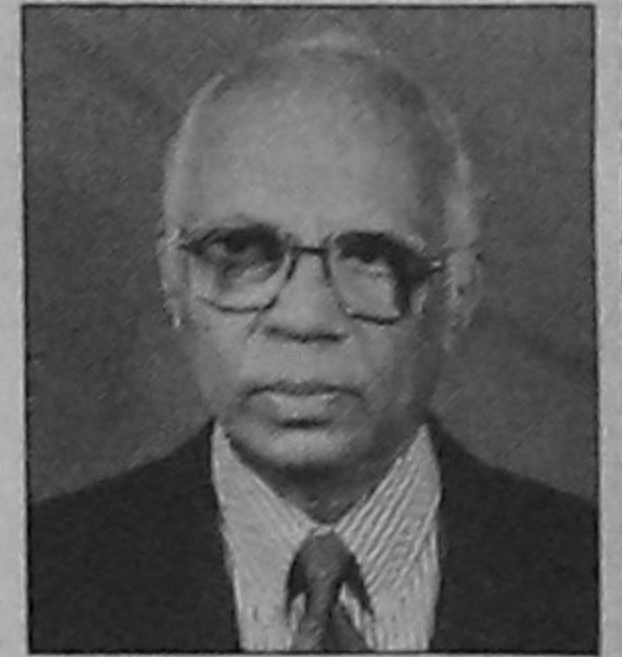
Message

I am delighted to know that the Independent University, Bangladesh is going to hold its fourth convocation on June 3 for awarding degrees to its graduating students.

I am pleased to know that IUB has chosen "Higher Education in the 21st Century" as its theme for this convocation. On this auspicious occasion I congratulate IUB for producing quality graduates essential for the country's socio-economic development and the faculty for their contribution in producing these brilliant graduates.

I also congratulate the students for qualifying themselves for the coveted degrees and the happy parents for the success of their children.

I wish the graduating students well in life and the Convocation a success.



A.S.H.K. Sadique

ECEC: Live Linkage with the Community

Mahmood-ul Haq

The Extension and Continuing Education Centre (ECEC) is a worthwhile programme of IUB designed to achieve its goal of higher education and of sustainable economic growth in the country through a two-way relationship between community and the university. ECEC is IUB's link with the community.

ECEC provides training workshops, seminars and consultation for people in occupations in order to make them more competitive in their pursuits. It endeavours to service the varied requirements of the changing and growing national economy with the use of progressive management techniques and scientific innovations.

In collaboration with reputed international institutions and eminent resource persons, ECEC has been organising executive development programmes (EDPs) since 1993 for improvement of professional skill and career advancement. It has been offering short-term courses for executive job seekers and for individuals desirous of setting up business enterprises.

EDPs were designed to provide for the current needs and demands of the business organisations and industries, such as, apparel manufacturers, air cargo agents, banking, insurance, pharmaceuticals and toiletries, steel and engineering, computer distribution and software development, shipping, ceramics, manufacturing, trading, exporting, marketing, government officials, NGOs, etc.

Realizing the urgent need to develop the communication skills of the young executives in particular, ECEC has been conducting in collaboration with IUB's Language Centre short courses in general English, business English and Bangla for Foreigners. The participants were an interesting mixture of learners from different vocations and age groups - young executives, entrepreneurs, engineers, accountants, housewives and students. The courses became markedly popular. ECEC also participates in and organises national and regional conferences on important business and economic issues. This way, ECEC's goal of establishing a live linkage with the community has been well served.

From the Vice Chancellor



A year has passed since the last Convocation. In fact, with the passing of the year 1999, we have stepped on the threshold of a new century, and most importantly, a new millennium. The new millennium signals the dawn of good governance, great happiness and prosperity throughout the world. Let us hope that a very bright and prosperous future awaits the graduates of the year 2000, who are already on the threshold of the millennium. They deserve our very best wishes and heartfelt congratulations. This is the time for them to enjoy the rewards of their efforts and celebrate their success. Today's commencement is the fruition of the earnest endeavours of the faculty, the students, the management and of others directly or indirectly linked with the University.

The 21st century has thrown before the people and nations the challenges of new technology, global competition and ruinous frictions of interests of the international community. The erosion of time-tested values giving way to an imprudent race for material pursuits has put the hardest strain on the quality of higher education. To confront this emerging situation and to march ahead, the human spirit must prevail, ideals must remain afloat and energies must not be dissipated for material gains.

It is not only a glorious occasion for rejoicing but also a solemn day of firm resolve, new pledge and the generating of will for all of us — so that together we prepare the younger generation properly who would not fail in fulfilling their responsibility to the family, the society and the world.

IUB-MSM MBA - A Truly International Degree Programme

Prof. Borhan Uddin, Ph.D.

Among the various unique features of IUB one has every reason to be proud of its MBA programme. This 15-month-long programme is offered jointly with one of the top European business schools, the Maastricht School of Management (MSM) of the Netherlands.

IUB-MSM is the first and only MBA programme in Bangladesh which is truly an international degree programme on the following counts:

1. It is a joint programme of MSM of the Netherlands and IUB that follows the MSM curriculum tailored to the local needs of Bangladesh and allows:
 - students enrolled at IUB to attend semesters at MSM,
 - students to pursue internship with European Companies in EU,
 - students to attend the graduation/convocation ceremony at MSM,
 - graduates to become members of both MSM and IUB alumni associations.
2. In this programme, along with IUB's own faculty, courses are taught by an international faculty drawn from the Netherlands, USA, Canada, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad.
3. The programme has been able to attract students from different countries including China, Nepal, India and Pakistan, making its student body truly international.

The IUB-MSM MBA programme not only provides an opportunity for the students to receive world class education customised to local business needs, but also places them in an international environment enabling active interaction with international faculty and students during the entire programme. To survive and succeed in the modern fast changing and challenging business environment which is increasingly becoming highly globalised and competitive aspiring business executives need substantial exposure to the international environment along with world class business education. Traditionally Bangladeshi students have been travelling to foreign countries for such exposure and education at a very high cost. Now IUB-MSM provides all these at a fraction of that cost.



From the Chairman, ESTCDT

I am delighted that IUB is holding its Convocation, the 4th in succession. A Convocation is a day of joy for the parents and their wards receiving honours ceremoniously. It's a day of satisfaction for the teachers whose students are passing out with colours. I am happy that IUB has set a trend for itself by holding the Convocation annually in time. For the students who are passing out, their sacrifice will be glorified today.

The founder of IUB, the ESTCDT and its esteemed members started IUB with a vision. The vision was to deliver quality education in the country. A quality which can compete equally, if not at a higher level, with education and knowledge that is imparted elsewhere in the world — a knowledge which can be utilised in the society very effectively to change the economic scenario of Bangladesh. Graduates of IUB should be proud to hold the degree certificate aloft to potential employers and employers will immediately recognise the certificate and accept it as a passport to the responsibility that they are likely to be entrusted with.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees (ESTCDT), I convey goodwill and good wishes to the Governing Council of the IUB and members of the faculty on completion of yet another successful academic session. Long live IUB.



A.K.M. Rafiqul Islam