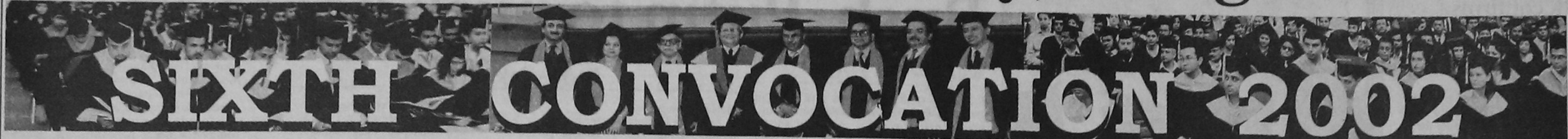




Independent University, Bangladesh



Milestones on road to the University envisioned

Established in 1991 as a university college - Independent University, Bangladesh was granted a charter under the Private University Act of 1992 to become a university. It opened its doors to students in the Spring of 1993.

The Trust: Twenty five leading citizens nurtured the idea of this university for two years and persuaded a group of relatively young industrialists and businessmen to provide the core fund for the establishment of the University. An Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust was formed to give the University a material start. The Trust is a registered philanthropic body consisting of industrialists, businessmen and eminent personalities with backgrounds in academic, professional, diplomatic and public life. It is the founding as well as the regulatory body of the University.

Schools: IUB now offers degrees in business, applied sciences and technologies with a strong grounding in liberal education. It offers 4-year undergraduate programmes in 12 disciplines under 3 schools: the School of Business, the School of Communication and the School of Environmental Science & Management. The fourth school, the School of Liberal Arts and Science teaches basic arts and science courses for a liberal grounding of students. The undergraduate programmes of study at the three schools lead to Honours degrees in BBA, BSS and B.Sc. The basic requirement for graduation is 123/129 credit hours.

IUB-MSM Programme: IUB's Master of Business Administration (MBA) is a 15-month course offered jointly with the Maastricht School of Management (MSM) of the Netherlands. In terms of an understanding signed in November 1996, IUB and MSM share the teaching load jointly. In addition to its own faculty, IUB also draws on resource persons from its collaborating institutions including the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Paris Graduate School of Business (ESCP) and the Indian Schools of Management at Ahmedabad and Calcutta.

Chittagong Campus: IUB is the first private university in Bangladesh to extend its teaching facilities to Chittagong, the port city of the country in 1999 ushering in a new trend in the country's academic growth and history. The campus is growing fast. The expansion is gradually being made on the basis of availability of teachers, laboratory facility and physical space.

Faculty: The aim of IUB is to keep high standards of education and for this, it has taken care to engage teachers having good educational careers and teaching experience both at home and abroad. A number of adjunct teachers, experts and professionals have also been engaged to derive benefits of diverse experience in teaching and practical work. It has now a faculty of 129 representing many nationalities. A student-teacher ratio of 15:1 is maintained to ensure closer individual attention to students.

Linkage with Foreign Universities: IUB has now collaborative agreements with a number of universities in Europe, the United States and Asia. These collaborations provide facilities for introducing new curricula at IUB to raise its standard of teaching as well as providing opportunities for its students to study at a number of link universities and institutes in the United Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, Russia, Thailand, Nepal and other countries. In the recent past, the University has expanded its collaborations further and signed agreements with Pokhara University, Nepal and the University of Luton, UK. It has also arranged research collaboration with Southern Illinois University, Carbondale in the field of Social Science. To expand the linkages further, talks have been held with Rowan University and Clalline University, USA and Wollongong University, Australia.

Permanent Campus: The University has envisioned a campus of its own ever since it was established. With this end in mind, IUB acquired 8 bighas of land at Bashundhara in 1999 and aspired to build a modern and functional urban campus which would be intellectually stimulating for students to strive for a higher goal. It started working on the size, design, space, facility etc. immediately after the purchase of the land. Three years of untiring efforts by the IUB community, specially the management made it possible for the foundation stone of the campus complex to be laid on Thursday, 21 March 2002 by the Hon'ble President of the Republic. It was a historic day for IUB.

Fellowship: IUB accords recognition to the renowned educationists of the country for their contributions in various spheres of education, science and research. It started this practice from the first convocation when the University awarded an Honorary Fellowship to Prof. Innas Ali for his contributions in science and teaching. Since then IUB has awarded Honorary Fellowships to Prof. Md. Shamsul Haq for his contributions in education, Prof. Nurul Islam for his contributions in economics, Prof. Rehman Sobhan for his contributions in development economics and Prof. Jamal Nazrul Islam for his contributions in science teaching and research. This year, the University has decided to recognise scholars beyond the borders of Bangladesh. The Fellow of this year is Prof. Jean-Louis Armand, President of the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and well known scholar in the field of aeronautics and astronautics.

Creativity: IUB as a seat of higher learning has given importance since its inception to creative thinking and research, as these two are an essential corollary to teaching. The faculty members are encouraged to take up projects for research and writing of books, produce articles and keynote papers on national, regional and global problems and hold as well as attend seminars, conferences special talks and workshops to present their findings and opinions. Among others some prominent faculty members who have contributed to these aspects are Prof. Borhan Uddin and Assoc. Prof. Aminur Rahman of the School of Business, Prof. Haroun-er Rashid, Prof. Ali Hossain, Prof. Nashid Kamal Waiz of the School of Environmental Science and Management, Prof. M. A. Raqib and Prof. M. Anwar of the School of Communication and Prof. Kamal de Abrew and Asst. Prof. Syed Mazharul Islam of the Language Centre. The Schools also hold seminars and workshops from time to time. The year also sees the publication of Prof. Taj I Hashmi's book "Women and Islam in Bangladesh: Beyond Subjection and Tyranny" by Macmillan, London and St. Martin's Press, New York. Prof. Hashmi is the Director of the School of Liberal Arts and Science. The book unveils very significant aspects of the position of women in our society - their problems, achievements and hopes. Another important venture in this sphere is IUB's own project for publication of a book on the heritage and culture of Bangladesh. Prof. A. F. Salahuddin Ahmed, a renowned historian of the country and Professor of the School of Liberal Arts and Science, is heading the project which is entirely financed by the University. The book aims at embodying the contributions of all segments of the people of the land from pre-historic times to the present day to the development of Bangladesh's culture and heritage. The project is progressing well.

Language Centre: IUB established the Language Centre with a view to improving the language skills of students in particular and others participating in the Centre's language courses. Its involvement within the campus and with outside participants is expanding every year. In partnership with ECEC, the Centre conducts a number of language courses for outside participants. The Alliance Francaise assists the Centre in updating the contents and techniques of French language teaching.

Computer Centre: The University has been a leader in integrating technology into students' academic as well as beyond-the-classroom life and its Computer Centre plays a lead role in this field. The Centre, also known as the Monem Computer Centre (MCC), consists of several labs which are Main Lab, GIS Lab, PoP Lab, SoC Lab, SOB Lab and MBA Lab. These satellite labs are located in different buildings and are connected to each other through wire and modem. The main lab with more than a hundred computers and a dozen printers occupies eight rooms. It is the hub of other labs and is networked to provide all kinds of computer related services like network printing, mail checking, file sharing, secure data storing etc. for the faculty, students and officials of the University. Ten Network Servers and six Network Hubs and several different OS platforms have been introduced so that the users can experience a variety of working environments like Unix, Novell, NT and Linux. In a similar way, the population lab, GIS lab, SoC lab and others have been provided with the requisite number of computers to serve the students of the relevant schools.

Composite Laboratories: Research is essential for effective teaching and learning as it sustains and enhances the ability to teach. With this end in view, IUB developed a well equipped laboratory, known as the Ispahani Composite Laboratories to conduct research on environmental biology, physics, electronics and Geographic Information System. The laboratory has four units which are: (a) chemical environmental pollution monitoring and basic chemistry (b) environmental biology (c) physics and electronics and (d) geographic system units. These units are used for conducting chemical, physico-chemical and electro-chemical analysis of air, water and soil pollutants as well as for training of students.

Extension and Continuing Education Centre (ECEC): The University has established the Extension and Continuing Education Centre (ECEC) to provide a positive response to society's need for greater opportunities for lifelong learning. Today's requirements for professional competence of personnel already employed are substantially different from those of a decade ago. Now the people in employment have to acquire the latest skills and knowledge in their subjects to keep pace with the rapid professional and technological changes. The major focus of ECEC has been the development of managerial and communicative skills of its participants. It offers a number of short courses under its Executive Development Programmes for skills development. The objective of EDP is to improve the skills and knowledge of young officers engaged in various sectors of the economy.

Centre for Social Science and Public Policy Research (CPR): The University attaches importance to the need to hold seminars and conferences on issues vital to our country for generating new ideas and inputs. The newly created Centre for Social Science & Public Policy Research (CPR) has started moving forward with its activity. Among other activities, the Centre organised a discussion session at the launching ceremony of the book "Women and Islam in Bangladesh: Beyond Subjection and Tyranny" by Dr. Taj I. Hashmi, Director, School of Liberal Arts and Science and a discussion meeting on the implications of Globalization & the Policy of Market Economy on the Development Prospects of South Asian Countries. It also advises and encourages the Schools to hold seminars and workshops.

Division of Student Affairs: The objective of the University is to make its students complete individuals. Along with teaching, it also inspires the students to participate in debates, sports, social welfare drives and cultural activities to develop leadership qualities in them. The University has a Department of Student Affairs (DOSA) to inspire and assist the students in this respect. The students have also a governing body - the Students Council, elected every year to give them an opportunity to learn self-governance. The University also encourages students to form student clubs for involvement in professional activities outside class rooms to enhance their knowledge in business, computers, language, debating and such other subjects of their studies. The clubs also enable the students to hold seminars and debates on important issues in their fields of interest.

Convocation: A milestone in the University's growth has been the holding of a convocation every year, since it started conferring degrees on the successful students. The convocation is held in early June every year after the completion of the academic session in May and announcement of results. It has already established a tradition of holding convocations.

My experience at IUB

Teaching at various universities helps one to appreciate the relationship between the ideal of a university and the exigencies of the situations in which universities are placed. In the three years that I have spent teaching at Independent University, I have come to value the commitment and sense of responsibility of those engaged on creating a robust young institution which, I feel will certainly fulfill the highest ideals of a university in time to come.

Coming from Sri Lanka, which does not permit the establishment of private universities, I have found it particularly interesting and rewarding to observe, and participate in the development of a private university in Bangladesh.

As is well known, private initiatives in any enterprise are usually bound up with a profit motive, and there is apprehension that private initiatives in university education will inevitably result essentially in the sale of degree certificates. As I understand it, Bangladesh, has permitted the setting up of private universities in the face of severe problems in the sphere of higher education, but has also instituted effective monitoring of such institutions by the UGC. The development of Independent University shows that it has not succumbed to market forces in its determination to grow on its own resources without drawing on the severely strained resources of the national Exchequer. It has lived up to its name in the selection and design of courses and syllabuses, selection of Faculty, provision of facilities, and the setting up of an efficient administration.

Firstly, in the matter of selection and design of courses, I find that IUB has broken with the British model, which has been traditional in countries of the former British Empire and adopted the American system of course credits and continuous assessment. I believe this is a very positive step in that this ensures a broad liberal education to begin with and gradual specialization as one proceeds. The credit system gives the student flexibility in the matter of selecting courses in a particular semester and also deciding on an appropriate workload. Continuous assessment places great demands on the Faculty, but is a boon to both teacher and student in providing early feedback on learning and teaching. I should particularly mention here the course entitled Live-in-Field Experience (LFE) which requires that every student of IUB should spend a period of time in the field in the villages of Bangladesh to experience the lives of the people. I believe that this will help Bangladesh in some measure to avoid becoming a country with "two nations". It will make students agents of change for the better, and make them catalysts for development applying indigenous models and not those based simply on foreign ones. I have never before experienced such a course in any other university. It is not surprising that recent LFE courses have been included some students from the United States.

My stint at IUB has been marked by the formation of relationships with Faculty members which are remarkable for their depth of knowledge in their areas, and who maintain academic standards, with an Administration, which is efficient and helpful, and with students who challenge you to give of your best.

Today marks the most important day in a university calendar - Convocation Day. It is the day on which the labours of all involved with the university bear fruit. For IUB this is the Sixth successive Convocation held without a break, and I am sure it will be the precursor to many, many more in the years to come.



Prof. Kamal de Abrew, Ph.D. (Cornell University, USA) Visiting Scholar, English

From the Chairman, ESTCDT
Independent University, Bangladesh is holding its 6th Convocation in regular succession today. By now, it has set the tradition of holding the convocation annually in June on completion of the academic session in May.



It is a day of joy and fulfillment for the graduating students, a day of gratification for the teachers and a day of great satisfaction for the parents. I would like to congratulate the graduates for their crowning success and wish them luck in future.

The founders of the University started IUB with a vision to deliver top class education to our young generation responsive to the needs of the society. I am confident that the graduates rolling out today would face the challenge ahead of them with courage and conviction backed by sound educational attainment.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to convey, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, my sincere appreciation to the Governing Council, Academic Council and Management for successfully guiding the course of the University and members of the faculty for producing able bright young men and women.

May Allah guide us all.

A.K.M. Rafiqul Islam

Importance of Counselling

Sharmeen Islam

To counsel is "to advise". This is the dictionary meaning given for the word and a counsellor is "a person who advises".

These meanings are in simple form and they belie the complexities faced by the counsellors in the practical application of the word.

In an educational institution, counselling is a multidimensional field with the main focus on, academic and personal counselling.

At Independent University, Bangladesh, both these aspects play a very important role in a student's university life. IUB lays special emphasis on academic counselling and advisors are specially trained in this field.

Under this program each freshman is assigned to an advisor, who guides the student through the confusion and uncertainty of the first semester till his/her graduation. These advisors act as guardians and they monitor the student's progress throughout their academic life. They assist in choosing the major and the relevant subjects that will help lead to successful graduation.

Information on transfers abroad, admission into graduate school and other related queries are also available with the counsellor.

Personal counselling too forms an integral part of a student's university life. Students are often faced with many predicaments, not related to academic matters, and here the counsellor plays a vital role in understanding those problems and trying to help solve them.

One of the most common problems is cultural shock, where students from a purely Bengali medium background have to adjust to an environment based on the Western values of precision, punctuality, discipline and goal motivation at the university level. There are many students who leave behind loved ones in the rural areas to seek better education in the cities. These students face difficulty in adjusting to a new environment and also being separated from their families.

Peer pressure, the pressure of regular study and maintenance of good grades are also some of the aspects a counsellor has to deal with.

Counselling is a career that can bring both joy and sadness. Joy at being able to assist a student overcome his problems and sadness when despite all efforts there are times when it becomes necessary to admit to failure.

A counsellor has to have the human qualities of sensitiveness and openness to a problem no matter how trivial it may be. At the same time it is very important to remain neutral and provide a logical and practical solution keeping in mind the welfare of the student as paramount.

From the Education Minister



Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim



M. Osman Farruk, Ph.D. Minister
Ministry of Education
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am delighted to know that Independent University, Bangladesh is holding its 6th convocation today. The theme "Challenges of University Education in the New Millennium" chosen for this year's convocation is very timely in the context of our society which needs a clear vision and capacity to deal with the emerging social, cultural and economic challenges of globalization. Our educational programmes should empower our graduates with the knowledge, skills and character necessary for faster economic development, cultural assimilation and social progress. For the graduating students, this day signals the completion of a phase of life and the beginning of a new era. I congratulate them on the successful completion of this phase and wish them all success in the new one.

M. Osman Farruk

IUB Honorary Fellows

- 1st. Convocation : 1997 - National Prof. M. Innas Ali
- 2nd. Convocation : 1998 - National Prof. M. Shamsul Haq
- 3rd. Convocation : 1999 - Prof. Nurul Islam
- 4th. Convocation : 2000 - Prof. Rehman Sobhan
- 5th. Convocation : 2001 - Prof. Jamal Nazrul Islam
- 6th. Convocation : 2002 - Prof. Jean-Louis Armand, President AIT, Bangkok, Thailand.



Graduating Students : Convocation-2001

Profile of the valedictorian Undergraduate Programme

Name : Ruhul Amin

Academic Record : CGPA 3.96 (on a scale of 4.0)

Education : Bachelor of Science with Honours in Computer Science (Major)

General Environmental Management (Minor)

H.S.C. from Comilla Cadet College, S.S.C. from Comilla Cadet College.

Awards and Activities : * 19th place in combined merit list of H.S.C. * IUB Dean's Honours List -1999 (Spring semester)

* IUB Vice-Chancellor's Honours List - 1999 (Autumn semester)

* IUB Vice-Chancellor's Honours List - 2000 (Spring semester)

* IUB Vice-Chancellor's Honours List - 2000 (Autumn semester)

* Developer of IUB Human Resource Management

* Runner's up in intra IUB programming Contest

* Participation in National Programming Contest

* Participation in ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (Kanpur IIT, India)

Profile : MBA with distinction Graduate Programme

Name : Mirza M. Mohiuddin

Education : Master of Business Administration 2002

Major : International Business

M.Sc (Electronics Engineering) 1974 B.Sc (Electronics Engineering) BUET, Dhaka, 1972 (With Honours)

Achievements : Scholarship for high performance

Elected as President of International Student Council in the Netherlands in 1974

Fellow of Institute of Engineers, Dhaka

Professional : Philips Bangladesh Ltd. Plant Manager (Audio-Video Factory)

Built & manage manufacturing operation

Implemented TQC

Introduced Flow Line Assembly

Singer Bangladesh Ltd. Plant Manager (Electronics Plant)

Built & managed assembly operation

Rangs Industries Ltd. Business Advisor

Developed country wide marketing network.



Graduating Students : Convocation-2001

From the Vice Chancellor

Today, the bell has rung for another convocation, the 6th consecutive one in the chronicle of the University.

This year we have chosen "Challenges of University Education in the New Millennium" as the convocation theme because, both in global as well as in our social context, higher education needs redesigning, for materialism and morality must find a balance and materialistic pursuit should not overwhelm our society. For the young generation of our society of which the graduating students are a part, professionalism must crown the crest of their career, character must mould their personal conduct, honesty should be the beacon of guidance and the latest knowledge as well as skills should be their strength to move the country forward. I hope that those who are graduating today would live up to this vision to seize the opportunity for leadership in their spheres of activities.

On this most important occasion of the University, I take the opportunity of congratulating the graduating students for successfully completing their educational career. The day is the culmination of their endeavours and what they are harvesting today has been deservedly brought home.

I also take this opportunity to put on record the tireless efforts of the Faculty, guidance of the Governing and Academic Councils, assistance of the guardians of the graduating students and help of the management which have together contributed to the success of this day.

Prof. Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury

