NUB: Advancing towards quality education

Tapan Khan

The Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) is advancing fast as a well-known private university in the country. The NUB was established at the end of 2002 with a vision of 'think globally and act locally,' and develop it into an institution that will meet the demands of the 21st century.

It is a university that can boast of a good number of skilled and experienced teachers, educational equipment, excellent atmosphere, modern facilities that attract students. We are proud to say that there is no student politics in the campus.

The mission of the university is to offer pragmatic and need-based programmes of study and related activities and students are directly linked to socio-economic empowerment of the people of the society. The NUB has about eight thousand students with six faculties, six departments and 20 worthy programmes including four campuses in Dhaka and two others in Rajshahi and Khulna, each under the leadership of its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. M. Shamsul Haque. The university attempts to conduct all possible activities related to education, research and developmental programmes of high quality at an affordable cost. Renowned Scientist Professor Dr. Nurul Islam has joined as Dean of the Faculty of Science. Under the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), the NUB has BSc in Computer Science and Engineering and BSc in Electronics and Communication Engineering departments in Degree level with its Dean Prof. Dr. Md. Nurul Islam. Around 600 students, 15 full-time teachers, 17 part-time teachers, 150 more computers with two computers labs, a rich library with a lot of text and reference books, and free-internet facilities in the faculty.

Northern University and Microsoft Bangladesh Ltd. with the reorganization and permission of the Ministry of Education jointly introduced the "Partners in Learning" program for the school and college teachers. About ten thousand teachers will be given training under this collaborate Training Program across the country.

Business Administration Faculty includes 44 full-time teachers, 27 part-time teachers, updated syllabus, information-enriched library, central AC, multimedia projector with employment-oriented BBA, MBA and MBM courses. Dean of the Faculty Prof Dr M Azhar Ud-din, former Pro-VC of Rajshahi University is well known among the skilled teachers.

NUB's Pharmacy Department started its journey with a vision to create expert pharmacists in the country. The Faculty includes around 400 students, nine full-time teachers, thirteen part-time teachers, modern classroom and four lab facilities. In this context, departmental head Prof Dr Monira Ahsan said thinking the worldwide demand of pharmacists, the university is going forward to fulfill its commitments.

The university has some extraordinary curricula such as special three-year Honor's course in collaboration with UK's Nottingham Trent University. The students of this course can go easily to the United Kingdom to obtain higher degree through this faculty. Dean of Faculty of Laws Professor Dr. AWM Huq who is the former Vice-Chancellor of DIU said the NUB law department has 23 full-time and 08 part-time teachers with essential books, journals and a modern library.

The NUB and UK-based Nottingham Trent University recently signed an agreement for collaboration in terms of offering LLB (Hons) degree in United Kingdom. Under the collaboration, the NUB would offer a three-year LLB (Hons) degree leading to one-year Bar-at-Law qualification in the United Kingdom (UK). At any stage a student may transfer his/her credits from Northern to UK to continue studies at the Nottingham Trent University.

Students under this programme would be treated as jointly NUB and NTU students. Students in Bangladesh would get the same study materials (free of cost) from Nottingham and they would also have NTU identity. It is a great opportunity for Bangladeshi students who would like to have a certificate accepted all over the world at a reasonable much lower cost.

NUB Faculty of Arts and Humanities Dean Prof Sadruddin Ahmed who has a vast experience in this profession including 32-year in English Department of the Rajshahi University in different disciplines - expresses his opinion that a private university is more accountable than a public one. The NUB Includes BA in English at Degree level, Preliminary in Master's in Post Graduate level, English Language and Literature and English Language Teaching course with about 1200 students, 23 full-time teachers.

The university has some special arrangements, such as two-year MA in English language course and English Language & Literature (Hons), informal workshop for teachers, class observation to ensure good teaching for students and tight recruitment system for seeking better faculty members.