Then came professor Tamim. He shared with us his appreciation for IPE. When he was in the mechanical department of BUET as a student in the early 90's he saw no light for IPE. But when Bangladesh started competing internationally during 80-90's through RMG sector, he gradually realized the necessity of IPE in the industrial sector of Bangladesh. 'Production optimization', 'Innovation'- the terms which didn't get the attention in the past are now of utmost importance. He expressed his belief that without IP engineers it would not be possible for us to compete in the international market.

The chief guest of the occasion, the honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. AMM Safiullah talked about some concerns made by the industry CEOs regarding the fact that most of the time students from the universities are found lacking in knowledge. He made it clear that students at the university level do not get specialized with particular functions of any industry, as those will vary from one industry to another. So what should the universities do? They should teach the students the basics, so they can learn those thoroughly. But he welcomed the industry personnel to come to the university to talk about their needs so that the gap between the university and the industries can be filled.

Afterwards Dr. Ahsan Akhter Hasin, the departmental head of IPE talked about the combination of engineering with business knowledge in IPE's curricula. He emphasized on management skills, as only engineering excellence cannot take one to the desired level. For example, between the two Japanese auto giants Toyota and Honda, Toyota is more popular worldwide. But according to a ranking based on technical performance, Honda excels over Toyota. So in spite of having an edge over Toyota technically, Honda lags behind because of their lackings in business strategy.







An Architect's Dhaka

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In the 1950s, the garden house had started to decay due to ill maintenance. Its adjacent areas were taken over by the government to develop a business district; with high rise buildings it became part of modern Dhaka' urban fabric.

The Nawabs also established a hunting and pleasure ground, and a wildlife sanctuary on the river Turag in Saadullahpur several kilometres northwest of Dhaka. Khwaja Alimullah started setting the place up, known as the Baigunbari Park that was later completed by his son. The natural hilly setting of this wooded area was conducive to breeding various species of exotic animals and birds. In 1896 the silt of the River was cleared to facilitate the journey to Baigunbari by decorated country boats. On many occasions the Nawabs took along high officials and zamindaars for hunting.

The park had a Sadarkotha, a Rangmahal, lodges, Andarmahal, and separate rooms for the servants and armed footmen. The most attractive building in Baigunbari was a two-storied palace that had open verandas and eleven semi-circular arches on both the floors. The single-storied Andarmahal had similar arcaded verandas. The palace garden was adorned with different species of exotic trees, flowers and fruits. Nawab Ahsanullah built a mosque and excavated two large ponds that still exist; the dilapidated mansion is now used as a revenue office. A 10-acre tea plantation was started by Ghani Miah in 1860; Ahsanullah in 1892 sent about 300,000 pounds of tea to Kolkata from this garden, but in all their experimentation in tea production proved short-lived.