Interview of the Vice Chancelor of KUET

Professor M Nawsher Ali, PhD is the Vice Chancellor of the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology. He joined as a Lecturer in the Department Of Mechanical Engg. In February 1974 in the then Khulna Engg. College (at present KUET). He joined as a Professor in 1992 in the same Department and also served as Director, BIT Khulna. During his tenure he served as Hall Provost, Advisor of students welfare, Director (P & D) and Dean, Faculty Of Mechanical Engineering, KUET.

About 40 Technical papers written by him have been published in various national and international journals. He started the research on Bio-Energy in 1993 funded by the Ministry Of Science & Technology, Bangladesh and later continued his research as a member of Asian Research Team on Development and Dissemination of Improved Bio-mass Briquetting System and Briquetting Stoves under RETs in Asia Program: A Regional Research and Dissemination Program , sponsored by (SIDA) & executed by AIT, Bangkok , Thailand since 1996.

In an interview with **Jamil-ur-Rob** and **Abdullah Al Jannat Newaz**, two students of KUET, Dr Ali has spoken about the various aspects of the different programs in KUET.

Star Campus(SC): KUET (Khulna University of Engineering & Technology) is celebrating its 34th anniversary. It has come a long way since its inception. Tell us about journey in this institution and also your feelings about this glorious moment.

Prof. Nawsher Ali (PNA): Khulna University of Engineering & Technology started its journey (academic programme) in 1974 as Khulna Engineering College. Due to the ongoing demand of technological knowledge it was converted as a technological institute called Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Khulna in 1986. In order to cohere with the advancing technology and engineering development throughout the world and to create opportunities in modern technologies, research and higher studies, BIT, Khulna was upgraded to Khulna



University of Engineering & Technology through a government in 2003. Since its inception it has been playing an outstanding role to create technologically skilled manpower for the country.

In spite of various adversities and restrictions, the university has dignified itself as the only public engineering institution without session jams. The engineers of this university are now working with good reputation in home and abroad.

Since its inception in 1974, I am with KUET and I feel honoured and proud of it.

SC: What do you think are the key achievements in terms of academics and research in KUET?

PNA: The key achievement in terms of academics of this university is the production of qualified engineers in an environment free of session-jam. The contribution to this goes to the faculty members, students and other employees of this university. The administration could convince the students (in other way, the students have understood) the benefits of session-jam less education. The achievement of quality education is due to the qualified teachers, staff and efforts of the students. At present there are more than 35 faculty members in various departments with Ph. D. degree and more than 50% of them have post-graduate degrees. This is envisioned from the employment of the out going students of this university.

In addition to the regular research program in post-graduate level, there are provisions for research activities of the faculty members. The university authority, from its own fund, started sanctioning research grants from the 2006-07 fiscal year. Although there is a limitation to the budget, grants are allotted according to the proposal submitted by various faculties. Besides this, the faculty members apply for research grants to University Grants Commission and to the Ministry of Science and Technology. Some projects have been carried out in this university by them which are financed by international community like, European Commission or SIDA etc.

SC: What future plans do you have for research and academics?

PNA: The future plan for research is to enhance the scope of research activities. For that sufficient fund is necessary. Also funds are necessary to purchase modern and sophisticated equipments which are essential for research work. Opening of one undergraduate department (Leather Engineering) and three research centres are in consideration of the government. Obviously, this will increase the scope of research activities. We believe that the government will provide sufficient budget for these in the future.

For academic development, the course and curriculum should be updated time to time to cope up the modern need of the society and the nation. The teacher-student communication should be enhanced. Proper counseling can do this. At the same time students are advised to be attentive to their studies so that they can face the challenges of globalisation.

SC: What is the current state and future plans for students' welfare (accommodation, food/scholarship, extra-curricular activities) in KUET?

PNA: Accommodation: At present there are six residential halls in KUET. Five residential halls can accommodate 1220 male students and one 3 storied female hall can accommodate 168 female students.