Fire Service needs face lift

Nazmus Saquib & Sheikh Iraj

BANGLADESH is like any other country where accidents due to fire happen from time to time. Accidents caused by fire in most cases originate from electrical short circuit, sabotage, ignorance of people regarding fire safety measures etc. Every year we are losing valuable lives and property because of fire accidents. But it is a pity that no concrete plan to check such repeated fire accidents has been taken so far by the authorities concerned. Whenever a severe fire accident occurs journalists write about the sorry state of our fire service and civil defense department and the shortage of their equipment and manpower while dealing with the fire accidents. It is true that Bangladesh is a poor country and we cannot afford to provide our fire fighters with the same equipment like they do in the developed countries.

But having said that, it is also true that successive governments have failed to address the gravity of the problems faced by our fire fighters due to resource constraints. General public are the ultimate sufferers of this negligence.

The very recent fire incident at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex is still vivid in our memory. Had there been a big ladder to reach the top floors of the Bashundhara Complex, our fire fighters could have saved lives and property on that fateful day.

Nevertheless, credit must be given to all the valiant fire fighters who, despite all the shortcomings, tried their level best and even risked their lives to stop the engulfing fire on that day. It is because of the courage, honesty, and dedication of our fire fighters that despite having poor

Change for Academic Excellence

Tanweer Morshed

HIGHER study and research are inseparable. Research paves the way for creating and nurturing knowledge. But in Bangladesh, research activities in higher studies are hardly practiced on a regular basis and the research performance is of substandard quality. The lack of importance in this arena is keeping the universities of our country from ranking high in the global lists of excellence.

A consensus having all the university ranking lists shows the slight difference in the rankings of universities home and abroad because of the different methodology and criteria used in ranking. It has been found that the top universities of the world have huge endowment for performing research activities. And they emphasize on research to an incredible extent. These universities have been the hub of knowledge and academic excellence in their respective countries.

We being an impoverished country, our government cannot afford the high cost research activities in the public universities; this is probably a logical reason behind inadequate amount allotted for research work. This year, only 5% of total budget of DU has been assigned for research. This amount is insufficient for enriching academic performance through research and will surely fail to satisfy the intellectual need of the 21st century.

Most of the policy makers and authorities of the universities are hardly aware of the prodigious importance of research. Education plays the most significant role in turning the general mass into human resources. In order to meet the challenges of 21st century and attain Millennium Development



Photo: Md.Fakrul Islam

Goal, the need for an enriched educational environment comprising multi-dimensional state-of-the-art facilities are indispensable. So as a core element of higher study and academic excellence, research must be given due emphasis.

(Dhaka Residential Model College)