

We are a dream factory

-Prof. Omar Rahman



Department of Environmental Management (DEM) of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) organized a Buriganga River clean-up programme on the occasion of International Biodiversity Day 2014 at Sadar Ghat Terminal in collaboration with Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA)



IN an interview with The Daily Star, Professor Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, discussed the present and future of the institute. Replying to a question he said that the secret of IUB doing so well is the fact that they give attention to the basics: “We take highest quality students, appoint highest quality faculty, we have world class infrastructure and we offer world class curriculum.” The institute never compromised on these vital issues. “We believe in investing in superior infrastructure and superior human capital.” Giving further emphasis on the imperative of recruiting high quality faculty he said that without quality faculty a university cannot progress to the desired level of excellence. IUB is proud to have the best team of faculty. Academic excellence is crucially depended on the quality of the teachers. By hiring quality faculty we attract quality students. On the other hand, good students encourage teachers to give their best.

According to Prof. Rahman, the goal of IUB is to become the best educational institute in the country first and in the region next. “We want to achieve regional excellence and have partnership with world class universities. He explained in many words how the team is working relentlessly towards fulfilling the dream. At this point he brought up the issue of research and its importance. He said that IUB was primarily focused on research work both by teachers and students to ensure their holistic development. “The vision of IUB is to be an International Centre of Excellence focused primarily on research. Because we believe that research is not a luxury, it is the integral part of education. All teachers and students of the institute must get involved in research to develop their analytical ability, so that

they may think out of the box,” he said. The motto is teaching students how to think in a new and evolving situation. He believes research and good communication skill are two vital qualities a student must possess to be a worthy world citizen. Research and communication skill are the two pillars of IUB. They want their students to be able to communicate well and to the right audience. “We want them to be professionally successful and also socially engaging,” he said.

Talking about the role of University Grants Commission (UGC), Prof. Rahman said that UGC was very supportive of their academic and extra-academic activities. This is a good example of private public partnership, he believes. IUB is adding new departments to the existing ones. They are opening departments of pure science subjects like Math and Physics though these may involve huge investment. They are also going ahead with the plan of opening departments of Fine Arts, Music, Archeology and Architecture.

Prof. Omar Rahman said that IUB was not a commercially oriented university. It is committed to supporting the best and the brightest students regardless of their financial status. They offer financial aid to meritorious students, spending 10 percent of the budget in financial aid. The amount is increasing every year, he informed.

IUB offers Merit Scholarship on Entry in the following manner:

- GPA 5.0 in SSC and HSC exams, without 4th subject (100% waiver)
- 7 'A's in O' level (one sitting) and 3 'A's in A' level (100% waiver)
- 50% financial aid for concurrently admitted siblings & spouse.
- IUB also offers 20%-100% Financial aid on tuition fee, based on performance in IUB and financial need.

While concluding Prof. Omar Rahman cited the example of Harvard University, which enrolls highly meritorious students believing that every student can make a difference. “We want to do it here too. We are a dream factory,” he said.

We encourage admission of meritorious students

-Prof. Md. Abu Saleh



WHAT is your prime objective to achieve in the next two years as the Vice Chancellor?

Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) is one of the officially recognized (By the UGC and the Government) Private Universities of Bangladesh. Since its inception it has made remarkable progress in academic matters. Now, our prime objective for the next two years is to expand the academic frontiers of the university by introducing two more departments: one is B.Sc. in Architecture and another B.Sc. in Civil Engineering. Besides this, we are taking necessary steps for arranging collaboration with some Western Universities which will contribute to raise the academic standard of BUBT.

We have succeeded in bringing about qualitative improvement in various areas of our academic activities. In 2009 the number of regular teachers of the university was about 113 and the number of students was 3623. During the last 5 years the university continued to grow and the number of teachers rose to about 200 in 2014, including a good number of foreign trained senior teachers, and the number of the students to about 8000. The university consistently maintains a good standard of teaching imparted by a competent set of teachers. The quality of our students is indeed remarkable. Our students took part in many national and international competitions. Recently, our students have become champion in the inter-university 'Roborace 2014' where 17 universities, both private and public, participated with their 67 teams.

In BUBT we do not concentrate our efforts only on providing and acquiring theoretical knowledge from the books through traditional lectures. Rather, we make our students familiar with their total environment so that after completion of their study they are transformed into

human resources to meet the needs of the modern society. We work hard to prepare our students for good results and at the same time make them good human beings.

We have met all of the requirements of the Private University Act 2010. We have been maintaining the quality of education, transparency in admission and examination systems, updating academic progress, physical infrastructures, research facilities both for the faculties and students, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, modern facilities needed for effective teaching and learning in a disciplined environment. Both the Campuses of this university are free from Smoking, Drugs, Politics, Adapting Unfair Means in the Examinations, Indiscipline Immoral Activities and Terrorism.

What steps as the VC do you plan to take to scale up the performance of BUBT?

As the Vice Chancellor I am very hopeful for and ambitious of the future of BUBT. By now, BUBT has succeeded in equipping all the departments, both old and new, with competent teachers and necessary facilities. The two departments (B.Sc. in EEE & B.Sc. in Textile Engineering) introduced lately have been performing very well in respect of imparting quality education. The two new departments we are planning to introduce will further contribute to expand the scope for imparting quality education to learners.

What benefits do you offer to meritorious students who come from poor families?

We encourage the admission of meritorious students to all the departments consistently. At the moment we are offering 10% to 100% fee waiver to meritorious students who come from poor families. In addition, 100 percent fee waiver is available for the sons and daughters of the Freedom Fighters. For undergraduate students special tuition fee waiver from 25% to 100% based on total GPA of SSC and HSC Examinations results, is also given for the first semester. In the subsequent semesters tuition fee waiver is also given on the basis of the examination results of each semester in BUBT. 50% tuition fee waiver is available for sibling and spouse. We have plans to introduce some other benefits for the students consistent with our academic policy.



Admission

Summer-2014

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