



NOTRE DAME UNIVERISTY BANGLADESH

The competence to see and the courage to act





MESSAGE

03 Poush 1426
18 December 2019

I am delighted to know that Notre Dame University Bangladesh is going to organize its first Convocation on 18 December 2019 in a befitting manner. On the eve of the Convocation, I would like to congratulate the graduating students, exultate teachers and university family on achieving this important milestone.

Convocation is a significant event in the lives of the graduates. On this auspicious occasion, their talent and hard work and perseverance come true. On the one hand the graduating students receive formal recognition from the State and on the other hand the State bestows some responsibility on the graduates. At the same time university authority can evaluate its aims and objectives and the overall activities being performed by the university. Nowadays, about 148 universities, both private and public, are running in the country with a view to imparting higher education and making a knowledge-based society. The present Government under the dynamic and able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken manifold measures from primary to tertiary level to improve educational infrastructure and attain quality education. I urge the university authorities to impart state-of-the-art education along with research activities so that the quality education can be achieved and our graduates can face the global challenges successfully.

I believe that Notre Dame University Bangladesh will continue its efforts to produce conscientious and professionally trained citizens who will contribute to make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous country.

I wish the first Convocation of Notre Dame University Bangladesh a grand success.

Khoda Hafiz, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid



বাণী

কাজী আব্দুল হামিদ
উপ-পরিচালক
পার্বত্য অঞ্চল
১৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯

বাংলাদেশের এক বিরাট অঙ্গনে দেশের শিক্ষাব্যবস্থার পরিণতি নিয়ে পরিশ্রমে সন্তুষ্ট হৃদয়কে স্পর্শ করে একটি কীর্তি অর্জন করেছে বাংলাদেশের প্রথম বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। এই কীর্তি অর্জনের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশের শিক্ষা এবং মানব সম্পদ, জাতীয় চেতনা এবং দেশের সমগ্র পরিবারের অঙ্গীকারের একটি সফল ফল।

জাতীয়তাবাদী চেতনাকে প্রতিষ্ঠা দেওয়া এবং দেশের মানব সম্পদকে সঠিকভাবে পরিচালনা করা হলো।

এই বিদ্যালয়ের একটি বড় অঙ্গন। এখানে শিক্ষার্থীরা পড়েন এবং শিক্ষকরা পড়েন। এখানে শিক্ষার্থীরা পড়েন এবং শিক্ষকরা পড়েন।

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MESSAGE

The reality of human experience consists of countless episodes that span an immense continuum of time and space. All of us, as mortal creatures, have a final place only at the beginning and at the end. During the interval of a lifetime, between the womb and the tomb, we are always in motion. We never stop growing and changing. We constantly move from place to place. Even if we try to stand still, the earth under our feet continues to spin, and if we pause that we can never hold the line. Nevertheless, certain special moments have the capacity to slow down the irreversible cycles of seasons. On a few extraordinary occasions, the relentless march of hours, days, and years seems to pause. We manage to recognize a rare and remarkable event that appears to belong to a reality that ignores the clock and disrupts the calendar. The graduates who are participating in this ceremony may know this feeling: for a Convocation can be exactly such a memorable occasion. They are crossing a timeless border line between what came "before" and what will come "after." This is especially true here, of course, because at this Convocation, we gather for the first time.

We come together to honor and to encourage these students who are entering a new stage of their lives. The conferral of a university degree marks a symbolic change of status, a transition into a professional identity by virtue of the study, training, and practical engagement in the curriculum of particular disciplines, alongside critical cross-cutting activities.

These graduates have climbed up many steps, one at a time, some easy and some more difficult, to reach this high plateau. From this height, new horizons are visible and roads leading in many directions invite exploration. These, our first graduates are the pioneers who shaped Notre Dame University Bangladesh from its infancy. They have left their mark as co-founders together with the first teachers and staff. Their youthful spirit has given a lasting vitality to the temporary building and the surrounding grounds where they studied, worked, and played.

At Notre Dame University Bangladesh, the whole person is our concern. We seek to provide an excellent academic foundation for careers in business, in law, in education, in communication, in public service, in computer technology, and other fields. But we also seek to support the values of integrity, vision, conscience, loyalty, justice, respect, compassion, and courage, inspired by an awareness of responsibility for family, neighbors, the nation, and the natural environment.

As we send our first graduates on their way to discover their future, we accompany them with an invocation of God's blessing that they may carry with them the essence of Notre Dame, the lessons they have learned, and friendships they have formed.

Prof. Dr. Fr. Patrick D. Gaffney, CSC
Vice-Chancellor
Notre Dame University Bangladesh



MESSAGE

Dear graduating students and guardians,
Dear faculty members and non-teaching staff of NDUB,

On this auspicious occasion, certainly my joy knows no bounds to be a part of this grand event: the first convocation of NDUB. It is a matter of pride to observe this milestone achievement of our beloved university, which was approved by the government and UGC on 29 April 2013 and started its academic journey with 302 students on 3 December 2014.

Today, 18 December 2019, a total of 136 graduates of NDUB from the five departments: Department of Business Administration, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of English, Department of Economics, and Department of Law are now ready to serve the nation and humanity. I have faith that these graduates and the coming graduates too will be the shining stars because of NDUB's humanitarian values and its professional approach dedicated to the strengthening of the country's reputation globally.

Being students of the first batch of this institution your path was not very smooth. You have experienced many difficulties. We were not able to provide you with many of the facilities that you needed. Yet you have accepted everything patiently because you realized the fact that every great thing has a small beginning. Your patient learning gathers fervor and momentum for this small tree. It is growing and starting to bear fruit. We will need the blessing of all of you so that this tree grows huge one day.

Notre Dame University Bangladesh aspires to make its students evolve with critical thinking along with their proficiency in various skills so as to make our students into thoughtful citizens. NDUB's authority, faculty members and staff have worked hard and tried to create a space of liberal education where fresh and free thought would liberate the mind of the students to play a significant role in the human community. And this is high time now for the graduates to prove the case. We have full faith in them.

Blessed Basil Anthony Moran, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross has said, "No one builds alone, we build together." This is true of NDUB. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduating students, their parents, students' mentors, faculty members and all the non-teaching staff of NDUB. We all have done it together!

I believe our graduates can overcome all the challenges ahead and will prove their skills with their intellectual, creative mind and courageous human heart. Dear graduating students of NDUB, you are lights, 'let your light shine' in the world.

Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC
Registrar
Notre Dame University Bangladesh



CONVOCATION 2019

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

NDUB

The Holy Cross Catholic Missionaries took the academic journey to its next level & there comes the first private university in Bangladesh run by Missionaries of Holy Cross Fathers known as NDUB which envisions to achieve diligently true knowledge and wisdom for life and living, through studies in humanities, technologies, and also business, preparing the youth globally & culturally so that the students can contribute effectively to humanity.

OUR VISION: Formation of mind and heart for truth and for the fullness of life and living

OUR MISSION: To seek sincerely and achieve diligently true knowledge and wisdom for life and living, through studies in humanities and technologies, based on the local Bangladesh culture and spiritual heritage, so that the students may develop their best selves to serve their society and contribute effectively to humanity Values that constitute the foundation of the University and the essential elements of our teaching and learning are:

- Pursuit of truth
- Rational thinking
- Respect for human dignity
- Non-violence
- Social responsibility
- Commitment to human development
- Solidarity and justice
- Peace and charity
- Gender equality
- Global unity
- Communal harmony
- Respect for creation

COLLABORATION

NDUB has collaboration program with University of Notre Dame, Indiana, United States of America. Each year faculty members from foreign universities conduct workshop and training programs for the faculty members and students at NDUB campus. Furthermore, NDUB and Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India signed an MoU to foster academic exchange and cooperation. Both the organizations will encourage the following academic activities of mutual interest. The two universities shall exchange academic staff/researchers/experts for delivering of lectures, exchanging of views and expertise for both long term and short term duration, conducting joint academic research for a period of time as agreed upon in advance by the relevant authorities in the two universities, participating in conferences, seminars and similar activities organized by either institute.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

NDUB also believes in pragmatic training for the students and there NDUB presents its full-fledged running clubs at task where students explore their potentials, work on their dormant talents, learn the leadership skills and get prepared for a better future through achieving competency in career.

Moreover, NDUB has its own in-door and outdoor game facilities. Annual sports competition is held every year. By participating in these games students are given the opportunities to be fit--mentally and physically. Also, students learn team management, leadership, resolving instant crisis, and effective communication.

RECENT HISTORY

The Government of Bangladesh and its many officers and resources have cooperated enthusiastically to hasten the founding and growth of the University. The Board of Governors of Notre Dame College generously donated land on the south edge of their campus, which has become the present and future home of NDUB. Fr. Hemanto Rosario, CSC, Principal of Notre Dame College, did tireless work to prepare the initial application to the University Grants Commission. Fr. Thomas O'Hara, CSC, former President of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA, the Convocation Speaker at today's First NDUB Convocation, gave long hours of valuable advice to guide the setting up of the institution and the formation of its Board of Trustees. That Board of Trustees has met continually since 2013, and with the Syndicate and Academic Council guides and supports the University leadership in holding to the founding vision and preparing for all future challenges. After five full years of teaching and learning, a dedicated faculty, a committed administration, and a talented, diverse student body have come together on our Motijheel campus on December 18, 2019, in the presence of so many generous guardians and countless well-wishers, to celebrate the entrance of NDUB's first graduates into the public life of Bangladesh and beyond. These joyful graduates and the many who will follow them through the years shall be the real proof of the worthiness of this effort and the rightness of the vision. We believe they now have "the competence to see and the courage to act."

THE BEGINNINGS

Because education was seen as essential to the development of the people, every mission station developed primary, and often secondary schools. At the time, illiteracy rates were very high, and there was hope of getting everyone through class five (the standard for literacy) and then as many as possible into high school. All schools founded by the Congregation were open to all children without distinction of creed or race. The minuscule Catholic population, which today still only accounts for 0.2% of the population in Bangladesh, was providing a necessary and valued service to all the people it could reach in that vast area. With the end of the British Raj and the establishment of independent Pakistan in 1947, the Holy Cross community sought to support the new nation by extending its educational efforts to the intermediate college level (class 11 and 12). Notre Dame College opened its doors in November 1949, alongside St. Gregory's High School in Luxmibazar. A year later the college relocated to a pharmacy building nearby at Subash Bose Lane, and two years after that in 1952, Notre Dame College shifted to the newly developed area of Dhaka called Motijheel. One year after the boys' school had begun, the Holy Cross Sisters began Holy Cross College for girls at Tejgaon in another section of the city. These several colleges made their mark and their reputation spread quickly. Their academic results were excellent from the start.



MESSAGE

03 Poush 1426
18 December 2019

I am delighted to know that the first ever convocation ceremony of Notre Dame University Bangladesh is going to be held since its establishment in 2013. I appreciate the hard work of the graduates for achieving this momentous success and at the same time, I would like to congratulate all teachers, parents and members of the administration.

The Greatest Bangladeshi of all times, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman paid highest importance to education. Under his visionary leadership and guidance, our constitution proclaimed education as a basic right of the citizen. Bangladeshis constituted "Kutir e Khuda Education Commission" in 1972 for preparing a people-centric education policy. The report was submitted by the Commission in May 1974. But, it did not come to the light as the Father of the Nation was brutally assassinated on 15 August 1975 along with most of his family members.

Awami League government has adopted a time-befitting education policy with emphasis on building educational human capital. We have taken necessary measures for modernizing the higher education and also to establish University in every district. During last 11 years, we have established a number of specialized universities in the field of agro-space, agriculture, engineering, medicine, textile, etc. At present, there are 45 public, 105 private and 3 international universities are operating in the country.

I second the name Notre Dame achieved profound respect for its role of leadership in pioneering quality education in Bangladesh. I hope this university would come for upholding the motto: "competence to see, and courage to act" in connection with the spirit of our Liberation War and contribute effectively to transform the country into a "Golden Bangladesh" as dreamt of by the Father of the Nation through their graduates.

I wish the graduating students and the University endless success.

Sheikh Hasina



MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Notre Dame University Bangladesh (NDUB) is going to hold its first Convocation on 18 December 2019 at its own permanent campus. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and felicitations to the graduating students, the proud parents, faculty members and management of the university.

The people of Bangladesh have been benefited immensely from missionary educational institutions over many decades. Notre Dame University Bangladesh has been making important contribution to the nation's higher education since its inception. I believe that NDUB is maintaining its student-centered, value-based and service-oriented approach where counseling is available for students who face any kind of problems in their lives. The University is known for being a place of harmony, acceptance, and tolerance. The university has an outstanding safeguarding policy which assures that everyone is treated with respect. The faculty members of this University are competent and available to serve students in the development of their knowledge and skills. In the realm of education, the university is expected to play a leading role because of its humanitarian values and its professional approach dedicated to the strengthening of the country's reputation globally.

I wish the first convocation of Notre Dame University Bangladesh a complete success.

Prof. Dr. Kazi Shahidullah
Chairman UGC



MESSAGE

To Notre Dame University Bangladesh's first graduates — congratulations! We are all very proud of our University and of you. All of your life you will remain Notre Dameans and we will always be happy to be in touch with you, our first alumni, to know how and what you are doing. We will surely schedule reunions.

You first took the risk to come to a new University, a place with no history. Now you are an important part of our history. The University welcomed you with you. We tried our very best to teach you, train you, form you. You took an active part in all that the University offered. You helped us in many ways and we are grateful to you. We also learned from you.

We think your families for entrusting you to us. We hope we have merited that trust. We believe you are ready to face the world, to serve our country and its people, to be informed men and women with the competence to see and the courage to act. You will work for the good of all and for the development of this country.

You are our first graduates and will always hold that place. You have made open the path for all those who follow you to Notre Dame University Bangladesh. Again, we thank you and wish you well. Be in contact with us. You are always part of this family.

You have been together, men and women, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist, Bengali and Tribal, with a faculty and staff who are the same. We have experienced harmony and shared goals and all that unite us in a common purpose. That is a rare experience in the world today, but a very valuable one. We have learned that it is possible. I wish you many more successes in the future.

May God continue to bless you and our University.

Fr. James S. Cruz, CSC
Chairman
NDUB Board of Trustees



MESSAGE

February 2019

Greetings, blessings and best wishes! Peace and a prosperous future.

Today you gather to celebrate a remarkable achievement and dreams that come true.

When you enrolled in the newly established Notre Dame University Bangladesh, you help to initiate a long-held dream of the Holy Cross Fathers. The founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Father Basil Anthony Moran, dreamed of assisting young people to be worthy and productive citizens of the world and future citizens of heaven. His fellow religious and partners were dispersed to the West and to the East, carrying in their hearts and minds the same lasting dream: that through education a better world would be born where each human being, man and woman, could live in peace, justice and harmony despite the differences among them.

Since 1949, Blessed Moran's sons and their collaborators passed on the dream to thousands of sons of Bangladesh through Notre Dame College, Dhaka. Now you are the first hundreds of men and women who, through hard work and sacrifice, are graduates of Notre Dame University Bangladesh, begun only five years ago, carrying a university degree in your capable hands. NDUB expects you to change the world as much as the sentiments and values enshrined in your hearts as by the ideas that will germinate in the creativity of your minds. Your professors and mentors, along with the priests, nuns and staff, have trained together to provide you with tools to create a still better and humane world than the one into which you step out today as a new generation of leaders for the nation and the world community.

Your fathers call upon you to re-create the world turning it away from violence and self-indulgence into a society learning harmony and respect for all people and for your earth be your laborers for the common good and the welfare of humankind. You have many tools from your education and time at Notre Dame University Bangladesh. Use what you have wisely and well. The world is yours to change and make new. Go forward with our blessings.

Sincerely, in Holy Cross,

Robert E. Epping, CSC
Superior General
Congregation of Holy Cross, North America



MESSAGE

As we celebrate the first Convocation of Notre Dame University Bangladesh, we joyfully recognize a significant milestone in the epic history of the missionary educators who reached East Bengal in 1953. The students who are graduating share in this achievement by adding their own chapters to this remarkable story.

The dream of beginning a university in Bangladesh stirred the mind of the Holy Cross Community for a long time. The issue was first raised officially when a request came from the government of Pakistan not long after the start of Notre Dame College seventy years ago. But the means needed to establish a university are considerable and resources were meager. So, it was judged then, that this undertaking would have to wait.

But when the love of learning and a dedication to serving others are combined with persistence, the results can be astonishing. Those with the courage to believe, at the possibility, can take pride in the outcome.

Today's convocation marks an extraordinary occasion for many reasons. Obviously, it displays the achievement of the students who have completed their course. But for all of us, it renews confidence in the power of faith to move mountains.

Allow me to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates of NDUB. Having completed your studies, you are embarking on a future that will offer challenges as well as opportunities to test your skills and to try your patience, undoubtedly with many surprises in the days and years ahead.

May the spirit of Notre Dame accompany you, enlightening your minds and guiding your hearts as you set out on the next stage of your life's great journey.

Dr. Fr. Thomas J. O'Hara, CSC
President Emeritus of King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA

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