

Lessons in personal and professional growth from IUB alumnus Syed Moinuddin Ahmed

From IUB classrooms to chairing DBH Finance PLC, Syed Moinuddin Ahmed shares insights on growth, leadership, and the importance of hard work and continuous learning

FAISAL BIN IQBAL

Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, a finance professional with over two decades of experience, graduated from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in 2000 with a major in Finance and a minor in Accounting. He began his career in banking, spending 10 years across multiple institutions, before moving into insurance. Today, he chairs the board of DBH Finance PLC and serves as Additional Managing Director of Green Delta Insurance PLC, where he also oversees its healthcare subsidiary, GD Assist. Ahmed also holds an MBA in Finance and Banking from the University of Dhaka.

IUB played a crucial role in shaping Ahmed's professional journey. As one of Bangladesh's leading private universities, it has produced numerous leaders, and Ahmed considers himself fortunate to have been part of that community. Beyond academics, his time at IUB was defined by friendships and formative experiences that helped shape his decision-making and career success. More than just education, IUB provided him with a valuable life perspective, teaching students not only how to

choose the right career path but also how to continuously develop themselves for ongoing growth. These "golden days" remain a key foundation for his personal and professional development.

Nearly three decades after graduating, Ahmed still fondly recalls his time at IUB but reflects that he could have expanded his network beyond his close circle of friends. While he knew many students across batches, his actual friend group was limited. Today, he recognises the immense value of networking—not just within but beyond one's immediate circles—as a critical tool for navigating both organisational and personal growth.

If he could advise his younger self, it would be to focus more on building the right connections and making more friends, as effective networking plays a significant role in day-to-day success.

Interestingly, Ahmed admits that he was quite introverted during his school, college, and university days. He wasn't comfortable mixing with

new people or adapting quickly to new situations, describing it as "one of my biggest limitations" that he has worked hard to overcome throughout his career—and continues to work on daily.

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Syed Moinuddin Ahmed

Zahiduzzaman's journey

A testament to BRACU's promise to empower through the vision of an equitable future

ABIR HOSSAIN

Established over two decades ago, with a vision to produce pioneers across multiple fields, BRAC University (BRACU) has since transformed into one of the key players in the field of tertiary education in Bangladesh. The university has continued to set a standard of education that reflects its commitment to becoming a leading university of the Global South. To be able to continue to maintain the rigours they have set for themselves, BRACU builds on the values set by its supplemental organisations and combines them with its willingness to imagine an equitable future. The execution, of course, hinges on their ability to churn out future leaders who are equipped with the know-how and confidence to apply their skills into practice. With student centricity at the heart of their ethos, BRACU addresses all dimensions of education, integrating active learning with social and professional aspects of academia.

To that end, we sat down with BRACU alumnus Zahiduzzaman to have him talk about what role his alma mater played in shaping his identity and the lessons it imparted, which he continues to carry to this day. Having graduated from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering back in 2005, Zahid currently works at Grameenphone Ltd. as the Head of Digital Platform Payment and Partnership.

In the role that he now occupies, Zahid is responsible for driving digital transformation at Grameenphone by using the latest technologies and forming valuable

partnerships to improve customer experiences and help grow the business. It was the culmination of a major in Computer Science, coupled with a minor in Business Administration, that laid the technical groundwork for his expertise across tech and commerce. His time within the classroom, primarily in courses pertaining to the minor that he pursued, also granted him a clear understanding of the dynamic world of business.

Zahid also said that his time at the residential semester played a key role in developing other integral skills such as teamwork, empathy, and strategic thinking. The residential semester is a unique feature of the university, where students have to spend an entire semester at a campus in Savar to complete their general education courses.

"When I look back at my university days, I remember how BRACU started from humble beginnings. The quality of education, however, was always a priority. The discipline and values instilled by our teachers have stayed with me and shaped both my personal and professional life," he said. Zahid expanded further, stating that it taught him resilience, authenticity, and to strive for continuous improvement.

"BRAC University had a huge impact on me, teaching me to be resilient, to stay true to my values, and to always strive for growth in everything I do," he added.

Yet, it wasn't merely time within the classroom that he looked back at with fondness, but also the activities he engaged in beyond academics that he believed enhanced his development. Zahid particularly emphasised his involvement with BRACU's first ever cricket team and the values that it instilled in him. He was also delighted by the fact that the foundation that he and his teammates laid down has been built upon by students who have come after him.

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Zahiduzzaman

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