

75th founding anniversary of DU celebrated

Call to bring back past image

Dhaka University on Thursday celebrated its 75th founding anniversary through a rare reunion of the former and present students and teachers who recalled the role of their alma mater in the socio-political development of the nation since its inception, reports BSS.

The university wore a festive look when a large number of former and present students, teachers and employees converged on the campus to recollect the sweet memories during their days in the university.

The former students visited their respective halls and departments and

many of them took their meals in hall canteens and cafeterias with the present students through purchasing coupons as they did in their university life.

The residential students kept their rooms open from 1 pm to 3 pm to give their predecessors the opportunity to visit their old residential places.

Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) also organised a meeting of the former and present students at the mall area of the university.

Former Vice Chancellors and DUCSU leaders reviewed the back-

drop of the establishment of the university in 1921 and its academic and socio-political role over the last 75 years.

Vice Chancellor and DUCSU President Prof Emajuddin Ahmed attended the meeting as the chief guest while DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman MP was in the chair.

Speaking on the occasion, former Vice Chancellor Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury said the whole nation is proud of the revolutionary role of the university in the socio-political de-

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velopments over the long 75 years.

"But when we talk about the revolutionary role we should also remember that the university had a very high academic heritage too," he said.

Prof Chowdhury said within a few years of its establishment, Dhaka University earned a very high reputation not only in the sub-continent but also in the academic arena all over the world.

He said there is no denying the fact that the standard of education has deteriorated in Dhaka University and he held campus unrest and terrorism responsible for the degradation.

Prof Chowdhury, also a student of Dhaka University, said heritage alone can bring no good to the university unless active measures are taken to uphold it.

He expressed the hope that celebration of the platinum jubilee will encourage the students and teachers to regain the lost glory of the university.

Former Vice Chancellor Prof Shamsul Haq said in the past students of the university responded to the call of the nation on several occasions on the turning points of socio-political history. The teachers too extended their support to the students for the greater interest the nation.

"But the primary and prime objective of all of them was education and therefore the institution earned reputation as the Oxford of the east," he said.

Prof Haq observed with regret that now-a-days neither the students nor the teachers are sincere in their academic pursuit.

He said the teachers are now involved in narrow group politics which is hampering the academic pursuit. He urged them to follow the ideals of the great teachers of the university of the past.

Prof Haq also urged the concerned authorities to give proper recognition to the former teachers whose contributions had given the university an international reputation.

He urged the students to be tolerant and democracy minded instead of becoming terrorists for the sake of

the nation as well as for their own benefit.

Former Vice Chancellor A Mannan said the university was established at a time when the people of this part of the region was lagging behind in all sphere of life.

The objective of establishing the university was to promote the cause of the people of this region through education and over the years the university was successful in achieving its goals.

But, today Dhaka University is on the verge of losing its past glory for which none can avoid responsibilities, he said.

"We should not avoid our responsibilities for the situation, rather we have to take responsibilities to regain the heritage of the university through upholding its academic excellence," he said.

In his address as the chief guest, Prof Emajuddin said the 75 years of Dhaka University is a very significant period for the whole nation.

"Dhaka University had a very important role in the development of our national life while our future progress will also depend much on this university," he said.

UNB adds: Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed opened the function by hoisting the national flag at 10:15 a.m. DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman presided over the function.

The function was also addressed, among others, by former DUCSU leaders Ahmadul Kabir, Mahbub Zaman, Morshed Ali, Enayetur Rahman, Shah M. Abul Hossain, Mahfuza Khanam, Asafudowla Palowan, Borhan Uddin, KM Obaidur Rahman and Fazle Hossain.

Vice Chancellor Emajuddin Ahmed thanked the former VCs for their suggestions. "We have been waiting for suggestions from various conscious section of the society to bring back the glorious image of the university", he added.

The former Vice Chancellors—Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, M Shamsul Haque and Abdul Mannan—and former DUCSU leaders were presented crests on behalf of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), an apex body of the university students.