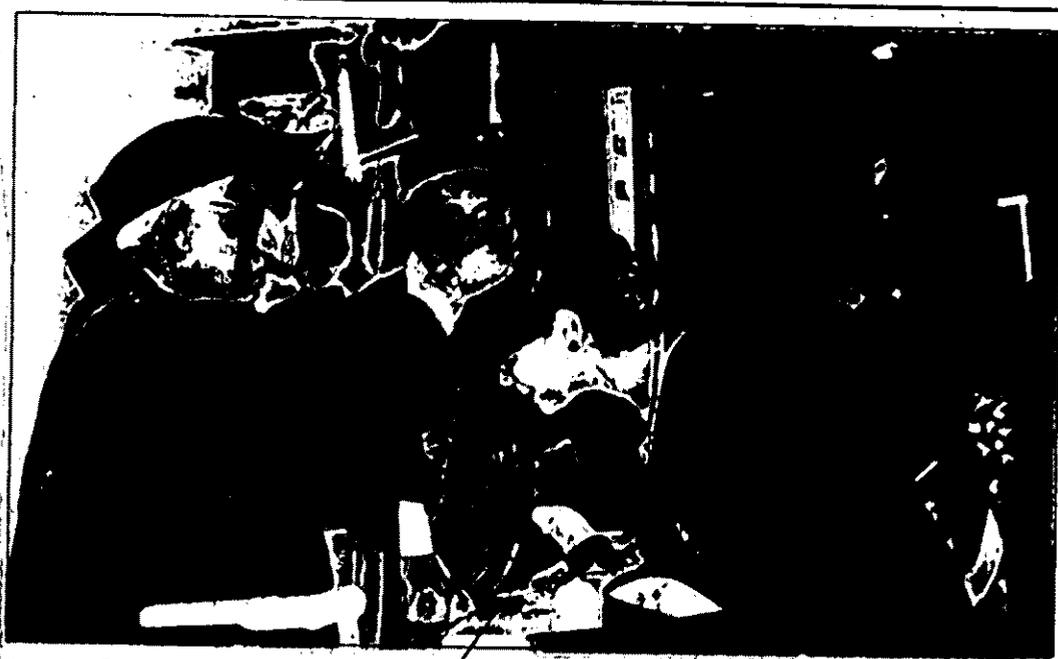


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President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed distributing awards among the meritorious students of East West University at its second convocation ceremony on Tuesday at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

President says at EWU convocation

## Private varsities should create scope for less fortunate students

President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed on Tuesday said universities should serve as a place of 'free-thinking' and centre of excellence in research and study and must not be located in a rented house in shopping areas in the town, reports BSS.

"The environment of the university should be calm, serene and quite. Its open space with fresh air should broaden the mind of the students apart from building up sound physiques," he said at the second convocation of the private East-West University (EWU) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

President Iajuddin Ahmed is also chancellor of the East-West University.

The President said universities are regarded as 'think-tanks' of the nation and the developers of the private universities must ensure the noble concept. He said all universities, be it public or private, should have residential facilities. Residential halls are part of universities as those halls serve as bridge among the students and assist them having interaction with people of diverse aptitudes.

Education minister Dr M Osman Farruk, President of the Board of Directors of East-West University Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, pro-Vice Chancellor of EWU Dr Syed Ferhat Anwar, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Dean of faculties of EWU Prof Abdul Mannan presented the graduates before the chancellor of the university.

President Iajuddin said it is blamed that only a few affluent students are fortunate to accommodate themselves in the private universities.

"We all know that private uni-

versity education is expensive compared to public university education. But we should not overlook the economic condition of the people of the country. No one expects that the private universities are established for couple of students having economic base of their parents," he said.

The president reminded the private university authorities that universities are not profit-earning organizations but institutions for dissemination of knowledge and established for development of the nation.

He urged the entrepreneurs in the field of higher education to provide more stipends and scholarships for poor but meritorious students.

"Providing stipends to poor students is a factor and I hope many private universities are doing it generously. But that is not enough, it should be further expanded to meritorious students, particularly from rural areas," the president said.

President Iajuddin said the universities are platforms which can transform the talented youths into potential human resources with in-built knowledge, superior character along with wisdom and values.

He said the universities should have wider scope of learning in different disciplines. It is not fair that the universities will only offer limited subjects with limited scope or no scope at all for essential practical class and library facilities.

The President said the previous BNP government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia envisioned the establishment of private universities to meet the growing demand of quality education and accommodation of more students in the higher seat of learning.