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Private Varsity students urged to play big roles suitable for nation

Staff Correspondent

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed called upon the higher educational institutions to come up with the curricula for addressing the social needs.

The President said that universities have a big role to play new ideas suitable for the country while he was addressing the seventh convocation of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on Saturday at Bangladesh-China Friendship International Conference Centre.

As the successful educational system includes the value system necessary for social cohesion and progress along with the knowledge and professionalism for earning livelihood the President Iajuddin Ahmed underscored the need of inclusion of arts and humanity in the curricula along with science and engineering subjects.

Terming the teachers 'Social Engineers' and 'real makers of a nation' the president said that if the teaching community fails, the nation will fail and a generation goes waste.

"Their mission is to provide the latest knowledge to their disciple and to offer an education that combines the culture and values of the East with the science and technology of the West," he added.

About the role of teachers in quality education the President said, "I was a teacher, a life-long teacher. I feel proud to have been a teacher."

On the state of the decade old private universities of the country Iajuddin Ahmed mentioned the interest of the present government to ensure standard private universities in the country. "The private universities will have to play a distinctive role and to live upto the expectation of the nation," the President said.

In the convocation speech referring the deplorable state of the country Prof A F Salahuddin Ahmed said that Education is badly affected in such situation.

About the *Maktab-Madrassa* based education Prof. Salahuddin said that this educational system will have to be brought out from traditional system and it will have to be in line with the advancement made in educational sector.

Prof. Salahuddin observed that two forms of educational system is active in the country - one is modern and secular and another one is *Madrasa-Maktab* based.

Special guest of the convocation the Education Minister Dr. M Osman Farruk said that after a decade of growth private universities now reflect their performance.

Though the curricula of private university are market-oriented it can go for more holistic approach and diversification, the Education Minister said.

Dr. Osman Farruk opined that private sector universities must develop their own mechanism to

meet the needs of social development.

The Education Minister informed that there are about 48 private universities at present in the country.

IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury said "we are elitist not because we cater to the elite class but because we produce an elite class graduates out of every class of society."

He said that IUB spent about 14.12 million Taka in providing financial assistance to the students who have the merit but not the means.

A total number of 260 students have graduated this year of which 245 are undergraduates and 15 are graduates. For the first time from the Chittagong campus nineteen male and female students completed their graduation this year.

A Hafiz Chowdhury, treasurer of the IUB, Syed Almas Kabir, the master of the ceremony and on behalf of the graduates Tania Hadi spoke in the occasion.

For outstanding performance graduate of Business Informatics Tania Hadi was awarded the gold medal.

This year's convocation was coincided with the observation of the tenth founding anniversary of the university.