



President Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury conferring degree to a student at the first convocation of Asian University of Bangladesh (AUB) at Osmani Memorial Hall on Monday.

## Higher learning should not be commercially motivated: President

Varsity Correspondent

President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has cautioned against commercialisation of the higher education to keep it within the reach of the commonman.

"Institutions of higher learning should not be purely commercially motivated, totally limiting their academic programmes to market oriented subjects," he told a function in the city on Monday.

The President underlined the need for inclusion of subjects of general, national interests by upholding the indigenous culture and heritage in the course curricula of the universities. Referring to the scope of higher education, he said, "Higher education should be within the reach of most people of the country whosoever deserve to have it."

The President's views came at the first convocation of the Asian University of Bangladesh (AUB), one of the private universities, at Osmani Memorial Hall. The educationists described Prof Chowdhury as the dreamer of private universities as Private University Act, 1992 was passed when he was the Education Minister in 1991-92.

The President, who is the Chancellor of the universities, stressed on moral values to be embedded in education particularly at the higher level for building the nation. "I believe, in the circumstances of falling moral values, the curriculum of higher

education should try to emphasise the involvement of values, honesty, integrity, patriotism and decent living," he said.

AUB Vice Chancellor Dr Abul Hasan M Sadeq chaired the convocation addressed, among others, by Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon and Prof David C Barr, Deputy VC of the University of Western Sydney.

At the function, the Chancellor conferred the Bachelor's and the Master's degrees on 567 graduates of the academic years 1998-2001. Four graduates were awarded for their outstanding performance in respective subjects.

Emphasising on quality education, the President said, "There is no substitute to quality education. Good education must target toward quality education." "We have to provide quality education to our future citizen to achieve success in the highly competitive world," he added.

Against the backdrop of tremendous pressure on public universities, the President said, the Private University Act was made to allow establishment of private universities aimed at widening the scope of higher education. The number of private universities now stood at around 30.

He insisted that private universities must have their own cam

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### Higher learning

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and ensure congenial academic atmosphere free from violence, corruption and any desecration.

The President mentioned that the highest amount of money was allocated in the annual budget to the education sector and the motto was to turn the people into productive human resources.