

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

# NEWAGE

## DU ranking failure linked to partisan teacher hiring: PM

Staff Correspondent  12 May, 2026, 13:07



*Bangladesh prime minister Tarique Rahman addresses a daylong workshop, titled 'Transforming Higher Education in Bangladesh: Roadmap to Sustainable Excellence' at the Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on Tuesday. | UNB photo*

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said University of Dhaka is unfortunately failing to appear in international university rankings because teacher appointments have long been influenced more by political considerations than merit.

The process of appointing teachers at Dhaka University has historically been problematic, with political bias often taking precedence over qualifications and academic merit, he said while responding to a student in an interactive session at university's Faculty of Social Sciences on Tuesday.



'To improve the university's position and standards, teacher appointments must be made on the basis of academic results and individual merit,' he noted.

Tarique also stressed that promotions to key academic and administrative positions, including department chairperson and dean, should depend on a teacher's academic performance and research achievements rather than political affiliation.

'There is research activity, but the overall volume is still low and needs greater encouragement,' PM said.

Responding to another question, Tarique called on students to play an active role in creating a stable political environment in the country and stressed the need to build public opinion in favour of political stability.

He said many people expected significant changes and development in the country, but such progress could only be achieved gradually through a stable environment.

'If we fail to ensure stability, no development will be sustainable. Something may be built once and collapse again later. Therefore, ensuring a stable environment in the country is crucial,' PM said.

He said politics should take place in parliament and that a country could not be built through chaos on the streets alone.

During the discussion, PM also referred to the widely discussed corruption allegations over the purchase of pillows for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project during the previous Awami League government.

A total of 156 students from different faculties of Dhaka University participated in the programme, while 17 students asked questions regarding various government plans and initiatives.

Among others present at the event were DU vice-chancellor Professor ABM Obaidul Islam, convener of the university teachers' White Panel Professor Morshed Hasan Khan, ministers from different ministries and leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Earlier, the prime minister spoke at a workshop titled 'Transforming Higher Education in Bangladesh: Roadmap to Sustainable Excellence,' organised by the University Grants Commission at the university Senate Bhaban.

He lamented that Bangladesh's universities had not yet reached the expected global standards in education, research and academic excellence, particularly in internationally recognised rankings.

Without strengthening research and innovation alongside traditional learning, it would be difficult to remain competitive in the modern world, he said.

Highlighting the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, PM said advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, the Internet of Things, genetic engineering, biotechnology, cyber-security, quantum computing, big data, materials science, nanotechnology and 5G were reshaping both thought processes and employment structures.

He observed that while new technologies were displacing jobs in traditional sectors, they were also creating new opportunities.

To respond to these changes, the PM said the education system must move away from memorisation-based and certificate-focused learning and be restructured to meet emerging demands.

Tarique said that technology-based education was essential not only for individual development but also for economic growth, innovation and international competitiveness.

He also called for stronger collaboration between universities and industry, saying curricula should reflect industrial needs.

He said that education was no longer confined to classrooms or single disciplines, noting that interdisciplinary learning was increasingly important as fields such as data science, biology, engineering and sociology converged.

The prime minister said skills acquired during study could enable students to become entrepreneurs and create jobs for others instead of relying solely on employment.

He also said the government planned to establish Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Institutes and Science Parks in higher education institutions, alongside promoting science fairs, innovation fairs and product sourcing events in collaboration with local and international partners.

PM said that technical and practical education would be made mandatory from the school level as part of wider education reforms.

#### Related News

Bangladesh PM seeks OIC support to resolve Rohingya crisis

#### Tags

[#Tarique Rahman](#)

[#Bangladesh](#)

[#University of Dhaka](#)

[#University](#)

# NEWAGE

Editor: Nurul Kabir, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd.

📍 Hamid Plaza (4th floor), 300/5/A/1, Bir Uttam CR Datta Road, Hatirpool, Dhaka-1205  
PABX: +8802 41062247-50, Fax: +8802-41062245

✉ [newage.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:newage.editorial@gmail.com)