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**KUET has a unique academic
and research environment**

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Interview by Nazim U. Chowdhury and Sheikh Golam Faruk



Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Vice-Chancellor, KUET is working at his office.

In the line of the founding spirit, the Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) has taken all necessary measures to take the leadership in promoting engineering and technological developments and management of the country by strengthening engineering, science and technological education and research, said Prof. Dr. Muhammed Alamgir, Vice-

Chancellor, KUET in an exclusive interview with The Guardian.

In this context, Professor Muhammed Alamgir, an educationist of international repute, mentioned that KUET has a unique academic and research environment in its 101 acres of greenery area, adding that the laboratories, library and comput-

er center are well-equipped and resourceful to meet the requirements for quality education of an engineering student which lead to produce an engineer of perfect quality.

The Vice-Chancellor further mentioned that for decades, KUET has been at the forefront of education, research and nation-building activi-

ties by producing the best graduates in the country. As a matter of fact, he said that KUET graduates are involved in activities with various sectors of Bangladesh and providing their best efforts in the public and private sectors at home and abroad with high reputation for which they have drawn the wider attention of the job market and job providers come on the KUET campus to conduct job fair and to say about their requirement for KUET graduates even before they are graduating.

ernization of laboratories and the development of the existing laboratories and set-up of new laboratories based on the demand of the time by overcoming the current budgetary constraints obtained from the central government. He, however, believes that with the overall development of the country, KUET will also overcome such limitations through the required development of infrastructures and resources by set-up of new departments and institutes to make the KUET as the center of excellence.

In reply to another question, the Vice-Chancellor said that in line with the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to serve society by educating the people and creating knowledge for facing new challenges and putting knowledge to work with excellence on a large scale, KUET has been contributing to the development of Digital Bangladesh by the year 2021 to fulfill the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.



The Vice-Chancellor is giving interview to The Guardian Special Correspondent Nazim U.Chowdury and Khulna Correspondent Sheikh Golam Faruk.

In reply to a question, the Vice-Chancellor said that in the recent years KUET is recognized as one of the leading successful technical higher education institutes (HEI) of the country and it becomes the natural choice for the fresh meritorious students to be enrolled.

The Vice-Chancellor also realized that as a HEI of a Least Developed Asian Countries (LDACs), still KUET needs to go far for the mod-

In this context, he informed us that the primary mission of KUET is to move forward the frontiers of human knowledge, enrich, and elevate the citizens, the nation and the world. He also informed that as the preeminent research-based university in the country, KUET embodies the spirit of excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, outreach and engagement attained by the nation's finest public research institutions.

He feels that especial emphasis should be given to engineering and technology education and research to ensure very high quality educational, research and developmental programs in the major disciplines of engineering as well as basic sciences to face the challenges of this century. In this regard, he calls upon the teachers and students to work together as a team to achieve excellence in quality education, research and progression to address the pres-



Vice-Chancellors of Public Universities along with UGC Chairman and Members pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after a meeting at PMO. Vice-Chancellor of KUET Professor Muhammed Alamgir is seen (9th) from the right in the front row.

ent needs of the country as well as to achieve the targeted goals of future so that the new generation can face the lifelong intellectual, ethical, social and career challenges with high commitment to serve the nation and its people.

He hopes with high commitment and collective efforts of the new generation, Bangladesh will definitely reach the target within the shortest possible time.

In an exclusive interview, the Vice-Chancellor replied to several questions covering the entire activities, problems, contributions and future plans of KUET, including the different issues of higher education of Bangladesh. His deliberations are really interesting, educative and informative as well. The excerpts of his valuable interview are produced

here for The Guardian readers at home and abroad.

The Guardian: Please give us a short introduction to the founding history of the Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) through which it has come from an engineering college to its present position. In this context, would you mention some salient features of KUET which makes it different from the others?

Vice-Chancellor: Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) was officially established in 1967 as Khulna Engineering College. After the independence of 1971, basic infrastructures of the college were constructed. However, its long cherished academic journey was started on the 3rd of June 1974 after receiving special direction

from the Father of Nation Bangabandhu Shiekh Mujibur Rahman.

Later, to ensure the better academic and research capabilities and environment, it was converted to an autonomous institute called Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Khulna in July 1986. But it was realized that the basic concept and the administrative and academic chain and set-up of BIT Khulna does not match fully to meet the requirements for which college was converted to an institute. Receiving huge demands from the teachers-students-officers-staffs of BIT Khulna and social, professional and political personalities, in September 2003, the institute was upgraded and renamed as Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET).



The Vice-Chancellor is seen in discussion with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

The campus of this university stands at North-West corner of Khulna City, about 12 Km from the city center, in the midst of an impressive natural beauty having vast greenery spreading over an area of 101 acres of land. It has a fresh airy campus and congenial atmosphere with several students' halls of residence. The academic buildings are not far from residential halls having a harmonious bridge in between them. The physical infrastructure including halls of residence, academic buildings and institutes, workshops, playgrounds, cafeteria, auditorium, teachers quarters etc. are structured in a much planned way and are being improved day by day

The Guardian: Keeping in mind the very spirit of the foundation of a university in providing engineering and technology education in the greater Khulna region of Bangladesh, would you assess how far this university has been success-

ful in keeping due contribution to providing all branches of engineering and technology education in true sense?

Vice-Chancellor: In the line of the founding spirit of this university as a 'Center of Excellence', KUET takes all necessary measures in phases to take the leadership in promoting engineering and technological developments and management of the nation by strengthening engineering, science and technological education and research in the relevant fields. For decades, KUET has been at the forefront of education, research and nation-building activities by producing the best graduates in the country. To this endeavor various branches of engineering have been and are being opened.

During the last two years, three new undergraduate departments with 60 students' enrollment in each department, namely (i) Urban &

Regional Planning, (ii) Leather Engineering, and (iii) Textile Engineering have started. In addition to this, the Institute of Information & Communication Technology (IICT) has also started in 2010. Moreover, as per the approved organogram by the Ministry of Education, more branches of engineering will be opened by the academic year of 2018-2019. Research and academic activities have also been extended for meaningful collaboration with various higher education and research institutes from the Asian, European, American and Australian countries.

The Guardian: In this context, keeping its long history in mind, would you give us an account about the number of graduates, post graduates and doctorates the KUET has produced in different fields and also comment about the contributions of the KUET graduates in the development of engineering and technology sector of Bangladesh?

Vice-Chancellor: It is important to say that KUET (formerly BIT, Khulna) offers B. Sc. Engineering Degree by itself since 1986, the year when it was converted to Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Khulna from Khulna Engineering College. However, before that, the degree

obtained from this institute was given from Rajshahi University. From the beginning of its journey on 3 June 1974, this institution is seriously devoted to quality engineering education and an exceptional academic environment. Despite various constraints, the highly motivated fac-

ulty members of this institute are committed and are trying their most to ensure the best education to the students. Since its journey the degrees in various fields and levels which the KUET has offered are shown in the following table as department-wise.

Department	Period								
	1974-1985			1986-2001			2002-2012		
	Ph.D.	M.Sc.Eng.	B.Sc. Eng.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.Eng.	B.Sc. Eng.	Ph.D.	M.Sc.Eng./M.Phill	B.Sc. Eng.
CE	-	-	333	-	06	913	01	28	801
EEE	-	-	246	-	03	904	01	23	970
ME	-	-	136	-	03	729	-	07	763
CSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	04	505
ECE	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	195
IEM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	43
BME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	-
Math	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	18	-
Phy	-	-	-	-	-	-	04	13	-
Chem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
Total =	-	-	715	-	12	2563	07	117	3232
Grand total =	Ph.D. = 07		M.Phill. = 41		M.Sc.Eng. = 88		B.Sc. Eng. = 6510		

Note: CE: Civil Engineering, EEE: Electrical and Electronic Engineering, ME: Mechanical Engineering, CSE: Computer Science and Engineering, ECE: Electronic and Communication Engineering, IEM: Industrial Engineering and Management, BME: Biomedical Engineering, Phy: Physics, Chem: Chemistry, Math: Mathematics.

It is worthy to be mentioned here that the KUET graduates are involved in activities with various sectors of Bangladesh. They have been providing their best efforts in the public and private sectors. The KUET graduates have already proved their quality services at home and abroad and contributing positively in the development of Bangladesh in various sectors ranging from construction to IT and in social services sector as well that have drawn the wider attention of the job market. So, the job providers have already come in the KUET campus to conduct job fair and to say about their requirement for KUET graduates even before they are graduating.

The Guardian: Would you mention the number of present faculties, departments, centers, institutes,

libraries and halls of the university and say how far each of them is equipped to provide and ensure quality and standard engineering and technology education to fulfill the challenging needs of the present-age? In this context, would you also mention the latest scenario of overall institutional capacity including the physical infrastructures of KUET in a nutshell and say what further steps should be taken to enhance the overall institutional capacity of the university?

Vice-Chancellor: An Engineering University is quite different from a general university in so many respects. Engineering University has very few options to open various departments one after another due to so many restrictions like insufficient infrastructure, qualified teachers in

the relevant disciplines, laboratory facilities, necessary research fund, etc. But due to high commitment towards the development of tertiary level of education in the country, some new departments have opened despite enormous constraints following the approved organogram and the target set up to 2018-2019.

However, KUET has been providing quality education with the present resources. In the academic year 2010-2011, two new departments, namely Urban & Regional Planning, Leather Engineering and one institute, namely Institute of Information & Communication Technology (IICT) have started. In the current academic year 2012-2013, another new department, namely Textile Engineering has just started. Due to the opening of new undergraduate

departments in the recent years, 33.33% seats for 1st year student's enrollment have been increased. On the other hand, the organogram of this university has been approved by the Ministry of Education in the month of January 2011. Hence the number of departments, institutes, dormitories for students, teachers and staff will be increased accordingly as planned up to 2018-2019 as shown in the following table.

Extension of Civil, Mechanical and Administrative Buildings, dormitories for male and female students, University Guest House cum Club Building and renovation works of the existing buildings including Auditorium and Science Gallery. Furthermore, for the first time in KUET history, an independent development project for four years (2012-2013 to 2015-2016) entitled as

The Guardian: Would you mention what qualification is required to get admission into the KUET Engineering Course and also mention the total amount of cost a student needs to pay to complete an engineering graduation in KUET? In this context, would you mention the total number of seats and students presently enrolling in different courses at the university and say how far the facilities available at the univer-

Items	Present	2018-2019 (target to add)
Faculty	CE, EEE and ME	-
Institute	IICT	IDM, IEP
Department	CE, EEE, ME, CSE, ECE, IEM, URP, LE, TE, ET, BME, Math, Phy, Chem and Hum	BECM, MSE, MTE, CHE
Student Dormitories	Male: 06, Female: 01	Male: 02, Female: 01
Library	Central Library: 01, Departmental Library: 06	Departmental Library: 06
Centre	Central Computer Center: 01, Departmental CC: 09	Departmental CC: 06
Internet & Telephone	Campus-wide Optical fiber backbone network, Broadband line & Wi-Fi facilities, PABX with 450 line capacity	Internet facilities will be enhanced, PABX capacity will increase to 1500lines
Guest House	01	01 (will be replaced by new one)
Students' Welfare Center	-	01
Central Cafeteria	01	01 (will be replaced by new one)
Medical center	01	01 (will be replaced by new one)
Swimming Pool	-	01
Transport	Bus:07, Microbus: 02, Car:02, Pajero:01, Ambulance:01	Bus: 04, Microbus: 05, Pick-up:01, Ambulance:01, Car:01
Other Facilities	Auditorium:01, Galary:01, Play ground:02, Tennis court: 01, Mosque: 03, School:03, D'store: 01, Post:01, Bank:01, Gymnasium:01, Teachers/ Officers/Staff's Quarters:20, Club:02	Some of these facilities will be replaced by new one and/or modified with modern facilities, and also add new facilities.

Note: CE: Civil Engineering, EEE: Electrical and Electronic Engineering, ME: Mechanical Engineering, CSE: Computer Science and Engineering, ECE: Electronic and Communication Engineering, IEM: Industrial Engineering and Management, BME: Biomedical Engineering, ET: Energy Technology, URP: Urban & Regional Planning, LE: Leather Engineering, TE: Textile Engineering, Phy: Physics, Chem: Chemistry, Math: Mathematics, IICT: Institute of Information & Communication Technology, IDM: Institute of Disaster Management, IEP: Institute of Environment & Power Technology.

Recently, KUET Main Gate was constructed showing a piece of modern architecture reflecting the vision of KUET. Moreover, initiatives have been taken for the construction of Liberation War Sculpture, Shaheed Minar, a well-equipped Medical Center, Students' Welfare Center, Academic Buildings,

"Infrastructural Facilities Development Project for Khulna University of Engineering & Technology" of Taka 52.12 Core has been approved in the ECNEC meeting presided over by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to materialize the above mentioned plans and other relevant development works.

sity are enough to provide them with necessary study materials, accommodation and appropriate educational environment to make them quality and committed engineers in future?

Vice-Chancellor: The admission process of KUET is very competitive, thus following a standard and

scientific system and conducted in a transparent way so that only the genius students will come out successfully and thus able to pursue the study in the respective branch of science and engineering with high commitment. From the last academic year (2011-2012) KUET admission process is online based.

However, a student has to face a written examination of 150 minutes on Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and functional English. For under-

graduate admission test, a candidate must have total grade point 18 in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English in HSC 2012 at least. The candidate must have GPA 4.00 in SSC level. Besides he or she must have GP 3.50 at least in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and 3.00 in English at HSC Examination 2012. For English medium A level examination, candidate must have at least Grade B in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. In the coming session

2012-2013, a total number of 725 students including 5 reserved seats for Hill Tracts and Ethnic students will be admitted in the 1st year.

In postgraduate level, about 65 students are enrolled in each year. The breakdown of the newly admitted students for each department is shown in the following table for both the undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) levels.

Level	Name of the Departments and the Number of Seats for the Newly Enrolled Students													
	CE	EEE	ME	CSE	ECE	IEM	URP	LE	TE	ET	BME	Math	Phy	Chem
UG	120	120	120	60	60	60	60	60	60	-	-	-	-	-
PG	15	19	11	14	8	8	-	-	-	02	04	08	03	15

Now a total number of 3460 students including 35 Ph.D. students and 585 M.Phil and M. Sc. Eng. students are studying at KUET. An engineering student does not have so much free time to spend. He or she always has to be busy with class lecture, class test, quiz, assignments, practical classes and field works, etc. But they find out time for recreation, sports and cultural activities. This university has a unique academic and research environment in its 101 acres of greenery area. Moreover, the laboratories, library and computer center are well-equipped and resourceful to meet the requirements for quality education of an engineering student which lead to produce an engineer of perfect quality. However, there is a scarcity of accommodation in the students' dormitory.

The Guardian: Would you mention the total number of teachers working at present at the university and say what facilities are available at the university to keep the teachers well-informed about the latest knowledge of the subjects they are teaching so that they can hold their

teaching standard intact with the rapidly changing circumstance of the present-day world of science, engineering and technology?

Vice-Chancellor: At present the total number of teachers involved in service at KUET in its 15 departments and one institute is 218. However, this number will increase to 618 after the opening of other departments and institutes by the year of 2018-2019 as per the approved organogram. The total

Category of Employees	Present	Target to add by 2018-2019
Teacher:		
Professor:	43	100
Associate Professor:	12	156
Assistant Professor:	105	86
Lecturer:	58	58
Officer:		
1 st Class:	56	55
2 nd Class:	39	64
Staff:		
3 rd Class:	133	228
4 th Class:	125	242
Outsourcing (HEQEP)	25	-

number of teachers, officers and other staffs are given in the following table.

Since its journey, KUET has been trying to ensure quality education with the use of latest and modern technologies, for which the quality development of the teachers is required. There are 35 different research laborites, central and departmental libraries with books, journals and e-resources of research materials and uninterrupted broadband internet services in KUET. KUET has the agreement for online journal subscription and the access of necessary books on different disciplines of science and engineering. As result, teachers have the access to the latest development in their field of interest. Moreover, KUET has arranged international conferences every year and the teachers can also go abroad to attend conferences so that they can exchange their views and enhance their knowledge on the latest development in their fields.

The Guardian: Would you inform us about the number of personnel working at various levels at the university and mention what facilities



শহীদ বুদ্ধিজীবী দিবস-২০১০ শোক র্যালী

খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and the Vice-Chancellor with KUET teachers, students, officers and staffs are taking part in the Mourning Rally on the occasion of Martyr Intellectual Day 2010 on 14th December organized by KUET.

are also available at the university to bring efficiency in their services to keep them always fit to play the supportive role with the teachers and students in meeting the challenges and needs of the KUET?

Vice-Chancellor: The number of personnel, other than teachers, presently working at KUET is 378, which will be increased to 967 by 2018-2019 as per the approved organogram, details already given earlier. Through UGC, Regional Public Administration Training Centre (RPATC) and other government institutions, the officers and staff of KUET are frequently being trained to meet the needs of KUET and to face the new challenges. Recently almost all of our personnel have been trained on computer based applications and modern communication technology through Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). The KUET

authority has been providing necessary direction for maintaining an excellent working relationship among the teachers, students and other office personnel.

The Guardian: Would you comment on the present scenario of overall research and development works and publications of the KUET and say what further steps the University Authorities should take to keep pace with the new advancement of engineering and technology education and research along with the other relevant factors of modern age in the fields of research and development?

Vice-Chancellor: Although in the recent years the research activities and the publications have increased, KUET needs to take more effective measures to expand and develop the overall research facilities to meet the current demand of the world as well

as of the country. In the meantime, the authority has taken steps for holding the International Conference such as Wastesafe, ICMIEE, ICCESD, and ICCIT, opening new Departments (URP, LE and TE) and Institutes (IICT) and to encourage new faculties to involve in the research projects supported by the university. Since 2010, an International Journal named as Journal of Engineering Science is being published biannually from KUET.

The Guardian: In this context, would you justify how far the texts which are now being taught at KUET are competent enough compared to the standard of other internationally reputed universities and say what further steps should be taken to improve the overall academic pursuits of KUET to meet the future demands of engineering and technology education in Bangladesh?



UGC Chairman Professor Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury is delivering his speech as chief guest in the Discussion Ceremony on the occasion of University Day 2012 organized by KUET. Vice-Chancellor of KUET is, among others, seen extreme left on the dias.

Vice-Chancellor: The curriculum of KUET followed in both the UG and PG levels are international standard, which have been evaluated in each year for necessary changes and modification. Although, the exact course in university levels is based on the individual teacher's choice and experience. Teachers are very much careful about entire contents of the course so that the demand of time can be met properly and the students can able to solve the problems at professional levels.

Moreover, due to internet facilities, teachers can easily evaluate contents of the course with other reputed universities. The academic committee of the department also concerns with the course contents to meet the demand of the country.

The Guardian: In this context, would you also comment on the examination system prevailing at the KUET and say whether any further steps should be taken for the improvement of examination system in consideration of international standard?

Vice-Chancellor: The examination system of KUET is exquisite, which is completely scientific, modern and very likely to international standard. Moreover, examination system is quite fair, transparent and controlled by a high powered committee and there is no chance of any kind of biasness. In every year, the system is evaluated and steps are taken to make it international standard. In general, the entire examination of a course consists of Class Test, Spot Test, Quiz, assignments, Viva-Voce and Final Examination.

The Guardian: It is alleged that using the university autonomy the teachers of public universities nowadays remain involved with party politics leaving the path of studies and research works. Thus through political maneuvers they try to make fortunes. As a result, they become neither good teachers nor good politicians. Rather they stay below the international standard which is ultimately damaging the academic pursuits of both the public universities and the teachers. Would you give your reaction to this and inform us about the activities of the KUET teachers in this regard?

Vice-Chancellor: Autonomy is not the only reason for the teachers of public university to be involved in party politics. There might be other perceptions such as responsibility to



The Vice-Chancellor is addressing the Orientation-2012 organized by KUET for newly admitted students.

the people and the country by upholding some ideological ways to work. This is not true that the university teachers making fortune and ignoring their responsibilities in teaching students and conducting research works due to involvement in politics. This is the 'commitment to the country' and 'the job' that makes the differences.

Due to the Act of KUET which was passed by the National Parliament, the teachers of KUET are not allowed to be involved directly in the party politics. Teachers of KUET, in general, respect the Act. So, a good harmony among the teachers has been prevailing for long time resulting a unique academic and research friendly environment in KUET.

The Guardian: It is also alleged that nowadays the involvement of the students of public universities

with party politics is giving birth to new and newer violence day by day, which is not only damaging the image of the public universities as a whole but also seriously harming the academic atmosphere in the whole of the country. Would you give your reaction to this and also comment about the activities of the KUET students in this regard?

Vice-Chancellor: Actually, party politics of the students in public universities does not make responsible for the violence and thus damaging the academic atmosphere. It is individual or group interest, personal jealousy, disrespect to others and the showing attitude of power or muscle-manship. Absence of yearly election in the students' organization itself and the university and halls and the involvement of non-student into the politics, etc. are responsible for all

these nuisances and disturbance in the student politics and thus cause adverse impacts on the university's atmosphere.

Sometimes authority is also responsible for not handling the incident carefully at the beginning and as well as impartially. In KUET, regular students are involved in the positive student politics and there is a long heritage of peaceful co-existence of all students' organizations to work on the campus with mutual respects. Moreover, KUET administration is committed to address any student issue very carefully at the beginning and take all the necessary measures totally impartially for maintaining a peaceful and astounding academic and research environment for all.

The Guardian: There is also allegation that because of political affiliation nowadays the public university administration is involved in par-



The Vice-Chancellor is inspecting the hall of admission test 2012 conducted at KUET.

tiality for its own group in respect of appointing chairman, provost, proctor, house tutors, promotion, housing allotment, appointing new teachers and employees, providing other special facilities. Due to all these undue practices by the administration, the non-political teachers as well as the non-political employees are getting seriously frustrated day by day. Would you give your reaction to this and say how far the present administration of the KUET is able to maintain its impartiality to build a new image and a new height of the KUET as one of leading engineering and technology universities of the country?

Vice-Chancellor: This type of allegation is very much qualitative, which is not true in general. However, in some cases it may happen due to impartial decision or the decision taken ignorantly by univer-

sity authority. Regarding appointment of the posts mentioned in the question, even in case of proper decision taken as per the university rules through the appropriate bodies, the opposition group or the teacher who is not appointed may bring this kind fabricated allegation.

In KUET, the appointment in all types of posts are done according to the university act and the ordinance, and also based on the academic results, experiences and competence of the teacher for the said posts. KUET authority also follows an unwritten principle not to give more than one additional charge to a teacher which ensures the proper and impartial distribution of the responsibilities to the teacher. For taking all the relevant measures impartially, KUET keeps its image to become one of the leading engineering and technical universities of the country.

The Guardian: It is said that the teachers of public universities have sufficient facilities and scope than the public servants to serve the nation through research. Even they have no heavy pressure of taking class and other works like other professionals. They are provided funds to buy books and materials for their individual use each year and special funds are also provided for individual research works and publications. Despite all these opportunities, most of them contribute nothing remarkable to the nation other than their simple routine jobs. Besides, many of them are involved in private teaching, brokerage and consultancy activities for the political parties or others where they get undue privileges. As a result, the scenario of higher education in Bangladesh has tremendously deteriorated nowadays. Would you give your reaction



The Vice-Chancellor is inaugurating the online course registration of session 2011-2012 for the first time at KUET.

to this and suggest what urgent steps should be taken to improve the overall scenario of the university education, especially the scenario of the engineering and technology education in Bangladesh?

Vice-Chancellor: The statement made here about the responsibilities of the teachers of public universities is not true in general. However, in the recent years, it is observed some teachers of public universities, especially in and around Dhaka city are very much involved in taking classes at the private universities and doing consultancy works of very ordinary matter, which obviously hamper their daily works such as taking lectures seriously, give more time to students and as well as postgraduate research. Definitely, in case of engineering and technology education these tendencies of the teachers of public university should be stopped. Otherwise, the quality of students

and research outcome would be deteriorated. In KUET, our teachers' involvement in such activities is very restricted. They need to take permission from the authority and consultancy works are generally conducted inside of the university.

The Guardian: It is also observed that some of the teachers nowadays in almost all the public universities are found to be involved in moral turpitude, say sex and monetary corruption and harassing the female students. The Public University Ordinance has defined severe punishment for all such evil practices, especially through ensuring the dismissal of services of such persons forever from the universities. But nothing of such action is found to be taken against anyone in the recent days by the administration of any public university. Would give your reaction to this and suggest necessary measures in this regard?

Vice-Chancellor: Public University is not an isolated land than the other parts of country. In this case personal moral values and the commitment to teaching profession are very important. If these kinds of unethical things occurred anywhere, the concerned authority should act immediately. In case of KUET no such complaint against any teacher is made so far. Moreover, in KUET, rules for such offence is very clear. So, none will be spared rather punished at the highest level.

The Guardian: Apart from all these, would you discuss the various contributions of KUET to the development of Bangladesh including our great independence and other national achievements? In view of its past contributions to the nation, would you say what more roles KUET should play in the solution of burning problems of the nation like



The Vice-Chancellor is seen in a photo session with the guests and participants of the International Conference on Solid Waste Management in Developing Countries - WasteSafe 2011 held at KUET.

water, electricity, traffic jam and the issues like?

Vice-Chancellor: The academic activities of this institute started in 3 June, 1974. So it got scope of no direct involvement in our great liberation war. Some of our students who enrolled in 1974 in this institute are the freedom fighters. Our graduates have been working in various public and private sectors including water, electricity, traffic systems. So they have been contributing in development of the country. Moreover, the research outcome and consultancy works in KUET have been and are being contributing in our national development.

The Guardian: Side by side the successes of KUET, would you also discuss the institutional problems and limitations of KUET and suggest

their possible remedial measures? In this context, would you also give your reaction to the opinion expressed by the concerned people that the current budgetary allocation for KUET is not sufficient to meet the expected demand as well as to fulfill the standard of a leading engineering and technology university like KUET in a changing circumstance of the age and the needs?

Vice-Chancellor: Like any organization, success and the constraints of KUET have also been running simultaneously, although in the recent years KUET is recognized as one of the leading successful technical higher education institutes (HEI) of the country and it becomes the natural choice for the fresh meritorious students to be enrolled. However, as a HEI of a Least Developed Asian Countries (LDACs), still KUET

needs to go far for the modernization of laboratories and the development of the existing laboratories and set-up of new laboratories based on the demand of the time by overcoming the current budgetary constraints obtained from the central government. However, with the overall development of the country, KUET will also overcome such limitations through the required development of infrastructures and resources by set-up of new departments and institutes to make it as the 'Center of Excellence'.

The Guardian: Alongside the academic activities, would you also reflect what role the KUET is playing in attracting the students towards the extracurricular activities like sports and cultural activities and environmental development programme as the present scenario of



The Vice-Chancellor is inaugurating the Kite-Flying competition on the KUET Play Ground, commemorating the almost lost tradition of Bengali Culture.

environmental pollution in Bangladesh has become a serious concern to the nation?

Vice-Chancellor: KUET always encourages the students to participate in extracurricular activities alongside the routine academic activities as organized by the Office of the Director of Students' Welfare and Associations of different Departments. Moreover, there are several volunteer organizations run by the students and supported by the university to involve students in sports, culture, debate, photography, drama, blood donation and science, etc. As KUET lies in the south-west region of Bangladesh, the areas mostly affected by climate change, several organizations have also been working for the development of awareness among the students, teachers and staff for environmental protection.

The Guardian: Would you also reflect what specific measures are available under the Administration of KUET to ensure the safety and security of the students, teachers as well as employees of the university on the campus against any untoward incidents since nowadays the safety and security have become more or less a serious concern for all everywhere in the country?

Vice-Chancellor: KUET campus is protected properly through a protective wall along its entire boundary and the unwanted people cannot enter without necessary security check in its Main Gate. Moreover, the entire campus is in a security networks with sufficient manpower including outsourcing. It is also a green campus protecting the entry of unnecessary motorized vehicle

which ensures the safety of the students, teachers as well as employees of the university.

The Guardian: It is learnt that if a teacher of a public university works in any other organization and earns money, the university will get a particular sum of share from that income. Would you please give your reaction to this and inform us how many teachers of KUET are now working with different organizations at home and abroad and how much amount of money the KUET is getting from this source?

Vice-Chancellor: In our system at KUET, a teacher must take necessary written permission of the authority to do any works for other organizations. These types of works are consultan-



The Vice-Chancellor is seen with the champions of Dr. M A Rashid Hall of KUET Inter-Hall Volley-Ball Final Tournament.

cy, research project and part-time classes having certain limitations of time-frame and workloads. However, besides the permission, the incumbent has to pay a part of his/her income to the university fund as per the prescribed rules of Consultancy, Research and Testing Services (CRTS) of KUET. This income utilizes further for the research development of KUET.

The Guardian: It is alleged by the concerned people that in close collaboration with the teachers of the public universities, the profit makers have established a good number of private universities and are going to establish many more across the country without any campus and education environment in true sense. The students have to pay a very high cost to study at these universities although most of these universities

have neither appropriate teaching standard nor required faculties. Not only this, even some of these universities is attracting the students in the name of engineering and technology education, although the ultimate aim of the initiators of these universities is to earn maximum profit through providing certificates in the name of education. As a high profile educationist, would you give your reaction to this and also suggest what steps should be taken to protect the image of the public universities as well as to improve the quantitative and qualitative standard of higher education in the present context of Bangladesh, especially of the KUET in such a critical situation?

Vice-Chancellor: As the public university has the limited number of seats for higher education, the demands of the seats in the higher education have been taken after by

the private universities up to some extent. Although it is found that some of the universities just started business ignoring the commitment to the students, people and the nation. There should be strong regulation to control such malpractices, and even, if necessary, to stop the activities of such institutes started in the name so-called higher education. However, recently government has implemented private university act and is also going to introduce the accreditation body to ensure the necessary quality of education in the private university. It is obvious that without proper quality in the private university, especially in the technical education, the nation will suffer from irrecoverable damage in the long term.

The Guardian: Would you inform us about the number of various committees of the KUET and say what interactions the Syndicate has to



The Vice-Chancellor accompanied by his colleagues is taking part in the Rally of World Environment Day 2011 organized by KUET.

maintain with all these committees?

Vice-Chancellor: KUET is run by a number of authorities as per the University Act 2003, passed in the National Parliament and hence approved by the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh on 19th July 2003. These can be listed as: (i) the Syndicate, (ii) the Academic Council, (iii) the Faculty, (iv) the Academic Committee, (v) the Finance Committee, (vi) the Planning & Development Committee, (vii) the Selection Committee, (viii) the Students' Discipline Committee, (ix) the Committee for Higher Education & Research, (x) the Board of Governors of the Institute, (xi) such other authorities as may be prescribed by the Statutes to the authorities of the university.

The syndicate is the highest authority related to the policy matters and

the university administration. It also nominates members for the other authorities as per the provision of the statutes. Finally, any decision taken by any authority required to obtain final approval of the syndicate.

The Guardian: It is learnt that all the public universities of liberal arts and science in Bangladesh have both senate and syndicate but the public universities of engineering and technology have only syndicate. Would you discuss the reasons behind and also mention the sufferings of engineering and technology universities in absence of senate system?

Vice-Chancellor: Absence of Senate system is not only prevailed at the Universities Engineering & Technology. Moreover, all the new universities including Science & Technology and Agriculture do not

have senate system. In this case highest body is either Syndicate or Regent Board. I am not sure about the reason behind this system i.e. absence of senate. However, I don't find any obstruction or constraints on the growth of research and academic activities of our university in the absence of senate. I think the most important thing is that whether the university is running democratically and following the rules and regulations properly? For example, I am a senate member of a public university since 2009, but unfortunately, there was no meeting of the senate during the last three years.

The Guardian: It is said that KUET has been privileged and honored since the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the Chancellor of the KUET. Would you give your reaction to this?

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস অমর হোক
ভাইস-চ্যান্সেলর
স্বাক্ষরিত ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়



The Vice-Chancellor accompanied by his colleagues is paying tribute to the language martyrs on the occasion of Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day.

Vice-Chancellor: By the act of this university, Hon'ble President of Bangladesh is the Chancellor of KUET like any other public and private universities of Bangladesh. So KUET does not have any special privilege in this context. However, KUET feels its obligation to uphold the image of the Hon'ble President of the country through its academic and research activities and as well as to fulfill the commitment to the nation and its people.

The Guardian: You know our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through her vision 2021 dreams of a digital Bangladesh. Accordingly, the Prime Minister has called upon all to work together to translate her dream into a reality. In this context, would you say what special role the KUET is playing to implement her dream into a reality?

Vice-Chancellor: The primary mission of KUET is to move forward the frontiers of human knowledge, enrich, and elevate the citizens, the nation and the world. As the preeminent research-based university in the country, KUET embodies the spirit of excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity, outreach and engagement attained by the nation's finest public research institutions. In line with the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to serve society by educating the people and creating knowledge for facing new challenges and putting knowledge to work with excellence on a large scale, KUET has been contributing to the development of Digital Bangladesh by the year 2021 to fulfill the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The Guardian: In the present perspective of higher education in Bangladesh, would you comment on

the roles and activities of UGC and say what special and more roles it should play in the proper growth and development of both the public and private universities as supplement to each other?

Vice-Chancellor: I am not satisfied with the present rules of business of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh as it was established with the existing framework in 1973, while there were only six public universities and no private universities. I think to meet the present and future demand of the nation in the tertiary education sectors, UGC should be changed to Higher Education Commission with full autonomy and necessary infrastructures and supports. UGC and AUB have already raised this demand to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and hope the things are going ahead in the right direction.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Alamgir is receiving 'Best Paper Award' at SARDINIA 2011 International Conference at Cagliari, Italy for the technical paper written by him on sanitary landfill.

The Guardian: So far it is learnt that every university has an alumni association and the association assists the university in different ways. Would you inform us about the KUET alumni association and say what kind of cooperation the association extends to the KUET?

Vice-Chancellor: KUET always encourages the activities of the Alumni Association, which brings us together and will certainly help the development of the university through the collective efforts of its graduates. There is no formal Alumni Association of KUET graduates approved by the KUET authority. However, our graduates living home and abroad have made Alumni Association by themselves in different countries, usually communicated with us and provided cooperation in terms of monthly

and/or yearly stipend to the undergraduate students.

The Guardian: You know this century is a very advanced century and there is no alternative to knowledge and science, especially to engineering and technology education to face the challenges of this century. Keeping this in mind, would you please give your valuable message for the teachers and students and also suggest what further steps the government should undertake to ensure the overall improvement of higher education, especially the education of engineering and technology so that Bangladesh can reach the expected goal soon?

Vice-Chancellor: In this century, especial emphasis should be given to engineering and technology education and research to ensure very high quality educational, research and

developmental programs in the major disciplines of engineering as well as basic sciences to face the challenges of this century. Keeping the utmost objectives in mind, teachers and students should work together as a team to achieve excellence in quality education, research and progression to address the present needs of the country as well as to achieve the targeted goals of future so that the new generation can face the life-long intellectual, ethical, social and career challenges with high commitment to the nation and its people utilizing the best resources available at the university despite of inherent constraints of resources and infrastructures.

I hope, with this high commitment and collective efforts of our new generation, Bangladesh will definitely reach the target within the shortest possible time.