

Editorial

It is interesting to note that our dear university which was fledgling at the start has now grown into a small institution with bustling activities both curricular and co-curricular. In the past few months, the first ever convocation ceremony of the university has been successfully held. It is no doubt a landmark event so far as the university is concerned. The coverage of the convocation ceremony and other events will hopefully interest and enlighten the readers.

It is a tribute to those who put in time and labour to bring out this edition of the newsletter. Regards.



FIRST CONVOCATION OF EWU HELD

The first ever convocation of EWU was held on 2 January 2002 at the Osmany Memorial Hall, Dhaka. His Excellency Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of EWU, graced the ceremony as the chief guest. The ceremony was also attended by the Hon'ble Minister of Education Dr. M. Osman Farruk, the founding VC and current President of the Board of Directors Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, the then President of the Board of Directors of the university, other members of the Board, Vice Chancellor Mr. M. Monwarul Islam, and Professor Earl H. Potter III, Dean, College of Business, Eastern Michigan University, USA. A large number of eminent academics, dignitaries and the guardians of the graduating students were also present on the occasion.

The Chancellor's address

The Hon'ble President and Chancellor of East West University in his speech congratulated the graduates and urged them to live upto the national as well as professional expectations. He also advised the private universities to tailor their education in a way so as to produce skilled hands.

Other speakers on the occasion

The function was also addressed among others by the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Speaker of the Convocation Prof. Earl H. Potter III, President of the Board of Directors of the university, the Vice-Chancellor and the Valedictorian of the occasion Mr. Mostafa Alvi. The Registrar of EWU gave the vote of thanks.



Convocation Marshal

The gala ceremony was conducted by the Registrar of the university Mrs. Firdaus Ali who was also the Convocation Marshal.

Academic awards



The following students are the high academic achievers from among the Class of 2002:

- Mr. M M Waliullah, CSE, Summa Cum Laude, Gold Medal.
- Mr. Md. Tabrez Bin Mahub, Summa Cum Laude, Gold Medal.
- Mr. Mostafa Alvi, BA, Summa Cum Laude, Gold Medal.
- Mr. Zainul Abedin Chisty, BA, Summa Cum Laude, Gold Medal.
- Mr. Hubert D'Cruze, BA, Summa Cum Laude.
- Mr. Taskeed Jabid, CSE, Magna Cum Laude.
- Mr. Jayed Hossain, BA, Magna Cum Laude.
- Ms. Sifat Pervin, BA, Magna Cum Laude.
- Ms. Nayeema Ahmed, BA, Magna Cum Laude.

The Gold Medalists received their award from the Hon'ble President.



Chancellor with the Class of 2002

The convocation ceremony came to a happy end with a delightful photo session of the graduates with the Hon'ble President.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

New President of EWU Board of Directors



Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, the mastermind and founding VC of EWU and former Governor of Bangladesh Bank, took up the Presidentship of the Board of Directors of EWU on 16 January 2002. He succeeds Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, an eminent businessman and two-time Advisor of the Caretaker Government. The EWU family heartily congratulates Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin on his assumption of the new office and firmly believes that the university will attain further heights under his dynamic leadership.

Workshop on Improving the Service Sector

A six-day workshop on 'Improving the Service Sector Through Research' jointly organized by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and East West University was inaugurated on 26 February 2002 at the premises of East West University. Professor Anwarullah Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, formally inaugurated the workshop as chief guest.

The inaugural ceremony was addressed by the special guest Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Overseas Director of AIBS and Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Professor and Program Chair of Marketing of the Pennsylvania State University, USA. Dr. Andaleeb was the principal resource person to lead the workshop.



Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, President, Board of Directors, East West University, presided over the inaugural session.

The workshop was mainly designed for fresh faculty members of business schools. The programme offered a unique opportunity for the faculty members not only to be exposed to modern research techniques but also to initiate a programme of research leading to collaborative work and local and international publications in academic journals.

Convocation dinner



Later in the evening graduates and their guardians, a large number of academics and dignitaries attended the convocation dinner at the Ball Room of Hotel Sonargaon. The VC, the Registrar, founding VC Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, the then President of the Board of Directors of EWU and other members of the Board also attended the occasion. Dr. M. Osman Farruk, Hon'ble Minister of Education, was present at the graceful occasion as the chief guest.

Freshers' orientation

An orientation programme for the freshers of Spring 2002 was held on 26 January 2002. The Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Dean of Faculties in their speech on the occasion welcomed the newcomers and called upon them to familiarise themselves with the code of conduct of EWU and face the challenges for them in the updated



programmes offered by the university. The Vice-Chancellor in his address also urged the students to take a vow to build themselves up as the worthy sons of the soil. He also stressed the need to develop ethical standards among the students so as not to be tempted by the ills and evils around them. The programme was also attended by the faculty and administrative staff of the university

Business faculty members both from public and private universities participated in the workshop. As an outcome of the workshop, the participants completed their research proposals focusing on the theme of improving the service sector. Each proposal will be funded to enable the faculty members to complete their research for publication and dissemination to relevant authorities for policy measures.

EWU at AmCham fair



American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh and the United States Embassy jointly organized a 3-day US Trade Show from February 18-20, 2002 at Sheraton Hotel. East West University, for the first time, presented a stall in the fair along with a few other private universities of the country. A large number of visitors came to the EWU stall and collected brochures, handouts, gifts from there. EWU's participation in the fair would greatly enhance the image and widen the popularity of the university.

Programming contest at EWU



A programming contest, administered by simulation software PC², was arranged on the EWU campus on 8 March 2002. A total of 40 students in two groups (senior and junior) participated in the contest. The contest consisted of 6 problems for each group. Tibsen Mohammad from the senior group succeeded in solving all the problems while Md. Abul Hasan from the junior group could solve four. President of the Board of Directors of EWU, Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin presided the occasion as the chief guest and presented prizes to the winners.

Presentation on appropriate teaching methodology

As part of the task force activity on teaching methodology, Dr. Md. Shahidullah of the Dept. of English delivered his presentation on 'Appropriate Teaching Methodology' on 23 January 2002. The presentation was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and a large number of faculty members. The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

EWU students meet the Finance Minister

A group of EWU students met Mr. M. Saifur Rahman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Planning, Govt. of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh at a programme titling 'Montri Mahodoy Bolben Ki' aired on BTB on 11 February 2002. Student representatives from DU, JU and some other public and private universities of the country also participated in the programme. The EWU students, along with the other participants, came up with intelligent questions which the Hon'ble Minister answered in his usual dexterous manner. The programme was highly entertaining as well as a greatly resourceful one.

MBA evening



An entertaining cultural evening for the students of MBA and EMBA programmes was held at the university on 13 February 2002. The colourful programme was organised and participated by the MBA and EMBA students of EWU. The President of the Board of Directors, the VC and the Registrar of the university were present to grace the happy occasion. It was also hugely attended by the faculty members and the students of MBA and EMBA programmes.

Mr. Tauhid Alam interviewed

EWU faculty member Mr. Tauhid Alam was interviewed in a television programme titling 'Focus on the Middle East'. The programme which discussed US foreign policy in the post Cold War world was broadcast from Sacramento Cable Channel in California, USA.



Mr. Alam also participated as a panel member in a seminar on the admission procedure for Bangladeshi students applying to US colleges and universities. The program was organized by American Center (formerly USIS) with welcoming remarks from Karl Fritz, Director of the American Center in Bangladesh.

New Appointments

New Dean takes over

Professor Abdul Mannan, former VC of CU and a Professor of the Department of Business Administration of EWU has been appointed as the Dean of Faculties. He took over his charge on February 1, 2002 succeeding Dr. Sultan Ahmed of CIT. We cordially welcome the new Dean and wish him every success during his tenure.

Dept. of Business Administration

Former VC of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed joined the Dept. of Business Administration as Professor of Economics on January 16, 2002.

We heartily welcome the eminent academic and hope that he will greatly add to the teaching strength of EWU.

Also Dr. Abdul Hye of CU will be joining the department as Professor of Accounting from Summer Semester, 2002.

Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering

Mr. Akeed Ahmed Pavel and Mr. Kazi Zamir Uddin Ahmed have joined the department as Lecturers.

Also Dr. Mohammad Huzzat Ali Pramanik of CU and Dr. Mohammad Ruhul Amin of JU are going to join the Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering from Summer Semester, 2002 as Professors of Physics.

Dept. of English

Ms. Masrufa Ayesha Nusrat, Senior Lecturer.

Mr. Alok Das, Lecturer.

New Proctors

Mr. Kazi Khaled Shams Chisty, Assistant Professor of the Dept. of Business Administration, has been made the Proctor of the university on February 1, 2002.

Mr. Kazi Khaled Al-Zahid, Lecturer of the Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, has been given the charge of Assistant Proctor on February 1, 2002.

New Career Counsellor

Dr. Muzmil Alam, a faculty of EWU, has been given the charge of the Career Counsellor. He has taken up his new assignment on 15 March 2002.

Promotions

Dr. S.S.W. Saifur Huda of the Dept. of Business Administration has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor on January 1, 2002.

Dr. Jamila Gulshan of the Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering has been promoted as Senior Lecturer on January 1, 2002.

Dr. Sumrin Kabir of the Dept. of Business Administration has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer on 1 January 2002.

Faculty publication

Dr. M. Shaukatullah of the Dept. of English is a co-author of the newly revised HSC English textbook. The book written in the communicative fashion is a welcome paradigm shift from the age-long traditional system of teaching English at the HSC level.

Translating 'Babar Chithi' (translation of 'Letters from a Father to His Daughter' by Jawaharlal Nehru) by Mr. Muzmil Alam of the Dept. of English came out on the eve of Ekushey November 2002.

Department Profile: Business Administration

Department of Business Administration is the largest department of EWU in terms of student number. Business studies is growing ever more popular with the students around the globe. In keeping with that general trend, the department is getting larger with a steadily increasing number of students enrollment.

It also deserves mention that the Dept. of Business Administration had the highest number of graduates (74) and two gold medalists in the recently held convocation of East West University. This semester (Spring 2002) also the department enrolled record number of students (115) in the BBA programme. Number of students in the MBA and EMBA programmes offered by the department is also on sharp rise. The students of the department are getting the opportunity of doing their internship from reputed organizations like HSBC, Grindlayz, EXIM, Prime and NCC banks. The graduates from the department are also getting enrolled into big names like Credit Agrocole Indosuez, E-Cash Ltd. etc. The department so far arranged a number of seminars, symposiums and workshops both for the teachers and the students and some of the faculty members of the department are also engaged in useful research work. All these are positive feedbacks of the worthy guidance of the top management and the sincere team efforts of the people attached to the department.

The Dept. of Business Administration is enjoying a balanced synthesis of experience and fresh blood in respect of faculty strength. A few academics of repute like Prof. Abdul Mannan, former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof. Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed, former Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology have recently joined the department as full-timers. More senior Professors from different public universities are also expected to join the department shortly. In addition, most of the faculty members of the department have got foreign degrees to add to their overall credentials as bright and brilliant teachers.



Blood donation programme at EWU



A blood donation programme was organised under the auspices of the Red Crescent Society of Bangladesh and the EWU medical centre on 6 March 2002 at BIA building. A large number of teachers and students volunteered to donate blood. Around 80 bags of blood were collected in the humanitarian bid.

EWU IT programme on BTV

A programme titling 'Tathyaprajukti O Bangla Bhasha,' conceived and organized by and shot at EWU was telecast on BTV on 20 February 2002. The 55-minute-long programme was divided into two parts with two sets of discussants. In the first part of the programme, eminent academics like Prof. Jafar Iqbal, Prof. Sobhan, Prof. Mozammel Huq Azad Khan, and Mr. Syed Akhter Hossain dealt on the theme: Bengali language analysis, synthesis and recognition by computer. In the other part of the programme, a bunch of web developers involved in developing Bangla software such as Dr. Ananya Rayhan, Research Associate, CPD, Mahbub Zaman, MD, Data Soft Ltd. and representatives in the related field from BUET and ISN Ltd. took part in a discussion focusing on how to incorporate Bangla in custom software and on the web. The programme, no doubt, greatly benefited IT professionals as well as students of the country.

Sports Club



Faculty members and the students of EWU played a friendly cricket match on 12 December 2001 at T&T ground, Banani. The Vice-Chancellor of EWU inaugurated the match and encouraged such co-curricular activities to be held on regular basis. In the stipulated 20-over match, the teachers' team batted first and scored a formidable total of 154. The students' team, however, were bundled out for 132 to give the teachers' team a 22-run win. Mr. Syed Manzur Ashraf, Lecturer of CSE, was adjudged man of the match for his excellent all-round performance of 24 runs and 1 wicket. Dr. Sultan Ahmed, the former Dean of faculties, umpired the match and also joined hands with the teachers' team. The match which was enjoyed by a large number of EWU teachers and students was followed by a feast. All in all, it was a nice breakaway from the regular routine both for the students and the teachers.

The EWU cricket team is also going to participate in the first inter private university and medical college cricket tournament to be held from 7 to 25 March, 2002 at the old DOHS ground. We wish that the EWU cricket team finish the tournament with flying colours. Good luck boys!

Club News

Debating Club

The EWU Debating Club has organized a debating festival this semester (Spring 2002). The debates are being held in both Bangla and English. The festival that begun in the first week of February and will continue till the end of May 2002. Interestingly enough, there will shortly be a teachers' vs students' debate to spice things up. A one-on-one debating competition and a public speaking competition will complement the debating festival. The winning prizes will be given away to the recipients on the Awards Night coming up in October this year. The prospect of the Debating Club has never looked so bright!



Photography Club

The EWU Photography Club as part of its regular field tour went to Savar on 7 March 2002. The photography team visited the JU campus and the adjoining areas in search of attractive themes for their photographs. The team included around 10 enthusiastic amateur photographers along with the club moderator. The EWU photography club is also going to arrange a workshop on modern photography techniques very soon.

Business Club

A two-member team from the Business Club of EWU is going to participate in the 'Entrepreneur Fair' to be held in the fourth week of March this year. The fair will be organized by the Young Entrepreneurs Society of NSU. The club is also going to arrange a job fair for the students of the university sometime in April of the running year.

Environmental Society

The Environmental Society of EWU has launched an environmental education programme called 'G-Learning' with a view to increasing awareness about environment among the students. The month-long programme beginning from March 2002 includes activities like visiting schools and colleges, distributing leaflets, posters and photographs, signature collecting and opinion survey.

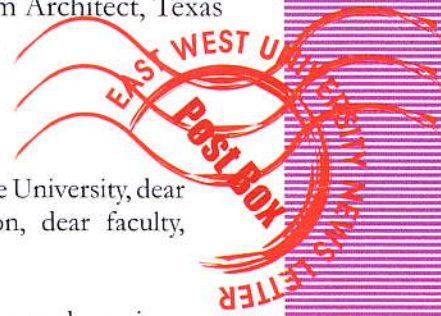
The society has also arranged a solo art competition by Farah Deeba Zaman, a student of the university from March 16-21, 2002.

Cultural Club

The EWU Sangskritik Sangha, the cultural club of the university, arranged a cultural soiree titling 'Ekusher Katha Boli' on the campus on 20 February 2002. The Programme was organized to commemorate the International Mother Language Day on 21 February. The programme included poetry recitation and both solo and chorus patriotic songs by the students as well as the faculty members. The programme was enjoyed by a large number of students and faculty members.

Letter from a friend

Here is a letter from Dr. A. H. M Asaduzzaman, Senior System Architect, Texas Instruments, Dallas, Texas, USA and a former faculty of EWU:



Dear President, dear Vice-Chancellor, dear founding father of the University, dear administrative personnel, dear Honorees of this convocation, dear faculty, students and guests!

In July 1998, I made a visit to East West University; I had a chance to share views with Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, the founding father of the East West University. He told me the following words, which convinced me to join East West University as a Chairperson of Computer Science department. Dr. Farashuddin told me: "The faculty symbolizes the highest value--the importance of learning." He also said, "The strong presence of faculty will send a powerful message to students that they have come to a place where knowledge and intellectual growth are paramount." Today, I want to say a few things to you. The first is congratulations, of course. I want to really commend you for all of the hard work and dedication that have brought you to this point in your life and career. Beyond your degree and your skills, I trust you have also discovered the core values, the spirit of the university - free and critical inquiry, intellectual independence, the courage, the persistence, and the playfulness to follow your ideas where they might lead you. Universities are privileged places. Here is where all points of view are invited to challenge one another, where students and faculty, with not just tolerance, but with mutual encouragement, learn to think and argue through the most troubling issues of our society. This common ground -- intellectual and academic freedom -- is both fragile and resilient. It must be nourished. It also must be defended; both from those who would have us all think the same way, and from those who confuse freedom with license. For its protection, freedom demands responsibility -- awareness of and sensitivity to the ideas and feelings of others. Engaged open-mindedness means the rejection of dogmatism; it means searching with others, with both integrity and restraint, for the best possible means to deal with the ambiguities of our world. This view risks the reassertion of idealism in a profane world. Of course, I am as aware as you that fundamental principles tend to get lost in opportunistic power struggles, in the inadvertencies toward egotism and incivility, defensiveness and rudeness. These tendencies are unfortunately as common at universities as they are in other work worlds. Therefore, we need to appeal to the better angels of our natures, to our capacities of character, to our shared values of freedom and responsibility. In our challenging and complex world, I believe that these core values will sustain you in your own pursuits and in your works to help others. Langston Hughes, in one of his outstanding poems, said, "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is like a broken-winged bird that cannot fly. Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams go, life is like barren land, covered with snow." So as you leave here today and face all of the challenges that you know you will face out there in the practice of problem solving, don't lower your standards. Don't give up your dreams. Hold fast to dreams. Thank you very much.

NEWS LETTER

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Transition Course at EWU



Ms. Valaria Scott Laitinen, a graduate from Harvard and Tufts University is going to conduct a Transition Course at EWU. The course, divided into six

sessions, is especially designed for our graduating students to equip them with appropriate skills for an effective job search. 40 students will be initially enrolled for the 1st session due to commence from March 28, 2002.

EWU Student Wins Beauty Contest



Sylvia Musharraf, a student of Business Administration won the 1st prize of Dandy Photogenic Competition, 2002. Three cheers for Sylvia on her achievement.

Special Features

EWU Career Counselling Centre (CCC)

The prime roles of CCC lie largely in assisting the students in internship and job placement and higher studies abroad. Apart from these, CCC will also perform other duties related with career development such as organizing job fair, arranging interviews and corporate presentation sessions on campus, conducting mock interviews and career classes, and arranging seminars.

EWU Software Development Centre (SDC)

The mission of SDC of EWU is to provide its students with real-world experience in designing and developing quality software for offices, banks, institutions and industry. It also aims at promoting software products/services for sale in both local and global markets. Moreover, SDC is committed to patronising internal academic software development by students of the university to help uplift their overall skill and standard.

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