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Professor M. Omar Rahman appointed as VC of IUB



The Chancellor of the University and the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has appointed Professor M. Omar Ejaz Rahman as Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), effective from January 26, 2012.

Prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rahman was the Pro Vice Chancellor of IUB since April, 2006 and Vice Chancellor (in charge) from January 2011. Prof. Rahman is also concurrently Professor of Demography and Director of the Centre for Health, Population and Development at IUB.

Prior to joining IUB in 2003, Prof. Rahman was Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Demography at Harvard University, and a Research Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He continues to serve as a visiting faculty member at Harvard University.

Prof. Rahman has had a brilliant academic career. He completed his Bachelor's degree with honours (A.B.) in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard College in 1979, followed by his MD from Northwestern University Medical School in 1983. Subsequently he received his MPH in Health Policy and Management from Harvard University in 1986 and his D.Sc. in Epidemiology also from Harvard University in 1990. Prof. Rahman trained in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and is a US board certified psychiatrist. Prof. Rahman is an internationally renowned Demographer and Psychiatrist with extensive experience in International Public Health. He is the author of multiple peer-reviewed articles on a variety of health and population related subjects, and has edited several books/chapters. He has received numerous research grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, WHO, and various U.N. agencies. .He has served as a consultant to various international organizations including UN agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. His major current research interests are: Higher Education Policy in the Developing World; Professional Outmigration; Health impacts of Climate Change and Public Health Approaches to Mental Health in the Developing World.

Trustee

ABDUR RAB CHAUDHURY



Mr. Abdur Rab Chaudhury is a Trustee of Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), the founding Trust of IUB. He graduated from Chaumuhan College, Noakhali in 1953 and obtained M.A. in Political Science in 1956. He also obtained LL.B. degree afterward.

Mr. Rab was appointed as a member of Civil Service of Pakistan in 1957 and attended a 09 months course at the Civil Service Academy, Lahore. He was sent to Oxford University in 1958 where he was admitted to Balliol College and obtained in degree in PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics). He also attended a course on Industrial Management arranged by the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of World Bank in Washington D.C.

Mr. Chaudhury held various important offices under the government of Pakistan and the Government of Bangladesh. He was S.D.O Naogaon, 1960-61; Additional D.C Khulna, 1962-64; Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, Dhaka, 1964-65; Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur, 1965-67; Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Islamabad, 1967- June 1970. On return he was entrusted with the responsibility of introducing high yield variety of paddy called IRRI from Philippines. After the devastating Cyclone of November 1970, he was appointed as the Relief Commissioner of Chittagong Division. On 11th January 1972, Mr. Rab was appointed as the Chief Coordinator of External Assistance by the government of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Early in 1973, he was appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture which continued till his resignation from Govt. Service in April 1974.

Mr. Chaudhury started his career as a lawyer in High court Division in 1975 and in the Appellate Division in 1981. He was enrolled as a Senior Advocate in 1994. He has already completed 35 years as a lawyer specializing in service matters and Constitutional Law. He was a Member of Parliament from 1991-96 and also a member of the Bangladesh Bar Council.

Mr. Chaudhury is married with Sultana since 1955. They have two sons and a daughter.

Faculty

Mr. Md Shaiful Islam

Mr. Md Shaiful Islam, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, IUB, is an MA in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching (ELT) from the University of Dhaka. Prior to entering tertiary education, he attended Rajshahi Government Laboratory High School and Notre Dame College for his SSC and HSC respectively. He has been teaching courses on English language and ELT at IUB since January 2003. The courses he teaches include ENG 101 (English Listening and Speaking Skills), ENG 102 (English Reading Skills), ENG 104 (English Writing Skills), ENG 105 (Business English), ENG 106 (Advanced English Skills) and ELT 204 (Advanced English Grammar). He is the coordinator for ENG 105 (Business English) course and the Lecture Series on English Studies.



Mr. Islam has keen interest in academic research. The areas of his research interest include English Language Teaching (ELT), Discourse Analysis, Curriculum Development, Syllabus Design, Linguistic Theory, Material Development and Cultural Studies. He has published three research papers in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored three books. He has also contributed four articles to the Daily Star. He presented a paper entitled *'Apathy to Romance Languages in Bangladeshi Tertiary Curriculum: A globalization effect'* at the "Humanities at the Limit" conference in the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA in November 2011. He also presented *'Revisiting Business English Curriculum Development in Bangladesh: New Perspectives'* in the International Conference in Jahangirnagar University in May 2011; *'Language Policy: Its influence on saving Bangladeshis' cultural identity'* in the Language and Development International Conference 2009 organized by the British Council in June 2009; and *'Utilizing Literature in EFL Reading Class: Why It Matters Most'* in the International Conference organized by the Department of English of the East West University in April 2006. He also presented a seminar at Hofstra University, USA on *'The Education System of Bangladesh and the State of Higher Education'* in November 2011.

In addition to teaching and research, Mr. Islam coordinates the activities of the IUB Debating Club (IUBDC). He led IUB debating teams in international arena on several occasions. Most mentionable are the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC) in Malaysia, Ireland and the Philippines. He also led the IUB delegation to the South Asian Universities Youth Festival in Nepal.

Alumni

Mr Mohammad Fakrul Alam



Mr Mohammad Fakrul Alam obtained Bachelor Degree (Major: Computer Science, Minor: Finance) from IUB scoring CGPA 3.55 (on a scale of 4). He also completed his Master Degree in Telecommunication from IUB with CGPA 3.67 in 2008. At present he is working with BRAC Bank Limited as a Senior Manager, Enterprise Network. He also worked for DhakaCom limited, PARTEX Group in the past.

Mr Fakrul is CEH & CISA certified Network Security Expert and has specialization in IT audit, penetration testing, internet security, information warfare and information-related crime investigation. He is also a volunteer member of BDCERT (Bangladesh Computer Emergency Response Team). He represented Bangladesh in 1st OCI-CERT Seminar in Malaysia, 2009; APISC Security Training Course in South Korea and Black Hat 2011 in Abu Dhabi. He is an active member of ISACA, ISOC and OWASP local chapter.



Workshop on Effective Teaching and Learning

IUB organized a day long workshop on Effective Teaching and Learning for the faculty members of the university on 19th January 2012 at the university's permanent campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. The workshop was conducted by Professor Serajul I Bhuiyan of Auburn University, Montgomery, USA. In the workshop Prof Bhuiyan discussed on effective teaching strategies, characteristics of effective teaching, assessment and course evaluation.

Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman (State Minister), University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, was present as the Chief Guest of the workshop who distributed certificates among the participants. In his remarks he said: "IUB is one of the top two private universities of Bangladesh." He emphasized on more research activities for both the public and private universities.

Mr. Towhid Samad, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB, and Prof M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor (In -Charge) were also present and spoke on the occasion.







Being Human: a noble gesture

The International Affairs Club (IAC) of IUB in cooperation with UDiON Foundation organized a programme of collecting warm clothes for the poor people of North Bengal through a concert titled *BEING HUMAN* on 27 January 2012 at the university permanent campus. Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, IUB, inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest. *Bohemian, Arbovirus, Mechanix, Alternation, Rainy Taxi and Seventh Avenue, Nemesis* and *Shunno* amused the audience with their performances.







Musical Evening by Iman Chakraborty

Promising Indian Rabindrasangeet and Folk singer *Iman Chakraborty* amused the students of IUB with her sweet voice on Thursday, 26 January 2012 at the university's Amphitheatre. She sang Rabindrasangeet, Kirton, Lalon Giti and other popular songs at the *Musical Evening* organized by the university management. A good number of students, members of the faculty and management enjoyed the show enthusiastically. Mr. Towhid Samad, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB and Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, IUB, were also present on the occasion.









Spring Semester begins



An orientation programme was organized by IUB on Saturday, 14 January 2012 at its permanent campus at Bashundhara for the newly admitted students of the Spring 2012 Semester.

In his short speech Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) depicted the distinctive nature of IUB education which places importance of professional education on the foundation of cross-disciplinary liberal arts curricula. He assured the students that IUB would do everything possible for ensuring their dreams come true.

Prof. A. K. Monaw-war Uddin Ahmad, Head, Department of Economics, Prof. M. Ali Hossain, Head, Department of Environmental Science, Prof. Mohammed Anwer, Dean, School of Engineering & Computer Science, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Dr. Tanvir A. Khan, Registrar, also spoke to the newly admitted students on the occasion. Later, the newly admitted students visited different Schools, departments, Library, Cafeteria etc. There were multimedia presentations for the students in each and every School describing the facilities waiting for them. Apart from the students, their parents, guardians, members of the faculty and management of IUB were present on the occasion. The programme was conducted by Ms Lima Choudhury, Senior Asst Director, Undergraduate Admissions of IUB.











US Presidential Envoy visits IUB

US Presidential Envoy for Science, Dr. Rita Colwell, a distinguished Professor from the University of Maryland, USA visited IUB campus on 10th January 2012. During the visit, her discussion with Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge), touched on common interests including IUB's International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). Dr. Colwell also shared ideas with a number of students. She highlighted the importance of liberal arts education which provides a holistic approach to learning and expressed her satisfaction to hear that IUB supports this approach. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD.

Orientation Programme: M.Sc. in Environment Management



The Department of Environmental Science of IUB introduced the newly admitted students of the M.Sc. in Environment Management programme on the 18th January 2012 at the academic block of the university. Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge), Dr. Tanvir A Khan, Registrar, Prof. M Ali Hossain, Head, Department of Environmental Science, and other faculty members were present on the occasion.

IUB signs MoU with MTB

IUB and Mutual Trust Bank Ltd. signed an MoU for setting up an 'ATM Booth' at the university campus on the 16th January, 2012. The MoU was signed by Prof. M Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge), IUB and Mr. Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB Ltd.





Harvard Alumni Club Event at IUB

IUB organized a Harvard Alumni Club event on 20 January 2012 at its campus, co-sponsored by *the South Asia Initiative (SAI) at Harvard University. The event focused on a twofold theme: 'The SAI's opportunities for growth in Bangladesh' and 'the Bangladeshi Harvard Alumni through the ages: going against the grain'.*

Prof M. Omar Rahman the Vice Chancellor (in charge) and the Coordinator of the Bangladesh Harvard Alumni Club expressed his immense pleasure in hosting the event.

During his welcome remarks, Prof Rahman shared his academic experience as a student at Harvard during his A.B. in Biochemical Sciences in 1979, MPH in Health Policy and Management in 1986 and D.Sc. in Epidemiology in 1990 and later as an Associate Professor at Harvard University (1999-2003).

At the onset Prof. Rahman welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Bir Bikram and one of the most prominent Harvard Alumni of Bangladesh. He then introduced the SAI Associate Director and Special Guest of the program, Ms. Meena Hewett.

Ms. Meena Hewett expressed SAI's interest in expanding its activities in Bangladesh and bridging the connection between Harvard students and the region and also showcased a SAI video presentation of its activities and future objectives. Prof Richard Cash, a faculty member of the Harvard School of Public Health also shared his reflection of Bangladesh during his long association with the public health sector of Bangladesh.

The occasion brought together a number of prominent Bangladeshi Harvard Alumni. These included the oldest Harvard alumnus Professor Anisur Rahman, one of the leading economists of the country with a Ph.D in economics from Harvard in 1962 and one of the youngest, Sanam Ispahani a recent graduate of Harvard College along with Moushumi M. Khan, Director Legal and Compliance of BRAC and Ejaj Ahmed Founder and President, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center. They spoke about their Harvard experience and why they chose to go against the grain in their professional endeavours.

The panel discussion was followed by an



interesting Q/A session. At the end, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, IUB, Dhaka, Mr. Towhid Samad gave the vote of thanks and wished SAI all success in bridging the connection between South Asia and Harvard University through research, internships and faculty collaboration.

The occasion was attended by many other eminent personalities of Bangladesh.



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