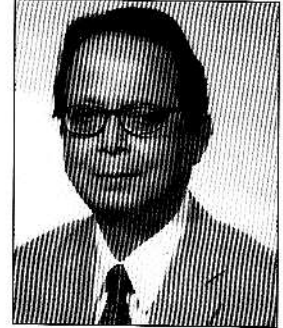


JALALUDDIN AHMED

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EAST WEST UNIVERSITY



Your Excellency, Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, Mr. Ayub Quadri, Honorable Adviser for Ministries of Education, Primary & Mass Education, and Cultural Affairs, Respected Convocation Speaker, Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Emeritus, University of Chittagong, Esteemed Chairman and Members of the University Grants Commission, Vice Chancellors, Founder Directors of East West University, Professor Mohammed Sharif, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mohammad Musa, Pro Vice Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Convocation Marshall Professor Abdul Mannan, other beloved faculty members and non-teaching colleagues of East West University, Graduating Students, alumni, proud parents and guardians, friends from the electronic and print media, very dear graduating students, and honored guests of the University, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamu Alaikum.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you today to the Sixth Convocation of East West University. This is my first attendance of our Convocation as the President of the Board of Directors, and I am very proud to be part of it. Let me begin by extending my whole-hearted congratulations and my very best wishes to the young graduates who a few minutes ago received their degrees in a ceremony steeped in tradition.

Dear graduates, this is your day, and you have earned the right to be proud of your accomplishments. But remember that you have not earned these accolades alone. Look around, and there, as they have always been, are your parents, your professors, your relatives and friends – all partners in your success. Perhaps, the most important amongst your partners are your parents who have stood by you relentlessly through thick and thin waiting for this rewarding day. Let us give them a standing ovation. We hope you will rise up to meet the expectations of parents and teachers and face the challenges and realities of the present-day world.

Hon'ble Chancellor and Distinguished Guests,

As you already know and have heard again today, East West University has contributed significantly to promoting quality education in private sector tertiary education. This has been a prolonged endeavor in terms of the vision of its founding fathers, its curriculum diversity, its up-to-date programs, its excellent teaching faculty who are held in high professional esteem, and its ever-increasing resources and logistic support. East West University's mission has always able

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been to shun the commodification and the politicization of education and eager to treat higher education as a sacred privilege. As a result, the university fosters a holistic approach to education, covering not only the universe of human knowledge but also nurturing responsible citizenships of the country with a sense of public consciousness and a mission in society.

Distinguished guests, I am very proud to announce that East West University within a short period of ten years has embarked on its plans to move to its own premises. The university has signed an agreement with an architectural firm for the design of physical facilities on its permanent campus at Aftabnagar, Rampura, adjacent to BTV Bhavan. The construction work will commence this year and is expected to be completed by August 2009. Inshallah, by 2009, we will be moving to our own campus. This I believe will be a significant step forward. Not only will it be a much larger campus, it will provide state-of-the-art facilities to students, faculty and administration that are an essential component for a place of higher education competing with global standards.

Dear Graduating Students,

Although celebration is in the air, today is also a day when emotions are close to the surface, memories are refreshed, and reminiscences are in order, a day in which the future looms, full of promise and uncertainty. You have reached the end of an important phase of your life, and now you are going into an uncertain world of personal and professional demands, but you need not fear anything – after all, you have been strengthened with an East West University degree. You are going to enter a new and exciting world which is changing rapidly. The world into which you are going offers both more promises and more challenges than you have known before. There are extraordinary opportunities for those who are prepared to face the test of change. Indeed, only those of you who will be able to anticipate change and also take advantage of change, will be able to survive and succeed. And from amongst those who do so will one day emerge leaders who will ride this exciting wave of change and expansion.

Your education has opened up a new world of experience and opportunity for you, and I trust that the completion of an East West University degree will pay you lifelong dividends. A university education remains one of the very best investments open to us, one which generates enhanced career opportunities and an enriched quality of life. University education is a vital element in what will make our country great and strong. I hope your commitment to the cause of higher education will never wane, and that your support of East West University, and our traditions and aspirations, will be your chosen expression of that commitment.

A university is not just a utilitarian instrument of economic renewal. A university education is about more than economics. It is also about character, civility, and the common good, about public service and genuine concern for those less advantaged than ourselves. Our society is not just a collection of individuals pursuing material self-interest. It is comprised of people, such as you and I, who believe that by working together we can enjoy more meaningful lives, build stronger bonds, and leave a substantial legacy of social harmony and progress in Bangladesh for our children and their children to follow. I believe that equipped with a university degree and the values of responsible citizenship that we have nurtured here, you will be able to contribute to the society and to the country in a more meaningful way.



Dear students, before concluding, my advice to you is to reach out and explore. Explore your potentialities to the fullest and be unconventional if necessary, to choose your career path. Your degree from this institution will enable you to withstand the vicissitudes of life. You are also more likely to do well in the career that you have been preparing for. And when you work with passion and dedication, you will find that not only does success come as a matter of course, but also it is incidental, because work itself is its own fulfillment.

You, our graduates, are a source of great pride. We hope that after leaving the university you will fondly remember your days in the university, as well as our dedicated faculty and staff, who, we hope, have earned your affection and respect, just as we will remember you and your achievements. In conclusion, I would like to emphasize once more that you are embarking on a most exciting journey. The world out there is fiercely competitive, but have no fear. You have been moulded by one of the most rigorous programs in the country and are now ready to show your mettle. You have successfully met the challenge of university education now. You leave East West University better equipped to meet the challenge of responsible citizenship and the challenge of building our nation in terms of equity and justice. You are the leaders of tomorrow. I believe that the current challenges will bring out the very best qualities in you. Even in the face of adversity, you will surely succeed in creating a brilliant future for yourselves and for our country.

Once again, congratulations to all graduating students. Good luck, and may you fulfill your dreams. We, the East West University Family, wish you great and continued success.

Thank you.

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