



## A D D R E S S

### **Jalaluddin Ahmed**

President, Board of Directors  
East West University



Your Excellency, Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman, Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, Honourable Minister, Ministries of Education and Primary and Mass Education, Government of Bangladesh, Esteemed Convocation Speaker, Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus, Dhaka University, esteemed Chairman and Members of the University Grants Commission, founder Directors of East West University, Vice Chancellors from other Universities, Professor Mohammed Sharif, Vice Chancellor, East West University, Deans of Faculties, esteemed faculty members, Mr. S. I. Nusrat A Chaudhury, the Convocation Marshal, beloved non-teaching colleagues of East West University, graduating students, alumni, proud parents and guardians, friends from the electronic and print media, honored guests of the University, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning.

I feel happy and honoured to welcome you all today to the Eighth Convocation of East West University. As the President of the Board of Directors, and a member of the East West University community, I am proud to be part of this auspicious occasion. Let me begin by extending my whole-hearted congratulations to the 923 graduates who received their degrees today.

Dear graduates, this is your day, and you have earned the right to be proud of your accomplishments. However, remember that your achievements are not yours alone; if you think deeply about them for a moment, you will understand that your success would not have been possible without your parents, your teachers, East West's administrative staff, and your friends. I would therefore, like to take this opportunity to congratulate them too for their contributions in your success.

Hon'ble Chancellor and Distinguished Guests,

East West University has been contributing significantly to the tertiary education of Bangladesh already. Ours have been a sincere effort, for we are striving to spread among our students state-of-the-art knowledge. Education, we believe, must equip our students with a vision that will enable them to rise above sectarianism and prejudice. At this university, we have tried to create the perfect environment for the pursuit of humanistic as well as scientific knowledge.

The University constantly endeavors to promote quality education by appointing competent teachers and by admitting meritorious students through strict written and oral tests. In just 12 years, the university has developed three full-fledged faculties, 8 departments, and has presently more than 5000 students. It offers degrees in 15 subjects in both graduate and undergraduate programs. It has developed the appropriate infrastructure including library facilities, classrooms, laboratories, computer labs and research facilities for its students and faculty. It provides easy access to online books and journals through internets.



In addition to emphasizing quality education for its students, East West University is also promoting all sorts of extra-curricular activities to develop their talents. Our goal is to make our students all-rounded individuals so that they can face the challenges of a highly competitive global economy and participate in nation-building activities.

East West University is fully committed to fairplay, equity and justice. We know that transmission of inequality from generation to generation contributes to social injustice. Only education can break this vicious cycle since it is a great equalizer. Education has a direct link with economic success. Therefore, East West University is trying to make higher education available to as many students as possible, including students from middle and lower middle income families, by offering them lower tuition fees and generous financial assistance so that they can take advantage of quality education made available at an affordable cost.

A university, we believe, should not merely focus on profits. Education at a university should be aimed at teaching the young about whatever is true and beautiful in life. We must teach our students civility, make them sensitive to the common good, and equip them for public service. It is our fondest hope that you will do so forever and be our standard bearers in the wider world.

Dear Graduating Students,

Although it is time to celebrate, I hope you will understand that you have other goals to attain and other duties to perform. Your education is your instrument by which you must build the nation. You must now reach out and explore. You must choose a career that suits your abilities. You must understand that your degree is only a platform to build the future; do not rest until you have achieved complete success.

Distinguished guests, I am happy to announce that East West University started construction of its new campus about 9 months back at Aftabnagar near BTV Bhaban. As per our scheduled plan, we expect to move to our new campus by June 2011. This will not only be a significant step forward but will also provide state-of-the-art facilities to students, faculties and administration, essential to competing globally at the advanced level.

In conclusion, I would like to add that it is absolutely essential that you keep your heart in the right place and that you remain humane and honest. You will find the world a tough place, but you must be ready to face it with resilience. You must have faith in your ability and confront all obstacles courageously. I hope your stay at East West has equipped you with the kind of knowledge that can guide you towards success – both personal and professional.

Let me conclude then by wishing you the very best. But I would also like to end by urging you to keep renewing your ties with East West –let us keep in touch forever!

Thank you.

Allah Hafez