

Your Excellency, Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, Esteemed Convocation Speaker, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh & Former Chief Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, esteemed Chairman and Members of the University Grants Commission, founder Directors of East West University, Professor Dr. Anwara Begum, the Vice Chancellor of Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, Vice Chancellors from other Universities, Professor Mohammed Sharif, the Vice Chancellor of East West University, Deans of Faculties, Syed Akhter Hossain, the Convocation Marshal, esteemed faculty members and beloved non-teaching colleagues of East West University, graduating students, alumni, proud parents and guardians, friends from the electronic media, and honored guests of the University, ladies and gentlemen

**Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning.**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you today to the Seventh Convocation of East West University. As the President of the Board of Directors, and a member of the EastWest University community, I am proud to be a part of this auspicious occasion. Let me begin by extending my whole-hearted congratulations to the young graduates who will receive their degrees within a few minutes.

Dear graduates, this is your day, and you have earned the right to be proud of your accomplishments. But remember that your achievements are not yours alone. If you think about it, you will realize that your success would not have been possible without your parents, your teachers, and the staff of the university, and your friends and well-wishers. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them all for their contributions.

**Hon'ble Chancellor and Distinguished Guests,**

As you all know, East West University, one of the top ranking private universities of the country, has been contributing significantly to tertiary education in Bangladesh. There has been a prolonged endeavor, on our part, to disseminate among the students the kind of knowledge that will guide them towards a refined humanistic sensibility. East West University has always avoided being carried away by the concept of "education as a commodity". Education, we believe, must enrich our citizen with a vision that rises above sectarianism, moral corruption, and mindless usurpation. At this university, our sincere efforts have been dedicated to creating the perfect environment for the pursuit of knowledge and in providing quality education.

A university, I firmly believe, is not an instrument for capitalist gain. University education should go beyond the crude philosophy of profit making and teach young minds whatever is sublime in life. We must teach our students about civility, resilience and the common good, about public service and concern for the less privileged. I believe, our graduates will appreciate fully the value and importance of education and will work together to create a society ever better than the one we live in now.

## **Dear Graduating Students,**

Although celebration is in the air, I hope you understand that you have a goal to reach, a duty to perform. This country which has harbored you and given you the privilege to use its resources needs you for its future. Your education is your instrument by which you must contribute to the future of the nation. You must also reach out and explore. You should choose a career that suits your potential and your passion. You must understand that your degree is not merely a platform for you to stand on; real success will come only when you will use your degree to build a monument of achievements. Do not rest until you have achieved that milestone.

Dear graduates, you are the source of our pride. We hope that after leaving the university you will remember fondly the university. You will remember your teachers and their contributions to your life and the staff, who, we hope, have earned your admiration, affection and respect, just as we, the entire university community, will remember you and pray for your success.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that at the dawn of the new century – already scarred to some extent by violence and division and dishonesty – it is absolutely essential that you keep your heart in the right place and that you remain humane and honest. The world is fiercely competitive but you should not be scared; you should not take the easy way out. Though you have just ended the first and the most exciting part of the journey, you should be ready to face the odds with resilience in the future. You must have faith in your ability and confront all obstacles with courage. I hope our education has successfully equipped you with the kind of knowledge that can guide you towards success – both personal and professional. I hope the challenges of the future will bring the best out of you and that you will succeed in creating a brilliant future for yourself and for the country.

Once again, let me congratulate all graduating students. I would like to express our profound gratitude and thanks to the Honourable President and Chancellor of the East West University for kindly consenting to preside over the Convocation Ceremony and to Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Former Chief Justice & Former Chief Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh for kindly agreeing to become the Convocation Speaker. My gratitude also to all our distinguished guests.

At the end, I wish all of you, the graduating students, good luck. We, the East West University family, wish you great and continued success.

Thank you.

Allah Hafez