

Professor Mohammed Sharif

Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of East West University, His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh and Former Chief Adviser, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and today's Convocation Speaker, respected Chairman and members of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Mr. Jalaluddin Ahmed, President of the Board of Directors of East West University, distinguished members of the Board of Directors, Professor Dr. Anwara Begum, Vice Chancellor of Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, Vice Chancellors of different universities, distinguished guests, respected colleagues, officials, members of the media, graduating students and parents, Assalamu alaikum.

This is a great occasion, an occasion all of us have gathered to celebrate, celebrate the achievements of our graduates. It is my privilege to be here on this auspicious occasion and address the graduates. Dear graduates, I am very delighted to see all of you here and would like to begin by congratulating you for successfully completing your programs. Undoubtedly, this is a moment you cherished for a long time, especially after all those sleepless nights of studying and the endless examinations, assignments, presentations, quizzes...well, they are over now. Congratulations – you have made it, you have done yourselves a great service and made us proud of you.

Dear students, today is a new day, a new start for you. Today, in this assembly, we are in the process of recognizing that something very special has been accomplished. In this distinctive gathering of students and teachers, we not only recognize your academic achievements but also take pride in equipping you with excellent education and in knowing that you have developed a better human personality during your time at East West University.

This is our Seventh Convocation and we are running our twelfth year. East West University began its maiden voyage in 1996. In the short period it has achieved outstanding success. Today we may take pride in being one of the top universities of this country. No wonder there has been a tremendous increase in the number of students seeking admission to EWU. The number of faculty members and other staff has also greatly increased in this short period of time. Undoubtedly, the sincere effort and commitment of the visionaries -the 'founding fathers'- and the extraordinary efficiency of everybody associated with EWU have led the university to its current status. I sincerely thank all who have worked ceaselessly for the success of the university.

Dear graduates, you should have great confidence in your future prospects. Your seniors have already proven themselves in various organizations and in the corporate world. In fact, the high employment rate of our graduates has surely been a vital factor influencing the competition for enrollment at EWU. Graduates from this university are already working with renowned organizations and the quality of our graduates are being appreciated everywhere in Bangladesh. I am certain that some of you have already made a place for yourselves in the practical world and others are in the process of doing so. I do not have any doubt that they also will make a comfortable place for themselves and I wish all of you the best.

Dear students, thousands in our country do not even dream of getting admitted into a university. In fact, thousands are still without the light of education and are languishing in the darkness of illiteracy, poverty, and injustice. Since you got the opportunity of completing your work, I hope, you will make the best use of the knowledge and skills you have gathered here not only for yourselves but also for others. Your responsibilities must entail contributing to those who are in need and marginalized. You must know that education works best when it serves others.

I know that the challenges ahead of you are enormous. But remember, you have been well trained and ready to face many challenges ahead. As graduates of East West University you will definitely be able to confront all the challenges of life and rise to the occasion. Although you have every reason to be confident, you cannot take the future for granted. You must face the forces opposed to progress.

I congratulate you again on your remarkable achievement. Good luck with your plans and aims in life. Hold your chins up and embrace the future, but throughout your life do treasure your connections with East West University as we will treasure our association with you. May Allah bless you all.