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DU in Media

03 May 2025

The Financial Express

We must navigate challenges ahead

Says DU VC at IBA graduation ceremony

FE REPORT

Graduation and post-graduation degrees were conferred on a total of 247 students from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University for the year 2024. Of them, 94 are BBA graduates, 94 are MBA graduates, 55 are EMBA graduates, and four are DBA graduates. Vice-Chancellor Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan was present at the ceremony held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Dhaka on Friday while Professor Shakil Huda, acting director of the IBA, chaired the programme. DU Emeritus Professor of Department of English Dr AF Serajul Islam Choudhury made the graduation speech. He urged graduates to serve society, emphasising that true democracy and equality can only be achieved through social ownership of property. Advising the new graduates to uphold ethics in business and employment, he remarked, "While this may not be World War III, a global trade war is underway-fueled by two dangerous commodities: weapons and drugs." Reflecting on the state of the nation, he said, "Though Bangladesh is politically independent, exploitation and inequality persist. Our own leaders have exploited us no less than foreign rulers." He further added that



The IBA, DU Graduation Ceremony 2024 in progress at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital on Friday. — FE Photo

Bangladesh has effectively become a colony of the wealthy. Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan stated that the country is currently facing a challenging period, surrounded by conspiracies. "We must navigate formidable challenges. There's no point

in sugarcoating what is fundamentally bitter," he said. The vice-chancellor urged the graduates to maintain their personal integrity, emphasizing that it should be demonstrated consistently through daily actions. "Integrity must

be evident in how you interact with the world."

He also called on the graduates to seize every opportunity to develop their skills. "There are countless opportunities out there. We must dedicate time for self-improvement, discipline our minds, and invest in lifelong learning. Even when things are going well, continuous development is crucial for long-term success," he added.

Professor Shakil Huda said, "As you step into leadership roles, remember that wealth and influence mean little unless they are used to uphold justice and create opportunities for those who have none." "Lead with wisdom, act with fairness, and remember that true prosperity is one that is shared." Professor of IBA Dr Shakila Yasmin, who made the welcome speech, said that the economy is rapidly evolving and technologies are changing overnight, making innovation the key to tackling the challenges that will emerge with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

A total of 11 students received Director's Honour List Award for their outstanding performance of CGPA 3.75 or above out of 4. Another three students received gold medals for their brilliant performance.

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The Daily Sun

CJ for learning from history to build peaceful, prosperous Bangladesh

Daily Sun Report, Dhaka

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed on Friday said in the July-August mass uprising presented Bangladesh with a rare and golden opportunity to chart a course towards lasting peace and prosperity by learning from historical mistakes.



"To utilise this opportunity, collective efforts are required. If the hopes and aspirations of the masses that have arisen in the new Bangladesh are not realised, we will fall behind as a nation," he said while speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day '14th Biennial

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CJ for learning from history to build

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International History Conference and General Meeting' of the 'Bangladesh Itihas Parishad' at Dhaka University.

The chief justice said since taking office, he has already announced a roadmap for judicial reforms to restore public trust in the judiciary and that efforts are underway to implement it to establish justice and restructure the judicial system.

Litigants and stakeholders have already started experiencing the

benefits of the reform initiative, he noted.

The chief justice added that an ordinance has been enacted for appointing judges to the High Court, and appointments to the Appellate Division have been made transparently in accordance with its provisions through the Supreme Judicial Appointment Council.

Highlighting the importance of history, he said, "A nation's past consciousness, achievements, and sacrifices are all recorded in history. It is both our guide and source of inspiration for the future."

Syed Refaat Ahmed

also stressed that history is not confined to books but is preserved in museums, documents, artefacts, architecture, and memorials, and that all citizens, not just historians, have a role to play in safeguarding it.

The conference was inaugurated by Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, while Prof Mohammad Ibrahim, president of the Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, presided over the session. Prof Dr Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan, dean of the Faculty of Arts, at-

tended as a special guest.

Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, president of Bangla Academy, presented the keynote paper, and Prof Dr Abdul Bashir, General Secretary of the Parishad, delivered the welcome speech.

Three individuals were awarded the 'Bangladesh Itihas Parishad Book Award' for the best history books published in Bengali years 1430 and 1431.

Around 100 research papers will be presented by university teachers and researchers in 18 sessions over the two-day conference.



The Daily Observer



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmed Khan inaugurates the 14th Biannual International History Conference and General Meeting of the Bangladesh History Council on Friday, with Chief Justice Dr Syed Refaat Ahmed present as the chief guest. PHOTO: OBSERVER

Students, citizens urge DU to launch night classes for child workers

Nemur Rahman Emon

Under the bright lights of Dhaka University's bustling canteens, the laughter and chatter of students fill the air—but in the background, unnoticed by many, child workers work tirelessly to keep the system running. They wipe tables, serve meals, and handle cash, their childhood slipping away with each long shift.

As concerns over child labour grow in Dhaka, students and citizens are calling on the university to step in. They believe introducing night classes could give these children a chance at education, breaking the cycle of hardship that has trapped them in low-paying jobs.

An investigation by Daily Observer has revealed that child workers across DU endure grueling hours and minimal pay, depriving them of education and the simple

joys of childhood. More than 50 children are employed across the university's halls, primarily in canteens, messes, and campus shops, earning between Tk 3,000 to 5,000 per month—far less than their adult counterparts performing identical tasks.

Experts argue that early employment often prevents children from falling into more dangerous paths such as begging or drug trafficking. Yet, the reality remains stark: their labour, though seemingly necessary for survival, is also a symbol of systemic neglect.

Nazmus Sakib Adib, a residential student, reflected, "These children work under extreme hardship, yet despite being surrounded by education, they remain excluded from it. The university could consider introducing night classes to help them break free from this cycle."

Associate Professor

Saifuddin Ahmed, Proctor of the university, acknowledged the issue, stating, "The canteens operate through a tender process, making direct intervention challenging. However, we will investigate the wage disparity and any potential exploitation."

Child workers at Dhaka University begin their shifts at 7 a.m., dashing between tables, cleaning surfaces, and attending to various tasks. A brief afternoon break from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. offers some relief, but the evening shift drags on late into the night, often past 11 p.m. This relentless routine leaves little room for education, play, or rest.

The Bangladesh Labour Act (2006) prohibits employment of children under 14 without medical clearance and restricts working hours for those aged 14-18. Yet, despite these legal protections, children

within university premises routinely work up to 10 hours daily—far exceeding lawful limits. Their wages remain meagre, their dreams distant.

Zahid (12), an orphan from Rangpur, scrubs dishes in the Jagannath Hall canteen. His father remarried, leaving him and his mother behind. "I don't have a choice," he says. He dreams of studying, but the reality of survival forces him into long hours of labour for just BDT 200 per day.

Despite national laws, international conventions, and moral obligations, child labour remains a normalised sight within one of Bangladesh's most prestigious academic institutions. While canteens efficiently serve students, they simultaneously perpetuate a system that exploits the most vulnerable—children whose futures are sacrificed to fatigue rather than education.