Chapter IV

HISTORICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN BANGLADESH
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Introduction

A University is a group of companions of intellectuals, researchers, teachers and students dedicated to learning, teaching, studying and advancement of knowledge. Teaching and research are the major functions of any university. Success of any university depends on the scholastic performances of its teachers and students. The academic performances, intellectual pursuits and the cultural activities of the students and teachers are the crucial topics in a study of the history of a university (Rahim, 1981:IX).

In pre-partition days, less opportunity was created for higher learning programme in Eastern Bengal and the people of that part had poor facilities for higher education. Most of the colleges were situated in Kolkata or in places which were close to Kolkata. There were 13 colleges and 7 professional institutions, such as medical college, engineering college and others. (Rahim, 1981:3)

As stated by Mahmud (2002:132-3), there was no university for a long time throughout the British rule in the area of current Bangladesh. On 1st July 1921, a teaching cum residential university was established first in Dhaka. The second university was established in 1953 in Rajshahi. On the basis of recommendation of the Shariff Education Commission, two technological universities were established. One in Mymensingh in 1961, called Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and another one is in Dhaka in 1962, called Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). After that two more general universities were established in Chittagong in 1965, and at Savar in Dhaka in 1970, called Chittagong University and Jahangirnagar University respectively. Before liberation, in total, there were six public universities in Bangladesh. After the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, no new Universities were established until 1985.

Higher education has significantly changed during the last thirty-five years. According to UGC (2003:36-7), there was a huge demand of higher education in the country. There was not enough scope of admission of the students intended for higher studies. As a result, there was a rush of students for admission into the universities but the public universities could not accommodate all of them. Therefore, the Government in consulting with the UGC, opened a new avenue for establishment of private universities in Bangladesh. Hence, the Government of Bangladesh approved Private
University Act 1992, which was amended in 1998.

Total development pictures of all public and private universities could not be described here due to limitations. However, history and background of major public and private universities in Bangladesh are mentioned below.

**Public Universities**

**University of Dhaka (DU, Estd: 1921)**

**History**

There were several factors considered for establishing the University of Dhaka: first and foremost, the desire of Muslims of Eastern Bengal to motivate the higher learning development of their society; secondly, the desire of the Government of India to set up a new type of residential and teaching university in India; thirdly special emphasis was given to mitigate the overcrowding of the University of Kolkata. “The chief determining factor in the decision of the Government to make the Dhaka the seat of a University”, according to the Kolkata University Commission of 1917, was doubtless, the desire to comply with the demand for further facilities for the Muslim population who form a vast majority in Eastern Bengal” (Kolkata University Commission Report, 1917:131-32).

The renowned personalities of the Muslim community led by the Nawabs of Dhaka, Sir Salimullah, Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury and Janab A K Fazlul Huq, made a powerful representation to the British Viceroy Lord Hardinge, in favour of the establishment of a University at Dhaka in January 1912 (UGC, 2003:35).

As per report of the Kolkata University Commission (1917:122-3), the decision of the Government for setting up the University of Dhaka was approved by the Secretary of State. The Government of India invited the Government of Bengal through a letter dated 4th April 1912, to submit a complete scheme along with the budget. The Government of India considered the establishment of a new University in respect of progress of education but the University should be of teaching and residential type. According to the report of the Dhaka University Committee (1914), a decision was made on 27th May 1912 by the Government of Bengal in respect to the proposed University, appointed a Committee of 13 members headed by Mr. R. Nathiel, Bar-at-Law, to make a scheme.

It was recommended by the Nathan Committee that the University of Dhaka should be a state University. In 1913, Nathan Committee report was published and invited views from the public on the
scheme for the University of Dhaka. The scheme was given a final shape, which was approved by the Secretary of State in December 1913. On 6th January 1917, Lord Chelmsford, Chancellor of the University of Kolkata, at the Convocation address, announced the Government’s policy to appoint a Commission for the University of Kolkata to examine its problems and to make recommendations about Kolkata University. The scheme of the University of Dhaka was referred to the Kolkata University Commission for their worthy guidance about its constitution and management (Rahim, 1981:6-8, 11).

Kolkata University Commission was constituted. Dr. M. E. Sadler, Vice-chancellor of the University of Leeds, worked as a Chairman of that Commission. The Commission explored different papers, collected written and verbal facts and figures, and received views from the public. The Kolkata University Commission made 13 recommendations regarding establishment of Dhaka University project. These recommendations were accepted, with minor changes, in the Dhaka University Act of 1920 (Rahim, 1981:11, 20).

**University of Dhaka Act, 1920**

According to Rahim (1981:21-2), the Dhaka University Act, No. XIII of 1920, was passed by the Indian Legislative Council and received the assent of the Governor General on 23rd March, 1920. Its object was “to establish and incorporate a unitary teaching and residential University of Dhaka.” The Act provided that it was to come into force on a date that the Governor General-in-Council may order by notification in the Gazette of India. The introduction of the Act, clause 3(1), declared that ‘the first Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University and the first members of the Court, the Executive Council and the Academic Council and all persons who may hereafter become such officers or members, so long as they continue to hold such office or membership, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the University of Dhaka. Clause 3(2) of the Act declared, “The University shall have perpetual succession and common seal”. The Dhaka University Act principally embodied the recommendations of the Kolkata University Commission.

The Act, Clause 4, vested in the University the powers: (1) “to provide for instruction in such branches of learning as it may think fit, and to make provision for research and for the advancement of dissemination of knowledge, (2) to hold examinations and to grant and confer degrees and other academic distinctions to and on persons who (a) shall have pursued a course of study provided by the university, or (b) are teachers in educational institutions, under conditions laid down in the Ordinances and Regulations, and shall have passed the examinations of the University under like conditions, (3) to confer honorary degrees or other distinctions on approved persons in the manner laid down in the Statutes, (4) to grant such diplomas to provide lectures and instruction for persons,
not being students of the University as the University may determine, (5) to cooperate with other Universities and authorities in such manner and for such purposes as the University may determine, (6) to institute Professorships, Readerships, Lectureships and posts, (7) to institute and award Fellowships, Scholarships, Exhibitions and Prizes in accordance with the Statutes and the Regulations, (8) to institute and maintain Halls for the residence of students of the University and to approve and license Hostels maintained by other persons for the residence of such students, (9) to demand and receive such fees as may be prescribed in the Ordinances, (10) to supervise and control the residence and discipline of students of the University, and to make arrangement for promoting their health, and (11) to do such act and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite in order to further the objects or the university as a teaching and examining body, and to cultivate and promote arts, science and other branches of learning.” Clause 5 of the Act stated, “The University shall be open to all persons of either sex, classes, castes and creeds.” According to the Act, the teaching of the University would include lecturing, laboratory work and other teaching conducted in the University by Professors, Readers, Lecturers and other teachers.

Considering the areas of powers and general organisation of administrative arrangements, the University of Dhaka is largely similar to that of the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds, although the arrangement is different in some cases. The area of the University of Dhaka was restricted to the city of Dhaka (Rahim, 1981:22).

According to the Act, the Governor General of India was the visitor of the University of Dhaka. The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Provosts, Registrar, Deans and such other persons declared by the statutes of the University were the chief officers of the University and the Court, the Executive Council, the Academic Council and the Faculties were to constitute its supreme authorities. The Visitor, the Governor General, was given the right to direct an inspection or enquiry into the affairs of the University. The Governor of Bengal was made the Chancellor of the University. As Chancellor he was to be the Head and Chief Officer of the University and the President of the Court.

The Vice-chancellor was made the academic and executive head of the University. He was to be appointed by the Chancellor after consideration of the recommendations of the Executive Council and he would hold office for such terms and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Statutes (Rahim, 1981:23).

**Appointment of first Vice-chancellor, Registrar and Treasurer**

According to Dhaka University Act of 1920, the Governor General of India selected Mr. P. J. Hartog, C.I.E., who had a notable record as Academic Registrar of the University of London for 17 years and
had also worked as member of the Kolkata University Commission, the first Vice-chancellor of the University of Dhaka from December 1, 1920 (Hartog, 1947:87-88). In the first week of December, P. J. Hartog came from the United Kingdom to India and officially took over the charge of his office on 10 December. In the preliminary arrangements of the University, the first Vice-chancellor had the assistance of H.E. Stapleton, I.E.S., a Special Officer deputed by the Government of Bengal. Mr. Stapleton had played important role as a member of the Advisory Committee constituted under the transitory provisions of the Act. The members of the Advisory Committee, besides the Vice-chancellor, were the Director of Public Instruction (W.W. Hornell), Vice-chancellor of the Kolkata University (Sir Nilratan Sircar and then Sir Ashutosh Mookherjee who succeeded as Vice-chancellor), Nawab Sir Shamsul Huda, President of the Bengal Legislative Council, and the Nawabzada K.M. Afzal Khan Bahadur during the illness of Shamsul Huda. The Governor of Bengal, the Earl of Ronaldshay made the first administrative and teaching appointment on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. On 12 April 1921, the Registrar of the University was appointed. Khan Bahadur Naziruddin Ahmad, who belonged to the Bengal Civil Service, was the first Registrar of the University of Dhaka. Mr. J. H. Lindsay, I.C.S., was appointed as the first Treasurer (Honorary) of the University of Dhaka (Rahim, 1981:26-7).

University Site

The University inherited the old buildings of the Dhaka College and a greater portion of the Buildings and estate of the Ramna area which had been made for the short-lived Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. These lands covered about a square mile in area (six hundred acres), while the buildings included the old Secretariat. Initially, the Library, the Arts classes and residential hall for the Muslim students of the University were housed in that building. The impressive Government House was used for meetings of the Court and other University bodies. In the Ramna Green, the University with about a hundred of its decent buildings of various dimensions enjoyed a very beautiful site. The Vice-chancellor correctly said that the University of Dhaka occupied a site more fabulous than that of any modern University in Great Britain (Rahim, 1981:32).

Opening of the Dhaka University

The University of Dhaka officially inaugurated its doors on 1 July, 1921 with three faculties of Arts, Science and Law and 12 teaching Departments: (1) English, (2) Sanskrit and Bengali, (3) Arabic and Islamic Studies, (4) Persian and Urdu, (5) History, (6) Economics and politics, (7) Philosophy, (8) Mathematics, (9) Physics, (10) Chemistry, (11) Law and (12) Education. The University started functioning with a teaching staff of 60 members. Out of them, 28 were in Arts, 17 in Science and 15 in Law (Rahim, 1981:30). During the launching period, Dhaka University had 877 students, and three
residential halls, such as Salimullah Muslim Hall, Jagannath hall, and Shahidullah Hall. (D.U., 2006-07:3).

As per ranking of Webometrics a Spain based organization, Dhaka University was ranked second among all public and private universities of Bangladesh in July 2007.

Current Status

The University of Dhaka (commonly referred to as Dhaka University or just DU) is the oldest university in Bangladesh. It has a wonderful past, an outstanding present and hopefully a brilliant future. It is a multi-disciplinary university and one of the top universities in this region. The University expanded and came to its present shape in three phases. The first one from 1921 to 1947, the second one from 1947 to 1971, and last one has been from 1971 onward. Dhaka University also has more than 200 trust funds. These funds are playing a very active role to promote research, fellowships, scholarships, prizes, and workshops, for advancement of learning in different disciplines. Every year almost five thousand outstanding students of the country enroll themselves in Honours programme in the University of Dhaka. This University is very lucky to have created an exceptional academic standard and reputed itself as an important centre of learning in this region (Rahman, 2003:8-10).

Initially, the University worked hard to make a wonderful record of academic achievement by which the University earned its own reputation. For that the University was treated as the 'Oxford of the East'. In 1947, it assumed academic authority over all educational institutions above the secondary level falling within East Bengal. In that practice, it became a teaching-cum-affiliating institution. Students and teachers of this university have played a major role to give the country a good shape (Rahman, 2003:8-10).

With more than 26,000 students, about 1,600 teachers, 600 officers and 3,100 staff, the University of Dhaka is the largest public university in Bangladesh. At present, Dhaka University has 07 faculties, 54 departments, 9 institutes, 18 residential halls, and 33 research centres. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:16. On the other hand, the ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:19. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 45,965.01. The number of affiliated colleges is 65. In total, 11281 students qualified in bachelor and masters degree examination of different disciplines in 2006 (UGC, 2007:74).
Rajshahi University (RU, Estd: 1953)

History

In 1919, the Sadlar Commission suggested appropriateness of Rajshahi as the site for a university in North Bengal. Rajshahi University was established in 1953, located in a city in northern Bangladesh, called Rajshahi. It stands on the northern bank of the river Padma, four kilometers away from the city and in a locality of excellent panoramic view called the Motihar green. The University's territorial jurisdiction expands over the Rajshahi and Khulna divisions except Bakerganj and Patuakhali districts. This University is a teaching-cum-affiliating University. The way it has extended during the last 54 years, the University became the second largest general University in our country. Particularly, the University provides for the need of higher education of the northern region of Bangladesh. The university is now run by Rajshahi University act 1973, enacted by the parliament of Bangladesh soon after Bangladesh achieved its independence (UGC, 2007:75).

According to Banglapedia (2003, Vol. 10:266), the first proposal came to set up a university in 1917, when the Kolkata University made the Sadler Commission to assess the need and feasibility for a university in northern and southern Bengal. However, the recommendations of the report did not bring any instant result.

Following the partition of India in 1947, what is now Bangladesh became East Pakistan. Just after partition two universities were established in West Pakistan. Out of two, one is in Peshwar and another one at Hyderabad in Sindh. Civil society people thought that a university was essential for the northern part of the East Pakistan. In 1952, Nurul Amin, Chief Minister and Habibullah Bahar, the Minister for Health of East Pakistan, visited Rajshahi and assured to consider setting up a university at Rajshahi. A Lawyer by profession, devoted social worker and an enthusiastic educationist, Madar Bux, in the middle of 1952, led a delegation of elites, public leaders, and students to the Chief Minister and successfully ended their mission in convincing him to recognize the need to establish a university in Rajshahi. Then the Government of Nurul Amin introduced the Rajshahi University Bill in the legislative Assembly in November 1952. The Bill became an Act on 31st March 1953 (the East Bengal Act XV of 1953), which is known as Rajshahi University Act. Dr. Itrat Hossain Juberi, one of the most prominent educationists of the sub-continent and the Principal of Rajshahi College was appointed as the first Vice-chancellor of the university on the 6th July 1953. Initially, the university was accommodated to a temporary location. Local circuit house and Bara Kuthi Building were used as the first office and residence cum office of the Vice-chancellor respectively. The University started functioning from 1954-55, sessions and academic activities started in Rajshahi Government College and some other rental buildings with seven departments, i.e. English, Economics, Mathematics,
History, Philosophy, Education and Law. These seven departments had 161 students including five female students. The famous Fuller Hostel of Rajshahi Government College was used as the first hostel of the Rajshahi University. Momtazuddin Ahmed, the second Vice-chancellor of the University, who started construction of its permanent establishment in Motihar campus during 1957 to 1965. Later, the University was developed permanently on 732 acres of land at Motihar of Rajshahi city in 1964. In 1964, the offices were moved to its permanent campus (Mostafa, 2004:63-4).

**Current Status**

Now the University has eight faculties, 47 departments, five institutes, 15 residential halls including four halls for female. The number of students, teachers and employees was about 27900, 1130, and 2631 respectively. Out of the total students, 7577 were female students. The number of resident students is 7269. Tk 37.00 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratory in 2006. The UGC allocated Tk. 78 crore 36.71 lakh for this University during the year 2006. The output of graduates and post-graduates was 7299 in 2006. In spite of political unrest, the University has grown gradually in recent years (UGC, 2007:75-6).

The University performs its functions and responsibilities through the Senate, Academic Council and the Syndicate. The Vice-chancellor acts as the Chief Executive of the University. The University offers teaching courses for both degree and post graduate levels (Mostafa, 2004:64).

**Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU, Estd: 1961)**

**History**

Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) was established as the only university of its kind in Bangladesh in 1961 on the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission for National Education and Food and Agriculture Commission in 1959 (BAU, 1999:5).

The Commission also recommended that the Agricultural University for the former eastern part of Pakistan be located at Mymensingh. The alluvial soil of Mymensingh on the Bank of old Brahmaputra is rich with incomparable natural beauty. Different types of cash crops and food crops grow at Mymensingh in plenty. This University has got different features from those of other Universities (Mostafa, 2004:73).

Accordingly, the project for the establishment of East Pakistan Agricultural University (EPAU) was confirmed on 8th June 1961 and its ordinance was circulated on 18th August 1961. After the
independence in 1971, it was renamed as Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU). The University officially came into existence on 2nd September 1961, when the first Vice-chancellor was appointed. The Vice-chancellor started functioning in the same year with only two faculties i.e., the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, with 23 teaching departments grouped under two faculties, 30 teachers, and 444 students only. The third Faculty, namely, the Faculty of Animal Husbandry, was included a few months after the establishment of the University. The Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, and the Faculty of Fisheries, started functioning during the session 1963-64, 1964-65, and 1967-68 respectively. The most important job of this University is to strengthen the quality and standard of higher agricultural education and to produce the first rate agriculturists, agricultural scientists, and technologists for bearing the responsibilities of agricultural development of the country. This is the pioneer and premier University of its kind in the country. Two national research institutes, namely, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) are housed in this campus (BAU, 1999:5-6).

The University was established by the then Government of East Pakistan with an area of 485 hectares of land in an ideal site with river Brahmaputra almost parallel to the University Campus on the eastern side and rural areas on western and southern sides, 3 km south of the district town of Mymensingh and 120 km north from Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. It is an ideal place for carrying out experiments and research work in Agriculture. The Brahmaputra water washing the eastern boundary of the campus would serve as nature’s laboratory for practical training in fisheries. There is a railway station, a post office and a bank in the campus (Rahman, 1987:67).

The University performs its functions and responsibilities through Syndicate, Academic Council, and other statutory bodies, i.e. Finance Committee, Planning and Development Committee, Faculty Committees, Committee for Advanced Studies and Research, and Boards of Studies. The Vice-chancellor is the chief executive of the University. He is responsible for conducting overall affairs within the outline and policy directives of the Syndicate and the Government (BAU, 1999:6).

The University offers teaching courses at both degree and post-graduate levels under the faculties mentioned earlier. This University confers degree from graduate level to Ph.D. level. The academic programme of the University may be summarized as, namely, teaching - graduate and post-graduate; research – functional and developmental; pre-service and in-services training in extension and organization and methods; refresher courses - for lower level teachers and for employees of non-teaching organizations; short courses – for public servants at various levels. Agriculture University educated graduates are employed in various capacities such as agricultural administrators, farm managers, agricultural bankers, creditors, and co-operators, teachers, and advanced researchers. Aim
of the University is the total well-being of total population who depend entirely on agriculture. The University is determined to bring a new era in the agricultural development of the country. With the establishment of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) a milestone has been developed in the field of agricultural research. Now in collaboration with the BARC, this University is conducting extensive research in the field of agriculture and allied fields (Mostafa, 2004:74).

**Current Status**

There are six faculties with 43 departments and one institute in the University. The number of students, teachers and employees was 4527, 541 and 2252, respectively. Out of the total students, 1097 were female and 18 foreign students. The University has 11 halls of residence with 4527 resident students. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:8. Tk 67.72 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratory. Tk. 88.89 lakh was spent for the purpose of research. The UGC allocated Tk. 6297.13 lakh for this University during the year 2006. The total classes were held for 266 days and the outputs of graduates and post-graduates was 1326 in 2006. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 1,41,351.89. One college was affiliated to the University in the year 2006. (UGC, 2007:76-7).

The academic programme of the University seeks to achieve sustainable capacity in providing high quality agricultural education to excel in the development of agricultural technologies.

**Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET, Estd: 1962)**

**History**

The last quarter of the nineteenth century opened the first chapter in the history of technical education in this part of the subcontinent. It was in the year 1876, when the nucleus of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) of today was first originated with the establishment of a survey school named “Dhaka Survey School”. The School was started at Nalgola, in old Dhaka. Basically, this Survey School was established to train the surveyors for the then Government of Bengal of British India. The School started a survey course of two years duration with a view to produce skilled man power and adequately qualified person to serve in Government departments as well as in private organizations. The school slowly gained its reputation and in the session 1895-96, its total number of students rose to about 400. The status of the school was raised in the year 1897 with the addition of a Sub-overseer course of three years duration. A civil Engineering course aiming at qualifying students for employment as Sub-overseers in the public works department, district board, municipalities and private enterprises. The status of the school was further upgraded in the year 1905 with the addition of an Overseer course of four years duration in Civil
Engineering for employment of the successful students as Overseer under the above-mentioned employers. At that stage the Nawabs of Dhaka took keen interest in the advancement of Muslim education and His Excellency Nawab Ahsanullah donated a sum of TK. 1.12 lakhs for improvement and development of this institution. In recognition of the generous financial contribution from the then Nawab of Dhaka, it was named after his father Khawja Ahsanullah. Then, it was renamed as “Ahsanullah School of Engineering” in the year 1908. The Ahsanullah School of Engineering was initially attached to the Dhaka College. The head of this school was known as the Headmaster. Later, the post of Headmaster was upgraded to the rank of Principal and was placed directly under the control of the Director of Public Instruction of Bengal. Mr. Anderson was the first Principal of the institution. In August, 1947 the Ahsanullah School of Engineering was renamed as Ahsanullah Engineering College, Dhaka. Mr. Hakim Ali was appointed the first Principal of the Ahsanullah Engineering College. In February, 1948, the Government of East Pakistan sanctioned and approved the conversion of the Ahsanullah School of Engineering into the Ahsanullah Engineering College, offering both degree courses in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, and Agricultural and Textile Engineering and Diploma courses in Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering. The college was to accommodate 120 students in the degree level (Rahman, 1987:74-80).

In 1958, on the basis of the recommendation of the Sharif Commission, which was set up by the Government of Pakistan, a University of Engineering and Technology was established in Dhaka in 1962 (UGC, 2003:36).

In 1962, the Ahsanullah Engineering College was upgraded to the status of the East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology (EPUET) by the ordinance number XXXVI of 1961 to create facilities for post graduate studies and research in the field of engineering and technology. It was firmly believed that the University aimed at raising the quality of engineering education and providing research facilities would bring an economic prosperity and well being of the nation. After the liberation war of 1971, Bangladesh became independent, and EPUET was renamed to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Bangladesh Prokoushol Bishshobiddalôe) abbreviated as BUET. This University is now treated as the oldest and leading engineering institution in Bangladesh (Mostafa, 2004:80).

In July 2007, BUET was ranked first among all public and private universities of Bangladesh. This ranking was made by the Webometrics, a Spain based organization.
Current Status

The BUET campus is in the heart of the capital city of Dhaka. It has a compact campus with halls of residence within walking distances of the academic buildings. At present the campus occupies 80 acres of land. This area accommodates all faculties, institutes, departments, the administrative building, the central library, main sports facilities, the auditorium complex, the BUET Club and eighty two units of residential accommodation of teachers, staff and employees and the Vice-chancellor's bungalow (Mostafa, 2004:80).

Currently, the University has three institutes, five faculties, and 16 departments. The number of students, teachers and employees was 8047, 519 and 1150, respectively. Out of the total students, 359 were female students and 18 foreign students. The University had eight Halls of residence with 2825 resident students. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:16. Tk 85.84 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratory. The UGC allocated Tk. 41 crore 36.96 lakh for this University during the year 2006. The total classes were held for 202 days and the output of graduates and post-graduates was 911 in 2006 (UGC, 2007:77).

Jahangirnagar University (JU, Estd: 1970)

History

In 1947, the East Pakistan as an east part of Pakistan had only one University, i.e. the University of Dhaka. It was then a full residential university and the total number of student was 1,620. In a new political atmosphere and keeping a close notice to the hopes and dreams of the people, the residential characteristic of the university was changed and transformed into a strong educational institution of higher education in the province. As a result, the number of students increased to three thousand in a decade. In the meantime, demand from the civil society for higher education was increasing and finally, a second university was established in Rajshahi in the year 1954. It developed into a higher educational institution for the north and south–western region. Thus, the pressure on Dhaka University was a little bit reduced. But due to the extension of the secondary education a demand again grew up in the society for the expansion of higher education. From severe shortage of educated people in the different segment of the society, the Government gradually established an agricultural and an engineering university in Mymensingh and Dhaka respectively. After the establishment of the two universities, it was felt that the two universities in Dhaka and Rajshahi were not adequate to fulfill the needs of the people all over the country. Therefore, within a short time a third university in Chittagong was set up. This is how from the demand of creating opportunities for continuing higher education, more or less a good number of universities were established. But it was observed that due
to various reasons the standard of education gradually had fallen. Though the enquiry commission formed by the Government at different terms, expressed anxiety at this, but could not recommend any effective solution. At last during the preparation of the third five year plan of that time, the Planning Commission for the first time admitted the necessity of taking steps for the improvement of higher education. In the perspective of that statement of the Commission, the need to set up a new residential university came up in the heart of all educated people. A possibility of setting up a full-fledged university as Jahangirnagar University was implied here (Rahman, 1987:100-01).

The Jahangirnagar University was established in 1970, as a unitary teaching and residential University by the Jahangirnagar Muslim University Ordinance 1970. This name was changed to Jahangirnagar University in early 1973 by the Bangladesh Ordinance No.1 of 1973. Now the University runs by the Act no. XXXIV of 1973. The University is located at Savar, which is about 30 km from Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. The University has an area of 697.56 acres of land by the side of the Asian Highway (UGC, 2007:78-9).

The proposal for setting up a residential University in East Pakistan, which should be similar to Islamabad University consisting of Institutes of Advance Studies as research oriented centers of excellence and specialization came from the provincial Government. That proposal was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council of June 1965. Initially, the site was selected for the proposed university at Salna near Joydebpur, which was later on abandoned as that area was developing as an industrial zone. The present site at Savar in Dhaka, an attractive site consisting of meadows, woods and lakes on the Asian Highway, was selected in 1967.

The Project office was located in Dhaka. The project started its work for the establishment of the University in April 1968. The late Dr. Surat Ali Khan, a distinguished educationist, was appointed as Project Director. The original master plan for the proposed university was developed by 'Bastukalaboratoryid’ a renowned architectural firm. The master plan was, however, revised later. The first Vice-chancellor Professor Mofizuddin Ahmed took over the charge of his office on 24th September 1970. Professor Ahmed devoted himself to the job of starting the academic programme of the university (Rahman, 1987:103).

When the University was established in August 1970, the Government approved the 20-year development plan for the University. The main goals of the project were (a) it will be a science-based university, (b) it will be centre of excellence and research, and (c) it will be a fully residential University. At the outset, the University started functioning with four subjects, namely, Economics, Statistics, Geography and Mathematics under two faculties. The first academic session was started in 1970-71 with 150 students and 20 teachers. The University exercises its function and responsibilities
through the Syndicate and Academic Council. The Vice-chancellor acts as Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the University. The University offers teaching courses at both degree and post-graduate levels under various faculties, namely, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Faculty of Biological Sciences (Mostafa, 2004:91).

**Current Status**

There are four faculties, two institutes, and 26 departments. The University has 11 residential halls (six for males and five for females) with more than 8300 residence students, of which more than 2800 were female. Now it has more than 8700 students, 457 teachers, 204 officers and 1281 supporting staff. Out of total students, 2814 were female. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:20. On the other hand, the ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:6. In 2006, the total budget was allocated Tk. 36 crore 69.47 lacs by the UGC for the university. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 45276.35. In total, 1141 students qualified in Bachelor Honours, Masters, and MPhil degree examinations including Ph.D. of different disciplines in 2006 (UGC, 2007:79).

**Private Universities**

**North South University (NSU, Estd: 1992)**

**History**

North South University (NSU) is the first and one of the largest private universities in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The University offers undergraduate education in several subjects such as Business Administration, Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Pharmacy, Architecture, Microbiology, Economics, English and Environmental Studies. It also offers graduate programmes for most of the subjects mentioned above. NSU, the first private university in Bangladesh was set up by the NSU Foundation with the initiative of a group of philanthropists, industrialists, administrators and academics. The Government of Bangladesh approved the establishment of North South University in 1992 under Private University Act 1992. It was formally inaugurated on 10th February 1993 by Begum Khaleda Zia, former Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The President of People's Republic of Bangladesh is the Chancellor of NSU. The University has Board of Governors (BoG) is headed by the Chairman elected by its members. The Porichalona Porshod (Syndicate) is the second highest body after the Board of Governors of the NSU Foundation. It manages the University within the policy guidelines provided by BoG. The Porichalona
Porshod consists of BoG members, Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, representatives of the faculty and university administration (NSU, 2006:79).

The Vice Chancellor, as the chief executive officer, administers the university with the help of the different statutory bodies. All statutory bodies function under the provision of the statutes prepared within the framework of Private University Act (PUA) 1992. The Registrar takes care of the university records and keeps liaison with University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities (NSU, 2006:79).

NSU started its first classes in January 1993 with 137 students enrolled in three Departments, i.e. Business Administration, Computer Science and Economics. The credits obtained at NSU are acceptable to most of the better known universities of USA, Canada, Australia and other countries. A student may transfer a maximum of 60 credits earned at previously attended colleges and universities toward NSU degrees. Transcripts from all previously attended institutions must be submitted (NSU, 2006:80).

The future campus of NSU will be at Bashundhara, Dhaka, where the construction work is progressing gradually on 5.5 acres of land. This campus will have all the modern amenities and facilities of an urban university. The campus will be shifted to its new campus in the near future (NSU, 2006:88).

NSU was ranked fifth among all public and private universities of Bangladesh according to the ranking of Webometrics. Considering other private universities, its position is third.

**Current Status**

There are three faculties with eight departments and three institutes in the University. The number of students, teachers and employees was 6579, 231, and 240, respectively. Out of the total students, 1916 were female and 27 foreign students. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:28. The ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:27. Tk 85.11 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratory. Tk. 1 crore 10.16 lakh was spent for the purpose of research. The University spent total Tk. 81 crore 96.80 lakh for the year 2006. The total classes were held for 248 days and the output of graduates and post-graduates was 518 in 2006. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 53,775.68 (UGC, 2007:101).
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB, Estd: 1993)

History

According to the annual report of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB, 2005), this University is managed privately. It has two campuses, one in Dhaka and the other one in Chittagong. Its main campus is at Baridhara, Dhaka. The University consists of 14 independent buildings. It was set up in 1993 and the outreach campus in Chittagong was launched in 1999. A permanent campus is being built at Bashundhara, Dhaka. It has four schools: School of Business (SB), School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS), School of Environmental Science and Management (SESM), School of Liberal Arts and Science (SLAS). IUB offers a fellowship programme for scholars from home and abroad to do research and study in Bangladesh. In Dhaka, the University works closely with the International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) that has best equipped environmental biological laboratory in the region and the Islamic University of Technology (IUT). The University has collaboration/link relation with top universities and institutions abroad. In this regard, several agreements have been signed with the universities situated abroad. IUB has a policy to develop its own teaching faculty together with growth of the university. It also has a strong programme of faculty training in order to remain highly qualitative education. Computer center of IUB has online facilities for all students. Online system is connected with fiber-optic network. The University has five units of laboratory: Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science and Geographical Information Service (GIS) Laboratory. A senior medical consultant is available on call. Facilities for indoor and outdoor games in the University are available. A good number of clubs are active in organizing extra curricular activities. Counseling Services are offered by the University for building the career of IUB students (IUB, 2005).

Current Status

At present, the University has rented 1,30,000 sq. ft. at Baridhara in Dhaka and 25,000 sq. ft. in Chittagong. Besides, it has 2.64 acre of land at Bashundhara, Dhaka and 7.27 acre of land at Kaliakayr, Dhaka. The University has four faculties and 20 departments. In 2006, it had 2,974 students, out of whom five were foreigners and 1001 were female students. The total number of faculty members was 137, out of whom 38 were female and 60 were Ph.D. degree holders. Besides, 66 faculty members were adjunct. The ratio of teachers including adjunct and students is 1:15. The number of officers and employees was 72 and 123 respectively. The ratio of employees and students is 1:15. The library contained 24,924 volumes of books and journals. Tk. one crore 78.10 lac was spent for the research purpose and Tk. 96.40 lac spent for procurement of equipment and laboratory item. Total expenses of the University was Tk. 67 crore and 70 lakh. Per head expenditure per year of
a student is Tk. 2,24,949.56. Classes were held in 218 days. The output of graduates and post-graduates was 355 in the year 2006 (UGC, 2007:102).

**Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST, Estd: 1995)**

**History**

According to the statement made in the web site, the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) was established by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The Mission is a non-profit charitable organization in Bangladesh. That Mission was established in 1958 by Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah, a renowned educationist and social reformer of undivided India. He set up this Mission with a vision to make a better society, which is characterized by honest, moral and spiritual values of the highest humanism; and showed in every sphere of life–social, economic, cultural, and access to education and resources. His amazing educational reorganizations include introduction of roll number system in the public examination and establishing equal opportunity for education of all groups of people in the society.

One of the important objectives of the University is to flourish and diffuse need based education for the students of science, technology, business, and social sciences. The University has different types of facilities, such as ten computer laboratories, digital laboratory, three electrical laboratories, electronics laboratory, physics laboratory, chemistry laboratory, environmental engineering laboratory, electrical machine laboratory, microwave laboratory, soil mechanics laboratory, transportation laboratory, control laboratory, communication laboratory, switch gear laboratory, project laboratory, photographic laboratory, textile testing and quality control laboratory, wet processing laboratory and VLSI laboratory. In private sector, this University is playing a leading role in the field of science and technology education in the country. As per Webometrics ranking of July 2007, this University’s position is fourth in Bangladesh. (Can be viewed at [http://www.aust.edu/about_aust.html](http://www.aust.edu/about_aust.html))

**Current Status**

The Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology was set up in 1995 at Teztutri Bazar in Dhaka. The University has 92,200 sq. ft. of space. It also has a campus in Rajshahi town having 13,420 sq. ft. of space. The University has one institute, four faculties and seven departments. The number of students was 2760, out of whom 580 were female. Besides, it has 381 students in Rajshahi campus. The total number of teachers was 334 including outer campus; out of whom 48 female, 54 Ph.D. degree holders, and 128 adjunct faculty members. The ratio of teachers including part-timer and
students is 1:10. The number of officers and staff is 21 and 80 respectively. The ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:31. There is one residential hall and the number of resident student is 80. Tk. 63.79 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratories. Tk. 6.62 lakh was spent for research purpose. The total expenditure of the University is Tk. 18 crore 26 lakh during 2006. Per year per-head expenditure of a student is Tk. 31,120.12. The total classes were held for 168 days and the output of graduates and post-graduates was 398 in 2006 (UGC, 2007:104).

**American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB, Estd: 1995)**

**History**

As described in the web of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), it is one of the private universities of Bangladesh. It was established in 1994 and located at Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka. The University has five campuses. AIUB is the member of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh. The University Grants Commission evaluated and approved the academic program of AIUB on 8th November 1994 and the Government permission was obtained on 6th November 1995.

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to provide quality and excellent computer-based education. The AIUB is dedicated to cultivate and build up outstanding professionals imbued with strong sense of ethical values and competence ready to face the spirited world of business, service and employment. American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) envisages in promoting and creating a learning environment through state-of-the-art facilities and tools.

The University has three faculties, such as School of Science, School of Engineering and School of Business Administration. There are eight departments under these three faculties. AIUB is the only academic institution in Bangladesh, which maintain its Information Technology by using IBM Application System/400 (AS/400), RS/6000, HP Net Server (LH 3000) and HP Net Server (LH 6000). The University has ten powerful server and six computer laboratories. Each laboratory has forty units of workstations which are connected to gigabyte backbone. Besides, it has three science laboratories and one language laboratory. There are other facilities like auditorium, hostel, international linkages and networking with foreign universities, library, and maintaining institutional membership with a number of international associations. The medium of instruction for all academic programs at AIUB is English. The university has a provision for transferring students’ credits.

(Can be viewed at [http://www.aiub.edu/](http://www.aiub.edu/))
Current Status

Currently, the University has rented six buildings and operates its activities at Banani, Dhaka. Besides, it has 20 acres of land in Gazipur, Dhaka. In 2006, there were 3,849 students; out of them 12 foreign and 880 female students. The total number of teachers was 169; out of whom 21 female, 25 Ph.D. degree holders, and 12 adjunct faculty members. The number of officers and employees was 54 and 468 respectively. The ratio of teachers including part-timers and students is 1:23. The ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:7. There are four residential halls and the number of resident student is 70, out of whom 50 are female. Tk. 3 crore 43.87 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratories. The total expenditure of the University is Tk. 38 crore 79.06 lakh during 2006. The production of graduates and post-graduates was 595 in 2006. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 78,182.37 (UGC, 2007:105).

East West University (EWU, Estd: 1996)

History

The idea of setting up a private university to offer quality education at a reasonable cost in Bangladesh was first introduced by a group of prominent academics, business leaders, professionals and education enthusiasts led by Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin. With this vision, this group formed a non-profit, non-political, charitable organization called Progoti Foundation for Education and Development (PFED). East West University (EWU) is its first major project. The Board consists of 15 members governs the University. At present, Mr. Jalaluddin Ahmed is the President of the Board of Directors of East West University. After being accorded permission by the Government under the Private University Act of 1992, East West University was launched in 1996. Classes started in September, 1996 with 6 faculty members and 20 students in the present campus of 45, Mohakhali Commercial Area, Dhaka. East West University makes an effort to synthesize eastern culture and values with western thought and innovations. As an institution of higher learning, it promotes and inculcates ethical standards, values and norms. This University is committed to the moral values of equal opportunity, transparency and non-discrimination. The primary mission of EWU is to provide post-secondary education characterized by academic excellence in a variety of subjects that are particularly relevant to current needs of the society. EWU is trying hard not only to maintain high quality in both instruction and research, it is also rendering community service through dissemination of information, organization of training programs and other activities (EWU, 2007:5).

According to the annual report of East West University (2007:3), the University consists of five buildings – three 12-storied, one 15-storied, and one six-storied building, with approximate 1,80,000
(one lakh eighty thousand) sq. ft. of space. It has three faculties: faculty of Sciences and Engineering, faculty of Business and Economics, and faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Each faculty is headed by a Dean. These three faculties have eight departments, which are headed by respective department Chairpersons. As per act of the university, the Vice Chancellor is the chief executive of the university.

To help and support the students, the University has all sorts of facilities, i.e. seven computer laboratory equipped with more than 260 computers and printers of various ranges, modern language laboratory, state of the art Physics laboratory, VLSI laboratory for CSE/EEE students, Electrical and Electronic Engineering laboratory, telecommunication laboratory, Pharmacy laboratory, Physics laboratory, electrical machine laboratory, network laboratory, control engineering laboratory, state of the art electronics laboratory, medical centre, spacious air-conditioned class rooms, free e-mail and Internet access, prayer room, cafeteria, separate study rooms other than Library, EWU Centre for Research and Training, Software Development Centre and a modern state of art Library (EWU, 2007:56-9).

It is also mentioned in the annual report of East West University (2007:3), the University has 17 clubs in various fields. These clubs are participating in different competitions at national and international levels, which are also organizing different events in national levels.

East West University, from the beginning, has been providing merit scholarships and need-based financial support to worthy students. In each semester the university distributes at least 9% of its total earnings among 20% or more of its regular students. As per provision of the Private University Act, 1992, private universities must provide scholarships to 5 (five) percent of its enrolled who are poor but meritorious students. The initiators of East West University adopted a policy of not paying any profit or dividend to themselves but to use a good part of its operating surplus towards cultivating merit and providing financial support to those in need. The academic world has welcomed this policy practiced by East West University enthusiastically (EWU, 2007:66-7).

As it mentioned in the annual report of East West University (2007:3), the University has purchased 7.4 bigha lands at Aftabnagar, Rampura, Dhaka, for establishment of the future campus of EWU. Design has been agreed upon and the construction work of the future campus at Rampura will commence soon. The future campus will have all the modern amenities and facilities of an urban university. The University authority has in mind to move to its own campus by Fall 2009. Recently, this University was ranked third among all private and public universities of Bangladesh as per ranking of Webometrics, a Spain based organization funded by European Union. Considering all private universities, East West University’s position is first in Bangladesh.
Current Status

During the academic year 2006, there were 6162 students; out of them 1519 female students. The total number of teachers was 199, out of whom 28 were female. Among the teachers 29 were Ph.D., and 79 were adjunct faculty members. The number of officers and employees was 76 and 69 respectively. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:31. The ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:43. Tk 62.03 lakh was spent for procurement of chemicals and equipment for laboratory. Tk. 9.37 lakh was spent for the purpose of research. The University spent total Tk. 26 crore 26.03 lakh for the year 2006. The total classes were held for 234 days and the production of graduates and post-graduates was 416 in 2006. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 39,928.09 (UGC, 2007:106).

BRAC University (BU, Estd: 2001)

History

Thirty years back BRAC started its humble journey with a number of programmes, such as poverty alleviation, rural health care and non-formal education are important among many other programmes. BRAC works to bring significant changes in socio-economic development for a large number of people, mostly women and children, whose lives are run by extreme poverty, illiteracy, disease and malnutrition. Today, BRAC has grown into one of the largest non-Government development organisations in the world. BRAC constantly monitors its agenda to make sure its effectiveness as a catalyst for change. BRAC admits that development strategies, information technology and effective management can play an important role in modernizing Bangladesh and in securing meaningful jobs for the Bangladeshi employees at home and abroad. Considering the BRAC's continued support to education as a force of change and development, BRAC University (BU) has been established in 2001 to provide a high quality of education to meet the demands of the current age. BRAC University is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh (BRAC University, 2007:7).

As stated in the annual report of BRAC University (2007:7), that “the mission of the BRAC University is to promote the national development process through the formation of a centre of excellence in higher education, which is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop productive leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge. The goal of the university is to provide an excellent education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skill necessary for leading the country in its quest for development”. 84
The Governing Board acts as the supreme policy making body of BRAC University and responsible to make sure the educational standards are set and maintained at BU. The Vice-chancellor (VC) is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Academic Officer of the University. He is assisted by the Pro-Vice Chancellor. At present, the University has five departments, three schools, one institute, and one centre functioning within the outline of BU. Currently, the University offers undergraduate bachelor degrees in Architecture, Computer Science, Computer Science and Engineering, Economics, English, Management and Business, Physics, and Law; and Masters degree in Business Administration, Development Studies, Public Health, Governance and Development, and Disaster Management. The University also offers Post-graduate Diploma in Bank Management and IT. The University has future programmes, where they will offer a large number of programmes in different disciplines (BRAC University, 2007:17-8).

BRAC University provides lots of facilities, such as all the classrooms are air-conditioned, and equipped with multimedia projectors, have overhead projectors, computers with internet access, television, VCR, teleconferencing system, computer laboratory, digital laboratory, language laboratory, video conferencing centre, IT network, architectural studio, cafeteria, teaching learning centre and a library. Credits transfer system may be considered after admission at BRAC University (BRAC University, 2007:50-1).

**Residential Semester**

One of the important features of BU is that all students are required to attend a Residential Semester within first year of admission. The first semester will be held in Mohakhali campus and one of the following two semesters will be a residential semester in Savar Campus. The Residential semester aims at increasing the communication skills of the students, especially in English. It also emphasizes, through various exercises and activities, the development of leadership qualities as well as the ability to live and function together as a group (BRAC University, 2007:45).

**Current Status**

BRAC University has one institute, two faculties, and three schools. The University offers nine undergraduate, five graduate, three diploma, and two certificate courses. In 2006, the total number of students was 1882. Out of them, female and foreign students were 689 and 13 respectively. The total number of teachers is 221 including 67 female teachers. Out of them; 68 Ph.D. degree holders, three honorary professors, five supernumerary professors, and 99 part-time teachers. Besides, there are 35 teaching assistants. The ratio of teachers and students is 1:9 including part-time teachers. On the other
hand, the ratio of officers-staff and students is 1:18. Per-head expenditure per year of a student is Tk. 1,22,552.29. Total classes were held for 246 days. The total number of qualified students were 199 at graduate and masters degree examinations of different disciplines in 2006 (UGC, 2007:108-9).
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