

# “IBA has failed to come up to national expectation”-II

Prof M Ahmed

*This is the remaining part of the interview published last Friday. This has been taken for us by Mr Mahmood Alam. Views expressed here belong to Prof. M. Ahmed and not necessarily shared by us.*

I am an economist educated at the University of Chicago which is known for its rigor and as the best school of classical economics with empirical bias and social.

“I studied under such Noble Laureates as Milton Friedman, George Stigler, Fredrik Hayek, T. W. Schultz. At U. of Chicago the graduate School of Business (which is ranked no 3 after Stanford and Harvard) works closely with Department of Economics. The course is such that the students and faculties intermingle. Besides teaching at Dhaka University, I worked at a premier commercial Bank at a senior level and similar at the Industrial Development Corporation and the Planning Commission. I was fortunate to have wide ranging experiences. When Mehela committee appointed by 40B/ODA recommended that a nationally and internationally known personality should lead the institute, Prof Musharruf Hussain was named to do the job.

He visited the institute, that the faculty and concluded that it was impossible to transform IBA from its prevailing state of mediocrity to excellence. When he so refused, I was approached personally by Professor Safiullah and the then Vice Chancellor to respond to this call of duty to save and rebuild IBA in order to allow then senior Bangladeshi faculty to go to Manchester for higher education.

Ignoring Dr. M.N. Huda's request to rejoin Dhaka University Economics Department, I accepted the challenge of building IBA a new without foreign faculty participation. IBA was then hardly known and in liberation of Bangladesh its internship programme was not appreciated. I systematised the internship and placement programmes. I started IBA's journal with no assistance from any quarter.

I popularised the executive development programme through extending its coverage of areas, institutional contacts. The number of courses so offered increased from 3/5 to 30/35.

I increased the amount and number of scholarships. I arranged for flexibility and dynamism in course offering. I arranged for reducing the time period for graduation for working executives. I was instrumental in getting grants from CPMP, from physical facilities and MBA programme from Asia Foundation for text books. Besides international resource linkages were established by me. Even before BMET project, I could send ten faculties for higher studies abroad and

under BMET 89 faculty member of five participating institutions has gone (and some returned) for higher studies I could go on and on but I would stop here.

Opening of BBA is a higher education policy issue and it should not be decided by IBA (or even DU) itself. The learned professor opined. I don't know of any country, not to say of institutions, where two syvstutyavke streanes exist on the same campus. If there is a need B. Com (Hons) course system should be strengthened. This is being done in all three commerce faculties of the country. I don't know of any top-notch school in USA or in the world offering BBA (Harvard, Stanford, Chicago, INSEAD, IMI, London). IBA was established along with AIM (Manila) 311 M (India) and IBA (Karachi). None except Karachi started BBA. The result was a deterioration in standard and so Lahore has started a new Business school with MBA programme only.

IBA needs to fill many gaps at Masters and higher level and offer programmes in Public & Business Administration, (MBPA) Law and Business (MLBA) social service Administration and Business Administration (MSBA) IBA should cover areas of management that the national development programme demands. Why duplicate a feeder programme that is not essential and would divert resources to less productive channels and create emplication for already established business education?

I have already given my opinion on current administration of IBA Prof M. Ahmed said. Dr. Miyan has dispensed with time-tested committee system for faculty participation and without any statutory authority created posts of Chairman and Directors of programme for distribution of patrenage and engaging teachers in clerical work when they should be released for academic work. He has shifted permanently appointed and trained staff and replaced them with people from his now closed garments factory without observing any required administrative process.

He has not audited accounts and used money without proper authorisation. He has demolished structures without reason and authority. He has awarded works to contractors without due authority. He has allegedly asked younger faculty to show special consideration to selected students. He has appointed new faculty without consideration of vacancy or requirement.

He has barred the senior most faculty from participation in academic and other deliberations despite orders from V-C to the contrary. He advertised BBA programme without due process and refused to refund fees so collected when V-C ordered him to do so. There are more and more. How can such an administration be called right?

Regarding money collected

last year from BRA entrants the Prof said money collected in the name of BBA programme should be returned to applicants as directed by Vice-Chancellor, otherwise anybody can institute case under Cr P.C. Sec 420 against Dr Miyan and Dr. Hossain.

He thinks that IBA should double/treble its intake at MBA level, develop teaching materials in Bangali, prepare to make management films in Bangali, undertake meaningful research, institute interdisciplinary research expand executive development programme, develop institutional linkages etc. There are no end to the prospect of the development of IBA. Under BMET project, many teachers of commerce

faculty have been trained in Business Administrative Changes in the structure and content of courses have or are taking place and this linkage with business and colleges have been strengthened. If IBA chooses to remain confined to narrowly defined 'Business Education' then there would not be any meaningful difference between the two opening of BBA would confirm that. But IBA can be different by organising quantitatively based analysis prone problem oriented broad based interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral management education program. The choice before IBA is whether it wants to be just another institute or an institute with distinction.