

Address of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh Mr. Justice Md. Muzammel Hossain delivered on 23 July 2012 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Auditorium, University of Dhaka, on the 'Lunching Ceremony of the Department of Television and Film Studies', University of Dhaka.

Hon'ble Chairperson Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Special guest of this ceremony, His Excellency Mr. Dan W. Mozena, the Ambassador of USA to Bangladesh, Professor Janet Wasko, Knight Chair in Communication Research, University of Oregon, USA, respected Teachers and my dear students of the University of Dhaka, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum / Good Morning,

I feel deeply honoured to address this august congregation in this beautiful, magnificent, picturesque and breath-taking auditorium on the occasion of inaugural ceremony of the Department of Television and Film Studies, University of Dhaka to-day. I am thankful to the University of Dhaka for inviting me to this ceremony. University of Dhaka is my Alma Mater. I had been a student of this University that is to say, Oxford of the East for a number of years. I, for one, enjoyed my University days with much gusto.

Now a days Television and Film are not merely entertainment tools those have become strongest mass media as well. They play an important role in shaping public opinion, protecting and promoting the language and culture as well as enhancing peoples awareness about rights and freedoms. As such the University of Dhaka has properly valued the importance of the subjects by

establishing a separate and specialised Department. The inauguration of the Department of Television and Film Studies is, no doubt, a marked achievement of the University of Dhaka. Due to globalisation and increasing recognition to free sky policy the influence of Television and Film has increased manifolds.

As you know, film, television and other media are central to all aspects of contemporary society. By studying them, students can gain insight into how they communicate, represent and reflect on themselves and the world. They must learn traditional and contemporary media production techniques and practices. They must pose and address critical questions about the artistic, social, cultural, political and historical interactions of media, emerging technologies and the society.

Television and Film studies is useful for careers in business, politics or the cultural sector. The graduates of this newly-created Department will have careers in film and television production and distribution, advertising, broadcasting, marketing, public relations, curating, archiving, and journalism. They can also work in various regulatory bodies, web-based activities and teaching.

This subject, namely, Television and Film studies, as I see it, will encourage students to explore diverse dimensions of our intensely mediated and complex society. It means asking questions about the history, political significance and formal qualities of sound and image. Whether our priority is to preserve moving images, engage in the creative activity of making them or learn more about their role in shaping or reproducing social values, the Department of Television and Film Studies can offer a stimulation environment within which to explore the development and character of these important audio-visual cultures. Lights,

camera and action are the essential components of film making. Films should be based upon realities of life. Films predicated upon real-life situations will have universal appeal and stand the test of time. Time-tested films are a treasure to us. They are the precious life-blood of master spirits. They are stimulating, thought-provoking and relishing.

It is a matter of pride that since early sixties we have a fully home grown and privately owned film industry of our own. The industry is not merely surviving it is also growing by making films on the life and nature of Bangladesh and in Bangla language. Our films had a significant role in inspiring our people to organizing our struggles for language and independence. As far as Television is concerned before independence of Bangladesh we had only one Television Channel under the government ownership, but now we have about 21 Television channels, of which all but two are owned and run by private ownership.

An independent, capable, creative and proactive media is indispensable for the protection and advancement of democracy, human rights and rule of law. In this regard media acts as a trusted friend of the judiciary.

The Constitution of Bangladesh which is the embodiment of the will of the People of Bangladesh is founded on the spirit of the historic struggle for national liberation pledging "The high ideals of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism". The Preamble of the constitution declares that the realization of "Rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice" shall be a fundamental aim of the state. The Constitution contains Chapter III under the heading 'Fundamental Rights' and incorporates therein nearly all the basic rights enunciated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 39 of the

Constitution under above Chapter provides for unqualified guarantee for freedom of thought and conscience while qualified guarantee for freedom of speech and expression and freedom of the press. The freedom of speech and press is subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

The Constitution under Article 43 also provides for qualified guarantee to the protection of home and privacy of correspondences of the citizens.

The Bangladesh Judiciary firmly believes in the people's right to information and works for protection and advancement of freedom of press and highly sensitized about the free flow of information ensured under the international covenants and treaties ratified by Bangladesh and those under the constitution and laws of Bangladesh. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh which is the custodian and final interpreter of the Constitution had shown no leniency towards the imposition of unreasonable and politically motivated restriction on the freedom of press. In each and every occasion the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by delivering landmark judgments has strongly protected the freedom of the media which has brought the media to its present position.

I believe that the media is very conscious about its duty and social responsibility while influencing the belief, ideas and behaviour of people on very important issues. The media ought to deliver accurate and unbiased news to meet the divergent needs of the people without confining their role to be the 'mouthpiece

of those with special interest or other agendas'. Similarly the film should be free from obscenity and distortion of life and reality.

I hope that the students of electronic entertainment and journalism will be immensely benefited from the newly established Department of the University of Dhaka. I further hope that a new and competent generation of professionals will come out of this Department who will contribute largely to the advancement of culture, language and stature of Bangladesh and serve the people of Bangladesh with utmost devotion to duty and patriotism.

However, this is a rare moment in my life. This inaugural ceremony of the Department of Television and Film Studies, University of Dhaka will remain embedded in my memory in the days to come.

With these words, I inaugurate the Department of Television and Film Studies.

Thank you all.