

Dacca University Convocation

The Vice-Chancellor's Speech

and

His Excellency
The Chancellor's Speech

July 14th 1937



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***Speech by Dr. Majumdar, Vice-Chancellor,
at the Annual Convocation of the
University of Dacca on the 14th July
1937.***

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND CHANCELLOR,

On this solemn occasion, I would, first of all, tender through Your Excellency, our humble tribute of love and allegiance to His Majesty the King-Emperor, and express, on behalf of the University of Dacca, our sincerest devotion and reverence to the throne.

Your Excellency, it is my proud privilege and most pleasant duty again to welcome you to preside over the annual Convocation of the University; but our feelings of pleasure are mingled with a sense of sadness at the thought that this is the last occasion on which Your Excellency would grace this most important function of the University. Your Excellency has always taken a keen personal interest in all that concerns the well-being of this University, and to Your Excellency the authorities of this institution have always looked for inspiration and guidance with the sure knowledge that they would receive from you all the help, sympathy and support which they required. The brief remainder of Your Excellency's already brilliant term of office is likely to be crowded with numerous events of far-reaching importance in the history of educational developments in Bengal. There are reasons to believe that before Your Excellency lays down the reins of office, the finances of the two

Universities of the Province will have been stabilised on a satisfactory basis, and legislation initiated for reforming the Primary, Secondary and University Education in Bengal. These achievements, although great in themselves, would form only a small part of those manifold services for which Your Excellency's name will be treasured for ever by the educated community of Bengal. Your Excellency has earned the heart-felt love and esteem of all by your zeal and labours for the welfare of the educated unemployed of the Province and by the well-conceived plans and projects which, at Your Excellency's inspiration, the Government of Bengal have set on foot for opening up new avenues of employment for them. This University deeply values all that Your Excellency has done for educational reform in general and the welfare of this University in particular. It has expressed this feeling of grateful appreciation by conferring upon Your Excellency the highest honour which it had in its power to give. To-day, on the eve of Your Excellency's departure, I humbly convey, on behalf of the members of this University, our deepest regards and most sincere thankfulness to Your Excellency.

I would also welcome on behalf of the University the guests who are present here to-day, and express our thanks to them for the great interest they have shown in the work of the University by attending this function.

Before I proceed further I must refer to the heavy toll that death has taken in our ranks during the preceding year. The University has sustained

great loss by the death of Rai Bahadur Sasanka Comar Ghose, Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul Huq, Mr. Abul Kasem, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Daliluddin Ahmad and Mr. Labanya Mohan Das. Rai Bahadur Sasanka Comar Ghose served as the Treasurer of the University on three occasions for a total period of six years. He was also the Legal Adviser of the University and a Life-member of the University Court. He rendered very long and distinguished services to the University in various capacities, and his sage advice and counsel were of the greatest value to the University. His death has been a great loss not only to the University, but also to the town of Dacca. Khan Bahadur Kazi Zahirul Huq was associated with the University as a member of the Court and as a member of the Executive Council since 1924. He occupied a prominent position in the public life of Dacca, and rendered very valuable services to the University. Mr. Abul Kasem had been a member of the Court since 1927. He was a prominent figure in the public life of Bengal, and was a recognised leader of the Muslim Community. Khan Bahadur Maulvi Daliluddin Ahmad was associated with a large number of public institutions. He was an efficient Government servant and a valuable and esteemed member of the Court since 1930. Mr. Labanya Mohan Das was a brilliant student of this University and served as a Lecturer in the Department of Physics for over ten years. The death of five such eminent constituents, within the brief period of one year, means a terrible loss to the University, and I offer, on behalf of the University, our heart-felt condolences to their bereaved families.

Two years ago Your Excellency remarked in your Convocation address that the Dacca University might at some future date attempt to claim that membership of its Court should be a sine qua non for appointment to the post of Minister for Education. The grounds for urging such a claim have been further strengthened by the appointment to that exalted office of the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, who was not only a member of the Court, but was also a member of the first Executive Council of this University. Indeed it has been a matter for great pride and satisfaction to the University that no less than four of Your Excellency's Ministers were members of the Court of this University, and three of them were closely associated with its detailed administration as members of the Executive Council. The University feels assured that it will receive from your Cabinet the encouragement and support to which it has a rightful claim and, further, that the intimate knowledge of its affairs will enable your Ministers to offer valuable advice and sympathetic guidance to this University in all critical moments of its history.

I may further mention in this connection that no less than eight graduates of this University have been elected as members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly. For the first time a graduate of this University has been elected as its representative in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. Mr. Fazlur Rahman who has won this coveted distinction has been long associated with this University—first, as a student, and then as a member of the Court and of the Executive Council. He has always taken a keen interest in the affairs

of the University and has served it loyally with great zeal and devotion. While offering felicitation to him on his success at the election, I hope and trust that he will prove true to the responsible position he occupies to-day, and will always seek to advance the welfare of the University by utilising the opportunities which Providence has placed in his hands.

It is usual on this occasion to mention important changes in the staff during the preceding year. The most important and notable event in this connection is the resignation by Dr. A. F. Rahman of his office of Vice-Chancellor. While the University felicitates him on his elevation to the high and honourable position of a Member of the Public Service Commission, it regards his departure as a great loss. Dr. Rahman rendered conspicuous services to the University at its inception as the Provost of the Salimullah Muslim Hall and Reader in History. He was therefore fully conversant with the affairs of the University when he returned to it as its Vice-Chancellor in July 1934. During the period of two years and a half that he was here, he served the University with a rare devotion, ability and singleness of purpose. He rendered valuable services to the University, and by his charming personality and wise counsel and advice helped to solve many a complicated problem that faced the University from time to time. His urbanity of manners and deep solicitude for the interest of the students made him a popular figure not only in the University but in the whole of Dacca. In appreciation of the loyal and devoted services of Dr. Rahman to the University of Dacca, the

University has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and it gives me great pleasure to find that Dr. Rahman is here present to-day to accept this honour from Your Excellency's hands. I hope Dr. Rahman will achieve still higher distinctions in life, and we shall all watch his future career with unflinching interest.

The Treasurer, Mr. K. Shahabuddin, C.B.E., has been reappointed to his office for another year from the 1st of January last and he also acted as Vice-Chancellor during the absence on leave of Dr. A. F. Rahman for the period of a month. On behalf of the University I thank Mr. Shahabuddin for his loyal and valued services and congratulate him most warmly on the honour which he has just received from His Majesty the King-Emperor. The appreciation by Government of his public services and outstanding ability has given great satisfaction to every member of the University.

Four members of the University staff retired from service during the year. Rai Sahib Manoranjan Mitra, Head of the Department of Education, and Principal, Training College, Dacca, was connected with the College for a good many years and rendered very valuable services both as Principal of the Training College, Dacca, and Principal, David Hare Training College, Calcutta. Maulana Saadatullah Israiley, Lecturer in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, served the Department loyally for over 12 years and rendered valuable service to the University. Pundit Guruprasanna Bhattacharyya served as a Lecturer in the Department of Sanskrit for sixteen years and his great erudition and learning were a valuable asset to the University.

Mr. Charu Chandra Banerjee served as a Lecturer in the Department of Bengali since 1924, and brought distinction upon the University by his reputation as a literateur. On account of his great eminence in the domain of Bengali Literature and his distinguished services to the University, he was granted an extension of service for a period of two years after he had attained the normal age of retirement. The retirement of Mr. Banerjee with effect from 1st July 1937, has been a great and almost irreparable loss to the University.

There have been some important changes in the teaching cadre of the University. Two Professorships have been created—one in the Department of English, and another in the Department of Economics and Politics—and filled up respectively by the appointment of Khan Bahadur Captain Dr. M. Hasan, B.A. D.PHIL. (OXON.), M.A. (CAL.), and Dr. H. L. Dey, M.A. (CAL.), D.SC. (LOND.). The University has also reinstated the Professorship in Sanskrit which was abolished after the retirement of Mahamahopadhyaya Pundit Haraprasad Shastri in the year 1924. I may recall in this connection that when the Chair in Sanskrit was abolished, the then Chancellor, Lord Lytton, issued an appeal inviting funds for reinstating the post. In response to this appeal a sum of Rs. 19,000 was collected and the amount is now in the hands of Your Excellency. The University hopes that with the reinstatement of the Professorship, the amount will be placed at the disposal of the University. The University has also created a Readership in Bengali, and, in view of the increasing importance of the subject, it has been proposed to create a separate Department of Bengali. Another notable change in the

administrative staff of the University is the appointment of Mr. H. D. Bhattacharyya, M.A., as the Provost of Jagannath Hall. I may also refer to the creation of the post of a third House Tutor of the Salimullah Muslim Hall with a view to improving the arrangements for imparting regular religious instruction to the Muslim students. It has also been possible to appoint a woman teacher in the Department of English, and with her help to reopen the Women's Hostel which was abolished a year ago. Other changes in the staff have been noted in the Annual Report to which I would also refer for a detailed account of the various activities of the University.

The number of admissions during the last session have been fairly satisfactory, being 597 including 53 women students, as against 577 in the previous session. The success of our students in the various University and Public examinations, the record of activities of the different academic societies of the University, and the volume, and quality of research work by the staff and students, all go to show that the academic standard of the University has been ably maintained. Khan Bahadur Captain M. Hasan, Professor of English, has obtained the D. Phil. Degree of Oxford. The University of London has awarded the Degree of Ph. D. to Mr. Amiya Kumar Das Gupta and Mr. Sirajul Huq, both of whom are old students, and now teachers of this University, and two of our students Prakas Chandra Lahiri and Bhupendra Nath Mitra have won the Doctorate Degrees of this University on the basis of the theses submitted by them. Dr. T. Vijayaraghavan delivered lectures in a large number of American Universities as their

visiting Lecturer for 1936. It is gratifying to note that the value of research work carried on in the section of Agricultural Chemistry has been recognised by eminent authorities and recently the Government of Burma applied to this University for a loan of the services of its Agricultural Research Chemist Dr. A. T. Sen for a period of three years with a view to appointing him as the Agricultural Chemist and utilising his services for reorganising its Agricultural Department.

Indeed the success of the researches in Agricultural Chemistry and the connected Sciences, particularly Bio-Chemistry, which are at present primarily financed by the Government of India, has fully justified our claim for the establishment of a well-equipped Faculty of Agriculture. In your Convocation Address of 1935 Your Excellency was pleased to appreciate our work and to express the deep interest of your Government in the proposal to establish a Faculty of Agriculture. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Industries is personally conversant with the local conditions and the legitimate aspirations of the University for an expansion in this direction, and no argument of mine is needed to convince him of the urgency and importance of the measure. The soil being so favourable, the University can reasonably expect an early fruition of this long deferred scheme.

Another big scheme of expansion to which the University has committed itself is the establishment of a Medical College in Dacca. Two years ago the Vice-Chancellor mentioned in his Convocation Address that the Executors of the Will of the late Babu Jagamohan Pal had agreed to place at the

disposal of the University a sum of four lacs of Rupees for the establishment of a Medical College at Dacca. The Executors have now paid to the University the entire sum of four lacs, the last instalment being paid less than two months ago. The Academic and Executive Councils of the University carefully considered the whole matter and drew up a scheme in the light of the expert advice of the Civil Surgeon and several other leading medical practitioners of Dacca. I had also the privilege of informally discussing the scheme with the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge and the Surgeon-General. The scheme would again be considered by the University in the light of their suggestions and criticisms, and we hope to place our definite proposal formally before the Government within a short period. Your Excellency was pleased to assure us two years ago "that when the scheme for the Medical College reaches Government it will receive sympathetic consideration on its merits". The University is fully conscious of the value of this assurance, and hopes that their scheme would receive ere long the full support of the Government. I may add in this connection that in proposing the establishment of an Agricultural and a Medical College, the University merely wishes to implement the policy of the framers of the Dacca University Act, for section 22 of this Act lays down that the Dacca University shall include the Faculties of Arts, Science, Law, Medicine and Agriculture.

Besides the creation of two new Faculties, the University contemplates to expand its activities in several other directions within the existing framework. In the Faculty of Arts, it proposes to create

an independent Department for developing the study of Politics whose growing importance is now generally recognised. In addition it seeks to provide for teaching in Statistics and Geography—two important subjects which have hitherto received but scant attention in this Province. In the Faculty of Science we have just opened two new courses in Physiology and Soil Sciences in the Department of Chemistry, and propose to introduce a higher course of teaching in Wireless in the Department of Physics. It is also contemplated to institute a Readership in Bio-Chemistry. In selecting these new lines of development the University has kept in view not only the academic importance of the subjects chosen but also their importance from the point of view of public utility.

These expansions are, of course, dependent upon the financial help of the Government. The University has applied to your Excellency's Government for further financial assistance, in order to maintain its present activities and to enable it to carry out the schemes of expansion outlined above. The Government deputed Dr. W. A. Jenkins as a special officer to inquire into the affairs of the University, and he made a thorough investigation into our present organisation and financial condition. Dr. Jenkins has submitted his recommendations, and a Deputation of the University consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Treasurer, and two representatives of the Executive Council, *viz.*, Dr. J. C. Ghosh and Mr. F. Rahman were granted the privilege of personally discussing the matter with the Hon'ble Minister for Education. I take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of

the University to the Hon'ble Minister for his courteous and sympathetic attitude towards the Deputation, and while we are anxiously awaiting the final decision of the Government regarding our application for further financial assistance, I feel sure that our representations would receive due weight, and our prayer for a suitable annual grant, in addition to the present statutory grant, would be favourably considered.

But while we naturally expect the Government to come to our aid, I take this opportunity of making an appeal to the public of Bengal to regard this University as a suitable object for their donations and bequests. In all ages and countries Universities and seats of learning of that character have flourished mainly on private endowments. A University is after all the greatest cultural asset of a civilised nation. As Lord Haldane truly remarked: "It is in Universities that the soul of a people mirrors itself". The necessity of providing ways and means for increasing the efficiency of a seat of national culture should make a strong appeal not only to pious generosity but even to the most elementary sense of public duty. The noble example set by the late Jagamohan Pal would I hope be followed by others in due course. May I suggest in this connection that the vigorous and flourishing Old Boys' Associations that have grown up in each of the three Halls, and which all well-wishers of the University should hail as valuable connecting links between it and the outside world, should make an earnest and concentrated effort to secure endowments for the University from the numerous well-placed and affluent members and patrons of those Associations?

While I am on this subject it is gratifying to refer to a generous donation recently received. A teacher of the University, who chooses to remain anonymous, has founded two post-graduate scholarships of the value of Rs. 20 each per mensem in the Department of History for a period of eight years, and called them after Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar and Dr. A. F. Rahman. The donation has been thankfully received by the University. The amount of money involved is no doubt small, but the spirit behind the donation is worthy of emulation by people more favoured by fortune. Quite recently Choudhury L. A. Siddiky, Zemindar of Baliadi, has offered nine stipends for students of the Salimullah Muslim Hall of the total value of Rs. 600 per year. On behalf of the University I thank him very cordially and hope that although these stipends have been at present offered for one year, they will be renewed in future.

It also gives me great pleasure to offer the thanks of the University to Sir P. C. Roy, for his generous donation of Rs. 1,000 for the publication of the projected History of Bengal. We are also grateful to the Government of Bengal for a special grant of Rs. 1,000 for the same purpose. I am happy to be able to say that thanks to the zeal and untiring efforts of Sir Jadunath Sarkar and of the numerous scholars who are engaged in writing the different chapters of the History, the work is progressing very satisfactorily.

Before I conclude, I should like to refer to one important question which vitally affects the future well-being of this University. This is the proposed legislation for the establishment of a Board for the

control of Secondary Education in Bengal. A draft of the Bill was sent to this University for opinion just after the commencement of the Summer Vacation and it has not yet been possible to send to the Government the considered opinion of this University. The question is not, however, a new one, and on more than one occasion in the past it was very carefully considered by the Academic and Executive Councils. The opinion of these bodies was very ably summed up by the Vice-Chancellor in his Convocation Address of 1928 (pages 6 to 9). The University advocated the creation of a strong Board, constituted on the lines of the recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission, and vested with full powers in regard to the Final High School and Special Islamic Matriculation and Intermediate Examinations, prescription of syllabuses and curricula, the inspection and recognition of high schools, and the administration of funds for the maintenance of high schools. The University expressed a strong conviction that no real improvement in Secondary Education could be effected if the powers enumerated above were not exercised by a single authority. As the draft Bill has not yet been publicly notified I refrain from expressing any opinion on the same, but may I appeal to your Excellency, as Chancellor of the University, and also to the Hon'ble Minister for Education, who is happily present in our midst to-day, to see to it that before launching the new measure, the Government of Bengal give due weight to the considered views of this University?

Another aspect of the same question, with which this University is more immediately concerned, is

the position of the Intermediate Colleges in Dacca after the creation of the proposed All-Bengal Secondary Board. The considered views of the University on this question were also summed up by the Vice-Chancellor in the Convocation Address referred to above. As this University is even more vitally concerned with this question than with that of the Secondary Board, it can legitimately claim that the action of the Government should be based mainly on the recommendations of this University.

I would now address a few words to the students who have assembled here to-day to receive their Degrees. I congratulate you all on your success in University Examinations, and to those among you who have finished the University course, I wish a happy life and prosperous career. But whatever position you occupy in future, you must try to live the life worthy of a Graduate of this University. The ideal of a University is not only to advance knowledge, but to produce an élite in thought and leadership. The character of this University will be determined not only by the extent to which it has advanced knowledge but also by the type of man it has been able to produce. On your future bearing and conduct, therefore, depends, to a very large extent, the good name and reputation of the University. You should have derived from the University not only an intellectual training but a new conception of life. For University Education carries with it not only a mode of thinking but a way of living, and the latter includes all that is really good and noble in the community at large. The University therefore expects that you should prove yourself worthy of its Degrees by adopting

the universally accepted principles of humanity as the sole guide in your life, and by developing personality, will-power, courtesy, goodness and all those indefinable charms, graces, and refinements of character which go to make up a gentleman. The real success of your University career will be measured by the extent to which you have imbibed these personal virtues along with the knowledge you have acquired.

In the matter of success of this or of any kind, I would remind you that it is a universal rule in life and nature that you never get more out of anything than you put into it. The University can only place before you ideals and opportunities, and it is for you to imbibe the one and utilise the other.

Some of you perhaps feel to-day, not without regret, that you have not made the best use of your time while you were here. Unavailing though it is to a large extent, even such regret is not without its value. For your future life would hold out further opportunities for you, and your present regrets may make you wiser in your action during the years of struggle that lie before you. None of you, I am sure, is under the illusion that the future path of the University graduate is strewn with roses. I know full well that the grim prospect of unemployment haunts the brain of every young man the moment he finishes his University education. He feels like a forlorn sailor in an uncharted sea, not knowing whither to turn in order to reach the shore. I realise how this dark shadow creeps upon the fair faces of our young hopefuls, and how this shadow is lengthened as each year of failure succeeds another. It warps their judgment, and

in their sheer despair they lose all faith in the value of the education they received from the University. Indeed things have come to such a pass, that the value of a University is now being measured in terms of its ability to find employment for its graduates. You must try to realise, however, that no age or country has recognised the true function of the University to be that of an employment bureau. His Excellency Lord Lytton very clearly emphasised it in his first Convocation Address to the students of this University: "If this place is to become a great and famous University", said His Excellency, "you must recognise that a University is a seat of learning and not a mere employment agency". Wise words these, and however unpalatable, nay almost cruel, they might at first sound in your ears, the more you think about them the more you will appreciate their worth. I hope, I shall not be misunderstood. I maintain fully that you have every right to secure as much material advantage from your University studies as you can, and I assure you that the University will do its best in helping you to secure employment. But you should not think that the main use of the University, so far as you are concerned, is to obtain a degree for securing a job. The true object and ideal of a University is intellectual culture in the highest and widest sense. But such culture, truly conceived, seldom fails to be of use in securing material advantages. On this point, the oft-quoted saying of Cardinal Newman would bear repetition: "The man", he said, "who has learned to think and to reason and to compare and to discriminate and to analyse, who has refined his

taste, and formed his judgment and sharpened his mental vision, will not indeed at once be a lawyer, a statesman, a physician, an engineer, or a man of business, etc., but he will be placed in that state of intellect in which he can take up any one of these sciences or callings with an ease, a grace, a versatility and a success to which another is a stranger. In this sense then mental culture is emphatically useful”.

These wise words give a real insight into the value of University education. If you remember them they will help you in fighting the battles of life, as you will be fortified by a sure knowledge of the immense power and value of the education you have received here. However gloomy the future prospect may be, you must not lose heart. As a means of sustaining your hope, courage, and strength, I would remind you that among the men who have achieved brilliant success in life there were many who started with far worse equipment and had to face far graver perils and disappointments than you. With these words I bid you farewell in the hope that you may attain conspicuous success in life and that this may redound to the credit of your alma mater.

His Excellency's Address at the Convocation of the Dacca University on the 14th July 1937.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I do not to-day intend to take up a great deal of your time for I know that you will be anxious to hear the address of the distinguished speaker who is to follow me—the first Chief Minister of Bengal. The Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq is, as your Vice-Chancellor has just pointed out, no stranger to this University having been associated with it since its foundation; and it is therefore particularly appropriate that he should give the first Convocation Address to be made under the new constitutional order.

Standing before you to-day as Chancellor for the fifth and last occasion I am forcibly reminded of the changes which the hand of time has wrought. I have seen two Vice-Chancellors lay down the reins of office and to-day in the place of Dr. A. F. Rahman appointed to the Public Service Commission we welcome a new Vice-Chancellor for the first time to these halls. Dr. Rahman was the first Indian to hold this exalted office, and when two years ago I made some reference to this fact I also said that his name would be known in years to come not only within the University but in wider spheres. His tenure of the Vice-Chancellorship was perhaps more brief than even I could have foreseen at that time, but yet I think my prophecy has not been falsified. In welcoming Dr. Majumdar to his place

we recognise in an exalted position one who for some years now has worked amongst us and in whom from our knowledge of him we may justifiably repose every confidence for the future. I take this opportunity of thanking him for the very kind references he has made to me in the course of the most interesting and eloquent speech to which we have just listened. The Vice-Chancellor's address is indeed full of interest to those familiar with the University, but I think that to the wider public before whom to-day's proceedings will eventually come the most encouraging part of his review is that which is devoted to the future development of the University. It is some time since we have had to talk of anything but the cutting down of expenditure, since we had to consider anything but minimum requirements and the means by which with a little pruning here and a little sacrifice there, we could struggle along until better times hove in sight. I would not be so imprudent as to say that prosperity is yet firmly and permanently established. But released from the necessity of preserving a miserly attitude the University can now look about it with a new feeling of confidence. The acceptance by Government of the report of Dr. Jenkins to which the Vice-Chancellor has just referred, will enable you to look forward to a period of years in which you will have leisure and opportunity for the prudent development of your activities. It is a source of profound satisfaction to me personally that the release of the University from a position of humiliating and cramping dependence should have come about during my tenure of office as Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor has referred to a sum of money collected during the time of Lord Lytton towards the re-institution of the Professorship of Sanskrit. I can assure you that I have not been oblivious of the existence of this sum and if I am not in a position to-day to make a formal announcement of its transfer to the University, now that a Chair of Sanskrit has been established, I have every reason to believe that the formal transfer of the investment to the University is only a matter of time, provided that the University itself is in a position to guarantee the permanence of the Sanskrit Chair.

It is of much interest to learn of the success which is attending the University in its endeavour to promote the study of agricultural science. In India as a whole, and especially in the part of this Province which the University of Dacca is primarily designed to serve, there is no more important subject. It may often be a mistake for a University to pay too much attention to a particular subject; and to speak of a "specialist University" would be a contradiction in terms. The dangers of specialisation are obvious, and threaten the individual no less than the corporate body. I have heard research defined as "getting to know more and more about less and less until one finally knows everything about nothing". Nevertheless there is no harm in judicious emphasis on an important subject, and in bringing the study of Agricultural Science to the fore, the University will be rendering to the community a service which from its circumstances and environment it is particularly well qualified to render.

I am interested also in the project for the establishment of a Medical College. In commenting on this, and indeed on all matters affecting the University in which my Government also is interested, I feel I should give some explanation of the position of myself as Governor and Chancellor under the new political system. The Chancellor of the University is one to whom the University looks as its titular head, and as one who, besides discharging certain statutory duties, is in a position to use whatever legitimate means lie to his hand for the good of the University when need arises. Such influence as I may possess through the opportunities which I have both as Chancellor and Governor of meeting and talking with persons of influence and importance in this Province or elsewhere, have always been at the service of the University. My position as Governor does however preclude me from approaching on your behalf one body of much influence in the Province—namely the Council of Ministers. The Governor has shed whatever share of responsibility he may have borne in the past for administrative matters of this kind; and whatever hopes may have been kindled of Government assistance by those responsible for previous administrations, it is to none but the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues that the University may now look for the realisation of such hopes. My interest in the welfare of the University is however in no way diminished, and I can assure you that in the future as in the past, this interest will find expression in all the legitimate ways and means at my command.

Before I close this brief address I feel that I must add my tribute to that of the Vice-Chancellor

in memory of the late Rai Sasanka Coomar Ghose Bahadur. His affection for the University and the services to which this prompted him, will long be remembered in this place.

I will now stand between you and Mr. Fazlul Huq no longer, except to offer my congratulations to all those who have to-day received their degrees. I wish them the fullest measure of success in whatever may be the paths on which they are now about to enter.

