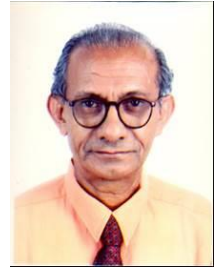


## Objectives of Rajshahi University Alumni Association



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The Alumni Association (AA) strives to render relevant and valuable services to alumni with the prime objective of helping alumni-connection with each other and their institution. AA also provides a strong platform for a grand reunion of the alumni to renew friendships, exchange ideas and share experience.

An alumni association has also diverse responsibilities, the prime one being to monitor and maintain the standard of the alma mater. In this respect it acts like a 'shadow organization' to the institutional administration. Other important activities include : (i) to help and guide the students in their difficulties including financial assistance to poor, but bright pupils, (ii) to provide financial assistance to the academic and research programs, where other sources cannot be made available, and (iii) to point out the administrative weaknesses of the alma mater and render supplementary assistance for its improvement.

In Bangladesh the standard of education is declining at an alarming rate. The candidates of poor caliber are being preferred for appointments as teachers in the colleges and schools as they offer more donations to compensate for their poor quality. The grim picture in our society is that the policy of taking donation from the appointees is being well appreciated by many and opposed by only a few. The consequence of this dangerous move is that most of the schools and colleges are being emptied of the real teachers and the students are being deprived of quality education. The students are allured to easy life without having to practice diligence, learn discipline, take adequate lessons and acquire effective knowledge or impeccable values. The students are coming out of the schools and colleges with paper certificates without supporting qualities. Many of them easily fall prey in the hands of the bandits and miscreants to become their disciples and engage in the activities of acid-throwing, gouging out of eyes, money-snatching, unlawful toll-collection, drug-trafficking and sex-offenses. The institutions with the highest seat of learning are also greatly affected mainly by the wrong policy of teacher-recruitments, adopted in the name of so-called political game, whereby the best available candidate is not assured of getting a selection.

Rajshahi University, although has the status of being the second oldest and largest university of Bangladesh established in 1953 in a small city named RAHSHAHI (located in the north-western region of Bangladesh), is deprived of many academic facilities compared to those enjoyed by Dhaka University. It has no standard 'Guest House' to accommodate 'foreign scholars' and advanced laboratories for research works. Dhaka University got foreign aid through the recommendation of our Governments to institute

‘Centre of Excellence’ with the facilities of a four-star hotel and build advanced equipment for research work (apart from the fact that the city of Dhaka have a number of national research institutions), just to cite a single example. Rajshahi with its relatively serene environment with innocent people living in it and a lowest cost of living, offers the scholars a ‘unique place’ to be devoted to research without having to look for a part-time job to support their families. During the period 2000-11, Rajshahi University with its academic-size, two-third of Dhaka University has reaped research articles, published in internationally prime journals, substantially higher than any other universities in Bangladesh.

Even with this relatively better performance, RU should not feel complacent. It is not enough to be proud when it fails to discharge its full responsibility of creating quality man-power in Bangladesh. The main reason of the failure is the division among the teachers in the name of political ideology. The teachers in general are using the ‘political game’ to attain their own interest. These ‘political teachers’ are misguiding their students by alluring them with apparently extra facilities, in reality spoiling them. The students in general do not understand the bad game of these teachers and fall prey to be engaged in anti-social activities, like illegal toll-collection through extortion, drug addiction, eve-teasing as mentioned earlier and refrain from practicing learning. The total service to students is based on political bias and the good students are being deprived of facilities to train themselves up adequately.

With the back-drop of overall slump in our society, the Rajshahi University Alumni Association (RUAA), got recently a formal approval from by the RU Syndicate to function as an independent body. By the constitution, RUAA is an organization which is non-political, non-communal and non-profitable. Its foremost objective is to serve the students in the hours of their need. So RUAA shall be devoted to the welfare of the students, the university and Bangladesh at large.

The RU authority has donated a substantial amount of land in its campus for erecting an RUAA complex. The complex shall include the following:

- 1) ‘Guest Rooms’ for providing accommodation to the foreign guests (scholars) of RU and the alumni from home and abroad.
- 2) One community centre with facilities for multimedia presentation for holding functions, plenary sessions for workshops/seminars/conferences.
- 3) Three rooms with fixed 50 seats with multimedia presentation for holding parallel sessions in workshops/seminars/conferences.
- 4) Canteen/café
- 5) Shopping centre for Alumni, students, guests and university staff.
- 6) Office rooms including one for student-counseling.
- 7) Some simple guest rooms exclusively for students.

The income, generated from the guest rooms, community centre, conference rooms, shopping center and canteen, will be used for the following welfare activities:

- 1) Providing stipends to the poor but meritorious students. Many students, owing to poverty, are forced to take shelter of a political organization (may not be true for all political parties) just to get financial support in lieu of their service to the party. Some of them finish up in making them extremists. Alternatively, they are forced to earn money through private tuition and thus devoting much of their precious time, they could devote to gather knowledge.
- 2) A fund will be generated to bear initial cost of medical treatment of ailing students who are financially not well-off. Many such students neglect their sickness in the early stage to save money and ultimately become victims of killer diseases, namely cancers.
- 3) Providing counseling to boost up the morale of students, puzzled by the activities and opposing instructions from the political teachers. This process surely makes the students mentally strong to choose and decide their own course of action.
- 4) A fund will be generated to procure laboratory equipment and support visits by foreign scholars to enhance the quality of education and research in the institution. The students can get the flavour of education standard in the advanced countries through discussion with the foreign scholars. This process not only pertains quality education to the students but also turns the big population problem into quality man-power for export.
- 5) Providing assistance for a short-term training of young researchers.
- 6) Arranging seminar talks to be delivered or workshops to be conducted by Alumni when they visit Rajshahi.
- 7) Honouring the Alumni for their outstanding contributions and awarding prizes annually for best contributions.

An alumni association needs a huge funding to materialize the proposed welfare activities. RUAA, therefore, solicits generous donations from benevolent organizations, your valued assistance in the collection of our Alumni Fund. To encourage the donations, RUAA has decided to recognize the donors in the following distinctive ways: (i) Portrait of a donor making a contribution of taka 1 lac will be displayed in the gallery of the Alumni Building (GAB). (ii) A slab with name and address of the donor, contributing an amount between taka 50 thousands and 1 lac, will be erected on the wall of AB. (iii) One (i) Donors making donations of 1 lac takas will be "Grand Donors" . Picture with name and citation of the donor will be displayed on GAB. (ii) Donors making donations of 5 lac takas will be "Patrons". A room will be named after a Patron. (iii) Donors making donations of 15 lac takas will be "Distinguished Patrons". A room will be named after the wishes of a Distinguished Patron. (iv) A newly constructed building will be named after the donor bearing the full cost of the building. The name, address, stamp size photograph of the all donors along with the amount of donation of any amount will be recorded in a book to be displayed in GAB as a Grand Patron. The donors unwilling to be recorded will be respected. The offers are open to any person or institution.

Alumni association is a platform where the alumni can renew their relation, exchange ideas and share experience. It is an effective forum to monitor the standard, speak against the misrule, suggest ways for improvement of their alma mater as well as contribute towards its uplift to ensure that it is an institution for nurturing brilliance and creating scholars. In our rapidly declining society, RUAA is a need of the hour and donation to RUAF is a good investment for our future generation. We hope that the creation of RUAA will help improve the education standard in our alma mater, the second oldest and largest institution in Bangladesh.

We hereby declare that we would try to maintain the functioning of RUAA free of politics. We believe that only this proposed motive can earn confidence of the students in general. The existing mistrust amongst institutional administration, teachers and students, which is responsible for unrest in the alma mater, can be removed through a non-political RUAA. Unity of teachers, students and administration can bring back our lost glory and lay a firm foundation for quality education in our Alma Mater.

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