



# FIRST • CONVOCATION • CEREMONY

## NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

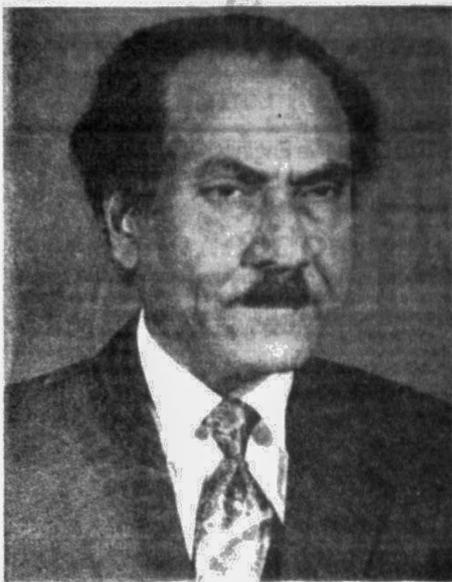
The first Private University in Bangladesh  
Established by The Foundation for Promotion of Education and Research

The Daily Star

Special Supplement

December 18, 1996

### MESSAGE



I am happy to know that the North South University is holding its first Convocation ceremony.

The true challenge facing us now is the economic disparity between the North and the South - the nations of the developed world and those of the developing ones. To adapt the best of the developed countries to our situation without losing our own unique cultural identity is a formidable challenge. This challenge, I believe, the graduates of the North South University are well-prepared to face. Philosophies of the North and South have their own values and the graduates of this University have learned to appreciate and understand each others' viewpoints and to make compromises gracefully without losing sight of their ideals.

I congratulate the first batch of graduates of the North South University :

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed  
President  
People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Dhaka

I am very pleased that North South University is holding its first convocation on December 18, 1996. This convocation is a milestone in the history of higher education in Bangladesh as the first private university of Bangladesh produces its first batch of graduates.

I believe with this convocation of North South University the private education system in Bangladesh moves higher in the scale of development.

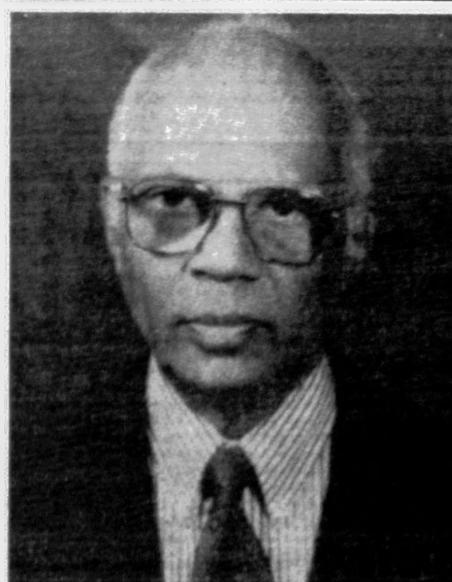
The need for higher education of international standard in our country is more important than ever before as we are heading into the twenty first century in a highly competitive global economy. Our position among the nations of the world depends on our success in providing modern education to the young generations.

I believe the graduates of NSU have acquired such useful modern education.

I wish to NSU graduates all success.

A. S. H. K. Sadique  
Minister  
Ministry of Education,  
Primary & Mass Education Division  
and Ministry of Science & Technology  
Government of Bangladesh

### MESSAGE



### MESSAGE

The graduation of the first batch of North South University students represents the fulfillment of our long cherished dream. I would like to extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to all those who have made that dream a reality -- the members of the Foundation and of the Board of Governors for their untiring support and hard work, the faculty and administration for their unflagging enthusiasm, the parents and guardians for their unwavering trust, and family and the students for their whole-hearted dedication.

I charge each of the graduating students to contemplate not only the honors, but also the responsibility that comes with your degree. You have received so much: an excellent education at the best private university in Bangladesh, the guidance and help of caring faculty members, the love and support of your parents, family members, and friends. Now it is your responsibility to use what you have been given wisely. It is up to you to carry on the mission of North South University by developing your own vision for your own future and for the nation. Only honesty and strong determination can lead you to the desired goal.

My young friends, we stand at the fine edge of the twenty-first century. As I look into the future, I see the differences between North and South melting away. I see barriers between nations, between cultures, and between people of all religion and races gradually disappearing. I see a world where no one lives in poverty, where all have access to housing and other basic needs, where the dignity and rights of all human beings are respected and upheld. I see a bright and shining future, where you, my young friends, are leading the way towards a new horizon.

May Allah bless you and sustain you as you carry out that vision -- a vision of the future.

Muslehuddin Ahmad  
Founder President  
North South University

## NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

### A Different Kind of University

Professor Shaikat Hassan  
Chairman, University Convocation Committee  
Head, Department of Environmental Studies &  
Director, IDESS (Environmental & Strategic Studies Wing)

North South University (NSU) is the first private university in Bangladesh founded with a mission to bridge the intellectual and technological gap with the North. Established in 1992 by the anchor institution, Foundation for Promotion of Education and Research (FPER), NSU is the result of the vision of its President, Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad, and the active support of several prominent business leaders, academics and professionals.

North South University is a trend setter: it has introduced a new, modern environment and style of education in the country, and created an atmosphere where permanent and visiting teachers of diverse international origin and training come together to share knowledge, conduct research, play with creative ideas and produce well-trained graduates. The university has signed formal collaborations with several reputed universities of the world: University of California at Berkeley, George Washington University and Colorado State University to name a few. NSU has also exchanged formal letters with University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne on acceptance of NSU's credits and students admissions. The credits completed at NSU have also been accepted by all US universities and London School of Economics to which NSU students got admission on transfer.

Modelled after the education system in North America, the university offers three semesters of course work every year. Students are encouraged to take charge of their lives from day one and plan their academic life with the help of Departmental Advisors. The academic road map of each student is individually tailored and goal-oriented. Strict, structured admission procedures ensure the quality of student enrolments; specific targets for the maintenance of good academic standing provide incentives for continuous improvement. NSU students enjoy numerous modern facilities: audio-visual aids in the classroom, high profile seminars, career services for graduating students, counselling for those under stress in and out of the classroom, sports and cultural activities, field trips and access to the latest communication technology including electronic mail.

Currently NSU is offering Bachelor degrees in Economics, Environmental Studies, Computer Science and Business Administration, and a Masters degree in Economics. A Master of Business Administration program is being planned. The university also houses a research wing -- Institute of Development, Environment and Strategic Studies (IDESS) -- the think tank of the institution where students, faculty and research associates explore their ideas and pursue creative projects.

North South University has initiated the winds of change in higher education in Bangladesh. It has created the precedence of a privately owned, non-profit, non-political university devoted to providing high quality education. The foundation of this institution is built on dreams that are not limited by time, and that stretch beyond the horizon to generations to come. We believe that the graduates of a university are the testament to its success. The first batch of 96 graduating students of NSU -- The Class of 1996 -- is now ready to boldly embrace the future; we wish them a warm farewell, with the full confidence that they will provide the leadership necessary to take our beloved country to the twenty-first century.



### MESSAGE

I am very pleased and honored to be able to add my message on this historic event, the graduation of the first batch of students of North South University. Those of us who were present at the inception of this institution have had both the pleasure and the anxiety of seeing North South University grow up under our very eyes.

NSU has experienced tremendous growth in these first four years of its existence as has the private university sector in general. It is by now clear that private universities in Bangladesh are here to stay. North South University holds the distinction of being the very first private university of Bangladesh established under the Private University Act of 1992. From 1993 to the present, some other private universities have joined North South University in this new type of academic venture.

Private universities are not the only answer, obviously, to the problems in education which Bangladesh faces. They alone cannot eradicate illiteracy, reverse brain drain, and eliminate structural unemployment. But they are important steps in the right direction.

A group of leading entrepreneurs, academicians and bureaucrats sponsored this noble effort and their active role in implementing the ideas of private university made the North South University a reality.

This is scope for many private universities to operate and succeed given the growing demand for education. But the success of individual private universities depends on the quality of education they impart. So the demand of the nation is quality education.

I would like to end by saying that you, the students of North South University, are the most qualified to testify to the benefits of a private education. I pray that you will remain grateful for your past, diligent in your present, and hopeful for your future. May Allah bless you as you begin this new phase in your journey. Allah Hafez.

M. A. Awal  
Chairman, Board of Governors  
The Foundation for Promotion of Education & Research

**WARMEST FELICITATIONS  
TO  
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
ON  
ITS FIRST CONVOCATION AND  
HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ITS FIRST GRADUATES.**

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE FIRST PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH  
FROM ITS INCEPTION

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We strive to be a bit different  
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It's a pledge to serve

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BANK opens with a touch of heart