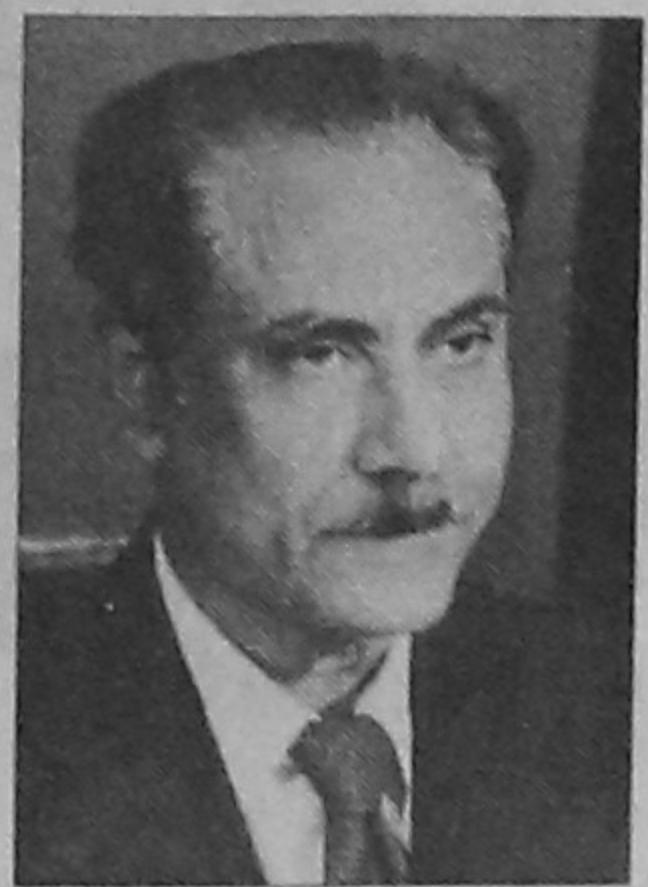




Convocation 2000

North South University



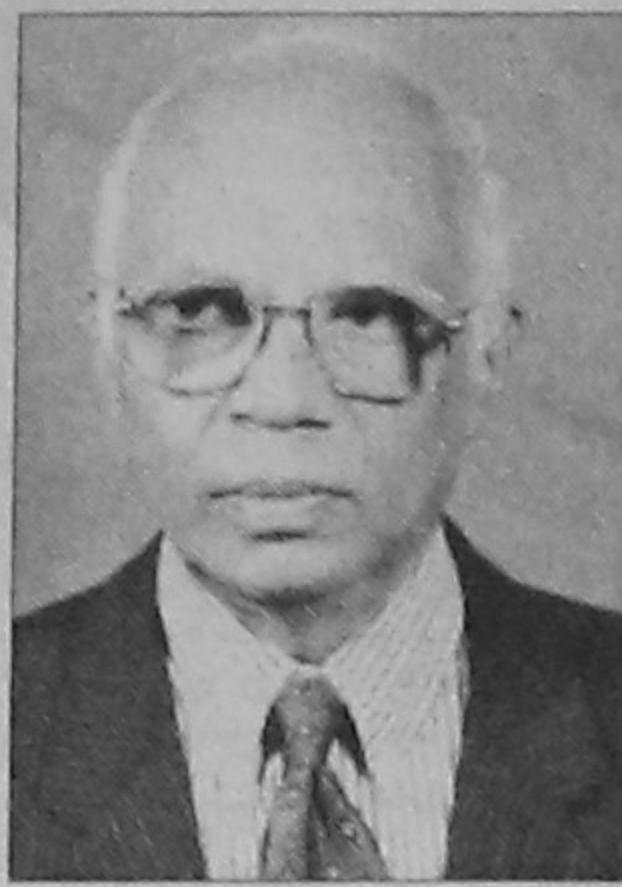
MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that North South University is holding its 4th Convocation Ceremony on 25 November 2000.

When students graduate and make the great leap forward, they deserve accolade and a formal recognition. NSU, the first private university of our country, has prepared a new batch of students to step boldly into the new millennium and fulfill the expectations of the society. I hope these students, now better equipped with knowledge and skill, will face the challenges of the wider world, and lead the country with courage, creativity and equanimity.

I congratulate the graduates, their proud guardians and erudite teachers on the auspicious occasion.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that North South University (NSU) is holding its Fourth Convocation ceremony on November 25, 2000. A new batch of NSU graduates is geared up to serve the nation with the knowledge and skill they have attained through higher education, training and years of resolute hard work. I convey my heartiest congratulations to the graduates for their success, and to their parents and teachers for providing indispensable support and guidance.

I must remind the graduating students that the new millennium is going to be extremely challenging and competitive. They will need all their aptitude, insight and determination to face the challenges successfully. I am confident that the graduating students will demonstrate high sense of responsibility, commitment and sincerity in the career of their choice, and render valuable service in the development and progress of the country.

Joy Bangla
Joy Bangabandhu
Long live Bangladesh
A.H.S.K. Sardek
Minister of Education
Government of Bangladesh

From NSU to Harvard

By Fahad M Karim,

Graduated in Economics in 1998, currently an MBA Student at Harvard Business School and the Section Senate President (Elected)

"Academic, professional and leadership achievements": These are the three criteria, which all the top business schools look for in any application for MBA. The reason is quite simple as all these achievements make an applicant competent enough to go through the demanding academic programs of such schools and provide the foundation that is essential to become a business leader. It is interesting to see how a student at NSU can achieve all these accomplishments. At least when I look back to the years I had spent at NSU, I could easily see how significantly it contributed to my preparation to achieve these. With high quality faculty and a flexible curriculum, I was able to get a strong education, which gave me the foundation to pursue my studies at Harvard. With its politics free campus, it fostered an environment where I was able to get myself involved in various extra-curricular activities that added to leadership achievements. I still remember the amount of encouragement I received from both faculty and peers to several student activities in addition to my studies, which later immensely helped me to become competent. The practical aspects of NSU's program, such as company visits, presentation etc., allowed me to get considerable exposure to be successful in my professional career as well. Finally, it is Faculty-

student relationship at NSU that contributed significantly to my accomplishments till date. The friendly and supporting attitude of my teachers helped me a lot to get guidance and advice on several occasions when I applied for MBA. I have learnt a lot from them outside the classroom.

When I first came to Harvard, I was extremely nervous to see my fellow classmates as most of them were from elite graduate schools such as Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, Princeton and many others. To be very honest, I considered myself as an outlier here and I was quite skeptical about my performance in class. However from day one, I was able to present myself as competent, if not more, as all the graduates from the top schools. And today, if anyone asks me what is the single most important factor that supported me to get into Harvard and to successfully continue my studies here, I will have no hesitation to say that it is the academic and extracurricular experiences at NSU.

In 1994, when I joined NSU, I had no clear direction of what I wanted to do. In fact, I thought I would take a transfer after a couple of years. However now I cherish my experience at NSU. In addition to academic and leadership experience, it guided me at every step with its faculty and administration to set my goal in life. And it is these additional elements that make NSU such a special institution. I have taken a lot from this excellent school. And I pray to the Almighty God to get the opportunity to give back at least something that I have received from my alma mater.

I wish NSU all success and congratulate all the graduates of this year. I feel proud to be an NSU graduate. Let NSU be a center of excellence in South Asia.

MESSAGE

I extend my heartiest congratulations to the new batch of graduates of North South University. After years of concerted effort along with expert training and guidance from the faculty and administration they have achieved a commendable feat. The graduates will play a vital role in furthering the prestige and prosperity of Bangladesh and in using their knowledge and skill to improve the quality of life in the wider world.

I am honored to participate in the 4th NSU Convocation. It is a source of great satisfaction for Canadians that each year a number of NSU graduates gain admission to our universities to pursue higher study in Canada. I hope we can greatly increase that number over the coming years, and that these students will be instrumental in building effective bridges and stronger bonds between our two countries. I wish the university great success and the graduates the very best of luck in their future endeavors.

David Preston
High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh

MESSAGE

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of Convocation 2000, congratulate those who are graduating, and to help celebrate the academic achievements of North South University. In a short span of years you have accomplished what other institutions have taken decades to achieve. You have much to be proud of as you hold your 4th Convocation.

This is a momentous day for the graduating students. This convocation signals the beginning of the next phase of your life. It is a moment filled with memories, emotions, dreams and plans. It is a time for your faculty and families to show their pride in your accomplishments. On this day we set aside normal routine, and even our customary attire, to signal that something special is happening. Thank you for allowing me to share this day with you.

Again, congratulations to the class of 2000. The education you have received is an irreplaceable gift. Cherish it, nurture it, and enjoy it. May your future be bright with opportunity, and may your dreams be realized.

Dr. Richard Yanikoski
President,
Saint Xavier University Chicago, USA

MESSAGE

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of Convocation 2000, congratulate those who are graduating, and to help celebrate the academic achievements of North South University.

In the autumn of 1993, Salim met with me to discuss the possibility of an opportunity that might be of interest. A new private university had been established and was interested in recruiting visiting faculty for the following summer. Would I be interested in teaching some philosophy classes? Very soon so I said "Yes" and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

I spent most of the summer of 1994 at NSU. I could see at once that the institution had great promise. The instructors were very well trained and the leadership had a vision of what the university could become.

Moreover, there were many excellent students. I could also see that an institution of higher learning that met high international standards would be a

partner for higher education in Bangladesh.

Since 1998 my involvement at NSU has taken a new turn. I have contributed to the development of a University of Illinois Study Abroad program at NSU. Once proposed, this seemed to me to be an excellent idea. The program provides an opportunity for students from the University of Illinois to learn a little about the history and present conditions of Bangladesh, to take courses at NSU, and to stay with a Bangladeshi family. Most of the visiting students have done a voluntary work placement in an NGO such as Grameni Bank so the program has also afforded them an opportunity to gain valuable practical experience.

NSU has come a long way in a short time. Here is an institution that did not exist a decade ago and that already is a fixture of the higher education landscape and is delivering high quality education to thousands of students. I know that there are difficulties on all sides and I take my hat off to those who confront them daily and whose generous service is ensuring the success of the institution. Each time I have visited, I have had many excellent students in my courses and it is no

surprise at all to me to learn that NSU graduates have made their way into top universities and institutions in the US and elsewhere, and are making a name for themselves.

As for the future, I would like to see two-way student and faculty exchanges between NSU and other such institutions. I would like to see NSU appearing in the Astaweek ranking of the leading Asian universities. In other words, I would like to see an expanded curriculum. To sum it up: I would like to see a great university with loyal graduates. This is a lot to ask for, I know. But I have planned my life to know that, with the right planning, this can be done.

It has been a great privilege to play a small role in another institution, especially one whose course is still being charted, whose credibility is still being established, and whose future direction is not yet clear. I am sure that the educational opportunities that it is providing will prove in the future.

And then there is the experience of being in Bangladesh: the vitality and energy; the sounds and colors, the beauty of the rivers and the rural areas; the music and dances; the food; the people and their experiences, and have so many friends and associates among current and past NSU students and faculty; that when I begin to think about it, I realize at once that I am the main beneficiary of my involvement with NSU.

On the occasion of the 4th NSU Convocation, I congratulate the class of 2000 including the first batch of MBA graduates, for their grand feat and success. Let me also express genuine approbation for the proud parents and guardians, dedicated teachers, university administrators and my colleagues in the NSU Foundation whose collective and concerted effort made this glorious day a reality.

I firmly believe that the new graduates have received the best possible education in the country from the best-qualified teachers, with state of the art physical facilities and technology. They are well equipped to face the challenges of higher study and work place. The admission of our graduates in reputed universities in the west, including Harvard and Cornell, and their job performance at home and abroad, are evidence of the knowledge, skill and training they received at NSU.

I hope the new graduates will uphold the image of this institution through many achievements in the future. I trust they will maintain an ongoing symbiotic relationship with this institution. I wish the graduates the very best of luck and blessings of the Almighty Allah in their future endeavors.

M.A. Kashem
Chairman, Board of Governors
North South University Foundation

MESSAGE

MESSAGE

North South University (NSU) family celebrates its Fourth Convocation with joy and excitement. November 25, 2000 is a memorable day for 166 graduating students, their parents and guardians, and for all of us. NSU, a center of excellence, imparts world class education with a view to preparing its students for leadership in all spheres of life. NSU students are made to work hard and receive education through high quality teaching. They get ample opportunity to develop their potential. By now these graduates are well trained in their respective fields. They are ready to play productive roles in the society. I am confident they will demonstrate their capabilities in a befitting manner.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to our graduating students, and their parents, guardians and teachers. I wish the young graduates success in all their future endeavors.

Allah Hafez.

Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi
Pro Vice-Chancellor
North South University

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