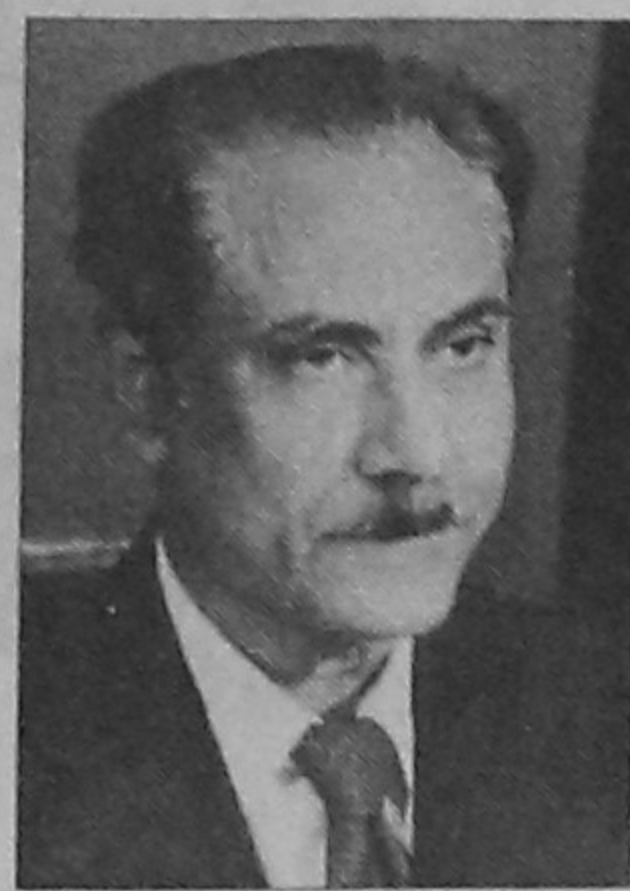
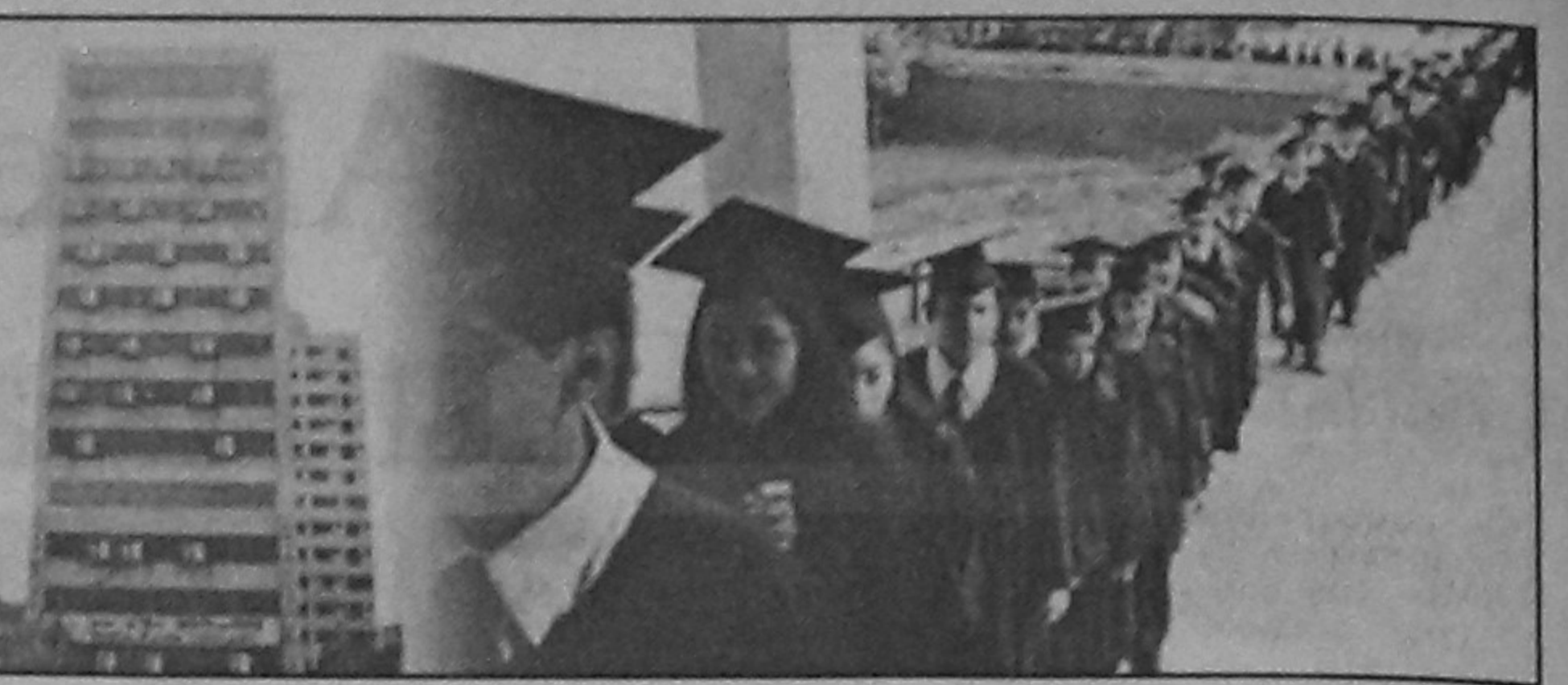


# Convocation 2000 North South University



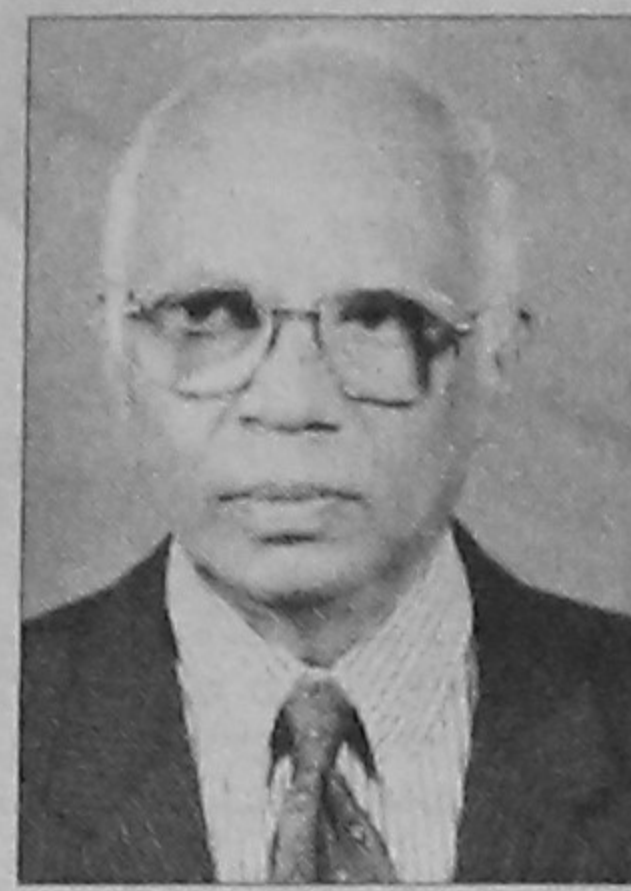
## MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that North South University (NSU) 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 heartfelt 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. Sadek  
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 policies 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 heartfelt 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



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

## Five Summers at NSU

By Robert McKim  
Associate Professor, Philosophy  
University of Illinois, USA

My involvement with NSU dates to a day in late 1993 when I encountered my colleague Professor Salim Rashid, who is an economist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I had told Salim in an earlier conversation that some day I would like to visit Bangladesh, ideally to work there for a while.

When we ran into each other that day in the autumn of 1993, Salim mentioned that he knew 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 much so, I replied. 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

surprise at all to me to learn that NSU graduates have made their way into top graduate schools in the US and elsewhere, and into promising careers. As for the future, I would like to see two-way student and faculty exchanges between NSU and the University of Illinois and other such institutions. I would like to see NSU appearing in the Asiaweek rankings of the leading Asian universities and in other such rankings. 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 seen enough to know that, with the right planning, these things can happen. 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 of profound importance because of the educational opportunities that it is providing and will provide in the future. And 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 poetry. I have had so many interesting 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.

## North South University at a glance

North South University (NSU) is the first private university in Bangladesh. Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad, former Secretary and Ambassador, Government of Bangladesh, conceived the idea of this university in 1988. This notion was well received by a group of enterprising industrialists, opinion leaders, intellectuals and professionals. With their active initiative, a 30-member Foundation for Promotion of Education and Research (FPER) was formed in May 1990. This apolitical and non-profit organization was registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. As a consequence of concerted FPER effort, and assistance and cooperation from prominent persons among legislators and government luminaries, the Private Universities Act was passed in 1992. On 5 November 1992, the government approved the establishment of North South University and awarded the Charter. NSU was formally inaugurated by the then Prime Minister on 10 February 1993. Mr. Muslehuddin Ahmad was the first President of the University. FPER, the founder of NSU, was later renamed as NSU Foundation (NSUF). Mr. Iftekharul Alam was the Founder Chairman of the NSU Foundation. Mr. M.A. Awal was the immediate past Chairman. Mr. M.A. Kashem is the current Chairman of Board of Governors of NSUF.

The NSU academic programs are modelled on those of the universities in the USA. The curricula were initially designed in consultation with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA. Dr. Selim Rashid, Professor of Economics at this university along with Professor Rashid, Dr. Munir Qudus, Professor and Chairman of Economics, Southern Indiana University, USA, assisted in developing the programs. University Grants Commission (UGC), the sole accrediting agency for universities in Bangladesh, approved the programs and curricula. Since joining in 1993 Dr. Hafiz C A Siddiqi, new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, provided leadership in improving and expanding academic programs. The programs and curricula are continually upgraded. The first freshman classes of January 1993 had 137 students enrolled in three Departments: Business Administration, Computer Science and Economics. Department of Environmental Studies (DES) was created in 1994 and two other departments, English and General and Continuing Education (GCE) were founded in 1997. A Graduate Masters Program was introduced in Economics in 1994 and an MBA Program was launched in Summer 1997. The first convocation was held on 18 December 1996, when Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh President and NSU Chancellor, conferred degrees upon 96 graduates. The second convocation was held on 18 December 1998 when 136 graduates received their degrees. At the 3d NSU Convocation on 9 December 1999, 100 graduates formally received their degrees. The 4th Convocation on 25 November 2000 will confer degrees upon 165 graduates, including the very first batch of 45 MBA degree recipients.

**Undergraduate admission requirements**  
To appear in the NSU Admission Test, the applicant has to fulfill one of three criteria:  
(1) At least a second division in both SSC and HSC.  
(2) University of London GCE O-level in five subjects with a GPA of 2.0 or above. In addition, A-level in at least two major subjects is mandatory.  
(3) A US high school diploma or equivalent.  
Applicants with minimum scores of 1,200 in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and 550 in TOEFL are exempted from admission test.

**Admission of International Applicants**  
International applicants must meet the same or equivalent academic standards as the other students.  
**Transfer students**  
Transfer students are accepted with at least an average 2.5 GPA in university level courses. Credit

transfer is granted only after careful and assiduous evaluation of equivalent courses at NSU. A student may transfer a maximum of 60 credits earned (with C grade or above) at other universities toward an NSU degree.

### Graduate Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to graduate programs must have successfully completed:

- Bachelors degree from NSU or
- Four-year undergraduate degree from a recognized university with a grade point average of 2.5 or above on a scale of 4.0 or
- Three-year (honors) bachelors' degree with at least a second class. (Such students may be required to take additional preparatory courses at NSU).

### Degrees

Undergraduate study in Economics provides a suitable background for students who desire to pursue the MBA Degree. The MS Degree is career oriented and is conducive to study abroad. Department of Environmental Studies uniquely offers both BA and B.Sc. degrees and features a state of the art GIS lab. It is a relatively small department but the opportunities for the graduates in career and higher study are many.

### Financial Assistance

About 13% of the NSU student body receives full or partial tuition waiver based on merit and need. Applicants for admission, who have secured first or second position HSC exams in Arts, Science or Commerce are awarded full tuition waiver if they pass the Admission Test. In the 1999-2000 financial year, a total

Study Abroad and Group Exchange Programs, American students from universities such as George Washington University and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign have spent a semester at NSU and transferred credits back to the parent institution. In the Summer of 2000, students of North American and Bangladeshi origin, from University of Illinois, York University, Windsor University attended NSU. Visiting faculty members from several US and Canadian universities taught courses here in the Summer of 2000.

### International Advisory Board

NSU has an International Advisory Board to counsel on academic matters. The Board Members include professors and administrators from universities and international organizations. They are:

- Dr. David W. Strangway, Former VC, University of British Columbia, Canada, Chairman (Proposed);
- Prof. Peter J. Drake, Former VC, Australian Catholic University;
- Dr. Alan W. Heston, Professor, Economics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

with Pentium II and Pentium III computers; and one e-mail lab. Two labs exclusively for MBA students. All computers in the labs are networked, and students have access to network through their account. Labs are equipped with laser printers, a heavy-duty line printer and dot-matrix printers.

--Linux Servers for providing students courses on the Unix based operating system and programming purposes.

--Internet facilities and access to website.

### IDESS: The Research Institute

The Institute of Development, Environment, and Strategic Studies (IDESS) is a semi-autonomous research body associated with the university, with the purpose to create an academic atmosphere where faculty and student research is funded and facilitated. IDESS associates and fellows have produced a number of working papers that have been published and presented at various seminars. It has a fellowship fund to support student research. It is currently involved in preliminary work on two joint projects, one each with the World Bank and Belgian authorities.

### Department of Career Services

NSU is the first university in Bangladesh to establish the Department of Career Services (DCS). Major functions of this department are:

**Internship Placement:** It allows students to get an exposure to professional life in their field of study. Internships are arranged with top organizations and financial institutions of the country.

**Job Placement & Job Search:** The department assists graduates search and find suitable jobs either immediately after graduation or over a period of time.

**Study Abroad Program:** DCS maintains a library which contains reference materials and books about TOEFL, SAT, GRE and GMAT. It also has catalogues, flyers and information brochures of universities in USA, UK, Australia and Canada.

DCS, under the aegis of Mr. M.A. Raquib, Assistant Director, has recently compiled a comprehensive and exhaustive database on all four batches of past NSU graduates.

### English Institute

The English Institute offers English for General Purposes (EGP) or English language training to non-conventional and adult students to enhance the knowledge of the language and eligibility in the job market. This institute also offers pre-English courses. The English Institute includes the Self-Access Center. This center enables students to work on developing skills independently. The center has reading and listening sections and houses the seminar library of English Department.

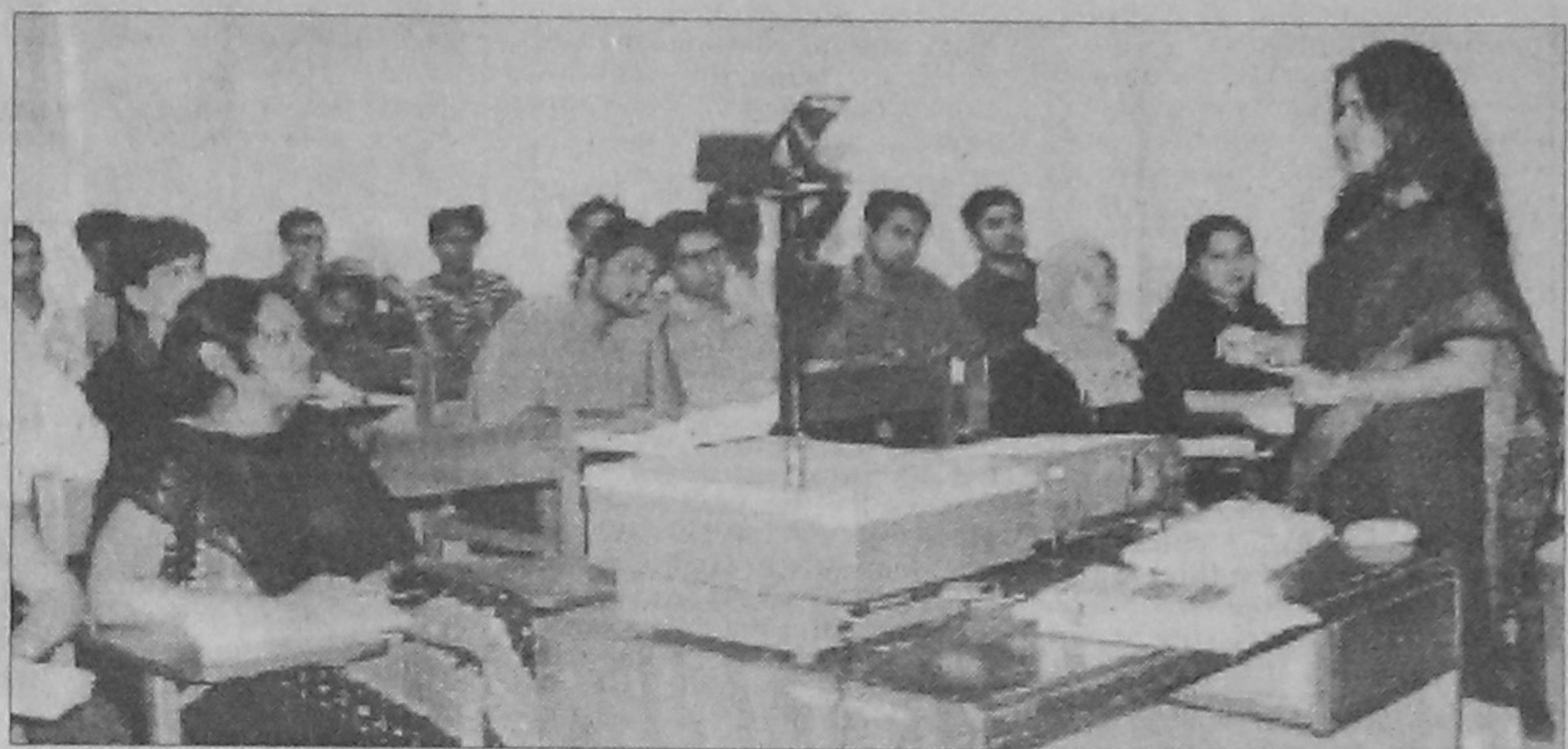
### Student Activity Clubs

NSU students have excelled in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. From organizing seminars and symposiums to debating and impromptu speech, from drama to music, from publishing journal every semester to contributing poetry and articles to the national dailies, and from donating blood and coming to administering polio vaccines, they participate in a whole gamut of activities. The clubs are run by students and supervised by faculty advisors. These clubs are:

- Debating Club
- AIESEC NSU
- Cine & Drama Club
- Games & Sports Club
- NSU Shangkritik
- Shanghan (Cultural Club)
- Computer Club
- Earth Club
- Photography Club
- Social Services Club
- Young Entrepreneur Society (YES)
- Young Economists Forum (YEF)
- MBA Club
- English Club

### Conclusion

North South University is generally considered the premier private university in Bangladesh. From a modest beginning, the student body has grown to approximately 2,600. The success of NSU has spawned a plethora of private universities, with another three just recently commissioned and a dozen more waiting on the wings. NSU is able to attract high quality faculty with one or more graduate degrees from major US and other leading universities of the world. NSU pledges to hire and retain talented faculty and administrators in order to meet the challenges of the new millennium and remain the leading proponent and provider of world class education in the country.



Ms. Sultana Lubna Alam is taking the class of Computer Science.

- BBA and MBA degrees offered by the School of Business
- Bachelors degree offered by the Department of Computer Science
- Bachelors and Masters degrees offered by the Department of Economics
- Bachelors degree offered by the Department of Environmental Studies
- Bachelors degree offered by the Department of English

All undergraduate degrees require 124 credits (English Dept. requires 123 credits) of academic work.

### Academic Disciplines

**School of Business** enrolls over 60% of the total students. This is the largest Business School in the country with over 1,300 students. BBA and MBA Programs are dynamic, flexible and career oriented. They attract the best and the brightest students.

**Computer Science** is the second most popular department. NSU provides the best computer education in Bangladesh. The department has mostly US educated core faculty, sophisticated labs and latest equipment, all without peer or match in the country.

The BA in English is designed to impart knowledge of the language, literature and TESOL for scholarly and practical purposes.



Under "Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series" Program, Dr. Forrest Cookson, President, American Chamber of Commerce, is seen with the students in the class of Dr. Hafiz G.A. Siddiqi.

The program provides training and skill for comprehension, higher learning and easy communication in English. The medium of instruction at NSU is strictly English and each student is required to take a few English courses.

**Economics** is a small but vibrant department. It has an undergraduate as well as a graduate pro-

gram. Undergraduate study in Economics provides a suitable background for students who desire to pursue the MBA Degree. The MS Degree is career oriented and is conducive to study abroad.

### On-Campus Employment

NSU provides on campus employment to interested students. The students are assigned to different offices and departments to help with chores. Students are permitted to work up to 20 hours a week.

### Faculty

Faculty members have Masters and/or Ph.D. degree from universities in the US, Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia. Some are on tenure track, some are visiting, and some are part-time. A few foreign and expatriate faculty members are hired, based on their background and qualifications.

### Study Abroad, Foreign Students & Exchange Program

This year, Fahad Karim, NSU Economics graduate, was admitted to Harvard Business School. In Fall 2000, six Economics graduates were accepted in the graduate program at York University in Ontario, Canada with financial aid. NSU graduates have obtained admission and students have transferred credits to universities in the USA, UK, Australia, Japan and Holland. In addition to Harvard and York, they have been admitted to Windsor

USA:

- Dr. Herbert J. Davis, Global Research Professor of Business, The George Washington University and Executive Director, U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council, Washington, D.C.
- Prof. Earl Kellogg, Agricultural & Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA;
- Prof. David Little, Director, Center for Study of Values in Public Life, Harvard University, USA;
- Dr. David N. Nelson, University Libraries (South Asia Bibliographer), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.

### Infrastructure and Facilities

NSU campus currently consists of three high-rise buildings at Banani with total floor space of 100,000 sq. ft. All departments, classrooms and offices are air-conditioned.

### Site for NSU Permanent Campus

NSU has recently purchased nearly 17 bigas of land at Basundhara for its permanent campus. The 4th NSU Convocation is being held at this site. The construction is likely to commence shortly and within a couple of years NSU will shift some, if not all, departments to this new location.

### Library

NSU Library is the first automated library of the country. The total number of books is over 18,000 and is constantly increasing. It subscribes to over 200 journals and 45 magazines and has a separate reference and journals section.

NSU library uses a modern database using CDS/ISIS. Users may find research materials, slides and A/V Cassettes, and search a number of CD-ROM database.

### Computer Center

Computer labs provide one of the largest computer facilities in the country.

--Over three hundred computers located in all administrative, academic departments and computer labs connected through campus wide Novell-based network system.

--An internal, domestic and international Linux-based networked e-mail services that connects students, faculty, and staff to their colleagues around the world.

-- All computer labs equipped

## MESSAGE



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 appreciation 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

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 heartfelt 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