



BUILDING A GLOBAL CAMPUS IN BANGLADESH

North South University



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PROFESSOR ABDUL HANNAN CHOWDHURY, PhD
Vice Chancellor
North South University (NSU)

As Bangladesh's universities compete on a global stage, they are pouring investment into research, internationalisation and entrepreneurship to turn graduates into innovators and employers, not just job seekers. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, PhD, Vice Chancellor of North South University (NSU), speaks with The Daily Star.

The Daily Star (TDS): NSU has already built one of the country's first future-ready campuses. What philosophy is driving the university's next chapter?

Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury (AHC): As the country's first private university, we proved that a tri-semester, credit-based American model could work in Bangladesh, and our graduates were welcomed for higher study and jobs across the world. This campus in Bashundhara was once meant to be our final home, but our growth outpaced it. So, we are now building a state-of-the-art 'vision campus' in Purbachal, just fifteen minutes away. The net-zero campus is planned on 150 acres of land.

TDS: Research has clearly



become central to NSU. How has that grown?

AHC: About twelve years ago we decided to invest seriously in research. Our own annual grant for faculty has risen from around 3.5 crore taka before I joined to more than 12 crore this year, and we now win collaborative funding from universities such as Cambridge, King's College, Yale, Johns Hopkins and Nottingham. NSU has established close to thirty research centres, including

a Machine Intelligence Lab and a quantum computing centre, and our faculty are increasingly publishing in the world's top journals.

TDS: You place great emphasis on internationalisation. What does that look like on the ground?

AHC: We now have faculty from more than twenty countries and students from over twenty others, so the campus is genuinely multicultural.