



President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed distributing certificates among the students of North South University at its first convocation ceremony Wednesday in the city. — Express photo

### NSU holds convocation

## Private educational institutions urged to put service over profit-seeking

### Express Report

The convocation ceremony of the first batch of graduates and post-graduates of North South University (NSU), the pioneering private university of the country, was held yesterday at the Army Stadium, Dhaka, in an atmosphere of joy and merriment.

At this scholastic congregation, some 96 students belonging to the Economics, Computer Science, See Back Page Col. 3

Business Administration and Environmental Science departments were conferred graduation and post-graduation degrees.

Inaugurated and presided over by President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who also happens to be the Chancellor of Universities, the convocation ceremony was attended, among others, by a number of visiting foreign professors, members of the Board of Governors of the Foundation for Promotion of Education and Research (FPER), faculty members, friends

and relatives of the outgoing students and a host of leading luminaries of the country.

In the address of the Chancellor, President Shahabuddin Ahmed appreciated the serious efforts and the hard work put into the making of a fine institution like the NSU and thanked the sponsors of the university for being able to set themselves as successful trailblazers in the field of private sector education in Bangladesh.

Deeming the standard of education imparted at the NSU as pleasingly high, he also said that the nation can do with few more private educational institutions like the NSU, specially when most of the government-run higher education institutions are, at often times, plagued by confrontational student politics, session-jams and other negative impacts.

At the same time, he also cautioned that initiators of private sector education should come forward with a purpose of delivering service to the people rather than profit-seeking motives. He, however, emphasised that he had no doubt in his mind that NSU had fulfilled all the obligations stipulated in the Private University Act.

In his welcome address, Muslehuddin Ahmad, founder president of NSU, spoke about the inception of the university and greatly thanked all those who have contributed to its continued success. Stressing on the various hurdles that continue to affect the standard of higher education of the country, he emphasised the need to reassess the fee structures of public universities arguing that it should be based on one's ability to pay.

Ray Hoops, president of Southern Indiana University, USA, who is also a collaborating partner of NSU, addressing the convocation as special guest expressed his satisfaction on the quality of education imparted at the NSU and said that its curricula met the international standard of education. Also present on the dais, among others, was Irwin Price, member of international advisory board of NSU and the current Dean of George Washington University, USA.