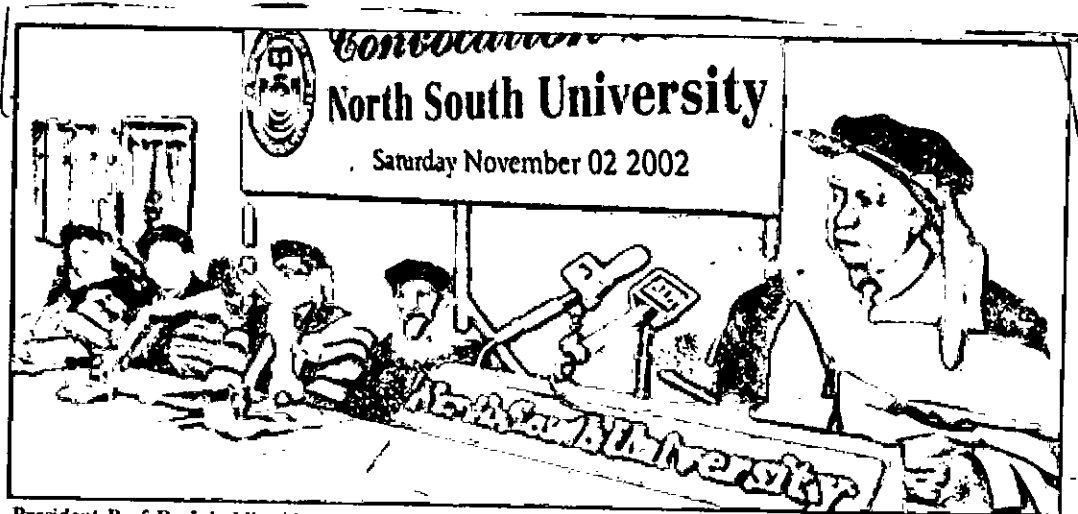


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President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed addressing the Convocation 2002 of North South University on Saturday at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

## NSU Convocation held Peaceful atmosphere on campus needed: President

Staff Correspondent

President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed on Saturday said all universities, be it public or private, should have congenial academic atmosphere and other necessary facilities to help students cultivate their free thinking.

"Both teachers and students need a proper and peaceful academic atmosphere where they will utilise their precious time in imparting and acquiring knowledge," the President told the 6<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of the North South University.

Through the Convocation 2002, degrees were conferred on some 251 candidates as recognition to successful completion of graduation from the NSU, the country's premier private university. With this, so far, 952 graduates have been bestowed upon degrees since the university's inception in 1993.

State Minister for Education A N M Ehasanul Huq Milon, Pro-Vice Chancellor NSU Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqui, Chairman of NSU Foundation A B M Kamaluddin Khan, among others, spoke on the occasion held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference

Centre.

Professor Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, former rector of United Nations University in Tokyo, was the Convocation speaker and Mary Juliet Roy of Finance and Accounting Department of the university delivered the valedictory speech.

President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed who is also the Chancellor of the private universities said along with a peaceful atmosphere, students should get library and laboratory facilities and supply of educational amenities.

He said university in a rented house and located in and around the busy residential and commercial areas without having adequate open space, a rich library and laboratory facilities, was certainly not compatible with the concept of university education.

"University is a solemn higher academic institution and it should not be made a certificate awarding body without ensuring strictly the norms and discipline of university," the President said.

A noted educationist himself, President Iajuddin Ahmed said the

private universities were allowed to function to widen the scope of higher education in the country. "Time has come to evaluate the progress that the private universities achieved so far and to rectify their shortfalls, if any," he added.

Mentioning the financial assistance given to the unemployed graduates in the developed countries, the President urged the banks and established entrepreneurs to provide fund and technical know-how to help the young graduates for setting up production-oriented industries.

He stressed the need for providing adequate scholarships to the poor but meritorious students coming particularly from rural areas.

State Minister for Education A N M Ehasanul Huq Milon said the government is giving too much attention in the education sector as the country's development largely depend on educated and skilled human resource.

NSU's Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqui thanked the government for taking decision to establish an Accreditation Council.