

The proud participants of BUET Bellmans. They stood 2nd in the regional contest held in BUET on November 10.

Bangladesh's potentials and possibilities in the IT sector in relation to the glorious success of our youngsters, it might not be a bad idea to learn something about the dreams and aspirations of the champion trio- Abdullah Al-Mahmud, Md Kamaruzzan and Mushfiqur Rouf. Mahmud, a student in level-4 term-2 wants to be in teaching at home if not abroad. Profession aside, he also would like to work in the field of software development. When asked about what can be done to boost our IT sector Mahmud underlines the necessity of patronisation by both government and private sectors. He believes that we have talented programmers but they find it difficult to sell their products as Bangladesh is yet to earn international recognition in software development. Mahmud thinks that if the talented Bangladeshi programmers find opportunities to take part in software exhibitions that are regularly held in many countries, Bangladesh will be able to gradually enter the international software markets.

Kamruzzaman also echoes Mahmud's view in this regard. Big multinationals or interested buyers do not know that there are talents in Bangladesh. He however hastens to add that the situation is changing. People have now started to recognise Bangladesh and the fact that we have talented programmers since BUET has been taking part in the ACM-ICPC contest since 1998. He cites the example of Monirul Abedin Pappana whom the Microsoft picked from this very contest for his excellent performance, even before he got his Honours degree. Mushfiqur Rouf, the youngest member of the team, also has an innovative idea. Many ex-students of BUET, who are either working for different software companies or have important connections, can be requested to try to obtain work for Bangladeshi firms. They can also be persuaded to extend their help in the form of guidance and suggestions.

They had a lot to say about computer education, particularly the way different known and unknown centres are conducting various computer related courses. Many of them are fraudulent. They talk about making programmers but in reality teach languages. "In fact, you can not make programmers," says Rouf. Mahmud "there should be someone to monitor the course outlines and other related aspects of these training centres so that a minimum standard can be maintained."

When talking about their future plans both Mahmud and Kamruzzaman impressed their willingness to return and settle at home. Mahmud is not very specific as to why but Kamruzzaman has a very good reason," I am the only son and I will come back the first opportunity I get". But Rouf differs with his senior teammates regarding coming back to Bangladesh. "If I have the ability and will, I