Star Campus adda

Star Campus Desk

LAST Tuesday, at 4pm, we all met at a fun-filled and yet productive, educative adda in the conference room of The Daily Star. The centre of attraction in this first get together of 2008 was none but a competent teacher and a colourful personality Prof. Dr. Shahidul Alam of Independent University of Bangladesh. We went to the conference room at 3:45 to welcome the invited guests. One by one students of various public and private universities began to arrive to the great satisfaction of the Star Campus team; as they bit off half of their nails hearing of a terrible traffic jam almost all over the city. It was 4pm and the chief guest Dr. Alam hadn't arrived yet! 4:15 pm. To add to their worry, Zareef called to tell that she was stuck on Mohakhali Flyover 4:25. Panic time! Dr. Alam called to inform that he was stuck on Mohakhali Flyover and there was no sign of the vehicles moving! It might take 30 minutes to reach our office. Oh dear! Already there were 15 students in the room. So, we started a conversation and who knew it would turn out to be so entertaining and educative. With Intakhar, a student of department of microbiology of Dhaka University present, we all talked about genetically modified food, its bad and good side, the ethical part of such modification, chemical waste going into our food chain and so on. With it came the legal aspects of the issue and who could talk about law and law enforcement better than Naomi and Reza of the law department of Dhaka University. Amanat and Mahmud of Dhaka University had some valuable comments to make in this regard. Conversation shifted from traffic jam to DU situation and other relevant subjects. Goutam of BUET and Tithi of Ahsanullah University shared their opinions.





Ah! At last! Cheers! In came our most beloved chief guest Dr. Shahidul Alam with his world-winning smile! Hey guys -- - was his typical style of greeting the students present. It took only a couple of minutes to make his presence felt and Oh boy, did they love it? Dr. Alam was really happy to see the assorted group. Universities like DU, BUET, ULAB, AUST, NSU, IUB, BRAC were well represented. There was Rezaur Rahman, Amanat Ahmad, Mahmud Ur Rashid, Sharmin Naomi, Feeda Hasan Shahed and Intakhar Ahmad from Dhaka University; Tahmina Khan Tithi from AUST; Zannatul Lamea, Saeed Hasnat and Sarah ZH from NSU; Munaiba Salam from IUB, Goutam Chandra Kar from BUET, G Sumdany Don and Hossain Mahmud from ULAB and Mahdin Mahboob from BRACU.



So, what did Dr. Alam talk about? Did he take a class on mass communication or Journalism? No, nothing of the kind. He enthralled his little audience with his experiences in the US, Europe and Bangladesh. He is a teacher, playwright, actor, film maker, literary critique and columnist at the same time. So, imagine his deliberations on various films of UK, USA, Iran, India, Bangladesh, France, Russia and Italy. He also talked about his stage performance in the US and London. Students shared their experience as well and talked about their fields of interests.

Frankly speaking, we have learned in two hours what we wouldn't have learned reading five books. Thank you Dr. Shahidul Alam for being with us. You have taught us how to be productive in life through the best use of our time instead of complaining about what we haven't got. Thank you, sir, once again. And thanks to all the bright and brilliant participants for being here on Tuesday last. We shall meet again friends.

Short take on G.M. SHAHIDUL ALAM

EDUCATION

Dhaka University and Boston University (U.S.A.) PhD

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2007 - Till date Visiting Scholar, Independent University, Bangladesh, Teaching Video Communication. Marketing Communication to undergraduates. 2007 Adjunct Faculty, East West University, Bangladesh, Taught Public Relations to undergraduates. 1989-94 Lecturer, Boston University, Taught International Relations, International Conflict, Comparative Politics, American Government and Politics, and American Political Culture to undergraduates. 1994-95 Senior Lecturer, Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Taught International Politics and Culture (Graduate Core Course) to MA students. Supervised Master's thesis students. 1990-91 Lecturer, Northeastern University, Boston, Taught International Relations to undergraduates. 1976-79 Lecturer, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University, Taught Theory of Public Administration and Public Personnel Management to BA (Honours) and Subsidiary students.