Biotech Round Table Conference

THE Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists (GNOBB) and Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh (YoungBB) organized a round table conference entitled "Present Status of Biotechnology and its Possible Solutions" at the Centre of Excellence, University of Dhaka on 15 July 2009. Over hundred guests representing various research organizations like NIB, BARC, BARI, BRRI, BIRDEM, NIB, BRAC; as well as businessmen and representatives from universities, print media, electronic media and NGOs attended the event. Besides the Chief Guest Architect Yeafesh Osman, the State Minister for Science Information and Communication Technology; Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of University of Dhaka was present as the special guest. Dr. Francis Zapata, originally from Peru and a specialist in plant tissue culture and biotechnology, was also present at the event. The GNOBB moderator Prof Ahmad Shamsul Islam and Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) visiting Prof Ahmed Azad made a fervent appeal on behalf of the community to the State Minister to consider favorably the recommendations submitted over



two years ago related to the creation of an autonomous National Commission for Biotechnology, giving an autonomous status to the only National Institute of Biotechnology in the country and creating public-private partnerships to find enough finances to hire adequately qualified NRB's from abroad to man NIB. Prof Naiyuum Choudhury, General Secretary, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), gave the concluding speech.

Social activities at IIUC

Md.Shahriar Kabir Rana

"BRINGING greater change through social responsibility" - with this slogan the students of the Department of Business Administration of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) arranged a daylong programme on 29 June involving various social activities. The programme included a voluntary



blood donation, voting for Cox's Bazaar and a unique oath-taking programme where the students and teachers of the department expressed their expectations from the country and the university. A discussion on the importance of voluntary blood donation by Dr. Minhaz in charge of Red Crescent Chittagong chapter took place. Prof. Abul Kalam Azad, Dean of the Department of Business Administration, IIUC was the chief guest of the programme. The Head of the department Md. Samsul Karim was the special guest. The Chittagong chapter of the Red Crescent Society provided the technical support for blood collection.

Cross-Border Views-Exchange at JU

A views-exchange meeting among the students of Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh and students of four US Universities was held at the old Arts building in Jahangirnagar University (JU) recently. Daniel Marry Gutter from George Town University, Andie Davies from Ohio State University, Josse Marder from Naval Engineering University and Autumn from Delmar University of USA came at the department of International Relations in Jahangirnagar University (JU) on 11 July. They exchanged their views with the students and teachers of the department regarding various issues like the academic system, class style, cultural activities, student politics and public-private job system of both countries.