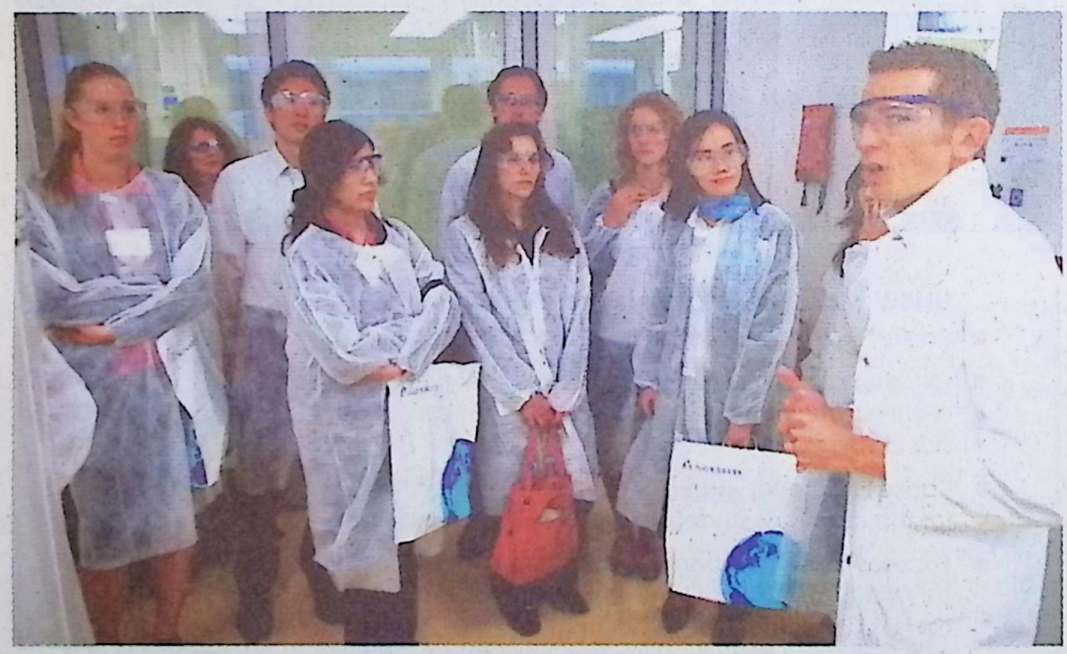
Novartis International BioCamp 2010

Md. Tariq Hassan

NOVARTIS International Biotechnology Leadership Camp (BioCamp) is the pioneering seminar introduced by Novartis that brings young talents from different universities around the globe closer to the biotechnology sector. Each year, the programme trains Masters and Post-Doctoral students from across the world bringing the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry closer to the young talents.

This year's seminar marked the first time International BioCamp being hosted at the state-of-the-art Novartis global headquarters in Basel, Switzerland where 60 selected students from leading international universities from 24 countries and territories took part.



The event is open to students from natural sciences and business administration fields. In May this year, Novartis (Bangladesh) invited applications from the leading universities of the country. Amongst many candidates, 9 were selected for the final round of the Novartis Local BioCamp 2010 through an analytical, brainstorming and interview session. Subsequently, the short-listed nine applicants were invited to attend a two-day camp hosted at Brac Inn Resort, Savar from July 23 to July 24. There we were divided into three groups and each group was assigned with a particular topic on which we had to work and come up with a business plan. The jury panel consisted of Mr. Ashfaque ur Rahman, Managing Director, Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited; Mr. Sarwar Ahmed, Managing Director, Syngenta Bangladesh Limited; Dr Syed Ferhat Anwar, Professor, IBA; renowned scientist Dr. Haseena Khan, and Professor Imran Rahman, Pro-VC, ULAB. After spending a sleepless night full of fun and work we presented our plans before the jury the next morning. At the end, I was really happy as the group leader of my group to be recognized as the champion group and to receive the individual winning award. Md. Shawkat Ali was the second winner from another group.

During the next month we prepared ourselves by reading lots of journal papers, learning new technologies, gathering information about pharmaceutical industries and finding out the success stories of different companies. As the days were passing by, both of us were charged up and had only one date in mind, the 28 August, the day we