

# EDEXCEL HIGH ACHIEVERS' AWARD CEREMONY

MAHEJABEEN HOSSAIN NIDHI

Edexcel, in collaboration with British Council, conducted its 3rd Academic Award on December 13 at the Hall of Fame of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, for students who achieved outstanding results in their international GCSE and A' Level examinations in 2014. Awards were presented to students who obtained a minimum of 7 A Grades in International GCSE, 4 A Grades in A' Level in one sitting and obtained World Highest marks in individual subjects. Moreover, this year there were special awards for junior students who attained excellent results in their first ever PLSC (Primary and Lower Secondary Curriculum) exams.

In the welcome speech, Saidur Rahman, Country Manager of Edexcel Bangladesh, proudly acknowledged the success of the 505 awardees present that day. Mr. Simon Young, Regional Director of Pearson Edexcel, further praised the

"phenomenal performance" of students of 2014 exams despite it being one of the most difficult examinations in the world. He went on to say to the students, "Your results not only define your future, but it also determines it for the future generations." On a similar note, Mr Brendan McSharry OBE, Acting Director of British Council, Bangladesh, told the students: "Today is your day."

Manos Kapterian, Senior Vice President of Pearson Qualifications International, described the event as an "incredibly important milestone". He believed it was necessary to acknowledge the journey these students embarked upon – thinking back on how hard they worked and the depth of knowledge they had gained. He gave the students some advice, emphasizing the significance of being confident and taking risks. Concluding his motivational speech, he said, "Never go home regretting what you did, or worse, what you didn't do."

Following this speech, Robert W. Gibson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, addressed the students: "You can't rest too long, because the competition for success is huge – it is global." Chief Guest, Professor Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, Chairman (State Minister), University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, reflected on the vitality of education and called upon the students to bring honour and glory to their nation.

After the speeches there was a dance



performed by students of Maple Leaf International School. Upholding the celebratory spirit, all the high achievers were invited to the stage one by one to receive their certificates and medallions. Once all the students were presented with their awards, Deep Adhikari, Director of Examinations, British Council, Bangladesh, took the stage to make a speech. "This is only possible because of your schools, teachers and parents. So turn around and thank them for your success." Abdullah Al Mamun Liton,

Regional Development Manager, Edexcel Bangladesh, was the last to grace the stage and express his thanks to everyone present.

Every year, there are more than 16,000 students sitting for these examinations in Bangladesh. This annual event of Edexcel is expected to encourage students, parents and schools to achieve even greater success in the future. Edexcel has also been providing support to organise The Daily Star Award Ceremony every year for high achievers.

PHOTOS: DARSHAN CHAKMA

## Economics Department at UIU encourages reading habit

The Department of Economics, United International University (UIU) organised a Workshop, titled "Great Book Reading", on December 7. It was organised by the Junior Economics Forum (JEF) of UIU. The workshop was conducted by Professor Amirul Islam Chowdhury. Professor M Rizwan Khan, VC of UIU was the Chief Guest. The Department Chair, Md Ali Ashraf, chaired the workshop. The most influential book in economics, Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations", was the focus of the workshop.

## Closing ceremony of ACM-ICPC Asia Regional Dhaka Site Event 2014 at BUBT

The closing ceremony of the ACM-ICPC Asia Regional Dhaka Site Event 2014, organised by the Department of CSE, BUBT, was held on December 6 at the university premises. The chief guest was Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu MP. A.F.M. Sarwar Kamal, past Chairman, BUBT syndicate, was the Guest of Honour. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific, was the Special Guest and Professor Md. Abu Saleh, the Vice Chancellor, BUBT, presided over the function.

Eight hundred and two teams from 70 institutes were accepted for Online Preliminary Contest. Among them 135 teams were selected for Onsite Contest where only 1 international team from Taiwan participated.

SUST\_DownToTheWire from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology became champion at the contest. The participants were given 10 problems to solve within 5 hours. Dr. M. Kaykobad, Professor, Department of CSE, BUET, was the chief judge. Shahriar Manzoor, Judge, ACM-ICPC World Finals 2003-2015, was the judging director and Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman, Judge, Associate Judging Director of Dhaka Regional was the co-judging director.

## Seminar on 'The Age of Globalisation: Impact of Information Technology on Global Business' at ULAB

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organised a seminar titled "The Age of Globalisation: Impact of Information Technology on Global Business" on December 9. The speaker of the seminar was Nizam Mahmood, Infrastructure Architect, Manulife Financial, Canada, who discussed the trends in the job sector in USA and Canada and how they are affecting the global economy.

Professor Dr. Sazzad Hossain, Head of Department; CSE, Dr. Sifat Momen, Course Coordinator, CSE, along with students and other faculties of ULAB were present in the seminar.

## DIU holds 9th Academic Council Meeting

The 9th Academic Council Meeting of Daffodil International University (DIU) was held on December 10. Professor Dr. M. Lutfar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, presided over the meeting. Deans of respective faculties presented their reports and Professor Dr. Engineer A.K.M. Fazlul Haque, Registrar submitted relevant documents.

Professor Dr. M. Golam Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor; members of the Academic Council of DIU; Professor Dr. Sharif Enamul Kabir, Public Service Commission; Founder Vice Chancellor & Emeritus Professor Dr. Aminul Islam; Professor Rafiqul Islam, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics; Professor Dr. S.M. Mahabub-ul Haque Majumder, Dean, FSIT; Professor Dr. M. Shamsul Alam, Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Professor Dr. Ahmmad Ismail Mostafa, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences; Brig. General (Rtd.) M. Mofizur Rahman, Executive Director & Advisor, International Forum of Bangladesh; Showkat Hossain, President-ICAB; Mohammed Emran Hossain, Director (Admin), all institute chiefs, senior Professors and all heads of the departments were present at the Academic Council Meeting.

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