

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

Chem-E-Car Competition 2015

FAUZIA SULTANA

"Will our Chem-e-car make it to the finish line?" was probably the only thought that was constantly buzzing in every participant's mind on the morning of Chem-E-Car Competition 2015. Department of Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) organised the first Chem-E-Car Competition in Bangladesh on May 1, 2015. Teams racing their cars and presenting their projects on posters, judges keenly observing the presentations, and a highly energetic crowd cheering – the overall ambience of the competition was marked by excitement, nervousness and speed.

With the zeal to design a balanced "Chem-e-car" and construct an efficient battery to power the car and take it meters away, chemical engineering students of BUET from all academic years participated in the competition. "It is a very busy time for the students, since the semester is almost coming to an end. In spite of the quizzes and lab experiments, surprisingly there are over one hundred participants at this year's competition," shared Nazib and Anika, final year chemical engineering students and members of the organising team of Chem-E-Car 2015.

Participating teams were challenged with designing a car and constructing an electrochemical cell or battery to power the car for specified dimensions, distance and capacity. "Few days prior to the competition, each team was provided with the necessary specifications and accessories



that they had to use to construct the cells," said Nuzhat and Mahbub, final year chemical engineering students and members of the organising team. The competition was sponsored by Olympic Industries Ltd.; they also provided the accessories and ingredients for the cells, the organisers added.

The competition comprised of two segments – car race and poster presenta-

tion. On the morning of the competition, teams raced their Chem-e-cars through a distance of 30 meters in the shortest possible time, carrying a load of 400 ml of water. In the other half of the competition, teams highlighted the design objectives and features of their cars and also described the mechanism of the constructed cells through poster presentations. Teams were judged on the performance and efficiency of the constructed cells, as well as speed, design and safety factor of the Chem-e-cars.

Every Chem-e-car had unique features that set it apart from the rest. While some teams constructed cars using simple mate-

rials like food containers, toy-car wheels and motors, others constructed fancy ones inspired by the Batmobile. One of the challenges that teams faced during the competition was maintenance of balance and power.

When asked what motivated them to participate in Chem-E-Car Competition 2015, the all-girl team members Sabrina and Farrhin, third year students, shared, "Academic competitions like undergraduate thesis and design competition, poster presentations, business case competitions and many more are regularly organised in the department. For the first time, we are having a competition like Chem-E-Car in the Department of Chemical Engineering, which is rather technical."

Regarding the competition, Dr. Mohidus Samad Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET and convenor of Chem-E-Car Competition 2015 said, "Chem-E-Car competitions are annually organised for Chemical Engineering students in universities and professional organisations all over the world. Such competitions are an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience and realise the concept of engineering. We envision taking BUET Chem-E-Car Competition to a national and further to an international level in the near future."

While some cars made it to the finish line and some stopped halfway, the Chem-E-Car Competition 2015 came to a speedy end with the announcement of this year's champions, and of course group selfies.

Spectacular basketball at St. Joseph

AZMIN AZRAN

The third instalment of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School's annual basketball event, Noushir Hasan Inter School Basketball Tournament 2015, was held from May 1 to 8. This year's tournament was the best contested to date, with 8 teams in the senior category and 10 in the junior. The hosts, Team Josephites, became champion in both categories.

This tournament is named after Noushir Hasan, a decorated alumnus who represented the then East Pakistan in the state level and subsequently went on to play for Pakistan National Basketball Team. Noushir Hasan later became Vice President of Citibank New York, and the school honours him every year with the Noushir Hasan Inter School Basketball Tournament.

The teams were divided into two pools in both categories where they played matches in a Round Robin format to determine semi-finalists. St. Joseph (Red), SFX Green Herald, Sunnysdale and Bangladesh International School (BIS)



qualified to the semis from the junior category. In the senior category, the qualifying teams were St. Joseph, Dhaka Commerce College, Notre Dame College, and Summerfield International School. In the junior category, St. Joseph (Red) beat BIS to move on to the finals where they faced Sunnysdale, who beat SFX Green Herald in the semis. In the senior

category, St. Joseph beat Summerfield in the semis, while NDC beat Dhaka Commerce College and the two old rivals, St. Joseph and NDC, were placed in the final for a mouth-watering prospect.

St. Joseph (Red) played an excellent game against Sunnysdale in the junior category final, eventually beating them by 55-41 points. The senior team of St.

Joseph matched the achievement of their younger mates when they beat Notre Dame College by 61-37 points to be crowned champions. The home team was supported by the students in the galleries all through the tournament but the atmosphere during the finals was something remarkable.

The winners and the runners up later received their trophies from the principal of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School. Mahfuzul Haque of St. Joseph (Red) was named MVP of the junior category. Shamsul Tahsin Zilani, MVP of the senior category and also from St. Joseph, expressed his delight about the whole atmosphere and magnitude of the tournament.

"We have won the national championship before but winning a trophy in front of the whole school is special. And I'm proud of being a part of this because I know that tournaments like this don't take place often."

The title sponsor for this tournament was Olympic Twinkle Twinkle, supported by Ispahani.