



## MoU between Saxion University of Applied Science, Netherlands & BUFT, Bangladesh

BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT), Bangladesh and Saxion University of Applied Science, Netherlands signed a MoU in the field of vocational education.

Muzaffar U. Siddique, Founder Chairman of Board of Trustees, BUFT and H.S.

Koster, Head of the School of Creative Technology, Saxion University of Applied Science, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective universities. The signing ceremony was held on November 4, 2015 with the presence of the honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, and the honourable Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte during the former's recent visit to the country.



The 10th Convocation of BRAC University was held on November 5, 2015 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) Dhaka. Chancellor of BRAC University, President Abdul Hamid, presided over the convocation ceremony.

Addressing the students, the honourable President Abdul Hamid underscored the need for teaching the students the spirit of communal harmony, tolerance and patriotism for building a prosperous Bangladesh as a safe abode for all. Congratulating the graduates, the president urged them to apply their knowledge, talents and creativity towards greater welfare of the nation. Greeting the graduates, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University, said that a new horizon had opened up before students. He asked them to leave a mark of highest efficiency in whatever profession they choose.

Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Syed Saad Andaleeb, also spoke at the convocation, while the daily Prothom Alo Editor, Matiur Rahman, delivered the Convocation Speech. Rahman advised the graduates to take inspiration from all the positive elements in their surroundings. "Today's Bangladesh is youth's Bangladesh. The youth are showing that everything is possible," he said.

A total of 959 students were conferred degrees at the convocation. Of them, Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury and Faisal Bin Rashed were given gold medals for outstanding academic achievements.

## ColoursFM 101.6 launches RJ HUNT



Being an RJ is something the youth of Bangladesh find interesting. ColoursFM 101.6 recently launched their new 'RJ HUNT' campaign at different university campuses – including United International University (UIU), American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) – of Dhaka, aiming to support that aspiration of the youth.

As a part of two-month long programme, a three-day 'RJ Hunt' has successfully been completed at the campus of UIU. From November 9 to 11, it was held at AIUB. Eventually, the campaign will go to other universities, where the participants will be able to register on the spot for audition. Alongside, there will be the surprise performance of the upcoming hip-hop star Black Zang and his crew.

Tasnuva Ahmed, the marketing head of ColoursFM 101.6 feels confident that many new talents will come out through this 'RJ HUNT'. Details about the event can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Coloursfm101.6/?fref=ts>

# Invest in Quality EDUCATION

SHARIKA KHAN

In this day and age, it's almost critical to emphasise on the 'quality' of human capital. However, opinions about this can differ broadly from person to person. Having to keep so many variables in mind, it comes as no surprise that quality is very difficult to assess.

The cognitive ability gained during one's schooling years is as important, if not more, as the years spent in school. Multiple recent studies show that improving the quality of education should be of high priority in order to accelerate economic development. Many policies are formed keeping in mind the link between education and development. However, on a majority of instances, quantity is prioritised over quality.

The Goal 4 of United Nation's 'Sustainable Development Goals' focuses on ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning by 2030. The Government of Bangladesh has given its consent to work towards the achievement of this goal. The Ministry of Education recognises human resource development to be one of the country's core development efforts. Access to quality education is considered critical for poverty reduction and economic development. However, despite claims of structural reforms in the education sector to further facilitate the former mentioned causes, the latest National Budget allocates only 1.8 percent of its total GDP to education.

A significant percentage of children in Bangladesh live in the shadows of socio-economic deprivation. They are malnourished and almost never receive quality early education. Numerous existing educa-



tional institutions fail to provide qualified teaching staff and facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive. There is a significant need for an effective learning environment that is safe, non-violent and inclusive.

Much work needs to be done in introducing affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including universities. Creating a workforce of youth and adults – possessing relevant technical and vocational skills – and ensuring employment for them will only be possible if attention is paid towards building capacity of the education and employment sector. Eliminating gender disparities in education and incorporating the indigenous and disabled into the existing workforce will be of grave difficulty if policies are not mandated to facilitate this.

Given the drawbacks of the existing system, there is a need for quality education that not only equips individuals with skills and knowledge but also instils values of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and cultural diversity in them. The JAAGO Foundation has been working towards the eradication of poverty through quality education since 2007. The very ethos of the organisation revolves around recognising the need for and delivering quality education. The organisation advocates for quality education by actively introducing essential components and implementing required alterations to provide its socio economically disadvantaged students with a holistic and superior schooling experience.