

“12th BDC-JDC PreWorlds” presented by AIUB



RAYAAN IBTESHAM CHOWDHURY

Bangladesh Debating Council (BDC) and Josephite Debating Club (JDC) of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School came together to organise the 'AIUB Presents 12th BDC-JDC PreWorlds 2015' on October 29-31. The biggest school debating competition in the country, it featured 64 teams and served as the first stage of the selection procedure for Team Bangladesh for next year's 'World Schools Debating Champions'.

For over a decade now, the top ranking debaters from this competition qualify for the 'National Camp', a rigor-

ous training camp from which the five-member Team Bangladesh is selected to compete in the 'World Schools' tournament.

This year, the tournament was hosted by JDC and was the largest instalment till date, featuring the highest number of teams so far and, for the first time, a 'Novice Break' category. This meant that after the first round, a separate knock out division was contested, consisting of the highest ranked teams among the more inexperienced teams that didn't make it to the main knock out rounds.

"The circuit is growing exponentially," said Fardeen Ameen, Vice Chair of BDC. "We've achieved considerable international success as of late and that entire movement started with 'PreWorlds'. This tournament continues to inspire kids to debate and grow as analytical thinkers. This goes on to help them at every stage of life," he added.

BDC wanted to reach out to more schools and started 'BDC Outreach', a series of workshops that were held in schools like Government Laboratory School who weren't regular in the English school debating scene. As a result, several schools such as Dhaka Residential Model College, Dhaka College, Govt Lab and others participated in the tournament for the first time. Among them, DRMC also managed to qualify for the knock out rounds, which was a sign of Outreach's success.

JDC is the oldest school debate club in the country and also the pioneer of the parliamentary debate format in Bangladesh. Nawazul Kabir, Chief Moderator of JDC, said "It's a great honour to host the biggest tournament of the year. There was a lot of pressure to live up to the expectations but thanks to the Almighty, we managed to

deliver a great tournament".

Sheikh Rifayet Daiyan, from the victorious Academia team, commented on how the tournament has helped him grow as a person: "This was my third PreWorlds and it was the best I've attended. Every year I come here, I learn something new."

Academia won the tournament in the main (Open) category and Sunnysdale was runner-up. In the 'Novice' Category, Aga Khan School became champion while Mastermind was runner-up. The top 44 debaters from the speaker rankings were selected for the 'National Camp', from which the final five to represent Bangladesh will be selected.

American International University Bangladesh was the title sponsor of the event while Confidence Group was co-sponsor. Daily Prothom Alo was the associate partner; Navigators were the digital partner and Hotel Lakeshore was the hospitality partner.

Mosammad Shahanara Monica, Director, UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs was present at the inauguration ceremony alongside Fardeen Ameen, Vice Chair, BDC; Nawazul Kabir, Chief Moderator, JDC; and Brother Robi Purification, CSC, Principal, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School.

Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Director, Human Rights Commission, was present at the final along with Professor Dr. Charles C Villanueva, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, AIUB; Tanvir Ahmed Haroon, Board of Directors, BDC and Lecturer at Independent University Bangladesh; and Brother Montrojoy Tripura, CSC, Vice Principal, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School.

The Rebirth of **NSU** CLUB FAIR

MUHAMMAD MUHTASIM JAWAD

After two long years, North South University is back with its iconic Club Fair. NSU Club Fair 2015 was officially held on October 31, 2015 at the university's plaza area in the Bashundhara campus. "Reborn" was the theme for the fair this year, which was indeed very fitting.

After about 1000 days since the previous club carnival,



the students of NSU were eagerly waiting for the big day. All the 20 student clubs of North South University worked together as a team in order to create something truly marvellous. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest and Chairman, Board of Trustees, M A Kashem.

At 10:30 AM, the program officially started with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a video presentation that highlighted the activities of each of the different student clubs that NSU boasts. Afterwards, the Special Guest, Vice Chancellor In-Charge, Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami and Director, Student Affairs, Dr. M Emdadul Haq presented their speeches, praising the month-long effort of the student bodies that finally brought this magnificent event to fruition. They also mentioned how, despite the fire incident and political instabilities that marred the last two years, the student clubs have taken up the initiative to bring the exciting annual event back, much to the delight of students and faculty members alike.

Next, the guests visited the well-decorated stalls set up by the clubs, which exhibited their creativity and brought out their uniqueness. The university's cafeteria and the recreation hall also housed different exhibitions and game zones. Throughout the day, each club performed on stage,

starting from 12 PM.

The entire event was made possible by the seamless collaboration of the authorities and eighteen student clubs of NSU. Executive bodies and members of Art and Photography Club, Athletics Club, Cine and Drama Club, Computer and Engineering Club, Communication Club, Sangskritik Sangathan, Diversity Club, Earth Club, Ethics Club, Finance Club, Human Resource Club, The Marketing Club, MBA Club, Model UN Club, Pharmaceutical Club, Public Health & Sciences Club, Social Services Club, Young Economists' Forum (YEF) and Young Entrepreneur's Society (YES!) worked tirelessly till the previous night of the event to make the entire day as enjoyable for the general student as possible.

This year's fair, as per the norm, included a wide range of activities, such as competitions, comic acts, drama, games, live music, a creative fashion show that exhibited diversity and heritage, a spectacular fire spinning display and laser shows. A flash mob, predictably, had also showed up during the middle of the day-long event. While performers from NSU kept the students entertained throughout the day, a surprise band performance from Nemesis thrilled the audience as the day came to an end.

