

Young Programmers at the ACM ICPC, Dhaka Regional Site Event 2015

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On November 14, the award ceremony for the 'ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest - Dhaka Regional Site Event 2015' was held at North South University's new auditorium. This year, 122 teams from 53 universities and institutions were competing in the Dhaka rounds for ACM ICPC, the world's most prestigious programming contest. NSU was hosting the event for the 12th time.

The participants were listening intently among the crowd, along with the excited organisers, volunteers, faculty members and administration representatives. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Ahsan Habib Mansur, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute, Bangladesh, while Professor Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Vice Chancellor In-Charge, NSU, acted as the session chair.

Professor Dr. Abul L Haque, Director, ACM ICPC 2015, Dhaka Site, began the event with a speech that explained to the general audience that from these 122 brilliant teams, two would get the ticket to participate in the World Finals scheduled to be hosted in May 2016 in Phuket, Thailand. Next, Dr. Sirajul Islam, Dean, Department of Engineering and Physical



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Sciences, talked about the importance of IT professionals and engineers in the country and how innovation must be pushed to its limits.

Chief guest, Dr. Mansur, greatly commended the participants of this year's event, stating that these participants and their peers will someday shape the future of the world, while minimising the gap between developed and developing countries. While there has been a significant

progress in Bangladesh's IT sector, he emphasised that these are early days and the future generation must go ahead with the spirit of competition. Session chair, Professor Dr. Goswami, thanked everyone involved who worked tirelessly for making the event successful, and ended his speech hoping that NSU will soon be hosting the World Finals thanks to its global standard infrastructure.

Shahriar Manzoor, judging director,

discussed and analysed this year's problems with a touch of humour while crediting everyone who worked hard for setting the problems and solutions. Next, Dr. Syed Akhter Hossain, chief judge, ACM ICPC 2015 Dhaka, announced the names of all the teams that made the ranks. Tokens of felicitations were handed out to several teams depending upon their problem solving capabilities. Dr. Syed thanked CodeMarshal, this year's online platform for the event. Finally, the winners were announced. JU O(N^3) grabbed the first position, while SUST DownToTheWire became second. NSU BugLovers secured the third position. The top two teams qualified for the World Finals in 2016.

Participants were then taken to Jamuna Future Park for an entertaining evening that involved games, movies and dinner.

Previously, on November 13, the inauguration ceremony was headed by the VC IC, Dr. Goswami. Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific, was the chief guest. Professor Dr. Abul L Haque; Professor Dr. Sirajul Islam; Dr. K.M.A. Salam; and Dr. Shazzad Hossain made their respective speeches to wish the best to the contestants.

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D-Force: Freelance Employment Opportunities for Students

SHOUT Desk

Daraz Bangladesh Ltd held an interactive session titled, "The future of e-commerce – presenting opportunities for BRAC University" at BRAC University auditorium on November 9.

Present at the event were Sumeet Singh, Managing Director and Co-founder of Daraz Bangladesh; Sumit Jasoria, Head of Marketing, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan; Antonio Fantappiè, Business Development Manager, Head of Sales Force; Munawwar Mahmood Chowdhury, Associate Manager, Marketing; and Naushaba Salahuddin, Head of Public Relations, Daraz Bangladesh.

Speaking at the session, Sumeet Singh walked the students through an informative presentation on Daraz and how it operates. He announced that daraz.com.bd will be adapting the concept of "Black Friday" and introduce it as "FATAFATI Friday", the biggest online sales event of the year, on November 27 in collaboration with Robi. Discount offers starting from 30 and going up to 80 percent will exclusively be offered on the website for that day only.

D-Force, a new programme developed by daraz.com.bd, was then introduced to the audience. According to the



organisers, D-Force gives freelance employment to students and part-time workers. Selected students will be given a special log-in ID and will be able to place orders and work for Daraz as sales consultants. The programme aims to provide free sales training to the best

performing agents and offers certification from Rocket Internet and Daraz Bangladesh. D-Force offers salary based on commission which will increase with performance. D-Force has previously done campus activations at IUB and ULAB.

Singh also said, "The D-Force programme is a great opportunity for students from all backgrounds and different degrees. This innovative model of freelance selling will give them all a chance to get real working experience, shape their selling skills and, last but not least, enhance their CVs. In the current competitive, global labour market, all these elements are indeed more crucial in order to start a bright career in business. Daraz Bangladesh, owner and pioneer of this project, can proudly state that the response received so far has been impressive, and the everyday growth can only confirm a great future ahead, both for D-Force and students."

At the University of Asia Pacific (UAP) activation – held on November 10, 11 and 12 – a total of 160 students registered for the D-Force sales consultant programme. Of them, 108 students attended the training session and all of them were recruited as sales consultants.

Shahriyar Anam, Head, DBA, UAP was present at the training session with two of his lecturers. At the end of the session, he gave a short speech, thanking Daraz for giving the students an opportunity to work part-time.

SHOUT is the Media Partner (English) of the campus activation events.