

British Council's 'Career Summit 2015'

AZMAN ANJU KHAN CHOWDHURY

On November 21, a 'Career Summit' was organised by the British Council. The event initiated at 10 am and went on till 5 pm at British Council on Fuller Road, Dhaka. A window of opportunity was opened by the Summit for returned graduates from UK to discover career prospects in Bangladesh. Representatives from leading corporate houses were present at the event.

Many former students of esteemed higher education institutions in UK return to Bangladesh with hopes of having a flourishing career. The 'Career Summit' supported such graduates towards further professional development, and provided the employers with a platform to hire deserving UK graduates.

More than 500 graduates with UK qualification registered for the Summit. There was no registration fee for them. The graduates had to register by filling up forms, which required few personal details along with a lot of educational details, highlighting their studies in the UK.

"We are only focusing on UK graduates and UK qualification holders, including Bangladeshi residents who took UK degrees staying in Bangladesh," explained Shegufta Ahmed, Project Coordinator, British Council.



PHOTO: M ANAMUL HOQUE

The graduates, some fresh out of university and some already holding jobs but looking for better opportunities, were connected to 15 eminent organisations, namely Unilever Bangladesh, Robi Axiata, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC Bank, British Council, BRAC Bank, Bashundhara Group etc. The organisations set up their booths where the graduates dropped their CVs and learnt about the job openings. Some of the employers also took interviews of the graduates.

In detail, the applicants were rated by

the potential employers based on their existing experiences, i.e. field of study, salary expectation, previous experience, extracurricular activities, IT skills, English proficiency and references from their educational institutions. They were even given the privilege to choose their preferred sector for working.

Aslam Taysir, who majored in Corporate Finance from University of Gloucestershire, was a participant at the summit. He believed, "Job opportunities at MNCs and banks, especially, are

extremely competitive right now and since there isn't really a separate platform for fresh UK graduates, this Summit will open many doors connecting enthusiastic graduates, like myself, with major organisations."

While the interviews were being conducted, the Career Summit also hosted plenary sessions, different parallel sessions and workshops conducted by HR specialists, UK delegate, alumni and HR of British Council. The summit also advised graduates using parallel sessions and gave them tips on how to be presentable at professional environment, making smart career choices, and preparing better CVs etc.

This event was the first of its kind and the organisers were very pleased with the feedback and cooperation from employers, especially from MNCs. "In the future we plan to have bigger venues and wider reach, hopefully even conduct this sort of summit outside Dhaka," said M. Jahir Uddin, Project Manager, British Council Bangladesh.

Azman Anju Khan Chowdhury is the founder of Durnibar Foundation, a youth-based non-profit organisation. He loves to spread smiles across the faces of those who are ignored by society. Follow his explorations on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Azman.Anju.Khan. Chowdhury

CLICK. CREATE. CONNECT.

Viqarunnisa Noon School & College hosts Triune Festival 1.0

NAZIFA RAIDAH

With the theme, "Click. Create. Connect." Viqarunnisa Noon School Triune Festival 1.0 (sponsored by Kai Aluminium) kicked off on November 10. The event was one of a kind, as for the first time photography, arts and crafts, and anime were combined for a school level competition.

Along with the Principal Sufia Khatun, the inauguration ceremony was presided over by the editor of Prothom Alo, Matiur Rahman. The guests stressed on the importance of such festivals for shaping cognitive skills, and encouraged students to take part in creative events alongside traditional education.

Anika Anjum, the head organiser of the event, said, "This was the first time cosplay was considered as one of the main events at a school level competition. Participation in arts and crafts competitions, photography contests, cosplay is increasing but hasn't yet been encouraged by society or parents. Our main focus was to encourage the students and parents to accept and indulge in these events besides participating in science, math, English Olympiads as it's important to be creative too."

The festival had many highlights, especially through the participation of students from not just traditional schools but also from special schools. The festival saw the participation of students from the SWID (Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh) School.

The festival featured arts and crafts exhibition, wall magazine display, photography competition, anime review writing, anime drawing competition, quiz and much more. The students showed great ambition and potential in all of these activities. The wall magazine display was a burst of colours on different social issues



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAJIDUL ALAM

like racism, global warming etc.

Cosplay, one of the main attractions at the festival, had an overwhelming participation of school students. Kazi M. Noor was the judge of cosplay. He said, "It's great to see youngsters embracing new forms of arts and cultural practices."

The festival ended on November 14 with a programme where Japanese culture was showcased by the school students of Viqarunnisa and with traditional dance performance by students of SWID School as well.

After months of hard work and dedication of the young

est school panel members of photography, arts and crafts and anime club, the event turned out to be a huge success. The event was co-sponsored by Platinum Group, Prothom Alo and Rangs Group. ABC radio, Channel Agami and Kishor Alo were the media partners. Banglalion and Maggi were internet and food partners at the event respectively.

Nazifa Raidah loves books, movies, creeping people out and singing in the shower. She also checks for monsters under her bed every now and then. Send her your thoughts at nazifa45678@gmail.com