

ON THE GREENER SIDE

NAZIBA BASHER
PHOTOS: COURTESY

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) hosts the prestigious "Green Talents – International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development" on a yearly basis to promote the international exchange of innovative green ideas. The award, under the patronage of Minister Professor Johanna Wanka, honours young researchers each year. The winners come from numerous countries and scientific disciplines and are recognised for their outstanding achievements in making our societies more sustainable. Selected by a high-ranking jury of German experts the award-winners are granted unique access to the country's research elite.

Last year, in 2015, a young girl, Shougat Nazbin Khan, an IUB Alumna, was the first Bangladeshi to be awarded the Green Talent award in Berlin. Completing her SSC and HSC from Viqarunnisa Noon School & College, Shougat studied Electrical & Electronic Engineering at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Shougat received the UNESCO Madanjeet fellowship to study Green Energy Technology at UNESCO Madanjeet Institute of Green Energy Technology in India.

"I always had great fascination for computers and video games from a very young age. Throughout my time in school, I wanted to become a computer engineer. But, then I started to realize EEE is more dynamic and challenging. It encompasses

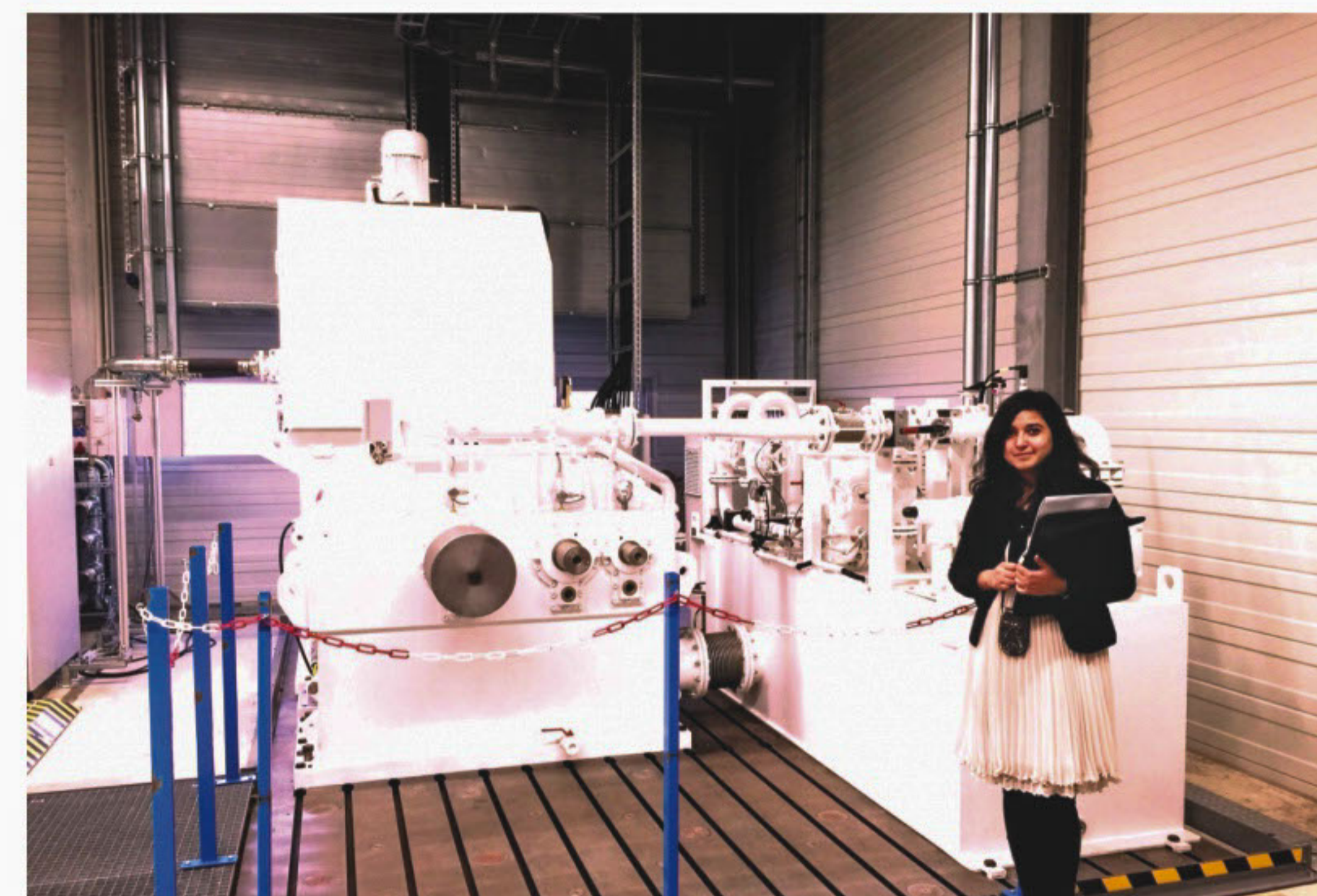
work on developing Green and Sustainable Technology who have the potential to solve the biggest challenges such as global warming, energy shortages, resource scarcity, and massive environmental contamination. In order to take part in the global competition one should have outstanding academic achievements, strong focus on sustainable development with an interdisciplinary approach and high standard research publications. Candidates with all these qualities can enter the online competition where they will have to answer several essay questions on innovative green ideas. On the basis of their scientific excellence and innovative research potential, an international panel of eminent scholars and experts from academia and industry selects the winners from numerous applicants worldwide.

"I have worked on various projects on renewable energies in several countries. My research mainly focuses on hybrid energy systems that are feasible for clean energy production. Apart from designing, I develop modelling and simulation frameworks to make better energy predictions and performance analysis of the energy systems. It was a great experience to be honoured in front of many distinguished guests. I was overwhelmed with joy when I received my award. I felt more committed to continue my research efforts and bring positive changes to society through it," she says.

Renewable energy projects are still mostly donor-driven in Bangladesh. "We



Shougat Nazbin Khan



a large number of disciplines which enable engineers to provide innovative solutions to real world problems. My parents never put any kind of pressure on me, and I got to choose my own career. They have always believed in me and have been quite supportive. It has inspired me to grow and take further steps toward my goals," says Shougat Nazbin.

This prestigious title of the Green Talent Award is granted to young scientists who

often have to rely on foreign expertise to execute such projects. I want to work towards minimising this dependency. I have already started skill development training programmes on renewable energy on a small scale. I am eager to set up a training institute for stakeholders in the future."

Amongst applicants from over a 100 countries, Shougat stood a proud Bangladeshi with the award in her hands. "I

felt even more determined to work hard on my application when I realised that no Bangladeshi has received the award before. Achieving the prestigious award at such an early stage of my career has definitely ignited an ambition to realise and chase my dreams. This international recognition has motivated me to maintain the intellectual journey and reach higher levels of excellence," says Shougat Nazbin.

One of the essential parts of continuing

one's development as a scientist is constantly keeping up with the latest research and trends, believes Shougat. "But, in my opinion it's also very important to challenge yourself sometimes by taking scientific risks, learning big ideas and researching on new areas, particularly the ones that have significant social impacts. This helps a person to look at things from a new perspective and ensures the use of best practices." ■



FOR DIPAN

When Faisal Arefin Dipan was killed, he was proofreading a manuscript, just like any other day, surrounded by his writing tools.

The day did not end like any other day, however. It ended with him soaked in a pool of blood after suspected militants hacked him to death.

"He left the manuscript and penholder stained with blood; the jute sack containing heaps of books and manuscripts too had spatters of blood on them. When I set up Jagriti Prakashani's stall along with his pictures, I made sure to keep the things soaked in Dipan's blood," says Dr Razia Rahman Jolly, Dipan's wife.

Why? Because Razia wants the *Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela* visitors to take a moment to remember Dipan. She wants to remind them of the horrific death that took Dipan's life for publishing secular books from Jagriti.

True to her words, many people strolling around the fair were seen taking a moment to stand in front of the black and white themed stall of Jagriti Prakashani. While the way Razia gathers up all his memories is quite touching, the way people were paying silent tribute to Dipan by coming to his stall was, in a word, heart-rending.

Dipan, the owner of Jagriti Prakashani, was hacked to death inside his office at the capital's Aziz Supermarket on October 31 last year, leaving his wife and two children behind. A Senior Medical Officer of DU Medical Centre by profession, Dr Razia has made sure to keep on working on Dipan's dream and stalls 174-175 carry the testimony of that.

"It's only been three months of Dipan's death and I am yet to come to terms with the fact that he won't come back," she says. "Even if I keep aside my trauma, there are several other things that I need to deal with every day - I need to take care of my children's education and have

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA
PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

to continue my profession as a doctor." "It has obviously been difficult for me to set up a stall successfully at the *Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela 2016* only three months after his death," she continues. "I have seen Dipan spend years of dedication and devotion to set up his publishing house. I too have worked closely with him. The responsibility of continuing with Jagriti comes automatically within me."

Unlike previous years when Jagriti used to publish 70 to 80 books annually, this year they have published 18 books. "There were many more manuscripts in Dipan's hard disc that we could not retrieve. Also within 7-15 days of Dipan's death, many writers were looking for an alternative publisher," she says. "However, I am satisfied with the fact that nothing could hold Jagriti back from publishing good books. Each of the published books has a black badge and picture of Dipan on its back cover."

"A commemorative book on Dipan will be published, but I am taking a bit more time to augment it with writings from many important personalities of our society," she says. "Eminent journalist Golam Mortuza, editor of *Saptahik*, and I are working as the editors of the book. My father-in-law Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq has been supporting me to continue with Dipan's passion." Razia believes that Jagriti Prakashani has a long journey ahead, and it is not going to be an easy one. ■



Dr Razia Rahman Jolly