

Model International Criminal Court World 2016

Bangladeshi Law Enthusiasts go to Europe

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

Model International Criminal Court (MICC) is a simulation of actual trials that took place under the ICC, where the participants are school and university students. MICC includes three projects, namely MICC School, MICC World and MICC University. The Kreisau-Initiative e.V. along with its Polish partner-organisation Fundacja Krzyżowa dla Porozumienia Europejskiego (Foundation Krzyżowa for Mutual Understanding in Europe) has been organising MICC since 2005.

MICC World 2016 took place last month drawing in participants (school students) from 11 different nations; Bangladesh was among them for the first time. Five school students - Mohammad Muntasir Islam, Taskin Ahmed Eera, Mashaekh Hassan Samudra, Jannatul Isma Moni and Nafisa Tabassum Piya – were chosen to participate. The selection process was carried out by Onuronon, the local partner organisation of MICC, and consisted of filling up forms and undergoing various interviews. The team of five law enthusiasts accompanied by one chaperone set out for the all expenses paid trip to Berlin, Germany and Krzyżowa, Poland on May 20, 2016. They returned on May 30, 2016.

The programme consisted of training



sessions, workshops and model court trials for which participants were divided into four groups, assuming roles as prosecutors, members of the defence, members of press, and judges.

Participants attended workshops on human rights and international criminal law and had background training sessions on conflict zones such as former Yugoslavia or Germany during World War 2. They had to read up and attend classes on backgrounds of cases prior to the trials. Classes to improve understanding

of war and the Syria crisis were offered as well.

The content of the trial simulations were final pleadings of actual cases that were heard before the ICC, such as the Nuremberg Tribunal, providing hands on, realistic insight into the world of criminal law.

Mohammad Muntasir Islam, an SSC candidate of Dhaka Residential Model College, shares his experience, "One of our sessions was called 'Human Rights Revisited'. I particularly enjoyed this work-

shop because of its different interpretations of human rights. There was one part where we were told of a certain case and asked to decide on whose rights took precedence. Deliberating on the different opinions at this stage was very intriguing."

When they weren't busy learning about law they had cultural shows where participants portrayed their own culture through dancing, singing and poetry and socialised during a bonfire night.

"Attending MICC was an incredible experience. I was privileged enough to be given a glimpse into the world of criminal justice by brilliant trainers, and befriend immensely clever individuals from all over the world who have interests similar to mine. I feel as if I see things differently now, from a prosecutor's point of view. I'm no longer apprehensive to speak out against injustice," explains Taskin Ahmed Eera, grade 10 student of DPS STS School.

MICC World 2016 encouraged these bright young students to study human rights and humanitarian law, harnessed their love for law, all the while providing an unforgettable experience with people from other cultures and social backgrounds.

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at fb.com/salma.ali209

A Not-so-ordinary Sehri Experience

IQRA LABIBA QAMARI

On the night of June 16, FoodPanda organised "Sehri Khann", an event filled with the bustling of Dhakaiites which extended till June 18. Being a self-proclaimed foodie, I had to go there and it was far from disappointing.

The programme was held at the International Convention City Bashundhara which was considerably a good distance away from where I live. However, the hours picked by the event made it convenient for people like me to go for it. It was refreshing for a change to not face any traffic along the way.

The enormous hall was decorated with banners carrying the names of the co-sponsors. Overall, it was a vibrant picture.

The stalls summed up a total of 19 restaurants and food joints of Dhaka – Nando's, Kiva Han, Pizzeria, Rice and Noodle, among others. Included was my personal favourite, Glazed, which I decided would be my last resort if all else failed.

As time went by, people started pouring in, especially after midnight, some of them in their pyjamas while others all dressed-up. Madchef, Nando's and Grand Nawab had people, including myself, scurrying in front of the stalls. The peri-peri chicken was disappointingly dry and other items



on the menu were unavailable. I did not regret going to Madchef as the burgers were up to the mark but I would have preferred juicier patties. One of the hundred friends I ran into said Blue Moon from Kiva Han was "nothing more than watered down sugar syrup" and that Rice and Noodle had "too much oil worthy of an invasion." Others I know enjoyed

Grand Nawab and they could not stop licking their fingers as I discovered their *badam sharbat* was basically a trip to heaven and back. Overall, the quantity outweighed the quality but it did not stop the stalls from making good sales.

The concept of the entertainment zone was impressive, especially with the inclusion of arcade games, which apparently

had a nostalgic effect on people. I personally enjoyed a match of table tennis with my friend and observed people taking to carom boards with great enthusiasm.

What really stood out for me was the idea of screening the live matches of Euro 2016. Being an avid Germany supporter, it was exciting for me as the night had Germany vs. Poland scheduled. During the intervals, the time slot was occupied by a stand-up comedian who tried his best to entertain the crowds, occasionally causing a few chuckles.

It was the first time FoodPanda organised such an event and it garnered a lot of attention as I ran into almost half the city over there. Celebrities from different walks such as cricket and the film industry did not miss out as well. Carrying a festive ambiance, it surely looks very promising for the next year. Amidst all, the essence of Ramadan was upheld as 10% of the proceeds were kept for charity. Altogether, I would want to have similar events preferring those with more generosity towards giving.

Iqra suffers from wanderlust. She hopes to see the Loch Ness monster someday and in the mean time complains about Economics. Reach out to her at iqralaqa@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/iqra.l.qamari