

UIU holds Fall 2016 orientation programme

United International University (UIU) held a two-day long orientation programme for the newly admitted students of Fall 2016 trimester. Newly admitted students in the School of Business & Economics and School of Science and Engineering participated in the event.

UIU VC Prof. Dr. M. Rezwan Khan presided over the ceremonies while Pro-VC Prof. Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Dean, School of Business & Economics, Prof.

Dr. Abul Hasnat Md. Golam Azam, EEE Professor, Dr. Md. Fayyaz Khan, BBA Program Director, Dr. Joarder Md. Hasanur Raihan, Registrar Prof. A.S.M. Salahuddin, MBA Asst. Program Coordinator Ali Haider Al Mamun Mridha, EEE Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Dr. Kaled Masukur Rahman, CSE Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Dr. Swakkhar Shatabda, spoke at the programme. Heads of different departments, teachers, guardians, students and the invited guests were present.

BETTER CHANGE FOR A BETTER CITY BRAC launches Urban Innovation Challenge



KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Over 50 percent of the world's population now live in cities all around the world and by the year 2050, the proportion is estimated to increase beyond 65 percent.

Urbanisation in Bangladesh itself has staggeringly grown in the past few decades, the results of which we see reflected in our daily traffic commute, environments, housing conditions for the poor and so on. The city of Dhaka has a population of 15.4 million, making it the 9th most densely populated in the city and with the current growth rate of over 2%, there is no question we'll see a rise in the ranks.

With this in mind, BRAC is launching the "Urban Innovation Challenge" to give a platform to and work with young, urban innovators who carry the potential to reinvent the future for the urban poor in Bangladesh. Together, the goal is to promote efficient utilisation of resources and bring about a sustainable change in the community by providing solutions through new ideas or social innovations.

Starting tomorrow, the Urban Development Programme and Social Innovation Lab, BRAC, will accept ideas for the Urban Innovation Challenge. Proposals will be accepted with a focus in three areas – health, transportation and increased earning opportunities for the informal sector workers. Applications can be submitted by individuals or a team of maximum 4 members. The organisers have also selected Campus Ambassadors who will promote the challenge in university campuses around the country from the first week of November. Multiple rounds of the challenge will see participants work closely with BRAC to polish their ideas, with valuable input from specialists in the field after which, four to five winners will be selected by a jury for the incubation phase. Each winner will receive a grant of up to BDT 5 lacs, along with all sorts of techni-

cal and design support from BRAC and external partner organisations.

The prototype development and field testing for winning ideas will take place throughout next year, with the final evaluation done in around September-October of 2017.

The organisers have high hopes on engaging the youth of the nation in stepping up to take matters in their own hands and believe it is they who can be the real ambassadors of change.

"We don't see any urban policy or dialogues taking place regarding urban issues. But what we do see is the youth speaking up about a lot of important issues. We want to attract this young population and support them in bringing about positive, sustainable solutions for Dhaka city. It is high time that we join forces to solve our own problems," expressed Ahmad Fazlullahil Baqi, senior programme manager, Urban Development Programme, BRAC.

BRAC envisions that the Urban Innovation Challenge will be a launchpad for impact-driven enterprises bringing sustainable solutions at the doorsteps of urban poor. At the end of the challenge, the incubated enterprises should be ready to take their products and/or services to the market and ready to pitch for investment. The call for ideas start tomorrow, Friday, October 28, 2016; for more information, visit the website at uic.brac.net or the Facebook page at facebook.com/uic.brac

With the organisers BRAC, the Urban Innovation Challenge will work with IDEO.org as knowledge partner, Beatnik as the digital engagement partner and SHOUT (The Daily Star) as the media engagement partner.

Kazi Akib Bin Asad is a Sub-editor at Shout who likes to travel and collect puns from all over the world. Follow him and his adventures on instagram.com/akibasad

UC Events brings The Great Wedding Showcase

Looking to shop for the upcoming wedding season? UC Events will organise an extraordinary wedding showcase taking place on November 4-5, 2016 at Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan 2 from 10 am to 10 pm.

The UC Fashion Showcase was founded in May 2015 and has held several exhibitions which focused on the festivities of Eid and Pahela Baishakh. This wedding season, they are back with more than 40 exclusively talented and potential brands from all over Bangladesh.

The event will showcase brands such as Golden Threads, Ray's Collection, Sapphire's and D's Fine Jewelry and designers with their exclusive collections, all under one roof.

Economics Quiz Competition 2016 at Stamford

The department of Economics of Stamford University Bangladesh organised the prize giving ceremony of "Economics Quiz Competition 2016" on October 8, at the department premise, Dhanmondi. Fatinaaz Feroz, Vice President, BOT, Stamford University was the chief guest and Prof. Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Chairman of the department, chaired the programme. The first round of the competition was held on September 4 and sixteen students had qualified for the final round. In the final round, all qualified students sat for a presentation and quiz examination on September 24. Participants and five quizmasters, Tabassum Tazin, Abdul Nakib, Hemodipa Chowdhury, H. M. Khairul Kabir Bhuiyan and Mohammad Hanif were awarded certificates and crests.

MLIS organises Annual Science Fair

On October 21-22, 2016, Maple Leaf International School organised the "Annual Science Fair 2016". The two-day event was held at the Dr. Nawab Ali Auditorium, Dhaka.

The fair featured a total of 542 projects prepared by 1134 students from Classes I to X. The main aim of the event was to promote the interest of the students in innovative science projects, channel their curiosity in technology and tap into their creativity. The chief guest at the event was Principal Ali Karam Reza.

Seminar on Global Studies and Governance at IUB

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised a seminar on October 20, 2016 at its campus in Bashundhara, Dhaka to launch the Bachelor's program of the University on Global Studies and Governance, the first ever among all private universities in Bangladesh.

Prof. Imtiaz A Hussain, Head of the Program and Prof. Salehuddin Ahmed, former Pro-VC, BRAC University were the key speakers. Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman, BOT, IUB, and Prof. M Omar Rahman, VC graced the occasion and delivered speeches highlighting IUB's relentless efforts towards higher as well as quality education.

Deans of different Schools of IUB and senior faculty and staff members were present in the seminar.