

DU Students Win Ticket to Sweden

SHOUT Desk

Dhaka University has won the grand finale of the Sweden-Bangladesh Nobel Memorial Quiz 2016 held on December 10, 2016 in Dhaka. Triumphant over three competing teams in the final, Team Pratishwik, comprising of Shamim Sohani Rimon, Wahik Kaiser, and Munzer Talukdar, have won a one-week fully paid trip to Sweden, and will receive the opportunity to visit famous Swedish companies and sight-seeing points in Sweden. The quiz focused on Alfred Nobel, the Nobel Prize, Nobel Laureates, and Sweden as a country.

Team Pratishwik won the competition defeating first runner up BUET ORCS, second runner up NSU Crispr, and third runner up IUT Stark.

The Sweden-Bangladesh Nobel Memorial Quiz 2016 highlights Sweden as a country of innovation and enterprise to the Bangladeshi people, and features the work of Swedish companies in Bangladesh - especially among university



students. Several globally renowned Swedish companies, including Arla, Ericsson, and Tetra Pak are operating directly in Bangladesh, while products of Swedish organisations like Volvo and Scania are widely popular in the country.

Johan Frisell, Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh, attended the grand finale as chief guest. Professor Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice Chancellor of BUET attended the occasion as special guest. Also present were representatives of the campaign

sponsors ABB, Ericsson, Arla, Tetra Pak, Volvo, Scania, and IKEA.

"Bangladesh and Sweden are deepening their relations in the area of business, culture and research. The Nobel Quiz shows that there is a generation of students in Bangladesh with deep interest in enterprise and innovation, following the spirit of the great Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel. I am also amazed to see the enormous interest and deep knowledge in Sweden that the participants show. They will help building our future cooperation," said the Swedish Ambassador.

This year, the competition was held in various stages. Activation took place in 30 public and private universities over the month of November. A total of 600 teams registered for the competition, 100 of which received invitation for participating in the main competition. Four teams eventually made to the grand finale. The competition was first organised last year, where a team from Khulna University came out triumphant.

Giving a Voice through Photography

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

A three-day photo exhibition (starting from December 8, 2016) titled "The Unheard Voices" was held at Gallery Chitrak in Dhaka. The exhibition was jointly hosted by Plan International Bangladesh and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), marking the end of the 16-day campaign against violence affecting women and young girls. The campaign was launched on November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and it continued till December 10 (Human Rights Day).

The photo exhibition showcased photo stories depicting violence against women and girls, highlighting their struggles and encouraging viewers to take a stand against gender-based violence.

Maherin Ahmed, Head of Communication and Advocacy, Plan International Bangladesh; Jude William R. Jenilo, Dean of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ), ULAB; Md. Moniruzzaman, Director, Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy were present at the inauguration ceremony. The speakers addressed the pressing issue of violence against women and girls, highlighting the fact that this violence appears in different forms throughout their lives.

Maherin Ahmed said, "This photography exhibition has been a wonderful opportunity to partner up with ULAB. The photos being exhibited here today do justice in sending messages that violence can take many forms and is not just limited to physical violence."

Jude William R. Jenilo said, "ULAB believes in sustainable development. When Plan International Bangladesh approached us with this proposal to



PHOTO: PLAN INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

organise an event, we were happy to be a part of this as the idea matched our values. I would also like to thank the organisation for providing our students the opportunity to participate in this photography exhibition."

The event ended with a performance from the band Miththuk. I walked through the gallery, glancing at frames of breathtaking photos hanging in a neat line on the white walls. Some were in colour while others were black and white, and each was a part of a photo story. Each photo story consisted of 5-7 framed

photographs, narrating the accounts of a girl or a woman, and the violence she had faced.

Photographs showed victims of sexual assault being silenced, and instances of marital rape. One particular photo story provided an insight into the lives of the hijras, a marginalised community facing one of the highest forms of gender-based violence in Bangladesh. Others celebrated women and their hard work – an elderly woman running a make-shift pitha shop to provide for her disabled husband, the daily life of a girl working as domestic

help, and more.

All the exhibited photos were the works of 16 student photographers from ULAB. During the event the photographers were awarded with crests, and five best photographers – Mahmudul Hasan Uday, Ekrim Hossin, Iffat Jahan, Santua Tripura and Md Mashruzzaman – were awarded with Lenovo tablet PCs.

Visitors from all walks of life continued to turn out till 8 pm on December 10, getting a glimpse of the type of violence that is rampant in our country yet is almost always hushed up.