

# CIVILFEST 2017

## A Celebration of Civil Engineering

QUAZI ROKAIYA HAQUE

On February 6-7, 2017, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEED) at North South University (NSU) orchestrated an event named "CIVILFEST 2017" at the university's state-of-the-art Bashundhara campus.

The 2-day long event incorporated sessions comprising an inaugural ceremony, roundtable discussion, breakout sessions for school, college and university students, publication of a magazine, cultural programme, Civil Engineering Students' Conference, prize giving and closing ceremony, and a concert. The faculty members and students ventured utmost efforts and generated an event that manifested itself to be one of the best engineering events in recent times.

Day one started with an inauguration ceremony hosting eminent engineering personalities and industry leaders. The chief guest of the session was Annisul Huq, Mayor of Dhaka North, and the guest of honour was Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, BOT, NSU. The other guests were Engr. Md. Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan, President, IEB, Professor Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Treasurer, NSU and Benajir Ahmed, Member, BOT. Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, VC, NSU, chaired the session and the welcome speech was delivered by Professor Dr. Javed Bari,

Chair, CEED, NSU. There was also a special address by Professor Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Dean, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

The roundtable discussion sponsored by BSRM had professors and professionals of the field deliver their views on the topic "Role of Civil Engineers towards Building

Abdur Rouf Public College, Ideal School and College, Notre Dame College, Dhaka Imperial College, International Turkish Hope School and many more took part in the science Olympiad and poster and project exhibition. The events concluded with a cultural programme where students of the department produced an

Engineer, Heidelberg Cement, respectively, final-year undergraduate students presented their research works in front of judges. Simultaneously at other venues inside the campus, students from NSU, BUET, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka University, Islamic University of Technology, Military Institute of Science and Technology, and many more exhibited their expertise in the poster and project competition, CAD competition and bridge making competition.

The closing ceremony of CIVILFEST 2017 was graced by the presence of the Minister of Road Transport and Bridges, Obaidul Quader, as the chief guest. BOT Chairman, Members, Vice Chancellor, Treasurer, Deans, department chairs, faculty members, students and media personnel were also present.

The engineering festival concluded with a prize giving ceremony giving credits to the winners of the many competitions followed by a performance by LRB which rocked the whole campus and was a well-deserved ending to a great event organised by the students.

CIVILFEST 2017 was sponsored by Heidelberg Cement (Scan Cement). The event was co-sponsored by Harbour Developments and BSRM. SHOUT was the English Print Media Partner of the event.



PHOTO: SAADMAN SAKIB RAHMAN

a Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure System" moderated by Professor Md. Mazharul Hoque, Dean of Civil Engineering, BUET. Shortly afterwards, the breakout sessions for school and college students started. The young minds from Scholastica, Bir Shrestho Munshi

extraordinary show and drew the curtains for that day.

The second day began with the Civil Engineering Students' Conference where, after a speech and presentation by Mushtaque Habib, Project Director, NSU, and Engr. Md. Tazul Islam, Senior

# BRIDGING THE DIVIDES

## Observing World Interfaith Peace and Harmony Week

ANUPOMA JOYEETA JOYEE

Since October 2010, the United Nations has adopted the first week of February as World Interfaith Peace and Harmony Week. Bangladesh's long fostered culture of religious harmony is under a threat now more than ever. Gen Lab, a youth organisation aims to create a platform for youth to engage in social development process of the country by acting together to bring about positive change. "Bridging the Divides - Bangladesh Peace & Harmony Week" has been Gen Lab's success story. With a view to attaining intercultural tolerance among young people coming from diverse religious

and cultural backgrounds, it is a platform to speak for peace, and tolerance, at a time when their peers are being poisoned by hate speech and seduced by divisive discourse. Bridging the Divides is an award-winning project of KAICIID, Morocco grant by Anupoma Niloya Troyee who is the Bangladeshi peace ambassador of A Common Word Among the Youth.

On February 2, a cultural programme called Soul Search set the tone for the week. Bangladeshis have, since time immemorial, united to the rhythm of Sufi, Kafi, Kirtan, folk, Lalon, Marfati which convey the message of humanity and peace. Young performers from NSU and BRACU and

musician Joy Shahriar offered some Sufi, Baul & Marfati, folk, classical songs while giving insights behind their lyrics, beauty of religious diversity and synchronicity of different cultures.

Following this event, an art competition among school kids on the theme of interfaith harmony was conducted the next day in We Foundation School. The aim was to sow the seeds of intercultural diversity in the young minds of children from grade 1 to 3. On February 6, US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat inaugurated the photo exhibition. The exhibition introduced 20 best photographs focusing religious coexistence and rich cultural ethnicity of Bangladesh. During the award giving ceremony, awards were handed over to the winners of essay competition as well – school-goers who demonstrated unprecedented consideration of the theme. Ratul Dev, founder of Gen Lab, said, "In surge of extreme religious violence, it is now clear that today's youth will decide the future of our country whether we brand ourselves as a secular Bangladesh believing in coexistence and harmony or a nation blind with primitive notions leading violence and terrorism."

# UAP Department of Pharmacy organises Brain\_Fest 2

Department of Pharmacy of UAP organised the grand finale of intra-departmental quiz competition "Brain\_Fest 2" on February 2, 2017.

VC Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury chaired the programme as the chief guest. BOT Chairman Qayum Reza Chowdhury contributed his valuable time and inspired the participants by giving his views and opinions.

Pro-VC Prof. Dr. M. R. Kabir, Treasurer Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury (Retd.), Registrar Sarwar R Chowdhury and Head Department Prof. Dr. Swarnali Islam Khandaker were also present in the programme.

After going through a large scale of contest, only 4 teams were selected for the finale. In the end, team Supersonic achieved the title of champions of this mega event. The winner team received a crest, gifts and memento from the VC.

