

Ingraining Ideals of International Business

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North South University International Business Club (NSUIBC) organised Globescope 2.0 "Breakthrough to Excellence" on April 4 at NSU AUDI 801. Intended to give attendees a taste of international business, three keynote speakers discussed the diverse fields linked to the subject.

This edition of Globescope, a more prominent event than the first, had approximately 300 students attending. In the inaugurating speech, Zarjina Tarana Khalil, Senior Lecturer and Chair, Marketing and International Business, talked about core changes made to the curriculum of international business in order to have more students involved. Regarding the nature of this event, she said, "This is an interactive session. I'd like for all to ask questions because that is what we wish to do through this event – so you can learn directly from the people who are in the business and not from a classroom."

The first session was conducted by Sifat Abir, Assistant Manager, Dept. In Charge (Import), Global Freight Ltd, MGH Group. He dwelled on the vast career opportunities in international trade and supply chain practices by explaining the aspects of his line of work. As a graduate

from NSU himself, Sifat was able to relate to his audience's current situation and remarked that "With the right kind of attitude, a positive approach, you can always find a better result."

Ahmed Tuhin Reza, Head of Partnership, Telenor Health, then commenced the second session with a refreshing approach by relating the journey of his career and integrating the parts of loyalty and retention in a corporation. He explored his view, as a frontrunner in the loyalty programme scene in the country, on how the ideas of retention and customer loyalty developed over the years.

"I don't follow much, I follow my own code. Ambition with determination, and an average level of common sense, makes you the person you want to be. I also do another thing. Mirror therapy. At the end of the day, I stand in front of the mirror and I know what I did right and wrong," Reza said, capping off his moving speech with inspirational final words.

Amid the sessions, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. G.U. Ahsan, took time off his busy schedule to address the audience of Globescope 2.0. He said, "I am working with people who will make the world beautiful. My level of satisfaction touches the sky."

In the final session, Kazi Mushfiqur Rahman, Group Brand Manager, British



American Tobacco, talked about his exposure working internationally; or, as he dubbed it, working in his home(s) away from home. "Don't ever feel short. Our education and workforce is world class or else so many of us wouldn't be going abroad to study or work." Rahman said reflecting on his experiences.

Ehfaz Nowman, Lecturer, North South University, Marketing and International

Business, said, "It's often very difficult to choose a major. We wanted to showcase the opportunities the students would get if they majored in this particular field and help them decide." Through the speakers who skilfully elucidated the core ideas of their work in international business and the insightful Q/A sessions following each segment, the event undoubtedly accomplished its goal.



ZOHEB MASHIUR

There is little in *The Expanse's* cold open of a lone woman in a spaceship having a nightmarish encounter that indicates it is the start of something remarkable. This show from Syfy is that rare thing: a respectful TV adaptation of hard, intricate science fiction. It's also pretty damn good.

The set-up is straightforward and by the standards of science fiction amusingly mundane. In the nearish future the UN has formed a world government, but unfortunately has steadily antagonised its Martian colonists to the point where the two planets have been on the brink of war for generations. Caught between these powers are the inhabitants of the many small moons, space stations and

asteroid belts – collectively these space dwellers, living without gravity, are the Belters.

A sci-fi story that takes place exclusively in our solar system – and that too in the closer planets? No one skipping from system to system in an afternoon? That's the philosophy *The Expanse* adheres to. Real physics triumph over handwaving, and this permeates throughout the series from its surface aesthetics (no artificial gravity, people use magnetic boots) to its actual plot. There is a skill to wringing tension and drama out of gravity, velocity and orbital patterns, and the writers of *The Expanse* have it in spades.

The commitment to realism creates a setting that feels alive, and characters who feel grounded in the world. This is partly a show about fancy technologies and con-

TV's Best Sci-fi Right Now

cepts in physics, yes, but these elements are there to produce the political context – which in turn breeds the characters and plot. *The Expanse* definitely has some of that Game of Thrones appeal with its tricky, opportunistic politics and likable cast.

The Belters are deformed, disenfranchised and resentful of being treated like the solar system's proletariat. Most of our main cast are drawn from their ranks and are caught in the struggle, by choice or happenstance. Identity and allegiance are crucial: lead character James Holden is a suspect character because he hails from Earth, and the deadbeat cop on the trail of the missing girl is regularly vilified as 'welwala': a Belter whose heart is drawn towards the interests of the planets, with their gravity wells. We meet Earthers who

side with the Belters, Earthers who would do anything to defend their home, Martians trained from birth to defend their barren homeland, and more space accents than you can shake a stick at.

Admittedly the series starts off a bit slow as it establishes the world; this pays off in a big way by the end of season one when everything suddenly clicks into place, but it can be a bit of a drag up to that point. By the time the second season rolls in, the plot is chugging forward and the actors have really gotten into the skins of their characters. It's worth bingeing before the season finale on the 20th (in Dhaka time).

Zoheb Mashiur is a prematurely balding man with bad facial hair and so does his best to avoid people. Ruin his efforts by writing to zoheb.mashiur@gmail.com