



Students at work inside the UIU premises.

PHOTO: SALIM SADMAN SAMOY

# EDUCATION AND MORE

MIDURI RAHMAN ATOSHEE

A while back, we shifted to the new campus of United International University, and it was quite a surprising change for everyone in the UIU family. However, we have now begun to see the benefits of the shift. Although the old Dhanmondi campus was pleasant, it was located in a tremendously busy part of the city. There were neither any fields for physical activities nor any greenery to cherish. We also faced the issues of sound pollution and traffic jams every-

day. As a matter of fact, we always longed for a bigger and better campus, and our new campus in Satarkul embodies everything we hoped for. It gives us an opportunity to move away from all the hustle and bustle of city life and hit the textbooks, surrounded by the beauty of nature.

Moreover, among other things, the campus has beautiful classrooms, a huge library, labs, study rooms and canteen and plenty of open spaces. These facilities have made the environment of the university well-suited for both academic and extra-

curricular activities. Now, we can easily find good seats for ourselves in the study rooms or the library, which was rarely possible in the old campus. Meanwhile, students can catch up with one another in between their lectures in the open spaces.

UIU has always encouraged us to pursue interests beyond academics. Different clubs organise programmes and seminars throughout the year. The lessons we learn from organising such events will help us in our future endeavours. Some members from UIU's Debate Club, Cultural Club, Theatre and Film Club and many more are

now working as well as pursuing their higher studies. Furthermore, students from the IEEE, Robotics and Computer Club have created a name for themselves in the field of technology.

Our university has always pushed us to pursue our dreams while not forgetting to enjoy life. To have a quality university experience, we need good education as well as facilities which will encourage us to nurture our talents. With this new campus, UIU gives us every opportunity to succeed.

The writer is an engineering student of UIU.

## Experiencing Beijing: A creative city

TAUFIQ -E- FARUQUE

It was a privilege to take part in "Experiencing China - Tsinghua International Summer School 2018" this July as a student from Bangladesh.

Getting to experience the educational environment of Tsinghua University and share my views and thoughts with people from different backgrounds was the most rewarding part of this exchange programme. Learning about Chinese culture, traditions, and contemporary issues from class lectures, various field trips, and excursions to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City were also part of my stay.

I took "Creative City" as my academic module in the programme. The "Creative City" is a concept for urban planning which was developed by David Yencken in 1988. This paradigm argues that a city must be one that is committed to fostering creativity among its citizens and to providing emotionally satisfying platforms and cultural experiences for them within the city.

Twelve cities across China, including its capital Beijing, are added to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network for their outstanding performance in creative innovation in areas like Media Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy and others.

Our academic track was designed to study the emergence and development of Beijing as a creative city. I chose this track to develop a greater understanding of the roots and cultural elements of Beijing.

As an ancient capital and the political center of China, Beijing is widely recognised as the country's cultural centre. The city has different cultural institutes, public libraries, museums, art galleries and theatres. Beijing maintains a balance between its rich traditional elements and modern cutting-edge technologies.

I visited several Hutongs, which are traditional residential areas with narrow lanes. Along with other students, I spoke to local residents who were preserving old architectural treasures of the Qing Dynasty era and sustaining them with new tools. We also visited urban revival project sites. These projects are working on re-adjusting the city's landscape to deal with newer challenges.

The Tongzhou area, a neighbourhood of Beijing which has been turned into a sub-city center to facilitate the decentralisation of adminis-

tration and high-tech manufacturing industries, was fun to visit. Moreover, I met young designers, artists and creative entrepreneurs in Beijing. It was fascinating to see how they are blending Chinese traditions and modern technologies to develop new products. I came to know how the stakeholders are trying to preserve the old spark of Beijing while still accommodating the new businesses and tourism inside the city. I think the city is at a crossroads of being modern and urban but also immensely culturally traditional.

I was also lucky enough to meet some Bangladeshi students pursuing their studies at Tsinghua University, who were a great help during my stay.

Beijing is one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Its trade, commerce, and industrial activities are fast expanding. Now, the cultural industries and creative initiatives need to keep up the pace with the rapid expansion of the city.

This exchange programme has given me the opportunity to enrich my understanding of the culture and traditions of today's China. I hope to bring the knowledge I gained from this experience to my classrooms and beyond.

Taufiq -E- Faruque studies International Relations at University of Dhaka.



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## HR CALIBRATION 2.0 Country's biggest HR competition

NSU HRC

North South University's Human Resources Club arranged the second installment of their signature event, HR Calibration 2.0. With the participation of 317 teams, the competition has risen as the biggest national competition on strategic HR model building.

The competition consisted of three phases. The first phase, held on July 13, 2018, was an online case solving and submission. The participants had to give a compatible solution to a problem that was based on the Rana Plaza incident. They were given a 24-hour time frame to solve and submit the case.

The second phase, conducted on July 20, 2018, consisted of the 40 teams that qualified through the first phase. The chosen teams were again given a case, but this time, it had to be solved within an hour to be presented in front of the judges.

After overcoming the hurdles of both the phases, only eight teams made it to the final round, where they were asked to build a strategic HR model for

RANCON within a 5-day time frame. Teams that stood out from the rest had the pride of wearing the crowns.

Besides, workshops titled 'Time Management' and 'Building Strategic HR Model' were arranged to help the participants brush up their HR skills.

Team Lajuk rose up as the second runner-up and won BDT 40,000. The Goal Diggers grabbed the first runner-up position and prize money BDT 60,000. Winning against all odds, team Kintsugi secured the first position, bagging BDT 1,00,000 as the

prize money.

Index Group was the title sponsor of HR Calibration 2.0. It was co-sponsored by Commerce Center. The print media partner was The Daily Jugantor, the TV media partner was DBC, the digital media partner was Next Motion and the radio partner was 96.4 Spice FM. The event had Wedding 2nd Chapter as the photography partner and Mayor as the T-shirt partner. RANCON served as their strategic partner. Star Youth, The Daily Star, was the youth engagement partner.



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## Taking Bangladesh to new heights

FARAH ULFATH PROMA

The Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC) is the largest of its kind within the Asia-Pacific region. The travelling academic conference brings together a tertiary-level UN simulation, where participants act as delegates from different countries and organisations to discuss and debate on pressing international issues. This year the conference took place at the University of New South Wales, which is a leading university in world, and ranked third in Australia.

Since 1995, this prestigious conference took place in a lot of universities in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. I am one of the very few Bangladeshis to be selected as a chairperson for this conference. This year, I was given the responsibility to be the director of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women committee. Also, my experience of chairing the Everest International Model United Nations Conference in Nepal (organised by the US Embassy, Nepal) helped me fulfill my duty.

My committee consisted of delegates from different universities of Asia and Australia. They represented different countries, debated on the topics related to women rights and provided solutions. I trained them, directed the committee and judged them for awards. I was able to achieve this opportunity after going through a rigorous selection process. Since Model United Nations experts from all over Asia and Australia dream to be a part of this prestigious event, I had to fight with them to ensure my position.

The writer is a student of Economics at Bangladesh University of Professionals.

Drop by the launching ceremony of 'Sehri Tales' today!

For millions of Muslims around the world, Ramadan stands for reflection, prayer and community. For Sabrina Fatma Ahmad, it is a time of intense creativity. So, she came up with an amazing idea. Her book, 'Sehri Tales' will be launched today afternoon at Batighar. Drop by for a day of free cakes, lemonades, lots of books and much more. The ceremony will be hosted by Worthy Publications.