



Members of Team Boost (winners of the Renewable Energy category), left, and members of Team Green Bees (winners of the Waste Management category), right, along with the organisers and the distinguished guests.

# GLOBAL HACKATHON 'CLIMATHON' CONCLUDES IN DHAKA

AL HAQ

Climathon was originally conceptualised as a hackathon by Climate-KIC, and has since taken off as a global movement, engaging citizens with climate action — and providing cities with continued support on the unique challenges they face, according to their website.

This year, the event took place concurrently in 116 cities where students, entre-

preneurs, programmers and policy makers congregated to work on determining innovative solutions to local climate change challenges. Bangladesh became part of the movement for the first time this year. In Dhaka, the event took place from October 26 - 27 at The Daily Star Centre's various halls. Gen Lab, a youth led social enterprise, partnered with Star Youth, The Daily Star, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT),

Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & IPDC Finance as prime organiser of the programme. The focal points of the challenge for the participants were, "How can Dhaka manage its waste effectively and efficiently at a low cost?" and "How can Dhaka build an energy efficient system where the citizens can use renewable energy as the main source of power?"

Ratul Dev, the founder of Gen Lab welcomed all the guests and participants during the inauguration, followed by welcome speeches from guests along with their expert opinions on climate change. Arif M Faisal, Programme Specialist, UNDP Bangladesh; Utpal Bhattacharjee, a leading expert in the field of energy and climate change; Md Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh and Manfred Fernholz, First Secretary, Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh were also speakers.

Team building and project introduction sessions, followed by a guest speech by Professor Doctor Ainun Nishat, a pioneering expert on water resource management and climate change in Bangladesh, were also organised. During his talk, the professor asked the youth to focus on solid scientific facts instead of being overpowered by emotions when it comes to taking actions. Further discussions were conducted by Nusrat Jahan, Project Management Expert, UNDP;

Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing, The Daily Star and others.

Interactive energisers like Zumba, Krav Maga, live music and yoga, were also carried out periodically, to which the participants reacted with much relief and joy. Later in the evening, the contestants engaged in intense brainstorming sessions where they came up with numerous ideas. The sessions were coordinated by mentors Sajib Hassan from Bangladesh Bank and Sidhartho Goshwami, UNDP. While pulling an all-nighter, the active participants from the eight different teams selected their best works to proceed with and shared it with each other. Next, the teams worked on "solution design". After dinner, team Micro Beats from Dhaka connected with a team from Hong Kong via Skype, where they both exchanged their ideas.

After a refreshing yoga session and breakfast, the teams were ready to pitch their ideas to the jury members, Shababa Ishaayat Haque, SDG Coordinator, ICCCAD and Saudia Anwer, Capacity Building Specialist, UNDP. The jury board was exceptionally impressed by the feasible ideas and encouraged the participants to carry them forward and manage funds for implementation.

The winners for Waste Management and Renewable Energy were Team Green Bees and Team Boost, respectively. The media partners for the event were Star Youth, The Daily Star, Somoy TV and Daily Samakal.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## THE FIRST EVER CLUB CARNIVAL OF DIU

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Recently, Students' Affairs of Daffodil International University (DIU) organised a club carnival for the first time. The engaging event featured a range of activities and received a positive response from the students. 14 clubs participated in the carnival, held at the campus of DIU in Savar, Dhaka. Students from different departments signed up to join their favourite clubs.

"We hosted the carnival because we wanted our students to communicate with each other," said Ejaj-ur Rahaman, Senior Lecturer

and Assistant Director, Students' Affairs of DIU. "Our objective was to inspire the executive members and the new students, and eliminate any sort of information gap."

Each club was assigned to bring personalities who are accomplished in their respective fields. Through the process, the students reached out to many people and learned new things. A cultural programme was also held to entertain the audience.

Alongside the extra-curricular activities at DIU, a golf club, a basketball court and a cricket and football field not only help the

students to stay fit, but also help them be more productive. Owing to the eco-friendly design of the campus, DIU received the 'Beautification Award' from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 2006.

The healthy environment also provides a diverse academic experience for the students, who can choose from a total of seventeen departments including Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Science and Information Technology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Science and the Faculty of Medical & Health Science for a quality education.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Shaping Chattogram's bustling cafe scene

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, from Chattogram

Barcode Cafe, Barcode Marina Capella, Burgwich Town, Barcode GEC, Mejjan Haile Aiyun and Bir Chattola — are all brainchildren of successful businessman, Monjurul Hoque, who began building his restaurant empire in Chattogram several years ago. He also owns another branch of Barcode at Banani in Dhaka and a cafe at the Asian University for Women in Chattogram.

"Upon my return to Bangladesh after completing my higher studies in Management from Singapore, I noticed how the younger generation in Chattogram had nowhere to spend their leisure time. In other countries, students can hang out or study in cafes. But there was a serious dearth of such facilities here and I saw that as an opportunity to start a business." Monjurul Hoque told The Daily Star.

At first, it did not seem to be his cup of tea. "Investing in a first time venture can be quite daunting as opposed to plunging into a previously tried and tested business. However, I mustered the courage to do the former and that has led my career to where it stands today," said Monjurul. Following the success of Barcode, several hundred other restaurants started business in the city.

As a piece of advice to young dreamers, Monjurul said, "If you simply focus on money, you won't be able to grow. Be passionate about what you do and it'll take you a long way. Dedication has no alternative."

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**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES**

### The Young Leaders' Programs (YLP) 2019-2020 by the Government of Japan

Applications for the Young Leaders' Programs by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Japan, are now open. This scholarship gives international students the opportunity to undertake Masters' programs.



DEADLINE: Varies | Full Scholarship

### GIST Tech-I Competition 2019

The U.S. Department of State invites applications for the 2019 GIST Tech-I competition. 24 finalists will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Bahrain to showcase their venture and to receive intensive training. GIST Tech-I winners, selected by experts at GEC, will win prizes, and receive one-on-one mentorship and training.

DEADLINE: November 23, 2018 | Competition

### OceanVisions2019 — Climate Summit at Georgia Tech in USA

Applications are now open for the OceanVisions2019 — Climate Summit 2018 in Georgia, USA from April 1 - 4, 2019. Climate Summit focuses on successes in resilience, adaptation, mitigation, and sustainability. Participants will receive funds and priority will be given to eligible applicants requiring only partial support (e.g. airfare or hotel/allowance).

DEADLINE: November 30, 2018 | Conference



One of the participating clubs at the carnival.

PHOTO: COURTESY