



(From left to right) Touhidul Alam, Technical Director of IECC and Andrew Reader, International Officer of University of Manchester.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

IECC and University of Manchester celebrate a decade of partnership

JABIR MISBAH

International Education Counselling Center (IECC), a leading student consultancy and foreign education related service provider in Bangladesh and University of Manchester, recently celebrated a decade of partnership with numerous informative sessions. Hosted by Andrew Reader, International Officer of University of Manchester. IECC launched this programme, in various educational institutions across Dhaka, with the intent of exposing and reintroducing University of Manchester into the Bangladeshi market as one of the top education centres of the world.

University of Manchester, ranked as the 34th best university by World Universities ranking, was established in 1824 and is part of the prestigious Russell Group of Universities.

It is respected across the globe as a centre of teaching excellence and innovative research.

With students from 66 different countries adding diverse values to the classrooms, University of Manchester is the largest single site university in the UK with almost 38,000 students. The institution is recognised for the quality of teaching and international-standard research led by 25 Nobel Prize winners in their current or former staff. For graduate employability, the university is ranked 35th, boasting an employability rate of ninety-four percent.

In 2018, University of Manchester was awarded third place in Reuters Top 100 Most Innovative Universities programme for their strides in fields of innovation.

On the other hand, IECC is the pioneer in the field of overseas education counsel-

ling services in Bangladesh, with 13 years of experience. With headquarters in Sheffield, UK, IECC is partners with and represents more than 300 top universities and colleges in the UK, Australia, Canada, Sweden and Malaysia. With free counselling services, facility exchanges, PhD opportunities and dedication to upgrading quality education in Bangladesh, IECC's embassy trained counsellors' panel is recognised by the British and Australian High Commissions as the best choice for promoting education in the respective countries. In its long list of partners, University of Manchester, Durham University, Simon Fraser University, Western University, University of Newcastle and University of Technology, Sydney stand out as top destinations for Bangladeshi students. IECC also boasts a visa success rate of ninety-five percent and provides services in free

pre-departure counselling, visa servicing, waiver counselling, accommodations and other education-oriented support.

In the 2016-17 session, University of Manchester was home to over 60 Bangladeshi students. "We want to assist Bangladeshi students. We love having Bangladeshi students on campus," commented Reader. "It adds diversity to the campus and value to the classroom."

Reader praised the professionalism and dexterity of IECC, reassuring that it is still the top choice for students who travel to the UK. He also indicated that for the new marketing scheme for the institution in Bangladesh, the two parties have planned a series of events to promote the quality of education University of Manchester has to offer.

Reader further confirmed that University of Manchester currently offers tuition waivers

ranging from GBP 1,000 - 10,000 for Science and Engineering departments and full tuition waivers in the Business School. The university also offers meritorious students the opportunity to earn grants based on their O Level and A Level or equivalent national curriculum grades. Reader also stated that students should focus on their grade point average, extracurricular qualifications and both academic and non-academic work experiences to further improve their chances at getting accepted in any university in the UK.

"We help students to recognise their true potential, and provide them with all the necessary support that they may require in their higher education, for which we are always looking to build associations with the best universities," explains Touhidul Alam, the technical director of IECC.

Venessa Kaiser's journey to Aesthesis



Venessa at work at Art Battle Dhaka 2018.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

22-year old Venessa Kaiser has been scribbling her world on paper, since she was three. Her artistic style is unique, blending surrealism and nihilism in both acrylic and digital art. Venessa was the winner of Bangladesh's first ever Art Battle in July 2018. "Art is a coping mechanism for me," says Venessa, who is an undergraduate Architecture student at North South University.

"I am intrigued by the intangible and fluctuating views on life, death and purpose." The artist, who battles mental health issues on a regular basis, says that art helps her immensely during the times when she is down.

Venessa Kaiser grew up in an artistic household, taking cues from her father, Taraq Kaiser, a famed stained glass artist and graphics designer. "Even though my father never forced me into art, he brought

me art supplies when I was a kid. He gave me the freedom to choose my own path, and I chose to be an artist," she says. As a self-taught artist, Venessa is adept with many mediums of art, including sculpting, welding and graphics design. In 2012 and 2013, she achieved world highest marks in Art in her O Levels and A Levels respectively.

Venessa operates as an artist on social media platforms with her page, 'Aesthesis'.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Apart from the art that she makes for herself, she does commission work regularly, often giving bland office spaces and cafés a distinct personality with her creativity. Moving forward, Venessa is adamant on mastering all the nuances of what would propel her to be one of the most versatile artists in the industry. "There's a long way to go, but I have given everything to art, and I will continue to do so for as long as I can," she says.



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