



The UIU campus in Madani Avenue.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

UIU: A beautiful green campus in Dhaka

SHARMIN JOYA

United International University (UIU) was established in 2003, in Dhanmondi. Later, in 2018, they shifted to Madani Avenue with the purpose of constructing a large green campus. The entrance of the university is spacious. The property, which stands on a land of 25 *bighas*, has a huge green field, entirely bedded with grass, as its central attraction. There is also a lake beside the field. From the 13-storied university building, the students, teachers and staff members get a beautiful view of the field. "Our field is built by professionals, as a suitable space for the cricket and football tournaments for our students," says Abu Sadeed Md Montasirbilla, Deputy Director, Public Relations. The UIU community has plans of building a walkway over the lake soon.

Besides building a green campus, their eco-friendly initiatives also aim to preserve the greenery. "We intend to plant more trees and reduce the use of paper as much as we can," says Professor Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, UIU. Their software, Moodle, is used by students and teachers to carry out academic activities online.



Professor Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, UIU

PHOTO: STAR

The students enjoy the greenery and the calm atmosphere of the campus. Jocelyn Veronica Biswas, a student from the Department of Economics, spoke about her experience of studying at UIU. "The large corridors, naturally lit classrooms, friendly teachers, vast green field, and beautiful structure of the campus have always attracted me," she shares. UIU also provides shuttle service for the students, and has transport facilities for the teachers and



Students at the large corridors in UIU.

staff members. Furthermore, a cleaning company, associated with UIU, makes sure that the university premises are kept clean at all times.

UIU uses advanced technology, and encourages their students to preserve natural resources. "We intend to lower the usage of fossil fuels and promote the usage of solar energy. We want students to understand the advantages of solar power, and implement eco-friendly practices into their own lives," says the Vice-Chancellor.



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Become an Ashoka Young Changemaker

Ashoka Bangladesh is inviting nominations for the Ashoka Young Changemakers. It is a carefully selected network of young people who have found their power to create positive changes and are ready to take on a new role as co-leaders of the Everyone a Changemaker™ movement.

DEADLINE: October 15 | Competition

FutureReady ASEAN Competition 2019 (Win a Fully funded Trip to Bangkok)



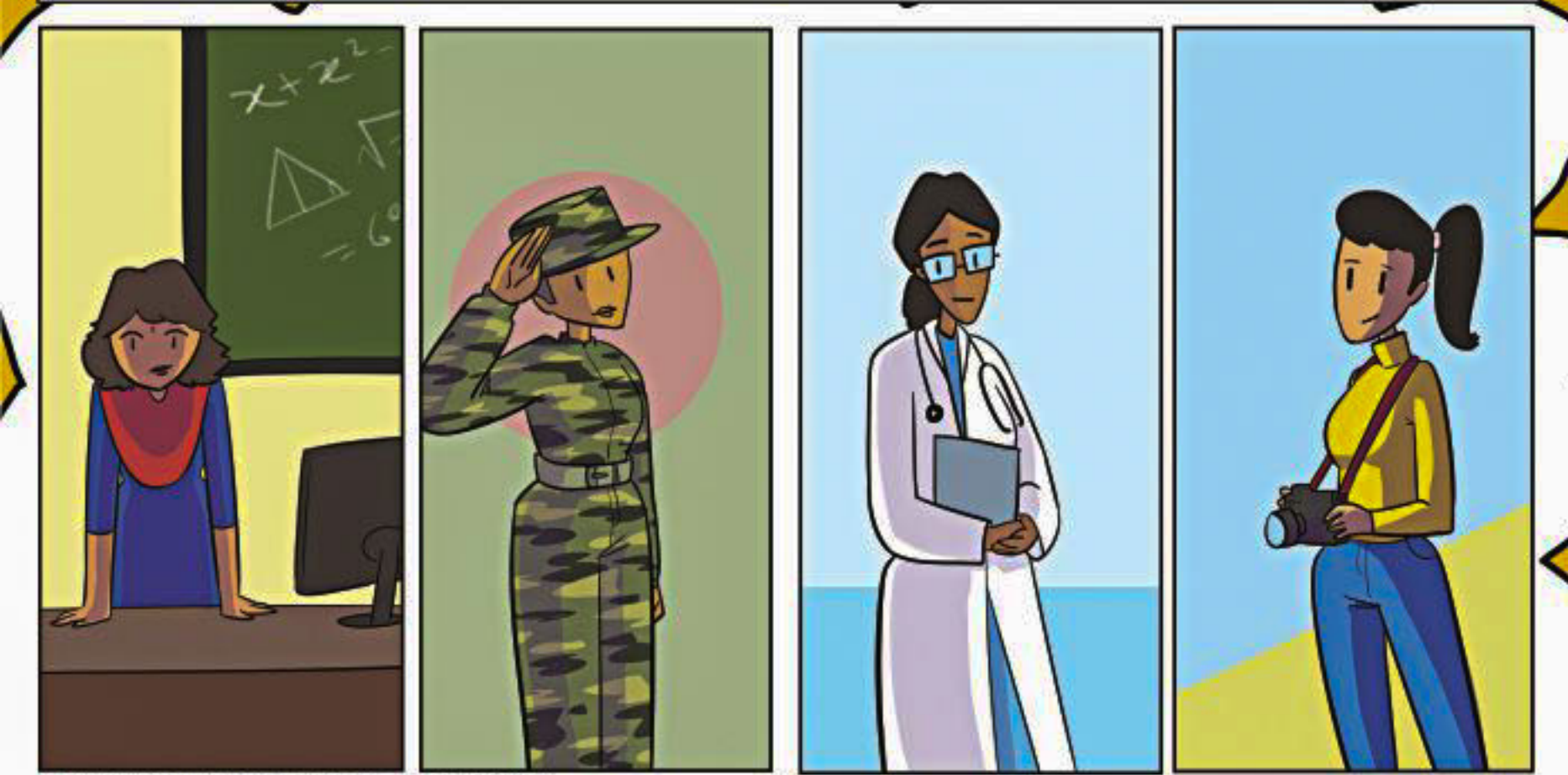
Applications are now open for the FutureReady ASEAN Competition 2019. The theme of the competition is "Create a Blog Site on Sustainability". It is a front-end web development competition based on the Future Ready ASEAN platform's Digital Citizen track.

DEADLINE: October 13, 2019 | Competition

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The girl who never lost hope



PHOTO: PIYAS BISWAS

SHARMIN JOYA

Born into a conservative family in Rangamati, Monika Chakma has made her mark in the field of football internationally. She is the youngest of five sisters. On International Day of the Girl Child (October 11), we caught up with Monika to learn more about her journey and aspirations.

"I developed a keen interest in football from a young age. I played it with the boys in my area, but my father did not like it. Despite his reluctance, I continued playing the sport," shares Monika.

Monika played in the Bangamata Gold Cup in 2011, and earned national attention after the Plan Under-15 tournament. She played in the Bangamata Gold Cup in 2012

and 2013 as well.

With her persistence and efforts, the midfielder succeeded in changing her father's mind. "My father saw me at a match in Maghachari. He was impressed by the way I played and since then, he has been really supportive," says Monika.

In 2014, following a trial in Rangamati, Monika was called up to play for the Bangladesh Women's National U-14 Football Team. She went on to become a football sensation with her remarkable performance in the qualifying round of the 2017 AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers.

Monika played a vital role in the tournament finals defeating the Chinese Taipei, Iran, Singapore, Kyrgyzstan and UAE teams in the qualifiers. In total, Bangladesh scored 26

goals in the competition, surrendering only twice.

Bangladesh defeated Mongolia in the semi-final of the Bangamata U-19 Women's Gold Cup earlier this year. Monika scored a stunning goal in that match at Bangabandhu National Stadium minutes before the half-time whistle, which made everyone proud, especially her coach, Golam Rabbani Choton. Her wonder goal was featured as one of the top five moments that week in "FIFA Fans' Favorite". Monika is grateful to the Bangladesh Football Federation for giving her the opportunity to fulfil her dreams.

The passionate player aims to represent Bangladesh in other international platforms, and take women's football to remarkable heights.