



Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury (6-L) at CER with the students.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

The research labs at UIU

YOUTH DESK

Centre for Energy Research (CER) was established in September 2010 at United International University (UIU). It aims to develop research on the policy formulation, utilisation and efficient management of renewable and sustainable energy.

Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, is the director of the research centre. Many laboratories have been developed under CER with grants to carry out tests and researches in the field of renewable energy. "CER is one of the leading renewable energy research and consultancy centres in Bangladesh," said Chowdhury.

So far, the centre has successfully facilitated more than 50 projects on renewable energy and climate change. It has designed several solar diesel hybrids, mini-grids for rural electrification and grid connected solar PV power plants.

CER won the UN Momentum for Change 2016 at the 22nd edition of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, and Inter Solar Award 2016 in Munich, Germany, in the category of Outstanding Solar Projects. The research centre also received funds for "Demand Response Enabled Smart Grid" from Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (EPRC) of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, last year.

CER is one of the testing and certification institutions of Solar Home System (SHS) equipment in Bangladesh. As of now, it has tested over 300 SHS equipment, includ-



CER receives a grant from the Bangladesh EPRC.

ing LED lamps, charge controllers and batteries. CER also organises workshops, seminars, training and capacity building activities in the field of solar PV technology in Bangladesh. So far, it has trained more than 1,500 engineers and technicians in solar PV technology. The research centre also successfully completed projects with renowned institutes and universities around the world.

So far, CER has received grants for running their projects from World Bank, and many recognised organisations around the world, including Asian Development Bank, German Technical Cooperation, German Academic Exchange Services, Department of Energy and Climate Change, UK, Engineering and Physical Science Research Council, UK, Department for International Development, UK, and Infrastructure Development Company Ltd.

In December 2014, Dr Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun, Professor, Department of CSE, UIU, started a research laboratory called, Advanced Intelligent Multi-disciplinary Systems Lab (AIMS Lab). It was established to develop the information and technology section of Computer Science and Biomedical Engineering research in Bangladesh. "The lab focuses on training the students and young faculty members to develop their skills as researchers," he said.

Furthermore, the institute for Advanced Research (IAR) was established in 2018 to support and fast-track research and development in UIU. "We have a plan to provide funds to faculty members who are interested in research," said Professor Dr M Rezwana Khan, Former Vice-Chancellor and Executive Director, Institute of Advanced Research, UIU. "We believe that this initiative will bring about qualitative changes in the research culture at UIU and in Bangladesh at large."

The CMED Health Research Commercialisation of AIMS Lab, UIU, won The HEAD Foundation Innovative Social Enterprise Award in the DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia 2018. The event was jointly organised by National University of Singapore and DBS Foundation in Singapore in 2018.

The first training academy for VLSI and analogue IC design in Bangladesh was established at UIU in 2016. It began with an objective to develop trained professionals. On the other hand, their Centre for Development of IT Professionals (CDIP) conducts different IT industrial training sessions for the students.



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



The Community Solutions Program (CSP) 2020-2021 in USA

IREX is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 Community Solutions Program. The Community Solutions Program (CSP) is a year-long professional development program for people who are working to improve their communities by addressing issues related to the environment, tolerance, conflict resolution, transparency, accountability, women and gender.

DEADLINE: October 30, 2019 | Exchange Program

SHUTTER FEST 2020

Change Your Lens, Not Your Story

Shutter Fest 2020

Fotozo, a renowned organisation is going to arrange Shutter Fest 2019. Fotozo would like to call young photographers for the festival. They are enthusiasts of photography, videography, quiz and ad making.

DEADLINE: November 30, 2019 | Competition

World Youth Forum 2019 in Egypt (Fully Funded)

World Youth Forum is a platform built by promising youngsters. It sends a message of peace, prosperity, harmony, and progress to the world. It engages the youth from around the globe in an enriching set-up, allowing them to exchange views and recommend initiatives to decision-makers and influential figures.

DEADLINE: November 10, 2019 | Conference



Traveller Najmun Nahar Sohagi creates history



PHOTO: STAR

SHARMIN JOYA

Najmun Nahar Sohagi is the first Bangladeshi woman to travel to 135 countries across the globe, carrying the national flag of her country.

Najmun has set an example for young travellers. "Beyond race, culture and ethnicity, we all should live happily and explore the beauty of our planet," she says.

She is inspired by her paternal grandfather and her father, who also loved

travelling. She studied in Lund University, Sweden. Her mother has accompanied her to 14 countries.

This year, the travel enthusiast received the Miss Earth Queen Award and Youth Conference Globe Award at the Fobana Summit, Nassau Coliseum. She also received the Atish Dipankar Gold Medal Award and the Zonta International Club Award, in the category of outstanding contribution to women empowerment. In addition, she achieved the Red Crescent Motivational Award.

Recently, she travelled to all the countries of Central America. Costa Rica was her 135th country. The journey was challenging for Najmun. "I have confronted several situations where my life was at risk," she says. "Once, I got stranded in a mangrove forest in the middle of the night. On another occasion, I got stuck in a sandstorm in the Sahara Desert."

Najmun has been travelling for 19 years. She aims to visit all the countries that are a part of the United Nations, in the next two years.