

MASTER READER

“I want to write my own stories.”



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

MOHUA MOULI

For the school round of The Daily Star’s campaign, “Master Reader”, SHOUT went to Heritage School in Narayanganj on October 24, 2019. The competition focuses on encouraging the youth to read and to enrich their knowledge in English language.

The competition started with Group 1, which consisted of students from Classes 5 and 6. A total of 25 students gathered into a classroom, excited and curious about what was to come next. Each student was provided with a notebook, a pen and an issue of the supplement, SHOUT. They were tasked with two things: completing a crossword puzzle game in an hour and in between, each of the students would go into the next room to participate in a reading competition in front of a panel of judges.

During the highly competitive puzzle-solving segment, students read the SHOUT issue to find clues to complete the game. The game focused on testing the students’ vocabulary. During the reading test, many of the students showed a very good grasp on reading a newspaper. The students were also asked impromptu questions on the article they had just read and all of them were able to answer adequately.

Tanish Sheikh from Class 6 was announced the winner from Group 1, who performed excellently in the game as well as the reading test.

As for the competition for Group 2, which comprised of students from Classes 7 and 8. In this group the students showed a great level of enthusiasm for their public speaking contest with many citing their interest in reading and creative writing. The segment started off with the students reading a particular SHOUT article and preparing a speech within a given period of time. After taking extensive notes and preparing their speeches, they were provided with the word puzzle while each student took turns to sit for the test.

Several students in this category not only talked about their interests but also spoke about their passion for learning new things. One student from Class 8 spoke about his passion for learning about sustainable energy while another student from Class 7 gushed about their love for writing fantasies.

After a highly competitive round, Mostafa Saif Bin Iqbal from Class 7 was announced the winner from Group 2.

When asked about their experience in participating in this competition, one student said, “I read SHOUT often and this competition made me want to try to write stories of my own.”

The winners from Group 1 and 2 will get the chance to represent their school in the final round of Master Reader, where they will be competing against other representatives from ten other schools from different parts of the country.



A carnival of colours at IUB

ALIZA RAHMAN

October 23, 2019 marked the beginning of Independent University, Bangladesh’s annual three-day Club Carnival. Inaugurated by the acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Milan Pagon, and attended by the deans, faculty members, and students of IUB, the event started with music, dance, and bicycle stunts.

All 36 clubs of IUB participated in this event. The members set up stalls that were colourfully decorated and displayed a plethora of items ranging from trophies and photographs of their activities to cricket bats, mugs, jerseys, and books.

Saiful Kabir, In-charge of the Division of Student Affairs, which arranged the event, said, “The Club Carnival is a common platform for students, with all the opportunities under one roof. The students get the chance to display their talents and skills and show the IUB authorities, faculty members and staff their national and international achievements.”

This became evident when seeing the stalls. The different clubs had come up with innovative ways to encourage participation and engage people such as asking people to submit a 1-minute scary movie to arranging a speaking competition for children in school.

When asked about the activities carried out by the club, Rafa from IUB’s Independent Accounting Association Club mentioned how they hold competitions and workshops for students and even arrange for trips to places where students can hear from professionals what a career in finance and accounting would be like.

The members of other clubs also talked enthusiastically about their activities. Toersa, a member of the Global Gatekeeper’s Club, said, “What makes this club special is that instead of focusing on one aspect, it takes a multidisciplinary approach to looking at issues.” Shafrin, of IUB Film Club, said, “We don’t just review films, we make and direct them, and also teach students to make them.”

The second day of the Club Carnival saw a cultural programme. On the third and final day there was a concert where popular singer James performed with his band.



SEU Economics Department organises study visit

Southeast University (SEU) Economics Department organised a study visit at the Ministry of Planning on October 24, 2019 with a view to acquiring knowledge about the activities of the Ministry of Planning and planning processes. The students enjoyed inspiring talks by M. A. Mannan MP, Minister of Planning and Prof. Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), General Economics Division (GED). All the faculty members, including Prof. Dr. M. A. Hakim, Director, IQAC and Madiha Khan, Chairperson of the Department, and the students of the department participated in the study visit.