

THE DAILY STAR CAMPUS STARS

BRAC University pledges to nurture future leaders

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

"The Daily Star Campus Stars" is a show that highlights promising young individuals who have excelled in their academics and extracurricular activities, alongside securing success in their professional paths. The fifth episode of the show took place on June 22, 2021, featuring panellists from BRAC University.

The online programme was hosted by Shuvashish Roy, Head of Business, *The Daily Star*. Dr David Dowland, Registrar, BRAC University, Fuad Hassan Mallick, Professor and Dean, School of Architecture and Design, BRAC University were in attendance.

BRAC University alumnus Md Tajdin Hassan, Chief Strategy and Digital Transformation Officer, *The Daily Star*, alongside Alif Hossain, a student of BBA in Finance and Supply Chain Management BRAC Business School, BRAC University were also present.

Dr David Dowland started the session with a presentation where he introduced BRAC University, and spoke about the legacy of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder of the NGO, BRAC.

"I flew thousands of miles to work here. BRAC is often described as a national labo-

ratory and provides a great resource for its university," he said. "We want to help our students develop critical thinking and improvisation skills."

"We have dedicated a significant amount to help students cope with their financial needs amidst this pandemic. BRAC University is also the only educational institution to become an inaugural member of Open Society University Network, as both the institutions share the same mission of international, impactful engagement and student experience," he added.

BRAC University is looking forward to moving into the single largest university building which extends over 1.7 billion square feet. "It is a sustainable design as it eco-friendly, offering greenery within the campus. It is designed by award winning architects from Singapore-based company WOHA. The campus, powered partly by solar panels, is student-centric with an amazing open space on its roof top, which offers facilities such as a swimming pool," says Fuad Hassan Mallick.

BRAC University is also investing in introducing new schools at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The BRAC team is



currently working to establish two new disciplines – Grad School of Management, and School of Data and Sciences. They are also looking to invest further in Pharmacy.

The university also developed its own online learning platform 'BUX', which is built on a world-class platform developed by MIT and Harvard. It enables students to learn from any location and device with internet connectivity. The university also secured the third rank globally in the URC2020 competition with their next-gen Mars rover, Mongol-Tori.

The courses and curriculum offered by BRAC University allow students to not only attain academic excellence, but also be

nurtured by their teachers. "Our residential semester, which offered courses on culture and ethics, allowed me to learn more about the world, and enhance my emotional intelligence," shared Alif Hossain. "Incorporating compassion with academic knowledge is what makes this university different from others."

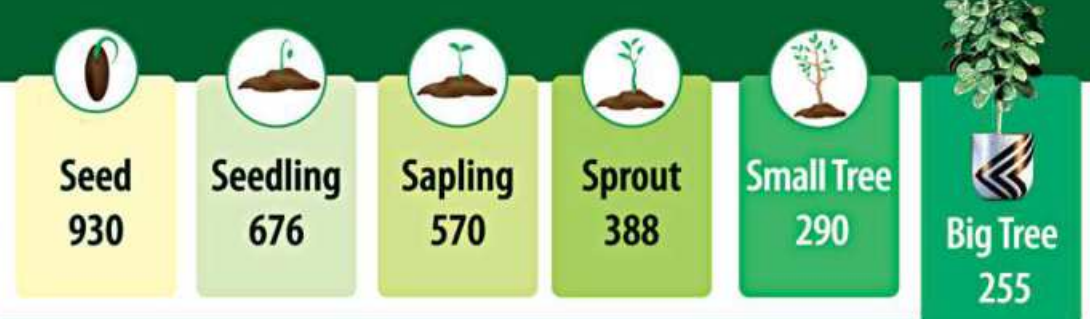
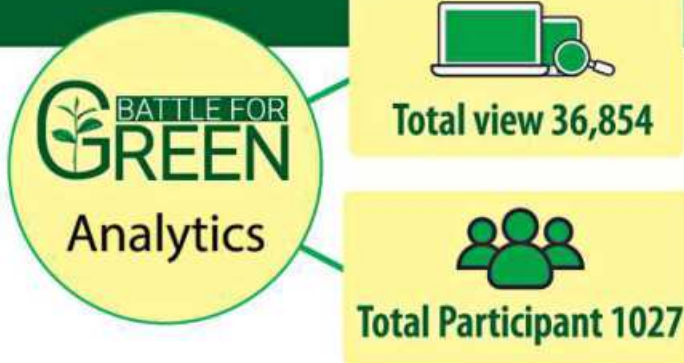
Md Tajdin Hassan shared how BRAC University helped him land his first job. "I still remember how I came across Shabab Hossain from BIT Bangladesh, who used to take our course on salesmanship during my last semester. His discussions inspired me, and after securing a good score, he asked if I

would be interested in BIT. I worked through all the recruitment processes and finally was able to start my career with one of the biggest agencies in the country," he said. "In my career, I have had a lot of hiccups. However, I believe adaptability is the key. It is one quality that I gained from this university, which always helped me overcome my hurdles." The session ended with a vote of thanks from Shuvashish Roy. "BRAC graduates are showing prospects in all sectors of the country and also gaining strong ground internationally. With an aim to nurture future leaders, BRAC seems to be on the right course," he concluded

BATTLE FOR GREEN - A GAMIFICATION PLATFORM TO CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

To commemorate World Environment Day 2021, The Daily Star and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly launched an initiative, called "Battle for Green", where people of all ages can take up small challenges, earn incentives while going through them, and pledge to the cause of protecting and safeguarding the environment.

To learn more, visit - <http://campaign.thedailystar.net/battleforgreen/>



Leaderboard

Mahfuz Anam
Editor and Publisher
The Daily Star

The environment is the foundation of all civilization that sustains our economies. This natural capital is important because earth is the only home that humans have, on which all of our well-being depends. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect the environment. The Daily Star's initiative -- Battle for Green -- aims to enlighten people about the importance of the environment.

Sudipto Mukerjee
Resident Representative
UNDP Bangladesh

The Covid-19 crisis has shown us the need to be in harmony with nature and to take good care of our ecosystem and environment. As with many other movements in Bangladesh, starting with the war of liberation, it was the youth in large numbers who made victory possible. And so, in partnership with The Daily Star, we undertook this awareness-raising campaign targeting the youth. The overwhelming response to the call yet again proves beyond doubt that the youth, when given the opportunity or when they sense the need, are always at the forefront of driving change.

Aayan Masood 116 points	Ahana Tajnim Khan 111 points	Tausif Jawad 105 points	Syed Uzzal 88 points	Shayonton Chakraborty 87 points
Md. Naimul Islam Meem 85 points	Maria Hossain 83 points	Loller 82 points	Rezwana Rahman 81 points	Mahdir Alam 80 points

Moyeen Kazi University of Arizona	Youlee Azaz Oxford International School	Nazifa Khanam University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh	Ibrahim Abdullah Shehab North South University
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Not only was taking part in the Battle for Green fun, it was a great learning experience too. It tested my knowledge of the environment and made me more aware of critical issues. I pledged to become more active and spread awareness, reduce waste and the use of plastic. Planting a tree also felt great and the event brought some changes to my mentality. I look forward to working for the environment.

The Battle for Green helped build up my basic knowledge on environmental issues. As human beings, I feel it is our duty to care for our surroundings and we can begin to do so by simply throwing our garbage in bins rather than the street, and avoid wasting electricity. Everyone should be made aware of the current environmental issues.

After coming across this online game, the Battle for Green, I realised the effectiveness of its theme, which is solemnly based on protecting nature. The game gradually exposes players to multiple underlying issues that may disrupt the environment and solutions that could help avoid such situations. For example, how a person can refrain from misusing natural resources.

Saving the environment from manmade disasters is one of the most essential and crucial topics of today's world. So, to create awareness or help understand the need of a healthy environment, the Battle for Green initiative has helped immensely. The second step of the quiz, styled "knowledge meter", was fun as it helped me gather information on the environment. To sum up, Battle for Green is an opportunity to create awareness as it has multiple steps that helped enhance my knowledge.

Pledge

Subaita Arwa
I hereby pledge to save energy by minimizing the waste of electricity, and plant more trees.

Rafidah Hasan
I hereby pledge that I will always think of the environment before making any decision that might affect it. I also pledge to educate the people around me to do the same.

Md Abdullah Hossain Mim
I hereby pledge to plant as many trees as I can and motivate others to do so as well. I also pledge that if I have to cut one tree, I will plant five more in its place.

Anas Islam
I hereby pledge to keep my surroundings clean and never waste natural gases. I also pledge to plant more trees and keep our areas free of pollution.

Afeefa Anwar
I hereby pledge to never waste clean water, always throw waste in the garbage bin, reduce the use of plastics and recycle it as much as possible. I also pledge to plant lots of trees and do my part to protect the environment.

Tafannum Sadaf Taha
I hereby pledge to use sustainable products so that waste reduces from my side.

Md Rasel Islam
I promise I will never litter on the street. I will always try to store my waste in a bag until I can throw it away at home.

Namira Syed
I pledge to plant trees, volunteer for cleanups in our community and most importantly, help enhance education.