

The Daily Star EduSummit 2023



The Daily Star and Uttara University jointly organized the second version of EduSummit this year on the 24th of January, 2023 - the international day of education. It was a day-long summit consisting of four exclusive sessions.

The virtual summit kicked off with Professor Dr. Eaysmin Ara Lekha, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Uttara University delivering a keynote speech on "Grooming up the next generation of young leaders".

"Private Universities play a vital role in grooming students to become leaders. Problem-solving, critical thinking, self-awareness, empathy - are the things a student should focus on to stand out. When a student is being able to study his/her favourite subject, they will excel. Students should develop both their soft skills and technical skills," she shared her thoughts.

A panel session was held after that, on bridging the gap between industry and academia through collaborations. The speakers for the session were, Rubayat Saleheen - Head of Marketing and Communication at Guardian Life Insurance Ltd., Monsurul Aziz - Head of Communications Strategy at Nagad, Professor S.M. Arifuzzaman - Head, the School of Business at the Canadian University of Bangladesh. The session was moderated by Rafeed Elahi Chowdhury - Senior Brand Specialist at The Daily Star.

"Our teachers should play an extensive role to make sure this gap doesn't exist. I always try to ensure that the learning journey doesn't end within the classroom, but also implemented in real life", shared S.M. Arufizzaaman.

Rubayat Saleheen added, "People who have a knack for learning the latest subjects to adapt to technological advancement, will eventually learn. But the academia should equip students with basic life skills that are compulsory for everyone, like learning how to manage finances."

"In these difficult times, our institutions should ensure that the students are equipped with the basic knowledge to ace in careers," stated Monsurul Aziz.

There was another keynote session on "Transformational Leadership: Turning today's youth to tomorrow's leaders", conducted by Ejazur Rahman - Managing Director and Lead Coach, Mind Mapper Bangladesh and CEO, ISCEA (Asia).

"Many think that to become a leader, one needs a position. That's not true. To become a leader, one needs a choice. We can't control or change what other people do. Then how should we address that as a leader? By doing the right things that will inspire people to follow and act accordingly" mentioned Ejazur Rahman.

Lastly, there was another panel session on Investing in Quality Education: Past, Present, and Future. The speakers for the panel were - Galib Ibn Anwarul Azim -

Regional Technical Specialist, Pacific Region at United Nations Capital Development Fund, Tony Michael - Adviser at Oxfam in Bangladesh, and Tanjilut Tasnuba, National Programme Officer (Policy and Governance), Skills 21 Project, at ILO Bangladesh. The moderator for this session and the host of the entire event were Tanjim Ferdous, In-Charge, NGOs, and Foreign Missions at The Daily Star.

"A lot of standardization is required to know how the curriculum can be improved. And for that, we need to go develop a lot of policies to streamline the issues," shared Tanjilut Tasnuba.

Tony Michael added, "Showing high numbers of enrollment is not that tough. We have crossed numbers theoretically in

several parameters. However, how much have we achieved from a realistic sense?"

"We have to change the tone of textbooks for the young generation. I wonder for how long will we follow textbooks instead of bringing in audio-visuals. Our generation learns more from memes. He/she is aware of what's happening around through memes. Then why should we educate them on the facts through textbooks?" shared Galib Ibn Anwarul Azim.

EduSummit 2023, an initiative of The Daily Star and Uttara University concluded with discussions on incorporating the industry, developing policies on the grassroots level, focusing on skill development, etc.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



PROF. DR. EAYSMIN ARA LEKHA
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Uttara University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



EJAZUR RAHMAN
Managing Director & Lead Coach
Mind Mapper Bangladesh
CEO, ISCEA (Asia)

HOST



TANJIM FERDOUS
In-Charge, NGOs & Foreign Missions
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SPEAKERS



RUBAYAT SALEHEEN
Head of Marketing & Communication
Guardian Life Insurance Limited



MONSURUL AZIZ
Head of Communications Strategy
Nagad



PROF. S.M. ARIFUZZAMAN
Head, School of Business
Canadian University of Bangladesh

MODERATOR



RAFEED ELAHI CHOWDHURY
Senior Brand Specialist
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SPEAKERS



TONY MICHAEL
Adviser
Oxfam in Bangladesh



TANJILUT TASNUBA
National Programme Officer
(Policy and Governance)
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GALIB IBN ANWARUL AZIM
Regional Technical Specialist, Pacific Region
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