

## NOTICE BOARD

## Freshman student orientation for Summer 2023-24 at AIUB

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) conducted its freshman student orientation on June 1 as a formal induction for all the newly enrolled students of the upcoming semester. The sessions were organised separately for undergraduate and graduate programmes across the four faculties. Representatives from the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) provided the new students with essential information regarding the various policies, services, and regulations of the university. They also outlined the procedures for effectively utilising the university's resources and tools to support their academic journey.

Ishtiaque Abedin, Founder Member and Chairman of the AIUB Board of Trustees, graced the session as the Chief Guest. In his address, he warmly welcomed the students and their



guardians, expressing gratitude for their enthusiastic participation.

The event was also enlightened by the presence of Professor Dr Saiful Islam, the Vice Chancellor of AIUB, who inspired the new students with his words of wisdom.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Proctor, Deans, and Heads of Departments of the university shared their experiences and guidance with the students, to help them transition smoothly. The event featured the distinguished presence of numerous faculty members, key officials, volunteers, and of course the students and their guardians.

The AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) added to the vibrant atmosphere with their amazing musical performances, welcoming the freshmen onboard in their new endeavour.

## SMU holds inter-university Chinese language bridge contest

"The Chinese Language Bridge Competition can bring the two peoples of Bangladesh and China closer together and contribute as a language bridge to boost bilateral cooperation," said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen. He also emphasised the need to build a Chinese-speaking Bangladeshi youth group, so that they can act as China's window to Bangladesh and Bangladesh's window to China.

Ambassador Yao said this in his address as the Chief Guest at a lively event titled "The 23rd Chinese Language Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, Bangladesh Qualifier Round" held at the BCS Administration Academy Auditorium in Dhaka. Shanto-Mariam-Honghe Confucius Classroom organised the Chinese Language Bridge under the joint auspices of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and the Center for Languages Exchange and Education of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The Bangladesh preliminary of the event was co-organised by the Confucius Institutes at Dhaka University and North South University, and the China Power Construction Corporation.

Shanto-Mariam University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Md Shah-E-Alam; Rector of BCS Administration Academy Dr Md Omar Faruque; Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Li Shaopeng; Power China representative Han Kun; Dhaka Bureau Chiefs of China Media Group and Xinhua News, and Bangladeshi and Chinese faculty representatives from Dhaka University, North South University, and Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology were present at the event among others.

In the welcome speech, Prof. Shah-E-Alam said that the future of Bangladesh-China

relations will be accelerated by the youths of both the countries practicing their own languages. The development of the bilateral relations requires increasing number of Bangladeshi youths being good at Chinese and understanding of China. He expressed the hope that the "Chinese Bridge" can continue to be a bridge of friendship, communication, and cooperation between the two peoples.

The Rector (Secretary) of BCS Administration Academy said in his speech that Padma Bridge, Karnaphuli Tunnel, Payra Power Plant, and other milestone mega projects have been completed in Bangladesh with the direct cooperation of China. Chinese language education is very important to enhance cooperation and exchanges in multifaceted sectors including education, technology and training between the two countries, and Chinese language training courses have recently been launched at the academy as well.

Bushra Mebasswera Mahmud won the title in a fierce competition. Shan Jaareen was second and Aminatun Tayyiba was third. The champion of the Bangladesh phase will later travel to China for the international trophy and the second prize winner will be there as a spectator. Apart from this, the next four will be sent to a free summer camp in China. The ambassador also promised to give special privileges to the other three contestants.

"Chinese Bridge" is a major international Chinese language testing competition for the overseas Chinese language students, organised by the Center for Languages Exchange and Education of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The competition has two stages: preliminary competitions held in different countries, and the finals held in China.



## UCB partners with University of Central Lancashire to offer affordable UK degrees in Bangladesh

Universal College Bangladesh (UCB) has recently partnered with the UK's prestigious University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). An exclusive agreement was signed between the two reputed educational institutes with the aim to open up a new avenue for Bangladeshi students to avail affordable UK-degrees without leaving the country.

In this regard, a signing ceremony took place on June 1 at the UCB Campus in Gulshan, Dhaka. Bob Kundanmal, Chairman, Board of Directors, UCB, and Prof. Catherine Jackson, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, signed the agreement for their respective organisations. The event was graced by esteemed personalities, including Chief Guest Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, Minister of Education and Guest of Honour Sarah Cooke, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Special Guests in attendance included Begum Shamsun Nahar, MP, Deputy Minister of Education; Zarif Munir, Director, UCB, and Manas Singh, CEO, STS Group. Prof. Hew Gill, President and Provost, welcomed the guests at the event.

All activities of the three-year UCLan programme will take place in Bangladesh. The programme at UCB has been awarded 5 QS Stars (Excellent) for internationalisation and inclusiveness. According to The Center for World University Rankings 2023, UCLan ranks in the top seven percent of the universities worldwide. To help students' experience a smooth journey, UCB is providing attractive learning facilities like sports membership, compact campus environment, resource-enabled library etc.

Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said, "We have to focus on enriching the nation's future workforce by empowering our youth with timely skills that align with the demands of not just the local but the global market. The partnership between UCB and UCLan is an ideal example of recognising the need for global education, one that should be followed by others in the sector as well."

Sarah Cooke said, "Over half a million students globally are currently studying for a UK degree overseas, helping to boost their future job prospects. British higher education institutions are dedicated to providing accessible and high-quality higher education, building a brighter future for students around the world."

With this new introduction at UCB, local students now have another great opportunity to earn a reputable UK university degree from right here in Bangladesh.

