



NSU NEWS

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Editorial

As December approached, ushering in the end of the 2019 academic year, the NSU family solemnly remembered the heroic martyrs of the Liberation War. On the 16th day of the month, the campus resonated in celebration of our glorious 49th Victory Day. We thank the Honorable Minister for Liberation War Affairs, Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque MP, for joining us in celebration.

NSU maintained its vivacity with a variety of events and competitions at the very start of the year 2020. This decade's first orientation welcomed freshmen on January 18 with the Honorable Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, as Chief Guest and H.E. Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, High Commissioner of Canada as Special Guest. The Honorable Minister also inaugurated the Moot Court Room of NSU, established for the benefit of the students of the Law Department.

This issue contains an exclusive interview with Sir Richard John Roberts, biochemist and molecular biologist and Nobel Prize winner (1993) in Physiology or Medicine. Sir Roberts shared insights of his life with the NSU News team, for which we are grateful.

In line with our mission, The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) held a dialogue titled "Accountability and Justice in Rohingya Crisis" at NSU. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences organized a half-day panel session that included the participation of essential government officials, experts, and negotiators involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

One of the most anticipated events of the year, the 23rd ACE, dazzled NSU with its bursts of brilliant color and fanfare. If you have missed it, it remains preserved in the highlights of this issue. Also, in our highlights, we have the auspicious Saraswati Puja, where over 700 students and faculty took part in prayer.

There were a number of achievements by our students, both individually and as a team. A research team from NSU consisting of four undergraduate students secured the First Runner-Up position for the poster presentation among 50 other competitors at the University of Asia Pacific's Pharma Fiesta 2020. Ms. Swarnali Banik, a student of the Department of English and Modern Languages, took part in the 8th Fujairah Open International Taekwon-Do Championship 2020 in the United Arab Emirates as a coach. The Earth Club of North South University held its second Trash Tag Challenge, taking small but real steps towards a better environment.

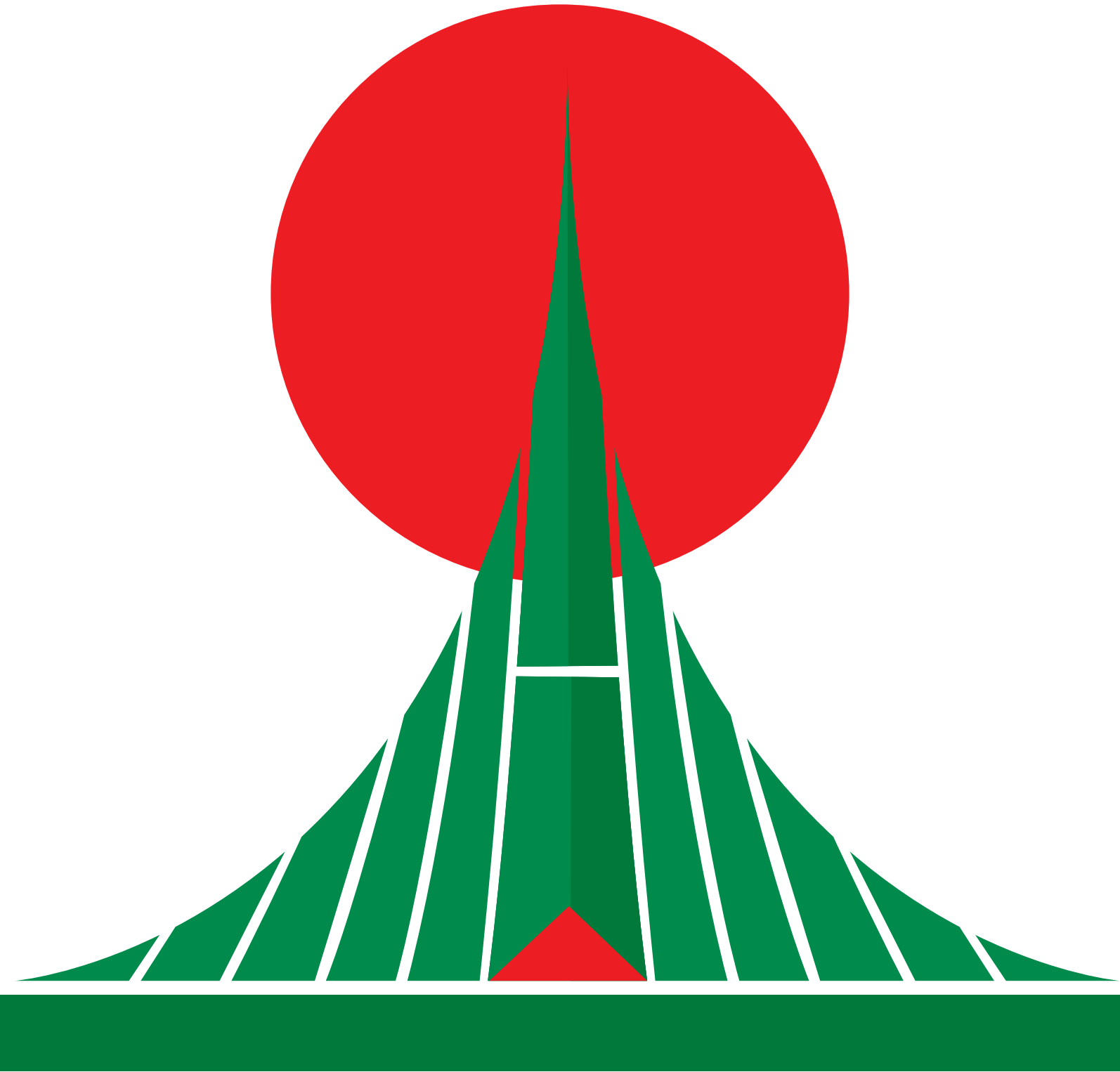
As this exhaustive enumeration makes abundantly clear, NSU continues on with new events and new successes as it marches on towards a position of global leadership.

Happy New Year to one and all!

-Editor



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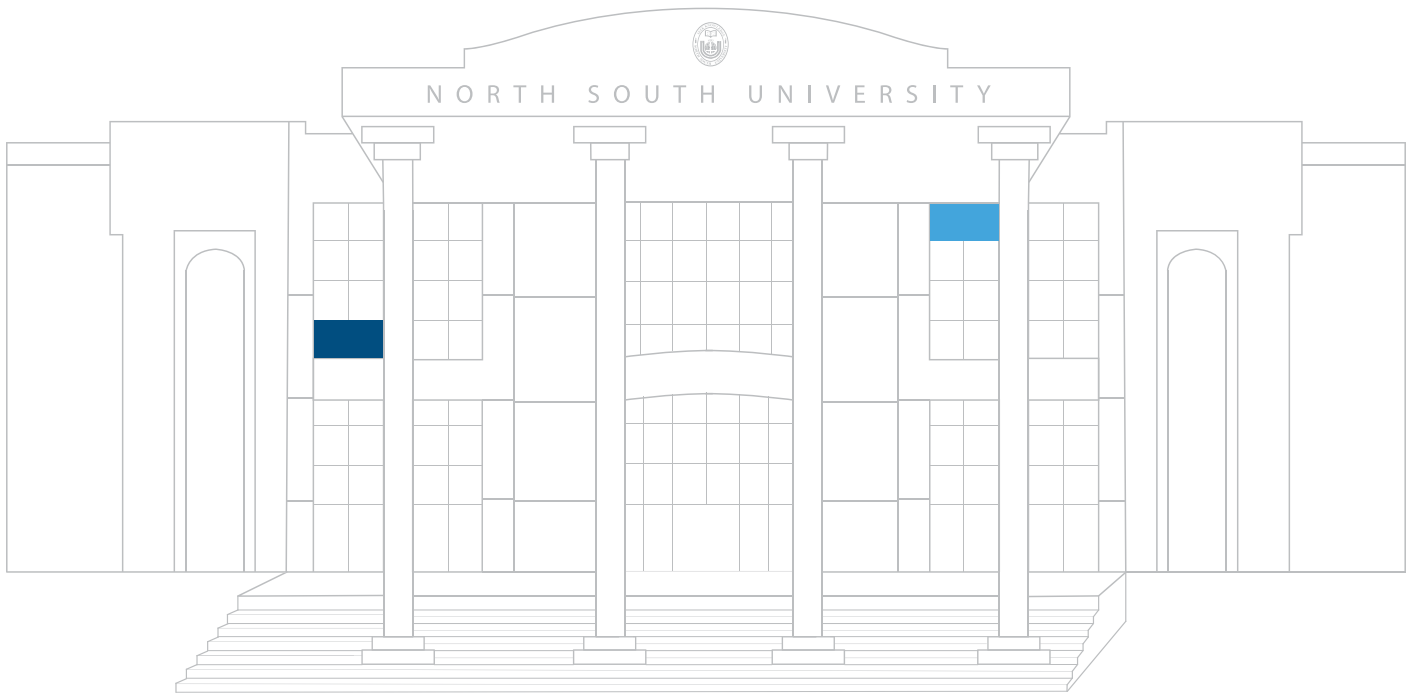
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North South University Observes the 49th Victory Day

In order to celebrate the importance of the 49th Victory Day of the nation, NSU participated in and hosted several programs in recognition of the heroic martyrs of the 1971 War of Liberation. On the morning of December 16, the first act of the NSU authority was to hoist the national flag inside the campus, in order to inaugurate the celebration of the Victory Day. Following that, many students and teachers of NSU, along with several members of the NSU family, visited the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar. Everyone paid their respects to the souls of the valiant martyrs of the Liberation War, by placing flower wreaths at the historic site.

The significance of the Victory Day was also marked by the organizing of a discussion session in the late afternoon of December 23. Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was present as the esteemed Chief Guest during the program. Distinguished Journalist Mr. Abed Khan, Chairman, Board of Directors, Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and Editor, The Daily Jagoron, was present as the respected Guest Speaker. Freedom Fighter Lion Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North South University was present as the esteemed Special Guest. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU, presided over the discussion program. Being hosted in the AUDI 801 venue of NSU premises,



Honourable Minister for Liberation War Affairs of Bangladesh, AKM Mozammel Haque, MP, receiving a crest from BOT Chairman, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, BOT Member, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, and Vice-chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam.

the discussion session commenced at 4 pm.

The session inaugurated with a recitation from the Holy Quran, which was followed by the National Anthem and a Bengali poetry recitation. Professor M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, NSU, welcomed the students, participants and distinguished guests in his opening speech. Honorable Chief Guest, Mr. AKM Mozammel Haque mentioned during his speech, "The independence of Bangladesh has been possible because the people of this country loved Bangabandhu and Bangabandhu loved the people of this country." He further added that everyone should

work together to meet the basic rights of the people and to take the country forward through economic and social development. The esteemed guest speaker, Mr. Abed Khan recalled the contribution of women in the liberation war and expressed, "The role of women in the liberation war was extremely commendable. The brave women had taken direct part in the war by training and fighting. Numerous women were martyred, and all these events must be recorded." He also encouraged the younger generation to know about the true history of the 1971 War of Liberation and to come forward to develop the

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Students, faculty members, and other members of the NSU family pay homage to the martyrs at the National Memorial, Savar.

Spring 2020 Orientation Welcomes New Decade's First Batch at NSU



Honourable Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, H.E. Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, BOT along with others, gracing the Freshmen Orientation.

NSU's Spring 2020 Freshmen Orientation was held on January 18 on the NSU Campus. The decade's first intake was welcomed with open arms. Three thousand promising new students, who got accepted into NSU's 16 departments, attended the ceremony. The orientation program familiarizes freshmen with NSU life, congratulates them on their choice, and motivates them through words from knowledgeable speakers.

Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was present as the Chief Guest, and H.E. Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, was present as the Special Guest. Freedom Fighter Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, BOT, graced the event as the Guest of Honor while Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, presided over the program. The University's BOT members Mr. M. A. Hashem, Mr. M. A. Kashem, Ms. Rehana Rahman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor M. Ismail Hossain, the

Registrar, Deans of different schools, Directors, senior officials, faculty members, and guardians were also present during the program.

During his speech, Honorable Chief Guest Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, said, "It is my sheer belief that the newly admitted students who are here today will excel in their undergraduate studies and work hard to become the future leaders of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh expresses sincere gratitude to NSU for spending crores in catering to the students and helping in the growth and overall development of education in Bangladesh. I also would like to express my regards to NSU regarding their decision to let students of the Freedom Fighter Quota study here for free." Mr. Anisul Huq also thanked the BOT members and faculty of NSU for providing excellent education in Bangladesh.

The esteemed Special Guest, Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, said, "Education has always been the best tool for Canada to solidify relationships with countries like Bangladesh. I always encourage students

from Canada to come to Bangladesh and accomplish excellent things here, and also to participate in the foremost academic and student exchange programs. It also gives me the utmost delight to recognize the fact that a huge number of students from NSU and Bangladesh go to Canada for further education."

The esteemed Guest of Honor, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, remarked, "North South University has been ranked 301-350 in the Asian University Rankings published by QS World University Rankings. It is also ranked first among the private universities of Bangladesh, which shows its superiority in providing eminent education in the country. Students will always be receiving a quality education and prominent services here in NSU."

The orientation ceremony, held three times a year at NSU, is a festive event. The campus is adorned richly to welcome its new students. Information on academics, student life, student resources, and much more is shared with the students.

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A Tête-à-tête with Sir Richard John Roberts



Sir Richard John Roberts, Nobel Prize winner (1993) in Physiology or Medicine, with Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, BOT Members, and other distinguished guests.

Sir Richard John Roberts is an English biochemist and molecular biologist who was awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Phillip Allen Sharp for the discovery of introns in eukaryotic DNA and the mechanism of gene-splicing. He is a GMO activist, and he visited NSU in October 2019 for a regional seminar on GMO Products. NSU News had the opportunity to have an exclusive interview with Sir Richard.

Before we dive into the serious questions, a lot of people are interested to know about the person behind the hard work. So we want to get started by knowing you. What's your favorite GMO product?

Golden rice, because it makes a big difference in the world. So many children go blind and become disabled as a result of not having enough vitamins. The golden rice offers an opportunity to try to prevent this.

What inspires you to do your work every day?

It's my hobby. I like making discoveries and seeing things that people have not seen before. I wanted to be a detective growing up, and now I feel like I am.

What's your favorite book?

It varies over time. I don't read as much fiction as much as non-fiction. Now I am reading a book about golden rice. For fiction, I like the adventurous stories of Jack Reacher, by an author called Lee Child, who I've met on a couple of occasions.

What is your go-to decision making strategy, and how do you handle stress?

I don't stress! So, it's easy. And decisions, I am not sure how to answer that. I try to look at the facts and make a decision based on those facts.

What are your thoughts on the opportunity gaps between developing countries like Bangladesh and Western countries like the USA?

Despite having so many prospects for groundbreaking scientific research, we don't have any Nobel Laureates in scientific fields from places like Bangladesh.

Do you have any suggestions to improve this situation?

Bangladesh has different problems than the US. Here the population is quite poor and you don't have the same environment to do science here.

So, if you want to do science here, you would want to focus on problems that will solve the difficulties in Bangladesh. If I was doing science here, I would not look into the blue sky and what not but would work on problems applicable to Bangladesh. But, that does not mean you are not going to make groundbreaking discoveries, you absolutely can. No matter what you do, I think there are always opportunities to make some groundbreaking discoveries.

If you could personally hand out a Nobel Prize in any field, who would you give it to?

Oh Gosh! That's tough. I'm not sure if I should tell you, but I've nominated someone, so they are not supposed to know.

You frequently attend the Ig Nobel Prizes at Harvard. Do you have any favorites or anyone you would like to nominate?

(Laughing) Well, I'd like to give Trump an Ig Nobel Prize!

Coming to the more "scientific" questions, how would you say Bangladesh is tackling the anti-GMO propaganda that is being spread all over the world?

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North South University Set to Launch Moot Court Room



Mr. Anisul Huq, MP, Minister of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman of BOT and Vice-Chancellor, Atiqul Islam at the Inauguration Ceremony.

The Moot Court Room of North South University was inaugurated by Anisul Haque, the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, on January 18, for the benefit of the Law Department's students. The faculty members and students of the Department of Law had felt that they needed a moot courtroom for a long time. An application for its establishment was submitted in 2017 that received approval from the NSU Authority immediately. The whole department, including the faculty members and students, are grateful to the NSU Board of Trustees for always providing the best of facilities for their students. The Office of the Project Director deserves credit for creating this room.

In the Inauguration Ceremony, the Chief Guest, Anisul Haque, was accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, and members of BOT Mr. M. A. Hashem, Mr. M. A. Kashem, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Mrs. Rehana Rahman, and Mrs. Yasmin Kamal.

Deans, Directors, faculty members, officials, staff members, and the students of the Department of Law were also present at the program. The Minister stated that this moot courtroom would be very beneficial and would open a new era for the students of law.

Moot court is one of the key extracurricular activities in almost every law school around the world. Reading only theories without knowing their practical implications and without learning the skills of practice before judges can never be enough for any law student. Law students require not only time spent researching and writing submissions or memorials but also need to develop their oral submissions in order to prepare for their future endeavors. This can never be possible without having the court-like environment of a furnished moot courtroom.

Apart from educational necessity, a moot courtroom is essential for any institution offering LLB courses, as it prepares students for different national

and international moot competitions. Mooting enables students to engage in and think deeply about interesting and contemporary legal issues. It also enhances their advocacy abilities, legal research, and writing skills. It additionally allows them to work closely with and learn from their peers. In addition to all of these, mooting gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their interest in advocacy and competence as an advocate to prospective employers. Most students find mooting to be intellectually rewarding, and highly enjoyable. Though it can be nerve-racking and frustrating, it can be quite fun. Hence, having a moot courtroom is really important for any university having a law school. NSU now has one of the largest and finest moot courtrooms in the country. The room is well furnished and is very similar to the courtroom of the High Court Division of Bangladesh. Students are eagerly waiting for this room to be fully operational so that they can begin learning, refining their skills, and making memories. ■

Dialogue with Press Held on Accountability and Justice in the Rohingya Crisis



H.E. Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, the High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, Md. Shahidul Haque, Senior Fellow, SIPG and former Foreign Secretary, along with other distinguished guests at the dialogue.

The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) organized a dialogue with the press, "Accountability and Justice in Rohingya Crisis," on January 25 at NSU. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Senior Fellow, SIPG, and former Foreign Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, shared his views and exchanged ideas on the way forward with the press and participants.

On January 23, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the top court of the United Nations, ordered Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide against the country's persecuted Rohingya minority in a landmark ruling. The dialogue was organized by the CPS immediately after this verdict. At the beginning of the dialogue, Mr. Haque presented the highlights of the ICJ ruling and argued, "The court ruling will have a great

impact on the international community. Even Myanmar itself has accepted that war crimes occurred against Rohingyas and are being investigated." He said that the reactions of Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, the UN Secretary General, the UN High Commission on Human Rights, the European Union, and others are very important. Mr. Haque also said that Bangladesh needs to revisit its own strategy, policy, and approach, and it should be extremely innovative in terms of balancing its national interest and international obligations.

Mr. Benoit Préfontaine, the High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, participated in the dialogue and said, "This first ruling of the ICJ may change the positions of some other countries." He also urged Myanmar to comply with the ruling and mentioned that Myanmar has only a few months to

show the results to the ICJ. While he termed the ruling "very encouraging," he also said that it was too early to be triumphant: "We have still a lot of work to do since the ICJ process will take several years. However, it is important not to forget the plight of the Rohingyas." Mr. Haque then answered the questions of the media by stating that this ruling was significant to draw support from the international community and bring forth sustainable solutions to the crisis.

At the beginning of the Dialogue, Dr. M. Jashim Uddin, Coordinator, CPS, provided welcome remarks. Professor Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG, Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Member, CPS, faculty members of the Department of Political Science and Sociology and of other departments of NSU, and representatives from the media were present at the dialogue. ■

North South University Observes the 49th Victory Day Continued...

nation by cherishing that ideology. The respected Special Guest, Mr. Benajir Ahmed remarked, "Bangabandhu is a symbol of independence in this country. The development and progress that we are enjoying today has become possible because of the long-term

dream of Bangabandhu."

After the discussion session, a cultural program took place, where the members of NSU Sangskritik Sangathan performed. Their performances poetically portrayed the history, culture, traditions, and sacrifices of the people of

Bangladesh. Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, respected Member, Board of Trustees, NSU, Deans of different schools, Directors of various departments, Department Heads, senior officials, teachers, and students were also present at the program. ■

Faculty Orientation and Development Workshop Spring 2020



Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ismail Hossain, Pro- Vice-Chancellor, Director of IQAC, Dr. Nazmun Nahar, and others at the Faculty Orientation and Development Workshop Spring 2020.

A two day-long Faculty Orientation and Development Workshop for Spring 2020 was organized by Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at North South University (NSU) on 16 and 20 January, 2020. The orientation program was well attended by new faculty members from nine departments.

The Orientation workshop was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Atiqul Islam. In his talk, the

Vice-Chancellor underscored the importance of faculty training program and discussed the roles and responsibilities of a teacher. He also appreciated the effort made by the IQAC team for organizing this type of orientation workshop at NSU.

The Director of IQAC, Dr. Nazmun Nahar, delivered the welcome address to the newly joined faculty members. Professor Dr. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU, also

took part in the deliberations and discussed the concepts of ethics in teaching.

In the span of two days, there were different sessions focusing on administrative rules and regulations at NSU, teaching and research philosophy, effective teaching and assessment methodology, Outcome Based Education (OBE) and curriculum development, Blooms Taxonomy, faculty code of conduct, ways of dealing with students, and matters related to discrimination and harassment. There was a special segment on the usage of library resources and IT Services at NSU. The Deans from four schools were also present at the workshop and gave a brief talk on 'Teaching Culture at NSU'. Professor Dr. G.U. Ahsan, Dean of School of Health and Life Sciences, in one of the sessions, discussed the concepts of effective teaching and faculty development. Moreover, there was an interactive session in which the faculty members were asked to develop and present demo course outlines focusing on Outcome Based Education strategy. The program ended with Vote of Thanks from the director and coordinators of IQAC. The participants also thanked NSU authority and IQAC for organizing the orientation program. ■

International Ship Recycling Congress 2020

Bangladesh hosts the largest ship breaking industry in the world both in terms of Liquid Displacement Tonnage (LDT) measurement and the number of ships being recycled annually. Shipbreaking allows the materials from a ship, especially steel, to be recycled and made into new products. This lowers the demand for mined iron ore and reduces energy use in the steelmaking process. While ship breaking is sustainable, there are concerns about the practice in poorer countries without stringent environmental legislation. It is also considered to be one of the world's most dangerous industries. It is very labor-intensive and a pollution haven.



Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Chairman, Department of Law, delivering his valuable speech.

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Session on Climate Negotiations held by the SHSS



Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and UNFCCC Focal point Bangladesh, Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, SHSS along with others attended the session on Climate Change Negotiations.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) of NSU organized a half-day panel session on January 4 that included the participation of essential government officials, experts, and negotiators involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations from Bangladesh. Mr. Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and UNFCCC Focal Point Bangladesh, was present as the esteemed Keynote Speaker for the session.

The discussion was moderated by Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, SHSS. The session consisted of various topics relevant to the Climate Negotiations of the UN Climate Change Conference COP25, held from December 2-13, 2019.

The panel discussion began with the keynote presentation of Mr. Mohsin Chowdhury. He highlighted Bangladesh's role in climate negotiations as a vulnerable, but influential, climate leader. Next, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Adviser, Least Developed Countries Group (LDCG), UNFCCC, and Director, International Centre for Climate Change and

Development (ICCCAD), covered the international context of climate negotiations from climate justice perspectives. Dr. Huq highlighted the overall progress in climate change politics and diplomacy in the last two decades and the challenges Bangladesh is facing in the negotiations.

He also spoke regarding what Bangladesh achieved under the "Loss and Damage and Adaptation" topic of COP25. Dr. Huq's presentation was then followed by addresses from Professor Mizan R. Khan, Deputy Director, ICCCAD and Group Lead Negotiator, LDCG, and Mr. Md. Ziaul Haque, Group Lead Negotiator, LDCG, and Director, Department of Environment. Professor Khan and Mr. Haque emphasized the major outcomes of COP25 regarding finance, market mechanisms, and mitigation issues. Furthermore, in their presentations, the critical issues that need to be taken into consideration by Bangladesh for COP26 were clearly stated.

After listening to all the points and suggestions for COP26, Ms. Judith Herbertson, Country Representative of Bangladesh, Department for

International Development (DFID), and Ms. Balance, Climate and Environmental Advisor, DFID, British High Commission, mentioned the strategic plans of the UK Government to make COP26 successful.

During her speech, Ms. Sharaban Tahura Zaman, Lecturer, Department of Law, NSU, and Group Negotiator, LDCG, urged effective climate actions for the planet and generations unborn. Having been a participant in COP25 herself, she highlighted the significant role of youth leadership in COP25 for climate justice.

As the session moved towards an open discussion forum, critical points were stated by participants from British Council, Transparency International Bangladesh, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Economic Relation Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Department of Environment, Action Aid Bangladesh, and the NSU faculty.

During the closing remarks, Professor Rob Khan thanked the participants and urged everyone to keep up their spirits by making plans to bring some effective changes to the climate negotiations process. ■

23rd ACE Highlights



Spring 2020 Orientation Highlights



NSU Presents Agribusiness Innovation Recommendations

On January 5, Dr. Nazrul Islam, Visiting Professor, Department of Economics (NSU) and Honorary Research Fellow at the UWA Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia, presented the Recommendations of the International Symposium on Agribusiness Innovation to Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Professor Nazrul Islam was the convenor of the symposium. In July 2019, the Department of Economics and the University of Western Australia's Institute of Agriculture had jointly held the Agribusiness Innovation International Symposium on the NSU premises. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and the Krishi Gobeshona Foundation (KGF) also helped to organize this symposium of national and global significance.

Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque attended and addressed the opening session as the Honourable Chief Guest. Nationally and internationally reputed academics, practitioners, and business entrepreneurs participated and presented scientific research papers, and discussed and exchanged views in five technical sessions. The key issues, potential solutions, and key recommendations for action are summarized in the recommendation booklet under the following headings: "Challenges and Recommendations for Advancing Agribusiness," "Strategies for Agribusiness Capacity Building," and "Advancing Partnership Building (Governments, Industries & Academic Organizations)." The Honourable Minister expressed his keen interest in these key issues and recommendations and planned to use them for effective policy formulation in the development of agribusiness in Bangladesh. ■



Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, receiving recommendations from Dr. Nazrul Islam, Visiting Professor, Department of Economics (NSU).

EconProdigy 5.0 Held at NSU



The champion team from North South University posing for the photograph.

EconProdigy is the largest inter-university policymaking competition in Bangladesh; the first of its kind in the country. It was prudently constructed by North South University's Young Economists' Forum (YEF), an academic student club, to encourage and facilitate the student body of the country in actively participating in dialogues revolving around real economic issues. While it started with a different structure and name, the competition was rebranded as

EconProdigy in 2015, and over the years has become a premier platform for the youth to analyze different issues within the economy and consequentially develop policies as their viable solutions.

This year saw the fifth edition of the event, which hosted a total of 163 teams across 15 universities in the country. EconProdigy 5.0 offered an elephantine prize money of BDT 3.5 lakh and sent the top teams to five star holidays in Cox's Bazar with the winning team scoring a

trip to Turkey!

Having taken the theme of "Education - Employment - Equity", the competition focused on finding unique solutions to cases involving fundamental topics circling these notions across all its four rounds.

The competition began with the workshop which shed light upon existing policies pertinent locally and globally. The first round to follow was online where participants had to submit abstracts of evaluated policies

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International Joint Seminar Held on Protecting Cultural Heritage in China and Bangladesh

An International Joint Seminar, "Protection and Inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China and Bangladesh," was held at NSU on December 17-18. The event was jointly organized by the Confucius Institute at NSU, the Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), the Southwest Frontier Minority Research Center of Yunnan University, China, and the School of Ethnology and Sociology of Yunnan University. Six Chinese experts and scholars from Yunnan University had in-depth exchanges on the protection of and research into intangible cultural heritage with more than a dozen experts and scholars in related fields from NSU, Dhaka University, and Jahangirnagar University.

The opening ceremony of the seminar was held at NSU on the morning of

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Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, and Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, SHSS, along with distinguished guests at the event.

International Taekwon-Do Championship 2020



The winning team with their coach Ms. Swarnali Banik, a student of the Department of English and Modern Languages, NSU.

The 8th Fujairah Open International Taekwon-Do Championship 2020 was held from January 31 to February 2 at the Sheikh Zayed Sports Complex, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. This tournament was awarded a G2 ranking, which made it even more attractive for international competitors.

Ms. Swarnali Banik, a student of the Department of English and Modern Languages of North South University, took part in this prestigious international event for the first time as a coach. She was the only coach from

Bangladesh and one of the first female coaches from any country to attend this tournament.

In the 7th Fujairah Open International Taekwon-Do Championship 2019, there were 1,350 participants from 40 different countries. This time 2,100 participants from 50 different countries participated. As a coach, Ms. Banik led a contingency of 16 participants. Out of the 16, seven participants received medals. Three of them were silver medalists, and the other 4 were bronze medalists.

Among these seven medalists, 3 of them were Bangladeshis. After three years of hard work and struggle, she was able to make this achievement possible. All the training was given by her Master Muhammad Nadeem (4th Dan black belt, World Taekwon-Do Federation). Ms. Banik says, "From being a national champion to an international champion, everything was possible solely because of my Master's lessons, my parents' blessings, and the support I got from my NSU family. Since the beginning of my training, I have learned a great deal. This spiritual sport has changed me completely. I have become confident, strong, independent, and fearless. I also learned how practically to apply my knowledge." As a student of North South University, she would like to recommend all students, faculty members, and the management to practice Taekwon-Do as it keeps us fit and healthy. It also keeps us active and stress-free, she adds. Martial arts are known to treat depression. A person who practices martial arts on a daily basis becomes stronger both mentally and physically. ■

Interview with AlterYouth, a National Award Winning Start-up



Co-founders of AlterYouth, NSU students, Asifun Nabi and Maheer Mannan receiving a crest.

As a portion of the population is perpetually stuck in poverty, the GDP per capita fails to escape low digits. AlterYouth is an ambitious home-bred start-up which believes the answer to this problem lies in raising the literacy rate of this portion of the population. AlterYouth's co-founders are NSU's own students Asifun Nabi and Maheer Mannan.

In a conversation with NSU News, Mr. Nabi explains how his fascination with economics and inability to grasp why Bangladesh should be stuck in this paradigm when other nations have developed rapidly led to him getting the idea for AlterYouth. AlterYouth,

which Mr. Nabi enthusiastically describes as "Uber for scholarships", goes with the slogan: "If each of us secures literacy for one child, no child will grow up unable to read in Bangladesh. And with the internet, literacy means unlimited growth potential in productivity for a person." As it suggests, AlterYouth is a scholarship platform, which aims to enable the 10 million able Bangladeshis worldwide to provide scholarships directly to 2 million potential dropouts in government primary schools and to help establish a literate next generation. There is a 19% drop of students going to class 5

from the 98% who enroll in class 1, despite schools being free. This is due to the opportunity cost as children work to support their families, which is no longer required once a scholarship is in place. AlterYouth believes if it can be prevented until class 5, the next generation could read, write, and access Information Technology.

The eligibility of these scholarships are determined by assessing whether the children are orphan or have a single mother or a disabled or non-earning father. AlterYouth's Literacy Scholarship is 800 BDT/month, transferred from user to the student, contingent upon 65% attendance in class by the student, continuing until the student's completion of Class 5. The student's report card is sent to the user every academic term. This relatively small amount enables a range of users to donate to "their" student and help them contribute to Bangladesh's literacy figures.

AlterYouth instituted as a company followed by participation in Grameen Phone's Accelerator program and the investment which followed their successful performance.

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Department of Architecture hosts *Dhrupod 4*

On December 5, the fourth edition of the musical session, *Dhrupod* took place on the NSU campus. Hosted by the Department of Architecture, the event showcased how both music and architecture share common elements of composition. Since its inception in October 2015, *Dhrupod* has steadily become a popular event that allows architecture students to express their creative finesse. Professor Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, commenced this year's *Dhrupod* with his opening speech. The event presented significant musical compositions chronologically. Performers presented an array of both local and international compositions that have had a considerable impact on the



A musical performance during *Dhrupod 4*.

development of music in Bangladesh. Architects, architecture students, and various alumni came together in this time to celebrate the innovative spirit of the performing arts.

At the close of the session, Ms. Shaila Joarder, Chairman, Department of Architecture, thanked everyone associated with the event in her closing remarks. ■

WordShop hosted by NSU Communications Club



Mr. Fahim Anzoom Rumman, creator of the comic book *Nidranogor*, Mr. Oishik Jawad, Head of Operations (In-charge) of Cartoon people and Associate Editor of *Unmad* along with the members and alumni of NSU Communications Club.

WordShop is an interactive event hosted by the NSU Communications Club (NSUCC). Its purpose is to bridge the gap between aspiring students and industry professionals. The event helps students learn more about the role of arts and humanities in a business-oriented world. For the first time in NSU's history, the topics of journalism and cartooning were introduced in a two-day event. High interest in these fields was quite evident as many students took part in the program.

The workshop focusing on journalism took place on December 17, and the members of *COLORS* magazine were invited as speakers. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, was the esteemed Chief Guest of the session. The session began with a speech from Mr. Naveed Islam, Lecturer, Department of English and Modern Languages, and Faculty Adviser, NSUCC. This was followed by

speeches from the Chief Guest and Ms. Parisa Shakur, Director, Student Affairs.

The workshop got down to business when the speakers from *COLORS* magazine addressed the students. The representatives, namely Mr. Ziaul Karim, Advisory Editor, Mr. Khawaza Mainuddin, Assignment Editor, and Ms. Lucky Begum, Marketing and Operations Head, engaged the audience and provided valuable information about their industry. They mentioned how aspiring journalists are unsure of how to start their careers or how to build their skills. Understanding these concerns, the speakers taught students the value of responsible writing and the importance of research. Afterwards, a question-answer session took place where students were allowed to ask important questions.

The cartooning segment of WordShop was held on December 18. The guests for this segment were Mr. Fahim Anzoom

Rumman, creator of the comic book *Nidranogor*, Mr. Oishik Jawad, Head of Operations (In-charge) of Cartoon People, and Mr. Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, founder of Cartoon People and Associate Editor of *Unmad*. The cartooning session consisted of the guests sharing their expertise regarding the creation of a comic book or a comic strip with the students. They also discussed their own experiences as cartoonists, making the audience aware of careers in the field of cartooning. After the speeches, a drawing workshop and a question-answer session took place simultaneously.

The event WordShop provided a platform for students to interact with experts from the industry and learn about the professions of journalism and cartooning. NSUCC plans on hosting more of these workshops in the future, covering a diverse range of topics and on a larger scale. ■

23rd ACE

"Legacy" and "emotion" are the two words that best encapsulate the Annual Cultural Evening (ACE). On December 6-7, this tantalizing event was organized for the 23rd time by the North South University Sangskritik Sangathan (NSUSS). The event took place in the NSU Main Auditorium. This year, the show's theme was "canvas"; just as the blank space of canvas can be filled up by diverse colors in any manner imaginable, so human life is a blank canvas waiting to be filled in entirely unpredictable ways. The entire campus was adorned with creative festoons, banners, and eye-catching promotional-art structures

in anticipation of the event. Keeping in sync with previous years, the program offered a theme-based theatrical performance to the audience interspersed with dance and song. The show was a blend of comedy and tragedy, drama, and morality.

The story was about a youth who dealt with dilemmas and anxiety regarding academics, career, and aspirations, at one point falling victim to a criminal scheme of one of his deceiving peers, but redeeming himself in the end. The trendy punch lines, impeccable dialogue, synchronized dance moves, and melodious musical performances left the

audience in sheer ecstasy.

All the students of the campus anticipate this grand event throughout the year. The entire auditorium, as always, was jam-packed for both shows. The Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, the Director of Student Affairs, faculty members, alumni, and students gleefully attended. NSUSS received frequent and thunderous applause for such a spectacular and entertaining event.

We congratulate and convey best wishes to NSUSS, and hope they perform many more Annual Cultural Evenings (ACE) in the years ahead. ■

Financial Case Competition Goes International: The Grand Finale of Blueprints 5.0



Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Birprotik, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Jute and Textiles, Lion Benajir Ahmed, Chairman of BOT, Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ismail Hossain with the top three teams of Blueprints 5.0.

In this era of global commerce, the Grand Finale of the nation's first and only international financial case competition, Blueprints 5.0, came to its conclusion on December 23. The Grand Finale was made exclusive by the presence of esteemed Chief Guest Mr. Golam Dastagir Gazi, Bir Protik, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Jute and Textiles, along with respected Special Guest Freedom Fighter Lion Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees. Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor, and Professor M. Ismail Hossain, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, also graced the event with their presence.

Organized by North South University Finance Club for the fifth successive time, Blueprints 5.0 had a total of 324 national teams participating, from 22 esteemed national universities, and a total of 27 International Teams from 11 esteemed universities of India and Malaysia.

Blueprints is a platform for undergraduate students where they explore their academic expertise in order to excel in cases related to finance, economics, business operations, and

marketing. Blueprints 5.0 commenced prosperously on December 6 with the first workshop and the first round of the competition.

Because of the commendable roadshows conducted in 17 national universities such as BRAC University, East West University, and SUST, by the steadfast members of NSU Finance Club, Blueprints 5.0 ensured a good number of teams and participants.

The challenging first-round winnowed out all but the top 36 domestic teams. In the semifinal round, the teams had to demonstrate their presentations on the NSU campus. Adding to this semifinal round, an international round had also taken place for all the international teams. Finally, only the six best teams from Bangladesh and the single most meritorious team from the international arena remained to compete in the daunting final round of Blueprints 5.0. The final round required the utmost in financial dexterity and superior business knowledge.

The magnificent Grand Finale of Blueprints 5.0 was held in the plaza

arena of the campus. Team Grey Matters from the University of Dhaka emerged as the Champions of Blueprints 5.0 after demonstrating thorough proficiency.

Team Kacchi Without Elachi of Bangladesh University of Professionals and Team Standard Deviation from North South University achieved the commendable first and second runner-up positions, respectively. The Champion, first runner-up and second runner-up were awarded prize money of BDT 200,000, BDT 100,000 and BDT 50,000, respectively. Reputed guests from the sponsors, deans of different schools, directors of various departments, department heads, senior officials, faculty members, delegates, and many students were present for the auspicious Grand Finale Ceremony.

NSU Finance Club has been successfully organizing national and international competitions and informative seminars and programs since its inception in 2014, and they are grateful to acknowledge that Blueprints 5.0 triumphed in the same fashion as their earlier events. ■

MIB Club Presents Amelior: Athena

This December, NSU's Marketing and International Business (MIB) Club successfully hosted its first official event, Amelior, an event featuring a series of interactive grooming and skill development sessions. The term "amelior" signifies improvement. Through these educational sessions, the club aimed to teach the practical implications of necessary corporate skills that impact businesses. The event's goal was to encourage the students to develop new skillsets for themselves to take on new challenges and develop efficient strategies to overcome them.

For this first session of what they plan to make an annual event, the MIB Club chose to subtitle the event "Athena," after the wise and brave Greek goddess. The sessions were conducted by four women who have established themselves as exemplary corporate leaders. The four interactive grooming sessions tackled four different topics.

Ms. Syeda Afzalun Nessa, Manager, Corporate Sustainability, HSBC, shared her experience and knowledge about tackling corporate challenges and being prepared for them under the theme "Challenging Unconventional." Ms. Mahzabin Ferdous, Head of Corporate Communications, IPDC Finance, shared her insights on "Brand Communications." She advised students about branding and how to



Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ismail Hossain and Ms. Parisa Sakur, Director of Student Affairs, giving a token of appreciation to Dr. Rubana Huq, President, BGMEA at the event.

gather about branding and how to gather experience while they can. Ms. Shababa Ishmam, Owner of Red Window, Bheja Fry, and Tokyo Express, inspired the audience with her encouraging outlook on "Entrepreneurship" and how to be braver and more daring. The last session was regulated by the Chief Speaker of the event, Dr. Rubana Huq, President, BGMEA. She is the first woman to hold this position, and she spoke on "Empowerment" with the charisma and wisdom one can expect only from her. She talked about the current situation of the textile industry of Bangladesh, what can be done to strengthen it globally, and how the youth of today can contribute to it.

Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, along with Mr. Mohammad Tayeenu Haque, Chairman of the Marketing and International Business Department, Ms. Parisa Shakur, Director of Student Affairs, Mr. Mahtab Muntazeri, the Club's Faculty Adviser, and other honorable faculty members of the university, joined the program. The program provided students with a platform to create a bridge between them and corporate leaders, enlightened them about the corporate world, and assisted them in developing the necessary skills to succeed. NSU's MIB Club trusts that the event was an entire success and plans to return with the second edition of Amelior next year. ■

Spring 2020 Orientation Welcomes New Decade's First Batch at NSU Continued...

They are officially introduced to the vibrant life of NSU, where they have chosen to spend their next several years.

It also provides them with the opportunity to get comfortable on campus and meet some of their peers. Admission test toppers were honored in an award-giving ceremony.

They received merit-based financial aid of up to 100% based on their standings in the test. Their names were announced to everyone present, and

they received their awards from the honorable guests.

NSU has a plethora of clubs that allow students to engage in a diverse range of activities. These clubs added vigor to the ceremony through colorful stalls where the new students got information about how to continue their extra-academic passions from schools and colleges or get introduced to new and exciting activities.

A cultural evening marked the end of the gleeful orientation. All of the

freshers savored the enjoyable welcome and the lively atmosphere of the campus. Refreshments were provided to all as the entertainment went on. This orientation ceremony marked a great start to the new decade for both the freshmen who have embarked on a new journey and the university as a whole. NSU will help these young talents to polish their gifts and skills to become prominent citizens of the country and leaders in their professions. ■

Youths Learn to Solve Critical HR Problems at HR Calibration 3.0



Lion Benajir Ahmed, Chairman of BOT, Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ismail Hossain, and other esteemed guests with the top three teams of HR Calibration 3.0 from BUP and NSU.

NSU's Human Resources Club recently hosted the third installment of its signature event, HR Calibration 3.0, a nationwide business competition for undergraduate students. This competition is based on the current trends and practices of human resource management (HRM). With the participation of 386 teams from 32 different universities nationwide, the competition has yet again made itself the biggest national competition focusing on strategic HR model building.

The competition consisted of three distinct rounds. In the first round, the participants had to give a feasible solution to an online case. The top 35 teams qualified for the second round, where they had to solve a case on the spot and present their solution in front

of a panel of judges. Before each of the rounds, interactive workshops took place to help participants gear up.

After conquering the challenges of both the rounds, the nine best teams made it to the final round. The students were asked to build a strategic HR Model for Banglalink in the final round; they were given full access to the company for this purpose.

The Grand Finale of HR Calibration 3.0 took place on December 21 on the NSU campus. The judges of the final round of this event were Ms. Ayesha Saeed, Head of Talent Management, Human Resources and Administration, Banglalink, Mr. Mohammad Mamun Chowdhury, Head of Supply Chain, Rahimafrooz Storage Power Business, and Mr. Kaiser Chowdhury, Senior Vice

President, Human Resources, BRAC Bank.

Team Quarterback of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) was awarded the second runner-up position, Team Jargon of NSU was awarded the first runner-up position, and Team Threadbare of BUP was crowned the Champion of HR Calibration 3.0. The second runner up, first runner up, and Champion teams were awarded BDT 40,000, 60,000, and 100,000, respectively. In the words of the team leader of Team Threadbare, "Thank you very much NSU HR Club for providing us such a platform to showcase our HRM skills. We are elated for our achievement, and happy that all of our hard work and dedication have paid off."

International Ship Recycling Congress 2020 Continued...

The 8th ACI's Ship Recycling Congress 2020 was convened in Amsterdam, Netherlands, to provide insights into EU Regulation 1257/2013, capacity issues, sustainable ship recycling, recycling of vessels with no EU flag, ratification of the IMO's Hong Kong Convention, the global market overview, the Inventory Hazardous of Materials, and much more. The Congress brought together senior executives and experts including ship owners, ship operators, shipyard

representatives, representatives from major associations, cash buyers, green owners, representatives from class societies, shipping lawyers, and researchers on shipping and shipping laws to discuss the latest changes, challenges, and developments within the industry.

More than one hundred selected expert representatives of global organizations with a serious interest in shipbreaking attended the conference

as participants, and 15 distinguished experts were invited as speakers. Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Chair of NSU's Department of Law, was one of the prominent speakers at conference. He talked on his area of expertise, the International Ship Recycling Convention (The Hong Kong Convention 2009). Dr. Ahmed, as a specialist on the subject, officially represented NSU at this global conference.

Pharma Fiesta

A research team from North South University, including four undergraduate Project students-Fairouz Khan, Mahbia Mannan, Zarin Nawal Audrika, Samiha Rahman, supervised by Dr. Mohammad Hossain Shariare, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has secured the First Runner Up position for poster presentation amongst 50 other competitors.

On the 5th of February 2020, the University of Asia Pacific hosted "Pharma Fiesta 2020," where 20 different universities from all over the country took part. The team presented their research work on "A Comparative Study of Lipid-Based Nano Drug Delivery System Using MSP1D1 Protein and Poloxamer 407." Curcumin, a naturally active constituent extracted from the plants of the



First Runner-Up team holding the trophy with Dr. Mohammad Hossain Shariare.

Curcuma longa has a variety of biological activities and pharmacological actions, such as anti-tumor, anti-inflammatory, anti-virus, anti-oxidation, anti-HIV, and low toxicity with promising clinical application. However, curcumin is slightly

absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract due to its poor water solubility. In order to overcome the poor solubility issue, researchers focused on the use of nanotechnology in drug delivery using curcumin as a drug. ■

Interview with AlterYouth Continued...

Subsequently they received a grant from the ICT division of Bangladesh Government, a \$100,000 grant from the Government of Dubai and the prestigious UNDP SDG Enterprise Award. AlterYouth additionally has received national awards and international recognition which includes a documentary made by Google on the start-up.

Speaking of the stories behind the scene, Mr. Nabi narrates his simultaneous pursuits as a student and an entrepreneur. The latter has

emerged to have a greater weight on his interests as AlterYouth took a more definite shape and became his eventual priority.

He was determined to accomplish something before graduating. Despite current standing of AlterYouth, he faced considerable skepticism in the outset, partly owing to his young age contrasted to the big idea of AlterYouth, but he adds that it was counteracted by few encouraging individuals.

Now, he asserts that he cannot

distinguish between himself and his company. For his and AlterYouth's future, Mr. Nabi envisions making the company a global peer-to-peer scholarship platform, not unlike in magnitude of Uber and AirBnB. "It's not about sticking to this company, it's about sticking to it's philosophy," he reflects. "I want to wake up in the morning to make sure I do something that takes the world forward. I want to enjoy my life and to enjoy my life I want to be moving upwards all the time." ■

A Tête-à-tête with Sir Richard John Roberts Continued...

I think you're not doing as well as you could. I think part of the problem is political. I think the politicians are not active enough, not just here, but around the world, in trying to stop lies being spread. I think the media is doing a rather poor job, because they like the whole controversy between GMO and anti-GMO. They give both equal weight, whereas they don't deserve equal weight. So, that can be a problem too.

Any suggestions on improving this fact?

Well, you could start by educating young children about the correct facts. They tend to be more open to new ideas; they use logic in ways their parents often don't. So, I think they, in their position, can help educate their parents.

As someone with such prominence in the field of molecular biology, any words of advice for the upcoming researchers in this field in Bangladesh?

I'm very keen on the microbiome (microorganisms in a particular

environment, including the body or a part of the body). I think about it in a way that is different from how many microbiologists think do.

I think it's a field where much more research is required, and I think it can help us learn about what we are as living beings. And, an interesting fact is that the variety of microbiome can be influenced by diet. Since you have a different diet from the people of the U.S., what we have learned or applied might not be applicable to you. ■

NSU Saraswati Puja 2020

North South University celebrated auspicious Saraswati Puja on January 30 with great pomp and splendor. This is the third time since 2011 that the university has held a Saraswati Puja on campus.

In Hinduism, Devi Saraswati is worshipped as the goddess of knowledge, music, art, wisdom, and learning. The name "Saraswati" comes from "saras," meaning "flow," and "wati," meaning "she who has." So, the name means "she who has flow." Thus, Devi Saraswati symbolizes knowledge. She is portrayed as a beautiful, fair goddess with four arms. She is depicted as a goddess wearing a spotless white saree and is seated on a white lotus.

Saraswati Puja is held on Basant Panchami. During the worship, devotees wear yellow as this color is associated with wisdom and prosperity.

Blessings are sought by believers on their pens, books, and musical instruments. Children are often taught to write for the first time during this festival.

The whole ceremony was successfully celebrated by the students of North South University (NSU). The NSU authority was very generous in providing all kinds of support for this veneration. More than 700 students, teachers, and guardians offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati. All of the other students at the university enjoyed the festival throughout the day.

The rituals of the festival started early that morning. The students arrived by 6:00 a.m. to arrange the offerings and perform other formalities. Puja started at 9:00 a.m. The Pushpanjali was offered to the goddess from 9:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Besides the completion

of the rituals, the entire day was full of festivities. Various cultural shows, discussions on Saraswati Puja, and offering of prasad to the devotees were done from 11:40 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. The cultural show was conducted in collaboration with North South University Sangskritik Sangathan (NSUSS).

Professor Dr. Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Mohammad Ismail Hossain, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated the ceremony. The presence of Mr. M. A. Kashem, Honorable Member of the Board of Trustees, made the event more joyful.

Overall, this program held by NSU was a great success, and it also evinced the culture of respect for all religions and beliefs that exist in this educational institution. ■

Trash Tag Challenge 2019

The Earth Club of North South University held its second Trash Tag Challenge, aiming to take small steps for a better environment, on December 20. Trash Tag is not only a trending phenomenon in today's world but also a way for young people to create a cleaner environment.

The Earth Club was able to provide

a platform for its passionate members to interact with the locals from the area and inform them about how they can keep their neighborhood litter free and the benefits of having a cleaner environment.

Cleaning up our very own streets is not only extremely important to make

our surroundings more aesthetically pleasing; it also makes lives healthier. A little effort can go a long way if everyone participates. These ideologies were taught to the locals to ensure future assistance.

This event was one of the Club's many steps towards better living, and they have a lot more to come. ■



Members of North South University Earth Club take the Trash Tag Challenge 2019.

International Joint Seminar Held on Protecting Cultural Heritage in China and Bangladesh Continued...



Distinguished guests at the Joint Seminar on Protecting Cultural Heritage in China and Bangladesh.

December 17. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, said during his speech, "Bangladesh and China have very rich minority cultural resources, and these intangible cultural heritage should be protected. I'm very glad to see Yunnan University and NSU work together to carry out research on intangible cultural heritage." Professor He Ming, Director, Southwest Frontier Minority Research Center, Yunnan University, said during his speech, "The people of China and Bangladesh have created rich intangible cultural heritage, and they have made important contributions together to the construction of spiritual homeland of all mankind. It is hoped that China and Bangladesh will further promote mutual learning of civilizations, carry out more exchanges and cooperation, and make greater contributions to the research, protection, and inheritance of the intangible cultural heritage of China and Bangladesh."

The opening ceremony was attended by the representatives of the Chinese and Indian Embassies, Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Professor Sk Tawfique M. Haque, Chairman, Department of

PSS, the Chinese Director and Local Director of the Confucius Institute, NSU, experts in related fields, faculty members, and students.

During the two-day seminar, scholars from China and Bangladesh shared their research achievements on the protection and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, reflected on the current situation of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of the two countries from various perspectives, and opened up extensive discussions on many issues. Topics such as China's current protection system for its intangible cultural heritage, analysis of the inheritance and the change of traditional values due to media and consumer culture, the cultural protection and inheritance of the Rohingya people, and the significance and value of the spread of Confucianism in South Asia were discussed.

This second international joint academic seminar since 2018 achieved meritorious results. During the seminar, the Southwest Frontier Minority Research Center of Yunnan University and NSU's PSS Department signed a Memorandum of Cooperation and reached a consensus

on the establishment of a China-South Asia Center for Socio-Cultural Studies (CSCSS) as soon as possible. In the future, the two universities will work together to conduct joint research and conduct social and cultural surveys in South Asia. The Summer School Program of the School of Ethnology and Sociology at Yunnan University will be open to the students and outstanding young teachers of NSU. Furthermore, the two universities have decided to develop student exchange programs and graduate student joint training programs. The two institutions have also drawn up plans to convene an international academic conference in Kunming in 2020, during which more experts from South Asian countries will be invited to participate in the discussion.

After the seminar, the delegation of experts from Yunnan University visited, with the help of the PSS Department, the Rohingya camp, and the villages of the Chakma people of Rangamati. During the fieldwork, both sides had more in-depth exchanges on the next steps of cooperation and research and formulated more detailed promotion plans. ■

EconProdigy Continued...

based on the growth and inequality predominant in the education and agricultural sector of Bangladesh. Teams progressing to the second round, named "Presentonomics", had to present their evaluation to judges, both from the fields of academia and business landscape. The semi-finals, known as "Cross Talk", hosted thorough debates in the presidential format to finally select the top 6 teams that qualified for the Grand

Finale, also known as the "Policy Dialogue." Finalists were assigned with the case of designing a Policy Framework for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to ensure mass digital upskilling to tackle the mismatch of skills and promoting inclusive labor markets to achieve stable economic growth, keeping the fourth industrial revolution in mind.

The finale was graced by Dr.

Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commissions (BTRC) as Chief Guest and Khwaja Shahriar, Managing Director and CEO of Lanka Bangla Finance as special guest. Team TG KPI from North South University became the champions, with the first and second runner-up being team Threadbare from Bangladesh University of Professionals and team Undisputed from NSU. ■

NSU Saraswati Puja 2020 Highlights





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