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IT Competition for the Differently-abled at UAP

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Society may consider them "disabled" but as evident throughout an IT competition, they proved themselves to be exceptionally talented.

The daylong IT competition for differently-abled students was held at the permanent campus of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) on June 4, 2016.

A total of 52 contestants participated in four categories; first three contestants were selected as winners in each category. The categories were: Visual Impairment, Physical Impairment, Speech and Hearing Impairment, and Neuro and

Development Disabilities (Autistic or Autism). All contestants participating in the competition worked on Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet. The winners received Tk 40,000 (1st), Tk 30,000 (2nd) and Tk 20,000 (3rd) respectively. Certificates and crests were given out to the winners as well.

The first four winners are: Saiful Islam (in Visual Impairment), Kazi Nusrat Synthia (in Physical Impairment), Md. Arman Kamal (in Speech and Hearing Impairment) and Rafid Ahsan (in Neuro and Development Disabilities).

Dr. Khan Md. Anwarus Salam, Assistant Professor, CSE, UAP was one of the judges of the content. He said, "The contestants' capabilities are really praiseworthy."

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Center for Services and Information on Disability, and UAP jointly organised the competition.

Saiful Islam, winner in the Visual Impairment category, appeared for Higher Secondary School Certificate this year from Dhaka College. Since childhood, he has been keen on working on computers. His father bought a computer as he discovered his son's interest in it.

Kazi Nusrat Synthia, winner in the Physical Impairment category, is a student of Monipur High School.

The participants of Neuro and Development Disabilities (Autistic or Autism) were comparatively talented, according to judges. Rafid Ahsan stood first in this group.

Arman Kamal, from Chittagong, won the top position in the Speech and Hearing Impairment category. He likes to work on computers at a stretch.

The winners will get the opportunity to attend the World IT Competition in China this year. The government would coordinate the team for the upcoming gala event.

Based on merits, all the participants would get the opportunity to participate in a higher course with no fees. The course will be affiliated by Bangladesh Computer Council. They can also participate in any job fair organised by the ICT Division and Bangladesh Computer Council.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Information Technology, handed prizes among the winners as chief guest. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, UAP chaired the programme. Md. Harunur Rashid, Additional Secretary, ICT Division; Khandakar Zohurul Alam, Executive Director, CSID; Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, Vice Chairman, Suchona Foundation; S.M. Ashraful Islam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) were also present at the event.

Earlier, Sham Sundar Sikdar, Secretary, ICT Division inaugurated the contest. Qayum Reza Chowdhury, Chairman, Board of Trustees, UAP chaired the inaugural session while Professor M.R. Kabir, Pro Vice Chancellor, UAP and Dr. Mazharul Mannan, General Secretary, Suchona Foundation were the distinguished guests.

http://www.thedailystar.net/shout/event/it-competition-the-differently-abled-uap-1236634