

“PURSUIT OF POETRY” by North South University English Club



The North South University English Club organized the inter-university poetry writing competition “Pursuit of Poetry” on 21-22 June 2014 at NSU seminar hall. The event featured participants from different universities taking part in instantaneous poetry writing within a given theme and time duration.

“Pursuit of Poetry” is the marquee event of the English Club. After success in its intra-university version on the previous edition, this year the organizers decided to invite participants from other institutions in an attempt to spread word about the literary form. North South University as the host along with BRAC University, East West University, Daffodil International University, Eastern University and students from University of Dhaka participated in the event.

On the first day of the competition, a total of 68 contestants sat down to write a poem on the theme ‘Sound’ in two hours. After what was a rigorous examination of words and rhymes, the entries were collected and sorted for the judgment process. Lecturers from the Department of English and Modern Languages, Maleka Sarwar and Farzana Mohsin marked and chose the Top 6 for the final round of the competition.

A discussion session followed by the final round and prize giving ceremony of the event was held on Sunday 22 June 2014 in OAT 801 at 4.30pm. Dr. ANM Meshquat Uddin, Pro-Vice Chancellor of North South University, graced the event as the “Guest of Honour” and Adnan M.S. Fakir, writer, poet and founder of Finding Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest. The program was hosted by Rifat Islam Esha, a North South University alumnus.

The guests spoke about poetry and its different forms and styles, shared their thoughts about it and engaged in a hearty discussion that lasted for about an hour. The host then invited the top six participants to the stage for the final round. The guests judged the poems as each entry was recited by its writer; the marks to be tallied in addition to the score by the jury. They also joined in to write poetry at the spot which were greeted with much applause from the audience.

“I must praise the efforts put by the English Club in organizing such an event and thank the participants from the universities. It has been a pleasant experience and I hope to see events like story writing, seminars and such in the future from them”, stated the Guest of Honour, Prof. Dr. ANM Meshquat Uddin.

The special guest also expressed his gratitude and wished the participants all the best in their literary endeavours. “I had a brilliant time here reading and judging the poems. The idea of a competition based solely on poetry is unique and praiseworthy and it will definitely open doors for many young poets out there”, said Adnan M.S. Fakir.

Participants Asmaul Husna from Eastern University and Hafsa Islam from BRAC University claimed the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, receiving prize money of BDT 3000 and BDT 2000. The winner of the competition was announced next – Rash-ha Muntaqaa of North South University clinching the title and prize money of BDT 5000 and many other gifts. The event concluded with distribution of certificates and refreshments.

Nescafe was the Beverage partner of the event and the gifts were courtesy of Bookworm Bangladesh. SHOUT was the English print media partner of the event.