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PDF Winter Boot Camp held



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There are people in our society who have trouble with walking, moving or talking. Known as disabled to all, they lack the ability to do all kinds of day-to-day activities; they eventually fail to contribute to the economy and never be part of the independent population of the society. This is what people hold in mind about disabled people. With a view to changing the concept of disability, Physically-challenged Development Foundation (PDF) emerged in 2008 as a non-profit organisation yielding the motto: Ability is in our heart. PDF's objective is to create a better society for the people with disability. In order to achieve this, "PDF Winter Boot Camp 2016 powered by US Embassy Dhaka" took place during 29-30 January, 2016 at Sheikh Hasina Youth Development Institute, Savar, Dhaka.

50 physically-challenged students participated in the workshop to learn communication skill, formal CV writing and interview skills. On 29th January, the programme was inaugurated by Mamunur Rashid, Vice-President of PDF. Hasanul Banna, Director of PDF completed the ice-breaking session. This boot camp was divided into 4 phases. The 1st phase of the training session on communication skill was conducted by Yahea Amin, CEO, LEAD. After that, Raguib Ahmed came up with his inspiring speech to motivate the participants to pursue their dreams. In the 2nd phase, Ms. Shanzida Shahad Uddin from Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations of BRAC University conducted an interactive formal CV and cover letter writing

session. The 3rd phase on 30th January with an interview skill was conducted by Ms. Shaila Parvin, Head of MIS and Vice President, City Bank Ltd. Later on career counselling session was facilitated by Mr. Nazmul Huda, General Manager, Grameen Phone. The last panel discussion had a couple of high profile personalities like Ms. Mehtab Khanom (psychology specialist), Mr. Ivan Shafaat Bari (Head, Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations, BRAC University), Ms. Ashrafun Nahar Misty (Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation, Mr. Masudur Rahman (Vice-president, United Commercial Bank Limited). Lastly, the training session ended with a formal presentation from one of the PDF executives. The two-day programme was anchored by Mr. Jahidul Islam (fellow, ActionAid). PDF believes people with disability can also contribute to the economy with their intellect if they get proper opportunities and this "Winter Boot Camp" is just an initiative. The PDF family invites everyone to stand with people with hidden abilities.

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