

FameLab BD-19 competition

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After a successful round of nationwide auditions held in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chattogram, the British Council organised the national finale of FameLab Bangladesh 2019 on Saturday at The Westin Dhaka. Fourteen finalists, trained by masterclass trainer from the UK, competed in the final for the privilege of representing Bangladesh at the International Cheltenham Science Festival in Cheltenham, UK. ASM Afrin Bin Nur Adib, Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, BUET became the winner of the competition.

British Council has been hosting FameLab in Bangladesh since 2018 and this is the second year the science competition has been hosted in the country for young STEM enthusiasts. This year, the British Council took the competition to the divisional hubs of Sylhet and Chattogram to reach out to the brilliant minds outside Dhaka as well. After a two-month long intensive promotional campaign for FameLab which included collaboration with major universities within and outside Dhaka where registration and activation booths were set up for students to register online; the British Council received over 600 successful applications nationwide. Auditions were held over three days in Dhaka, Sylhet and Chattogram in February for shortlisted candidates numbering over 60 in Sylhet and Chattogram each and around 150 for Dhaka.

The judges were: Humaira Akhter, Professor at the University of Dhaka, MK Sharif Siam, Senior Lecturer at BRAC University and Dr Mustak Ibn Ayub, Assistant Professor, University of Dhaka. The finalists were given masterclass training to hone their skills and concepts by Malcolm Love, Media Producer, Public Communication Skills Coach and Trainer from the UK who spent two days with the candidates.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Posts Telecommunication and Information Technology attended as the chief guest while Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Md Sohrab Hossain, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Education were present as special guests. Representatives of the British Council were also present during the event.

chief guest announced the winner of FameLab Bangladesh 2019 who will be travelling to Cheltenham UK to represent Bangladesh in the international competition. He

expressed his admiration for the way the finalists had explained a range of advanced STEM concepts to the audience and he conveyed his belief that the winner will go on to uphold the image of Bangladesh in the international arena.