

Students learn leadership skills at Sylhet bootcamps

CITY DESK

The graduation ceremony of fourth Youth Leadership Bootcamp, a national residential leadership development programme of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), was held on Sunday in Sreemangal of Sylhet.

A total of 200 university students, selected from over 1,600 applications from all over Bangladesh, participated in the two four-day bootcamps to develop leadership and career development skills.

BYLC organised this year's

bootcamps in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka.

Marcia Bernicat, the U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, in her keynote address at the graduation ceremony said, "We at the U.S. Embassy take great pride in the fact that we have been BYLC's partner since the organization's beginning, motivated by an abiding belief in its approach to leadership development and its emphasis on instilling the values of tolerance and pluralism."

Akhter Matin Chaudhury, chairperson of BYLC; Ejaj Ahmad, president of

BYLC; Manzoor Hasan OBE, board member of BYLC; Sonia Kabir, managing director of Microsoft Bangladesh; Fahim Mashroor, CEO of AjkerDeal; Nazim Farhan Choudhury, managing director of Adcomm; and Tofaeal Islam, deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar, also spoke among others.

A bootcamp participant, Ahmad Saraf Tuba, a third year student of environmental science at Asian University for Women, said, "My most profound realization at the Bootcamp was that introverts can also be leaders because leadership is more about moving the work forward and improving the human condition and less so about being the most dominant and visible person in the group."

Final year English literature student Nafisa Haque of Rajshahi University said, "Having worked closely with students coming from different parts of Bangladesh and with different viewpoints, I have come to appreciate the need for bringing diverse people with different opinions together to exercise leadership."

Using a combination of large class discussions, peer consultations, case studies and experiential role play, the Bootcamp curriculum -- developed and delivered by a trained team of BYLC faculty and facilitators -- is aimed at developing self-awareness, critical thinking, problem solving, communications, and teamwork skills of the participants.



The graduation ceremony of fourth Youth Leadership Bootcamp of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center in a Sreemangal hotel of Sylhet on Sunday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED