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Guests attend the national rounds of the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law at the Independent University, Bangladesh in Dhaka on Thursday. — Press release

The national rounds of the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law kicked off at the Independent University, Bangladesh in Dhaka on Thursday, with the participation of 30 teams representing different public and private universities in the country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, in partnership with the IUB, organised the event that will conclude on October 7, said a press release on Friday.

Over the course of three days, students were tested on their knowledge of and ability to apply IHL to a fictitious scenario outside of the real courtroom, giving them a fresh perspective on how this international legal framework could be used to protect people affected by armed conflict.

Each team presented its legal arguments before different panels of judges consisting of justices of the Supreme Court, members of the subordinate judiciary, senior government officials, academics, lawyers, and practitioners.

The winning team will represent Bangladesh in the Asia-Pacific Rounds to be held in Hong Kong next year.

Rear Admiral (retd) Md Khurshed Alam, secretary maritime affairs unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was present as chief guest, while Heike Kemper, deputy head of delegation of the ICRC in Bangladesh, was present as special guest.

Among others, professor Borhan Uddin Khan, an advisor at the Department of Law at IUB, spoke at the event.

The Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition was initiated in 2005 by the ICRC with the aim of promoting the study of international humanitarian law among university students in the South Asian region, including Bangladesh.

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