

Report on
Exploring the World of Journalism in Print Media at *The Daily Star*

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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my original work while completing degree at BRAC University.
2. The internship report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The internship report does not contain material that has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Glossary:

Panopticon The panopticon is a disciplinary concept portrayed in the form of a central observation tower placed within a circle of prison cells. A guard is assigned to that observation tower who observes every cell and inmate, but the inmates cannot see into the tower. Prisoners will never know whether they are being observed or not.

Mediascape Mediascape was primarily identified by Arjun Appadurai (1990) which refers to the electronic and print media in “global cultural flows”. According to Appadurai, mediascape represents the electronic capabilities of production and dissemination, as well as the images of the world created by these media for certain groups under different contexts.

Chapter 1

Introduction

We are living in a world where the flow of information has become more fluid and spontaneous than it was in the late 90s. We have grown heavily dependent on receiving news every second.

The buzz coming from our smartphones regarding a new information gives us more comfort and mental satisfaction than the sound of our analogue telephones ringing in our bedrooms.

Sometimes the massive flow of different kinds of information overwhelm us, sometimes it does not. The harsh truth is that we cannot help ourselves from scrolling our smartphones to see something new, to learn something new. Media plays the most important role to provide us with all the information on time here. In a world where information is almost equivalent to the oxygen we are breathing in, media works as the major provider day and night to ensure that the flow of information stays smooth and uninterrupted all the time.

As a requirement to complete my Bachelors of Arts in English from the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University, I chose Media and Culture as my major because I was always curious about the function of media in our country and also wanted to see personally how the flow of information is always being maintained so smoothly by the media outlets. I had a deep love for writing from my childhood and *The Daily Star* seemed to be the perfect place for me to experience the type of writing a national newspaper would appreciate. My thirst to learn more about writing skills which would help me to produce publish-worthy write-ups also pushed me towards choosing *The Daily Star*. This media outlet is known to be the best and oldest English newspaper in Bangladesh which offers its workers a supportive, warm and safe work place where they can work without fear or boundaries. It helps its workers to grow, appreciate and understand all kinds of changes the society constantly goes through and be creative at the

same time. I interned at the Star Youth and Arts and Entertainment sections of *The Daily Star*. Star Youth is a weekly page which is published on the Fridays. To be precise, it deals with the success stories of the youth. It also focuses on the noteworthy initiatives taken by the young generation of Bangladesh. Arts and Entertainment is a daily page of this newspaper which deals with everything related to the entertainment world such as cinemas, songs, theatres, radio programmes, literature and so on. I chose to work for the Star Youth because youth engagement in our society always inspired me and working with issues regarding them offers me hope and mental peace. I also worked for the Arts and Entertainment section because the entertainment world seemed interesting to me and I wanted to expand my writing experience in this particular section along with the other one. My editor also encouraged me to work for the two different pages simultaneously so that I can learn about newspaper-writing from more than one section and cope up with the changes because the style of writing in these two pages are quite different from each other.

Chapter 2

A brief history of *The Daily Star*



Picture 1: *The Daily Star* logo

The Daily Star was founded in 14 January 1991, around 29 years ago by Syed Mohammed Ali. It functions with the motto, “Committed to People’s Right to Know” and has been maintaining its position as the largest circulating newspaper in this country till today. This media outlet emerged at a time when Bangladesh was going through its restoration period after the fall of an autocratic regime and ever since then, it has been serving Bangladeshis as one of the most trusted sources of news valiantly. It is led by Mahfuz Anam who used to be a member of Mukti Bahini and former United Nations official. He also happens to be one of the six-member board of directors which is chaired by Rokeya Afzal Rahman. These six board members look after the financial matters of the newspaper. *The Daily Star* is owned by Transcom Group.

The Daily Star is known to be functioning independently with a view to serving Bangladeshis with honesty and unbiased representation of the information. It is a media outlet which welcomes creativity, at the same maintains its nature of being precise and "easy-to-understand" way of writing. It aims to strengthen public opinion, inspire democratic way of representing opinions from all existing classes of people in Bangladesh and uphold the values of functioning as a free press. It has been working relentlessly to ensure free flow of information all across the country without being influenced by any internal or external pressure. It also focuses on ensuring the act

of accountability among the all the existing administrative hierarchy in our society and providing the public with news without being tainted by favours or fear.

The Daily Star welcomes young journalism graduates graciously and puts significant amount of effort to groom them into remarkable journalists who are able to serve the country with proficiency and honesty. The daily is completely unbiased regarding gender when it comes to recruiting new journalists. However, it supports the female recruits immensely. It ensures that the female journalists can work in a safe, unbiased and understanding environment. Currently, 17 percent of the of its total staff members are women of different ages and social backgrounds and there has never been any complaint regarding sexual harassment in the office.

Chapter 3

Interning at the Star Youth and Arts and Entertainment of *The Daily Star*

I had a memorable journey with the Star Youth and Arts and Entertainment sections of *The Daily Star* as an intern. My editor, Elita Karim, guided me carefully throughout the whole time I worked there as an intern. I already had prior experience in writing for newspapers as I used to work as a freelancing journalist for *The Daily Star* since I was a second-year student in my university and also had an opportunity to learn about journalism in a fully funded exchange programme in University of Washington. Thus, I already had some ideas about media and writing for a newspaper when I started my internship. However, I had the opportunity to learn about the functions of one of the largest circulating media outlets of this country in person with the help of my editor and realized how textbooks are not always enough to learn about the real world. I did face challenges time to time but with great team work offered by the sections I was working in, I succeeded in overcoming all the hesitations, anxiousness and work pressure and become more productive by the end of my internship.

I already had sufficient experience when it comes to preparing a write-up for Star Youth. However, contributing in the Arts and Entertainment section was a bit challenging for me in the beginning. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me take a deeper look at the cultural sector of Bangladesh in order to produce decent write-ups for the page. I learned how swift and efficient I must be to work for a daily page and this experience was very different from the ones I gathered from Star Youth which is a weekly page. Constantly working for two different pages taught me how to be efficient with my work using the shortest amount of time. Not only did I

learn about the writings, but I also learned about the importance of proper team work from this internship which was the most valuable takeaway for me.

Chapter 4

The Art of Taking Interviews

Taking interviews is certainly not as easy as it seems to be. The first time I learned about taking interviews as a journalist was during my exchange programme in University of Washington. After my return, I got the opportunity to exercise my learnings from that programme with *The Daily Star* in Bangladeshi context. The first thing I realized during my earlier interview was that people are often hesitant when it comes to talking to a journalist. Experienced people are easier to talk to because they know how much to reveal and how much to hide. Due to their past experience, they understand that it is alright to have a conversation with a journalist as long as their personal space is being respected. Unexperienced people would mostly try to avoid talking to me whenever I tried to approach them as a journalist. However, I also came across lots of people who are genuinely friendly, supportive and helpful. I had to maintain a warm, professional and friendly posture all the time while approaching a candidate or taking interviews. One must ensure that she is not intimidating the candidates for the interview and assure that no unwanted information will be published without their consents. Recording the interviews is essential. It stays as a valuable proof that the information given in the article has come from an authentic source and the journalist did not make anything up for the sake of publishing the article. Before starting to record the interview, it is absolutely necessary to let all the parties know that the recording is about to start and everyone is being notified. If the candidate wants to talk off-the-record, the interviewer should allow it with an open mind and must not use any information from that particular conversation in her article. Consent is a big word when it comes to dealing with interviews. One cannot force people to talk or use information without the consent of the candidate who is related to that information. The location of the interview is also

an important fact for a journalist. The comfort of the candidate selected for the interview should be prioritized while selecting the location. The journalist must use all of her senses during the interview to have a better grip on the conversation and the environment. It was always wise to write down the questions I was about to ask the person I was interviewing beforehand. It helped me a lot to appear as an organised person who knew what she was doing and how to be good at her job. Afterwards, when I sat to write the article, those questions and recorded answers would make my work smooth, less time-consuming and flawless. I would also make sure that I had all the important contact information saved in both my smartphone and computer related to my articles so that I could reach out for help whenever I needed to. It was also helpful to fact-check sometimes with the candidates. Being punctual was always essential to create a good impression on the people who were about to give me some valuable information. That positive impression might help one to gain information which was unexpected to be revealed initially. It is only natural to say that the whole process of interviewing people is influenced by several psychological factors. Even the tone and eye-contact of the interviewer while asking questions matter immensely during the interview sessions. However, for me, taking interviews was always the best part of my work because it allowed me to travel and get to know new people who never ceased to amaze me.

Chapter 5

The Language and writing techniques in Print Media

The Daily Star always focuses on keeping the language of the articles easy-to-understand.

During my internship period, I was constantly reminded by my sub-editors that my articles should never be too complicated to understand because of the language. I was encouraged to use simpler yet perfect-for-the-context words as much as possible. The writers are also encouraged to incorporate gender-neutral words in the articles, for example- using the word 'actor' for both male and female artists who act, replacing 'chairman' with 'chairperson' and so on. News articles in print media are not the areas where the writer can use his creativity unless it concerns the organisation of the information. There are specific pages that deal with articles relying entirely on creativity, but that belongs to a limited area in the newspaper. There is a specific structure every newspaper follows; sometimes they differ from each other to stand out in the competition of print media outlets, but that structure is never broken while producing the articles. Another area where a writer can be creative is while producing an eye-catching headline.

Sometimes editors prefer to keep headline precise, clean and short, sometimes they allow the writers to be very creative with their word-play. It depends on the type of article that is being prepared. For example- An article talking about the sudden death of a well-loved celebrity will have a precise and simple headline most of the times whereas an article talking about a superhit movie consisting of new actors will demand the writer to produce an eye-catching headline with some interesting word-plays.

The articles of *Star Youth* were never of the same size. Sometimes an article would reach a thousand words depending on the number of articles the editor plans to have printed for that week, sometimes we are asked to stick to our 500-600-word limit. On the other hand, the articles

I wrote for the Arts and entertainment would mostly be around 300 words in size. So, it heavily depends on the type of story and the pre-planned number of articles to be printed on a specific day whether an article should cross the standard 500-word limit or not. A writer must stay unbiased while writing articles all the time and ensure that to the readers, his write-ups appear as a news-teller only, nothing more or less. There should never be any tone of judgement there.

When I was writing my articles, I used to notice that I would have a lot of information and it was impossible to incorporate them all in the articles. Sometimes it was easy to point out the less-important information, sometimes it was not. So, there were times when I would finish writing the articles without taking any pressure and take it to my sub-editors for necessary edits.

Eventually, I learned how to omit less-important information faster. It also became easier to understand which information is more important than the others by imagining myself in the shoes of my target audience and think about the information I would expect to know by reading the article. Writers are always asked to double-check before using a person's name and title in their articles and no mistake is tolerated in this specific case. So, I would go through at least three different authentic sources before I used someone's name or title in my articles to ensure accuracy. Thus, I would say that it takes lots of practice to write for print media accurately and with proficiency.

Chapter 6

Translations

I started my journey with *The Daily Star* as an intern by translating one of the news published by *Prothom Alo* regarding Miles, a renowned Bangladeshi singer, who was starting his world tour with USA. I was asked to follow the principle of sense-for-sense translation while translating the article. It was preferable if I could shrink the actual size of that article a bit because of the space limitation of the daily page. The second article I wrote required some translations because of the flyer I was sent by the theatre staff members from Dhaka University which was written in Bangla. It also consisted of several Sanskrit words which was extremely challenging for me to understand and translate into perfection. It referred to some theatrical terms mentioned in *Natya Shastra*, for example- “shringar,” “hashsho,” “korun,” “roudro,” “bir,” “bhoyanok,” “bibhotsho” and “odvud.” In my article, I represented the names of these terms as they were in the flyer but for my readers’ comfort, I went through the English version of the elements of a play and in brackets, I included the meanings equivalent to those terms mentioned in *Natya Shastra*, for example- roudro (wrath), hashsho (laughter) and so on.

In the last month of my internship, I had to translate another article published by *Prothom Alo* regarding the 7th convocation of the Asian University for Women. It was a one-page article and took me a while to translate it with care. There were lots of important quotations from great personalities like Cherie Blair, the founder of AUW, Kamal Ahmad, the finance minister of Afghanistan, Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi and renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya. While translating their quotations, I had to be extra careful because no mistake could be made regarding quotations. I had to revise the translation with my sub-editor

several times before submitting it to my editor for the final check. Regarding this particular article, I was asked not to miss out any information or attempt to shrink its original size. Thus, apart from translating the quotations, I did not face any other challenge while working on it. The course ENG465: Translation Studies helped me greatly regarding the techniques of translation. I learned how to keep the main essence of the source text intact while expertly translating it to another language in this course and throughout all the translation related tasks in *The Daily Star*, I followed it. This course also guided me towards the accurate usage of words and choosing them carefully while translating a text and also kept me alert about my target audience.

Chapter 7

Features

Writing features was always an enlightening and inspiring experience for me during my internship period at *The Daily Star*. I produced three feature stories in total while I was working there as an intern. All of them were published as Star Youth feature stories. I was not required to do a lot of research to prepare those feature stories perfectly because I always preferred to interview the relevant candidates in person and preserve the recordings of those interviews for future reference. All of those candidates would provide me with necessary information and enough additional information sources which helped me immensely while I was preparing the features. Before going for the interviews, I would meditate myself and picturize the type of feature I was aiming to prepare in my head so that the interviews could go smoothly. During the interviews, I would always take notes which would help me a lot later while writing the feature. I found this technique quite effective. It is less time-consuming when someone solely relies on the electronic aids but the old-fashioned way of noting down important information can become a great asset while preparing feature stories. My editor would encourage me to prepare the features without having any boundaries in my mind. She would never give me any word-limitation for the features which helped me to organise and input information in the features exactly the way I liked it. I realized giving the writers so much freedom for the features not only helped them to utilize their full potential and creativity but also aided the sub-editors to have enough information to select from while editing those features for printing. However, as a sensible writer, I did not abuse this freedom and incorporated my learnings from the course ENG440: English for Print Media to write the features without flooding them with unnecessary information, adjectives, adverbs and hyperboles. I was always asked to sit beside the editor or sub-editor whenever they

were editing my feature stories. They would always ask me relevant questions while editing the features and take my opinions in consideration before sending them for printing. The pictures used for my feature stories were usually taken at the official photo-studio of *The Daily Star*. But the feature I wrote about “Shokkhom” consisted of pictures provided by their marketing manager. Usually, I was given a time-frame of 10-14 days to prepare a certain feature which was more than enough to finish the task properly. Thus, I never had to rush to finish writing a feature.

Chapter 8

Event Reports

As an intern at *The Daily Star*, I produced 19 event reports in total. Most of them were written for Star Youth. My event reports for Arts and Entertainment were mostly based of theatres. My editor knew me well before my internship period and she also knew how excited I always was when it comes to event reporting. My enthusiasm for event reporting led me towards reporting so many events within a short period of time. I kept my personal transportation with me most of the time so whenever I had to report an event, I was always ready and punctual. My sub-editor, Shababa Iqbal advised me to be present at the venues 30 minutes before the given time for the events to have a better understanding of the atmosphere. I followed that advice with sincerity. Willing to travel a lot and enjoying it at the same time has always been one of my traits and this attitude helped me to stay active and energetic throughout my whole internship period at *The Daily Star*. Sometimes the calls for event reporting would appear suddenly in front of me, sometimes I would be informed a day before the event. I always had a professional photographer from *The Daily Star* with me during the events and it was my duty to inform one of the photographers beforehand about the event I was going to report. That way I could concentrate more on the smallest details of an event without being worried about the photographs. I would constantly take short notes during the event which would help me to produce the report in a short amount of time. I always recorded all the speeches to quote relevant people without any mistakes.

Usually, I always interviewed the organisers of the events and asked them for recommendations after the interview is done. I used to divide the candidates suitable for interviews in three different segments. Firstly, I would interview the organiser. Then I would try to take opinions

from the visitors, audience or participants. Lastly, I would interview people like the parents of the participants, guest speakers or people who are not directly associated with the events. By using this method, I was able to collect different types of insights which made my articles rich and well-prepared. I learned about talking to people coming from different backgrounds and socializing during event reports in my course ENG440: English for Print Media and I tried my best to follow that. Some of the events would prepare press-kits and it was my duty to ask for it if it was not handed over to me during the event. Press-kits help the writers to prepare the article faster, but it was never a note-worthy obstacle for me if I did not receive it because I always took detailed notes and record important speeches and conversations which stopped me from relying on the press-kits too much.

Chapter 9

Movie Reviews

Writing movie reviews was challenging for me. I got the opportunity to write a movie review for Arts and Entertainment only once. I went to watch the movie at Star Cineplex with my own funding to experience the whole atmosphere of the movie theatre, watch it on a big screen with Fanta and a stash of pop-corns and have an audience full of people coming from different backgrounds, ages, professions and fanbases. I had to keep my senses sharp throughout the whole time to catch the reactions of the audience during different scenes and notice the details which are worthy of having space in my review. I would write down my initial observation of the first half during the half-time break and take the rest of the notes swiftly before leaving the theatre. It was fun to interview one or two people from the audience leaving the theatre because their emotions regarding the movie stayed fresh and vibrant at that time. Writing a movie review did require some research works. I had to be careful about not giving any spoilers in my review and ensure that my review did not sound biased to my readers. I had the freedom to use my creativity while preparing the headline and with the help of my sub-editor, I came up with an eye-catching one. I was advised to make the headline attractive so that even a casual newspaper reader feel drawn towards the review. I was asked to limit the review within 350 words because of the space limitation. As I had no experience regarding writing movie reviews, I found it challenging to write it in the beginning. It took me more time to prepare it than an event report. But my sub-editors were very supportive and gave me an extra hour to finish writing it.

Chapter 10

Miscellaneous Works

Apart from writing and interviewing people, I had to prepare the monthly salary-sheet for all the staff members of Star Youth and Arts and Entertainment. Star Youth consists of writers and photographers who are mostly free-lancers. Arts of Entertainment had writers and photographers who were mostly permanent contributors, but the free-lancing photographers and writers were also seen to contribute time to time. I had to maintain two different salary-sheets for two different pages. It was a time-consuming work and I would take two-three days usually to carefully complete it to ensure accuracy. I would also collect the list of stories along with the folder links when all stories are ready to be published for Star Youth every week and inform the publishing section about the publishing time and date of the online stories and separately submit the stories which were supposed to go for the print. Sometimes I would stay beside the graphics designers and editors to see if the photo placement and text-box placement followed the instructions of my editor and sub-editors correctly and it mesmerized me how skillfully the brightness, texture, shadows etc. were being edited into perfection and how the appropriate text-box placement made the page look more attractive. Right before the final confirmation is sent for the pages to be published, I was asked to accompany my sub-editor to give the pages a final check and sometimes a few flaws would come out even in the last minute. So, I can say that it is always necessary to go through the articles as many times as possible before sending them for printing. I was taught how to request for new stationary items from the office by filling up a specific form and had to do it twice during those three months. I had to check if everyone from my team had all the necessary stationary items they needed before filling up the form. Usually

the supply would be delivered to our section within two days after the office received the form signed by the editor.

Chapter 11

Integration of theories with my Internship Assignments

During my internship period at *The Daily Star*, I realized how relatable the cultural theories that I learned in the course Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice (ENG331) were. Those theories helped me a lot to assess the environment around me and have a deeper understanding of how the media outlet along with the society is functioning for years. A lot of my unspoken questions were answered because of the in-depth lessons I got from my cultural theory course. Firstly, I will discuss how Michel Foucault's overview on 'Panopticon' and 'Gaze' was relatable to my experience at *The Daily Star*. Subsequently, I will end my discussion relating another cultural theory to my internship duties introduced by Arjun Appadurai named 'Mediascape.'

- **Panopticon and Gaze:**

The idea of Panopticon always reminded me of control. This is a concept of intense observation where a prison is being watched by the authority day and night in order to stay updated about the prisoners' reactions and movements. The sole purpose of this motion of "gazing" at the prisoners is to keep them under firm control and ensure that no unwanted or unexpected movement is being made by them. The prisoners, knowing that they are being watched, stay under control and act the way they are expected to act by the authority. This prison works as a symbol for the society we live in and like *The Daily Star*, all the other media outlets act as the observers. It is a common fact that journalists and the organisations they are working for act as the social-watchdogs whose sole job is to stay updated regarding every small detail about our society and deliver it to their target audience. I had the chance to experience being a watchdog myself while working for *The Daily Star* because I was advised to keep a sharp and open eye regarding the

activities the youth of this country were being engaged in and the noteworthy cultural events happening around me. It felt exactly how Michel Foucault explained the dominating and all-seeing gaze prevailing in our society. The media outlets notice the slightest change in the usual flow of actions taking place in the society everyday and feel obligated to inform the authority along with the general public about it. This practice of transparency is very old and widely accepted by the people who are functioning under this overseeing gaze. I felt its presence more when I started to write about the esports events taking place in Bangladesh and organising some myself. After several articles of mine were published related to this topic, I received an offer from the ICT Ministry of Bangladesh to organise a big-budget esports event promoting the contribution of our government and also supporting the raw talents towards a brighter future. It proved that whatever observation the watchdogs share with people, it definitely reaches the higher authority and inspires necessary action. This idea of overseeing gaze was initially introduced by Jeremy Bentham and named as “Panopticon.” Sometimes, knowing the power of the media outlets, the higher authority tries to control them to strengthen their influence on society. They would either try to censor the media to hide certain information or push them to promote something extravagantly so that the ‘controlled units’ do not lose their tracks or show any resistance. For example- During the earlier days when the lockdown due to COVID-19 had just began in Bangladesh, the social and print media would provide us with lots of information regarding the number of infected and dead people which was causing panic and anxiety all over the country. But after a month, similar information regarding this topic was being controlled and censored skillfully so that the panic and anxiety would not hit the abnormal range. The offer to organise a big-budget esports event I received from the ICT Ministry of Bangladesh also made me think about the “The Eye of Power” Foucault talked about. It was surely my target to catch

the attention of our government with my write-ups and lead it towards this sector of sports which harbours tons of possibilities. Here, I was exercising my power to promote a certain issue of our society and get the authority's attention with a view to receiving support and acknowledgement. When the ministry acted, it also exercised its power to bring certain changes in the sector mentioned in my write-ups. Thus, I had to agree to Foucault that power is everywhere in our society and each attribute of this society is exercising its power to make what the society is today.

- **Mediascape:**

I would also like to mention Arjun Appadurai's theory of "Mediascape" here. I was interning in a place where the flood of new information remains stable and never-ending. This world of media is so hyper-active that it never sleeps on any information. The flow of new information often overwhelms us yet we cannot help but seek for more. This demand for the constant supply of news is what points my head towards the idea of "mediascape." It makes us feel like living in a world where there is no border when it comes to exchanging new information regarding cultures, financial issues, accidents, architecture and so on. We sit in a specific geographical zone and scroll through our smartphones to understand foreign culture better constantly. We hardly judge whether the representation of the foreign cultures is accurate or not; we simply teach ourselves to embrace it. It is not possible for us to visit each and every cultural zone existing in different parts of the world so there is no way to be sure whether a source of information is exaggerating or indirectly demeaning a certain culture. Sometimes, my team went through hectic days at the office because of the intense pressure to supply our target audience with enough information in a single day. It never took minutes before a certain news became too old to publish which proved that the hunger for information regarding the world never paused for

a single moment. The online platform has become so active that the print media is having a hard time to catch up and maintain its validity in this modern world.

Chapter 12

Personal Account

I had an unforgettable experience while working for Star Youth and Arts and Entertainment at *The Daily Star*. Initially, I was hesitant about reporting theatres and other cultural programmes because of my lack experience in that particular field. But with the unconditional support of my editor and the whole team, I overcame my fear and found myself in a place where I began to enjoy reporting theatre events. I always had a feeling that my team had faith in my work and it inspired me to perform better. In those three months, I heard nothing but words of encouragement and positivity during my office hours. All the staff members were very supportive and warm towards each other and it never appeared to me that anyone was drowning in work pressure because the team consisted of people who loved their job and the work pressure only gave them the opportunity to prove their depth of love for this profession. Their positive energy was so contagious that a pessimistic person like me became confident and reliable every time I was needed for a certain task. The environment, smaller to bigger duties and the bond I started to share with my co-workers made me love this profession more and more each passing day. I was practically living my dream job there and thanks to my editor, I decided stick to this profession in future.

It is important to mention that after going through such intense writing experience, I finally discovered my beat in journalism. I felt like I performed the best whenever I was assigned to report something related to the youth and social works. I also loved writing articles based on E-sports because they were quite relatable to me. Without the help of my editor, it would have been impossible because she was the one who pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me go for the events or stories which would challenge me and help me to find my own beat. I would

consider it a huge personal achievement when I got to submit an event report where I was one of the key speakers and occupied a space in the photograph published alongside the report. Another personal achievement would be three of the events that I reported during this internship where I was one of the key organisers and it was a matter of pride for me to be able to organise events that deserved media coverage from *The Daily Star*. I met a lot of well-known and noteworthy personalities and had the opportunity to have a decent conversation with them. Sometimes, while writing about so many inspiring stories, I became inspired to do something significant for others as well. While interviewing the young activists and entrepreneurs, I was touched by their stories more than once and it inspired me to work harder and think about the well-being of my society.

The courses ENG440: English for Print Media and ENG333: Globalisation helped me a lot to realize that I have deep love and never-ending curiosity when it comes to anything related to journalism. Those classes informed me that this profession has all the challenges, sparks, adventures and scopes to grow as a creative writer that I was looking for so long. At this point, I wish to say that my journey with *The Daily Star* has been incredible and priceless to the core. I am beyond honoured to have been a part of this media outlet which serves nothing but the best write-ups to its readers.

Chapter 13

Conclusion

My time at *The Daily Star* taught me that life itself is an adventure and it is alright to go out of my comfort zone sometimes to discover something new that I may love later on. It also taught me to be fearless while sharing ideas and opinions. It pushed me continuously to think out of the box and have a drive to stand out among others. By the time I was done with my internship, I knew how valuable a supportive team with so much positive energy is. This positivity not only helps the positive person grow but also inspires the whole team to function more efficiently in the times of intense work pressure. I was fortunate enough to have Ms. Elita Karim as my editor who has been a great example of a strong, independent, creative, inspiring and successful woman for years in Bangladesh. Seeing her everyday, working for her everyday at the office inspired me to work harder than before and achieve bigger things in life. I have to say that my internship period taught me more than just writing for print media; it taught me to see life from a new angle and dream bigger.

The Daily Star, just like its motto, ensures that all the news it delivers to the public is written with utter sincerity and under the circumstance where the journalism ethics have been well-maintained. It is a media outlet that thinks of its readers with care and respect and constantly tries to live up to their expectations. I had a memorable journey with *The Daily Star* and wish to utilize everything I learned from them properly in my future works.

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Appendix

In below, I am giving some of my work from May-August, 2019.

Appendix 1

The screenshot shows a news article on the website 'The Daily Star'. The page header includes the newspaper's name, the date 'Monday, September 14, 2020', and the tagline 'YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW'. A navigation bar lists various sections like 'NEWSPAPER', 'BUSINESS', 'OPINION', 'SPORTS', 'A & E', 'LIFESTYLE', 'TOGGLE', 'SHOWBIZ', 'SHOUT', 'SATIRE DAY', 'STAR YOUTH', 'EPAPER', and 'ALL SECTIONS'. A red button labeled 'বাংলা' (Bangla) is visible. The article title is 'Miles's world tour to start with USA'. Below the title are four photographs of the band Miles performing live. To the right of the photos, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and others, with a '115 Shares' count. Below the photos is the text 'Arts & Entertainment Desk'. The main body of the article contains a paragraph: 'Popular Bangladeshi band Miles is starting their world tour this June, celebrating their 40th anniversary. They will be performing in eight concerts in the USA. According to the band's frontman, Shafin Ahmed, they have plans to perform in some other countries as well. The tour will conclude with a grand concert in Dhaka.' To the right of the article, there is a 'TOP NEWS' section with several headlines, including 'Decision to reduce number of Covid-19 hospitals worries experts', 'Casino kingpin Samrat siphoned off Tk 195 crore to Singapore, Malaysia: CID', 'College admission process begins across Bangladesh', 'Rupali Bank officer recruitment: 4 years since test, no result yet', 'Battling pandemic fatigue: Some feel burned out as the Covid-19 outbreak drags on with no end in sight', and 'Sinha murder: HC drops petition seeking bar on sharing details of accused to media'. At the bottom right, there is a 'VIEW MORE' link and a banner for 'জনসমাগম এডিসে' (Jansamagam Adise) with a 'pure' logo and 'Activate 1 Go to Setting' text.

Picture: Translation 1

Appendix 2



Farjana Ahmed Annan

The Theatre and Performance Studies department of University of Dhaka (DU) introduced the play, *Roshpuran*, directed by Dr Ahmedul Kabir, recently at their Natmedol. The department will stage the play till May 4. Second-year students of the department, who serve as actors in the play, have earned praises for their brilliant performances. *Roshpuran* is influenced by the Ramayan and Mahabharat, and several other literary epics from the Indian subcontinent. The play, which follows the theory of performance arts mentioned in Nasya Sutra, successfully reflects essential aspects of the evolution of mankind, such as war, execution, fear, wrath, love, lust and so on. The plot of *Roshpuran* focuses on incorporating the eight theatrical elements, or *nattorosh* like *shringar* (attitude), *hashho* (laughter), *korun* (pity), *roudro* (wrath), *bir* (inspiration), *bhayanok* (scary), *bibhotsho* (awkward) and *otruid* (strange). According to Tahia Tasnim who worked as one of the lighting directors, working on the play was a learning experience. Umme Sumaysa is the makeup director. The choreography was done by Amit Chowdhury. Dipom Saha is the stage director, Ahsan Khan is the publication and marketing director and Abu Saleh Ahammed is the composer.

Picture: Translation 2

Appendix 3



Youth Desk

Last weekend, Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong, celebrated their 7th convocation ceremony at a 5 star hotel in the port city. A total of 100 students from 12 different countries received their Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics, Politics, Philosophy & Economics (PPE), Bioinformatics, Environmental Sciences and Public Health. The ceremony was moderated by the Chancellor of AUW, Cherie Blair. The speakers were the acting Minister of Finance and the Chief Adviser on Infrastructure and Technology to the President of Afghanistan, Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi and renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Rezwana Choudhury Bannya. They were also awarded with the Doctorate of Laws and Doctorate of Arts degrees respectively.



Kamal Ahmad, Founder of AUW.

The Founder of AUW, Kamal Ahmad, introduced the two convocation speakers to the audience. The President of BGMEA, Rubana Haq and the former adviser of Caretaker government of Bangladesh, Rokeya Afzal Rahman, were also present. The Vice Chancellor of AUW, Nirmala Rao, Registrar of AUW, Dave Dowland, Director of Admission, Rehana Alam Khan and on behalf of the students, Montaha Chowdhury, also delivered valuable and enlightening speeches for the audience.



LATEST FROM STAR LIVE



(Watch) Custodial death: Eminent lawyers, rights activists react to landmark verdict



The Founder of AUW, Kamal Ahmad, introduced the two convocation speakers to the audience. The President of BGMEA, Rubana Haq and the former adviser of Caretaker government of Bangladesh, Rokeya Afzal Rahman, were also present. The Vice Chancellor of AUW, Nirmala Rao, Registrar of AUW, Dave Dowland, Director of Admission, Rehana Alam Khan and on behalf of the students, Montaha Chowdhury, also delivered valuable and enlightening speeches for the audience.



Hidden Hero | Ep 03 | Rahul Creates Awareness Using Cultural Performances



The Chancellor of AUW Cherie Blair

In the convocation ceremony, Abreshmi Nawar, Ferowza Swapnil and Mahreen Mostafa were awarded with the Andy Matsui Award for academic excellence. These three students achieved the top cumulative grade point averages in their entire cohort of the AUW Class of 2019.

The Daily Star বাংলা
একাদশ শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি শুরু
গাছের খুঁটি দিয়ে সেতু রক্ষা, ঝুঁকি নিয়ে পারাপার
নতুন পথে, নতুন রঙে ইয়াবা



← → thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/celebrating-academic-excellence-grand-ceremony-auw-1744579



The Andy Matsui Awardees with Chancellor Cherie Blair and Vice Chancellor Nirmala Rao.

Cherie Blair, in her speech mentioned that the students had the talent and capabilities to bring significant changes in their society. She also added that the young people would have to be artisans who will surely bring positive changes. Their talent must be utilized appropriately in their work sectors. Through these actions, the society will be able to achieve morally strong and well-wishing leaders. Blair also mentioned that AUW has been playing a vital role to nourish women who fight for their rights to education.



← → thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/celebrating-academic-excellence-grand-ceremony-auw-1744579



The acting Minister of Finance of Afghanistan, Mohammad Humayon Qayoumi, stated that at present, we see two different pictures of the world where one picture consists of the abundance of wealth and power and the other one consists of poverty and sufferings. He added that we must work to overcome such an unhealthy difference. He said that the students must dream big and work hard to turn their dreams into reality with the determination and courage to overcome all the obstacles. "The fight against the existing sufferings and discriminations will remain incomplete without proper leadership," he said. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya in her speech also mentioned that AUW was made to prepare and nurture students who have the potential and capability to become successful future leaders.

The ceremony started with an inspirational song of Rabindranath Tagore and ended with another memorable performance by Rezwana Choudhury Bannya.

Picture: Translation 3

Appendix 4

Conversations over tea with Apurba Jahangir

the-daily-star.net/arts-entertainment/interview/news/conversations-over-tea-apurba-jahangir-1718899

The Daily Star
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
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NEWSPAPER BUSINESS OPINION SPORTS A & E LIFESTYLE TOGGLE SHOWBIZ SHOUT SATIREDAY STAR YOUTH EPAPER ALL SECTIONS

Home > Arts & Entertainment > Interview

12:00 AM, March 23, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, March 23, 2019

Conversations over tea with Apurba Jahangir

Farjana Ahmed Annan

University of Liberal Arts (ULAB) graduate Apurba Jahangir's short documentary film, *Dhaka An Opera* has been under the limelight as a promising film. It gives viewers a glimpse into the nightlife of Dhaka, portraying homeless people sleeping in the streets, youthful jubilation at Shahbagh, people buying and selling goods in Karwan Bazar, and more. The film was first screened at an international film festival, organised by the University of Dhaka. Later on, the crew submitted it to the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival, a notable achievement for a young filmmaker. In a short, but candid chat with *The Daily Star*, Apurba Jahangir opens up about his passion for making documentaries, and more.

Your documentary film, *Dhaka An Opera*, has earned praise at different international short film festivals. How was the experience of working on it?

I wanted to highlight the small but significant details of life in Dhaka, that escape our attention every day. For example, a skinny dog lying flat at midnight in the middle of an empty street, or cattle businessmen at Nilkhet leading their cattle to different destinations through vacant roads at night can create lasting impressions on us. We did not have a well-drafted plan before taking shots for the film. After we took the shots and came back to our

Photo: Prabir Das

16 Shares

TOP NEWS

- Reopening State-Run Jute Mills: Industrialists not interested
- After 30 years of autocracy's demise: Democracy still remains a distant dream
- Dumping in Buriganga: Wasa MD not complying intentionally
- Nobel Peace Prize: Bangladeshi-American Dr Ruhul Abid, his org HAEFA get nomination
- Threats send prisons on high alert nationwide
- Govt to import 1 lakh tonnes of onion soon

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How was the experience of working on it?

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What inspired you to take up filmmaking and documentaries in particular?

My parents named me Apurba because they loved the character Apu from *Pather Panchali*. I grew up in a family where films and documentaries were cherished, which eventually influenced my interest in making documentaries. The creativity of my teachers and fellow classmates at ULAB also inspired me to make *Dhaka An Opera*. I am also grateful to Fahimur Rahman, for his guidance as the cinematographer of the film.

What were some of the obstacles you faced while making the film?

You see, it is risky to venture out in Dhaka after midnight. There were occasions when our shooting equipment got hijacked, as we did not have any security backup with us. If we take a look at India, we see that they have dedicated theatres for short films and documentaries; we have nothing of that sort in our country, and so, as of now, we cannot reach a larger audience. We only used a 6D camera to shoot the documentary film on a limited budget.

What can you tell us about your upcoming projects?

I am working for an agency that caters to social campaigns, and on a new film, which will be released soon.

SHANTA FORUM TWIN TOWERS THE FUTURE ADDRESS OF BUSINESS

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3 IN NORTH GULSHAN

LATEST FROM STAR LIVE

Picture: Feature 1

Appendix 5

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/the-proud-brothers-dota-2-bangladesh-1750006

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AIUB First University of the country to shift 100% online operations

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12:00 AM, May 28, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 01:31 AM, May 29, 2019

The proud brothers of DOTA 2 Bangladesh

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Mohammad Aiman "Len" Iqbal and Zunnun "jin" Iqbal, known as two of the most popular professional DOTA 2 players today, also hold the prestigious positions in the SEA server as two of the top 1,500 players. They have been playing the game for over six years. They have played for one of most successful professional DOTA 2 teams of Bangladesh, The Council, for a long time. The last tournament Aiman played with The Council was The Local Cup Season 1, where they were the winners.

The Iqbal brothers had their own unique reasons to begin their journey in the world of e-sports. According to Zunnun, he started gaming because he was bullied at school. DOTA was his game of choice. On the other hand, Aiman was always fascinated by the versatility of DOTA. Today, this game is an excellent source of earning for the two boys.

Aiman is currently studying at Independent University, Bangladesh. He further aims to pursue Drama and Theatre and continue his career in DOTA 2. Zunnun aims to work as a coach of a professional DOTA 2 team and also develop a career as a caster of this game. According to Zunnun, having a good game-sense, making strategies, watching the replays of each match and analysing them is very important. They further spoke about the difficulties they faced.



Photo: Courtesy

86 Shares

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- Govt to import 1 lakh tonnes of onion soon

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thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/the-proud-brothers-dota-2-bangladesh-1750006

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"There are a lot of account buyers and boosters who often become a big threat to us. We have to lose our match-making rate because these players have no skills to play in very high-level ranked matches with us and a DOTA 2 match cannot be won without the balanced effort of the whole team," said Zunnun. Aiman added that Bangladeshi professional gamers are under paid and it is quite difficult to manage sponsors for a team. Even though The Council had sponsors like Cougar, MSI and CODesign, the facilities they received were not sufficient.

E-sports have become quite popular across the globe. The sector is a good source of income for the players. For example, last year, The International 2018, the biggest tournament of DOTA 2, had a prize of \$24.8 million. Talented players like Aiman and Zunnun, if given enough support, can create possibilities of representing Bangladesh at international tournaments.






Photo: Courtesy

- reopening state-run jute mills: industrialists not interested
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Picture: Feature 2

Appendix 6

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/shokkhom-pursuit-eradicating-poverty-1751545

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Home > Star Youth
12:00 AM, May 31, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:28 AM, May 31, 2019

Shokkhom In pursuit of eradicating poverty



PHOTOS: COURTESY

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PHOTOS: COURTESY

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Shokkhom, a wing of OBHIZATRIK Foundation, was introduced in 2016 on a small scale with two hand-pulled rickshaw vans for selling vegetables. "The major target of introducing Shokkhom is to utilise zaka funds strategically as donations for social development," says Ahmed Imitiaz Jami, the founder and president of OBHIZATRIK Foundation. The project, aimed at alleviating poverty, was observed for six months before advancing to a larger scale. It collects donations and provides underprivileged families with entrepreneurial resources and skill-based training. By 2018, team Shokkhom ensured that close to 286 families were operating their micro businesses with a view of becoming self-sufficient. Currently, Shokkhom operates in Dhaka, Kushtia, Barisal, Patuakhali, Khagrachari, Rangpur and Burimari. "It is a matter of pride for us to be able to connect the underprivileged families to the donors," says Jami. "Many donors have mentioned that helping the families leaves a positive impact on their own lives as well."

Team Shokkhom provided a rickshaw for a puller, who previously would have to rent it to earn a living. "After some time, he started to save around BDT 3000 to 4000 monthly, and a year later, he bought a small area of land in his home district. He brought sweets for us to celebrate the achievement afterwards," claims Jami. "All of his properties were destroyed due to a landslide and flood in his town. He was able to utilise the savings to regain an asset."

Another man who did not have a tube well for safe drinking water in his village was able to save up enough money



PHOTOS: COURTESY



LATEST FROM STAR LIVE



(Watch) Custodial death: Eminent lawyers, rights activists react to landmark verdict

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/shokkhom-pursuit-eradicating-poverty-1751545

for a tube well with the micro-business that Shokkhom helped him to set up. "Today, thousands of people are using the well to have clean and safe drinking water, which is an inspiration for us," says Zami.

Shokkhom selects their candidates through a thorough process. The first step is to identify the candidates by checking their financial history, marketable skills, reputation and desire to improve. The candidates' existing loan histories and their willingness to work hard with honesty and dedication play an integral role in the process as well. The second step involves assigning donors and selecting business projects. Shokkhom has 23 types of startup business models presently, which are developed based on current market conditions, financial investments and existing skills of individuals. Interested donors are reached out by a network of 140 volunteers working in nine different districts. The third step is to train and disburse funds. After a donor is found and a model is developed, an individual goes through seven to ten days of orientation on business development, technology and financial management. In the final step of the selection process, volunteers monitor the micro-businesses and check if they are running smoothly or not. They provide the beneficiaries with any form of support that they require and visit them once every week. At times, meetings are held to discuss strategies and solutions to different problems. The financial reports are sent to the donors via e-mails. The donors also receive the progress reports twice a year.



Hidden Hero | Ep 04 | Ema Serves As The Light of Vogotgazi

The Daily Star বাংলা

আফ্ফারার সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক জোরদারে আগ্রহী ঢাকা: প্রধানমন্ত্রী

পূজা স্পেশাল ইলিশের প্রথম চালান গেল ভারতে

পেঁয়াজ রপ্তানিতে ভারতের নিষেধাজ্ঞা

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/shokkhom-pursuit-eradicating-poverty-1751545



"Shokkhom", a project by OBHZATRIK Foundation, collects zakat funds for the poor and endeavours to give a decent means of livelihood to individuals in need via their funding and arrangement of capital.

Shokkhom has close to 198 donors as of now. 98 percent of their beneficiaries were able to improve their financial conditions in nearly a year of starting their micro-businesses. Team Shokkhom looks to bring 500 more underprivileged families under their initiative in the near future.

আফ্ফারার সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক জোরদারে আগ্রহী ঢাকা: প্রধানমন্ত্রী


পূজা স্পেশাল ইলিশের প্রথম চালান গেল ভারতে

পেঁয়াজ রপ্তানিতে ভারতের নিষেধাজ্ঞা


Picture: Feature 3

Appendix 7


thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/theatre/news/selim-al-deens-muntasir-staged-bsa-1713259



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Tuesday, September 15, 2020
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Home > Arts & Entertainment > Theatre

12:00 AM, March 11, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:13 AM, March 11, 2019

Selim Al Deen's 'Muntasir' Staged at BSA






Photo: Monon Muntaka

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- Govt to import 1 lakh tonnes of onion soon

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thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/theatre/news/selim-al-deens-muntasir-staged-bsa-1713259





Photo: Monon Muntaka

Farjana Ahmed Annan


Muntasir, written by Selim Al Deen, was staged at the Experimental Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on March 8. The musical comedy is the tenth production of Natyajon. It is directed by Selim Kamal.

The central character of the play, Muntasir, was portrayed as an aristocratic business-person who kept eating every tangible object, including food, clothing and pottery that he came across. All the other supporting characters of the play appeared to be scared of his never-ending hunger, yet chose to keep serving him. The play reflected on some problematic aspects of our society through colourful props, comical music and exaggerated movements, which kept the audience hooked to the scenes till the end. Muntasir can also be considered as social criticism, which tactfully satirised the selfishness of people in different professions. It also reflected on the existing differences between the upper and lower classes, and how reality is perceived differently for each of those classes. The play provided much 'food' for thought, pun intended, for the audience, who could probably foresee the ending from the events, but were still moved by the execution of Muntasir.


The cast of the production included Tabibul Islam Babu, Bijan Sarkar, Selim Kamal, Mohsin Shamim, Shahin Shibli, Ovi Pramanik, Shariful Islam, Al Imran, Roxi, Sheikh Khair Asha, Maya, Adif and Shanta, among others.




RELATED STORIES



Dhaka Theatre's Selim Al Deen Festival begins



Selim Al Deen: A man for all seasons



Swapnadal to hold Selim Al Deen festival

Picture: Event report 1

Appendix 8

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/drmc-ena-international-tech-carnival-2019-1714030



The Daily Star
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
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Home » Star Youth

12:00 AM, March 12, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 05:34 PM, March 12, 2019

DRMC ENA International Tech Carnival 2019

Farjana Ahmed Annan

The DRMC ENA International Tech Carnival 2019 was hosted at the Dhaka Residential Model College, where students from more than 50 educational institutions participated. The two-day tech carnival included live website creating, IT Olympiad, solo and team quiz competitions, multimedia presentations, code races, PC gaming, TechDad, VR gaming, web designing, mobile gaming, project display, robo-soccer, robo-expo, wall-magazine showcasing, photography workshop competition and so forth. ENA Group was the title sponsor of the carnival. The other co-sponsors were Islami Bank, RSRM and Transcom Electronics. The bronze sponsor was Trust Bank and the media partner was Channel i.



Photo: Shams Asif Chowdhury

30 Shares



TOP NEWS

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thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/drmc-ena-international-tech-carnival-2019-1714030

Md Shafin Rahman Shimanto, the founding president of DRMC IT Club spoke at the event. "DRMC did not have an IT club when I started my college here. So, introducing an IT Club, making all the teachers and guardians see the importance of working for such a club and spending ample amount of time to observe and analyse how different information technologies are influencing every step of our daily life were some big challenges we faced primarily," he said. "We learned a lot about teamwork, communication skills, event management and solving different problems within a short time by working for this carnival. The IT scene in the whole world is changing fast. To make our country stand out, we must make efforts to understand this change from early on and work hard to make significant contributions in the development of Bangladesh."

On the closing day of the carnival, the Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology Division, Bangladesh, Zanaid Ahmed Palak was present as the chief guest. He stated that to inspire and support innovation ecosystem, startup culture and entrepreneur supply-chain, an academy titled "Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship Academy" will soon be introduced in Bangladesh. As special guests, engineer Enamul Haque, MP and the Executive Director of RSRM, Md Shafiqul Haque, were also present. The winner of the IT Olympiad of the secondary group was Simin Hossain from Mohammadpur Preparatory School while the winner of Techwall Magazine was Nourin Islam, IsratJahan and Zarin Ashrafee from YWCA Higher Secondary Girls' School. The winner of code race was Jaber Ahmed Deedar from Notre Dame College and the winner of live website creating was Asif Hossain Khan from Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College. The winner of mobile gaming (PUBG) was Zaki Chowdhury and the winner of PC gaming (NFS) was Mahfuzul Islam and the winner was Shahriar Rinve Sikto for FIFA 19. The winner of project display (secondary) was Alpha Robot Team for Alpha Robot and WasiqueTajwar Ryan (junior). The winner of website designing competition was Atiabhayer from DCC and the champion of robo-soccer was Team DEFENDER from AIUB. The winner of gadget geek was Faysal Mahmud from Adamjee Cantonment College.



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Picture: Event report 2

Appendix 9


thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/cmok-brings-home-dota-2-agl-cup-1714027



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 12:00 AM, March 12, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 05:30 PM, March 12, 2019

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Farjana Ahmed Annan

The DOTA 2 AGL Cup began on March 1 at the Auroral Gaming Lounge, Mohakhali, Dhaka with a game between FOR and Natki Bois. The tournament was hosted by Ahmed Sadaf, accomodating 10 teams in total. Most of the teams included players who had prior experience in playing LAN tournaments. Renowned players like Mohiuddin Rahman Sajol, Nabid PepEp, Mohamud Aiman Iqbal, Zunnun Iqbal, Rizvan Moin, Muhtasim Susmoy and many others participated in the tournament. Ahmed Sadaf, the only organiser of the tournament, stated that his primary goal for this event was to gather everyone together and give the new LAN players an opportunity to meet and play with the renowned players. He added that the major obstacle he faced while working for the tournament was the traffic jam of the city. Because of the traffic jam, the announced time for each match kept getting delayed. However, electricity and internet problems decreased, compared to previous years.





Photo: CmoK AGL Cup Champion


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CmoK, one of the oldest teams of DOTA 2 Bangladesh, won the title after a long time defeating Natki Bois. The team starred CmoK_Wolfs134n3, CmoK_Nabid PepEp, CmoK_Lost-Rider, Dreamshock (standin) and CmoK_Zanbato. CmoK_Wolfs134n3 reflected on his team's victory. He said, "We had a great time playing together and made sure that we play staying in our comfort zone. CmoK_Lost-Rider had to play with an injured hand this time, along with me who just got out of a major medical surgery," he informed. "We came to the tournament without any confidence and were full of hope by the end." The organiser hopes to host two more tournaments this year.







Picture: Event report 3

Appendix 10

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/news/discussion-the-significance-march-11-1948-1714114

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12:00 AM, March 13, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, March 13, 2019

Discussion on the significance of March 11, 1948



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thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/news/discussion-the-significance-march-11-1948-1714114




Photo: Sheikh Mehedi Marshed

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Sommilito Sangskritik Jot and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) held a discussion recently, on the significance of March 11, 1948 from a historical perspective, at BSA. As the leading speakers, the Chairperson of Sommlito Sangskritik Jot, Golam Kuddus, thespian Ramendu Majumdar, Director General of Bangla Academy, poet Habibullah Siraji, Director General of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky and General Secretary of Sommlito Sangskritik Jot, Hasan Arif, were present.

Golam Kuddus discussed how we, as a nation, tend to overlook the indirect yet strong influence Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had on the Language Movement of 1952. He added that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman continued to inspire the Bangla-speaking people to demand Bangla as the native language of the then East Pakistan. However, according to Kuddus, it is upsetting to see how history books underestimate Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's noteworthy role behind the movement and praise only a select few, which does not really paint a thorough picture of our history.

The programme also included poetry recitations, inspired by the Language Movement and ended with a group musical performance.

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- Jatra U'tshab 2019 concludes today
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Picture: Event report 4

Appendix 11

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/event/news/latai-honours-distinguished-poets-1719904



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12:00 AM, March 25, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:36 AM, March 25, 2019

Latai honours distinguished poets

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Latai organised a prize-giving ceremony for the third consecutive year, titled, 'Chhorashahitto Puroskar Prodan Anushthan' on March 23 at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, where poets were awarded for their noteworthy literary works in 2017 and 2018 under different categories. In the ceremony, the eighth edition of *Latai*, the *Faruk Hossain Shongkha*, edited by poet Mamun Sarwar, was unveiled in front of the audience. As a publication, *Latai* aims to work with poets and writers from different generations to preserve the essence of Bangla Literature.

The ceremony started with a welcoming address by Mamun Sarwar and included speeches by poets Akhter Hossain, Alam Talukdar, Aslam Sunny and Amirul Islam. Noted poet and Director General of Bangla Academy Habibullah Siraji was the chief guest while writer Ali Emam presided over the session.



Photo: Kazi Salahuddin Razu

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Habibullah Siraji congratulated the winners and stated that Bangla Academy will always support promising literary professionals and their work and that our community needs to work to improve the current state of Bangla Literature.

For 2018, Anjir Liton, Romen Raihan, Wasif A Khoda, Nihar Mosharraf and Ahmad Shadhin were announced as the winners of the Chhorashahitto Puroshkar. For 2017, Faruk Nawaz, FarukHossain, Hasan Hafiz, SM Shamsul Alam, Ahmed Sabbir, Addoita Marut Chhoray and Moin Mursaleen were awarded. Poet Faruk Hossain received the lifetime achievement award from Habibullah Siraji and Ali Emam.



Photo: Kazi Salahuddin Razu

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Picture: Event report 5

Appendix 12

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/exhibition/news/all-women-art-exhibition-life-2019-organised-gallery-cosmos-1721182

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12:00 AM, March 28, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, March 28, 2019

All-women art exhibition 'Life 2019' organised at Gallery Cosmos



A painting by Fahmida Enam Kakoli



A painting by Mini Karim

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A painting by Fahmida Enam Kakoli



A painting by Mini Karim

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Life 2019 is a group art exhibition featuring paintings by 39 female artists. It was inaugurated at Gallery Cosmos on Bangladesh's Independence Day, by the chief guest, Australian High Commissioner HE Julia Niblett. She stated that it is a matter of regret that female artists face gender discrimination often in Bangladesh and that as a community, we need to battle against it. Speaking on the occasion as the special guest, Cornelia Gautschi Holenstein expressed the hope that women artists will continue to overcome barriers that stand in their way.

The paintings at the exhibition uphold the doubts, struggles, pleasures, achievements and realities of women. Most of the works at the exhibition are created with acrylic colours, acrylic embroidery, oil paints, Belgian Linen and other techniques. The participating artists are Afrozaa Jamil Konka, Antara Mehrukh Azad, Asma Akber, Atia Islam Anne, Bipasha Hayat, Dilara Begum Jolly, Dilruba Latif, Elham Huq (Khuku), Fahmida Enam Kakoli, Fahmida Khatun, Fareha Zeba, Farida Zaman, Farzana Rahman Bobby, Ferdowsi Priobhashini, Halide Salam, Hazviney Bridget Mutasa, Ivy Zaman, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Ruhu Plamandan, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Mini Karim, Nargis Poly, Nasima Haque Quenee, Nasreen Begum, Preema Nazia Andaleeb, Rahima Afroz, Rebeqa Sultana, Rokeya Sultana, Rubina Akhter, Samina Nafes, Shantwana Shahrin, Shameem Subrana, Sharbari Roy Choudhury, Shulekha Chaudhury, Sohana Shahreen, Soma Surovi Jannat, Shruti Gupta Kasana, Surovi Akhter and Vinita Karim.

Life 2019 demonstrates solidarity with the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements that call for the abolishment of gender discrimination and aim to make the world recognise the potential in women. The exhibition will run till April 9, daily from 11am to 8 pm.

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'Jolkonna - Naiads the Water Nymphs' at Bishwo Shahitto

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Appendix 12

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/music/news/rabirashmi-hosts-boshonter-madhuri-utshabe-1723930

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Rabirashmi hosts 'Boshonter Madhuri Utshabe'



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Photo: Monon Murtaka

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Rabirashmi, an organisation dedicated to working with Rabindranath Tagore's lyrical works for over two decades, hosted *Boshonter Madhuri Utshabe* on Monday at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum. The programme started with a group performance of *Aguner Poroshmoni* by Rabirashmi singers, who later welcomed the honourable guests with flower bouquets. The director of Rabirashmi, Mohadeb Ghosh, presided over the programme and presented the honourable guests, from Agartala, with *utorios*. He delivered a welcoming address in which he thanked the audience and talked about his personal experiences of working with Rabindra Sangeet and the Agartala singers. He also discussed the regular activities of Rabirashmi. Group and solo performances of Rabindra Sangeet by the Rabirashmi singers and recitations of Rabindranath Tagore's literary works mesmerised the audience at the programme.

As guest singers, Rita Chakrabarti, Sarbani Das Datta, Kingkar Narayan Datta and Shaoli Roy from Agartala were present at the programme. Shri Kalyan Gupta, distinguished poet and general secretary of Tripura Rabindra Parishad, Agartala, and Shri Amit Bhoumik, distinguished journalist and cultural personality, received the Rabirashmi Shommanona 2019 from Rabirashmi. The programme also included speeches by Sarbani Das Datta, Rita Chakrabarti, Shri Amit Bhoumik and Shri Kalyan Gupta.

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-  Chhayanaut named for Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony
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Picture: Event report 7

Appendix 13

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/bylc-hosts-session-the-importance-gender-equality-1726873

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BYLC hosts session on the importance of gender equality



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Farjana Ahmed Annan

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) celebrated International Women's Day this March, at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh with the slogan, "Balance for Better: Shomriddhir Pothe Akshathe." The programme welcomed more than 400 participants with eight distinguished guest speakers to promote the importance of gender equality, address the existing gender discrimination issues in our society and focus on the solutions for the obstacles they create. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) moderated the first session titled, "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" along with Anita Ghazi Rahman, Founder and Partner, The Legal Circle, Farin Daulah, Co-founder and Managing Director, Yellow Brick Road, and Adjunct Faculty Member, North South University, and Nazma Ara Begum Poppy, General Secretary, Visually Impaired People's Society (VIPS) and Project Officer, Handicap International.

Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President of BYLC, moderated the second session of the programme titled, 'Social Mindset and Men's Role in Gender Equality'. Intiaz Ilahi, Co-founder, BDRunners, and Managing Director, GraphicPeople, and Farzana Kashfi, Development Activist and Former Head of BRAC Skills Development Program, also spoke at the panel. Intiaz Ilahi talked about the spontaneous participation of both male and female runners of Bangladesh in the marathons of BDRunners and mentioned that gender never plays a role when it came to judging someone's overall stamina. He further added that we need to come out of stereotypical thought processes about evaluating the mental and physical strength of someone based on gender. The programme ended with a poetry recitation and a musical performance by Chitropot. Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD) and United News Bangladesh (UNB) were the outreach and media partners respectively.

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BYLC BYLC honours 6 young leaders



Picture: Event report 8

Appendix 14

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/event/news/choitre-boi-utshab-2019-concludes-1728961



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Choitre Boi Utshab 2019 concludes





Farjana Ahmed Annan


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Farjana Ahmed Annan


A seasonal book fair, Choitre Boi Utshab 2019, was organised in collaboration with 10 publications at Bangladesh National Museum. The event concluded on Thursday. Artist Hashem Khan, the chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Bangladesh National Museum, was present to inaugurate the festival. Md Reaz Ahmed, the director general of Bangladesh National Museum and poet Mohammad Nurul Huda were also present as special guests.

Anisul Haque, Dr Rezaur Rahman, Subrata Barua, Professor Harunuzzaman, Faruq Mahmud, Rezaul Karim Khokon, Ata Sarkar, Dr Mostak Sharif, Morshed Shaiful Hasan, Saymon Zakaria, Zumat Nashit and others also visited the festival.


Choitre Boi Utshab 2019 offered a diverse collection of books, including children's fiction, science fiction, poetry, books on the Liberation War and many others. The event was organised with the aims of celebrating Choitro and developing an appreciation for books among the young generation.

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US envoy Miller visits book fair



Book fair shut again after brief reopening

Picture: Event report 9

Appendix 15

thedailystar.net/star-youth/news/samsung-bangladesh-esports-championship-2019-1729903

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Samsung Bangladesh - eSports Championship 2019

Farjana Ahmed Annan

For the first time in Bangladesh, Samsung organised an Inter-university DOTA 2 eSports Championship, which concluded last month, with the final matches at Independent University, Bangladesh. With an impressive prize pool of gifts from Samsung worth BDT 500,000 in total, Samsung received a huge response from universities like IUB, BRAC, AIUB, EWU, ULAB and NSU. There was no entry fee required for the teams, yet the prize pool quite impressive.



The tournament had 41 teams from six private universities. 6 teams were announced as the finalists and one of them, Final Rise from Team IUB, won the grand champion's trophy. Final Rise consisted of Rizvan "Dreamshock" Moin, Md Nurul Amin "Oldman Legend" Jony, Salman "Beholder" Rahman, Mohammad Aiman "Len" Iqbal and Shaikhe "Priest" Rahman. Smart Tech, InterSpeed and Amarnet also supported the event.



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According to Mohammad Aiman Iqbal who played for Final Rise, his teammates were familiar with the gameplay of each other because they attended several tournaments together beforehand. They practiced for 1-2 hours every day before the championship. He encouraged the younger players to maintain a good balance between their education, family life and gaming and not stress over winning so much. "Gamers in Bangladesh rarely receive support from their families," says Shahriar Rahman, one of the organisers of the event. "If we can show the elders that we can be successful in the e-sports sector, more talented gamers will be encouraged to represent the country locally and internationally."

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Appendix 16

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12:00 AM, April 17, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 08:03 PM, April 17, 2019

Among the hopeful youth at American Center

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Recently, GEIST International Foundation organised a youth leadership training session for the English Access Micro Scholarship Program students, where along with Munif Khan, a YES alumnus, Mohammad Shahed Ali TEA alumnus, I Farjana Ahmed Annan, a SUSI alumnus and Muhammad Ferdous, a CCI alumnus, were present as trainers. This programme started in 2004 where 150,000 students in more than 80 countries participated to bring changes in their society. In Bangladesh, it is being funded by the US Department of State and implemented by GEIST International Foundation where underprivileged students aged between 13 and 17 are provided with two years of education in English and leadership training. 46 Access students are currently involved in this programme and the session will continue till 2020.



Photo: Courtesy

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Photo: Courtesy

As a trainer, I truly felt inspired during the session. The dreams of the students included becoming software and hardware engineers, serving the US Navy; working to make the youth love books more than gadgets, contributing to the cultural sector of Bangladesh and so on. The hardships they faced in their lives did not stop them from following their ambitions. What I truly wanted the Access students to know was that having faith in the importance of self-love and their own capabilities will take them ahead in life. Watching them listening to me so attentively gave me hope for a better future of my country. If more students like them could receive opportunities to attend leadership training sessions and scholarships for quality education, Bangladesh will have a bright and reliable workforce that will make us proud.

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Picture: Event report 11

Appendix 17

thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/event/news/dci-and-rsc-organises-press-conference-children-rights-and-sight-1730470

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DCI and RSC organises press conference on children rights and sight



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thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/event/news/dci-and-rsc-organises-press-conference-children-rights-and-sight-1730470



Photo: Kazi Salahuddin Razu

Farjana Ahmed Annan

The Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) organised a press conference on Children Rights and Sight, in collaboration with Hotel Tropical Daisy, at the hotel premises yesterday. DCI is a US based non-profit organisation headquartered at Cheshire, Connecticut and aims to protect children by focusing on their health, education, family rights, sound psychological growth and other basic opportunities. Protecting children's eyesight and creating awareness about different ophthalmological diseases are also among DCI's top objectives. Children who are raised abroad, and are from financially solvent families, are encouraged to sponsor underprivileged children residing in Bangladesh and maintain friendship by writing letters or through social media. This programme is part of the initiative 'Children Helping Children'. RSC Chairperson Dr Abdul Mazid and Dr Ehsan Hoque, the Founder and Executive Director of DCI addressed members of the press at the conference, where the latter mentioned, "I used to be bullied because of my poor eyesight when I was young. I understand the psychological distress a child goes through while dealing with such issues in their childhood and adolescence." He further added, "I have always focused on counseling pregnant women on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle for the sound development of their children. I am pleased to say that this organisation shares the same motives as I do, to promote ways of improving children's health."

The press conference ended with an announcement of the upcoming annual awareness concert titled 'Journey for Child Rights and Sight', on April 19 at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) auditorium. DCI Goodwill Ambassador Sabina Yasmin, DCI Advocate Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel, Benuka Institution of Fine Arts, and other renowned Bangladeshi performers will partake in the concert. Renowned actor and DCI Goodwill Ambassador Babita Akhter will welcome the guests via a video message.

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Home » Arts & Entertainment » Event
12:00 AM, April 21, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 01:30 PM, April 21, 2019

DCI and RSC organise concert to support underprivileged children



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Farjana Ahmed Annan

The Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) organised a concert for underprivileged children at the Krishibid Institute Bangladesh Auditorium recently. Distinguished personalities including legendary singer Sabina Yasmin, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam and renowned actor Babita Akhter supported the initiative. Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel, DCI's Sun Child Musical Group, Benuka Institute of Fine Arts also charmed the audience with their performances. "DCI aims to ensure proper education, healthcare, vision care and orphan care facilities for underprivileged children. The sole purpose of organising this concert was to raise funds for them," said Dr Ehsan Hoque. Actor Babita Akhter encouraged the audience via a video message to take part in this initiative and help the children.



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DNCC mayor, Atiqul Islam said that he was impressed by DCI and RSC's initiative to help underprivileged children. He added that it is a crucial moment to lend a hand to these children who can also become valuable assets to us to develop Dhaka along with the whole country.

Singer Sabina Yasmin, as an integral part of DCI, spoke highly of the initiative. She said that she loved spending time with the children of DCI's orphanage in Dhaka, and dedicated all her songs to the distressed children who are under the care of DCI.



Those who are interested to sponsor children or contribute to any sector of DCI, are encouraged to contact in the following numbers: +8801726051700 (Bangladesh), +1-203-376-6351 (USA).

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 12:00 AM, April 30, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 07:03 PM, April 30, 2019

Sunnydale students celebrate Rabindra Jayanti

Farjana Ahmed Annan

The junior section-1 of Sunnydale School celebrated Rabindra Jayanti 1426 'Chitto Jetha Bhoysgunno' at Bangladesh National Museum on April 23. The celebration consisted of colourful performances like classical dance, recitation of children's poetry, group songs and parts of Rabindranath Tagore's plays. The magnificent performances ended with the children performing *Amra Shobai Raja* and later, the national anthem of Bangladesh. Principal of Sunnydale School, Tazeen Ahmed thanked the guests, teachers, vice principals and guardians to encourage the children to grow interest in such activities besides studies.

Bidisha Zaman, a guardian of one of the performers, admires the initiative taken by the school authorities to teach the students about cultural performances, creations of Rabindranath Tagore and the essence of Bangla literature.

Zinnat Ferdous as music director, Abdullah Al Mamun as stage director, Tahmina Islam as choreographer, Shubhashish Dutta Tonmoy as makeup director and teachers of junior section-1 as costume designers contributed to the eye-catching celebration.



Photo: Kazi Salahuddin Razu

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12:00 AM, May 06, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 10:45 PM, May 06, 2019

Preliminary round of International Leadership Programme On Education held at UIU

Farjana Ahmed Annan

The preliminary round of the International Leadership Programme on Education took place at United International University (UIU) recently, funded by the US Department of State. Primarily, students coming from different institutions attended a workshop on the English language and then sat for the preliminary round which focused on training them in effective communication. The event also included an art competition for the students. At the opening ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor of UIU, Prof Md Mofizur Chowdhury welcomed everyone and applauded GILC and GEIST International Foundation for providing young students with opportunities to represent Bangladesh at a global platform. The guest of honour of the event, Honourable Ambassador of the United States, Earl R Miller, also spoke.



Eight students will be selected to participate in the English Language Competition in Vietnam this year after completing three rounds of this programme and going through a rigorous selection process. The event also included the unveiling of the annual report of GEIST International Foundation, an aeronautical photoshoot of the participants and the induction programme of the students of English Access, a micro-scholarship programme funded by the US Department of State, during which the participants received acknowledgement certificates from Earl R Miller.

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12:00 AM, May 08, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 05:57 PM, May 08, 2019

6th Children Science Congress 2019 held

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Children Science Congress hosted the 6th Children Science Congress 2019 at University of Asia Pacific recently, where close to 400 science students gathered to participate in a paper presentation, poster exhibition, project showcase, joint-congress, networking segment and other programmes.



Photo: Monon Muntaka

These students were selected after reviews of more than 3000 concept papers submitted by students coming from different areas of Bangladesh. The programme was inaugurated in presence of the Vice Chancellor of University of Asia Pacific Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, biological scientist Dr Rezaur Rahman, Executive Director of Bangladesh Freedom Federation, Sazzadur Rahman Chowdhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad, Munir Hasan and General Secretary of Society for the Popularization of Science, Bangladesh, Dr Farseem Mannan Mohammedy.


In the event, three research papers were awarded with the titles, Paper of The Congress, Poster of The Congress and Project of The Congress. 50 students received the Science Congress Research and Travel Grant. The winners of the congress will take part in the 6th Jagdish Chandra Bose Camp where they will be trained by experts to conduct proper research projects, and attend different international science conferences. Children Science Congress 2019 aims to inspire the young students to participate in renowned international events and contribute to the development of Bangladesh.

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12:00 AM, May 12, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 07:25 PM, May 12, 2019


Tarunner Joyutshab: An inspiring event for the youth


Farjana Ahmed Annan



In collaboration with Crown Cement and Prothom Alo, Tarunner Joyutshab was organised recently at Krishibid Institute Bangladesh. Previously, this event was organised in 32 areas of Bangladesh where more than 10,000 young students participated. The aim of the event was to provide the youth with the necessary information about the existing opportunities in the local and international job sectors and inform them about the job skills they need to stand out.

The event also promoted the importance of having proper information about job opportunities at the right time and having the motivation to aim for the best options.

Sessions where lectures were given on topics like language skills, presentation skills, leadership skills and others were also held at the event. Many corporate representatives from different renowned local and multinational companies led interactive sessions with the students present.






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 07:40 PM, May 15, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 07:49 PM, May 15, 2019





The Local Cup Season One

Farjana Ahmed Annan

The Local Cup Season One was organised recently, with participation from both renowned players and newcomers of DOTA 2 Bangladesh. The tournament incorporated two individual tiers to encourage players of different calibers. Tier 1 was designed for the highly skilled players and tier 2 for the beginners. The winners, first and second runners up of tier 2 were given the opportunity to compete in tier 1 against the stronger teams in LAN matches held at Auroral Gaming Lounge, Mohakhali. This tournament initially started online and held the tier 1 matches at AGL later on. The LAN matches had a large number of visitors as some of the most famous and experienced players like Farhan "Deaths" Islam, Atif "Hulk" Al Rashid, Abdullah "Tudu Tudu" Al Noman, Farhan "AVD" Ony, Raahib "Deciphered" Reza, Fahmed "False" Anu and others took part in it. Another appealing feature of this tournament was its prize pool of tk.50,000. The winners of tier 1 and tier 2 are Oshustho Gaming and K.T.R.2 respectively. Team Critix and myRevenge.BD secured the position of the first runner up in tier 2 and tier 1.

"My target was to create a platform where both highly skilled and emerging players can compete with a fair chance to exhibit their capabilities in a healthy and competitive atmosphere," said Fahmed Anu, the key organiser of the event. "I plan to come back with season two soon, where I want to incorporate not only DOTA 2 but other popular games as well." The Local Cup Season One was powered by Cougar and MSI.










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thedailystar.net/arts-entertainment/hollywood/news/captain-marvel-just-prequel-1716880


Home » Arts & Entertainment » Hollywood

12:00 AM, March 19, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 12:00 AM, March 19, 2019

Captain Marvel – Just a prequel?

Farjana Ahmed Annan

Captain Marvel, the much-anticipated Marvel Cinematic Universe standalone title based on its' premiere female superhero, released on March 8. Brie Larson, the actor who bagged both Academy Award and Golden Globe previously, played the role of Captain Marvel, with supporting characters being Samuel L Jackson as Nick Fury, Ben Mendelsohn as Talos, Jude Law as Yon-Rogg and Annette Benning as Dr Wendy Lawson, among others. Brie Larson bore the weight of playing Captain Marvel and being in the centre of a superhero movie gracefully, whether it be performing close combat, or delicately playing emotional scenes.



The movie heavily focuses on introducing Carol Danvers to its audience. Initially, Danvers was shown to be suffering from amnesia, and it was a relief to see that the movie did not bombard its audience with countless flashbacks, which would be an unwelcome addition. The character gradually recollected her memory, and came to understand that the Skrulls, a refugee race among the aliens, were the victims of the Kree, their captors. She eventually goes on to embrace her identity as Captain Marvel.

One of the more unexpected and enjoyable aspects of the movie was the 'unseen' and humorous sides to the character of Nick Fury. The audience applauded and laughed out loud when the movie disclosed how Fury got his eye injured and marked permanently, which I will not disclose.


The film served well as an introduction to Captain Marvel, before her grand entrance in the upcoming movie of *MCU, Avengers: Endgame*. However, on its own, the plot seemed to lack inspiration: it lacked the quality that would evoke a hefty response, let alone a standing ovation. Perhaps it would be better if Captain Marvel was released after *Avengers: Endgame* with a better plot and more refined character work. However, for all its mediocrity, it is a good introduction to a very charming female superhero, one that would justify her actions in *Avengers: Endgame* for the casual audience.

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