

TOKYO HIPPARI NIGHTS IN DHAKA



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TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

A publication of *The Daily Star*

No.1
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Digital Campaign 2020
Season-7

**Mega
Festival**

In this Eid buying Walton Fridge, Washing Machine & Microwave Oven you may be the Millionaire or owner of Tk. One Lac. Crores of Taka Cash Voucher assured

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- Digital campaign facilities will be void in case of more than 3 registration from the same mobile number in a year
- In case of cash payment, customer will be paid through cheque after deduction of Source Tax at the rate determined by National Board of Revenue (NBR)
- The authority reserves the right to change the campaign anytime

This initiative is taken to ensure maximum customer facilities through research & development of products and digitalization

Return SMS may be delayed for the technical/network problems

Conditions Apply

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Singapore plans to give all citizens virus-tracing wearables

Singapore plans to give each of its 5.7 million residents a wearable device that will identify people who had interacted with carriers of coronavirus.

The tiny city-state, with one of the highest COVID-19 cases in Asia, is one of many countries trying to use technology to allow them to safely reopen their economies.

Vivian Balakrishnan, the minister in charge of the city-state's smart nation initiative, said last Friday that Singapore will soon roll out the device, and "may then distribute it to everyone in Singapore.". The device does not depend on a smartphone.

The government did not specify whether carrying the device would be mandatory.

Earlier, the government's TraceTogether app encountered problems, especially on Apple devices where its operating system suspends Bluetooth scanning when the app runs in the background. Repeated discussions with Apple failed to resolve the problem.

OPPO Launches Reno 3 Pro in Bangladesh

OPPO Bangladesh has launched Reno3 Pro in an online launch event recently. The Reno 3 Pro comes with 44MP and 2MP dual camera and a punch-hole super AMOLED display. With its 4-lens rear camera setup, the device comes with 6 specialized cameras serving the multi-dimensional purpose for smartphone photography enthusiasts. The rear camera comes with a 64-megapixel sensor and f/1.7



lens, while there's also a 13-megapixel f/2.4 2x telephoto, an 8-megapixel f/2.2 ultrawide and a 2-megapixel monochrome sensor. OPPO Reno 3 Pro comes with 5x hybrid zoom and 20x digital zoom.

Other specs include a Mediatek Helio P95 chipset, 8GB of RAM, 256GB of expandable storage and dual SIM slots. The 4,025mAh battery can be fast-charged at 30W with VOOC 4.0 flash charging technology. According to OPPO's internal test results, this device can acquire 0-50% charge within 20 minutes and 100% within 56 minutes.

The device comes with a BDT 39,990 price tag and is available all over Bangladesh in OPPO Outlets, shopping malls, and e-commerce platforms.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hey, it's Friday, again!

I wouldn't lie, I longed to write this note. A 4x4 column where I write about my erratically inspiring editorial team, a bunch of modestly driven contributors, and the bossman Ronny surprising me with a 'You've got 15 minutes to write this note!' But then I realized, it's a 4x4 column. Skipping on how I feel about the amazing team I work with, I would talk about this issue of Toggle that has reappeared again on your doorstep with all its might. That means it's Friday again! Wait, how many Fridays do we have in a week? On a personal note, I loved working with my team to put up an issue every week to make life easier for all of us amidst current circumstances. But I'll be honest, as much as I miss our weekly meetings in the office, I've accustomed to our weekly zoom hangouts from home. Guess I have a 'stuck-home' syndrome.

Nomrota Sarker, writer at Toggle, planning on coup of the Editorship

New cars this week



Toyota Hilux - The tank-on-a-budget gets a midlife refresh and it now looks tougher than ever. The facelift came with a new front grille and bumper, LED front and tail lamps, and a brand-new color choice, aptly named Titan Bronze. Inside, the car gets a new 8-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and satellite navigation, along with some updated safety features. The most notable update would be the new optional 2.8-diesel engine, producing 201 HP and 369 lb-ft of torque. The new engine allows this brute to reach 0-100 in 10 seconds, not bad for a vehicle that weighs almost two tons.



BMW 4 Series -The new front grilles give the car looks of a giant angry beaver, out on the hunt for any lesser car that gets in its way. The inside is what you expect from a driver-focused BMW, as long as you ignore the complete elimination of manual transmission. For power, the current top-spec M440i coupe gets a new engine. The 3.0-liter six-cylinder is a mild-hybrid, generating 382 HP and 369 lb-ft of torque with a 0-100 of 4.3 seconds.

TOGGLE

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TechBits



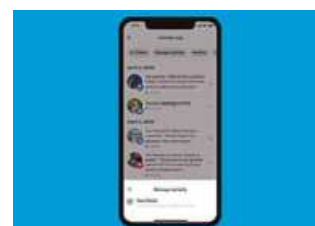
SpaceX launches another 60 Starlink satellites in space.

LinkedIn's debuts new retargeting tools focused on virtual engagement

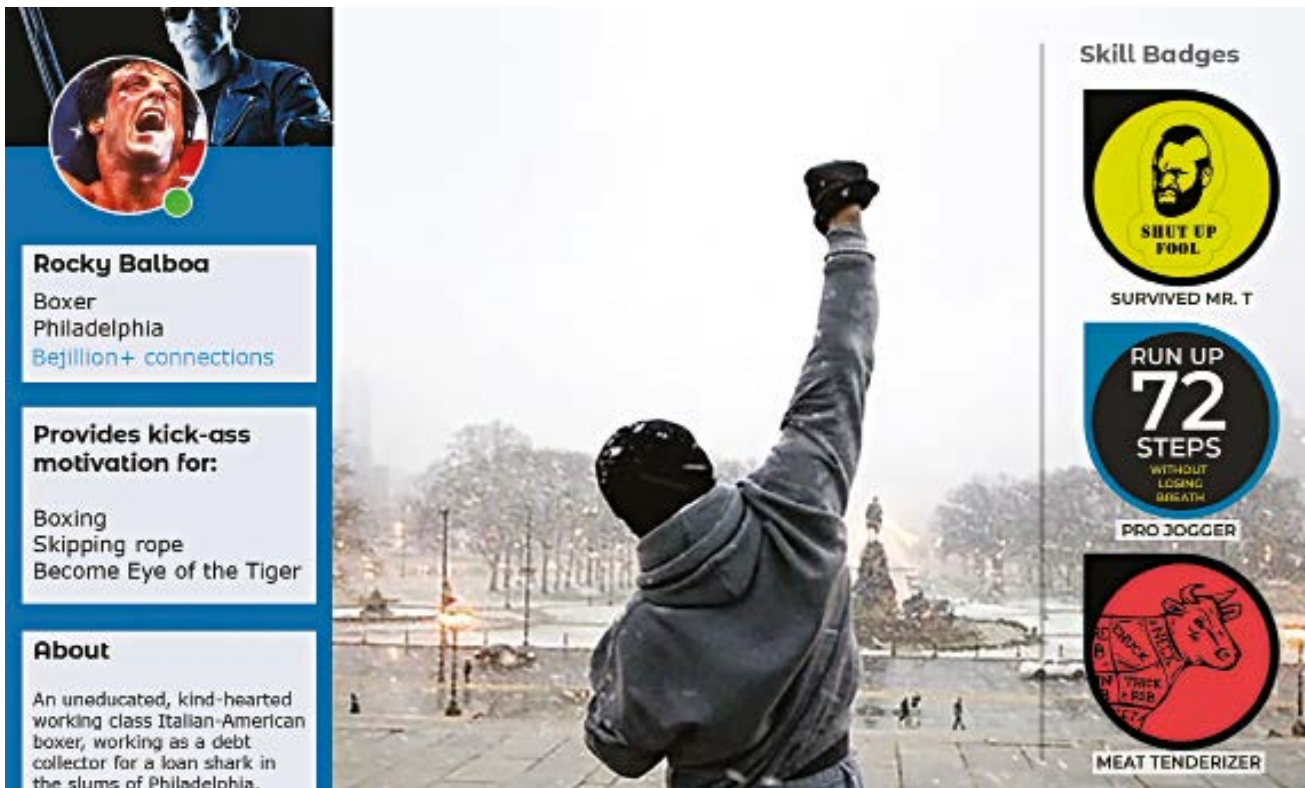


Aukey introduces an extremely compact 100w charger

Facebook's "Manage Activity" feature will allow users to delete their old posts in bulk



Apple patched its recent iOS 13.5 jailbreak vulnerability



LinkedIn skill assessments to prove you are not lying about your skills

NOSHIN SAIYARA

LinkedIn skill badges are a great way to make yourself desirable in a job market that is becoming more and more digital every day. The badges exist as a digital proof of your proficiency in an area of your choice to anyone interested to work with you. You have to take a verification test to get one of these badges, which are designed as assessment quizzes for the respective skills you are looking to earn a badge for. Many companies are now opting to add 'Desired Skills' to their job postings, so all applicants have to pass it in order to submit an application. If you pass the quiz, a badge that

will be displayed on your profile in LinkedIn Recruiter and LinkedIn Jobs. Here are a couple of things to note before taking these tests-

BE PREPARED

The quizzes do not have unlimited attempts for indefinite amounts of time. Your score has to be in the 70th percentile for you to pass the test. Once you pass the test, you will have to renew your LinkedIn skill badge on an annual basis for you to continuously show off your skills on your profile. If you fail a skills test, you cannot take the test again for three months at least. So best be prepared for the test you want to take. However, if you do fail a test, LinkedIn will point you towards some free LinkedIn learning courses that you can take to hone your knowledge.

A good way to know if you are prepared for assessment is by clicking

on the skill you want to test in the assessment quiz section, and there will be a description of the aptitudes that the test will assess. This way you can know if there's a part of the software you need to look over or a part of the programming language techniques you need to brush over if you feel your knowledge is running a little rusty.

KNOW YOUR INDUSTRY

The quizzes are available for verifying a wide range of skills, from programming skills to basic graphic designing skills. It is important that you display your proficiency that is related to the industry you are aiming for. If you are looking for a career in finance, excelling in Adobe Photoshop is not going to help you as much as a badge declaring your strength in Microsoft Excel will. You also need to increase your competency as your experience grows, as recruiters would expect a graduate with 3 years of work experience to show a wider range of skills than someone fresh out of college.





Imagine, a dystopian reality, one where 1980s Japan had a ban on sake, much like how real world 1940s America had a ban on illegally home brewed ‘moonshine’ down south which the people loved but the government couldn’t stand just because it wasn’t taxed. What ensued were the moonshine-runners, born out of necessity and backed by big city gangsters like Al Capone, to ‘run’ the cheap stuff coast to coast to illegal bars, or ‘speakeasies’. Canonball record in the 1930s anyone? The ‘moonshine runners’ in their beefed up yet stealthy hot rods outran the government agents in their run off the mill police cruisers in the solace of the night. And thus, NASCAR was born a couple of years later, also out of necessity (really is the mother of invention eh?)

Now imagine Japanese gangsters, i.e the Yakuza backing home brewed sake runners, to run the sweet stuff while evading the Japanese rozzers (police) in their heavily equipped (for comfort) Nissan Cedrics and Toyota Crowns chasing Japanese sake runners in their version of moonshine runners, which I am willing to wager would look something like Mahir Zawad’s 1982 Toyota Corolla KE70 GL edition. At first glance, it can and will pass off as any muscle car, like an 80s dodge charger squished from end to end to shorten its wheelbase. Heck, it would



even pass off as a prop vehicle in any of the movies from the fast and furious franchise. Most likely jumping off of cliffs or evading bad guys on ice in the name of Family. Following a tip-off from a friend on a Ke70 for sale, as he tells me, set him off on his impulse crusade to acquire it. It was a long time dream based on a car his uncle had. He googled Bosozoku builds online and dreamt of doing the same. Wide wheels, stretched tires and old Japanese iron.

Following an accident in 2017 involving the KE70 one night, his rebuild project began with Alfred’s blessing, “Why do we fall? So that we can learn to pick ourselves up” as he comforted Master Wayne. With the help of his elder brother, Tanweer Zaman, whose red GRB STi hatch we featured many moons ago, Mahir Zawad counts himself lucky as the rebuild started taking it’s desired widebody shape.

‘Borrowing’ parts and a set of deep dish Watanabe’s which were meant for his brother’s AE86, the restomod project started taking shape. The difference in its dimension is night and day when it’s parked next to a regular bog standard E70 Corolla. The flared arches are angled just right to house the 15” deep dish 9j and 10.5j (front and rear respectively) Watanabe wheels wrapped in 225 Toyo



Proxes. Gone are the bumpers, both front and rear, like a drag car. which complements its demeanor.

It is scientifically proven that old cars look ten times cooler with their safety regulated steel or plastic bumpers off, the differences in US and EU spec cars being a testament, i.e the bumper guards in all US spec Ferrari F40. Okay, so the science involves a lot of petrolheads snorting coffee cup after coffee cup while huddled over images of cars others would call....

‘old model er gari’.

The ageing carbureted 4K was wrenched away to make way for the beefier and popular EFI 7K found in Toyota Noahs, mated to a low range 5 speed from a Hilux, ditching the Spartan-like factory 4 speed. This is a popular setup in Bangladesh for Mazda RX8s with blown rotaries. Because this thing has torque and reliability.

The pumped up kicks are rebounded by HWL coilovers, while the chassis dynamics was rigidified with a host of Ultra Racing and Cusco strut bars, Polyurethane bushes, in conjunction with rear control arms from an AE86. The car does not handle like it was meant to from factory, rivaling modern sports cars dare I say. This is how you keep an old soul running. The car as the owner, analogizing himself to an old soul tells me, blood, sweat and tears aside has taught him a lot of things. Most importantly, humility and patience. As project cars lead to a never ending road to progress, Mahir Zawad hopes for the best as he tells me how the build has amazed him, as well as win hearts and minds of people online, even from countries far away.

Wondering what Hippari means? A Japanese car culture term for stretched tires.

Photo: Ahbar Milky

COVER STORY

Tech and art reconnects lost memories of forgotten places: The tale of Uronto Artist Community

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

Uronto Artist Community was formed at a time when contemporary art was gradually losing connection with the masses in the country. Artists from different backgrounds were not collaborating, and many of their works were being colonised by the western ways, missing the social realities of our country.

The community’s journey started with its first residential exchange programme in 2012, piloted in Kushtia. While visiting her hometown in Kushtia, Sadya Mizan, the founder of the community realised that there were many residential homes that were losing their visuals. “There were many zamindar palaces, rich in cultural history, local music and theatre practices whose narratives were being abandoned with time. And who could be better than artists to recreate those narratives?”, said Sadya Mizan. “That’s how the name “Uronto” (flying) came to be because we realised that the narratives were flying in such places, and we wanted to travel from one place to another to rediscover them”, she added.

The idea was to create a platform for story-telling through interdisciplinary artistic interventions and reconnect with lost memories of forgotten places.



The community creates opportunities to connect cultural histories through coexisting and co-creating through collaboration between artists from diverse backgrounds, gaining access to memories that inspire creative workers and empower current generations with knowledge.

In 2013, the residential exchange programme had an open and international call. “This was never meant to be a commercial project, as we feared that it would hamper the organic character of the programme. We mainly focused on the rural areas, as no one usually went there to exchange artistic interests with the locals. We usually set up open studios in the venue. We want the projects to be sight responsive so that they can respond to the stories better. Hence we use local materials to develop the projects. We leave the installation arts to the locals and bring few reference elements to display”, said Sadya.



Incorporating technology into this form came out of the need to connect to the masses while conveying a particular message and story through art. Some of the most significant works from the

community came out of the collaboration between engineers and artists alike. “We wanted to break the boundaries between technicalities and visuals. Art shouldn’t be limited to a flat canvas only, rather it should be a collaborative act, where people from diverse backgrounds can come and work together, and respect each other’s creativity”, said Sadya.

The community had its first-ever Exhibition in 2018 at the Dhaka Art Summit under the Artist Led Initiative Forum. In the Exhibition, the strategy was to allow different experience through artworks and ensure a strong connection with the audience. In total, the works of 25 artists were displayed along with the documentation of the works. An architectural model of one the venues of the projects was a central display, which was a collaboration between the community, Premier University and Studio 25.


The interesting tech bits about the installation were designed in collaboration with an engineering student, Mehedi Hasan Rupok from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST). Rupok has a passion for robotics, and from his expertise and interests, he set up an invisible monitor with a special goggles for the spectators to see the display and the documentary that was being shown on the monitor. To add another bit of a tech twist, Rupok also set up a switchboard inspired from old calling bell from the old buildings and coded them in a way where the switches were functioned to display the artists’ works in a small monitor peeking out of an old wooden door after being pressed.

The most significant tech-based project by the group was a VR project that took the spectators back to a forgotten place to reconnect to its lost narratives. This project was displayed at the Dhaka Art Summit 2020. The latest residency editions took place at Dubolhati Palace, a crumbling Zamindari (feudal landlord) palace over two hundred years old in the Naogaon District of Rajshahi in Northwest Bangladesh. This VR project invites visitors into the space that inspired almost thirty participants from ten countries to keep the stories of this area and era alive.

In the 10 minutes of VR tour, the audience could experience 15 artworks but a small zine was distributed during the show for the audience to read and know more about all the works done in the 8th and 9th episode at Dubolhati by scanning QR code. The VR experience enabled the audience to understand the unconventional venues that Uronto work with, and showed how contemporary forms of multiverse artistic expressions merged into the structure. The VR work was complemented with a graphical representation by Sadya Mizan, of a scroll painting (in Bengali and English), which was originally done by a participating artist- Fouzia Mahin, during the recent residency which contains the mythical narratives in the surrounding community at Dubolhati about the Dubolhati Palace.

When asked about the community’s future plans regarding these projects, Sadya said, “We want to create a Dhaka-based platform for collaboration between art enthusiasts from different disciplines. Finance is always an issue when it comes to implementing such projects. We also aim to properly archive our VR projects and start a publication.”


Photo: Nahaly Nafisa Khan



MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Classic lines with a modern soul

Although classic cars are adored for their beauty and collectability, their age and high maintenance costs cause many to avoid them. Some work around this issue by doing away with the car's original powertrain, replacing it with a modern one. This process, known as "restomodding" in the car community, greatly diminishes the car's historic value but leaves its owner with a better performing vehicle. The first and second-generation **Mitsubishi Pajero** are popular restomod choices among enthusiasts, who modify these already rugged off-road platforms to go anywhere and do anything.



Oppo F15: Big on style, ageing chipset

ZARIF FAIAZ

Earlier this year, before everything went up in flames, Oppo launched its latest in the camera centric F series-F15. We got our hands on one and here's our thought:

Design:

The Oppo F15 is, no doubt, a good-looking phone. We got ourselves a unicorn blue one with a gradient coloured glossy back. It's slick, looks premium and super comfortable to look at. Oppo F15 has a



much slimmer and lighter construction beneath that beautiful exterior. It weighs 172 grams and measures a thickness of 7.9 mm, making it slim and easy to grip. It blends easily into the palm and provides room to use the phone in one hand, ergonomically.



The display:

On the front there is a waterdrop notch and an almost bezel less screen while on the back there is a vertically aligned quad-camera array which gives its appealing design a bump. Thanks to its 6.2 inch AMOLED HD+ display, the device exhibits punchy colours and provides good viewing angles, rendering it suitable for watching movies and gaming.

The performance:

To begin with, the Oppo F15 comes with both the under-screen fingerprint and a facial recognition system. While the under-screen fingerprint sensor works just fine, the facial recognition system looks clumsy compared to its counterpart. It's dubiously quick while setting up your facial

recognition when starting off and often painfully lagging when opening up every time afterwards. The fingerprint, however, works just as you expect it to.

To use the standard millennial app list such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, the Oppo F15 does a decent job. Multi-tasking is often easy, too. And there were no problems regarding heating. However, when it comes to heavy tasks such as gaming, especially online gaming,



the phone slows down and lags.

The camera:

This is where the Oppo F15 truly shines. For the given price tag, the camera is a solid bargain. You get a combined 48-megapixel main camera with an 8-megapixel broad

angle camera and two 2-megapixel cameras for both range and macro. The F15 relies on a generic 16-Megapixel camera for selfies. As for daytime shooting, the Oppo F15 has strong overall image clarity and colours. It, however, gets noisy outputs at night. Sometimes pictures clicked at night look a bit waxy too.

The battery:

With plenty of WhatsApp messages, calls, light games, web surfing, answering emails, and taking photos, it will hang on with some energy to spare before the end of the day. The 20W VOOC 3.0 fast-charging device will recharge the battery from less than 10 percent to 100 percent in just over an hour when you need to reload. You need to use the VOOC charging adapter however to get the best out of it.

Verdict:

The Oppo F15 is a great mid-range phone for those who are looking for a good-looking device with a brilliant camera performance for basic photography. But if you're looking for a power packed device for heavy using, perhaps you should wait this one out.

Photo: Zarif Faiaz

Manufacturing PAPRs in Bangladesh: In conversation with Bioforge's Dr Dewan Ahmed

MOHAMMAD AREFIN CHOWDHURY

Dr. Dewan Ahmed Fawzul Kabir Choudhury is the founder and CEO of Bioforge Health Systems. He is a physician by profession and an innovator at heart. His team at Bioforge is currently working in collaboration with Fab Lab Dhaka, Advanced Dynamics and Mr. Umer Aiman Khan on the M26 PAPR project which aims to help on-duty doctors during this pandemic with the latest technology.

Can you tell us about Bioforge Health Systems?

We are a biomedical hardware and software company. We are working on developing products and services to support hospitals and doctors in delivering effective healthcare solutions using innovative technology. Most advanced medical equipments in hospitals are brought from foreign companies and hence are very expensive. Our goal is to locally manufacture these products at an optimal cost to contribute to the healthcare sector. We use 3D printers, laser cutting, microcontrollers etc. to work on our prototypes. And we are heavily research-intensive when it comes to designing any product. We also work with machine learning, artificial intelligence for



developing our software.

We have not gone for commercialization yet; our focus is still on research and development.

Why do you think PAPRs are essential for doctors handling corona patients?

The number of genuine N95 masks available in the market is inadequate in Bangladesh. The few doctors who could gain access to these masks are still unprotected as the masks only cover the mouth and nose and wearing these for long hours can be difficult. During the integration process, the patient often coughs out fluid which can transmit the virus. A Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) provides the highest level of protection to the doctors. Moreover, a lot of the N95 masks used by our doctors are not authentic and hence pose a risk for them.

What is the M26 PAPR project?

Our project is aimed at manufacturing PAPRs locally at an affordable cost. These devices are manufactured by global giants like 3M and their ones are very expensive. We plan to take the products to the market and sell these at a break-even price, we do not aim to make any profit here. Our design is open source and open for feedback. We have some amazing partners who have made it possible for us to finish the initial prototypes within a short time. We are now emphasizing on safety tests and if we get satisfactory results, we will move to manufacture.

Why aren't more initiatives like this being taken in Bangladesh?

There are a lot of innovators in the country. However, they do not get

sufficient funding to turn their projects into reality. Even if some organizations or venture capitalists are investing in these projects, they look for quick and steady returns. If it involves too much research and the costs are high, they discontinue the projects. The ecosystem needs more facilitators like I-Lab from a2i. Research should be the priority for developing cutting edge technology.

What are Bioforge's plans for the future?

Since there is a shortage of doctors, we plan to provide them with optimal resources at reasonable prices. We plan on commercializing the products soon and scaling those globally in the long run. We plan to use the global network of labs under the Fab Foundation of MIT to further improve the product and distribute the design to other countries.



Bangladeshi TED Talks you need to catch up on now

REHENUMA RAYSA

TED in 1984 began its journey to spread significant ideas through influential videos from expert speakers covering a vast range of topics to broaden people's horizon regarding different aspects of life. Meanwhile, the TEDx program is an initiative of TED to advance the spirit of TED's overall mission to research and discover "ideas worth spreading" among local communities through independently organised events. This platform, with such intriguing speeches from professional or experienced individuals, can help you think outside the box and of new possibilities. Our Bangladeshis on multiple occasions have graced the stage and here we enlist some of those speeches for you to immerse yourself in learning some extraordinary ideas:

Dr Muhammad Yunus: A History of Microfinance

In this talk, Dr Muhammad Yunus talks about how he began his venture of establishing the Grameen Bank or the bank of the poor by reversing conventional banking practices. He looks back on how he only with 27 dollars to allocate loans to 42 people embarked on a journey on his own despite being dispirited by others. He also talks about how "multi-dimensional" human beings need to try to stand still by their commitments or resolutions without being bothered by the thoughts of failures while referencing to the "social businesses" he had been associated with. He lastly encourages the proper utilisation of limitless human capacity and creativity to eradicate social problems.

Wasfia Naznin: Taking Bangladesh to Seven Summits

Wasfia Naznin, in her speech, talks about how she wanted to represent Bangladesh globally and differently from how media



has always portrayed the country in a negative light and got motivated for such an expedition of reaching the 7 summits. She talks about the rigorous training she had to go through and how she finds the streets of Dhaka to be more intimidating than climbing the summits while reading an excerpt of her book. She emphasizes the importance of tapping into the enchanting nature while disregarding the patriarchal society. Lastly, she reminisces about how seeing the flag of Bangladesh on the top of the mountain made the sufferings and

hurdles of her going through the extremities of climbing the mountains go away.

Adnan M.S. Fakir: Finding Bangladesh

Here, in the speech titled "Finding Bangladesh", through storytelling Adnan M.S. fakir tells us the importance of preserving our culture and artefacts and saving the fading interest in mythologies and legends. The speech will not only ignite your interest in our folklores and history but also make you want to seek adventure while making you realize that so much of our country is yet undiscovered,

unexplored and unknown to us. He also shows the contrast as well as the connection between reality and traditional beliefs or folkloric tales while touching on to topics like secularism. He concludes his speech by urging everyone to find Bangladesh to truly find oneself.

There are many other awe-inspiring talks available apart from the mentioned ones including speeches by GMB Akash, Hussain Elius, Ayman Sadiq, Naveed Mahbub, Tanzeem Choudhury, Anusheh Anadil to men

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

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