Going from strength to strength in journalism

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Adar Rahman is the current Sub-Editor and Deputy In-Charge of the Entertainment and Cultural Section of Prothom Alo, *and In-charge of their weekly feature magazine,* Anondo. *The young journalist won the title for Raising Star in Global Media Industry 2020 at 30 Under 30 Awards by International News Media Association (INMA), this year. She was the only Bangladeshi, competing against 163 young media professionals from 20 countries across the globe.*

Adar Rahman in her office at Prothom Alo.

PHOTOS: **COURTESY OF ADAR RAHMAN**

Adar Rahman represented Prothom Alo at the 71st Cannes International Film Festival.

Since her childhood, Adar wanted to pursue writing as a profession. Her dedication towards entertainment journalism stemmed from her grandfather Md Shahidullah, who was the general manager of Ovishar Cinema Hall, Dhaka. "I was never interested in the celebrities on those film magazines that my *Nanabhai* brought home from his office. Rather, I was always keen on finding out about the people who wrote those articles and interviews," shares Adar.

She spent most of her childhood visiting cinema halls with her grandfather. Even though she was a student of Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), her passion for writing led her to pursue a basic diploma course in journalism. "I was already working in the news media during my second year of undergraduate studies," she adds. "I just took one step at a time. My workplace, co-workers, seniors and editors supported me through all of it."

She started her journey as an apprentice for Barta24.net in 2011. "I worked on every section of the outlet during my time there," says Adar. Leaning further towards her dream to work in entertainment journalism, she joined *Bonik Barta*, where she worked for close to two years. "I wanted to work at the topmost media house in the nation. I wanted to see my name on *Prothom Alo's* pages. As a result, I started contributing to the newspaper's Entertainment and Culture section." As she couldn't write professionally for the same section in two dailies, she decided to change her job. Soon afterwards, she joined the lifestyle section of *Bangla Tribune* and worked there for the next nine months.

Just two years after becoming a sub-editor at *Prothom Alo*, she represented the newspaper at the 71st Cannes International Film Festival. "It was an incredible experience. I got to see and learn so much," she expresses. In spite of being surrounded by celebrities whom everyone wishes to meet, the humane stories around the festival is what caught her attention. Her article, *The story of a boy who travelled a 100 miles just to see the festival despite not having a ticket*, is an example. "These boys were all over the place with their placards, stating that they wish to watch the films," recalls Adar.

Adar has had a bumpy road in her career, but she chose to deal with the problems in her own way. "As a female journalist, I have faced all kinds of questions," she states. "My parents also worry about my safety, especially when I travel abroad alone for work purposes – but I just let my work speak for itself." With her commitment and dedication, Adar aspires to be a positive changemaker in journalism.

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit 2020

The annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) summit is a state-led, informal, and non-binding process which helps shape the global debate on migration and development. Since 2007, the GFMD has gradually evolved from a government-only process into a multi-stakeholder mechanism bringing together national governments, civil society, the private sector, cities, local/regional governments. Recently, the GFMD has opened its doors to youth representatives – first through the GFMD Civil Society Mechanism a few years back, and then in 2019 in a structured way across all mechanisms and spaces.

DEADLINE: September 30, 2020 | Conferences

UN Young Professionals Programme (YPP) 2020

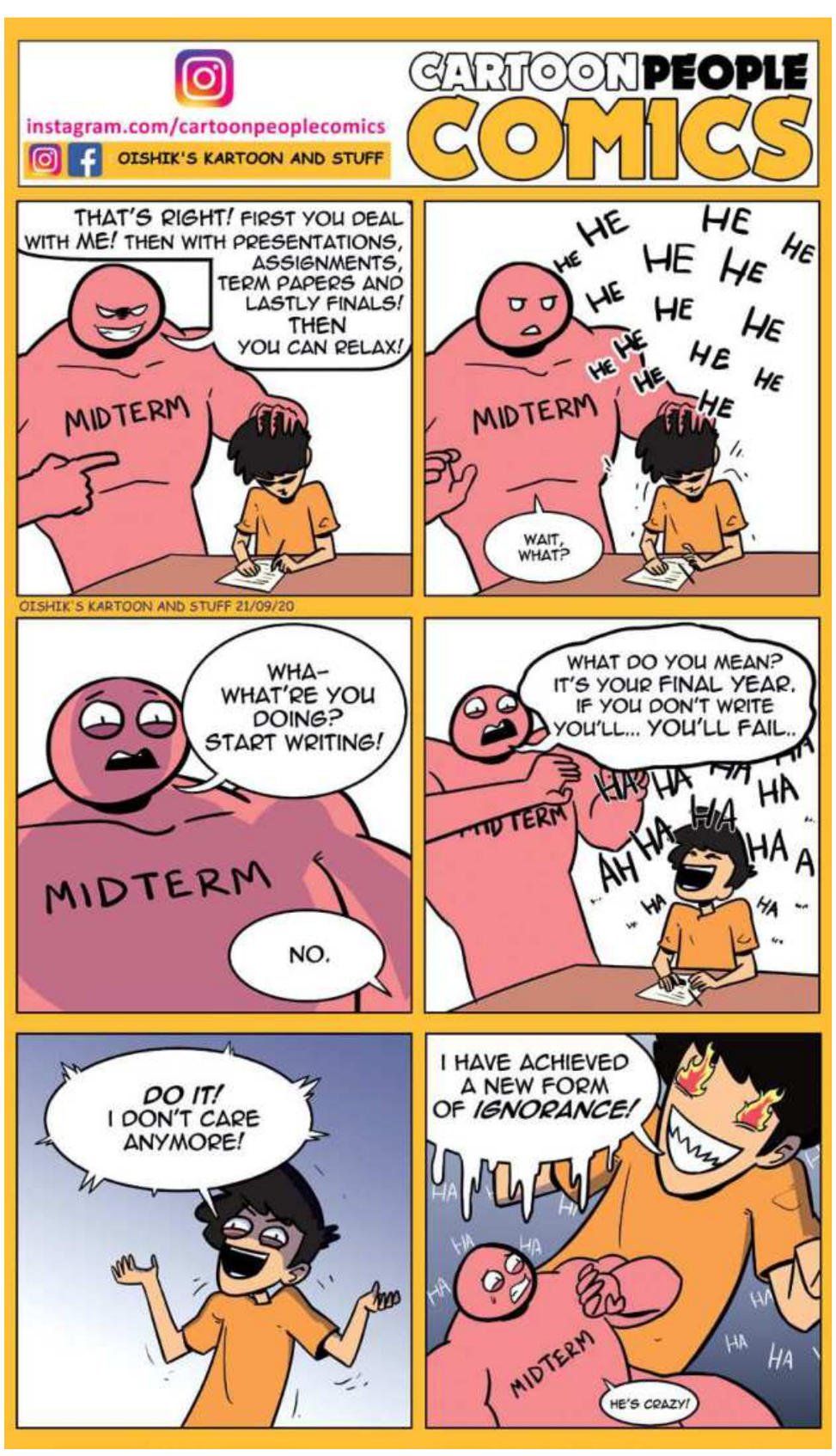
The Young Professionals Programme (YPP) is a recruitment initiative for talented, highly qualified professionals to start a career as an international civil servant with the United Nations Secretariat. It consists of an entrance examination and professional development programmes once successful candidates start their career with the UN. It is a two years internship for young professionals under the UN Young Professionals Programme.

DEADLINE: October 31, 2020 | Internships

OIST Research Internship Program 2021 in Japan (Fully Funded)

Applications are open for OIST Research Internship Program 2021 in Japan. The OIST Graduate School offers education and research opportunities through a system of undergraduate and graduate placements as Research Interns. These 2-6 month placements allow gaining experience in a particular laboratory or to learn a specific technique. Interns work under the direction of a Professor at OIST and contribute to the research activities of OIST. The specific assignment of duties is at the discretion of the PI and is subject to change.

DEADLINE: October 15, 2020 | Internships



4TH NATIONAL YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT 2020

Is traditional education enough for a student to develop an entrepreneurial mindset?

Different professionals discuss

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

YOUNG and Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Project (ESDP), in association with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), recently hosted the two-day National Young Entrepreneur Summit 2020.

Moderated by Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing, The Daily Star, the panel discussion, 'Is traditional education enough for a student to develop an entrepreneurial mindset', reflected on the current education system and the general perspectives on entrepreneurship. The panelists were Ayman Sadiq, Founder, Robi 10 Minute School, Tawsif Alam Khan, Managing Director, Vertical Horizon and Md Sohan Haidear, Founder & CEO, Smartifier Academy. The session explored the Bangla and English medium students' mindsets, as well as university students and young professionals' perspectives on entrepreneurship.

Over the last few years, there has been positive changes in the entrepreneurial sector, with an evident rise of young entrepreneurs. However, continuing conversations about entrepreneurship is crucial for sustaining in this fast-changing world. Lack of proper curriculum and industry knowledge, as well as disadvantages of a fixed mindset were some of the aspects discussed by the panelists.

"We can help SMEs or small businesses to thrive if we can provide them with customised courses based on the contextualised knowledge about Bangladesh's business scene," shared Ayman Sadiq, discussing how our current curriculum is not sufficient for small business owners and entrepreneurs.

"This generation often takes things for granted, which has a negative impact on their goals, as they lack the drive," expressed Tawsif, an accounting teacher mainly working with English Medium students.

The panelists further discussed the role of parents and schools in shaping up a child's entrepreneurial abilities. They recommended customised changes in the curriculum, suggesting ways to incorporate business in education.

"The lack of knowledge about the potential business prospects of our country is another major gap for the entrepreneurial sector," added Tawsif.

"We are accustomed to a fixed mindset culture, which should be replaced by a growth mindset, allowing positive changes in skills and leadership qualities," said Sohan Haidear.

Inclusive and engaging content on business, entrepreneurship, and self-dependency among others can help create a positive and empowering mindset about entrepreneurship

"We, as a nation, have a negative attitude towards business and earning money, creating barriers on our own, which limits the prospects of new businesses," said Ayman. "Fundamentally, from a young age, students should be accustomed to the idea of earning money to change this negative attitude."

The panelists noted that the traditional curriculum in our education system dates back to age-old theories and ideas, contradicting the knowledge and skills needed for developing an economically solvent nation. To that end, further collaboration and policy implementation will encourage graduates to become successful entrepreneurs.

"Collaboration between university organisations, start-up companies and other businesses can play a powerful role to help students get hands-on experiences to apply their theoretical knowledge," said Sohan. The panelists further suggested that developing stories based on start-ups, known business figures and recognising gamification methods in teaching will also inspire young students to become entrepreneurs.