

CAMPUS CLUB SUMMIT 2020

Encouraging students to participate in co-curricular activities



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Opportunities Campus Ambassador Program 2021

Youth Opportunities is launching the 3rd season of its Campus Ambassador Program for the aspiring youth of Bangladesh. The program aims at empowering the youth as changemakers in their institutions to promote different aspects of global and local opportunities among their fellow students so that they can avail of these opportunities and transform them into successes.

DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Volunteer Service



Online Internship: ASEAN Foundation Communication Internship 2020

To support all of ASEAN Foundation initiatives, innovative and passionate communication interns are needed. As young people in ASEAN are one of the main target audiences of the ASEAN Foundation, we will need a communication intern who understands the young generation's insights and speaks their language. The well-executed communications strategy of the ASEAN Foundation is essential to ensure high visibility of the initiatives as well as to convey its success stories better to various stakeholders and broader audiences.

DEADLINE: Throughout 2020 | Internships

Call for Artists: Contemporary Talents Competition 2020

Francois Schneider Foundation is arranging "Contemporary Talents" competition aiming to support creative artists by acquiring their works and showcasing them at the foundation's Art Centre, which is entirely dedicated to the intersection between art and water. The motto of the competition is to encourage artists to engage with the theme of water, an essential element of our lives, and reflect upon, observe, analyze, criticize and make use of water in their creative work, exploring its properties, its symbols, its tools and its issues. It will offer the artists a platform to reach all sections of the public and encourage dialogue and networking with the cultural community.

DEADLINE: November 20, 2020 | Competitions

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE AND SADIA TAHSIN

Universities from all across the country are now focusing on extracurricular activities alongside academics, and clubs have been arranging various programmes to enhance the skill sets of students. Midas Financing Limited Presents Campus Club Summit 2020, a joint initiative of Midas Financing Limited, The Daily Star and Excellence Bangladesh, was conducted on November 6 and 7. The summit featured fruitful discussions and recognised top student clubs across Bangladesh for their work. Star Youth, The Daily Star, was the youth engagement partner of the programme.

The panel discussion, 'Leadership: Nurturing the change within organisations', was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, National Consultant of the United Nations in Bangladesh. It shed light on the role of extracurricular activities in boosting essential skills. The panelists were Elita Karim, Editor Arts & Entertainment and Star Youth, The Daily Star, Sheikh Shabbab Ahmed, Head of External Affairs, BAT Bangladesh, Shuvashish Roy, Digital Marketing Manager, The Daily Star and Ayman Sadiq, Founder and CEO, 10 Minute School.

Elita Karim termed extracurricular activities as the lifeline of university life and urged young students to enjoy the moments and participate in diverse events. Sheikh Shabbab Ahmed appreciated the role of club activities in promoting networking skills and instilling leadership qualities among students.

Ayman Sadiq, an enthusiastic participant of business, ideation and entrepreneurship competitions, said that such contests are crucial for overcoming stage fear and providing exposure. On the other hand, Shuvashish Roy asserted that club activities helped him greatly in his professional life and played a major role in getting him the Chevening Scholarship. Extracurricular activities furthermore taught him to think out of the box and developed his innovative skills.

Moderated by Rafeed Elahi Chowdhury, Co-Founder of Torun Digital, 'The effectiveness of clubbing beside academics', was an engaging panel discussion with Md Rashedur Rahman, Executive Director- Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, ICE Center at University of Dhaka, Arif Zaman, Dean, School of Business at Canadian University of Bangladesh and Shibli Shahriar, Qualified and Certified Mentor, Faculty of Business and Entrepreneurship at Daffodil International University.

Md Rashedur Rahman asserted that



youths are truly motivated to play a role in the development of co-curricular clubs. Shibli Shahriar added that classroom theories are just one of the fourteen abilities important for employability, and that leadership, negotiation, collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking are essential skills that clubs help develop. Arif Zaman explained the significance of co-curricular activities in testing students' knowledge and skills.

Md Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing at The Daily Star, Javed Sultan Pias, Head of Digital Business at Prothom Alo, and Imran Kadir, Founder of Mission Save Bangladesh, made up the panel for the discussion, 'Branding extracurricular activities in the media', with Benjir Abrar, Founder & CEO of Excellence Bangladesh as the moderator. "The competitiveness in the club culture is at its peak right now and it depends on the

institutions as to how they can transform the interest for extracurricular activities among the students," expressed Tajdin Hassan.

Meanwhile, Benjir Abrar asserted that for the past few decades, the media has been inspiring the youth and their extracurricular activities and showing support for their work rigorously.

Imran Kadir focused on how the pandemic has affected the conventional extracurricular activities of the youth, but on a positive note, he added that online summits, seminars and activities hosted during these times will stay on the internet, offering a great opportunity for students to look back and keep learning.

The panel discussion, 'Debating: What's in it for students', was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous. It featured Zunaed Rabbani, CEO, The Right Kind and AIRN, Nobonita

Chowdhury, Director, Gender, Justice and Diversity, BRAC and Sakib Bin Rashid, Curriculum and Material Development Specialist, BRAC Youth Platform.

Zunaed Rabbani focused on the need to diversify club interests. He said that debating generates a sense of competitive spirit and teamwork, while also boosting interaction skills. While discussing the pros and cons of debating, Nobonita Chowdhury emphasised on the importance of quality content and research. She also spoke on how female students across the country are restricted from participating in these activities, due to safety reasons.

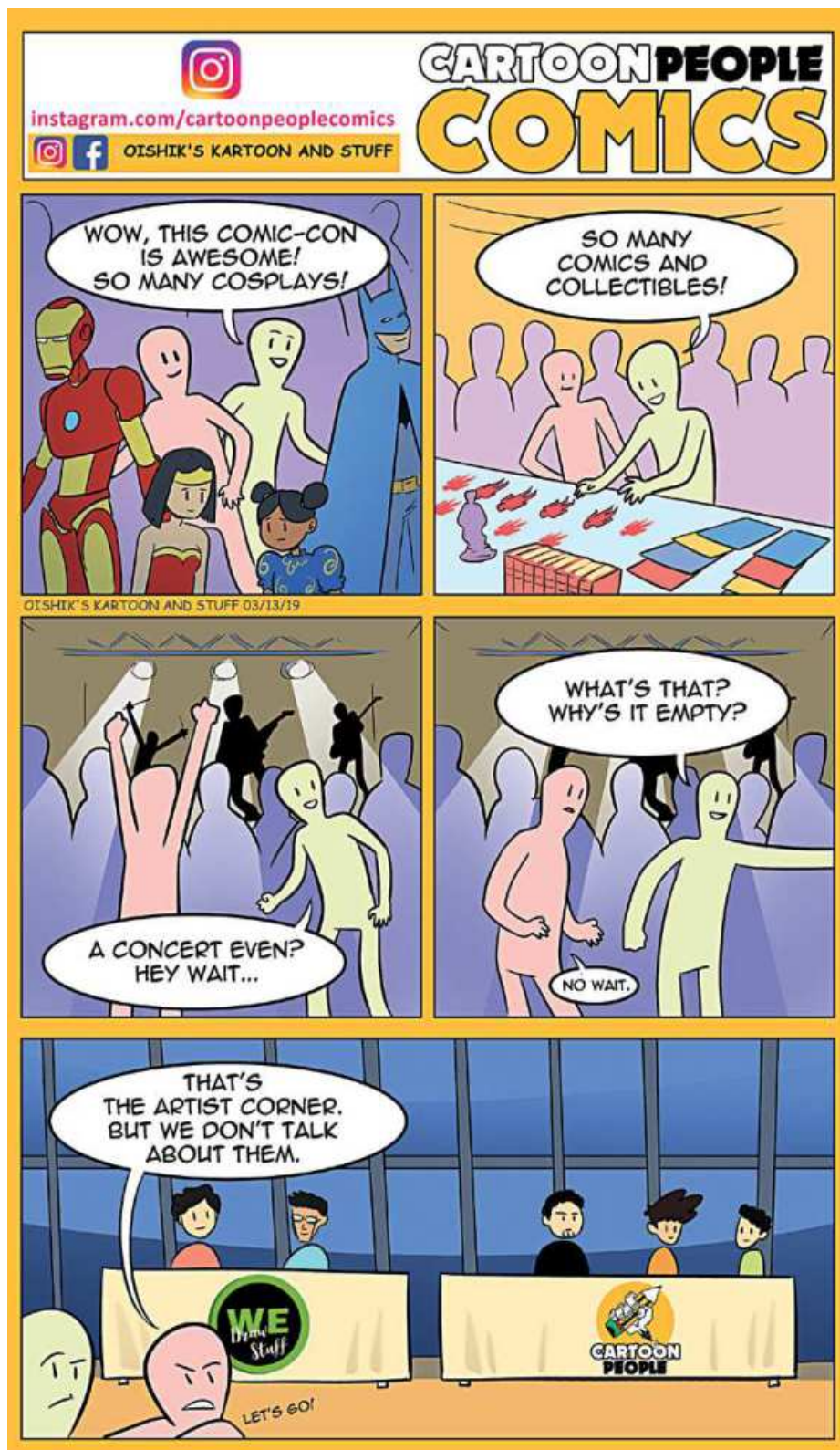
Debate circuits have been successful in creating more spaces for talks, and promoting inclusivity and acceptance, noted the panelists. Among several other traits, debaters also learn conflict-management. Sakib Bin Rashid said that confidence and encouragement paved his journey and that debating made him rational and empathetic.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, was actively involved in extracurricular activities, particularly debating, during his youth. He spoke about the many characteristics of extracurricular activities and shared his experiences from Notre Dame College, Dhaka University, and the Liberation War of Bangladesh, at a keynote session, before the closing ceremony.

After receiving nominations, an independent jury panel selected five clubs for the 'Best Clubs Awards'. The winners were NSU YES! Club, Jahangirnagar University Debate Organization, BUET Career Club, Dhaka University Career Club, and Chittagong University Debate Society. Also, BUP Business and Communications Club, Jagannath University Rover Scout Group, Gono Bishwabhidyalay Debating Society, JKNU Skill Development Club and ULAB Digital Marketing Club were awarded for their social activities during the pandemic. Overall, the summit aimed to encourage students to participate in different club activities, and take their talents to greater heights.

Maisha Islam Monamee likes to read her way through life, and you can always find her scribbling and planning. To send recommendations and help, reach out to her at mislammonamee@gmail.com.

Sadia Tahsin is a final year marketing major at North South University. She believes someday she will become a marketing mastermind, be able to read human minds and reveal all their secrets to the aliens. To know her secret plan, email her at iloverachelgreenclub@gmail.com.



Reaching out to people in need through earnest efforts

ZAREEN NAWAR

The charitable non-profit organisation, Blessing for Human Foundation, began their journey last year with the intention of helping underprivileged communities. The organisation was formed when a father and a son, along with their close family and friends, decided to band together to raise enough funds to help those in need, during the winter months. They intend to implement real change in real time.

The pandemic and the subsequent months of isolation encouraged the organisation to support working-class individuals. They provided food supplies to around 350 families prior to Ramadan. During Ramadan this year, Blessing for Human Foundation was able to provide around 300 iftar packages to families in need. For Eid-ul-Adha, they distributed meat among those in need.

During the period of hardships due to cyclone Amphan, they collaborated with another NGO, Hridhhi, to start their Amphan relief distribution around different areas of Satkhira. Their projects 'Covid-19 Relief Distribution' and 'Coast to Coast' enabled them to distribute 1,500 packages of groceries throughout different districts of Bangladesh like Dinajpur, Nilphamari,



Blessing for Human Foundation distributed 1,500 packages of groceries throughout different districts of Bangladesh.

Satkhira, Noakhali, Kishoreganj, Koyra, Keraniganj and Dharmrai.



While distributing packages of groceries, volunteers of Blessing for Human Foundation wear PPE suits.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BLESSING FOR HUMAN FOUNDATION

"Keeping the pandemic in mind, only our main volunteers took it upon themselves to organise the items of distribution accordingly in a designated place," said Sirajul Islam Azad, Founder, Blessing for Human Foundation. "The volunteers wear PPE suits when they need to distribute around open spaces that are likely to attract crowds." They strictly monitor a line, maintaining social distancing guidelines.

They provided door to door distribution of food to slums, where they hoped to evade gatherings. So far, they have had nearly 180 active volunteers. "We hope to work with more ardent and eager young volunteers in the coming years," said Naimul Fayek, Co-Founder, Blessing for Human Foundation.

In the future, Blessing for Human Foundation hopes to provide necessary equipment to patients of the coronavirus, who are severely in need of assistance. They also want to continue helping the working class with food distributions. They are in talks to provide food to orphanages and old age homes as well. The young volunteers hope to spend time at these places, and interact with the people. Their Facebook page is usually updated based on all their activities and they can easily be reached on the site.

Zareen Nawar works on establishing the nuances of reality whilst having a mind fixated entirely on the possibilities of fiction. You may reach out to her at nawarzareen@gmail.com.