

When she was just a child, her father used to frequently say, "My daughter is going to grow up to be a barrister one day!" Hearing her father's words with such a proud smile on his face, Rimi Nahrin began dreaming the same dream. "While my father gave me a dream worth dreaming, my mother did everything in her power to make it come true," she says.

While in Rifles Public School and College, Rimi aced not only her academics but also extra-curricular activities. "My mother made sure I was a part of a lot of things. Even if I'd come last, she wouldn't mind, as long as I'd complete the task confidently. This is how she nurtured my character and made me a headstrong woman."

While Rimi was finishing school and college, she was actively involved in National Level Debating, coming in as the best speaker often. After completing her SSC and HSC, she enrolled herself in Dhaka University's Law Department. "You only hear stories about how rigorously you have to study in DU. But it didn't hamper my confidence at all. I just told myself that if I work hard enough, I can do it!" During the 4th year of her LLB, she stood out as the best trainee lawyer during a moot court where only the best students were allowed to participate.

In 2001, she started her LLM and graduated 1st class 1st with a gold medal which she dedicated to her parents. "Once I was done studying Bangladeshi Law, I travelled to the United Kingdom to study English Law," she says. "I attended University of London for an LLB in English Law, after which I enrolled myself into City University, London, for the Bar

INHERITED GUMPTION

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



Rimi Nahrin

Professional Training Course, the same school attended by great people like Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher. Just being able to study and grow in the same environment as them gave me more inspiration than I could hope for." She is also a member of Lincoln's Inn, one of four Inns of Court in London to which barristers of England and Wales belong

and where they are called to the Bar. While in the UK, Rimi also started working for BBC Bangla as a freelance journalist. Even after coming back to Bangladesh, she is still with BBC Bangla. "Even though this is a freelance job, I haven't left it. Journalism is not only an exciting job; it also helps me nurture my skills as a lawyer as it makes me more

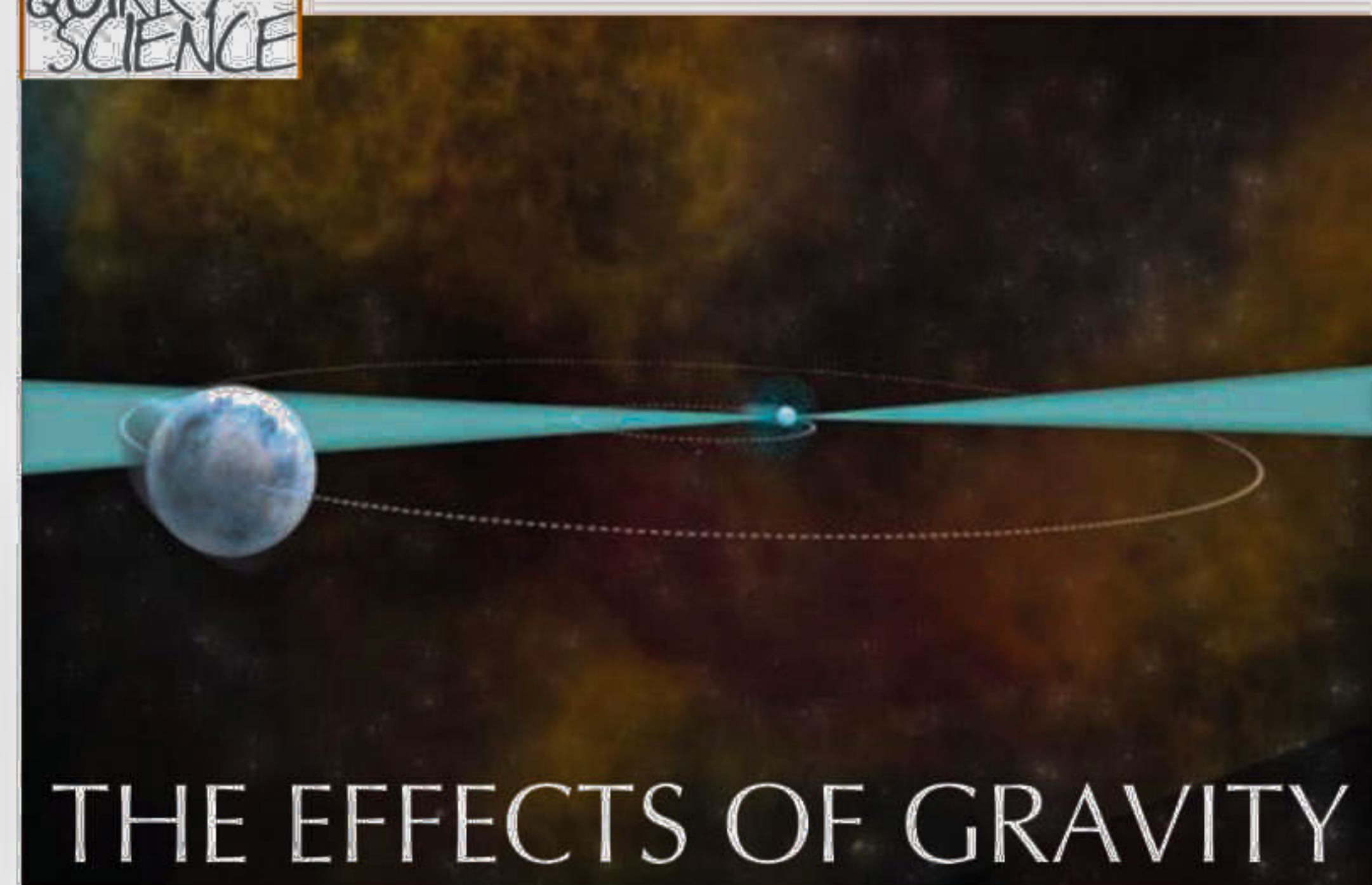
aware of global affairs."

Now she currently works for the High Court but also has bigger aims for the betterment of society. "I am a frequent traveller and one thing that frightens me a lot is the rate of road accidents in our country," shares Rimi. She informs that despite the fact that cases are lodged in nearby police stations after accidents, in many incidents, especially where a member of lower socio-economic class is the victim, the case goes not much further because of the expenses. "I want to form an association of lawyers who will give free legal aid to those affected by road accidents, which will ensure that the expenditure of the whole case and whatever compensation is needed comes from the criminal in question- the driver of the vehicle," she says. Along with this, Rimi thinks re-educating public transport and inter-intra city transport drivers is necessary. "We need to build awareness. These drivers need to know the laws of the work they do and that such reckless driving can put them in trouble. We also need the general public to know these laws," she says.

"It is a little difficult as a woman, at any job, to be taken seriously. I lose many clients because they think I'm not strong enough to defend them," she says, "But the only way to overcome this is to keep working hard and showing everyone that women are no less, in any manner, than men." Once such problems are conquered and put aside, we can see Rimi Nahrin bringing some very significant changes to our nation. She made her parents proud by making their dreams come true, and now we can see her taking on the nation's dreams too!

STAR PEOPLE

QUIRKY SCIENCE



THE EFFECTS OF GRAVITY

Gravity, one of the four fundamental forces of nature, appears reassuringly constant across the Universe, according to a decades-long study of a distant pulsar. This research helps to answer a long-standing question in cosmology: Is the force of gravity the same everywhere and at all times? The answer, so far, appears to be yes.

Astronomers using the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Green Bank Telescope (GBT) in West Virginia and its Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico conducted a 21-year study to precisely measure the steady "tick-tick-tick" of a pulsar known as PSR J1713+0747. This painstaking research produced the best constraint ever of the gravitational constant measured outside of our Solar System.

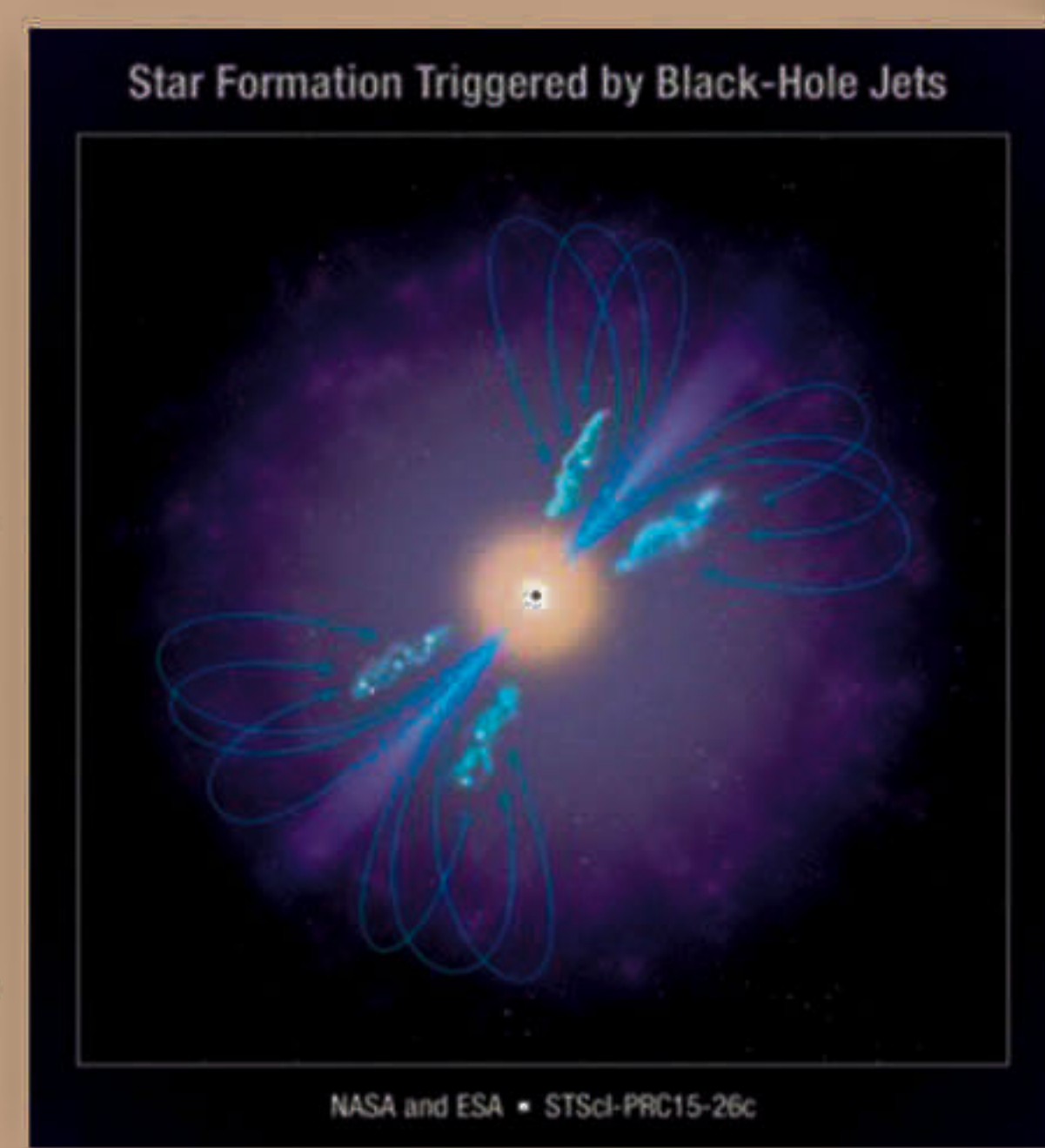
Pulsars are the rapidly spinning, superdense remains of massive stars that detonated as supernovas. They are detected from Earth by the beams of radio waves that emanate from their magnetic poles and sweep across space as the pulsar rotates. Since they are phenomenally dense and massive, yet comparatively small – a mere 20-25 kilometers across – some pulsars are able to maintain their rate of spin with a consistency that rivals the best atomic clocks on Earth. This makes pulsars exceptional cosmic laboratories to study the fundamental nature of space, time, and gravity.

BIRTH FROM THE BLACK HOLE

Astronomers have uncovered a unique process for how the universe's largest elliptical galaxies continue making stars long after their peak years of star birth. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope's exquisite high resolution and ultraviolet-light sensitivity allowed the astronomers to see brilliant knots of hot, blue stars forming along the jets of active black holes found in the centers of giant elliptical galaxies.

Combining Hubble data with observations from a suite of ground-based and space telescopes, two independent teams found that the black hole, jets, and newborn stars are all parts of a self-regulating cycle. High-energy jets shooting from the black hole heat a halo of surrounding gas, controlling the rate at which the gas cools and falls into the galaxy.

"Think of the gas surrounding a galaxy as an atmosphere," explained the lead of the first study, Megan Donahue of Michigan State University. "That atmosphere can contain material in different states, just like our own atmosphere has gas, clouds, and rain. What we are seeing is a process like a thunderstorm. As the jets propel gas outward from the center of the galaxy, some of that gas cools and precipitates into cold clumps that fall back toward the galaxy's center like raindrops."



source: sciencedaily.com

What would have happened if Yamin Khan remained trapped in the role of a banker, typing away on his computer? The country would have missed out on his comedic genius, exhibited through his shows – that's what would have happened.

As a student of Scholastica International School, he would always crack witty one-liners, eliciting sprouts of laughter from his friends and teachers! His was an expert at mimicry, impersonating different teachers and students. His good sense of humour, along with his stage friendly persona, earned him the title of the class clown during his school days. This class clown, Yamin Khan, is one of the few names making a big splash in the growing comedy scene of our country today. Many of his fans look forward to laughing at his jokes during his live performances at Naveed's Comedy Club. We also hear him on Radio Foorti where he has his own show, *Bhallagey Tai*. This young talented comedian also provides humour content for Foorti, writes humour columns for English dailies and creates digital content for various corporations.

Apart from these professional affiliations, for his creative satisfaction, he runs a YouTube channel called Gold Digger Entertainment, where he uploads his online comedy road show.

THE HAPPY MAN

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA



Yamin Khan

PHOTO: COURTESY

After finishing his graduation in Accounting and Finance from the University of Warwick, he came back to Bangladesh and started working as a fulltime banker. But Khan believed in the "follow your heart" mantra and decided to work primarily as a comedian. It was a tough decision, as our country was not quite familiar with terms like stand-up comedy or comedian, and comedy clubs at that time.

There were two excellent reasons as to why he left his job as a banker and took up stand-up comedy as a profession.

First of all, he never wanted to be a part of the mad race that aimed at better living conditions and financial security. Secondly, he discovered that his job as a banker was not a good fit for him as he always wanted to do what he was good at – comedy.

"I believe that a prerequisite to become happy is linking your purpose and passion with your work," says Khan. "Because until and unless you love what you do, you will never have the drive from within to give you the best day, every day, for a long period of time. Other factors like money and social

acceptance can never replicate this natural phenomenon. If you are passionate about your work, you'll keep going, regardless of your achievements, and be happy in the process. Hence, it's very important to follow your passion in life because if you don't do that, you'll be cheating yourself without even realising it."

Apart from some criticism from people who don't believe in this offbeat career option, Khan's journey of making people happy has been quite trouble free so far.

Khan's dream is to be the Santa of our comedy scene, as he wants to spread cheerfulness and good spirit all over the country. Even though he is involved in various types of work, he recognises himself primarily as a comedian. His future plan is to take this art form to a bigger audience in the country and thereby, help it grow. "Because right now it is only followed by a handful of people around the Gulshan-Baridhara locality, which only represents a tiny fraction of the whole country," he said. He pauses for a while. "With this in mind, I am working towards organising a road show where we'll travel all over the country, performing for people who have no clue that we exist. Because until and unless the industry grows, not many people will be able to take it professionally and we'll not be able to do true justice to our efforts," he concludes.

ACHIEVEMENT

Every two years the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AFOG) holds the SS Ratnam-Young Gynaecologist Award (SSR-YGA) to honour gynaecologists from all over the world. The SSR-YGA enables promising young obstetricians and gynaecologists from all the countries of the Asia and Oceania region to attend the congress of the AFOG.

This award is given to doctors from 16 developing countries including Bangladesh and 7 developed countries, who are under 40 and have made significant contributions to their National

A FEAT TO REMEMBER

NAZIBA BASHER



PHOTO: COURTESY

The three awardees from Bangladesh this year.

Society and demonstrated leadership qualities. This award provides the young gynaecologists an opportunity to update the knowledge and skills of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology. It also promotes the social interaction between each other and their delegates, and it provides insight into the functioning of the Federation by encouraging attendance at the General Assembly Session.

Since 1991, a total of 36 gynaecologists from Bangladesh have achieved this award. Every session, 3 candidates are usually selected from Bangladesh. This year, the awardees were Dr Arifa Akter Zahan Shoma, Associate Professor, Kumudini Women's Medical College, Dr Fahmida Rashid Swathi, Assistant Professor, Chittagong Medical College, and Dr Shahida Begum Shanta, Assistant Professor, Enam Medical College.

This year, for the first time, the Government of Malaysia introduced a 7-day-long Community Fellowship Programme in YGA. They selected 27 gynaecologists from 12 countries for the programme, which the three awardees from our country were a part of. "It was definitely an amazing experience, and also much needed," says Dr Arifa. "Not only was I extremely overjoyed to be awarded such a prestigious award, but the 7-day Community Fellowship Programme

was wonderful beyond comprehension." For the Community Fellowship Programme, the candidates were divided into 3 groups and were placed in different levels of their health care delivery system, home visits, and referral system. Despite being in very remote areas, the doctors all witnessed how they were so organised and systematic with their work. "Their work with maternal health was great to see, as they were so prompt. It was a brilliant opportunity for all of us to learn more and to interact with such talented doctors from so many different countries," says Dr Arifa. "There was no way to not be impressed. The doctors there seemed to have a lesser load than doctors here because of how skilled and trained their nurses are. I was amazed at their efficiency!" says Dr Shahida. While Dr Fahmida mentions, "After receiving this award, I feel revived somehow. And I'm motivated to work further and better for the deprived and uncared for women of our country."

From this experience, they learned about things like international travelling, maternal and child healthcare services in Malaysia and other countries, and of course, Malaysia's well-known excellent hospitality. Above all, it was fantastic opportunity to create a bond between the countries of the Asia and Oceania regions. The awarded doctor's are very thankful to ACOG for such an amazing opportunity.