

When was the last time anyone went to a science fair? Hardly anyone can remember. But, most people certainly have a knack for science. As children, we all had dreams-dreams to reach the sky, desire to go to the moon. Nevertheless, anyone will jump off to go to a school science fair. It does give a whisk of joy in our heads that pulls us towards these little geniuses. It was the debut Annual Science Fair of

days but also took the visitors on a ride of a wonderful flashback. The fair looked magnanimous. The decoration, tri-fold poster boards, dioramas, hanging lab apparatus and fizzy volcanoes, everything was an acknowledgment of the true spirit of science. It was like those splashes of color that can make you smile, any day. As enthusiasts went from stall to stall, jaws kept dropping wide open at the students' amazing handmade



A DAY OF SCIENCE

RIASAT RAZI ULLAH



PHOTOS COURTESY: JAAGO FOUNDATION

JAAGO Foundation, Rayerbazar School supported by Krisenergy. The government had already created an unstable situation by then amongst the students of private university who were protesting for the rightful cause. No one has never seen a traffic like that before, roads were clogged like kitchen sinks, somehow people still managed to slip through and reach Rayerbazar. Maybe they just wanted to have the gist of that old reminiscing of their magical school years. Leaving everyone speechless, in a way it not only created the illusion of those golden old

experiments. Surely, back at our days we couldn't have made these possible. But these kids made it seem like it was too easy. Thus, showing how accurate their knowledge about science. Indeed, the science fair increased everyone's zeal about scientific facts. As a matter of fact, we all should know more about the mysteries of nature. A science fair has a great educative value. Most of the visitors spent full four hours visiting the science fair and learning and enjoying a world of new things. It has definitely left a lasting impression on everyone's mind. ■

THE ART OF GIVING

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

What have you done to your children's old toys buried in a junky clutter in some corner of your house? Most of us would probably throw away the old toys, donate them or stockpile them in our storeroom for ever and ever.

Then there is Mustafa Jamal, a member of Bangladesh Ex-Cadet forum who came up with the idea of distributing toys, following a structured and organised way, to children who need them the most.

When he discussed his idea with fellow ex-cadets, everyone readily

cleaned, repaired and distributed among 2000 children from seven schools and two hospitals. The best part of this project is that the team doesn't need much money, except the cost of transporting the toys to the receivers.

"TRY organized its biggest toy collection event till date – Toys-R-URs Grand Finale September 13, 2015. The toys collected in the event will be distributed among underprivileged children in 8 more schools in different locations of Bangladesh before the Eid," Haque explains. "We also went



PHOTO: COURTESY

agreed to it. Thus Toys-R-URs,(TRY) a community based initiative, began in July this year. Since its beginning, the initiative has received spontaneous participation, tremendous appreciation and needless to say, boxes and boxes full of toys.

"While we focus on providing the basic needs to underprivileged children, we often overlook the significance of a sound mental health and having a playful childhood," says Tariqul Haque, one of the key members of the TRY team. "The toy that you or your child does not need anymore could be the most precious possession of another child."

"People from every walk of life - starting from students, teachers, doctors to our national cricket team, models, singers, social activists - have come forward with a toy or more," says Haque.

In fact, people who did not have an old toy did not hesitate to buy a brand new plaything for these children and be a part of this wonderful endeavour.

The TRY team collects used toys through different channels - corporate campaign, school campaign or individual participation. After collecting the toys they sorted out,

to Dhaka Shishu Hospital and the children ward of Dhaka Medical College with this basket full of happiness. The joy on the children's face will surely light up anyone's day."

Because of the response from everyone, they are planning to conduct this project every year from May to September.

In a world where happiness is more or less a rare object, you can actually experience this extraordinary feeling in exchange of one of your toys that you won't need anymore.

We understand the emotional attachment that you have with your children's toys as every parent would want to hold on to them and the memories that they possess. But letting go of some memories to create new ones is also necessary, especially when the cause is as priceless as this one.

If you find it difficult to decide what to give and what to keep, let your children decide the toys that they are done playing with. Not only are you making them a part of this joy of sharing, and valuing their opinions, you have also made them a reason for some other child's happiness.