

Ever thought of switching on the TV screen in front of your child and study the formulae of algebra, learn English sentence constructions and understand Bangla *baekaron* (grammar)? Or what if one says that s/he has been preparing for the IELTS exam with the help of YouTube videos, made in Dhaka? And that too – all in 10 minutes?

Well, studying online is not an uncommon concept and many do it all over the world. However, the 10 Minute School is definitely a one-of-a-kind platform, enabling both children and adults to learn, study and deliver.

LEARNING IN 10 MINUTES

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Founded by 24-year-old Ayman Sadiq in the year in 2015, the 10 Minute School is the only site in Bangladesh through which students can learn from the tutorials (1,411 videos) and live classes, practice from the given quizzes and model tests (28,455 quizzes), monitor their progress, compare with their peers and others, get every single information needed which otherwise isn't available in the internet – all for free. "Currently, we cover JSC, SSC, HSC, Admissions and skill development courses," says Ayman Sadiq, Founder and CEO of the 10 Minute School. "We have 1,411 videos with over 7 million views combined and 28,455 quizzes with over 150,000 students using our content every day. We also take live classes from our page every day."

The 10 Minute School has created raves amongst students, academicians and also the government bodies.



PHOTOS: COURTESY



STAR PEOPLE

Ayman Sadiq

The organisation won the Youth Award'16, DYDF Youth Icon Award'16, BRAC Manthan Digital Innovation Award'16, the Swiss Embassy Award for Social Impact, Champion's for Future Leaders' League (London), and also received an honorable mention and GIST Tech-i Global Competition (Silicon Valley, USA). The organisation was also a Country Rep and the Asian & Europe Meet'15.

The objective of the 10 Minute school is very simple – solving the problem of access to quality teachers and resources for 4 crore students who are currently enrolled in the education system, according to Ayman.

"We are already working with the government and broadcasting our classes to 2,001 training labs across the country," adds Ayman. "We are reaching out to 64 districts and activating these training labs by organising a proper workshop to train the teachers. We are also planning to take these online classes to 30,000+ multimedia classrooms, collaborating with a2i and UNDP. Robi Axiata Limited is also helping us to directly reach out to their 35 million subscriber base and supporting our operation."

Divided basically into two – the 10 Minute School LIVE and the 10 Minute School Skill Development Lab, the 10-Minute School covers lessons from classes 8-12 and also

helps prepare for admission tests – public and private universities, MBA, IELTS, GRE, GMAT, BCS and many more. This school also organizes online workshops and sessions to develop skills in Software, Extra Curricular Activities and also helps develop soft skills like business speaking or how to write a CV. Courses that are popular amongst students are University courses such as Marketing, Finance and Entrepreneurship.

"We also have two Facebook pages where we answer queries through our messenger BOT," says Ayman. "We have automated this process as we get thousands of messages and queries everyday."

A fantastic initiative indeed by Ayman and his young team of volunteers and professionals – and such initiatives are needed urgently in the country, especially when components such as traffic tends to slow everyone down – thus slowing down the work pace as well.

"As we grow older we tend to become skeptical and focus more on the obstacles," says Ayman to the young people of Bangladesh. "Be optimistic, find your passion and while you are still a student, just do what you do best and enjoy the ride."

Do check out www.10minuteschool.com and the highly engaging live classes at www.facebook.com/10minuteschool/



PHOTOS: COURTESY



QUIRKY SCIENCE

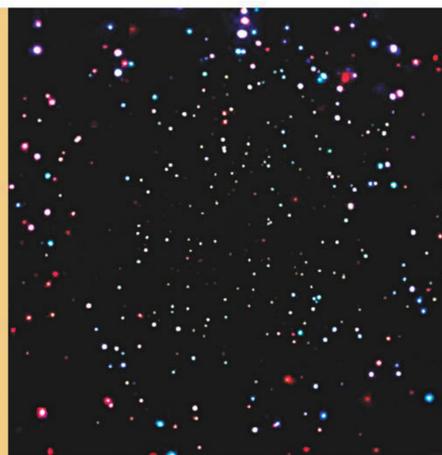
BLACK HOLE TREASURE TROVE REVEALED

An unparalleled image from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory is giving an international team of astronomers the best look yet at the growth of black holes over billions of years, which began soon after the Big Bang. This is the deepest X-ray image ever obtained and was collected with about 7 million seconds, or 11 and a half weeks, of Chandra observing time.

The image comes from what is known as the Chandra Deep Field-South. The central region of the image contains the highest concentration of supermassive black holes ever seen, equivalent to about 5,000 objects that would fit into the area of the full Moon and about a billion over the entire sky.

"With this one amazing picture, we can explore the earliest days of black holes in the Universe and see how they change over billions of years," said Niel Brandt, the Verne M. Willaman Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and professor of physics, Penn State, who led a team of astronomers studying the deep image.

About 70 percent of the objects in the new image are supermassive black holes, which may range in mass from about 100,000 to 10 billion times the mass of the Sun. Gas falling towards these black holes becomes much hotter as it approaches the event horizon, or point of no return, producing bright X-ray emission.



ICE BERG SET TO CALVE FROM LARSEN C ICE SHELF

A huge iceberg, roughly the size of the county of Norfolk in the United Kingdom or the state of Delaware in the United States, looks set to break away from the Larsen C ice shelf on the Antarctic Peninsula. Larsen C is more than twice the size of Wales. Satellite observations from December 2016 show a growing crack in the ice shelf which suggests that an iceberg with an area of up to 5,000 square kilometers is likely to calve soon.

British Antarctic Survey researchers have a long running research programme to monitor ice shelves from both above and below to understand the causes and implications of the rapid changes observed in the region.

During the current Antarctic field season, a glaciology research team has been on Larsen C using seismic techniques to survey the seafloor beneath the ice shelf. As a break up looks likely the team has not set up camp on the ice as usual. Instead they have made field trips by twin otter aircraft supported from Rothera Research Station.

Ice shelves in normal situations produce an iceberg every few decades. There is not enough information to know whether the expected calving event on Larsen C is an effect of climate change or not, although there is good scientific evidence that climate change has caused thinning of the ice shelf. Once the iceberg has calved the big question is whether the entire ice sheet may collapse. This is something that British Antarctic Survey teams have been monitoring and why glaciologists were deployed to work on Larsen C in the past few weeks.



Source: Sciencedaily.com

BULLETIN

THE HOME BUYING PROCESS



Buying a home is probably one of the biggest financial and emotional decisions you will take in your life. While on the positive side, it is attached to a lot of dreams and aspirations, on the downside it also comes with a lot of stress and trepidation. To ensure your journey to homeownership is a pleasant one, here are some guidelines to walk you through the home buying process.

1. Make sure you really want it!

Homeownership is more than just the fulfillment of a dream. It greatly impacts your financial and emotional state of being. Before making the decision to buy a home, ask yourself whether you genuinely want a home at this stage in your life or not, and whether you are financially solvent for it. You want your home to be a haven where you can unwind instead of it being the source of extra stress in your life.

2. Make a checklist of what you want

It is best to not jump in the water without testing it. Have a clear vision of the home of your dreams but do not be rigid. Be flexible and realistic. Prepare a checklist of what the home should have and their importance on a priority basis.

3. Educate yourself

After you have made your checklist and given ample thought to what is best for you, educate yourself on the options available to you- visit websites of real estate companies or visit the companies in person to find out the kinds of homes they have in the market and which one suits you best.

4. Select a real estate company

Now that you have completed your research, the next step in the home buying process is to find the real estate company of your choice. It is important you choose the right one in order to avoid buyer's remorse. Verify their reliability, reputation,

branding and after sales service so you know you are in the right hands.

5. Get financially prepared

The financing of your home is a crucial step in the home buying process and prior to buying you should definitely chalk out a budget plan of how much you can afford on your own and how much you need to borrow. Consider your down payment, monthly installments and interest on bank loans. Ask your real estate company any queries you might have regarding financing for the project, or if they have any financial facilities tied up with banks for home loan.

6. Sign on the dotted line

After getting your finances ready, you can book your home through the proper channel. The bank will pay out in favor of the real estate company to complete the transaction. Once you have read and signed the deed of agreement and allotment letter after completing all the necessary steps as per your DOA, you can now congratulate yourself on being the proud owner of your own home.

7. Check out your new home and complete the formalities

Take a tour of your newly acquired home and revel on your dream coming true. Clear any dues if you have any and sign over the handover documents. You also need to complete the Transfer/Registration of your apartment and Mutation of Apartment and proportionate land from concerned government authorities.

The whole home buying process can be quite a daunting and overwhelming experience if you have jumped the gun without testing the waters. So educate yourself, research, ask around before making the final decision of buying a home.

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