

Curtain falls on Digital Innovation Challenge for Women 2017



PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

As the Chinese proverb says, "A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials," after a month of vigorous screening and evaluation, Digital Innovation Challenge for Women 2017 finally found its champion team on October 14, 2017. Among 8 shortlisted teams, project "Automated Portable Bio-Plant" was announced as the champion of the challenge. Along with the champion, project "Harano Biggapti" and "Super Donor" shared first runner-up position and project "Teacher's Time" was announced as the second runner-up of the challenge.

Throughout the month, these teams shaped up their ideas into products with the help of their mentors. The ideas varied from simple gaming applications to critical sectors like solving issues in fields of medicine, security, traffic, and education. Each week, the mentors commented on the projects and the challengers continuously improved their products. One might think that the challenges were only for the participants, but in actuality, the mentors and judges took a similar journey to spot the winner.

Among the mentors was Sayma

Rahman, Digital Partnership Manager at Grameenphone Limited. She expresses her thoughts about this challenge as, "Being a mentor to this programme, I've encountered highly intelligent, ambitious and aspiring women who dream of changing the world."

Another mentor Md. Sohan Haidear, Senior Executive, Social Media Marketing at The Daily Star, says, "The participants were trained to think of their ideas with a much more disciplined approach, so they can convert the idea into a successful and sustainable business."

Another interesting part of the grand finale was the Tech Talks. Personnel from the professional world shared their views and experiences with the participants on topics like startup businesses. The participants actively took part in conversations with the panelists.

It was not just a mere competition. The challenge laid a platform for women to gain confidence to face the world and to actively participate in technology related businesses. With the Bangladesh Government keen on increasing the number of women as skilled manpower in the IT sector, initiatives like the Digital Innovation Challenge for Women could act like a stepping stone.

PHOTO: SUSNATA CHAKMA



www.youthop.com

Youth Opportunities

1. Junior Fellows Internship at the United Nations University, Tokyo

The underlying principles of the Junior Fellows Internship Programme at the Office of the Rector are centered on creating a dynamic, challenging and rewarding experience for graduate level students and young professionals. The programme places a strong emphasis on the training, guidance, and hands-on experience that form the foundation of a successful and beneficial internship.



Deadline: October 29, 2017 | Internship

2. World Youth Forum 2017 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

World Youth Forum is a platform that sends a message of peace, prosperity, harmony and progress to the entire world built by promising youths. Engaging youths from around the globe in an enriched platform, it allows them to express their views and recommend initiatives from decision makers and different influential figures.

Deadline: Ongoing | Conference

3. Global Media Competition on Labour Migration 2017 by ILO

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is launching a global media competition to recognise exemplary media coverage on labour migration. A total of four winners (one per category, per thematic area) will receive \$1,000 USD each. Winning entries will be featured on ILO website and widely promoted as an example of good journalism.



Deadline: October 27, 2017 | Competition

4. Conquer The Blue Print of High Performance 2017 in Dhaka

Conquer The Blue Print of High Performance is a workshop, based on tricks and tips of interview sessions and marketing hacks. It is going to be organised by Youth Club of Bangladesh. Professionals from corporate world will conduct the workshop and deliver the hacks by which participants can get the direction to conquer the blue-prints of high performance.

Deadline: October 26, 2017 | Workshop

5. Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp 2018 in Thailand

Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp is an intensive educational and leadership session that brings together many young entrepreneurs from around the world and places them on a common platform to innovate and create new businesses by collaboration. The bootcamp is designed to groom your innovations and new ideas into startups.



Deadline: October 30, 2017 | Conference

Heroes for All

TOAST TO HUMANITY

YOUTH DESK

"Heroes for All", a youth based non-profit organisation, had its first orientation programme on September 30, 2017, at Nitol Center's auditorium in Mohakhali, Dhaka. The motto of the organisation is to transform the children and youths into morally conscious, and responsible global citizen, who can make positive life and career choices. Dr. Rehnuma Karim, the Founder and President of Heroes for All, addressed the new recruits in the programme. The orientation session was energised

through interactive discussions and hands-on activities. Ms. Irfat Ali, the General secretary of HFA, along with the Executive Directors facilitated the event.

Dr. Karim says, "I believe that all social problems and conflicts can be solved through conscious investment on children and youths. By nurturing the core values of humanity within them, we would be able to create a division free world." In this age of fierce competition, the children and youths can easily lose their sense of belonging. HFA aims to give the young ones

exactly that - an identity.

HFA offers activities such as active mentorship, connection to role models and community development engagement programmes that can help young people tap into their own potential. Captain Mashrafe-Bin-Mortaza, Rokia Rahman, Monira Rahman, motivational speaker Coach Jim Johnson are some of the Board Members of HFA.

For further information about Heroes for All, please visit their official page heroesforall.org or contact rehnuma.karim@heroesforall.org.



PHOTO: COURTESY

10 books every teenager should read

AREEBA ASIF

1. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
Set in Nazi Germany, what separates this Holocaust book from others are the center of interest, a family with rather politically incorrect views, and of course, the book thief's way into this family.

2. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

An evident pick, this is one of the most heart rendering novels. Often referred to as American Literature at its finest, it takes the most sensitive issue of race and illustrates the racial bias in an effective way.

3. *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

This book will successfully reconnect us to our beginnings, regardless of how far we may be. This beautiful creation by Lahiri surrounds Gogol, a man who sets out to discover himself.

4. *The Harry Potter Series* by JK Rowling

The most obvious in the list, this fantasy series has become one of the classics. Let's be honest; we're all waiting for our

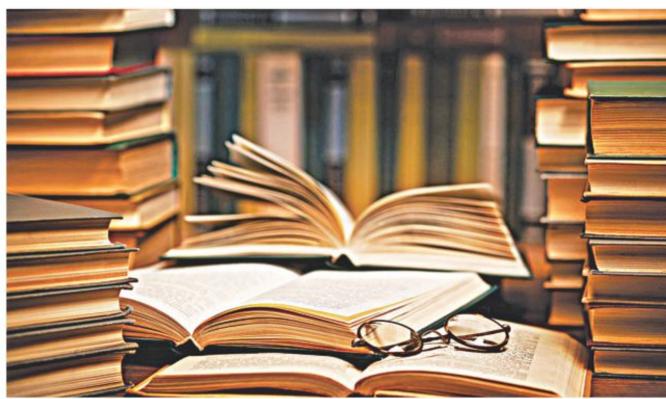


PHOTO: INTERNET

letter from Hogwarts.

5. *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald

A book that is vividly gorgeous and set in an epic time in history, it elaborates that when you're at your lowest, the only way is to go up.

6. *A House for Mr Biswas* by V S

Naipaul

Mr Biswas is humorous, yet petulant and malicious at the same time. His enemies are his relatives and his goal is to be the rightful owner of the titular house. This book is for slightly older teenagers.

7. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
It is an old English classic, packed with

charm, humour and romance - all at the same time.

8. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J D Salinger

Holden, the 16-year-old narrator, is troubled but manages to articulate his pain and pleasures to the audience, yet keeping most of it to himself. A book that centers young angst and is a must read for all teenagers of today.

9. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy

Released just a few months back, people witness how Aftab turns into Anjum. The story takes us from New Delhi to Kashmir, only to make us admirers of Roy's courage.

10. *Sister of My Heart* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Definitely the most underrated book in this list, it is a novel that portrays the bond of love (especially between two sisters) regardless of not being bound by the same blood. The author shapes the story by the inexplicable affection the sisters share for each other.