

# Living with Cerebral Palsy

## An Exhibition

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

In order to fasten a country's progress, it is important that we make use of the entire population. Leaving out one group of people, who might have equal (or more) potential to contribute to the society's wellbeing, would never work in favour of the desired progress.

Oftentimes, people living with Cerebral Palsy (commonly known as people with disability) are left behind. CSF Global works to create acceptance towards this group of people. On the occasion of World Cerebral Palsy Day (6th of October), CSF Global in collaboration with Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Australia, organised a photo exhibition at Drik Gallery from October 5 to 7, 2017.

The exhibition included pictures captured by team members of CSF Global. Each picture tells a story of a child, living with Cerebral Palsy. Story of Tamanna, on her first day at school, while she is cheered by her teachers and classmates; story of Ibrahim's unbroken will that makes him steadfast in moving by himself, are reflected through the pictures.

During the inauguration of the exhibition, Professor Dr M A Muhib, President, CSF Global, said, "This exhibition is very much

in-line with our core value, and that is - nothing about us, without us. We believe in participation. We believe that children and adults with disability are disabled not because of their impairment of disease, but, they are disabled because of our negative attitude of excluding them from the society."

Dr Gulam Khandaker, PhD, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, spoke as a special guest in the inauguration. He said, when he went to Shahjadpur as a researcher, he used to take instant pictures of the kids with CP there, so that when he goes back to Sydney, he can have a face instead of a name. After a child named Roton had died, his mother returned and asked for the picture because, that is the only picture of Roton she had.

In addition to this, Chief Guest Ms Sally Anne Vincent, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian High Commission, shared her own story of growing up with a cousin, who has CP and who learned swimming and eventually became a champion in the Paralympics.

With such stories of inclusion of people living with Cerebral Palsy in the society, CSF Global through this exhibition wants to ensure the same rights and opportunities for all of them.



PHOTO: COURTESY



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## A light of hope for FLOOD VICTIMS IN HAOR

TAUFIQ ZAMAN

Around 2.72 lakh people have been affected by the flash flood in Sunamganj district. People living in Thakurbhog of Sunamganj are devastated, especially the farmers living in the Haor region. According to the statement of the general secretary of 'Haor Bachao, Poribesh Bachao, Sunamganj Bachao,' crops worth around Taka 3000 crore were washed away during the flood. Although the condition has improved over the days, but, a huge portion of the land still remains underwater.

To help the people of Haor fight back, Casper - BRAC University, Casper Foundation along with IDLC Finance have joined hands together. Their project 'Fight Back the Disaster' is a joint initiative that does not only provide relief, but also, provides

rehabilitation to families who have suffered from one of the most devastating floods of Bangladesh. Casper - BRAC University revisited Thakurbhog, Sunamganj on September 29, 2017, taking the support of IDLC Finance. After the relief distribution on March, the team has revisited this time to distribute livestock to the flood affected families of Thakurbhog.

Initially, a survey was conducted by the volunteers of Casper - BRAC University where it was found that, raising domestic animals would help the locals meet their daily needs and would enable them to be self-sufficient. Thus, to restore the livelihood of the flood victims, project 'Fight Back the Disaster' selected 35 needy families to be recipients of goats from the project. These families were selected based on the urgency of their needs as well as their ability to take

care of the livestock. The parties designed a sustainable model for the project by ensuring long-term monitoring of each family's progress with the goats with the support of a local doctor.

"IDLC is always working relentlessly for a better future for all. This initiative is a part of our vision," says Jane Alam Romel, Group Chief Marketing Officer of IDLC. Taufiq-uz Zaman, Founder and CEO of Casper Foundation, says, "It is amazing to see the things we could accomplish if all of us come together to help our community. A special thanks to IDLC for helping us accomplish this project."

Casper Foundation and IDLC believe that their project 'Fight Back the Disaster' will bring back the lost smile to the faces of unsung fighters of the Haor region.



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## Youth Opportunities

### 1. Facebook Fellowship Programme 2017

The Facebook Fellowship Programme and Emerging Scholar Awards are designed to encourage and support promising doctoral students who are engaged in innovative and relevant research in areas related to computer science and engineering. Applications will be evaluated based on the strength of the student's research statement, publication record, and recommendation letters. Deadline: November 1, 2017 | Fellowship



### 2. Internship Opportunities at Rolls Royce in UK



An internship with Rolls Royce is an amazing chance to gain invaluable experience. Whether you choose an engineering, operations or business programme, you will make a real impact on live projects as you immerse yourself in Rolls Royce business. Deadline: Ongoing | Internship

### 3. Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) 11 in Dhaka

Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) is a month-long programme designed for secondary school students from grades 6 to 10. The programme, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitising a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork, community service, and active citizenship. Deadline: November 9, 2017 | Workshop



### 4. Canadian Government Scholarships 2018



The programme strengthens the ability to attract and retain world-class doctoral students and establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. Vanier Scholars demonstrate leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences and/or humanities, natural sciences and/or engineering and health. Deadline: November 1, 2017 | Scholarship

### 5. Call for Entries: 11th International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh 2018

International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh is an annual film festival held countrywide, which showcases full-length features, shorts, experimental films made for and by children from around the world. Started in 2008, it is one of the biggest film festivals in Bangladesh and also the only international film festival for children and young adults of the country. Deadline: October 31, 2017 | Awards



'Startup Talk 2017' awarded three new entrepreneurial efforts AlterYouth, Landknock, and Amar Uddog with the Emerging Startup Award on October 7, 2017. TikTok and SSLCOMMERZ were the patronising partners of the programme and it was organised by e-Cab Youth Forum and BreakBite.

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