

# BHAATBANK

## LET'S END HUNGER TOGETHER



PHOTO: COURTESY

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"A few grains of rice can make all the difference" - such is the motto of BhaatBank, a registered non-profit organisation working to end hunger by providing free meals to the less fortunate. Where more than 32 percent of our population still live under the poverty line, we all arguably have a moral responsibility to try to mitigate the hunger that comes with poverty. The prevalence of child malnutrition in Bangladesh is 33 percent, one of the highest in the world.

BhaatBank was founded by Hasnain Syed and Ayesha Ahsan from USA, joined by Mohammad Hassan and Mohammed Wahiduzzaman from Dhaka, Bangladesh. Along the way, Nadia Sarker and other passionate members have joined together to end hunger for single mothers like Rehana, widowed, with three small children, struggling

for meals. BhaatBank is for small girls like Rita, who no longer have to collect the thrown away rice from the floor of bazaar for a meal.

The organisation runs completely on donations, and is currently providing 1200 free and freshly cooked meals per month to the ones in need. "This is not a hand out, and nor are we doing this to earn any social 'brownie points'. We simply want to help those who are unable to provide for them-

selves and their family a proper square meal, even after toiling over a hard day of labour. BhaatBank services are not limited to just donating food from our donation centers in our city," says Nadia Sarker.

At the moment, the organisation operates in Mohammapur and plans to expand to other areas soon. The philanthropic activities of the organisation is not limited to food, as during the recent flood crisis in North Bengal, BhaatBank and their volun-

teers reached out to the flood victims in Sirajganj and provided 250 families with care packages consisting of one week worth of food and medicine supplies. The ultimate goal, however, is that no one in the city should sleep hungry. As Mother Teresa once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one."

If you want to donate to this noble cause or volunteer, you can log in at: [www.bhaatbank.org](http://www.bhaatbank.org)



[www.youthop.com](http://www.youthop.com)

### Youth Opportunities

#### World Bank Group Youth Summit 2017: Technology and Innovation for Impact

The summit aims to utilise youths and those who are the most active users of information and communications technologies. Youngsters are playing an important role in this development and their participation is essential in expanding the reach of technology and fulfilling the transformative potential of the digital revolution.

Deadline: Ongoing | Miscellaneous

#### Bold Intern in Google for Summer 2018

Students from all schools, and students who identify with a group that is historically underrepresented in the technology industry, including but not limited to Black, Hispanic, Native American, students with disabilities, and veterans, are encouraged to apply.

#### Asia Pacific Future Leader Conference 2017 in Malaysia

Asia Pacific Future Leader Initiative is proud to bring back the most awaited international youth event of the year in the Asia Pacific region in the end of this year. It includes exciting cultural exchange sessions and a comprehensive leadership training that emphasises on 5 APLI leadership qualities, which are critical thinking, problem-solving, time management skills, public speaking, and negotiation skills as well as problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Deadline: November 11, 2017 | Conference

#### Throne - Season 2: An Inter-University Business Plan Competition 2017 at Jahangirnagar University

This is a competitive opportunity for undergrad students of Bangladesh to explore their potential business ideas before a panel of renowned business professionals. Besides, the competition is designed to provide the undergrad students with a real-world experience within a short span of time. During this three-day event, you and the rest of your team members will be presented with a series of business challenges to solve with your creative thinking and own capabilities.

Deadline: November 10, 2017 | Competition

# SUDIP CHAKROBORTHY

## A MIGHTY DREAM CONQUEROR

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

Sudip Chakroborthy, an acclaimed and multi-talented theatre artiste as well as a teacher, has succeeded in setting an example for the youths who wish to pursue their passion through hard work, perseverance and full sincerity. He has recently been awarded with the Commonwealth Scholarship 2017, funded by the UK government. Being the first ever person from Bangladesh to be awarded with this scholarship for studying PhD in theatre, Sudip Chakroborthy has started pursuing his research on 'Performing Bangladesh: identity, violence and conciliation from 1971 to 2013' at Theatre and Performance Department of Goldsmiths, University of London.

Born and raised in Nabiganj of the Habiganj district, Sudip Chakroborthy felt an inclination towards the theatre and cultural practices since his college days. His journey into the world of theatre

started from a local theatre group named 'Theatre ShakhaBorak'. Later, in 1999, with his enrollment into the Department of Theatre and Music of Dhaka University (now Department of Theatre and Performance Studies), Sudip Chakroborthy's passion regarding theatre practice took a real form. On the completion of both graduation and post-graduation degrees by achieving first class first, Sudip Chakroborthy was offered to join his department as a part-time teacher in 2006, and appointed as a full time faculty from 2008. He served as the Head of the Department from September, 2014, until July, 2017.

Besides nurturing young minds, Sudip Chakroborthy also took interest in conducting workshops and directing, planning, and researching on plays. In the past 15 years, he has been actively involved with numerous local, national and international theatre workshops, seminars, and festivals across Bangladesh, India, South



PHOTO: JAHANGER RANA

Korea, England, Scotland, Wales, and United States; leading him to explore new and diverse art forms.

Chaka, Mohajoner Nao, Lal Jomin, Raktakarabi, Dokkhina Sundori, and Macbeth are a few amongst the 25 theatre productions directed by Sudip

Chakroborthy. Also, for over 50 plays produced in Bangladesh, India, UK and US, he has been in charge of planning the stage, lights, costumes, props, masks and more. His theatre directions were invited and showcased on the stages of UK's 20th Commonwealth Games, Contact Theatre Festival, A Season of Bangla Drama, South Korea's Keochang Festival, India's Rabindra Bharati University, Assam University and etc. Besides being awarded with various honorary theatre awards and bursaries, Sudip Chakroborthy's research works have been published by the Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

By emulating Sudip Chakroborthy's tireless devotion to succeed, the younger people can surely gain a momentum to reach out and make their dreams come to life. One must look out for a role model he or she can be inspired from; and Sudip Chakroborthy is surely no less than one.

# Model UN for Flourishing Youth



PHOTO: COURTESY

KAZI SAHALE UDDIN MUHAMMAD SHOYON

UNYSAB Model United Nations 2017 was held from October 6 to 9, 2017, at University of Rajshahi. The Rajshahi Divisional Wing of UNYSAB organised the conference for the 4th time in Rajshahi, where the theme was 'Flourishing Youth as Resource for Contributing in SDGs through Innovation, Leadership & Social Security'.

The opening ceremony of the conference started with more than 300 delegates at the Senate Building of Rajshahi University with great excitement from the participants and the organisers. It was followed by plenary and committee sessions. The participants, comprising of 300 students from 40 different schools, colleges and universities, gathered as delegates from different countries under 8 committees and debated on different agendas.

UNYSAB MUN 2017 ended with a festive closing ceremony at the Senate Bhaban, University of Rajshahi. A certificate awarding ceremony was held where a total of 24 awards were distributed in different categories.