



Sporsho has published 61 books of renowned writers in Braille.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

SPORSHO'S JOURNEY OF CONQUERING VISION



Sporsho donated Braille books to Dhaka University Central Library.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Have you ever imagined what would it be like to not be able to see your surroundings, the faces of your loved ones, the pages of your favourite books? According to a 2011 study, there are at least 200,000 youths in Bangladesh who are irreversibly visually impaired. For these youths, this beautiful world is forever dark but their mind is just as enlightened and creative as any other human being. They also want to read stories, poems, novels and know about their surroundings and the world. However, where could they find tactile Braille books, which could be read by touching the raised alphabets printed in Braille? Sporsho Braille Prokashona came forward for these young booklovers. This unique organisation took the initiative to publish Braille books for the visually impaired readers.

So far, Sporsho has published 61 books of renowned writers in Braille. This includes several popular books of Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, several juvenile novels by Humayun Ahmed, poems of Syed

Shamsul Huq, children's literature by Lutfur Rahman Riton and books by Mofidul Haque, Anisul Hoque and many others. On January 6, 2018, Sporsho marked its 10-year anniversary of enlightening the visually impaired people of our country. The celebration was preceded by the first ever debate, chess and music competition participated exclusively by visually impaired students in Bangladesh. On January 6 this year, the winners of those competitions were awarded ceremoniously through a grand cultural programme. Also, the first Braille book stall in the history of Bangladesh's Ekushey Book Fair was set by Sporsho in 2011.

Sporsho's journey started in 2009 under the visionary leadership of its founder Nazia Jabeen. Nazia realised the grief of vision loss when one of her close family members' eyes were injured in a serious road accident. From that realisation, Nazia started to work for a non-government organisation called "Prerona" where she first came close to visually impaired youth and students.

Thanks to Nazia's decade long movement, several Braille printing presses have recently been established as the demand for Braille books is growing. Besides publishing Braille books, Nazia and her team at Sporsho have also been working to give visually impaired students an open space for learning and self-development. Sporsho is developing an audio library for these students where they can study freely. Sporsho also organises music, poetry recitation and indoor games classes for the visually impaired students. "My dream is to build an open knowledge centre for all where visually impaired youths will get completely barrier free access. They will reach it and study without any discrimination just like any other student. By initiating knowledge and learning based activities, Sporsho's dream is to establish an inclusive discrimination-free society for all, especially for the visually impaired people," says a hopeful Nazia. Sporsho is not just an organisation; it's a movement. As long as this movement continues, there is hope of an inclusive society in Bangladesh.

Instagram.com/cartoonpeoplecomics
CARTOONPEOPLE COMICS

#STUFF
SCENE
OISHIKI! YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING A SCENE!
I'M SORRY MAN I CAN'T HELP IT
THEY'RE JUST SO FUN TO DRAW

OISHIKI JAWAD

CLAY STATION

THE JOY IN POTTERY MAKING

SHABABA IQBAL

It is important to bond with our friends and family once in a while in a stress-free environment—away from the worries of daily life. Clay Station, a Dhaka-based creative clay studio, allows one to have memorable experiences with their friends and family as well as to explore and experiment with clay. The studio provides opportunities for good social interactions, creative modes of expression, and hands-on activities with clay.

For most people in Bangladesh, especially the youth, the main way of spending time with friends and family is to go out to various eateries. Sharmin Ahmed, Founder of Clay Station, aimed to alter that situation and provide people with a different, more productive, and more fascinating option. "Pottery making is a perfect hobby for those who like to socialise confidently with others, while still allowing for silence. Our casual atmosphere helps decrease any difficulties to

help start a conversation," she explains. The Clay Station family celebrated their first anniversary on December 9, 2017.

One other objective of Clay Station is to help people express their creativity and expand how they connect with themselves



and their environment. The different services at Clay Station provide plenty of such creative opportunities. For a start, visitors can paint their chosen piece of pottery. They can also create something of their own with the help of a professional

ceramist. First-time potters can find inspiration to master techniques on the pottery wheel, while more passionate potters can enroll in a course on the basics of pottery making. So, a hobby in pottery making not only gives one some time to wind down and experiment creatively, but also to pick up new things, network, and make new friends.

On December, the Clay Station family launched their own shop of hand-crafted ceramic items. Further to this, they arranged refreshments, an open mic musical afternoon, and a segment named "Clay for a Cause" in celebration of their first anniversary. For "Clay for a Cause" people of different age groups and backgrounds came together to enthusiastically and selflessly hand-craft unique and conceptual toys with clay for the Rohingya children. It was a joyous and gratifying experience for everyone who partook in the activities.

To know more about Clay Station, visit: facebook.com/claystationdhaka



PHOTOS: NAYEM ALI



www.youthop.com

Youth Opportunities

2018 Paid Summer Internship at World Bank



This internship typically seeks candidates in the following fields: Economics, Finance, Human Development (Public Health, Education, Nutrition, Population), Social Science (Anthropology, Sociology), Agriculture, Environment, Private Sector Development, and other related fields.

Deadline: January 31, 2018 | Internship

The Collective Global Accelerator 2018 in London (Fully-funded)



The Collective Global Accelerator is looking for a social entrepreneur who likes to create strong communities in cities. They would get to spend 4 weeks in London this Summer and attend trainings and workshops, be mentored, and get access to network and investors. The programme is fully-funded by The Collective Foundation.

Deadline: January 10, 2018 | Workshop

Call for Photography Competition on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2018 in Dhaka



Call for Entry

Photography Competition on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The objective of this competition is to create a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) movement through the language of photographs to empower Dhaka residents to build a resilient capital city and save lives.

Categories: Professionals, Students, Community Members
Deadline: January 15, 2018 | Competition