

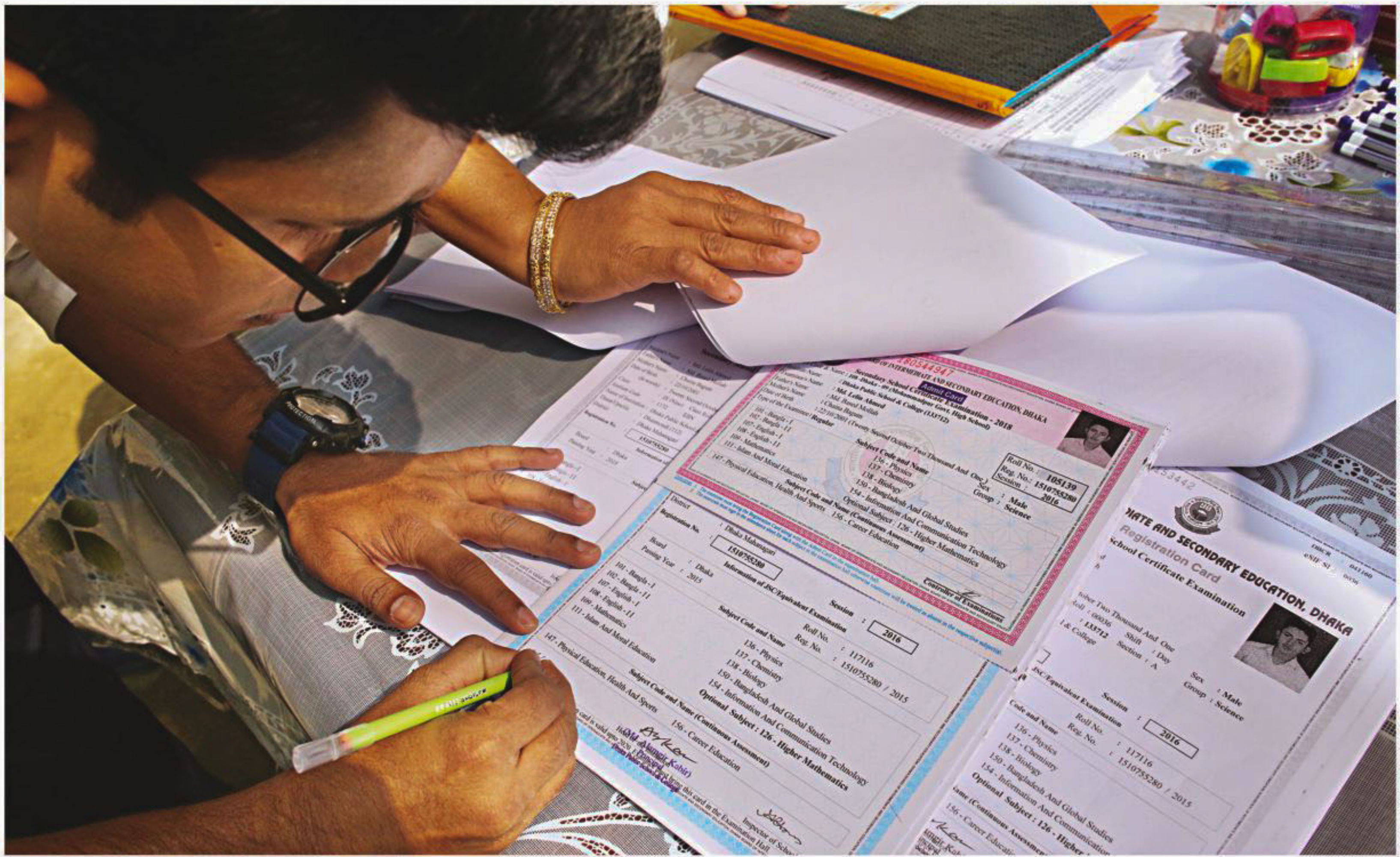
# FIRST SSC EXAMINEES OF JAAGO

**SANJIDA CHOWDHURY**

Since the inception of JAAGO Foundation, it has put an enormous effort to break the cycle of poverty and facilitate poor children to have better lives. Korvi Rakshand, the Founder of JAAGO Foundation, started his journey in 2007 with a carpet, a blackboard, a box of chalks and a handful of children. After 10 years of diligence, those very children from the first batch (Reception) are taking their SSC examinations this year. The students have struggled and fought against poverty and inadequacy throughout their lives, however, they never left their school. This year, 20 students of the JAAGO Rayer Bazar School have come one step closer to conquering their dreams.

The students have been trained with extra care for their exams. Their teachers have poured in quality guidance, so that, one does not have to take tuitions outside of their school. They have been following the National Curriculum in English from class I and also, have been practicing communicating in English for the last ten years. These students are the gems of the school and have long term plans for their future.

On January 30, 2018, in the presence of the Senior Manager of the Education Programme, Zihaduzzaman; Senior Education Coordinator, Md Nizamul Karim, and other distinguished guests, the school authority distributed the Admit Cards amongst the students. They were also provided with necessary stationeries at the



PHOTOS: SALIM SADMAN SAMOY



end of the programme. The event concluded with speeches and well wishes from the teachers and the governing body. Towards the end of the gathering, Mr Asaduzzaman wished the students and said, "Together with the teachers and the students, we have come this far. It has been a huge achievement for us. The students are going to be independent and start taking their own decisions soon. I hope they make wise decisions in life and become brighter and confident as they grow up."

Korvi Rakshand shared his feelings and said, "10 years back, we started this journey together in a small room, with 17 small kids and eyes full of hope. With every step, JAAGO has grown up and so have our students. The students from the first batch of JAAGO Foundation will be sitting

for their SSC examinations from February 1, 2018. It is a moment of pride for us."

There have been instances where the school had to resolve family issues in order to prevent drop outs. Since children from under privileged families come to JAAGO Foundation, they have to fight against adverse situations to continue their studies. Rima Aktter Moni, an examinee of SSC, also had to witness the hardship of life, but, defeating all odds, she is taking her exams now. On the day of their farewell, Moni exclaimed, "I could not sleep properly last night. I know it is because of the mixed feelings that I am going through right now. My grandparents called and sent their regards. My mother is trying to buy milk for me so that, I stay strong and healthy

throughout the month of the exams. I want everyone to pray for me so that I can fulfill my parents' dreams."

JAAGO envisions building a generation that will take Bangladesh to the highway of social and economic progress. The foundation believes that, access to quality education for every child can support the mission of eradicating poverty. Also, the hope is that, students who will graduate from JAAGO Foundation will be able to distinguish between the good and the bad, build a society that is free from discrimination, exploitation and violence. A sustainable growth of their physical and mental health makes them aware of their surroundings and helps bring out the best in themselves.

## The Football Pundit

**RAFEED ELAHI CHOWDHURY**

Sharan Khan has been passionate about football since his childhood. While studying in Bangladesh International Tutorial, he was selected as the captain of the under-14 school football team. Sharan continued to follow his zeal for football and eventually, he achieved a football scholarship to pursue graduation at the Siena Heights University, Michigan. This means, Sharan is offered waiver on his tuition fees by playing for his college football team.

"I didn't know any football agent, so, I had to make my own video," says Sharan. He submitted a video-clip of his freestyle skills to different universities abroad, eventually, impressing this top-notch university in the United States of America.

While talking about the challenges he had to overcome, Sharan mentions how the first year was quite arduous for him, as he had difficulties coping up with fitness obstacles, punctuality factors, and so on. As Sharan keeps on elaborating more about how he eventually progressed, he adds, "It was very difficult for me at the beginning, but then, I realised that I can't give up. So, I practiced harder and began playing more games."

Sharan was offered a 25 percent scholarship in the first year of his university. As he continued playing for his college team, in the final year, his scholarship amount increased. He also became the captain of his university football team, and

was given the Player of the Year award twice due to his impressive performances. Furthermore, the university also offered him a job as an assistant-coach.

"Every university has a football team. So, if you're passionate about football, you should definitely take the advantage," says Sharan. While talking about the procedure of getting a football scholarship, he suggests that a video of freestyle football skills has to be made. The universities



PHOTO: COURTESY

one is applying to should be able to get a visual representation of his or her talent.

In the future, Sharan dreams to establish a platform for the young footballers, where they will be able to showcase their talents; and also, this football pundit wants to help the young dreamers achieve their goals regarding this beautiful game.



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA



www.youthop.com

## Youth Opportunities

### UN Global Compact Internship Programme 2018 in New York

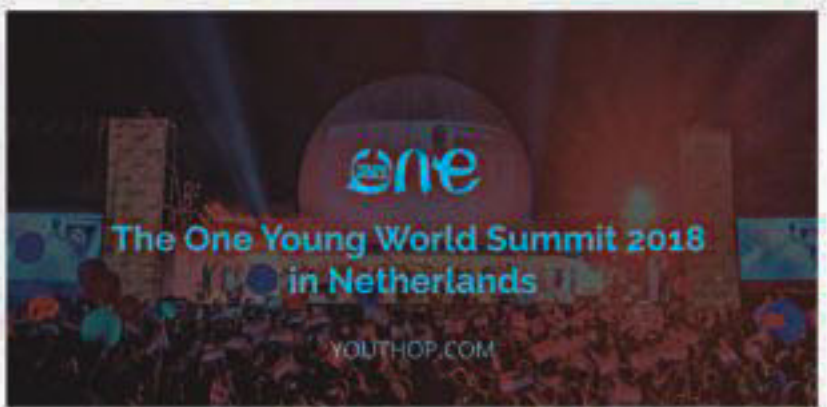


The UN Global Compact offers internship opportunities in its New York office. The UN Global Compact pursues two complementary objectives: making the UN Global Compact and its principles part of business strategy and operations everywhere; and facilitating co-operation among key stakeholders by promoting partnerships and other collective actions in support of UN goals.

Deadline: April 30, 2018 | Internship

### The One Young World Summit 2018 in Netherlands

In the summit, delegates meet and make lasting connections with peers from almost every industry, sector and country. During the summit, delegates debate, formulate and share innovative solutions to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. They hear and are heard by world leaders acting as One Young World Counselors.



Deadline: Ongoing | Conference

### IDB-BISEW Vocational Training Scholarship



It has been observed that many students in Bangladesh, after completing their SSC or Dakhil exams, cannot pursue education further due to financial crisis. To help, Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IDB-BISEW) has taken-up the initiative to train them with technical skills that would help them find employment.

Deadline: February 15, 2018 | Scholarship

## NSUers Carnival - A Day with Friends and Family



PHOTO: COURTESY

**AANSU**

Alumni Association of North South University organised the reunion 'NSUers Carnival - A Day with Friends and Family' on Friday, January 26, 2018, at the Chairman Bari field in Banani, Dhaka. NSU's former students have celebrated this day with friends and family, by remembering the golden days of their campus life and participating in different fun activities. This daylong event was filled with cultural programmes, dance shows, fire show, lottery, prizes, and more.

Bands and singers including

Jatri with Topu, Old School, Alif Alauddin, and Jubair Malik performed at the ceremony. Star Youth, The Daily Star, and Radio Dhol were the official Media Partners of the reunion. Polar was the Ice-Cream Partner and The Brentwood was the Silver Partner of the event.

A former student of NSU, who was overwhelmed to see old friends, says, "Today, it seems as if I'm back to my campus life, where there was colour, love and friendship. I want these events to be organised every year, so that, we can go back to our lovely campus days often."