



PHOTO: AKIB ABDULLAH

## AN AFTERNOON OF INSPIRATION WITH YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS

SHABABA IQBAL

Since its inception in 2008, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) has been working to equip the country's youth with the skills to lead change with competence, courage and compassion, thus promoting the belief that leadership can be exercised by anyone regardless of gender, age or status.

To demonstrate the power of today's youth, on April 7, 2018, BYLC, in partnership with Independent University, Bangladesh, hosted "Youth Leading Change", an event featuring ten bold and young change makers who are tackling some of the country's most pressing challenges in different and innovative ways.

Today, BYLC has more than 3,200 people who have graduated out of their leadership programmes. They have come from different English Medium and Bangla Medium schools as well as Madrasas. Many of them have started their own social initiatives, are high-performers in the private job sector, have significant positions in public service, and are excelling in different higher education institutions all over the world.

The audience at the event had the opportunity to hear from ten of the qualified speakers about the issues that keep them up at night, the struggles they confront and their creative interventions that are challenging the status quo and bring-

ing positive changes in Bangladesh. The speakers were Anwar Ahmad, Tasmiah Allam, Sumon Selim Mollah, Tasnim Jara, Iffat Jahan Tusher, Imran Ahsan, Rubina Akhter, Almeer Ahsan Asif, Aflatun Kaiser Zilany and Monoshita Ayruani.

These change makers spoke about the many challenges surrounding health, education, employment and other sectors, as well as the accomplishments of their different social initiatives and campaigns. Among other things, they brought their missions of making healthcare accessible to the poor by connecting needy patients with people who are able and willing to donate money. With the help of the donation, they are able to fund their treatment,

facilitate and educate the youth with the power of coding and programming, help the Bangladeshi RMG sector, promote tolerance and empathy, and counter hate-speech through the development of critical thinking and extra-curricular activities. They also host open dialogues regarding sexual abuse of children in Bangladesh.

This event hosted by BYLC was an afternoon of creativity, energy and inspiration. It conveyed that we are at a critical point in history where we must act quickly due to the rise of diseases, poverty, intolerance, and sexual and drug abuse. These social issues are all cries for healthy, effective leaders to provide direction so the youth of today can lead us to a better tomorrow.



www.youthop.com

### Youth Opportunities

Calls for Mentors: Think On Summer Camp 2018 in Vietnam

Each mentor will conduct a workshop related to a topic of their choice, ranging from economics, culture, technology, education, to social issues. In between workshops are leadership, team building and guest speaker activities, as well as field trips. The mentees are encouraged to apply what they have learnt from the camp and create their own presentations on topics that they are passionate about.

Deadline: April 15, 2018 | Conference

TRT World Fellowship 2018 in Turkey



The direct focus of this fellowship programme is to reach people who want to get familiar with the perspective of TRT World, keep up with the changes

in the media industry and improve their understanding of the Turkish culture.

Deadline: May 6, 2018 | Fellowship

Teach Kids in Thanchi Online – Education Volunteer Programme at Project Be

Project Be is an organisation working as a platform for the youth to implement their ideas on social change. For one of the flagship projects, Project Protashha, they have introduced computers at a few schools in remote areas of Bandarban and taught the students to operate them.



Deadline: April 18, 2018 | Volunteer Service



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## Dhaka FM 90.4 Brings "Startup Talk"

YOUTH DESK

Anyone who has attempted startup business should be familiar with hardship and the challenges that come with it. To inspire newcomers into the professional world of technological entrepreneurship, Dhaka FM 90.4 has started hosting a radio show called "Startup Talk with Zaki Adnan", held every Saturday at 4 pm. This unique show promises to inspire the younger audience to take the leap into technological entrepreneurship.

"The digital startup scene in Bangladesh is

at an infant stage. There happens to be no dedicated media asset working towards highlighting the technological startups in our community. Daniel Bhai and I had a separate agenda to portray this emerging scene in Bangladesh," expresses Zaki Adnan, the Innovation and Ecosystem Manager at Grameenphone, and the host of the show. Daniel Afzalur Rahman is the Consultant at Dhaka FM 90.4.

"Startup Talk with Zaki Adnan" has already aired two episodes thus far, with the guests being Adnan Imtiaz Halim, CEO of Sheba.xyz,

and Hussain Elius, Co-Founder and CEO of Pathao. Tomorrow's episode will feature Fahim Mashroor, CEO and Founder of Bdjobs.com.

The objective of the show is to invite founders of technological startups, innovative ecosystem enablers and innovation-promoting communities that work to solve problems. Being the first of its kind in this country, the show hopes to encourage new startup attempts through the tales of current founders and community leaders of this profession.

## CASPER FOUNDATION'S Student Leaders' Meet and Greet

YOUTH DESK

Casper Foundation, a non-profit organisation working with student leaders from local universities to help implement innovative and sustainable social outreach projects, arranged a meet and greet session on April 5, 2018, at Banani, Dhaka. The gathering welcomed Casper Foundation's student leaders from ten different university chapters, board members, advisors and supporters in the hope to bring together like-minded individuals for an evening of fruitful conversations.

The event started with an ice-breaking session, where all the student leaders introduced themselves as well as shared their plans on future projects in collaboration with Casper Foundation. Also, representatives from LankaBangla Securities Ltd; The City Bank Limited, Bangladesh; East Coast Group; and Star Youth, The Daily Star, shared their insights on how to become successful leaders



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and bring about revolutionary changes for the betterment of the society. The interactive meeting was followed by a dinner session.

Casper Foundation aims to provide an interactive platform for university students

willing to undertake social projects, volunteer work and all kinds of innovative endeavors. The projects in question must be realistic, feature sustainability and built towards positive reinforcement of the society.



COMICS: OISHIK JAWAD