

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



PHOTOS: COURTESY

OSAMA RAHMAN

Ex manus capere. Detach from the hand.

This expression is best used to describe the very idea of emancipation. As Bangladesh moves forward towards a brand new paradigm of economic possibilities, one of the obstacles in its path is lack of proper healthcare and sanitation.

But, how can a country move forward if it leaves a segment of it lagging behind? Also, how long can a segment be dragged without being offered self-sufficiency? How can one achieve emancipation, economic or otherwise, if their health is left to deteriorate?

These questions arose when two childhood friends, Taufiq uz Zaman, CEO and Founder of Casper Foundation, a non-profit organisation, and Sardin Rahman, Director of Popular Group, were mulling over the idea of development and economic emancipation.

That is when an idea formed. They would put their resources together and see what they could collectively do. Hence, the "Healthcare and Sanitation Project" was formed under the title of "Today's Orphans, Tomorrow's Leaders".

The choice of the beneficiary was not a difficult one. "The main reason we started working with orphans is because they are often the most neglected and vulnerable in



a society. We want to change that and give these kids the opportunity to do that by educating them about health, diet and hygiene," Sardin Rahman says.

He adds that, if a serious illness was detected during the sessions, Popular would also take the responsibility of its treatment.

"We truly believe we can help these children pursue their dreams and be the leaders of tomorrow!"

The ongoing project aims to address healthcare needs of orphanages and similar institutions where many of its residents face preventable diseases and illnesses due to lack of knowledge and information.

"Currently, Casper Foundation and Popular Group have conducted Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Project TOTL and have directly impacted the lives of 60 kids under the age of 14," Taufiq says in a

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conversation with *Star Youth*.

He mentions that, the goal was to replicate the first and second phases in similar institutions around Dhaka city.

On the second day of the project, the project went to a local madrasa in East Maniknagar, Jamia Ajijia Ullum Madrasa in Balur Math, on March 24.

The school houses 70 students, many of whom are orphans from a lower-income background. In the session, children met and interacted with doctors and dieticians from Popular Group followed by a knowledge sharing session where the children were primed on the proper ways of healthcare, hygiene, nutrition and sanitation. There was also a physical examination of the children. The two-hour long programme also included discussion on the self-sufficiency of the madrasa to improve the overall condi-

tions of its pupils.

The doctors conducted health checkups and surveyed upwards of 40 children under the age of 15.

After collecting the data, it showed that, 29 percent were showing signs of malnutrition and 68 percent of them have anemia or are mildly anemic. Furthermore, a large number of these children, around 48 percent, have some degree of skin related problems. The data will be used to design to address urgent healthcare needs and formulate strategies for their prevention.

Dr Nishat Sharmin Nishi, Nutritionist and Dietitian, Dr Muntasir Sayeed and Dr Mahfuzur Rahman of Popular Group Medical College Hospital from Popular Group, spoke with the children individually and examined them for further assistance regarding any health related issues. Sardin Rahman, Director of Popular Group, Achinto Kumar Nag, Manager of Human Resource and Administration, and Taufiq uz Zaman were also present there.

The long term plan is to create model projects that can be replicated in all similar institutions around Dhaka city. Casper Foundation is looking to understand the trends in healthcare needs of these orphanages and see how individuals, corporates and other institutions may involve themselves in addressing the needs of the orphanages and the orphans in them.



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Youth Opportunities

Asia World Model United Nations 2018 in South Korea

AWMUN aims to bring together more than 1000 young people from all across the world to experience diplomacy in multiculturalism. With the theme "Defying Commonality: Unfolding Extraordinary Potentials", AWMUN won't always be about committee sessions, but also, celebration of the spirit of diversity through various events that they hold.



Deadline: May 14, 2018 | Conference

Internship Opportunity AIESEC- Egypt, 2018



This project is about supporting Egypt in attaining its multiple SDGs at the same time, namely poverty, zero hunger and good health and wellbeing. The intern will work

in an NGO to do a variety of activities through the week that tackle these three SDGs. They will work and support one of the most important charity organisations in Egypt.

Deadline: May 31, 2018 | Internship

Promoting Asian Leadership (P.A.L) Project 2018 in Japan

They have prepared activities that facilitate teamwork, discussions on diplomacy, and activities on education with Japanese high school students. Before and after the programme, they will provide sightseeing activities so the exchange students may enjoy Japan.



Deadline: June 6, 2018 | Exchange Programme



PHOTO: COURTESY

New Medium of Filmmaking- Mobile Films

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Film reels, heavy camera and the silver screen are now being challenged by the new buzz in the world of cinema. It is time that we recognise and get used to the silicon screen. Mobile phones are now being designed in ways which are ideal for any filmmaker to capture the desired visual instantly. Filmmaking is no more a sophist's game, and there is no excuse for filmmakers anymore.

If you thought mobile phones were only good for calling and browsing, then you might be wrong. Pocket films are gaining popularity worldwide. Since the screenings of these films are generally online or festival based, the opportunity is open for all. In case of Bangladesh, the opportunity was recognised and implemented by Mohammad Shazzad Hossain, a full-time faculty and the advisor of CinemaScope (a film apprenticeship programme) of the University of Liberal Arts

Bangladesh. Leading a bunch of budding filmmakers is often a challenge, but, he has been handling the task for over 5 years now. CinemaScope Mobile Film Competition was Shazzad Hossain's brain child, which he spread among the students. With about 30 apprentices,



CinemaScope now stands as the pioneer of hosting international inter-university mobile film competition in Bangladesh. They call it DIMFF (Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival). The response from all over the world has been quite humbling. Over 115 mobile films from 35 differ-

ent countries participated in this festival. The competition category of the festival was won by young filmmaker Senthamizhan Arunachalam Manjula from India for his debut film 'Vilambal'. In the previous year, the winning title was received by Arif Arman Badol from Bangladesh for his debut film "Chit no Viche Ikko Din".

Mobile films have created a unique genre. It would be unfair to think that it is only the amateur or debutant filmmakers who are attracted to this genre. Many professional filmmakers are also opting to grab the opportunity and enter the festivals. It is not to say that, filmmaking is now easy, it is only to make a point that the arrangement that was needed before with heavy cameras and expensive gadgets are now being reduced to just a cell phone. Since Bangladesh has already started the voyage, let us hope the journey takes the country's name to different global stages.

CMED Health, spin off of UIU AIMS Lab, wins Seedstar Innovation Prize in Switzerland

ABU SADAT

CMED Health, a Dhaka-based preventive healthcare startup, has won the Innovation Prize by TAG Heuer at Seedstars Summit 2018 in Switzerland. This is the first time a startup from Bangladesh has won this prize. CMED Health Initiative is a research outcome of Advanced Intelligent Multidisciplinary Systems Lab (AIMS Lab) of United International University.

"We have been selected as the most innovative and revolutionary startup, in line with how revolutionary TAG Heuer has been on the worldwide watch-making sector. This is a glorious moment for both CMED and Bangladesh," says Dr Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun, Founder and CEO of CMED. As the winner of the Innovation Prize, CMED will receive a \$50K equity investment from Seedstars World, as well as join their growth programme.

This year in the Seedstars World Summit, 66 innovative startups from 66 countries participated in the Global Summit from April 9 to 12, 2018, held in the Swiss Tech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Dr Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun receiving the Seedstar Innovation Prize. PHOTO: COURTESY