

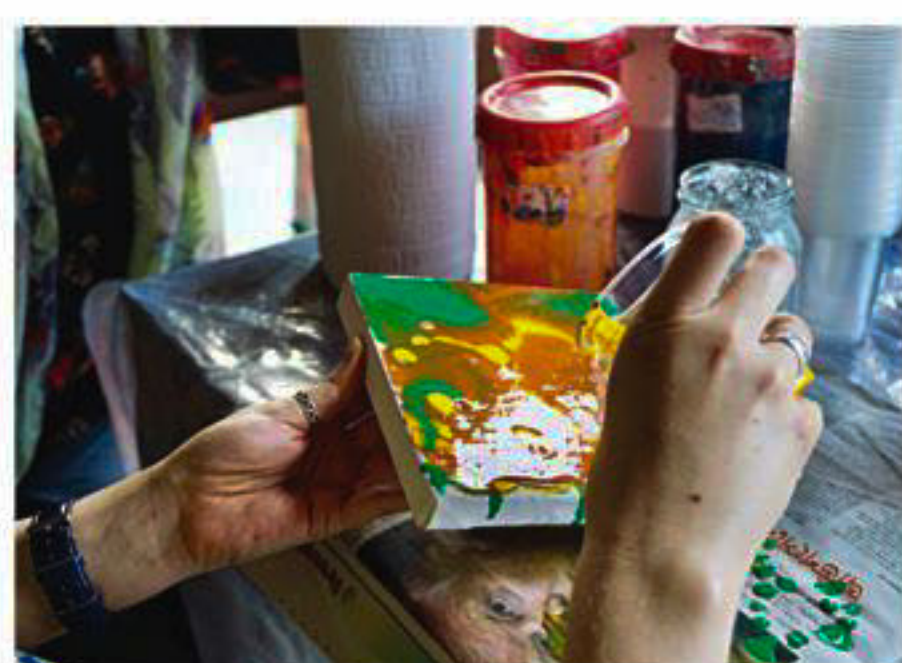


PHOTOS: AKIB ABDULLAH

FEEDING YOUR CREATIVE SOUL

SHABABA IQBAL

We often spend our weeks rushing around focusing so much on our everyday commitments, whether it's our job, school, or ticking off daily errands, that we hardly have a chance to relax. When we are overwhelmed with the burdens of a busy lifestyle, actually embracing our creativity can help us reduce stress and make us feel better. Bearing that in mind, young artist Madiha Athar Khan started "Art for the Soul," a platform for art enthusiasts to try out paint pouring or fluid art, a form of art that includes using acrylic colours with a runny consistency and swirling techniques to make inter-



esting patterns on canvases. Madiha, a Computer Science student from BRAC University, began getting into fluid art in 2015. She made plenty of abstract artworks on

her own and soon realised that she wanted to share her interest in art with others. "I was able to do fluid art without being a trained artist, so I saw no reason why other people can't do it," Madiha explains. She hosted her first fluid painting workshop in August 2017, which was met with hugely encouraging reactions. "I actually ran out of canvases at one point during the first workshop! I was happy and surprised that so many people showed interest," she adds. She then arranged a second workshop in January 2018, and one this June as a part of "Soulfulment," an art festival held at Jatra Biroti. "People in Dhaka, especially the young population, hardly have much to do other than go out to

eries, so I wanted to offer something that would help them channel their creativity. Fluid art has many calming effects as well," she says. She further shares her thoughts on the pros and cons of being an artist in Bangladesh. "Nowadays, I am afraid that art and cultural events are becoming more about the entertainment and the meet-ups, and less about the fine arts. I don't think people are really focusing on the artistic expertise." Nevertheless, Madiha believes that artists in Bangladesh now have plenty of ways to create their own opportunities, network with different people and gain exposure.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Grumpy Fish Business that runs with passion

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

From '90s literature to hip TV series, Grumpy Fish caters to an audience who are interested in pop-culture. Nobonita Roy and Samia Binte Alamgir are the two originators behind this clothing brand. They won the New Entrepreneur's Award 2017 by the entrepreneurs helping platform, *Chakri Khujbo Na, Chakri Debo*. The passion for their work sparkles in their eyes as they speak to *Star Youth* about their journey. Nobonita identifies books to be the common thread between them. "We both are bibliophiles," chuckles

Nobonita. Her playful attitude is a sheer contrast beside the more serious Samia. Samia explains that it is the nature of humans to associate with others with common interests. However, in their case, the difference in background has helped them grow better. To decide on a design, they bank on their instincts a lot. Nobonita says, "We've never sold a T-shirt that we weren't passionate about." But of course, the risks are well calculated. These young millennials believe that, the youth of Bangladesh have a lot to offer to this land. What really anchored them to their work is their

interest in the subject and their passion to hold on to it. Being female entrepreneurs in this male driven industry is not a cake walk. According to them, patience, passion, perseverance, research and communication skills are the five things one must possess to start a business. The passionate souls are not ignorant of their social responsibilities. They share their profit with a number of social development organisations too. For those who always thought why it's called "Grumpy Fish", you will have to wait. The super duo intend to reveal the secret on their tenth anniversary.

yo
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Youth Opportunities

National Hackathon for Women 2018

The goal of this event is to help women and girls shape their dreams by converting their ideas into digital products like apps, websites and other online services. This is an opportunity to learn from industry experts, design solutions.



Deadline: Ongoing | Competition

DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships 2018 in Germany [Fully Funded]



The objective of this fellowship is to allow extensive research and development work in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research. Non-German applicants are eligible to apply. Fellowship is available to doctoral and post-doctoral students as well as senior scientists.

Deadline: Ongoing | Fellowship

Fully Funded Visiting Artist Fellowship 2018/19 at Harvard University

The Fellowship provides a platform for conducting independent research that explores critical issues in South Asia through the lens of art and design. The programme welcomes applications from mid-career artists in South Asia to come to Harvard University to participate in interdisciplinary discourse with students and faculty on global issues relevant to South Asia.



Deadline: July 16, 2018 | Fellowship

BANGLA INITIATOR Young journalists in action

STAR YOUTH DESK

'Thrill' is the word that Sabuz Shahriar Khan uses when describing journalism. This crime journalism enthusiast had a penchant for the field since his younger days and still views it as a platform to ask questions as well as a means of impacting the society. However, what started as a mere childhood aspiration soon turned into a mission to prevent Bangladesh's youth from going astray. At 14-years of age, Sabuz read the news of a grade 9 student's murder. It prompted him to think deeply about Bangladesh's youth, which set in motion the clockwork that led to the formation of his venture- Bangla Initiator.

Bangla Initiator is an online news portal which is completely run by young journalists. Sabuz, now 20-years old, is the Chief Editor. The enterprise uses journalism as a



PHOTO: COURTESY

medium to allow children to become aware of the society they live in and understand their own rights. These children expand their knowledge by staying updated about the world, thinking critically and asking relevant questions all the while sparking curiosity within them.

Additionally, through journalism, the children get exposed to social injustices that occur around them, which in turn enables them to grow up into responsible adults and conscious citizens. Besides journalism, Bangla Initiator uses other creative sectors in the form of clubs to

grow different skills among the children and youth. One such club is the 'Book Club', which allows members to exchange books amongst themselves, thus, enabling children to develop reading habits and prompting them to become better citizens by practicing deep thinking. Another is the 'Photography Club' that nurtures and encourages children's photography skills by hosting festivals, such as the "National Teen Art and Photography Festival" where youth from all over the country submit their photos and artworks from which selected ones get displayed. There is also the 'Child-Welfare Club' which is completely directed by the child journalists. Every month, they raise a particular sum of money which is used to help the underprivileged children.

To read more about Bangla Initiator, visit: www.thedailystar.net/star-youth

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