

'YOUTH TALK' EPISODE 1

# "World Youth Skills Day 2018" in the context of Bangladesh

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

Youth Talk, a new initiative of Star Youth, The Daily Star, which is a dialogue programme focusing on the development of the young generation of Bangladesh, discussed issues concerning the youth of Bangladesh and how this major sector of skilled population is being evaluated in the job market in its first episode.

The first episode featured Ejaj Ahmad, Founder and President, Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC); Farzana Kashfi, Development Activist; and Snehal V Soneji, Chief Technical Adviser, Project-Skills 21, International Labour Organisation, and was hosted by Tanjim Ferdous from The Daily Star. The discussion session was held with regards to the World Youth Skills Day, celebrated every 15th of July.

Ejaj Ahmad drew attention to issues such as reforming the education system of the country to deliver a youth population far more skilled enough to adapt to the current job market. He also stated that, youth unemployment is a major concern and with increasing automation advancement, the scarcity in job opportunities might even increase. As a result, it is mandatory for the education system to equip the youth with problem solving and critical thinking skills to evade unemployment.

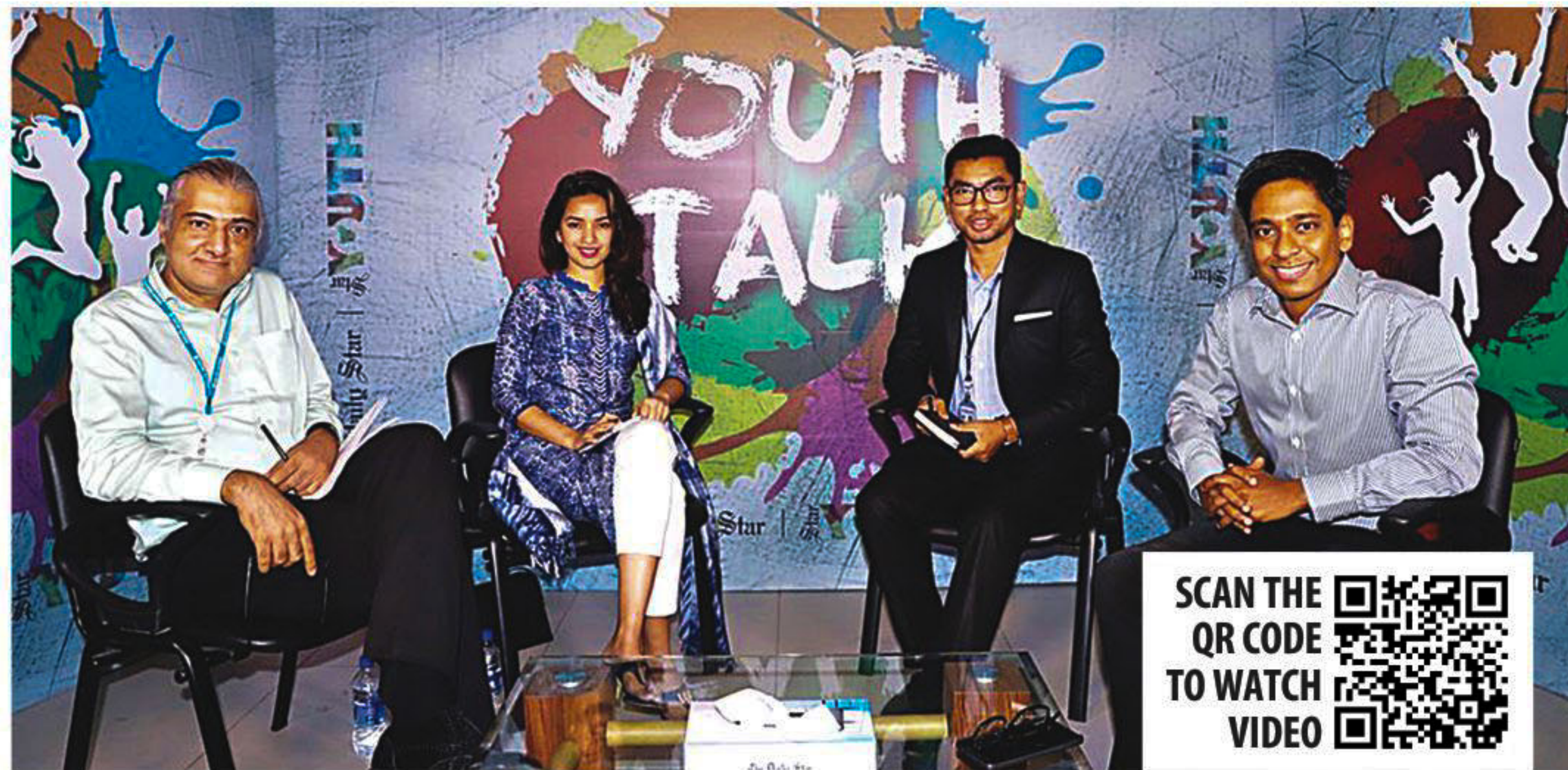


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Farzana Kashfi shed light on how people's perception regarding technical and vocational education and training needs to take a shift. She identified that improving the quality of the training institutes and increasing job placement rate can help. Also, she suggested carrying out major-scale campaigns jointly organised by the government and the development part-

ners, aiming to draw females into taking up vocational training.

Snehal V Soneji pointed out that although there are about 8,000 institutes providing vocational training to the mass, the key issue lies in the linkage between the kind of training provided to the kind demanded by employers. "The private sector (can play) a big role to predict what

kind of skills are going to be required in five years," Snehal V Soneji expressed.

To watch the full discussion and know more opinions of these experts on World Youth Skills Day 2018 in the context of Bangladesh, readers can scan the QR code provided with their smart phones and log into The Daily Star's Youtube channel.



www.youthop.com

## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Opportunities

#### Future Leader Congress 2018 in Thailand

Future Leader Congress is held by Studec International and supported by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP). Entering its first annual session, FLC aims to bring together more than 400 young and talented future leaders from all across the world to experience United Nations atmosphere.



Deadline: July 30, 2018 | Conference

#### The Ian Parry Scholarship 2018

The Ian Parry Scholarship is given to the winner of an international photographic competition for young photographers, organised by the scholarship authority themselves.

Deadline: July 27, 2018 | Scholarship

#### Vacancy at VSO Bangladesh as Volunteer role: Women Entrepreneurs Development Assistant 2018

VSO Bangladesh is looking for volunteer role: Women Entrepreneurs Development Assistant at Rangpur district for conducting context mapping and develop women focused interventions based on the local perspectives, work closely with the youth volunteers, Bank Asia agents, and women to start women focused interventions and other related works.



Deadline: July 31, 2018 | Miscellaneous



PHOTO: KAZI TAHNIN AGAZ APURBO

## Bangladesh Youth Delegation Visit to India: Part-II

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

After our Delhi ventures, we arrived in Mumbai in the evening. I started loving the city as soon as I stepped into it, even before getting out of the airport. The splendour of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai doubled my excitement for the next few days.

The amazing breakfast in the hotel next morning assured me that Mumbai will not disappoint me with its food and I was not wrong. The one place that I have to mention is Flamboyante Restaurant, where I had the best Paani Puri in our stay in Mumbai. From street food, Indian cuisine to Chinese food --- Flamboyante had everything and I still dream of the food every now and then.

Fighting the urge to talk about food, I must move on to talking about the places we visited. In Mumbai, we went to Navi Mumbai, Mahindra Factory in Pune, Gateway of India, Hotel Taj, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Vidyalankar Institute Wankhede Stadium and of

course, our Mumbai visit will be incomplete without a bit of Bollywood's feel that we finally got in Film City.

In Mumbai Film City, we were taken to the sets of different movies and serials, e.g Jadoo's place in *Koi Mill Gaya*, Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah etc. There, I had the golden opportunity to see the Mandir used in every Hindi serial.

However, Mumbai also stole hearts with Marine Drive, which is not quite far away from Hotel Taj and Gateway of India. Sitting by the Marine Drive, being able to see the city's coastline at night made me never want to come back.

But sadly, our trip was of nine days and we returned on April 1, 2018. The visit helped me see India in a way I could never see if I went there as a traveler and not as a delegate of my country. As delegates, we could have a discussion with the students of Vidyalankar Institute of Technology about culture, visit Infosys Campus Pune and Mahindra Factory. Also, *Gulab Jamun* gets a special mention here because I had plenty of them.



SHAH RAFAYAT CHOWDHURY

The European Development Days is Europe's leading forum on development since 2006, and was held this year in Brussels, Belgium on June 5 and 6. Organised by the European Commission, the EDD brings the development community together to share ideas and experiences which inspires new partnerships and innovative solution to the world's most pressing challenges. For the past few editions, the European Commission has been inviting a selected group of youth leaders to pitch their voices and opinions in front of world leaders and

## Being Heard on a Global Platform

"Hear what people have to say carefully, for in their words lies the solution to all global problems."

policymakers. I was chosen as one of the sixteen young leaders for this year's summit to discuss on the importance of closing the gender gap in order to adapt and mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

I was extremely excited about this incredible experience, as the EDD was not only giving us the platform to directly engage with world leaders and development experts, but also the opportunity to get to know fifteen other young people who were doing extraordinary work in their home countries.

To read the full story, visit: [www.thedailystar.net/star-youth](http://www.thedailystar.net/star-youth)

## The Math Genius

FAYSAL WAHAB SIDDIQUI

It all started with a phone call from one of his teachers, where Zawad was told to report to his school on a national holiday in 2011. To this young prodigy in the making, the mathematical calculations offered seemed very easy. On that very year, Zawad managed to become the champion of the champions in the primary section.

Star Youth casts the spotlight on Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury who has won the first ever Gold Medal for Bangladesh in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) at its 59th session held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

For Zawad, his love for mathematics trails back to 2011 when a competition was organised by The Daily Prothom Alo and Dutch Bangla Bank. After getting promoted to grade six, Zawad won the title in the primary level. His wins on the national level competitions played a major role to success. In 2013, Zawad got qualified to attend the 2-week long National Math Camp. He showed so much progress that in 2014, he could apply for the national level selection round for the national flag bearing team.

IMO is one of the largest international events for high school students. Each team can have a six member contingent. Every team member is ranked individually and the group scores are aggregated into the position of the team as a whole. This year, Bangladesh's position was 41th amongst the 116 participating teams and other than Zawad winning the Gold Medal, there were three participants who won the Bronze Medal for Bangladesh.

Every year, the graph of Zawad's performance showed a consistent rise. In 2016 when he first participated in the International Mathematical Olympiad, Zawad returned with a Bronze Medal. Last year, Zawad missed the Gold for only 2 points winning the Silver. Finally this year, without letting anyone down, Zawad has managed to capture the Gold Medal.

Unfortunately, this year was Zawad's last chance to participate in the IMO as he graduated from high school. However, his dream doesn't stop here. Zawad dreams to pursue mathematics and computer science in one of the best universities. He feels, winning the Gold Medal has been a relief and can now finally smile as the time he invested was worth it.

Zawad wants to thank The Daily Prothom Alo and Dutch Bangla Bank to have helped him shape up to where he is now and of course his coach Mahbub Mazumder and Munir Hasan, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee.

What advice does Zawad have for others waiting to follow his footsteps? "If you are interested in anything, do not just sit there but pursue it."

The second episode of Youth Talk, a new initiative of Star Youth, The Daily Star, which is a dialogue programme focusing on the development of the young generation of Bangladesh, features Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury and Munir Hasan, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee. To watch the full interview, readers can scan the QR code provided with their smart phones and log into The Daily Star's Youtube channel.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD



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