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## AN EARNEST HAND FOR HUMANITY OBHIZATRIK Foundation completes 8 years

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Starting out in 2010 as a simple endeavour by 18-year-old Ahmed Imtiaz Jami to help underprivileged children, OBHIZATRIK Foundation has now blossomed into an organisation with 3500 selfless volunteers across 32 districts in Bangladesh. The government registered foundation recently celebrated 8 years of extending an earnest hand fighting for poverty eradi-

cation, access to education, gender equality and better healthcare.

The event, which took place on September 21 at Trust Milonayoton, saw a large get-together of the executives, volunteers, students and donors of OBHIZATRIK Foundation. It also celebrated the first batch of examinees for the upcoming PSC examinations from OBHIZATRIK School, whom the organisation is particularly proud of. "I am honoured to be able to stand here

in front of all of the people who supported OBHIZATRIK," said Jami, who is now the president of the organisation. "Honestly, we could not have come so far without you, the volunteers and donors."

Renowned personalities were present during the event, and they conveyed their best wishes to OBHIZATRIK Foundation. "These children are trend-setters, and they never question what the country has

given them. Instead, they question themselves about what they could give to the country," said Arif R Hossain, who is a patron and advisor to the foundation. Among the big names, who turned up to the event through sheer goodwill, were Dr Abdun Noor Tushar, Sharmin Sultan Joya, Prito Reza, Bobby Hajjaj, Sohana Saba and Dr Abul Hossain to name a few. Students from OBHIZATRIK School charmed the audience with dance numbers.

Beneficiaries of 'Project SHOKKHOM', which attempts to help destitute individuals become self-sufficient through funding, told the stories of their path to happiness. The event ended with a scintillating performance by rising theatrical band Gaan Kobi, who are also among the many backers of the organisation.

To know more or donate to OBHIZATRIK Foundation, log into <http://obhizatrik.foundation/>

## A worthy partnership

PRİYANKA CHOWDHURY

In a short span of time, sibling duo Nuzaimul Hoq Xishan and Kasfia Haque Samara set up not one but three ventures, Worthy Books, Worthy Toys and Worthy Publications.

They started off with only Tk 5000

online bookstore drew over 40 thousand followers. Both Xishan and Samara are bookworms and students of English Literature at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

The confident youngsters hit a milestone with the launching of *Sehri Tales* and *The Mason Jar* under

"In several countries, young writers are supported to publish their work. Such a platform was missing in Bangladesh. My sister and I always wanted to do something in our country and that's how we began," says Xishan.

They announced an open call to aspiring writers in the prominent online book club Litmosphere, with an aim to publish a book. The response to that call was widely positive. The writers were required to submit fictional stories of minimum 500 words.

The duo wanted to offer something to a wide audience. So, *The Mason Jar* has an interesting combination of simple yet heart touching Bangla and English stories. As the back cover of the book reads, "This collection is a mélange of flavours that has something to offer to everyone—sweet stories of love, hope and friendship blended with tangy, piquant tales of horror, heartbreak and despair, mixed with bittersweet stories that fall somewhere in between." Maria Molla and Kashfia Haque Samara contributed to the primary editing of the manuscripts.

Worthy Publications intends to launch a new set of books in the upcoming Dhaka Lit Fest which would include another version of *Sehri Tales*, a revised version of *The Mason Jar* and an anthology of dark secrets.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

and initially, no one but their mother believed in their idea. Seeing their enthusiasm, their father agreed to provide them with financial support. Gradually, they received encouragement from other generous investors as well. With time, their

the banner of Worthy Publications. *Sehri Tales* is written and edited by long-time writer for the youth Sabrina Fatma Ahmad while *The Mason Jar* is a collection of 47 short stories by various young writers of Bangladesh.



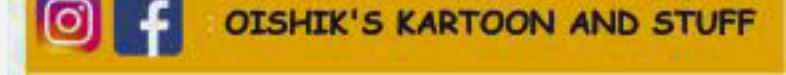
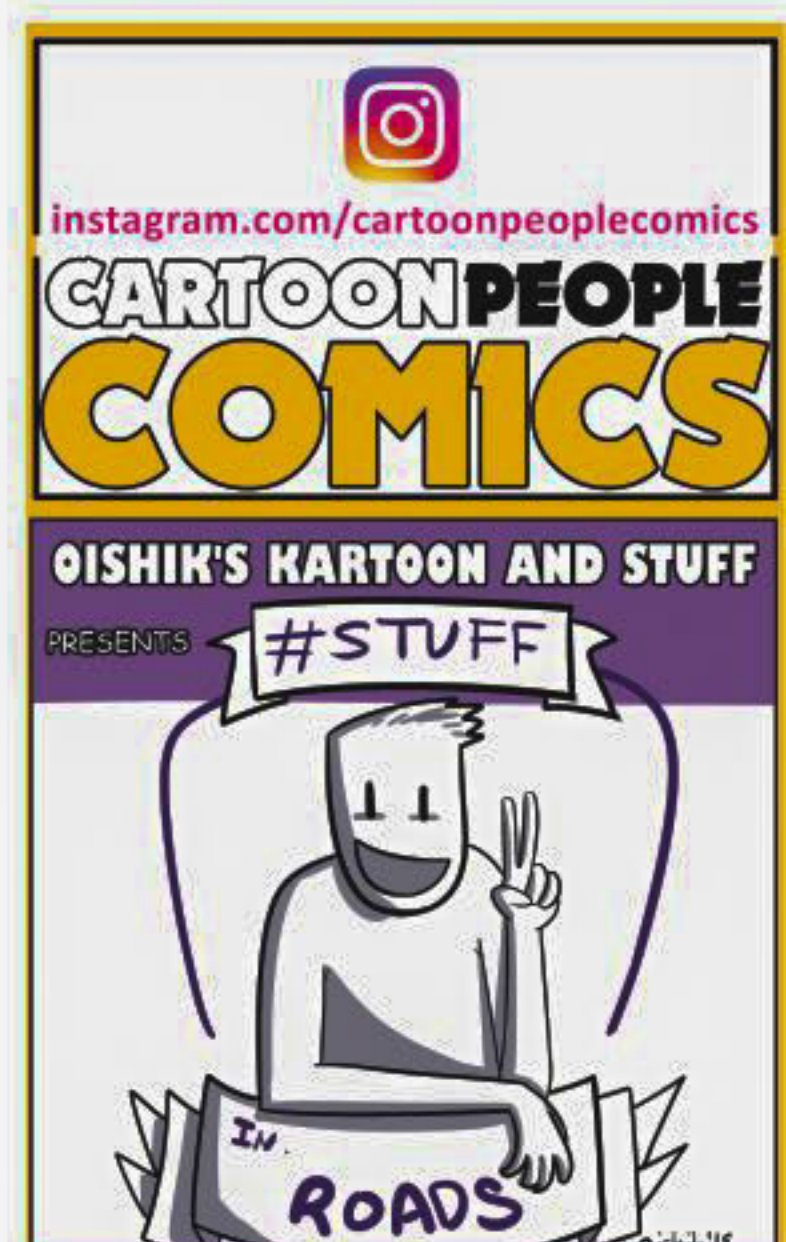
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## Bongo conducts YouTube workshop

AL HAQ

With over 1.5 million subscribers on their YouTube page, Bongo is undoubtedly one of the biggest streaming video-on-demand services and the first to receive a golden YouTube Play Button in Bangladesh. Their ever growing library has a collection of over 15,000 full movies, telefilms, TV shows, music videos and songs. Having established a strong foothold and a reputation in the online entertainment industry, along with the in-depth knowledge about running a YouTube channel successfully, Bongo partnered with Star Youth, The Daily Star to conduct a workshop last week at A S Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre. The event saw the presence of various young and aspiring YouTubers of Bangladesh.

Karel Kuipéri, the chief operating officer (COO) of Bongo, was the lead speaker at the workshop. His discussion focused on content, growth, copyright and monetisation regarding YouTube. Other speakers included famous YouTubers Shouvik Ahmed from Gaan Friendz and Zaki Zarif Abdullah. "When creating a video, we should keep in mind that the first one minute is the most crucial moment where one needs to ensure that they can captivate the audience and retain them with the promise that it will be an entertaining video," advised Shouvik. A question and answer session followed after the workshop came to an end and the young attendees all seemed hopeful. Bongo conducts similar workshops in Nepal, Sri Lanka and India (West Bengal).



## GLOBAL AGENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

YOUTH DESK

Youth engagement and public awareness play a vital role in protecting the environment. Mirza Mohammad, a young environmental activist from the Military Institute of Science & Technology (MIST), has been conducting workshops at educational institutions for the past three years to engage the youth in "Climate Change Resilience, Adaptation & Mitigation", "Shifting Towards Renewable Energy", "Waste Management & Utilization" and "Hydroelectricity from Water". Mirza secured 3rd place at the International Public Speaking Competition 2016 in Bangladesh and



inspires the young generation to initiate positive change in society. According to the young speaker, intermittent public dialogue alone is not enough to fight climate change. Mirza says "Unless we provide thorough environmental knowledge to the masses, we cannot hope to combat climate change and have a greener planet."

Mirza founded the Environment Club at MIST with a vision to create a platform for the youth to share their ideas and take actions to protect the environment. Alongside, he continues to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops both locally and internationally and is dedicated to fight for a better tomorrow.

## A persistent martial artist

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Born in Mymensingh, Mazaharul Islam Salim, has been practicing Kyokushin Karate for fifteen years, a form of full contact karate which was founded in 1964 by Korean-Japanese Masutatsu Oyama.

Salim is rather passionate about his art and he recently represented Bangladesh in the 17th Asia Shinkyokushin Karate Championship 2018.

Being the only Bangladeshi participant amongst contenders from 24 countries, Salim stood third in the 'Men's below 65kg' category. The competition was held on September 2, 2018 in Singapore, organised by World Karate organisation (WKO) Shinkyokushin Singapore.

His fighting spirit is what inspires him to excel in Kyokushin Karate and win more trophies for his country. "This was my second international competition," says



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mazaharul Islam Salim (Right) competing in the tournament.

Salim. "It was a great exposure for me, and made me realise what a long way I have ahead of me."

He also hopes to bring back what he learned and encourage others in Bangladesh to train

harder. He is a student of Sensei Abdullah Mohammad Hossain. Currently, he is a trainer at KO Fight Studio in Gulshan, the Bangladeshi branch of WKO Shinkyokushin.