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BYLC hosts Youth Leadership Summit 2018

AL HAQ

With this year's theme 'Desh Amar Dayitto Amar' (My Nation, My Responsibility), Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), launched the fifth instalment of its Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) on September 27, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center. After a competitive selection, around 400 university students and young professionals from across Bangladesh congre-

gated for a three-day programme of inter-generational dialogue, leadership training and networking. "A democratic society should serve as a container capable of holding diverse, and often opposing, viewpoints and ideologies," said Ejaj Ahmad, president and founder of BYLC. "We organised the summit to create opportunities for the youth to listen to and engage in dialogue with peers and experts from different backgrounds and affiliations, and exercise agency by co-creating a

youth manifesto and advocating on its behalf." The delegates worked together to co-create a youth manifesto—a declaration of priorities and aspirations that will be used as an advocacy tool to drive youth development on a national level. Based on the findings of a survey conducted by BYLC with more than 3,200 university students prior to the summit, the main themes of the manifesto were education, social justice, unemployment, and social inclusion. The panel discussions that followed,

featuring leading activists, industry experts, youth changemakers, policy makers and politicians of Bangladesh, prioritised the steps required to make progress on each of the challenges. It also focused on the processes and skills required for youth to participate in politics in Bangladesh. Mahfuz Anam, Editor, *The Daily Star*, delivered the closing keynote speech. He urged the youth to use their idealism and energy to serve the country. "You all are at a stage in life where you are not obli-

gated by responsibilities. Use this precious time to develop yourselves and the society," he said. The summit concluded with the delegates making a commitment to take responsibility for the issues that affect their communities. Over the next few months, a Youth Advisory Council will be formed to work on the manifesto recommendations by engaging with different government bodies and policy makers. The Daily Star was a strategic partner of the programme.



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Asma Afrin Haque (Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, Women, Peace & Security, UN Women) receiving a crest from Fayaz Atiqul Islam (National President, JCI).

Non-violence & Rebuilding Peace: Challenges And Way Forward

JCI Bangladesh observes World Peace Day 2018

AL HAQ

World Peace Day was observed on September 21 by Junior Chamber International (JCI), Bangladesh. A roundtable discussion titled NON-VIOLENCE & REBUILDING PEACE: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD was arranged at The Daily Star Centre's Azimur Rahman Hall. JCI is an international organisation of young professionals and leaders aged between 18 and 40. It operates across 120 countries and has 200,000 members worldwide. JCI contributes to the advancement of the global community by providing opportunities for young people to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, fellowship, and entrepreneurship necessary to create positive impact.

The list of the designated speakers comprised of renowned personalities from various fields including researchers, academics, youth activists, lawyers, civil society leaders, law enforcement personnel and journalists. The discussants included Jamil Ahmed, CEO, Journalism Training & Research Institute (JATRI) Bangladesh, who was also the moderator during the session; Fayaz Atiqul Islam, National President, JCI; Khushi Kabir, Secretary, Nijerai Kori; Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh; Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive

Director, Transparency International Bangladesh; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, Editor-In-Chief, GTV; Asma Afrin Haque, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, Women, Peace & Security, UN Women and Munir Hasan, Coordinator, Youth Programme, Prothom Alo. Dr Abdun Noor Tushar, CEO, Nagorik TV; Shamima Islam Tusty, President, Aamra Manush Foundation; Kazi Ali Reza, Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission; Wahiduzzaman Noor, BPM Senior Assistant Police Commissioner, Counter Terrorism Division, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Dhaka Metropolitan Police; Dr Md Zahid Ul Arefin Choudhury, Associate Professor, Department of Peace & Conflict Studies, Dhaka University and Ms Tasnuva Ahmed, Head of Operations, Colors FM were also a part of the discussion.

The intensive dialogue focused on the means to cope with violence and the credible policies that could be implemented to rebuild and sustain peace in Bangladesh. Topics that were heavily emphasised upon were violence against women, fanaticism, freedom, democracy and human rights. At the end of the event, Fayaz Atiqul Islam, National President of JCI handed over crests to the speakers. The Daily Star, along with Nagorik TV and Radio Next were the media partners of the programme.

YOUTH DESK

Toastmasters International is a platform which moulds individuals into excellent speakers and leaders. Presently, Bangladesh has eight active Toastmasters clubs divided by two areas, Area J3 and Area J4. On September 16, Area J4 of Division J under District 41 in Region 13 organised "Bangladesh Toastmasters' Meet." Representatives from Dhaka Toastmasters Club, North South University Toastmasters Club, LEADS Toastmasters Club, ACNABIN Toastmasters Club as well as the prospective Aligarh Old Boys' Toastmasters Club, IUB Toastmasters Club and T&S Buttons Toastmasters Club attended the event.

The meeting started with a welcoming address from assistant Area J4 director of public relations, Al Kazi Rafshan Hasin, followed by a keynote speech from associate program quality director,

Mohammad Habibul Islam. Distinguished toastmaster, Jennifer Ghosh, Division J director, award-winning author Ayan Pal, and Region 13 advisor of Toastmasters International, Gauri Seshadri also spoke. A special table topic session was arranged for the guests by HB Dayaratne. The guests were addressed by Area J3 director,

Golam Dastagir Jony and Area J4 director, Mohammad Zahid Hossain.

The event ended with a round of felicitating the guests of honour and a grand dinner. Area J4 director thanked the venue sponsor, The Olives and photography sponsor, Royal Art Photography and Event Management.

Bangladesh Toastmasters' Meet



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Enamoured with magic



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Farhanul Islam with internationally acclaimed magician, David Blaine.

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Farhanul Islam, popularly known as Magicman Farhanul, is a Bangladeshi illusionist who has been performing extensively across Canada for the better part of the past decade. Farhanul began his career at the age of sixteen, inspired by internationally acclaimed magician David Blaine's television show *Street Magic*. "I love the simplicity with which Blaine approaches and presents his tricks," says Farhanul.

The four distinct forms of magic Farhanul currently performs are close-up street magic, mentalism, escape art and hypnosis. His most cherished style, however, is street magic because the spontaneous reactions from people adds to his joy of performing. "I also like challenging myself with extreme escape arts. I was the first Bangladeshi magician to successfully attempt an underwater escape act a few years ago," adds Farhanul. It took him a year to plan and train himself before staging the act, but he feels the thrill of it was worth all the hard work.

His first ever television appearance in Bangladesh was ten years ago. "The lights and camera were far too intimidating and in addition, there was a live audience. I almost turned pale in fright," says Farhanul. "However, the fear wore off as soon as I pulled off my first trick. Now, being on stage makes me feel like the king of the world." Farhanul also runs a tutoring company for business students named MagicATutoring in Canada. He also raises and donates funds to children battling cancer in Bangladesh through his initiative called the Magicman Farhanul Cancer Foundation, which has been in operation for eight years now and cumulatively contributed about \$50,000 to young cancer patients in Bangladesh.