



Adam Withnall with the students.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS

Transporting education, transcending borders

Adam Withnall, the Asia Editor of The Independent (UK) recently came to Bangladesh to join the 'Connecting Classrooms' programme, which is a joint initiative by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and British Council. 'Connecting Classrooms' allows schools from across the globe to share their knowl-

edge, resources and experiences for mutual benefit. The programme includes teachers' training, bilateral visits and direct connections established between schools around the world irrespective of their locations. Under this project, students from Bangladeshi schools have exchanged their ideas and opinions through video messages and presentations with their British counterparts

on various educational and societal topics. In his brief visit to Bangladesh, Adam visited Narayanganj Govt Girls' High School to experience the 'Connecting Classrooms' project firsthand. Students gave him a warm reception and demonstrated their participation in the programme. Students from the UK had sent in their video messages on the topic of discussion -

'healthy diet', earlier. During the session at the Narayanganj Govt Girls' High School, ninth grade students gave a Microsoft Powerpoint presentation on the different aspects of food adulteration and illegal preservatives used in food. The students also carried out a human chain holding innovative posters on the subject matter. The whole session was filmed for sending to the UK partner school later.

Adam was extremely pleased to see the positive impact this project is creating. He said, "The teachers were incredibly enthusiastic and the students conducted their presentations quite eloquently. I truly believe this initiative is capable of fostering a meaningful connection and cultural exchange between the upcoming generation across borders."

Source: Forethought PR



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Autumn Leaves and Paperies held at The Create Space

SHABABA IQBAL

Autumn Leaves and Paperies, the inaugural exhibition of The Create Space held from October 19-20 at Baridhara, was a celebration of fall with all things artistic - starting from delectable scented candles, amazing notebooks, exclusive art prints, stunning jewelry to tasty baked treats. Moreover, it was a collaboration of creative businesses by young entrepreneurs from the art and craft community. Made with Love, one of the exhibitors, hosted the event in partnership with The Create Space. Other exhibitors of the event included Stellar, Newton's Archive, Bad Girl

Nation, B's Closett and Lucy the Bakery.

"Autumn is one of our favourite seasons because we just love the atmosphere it brings. So, we wanted to capture the vibes of the season with this exhibition," says Sarah Shams, who manages the day-to-day operations at Made with Love. "Since we are all massive stationery enthusiasts, the 'paperies' part in the title is self-explanatory." The autumn-themed cookies, brownies, iced tea and cheesecakes served at the exhibition alongside the music and decorations with fairy lights added to the intimate ambience of the event. "The mission of The

Create Space is to provide artists from different fields an opportunity to go beyond social media to not just showcase their skills, but also share them with and teach them to others," says Sarah Zarrar, the owner of 'The Create Space and the co-founder of Stellar. "In the next few months, we hope to start regular workshops on brush lettering, candle and soap making, journal binding, knitting and many other areas. "We want to host private classes, pop-up stores and more exhibitions so that artists can have a collaborative space to network at." The event enjoyed an excellent turnout and resulted in smiles for all those who were present.

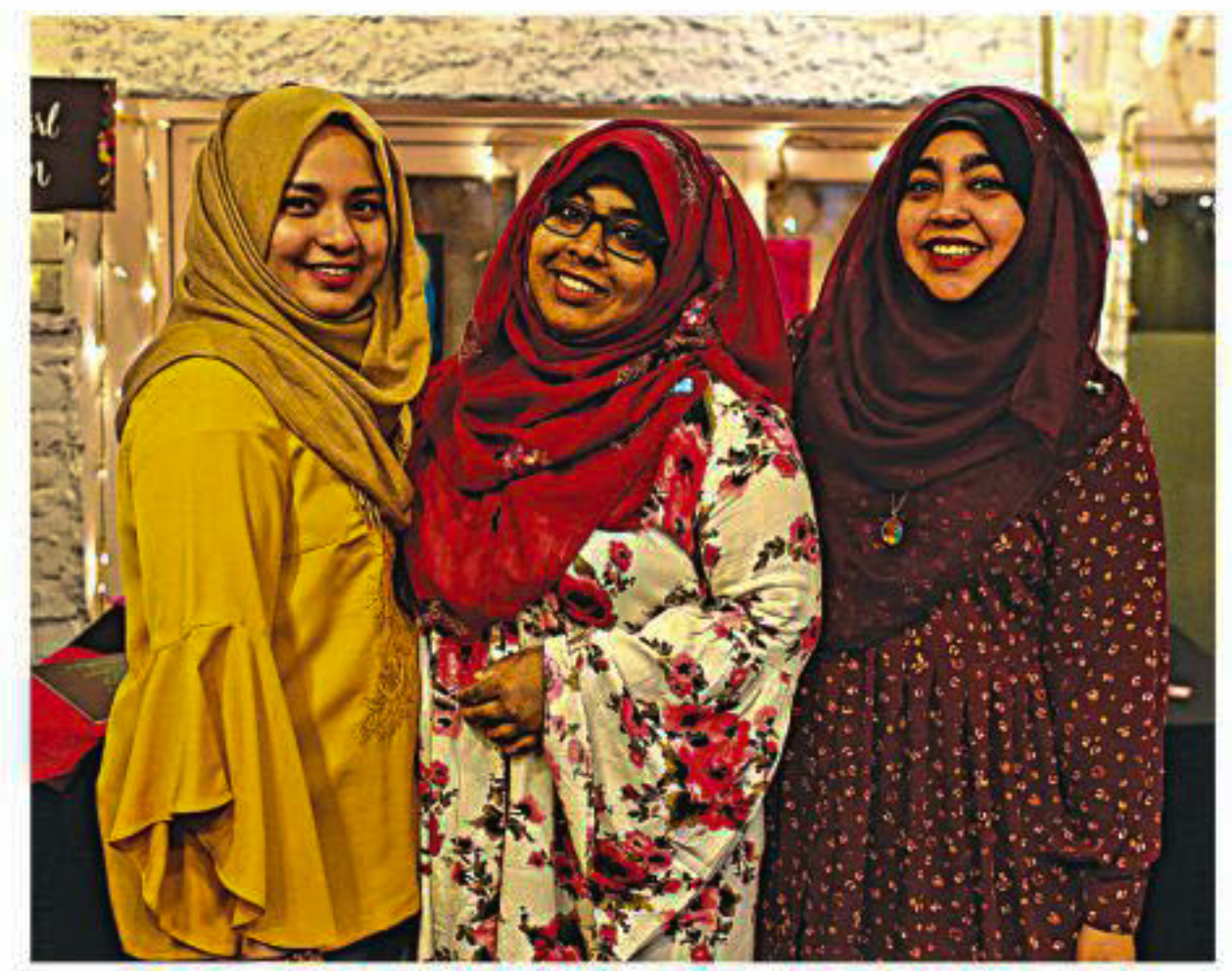


PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU



A quest for enlightenment

AL HAQ

Alokito Buddha Jubo Shongho, a social organisation based in Kalachandpur operates to serve the community, based on the Buddhist philosophy of life. They recently organised an event titled Buddha Shishu Kishor Utshab, where around 300 young children of the Buddhist faith participated in an essay writing and art competition. The essays were based on the practice of self control, charity and meditation. The programme was conducted across three different temples in the capital.

Founder of Alokito Buddha Jubo Shongho, Avijit Barua works as a senior executive in a telecommunication firm during the day and by



Avijit Barua

the evening, spends his time investing in his own organisation. "Our mission is to educate young children based on the teachings and ways of Buddha," says Avijit. "If we can sow the seeds of righteousness

during the early stages, then these children will be on the right path and hopefully grow up to be better human beings."

The event was inaugurated by Dipal Chandra Barua, President of Bangladesh Buddha Samity of the Dhaka chapter. The chief guest of the programme was Barrister Biplob Barua along with special guests Assistant Professor Nafeez Al Amin from Daffodil International University and actor Siam Ahmed. The evening came to an end with a cultural show where the children took part with much enthusiasm. Avijit Barua plans to expand his efforts in the years to come and also include children of other faiths, to spread the message of positivity.

PHOTO: KAZI TAHISIN AGAZ APURBO

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