



The artworks by the children on display.

PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU



PROJECT POTCHOLA PRESENTS 'ODE TO JOY'

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Having a creative outlet not only helps children express themselves, but also contributes to their mental and social well-being. Art has helped the children Project Pothchola works with, in many ways over the years.

Project Pothchola is an initiative started in 2014 to improve the lifestyles of the children of sex workers, by providing them with mental and financial assistance. The kids have learnt to paint

and make various unique crafts during their learning sessions every month along with the volunteers of the project.

From November 29 - December 1, the crafts made by the children were exhibited at Drik Gallery. Many artifacts ranging from handmade fans to bookmarks, each with its individual quality, showing the abundance of the potential that these kids possess were on display.

One of the art pieces that stole the spotlight was a little medical camp. The kids wrote what they did

during their medical camps on little crafted boats. A blue canvas with white cotton made clouds, yellow canvas depicting a jungle and a frame of animal kingdom which they drew with cartoonist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, brought more colours to the exhibition.

Cartoonist and editor of *Unmad*, Ahsan Habib, was the chief guest of the event. Melodies of Ghaashphoring Choir and Leemon also entertained the crowd. Most of the artworks were sold out, implying the success of the exhibition.

A delight for bibliophiles

MUNTAHA FAIAAZ

Bookcentric is a virtual library initiated by lawyer Mehwish Zaidi and entrepreneur Tasneem Tambawala who wanted to share their love for books with others. Started in 2017, today, Bookcentric contains one of the largest collections of original English books, mainly the ones which people usually do not expect to find in local stores in Bangladesh. Given the inadequate collection of foreign books and dearth of new arrivals in most of the bookstores in the country, a service like Bookcentric is much-needed. Bearing in mind that original books can be expensive, especially for young readers, Bookcentric lets people borrow books at quite affordable prices. The virtual library provides books to readers through subscription plans on a monthly, half-yearly or yearly basis. They have different plans to suit all types of readers and special plans for children up to 12 years of age. "The service is delivered through our online platform, where one can browse the titles and message us with requests to borrow," says Mehwish. Some readers also just tell them what genres they want to read, and Bookcentric provides them with customised recommendations. The borrowed books are delivered to the readers



PHOTO: COURTESY

at pick-up points by Bookcentric.

Furthermore, Bookcentric is known for events where they display their books for everyone to browse through, with nooks for people to sit and read them. They

also host storytelling sessions for children.

Overall, Bookcentric aims to promote the habit of reading, critical thinking as well as cultural and intellectual engage-

ment for a more empathetic society. Currently, the service is available in Dhaka and Chattogram, and the founders plan to take it to all corners of Bangladesh in the near future.

Aiming for the sky

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Nanziba Khan is a trainee pilot, journalist, television host, writer, debater and brand ambassador of The British American Resource Center, youth representative of Bangladesh. She also has a knack for modelling and filmmaking. Being the proud winner of UNICEF's Meena Media Award for her film *Shada-Kalo*, produced from her saved pocket money, Nanziba began her career as a filmmaker. By the age of 18, she directed seven short-films and documentaries. Currently, she is working on a film titled, *The Unwanted Twin*, a story based on two children without an identity, which aims to spread awareness about the challenging years of adolescence. The film is set to hit theatres on the forthcoming International Women's Day. It features prominent actors like Afsana Mimi, Dilara Zaman, Shirin Alom, Humayra Himu, Anny

Khan and Raju Alim among others. When she is not making films, Nanziba is busy hosting the show, *Kotha Barta*, on Channel i, and maintaining for various photo shoots.

Nanziba started her journey as a writer with her book *Autistic Shishu Kemon Hoy* which is based on a diary she maintained for her younger brother over two years. She believes her brother to be an immense source of empowerment at times when she feels down. As UNICEF's Youth Ambassador from Bangladesh, she got the opportunity to represent South Asia at a global platform in Nepal this year. She is also BNCC's Cadet Ambassador and has been a representative of Bangladesh in front of 11 other countries. She also stepped into journalism, working for bdnews24.com and BTV in her early teens. Nanziba went on to take up aviation because she has always dreamt of learning to fly, and



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

Global Entrepreneurship Youth Summit 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The three-day programme themed "Shaping the Future of Entrepreneur" is an inspiring conference with renowned international speakers, exciting cultural exchange sessions and a comprehensive entrepreneurial discussion on entrepreneur skills that emphasises on future entrepreneur qualities.

DEADLINE: December 20, 2018 | Competitions

Borshoshera Alokchitri Award 2018

SunsGraphy has come again this year to celebrate Borshoshera Alokchitri 2018. Like 2017, SunsGraphy is hosting another photography competition this year with more enthusiasm and photographic brilliance.

DEADLINE: January 10, 2019 | Competitions

Internship Opportunity 2019 at UNDP Cambodia

The UNDP Cambodia Country Office is now offering internship opportunities for national and international students from various disciplines. Students are welcomed to apply and, if qualified, they will be selected for the internship.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2018 | Internships