



PHOTO: SHAMS ASIF CHOWDHURY

The founders of Doc Dako.

DOC DAKO: MEDICAL CARE AT YOUR DOORSTEP

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Four talented and young individuals came up with the concept of a one-stop online medical service, with the intension of providing people with a user-friendly and digital method for their medical needs. Their brainchild, Doc Dako, is an online platform that facilitates expert doctors at any doorstep upon just a phone call.

"We had many bitter experiences while accessing health care. My mother was severely ill and as my family comes from a non-medical background, we could not figure out which specialist to consult," says Ahnaf Bin Shams, co-

founder of Doc Dako. "It took me three days to find the proper doctor and take an appointment. But then, the doctor just checked my mother for a few minutes and assigned numerous tests for her from different diagnostic centres. This made us realise the necessity of a service like Doc Dako."

There are many key hurdles when it comes to accessing health care in Bangladesh, including the day-to-day traffic congestion and the limited number of physicians. "Our research indicated that there are 95,763 BMDC doctors. But only 11 percent of them are accessible as they do not have personal

chambers. The other 89 percent are working under some specialist or in hospitals. Thus, this resource is kept underutilised," mentions co-founder Salman Bin Sultan.

Doc Dako works to unite such medical doctors with the patients to enable a primary consultation. "Ensuring privacy and comfort from patients along with giving doctors another platform to practice and earn from, is one of our objectives," adds co-founder Mohammad Faiyaz. "A doctor is sent into the patient's house. After they listen to the patient's case history, they can either treat the patient if the illness is treatable on a pri-

mary level, or refer them to a specialist."

Currently, the Doc Dako team has around 30 listed general medical practitioners in Uttara. They are planning to launch an app by June 2019 which will make the service easier. They will also have a scoring system, which will record the practice hours of the doctors and be credible in their future medical careers. The four founders are also working on an online medicine delivery service and the launch of a diagnostic sample collection where medical test samples will be collected from homes for tests and the reports will be delivered at the patients' homes afterwards.

YFS Pitch Night on Entrepreneurship held in Dhaka

JABIR MISBAH

30 school-going students battled it out to claim the title of 'Young Founders of Dhaka' on December 22 at Pathao Headquarters in a weekend boot camp organised by Young Founders School (YFS). Nine teams went head to head with 48 hours on the clock to design a tech startup, mentored by the leaders of the industry. Team Binder, consisting of Ainan Latif, Ahmed Tahmid, Khaja Ajrani Ahamed, and Saifah Khan won the competition with their innovative idea of creating a unified online marketplace for secondhand textbooks and books.

The boot camp is the first in line of the plans YFS has to better the spirit of innovation in the country, having hosted multiple startup oriented activities in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The students had the opportunity of learning the latest startup techniques inclusive of lean startup, product market fit and competition analysis under the tutelage of industry experts. Specialists from Pathao, BRAC Social Innovation Lab, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Plaantik and Seliserockin' software, were amongst the mentors. The young learners



PHOTO: COURTESY

were further challenged into developing and presenting their half-formed ideas into full scale business pitches in front of three venture capitalist judges including Samad Miraly, Co-Founder, Startup Dhaka, Masudul Haque, Associate, IDLC Asset Management Limited and Nirjhor

Rahman, CEO, Bangladesh Angels.

Billy Naveed, founder of YFS graced the occasion with his presence. The teams followed up with their short pitches in front of the judges, with their eyes on the prize of seed money funding, three glamorous trophies and the title of 'Young

Founder of Dhaka'. Ideas stretching from solving unemployment issues, providing sanitary solutions to setting up of free online legal services, left the judges in a hurdle to decide the winners.

Titled, 'YFS Pitch Night on Entrepreneurship', an interactive session preceded the prize-giving ceremony with Tasif B Akkas, Director of Togbog and Plaantik, discussing the emergence of young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh with the COO of Pathao, Pardeep Grewal.

Founded in 2016 by Billy Naveed, YFS is the first global programme that is a technology focused, non-profit educational organisation that aims to change how entrepreneurial education is taught to high school students. Naveed being a young founder himself, established two successful startups before the age of 16. To commemorate the launching, Naveed spoke of their plans for Bangladeshi young talents, from translating their content from English to Bangla to an open call for students all over the country to take part in the global shift of startups through their portal. The programme was sponsored by the local tech startup Pathao and Osiris Group.



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Dalai Lama Fellowship Program 2019



Dalai Lama Fellows cultivate and support a global movement of next-generation leaders applying universal values to solve global challenges. Their Fellowship offers emerging leaders a rigorous, interdisciplinary programme on ways to be a different kind of leader: a leader that connects and cares for self, extends genuine compassion to others, and works for our common humanity.

DEADLINE: February 3, 2019 | Fellowship

Oxford Pershing Square Scholarships 2019-2021

The Pershing Square Foundation awards up to five full scholarships covering both the Master's degree and the MBA year. The Scholarship provides funding for tuition, college fees and at least £14,553 toward living expenses to exceptional individuals who can demonstrate the potential and commitment to finding scalable and sustainable solutions to world-scale social challenges

DEADLINE: January 31, 2019 | Scholarship

FameLab 2019

Applications are now open for FameLab 2019. FameLab is the world's leading science communication competition. It is designed to inspire and motivate scientists and engineers to actively engage with young minds in public communities along with other stakeholders.

DEADLINE: January 25, 2019 | Competition

Sounak Das on visual storytelling

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Sounak Das, who describes himself as a visual storyteller, completed his Professional Programme degree in Photography from Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. His expertise in multimedia and photography allows him to experiment and collaborate with artistes from different media. Sounak's works mostly focus on philosophy and questioning the presence of reality. Presently, his work 'Wire Formation' is on display at the Students' Biennale running alongside the Kochi-Muziris Biennale at Kochi, India. He is the only participant representing Bangladesh at this prestigious event.

His inspiration for capturing photographs came from his father who was a theatre artist. "The camera was always a part of my family. The eagerness to obtain knowledge of photography was always subconsciously present in me," says Sounak. In 2018, during a semester assignment, his project 'Wire Formation' came into being. He was faced with the question "What would I photograph to archive my reality?" which compelled him to dig deeper into his own reality. He looked at the entanglement of wires and poles in his surroundings and to his surprise, the unsystematic arrangement seemed to reflect human psyche to him. Emphasising on his project, Sounak says, "The photographs represent the socio-political juxtaposition I grew up in. Newspaper articles quoting that these wire poles will no longer exist beyond the year 2022 compelled me to archive them."

As the only participant from Bangladesh, Sounak had the opportunity to meet many young artistes from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. He intends to work extensively with the wire project, and his future initiatives include an attempt to explore the sentence of the non-visual as an exchange of dialogues.



'Wire Formation' which is on display at the Students' Biennale running alongside the Kochi-Muziris Biennale at Kochi, India. (Inset) A portrait of Sounak Das.



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