

READER'S CHIT

The ultimate tier

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my conversations with some revealed their desire for death in the camps if they failed to return. Such was the sense of belonging to the land they had been evicted from, that all these years of hardship could not dampen their patriotism.

I followed a tiny cherubic girl into her hut. She now lived with her mother, aunt, and her grandfather. There was this clean bed, adorned with a colourful cover, on which, her gaunt grandfather was seated with a blank stare, sanguine of a greener pasture. I could feel his pent-up desire to vent as they posed for photos with alacrity. I knew they were mere numbers in our systems and they belonged to a mundane case.

The little girl, being shy, often tried to hide behind her mother, her eyes exuding a world of curiosity. Did she know what life might be like outside these camps? I found warmth even in statelessness. That's all they could offer.

The camp had been gutted by a bad fire a few days earlier. The trail of destruction was ubiquitous, but I saw the pearls of labour in rebuilding.

Bamboo huts were being worked on by the camp as if they were the last straws they were desperately clinging to. Many did not know how long they would stay there. They had bet their entire lives on the efficacy of our systems to ferry them out. I popped into a cultural orientation training class where I realised how novel, small things – that we take for granted – could be for people so deprived and indigent.

They were being briefed about toilet seats and switches, the use of silverware

and toilet papers, the signs and pedestrian crossings that they might one day find to be so daunting in their newfound homes in many western countries. There were pictures of celebrities, without the knowledge of whom, their Western lives would be incomplete.

It's one thing to deal with the technical aspects of a project in a centrally air-conditioned location where people are mere entities, and horrific details of their lives are just numerous attributes, it's quite another, however, to have an up close and personal look at what these entities are like and what these attributes mean.

Often, we design systems that are devoid of the feelings of their subjects, and the impact of their powers. People are efficiently transported through the systems, regardless of the emotions involved in the separation of hearts and homes. Neither the smell of the cramped quarters, nor the resignation of a man who once so dearly clung to his soil can be captured accurately in a design.

I mull the architecture of new features of the application, one being the conversion of their age into our systems from theirs. I contemplate more new interfaces. But I know now the most spectacular aspects of my application are those innocent people who remain mute and who don't know where they will wake up the next day. They are now "sweat and emotion," not just numbers.

By Arif Shahjahan

The writer has been with the Federal Government for the last nine years in the United State, working as an Information Technology Professional



EVENT

Shera Rondhonshilpi 2018 Grand Finale

The grand finale of the longest running reality show in Bangladesh, Shera Rondhonshilpi, was held at The Westin on 15 February, 2019.

The sponsors included Meizan Palm Olien, The Westin Dhaka, Omera, Swapno, Halda Valley, Emirates, National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute, and Fit Elegance.

Meizan Palm Olien, the title partner, believes that this show represents the wide variation in Bangladeshi cuisine, which they said, was the motivation to be associated with the show as title sponsor for the last five years.

ATN Bangla Chairman, Mahfuzur Rahman, spoke about the initial struggles they faced in launching the show, but did so anyway because of the love for the art of cooking.

Four finalists were selected from twenty-four participants after competing through several rounds. Each of the finalists was assigned a mentor, selected from champions of previous years.

In the final round the four finalists were

asked to prepare a dessert with the given ingredients in only 20 minutes, while their dishes were judged by three chief judges - Executive Chef of the Westin, Ziaur Karim and Professor Maruf U Islam.

The 20 minutes flashed by in no time filled with suspense and intrigue. Time flew in the grand thrill of the competition and soon it was time to announce the winners.

Redowan Ahmed was crowned the champion receiving a 3 lac taka cheque, a Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka Emirates airline ticket for two and gift hampers and vouchers. Moshir Rahman was announced as the runner-up bagging a cheque of 1 lac taka, a Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka airline ticket for two sponsored by Emirates and gift hampers and vouchers by other sponsors. Shoma Deb received the Siddika Kabir Trophy in honour of the icon's legacy.

The finale will be aired on ATN Bangla at 8 PM on 22 February. Shera Rondhonshilpi will be returning in 2019 for another exciting season.

By Tanzim Islam Silony

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