



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

PROJECT VISION

Promoting healthy eyesight for road transport workers



YOUTH DESK

Good eyesight is essential for safe driving as poor vision can impair driving performance. With that in mind, Junior Chamber International (JCI) Dhaka West arranged an awareness event under 'Project Vision' for the second time. This platform organised a free eye camp in April at Saydabad bus terminal, Jatrabari, Dhaka serving more than 1200 professional bus drivers, helpers, and workers. Participants went through proper surveys, eye checkups, consultations with doctors, and were subsequently prescribed treatment. A team of 30 doctors and medical assistants were present from Fashion Eye Hospital and National Institute of Ophthalmology. They provided proper eye tests, medicines and glasses for the target group. Participants, who need eye surgeries, also received this fully subsidised service from JCI Dhaka West. The 2019 Local President of JCI Dhaka West, Abdullah Safi, spoke at the programme.

According to the reports by Bangladesh

Passengers Welfare Association (BPWA), 7,221 people have died in road accidents across the country in 2018. Despite last year's massive nationwide road safety movement, the country has continued to witness a large number of road accidents. 7,397 people lost their lives in 4,979 road accidents throughout Bangladesh in 2017, while another 16,193 were injured. Their data further shows that 6,055 people died and 15,914 were injured in 4,312 accidents in 2016. In 2015, a total of 8,642 people died and 21,855 people were injured from 6,581 accidents across Bangladesh. Bus drivers are an underserved demographic when it comes to healthcare, particularly regarding vision. JCI Dhaka West researched by surveying bus drivers and relevant workers to assess their vision and eye health, yielding concerning results. The eye camp was the first intervention and was received positively at the bus terminal, with drivers lining up for hours to get their eyes checked.

JCI is a worldwide organisation of young professionals and leaders between the ages of

18 to 40 who are dedicated to creating positive changes in their communities. The organisation is established in over 120 countries and has a membership of 200,000 across the world. Their mission is to contribute to the advancement of the global community by providing opportunities for young people to develop their leadership skills, social responsibilities, fellowships, and entrepreneurial skills. The JCI Headquarters is in St Louis, Missouri, USA. JCI Dhaka West is a chapter of JCI Bangladesh. 'Project Vision' aims to raise awareness of the importance of vision care through such interventions with the goal of reducing road accidents, injuries, and other critical aspects affected by vision issues. It is a signature project of JCI Dhaka West.

The event was patronised by Sohoz Rides, Fashion Optics Limited, BNO BRAC Bondstein Technologies Limited and NexParc. SWDP, ICE Today and Radio Foorti were also partners. In the next phases of the project, JCI Dhaka West hopes to focus on other underserved demographics where vision plays a vital role.

Participating in Bangladesh Youth Delegation to India



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

11th International Inter University Short Film Festival



Dhaka University Film Society, partnering up with UNHCR, presents you with the 11th edition of International Inter University Short Film Festival (IUSFF). It is a festival to promote and inspire the work of student filmmakers.

DEADLINE: May 31, 2019 | Competition

Deloitte Scholarships to Attend The One Young World 2019

As a longstanding partner of One Young World, Deloitte is proud to support the Deloitte OYW Scholarship 2019, which will enable 10 young leaders focused on improving the education, skills, and access to opportunity for people in their communities or the world at large to attend OYW.

DEADLINE: May 10, 2019 | Conference

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program 2019 in USA

The Humphrey Program provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries undergoing development or political transition.

DEADLINE: October 1, 2019 | Fellowship

EMRAN MAHFUZ

For their seventh batch, Bangladesh Youth Delegation to India, which began in 2012, selected 40 young women and 60 young men in six months. This year, I was fortunate enough to be one of the members.

I sat for an interview and joined the Indian High Commission's reception programme in Dhaka on March 27, before leaving Dhaka on March 28 for Delhi, on an eight-day tour of India. Deputy Minister of Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, the captain of our national cricket team, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, MP, and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, were the guests at the reception programme. After we reached Delhi, officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports welcomed us at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. Political Secretary Nabanita Chakraborty and Media-Culture Coordinator Kalyan Kanti Das from the Indian High Commission guided us during the tour. From teachers, doctors, engineers to poets, painters, dancers and journalists, the people in the team were from different professional backgrounds.

We visited the Indian Parliament building, where the Electronics and Information Technology Minister SS Ahluwalia welcomed us. Ahluwalia, a Punjabi, spoke in Bangla with me, which was surprising. Afterwards we visited the Indira Gandhi National Center for Art, National War Memorial and India Gate too. Lalon singer Kohinur Akter Golapi and Rabindra Sangeet singer Nur-E Rajia Momo presented songs for us at a mu-

sical evening, arranged by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. At our next stop, Agra, we visited the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, the main residence of the Mughal emperors. We also paid a visit to the historical Akshardham Temple. We further went to the National Skill

Training Institute and Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad. On our last day in the city, we visited the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, Salar Jung Museum and Golconda Fort. On April 4, we returned to Bangladesh via Kolkata. The tour served as a great cultural exchange

between India and Bangladesh.

The author is a poet and a delegate of the 100-member Bangladesh Youth Delegation 2019 to India and the Coordinator of Daily Star Books. This article was translated into English by journalist Tarique Choyon.



PHOTO: COURTESY