



The LEEDO kids made it to the semi-finals of the first ever Street Children Cricket World Cup.

PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

LEEDO: Voice for the vulnerable street children

SHARMIN JOYA

Local Education and Economic Development Organisation (LEEDO) carries the mission of rescuing children from the streets and placing them in their shelter called Peace Home, or reuniting them with their families. "In the last four years, we have rescued more than 2000 children and settled them both in our shelter and with their parents," says Forhad Hossain, the founder and executive director of LEEDO. The co-founders of the organisation are Murshida Akter Kanta, Helal Uddin Liton and Mujibur Rahman Masood. LEEDO began their operations in 2000. The Carl and Liz family financed the land where LEEDO's Peace Home was built in May 2015.

Eight children from LEEDO's Peace Home recently went to England to participate in the first ever Street Children Cricket World Cup, organised by the Charity Street Child United. 10 teams took part in the World Cup and the LEEDO kids made it to the semi-finals. Forhad applied to the court for the legal guardianship for these children and arranged their passports.

LEEDO's Peace Home is built with numerous facilities including a playground, a garden and caregivers for the kids. LEEDO has also enrolled the kids into different schools. Many of the children at LEEDO's Peace

Home have been exposed to abuse, trafficking and labour. Some of them also managed to escape child marriages. LEEDO supports them in coping with the horrors of their pasts and fulfilling their ambitions. The Peace Home also has physically and mentally challenged children, for whom LEEDO ensures complete and proper medical care at all times. "We rescued street children who had little to no chances of survival if we did not take them in," says Kanta, the co-founder and treasurer of LEEDO. She also adds that the children are really talented and capable. Both Forhad and Kanta feel a sense of responsibility to provide these children with secure homes and better lives.

LEEDO also operates a transitional shelter called, SETU Bandhan, at Babu Bazar where children, who are in need of support, are invited to stay. Their volunteers rescue children from vulnerable situations on the streets through a trust-building method. It is a short-term shelter programme for six weeks to bridge the children from the streets to a home or a long-term rehabilitation centre after completing legal proceedings. When the children arrive at the shelter, the LEEDO team addresses their basic needs including nutritious food, clothing, beds, medical treatments, entertainment and essential facilities. They also counsel such children, listening to and acting according to

their preferences.

Under their street education projects, LEEDO has Schools Under the Sky and Mobile School. Their mobile school is an innovative project designed to educate street kids and make them aware of how to keep safe and develop goals in life. The education system for the mobile school is based on games and entertainment. The schools are developed and donated for by a not-for-profit organisation from Belgium named StreetWize. So far, they have donated 50 mobile schools to organisations worldwide and LEEDO is proud to be the first one in Bangladesh. LEEDO also runs informal platforms called Schools Under the Sky in areas where street children are concentrated, such as train and bus stations, market areas and launch terminals. Their approach to schooling is designed to educate street children, enabling them to read and write as well as providing training for essential life-skills. These schools offer a safe place, where children can socialise, network with each other and learn from each other's experiences.

LEEDO's project, Primary and Mass Education, will start in Habiganj and Sylhet soon. This initiative will be run jointly with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. The project will include children, women and others.



CARTOONPEOPLE COMICS

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OISHIK'S KARTOON AND STUFF PRESENTS #STUFF

Mask

SUP' OISHIK? NOTICE YOU'VE BEEN WEARING A LOT OF PROTECTIVE GEAR RECENTLY.

WHAT? TOO POSH FOR A LITTLE BIT OF DHAKA POLLUTION?

OR MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST A MISERABLE TRY AT LOOKING COOL? HAHA!

OISHIK? OI OISHIK! WAIT...

WHAT THE...!!! ZZZZ

OISHIK'S KARTOON AND STUFF 03/13/19

GORUR GHASH

Where fashion meets comedy

SIHINTA SABEEN SHEMBIL

Gorur Ghash, an online clothing and apparel store, stands out with their catchy name and fusion of comedy with fashion. Nahiyan Naser, Director of Operations, Ali Sakhi Khan, Director of Finance and Fahim Islam Shetab, Director of Procurement, are the three young men behind this brand. Gorur Ghash gained prominence in 2018, mainly through their in-house videos.

Initially, the founders of the brand did not know how to edit or shoot videos, which hampered their ability to visually communicate ideas. However, with the plethora of free information available online, they started learning videography and photography. Today, they can successfully execute their ideas, as their creative potential has increased.

As a growing brand, Gorur Ghash's first trial was disheartening. Reality struck them when their first products were not up to the mark. Eventually, working with multiple

suppliers, treating quality control sternly and considering other people's opinions on their products strengthened the brand's foundation.

Besides providing high-quality products at 'ghash' speed and tickling people's funny bones, Gorur Ghash shines through the friendships they share with their customers, whom they fondly call 'disciples'. Gorur Ghash hosted an online campaign where their customers shared stories of their grandparents from March 26th. The campaign received an overwhelming response from their followers. These interactive activities of the Gorur Ghash team give their disciples a sense of trust and loyalty. Word of mouth has also played an integral role in the success of Gorur Ghash.

"We want to launch relatable campaigns through comedy inspired from daily life and involvement from our customers," says Ali Sakhi Khan. Gorur Ghash aims to continue their hard work through their witticism and ace fashion.



PHOTO: PIYAS BISWAS



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



MIT Solve Challenge 2019 in USA

Each year Solve seeks solutions from tech innovators around the world for its Global Challenges, and anyone can submit a solution by July 1, 2019. Finalists are invited to pitch their solutions at Solve Challenge Finals during UN General Assembly Week in New York City in September.

DEADLINE: July 1, 2019 | Competition

ChangemakerXchange (CXC) Thailand 2019 (Fully Funded)

Changemakerxchange gives you the chance to spend 5 unforgettable days in secret locations in nature and then to deeply connect and collaborate with 750+ like-minded members from 90+ countries and dive into issues like how to change systems, increase personal well-being to maximize impact and find your own role in creating a world in which everyone can be a changemaker!

DEADLINE: June 23, 2019 | Exchange Program

2nd Young Photography Fiesta, Workshop & Art Fest 2019 in Dhaka

World of Dream Photography, a renowned organization is going to arrange "Young Photography Fiesta & Workshop & Art Fest 2019" for the 2nd time.

World of Dream Photography would like to call the talented photographers to attend this festival. They are inviting you all to participate.

DEADLINE: June 23, 2019 | Competition