



PHOTO: COURTESY

DANCING beyond the clouds

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Promising young dancer, Md Hanif, was recently chosen to partake in the prestigious Summer Intensive programme organised by the globally renowned Akram Khan Company, scheduled to take place from August 5-10, 2019 at the Orsolina 28 premises in Turin, Italy. The 6-day long programme, bringing together 45 professional dancers and dance students from across the globe, is designed to provide a fully immersive training and sharing experience to the participants. Led by Akram Khan Company's senior team members – Mavin Khoo, Nicola Monaco, Andrej Petrovic and Joy Alpuerto Ritter – the participants will have a combination of opportunities to hone their respective practices, while broadening their artistic horizons and experiencing studio work with Akram Khan himself.

Reaching this stage in his dancing career

was beyond anything Hanif had ever dreamt of growing up. Hailing from a financially insolvent background, Hanif's ambitions in life were to simply earn enough to sustain his family's expenses, including his younger sister's school fees. He figured that despite his unrelenting love for dance from a tender age, it would be next to impossible to make a rewarding full-time career out of it. But, as they say, where there is a will, more often than not, there is a way.

Hanif was ushered into the world of dance by choreographer Mottakinur Rahman Wasek, in his early teens. In 2011, he got the opportunity to participate in Warda Rihab's directorial dance-drama *Tasher Desh*, which kickstarted his journey with the dance company, Shadhona. Upon recognising Hanif's passion and potential for dance, Shadhona's artistic director, Lubna Marium decided to pave his way by creating opportunities for him to learn various forms of dance under the tutelage

of eminent gurus, as well as perform on stage and on television, both in Bangladesh and abroad, as a member of Shadhona's troupe. With her undying support, Hanif was able to secure an ICCR scholarship for a Bachelor of Arts in Kathak at the prestigious Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, India. Upon completion of the degree earlier this year, he received yet another ICCR scholarship for a Master's degree from the same institution, which is slated to commence this Fall.

"I will forever be grateful to Lubna Marium for everything she has done for me," expressed Hanif. "She has been my pillar of strength and source of inspiration for the past decade and has played an instrumental role in shaping me into the person and artiste I am today."

Hanif was one of the twelve handpicked dancers from Bangladesh in the Germany-Bangladesh joint production *Made in Bangladesh*, directed by Helena Waldmann,

which toured extensively across Europe and India with a closing performance in Bangladesh. During his years as an undergraduate student in India, Hanif received Kathak lessons from renowned Kathak exponent, Ashimbandhu Bhattacharya, while taking up jazz dance classes with danseuse Mitul Sengupta.

"I feel blessed to have received guidance from such prominent artistes in my life. I will not let any of my learnings go in vain," promised Hanif. "I want to establish myself as an innovative, internationally acknowledged Bangladeshi dancer-choreographer in the future."

Despite the journey that he has overcome so far, Hanif's determination to continue working hard while retaining his humility in the face of unprecedented success is truly refreshing. He is a beacon of inspiration for the upcoming generation of artistes not just in Bangladesh, but everywhere in the world.



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

ESC and EMK Center organise People's Debate: Episode One

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Economics Study Center (ESC), University of Dhaka, in collaboration with EMK Center organised the first episode of People's Debate recently. This platform is dedicated towards the practice of freedom of speech and freedom of expression. The debate focused on one of the most burning concerns our society faces today – youth unemployment. The topic for the debate was 'The Unemployment Epidemic of University Graduates'.

The debate was moderated by Galib Ibn Anwarul Azim. He currently works with the UN Capital Development Fund, overseeing implementation of financial inclusion portfolio projects in the country. The panelists included Arif Shahriar, the Chief People & Business Performance Officer at Rahimafrooz Limited; Zafir Shafiq Chowdhury, Chairman and Co-founder of Singularity Limited and Director of Bondstein Technologies; Professor Dr M Abu Eusuf, Director of Centre of Budget and Policy and former Chairman of

Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka; and Mr Asif Uddin Ahmed, Acting Director, EMK Center and Assistant Professor and MBA Program Director, School of Business, ULAB.

The panelists each reflected their views on the youth unemployment epidemic, pointing towards the existing skill gap between fresh graduates and available employment positions, as well as ill-designed recruitment processes as some of the main culprits responsible for the epidemic.

Economics Study Center plans to organise more debates in the future. ESC is a student-run organisation of the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. The center works to promote social, economic and political thinking among the youth by organising workshops, seminars, policy debates and study circles. President of ESC, Tahmid Hasan said, "ESC has been facilitating debates regarding the socio-economic issues in our society. These debates aim to engage the youth with the policy makers of our country."



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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

UNESCO WHV 2019 – Let's Heritage at Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, India

World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) 2019 – Empowering the Commitment to World Heritage. The WHV 2019 campaign provides empowering and enriching opportunities to young people and enables them to go beyond borders in some of the most outstanding places in the world. Volunteers will work together to preserve natural and cultural sites, as well as to raise awareness among local communities about their heritage.



DEADLINE: August 5, 2019 | Exchange Programme

United Nations Youth Climate Summit 2019 in USA

Applications are open for the United Nations Youth Climate Summit 2019. The UN Youth Climate Summit is a platform for young leaders who are driving climate action to showcase their solutions at the United Nations, and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on the defining issue of our time.

DEADLINE: July 20, 2019 | Conference

Career Opportunity at US Embassy 2019

US Embassy is hiring for the position - Fraud Investigator. Core Duty: S/he serves as a Consular Fraud Investigator (FI) in the Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU). S/he reports directly to the FPU locally employed (LE) Staff Supervisor. DEADLINE: July 14, 2019 | Miscellaneous