



Arifin Shuvoo



Nusraat Faria



Sonia Bashir Kabir (2-L) receives a crest from Abdullah Hill Rakib (3-L), Mominul Islam (4-L) and Ghulam Sumdany Don (L).

TWELVE PRESENTS RISE ABOVE ALL 2019 HELD IN DHAKA

YOUTH DESK

Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy, in association with *The Daily Star*, organised a public speaking session, titled *Twelve Presents Rise Above All 2019*, at the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, on November 16. The event started off with an ice-breaking session, led by Ghulam Sumdany Don, Chief Inspiration Officer, Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy. During the session, he shared his secrets of

being an entrepreneur. The event featured engaging speeches by professionals from different fields. Deputy Minister of Education and Member of Parliament Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel was a keynote speaker.

Sonia Bashir Kabir, Founder, Chairman and CEO of SBK Tech Ventures, elaborated on the significance of connectivity. She explained that the letters, R, I, S and E in "Rise" can stand for Resilience, Improvising, Secure and Embrace, which are the four pillars of

being an entrepreneur.

Actors Nusraat Faria and Arifin Shuvoo, musicians Habib Wahid and Pritom Hasan, and writer-director Nuhash Humayun spoke about key moments of their lives, noting the importance of hard work and creativity.

Mominul Islam, Managing Director and CEO, IPDC Finance Limited, was also in attendance. "We are not only successful for our growth, but also for the difference we make in people's lives and the smiles we bring to our

customers' faces," he said.

Kamrul Hassan, Group CEO, Igloo, gave a brief speech about honesty and learning from failures. Abdullah Hill Rakib, Managing Director, Team Group, spoke about innovation and thinking out of the box. He further said that Team Group will be planting 20 lakh plants to ensure oxygen for future generations.

Asif Saleh, Executive Director, BRAC, pointed out three instructions in his speech. He advised the participants to

be cautious, to build a coalition and to be persistent and prepared.

Abdul Monem, Founder Chairman and Managing Director of AML received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to different sectors.

Participants presented dance performances and won prizes at the event, which also had food and clothing stalls. People also availed different medical check-ups for free, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, at the event.



NANDITA KHAN'S 'THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM' ADDRESSES BULLYING

Nandita A Khan launched her first book, *The Elephant in the Room*, at the Dhaka Lit Fest this year. Shafrin Islam is the illustrator of the children's book. Reflecting the idiomatic meaning of the phrase, the elephant in the room, the book addresses an obvious problem that people do not generally want to talk about. The story revolves around Tony, a pink elephant who is bullied. It aims to teach readers to appreciate the differences between individuals.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Nandita drew from her personal traumatic experiences for the book. Timmy, one of the characters in the story, is based on Nandita's sister, while Etana is based on her best friend. She believes that the support of loved ones plays an important role in overcoming the challenges that come with adolescence.

Writing children's literature brings Nandita a sense of accomplishment, as very few authors write English books for children in Bangladesh. She enjoys reading the works of Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf, George Eliot, the Bronte sisters and Beatrix Potter.

The debutant author completed her BA with a dual major in English Literature and Linguistics from North South University. Later on, she pursued her master's in Public Relations (PR) at University of Westminster in the UK. During that time, she watched plays at the Globe Theatre, visited Stratford-upon-Avon, and spent a day at Jane Austen's home in Hampshire. She also visited Canterbury and Beatrix Potter's Museum at the Lake District. In addition, Nandita completed an internship at the London Fashion Week, the New-Look Press Office and worked part-time at a vintage boutique cafe and store.

After returning to Dhaka, Nandita briefly worked at the English Department of BRAC University as a lecturer before joining Forethought PR. After her marriage, she taught Public Relations at the Media Studies and Journalism Department of ULAB. During this time, she received a job offer from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bangladesh, which she readily accepted. After working at the embassy for four years, Nandita decided to take a break from jobs to pursue writing.

She further plans to continue the series of *The Elephant in the Room*, addressing different issues that children and young adults deal with in their daily lives. She hopes to publish another book at the Dhaka Lit Fest next year.



Nandita Khan and Shafrin Islam