

NURTURING DREAMS

Through Mumu's lenses of empathy

A photo of a gleeful centenary woman won a Silver award in the Photography category at the MEIHODO International Youth Visual Media Festival. The image, titled 'Shotoborshi Ananda', was captured by young photographer J Mumu. The theme for the three-day festival, held in Japan last year, was "We Are In This Together—Unforgettable Moments of 2020".



J Mumu.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Owing to a globally challenging year, the aim was to inspire people to capture moments that reflect unity and resilience. The judges sifted through over 700 photos by 200 photographers from 74 countries. As the event is one of the most coveted competitions in the global photography space, the win is a towering achievement for Mumu.

Her photo was also nominated in the Sapixel International Photo Contest 2020 in Romania and the Huntington Beach Cultural Cinema Showcase in the United Kingdom.

Bathed in natural light, the outstanding shot is imbued with atmospheric details, and acute in social observation. Mumu captured the picture with her phone during lockdown last year when she went to visit her village.

"Despite her age and increasing frailty, the woman in the photo still has a sweet smile on her face and a strong desire to keep living even in the face of adversity. The photo spoke to me, and I believe that there is a lot to learn from people's struggle for survival," she explained.

Mumu always had a knack for photography – winning prizes at many weekly and monthly competitions by various photography pages and groups on Facebook. A photo she clicked made it to the top 10 in the ISABELLA prize in Canada. She is deeply inspired by impoverished lowland landscapes, vulnerability on the streets, and authenticity among people.

Currently, Mumu is busy with her university admissions exams. As soon as she is done with them, she wants to buy a good quality camera and sign up for photography courses to hone her skills.

"Since photography is still not taken seriously in this side of the world, it is very easy for aspiring photographers to be discouraged. My advice to them is to be mentally strong. Practice and hard work will take them to newer heights," concluded Mumu.

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'Shotoborshi Ananda' by J Mumu.



WEC members from Team Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COURTESY

YOUNG ACHIEVER

Team Bangladesh shines at World Economics Cup 2021

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

World Economics Cup (WEC) is an international education initiative that intends to empower the next generation of leaders in the economics field and develop their international network. It is a pure economics competition with multiple-choice questions about basic economics concepts, material-based questions based on on-site economics learning, and the students' innovative thinking and problem-solving skills for real-world problems.

Team Bangladesh's Abrar Jamil from St Joseph Higher Secondary School, Armeen Ahmed from Sunbeams, Raphael J Solaiman from Sunnydale, Syed Muntasir Tashdid from Scholastica and Md Tanjim Hossain and Zareef Shafquat Arpon from Mastermind, ranked 8th in WEC 2021. Abrar and Zareef bagged the gold and silver medals respectively, while the other team members were awarded with bronze medals.

The questions were based on topics such as neoclassical economics, Keynesian economics, industrial organisation and behavioural economics. Most of the questions tested the participants' ability to apply economic theories in real life scenarios through their analytical and mathematical proficiency.

The competition had three smaller segments. The first segment consisted of two written questions. The second segment was based on MCQs under two categories, deep fundamentals and deep comprehension. The third segment featured a case study, based on which participants were asked to

prepare a presentation.

The selection procedure for team Bangladesh started in March 2021 through a preliminary exam. The shortlisted candidates were invited to the national round of MCQs and essay questions. The top-performers were then selected for the national camp, where they attended lectures on finance, project planning, and game theory. The final team was selected after another exam and a case study.

The event, scheduled to be held in China, was conducted online. Participants sat for the exam in front of an artificial-intelligence based proctoring service. "The exams were very strictly invigilated. It was forbidden to use anything other than a blank paper that we had to show the invigilator before the exam commenced. If we even clicked on another tab on our device or suspiciously looked in a direction away from the blank paper, a warning pop-up would appear on the website," Zareef explained.

The participants faced several problems while interacting with each other virtually, especially during the team presentation, which was case study-based. Nevertheless, they overcame the hurdles and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Team Bangladesh also extended their gratitude to their coach Akhter Ahmed and President of the Bangladesh Economics Olympiad Md Al-Amin Parvez, for their guidance.

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INSPIRATION

The fighting spirit of an 18-year old

AZIBOR RAHMAN, FROM JHENIDAH:

Eighteen-year-old Eti Bynarjee from Nishchintapur village under Kalgiganj upazila in Jhenidah is the sole breadwinner of her family. She makes paper bags, in which sweets and other groceries are sold, to fund her education. She is a student of Amjad Ali and Faizur Rahman Degree College.

Eti, along with her parents and three siblings, lives in a congested, tin-shade house on a land of two decimals. Her father is a patient of asthma, and cannot work at a stretch for a long time. He needs BDT 1,000 each month for his medicines.

Eti's elder sister Anyana, was married off recently, while her elder brother, Tanmoy, could not fill out his university admission form due to financial constraints. Being the only

breadwinner at home adds a heavy weight on Eti's shoulders, especially as she has people she needs to look after as well as manage her studies and work.

"Our house has two rooms and it is very difficult to live in. During the rainy season, we usually cannot sleep at night because our bed gets wet from the rainwater. But I am determined to help my family as much as I can," shares Eti.

She makes the paper bags before and after her college classes, and on her off days. Her mother, Anima, distributes the bags to different shops in their local market.

Eti's father, Barun, is really proud of her, but worries about her future life. Although the young girl is struggling to continue her studies, her fighting spirit is commendable.



Eighteen-year-old Eti Bynarjee makes paper bags to fund her education and look after her family.

PHOTO: STAR

GUIDES

5 ways to earn money as a student

FARAH KABIR

If you are a student, chances are you are strapped for cash, or if you are not, you would at least like to have a little more of it. The good news is you don't have to wait until you earn your degree to start padding your wallet. Read on to discover great part-time job opportunities that will help you earn money easily as a student.

ACADEMIC TUTOR

Why not make money out of your hard earned education by dispensing it? Tutoring is a lucrative option for students to earn on a monthly basis. Currently, a single tutoring job can ensure BDT 5,000 to 30,000 per month, depending upon the seeker's academic background, subjects, and place of residence.

Various Facebook pages accommodate both tuition seekers and tuition takers. Different university



ILLUSTRATION: TASHFIA SHAMIM/THE NOBODY'S GALLERY

students also run many independent pages, where tuition offers are posted on behalf of guardians. A little research and quick response in the comments will land you your desired tutoring job.

FREELANCER

Since the pandemic's onset, there has been a spike in freelance jobs as the work-from-home policy suits best with freelancers. A freelancer is a self-employed individual who takes on projects when they can, thus getting paid for the particular project only and not by the hours spent.

The possibilities for freelancing can span from a wide range of activities such as writing, coding, design, video-editing, photography, and art. You can also avail global jobs on websites like Upwork, Fiverr, and PeoplePerHour.

BARISTA

Being a barista can be fun for coffee enthusiasts. It also allows

room for creativity as baristas are able to experiment with different flavours and tastes, and can even discover newer beverages. After screening CVs and conducting interviews, high-end cafes like North End Coffee Roasters provide probationary training to their hired employees, so that they eventually become professional baristas.

While the average pay for baristas may be BDT 6,000 per month, you can earn up to BDT 30,000, depending on the cafe or restaurant. Carrying this knowledge and experience abroad can be handy, as it increases chances of getting a part-time barista job, where you can earn minimum wage per hour or higher.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Small businesses are a growing trend in Bangladesh. Most of us at least know a friend or a relative who runs a business online.

Entrepreneurs can improvise on the needs of people as per factors like weather, means of recreation, health, and so on. Setting up a business may seem tough, but can result in success if you introduce an authentic line of products through a well-organised online profile and efficient customer service.

DELIVERY AGENT

Being a delivery agent can be fun for cyclists and fitness enthusiasts. Since the onset of the pandemic and a resulting expansion of the online market, delivery agents have had the highest job opportunities. You can work for a variety of companies full-time, part-time, and even on a freelance basis. The average pay for

delivery agents is BDT 20 to 75 per delivery.

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