

NURTURING DREAMS

Doodling the way to success

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE



Poonam Saha, also known as Doodlebug, is a visual artist who specialises in digital art and interior design.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

Poonam Saha, also known as Doodlebug, is a visual artist who specialises in digital art and interior design. Currently, she works remotely as an art director for an agency in Norway. Saha has always been interested in art. "My friends convinced me to open an online page so that others could see my work," she shared. She started her page in 2015 and borrowed the name "Doodlebug" from a character in DC Comics.

Growing up, Saha was interested in painting, but the tools needed were expensive, which is why she started doodling mandalas. She found it to be an easy way to follow her passion.

Saha rose to prominence after her "Among Us" series took the internet by storm.

"Among Us" is an online multiplayer social deduction game developed and published by American game studio Innersloth. It is inspired by the party game Mafia and the science fiction horror film "The Thing". Saha's series included crossovers between the game and popular franchises like "Harry Potter" and "Avatar: The Last Airbender".

She began commissioned work with Newscred while designing their in-house merchandise in 2017. Not long after that, she did a live doodling project with Huawei and a shoe design collaboration with



(L) An artwork by Poonam Saha. (R) A T-shirt by SHEIN, featuring Poonam Saha's artwork.

Bata. She also worked with Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center on teaching illustrations.

In 2021, Saha worked with PUBG for their upcoming campaign. In addition, she has collaborated with several local restaurants like Hakka Dhaka and Takeout. "One of my professors follows my work on Instagram and loves seeing my work on his feed. Getting to know that changed the way I viewed my art," she asserted.

Saha recently partnered up with global online retailer SHEIN to feature her artworks on their merchandise.



"SHEIN has worked with artists across the world and I am honoured to have contributed from Bangladesh," she added.

The artist recently launched her comics, "Worst Regards.Jpeg", which is a pun on the popular email formality and is based on corporate life, dealing with adulthood, and social stigmas. As of now, the comics are web-based, but she intends to release print versions soon.

The author is a student of IBA, DU and a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Email: mistlammonamee@gmail.com.

INTERVIEW

Anonta's earnest mission to redesign education for kids

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

Tod-Learn is a 'learn through play' based educational platform designed for kids aged two to six years. Early childhood education occurs before the age of eight, when a child's brain develops faster than at any other point in their lives, so these years are critical – it is the period which determines their moral outlook, emotional intelligence, and cognitive skills, among other things. A Tod-Learn subscription has many products to offer, including age-appropriate weekly activity worksheets and lesson plans. Anonta Kibria Khan, who is at the helm of Tod-Learn talked to us about how she started the platform and its journey so far.

How have you made Tod-Learn a unique platform, which is different from schools?

Tod-Learn was an initiative to help activate a child's potential through an idea that they already loved: play. As a mother, I understand that toddlers are not like other students, as their needs are different. Schools follow a strict curriculum where most kids, even at the age of 5 are made to sit and follow rules. The classroom environment is great, but it does not pay heed to the fact that human beings have different stages of development at different ages. I strongly felt the need to establish a platform where mothers have access to an approach that is fun, educational and most importantly, age-appropriate. If you want to teach your three-year-old numbers, you have to speak in their language. Give them 10 balls and they will know



Anonta Kibria Khan. PHOTO: COURTESY

addition and subtraction in no time. That's the power of learning through play.

What inspired you to start Tod-Learn?

My daughter. I also knew that our current educational system was not suitable towards toddlers, especially during a pandemic.

What are some lessons you learned in your entrepreneurship journey so far?

My biggest learning has to be the fact that a business model needs to be molded according to the market demands. At first, Tod-Learn was just subscription-based worksheets for children to do at home, with the help of their parents. But now that schools have reopened, we have shifted to a model that offers a solution other than home-based learning.

How did you reach out to people initially and what was their response?

That is all thanks to the internet. Parents are more conscious now about childcare, which made it easier to convey the message. The response was great from the beginning. There were questions from mothers about this approach, and how it works. To my surprise, they were really excited to spend quality time with their children with Tod-Learn boxes.

The author is a student of BRAC University, and a freelance journalist. Email: shanzaychowdhury@gmail.com.

GUIDES

5 online platforms to learn playing musical instruments

Some of the recommended YouTube channels to learn from are Dave Conservatoire for a diverse range of music theory videos ranging from basic to advanced, JustinGuitar for beginner friendly guitar tutorials, 180 Drums for every drum lesson that you will need to master the instrument, and The Online Piano and Violin Tutor for beginner friendly and advanced violin and piano tutorials.

USRAAT FAHMIDAH

There are many platforms online from which you can easily master a musical instrument. During the pandemic, a lot of people picked up learning a musical instrument as their hobby to release some of the pent-up frustration of staying indoors over a long period of time; taking advantage of the abundance of resources online. Here are 5 platforms to learn music and instruments online.

edX Berklee

You can now find acclaimed courses by the renowned contemporary music college Berklee College of Music, on edX. The online learning platform offers both free and paid courses to learn about music theory, vocal recording technology and more.

With addition to the ranges of courses available, you can also get a certificate by the college upon completion.

YouTube

YouTube is a goldmine of resources for any learner. Barney Sku, a well-known singer and self-taught music producer, emphasised on the importance of YouTube for novices to learn music. "If anybody wants to learn music and instruments, they need the instrument first, that way they can practice what they're learning. I'd suggest YouTube as it's the only platform I took lessons from. Beginners can start by searching up basic lessons and work themselves up to the harder lessons."

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ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

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"My father taught me guitar when I was 8. After that, I picked up guitar by myself after watching videos on YouTube. I believe you won't need any other website if you utilise the resources on YouTube properly", elaborated Sku on his self-learning journey.

Pianolessons.com

If you are interested in learning how to play piano, pianolessons.com might be the website for you. It's a library of free online piano lessons created by experts which include beginner friendly basic lessons, lessons on scales, theory concepts and song tutorials.

Drumlessons.com

Drumlessons.com busts the myth that you need a set of expensive drums to learn playing this fun instrument. If you have the passion to learn drums, you can start from scratch at home by doing "Shadow Practice" with drumsticks.

Besides, this website offers every available resource to learn drum theory, beats, notations and much more.

Cyberfretbass.com

Bass guitar is an underrated musical instrument. You can find everything on this website from beginner bass lessons to creating bass techniques and bass lines. Cyberfretbass.com has both video lessons and fundamental courses explained through notes. You can follow their free modules to perfectly master a bass guitar.

Learning to play a musical instrument can be the most rewarding experience. Most of us don't have the necessary means to hire a personal trainer or spend on music classes which can be expensive, but with all the resources that are available online at the tip of our fingers now, anyone can enjoy learning an instrument irrespective of their background.

The author is a freelance journalist.

EVENT

BMSS holds Grand National General Assembly

IFTEKHAR AHMED SAKIB

Bangladesh Medical Students' Society (BMSS) successfully pulled off its flagship event, the National General Assembly (NGA), on April 22, 2022 in the campus of United International University. The event featured over 270 enthusiastic participants from 40 medical colleges all over the country.

With the theme "Regeneration and Repair: Reflecting on inadequacies of health systems and navigating ways for better pandemic preparedness in developing countries", the event was declared open by its chair Dr Myesha Maliha Binte Mamun, who is also the Secretary General of BMSS. The opening ceremony was presided over by Prof Dr Md Nazmul Islam, Director, Disease Control and Line Director, Communicable Disease Control, DGHS, alongside Dr Khandoker

A Mamun, Professor, Dept of CSE, UIU, Director, AIIMS Lab, and Founder, CMED. Salim Khan, Head of Sales, Square Pharmaceutical, and Dr Tasnia Noor Salim, President, BMSS, also joined them.

In addition to Prof Dr Nazmul, the thought-provoking thematic session which took place shortly afterwards was graced by public health activist Dr Abu Jamil Faisal and Dr Saklayen Russel, Associate Professor and Head, Dept of Vascular Surgery, BIRDEM, as speakers.

In the external affairs session, BMSS had Prof. Mohammad Ali, Founder of National Liver Foundation, eminent oncologist Prof. Dr. Parveen Shahida Akhter, Mohammad Jisun, founder of bloodman and Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta from Bandhu Social Welfare Society, who spoke about their work.



Participants and distinguished guests at the event.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BMSS

The premier publication of BMSS, "BMSS Buzz" was unveiled, for the first time in print, in the presence of the distinguished

guests. Two activity fairs were hosted. In one of them, Local Committees, the very base of BMSS, showcased

their yearlong initiatives whereas in the other one, the six Standing Committees of BMSS portrayed their impactful youthful activism,

with a focus on issues such as public health, medical education, professional and research exchange, sexual and reproductive health and human rights.

The six standing committees also conducted separate sessions to familiarize participants about their vision, mission and objectives.

An idea competition aiming to explore solutions to the inadequacies in health care was held, where participants came up with insightful solutions.

Members of the current and previous executive body, including BMSS alumni and general members, alongside other youth activists spent the whole day together, attending different sessions, competitions, and plenaries.

The author is Co-Chair, NGA 2022, Bangladesh Medical Students' Society.