



When a hobby becomes a cultural language

Another striking example is the “Bangladesh Matchbox Collectors Club (BMCC),” a niche collective that has grown into a cultural and humanitarian platform. Founded in 2016, the club has now entered its tenth year, with over 1,400 members online and 350 registered members across 11 countries.

According to Shakil Huq, President of BMCC, the group challenges the idea that collecting is boring.

“This is not just a hobby; it is a cultural centre,” he says. BMCC’s work spans matchbox history and collection, matchbox design, journal publication,

cultural documentation, along with human welfare initiatives, animal welfare, and honouring veteran collectors.

Beyond its digital presence, BMCC functions as a physical community, organising two to three annual gatherings. Its members include artists, designers, magicians, photographers, journalists, students, and even High Court judges, showing how shared curiosity can unite people across professions.

For many, BMCC offers relief from monotony, proving that meaning can emerge from even the smallest objects.

Drawing space for the mind

Another creative micro-community shaping Dhaka’s cultural landscape is

“Cartoon People,” founded by Rashad Imam Tanmoy in 2016, and now entering its tenth year. The platform connects over 110,000 people through its Facebook Community, while its festivals draw 4,000 to 5,000 attendees.

“Cartoon People” hosts live events, maintains its social media groups, and organises online contests, such as one on local character design. Monthly creative challenges involve research, publication, and acknowledgement, while a minimalist black-and-white comic titled “4Patar Comics” adds to its creative output.

“Sharing ideas makes creativity feel acceptable,” says Tanmoy.

During art events, 40 to 50 artists often

sit together, turning imagination into collective identity and the community into an emotional refuge.

Dhaka’s future may not solely depend on large infrastructures. It may hinge on something far more subtle, like these tiny passionate groups, that stitch human connection back into urban life.

In the end, we do not need the whole city. All we need are a few people who make Dhaka feel softer, warmer, and more ours. These micro-communities are not trends; they are our newest survival strategy.

**By Farhana Faiza
Photo: Courtesy**

