

**act:onaid**

**RISING  
STARS**

**Young Leaders In Action**



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**BANGLADESH**





Rising Stars: Young Leaders in Action  
Fourth Edition  
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## Editor's Note

Young people's energy, inventiveness, and zeal have the capacity to significantly impact society. In their communities, they frequently take the initiative and act to address injustices, inequalities, exclusions, and hardships.

This magazine is dedicated to highlighting the unsung heroes driving transformation. ActionAid Bangladesh, through this magazine has been showcasing 20 exemplary youth leaders nationwide, spanning diverse landscapes. From coastlines to cities and mountains, we have been inspired by the responses to our call for applications. And the responses have been overwhelming, with youngsters stepping up to make differences in their own localities. Pages of this publication are filled with inspiring stories of their grassroots impacts; strived to amplify the voices of these remarkable leaders. We applaud their spontaneous participation and notable contribution to their communities.

Through this publication, we have aimed to elevate and celebrate their resilience, leadership, and unwavering dedication, inspiring others to make a difference. Join us in this transformative journey of learning, enlightenment and empowerment as we honor these extraordinary young changemakers!

To hope and compassion!

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**Farah Kabir**  
Country Director  
ActionAid Bangladesh



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The role of young people in shaping socio-economic and political structure can't be overstated in context of Bangladesh. Realisation of youth leadership across the country requires continuous support to them, however, recognition of their contribution is also a key to support to them. 'Rising Stars' is such an initiative recognizing youth leadership from diverse contexts, embodying their unwavering resilience, boundless determination, and innovation. These unsung heroes stand as pillars of inspiration, challenging the status quo, instilling hope, and igniting societal progress. Their leadership exemplifies the drive for an inclusive and just world. By celebrating their achievements, we amplify their impact and inspire others to follow suit.

Join us on this journey to support these visionary young leaders, as we champion their future endeavours and aspirations. Together, let us forge a world where every voice is heard, cherished and respected—a world where the potential for change knows no bounds.

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**GENDER EQUALITY  
AND WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT**



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**Shomaya Kamal**

Working area: Cox's Bazar

Age: 21

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**“Facing hardships fueled my determination; I realised, with resilience and support, we can turn struggles into opportunities for empowerment and lasting change.”**

*– Shomaya Kamal*

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Shomaya Kamal, a young leader from Cox's Bazar, has turned life's challenges into a mission of empowerment. Growing up, she dreamt of becoming a doctor, but economic hardships and academic setbacks prevented her from achieving this goal. Instead of succumbing to despair, Sumaiya redirected her passion towards empowering women in her community.

Now with an academic background in Accounting, Shomaya serves as the Honorary Chief Executive at Sujala Mahila Samiti, where women receive free training and empowerment opportunities. Her personal struggles ignited a deep-seated resolve to create positive change. She

began volunteering at Radio Shaikot, raising awareness about gender-based violence and advocating for women's rights.

Through Sujala Mahila Samiti, Shomaya and her team worked tirelessly to uproot gender discrimination, violence, and social stereotypes in the marginalised community of Pmkhali Union in Cox's Bazar. Their efforts provide a lifeline for women in distress, offering support and hope for a better future.

Shomaya Kamal's story is one of resilience and unwavering dedication, proving that even in the face of adversity, anyone can make a significant impact on the lives of many.





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**Mohua Jarin Rushni Shathi**

Working area: Dhaka

Age: 29

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**“Despite being married at an early age and suffering due to dowry demands, I transformed my painful experiences into a powerful force for change.”**

*- Mohua Jarin*

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Mohua Jarin Rushni Shathi, a beacon of hope and change. While facing significant challenges due to her disability, she has dedicated her life to defending human rights and advocating for the vulnerable through her work with Disability Pride Bangladesh (DPB).

DPB focuses on the rights and mental health of disabled women, girls, and young people, especially those facing gender-based violence and inequality. Under Mohua's leadership, the organisation provides crucial support, including helping individuals obtain government disbursement cards and raising awareness about their benefits.

Mohua's activism has taken her to international platforms, where she shares her vision for a more inclusive and accessible world. She works tirelessly to empower disabled individuals through vocational training and entrepreneurial skills development, helping them achieve self-reliance and unlock their potential.

One of Mohua's significant contributions is assisting disabled individuals to secure government grants and allowances. Her efforts have already benefited many by providing them with essential financial support. She is dedicated to breaking down structural barriers and creating opportunities for those who are often overlooked, envisioning a society where people with disabilities are empowered to live fulfilling lives, recognised for their unique abilities rather than their limitations.





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**Sumaiya Shampa**

Working area: Gaibandha

Age: 27

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**“By empowering others, we empower ourselves. Every woman I train is a step towards a brighter, more inclusive future.”**

*- Sumaiya Shampa*

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Sumaiya Shampa, represents the spirit of resilience and empowerment, leading a movement that empowers 854 women through local handicrafts. Her journey began with uncertainty during her undergraduate career, where the conventional 9 to 5 job path felt restrictive and daunting. Facing initial challenges such as lack of capital and familial support, Sumaiya sought a different path, one where she could forge her own way while making a meaningful impact.

Driven by a vision to uplift marginalised women, Sumaiya initiated a mission to train them in crafting jute and other handicrafts which not only addresses

Bangladesh's unemployment crisis but also empowers women to become self-sufficient and take control of their futures. As a survivor of child marriage at 12, Sumaiya's determination to complete her education fueled her passion to create opportunities for others.

Today, Sumaiya stands proud of her accomplishments and the transformative effect of her work has had on countless lives. Her story is a manifestation of the power of perseverance and grassroots leadership that illustrates how an individual's determination can inspire meaningful change in their community and beyond.



**EMERGENCY AND  
HUMANITARIAN  
RESPONSE**



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**Abdul Mannan Jihad**

Working area: Chattogram

Age: 19

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**“Resilience and preparedness are key. I am committed to building communities that can withstand any disasters.”**

*- Abdul Mannan Jihad*

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Abdul Mannan Jihad, a passionate youth from Chattogram, has been dedicated to voluntary work for many years. His journey began with Bangladesh Scouts, where he expanded his horizons by helping people in crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jihad played a crucial role in distributing masks and vaccines, raising public awareness, and directly supporting those in need. His involvement in emergency response extended to natural disasters, where he provided essential aid and assistance.

The satisfaction derived from helping others motivated Jihad to undergo capacity-building training with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense. He worked directly with firefighters, focusing on crowd management and emergency firefighting tasks. Jihad's exceptional volunteer work and leadership were recognised in 2022 when he was awarded the Best Scout.

Currently, Jihad is associated with Global

Platform Bangladesh, Bright Bangladesh Forum and Youth Voice for Change. His future aspirations include continuing his emergency response and awareness programs. Jihad is particularly upset at the massive loss and damage to properties during emergencies, which often result in insurmountable financial losses for affected communities. To mitigate this, he aims to become a skilled engineer, dedicated to developing climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Abdul Mannan Jihad's story is one of commitment and foresight, showcasing how young leaders can uphold social cohesion and drive meaningful change in their communities.





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**Mohammad Abdul Aziz**

Working area: Chattogram

Age: 22

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**“From personal loss to leading change, every challenge I faced has strengthened my commitment to building a more resilient and compassionate community.”**

*- Mohammad Abdul Aziz*

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In the bustling city of Chattogram, Mohammad Abdul Aziz's life was transformed by a series of profound challenges. Persistent flooding and waterlogging disrupted his childhood, leaving him displaced and disheartened. The loss of familiar places and friends deeply affected him, encouraging him to try to make a difference.

His journey began with a call to action through the Bangladesh Scouts and his involvement with ActionAid Bangladesh. These experiences ignited his passion for community service and climate activism. Inspired by workshops at Global Platform Bangladesh, Aziz co-founded Youth Voice for Change with his five other friends in his hometown Bakalia.

Under his leadership, the organisation tackled pressing issues through various initiatives. The "Climate Petition" project rallied young people to advocate for climate action, while "Inner Peace" raised awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse on mental health. His efforts not only educated his community but also earned him accolades such as the CRM - Community Role Model Award and the 'President Scouts Award.'

In 2022, Aziz was honored as a 'Champion of the Environment' by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). His dedication to emergency response and climate action, combined with his commitment to uplifting marginalised voices, underscores his journey from personal adversity to impactful leadership.



**UPHOLDING SOCIAL  
COHESION AND  
PEACEBUILDING**



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**MD. Ismail**

Working area: Bandarban

Age: 21

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**“I dream of a day  
when my people  
will no longer  
endure torment  
and will fully  
realise their  
potential and  
rights.”**

*- MD. Ismail*

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In the remote village of Tumbro, nestled deep within the mountains of Ghumdhum Union, Naikhyyangchari Upazila of Bandarban, lives Ismail, a passionate advocate for human rights. Tumbro is a place where knowledge and awareness are scarce, and as a result, the basic human rights of its inhabitants often go unrealised. The stories of this region remain largely unheard, buried within the mountains that surround them.

The geographical isolation of Tumbro and the lack of understanding of its inhabitants' culture and identity lead to frequent ridicule and discrimination. These practices strip away their dignity and violate their rights. The locals, unaware of their rights, become easy targets for exploitation, and the low literacy rate only exacerbates the situation.

Amidst these challenging circumstances, Ismail began providing counseling to his fellow villagers, teaching them about their rights and the importance of standing up for themselves. His efforts started to bear fruit as the people of Tumbro began to understand and respond to his message. They realised the significance of their rights and began to reclaim their dignity.

Ismail dreams of a day when none of his peers will have to endure such torment. He envisions a future where every person in Tumbro can fully realise their potential and their rights, free from discrimination and exploitation. His initiative is one of resilience and hope, demonstrating how a single voice can inspire change and empower an entire community.





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**Antor Hajong**

Working area: Netrokona

Age: 28

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**“I fight every day to  
preserve our  
history and secure  
our rights, so our  
culture thrives,  
and our voices are  
heard.”**

*- Antor Hajong*

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Antor Hajong, a member of the plainland indigenous group in Netrokona, is the Founder and President of the Youth Care Charity Foundation, registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. His mission is to advocate for the rights of his people.

Throughout history, the Hajongs have led numerous resistances, from the Tangka movement to the liberation war of Bangladesh. Despite this rich history, their vibrant culture and rights are at risk due to current land laws that continue to deprive them of their rights and lands. This injustice spurred Antor into activism that focused on people's rights.

To improve the living standards of these marginalised individuals, Antor has

conducted around two hundred seminars and workshops over the past seven years. These sessions aim to sensitise the Hajongs about their rights and build their capacity by training the youth. Addressing the main issues faced by ethnic groups, including language barriers, loss of basic rights, and the need for youth counseling, these training courses have reached 8,000 young people so far.

Despite the lack of funding and the frustrations that come with it, Antor remains determined to continue his work. Setting up free training centers to provide vocational education and organising leadership development training are crucial steps towards a better future for his community.





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**Md. Alvi Sheikh**

Working area: Khulna

Age: 18

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**“Turning the tide of technology addiction and fake news among the youth is challenging but our commitment to cultural engagement and social awareness is making a difference.”**

*- Md. Alvi Sheikh*

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Md. Alvi Sheikh, a young changemaker from Khulna, is the Founder of Rongmahal – a youth organisation dedicated to fostering cultural and social engagement among the youth. Alvi’s journey as a cultural activist began in childhood, with affiliations to numerous organisations such as Shishu Forum, Shishu Suraksha Committee, Khelaghar, PCM, Ganer Tari, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Samiti, Peace Club, Convergence, Youth Forum, and NCTF. His dedication has been recognised with the ‘International Volunteer Award Bangladesh-2022’ by the government and UNFPA-UNDP, ‘RTV Monimix Prerona Award 2023’ and a nomination for the ‘International Children’s Peace Prize’ in 2023.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Alvi observed a troubling trend among the youth – an increasing dependency on technology, leading to gaming addiction and susceptibility to fake news. This not only strained social cohesion but also paved the way for radicalization. The situation hit close to home when one of Alvi’s close friends was lured into an extremist group.

Determined to make a difference, Alvi launched Rongmahal, an initiative aimed at engaging the youth in cultural and social activities. His goal was to educate them on e-etiquette and the proper use of social media, helping them identify fake news and prevent violence. Through voluntary community work, Alvi fostered a sense of belonging among the youth. His efforts have successfully trained about 80 young individuals in “social media entrepreneurship.”

Despite facing challenges in keeping up with the evolving interests of youth, Alvi’s dedication to learning and adapting drives his mission forward. His work has successfully trained around 80 young people in “social media entrepreneurship,” promoting a more aware and engaged generation.





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**Rimon Barua**

Working area: Cox's Bazar

Age: 21

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**“I founded Youth  
Position Bangladesh  
to channel the energy  
of our youth into  
meaningful  
community  
engagement and  
positive change;  
turning dreams into  
impactful actions.”**

*- Rimon Barua*

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Rimon Barua, a young leader from Cox's Bazar, is the Founding Director of Youth Position Bangladesh. His journey into community organisation began in 2017 during the Rohingya influx, sparking his dream to create a globally impactful non-profit.

Established to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, Youth Position Bangladesh focuses on education, health, and the environment. The initiative aims to provide young people with opportunities for positive engagement and community connection. Activities include building a public library, organising book reading competitions, and tree planting for children.

What started as an online writing prompt

page in 2020 has grown into a full-fledged organisation, engaging approximately 200 young people in book reading activities, lesson cycles, tree plantation, and supporting marginalized children.

Rimon is also the Founding Director of 'Sahityaghar' public library, which houses around two thousand books. He launched the mobile library "Amar Pathagar" in 2020, providing free access to books in Ramu Upazila. His achievements include winning first place in the World Peace Ethics Contest in Bangladesh by Thailand in 2017.

Rimon's vision is to expand Youth Position Bangladesh globally and to make significant contributions to agriculture and biotechnology through research.



**CHILD RIGHTS**



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**Rubel Mia Nahid**

Working area: Pirojpur

Age: 29

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**“I knew I had to take concrete actions when I saw the burden these children carry. Hatekhori Foundation was born from the desire to give children a brighter future through education.”**

*- Rubel Mia Nahid*

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Rubel Mia Nahid, hailing from Pirojpur, is the Founder and Director of Hatekhori Foundation. In the coastal villages of Baleshwar in Mathbaria upazila, children of the fishing community often walk 2-3 kilometers daily to attend school. Lingering poverty, inadequate schools, and poor communication systems force many into child labour and early marriage.

To ease the hardship on these children, Rubel along with his peer Sajeev Mitra, founded the Hatekhori Foundation in 2018. Their mission: to provide education to marginalised children in the fishing community. Today, nearly 50 children

receive education through the foundation.

Hatekhori Foundation is not only focused on education but also engages in preventing child marriage, stopping evictions, and organising blood donations. The initiative has set up four libraries with over 2,000 books, transforming the village into a digital community where former child laborers now learn computer skills.

In recognition of their impactful work, Hatekhori Foundation received the Joy Bangla Youth Award in 2020 and the Inspiring Volunteer Award and Bangladesh Youth Award in 2022.



**ENSURING CLIMATE  
JUSTICE AND  
RESILIENCE**



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**Tarannum Ahmed Chowdhury**

Working area: Dhaka

Age: 19

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**“Each challenge faced,  
and each step taken brings  
me closer to creating a  
world where necessity  
sparks invention, and  
every effort counts  
toward a sustainable  
future.”**

*- Tarannum Ahmed Chowdhury*

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Tarannum Ahmed Chowdhury, a young leader from Dhaka, founded SHEEN BD to provide SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights) education to teenagers. Her journey into social work and research reflects her diverse passion and life experiences.

One of Tarannum's key projects focuses on providing solutions to climate change. After researching environmental changes in Bangladesh, she discovered microplastics contribute to coastal erosion and extreme storms. SHEEN BD launched a project to eliminate plastic straws, distribute bamboo straws to students and saving over 22 kg of plastic. The next phase introduces

sustainable alternatives such as nano cellulose and PLA cups and bottles.

Tarannum's dedication extends to cooling Dhaka with cool pavements, rainwater harvesting to address water crisis, and dune management in Khulna to mitigate coastal salinity. Her work is supported by affiliations with SciBridge Initiative and BYEI, where she educates and empowers youth on environmental issues.

Despite future uncertainties, Tarannum remains committed to her mission. She aims to study engineering while continuing her efforts to create positive societal and environmental change.





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**Anika Akram Orpi**  
Working area: Kishoreganj  
Age: 18

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**“Every step we take  
towards sustainable  
living brings us  
closer to a world  
where our planet  
thrives, and our  
future is secured.”**

*- Anika Akram Orpi*

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Anika Akram Orpi, a climate activist from Kishoreganj, found her passion for climate change early in life. As a school student, she connected social problems, including climate change, and her commitment grew while serving as a 'Child Member of Parliament' in Bangladesh Prajanma Shangshad. There, she and other delegates handed a climate declaration to former Speaker Dr. Shireen Sharmin Chowdhury. Her encouragement sparked a deeper drive in Anika.

Determined to raise awareness, Anika launched a climate-based blog site called 'Anika Orpi Voice.' Through blogs and podcasts, she educates young people about the impact of climate change, addressing its intersection with class, gender, administration, policy, and media.

Her research efforts have achieved recognition, including the "Outstanding Achievement Award" in the "British International Education Association-Youth STEM Competition" in 2023. Her work on environmental pollution and climate

change has been accepted for peer-reviewed presentations at prestigious conferences across America, Spain, and Sri Lanka.

Looking ahead, Anika aspires to become an environmental scientist. She aims to create a joint platform for young climate activists, develop an eco-friendly personal care product brand, and expand her online activism corner. 'Anika Orpi Voice' features blogs on green brands and sustainability, a podcast on her environmentalism journey, and her book series "Green Shoutouts: Clean Beauty Brands that Deserve Shoutout" on Amazon.





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**Md Labib Tazone Utshab**

Working area: Dhaka

Age: 27

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**“We need to combat challenges of mental health and climate change together, because they shape the future of our communities.”**

*- Labib Tazone Utshab*

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Labib Tazone Utshab's journey as a social activist began in 2016, sparked by the tragic loss of a team member to suicide. This unfortunate incident led him to focus on mental health advocacy. As he interacted with diverse communities, his vision expanded to include climate change activism.

Labib collaborated with The Delicate Mind CIC and WAVE Foundation to create a climate action model for youths in Bangladesh's coastal regions. They used comics and storytelling to spread awareness and planned to establish a digital climate school called "School of (Im)Possible," aiming to provide innovative and accessible education on climate-related issues.

Labib's efforts earned him recognition, including the Ingenuity Fund and the Joy Bangla Youth Award. His work with ActionAid Bangladesh, particularly the Global Youth-led Climate Campaign (GYCC) Project, highlighted his leadership and innovation. He also contributed to various projects for youth development.

Before joining The Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety (BIGRS) in October 2022, Labib worked with International Rescue, Prime Bank Foundation, and MedGlobal in Cox's Bazar. He collaborated with local, national, and international training platforms, enriching his perspective on impactful leadership.

Labib envisions a future in international development, focusing on climate change, mental health, road safety, and education. He plans to initiate local and regional projects, build partnerships, and advocate for policy changes. Representing Bangladesh at global platforms like the World Economic Forum and UNGA, he aims to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contribute to global development.





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**Jimran Mohammad Saiak**

Working area: Cox's Bazar

Age: 21

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**“Facing my fear of public speaking while building a youth climate network taught me that even the smallest voices can make a difference in the fight for climate justice.”**

*- Jimran Mohammad Saiak*

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Jimran Mohammad Saiak, hailing from the coastal town of Cox's Bazar, found his calling in the realm of social activism early on. Initially focused on child rights, a pivotal encounter with climate activists steered his passion towards a more pressing issue—climate justice. The revelation that climate change was a critical determinant of survival for coastal communities fueled his drive to make a difference.

Joining YouthNet, a vast network operating in forty-five districts across Bangladesh, Jimran quickly rose to prominence. His leadership saw the launch of numerous local campaigns, from community awareness programs and school initiatives to tree plantations and clean-up drives. These efforts not only improved the environment but also educated thousands about the dire consequences of climate change.

Over the past year, Jimran has empowered 2,250 young people, both online and offline, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to advocate for climate justice. His work includes conducting social audits to ensure the proper use of Climate Trust

Funds, standing with disaster-affected communities, and using social media to amplify the voices of the marginalised.

One of Jimran's most notable achievements was leading a prolonged protest against fossil fuel use, which culminated in the shutdown of ten coal power plants in Bangladesh. This victory stands as a testament to the power of persistent activism. Despite his initial fear of public speaking, Jimran became a confident facilitator, training young leaders across the country.

Recognised as a 'Youth Champion of the Environment' in 2022 by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), Jimran's future goals include enhancing food security through climate-resilient agriculture and expanding his impact on a global scale by collaborating with the UN.





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**Md. Estiak Ahmed Sajit**

Working area: Dhaka

Age: 23

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**“From losing everything to river erosion, I found my purpose in fighting climate change and empowering the next generation to create a sustainable future.”**

*- Md. Estiak Ahmed Sajit*

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Md. Estiak Ahmed Sajit's journey began with a tragedy. In 2007, his ancestral home in Bahadurpur village, Rajbari, was swallowed by the Padma River. Forced to move to a cramped room in Keraniganj, Dhaka, Sajit witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of climate change. This personal loss ignited his determination to combat the climate crisis.

Determined to make a difference, Sajit immersed himself in climate change training and leadership development during his undergraduate studies. His experiences and education led him to co-found Project Ujjibon, an organization dedicated to empowering the next generation to tackle climate change. Through Project Ujjibon, Sajit and his team initiated the "Climate Idol" program, training secondary school students from remote regions of Bangladesh to become leaders in environmental advocacy. They organised innovation fairs, like the "Ananya Udbhaban Mela", where students showcased creative products made from recycled materials.

Sajit's commitment extended beyond education. His team at Project Ujjibon

developed eco-friendly products, such as pens made from paper and seeds that grow into plants. They also promoted recycling and environmental stewardship within their communities.

Recognised for his efforts, Sajit received the 'Best Rising Star Award' and the 'Green Voice Best Thoughtful Mind Award' in 2023. Their initiative "Project Ujjibon" has achieved BRAC's "Amra Notun Young Changemakers' Award this year. His achievements depict his dedication to climate actions and youth leadership.

Looking ahead, Sajit plans to pursue higher education abroad in environmental studies. His goal is to work with international organisations to address climate issues on a global scale, continuing his mission to create a sustainable future for all.



**MENTAL HEALTH  
AND WELLBEING**



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**Fatin Sadab Liyan**

Working area: Dhaka

Age: 17

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**“Turning personal  
struggles into  
solutions drives  
my mission to  
empower my  
community.”**

*- Fatin Sadab Liyan*

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Fatin Sadab Liyan, a young social entrepreneur from Dhaka, turned personal challenges into impactful community initiatives. Bullied for his complexion throughout childhood, Fatin struggled with self-esteem. The COVID-19 pandemic deepened his understanding of mental health, especially after a suicide incident of a school senior. This led him to create a mental health blog, interviewing prominent people to spread awareness.

In December 2021, Fatin founded “Solace to Youth” with peers, aiming to raise mental health awareness in schools. The organisation conducts surveys, workshops, and discussions on student issues, supported by university psychology students who gain part-time job opportunities through sponsorships.

Fatin’s empathy extended further when he learned about a younger student’s blood-related medical issues. Realising the need for a reliable donation system, he created the app “BloodBag” to connect patients with donors quickly and securely. With representatives from over 25

educational institutions and more than 10 blood donation organisations, BloodBag facilitated over 220 blood requests and gained national recognition.

Supported by the Netherlands-based KidsRights Foundation, Fatin’s team launched “Youths Thought” to address mental health offline. As a changemaker, his team won the 2023 Social Venture Challenge in the Asia and Pacific region. He was the first Bangladeshi nominated for the International Children’s Peace Prize on Mental Health, won the BASIS National ICT Awards-2022, and was nominated for the ICT Oscar: APICTA Awards.

Fatin aims to eliminate community crises and empower people with resilience. He is expanding his organisation by creating health clubs at school, college, and university levels to build leadership and spread hope across the country.



**DIGITAL  
INNOVATION**



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**Prashanta Dey**

Working area: Chattogram

Age: 20

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**“The dream of creating something new can move us forward. It is with this aim that I will continue to innovate and inspire others through my ventures.”**

*- Prashanta Dey*

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Prashanta Dey, from Chattogram, began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 17. Today, he stands as the CEO and founder of his own company, a testament to his values of inventing new business ideas and leading successfully.

Driven by an insatiable eagerness to learn, a steady attitude, and an ability to adapt to change, Prashanta became a formidable competitor in the entrepreneurial world. His dream of creating something new constantly propelled him forward, inspiring others through his ventures.

Prashanta moved to the city to pursue higher education, where the big city nurtured his even bigger dreams. He seized every opportunity to learn new things, and the challenge of creating something new always excited him. An internship in UI/UX design equipped him

with valuable skills that would later prove indispensable for his startup.

Witnessing people lose their life savings over legal issues, Prashanta felt a strong urge to improve legal service access. His hardships and observations motivated him to create a solution. He expanded his network with legal professionals and soon launched a digital platform called 'Legal Rights.' This platform allows people from all walks of life to easily learn about different laws and seek legal advice from experienced lawyers.

Prashanta's dedication and innovative spirit earned him recognition in various national and global entrepreneurial and ICT-based networks. He also received permission from the Bangladesh High Tech Park Authority to use their co-working space, making him the youngest startup founder to achieve this milestone.





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**MD. Asaduzzaman Arif**

Working area: Kurigram

Age: 22

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**“In the face of  
adversity, I believe in  
the power of digital  
innovation to uplift  
and empower our  
community.”**

*- MD. Asaduzzaman Arif*

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Asaduzzaman, a committed young leader from Kurigram, has emerged as a source of inspiration and creativity for his own community. He envisioned a revolutionary way to address the pressing issues of poverty, climate change, and food insecurity in his marginalised district, using digital innovation to empower and improve the lives of the people of his community.

His objective is around a ground-breaking initiative to digitize the management of valiant freedom fighters' mausoleums and graveyards. Recognising the importance of preserving the legacy of these national heroes, he led an initiative that not only modernized the maintenance and documentation of these sites in Kurigram but also expanded the project to other regions, including the North City Corporation. This project has become a model of digital preservation and respecting national history.

Apart from this, Asaduzzaman created an online portal to provide employment opportunities for local youth and founded Kurigram Online Hut, a platform supporting young entrepreneurs. He also digitized the “Shongram Theke Shadhinota Chowdhury

Museum” to preserve Bangladesh’s independence history. For his groundbreaking work, he was honored with the National Award from the Prime Minister on Digital Bangladesh Day 2022.

Asaduzzaman’s efforts, including his role with the Man Rangar Pathshala Shishu Kishor Youth Development Organization, highlight the powerful impact of grassroots digital solutions in addressing local challenges and preserving cultural heritage.





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**Abdullah Al Araf**

Working area: Noakhali

Age: 25

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**“Seeing farmers struggle with outdated methods and deteriorating soil, I knew I had to find a better way, despite the many obstacles.”**

*- Abdullah Al Araf*

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Abdullah Al Araf, a young leader from Noakhali, is a digital agroecological entrepreneur and the Assistant Director at IDEB Research and Technological Institute. With a lifelong passion for science, he aims to use technology to address immediate social needs and contribute to the long-term welfare of society.

In 2017, Abdullah noticed that farmers in his village used traditional cultivation methods without testing the soil, leading to increased fertilizer and pesticide use, degraded lands, and depleted groundwater. Determined to find a solution, he developed 'Matir Pran,' a soil testing device that uses a mobile app to measure soil moisture, pH, and nutrient levels, providing instant analysis and recommendations.

Encouraged by the promising results, Abdullah collaborated with Bangladesh ICT Division and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute to further develop 'Matir Pran.' He also created the Vertical Access Wind Turbine project to harness renewable energy from coastal areas and highways, thereby transforming these locations into sustainable energy resources with minimal

environmental impact. supported by UNICEF.

To foster innovation among young people, Abdullah established an IoT and Robotics Research Lab, providing free access to aspiring inventors. He organised workshops on innovation design and cyber security. His efforts have earned him numerous national and international accolades.

Abdullah's vision extends to developing innovative thinking in the younger generation. He is forming Innovation Clubs in polytechnic institutes, organising workshops, and national-level innovation competitions. His goal is to enable young minds to present their ideas on global platforms.





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**Md. Sazzadul Islam**

Working area: Jamalpur

Age: 22

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**“I believe that  
technology can  
create safe spaces  
and opportunities  
for every child to  
learn and grow.”**

*- Md Sazzadul Islam*

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Md Sazzadul Islam, from Jamalpur, is the innovative mind behind BabyTube, Bangladesh's first child-friendly video sharing platform. His journey into social entrepreneurship began with Mentor Moshai, a platform dedicated to mentoring and raising awareness among children, including the underprivileged. As a software engineer, Sazzadul played a pivotal role in developing Mentor Moshai, ensuring it was user-friendly, secure, and efficient.

While working on Mentor Moshai, Sazzadul realised the need for safe content for children on mainstream platforms.

Motivated by this gap, he leveraged his expertise in Android development and machine learning algorithms to create BabyTube, a safe digital space for children to access educational and entertaining content.

His efforts have been recognised with two grants from a2i and the 'bdapps' award by Robi. Sazzadul's vision for the future includes sustaining and expanding his social initiatives, driven by a commitment to philanthropy and the belief that technology can transform society for the better.







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