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NEWSLETTER

February 2011

THE GREAT WATER CHALLENGE // 2
BRITISH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM // 3
ARTHAKANTHA BUSINESS AWARD // 4
MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY // 5
JAAGO NOW IN KARAIL // 6



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THE GREAT WATER CHALLENGE

Do you remember last September? Two thousand youth took to the streets to raise awareness for children's rights.

Well, the Yellow Tide is back.

This March, celebrating World Water Day 2011, JAAGO Foundation is launching one of its biggest projects yet.

On the 18 of March, volunteers will join JAAGO Foundation on The Great Water Challenge. The challenge will last for two days and one night. Volunteer teams of ten will be required to take on a number of competitive challenges designed to test their survival skills in the slum and improvisational skills in life. From cooking their own breakfast to cleaning up the lake, the volunteers will be engaged in numerous games and challenges.

The project has been designed to give the

volunteers a view into the lives of the Korail slum-dwellers and their daily, water-related problems. The project will give us better insight into the lives of the community members and guide us in our mission to work with them to make a difference.

The participants are required to form 10-person teams, consisting of at least three female team members. Interested participants are encouraged to register quickly, as membership is limited. All of the participants are required to show parental consent forms. Participants should be at least 18 years old as of May 18, 2011. Log on to www.jaago.com.bd to download the participation form today. For more details, email info@jaago.com.bd or contact us at +88 017 1200 6617.

So, do you have what it takes to compete in the Great Water Challenge?





For the very first time, 5 students of JAAGO's KG II class participated as trainees in the British Council's *Regional Symposium* leadership program. The four-day program included a series of cultural events and sports programs aimed at developing leadership skills in the young generation.

The event was a congregation of youngsters from all over Bangladesh. Approximately 350 students from seven different schools participated in this program. Our students were selected along with 25 other kids to be part of a trainee group responsible for managing the other kids and develop the details of the closing program for the symposium.

Our kids, along with the other trainees, did a very good job of planning every single detail of the final event. They made a budget to buy materials, decorated the Women's Complex field, arranged a timetable and organized rehearsals.

The final event on February 9 consisted of a series of cultural programs including traditional dance routines, dramas and vocal performances. Mahbubul Alam, joint secretary of Youth and Sports, was present there as the chief guest. The JAAGO students, supervised by our Events Coordinator, spent the final day managing the activities of the other 350 students and making sure that things went according to plan. At the end of the day, our kids returned victorious to the JAAGO School, having completed their very first leadership program with success.

BRITISH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM





KORVI WINS THE ARTHAKANTHA BEST CSR PERFORMANCE AWARD

At a time when rising inflation is causing anxiety, business magazine Arthakantha organized a round table discussion session on the topic 'Responsibility of the Government and the Businessmen in Curbing Inflation' at the Westin hotel on February 27. Mr. Lt. Col. (Retd.) Faruque Khan, the Honorable Commerce Minister of the people's republic of Bangladesh, was the chief guest at the program. He presented the prizes to the 'Arthakantha Business Award 2010' winners of different categories.

The chairperson of FBCCI Mr. A. K. Azad was present at the program as the special guest. The chairperson of Dhaka Chamber Mr. Asif Ibrahim, TCB Chairman Brigadier Gen. Sorwar Jahan Talukder, Business Leader Mr. M. A. Rouf Chowdhury, CAB President Mr. Kazi Faruque, Teacher of Dhaka University Mr. Selim Rayhan, the chairperson of Bangladesh Wholesale Refined Oil Business Committee Hazi Md. Golam Maola and Chairperson of Bangladesh Sugar Union Committee Mr. Anowar Habib took part in the discussion session which was hosted by Arthakantha Editor Mr. Rofiqul Islam Ratan. The key speech was presented at the program by former first Vice-President of FBCCI and Chairman of the FBCCI Prize Monitoring Cell Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed.

Korvi Rakshand, JAAGO Founder, was awarded with the Best CSR Performance Award. He collected the prize from the chief guest Lt. Col. (Retd.) Faruque Khan, Honorable Commerce Minister of the people's republic of Bangladesh.





MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

“Amar bhaiyer rokteye rangano Ekushey February.”

Heads high with spirit, the Class I students sang the song with perfect harmony. For the past year, they have performed numerous dances, plays and songs for cultural programs at JAAGO Foundation. They have participated in competitions, debates, quizzes and seminars. This year, on International Mother Language Day, they have proved their ambition and their ability to succeed.

On the 21st of February, this year, the 28 students of Class I hosted their first ever school event. The program started on schedule with the recitation of Surah Fatiha from the Holy Quran. Then the students sang the National Anthem. As the show progressed, the students sang patriotic songs, recited poems and performed dances. The show-stopping performance was the drama written by Birthi Aktar of Class 1 depicting a story based on the Language Movement. Korvi Rakshand, the

Founder of JAAGO Foundation and the Special Guests for the event ended the program with a speech on the significance of the day and by thanking the Class I students for organizing such a wonderful event.

This superb display was not something our kids had achieved in one day. The school had been abuzz with the sounds of students rehearsing for the last three days. They planned, bought and carried out each step independently from the decorations to the snack preparations. They even coordinated the performances of the junior batches, as they decided that newer students should also get the chance to perform.

In school, all of us have undoubtedly performed or participated in school functions and events. However, the maturity that these children have shown throughout their planning and working stages is astounding by all accounts. For everyone present, it was like witnessing the future in the making.





JAAGO NOW IN KORAIL

After much anticipation, JAAGO has finally initiated its second branch in Dhaka City in Korail, beside Gulshan Lake. The launch of this branch in the beginning of April takes us another step forward in battling poverty in the underdeveloped areas of Dhaka city.

The Korail branch hosts a brand new campus of the JAAGO School as well as a fully equipped office to coordinate all the activities of the foundation. The school will be responsible for providing an international-standard, free-of-cost, English medium education to the underprivileged kids of the Korail slum in an eco-friendly and innovative structure.

Volunteers living in Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara area can now easily assist us in rebuilding the nation right in their area. The process of joining JAAGO as a volunteer for the Korail branch is the same as volunteering for our Rayer Bazaar location: fill out a form, submit in person at the Rayer Bazaar location and wait for a response. Volunteers will be allowed

to choose between the different JAAGO branches and the wide range of volunteer work available.

JAAGO Foundation also invites applicants for the post of teachers and an Education Coordinator. Teachers are allowed to choose between full-time and part-time work. The time slot for shift teachers is 8:45 a.m.–1 p.m. or 2:15 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Full-time teachers are required to work from 8:45 a.m.–7 p.m. with a break in the middle of the day. The Education Coordinator in charge of overseeing the school's academic progress will work from 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

It is your energy and enthusiasm that has helped a young man's dream grow into an organization run by 3000 volunteers and supporting countless beneficiaries. If you wish to participate in the sustainable development of Korail, send your CV to jobs@jaago.com.bd as soon as possible. Interested volunteers will submit applications in person at our Rayer Bazaar premises.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

ANSWERS FROM JANUARY

JAAGO Foundation has many projects, but we usually work with education. Aside from education, what other types of volunteerism do you think the country needs?

Email publication@JAAGO.com.bd to submit your suggestions. You may see your response in the next newsletter.

Question: Now that JAAGO has branches in Korail and Tongi as well as Rayer Bazar, where do you think another JAAGO school will pop up next?

Thanks to everyone who replied. Here are some of the answers we got:

“Near Banani and Gulshan” - Pramanno

“The next school should be on a tempo that goes around and gives short lessons in different neighborhoods.” Sarah

“I think jaago's next school should be somewhere in old town because there are more slum.” - Tamzid

“We can offer you a quiet place at village Gorail, Nagarkanda UZ, district Faridpur for your next school for the underprivileged children.” Habib

“Mirpur.” Nayeem