



NEWSLETTER

December 2010

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JAAGO 2010 Accomplishments

First Aid Centre launched by Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited // World Water Day // International Women's Day // World Health Day 2010 // World Environment Day // Enrollment of 280 children // Safe Traffic Awareness // Gold Medalists from Duke of Edinburgh trained the students of JAAGO in Leadership // Japanese Festival / 23 Volunteers from Japan visited JAAGO // **International Visitors Leadership Program / Founder of JAAGO participated in a US State Department Professional Exchange Program // 10:10 / a Global Warming and Carbon Emissions Awareness Campaign // Online Classes / between JAAGO students and The University of North Carolina // International School Dhaka / Workshop // Halloween / the American Centre // JONMOSTHAN Art Competition / American Centre // **Universal Children's Day / 2000 volunteers, 1000 street kids: children's rights // Mosaic International Leadership Award / Korvi Rakshand // Christmas / Goethe Institute // Two new JAAGO campuses initiated // Day of Martyred Intellectuals // Victory through Volunteerism // First half yearly exams****



JAAGO Celebrates Christmas with the Goethe Institute



JAAGO believes in educating our students about cultures and customs all over the world in addition to the ones of their homeland. This year we decided to teach the kids about Christmas with a twist; by teaching them about Christmas from a different culture. The JAAGO team invited the Goethe Institute, the German cultural centre in Dhanmondi, to celebrate Christmas with our kids and teach them about Christmas celebrations in the German culture.

Ms. Angela Grünert, Director of Goethe Institute and her fellow visitors looked pleased and surprised as they toured our premises. After their tour, our students sat down in a circle around the visitors while they gave a presentation on Christmas. This lesson was different from any of the Christmas lessons they had received before because they learned about the origins of Christmas and the ways in which it is celebrated in Germany.

“Christmas,” Ms. Grünert explained, “is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, a prophet like your very own Prophet Muhammad.” She also taught the students about Santa Claus. Santa Claus, commonly known as the man who delivers presents to kids on Christmas Eve, is derived from Saint Nicholas, who lived in the middle ages.

Germany, according to the visitors, has its own very unique traditions for Christmas. The Christmas tree is an integral part of German Christmas celebrations because it was in Germany where the Christmas tree actually originated. A unique aspect of the German Christmas decorations is that kids can not take part in the beautification of the Christmas tree. Germans also believe in reading out stories to family members and singing Christmas carols on Christmas Eve.

The day ended with the cake cutting ceremony. The cake supplied by Goethe was so huge that it was impossible to fit it any of the rooms of JAAGO, so the cake was placed in the middle of the rooftop. The kids sang Merry Christmas as the visitors cut into the cake.

The kids prepared their very own Christmas cards which they presented to the guests personally. The guests happily opened the cards bearing lop-sided Christmas trees that our kids had crafted for them. Our students, in turn, were presented with gifts of chocolates and sandwiches.

In a world where racism and discrimination is a major issue crippling the progress of many nations, teaching a group of students to appreciate foreign cultures and different religions could go a long way in contributing to a more liberal-minded future generation.



VICTORY THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

On the 16th of December, the students answered the call of 1° Initiative and Community Action to celebrate Victory Day through Volunteerism. Volunteers of JAAGO collaborated with the community members of Rayer Bazaar to clean up the area around the JAAGO School premises. Students from KG-1, KG-2 and Class One guided 20 JAAGO volunteers through the Rayer Bazaar market to encourage the shopkeepers to join. With 50 shopkeepers, the team cleaned up the streets of the slum. At the end of the event, JAAGO gave each participating shopkeeper a potted plant to celebrate their achievement and promote the concept of eco-friendliness.





JAAGO KIDS' FIRST FIELD TRIP

JAAGO Foundation School strongly believes in extending learning beyond the classroom. We ended 2010 by taking our kids to their first field trip outside Dhaka City.

On December 10, our KG 2 students traveled to Cox's Bazar for four days with the help of Dream World, a hotel and tourism company. While Cox's Bazar has the longest sea beach in the world and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Bangladesh, the trip was more than a period of relaxation and refreshment.

The students, accompanied by Humaun Kabir, Assistant Accounts Manager; two JAAGO volunteers; and a few students from Charukola Institute went on the fourteen hour journey from Dhaka.

On December 14th, students celebrated Day of the Martyred Intellectuals by building sand sculptures in the form of the intellectuals who were killed by the Pakistani Army in 1971. A few other students dedicated themselves to building a sand structure of the Sriti Shoudho.

"Building sand structures was not easy, but our students had a great time doing it," said Humaun Kabir. After hours of digging, collecting and piling sand, and with art direction from the Charukola students, the 12-foot-high sculptures finally began to take shape. The children's first trip to the beach, first experience with sand and first sand sculptures went very well.

After building the sand sculptures, the kids played games on the warm sand and raced each other all over the beach. When the tide came in, the kids hurried to the edge of the water to splash each other in the waves. While they enjoyed themselves in the beach, the volunteers spent their time ensuring their safety.

On the way back home, the students were energized, refreshed and motivated for their upcoming examinations. The students would not stop chattering about the fun they had had in the last four days. As the kids recalled their experiences at the beach, we knew this was their trip of a lifetime.

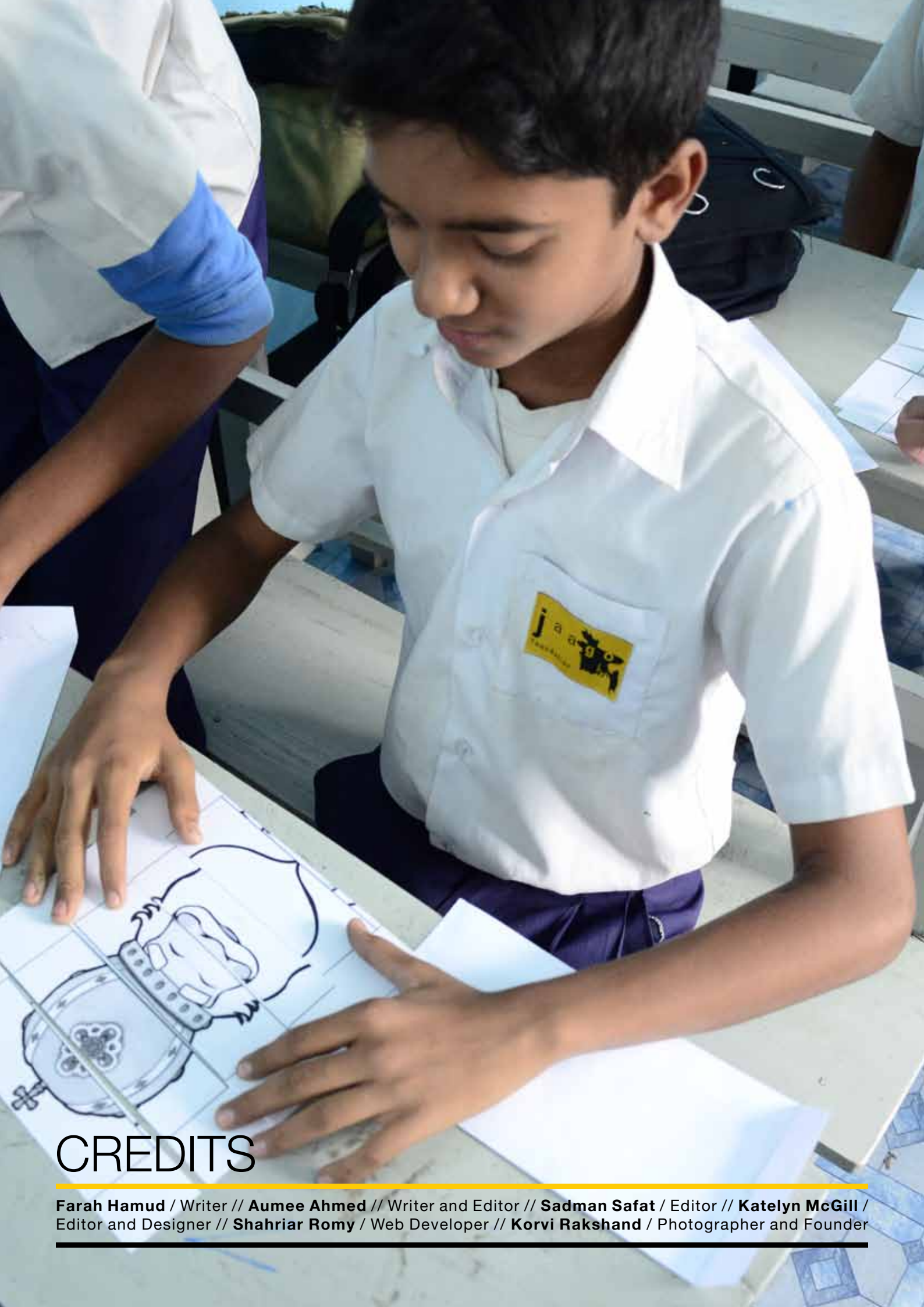




On the last day of the first term, the students of Class One surprised the entire JAAGO school with a drama and dance program that they organized themselves. The program ended with a massive dance with not only the students but the volunteers, teachers and employees as well. Thank to all the students of Class one for organized such a wonderful event for us.

LAST DAY SURPRISE PERFORMANCE





CREDITS

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