Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration 2023

Organized By:

Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN)

Inspired By:

Dohatech

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Introduction:

'Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration' is an event dedicated to promoting and empowering young girls in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Held for the very first time in our country, this celebration has garnered great festivity and enthusiasm among participants. The event is organized by the "Enabling Sustainable Development Goals for Bangladesh" project, which is a part of the Bangladesh Open Source Network.

Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration serves as a platform for female students, industry experts and entrepreneurs to come together, network, learn, and build a supportive community within their respective horizons. The series of activities planned for this celebration are specifically designed to highlight the research and career interests of women in computing and related subjects.

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration aims to create a positive impact on the lives of women in Bangladesh by providing them with opportunities to showcase their talents, develop essential skills, and explore diverse career paths in the ICT sector. Through this celebration, we strive to enhance the representation of women in the field and create a more inclusive and diverse landscape for ICT professionals in our country.

By promoting gender equality and empowering girls and women in ICT, we aim to contribute to the betterment of society as a whole. The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration is a significant step toward building a brighter and more inclusive future for the women of Bangladesh, where their potential and contributions in the ICT sector are recognized and valued.

Objective:

Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration had several key objectives that aimed to empower girls studying IT-related subjects and encourage their involvement in the IT sector. The main objective of the event was to inspire and empower young girls to pursue careers in ICT by providing them with opportunities to showcase their skills, gain exposure to the industry, and foster a supportive environment for their growth.

 The celebration provided a platform for participants to gain a clear understanding of their aspirations and the journey ahead. Additionally, the event aimed to create an unforgettable experience filled with exceptional content focused on technology and other relevant areas, while also fostering networking opportunities among students, peers, and mentors to support each other in their career paths.

The specific objectives of the celebration were as follows:

1. The event aimed to bring together professionals from various sectors to share their knowledge, experiences, and insights, thus creating a supportive community for aspiring girls and women in the IT industry.

2. The celebration sought to facilitate discussions and sessions that explored the barriers and potential solutions for increasing female participation and representation in the IT sector, enabling a more inclusive and equitable environment.

3. The event involved tech-savvy girls in a national-level programming competition, which inspired them and helped them overcome their fear.

4. To provide comprehensive career guidelines through seminars and workshops. The celebration aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance their career prospects in the IT industry. The career guidance sessions were designed to inspire ambition and empower girls to pursue their professional goals confidently.

5. It aimed to promote entrepreneurship among women in the IT sector and provide them with the necessary support and recognition to transform their innovative ideas into successful ventures.

By accomplishing these objectives, the Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration aimed to foster an environment of empowerment, encouragement, and growth for girls and women in the IT sector, leading to greater gender equality and diversity in the industry.

Activities:

All Girls Programming Contest

Being proficient at programming is becoming increasingly necessary in today's technologically advanced society.In order to feel confidence in abilities, practice is key, and programming competitions help a lot. Programming contests encourage problem-solving and critical thinking, as participants are faced with challenging tasks and limited time frames. They promote collaboration and knowledge sharing, fostering a sense of community among programmers. These contests play a vital role in advancing the field of programming and inspiring the next generation of technologists.

Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha always believed that girls were lagging behind in the ICT sector as the participation of girls in the ICT sector was relatively low. To enhance the interest and engagement of girls in programming in the modern technological world, the "Luna Shamsuddoha Girls in ICT Day -

All Girls Programming Contest" was held on **May 5, 2023.** It started at 3pm, the participants had 3 hours to complete.

Rank	Toph.co Handle	Name	Institute Name
1	Tanjum	Tanjum Motin Mitul	Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology
2	Sumaya_1703110	Sumaya Jahan	Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology
3	BushraIT10	Bushra Akter	Jahangirnagar university
4	Raisa_Rahman777	Syeda Raisa Rahman	Military Institute of Science and Technology
5	Mahiyat	Mahiyat Tanzim	Jahangirnagar University
6	Mansura_170300	Mansura Naznine	Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology
7	Maria_Sultana	Maria Sultana	Military Institute of Science and Technology
8	Musarrat_18	Mayeesha Musarrat	Military Institute of Science and Technology
9	u1804034	Sayeda Tahmina	Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology
10	ttt333ttt	Tasfia Anwar	Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology

Figure 1: Winner of the all-girls programming contest 2023

The All Girls Programming Contest is an exclusive programming competition designed for female students in the field of computer science. It provides a platform for individual participants to showcase their programming skills, problem-solving abilities, and computational thinking. The contest was conducted entirely online, with full support provided by Toph.co, a leading online programming platform.

Objective:

The primary objective of the All Girls Programming Contest is to promote gender diversity and empower female students in the field of computer science. The contest aims to:

1. Encourage Participation in contest: The contest encourages female students to actively participate in programming competitions, fostering their interest and passion for computer science.
2. Enhance Programming Skills: By participating in the All Girls Programming Contest, girls have the opportunity to enhance their programming skills through solving challenging problems within a competitive environment.

3.   Foster Problem-solving Aptitude: The contest promotes the development of problem-solving aptitude among participants, enabling them to apply algorithmic thinking and logical reasoning to real-world scenarios.

4.   Boost Confidence: Through the All Girls Programming Contest, participants gain confidence in their programming abilities as they tackle complex coding challenges and present their solutions.

The event was organized by BdOSN, supported by Dohatec and with the judging platform Toph, this contest provided an inclusive and empowering platform for **287 girls** to showcase their coding skills and creativity. The competition promoted diversity while also empowering young women to follow their dreams in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

Let us celebrate the achievements of the top 10 contestants, with special recognition for the top 3: Tanjum Motin Mitul from CUET, Sumaya Jahan from RUET and Bushra Akter from JU.

The success of the remaining seven contestants should not go unnoticed. Syeda Raisa Rahman (MIST), Mahiyat Tanzim (JU), Mansura Naznine (RUET), Maria Sultana (MIST), Mayeesha Musarrat (MIST), Sayeda Tahmina (CUET), and Tasfia Anwar (CUET) all demonstrated exceptional skills and innovation throughout the contest.

By celebrating the achievements of these talented girls, we take a step closer to building a world where gender does not limit one's opportunities. It is crucial that we continue to support and nurture the talents of young women in ICT, creating an environment where they can thrive and contribute their unique perspectives and abilities.

Output/Result:

All Girls Programming Contest brought about several positive outcomes for participants. By participating, female students enhanced their programming skills, developed analytical thinking abilities, and gained confidence in their capabilities. The contest provided networking opportunities and exposure to industry standards, opening doors to internships, job opportunities, scholarships, and further educational pursuits. Engaging in the contest fostered personal growth, nurturing qualities such as perseverance and problem-solving mindset. Overall, the contest empowered participants to excel in the field of computer science, positioning them for career advancements in renowned software companies, tech giants, and academic institutions.

Dev Mania Project Competition

Dev Mania is a highly anticipated event within the Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration. It is a programming competition designed specifically for female students, showcasing their coding

skills and problem-solving abilities. Dev Mania provides a platform for participants to engage in challenging coding tasks and demonstrate their expertise in the field of computer science.

Figure 2: Contestant of the Dev Mania Project Competition

Contest Phase:

Dev Mania consists of multiple phases that test participants' programming abilities and teamwork. The contest unfolds in the following phases:

1. Registration: Participants register for Dev Mania, forming teams and providing their necessary details to compete in the contest.
2. Problem-Solving Rounds: The contest includes several rounds of problem-solving tasks. Participants are presented with coding challenges that they must solve within a specified time limit. These rounds assess their algorithmic thinking, coding efficiency, and ability to produce correct and optimized solutions.
3. Evaluation and Advancement: Each round's solutions are evaluated by a panel of judges who assess the correctness, efficiency, and elegance of the participants' code. Based on their performance, teams advance to subsequent rounds until the final phase.
4. Grand Finale: The top-performing teams from the previous rounds compete in the grand finale of Dev Mania. This phase presents them with more complex and challenging problems, pushing their coding skills to the limit and requires them to present thuruly . The teams showcase their ability to solve intricate coding tasks and presentation skills under pressure.

Outcome:

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration was a resounding success, offering numerous opportunities and rewards to the participants. The All Girls Programming Contest proved to be highly competitive and engaging, with a grand prize of 12,000 BDT awarded to the winning team. Additionally, the second and third-place teams received 10,000 BDT and 8,000 BDT, respectively,

recognizing their outstanding performances. These prizes served as a testament to the talent and dedication of the participants.

Furthermore, the event showcased a remarkable turnout, with 20 out of the 24 selected teams presenting their pitches during the pitching session. The excitement and enthusiasm were palpable as the finalists for the final round were announced. A total of 7 teams secured their spots for the eagerly anticipated final round, scheduled to take place on 26th May at the BdOSN Office. Among these teams, 3 emerged as the top winners, receiving well-deserved recognition for their exceptional ideas and presentations.

In line with our commitment to fostering talent and supporting participants, internship opportunities were offered to all contestants. This valuable prospect allowed them to gain practical industry experience, expand their professional network, and further develop their skills in the field of ICT. The internship program aimed to provide participants with real-world exposure and enhance their career prospects.

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration not only celebrated the accomplishments of the winning teams but also served as a platform for empowerment and growth for all participants. The event showcased the remarkable talent and potential of girls in the ICT field, encouraging their continued success and advancement.

Industrial Visit

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Exposure Visit provided an opportunity for female students in the field of ICT to gain practical exposure and insights into prominent IT companies. The visits aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world experiences, empowering young women to pursue successful careers in the IT industry.

Objective:

The objective of the exposure visits was to provide participants with a firsthand understanding of the IT industry, its work environment, recruitment processes, required skills, and internship opportunities. The visits aimed to inspire and motivate young women by showcasing successful IT companies that prioritize diversity and inclusion. Through these visits, the objective was to empower participants and dispel any misconceptions or fears associated with pursuing careers in ICT. The visits are briefly summarized below.

Ollyo:

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Exposure Visit took place at Ollyo on May 19th. It was an honor for us to have the opportunity to visit Ollyo, a renowned IT company. During the visit,

participants were able to gain valuable insights into Ollyo's office environment, recruitment process, required skills, and internship opportunities.

Ollyo warmly welcomed the participants and showcased their commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the IT industry. The visit provided a comprehensive understanding of Ollyo's work culture, highlighting their innovative projects and collaborative approach.

Participants had the privilege of interacting with professionals at Ollyo, learning from their experiences, and understanding the skills sought in potential candidates. The visit aimed to inspire and empower young women by exposing them to real-world IT scenarios and demonstrating the possibilities for growth and success in the industry.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Ollyo for graciously hosting this exposure visit and for their dedication to fostering a supportive environment for women in the ICT field. The visit to Ollyo was a remarkable experience that left a lasting impact on the participants, further fueling their aspirations in the IT industry.

Figure 3: Participants at the office of Ollyo

Synesis IT:

As part of the Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Exposure Visit, participants had the privilege of visiting Synesis IT on May 22nd. Synesis IT, a leading IT company, graciously opened its doors to provide participants with a firsthand experience of their work environment, recruitment process, and internship opportunities.

During the visit, participants were able to explore Synesis IT's office and gain insights into the company's operations. The visit aimed to inspire and empower young women by showcasing the possibilities and career prospects in the IT industry.

Synesis IT demonstrated their commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity, emphasizing the importance of providing equal opportunities for women in the ICT sector. Participants had the opportunity to interact with professionals at Synesis IT, learn from their experiences, and understand the skills and qualities valued in the industry.

The visit to Synesis IT left a lasting impression on the participants, inspiring them to pursue their ambitions in the ever-evolving world of technology.
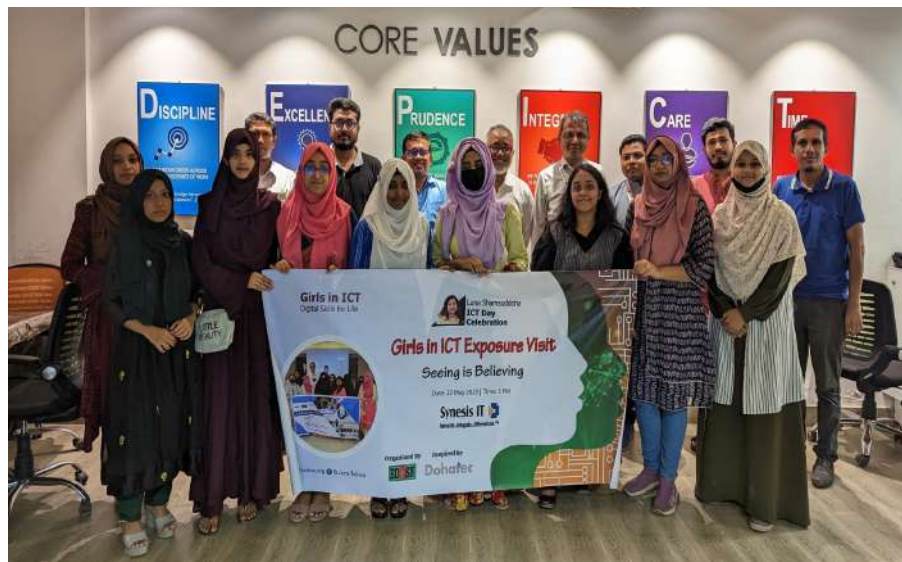

Figure 4: Exposure Visit at Synesis IT

Brainstation23:

Another remarkable visit as part of the Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Exposure Visit was organized at Brainstation23 on May 23rd. Brainstation23, a prominent IT company, graciously hosted the participants and provided them with an immersive experience into their work environment and opportunities.

During the visit, the participants had the privilege to explore Brainstation23's collaborative work culture and gain valuable insights into the company's recruitment process, required skills, and internship opportunities. The visit aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical exposure, empowering the participants to pursue careers in the IT industry with confidence.

Brainstation23 demonstrated their commitment to empowering young women in the field of IT, fostering an environment of learning and growth. The participants had the opportunity to interact with professionals at Brainstation23, learn from their expertise, and gain a deeper understanding of the industry.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Brainstation23 for their warm hospitality and dedication to empowering women in the IT field. The visit to Brainstation23 was an enlightening experience for the participants, inspiring them to pursue their passion for technology and embark on successful careers in the ICT industry.

Figure 5: Participants at Brainstation 23

Dohatec:

Lastly, Dohatec, a leading IT company, graciously hosted the Luna Shamsuddoha Girls in ICT Day Exposure Visit on May 28th. This visit marked another significant milestone in our month-long celebration. Participants had the privilege of visiting Dohatec's office and gaining first hand experience of their work environment, projects, and innovative solutions.

During the visit, participants had the opportunity to interact with professionals at Dohatec and learn about their recruitment process, required skills, and internship opportunities. The visit aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of Dohatec's operations and their commitment to excellence in the IT sector.

The exposure visit to Dohatec was a valuable opportunity for participants to witness the company's work culture, collaborative approach, and the cutting-edge technologies they employ. It served as an inspiration for young women aspiring to pursue careers in the IT field, showcasing the potential for growth and success in the industry.

The visit was a testament to Dohatec's dedication to empowering and encouraging young women to thrive in the ICT sector.

Figure 6: Visit at the office of Dohatech

DigiGirls Contest with bdapps

DigiGirls Contest with bdapps is an intensive training for female students on app development on bdapps portal. Bdapps, the national appstore of Bangladesh, presented by Robi Aziata Limited, is where app creation ideas can be monetized. The platform currently has 50,000+ developers and 63,000+ apps. Also, developing apps on bdapps requires no coding.

It provides a portal for individual participants to participate in account creation, service app creation and app promotion workshops and submissions from participants and finally after two weeks of continuous work and improvement.

100+ IT Enthusiast girls have registered in this competition who have undergone rigorous training on app development on BDAPPS portal. 99 apps were submitted from the participants and finally the winners were selected after two weeks of continuous work and development.

Figure 7: Winners of the DIgiGirls Programming Contest

A 2-day workshop was held on Bangladesh Open Source Network Office before this final competition. Where introduce bdapps introduction, account creation, service app creation, how to promote your app and discuss Q&A session. After the workshop participants create an app and it summarizes the progress of the app for a month. After a month, the best performing app developers in this competition are announced as winners.

Career Session at Central Women's University

A career session on "The future of Artificial Intelligence" was organized by BdOSN as part of the Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration. The objective of the event was to provide female students with valuable insights into the field of Artificial Intelligence and its potential for future careers. The session took place at Central Women's University on 15th May, 2023, and was attended by around 50 talented and ambitious female students.

Figure 8: Tasfia Tasbenn is talking about the future of AI in Job Market

The highlight of the session was the presence of Tasfia Tasbin, the CEO of Markopolo.ai, as the esteemed resource person. Tasfia's expertise and insights in the field of Artificial Intelligence were truly enlightening, leaving a lasting impact on the participants. It is worth noting that Tasfia was recently recognized for her accomplishments and selected for Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2023, further highlighting her exceptional achievements in the industry.

During the career session, Tasfia delved into the fundamental concepts of AI, providing real-life examples of its applications and sharing her own experiences, challenges, and triumphs in the industry. Her dynamic presentation style and in-depth knowledge captivated the audience from start to finish, encouraging active participation and fostering an environment where questions and discussions flourished.

The participants had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the future of Artificial Intelligence and the career opportunities it offers. Tasfia's inspiring journey and achievements served as a powerful motivation for the aspiring female students, igniting their passion for pursuing a career in this cutting-edge field.

We extend our special thanks to Central Women's University for providing the platform to host this empowering career session. Their support and collaboration played a crucial role in making the event a success, enabling the participants to receive guidance and inspiration from a distinguished industry expert like Tasfia Tasbin, who has been recognized as one of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2023.

Session on mental health and cyber safety awareness at Jagannath University

Negative use of technology is a major detrimental effect on our mental health. Cyber bullying, cybercrime or cyber abuse are now widely known in the technology world. As the use of technology increases, so do the cyber risks that threaten our mental health.

On 15th June 2023 Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN) organized a three-hour long session of Take Back the Tech Bangladesh Chapter in collaboration with Jagannath University and to create awareness among students about mental health care and cyber hygiene. About 60 students of the CSE department of the university were present on the occasion.

Figure 9: Session on Cyber Safety and Mental Health

Assistant Police Commissioner of Intelligence and Analysis Department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Md. Salahuddin, Psychosocial Counselor of Moner Bandhu, Md. Bariul Islam and Sonia Akhter Pushp, Chairman of CSE Department of Jagannath University were present as the main speakers of the event. Ujjal K. charge the event was conducted by Jagannath University's CSE department associate professor Dr. Selina Sharman.

Conclusion:

The Luna Shamshuddoha Girls in ICT Day Celebration successfully achieved its objective of empowering and inspiring young girls in the field of ICT. Through activities such as the All Girls Programming Contest, Dev Mania, Exposure Visits, and the DigiGirls mobile app development contest, Career session, participants had the opportunity to showcase their skills, engage with industry professionals, and develop their digital proficiency. The event not only encouraged girls to pursue careers in ICT but also fostered a sense of community and support among participants. Overall, the celebration was a resounding success in promoting gender inclusivity and diversity in the ICT sector.