

Under the Same Stars: Bringing Nobel Signed Science to the Classrooms of Rural Bangladesh

By Team Jagrata 24

In the quiet, sun-baked schoolyards of Kendua, Netrokona, science has long lived as a ghost inside textbook pages. For decades, primary classrooms in these remote villages have taught optics, light refraction, and astronomy through fading black-and-white diagrams drawn with chalk on blackboards. Practical scientific instruments simply do not exist in these rooms. For young girls growing up in these communities, academic ambition often vanishes early under socioeconomic pressures, leading to early school dropouts and migration to industrial garment factories in Gazipur and Chittagong.

For our team at Jagrata '24, this mission was deeply personal. Netrokona is the ancestral home of our field lead. Returning to this soil was



Englert, Michel Mayor, and Didier Queloz -alongside CERN Director-General Fabiola Gianotti.

Unsurprisingly, neither the primary school children nor their teachers in Kendua had ever heard of the Nobel Prize, CERN, or high-energy physics. To the children, the signatures etched on metal were merely ink. But abstract science melted into a human story when our team explained it simply: the greatest stargazers on Earth had signed this very tube specifically for students like them.



Members of Team Jagrata 24 (From left to right): Redwanul Islam, Ibrahim Islam Fahim, Md Twashin Ilahi, Tasfiya Zaman Totiny, Nirban Bin Shahjahan, Shaira Anjuman, Waseka Mehrin, Ajmain Hussain Adiyen, Mashfiya

more than hosting an educational campaign; it was a homecoming dedicated to bringing world-class opportunities directly back to the roots where our team's shared history began.

The centerpiece of this movement is an extraordinary scientific relic. Through an international physics competition outreach program, Jagrata '24 acquired an optical refractor telescope carrying the original signatures of five Nobel Laureates in Physics - Samuel C. C. Ting, Gerard 't Hooft, François

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The real breakthrough moment of the campaign belonged to the local educators. As teachers gathered around the instrument, our team shared a fact that took them completely by surprise: the World Wide Web (www) - the foundational technology powering the internet on their phones - was invented by researchers at CERN. Watching the teachers' eyes widen in genuine shock transformed their perspective in an instant. CERN was no longer a distant European laboratory; it was the birthplace of modern global connection, and its physical legacy was standing in their schoolyard.



Executing this operation on the ground required immense resolve. While our field lead managed the heavy physical logistics solo across rural roads, the broader Jagrata '24 team coordinated strategy, backing, and documentation. The telescope was integrated directly into community life at the annual Prize Distribution Ceremonies at Dulain Abdur Rahman Government Primary School and Saima Shahjahan Academy.



During every demonstration, Jagrata '24 enforced a strict operational choice: young female students were brought to the very front of the line. Before anyone else, young girls were guided to level the tripod, align the finder scope, and take the first look through the eyepiece. Watching a young girl take control of a precision instrument - seeing her initial hesitation dissolve into an astonished smile

- shattered years of subtle gender barriers in a single afternoon.

Over a hundred primary school children in Kendua experienced their first hands-on encounter with observational astronomy that day, proving that talent and curiosity are evenly distributed, even when access to tools is not. Launching this national movement in Netrokona fulfilled a deep promise: ensuring that world-class scientific heritage serves the youth who need inspiration the most.



While ground execution was led on-site in Netrokona, the entire Jagrata '24 core team provided essential strategic and organizational backing behind the scenes. This homecoming in Netrokona marks the catalyst for a sustained nationwide initiative. Moving forward, Jagrata '24 will bring this historic telescope to remote schools across Bangladesh,

pairing hands-on observation with teacher workshops to ensure that the spark lit in Netrokona expands into long-term academic opportunities.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This initiative contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by expanding access to hands-on STEM learning, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by encouraging girls to actively participate in science, and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by bringing scientific resources to underserved rural communities. It also supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by connecting international scientific achievements with local schools and communities.

"We made a firm promise: the moment this historic telescope arrived in Bangladesh; we would dedicate it entirely to STEM education in the most remote classrooms. Bringing it home to Netrokona is only the beginning." - Jagrata '24



Jagrata 24 Team & Campaign Credits

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- **For more pictures click [here](#)**