# Meet Shirsendu Mondal: Bangladesh's Youngest Ethical Hacker and a Rising Star in Cybersecurity



#### Lumberton, North Carolina Nov 6, 2024 (<u>Issuewire.com</u>) - Introduction:

Shirsendu Mondal, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP), is making waves in the cybersecurity world as Bangladesh's youngest ethical hacker. At just 21 years old, Shirsendu has already achieved a series of notable milestones that underscore his expertise and ambition in this rapidly evolving field. Driven by a fascination with hacking scenes in movies and a natural talent for computers, Shirsendu's journey from a young enthusiast to a certified ethical hacker (CEH) is an inspiring story of passion, determination, and resilience.

### **Inspired by Movies, Driven by Curiosity**

Shirsendu's journey began with an unusual spark: Hollywood movies. "I was always fascinated by those scenes where someone hacks into something," he recalls. "I was good with computers from the very beginning, so I thought, why not?" What started as a childhood curiosity quickly grew into a career ambition as he found himself drawn to the world of cybersecurity and ethical hacking.

#### **Milestones and Achievements**

One of Shirsendu's proudest achievements was his ability to identify and report a vulnerability in a government web portal, highlighting his commitment to ethical hacking and responsible disclosure. Although he can't reveal specific details for privacy reasons, this experience underscored the impact of cybersecurity in real-world applications. Shirsendu has also worked with a government agency on a secure project, further establishing his credibility in the field.

## Overcoming Challenges in an Under-Developed Setting

Growing up in Bangladesh, Shirsendu faced significant obstacles in his pursuit of a cybersecurity career. Limited access to high-quality computers and reliable internet made it difficult for him to practice and develop his skills. "It wasn't until I was 19 that I finally got a decent computer to work on," he explains. "And at that age, I didn't fully understand what was ethical or legal in hacking. It was a learning curve." Yet, he persisted, learning from industry mentors and seniors who supported his journey along the way.

### **Changing Perceptions and Family Support**

At first, Shirsendu's family had concerns about his chosen path, hoping he would pursue a career in medicine. However, he introduced them to the concept of cybersecurity, explaining the demand for ethical hackers and the positive impact of protecting digital systems. "Hacking has a negative image to many, but I showed them how cybersecurity is a good field with significant scope," he says. His persistence eventually earned their support, allowing him to focus fully on his studies and career goals.

#### **Global Need for Cybersecurity**

With certifications from EC-Council (CEH), ISC2, IBM, and even the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Shirsendu believes that skills matter most in this field. "We're living in a digital age where almost every device we use is computerized. Cybersecurity is essential to protect these devices and, by extension, our lives," he explains. Shirsendu hopes to inspire others to consider ethical hacking as a vital profession that serves society.

## **Advice to Aspiring Hackers and Long-Term Vision**

For those interested in a cybersecurity career, Shirsendu emphasizes focus and consistency. "I'm

interested in many things like music and photography, which sometimes distract me," he admits. "But in this field, you need consistency and dedication." Looking ahead, he envisions establishing his own cybersecurity firm, offering top-notch protection for private and government sectors alike.

#### Conclusion

Shirsendu Mondal's journey from a young movie-inspired enthusiast to one of Bangladesh's most promising ethical hackers serves as a beacon of possibility for young minds worldwide. His story is a testament to how curiosity, resilience, and mentorship can overcome adversity and shape a successful future.

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