

BRACU EXPRESS

an independent monthly publication by BRAC University students

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November 29 | 2016

An act of sharing happiness

RAISA R TABASSUM

It is said that happiness increases when it is shared with others. Seems like BRAC University students strongly believe in this, which is why every Friday a group of BRACU students from the Residential Campus run off to these unfortunate little souls to spread happiness. This activity, under the name of 'Sharing Happiness', started this semester for the students of the Residential Campus of BRAC University, where a selected group of students visit the Anjuman Mufidul Islam orphanage in Savar that houses twelve little girls who were orphaned in the horrific incident of Rana Plaza.

These girls, of different ages between three and twelve, usually



BRAC University students spending quality time with children at the orphanage

become ecstatic to have our students among them every week. They welcome them with brightened faces and warm hugs. During their once a week visits, these students alternately help the girls with their studies and school

work, teach them music, painting, play different games exerting a loving and playful environment. In the last visit, the girls displayed their previous week's homework of pottery painting, caught up with some studies, played

a game of charades, and afterwards were surprised by snacks and gifts brought for them by the students. Miss Nipa Nasreen, Lecturer, BIL and Mr. Jubaer Saeed, Dorm Supervisor of Savar campus are executing and monitoring this activity. "This is a great way to extend our hand to humanity. And our students are very much inspired. Not to mention very attached to these kids. They have been collecting donations and old toys and storybooks all by themselves," Mr. Jubaer mentioned.

When the time for goodbyes arrived, the little souls did not get sad, rather they asked with hopeful spirit if they would be back next week. And their desired response from our students did not fail to bring a toothy grin to their faces.

Innovation for the city

SAYEMA SYEDA HOSSAIN

On the 28th of October 2016, the Urban Innovation Challenge was launched with the aim of finding ways to improve life in Bangladeshi cities. Their intent is to find people to step up and come up with ideas to bring about these improvements in the departments of health, transport and employment with a concentration in making them affordable, accessible and safe.

Their talk at BRAC University was the first of the kind. They intend to visit about 25 universities. The deadline for ideas is November 30th, 2016 and a shortlist of the 30 best ideas will be announced on December 22nd. And the winning 4-5 teams will be announced on March 16th, 2017. Each idea will then be tested in the field with up to BDT 500,000 in seed money.

The ideas will be evaluated on 5 main criteria: Innovation, Impact, Sustainability, Scalability and Entrepreneurial. And the winning teams will be given the opportunity to work with BRAC.

For more information visit uic.brac.net

The starter pack to know thy country

ANIKA SABABA

How many of us know our country inside out? Many will claim that they know about the liberation war and how Bangladesh has emerged. But to go beyond this evident landmark, Finding Bangladesh, with a team of 14 members took the initiative to discover the enigmatic areas of Bangladesh and divulge the knowledge to the mass public.

“KOTHOPOKOTHON” arranged by BRAC University Film Club brought the Finding Bangladesh team in the house on 21st November, 2016. Adnan M.S. Fakir, one of the members of the team and a faculty member of the Department of Economics & Social Sciences, talked about its origin. Back in 2008, the documentary film 'Finding Bangladesh 1' was released and it swept people off their feet. Adnan Fakir stated "A film is never the visuals. It's all about the way of story-telling".



Bon Bibi: Guardian spirit of the Sundarbans

Thus, they continued their search for the rich heritage that entails details of waged wars, majestic monuments and alluring myths passed on, aiming to fit 17 locations into 11 documentary films. Their target is to hit the local people first and then go beyond. 'Finding Bangladesh 2' will be released January 2017, covering two places – Khulna and Barisal.

Finally, he has mentioned that there is more to this country than traffic conditions, poverty or weak governance. It is us who should promote the natural beauty along with the accomplishments which bring us out as an ancient civilization. After all, it is a never ending process to find Bangladesh.

Link to trailer: <http://bit.ly/2fapOc1>

BRIEFS

Seminar on Cancer Awareness

BRACU Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) hosted a Seminar on Cancer Awareness on November 2nd. Three speakers educated the crowd on some causes and common risk factors of cancer. The most common cancer in the world is lung cancer. The same is true for males, while for females it is cervical cancer. There was a quiz competition at the end of the seminar and crests were given to the winners. The takeaway for those studying the field was to “Think diversely. It is not one disease and so there is no one cure.”

Embedded Systems

An embedded system is a combination of hardware and software which is designed for a particular function. Almost every machine we see around like automobiles, medical equipment, camera, airplanes, toys and industrial machines do have an embedded system. On 10th November, 2016 a seminar on embedded system was organized by Robotics club of BRAC University. The seminar was conducted by Mr. Ejaz Jamil, who talked about the various implementations of embedded systems in our daily activities like Ultrasonic Cleaner, Oven Dryer and many more and how it is actually manufactured. Mr. Ejaz Jamil was given a crest from the Robotics club of BRAC University for his outstanding contribution to the field.

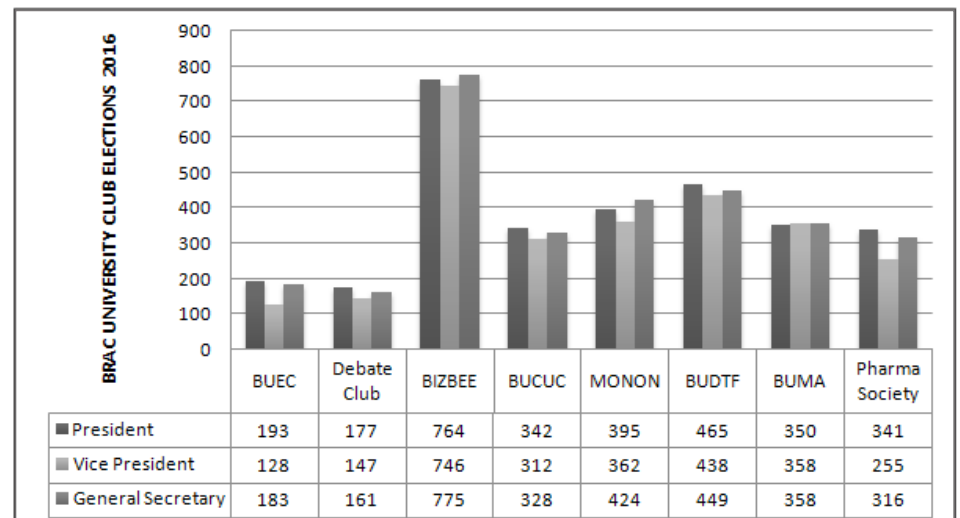
MONON presents I.C.U.

Semester ending event by BRACU MONON was held on this 9th November at UB1 auditorium, known as I.C.U. (Intensive Comedy Unit). It's a standup comedy show which started off with the very first standup comedy by Max Mystel. Following him, Sean Sizzy took the floor with his amazing beat boxing skills and some others with humor blended into their performances. Lastly, it ended with a standup comedy of the duo of Ishmam and Ashik. It truly was an amazing event before the finals and people enjoyed it a lot.

Election season by the numbers

MD AHNAF RAHMAN

For many days to come, Fall 2016 will surely be remembered as the “trimester of elections”. In the past month alone we've seen plenty of elections take place, sometimes even two at the same time. The general population and the extra-curricular clubs of the university, initially unwilling to accept the concept of elected governing bodies, are now wholly involved in this democratic process. The elections usually take place at the UB3 auditorium. This big room with separate entrances is ideal for smooth operation of the voting booths manned by the volunteers of clubs elected representatives who operates the election from a neutral point which is overseen by the Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA).



Diagrammatic representation of BRAC University Club Elections

“We've tried experimenting with the venue and hosted elections at the UB2 auditorium but the Indoor Games Room (UB3) is by far the best. This room allows us to navigate the students to the voting booths and then smoothly out of the hall with a seal on their hands so they can't vote twice”, says

Ipshitt Tarafdar –Officer, OCA. Eleven clubs have already got on board with the election process. The remaining clubs will complete their election in the spring' 17 semester. The election is surely bringing positive changes in the club/forum arena of BRAC University.

Safeguarding our pride

NUSRAT NAUSHIN

As we are all aware of the popularity of Residential Semester, both inside and outside the BRACU world, many of the people, especially parents dread this phase, being ignorant of the predominant objective it tries to endorse. With courses such as ethics and Bangladesh development, Residential Semester strives to instill patriotism and sense of social responsibility among students. To tread on this motive, our honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D came up with the noble idea and introduced ‘the clean-up work’ for students at the National Memorial of Bangladesh.

We often notice that people visit the historical places like National Memorial, Shahid Minar, Lalbagh Fort for entertainment purpose only. However, they forget that millions of people sacrificed their lives for the country during different phases of the historical timeline. When they visit these places, they litter everywhere, not knowing how this disrespectful attitude influences their posterity.

Therefore, Mr. Rehan Ahmed together with Mr. Ivan Shafaat Bari introduced the clean-up work among students. They plan to organize the event every semester to bring more students into the loop of patriotism and social responsibilities and create an impact among those watching. A lottery was done where 3 people were selected from each floor, and altogether a team of 66 students were formed who were led by Mr. Rehan, himself. These 66 students were divided into 4 groups who were briefed at the residential campus. They were also given training as they cleaned different areas of the campus beforehand. They had to sweep the floors and mop it too as an attempt to raise public awareness regarding littering. By taking part in this noble work, students will be able to realise



A crowd looks on as students from RS43 clean a portion of the National Memorial grounds

the glorious past and the sacrifices of the people during liberation war, they will be motivated to do something worthwhile to bring positive changes and pay back to the society. They will also be able to make the general masses aware of the need to show respect to the historical places.

“We felt really proud to be representing BRACU. A lot of people asked which institution we were from. They also realized the importance and did not litter afterwards. I believe we could truly inspire them to be better citizens.” - Farisha Hossain Prithu

OPINION & ACADEMICS

Of un-opinionation

LUBA L KHALILI



Truthfully speaking, working at newspapers -- whether it is a national daily or a campus monthly -- can leave one jaded. More often than not, one would find themselves at a perplexed space created by the published knowledge, or rather, news.

If newspapers, and indeed, other outlets of news are what propagate particular truths in its locus, and

thus, form certain narratives, counter-narratives, events etc, then the process of the creation and proliferation of such news must be given some sort of importance.

At least, one would go into such work with that assumption. What one may end up learning is that in some cases, the truth that we put forward is not even one of shared concurrence. Sometimes, the material that gets printed on the paper might not be the opinion of the editor, or the board members, or anyone else even involved in the process.

But they still get printed, the message still gets out onto the public. The message that essentially does not belong to anyone at all. And while that does sound like it is something leading up to a collective

catastrophe, it actually might not be so. The thing is, survival is essential to produce and proliferate anything, and that survival would not be possible if all opinions, grand or otherwise, become news.

So sometimes, as the public, we will read stories that glorify, or that gloss over some of the dingy parts. And it might be frustrating, and we may wonder if freedom of expression truly has been quashed, but it is also good to remind ourselves that in order to have a platform for expression to survive, once in a while, some glossing over becomes necessary.

So, when the time comes for the necessary truths to propel forward, these platforms exist to deliver. In those cases, if we celebrate that which is glorified, so be it.

Science of the future

MD AHNAF RAHMAN

Course sequence at our university is pretty straightforward. Most students choose from a few common tracks laid down by our seniors. However, this fall gave the students of EEE department a shot at something unique. EEE490: Special Topics.

The course is being taken by Mr Anamul Haque, a lecturer at the department. Titled "Science & Technology of 2D Materials," a total of 22 eager students joined and are now preparing for the final exam. I sat down with Mr Anamul, who recently completed his MSc in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology from Europe, for a little Q&A.

Q: As a former student at BRAC University, what was your overall experience like?

A: My journey at BRACU was and is going great! I am honoured to be technically considered a colleague of those who I idolised when I was a student here, for example Prof Ziauddin Ahmad.

Q: What are the key differences that caught your eye between BRACU and the universities you visited in Europe?

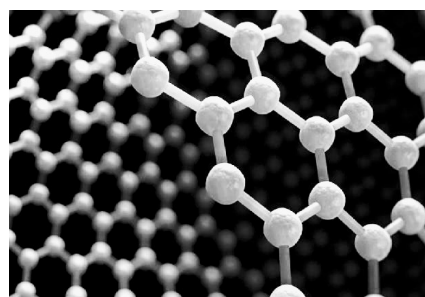
A: Universities there are strongly linked with the industry. Companies fund research initiatives and the universities in return give them new and innovative ways of doing things. Professors take fewer classes per semester and are more research-oriented. Final exams too, are very different. Written exams were only 30 minutes but we would have to sit for a viva with only 15 minutes worth of preparation time. Stressful but interesting.

Q: What is nano-science?

A: The cross-section of a strand of our hair is about 50µm. Nano-science is the physics of the elements a thousand times smaller than this. At this scale, Newtonian physics doesn't really work and we turn to quantum physics to explain what happens.

Q: Why did you offer EEE490?

A: This course is about the fundamentals of 2-dimensional materials and their potential



applications. The future of electronics will probably be shaped by materials such as graphene and MoS₂ (Molybdenum Disulphide). I wanted to introduce these topics to our students. What we learn in class is directly related to the ongoing revolution in the semi-conductor industry.

Q: What is graphene?

A: It's very simple. Graphene is a single sheet of carbon atoms. Kind of like a sheet of paper, and just like paper, graphene is flexible. However, unlike paper, graphene is very good at conducting electricity. This is what makes it so special.

Q: Are the students enjoying the class?

A: The response is promising. I was unsure at the beginning but very pleased to see the number of students. Their curiosity and enthusiasm motivate me to prepare for the next class.

Does CGPA matter?

STAWB PETER HALDER



I get this question every time I meet a fresh graduate or a student in their final year: "Does CGPA matter? Will I fail to get called in for an interview if my CGPA is

poor?" It is a fact that students who do not have sound CGPAs by their last semester are usually the ones who ask this question the most and that is not a coincidence. The answer to this question is that it depends. Do not worry, I will tell you why. It depends on a number of things. Starting from the company you are applying to, the nature of the job you are applying to, to the kind of skills required for the job, and many other reasons.

Some organisations take pride in hiring students with sound CGPAs, perhaps above 3.5. In many cases, it is because they are hiring for positions such as Management Trainee (MT) or Management Trainee Officers (MTO). These positions are strategic hiring initiatives, where employers look to hire students who are academically sound (as certified by their CGPA) and test them through rigorous interviews and assessments to determine if they have what it takes to be future leaders of the organisation. The MT/MTO career is a fast-track journey and it is a rarity that a student who has not demonstrated sincerity in academics would excel.

Having said that, I do not undermine the capability of any person but the fact of the matter is there needs to be a system and indicator of a student's capability and sincerity towards education, and that is the CGPA. After all, a student enrolls in a university to gain knowledge through education and of course through co-curricular activities. So yes, CGPA is important, but it is not the only important criteria.

The second part of this piece will be published in the next issue.

Stawb Peter Halder is a multiple award winning professional in human resources with prior experience in marketing. He is an elected Executive Member of Alumni Association of BRAC University and Founder of the BRAC Business School Alumni network through which he initiated on campus events like "Marvels" to strengthen alumni-student networking. For any questions to the author, email to peter@aabracu.net

SPECIAL

Muchas Gracias



Looking back, I discover that I have learnt to never let a stumble in the road be the end of a journey and the experience with BRACU Express is my mentor here.

Though I teach writing, I feel that writing is a daunting task and I get intimidated when I am asked to write anything. This is exactly how I started to feel when I was asked to write something about the history of BRACU Express. Very ironical. However, this 'fear factor' can be justified because the editor-in-chief of BRACU Express has ensured me that my writing will be rigorously dissected. I can see a tiny touch of vengeance there, but then again, it is a learning experience.

For me, the story of BRACU started with Nusrat's phone call, a request to share something 'very important' and I was introduced with the idea of The BRACU Press. I was convinced, but there were pros and cons to consider and in this way it took two years to be successful in this endeavor. I am inclined to call this 'an epic journey' and opt to reflect on the moments of getting 'turned down' as important life experiences for us. However, we nurture the memories of 'turning points' more. The persistent presence of Dr Seuty Sabur, Dr Riaz Khan, Mr Kumar Murshid and Dr Fuad Mallick (the then Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University) will always be remembered as sources of strength. I am totally indebted to my colleagues - Ivan, Farhaan, Shehzad, Anika - for being 'caring critics' (paradoxical but for a good cause).

I believe 'history' bestows wisdom, we apprehend the 'present' avenues to move forward. For the future of BRACU Express, Stawb Peter Halder (Alumnus) reasonably predicts 'will be there even 20 years later'.

ON THE ORIGIN OF BRACU EXPRESS

Phase I

The story of BRACU Express is anything but a linear trail. The idea was a progeny of Ahnaf's long lost desire of having a student newspaper at school. Being stagnant in terms of ECA at BRAC University, each of our TARC mates found the notion very intriguing. I still get sudden flashbacks of our very first meeting, before which Ahnaf and I went over hundreds of foreign campus newspapers for the design, sections and probable names. Starting the morning with fresh pancakes, we finalized the size and name by a well-fashioned lottery designed by Waes. With flowing exhilaration, Ahnaf made his sister make a hand-drawn design of the probable newspaper cover page. Abusing Farrah miss' inclination towards me, I took Ahnaf and Luba to meet Farrah miss and pitched the idea to her. Tactfully, a little bribery hurt no one as Luba took freshly baked brownies to tip the scales. The meeting went well and so far everyone showed extremely heartening thoughts towards this initiative, till we got our first rejection that very day.

 **Nusrat Naushin**
Managing Editor

"The real well-oiled machine presented by BE. Without her, there isn't really a BE" -Zahra



Phase II

Running. Lots of it. With countless trips to the same places for permissions, advice, meetings, and endless signatures, it felt like something was finally in the making. We thought we had a solid plan and all we needed to do was push through the doors of bureaucracy. Throughout this time, we met with some incredible minds who never failed to inspire and motivate, Riaz P Khan, Seuty Sabur, Fuad Mallick, to name a few. What felt like the start of a pursuit of significance ended unfortunately: A few angry words, and shut door in the face of our potential publication.

Luba L Khalili
Opinions Editor 

"Stays on top of our game; her magic is in details" -Zahra

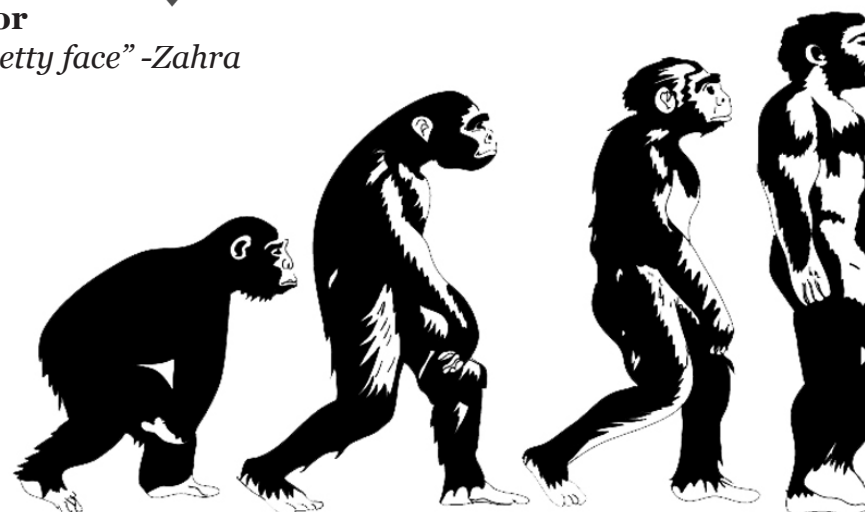


Phase III

After hitting every possible snag that could be thrown our way, a few of us began to lose faith in the idea of realising our dream. However, a random phone call from Farrah Miss changed all that. She asked us to meet with Kumar Murshid, the new director of OSA. Mr Murshid sat us down and gave us some much-needed advice. He told us to build connections with important people throughout the university and bring them all together to unveil our idea and vision to them. This was the first time in months that we had found any semblance of hope and direction. With renewed vigour, we immediately started working on the next phase.

Waes Yousuf Islam 
Sports Editor

"Not just a pretty face" -Zahra

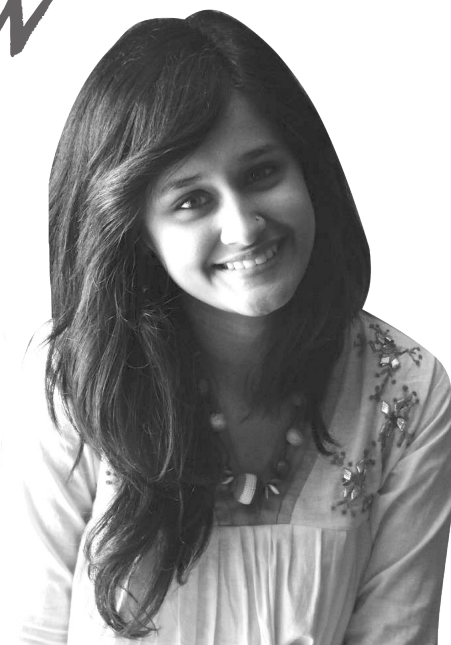


FEATURE

S BY MEANS OF NATURAL SELECTION

Phase IV

My legs were trembling and my heart felt heavy as I looked across the table, ignoring the crowd, at the familiar faces. It was more of a thesis defense than a presentation- bracuexpress needs to be born. Each of us took turns to convince and convey how essential it is for the university and its people. Finally, Mr. Ivan dramatically stood up with the paper in his hand and exclaimed 'I like the idea. This needs to happen.' In a few seconds the room filled with voices that spoke of ideas, scopes and suggestions, but most importantly verbally gave birth to bracuexpress.



Raisa Rahim

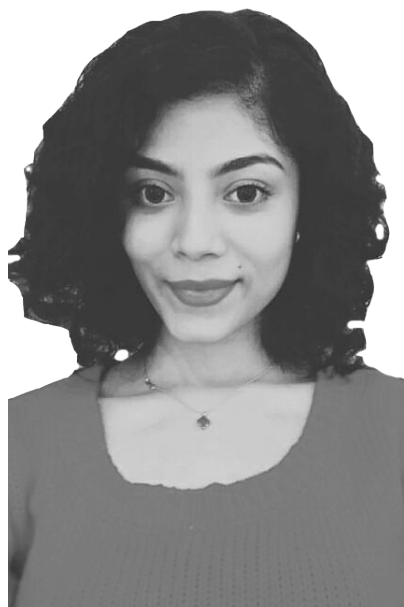


Features Editor & Graphics

"She's a punny one. Get it? Get it?" -Sayema

Phase V

August 22nd was a nervous morning for the BRACU EXPRESS team as it was the day of the first recruitment. As we prepared ourselves and approached to building six, we found ourselves in shock and excitement to find so many applicants appearing for the brief session, excited and inspired. Though the plan for the recruitment to extend our team was sudden and surprising; never have we ever conducted a session as such before that day, but with the guidance of Farrah Jabeen and Farhaan U. Ahmed, we were able to carry out efficient "one-minute" interviews and immediately started the process for short listing. Being a bunch of inexperienced recruiters, it was an exciting feeling. Moreover, the experience taught us well as the first recruits of the team were topnotch.



Meem Morshed

Head of Human Resources

"Her ideas are as interesting as her hair" -Rashmi



Nahian Zaman

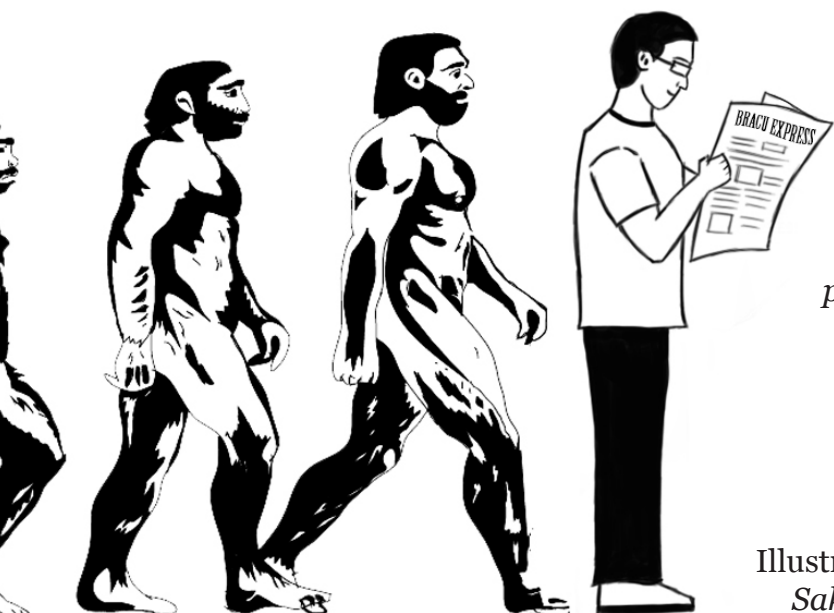
Head of Public Relations

"I met him that one time" -Sayema



Phase VI

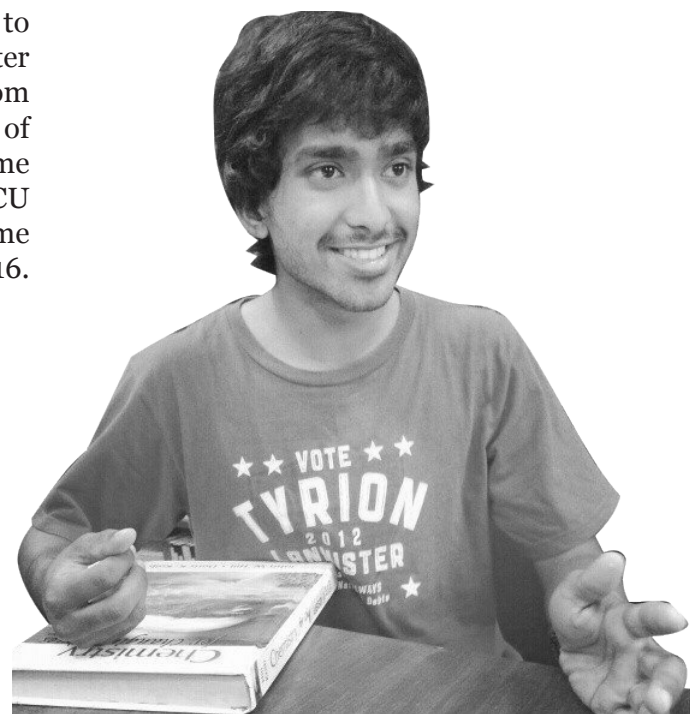
We went for a late lunch straight after and decided who to recruit over fried rice and chicken green curry. I remember sleeping over at Waes' that very night and sending out the emails to all the successful candidates. Clearly we were on a roll. We even had a meeting two days after the recruitment session with all of our new recruits, where we planned our first issue from scratch and started working on it. We were steam rolling ahead but alas, one and half years of waiting had not taught us patience. Even though we were reluctant, we still had to go for name change the week before we published our first issue. Can you believe it? The name BRACU EXPRESS is only about 3 months old. However, the idea has been with us for a very long time indeed. It felt good to have that idea become something tangible on September 27th, 2016.



Md Ahnaf Rahman

Editor-in-Chief

"Jack of all trades, some prodding required" -Sayema



Illustrated by:
Sakib Mahi

OFF CAMPUS

Scream of Buriganga

Our capital city Dhaka is blessed with two rivers, one of them is Buriganga and another one is Dhaleswari. Hundreds of years ago due to the charm of the bank of Buriganga, Dhaka was chosen as the capital by the Mughals. It was the main mode of trading, communication and drinking water supply of the capital. The entire capital was dependant on the beautiful river. Still Buriganga is one of the most important parts of Dhaka. But now it is difficult to predict the existence of its beauty for our posterity.

Few days ago, we went to see Buriganga. The picture was so different than what we had preciousely imagined. Water is no more clear, the air is no more fresh, the river is no more vast. We were dumbfounded. Investigating on the matter, we found that the river which was the lifeline of the city is being destroyed by the

city itself. The waste materials of the entire city are disposed directly into the Buriganga River, poisoning the water as well as the life associated with it.



After talking to the locals, we came to know that this grisly condition of the river is an aftermath of ill-doings of some powerful and dishonest businessman. They are running several factories and throwing all their untreated industrial waste in the river, blocking its flow by discarding plastic, rubber, wood etc. They claimed that

the rate increased after the Baribad dam was built. They also said that river used to be big but now most of the parts are covered and positioned for residence. The river Buriganga is almost dead. Water now looks like black gel. The lack of oxygen in water is creating biodiversity error. As a result, people are facing lots of health and skin problems.

The rate of damage to Buriganga is alarmingly high. If we do not take necessary measures, it will be completely destroyed very soon. The elixir of Dhaka city is turning into poison. This river can still be saved. We hear the scream of Buriganga, can you hear it too?

Course: ENG091
Section :06
Members:
Anindya Bal
Tanveer Islam Pulok
Samid
Shubhojit Das

Sentry with a smile



Mustari Begum

SAYEMA SYEDA HOSSAIN

In what is primarily a man's business, this lady makes a lasting impression on almost everyone she meets with her sweet smile.

Name: Mustari Begum

Children: Two sons aged 15 and 18.

Enjoys: Shopping for herself and her two sons.

Fears: She fears her sons will not take care of her when she is old, and she will have to live in an old home. "Children these days don't look after their parents, I've heard" she adds.

Duration at BRAC: She has worked with BRAC in various capacities since 1996 before transferring to BRACU a little over a year ago.

Favourite part of BRACU: The students. When she was transferring from BRAC Centre to the University she was afraid of going from such a limited staff, where she knew everyone, to so many students. "But now" she says "I miss the students, even on my days off."

Favourite memory: She laughs and says "Quite recently, a student approached me and asked me to pat his head. I asked him why and he told me it was his birthday and that it would make him happy. This made me feel really special."

And the most important thing: Yes, you call her mama.

In a land, far away



Brac university students offering care at Subarta Old Age Home

RAISA R. TABASSUM

In Singair, Manikganj, in the middle of nowhere, lives a number of people, awaiting a little hope, seeking some love. But there very few who hear their silent plea. In an attempt to respond to them, offer some comfort, a group of students from BRAC University Residential campus

visit these people, in the old home situated at Singair. As a part of an RS activity, the students spend some time with these lonely unfortunates. The old home is managed by a non-profit organization named Subarta Trust, where it provides the elderly people with food, other necessities, healthcare and recreation.

This RS activity, which used to take place in the earlier semesters, was stopped for a couple of years.

Now, it has been started once again and in this semester, a total of twelve students are participating in it. Two students are assigned to one of the seven senior citizens who are currently living there. Every Friday morning the students visit them, spend some quality time by talking and sharing their feelings, help them with personal care, like bathing, dressing, eating etc, and overall create a friendly environment to comfort them. Miss Mitali, Lecturer at BRACU Savar campus, is in charge of monitoring this activity. According to her, through this the students can develop a sense of empathy for the elderly people and learn to act responsibly.

So, there are these deprived people, in a land far away, from their home and own kin, asking for only a little love. We, as BRACU students, feel proud that we could render some care to them.

SPORTS & RECREATION

I am differently able



A disabled kid happy with his football skills

SAMIUL HASAN

One of the most important social duties of humans living in a society is to go above and beyond their usual duties and help the community around them. The students of BRAC University are fostered in an environment that encourages them to do more for the community from where they stand. On Thursday, 10th

November 2016, Football Club of BRAC University undertook an initiative to help spread happiness among the less privileged members of the society. Inspired by the numerous achievements of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the founding father of the institution, the plan was to visit the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (Bangladesh Disabled Foundation) and spend some time with the less fortunate children there. The Football Club of BRAC University regularly conducts events like this and it was no different in the Fall'16 semester.

A contingent of 14 members of the Football Club of BRAC University (FCBU) members started for the location in Mirpur at 10 am on the day. After reaching the foundation, the FCBU members carried the items they had brought into the building, to surprise the children. After a brief chat with one of the officials there, the FCBU members found out that he was actually an alumnus of the institution.

The children were led into the auditorium and ushered to their seats

for the day's main event, which was an art competition for the children of the foundation. Soon the room was abuzz with excitement as the children concentrated on painting beautiful pictures. Furthermore, the presence of colorful balloons all around made the atmosphere even more joyous. After a frantic drawing session, the paintings were collected and balloons were handed out to the delight of everyone involved.

Next, it was time to let up some of the pent up energy of the eager children in the room. Four teams of boys and girls were formed and they were informed that an indoor football tournament was going to be arranged. The announcement was greeted with raucous applause from the children. Soon, they were busy chasing the ball and trying their best to outscore their rivals. The day's proceedings ended after everyone had cake and lined up to leave their handprints on sheets of paper as a reminder of the goodness that comes from unity.

Into the National League



SHITAB MUSHFIQ-UL ISLAM

The Intra-University Chess tournament just ended, but the players are not done with the game. A new challenge awaits the Chessmasters of BRAC University as they participate in the National Chess League 2016. Two teams from BRAC University participated in this prestigious competition. The finest 'Brain Athletes' of BRAC University were picked for the two teams on the basis of their intra-University tournament standings and their international ratings. The Red team had the debutant undergrad students, where the Green team consisted of the internationally rated Faculty and students. The Intra-University champion Husain Ejaz (post grad student) and Faculty tournament champion Mohammad Shams Ud Duha (Lecturer, BIL) were on this team along with RS chess activity instructor Dr Almasur Rahman and Dr Sayeedur Rahman (TESOL Coordinator). As the strongest team from BRACU, the Green team managed to get a victory over the BUET Chess team and were the top University team in the tournament. On the other hand, the underdog team players managed to get a few wins and draws against some of the rated players in the tournament. The Green team was ranked 11th and the Red team was 20th. Altogether the first appearance of BRAC University in a National Chess tournament turned out to be a successful one.

7teen futsal: The third chapter

ISHRAQ BASHAR

28th October was the date all footballers looked forward to for that one big football event. This event came in the form of the third 7Teen futsal tournament. Since FCBU does not arrange many futsal events, this was definitely something the boys and girls of BRACU awaited eagerly. Three girls' teams participated – All Stars, J.A.K.A and Minions. The All Stars led by Captain Fantastic herself Saveem Shama ended up winning the coveted trophy once again with the talismanic Nusaiba on her team. On the other hand, J.A.K.A were nothing short of spectacular when Rayma and co pushed the All Stars to the very limit as the game went on to penalty shootouts where J.A.K.A lost. Things were a lot more intense on the boys' format as it had more teams and it can be safely said that most of the teams had the chance to take the cup home.



Tutto Bene's last huddle

Remian Hooligans, FC BOK, FC KOT, Alpha 9, Tutto, Bene, Soup-A-Stars all boasted terrifying squads enough to plough through teams in the earlier rounds. After a superb display of skill, finesse and camaraderie from each of the teams, Mirpur Boys and Soup-A-Stars were the ones left standing. The final was an extremely well fought game between both teams with crunching tackles and swift counters. In the end, one great delivery

from Rafi and Pantho clinched the win for the Mirpur Boys. Rabeeb Khandaker from Alpha 9 got his hands on the golden boot/top scorer award. Ishraq Bashar from Mirpur Boys managed the golden gloves/best keeper award and Shadman Hossain from Tutto ended up with the Golden Ball/best player award. With the prize giving ceremony, the curtains closed on the what ended up being a glorious tournament.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Dear Readers,

We have reached the end of 2016, with a well-received, successful campus newspaper, the first of its kind in the country. BRACU EXPRESS would like to start by thanking its readers. It has been a pleasure building this community and vision with each of you. BRACU EXPRESS would also like to extend its warm appreciation to all the incredible writers, artists, advisers, and contributors who made this newspaper its best possible self and we wish to strive and reach greater heights with your love and support. However, due to exam and semester recess, we announce a break of our monthly publication for the month of December. From January 2017, we hope to come back bigger and better. All the articles we have published can still be found in our Facebook page. Till then, take care and goodbye!

Like us at <http://www.facebook.com/bracuexpress/>

HOROSCOPE



Aries – Give yourself more time to sleep.



Taurus – Be very discreet while eating in the class.



Gemini – People might find you a bit off this week. Be sure that it's not them



Cancer – Your luck might change since Jupiter is making its move.



Leo – Who's that in front of UB03? Approach with caution.



Virgo – A red bow-tie during presentation might do wonders.



Libra – Your sudden food cravings might lead you to a very exciting foodie adventure



Scorpio – No. More. Chillox.



Sagittarius – Expect criticism from your closest friends.



Capricorn – You might be getting lucky in the romance department.



Aquarius – Welcome confusion. This is healthy time for it.



Pisces – Avoid the Mannequin Challenge.