

# BRACU EXPRESS

an independent monthly publication by BRAC University students

Spring XVII | Issue VI

March 14 | 2017

## Research unveils link between Bangladeshi and Korean women

ADIBA M PROMA

The communication gap between Korea and Bangladesh has always been quite wide due to language barriers. Both countries share more common historical traits than most of us know of. A discussion session, with Korean research professor and well-known translator of Korean literature, Seung-hee Jeon on 15th February at GDLN Centre, BRAC University, revealed just that.

Jointly organized by the Department of English and Humanities of BRACU and the Department of English and Modern Languages of Central Women's University, the event started at 3 pm with Seung-hee Jeon giving a brief outline about the history of Korea, especially focusing



Full view of the seminar at the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Centre

on the colonial period. By giving some alarming statistics of the wars, she extensively explained the role of women in Korean society. Comparing the Japanese rule in Korea to that of the Pakistani rule in Bangladesh, the professor shared horrifying stories of deprivation such as how the Koreans

were forced to adopt Japanese names during the Japanese rule.

Since the 1990s, Korea's biggest concern has been addressing the issue of "comfort women" under the Japanese rule before and during the World War II. Either kidnapped or deceived into the trade, these women

were forced into sexual slavery to provide "comfort" to the Japanese soldiers. The devastating incidents left many women traumatized and even drove them to commit suicides. However, a formal apology from the Japanese government is yet to come; and protests on every Wednesday in front of the Japanese embassy continue to this date.

The issue of "comfort women" also raised a discussion regarding birangonas and their roles in the Independence War of 1971. With three designated speakers talking about their experiences regarding women empowerment in the South Asian region, the enlightening event ended with promises of more research in this subject in order to shed light on the torment of women during wartime regardless of country.

## Renovation for play centres

SHITAB M ISLAM

The BRAC Play Lab Project is a partnership of LEGO Foundation with BRAC International and BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED), predominantly for the vulnerable children of Bangladesh.

The Design Cell of the architecture department, along with GHORAMI.Jon, have worked on the basic layouts and structure and participated in the field work in two of the play centers in Savar. 65 of the play centers in rural areas were visited and surveyed prior to the modifications done to both the interiors and exteriors. The team of Khondaker Hasibul Kabir along with the faculty from Architecture Department; Shams Mansoor Ghani, Amir Ebn Sharif, Farasha Zaman, Architect Fuad Abdul Quaium from GHORAMI.JON and the student volunteers; Subhi, Adeeba, Tanzina, Momo, Anika, Armaan, Mahfujur have worked heart and soul to make significant contribution to the project.

The main focus of this project was to make the play centers child-friendly, of low cost, durable and easy to maintain. Any design flaws had to undergo repairs, instead of being redesigned, since the structure was pre-built. Recycled materials were used to make the modifications and necessary additions to the Play Centers such as, using plastic bottle necks, CD disks for light reflection on windows etc.

The idea of upgrading the Play Centers' design and the facilities it can offer, should not be far along the line. These are baby steps towards improving the rural living environment.

## Pictures speak louder than words

MAISHA TARANNUM

On 11th February 2017, students from the Department of English and Humanities, visited the 'Chobi Mela' as a requirement for the course titled, 'Introduction to cultural studies: Theory and Practice' (ENG 331) taught by Professor Firdous Azim.

The exhibition was held at Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy from 3rd February to 16th February. Almost 40 artists from home and abroad exhibited their photographs in the exhibition. Some of the renowned names are, Donald Weber from Canada, Lois Paino from Spain, Stanley Greene from U.S.A. and many more. Many artists from Bangladesh were also a part of this event. Molla Sagar, Minhaz Marzu, Abir Shome were few of them.

This event had a variety of programmes for the art lovers. There was a slide show on 'Bengal divided' by Sarkar Protick. A lecture session was conducted by Alasdair Foster on "Creating shared culture". A portfolio review was arranged by Abir Abdullah, Alasdair Foster, Paola Koenning and Bruno Boudjelal. The meet and greet sessions were also a big attraction of this event. The sessions of Martin



Portraits on display at Chobi Mela IX

Bogren, Katrin Koenning and Shadi Ghadirian received huge appreciation from the audience.

Some interesting workshops also kept the visitors occupied. 'The Photo Book Master Class', 'Do Make say Think', 'Hijacking Reality' were just a few of many workshops.

Different food stalls were set up to serve the hungry visitors. Jatra Biroti and Café mango attracted the most of the crowd in the food court area.

It was a great learning experience for the students as they hardly get the chance to experience such variety of art in one place. Such kind of tours should be arranged more frequently by BRAC University as it helps students to get to know more about their field of study. It is a great and effective way to learn specific subjects beyond textbook and lectures.

## BRIEFS

**Bio-hacking**

To unfold one of the many depths in the field of biology, BRAC University Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) undertook a workshop within the collaboration of the Tech Academy. The main speaker and chief guest was Dr. Adeline Seah who received her doctoral degree in Caltech. She is engaged with a number of scientific and social development work. Along with her, one of the founders of Tech Academy, Shams Jaber came to speak in the session. She described Biohacking as a means to hack into the biological system and its knowledge to ensure better convenience and utility for the society. They brought cheaper and portable apparatus which used in molecular biology and made by Caltech students and demonstrated those to the BRAC University students. The concept of "Citizen Science" was elaborated, ending with an interactive question answer session.

**The art of demystification**

BRAC University Electrical and Electronic Club (BUEEC) hosted a seminar titled "Demystifying Internet of Things" on 9th February at the GDLN Center. Dr. Reduan Hasan Khan – Deputy General Manager and Head of Circuit Switching System at GrameenPhone Ltd. – was present as the sole speaker and enlightened the crowd present about the literal next "big thing". The Internet of Things (stylized as 'IoT') focuses on the increased machine-to-machine communication, being built on cloud computing and networks of data-gathering sensors. The real value that the Internet of Things creates, is the combination of gathering data and leveraging it, thus putting it to the right use.

**Top Up-IT**

The ICT Division, of the government of Bangladesh, is hosting a Top Up-IT program all around the country with the collaboration of numerous universities, such as BRAC University, to support the LICT project (Leveraging ICT Growth, Employment & Governance). Ernst and Young LLP are providing the instructors required for the courses which consist of Java, Web Development, .NET and Android Development. The courses have up to 300 hours of content of which 60 hours are dedicated to soft skills. All BRAC University students are invited to join the program, provided they pass the aptitude tests. This program is also certified by the George Washington University of USA.

**Campus dresses in the festive colours**

February is a month brimming with festivities. The entire country comes together to revel in the joy. Likewise BRAC University leaves no stone unturned to be a part of the merriment.

**Saraswati Puja**

The Saraswati Puja is celebrated on the fifth day of Magh, as it is believed that Goddess Saraswati was born on this day. The day is called "Basanta Panchami". Saraswati is the goddess of wisdom and knowledge and so all devotees, particularly students, celebrate the puja with great enthusiasm.

As midweek drew near, the Hindu Community of BRAC University did not want to be deprived of the blessings of the Goddess. With the help of the Office of Co-Curricular Activities (OCA), the BRACU Hindu Community arranged 'Bani Archana 1423' on 19 Magh 1423 (1st February 2017) at the Indoor Auditorium from 9 am. A nearby priest was called to officiate the ceremony. There were speaker systems playing dhaak-dhol tracks to give the puja an air of festivity. The puja itself was conducted smoothly and ended with each student offering anjali to the Goddess.

by Selima Kabir

**Pitha Utshob**

To celebrate the colours of spring, BRAC University Heritage Forum brought an event to the campus which they have been organizing annually for the last 7 years, known to us all as Pitha Utshob. This event provides an opportunity for certain students to setup stalls in the university premises from which they can sell the winter treats to their fellow students and other staff. This year, the setup was in Prangan. The event not only had ten stalls selling pithas and other sweet treats, but also stalls offering face painting. They also brought in hawkers to sell a large colourful selection of bangles. Alongside the cheerful spring décor, the event had a large variety of pithas ranging from sweet dishes to spicy and sour. The crowd's favorite, judging from demand, was kheer pati shaptas.

by Tahmid Zaman

**Pahela Falgun & Valentine's Day**

The exhilarating 2 day event for 'Pohela Falgun' and Valentine's Day, jointly organized by Monon, Cultural Club, Drama and Theatre Forum and Film Club, brought life to the campus. On the 13th it started at 11 in the morning with party music themed as 'Boshonto'. Following that at 12 in the noon Film Club showed a short film named 'Oshongayito: The Undefined'. After that it was the turn for the Drama and Theatre forum club to stage a drama named 'Shanti Upakkhan'. The crowd enjoyed the drama a lot just when Monon brought the comedian Max Mystel. He took the whole event to a new level with his jokes and amazing card trick. The event of that day ended with musical performances arranged by the Cultural Club. However, that is not the end of the glee. On 14th February, the entire university adorned in the essence of love. That day too the show started at 11 with party music in the auditorium where everyone danced their hearts out. Later on maintaining the same chronology, Film Club showed another short film named 'Doob'. Monon arranged a lively



performance where the band 13-12 swept people off their feet. However, the main attraction was the magic show by magician Galib. He displayed some amazing magic tricks which left the crowd awestricken. On that day the Drama and Theatre club staged a salsa dance, entertaining the crowd. The 2 day program ended with performances by the Cultural Club.

by Anika Sababa

**Ekushey February**

The International Mother Language Day- 21st February- brings out the patriot in us, and BRAC University joined the world in observing this historic episode. On the eve of 20th February, the international students, clad in traditional attire, sang "Amar Bhai-er rokte Rangano," in the auditorium of UBO1 as a tribute to the heroes of our land. This was conducted by BIL with music direction from BUCuC. A video of the performance was made with courtesy of the Film Club. On the 21st of February, 20 students from the Pharma Society, along with nine of the Heritage Forum, placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar monument. The students set off early morning via BRAC transport with their respective club banners at hand and paid homage to the martyrs. Officials from the university were present as well. BUCLC has organized a photography competition with the theme of the language movement so as to create both awareness, and honor the momentous event.



by Subah Shaheen



# OPINION & ACADEMICS

## Our social attitude towards women should change

**SANJIDA CHOWDHURY**

Firdous Azim is a professor of English and Chair of the Department of English and Humanities. A member of Naripokkho, a women's activist group in Bangladesh, she has published widely in the fields of post-colonialism, literature, and feminist issues.

**Q: The definition of feminism differs from scholar to scholar. Being a feminist, what is your definition of feminism?**

A: My definition of feminism is actually "definitions" of feminism. In the context of Bangladesh, feminism is basically a struggle for the equal rights of women. But behind this struggle for equality, there is also a struggle for freedom. I believe the feminist struggle for the freedom of women is much more difficult to achieve than equality.

Though we frame our demands in the discourse of rights and equality, we want "liberation" of women along with that. Social structures keep women confined to certain spaces; keeping this in mind, I teach feminism in class.

There is a huge ideology behind this notion which begins from the family to the state, to the market, to every place. Feminism is part and parcel of social struggle which takes a special angle due to its relation with gender.

**Q: Do you think today's feminists demands have taken a new shape or dimension from what you had demanded for in your time?**

A: Sometimes I am very impressed by today's movements because the demands are perhaps the same but the expression is bolder;

I find it exciting and liberating in many ways. But I also feel that two things have happened.

One is that feminist demands have gotten mixed up with other movements. I will not say it is a bad thing, but it has a danger of losing its feminist edge. One deviation from 1980s is that I find women from within the feminist community say "many of our demands have been met." This is not true at all.

I think we are nowhere near achieving our feminist goals. The other thing that has very nicely been added is the issue of sexuality. In our time, we did not know how to frame this demand. We used literature a lot, for instance, poetry, Rabindranath, Rokeya in our framework.

But with the sex worker movement, we could bring in sexuality into our movement. After that, we went on to look at transgender and hijras. With the progression of time, I find it very easy to talk about sexuality with my students as a movement issue. When we started off in the 80s, it was a difficult approach to move with.

**Q: Violence against women is more acute in middle-class families. Do you think it is women's lack of knowledge about their rights and demands, or it is just a reflection of patriarchy?**

A: I believe it is both with many other things. Firstly, the cases are being brought by middle-class women because middle-class women have some access to the legal process. People who live in urban slums or who are in absolute marginalised situations, their ability to access those legal services is very limited. For them it is a very time consuming process.

It is also I think the middle-class who makes news. But one of the very disturbing things is the class aspect of violence against women. Because the



Dr Azim in her office

kind of vulnerability both poverty and gender puts a street girl into is beyond our imagination. Do we ever think about violence that a street girl goes through?

**Q: You wrote an essay on birangona of 1971. Share your thoughts about this book with us.**

A: I think that our history needs to be written from a feminist angle. We celebrate the war of 71, people's sufferings, but it is the figure of the birangona that we seldom talk about.

Even before Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came back, Kamruzzaman, the then home minister gave the title of birangona to the women who were raped in the war. We were willing to celebrate these women and honour them, but we did not. Actually, we could not.

Being raped is itself against women. So even if someone is a war heroin, she still is a rape victim and therefore she has lost her honour. Losing honour does not simply apply in the case of women.

There is nothing called honour here, this is violence, this is war.

And I think that our inability to recognise the birangona says a lot about our social attitudes towards women.



Participants gathered under one roof to discuss gender diversity

**SANJIDA CHOWDHURY**

While Pohela Falgun and Valentine's Day were celebrated with full enthusiasm, some BRACU students along with scholars, academics, and activists gathered in a room of icddr,b and raised their voices for the transgender community. This community, in Bangladesh has always been marginalised due to our lack of consciousness.

## Reintroducing gender diversity

It was a three-day flagship course organised by James P Grant School of Public Health. The short but greatly dense course, "Transforming SRHR: Transgender diversity in Bangladesh," had participants including students and faculty members, practitioners, and hijra working in different social welfare organisations.

The guest lecturers were historians, researchers, lawyers, scholars, photographers, and journalists specialised in this field; and to make the course more credible and pertinent, transgendered people enlightened the participants with their knowledge and experience. The first instructor was Saad Adnan Khan, a teaching fellow who talked about what SRHR is and its relation to body, identity, and expression. The session proceeded with Charu Gupta's discussion on transgender categories, sex-gender

distinctions and how ancient, colonial and modern times have assessed hijras in South Asia. The afternoon session was run by Anidya Hajra who discussed performative texts and traditions of hijras, and how they are portrayed in media. The second day was mostly moderated by Adnan Hossain, an academic and researcher. The most exciting part of this course was that after every session the room burst into discussions, questions and participations. The main objective of this course was to introduce the students with gender diversities and terms, to highlight the private-public marginalisation of transgendered people and their struggles, and to introduce the intersectoral relationship of transgender movements and politics of the region. At the end of day three, all the participants were credited with course completion certificates and received an assurance to be a part of these kinds of courses in near future.

## SPECIAL

## BRACU Acad

Amidst all the academic rigors of BRAC University, the clubs actively participate in various activities throughout the semester. BRACU EXPRESS tries to capture some of these signature events.

**Best Dance & Music Direction**

BRAC University has been holding the cultural emblem since 2002 through everyone's favorite BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC). Promoting art through music, dance, recitation, and so on remains at the heart of this club.



Apart from hosting in-house shows such as Rhythm Revive, Jolsha and Club Fiesta, the club also represents the university in places beyond the campus grounds - including the Inter-University Cultural Fest (IUCF). When it comes to IUCF, in last 15 years, BUCuC has successfully organized three Inter-University Cultural Fests. The trend of IUCF was initiated by all the public universities, but in 2014 BRAC University Cultural Club was the first private university to organize IUCF as a part of the club's 12 year celebration. BUCuC wanted to give it a new vibe, thus, BUCuC organized "IUCF Unplugged". Running for 15 steadfast years, BUCuC is a club of high recognition that stands as a representative of BRACU in cultural events, stimulating cultural diversity in all spheres.

*Alamin Trinan, Secretary (PR and Publications), BUCuC*

**Alumni Honorary Award**

It is common knowledge that networking plays a significant part behind a graduate's career trajectory. Whether it is landing the first job or discovering the secret of stellar performance, who we know, is often more helpful, than what you know. And who better to ask for help regarding these matters than the alumni of your institution who are in the thick of the action right now? That is the premise of the inception of Marvels, where the current students of BRAC get the opportunity to discuss their job prospects with the alumni. It is a fantastic opportunity for the students to get up close and personal with the alumni and have all their queries answered. This is only made possible through the efforts of BRAC University Marketing Association. Thus, the Marvels inherently hold popularity among the senior students of the institution.

**Best Courtroom Drama**

Court visits are like a trip to Hogwarts for BRAC University Law Society (BULS). Every student from School of Law (SoL) dreams to go on Court visits which serve as the perfect platform to learn and enjoy simultaneously.



Professor Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, the Advisor of BULS, started this initiative. Almost every semester, students who have completed up to a specific amount of credits, can go to the Court visits along with the teachers to the Dhaka District Court and the Supreme Court. Because of the Court visits, students can practically see what they are learning and studying from the books firsthand. This is both exciting and motivating. The Court visits provide students the chance to have a real life experience of the cases they have only read about. Sitting inside the court even before becoming a lawyer and talking to some of the eminent judges and lawyers directly is like an unreal emprise for the posterity of future lawyers.

*Zeba Farah Haque, Executive, BULS*

**Most Valuable Tournament (MVT)**

What happens when you combine the fierce loyalty to your clubs with your passion for football? The answer is BRAC University Football League, which is the ultimate proving ground for any footballer worth his



salt. Every summer, Football Club BRAC University turns up the heat by arranging this inter-club football tournament which is contested by 12 club teams. No stone is left unturned as the managers of each club team spend the entire year scouring for talented players who can help them clinch bragging rights. In fact, FCBU goes the whole nine yards by arranging an open auction where the allegiance of the very best is contested for. Winning any tournament is special, but winning it for their favorite club makes BUFL extra-special for any player.





# FEATURE

## Academy Awards

endeavor to revitalize drooping faces through a bunch of events every events and pay tribute to their contribution among the student body.

### Best Cinematography

Good things come in short packages. At least that is the case for the participants of Mirror, the annual short film competition organized by BRAC University Film Club. This intra-university competition is the stepping stone for the aspiring filmmakers of the university. It provides a platform to showcase the

making talents among students in BRAC University, and presents an excellent opportunity for students to make a name for themselves. The Mirror has witnessed the rise of several talents in the recent years. Most of them broke into the scene through this competition. The competition attracts a huge crowd every year, and is home to some brilliant films made entirely through the efforts of the students themselves. Several prizes in different categories make for an intense competition where only the best make the cut. If you are interested in filmmaking, there's no better way to reflect your talents than the grandest of all stages.

### Best Production House

BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) has made a mark in the world of business through dynamic initiatives, workshops, industrial tours and roadshows with renowned icons of the country. One of its iconic contributions is E-festivals, which are fairs where different E-commerce sites participate and portray their merchandise to the university students. The first ever e-festival titled 'E-Fest' was organized by BIZ BEE in 2014 in collaboration with BRAC Business School. The phenomenal success of the event spiraled on to 'E-Fiesta' in 2015, which was later followed by 'E-Carnival' in 2016. Online sites like DX Generation, Prominent Tours Travels, GoynarBaksho, Ruhaani Wedding, and OK Kar participated in the carnival. Thus, BIZ BEE hopes to continue the triumph and inspire future leaders.



### Best Debut Play

BRACU Drama and Theatre Forum (DTF) justifies the tagline "For the freshers, by the freshers", with the event DRAMATIC. This is where the new members who join DTF during the Club Fair, are given the opportunity to parade their talents, under the guidance of experienced mentors. Starting from designing posters and banners for the creative department, to the mic and lights on stage, the newcomers are given the opportunity to probe at anything from the planning, to the performances, and everything in between. They spend hours planning and rehearsing, usually out of the regular class hours to perfect those dazzling moves and expressions so that before the end of the semester, when Dramatic finally goes on stage, it does not disappoint.



### Best Live Action

In accordance to its name, the BRAC University Adventure Club promises to take its members on an adventure like never before. Hence it organizes an annual tour at the end of every year, which lasts for at least a few days. The club takes their adventure seeking members to places like Sajek, Remakri, Thanchi, Nafakum and fills their days with all kinds of adventurous trails – hiking, boating, mountaineering, water trekking etc. Unlike their short one day tours every semester, this annual tour tests the members' strength, thirst for adventure and ability to overcome odds that may throw a wrench into their plans. A warning is issued to all members at the beginning of each tour – "This is not for weaklings." throw a wrench into their plans. A warning is issued to all members at the beginning of each tour – "This is not for weaklings."



### Best Romantic Comedy



No! ICU does not hold the morbid, menacing medical image at BRACU. In fact, right before the surge of hectic final exams, MONON presents its own version of ICU (Intensive Comedy Unit) giving the students a great comic relief during the most stressful time of the semester. The pilot name of this event back in 2014 was Kelao, after which it earned the metaphorical title of ICU from 2015. On the surface level this programme might seem to be a normal comedy event, but every year it portrays an inner social message. They use satire to convey a social message through their acts. Newly added members also participate in different skits. Few interesting segments of this event are standup comedy, beat boxing, magic show, singing and dancing performances.



# OFF CAMPUS

## Looking for lost poets

SAYEMA S HOSSAIN

Some of you might know Salman Haque as a junior student at BRAC University, majoring in Microbiology. But did you know that he is also a published author? Let us delve into his inspirations and processes and discuss his debut novel *Nikhojh Kabbo*, a murder mystery thriller.

**Q: How did you get into writing?**

Salman: I used to read a lot and do a lot of translations. When I was reading John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, I translated it to Bangla. I also translated three other books, including a Japanese novel called *The Devotion of Suspect X* by Keigo Higashino. Then I thought of writing my own book.

**Q: What is your genre of choice?**

Salman: Even though I started by translating a World War II novel, my favourite genres are thrillers and crime fiction.



**Q: Why crime?**

Salman: I am into crime fiction because I think it brings out the dark side of the smitten world. That's the kind of story I want to tell.

**Q: Who are your favourite writers? Who do you draw inspiration from?**

Salman: Humayan Ahmed and Mohammad Nazim Uddin are my favourites. I also draw inspiration from the works of Markus Zusak, Steve Larson and Stephen King. And as for fantasy genre, JK Rowling inspires me the most.

**Q: Where can people find your book?**

Salman: It is available at any book shop like Nilkhet, New Market and Pathak Shomabesh. But people can also find it online at rokomari.com and on Facebook at bookstreetbd.

**Q. Any advice to budding creatives out there?**

Salman: Read my book, but also grow a habit of reading in general. If you have an idea, write it down instantly. If you want to get it published, go for it. But if you think it needs work, then take your time to flesh it out.

## He is to account for



Mr. Amdadul Islam

ZAHRA MAYEESHA

The accounts' office plays arguably one of the most important roles in the administration at BRAC University. Amdadul Islam, the deputy manager of Accounts, took time to share a few words about how the system runs.

Working with BRAC University since 2004, Mr Islam has seen the university expand and grow in both size and reputation. When the university had approximately 700 students, he was part of a small working group consisting of only 3 members. The first hours of the morning are dedicated to paperwork, and then the real deal starts; directing students through the payment process and troubleshooting. The account officer's job requires extreme caution for the tiniest hitch can cause a big issue. From keeping records to helping sort student issues such as not paying tuition fees, Mr Islam does it all with a calm approach.

Despite the numerous grievances and inefficiencies that Mr Islam deals with on a regular basis, he only has kind and understanding words to offer to the students. It is an aspect of his job that he really enjoys, expresses Mr Islam, because it allows him to understand and get acquainted with various situations that students emerge from. He brings great compassion and dedication to his workplace.

## Chillox - where art thou?

ADEEPTO I AHMED

If you had burgers at Chillox, we know for a fact that you miss them and wonder where they have gone. We caught up with Maruf Hasan Nirzhor, one of the initiators of Chillox to inquire about the campus's favourite burger spot.

**Q: Tell us a bit about the venture.**

Maruf: Chillox was a friend's idea who lives in Toronto. My friend reached out to me because I live close to BRAC University and shared his idea.

**Q: It is no news that almost every student at the campus loves Chillox. What were your expectations when you started?**

Maruf: Dhaka is home to some really good burger places, some of which are international burger chains. When we started with Chillox, I thought it would be a



little side project and perhaps shut down in a couple of months. But honestly, the kind of overwhelming response we received has changed things for us. It has encouraged us to think big and perhaps make Chillox an international burger chain in the near future.

**Q: Our big concern at the moment is - where did Chillox go?**

Maruf: Well, without giving too many details away, let me just say that, come mid-March or early-April, we are preparing a big comeback with some surprises that we have in store for everyone at the campus!



# SPORTS & HEALTH

## Players gather to reminisce Residential Semester football

FAHIM IMTIAZ

3 months, 90 days, that is how long the fields of the residential campus are yours. If a creative human mind is put into a box it starts to think more outside the box than ever. When all these brilliant footballers are placed in the campus during the Residential Semester (RS), they came up with the idea of making teams and holding tournaments on a field that every player in our university comes to love and refer to as their "home ground". It is not uncommon to see the entire campus getting swept away by the surge of enthusiasm that accompanies a football tournament held at this ground. Everyone admits that playing at that old field is a whole different experience altogether.

The thrilling contest of these passionate RS teams returned 3 years after its inception in the



RS teams circle-up for the all important pre-game huddle

Spring of 2014. The "RS Football Championship" was held once again; not at the Savar campus field, but at the Army Hockey Field in Banani. It was shorter and thus, much more intense than its predecessor, the RS League. The agonising penalty shootouts in the latter stages, after both teams were evenly matched at regular match time, kept everyone on edge. In a nail-biting final match, having clawed their way through the

tournament, RS38 claimed the trophy, beating RS40 on penalties.

3 months, 90 days. Make the most of it, spend every evening working tirelessly till the sweat pouring down your skin becomes a part of your body, till your crosses become sublime and your pace unrivalled. It might make all the difference between being able to lift your head in pride as champions, or having to hold back the tears after a tough loss.

## The High Fliers



ESTIAK MOHAMMAD

3:30 pm. A group of sixteen students started walking down from Sanjiban to Anandopur. After finishing our tea at Anandopur, we headed straight towards our dreamland - the basketball court. To us it was more than a game, and as such we ended up organizing a tournament to boost up our skills. The most breathtaking match of the tournament started when the clock hit 4 pm. The ball was thrown up in the air and it was Tahsin who grabbed it first. Dribbling the ball he came up to the three point line and went for a shot. It seemed that the clock had stopped ticking as the ball flew towards the basket. Alas it was a three-pointer, the first score of the tournament! The first three quarters of the tournament were in our favour. Unfortunately, our opponent took the lead at the last dying seconds of the match. I, along with Sakib and others, tried our level best to turn the game. But we ended up losing to Tahsin's team only by a single point. The next day, Alvee along with Mashroof showed his amazing skills in knocking down Tahsin's mighty team. The game was lively as Mashroof and Alvee showed a tremendous comeback during the final quarter of the match. Till now, we have finished three matches with Alvee's team at the top of the point table. Each team has to play a total of six matches. My team and the others are giving their best shot to become the champion of RS-44 Basketball Tournament. So far it has been a wonderful tournament and we are hoping to organize another one which will be more challenging as three other new teams will be joining. Our love for basketball has paved the way to organize such an exciting tournament.

## Disappointing end to ULAB Fair Play Cup 2017



BRACU Cricket Team at ULAB Fair Play Cup

SAMIUL MAHIN

The cricketers of BRAC University suffered an early setback this year when they fizzled out of the 10th ULAB Fair Play Cup Inter Private University Cricket Tournament. The Fair Play Cup has been a regular cricketing fixture in recent years. Organized by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, it is known as the only prominent cricket tournament for private university students. It was inaugurated at the ULAB playground in Mohammadpur on January 24th, 2017. Twelve private universities participated in the tournament

which was graced by the presence of Mr. Khaled Mashud Pilot and Habibul Bashar, former captains of Bangladesh national cricket team.

Team BRACU was placed in a tough group with ULAB and IUB.

Despite this, the players were confident about their chances of progression. The team ended up with a score of just 115 runs in 19.5 overs in reply to the massive total of 206 runs posted by ULAB in the inaugural match on January 24th, ultimately losing by a margin of 91 runs. Nafees of BRACU was the standout performer with an innings of 39 runs from 42 balls. In the last match against IUB on January 29th, Saad of BRACU scored 49 runs but couldn't clinch the victory in the end. Aname was the most successful bowler of the team with five wickets in two matches.

The final was contested by team ULAB and IUB on February 8th

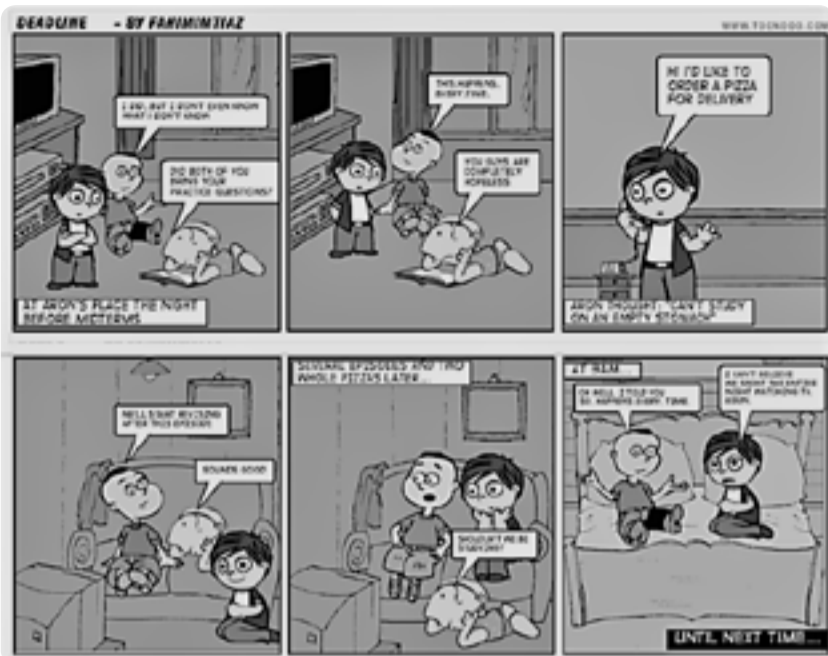
where ULAB became victorious again. Although there is a sense of disappointment among our cricketers, they firmly believe that their performances are improving. We hope that they will be able to bounce back stronger from this setback in future tournaments.

### Football Crusade Update

One of the most important tournaments of the spring trimester - The Football Crusade - is almost upon us.

However, latest reports indicate that the tournament dates, originally in mid-March, have shifted to the semester break in April/May. The tournament will probably start right after the finals week and will also be held on weekdays. This throws the participation of Spring'12 team into doubt since most of them have full time jobs. Elsewhere, rumours are abound that former champion Spring'15 have failed to register for the tournament! Will the young guns and previous runners up Spring'16 grab the trophy this time? We will just have to wait and see.

# ENTERTAINMENT



## HOROSCOPE

- Aries** – You're looking for that newbie that made fun of you in class. You're too fiery to let this go without a fight!
- Taurus** – aamra wifi > 3G. Need I say more?
- Gemini** – The mama always gives you extra sauce with puri. So, why not?
- Cancer** – You think the creepers and green roof are really pretty. You're probably thinking about bringing your significant other for discreet canoodling. (PDA is against the rules, kid)
- Leo** – Where else would you find a cosy spot surrounded by your friends where you can play your originals on the guitar?
- Virgo** – That missing group member is not at Prangon. Stop checking here every 5 minutes.
- Libra** – You're a crowd person. Prangon has a lot of people. It's a match made in BRACU.
- Scorpio** – You're in charge of surprise birthday celebration planning in your group. You are cursing your friends for suggesting Prangon because where is the space for the cake, Azima?
- Sagittarius** – You don't. It's overcrowded and too noisy. You avoid it like the plague.
- Capricorn** – You're just trying to have your lunch in peace, please.
- Aquarius** – It's your secret shortcut to class.
- Pisces** – Well, it is your birthday! Guess where the surprise party is at?

### The venting ground

Dear Khaleesi,  
 Midterms are knocking at every door, but mine seems to be storming in. I know the problem I am facing is a very common one, but I still hope to find solace in placing it out there. It seems like I am always planning to study, but don't really begin executing it. I chalked out a plan in the first week of February and then kept delaying and making more ambitious and impossible plan as the days passed. Procrastination is engulfing my head by the second. My best friend is coming back to the country right after my exam, and planning a post-exam tour with her seems more essential at this point of time. I know what you might say, but still hoping to feel better.

Later

Dear later,  
 Well, doing work in a deadline-induced panic is something people do all their life. So I would suggest you to actually book a few hours to actually just procrastinate. As you said, planning the tour sounds exciting. So, keep that as a reward to incentivize after studying one chapter. From my personal experience, I have never been able to pull off studying more than 20 minutes at one go. So if you are facing that too, take a break after that. But put your full attention in those 20 minutes. Reading aloud, scribbling beside texts and group study sleepovers are sometimes helpful and can extract the monotony of exam preparatory studying. The biggest form of deviation is social media, so keep your phone and laptop off or at bay during the short span of time allocated for a chapter; and of course be realistic with your planning. So now, put the paper away and get to work!

L	Q	I	U	E	G	J	G	J	I	N	W	Q	N	F	C H R O S S W O R D E
I	P	E	P	I	F	N	H	Z	D	K	E	V	H	G	
Y	F	L	A	N	M	Q	C	M	E	W	Q	S	N	L	
M	W	E	L	H	S	G	U	B	F	O	J	A	X	U	
U	A	C	O	Q	N	R	Q	E	A	H	P	P	D	G	
H	X	T	T	I	C	H	S	U	L	F	I	M	B	U	
C	Z	I	T	H	C	C	D	D	I	I	I	O	H	H	
U	D	O	O	H	N	I	B	O	R	J	B	Z	C	W	
V	O	N	B	X	T	S	G	H	W	L	X	Q	O	B	
M	A	S	O	O	K	F	A	R	I	S	T	O	N	I	
H	V	H	R	C	B	H	J	V	K	B	O	B	Y	R	
F	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	R	P	L	D	O	
D	U	O	Y	A	K	A	Z	A	Y	R	R	Y	M	Z	
M	V	F	L	C	T	X	T	A	G	K	H	L	S	E	
Q	U	X	D	E	G	I	C	H	Y	D	E	S	V	F	

*Ariston Auditorium*  
*BIL*  
*Bot-tola*  
*Diversity*  
*Elections*  
*Mooting*  
*Murchona*  
*Obliviate*  
*OCA*  
*Robin Hood*  
*TARC*

CONTRIBUTORS

Sayema S Hossain  
 Adepto I Ahmed  
 Zahra Mayeesha  
 Anika Sababa  
 Shitab M Islam  
 Adiba Mahbub  
 Raisa R Tabassum  
 Selima S Kabir  
 Fahim Intiaz  
 Shabiba B Habib  
 Samiul H Mahin

Sakib Mahi  
 Nuha A Pabony  
 Tasvir B Mahabub  
 Rakib B Shahid  
 S Mastura Farzana  
 Mahpara Sanjana  
 Tahmid Zaman  
 Subah Shaheen  
 Sanjida Chowdhury  
 Maisha T Iqbal  
 Tahsin Ahmed

# BRACU EXPRESS

an independent monthly publication by BRAC University students

**Md Ahnaf Rahman**  
 Editor-in-Chief

**Nusrat Naushin**  
 Managing Editor

### Advisory Panel

### Student Editorial

Farrah Jabeen  
 Roohi Huda  
 Anika Tasnim  
 Farhaan U Ahmed  
 Shehzad M Arifeen

Luba L Khalili  
 Raisa Rahim  
 Meem Morshed  
 Waes Y Islam  
 Nahian Zaman

