

BRACU EXPRESS

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Students build extraterrestrial rover worthy of Mars

ADIBA M PROMA

21st March was indeed a remarkable day for BRACU as the Mars Rover got selected for the University Rover Challenge (URC), which is a prestigious international competition hosted by the Mars Society for University students.

“Our senior, Sabbir Bin Azad, who is a BRACU alumnus, was always there to guide us through the journey. He was part of the team of Chondrobot 3, and had extensive knowledge on robotics. We recruited volunteers who helped us with the testing so that they can go on such competitions later on.” Syed Mohammad Kamruzzaman said.

The idea of the competition is to build a rover which will be able

to complete all the tasks in a given scenario. It is no news that the world has been trying to send astronauts to Mars for a

while now, but with limited knowledge about Mars itself, the task was not only precarious but also a

conundrum. This is where the Mars Rover comes in. What a rover does is that it collects rock and tests them in aspects such as biomass, pH, and water content and so on to find out more about the atmosphere of Mars.

“We wanted to build a robot that would succeed in all four tasks- extreme retrieval and delivery task,

autonomous traversal task, science cache task and equipment servicing. We tested our robot in plenty of different

the team, which is led by Niaz Sharif Shourov, was the lack of a mechanical department in BRACU which meant that they themselves had to design the robot. Thanks to Ali Ahsan, they were able to design a sustainable model that was more adapted to Mars’ environment. With Dr Khalil as advisor and Mr Saiful as co-advisor, the team also includes Masnur Rahman, Md Zahirul Islam, Md Sakiluzzaman, and Intisar Hasnain who led different departments of the project.

With the final round of the competition coming up in 1-3 June at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, the talented members are indeed leaving no stones unturned to further perfect their creation.

environments such as BRACU Savar campus, Bashundhara 300 feet and Ashulia.” said Syed Mohammad Kamruzzaman, one of the team members.

One of the biggest challenges for



The Mars rover posing with the team

BUPS commemorates World Health Day

SUBAH SHAHEEN

Empowering our community through awareness campaigns is an extended responsibility which BRAC University Pharma Society (BUPS) recognizes. Therefore, on the 8th April 2017, a day after world health



A member of the club hands interacts with the young students

day, the club members set out with a doctor and a psychologist for Adarsha School, Narayangonj to perform their part in ensuring the success of World Health Organisation’s 2017 campaign of tackling depression.

They were introduced to the young students during the assembly where a speech on depression was given by the psychologist. Throughout the day, informative sessions were held and the doctor examined the students’ general

health. Keeping in mind the young age of the audience, the sessions were interactive with little presents given to the students who answered correctly to the short quiz that was organized. Tips on healthy exercises, diet plans, basic knowledge on common diseases and most importantly on depression were provided. Counseling by BUPS members and an expert diagnosis by the psychologist were offered to students who felt they would benefit from it.

This initiative by the club was indeed successful as the students were absolutely delighted by the unique preclusion from their usual, monotonous academic life. They participated enthusiastically in both the learning and the quiz sessions and in the end, even gave thank you cards to the BUPS members for organizing the event. The program thus ended on a satisfying note for the club members who were inspired by the zealous response to organize such campaigns in the future.

A new chapter: Casper-BRACU

NOSHIN SHARMILI

Casper Foundation is a Bangladeshi non-profit organization that aims to provide a platform to student-volunteers of local universities to present their ideas on pressing social issues to academics, renowned industry leaders and professionals. They guide students by helping them translate their ideas into workable social projects through which the students gain skills and knowledge that boost their educational and professional career.

On 29th March, Casper Foundation opened its new chapter in BRAC University and appointed Afrin Akhter Nun as the President, and Abrar Nur Ahmed Nasif and Maimuna Syed Ahmed as vice-presidents of Casper-BRAC University. It has already started its recruitment and is hiring volunteers now. Students are welcome to apply anytime through their Facebook page.

On 14th April, Casper-BRACU

introduced itself on-campus with a small initiative of distributing sweets to the rickshaw pullers, CNG drivers, security guards and such others, around the Mohakhali area, as a sign of gratitude for working on special occasions like Pohela Boishakh rather than celebrating it wholeheartedly with their loved ones back at home.

On 18th April, Casper-BRACU conducted its 1st orientation program, where the CEO of Casper Foundation, Taufiq Uz Zaman, and that of Female Empowerment Movement (FEM), Zaiba Tahyya, shared their valuable insight on several project ideas.

“One must always come up with sustainable project ideas as it is sustainability that counts in the end.” –Zaiba Tahyya



The Casper Foundation's BRACU chapter

BRIEFS

Making a difference

BRAC University Business and Economics Forum (BeF) has recently come up with a lifetime initiative. It has started its very own Blood Database. BeF is associated with Quantum for this noble cause. It is basically a platform where patients in need of blood can get it readily. From time to time it arranges booths where students, faculties and staff alike can sign up voluntarily for this. Till now 7 patients have successfully received blood by the help of BeF. This coming May, BeF is going to arrange another campaign for blood donation.

As adventure awaits

BRAC University Adventure Club (BUAC) recently had one of their long tours this semester break at Shitakund, Sylhet, from 20th April to 23rd April. The adventure included locations such as Kaptai Lake, Mohamaya Lake, Napitchora Waterfalls and Komoldoho Waterfalls. Just as the club promised, there were lots of hiking activities, a wild jungle safari and a hill trekking at Napitchora. Despite the heavy rainfall plaguing the spirits and plans of the tour, the members soldiered on and gave a demonstrated the BUAC spirit and eagerness for adventures.

Chronicles of ChemBio Hackathon

The ChemBio Hackathon, the first ever computational chemistry-biology "hackathon" in Bangladesh, was organized by the Department of Pharmacy of BRAC University, and sponsored by Nuvista Pharma Limited. The participants were trained to use relevant databases and softwares like NCBI, PyMol and others in the training sessions which took place from 27th to 29th March. Then, on the 1st of April they were split into groups and were given problems to solve with 10 hours and their newly acquired skills. On the 13th of April the teams gave one round of presentations on their solutions. After another round of poster presentations on the 30th, the names of the winners were announced.

BRAC University welcomes the New Year

Students on campus found reason to celebrate the arrival of the Bengali New Year even though final examinations were knocking on the door.

Choitro Shonkranti Mela

On the 13th of April 2017 BRAC University Pharma Society (BUPS) organized a festive event to bid the Bengali year farewell. The indoor games room of the campus was transformed into the setting of an traditional fair with 'alokchitro prodorshoni' on one side and delicious food stalls on the other.

Being an important event of the Bengali traditional calendar, the menu for Choitro Shonkranti was elaborate. The fair started at 11 am with visitors quickly filling up space. Club members were selling Bengali sweet delicacies such as pithas along with the other renowned saccharine dishes of our nation. Teachers and students came to the site to be part of the festivities and the chairperson of the pharmacy department attended the occasion as well.



Cultural celebrations in our country are often commemorated with coloured hands and so a 'mehedi utshob' was held in the early hours of the afternoon. From 3 30 pm onwards, the event took a jovial turn with Bengali songs and cultural performances. The event ended symbolically with everyone welcoming the New Year through Tagore's famous melody "Esho he boishakh, Esho esho".

by Subah Shaheen

Mongol Shobhajatra

The yearly tradition of Mongol Shobhajatra on the first day of the Bengali New Year was observed by BRAC University. The walk started at 10 am and they circled around the nearby streets. Students, faculty and staff participated in their traditional attire. The festivity of Pohela Boishakh was celebrated among the participated staff and students afterwards.

A Fair to Remember

Pohela Boishakh is celebrated with grandeur across the country and BRAC left no stone unturned in recreating the splendour.



BRACU ushered in Pohela Boishakh with a grand 'Boishakhi Mela,' held on the 3rd of April at the UB01 auditorium. For many having exams on the day after the actual event, this was the only chance to celebrate and for all those who attended the event it was a jubilant celebration.

The university auditorium was adorned in colorful festoons. Not just stalls offering jewelry, dresses and games, the fair had a number of unique attractions which served the double purpose of both attracting crowds and paying tribute to the rich heritage of Bengal.

Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director of BIL, inaugurated the event. Mehedi and traditional food stalls, a fortune telling parrot, a well decorated rickshaw and bioscope were all used to delight the visitors.



There were several fun games available as well such as balloon targeting. The 'churiwala' brought in were cramming with huge crowds over the colorful bangles.

For many, the best part of the occasion was the 'Putul Dance' which impressed the audience greatly. Sadly, it is a disappearing art of our times but judging by the impact it generated perhaps all it needs is a little proper promotion. Needless to say, the fair was a tremendous success with students, most dressed in traditional glory, flocking in cheerfully. Parents and other invitees who attended the event were impressed at the planning and organizing skills displayed through the event.



OPINION & ACADEMICS

A new space

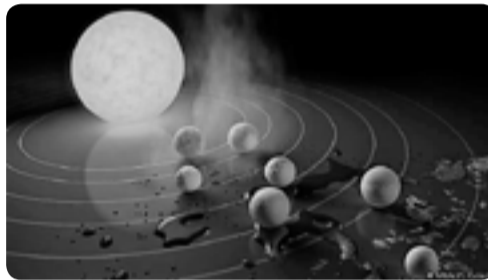
ADIBA M PROMA

The outer Space signifies darkness and coldness, and yet filled with numerous opportunities for the human race. As terrifying as it may seem, it has not stopped us from venturing into its unknown depths. Throughout the years we have been striving hard to do just that in better and more efficient ways.

Mr. Tom Morten Berge, along with Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sagor, hosted a seminar in GDLN, BRAC University, where they proceeded to talk about the evolution of space technology and where it might lead us in the future. The seminar is said to have been helpful to both physics and engineering students, as it focused on galactic cosmic rays, look-up tables, satellites and other various interesting facts such as the South Atlantic anomaly. Mr. Tom also mentioned how the University of Ohio is looking into Venus as a more viable planet for colonization instead of Mars. He also said how the space age actually started, beginning from basic astronomy to the building of the International Space Station. There was also talk regarding the trend of nano-satellites, such

as BRACU Onnesha, and how students from different universities all across the globe were working on the “QB 50” project so that there can be easier access to space.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sagor later mentioned that there have been plans to open an institute under BRAC University to oversee such technology so that everyone, students and civilians alike, may contribute towards the future of space tech. Such an institute is surely a step forward for Bangladesh itself, as the private sector too will be able to actively participate in the research and development of such technology. On top of that, the students themselves have a greater scope of research which shall add value to BRAC University. And who knows, the next person unraveling the depths of space might be a Bangladeshi.



Reclaiming our university campus

ADEEPTO I AHMED

How does a student body ‘reclaim’ a campus? Does it not already belong to them? The answer unfortunately, is often an uncomfortable ‘yes and no’. The process of laying claim to and truly owning the campus as one’s own can be a continuous and contested one.

Given the current constraint of space for our many students, it is not always possible to simply be on campus and play music for example, just with others. This does not however, deter the kids in front of building architecture or the others with their portable ukuleles and speakers, finding space wherever they might or making it for themselves. It is this kind of active and constant laying claim, above and beyond the club arranged programmes (which absolutely doubtlessly constitute an extremely important part of this same project), that really perhaps constitute a true laying claim to the campus and campus space. Our attempts at claiming the campus also become contested when, for example, student made art that adorns the campus is taken down without notice or permission.



Of course there are many multiple facets to this discussion, but I suggest here two thoughts. One is of continuing the spontaneous forms of laying claim, owning. Keep playing at your tea stalls, debate political economy over alu puri, stage a play right on the street in front of building four after hours. Cars going by? Part of the play, write it in. Go gonzo, put up your art on empty notice boards till someone takes it down to put their flyers/work up. Teach stores that do not do so to keep their accounts. Study them at the end of each month, learn and discuss strategic business. Claim all you can keep.

The second thought, is one that has been whispered around before, but should perhaps be taken up as a serious project by students: forming a student body government/council. On a collective level, demands and appeals over every kind of issue have been difficult to get across to authorities before, in part because there is no collective representation of the student body’s will. On the individual level, this means that being heard, and being able to reckon or at the very least consult back with administration and authority is an extremely large part of being able to feel and exercise one’s rightful ownership over the university and campus.

One’s relationship with his/her university is always a lot more complex than a simple transaction of degrees. In order to be best situated in the true nature of this relationship, we must, however we do it, reclaim what always is ours, the campus and university itself.

Retail marketing 101

SAMIUL MAHIN

Some teachers seem to have the “X factor.” Whether it is their unparalleled charisma, innovative teaching style, or peerless knowledge on the subject matter, their students simply cannot get enough. Dr Md Tareque Aziz is one of them. He also happens to be the only PhD holder on retail marketing in the country. Recently, the students got a rare opportunity to witness the genius in action during the seminar on “Retailing- Prospects and Challenges: An Asian Perspective.” BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA) organized the event on March 19, 2017 at the Indoor Games room of the campus.

It is not very often that the students get to see Dr Aziz participating in events like these. Therefore, the hype was unbelievable. On the days preceding the event, interest was at its peak, because everybody wanted to attend the seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to instill enthusiasm in the students to pursue retail marketing as a career alternative. Moreover, who better to learn retail marketing from other than the one of the most qualified person in the nation on the subject? Dr Aziz took it upon himself to provide valuable insight about retail marketing. He spoke about the history of retail marketing and how e-retailing emerged in the 21st century. Furthermore, he shared his opinions on the growing popularity of retail marketing in the western market. He used intriguing examples to discuss the opportunities and challenges of retail marketing in the Asian context and possible solutions.

The honourable dean of BRAC Business School, Professor Dr Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury was the chief guest of this seminar. Mr Alvi Chowdhury, Brand Manager, Coopers, was also present there. The participants were spellbound throughout the entire event. Interestingly, many MBA students joined the ranks of the undergraduates. Most participants had real interests to pursue a career in retail marketing. They participated in a small quiz conducted by Dr Aziz himself and three lucky winners went home with prizes along with a pen bearing his initials. Perhaps the seminar will inspire more students to take up retail marketing as a career option.

BIO 101: Introduction to Biology

It seems a little counterintuitive to have to take BIO101 as a course if you are studying Biotechnology or Microbiology, but it is a compulsory course. Will it rehash everything you learn your other mandatory courses like Basic Biochemistry (BCH101) or Introduction to Biotechnology/Microbiology (BTE101/MIC101)? Yes. Does that mean it is an easy A? Also yes. The course is essentially designed to be a basic science course for students of all backgrounds – an introductory course that teaches you the basics of human and plant biology. However, students did not have biology during their school years may struggle and are advised against this course! Also, get ready for a lot of slides. The “hundreds on hundreds” of slides rumor you heard, not an exaggeration

- GED (General Education) course for Microbiology and Biotechnology majors and minors.
- GED/COD (Course Outside Department) for rest.
- Easy A if you had Biology in high school.
- Easy marks from presentations, attendance, assignments and lab reports, so as to leave a little wiggle room for finals. Give revision at least two days.

ANT 101/102: Introduction to Anthropology

ANT102: Core Course for Anthropology majors and minors.
ANT101/102: COD (Course Outside Department) for rest.



ANT101 and 102 are structured to be very similar. However, ANT102 is slightly more intensive and in-depth as it is compulsory for students of Anthropology. The most interesting thing about this course is how differently it is structured from all other Anthropology courses. Most courses for Anthropology will be very reading intensive, with a giant binder worth of articles that need to be printed and reviewed in detail for participation in class. In contrast, this course strictly adheres to a textbook. Moreover, in covering a diverse range of topics, it never dedicates much time to any one issue. This is a great course to become acquainted with certain Anthropology buzzwords and will teach you to think critically by the time you are done.

BUS 101: Introduction to Business

One of the most popular CODs, BUS 101 is ideal for those willing to chase corporate careers. No matter what department you are from, a basic knowledge in business can never hurt and this course provides just that. Most of the syllabus is conceptual although you would be required to memorize every now and then. You have to handle having to go through slide after slide of material, and actually be able to retain some of it the next morning. However, what's most important is that you understand the concepts and its practical uses. Take the quizzes as an opportunity to cover parts of the material; it helps a lot more when you're cramming for the final.

- Easy to attain grades
- Compulsory for: Business
- Reading-intensive course
- Mandatory need for diligent peers for your term paper
- Frequent presentations

CSE101 - Introduction to Computer Science

This course is a piece of cake for anyone who has done eighth-grade ICT classes, be it Bangla or English medium. Most of the syllabus covers rudimentary computer science topics: what is hardware and software, flowcharts, binary calculations. The newer material you learn is about software engineering, and the syllabus specifically covers the types of project management there are. If you are blessed with memorization skills, this course is an easy A. The only bit of brain exercise you may have to do comes with binary calculations and conversions, and that, once you get the hang of it, is fairly fun math itself! Of course, it depends strongly on your teacher whether the course is mind-numbingly boring or a fun rerun of basic computer science.



There is, of course, a 'practical' part to this course. The lab class walks you through using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Of all three, the most useful you will find in your undergraduate career will be PowerPoint, although the course doesn't delve too deeply into skillful use of the software. But it does well to learn how to use Excel proficiently, too, because it can prove to be a powerful tool in your professional career. Overall, this course is a no-brainer for those with good memories; and if you're not of that pack, better be armed with your pen and notebook.

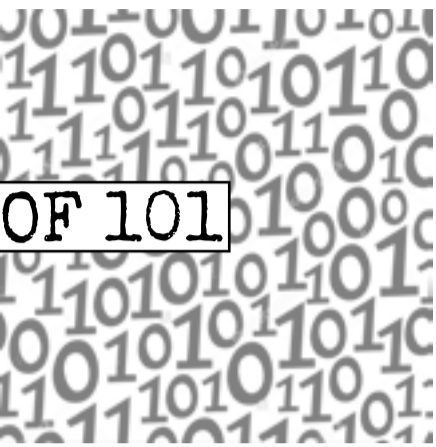
- Compulsory General Education course for all majors, except CS, CSE, EEE, and ECE students.
- Mostly flow charts and history.
- Do not do it alone.
- Hard to tell till you are in the middle of the semester



Basic, compulsory courses of BRACU ride along every student's undergraduate journey. In this special issue of freshers, BRACU EXPRESS presents a series of articles about the experiences of seniors about these



FEATURE



ACU are marked as a bitter-sweet road life. To welcome the new batch presents them with wisdom from their the 101 courses.



DEV101

This is basically a general history course. Depending on your teacher, the course may go well or go horribly for you.

Before we get all alarmist though, that notes on and readings semester; just help! Of course, TARC experi-



Before we get all you should know the coursework are available every ask your seniors for as a staple of the ence, DEV101 pro-

vides you with plenty of chances to bond with your classmates: each class puts on a drama for the whole student body at TARC, and the experience is most often fun and challenging. Keep your head level and just do your reading on time: you don't really have an excuse to not do so, with all that free time at TARC!

MAT101 - Fundamentals of Mathematics

For those of us who had hoped to never see algebra again, you are back well into your nightmare. MAT101 is all algebra, though baby stuff: binomials, middle-term factorization, logarithms and the like. The only new bit was imaginary numbers! Practice, practice, practice, should be your mantra for this course if you want an A, and you get quite a lot of it in-class.



- You can rely on your previous math skills
- Teachers are quite helpful
- Even if you slack off and do not practice at all until right before the exam, you can hope to get a minimum grade of 3.0

ENG 101 Fundamentals of English

The course is designed to teach you about the conventional format of different types of writing, how to cite your sources and some basic presentation skills, which you will need for the rest of your life. It might seem a little annoying at first, but stick to it, it's worth it. There really are no shortcuts. Just make sure you follow the guidelines on different pieces of writing given by your faculty, and remember to consult them for feedback on your writing whenever they are free. The feedback will help you correct your mistakes and improve your writing, and you'll have that perfect GPA at the end of the semester to brag to your friends about.

- Perfect upshot for polishing presentation skills
- Helps to engage with lots of people in groups
- Interactive classes
- Helpful as it teaches structures which are mandatory for upcoming academic courses' term papers and write ups



FRN101 - Basic French

French is one of the alternative language courses offered during the Residential Semester; you get to do it if you've done ENG102 by the time you come to the Residential Campus. The course is taught by an Alliance Française graduate, and accordingly, the course syllabus is basically first-year French at Alliance Française.



You learn basic communication in French: how to say hi, ask questions, refer to objects and people, how to count, and so on. Letter-writing and presentation in French is also taught; these will be tested as part of your finals and midterms. The fun and unique aspect to this course would be the final project you have to do. The assignment is a group project where you script, produce and shoot an amateur French short film all by yourself, though it is encouraged to take the help of your course teacher. The script itself does not have to be elaborate, and shooting it honestly makes for a great bonding experience with your group. It is truly a fun and useful course, though all one really remembers afterwards are - *Comment cava* and *merci beaucoup*.

- The best part of class was undoubtedly the songs. (Je m'appelle Helen)
- And of course there were those alphabet and number songs
- Fun way to evade English courses

ECO 101: Principles of Microeconomics

Deep insights, into a theory, captivating highlights of with existing



infinite ways to look and countless lectures are the the course. People knowledge of the

external world can finally draw links between the current affairs. Finding out the basic causes is now easy. It incentivizes students to look into Economics even after classes.

- Easy going faculty
- No preliminary knowledge required
- Can enjoy the course, even if you do it alone
- Mandatory for Econ majors/minors, good COD for the rest

HUM 101: World Civilisation and Culture

This course is a pleasant break from the usual intense academic pressures, consisting of story-based lectures. Occasionally a classmate would challenge the faculty on a particular historical event. That would add an interesting twist to the lessons which otherwise were pretty routine.



- Good COD, especially after the residential semester
- For those who like history, this will be a real treat

OFF CAMPUS

Split - “we are what we believe we are”

Faiza Tafannum
Afsara Tasnim
Anika Bushra Soha
Rifa Tasfia
Nayeema Haque
Sanjana Afroze

The director of ‘The Sixth Sense’, ‘Unbreakable’, M Night



Shyamalan makes an astonishing comeback through his recent movie, ‘Split’. Even after being a low budget movie, it manages to intrigue the viewers because of the mastermind Shyamalan’s thought provoking plot. Although the plot is absorbing, it does not mean that all aspects of the movie are perfection.

The movie is undoubtedly chilling as it works through themes like weakness, strength and unstoppable power; hence there is a lot to admire. It is about a person, Kevin (played by James McAvoy), who suffers from dissociative identity disorder because of childhood abuse. In the movie, McAvoy flawlessly stands out as he gets the opportunity to have 24 different characters in one body. Apart from McAvoy, there are three other teenage characters who are victims of the abduction lead by Kevin to perform some sort of ritual and a renowned psychologist, played by Betty Buckley, with whom Kevin seems to appear in numerous medical sessions during the entire movie and she is the only one who faces all 24

characters of Kevin. The entire movie plot is mostly about the unleashing of a 24th personality of Kevin, which is a much awaited climax.

Apart from the plot and McAvoy’s acting, there were many negatives in the movie. Firstly, there were no strong connections between the three teenagers who were abducted. Secondly, the first hour of the movie seemed slow as the plot was not developing. This made the viewers restless; some action and more daunting suspense would have made it more appealing.

Although, the movie had a small cast but James’ personification of so many different characters filled up that void; one moment he was being a brutal man, the next moment he changed into a soothing woman or a silly 9 years old boy, just by changing facial expression. Apart from the weak links between the supporting characters, the movie was satisfying due to the plot and acting of McAvoy. It is the perfect movie for anyone who is a fan of the Thriller genre.

Pursuit of happiness



Sadia Afrose
Silvia Jahan
Bayezid Chowdhury
Dibakar Das
Habiba Akter Shathi
Kashpia Imtiaz Dristy

Happiness depends on people and how they perceive it. A person lying on a luxurious bed might not be as happy as a day laborer when he sees his children play in the open field. Happiness doesn’t just happen – it has to be made, it has to be produced and built from the ground up. And it has to be a decision in one’s mind: the decision to be happy.

Few days ago, we went to a street food shop and came across numerous children working and serving food with their tiny hands. A cheerful boy came with our ordered food, with a toothy smile. Befriending him was quite easy, given his amiable nature. Joel, the little boy aged 15 only, is the eldest son of his family. He came from Brahmanbaria and owned no land. Now he has been living at the Korail slum in Dhaka for last six years. When he had left his village, he was in class three. As his father is a landless farmer, he has to contribute to his family. He earns 200-250 TK per day but it is very difficult to maintain a family with such income. His eyes gleamed with happiness as he shared about his favorite actor ‘Arefin Shuvo’ and his favorite visiting spot ‘Shangsad Bhaban’.

This little boy is the essence of happiness. We have more than enough to make ourselves happy but we still sulk all day about things we don’t have. Happiness is not about getting what you want all the time but it is about what you have and being grateful for it. Hence we should all learn from this kid how to cultivate and spread happiness.

Water taxis: a big draw at Hatirjheel

Mir Tarid Al Abid
Ibna Salam Fuad
Mahedi Hasan Utshow
Abdullah Shakil Shorower

The water taxi service on the Hatirjheel Lake has been a big draw and is attracting a significant number of commuters from nearby areas. In the era of traffic congestion, it takes maximum 20 minutes by water taxi to commute from Gulshan to Hatirjheel. Water taxi service in Hatirjheel Lake in the capital is gaining popularity as many commuters are using the waterway everyday to avoid traffic congestion on road.

The water transport system, which was introduced in Hatirjheel on December 16 last year, aims to ease travelling and provides greater

connectivity among some areas. People from Badda, Gulshan, Rampura, Khilgaon and other eastern parts of the city can now easily travel to Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar, Eskaton, Bangla Motor and Tejgaon thanks to the water taxi service.

During a recent visit to FDC and Badda landing stations, This correspondent found that passengers were waiting in long queues for getting a ride on water taxis. Four water taxis are now ferrying

passengers on two routes from Hatirjheel’s FDC landing station to Badda Link Road and to Rampura Bridge stations. A single ride on FDC-Badda Link Road costs Tk 30 while it is Tk 25 on FDC-Rampura route.

Authorities informed that the water taxis are now ferrying around 1,500 passengers every day on average on the two routes. A water taxi can carry 45 passengers at a time. As part of a large project, another set of water taxis are scheduled to be introduced in Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake very soon, said the officials. The water taxi terminals are located in Hatirjheel’s FDC area, Rampura Bridge and Badda Link road. The service is running from 6:30am to 10:30pm every day.



A water taxi seen here ducking below one of the bridges at Hatirjheel

SPORTS & HEALTH

Spring derby at the Football Crusade 2017

FAHIM IMTIAZ

After much delay and uncertainty, the highly anticipated Football Crusade (Inter-Semester Tournament) was held between the 17th and 20th of April, at the BUET field. Returning champions Fall 12, led by none other than Ahnaf Rahman, were also the oldest team among the 12 participating. The favourites this time were Spring 16, who had incidentally lost to Fall 12 on penalties in the final last year.

Each group had 3 teams, from which the top 2 would progress directly to the quarterfinals. The champions, Fall 12, after having topped their group, found themselves facing Summer 14. The game

went straight to penalties after a goalless draw in regular time. The shootouts went in favour of Summer 14, and the champions were knocked out of the running. Spring 16 would have been keen



Players of Spring '16 celebrate with the Man of the Tournament - Shahzeer

on redeeming themselves for their loss last year but sadly found themselves facing Summer 14 in the semis instead, where goals from Shahzeer

and Aranya saw Spring 16 advance to the final.

On the other end of the bracket, Spring 17 were making waves. The freshers came into this tournament having won the Independence Futsal Cup last month, but this was a different scenario entirely. After beating Fall 13 in the corresponding semifinal, the stage was set for an all-Spring final. It was as intense as any final could get, with neither side giving the other any opportunity. Spring 16's Rakin struck the woodwork twice, once from a beautifully struck free-kick, piling the pressure on Spring 17. In the dying moments of the game, Shahzeer came to the rescue, heading the ball in from a well placed corner from Rakin. Spring 16 won the tournament in style, receiving the awards for man of the final (Rajo), as well as player of the tournament and top scorer (Shahzeer).

Footballers attend conditioning camp in Narshingdi

SAMIUL MAHIN

After dropping out from the knockouts in the last two Inter-University football tournaments, the footballers of the institution are determined to make things right. The first step towards salvation comes in the form of a conditioning camp. For the first time, the Football Club BRAC University boys get the chance to test themselves and push their limits in grueling conditions at Narshingdi.

Day One – 27th April

The BRACU Football squad began their journey from the Mohakhali Bus Terminal in the capital at 12 pm accompanied by coach Amit Hassan and Club President Atif Ahmed. The boys were in high spirits and soon broke out into songs and banter. The boys soon checked into Hotel Nagar Palace and got ready for their first match against the Narshingdi District



team. The venue for the game was the Musleh Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium. The team was soon fighting for every inch on the pitch with the experienced opponents. Both teams went into the break on level terms. After the break, the opponent team raised the pace of the game while the BRACU team tried to

hit them on the counter. Ultimately, the exhaustion from the long journey took its toll on the boys as they conceded a goal at the very last minute of the game. Despite the defeat, there were a lot of learning points to take away from the performance.

Day Two - 28th April

The next morning the team took on the Narshingdi U-25 team at the same venue. Spurred on by the previous day's defeat, the FCBU XI made a flying start against their next opponents, who were younger and thus more energetic than last day's opponents. A swift counter attack culminated in a spectacular goal by Rakin who was assisted by Rabib. However, a goalmouth scramble from a corner resulted in the boys conceding a goal. The opponents ended the first half leading 2-1, after a solo goal was scored by an opponent midfielder. After getting an earful from team mentor Iffat Rabbani Ovi, the FCBU XI put in a much better shift in the second half. Some half-time substitutions soon turned the match in BRACU's favor as the boys equalized with a beautifully placed shot from Jawad. The midfielders marshaled by captain Ahnaf soon wrestled control from the opponents. Everything was going well until a counterattack freed an opponent winger down the left, who calmly poked the ball home past the onrushing keeper. The game ended in a 3-2 loss with the boys lamenting their lapse in concentration.

Day Three - 29th April

After two narrow defeats, the team was eager to take on their most difficult test of all. Their next opponents were the Narshingdi Morjal Football team. The boys had to travel to Morjal area where an enormous partisan home crowd greeted them.



The unfamiliar environment and the hostile crowd seemed to play on their minds as the opponents scored two quick-fire goals in the first half. With the match seemingly going away from the team, Rakin popped up with a ferociously struck freekick that bamboozled everyone as it went in through the bottom corner. The team capitalized on the shift in momentum after the break when Raiyan finished off a counter attack with a sweetly struck left footed shot. The comeback was complete when excellent work from Real and Rayan, the only freshman on the team, freed Rabeeb to force a goalkeeping fumble on the other end. However, the team could not hold on for the win as some dubious refereeing decisions resulted in the opponent equalizing at the end of an unnaturally extended second half. Unfortunately, the Morjal team won the tiebreakers to clinch the Champions Trophy.

Despite the loss, the team returned to Dhaka later that night with some valuable lessons. The trip was an excellent opportunity for the FCBU XI to improve their fitness, create stronger bonds with their teammates and move out of their comfort zone. FCBU would like to thank the authorities for making this trip happen. The management team firmly believes that this experience will influence the performance of the team in the upcoming Inter-university football tournament.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Signs in Group Work

- Aries** – You appoint yourself leader of the group immediately. It is not that you do not trust anyone else... you are just impatient and you want to get this done, and done right.
- Taurus** – You know there are others to do the heavy lifting so you will relax and enjoy yourself. You will take responsibility for printing in the end, you guess.
- Gemini** – You promise to be efficient but find yourself piled up with too much work.
- Cancer** – Is it too late to ask for an extension? You start jotting down a list of possible excuses instead of starting the project.
- Leo** – You are going to ace this presentation, no biggie. Your ideas are great and your group mates look willing to follow your lead. Dang, you are such a boss.
- Virgo** – You would have preferred to be a leader but do not have the fortitude to self-appoint. Instead, concentrate on making the project look good.
- Libra** – You have SO many ideas!! Oh my god, you are going straight to the lab to open up a fresh document... oh wait... you forgot to take your group-mates' numbers...
- Scorpio** – Please stop procrastinating till the last minute. You are worrying your group leader sick!
- Sagittarius** – Another opportunity to meet people and make new friends. Make good use of this one, it might help with future term papers.
- Capricorn** – You are sincerely helping your group members out—by staying far away from the project. Hey, at least you are saving their time.
- Aquarius** – Groupmates! What groupmates? You were so sure it was a solo project! At least your group-mates will get an A.
- Pisces** – You offer your ideas in the beginning and help formulate the plan. You will take care of the editing, you prefer finishing the details.

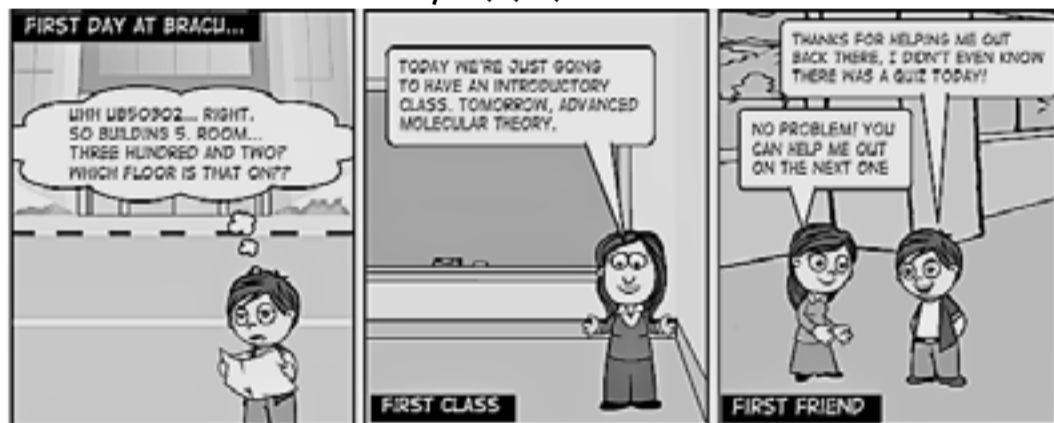


WORD LADDER

It's the beginning of a new semester. Can you go from a fool to a sage in 6 moves? In each step change one letter of the previous word to form a new (meaningful) word.



WELCOME TO BRAC UNIVERSITY by Fahim Imtiaz



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Sayema S Hossain
Adepto I Ahmed
Zahra Mayeesha
Anika Sababa
Shitab M Islam
Adiba Mahbub
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