

Rehabilitating half a million lives

Subah Shaheen

Journalist

There has been a mass exodus of refugees fleeing from the torture, rape, and inhumanities they face in Myanmar, into Bangladesh. The Rohingyas of Rakhine had always faced discrimination in Myanmar; since August 25, 2017, when a rebel group attacked police stations in Rakhine, the circumstances have taken a violent and intolerable turn. More than 600,000 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into Bangladesh since then.

Having recently opened its borders to the hungry, tired, and injured Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh had become a symbol of hope for them. But as a country already struggling with poverty and overpopulation, taking on the masses of refugees pouring into the country present an immediate problem of resources.

Despite the government's continued efforts, conditions in the refugee camps remain squalid, and the resources collected are insufficient to support the numbers.



True to its nature, BRAC has played an active role in leading the efforts to stand beside the distressed population of Rohingyas. BRAC built thousands of latrines, hundreds of tube wells and more than 50 child-friendly spaces and emergency health clinics. These clinics treat nearly a thousand patients, often children, every day. Alongside this, nearly two hundred thousand nonperishable items were distributed as part of their massive relief program.

BRAC University in turn has opened the "Vice Chancellor's Relief Fund" allowing individuals and groups from the university to contribute to the cause by donating

to the fund. Students and teachers alike have managed to raise almost three lakh taka under this initiative. Moreover, as per a needs assessment carried out by S N Kairy, Treasurer and Registrar (a.i), and Dr Erum Mariam, Director, BIED, five lakh taka worth of tarpaulin were purchased and distributed to some 700 families. Priority was given to families with pregnant women and children. Tarpaulin is a sheet of strong, water resistant material which will be used as mattresses in the camps where the damp conditions of the ground has been leading to additional discomfort for the refugees.

Despite their best efforts to smoothly rehabilitate the refugees, these entities alone cannot support half a million lives. There is still much more that needs to be done. Even a small donation, be it monetary, clothes, or food, will make a huge difference. It may even save a life.

Students are encouraged to donate via the Vice Chancellor's relief fund; or directly to BRAC. For donations and more information, visit: <http://response.brac.net/#donate>.

Clubs Assemble!

Marium N Oishee

Journalist

This season's highly anticipated Club Fair was arranged by BRAC University Marketing Association. Sponsored by Partex Furniture Industries Ltd and Danish Simla Tea, "Fall Waynias" was organized as a comic-con simulation. The club fair took place over three consecutive days.

The event began on October 8th with a crowd of excited students swarming into the cafeteria of UB02 where all of BRAC University's existing clubs had set up stalls. The registration process went on till 2pm, amidst nonstop reverberating music. The day came to a close after some mind-blowing performances by students: The Alonies, Faabiha Khan, and A-5, followed up with a concert by artist Minar Rahman.

The second day saw even more performances by BRAC University



Minar performing for the first time at BRACU

Cultural Club (BUCuC), BRAC University Communication & Language Club and BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum. The mesmerizing demonstrations hyped the audience as the event approached the crowd favorite "Club Fair Movie Show Fall 2017," organized by BRAC University Film Club.

This exciting event ended with a food festival, many popular restaurants setting up stalls in the UB2 Cafeteria, along with an Open Mic session by BUCuC.

Folk Music Lives On

Zaira Zafroon

Journalist

In an age where the youth's favoured music is pop and house music, "Bangla-Gauner Vabna-O-Poth-Chola" brought a welcome change in the music culture of BRAC University. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb wished to uphold the tradition of Bangla poetry and music among students through this platform.

On October 2nd, the Indoor Auditorium hosted an event named as "Kaljoyee Bangla Loko Gaan". Both the Vice Chancellor and the Pro-Vice Chancellor were in attendance. The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr Ansar Ahmed played the harmonica for the students, to general appreciation from the audience. The key speaker of the event, Zahir Alam, the son of renowned folk singer Abdul Alim, performed for the students after his speech.

Attired in traditional outfits befitting the theme, students from all departments took part. Instrumental performances ranged from the harmonium, guitar, to flutes. Songs by Lalon, Hason Raja, Abbas Uddin, Abdul Alim and others found fresh new voices with their performances.

Pharmacy Associate Professor Dr Sharmind Neelotpol, who organised the event, said, "This



Folk songs performed at BRACU.
Photo Source: Uni TV

platform not only promotes Bangla songs; it aims to inform the students about the way in which each song relates to a particular lifestyle, the moral and social values attached, and to the commitment of the original singers. It leaves a larger impact on the students."

However, she acknowledges that creativity means new directions that may challenge the old. While classics should be certainly be sung with respect to their original forms, new performers must be allowed add their own flair and flavour to their renditions. Dr Neelotpol noted, "This time the students were fantastic. They were really enthusiastic and young lively blood. [Because of their performances] the program was so successful."

NEWS & EVENTS

BRIEFS

Biswamil 2017

BRAC University Cultural Club members Irtaza Mahbub, Shezan Anik, Tasawar Zaman, Waseque Abdullah, Saptak Khan, Akif Ahmed Khan, Umme Salama and Aporajita Mustafa attended Biswamil Fest 2017 at the O. P. Jindal Global University in Haryana, India. This event took place from October 6th to October 8th. It aimed to develop a culture of collaboration between countries through plays, productions, and performances. Notably, Kathak dancer Aporajita Mustafa conquered the stage as she secured an award for the Solo Classical Dance Segment, the first competition of the festival.

Textravaganza

The English and Humanities (ENH) department organized the event, "Textravaganza," under the supervision of Senior Lecturer Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury. It took place on the 4th of October at the Building 2 Indoor Auditorium. The session was consisted of series of recitation, narration, musical and stage performances by the ENH students with the motive to promote critical thinking by getting engaged with the texts that may at times seem difficult and daunting to students. The event was open to all and is considered to be one of the most unique shows put forward by ENH till date.

Contract signed for new campus

BRAC University is going to build its new permanent campus facility in Merul Badda, Dhaka, on 6.29 acres of land which has been donated by BRAC. The building itself will be 1,700,000 square feet. The piling and D-wall for the new campus has already been completed. For the construction of a unique building having 3 basements and 13 floors, a contract was awarded to a BUCG-ABC Joint Venture. The target is to complete construction of the new campus within 30 months and shift there in early 2020. On September 25th the contract was signed in a ceremony held at BRAC University.

1st NILS Legal Debate Competition

We are all familiar with the term 'debate', but the concept of 'legal debate' is quite new. This idea has been turned into reality by the '1st NILS Legal Debate Competition', which was held in Chittagong over October 6th and 7th. The team 'Aquinas', representing BRAC University, consisting of Md Tanzimul Haque, Zeba Farah Haque and Sadia Afrin from School of Law broke to the Semi-Finals as the 2nd best team leaving behind 24 teams. The team also became the Champion in the '1st SCLS Law Olympiad, 2017' beating 32 teams, which was also held in Chittagong from August 28th-29th.

Open Tee Bioscope: BUCSC's fun history lesson

Antara T Ananta

Journalist

BRAC University Community Service Club (BUCSC) recently hosted an interactive session with the children of BRAC Primary School, in Korail. The program was designed exclusively to spread historical knowledge about Bangladesh and its land, as well as practices on environmental conservation.

The Assistant Secretariat of Events, Faiza Nuren said, "This event was organized after a special request from Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed was made to our president, Antara Tarannum. We planned it accordingly, with a special showcase for an animated film made by RS 45. It was great fun, as we showed the film through a bioscope!"

The animation illustrated the birth of Bangladesh, beginning with the

Language Movement in 1952 until the 1971 Independence War and the Victory Day of 1972. living was conducted after a mini quiz on the film. The excitement and enjoyment

The young audience was much impressed upon hearing the charismatic speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the first time in their lives; some even attempted to memorize the iconic speech.

Munna, a student of BRAC Primary School said that he always wanted to know about Bangladesh's independence, as his great grandfather fought in the Liberation War. Children like Munna emphasise the importance of such projects as this.

A short demonstration and lecture on environmental conservation and green

shown by their young audience impressed upon the BUCSC members the genuine impact and value of their work with them.



HULT Prize 2018 opens with an 'energetic' start

HULT Prize 2018 comes with the challenge of "Harnessing the Power of Energy". Since 2014, students of BRAC University have been participants in the HULT Competition every year, and have returned with esteemed positions every time. The opening ceremony of HULT Prize 2018 in BRAC University was held on Saturday, the 14th of October 2017.

The opening speech of the ceremony was delivered by Tasneem Omar Ava, Co-Founder and COO of Synergy Global, and the Global Finalist at the HULT Prize 2016. She welcomed all the speakers, the coordinators and the prospective participants of this year's HULT Competition.

Mahreen Mamoon, Associate Professor of BRAC Business School and the coordinator of HULT Prize 2018 took the floor with a short recapitulation of the previous competitions and participants.

Sajid Iqbal, the Queen's Young Leader 2017 and the keynote speaker of

the opening ceremony, followed the theme and enlightened the crowd regarding the solar lamp.

Following him was Peter Halder, BRACU Alumnus, as an industry expert on energy;

Najibah Rahman

Journalist

To add more light and motivation to the competition and its participants, representatives from the teams of 2015 and 2017 (Sneho and Resurgence respectively) shared their joys, team bonding and experiences of being former winners of this competition.

The seminar continued with a video of the HULT winners from 2016.

Mirza Tanzim gave pointers on HULT scorecards: how to come up with and narrow down ideas and answer questions. Finally, the HULT Prize app was unveiled. Ava returned and concluded the event with words of acknowledgement to IABC and media partner, BRACU Express.



and then, Asif Chowdhury, 2014 Regional Finalist of the HULT Prize. They both emphasized on the importance of being passionate and dedicated to one's cause, and taking the responsibility that comes with sharing one's vision to society.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WRITING?
DO YOU LIKE TAKING PHOTOS?
ARE YOU ALWAYS BUSY ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

BRACU EXPRESS
An independent monthly publication by BRAC university students

BRACU EXPRESS IS RECRUITING THIS SEMESTER!

OPINION & ACADEMICS

BRACU Family: necessity or luxury?

Muntaqa Bari

Journalist

Like the hackers of our favourite urban legends, they prefer to remain unnamed. The developers of BRACU Family however, have a goal that is not so grandiose; simply to make the lives of BRACU students easier by making the Teacher Student Resources (TSR) accessible, from anywhere at all, via the internet.

For the unaware, BRACU Family is the name of the website that now houses all materials in the TSR provided by the faculties for the students. One of the most important resources available to BRACU students for their educational purposes, the biggest drawback

the TSR system had, perhaps, was being accessible only through university computers.

And this is where BRACU Family stepped in, trying to eradicate this inconvenience. Having the entire content of the TSR online means that students would not need to come to the university just to get some slides, if the need ever arose. However, like all good things, BRACU Family came to an end when many people raised concerns about copyright issues and BRACU's intellectual property being available to anyone who was not a student.

When BRACU Family was relaunched on Oct 1st however, the developers implemented a USIS verification method to ensure only BRACU students could gain access to their services. Students and faculty

members still worried about students' USIS credentials being amassed, after it was brought to light that the USIS does not have an authorization module that would allow foreign programs to gain access to the users' data. BRACU Family was, again, made public until the developers found a more acceptable solution.

According to one of their developers, one of the major hurdles they had to face during their venture, besides writing custom scripts to efficiently manage a behemoth storage of data, was getting accepted by the very people they were trying to help. They only hope that one day students will make BRACU realize the real need for an online TSR. With the university's assistance, BRACU Family can turn into something that students can safely use without the fear of infraction of privacy.

Marking three years without Piash Karim

Najibah Rahman

Journalist

The 13th of October marked the passing of the third year without our esteemed professor, Piash Karim of the Department of Economics



and Social Sciences. With a PhD degree in Sociology from Kansas State University, USA, and specializing in the fields of Political Economy, Political Sociology, Nationalism and Social Theory, he held the respected post of a Professor of Economics at BRAC University from the year 2007.

Before BRAC University, Dr Piash Karim was a faculty at the University of Nebraska and Culver-Stocketon College in Missouri for about 17 years. His writing has been published in journals and papers both locally and internationally. Despite having an astute expertise in Economics, his passion lay in Civil Society and Media Activism and he was always very vocal and bold regarding his thoughts on both national and international crises.

Amongst peers and students, Dr Piash Karim won hearts not with his academic prowess, but with his charm. His colleagues and students alike remember fondly the *adda* and *cha*. Even while teaching, he would weave within his lectures stories and jokes, making the experience of his classes so enjoyable that students were left wondering where the time went.

Upon asking to reminisce about our beloved Professor, Ishtiaque Hossain, a faculty of Residential Semester in Savar, BRAC University, said, "Sir always spoke up on pertinent issues of political violence and even controversial national issues. His writing focused on nationalism from the contexts of different countries. His death was a great blow, and loss, for both our country and this university."

Shehzad M Arifeen, lecturer and alumnus of BRAC University, Department of Economics, commented, "Despite the controversies later in life, I do not think it can be denied that Dr Piash Karim was an inspirational figure who gave generations of students a glimpse of radical politics and society that they may have never encountered otherwise. For that, and for his mastery of dialogic teaching, he will be remembered."

Dhaka to Bangkok: sharing local concerns globally

Tasneen Ahsan

Correspondent

The International Institute of Peace and Development Studies (IIPDS) invited students of BRAC University to attend the Second Young Scholars Conference. The focus of the conference this year was "Asian Studies in a Globalized World: Building Bridges". Under the guidance of Dr Saira Rahman Khan, School of Law students Hafsa Abdullah, Mahpara Sanjana and Tasneen Ahsan formed a joint

panel and focused on the status of women in Bangladesh, legal constraints created on



The panel: (Hafsa, Tasneen & Mahpara) after their presentation.

panel and submitted three interdependent papers on the marginalization of women in Bangladesh. Noman Parvez, also from School of Law, presented his academic paper "Teesta Water Sharing Dispute and Diplomacy: An Analysis on International Law and Politics."

The two-day conference started on the 28th of September, at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. The conference began with a keynote speech from revolutionary activist, Chandra Muzaffar. The speech was followed by presentations from young scholars from India, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

The BRACU representatives were asked to present their work on the second day of the conference. The trio's papers illustrated the denial of women's rights in Bangladesh

women due to patriarchal laws, and put forth recommendations that would facilitate steps forward in ensuring women's rights in Bangladesh. Noman's paper explored the controversies and problems faced due to Bangladesh sharing its water with India by way of the Teesta River.

As one of the participants put it: "The experience was an extremely rewarding one and allowed us to use our training to discuss a topic that is often swept under the rug."

The papers were extremely well-received; earning positive responses from the attendees and the organizers as they could resonate with the common problems present in their respective countries as well. The conference ended with a certificate giving ceremony.

SPECIAL

A World of Op

With graduation right around the corner, you are likely to be faced with a lot of dilemmas, the biggest being what your next step should be. More often than not, we are stuck between two choices- either to step into the working world or to further hone our skills through a master's degree. If you do pick the latter, the next question is where? Fear not, friends! The world indeed is your oyster.

North America

—The Land of Opportunities

Between the United States of America and Canada, you will be spoiled with choices regarding where to apply. While this makes extensive research a must, it also means that you need to have a specific idea on exactly what your academic needs are since North America offers higher education in a variety of subfields. Once you have a narrowed down list, look through the websites of your preferred universities for details such as application requirements and deadlines and note those down. Often, deadlines vary greatly from anywhere between early December to early March.

When applying, you will need to submit a completed application form, specific to your chosen institution, as well as your graduation certificate, transcripts, resume, letters of recommendation and proof of financial solvency. Additionally, you will be required to submit proof of English language proficiency or French (in francophone territories of Canada), as well as, GRE or GMAT for most U.S. universities.

North America can be an expensive option, but it does not have to be. You will find that the big cities (New York, Boston, and so on in the U.S.; Toronto and Ottawa in Canada) will tend to be much more expensive than smaller towns. If you are looking for financial aid, you are encouraged to reach out to particular universities directly. However, ensure that you have gone through their websites first to ask targeted questions. Explain your financial situation and ask questions about possible options open to you – ranging from the scholarships offered to work-study options. If you are applying for a research-based degree, you can also enquire about grants.

Finally, once your acceptance letter comes through, there is one final round of red tape to cross before you can fly: VISA. This is perhaps the most dreaded portion of the entire process. Once your acceptance letter comes through, send an email to the US Embassy/Canadian High Commission to get a list of the required documents. You will likely need to re-submit all the paperwork you sent to your university during applications as well as your letter of acceptance from the university. Fill in the appropriate forms and then just sit tight and pray that things work out in your favour.

COMMON INFORMATION PORTALS:

<http://www.mastersportal.eu>

<https://www.masterstudies.com/>

<https://www.findamasters.com/>

<https://www.internationalstudent.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HigherStudyAbroad/>

Europe

—Old yet Highly Reputable

Other than the experience itself of living and studying there, there are many other good reasons to pick Europe as one's destination for a Master's degree. There are plenty of topnotch research institutes, some of the world's oldest running and most reputable universities and often relatively more affordable total costs of education.

One can look into MastersPortal for easier searching through universities and programmes in most of the more frequented parts of Europe; Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, the UK and others, and the application requirements to any university from these countries. Practically all universities require candidates to have taken the IELTS exams (the minimum score requirements from the exam itself differs on university and programme) and some universities may be convinced to take one's GRE scores (if one has sat for the exams) into consideration when applying as well.

One must also keep one's transcripts prepared for the applications. Some universities have minimum requirements for CGPA and publications for certain programmes, which can only be waived for applicants under special circumstances.

Applications for the fall/winter session in European universities start around fall of the year before and ends roughly around February-March (though some universities do have deadlines that differ from this rough average). There are luckily, many scholarships on offer in European universities and some (like the ones in Germany we have all heard of) do not require tuition fees. MastersPortal should help applicants find portals especially for scholarships, if the country one is specifically researching into has any (like www.grantfinder.nl for the Netherlands). Various student consultancy agencies like studyeuropebd.com can also help

Bangladesh

—From the comfort of home

When choosing a university to pursue post-graduation in Bangladesh, there are many considerations one must make. First being, whether one wishes to apply to a public or private university; second, what variety of programs are offered by the universities one is researching.

Among public universities, University of Dhaka is one of the most prestigious public educational institutes of Bangladesh, ranked 124th by the QS Asia University Ranking. In parallel, BRAC University is the highest ranked private university of Bangladesh at 228th by the QS Asia University Rankings. The range of facilities provided by a university should also be considered while choosing, such as in-campus opportunity

FEATURE

Opportunities



Asia —Almost home

With 7 out of the top 20 student cities being in Asia, it is no surprise that Asia remains a top choice for many higher education seekers. While India and Singapore are home to bigshot business schools such as IIM-A, Insead, Nanyang and NUS, China and Hong Kong boast of world renowned STEM departments. Both South Korea and Japan provide an even mixture of top ranked institutes such as Kyoto University, University of Tokyo and Seoul National University, which are specifically renowned for the social sciences, law and humanities departments. Being the hub of technology, Japan still remains a top priority for engineering students.

Malaysia has become quite a favorite student destination in recent years chiefly due to universities such as Monash, University Malaya, and University Putra Malaysia. However, you are likely to face a massive language barrier (except for in Singapore and Hong Kong) since almost every course is conducted in their native language. Even a few of the important web pages of the universities itself only display content in the local language.

Government scholarships in China, Hong Kong, South Korea appease the financial burden of several candidates. As for institutes, a shout out to USTC of China, HKU and HKUST of Hong Kong, Keio and Tokyo University of Japan, and NTU of Singapore for providing some of the most generous full tuition scholarships for international students. Based on overall living expense, Malaysia and China are the most economical options.

While entrance requirements differ based on departments and universities, the general consensus is that other than Singapore which requires standardized GRE and GMAT scores as well, most other countries will ask for the undergraduate certificate alone. Proof of language proficiency is required in every institute along with the usual letters of recommendation and subsequent interviews. Certain departments give extra credit to published research work as is the norm in all parts of the world. While VISAs and the application processes are generally completed by the individuals, organizations such as Fast track education, Helpline BD and Mentors do provide professional guidance for the procedure.

The overall living and tuition expenses differ greatly with Singapore being one of the most expensive and Malaysia and China hosting some of the cheapest student cities.

and departmental faculty.

Apart from the graduation CGPA, many universities considers IELTS score to ensure that a candidate holds proper English language skills. Many universities also offer past question papers to give a general idea about the entrance exam. Agencies like Mentors and Safiur's offer short courses to help you prepare for the entrance exam.

Almost all the universities provide scholarship based on the candidate's profile. Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) has the most attractive scholarship schemes, providing a higher discount rate along with greater categories to apply for.

Job experience VS Extracurricular activities

In many Master's programs, work experience is considered a distinguishing factor in the admission process as it allows examiners to certify that the applicant is not just trying with an idea that seems temporarily stimulating, and that he/she is truly passionate for their field. Without job experience, you are likely to be at a disadvantage since you will be competing with more experienced candidates. Moreover, many employers will sponsor for a Master's degree after a particular amount of time has been spent with the company, specifically if it would make you a worthier asset to the company.

But there is no need to be anxious if you are not working. Unpaid internships or even extracurricular activities such as volunteering in clubs or outside the university are equally lauded, provided they are related to your field. Research experience and exposure to a practitioner setting, whether paid or unpaid, are always a plus point for universities.

In fact, working at clubs and unpaid internships show that you are dedicated to learning and are not motivated by monetary gains. Working at clubs, especially if you hold positions, display your interpersonal skills and leadership qualities that will help you stand out, both on the academic and the professional stage. Clubs are also a great way of networking and one must not make waste of such an opportunity.

The main point of both job experience and extracurricular activities is that they display that a candidate is both interested and motivated to gain knowledge outside of their books. Hence, it is always better to have one or the other (or if you can manage, a combination); the bottom line is to try to do more than just studying for courses during your undergraduate life.

Australia —The Surfer's Paradise

To get some working and surfing done, try Australia and New Zealand. You could look at the Elite 8 in Australia: Australian National University (ANU), University of Melbourne, Monash University, University of New South Wales (Good for Engineering), the University of Queensland (UQ), or maybe University of Auckland in New Zealand.

The requirements of the universities in Australia are wildly different, not only from university to university, but also from subject to subject. However, a level of English proficiency is required across the board, which can be met through IELTS. Research your courses at both topnotch and middleground universities to decide what suit your academic and financial needs.

You could look into "Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship" for scholarships in Australia. Both countries have searchable databases to be found online. However, one thing to keep in mind is, these applications need to be made early. Applications for scholarships for the February session open around April of the previous year.

If you want to apply for a student visa to Australia, you must use an ImmiAccount. Applications for a New Zealand student visa can also be made online. Amongst a few other things you will need to provide proof of acceptance into a course in a university, English proficiency (IELTS), proof of financial solvency. You will also need to provide medical checkups and will need to buy Overseas Health Insurance.

Cost-wise, you can expect to find your annual fees in the range of TK 130,000 - 260,000 in Australia and New Zealand. And as for living costs, they are relatively high in both countries. You should allocate at least TK 110,000 annually for housing and food.

Check out www.topuniversities.com, www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz, www.studyinaustralia.gov.au for more details!

OFF CAMPUS

8th best speaker of APB: Rifayat Raisa

Zaira Zafroon

Journalist

2017 has been a great source of joy for the debating community of Bangladesh. While the Bangladeshi team consisting of Rawnak Zaheen Wasi and Sajid Khandaker won the prestigious Asian British Parliamentary Debating Championship, our very own Rifayat Raisa broke as the 8th best speaker in all of Asia.

Rifayat's success story, as someone who started her debating career only two years ago, is truly an inspiring one. Her triumphs in this year alone include winning Bidushi Women's Open in Nepal with her partner, Iffat Sumaiya, and breaking at International Islamic University of Malaysia Debate Tournament 2017. Earning a spot in Asia's top ten best speakers list was definitely the cherry on top.

When they announced the speaker

breaks, Rifayat said she had already returned to the hotel. Upon her arrival, her phone began to buzz incessantly with calls and messages from people congratulating her.

"When I went back, I realized I had tied as the 8th best speaker with Rawnak; a debater I have admired since the very beginning of my debating career. It shocked me to my core! It took me a long time to actually believe the fact."

At Krabi Island, where the tournament took place, Rifayat had the opportunity to debate against some of the top debaters in Asia. She said, "It was a surreal experience. It took a lot of will power to compete against the best and not be intimidated by them; but in the end, I felt like I made a lot of new friends."

Debating is a competitive sport but the mutual respect in the circuit is genuine. Rifayat describes it as "a

community of people who encourage you to do your best even when they are competing against you." She dedicates a major share of her success to her



Rifayat Raisa watching the opponent speaker during a round

partners and the people who have inspired her. Her long list of such debaters includes Azraf Uddin Ahmad, Asif Hassan, Iffat Sumaiya and Afraim Karim, among many others.

To-do lists, plans and priority

Sumaiya Tasnim

Journalist



This smile doesn't fade even in the toughest situations

The information desk in Building 1 is a place where employees work long hours to make sure the campus runs smoothly. Ismat Shereen, the Senior Assistant Registrar of BRACU, is known to all those who meet her to be one of the most dedicated and hard-working individuals on campus.

From closely accommodating students from the foreign countries to fresher's orientation, she participates in every significant event of BRAC University. She does everything with unparalleled energy, ready to do it all over again once a new semester starts.

She explained that organisation skills and multitasking was very important to the work she does. "Start with a plan and a to-do list. And do yourself a favour: always prioritise urgent work over others." Ms Shereen knows how to handle huge occasions easily, and shares the secret behind her success. She believes in making a Plan A and a Plan B. "You cannot always expect your plans to work accordingly but I need to make things go quite smoothly here, so I always have a plan B. Sometimes, you even need a Plan C."

Ms Shereen was proud to mention that BRAC University has larger scholarships range than any other private university in Bangladesh. Foreign exchange students from Uganda, America, Nepal, Myanmar and many other countries come to BRACU to study and avail them, and she ensures their comfort and the smooth transition to a new place.

It is from viewing the work Ms Shereen does with the students at BRACU that we may glean how valuable the nitty-gritty work is to the functioning of everyday operations. Hers are the invisible hands that work the gears.

Oh My Dog

Safir Zawad

Journalist

For students searching for new eats around campus, there is a little food cart located opposite Bismillah Cafe, near Building 2. They call themselves Oh My Dog; and they make the best hot dogs ever!

Two friends from BRAC Business School, Robiul Hossain Nadim and Fahim Shahriar, launched this quaint business venture on July 1st. The location used to be a tea store, but when the shop unexpectedly closed down, the two owners seized their opportunity.

Though Nadim and Shahriar were complete amateurs, they spent countless weekends doing research. They found out about everything: from meat and vegetable prices at Karwan Bazar to dealing with metal workshops at Sayedabad for custom equipment. Over the course of three months, they learnt everything about handling a restaurant business by themselves.

The duo gathered money from



A happy customer in front of the 'Oh My Dog' cart

their savings, and finally launched their cart. The food gained popularity amongst the student population almost immediately. The hotdogs were sold out for two consecutive weeks.

When asked about what their biggest concern was before opening, Nadim said, "We knew BRAC University students would be expecting the highest quality. So, we made maintaining that quality our first priority."

True to their word, they source

only the best quality ingredients for their hotdogs and the flavour proves it. Currently, their menu boasts a Beef Hot Dog, and Chicken Hot Dog, and will soon introduce three new items in the future: Egg Dog, Frankfurt Hot Dog, and Big Mamba.

As of October 28th, they are offering a Buy One Get One offer at the low rate of Tk. 65. They are a must visit if you are ever hungry at BRAC University, because their Hot Dogs will make you go 'Oh my dog!'

SPORTS & HEALTH

BUPL 2017 kicks off with the players' auction

Nafees Mosharraf

Correspondent

On the 21st of October, Saturday, managers and players got together to take part in the Player's Auction for the 2017 edition of BRAC University Premier League (BUPL). 12 teams fought for 36 pool players, with a maximum limit of 3 players per team, and 12 icon players were divided between each team via lottery. Organized by BRAC University Cricket Club (CBU), the auction provided an opportunity to see the strengths of each team before the season begins on the 3rd of November.

The event started off with the player's auction, conducted by the president of CBU, Ahmed Raisus Salehin Maruf. Each team was allocated 4000 points to buy 3 players each, with each player having a base price of 400. Among them, a few that stood out were- Shouren Sen Gupta, who went to BIZ BEE for 2400, Nafees Mosharraf to Drama and Theatre Forum (DTF) for 2000, Duke Mallick to BRACU Monon for 2000, and Akibur Rahman Choton for 2000 to BRAC University Law Society (BULS). The biggest highlight of the day however, was Naser Rajo, sold



Bidding away at UB2 auditorium

to BRAC University Economics Club (BUEC) for a whopping 3200 points.

After the player's auction ended, the lottery for the icon players was drawn with a host of big names on the list. Notable were Abdullah Al Noman, the player of the tournament in the RS Cricket Cup 2017, who was drawn by BIZ BEE, Asif Newaz Dipto a prolific all-rounder, drawn by Football Club BRAC University (FCBU), BRAC University Adventure Club (BUAC) got Anam Ul Haque, one of the best and fastest bowlers in BRACU, and Mahbub Bishal, a consistent run machine in BUPL cricket, was drawn by BUEC. The other icon players and their respective clubs are as follows- Abrar Mahmood

(BRAC University Indoor Games Club), Atiq Reza Tonmoy (Entrepreneurship Development Forum), Ryan Khan Apurbo (DTF), Mazed Ul Islam (BRAC University Pharma Society), Ibne Farabi Shiab (BRAC University Cultural Club), Shawn Mahbub (MONON), Rakib Mahmud (BUFC), Iftekhar Asif (BULS).

With icon players and pool players sorted out, the teams will now be focusing on the player trials, where they will fill up the rest of their teams with promising new recruits. Both the experienced pool players, and new recruits will get a chance to shine in the upcoming weeks, as the BRAC University Premier League promises another edition of nail biting action.

New Kits, New Dreams for the BRACU footballers

Samiul Hasan

Web Content Manager



New kits new dreams

Pulling on the jersey with the university logo for the first time is a special moment in the career of any footballer playing for the BRAC University football team. On the 5th of October, Football Club BRAC University (FCBU) hosted the Official Kit Inauguration Ceremony for the upcoming year at the UB3 Indoor Games room.

It was a bittersweet feeling for many of the senior team members, as this would be the last time they would be donning the BRAC University colours. The fresh recruits however, were excited at the prospect of representing the university on the pitch for the first time.

Tousif Bandhan, the president of FCBU, got the event underway by detailing the plans for celebrating the 12th Anniversary of FCBU. He stressed the importance of passion for the sport and the club. Jonayed Nafis Himel, General Secretary, urged everyone to work together to build upon the numerous successes of FCBU throughout the year and carry the club further. The event was also graced by the presence of several members of the club's alumni: ex presidents and executive members who contributed to the longstanding history of FCBU.

One by one, the players received their new jerseys from everyone's favorite mentor, Iffat Rabbani Ovi. Though the dark maroon kit with golden highlights was a definite hit among the players, the blue and gold goalkeeper's kit definitely stole the spotlight. Afterwards, the new captain of the BRACU football team Rashidur Rafi, and vice-captain Shahriar Real were officially introduced to the alumni. We hope that with all of our support, the BRACU team will continue to make us proud.

Fighting the inner battles

According to a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, anxiety is the highest concern among college students (41.6 percent), followed by depression (36.4 percent) and relationship problems (35.8 percent). In all the hustle and bustle that encompasses student life, it is easy to forget to take care of our physical, let alone our mental well-being.

But neglecting one's mental health does more damage than people imagine. Recognising this need to supply young people with recourse for mental health issues, BRAC University has a counselling unit with the purpose of looking out for its students' mental health.

Psychological Counsellor and Lecturer Safina Binte Enayet speaks to us about her practice within the university. The sessions usually take place once a week, under strict patient-doctor confidentiality. She says that it is essential that students feel that they are



in a safe environment, where they can open up about their feelings without the fear of being judged or misunderstood.

"Some days you might feel worthless or hate yourself for something you did (or

Sumaiya Tasnim

Journalist

did not do). But the first step to getting better is forgiving yourself and allowing yourself the company of people who care about you, rather than being lonely."

She tells us that there are no fixed and rigid procedures when it comes to therapy. Nor is the process the same for everyone. Though it can be hard to see one's own progress, an important part of therapy is to trust in yourself and understand that it always takes time for recover.

It is common for people to misjudge their mental health; young people especially show an aptitude for underestimating the need for better mental healthcare for themselves. But if you have stress, or anxiety; if you suffer from crippling depression and feelings of worthlessness; recognise that need for yourself and reach out.

ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOGRAPHER GRAPHIC DESIGNER ADMINISTRATOR

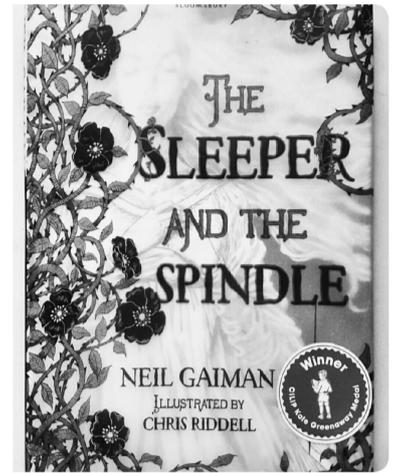
COMIC ARTIST **JOIN OUR TEAM** WRITER

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER *WANNA KNOW MORE? KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!*

Sleeper and the Spindle

Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman's *Sleeper and the Spindle* lies nestled between stories of blue boxes, old grudges and massive dogs. It is, quite without hyperbole, the prettiest book I have ever laid eyes on. Chris Riddell has outdone himself with his art: every drawing is so subtly detailed, every character so bold, and the burnished golden highlights on the pages only serve to make the black and white drawings all the more colourful. And of course, once you're done admiring the artwork, there is the story to mesmerise you further.



Of course, the Sleeping Beauty story is familiar to all of us. *Sleeper and the Spindle* is Gaiman's retelling of it. And what a fantastic retelling it is. In its brief 72 pages, we meet a Queen who, on her wedding day, dons her armour and sword to go investigate a strange almost magical sleep that has taken over her neighbouring kingdom. Along the way, Gaiman introduces us to other familiar fairytale characters we know and love, all the while quietly subverting many classic, oftentimes somewhat sexist tropes found in those classic fairytales of old, spinning a story that is both familiar, and yet fresh and bold in completely new ways. There are adventures and plot twists that leave you at the edge of your seat, all before an ending that will leave you smiling wistfully for a good ten minutes before turning back to page one.

By far the most refreshing thing about this story is probably just how unapologetically feminist Neil is throughout it. Most writers would have made the swap from Prince Charming to Princess Charming and called it a day. But Neil goes above and beyond, replacing the Prince with a Queen on a mission, and... well, many other things, most of which would sadly be spoilers. Despite its lack of length, our Queen is still given a character arc of her own; a very relatable one too, which, by the end, will leave you wanting a 10 book series chronicling her life.

Sleeper and the Spindle brings us an old tale spun anew, for the audiences of now to appreciate what a princess can be (dragonslayer and hero) and what a princess can do (ah... well now, telling you *this* would be telling you the whole story).

Book reviewed by @tsundokutouched

HOROSCOPE

Gemini
Need to end something? Do it. You don't need any of that. New things are about to bloom!

Taurus
Cash in the receipts, all you've worked on is about to come to fruition!

Aries
This is a good time for all relationship. The allies will leave you feeling energized!

Cancer
S-O-C-I-A-L-I-Z-E. It's a great time to be networking, Cancer my friend.

Leo
Listen, if you play your cards right, you're in for some rewards. And I know you can play them right.

Pisces
Push for change, and you will make transformations for the better. So push!

Scorpio
Finish up what you're doing already because this might be a good time to get into new things you've been excited about!

Sagittarius
You can get by (and thrive) with a little help from your friends. Yes that was a Beatles reference.

Virgo
Clarity. That's what you will have right now. Use it well and may the Force be with you.

Libra
You seem to be in a serious mood. Take your time, keep steady, you'll do just fine.

Aquarius
Let people experience your fun side and it will definitely work well for you!

Capricorn
Get hyped, set new goals, don't wait for the new year, the time is now!

King Arthur

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

- KNIGHT
- ROUND TABLE
- CAMELOT
- PROSPERITY
- MARRY
- DEFEAT
- COMPETITION
- REIGN
- LANCELOT
- BATTLE
- MAGIC SWORD
- MORDRED
- FUTURE
- MAGICIAN
- MAGIC STONE
- FORESEE
- MORGAN
- MERLIN
- BEAT
- DREAM



Advisory Panel

Roohi Huda
Rifat Mahbub

Student Editorial Board

Sayema S Hossain
Editor-in-Chief

Selima S Kabir
Managing Editor

Mahpara Sanjana
Head of Administration

Zahra Mayeasha
Copy-Editor

Tasvir B Mahabub
Creative Head

Shitab M Islam
Design Head

Shabiba B Habib
News Editor

Adepto I Ahmed
Opinions Editor

Adiba M Proma
Feature Editor

Maisha T Iqbal
Off-Campus Editor

Fahim Imtiaz
Sports Editor

Samiul H Mahin
Web Content Manager



facebook.com/bracuexpress



@bracuexpress



bracuexpress@gmail.com



issuu.com/bracuexpress