BRACU EXPRESS

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Campus gets festive with Winter Mayhem 2017

SUBAH SHAHEEN

One of the most exciting traditions of BRAC University has to be the club fair. Organized in the first month of the semester and hosted by a different club every time, it is so much more than students signing up for co-curricular activities. Club fair is that time of the semester when the cafeteria of UB 01 transforms into an exquisitely decorated venue and all students from all departments gather together turning the space into a buzzing hub of activity.

This year BRAC University Adventure Club (BUAC) rolled the carpet. With a theme of 'Winter Mayhem- Hike to the peak' they entwined the essence of the season along with the spirit of their club very well. The décor did the theme justice and the music created a festive energy throughout.

A glimpse of the fascinating decorations in UB 01 cafeteria

The winter mayhem started on January 22 with BRAC University Film Club screening the hit movies Inferno and Snowden in the auditorium of UB 01. The films were chosen through online voting and attracted big audiences. The following day saw a host of different activities and was naturally the most jam packed day of the event. From touring all the various booths set up by each of the clubs to being drawn into the impromptu dances of the more lively visitors, the energy of the day was palpable. BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum displayed splendid performances including songs, a puppet dance and two kinds of drama. The night ended with a fantastic performance by the band Stentorians. The last day which was the 24th saw Chef's Cuisine coming to campus for the food fest with everyone's all-time favorites to finally end the bonanza.

Starting from the beginning of its journey, BRAC University has always welcomed its old and new students to every new semester with such glory. Showcasing the diverse groups on campus to all the students is a splendid way to create a unified community.

From the hill tracts

SELIMA S KABIR

On 24th January at the GLDN conference room, Tamina M.Chowdhury was invited to celebrate the launch of her book titled, "Indigenous Identity in South Asia: Making Claims in the colonial Chittagong Hill Tracts". It was organized by the Department of English and Humanities, with its Chair, Professor Firdous Azim moderating the talk.

The discussion panel comprised of Professor Afsan Chowdhury, Professor Amena Mohsin, Professor Prashanta Tripura, and Professor Shapan Adnan. Each speaker hailed from a different area of expertise, allowing a rich and diversified discussion.

Ms Chowdhury wrote the book as an extension of her PhD, taking a historic narrative of the construction of indigenous identities of the Chittagong region during the colonial era. She devotes her time to providing a critical look at the history and through the book, she provides an extensive analysis of social and political impact of the British rule on the Chittagong Hill Tracts. She claims that there appears to be a lot of history surrounding this area that is yet to be researched, and Ms Chowdhury attempted to capture a small sliver of this.

To the states and back with UGRAD

ADEEPTO I AHMED

A lot of high-school graduates end up seeking solace in private universities for missing out on the opportunity of studying abroad. However, they still keep hunting for exchange or transfer opportunities out of that feeling of displacement. We talked to Sayemin Azam (Junior, ESS) and Mitesh Chakma (Senior, CSE), both back from a semester under the Global UGRAD programme of the World Learning organization, supported by the U.S. Department of State. Global UGRAD is a completely paid for exchange programme with a mind toward fostering cultural exchange which takes around 250 students from over 60 countries each year.

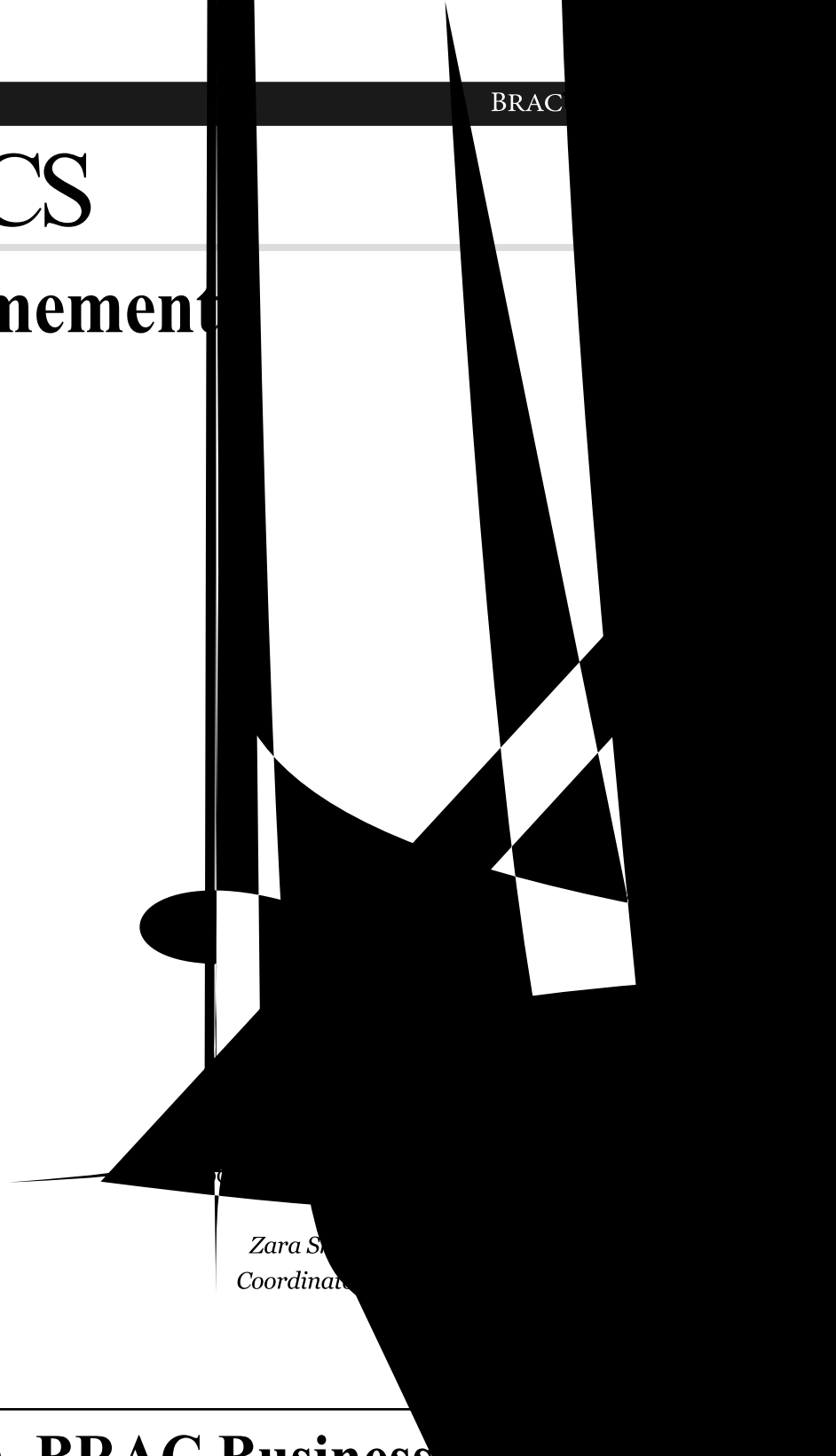
Mitesh and Sayemin (middle) posing with fellow UGRAD participants

Mitesh and Sayemin were placed in Kent University, Ohio and the University of Michigan respectively. "I didn't particularly luck out with my dorm mates" says Mitesh, acknowledging the "Great Powers That Be" of dorm room allocation, "but I was surrounded by a thriving Bengali community and a very diverse and welcoming population in a beautiful place, so I never felt anything but at home." Other than academic courses, participants have to complete 20 hours of community services, which our returnees completed with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Campus Kitchen and others.

The best part however, by consensus from both, was meeting everyone they did; from the residents and local students to other UGRAD participants, who all meet at D.C as part of the programme. "The actual exchange with the other participants, remarkable and absolutely inspirational people from all over the globe, at once makes you feel incredibly empowered, awed and even beyond all of that, you can just see the common humanness, honestly," Sayemin concludes of one of the most memorable experiences she has had.

OPINION & ACADEMICS

A momentous mement



Zara S
Coordinat

I don’t call myself successful - Dean, BRAC Business

SPECIAL

NIGHTLIFE at

Post 5pm Delig

The BRAC University vicinity
post regular class hours. Yet,
buzzing with lots of interesting
of us are unaware of. Hence,
made an attempt to uncover so
crawling superheroes and their a

in their respective "studios", because "classrooms" are too mainstream. Whether it's for their "jury" (finals), a "review" or "submission" of a project, these workaholics sometimes even set up temporary camp in their studio. During these late hours they engage in all manner of activities to keep themselves from falling into the pit of perpetual despair and being crushed by the weight of upcoming deadlines. The most prevalent of these shenanigans are those who choose to snooze-on their desks, on the floor, or a row of chairs put together. Others find more creative ways for stress relief. A few gather whatever material props they can find and act out a skit just to entertain the class. On certain uncommon occasions someone will come in and start playing a movie using the projector in class, and the rest will maximise any such opportunity to escape from having to think about the mountain of work they have piled up.

OFF CAMPUS

Fighting traffic, one ride at a time

RAKIB B SHAHID

I guess it's safe to assume that all of us, from time to time, fall victim to the traffic congestion of Dhaka city. All residents of Dhaka city share the frustration and the feeling of powerlessness. Hossain Al Muhee, however, did more than just sitting in traffic and letting frustration get to him. He cooked up a solution and soon initiated 'Get a Ride' service for BRACU students.

Hossain Al Muhee (Left) & Nahian Ibne Alam

Many of us either drive or have a chauffeur drive us around. Nonetheless, the fact that cars sometimes reach the campus with 3 to 4 vacant seats, which could potentially carry passengers, should be utilized instead. Fortunately, Nahian Ibne Alam, Muhee's friend was also pondering over it. It was a matter of luck that both of them came to know that their minds were engulfed by the same thoughts. Together they founded "Get a Ride."

"Helping our fellow class mates to "Get a Ride" to and from university by utilizing the unused seats in our private sedans is our primary goal," believes both the founders.

The idea is simple. They are to create a platform where students travelling in their private cars will provide rides to students seeking or taking the same route. But the glitch is that people do not want to offer rides to strangers or commute in a stranger's car. This is where 'Get a Ride' steps in. 'Get a Ride' works this out conducting need assessment surveys, keeping database, verifying information about the stakeholders and so on. Moreover,'Get a Ride' incentivizes service providers and takers through minimum monetary transaction. People giving rides get a fee based on the distance and time of the journey. And the people taking the rides get to commute at a fee which is much less than travelling by a CNG and much more comfortable than a bus. Besides, no more waiting for hours to get a way to catch that quiz since the deal is made beforehand. This incredible initiative has made the lives of many BRACU-ians easier and we hope that Muhee and Nahian can 'get a ride' on these blessings to reach greater heights with their plans.

The service is still at its preliminary stage and the founders of 'Get a Ride' have big plans. In order to reduce distress in the way you commute, add yourself to the facebook group of 'Get a Ride' as bulk of the activity is updated there. And of course, happy travelling.

One among us

TAHMID ZAMAN
S MASTURA FARZANA

One fine day, Nanfuka Milly, a student of BRAC Business School at BRAC University, got a message directly from Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. Her disappointment over missing the Ugandan government education scholarship was compensated for when she got to hear about BRAC University's scholarship program. After a long and comprehensive selection process, which included written examinations and an interview, to her delight, she got selected for the BRACU scholarship.

Nanfuka Milly enjoying the street view from Prangon

Being one of the lucky five selected to receive the scholarship is a milestone for her and with much vigor, she started a brand new chapter of her life from Summer 2015. Being in a different country and adapting to a new culture must be very difficult for her. "Well it was very difficult to adjust initially; the language is different, food is spicy and clothes are different but I am trying to get used to things," shares Milly. She also admires her host mom who takes care of her every whim and never lets her miss her family back home.

In her free time, the fun loving Milly listens to music voraciously, watches football and dances. Upon getting the scholarship, she aspires to become a marketing consultant and eventually go on to become an entrepreneur. When asked about her favourite thing about BRAC University, she expressed how this opportunity has helped her grow as a person by exposing her to a whole new culture, country and continent.

No lift can bring me down

Mohammad Selim

FAHIM IMTIAZ

Mohammad Selim is the guardian of the corner elevator in UB2; for 12 hours every working day. Mr. Selim doesn't need sleep because he must begin his righteous deed at the very early hour of 7 in the morning when most of us are busy snoozing away through our morning alarms.

During breaks Mr. Selim likes to go up to the roof of the 19-floored building because he, "likes the fresh air" and isn't scared of heights, obviously. Taking a few minutes to stand on one floor alone must be a different world to him than the one that is constantly moving up and down. When he was asked if his head spins from having to bear the awesome responsibility of being a Lift-man, he specifies, "Any normal person would go mad from doing this for more than 10 minutes because your head feels like it's spinning for a second, every time the elevator leaves a floor. Imagine having to do that all day".

Unlike any "normal person" however, the Lift-man's head does not spin, because he has already taught his brain to adjust to small inconveniences such as inertia, or maybe he is able to do it because it's simply his job, and he has his stomach to fill.

When asked whether or not he likes his job at the university, Mr. Selim says, "At this point, I have to like it," acknowledging his role in the system, and taking it head on to feed himself and support his family. Selim acknowledges his role as the elevator man in the university and responds by saying, "my job is all about interacting with the students; they are a big part of it. And no matter how difficult or monotonous my job may get, the interaction is what keeps me going."

New training facility excites footballers

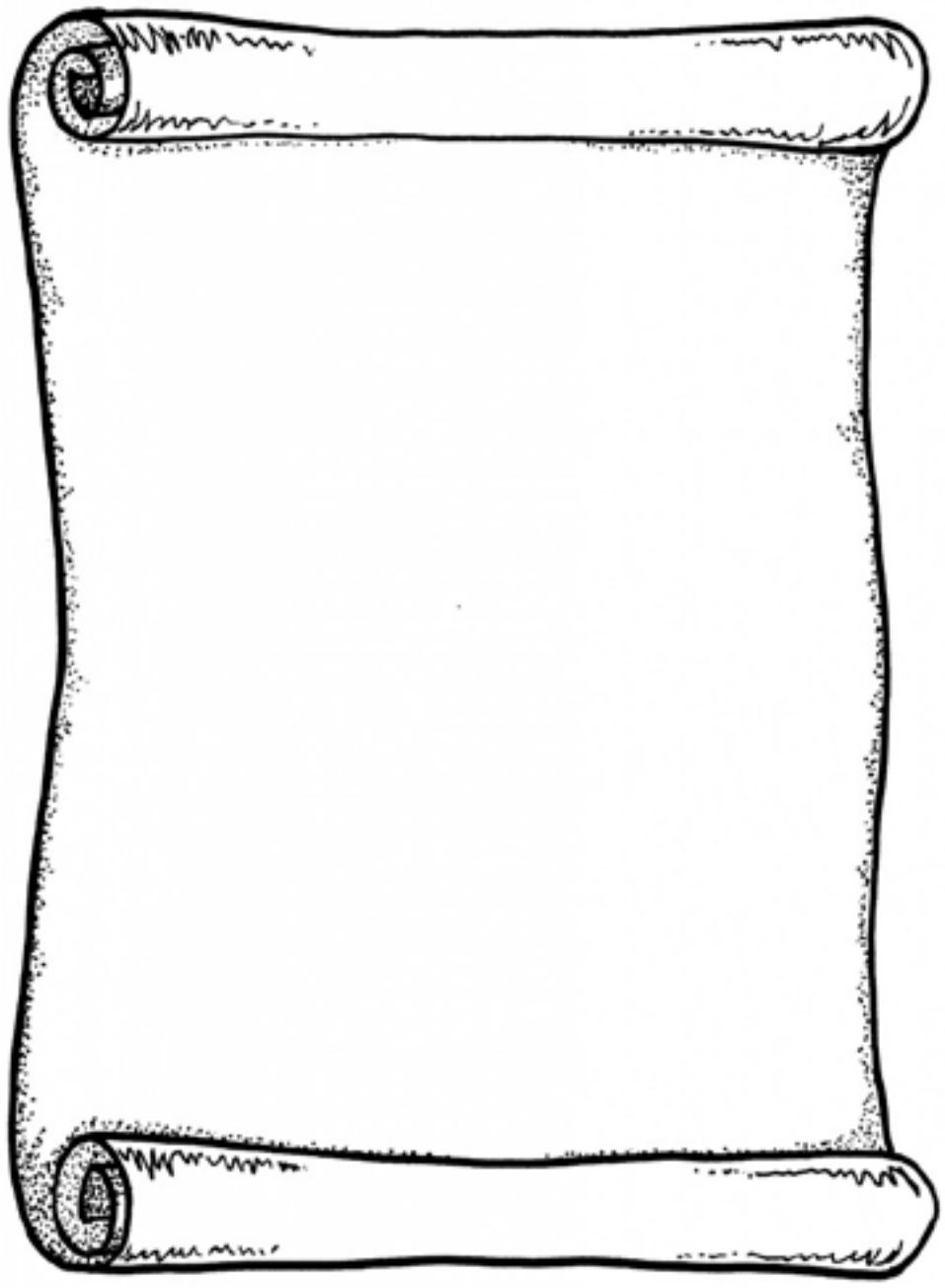
BRAC University Cricket team tours Narshingdi

From the fitness guru

SANJIDA CHOWDHURY

Chalazion and Conjunctivitis; eyes, face and hands should be kept clean and germ-free. Regular bath and clean outfits will also help prevent discomfort and allergy infection.

ENTERTAINMENT



HOROSCOPE

Aries – Independence and enterprise mark the life of Aries, but caution is advised as Mars is not favorable.

Taurus – There might be plenty of socializing for you out there. Aha!

Gemini – Be very careful to roam around in Bot-tola since it's empty now.

Cancer – There are major chances to get fat cause you might be 'inventing' new food places.

Leo – Be very cautious to be on time to class.

Virgo – Venus will boost your finances, so will your CGPA.

Libra – Be a little humble to your mates. That might get your assignments done.

Scorpio – The one that you're looking for is right behind building 2, looking for someone else.

Sagittarius – As Jupiter is making its move, be sure to be Mickey Mouse and befriend a Pluto.

Capricorn – Watching Netflix and doing projects? Nope. Not good.

Aquarius – Yelling at the computer won't solve your coding you know.

Pisces – Be careful while eating in the class. The person sitting next to you might want a slice.

class of 2016' in our last issue published on January 8th, 2017. The information regarding the VC gold medalists was not accurate and the correct information would be "Vice Chancellor's gold medals were awarded to 15 students from post-graduate programs and 12 students from undergraduate programs." Sincerest apologies from BRACU EXPRESS team if any confusion or inconvenience was created because of this. If any reader detects any error, factual or grammatical, please send us an email at bracuexpress@gmail.com