

# BRACU EXPRESS

an independent monthly publication by BRAC University students

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## Congratulations, class of 2016

NUSRAT NAUSHIN

With the tag-line of “Inspiring Excellence”, BRAC University is proud to present the Class of 2016.

A startling 1281 students celebrated their accomplishments on December 5, at ICCB (International Convention City, Bashundhara). Opening remarks were delivered by Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, honorable Minister, Ministry of Education. This was followed by Prof Abdul Mannan, UGC chairman, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, and Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb, Chairperson and Vice Chancellor of BRAC University respectively, who collectively delivered the convocation address. The convocation speaker Ms Shabana Azmi presented a very inspirational speech with tasteful humor. Gold medals



Graduates standing in queue to receive their certificates

were awarded to 15 students from post-graduate programs and 2 from undergraduate programs. The Vice Chancellor’s gold medals were given to 10 graduates from different disciplines. Finally the Chancellor’s gold medal was awarded to Rafiath Rashid (MSc in Early Childhood Development)

with a CGPA of 4.0 and Zainab Syed Ahmed (BPharm) with a CGPA of 3.98. Zainab shares a few heartfelt words with BRACU EXPRESS.

*“My apprehension towards the convocation was further amplified, when I was informed 5 days prior to the convocation that I was chosen*

*as the Chancellor’s Gold Medalist for the undergraduate program and the valedictorian of the 11th Convocation. But this was never the aim; it was rather the attitude to always strive for excellence, with an equal balance of play. After every semester, I used to leave the noise of Dhaka city to give myself a healthy dose of adventure. I would return with enough positive energy to face the challenges of the upcoming semester. I realized what BRAC University taught me was far beyond invaluable and will always be sacred to my heart.”*

In the second half of the ceremony, the respective deans of departments bestowed degrees upon numerous graduates eager for their turn on the stage, while their friends cheered at the top of their lungs. It was indeed a day to remember for the Class of 2016.

## Winter is here

TANVIR ISLAM

For a lot of us winter is a season that is pleasant, eagerly awaited and planned for. Needless to say, for those who can’t afford the appropriate clothing to keep themselves warm, surviving this kind of weather can be quite challenging. This is particularly true for the very young and the elderly.

Realizing and anticipating this unfortunate phenomenon, BRAC University Economics Club (BUEC) in association with “Project Kombol” has decided to stand alongside those who are in need and help them get through the harshest part of the year.

“Project Kombol” is a winter clothing distribution platform that works with many local NGOs throughout the country to make the task of distributing blankets simpler and easier. This year BUEC has successfully raised more than BDT 40,000, from the club’s members and their friends and family, to distribute blankets through “Project Kombol”. Their primary focus is on the Northern Districts of the country where winters can be fierce and unbearably cold. Those over at BUEC hope that this humble initiative will help give something back to the society more efficiently and effectively.

## Shaping the youth - one step at a time

SHABIBA B HABIB

Recognized as one of the top five ideas changing the world, the 2017 Hult Prize aimed, once again, to inspire and encourage the youth, to get a hold on the reins and help eradicate the problems plaguing our world. The theme this year was the pressing issue of the economic consequences refugees are facing. Teams were asked to build innovative and sustainable business ventures that would help restore the rights and dignity of some 10 million refugees by 2022.

Team Resurgence – comprising of Rafayet Khan, Ivana Afsara, Naziba Wafa and Mashiyat Rahman – emerged as the winners of the event at BRAC University, with their presentation of developing a sanitary pad made from an invasive water hyacinth species or “kochuripana”. Large scale manufacture of the pad will



**Worthy champions. From left:** Rafayet, Ivana, Mashiyat, and Naziba

create jobs for refugees, improve social outcomes and reduce an invasive species. When asked about the importance of such events in a student’s life, Naziba Wafa of the winning team says that the competition “has not only helped us grow professionally, but also personally. The various field visits, meetings, seminars have helped us realize our individual potentials and develop new skills to increase

our knowledge in our respective areas of interest.”

The winners will go to Taiwan in March 2017 for the regional stage to compete with top teams from Dubai, Shanghai, San Francisco, Boston and London. The top five teams from these places will be competing in the HULT Prize Global finale in Clinton Global Initiative in New York later in 2017.

## BRIEFS

**A new door of opportunity**

Bangladesh Business & Disability Network (BBDN) has created a platform to facilitate people with disabilities, with a view to count them as active workers and spread observance of international and national labour standards. Murteza Rafi Khan, project Director of A K Khan & Co Limited approached BRAC University Computer Club, through the assistance of OCA, to build a new website for BBDN. After intense hard work, on December 16th, three CSE students named Md Asif Bin Khaled, Mahmudul Hasan and Asif Salman Malik developed a website for them. While talking to Mr Khaled he said that the kind of initiative Mr Khan took by involving a university club had really helped the web developers to contribute in a socially impactful development project.

**German language course**

On November 24th, 2016, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) officially launched the German language course in a programme held at BRACU auditorium. Lady Sayeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL was present at the event as chief guest and shared her opinions about the importance of learning German. A good overview was delivered, about both educational and career opportunities in Germany. Speakers also informed the audience on how the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka would assist students in the admission process. Classes will start from January 2017.

**Erasmus Programme**

A recent exchange programme opened up under the CSE/CS department where undergraduate students were invited to Staffordshire University in UK where they will be paid £850 per month for up to 5 months, funded by Erasmus+, to complete their thesis projects. CSE/CS students are encouraged to apply for the programme. Eligibility is based on the following criteria: completion of minimum 100 credits, a minimum CGPA of 3, an IELTS score of 6, and a valid passport. The programme was approved by Dr Jia Uddin, Dr Md Haider Ali, and Dr Farhat M Iftekharuddin, and sponsored by Erasmus+.

**Celebrating victory in colours**

MAISHA TARANNUM

SAKIB MAHI

16th December is a red-letter day in the history of Bangladesh because it is the day when the long cherished freedom and victory came into being.

When asked about his opinion regarding the depth of 1971's history, the journalist, media professional, researcher, social activist, author, and renowned blogger Mr Afsan Chowdhury replied with a follow up question, "How much do you know about 1971? The history of 1971 is much deeper than just gunshots and killing. The history of 1971 is the history of ordinary people."

In his thoughts, "The young generation is helpless in knowing the true history of 1971 if they are not guided by the ones who witnessed it. It should be mandatory for every student entering BRAC University to state the family experience of 1971. This is the only way children can connect to their country because history of 1971 is in every family".



Crowd beside building 2 viewing Victory Day art

Every year, our victory is celebrated with parades, stage performances, concerts and various television shows. This year BRACU Art Society decided to take a different path and celebrate our country's victory with art. The "Bijoyer Rong Alpona Protijogita" was organized by Art Society on the 15th of December in honor of this special occasion. The event was an inter-club Alpona competition, where various clubs from BRACU competed against each other to produce the best Alpona in front of UB-2.

After thoroughly examining

the designs, along with the help of Facebook "likes" making up 25% of the total score, the winners were announced on the 27th of December. The clubs BRAC University Monon, BRAC University Film Club and BRAC University Entrepreneurship Development Forum held the positions of 1st, 2nd and 3rd as winners of the event respectively.

With this event, it was refreshing to see the clubs working together for a greater cause while maintaining their friendly competition to celebrate this national victory day with the BRAC University family.

**A festive finale**

SUBAH SHAHEEN

They say the greatest kindness is to educate a soul. Keeping that in mind and noting the importance of English speaking in this current culture, BRAC University Communication and Language Club (BUCLC), in association with BIL, had arranged free spoken English classes for underprivileged students. These were conducted every Friday for the past three months by student mentors. To showcase the students' improvement in the field and mark the conclusion of the course, a cultural programme, sponsored by Kiddo, was arranged on December 17th, 2016, in the auditorium of UB1.

The students performed dramas, songs and recitations in fluent English in front of an audience which included

their families. They received active support from the club members and the volunteers who coordinated the event professionally. The audience enjoyed watching the plays 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Funny Acting Rehearsals', while the drama on eve-teasing provided social commentary.

Recitations on the country, the students' trip to the zoo, and various short stories along with two songs made the programme a joyous event. Certificates were awarded to the participants of the course and a group photo taken to capture the special moment.



Students singing at the cultural performance

# OPINION & ACADEMICS

## Sleeping ugly is trendier

ZAHRA MAYEESHA

It begins in earnest with finals week approaching. The statuses about late submissions, last-minute stress-fuelled cramming, panic and coffee, and the misery of being a university student.

Your feed fills with the annual Lazy College Senior memes, painting the very picture you're to aim for: the dark circles, the mugs of coffee, and the smirking pride in one's own demise. Past the point of no-return, with all of one's deadlines and exams piling on top

of each other, students not only distort their sleeping schedules, but take pride in the fact. Bad sleeping habits can be blamed on many causes: burdens like maintaining that CGPA and a social life, depression, stress, anxiety, procrastination, or even, laziness.

Studies have shown how sleep deprivation has strong correlations

to social media usage. Less sleeping means more distraction, and in the Age of Internet, distraction means going online. Consequences of sleep deprivation often centre on our work-lives: our work rarely gets full attention, we're often late, and sometimes sleepy, therefore



unable to pay attention. Students' very priorities become skewed: since the ramifications of turning in bad work is downplayed, we don't prioritise studying, and turn to social media more.

Aditi, an architecture sophomore, said, "I feel that when you're in university, you'll inevitably get stressed out from all the work that piles up, and you're

going to ditch sleep to study for your exams or assignments." All this isn't to shame students for night-owl tendencies, or for lack of time management. We've all been there and done that. But I do think it's important to point a questioning gaze on the culture of glorification of these habits. Glorifying sleep deprivation is a coping mechanism and, as Aditi puts it, "We think it's okay since everybody else is doing it. In the end, though, insufficient sleep mostly just leads to more stress and exhaustion." Misery

does love company.

Stress, sleep deprivation, being eternally busy and active, and coffee, we associate with university life. But active promotion of unhealthy lifestyles seems simply gratuitous. It would do us well to remember independence also means responsibility and just get some much-needed shuteye.

## A shocking innovation: Plexus

SHITAB M ISLAM



The amount of electricity we consume is massive, and taking time to calibrate the numbers every now and then is hardly possible. Thus, we cannot prevent electricity theft and bill tampering.

What if there was a mobile application to monitor this situation and that keeps an update of electricity consumption? From the CSE department of BRAC University, Professor Dr Amitabha Chakrabarty, along with his students Hasnain Wafiq, Moneruzzaman Manik, and Mohannad Zoha, started this project which can calibrate the amount of electricity and show the results through a smartphone app.

**How things work:** The system needs to be installed in the meters which are going to be calibrated. The app is going to show the real-time

calibration of the consumption using the connected website. Connected to a micro-controller, the system can monitor up to 24 flats electricity usage. The system calculates the amount of unit which is consumed and through digital billing process the consumer will be notified through the app.

**Cross-platform implementation:** The app is going to support all sorts of smartphones such as, Android, IOS, Windows.

**Less hassle:** The motive of the system is to reduce the unnecessary effort on checking the meter for faults and bugs. Due to this system,

third party involvement is going to be reduced and will make life easier.

**Support from the government:** Dr Amitabha Chakrabarty mentioned that the prototype itself was substantial, and in order to make it suitable for the system, they will be needing the government to participate.

Plexus is an extensive research project and through 8 months of hard work, Dr Amitabha and his team made a functional prototype that can be stretched to even further implementing grounds in the near future.

## Job Market Myths 2.0



This is the 2nd part of a two-part series regarding CGPA and the job market. The first part was published in Issue III

If it was the only important criteria, then students would be selected for MT/MTO positions just by virtue of their academic prowess, but that's not the case. They have to go through an extensive and highly competitive hiring or recruiting procedure.

Imagine 4,000 job applications for one position -- what are your odds of getting the job if your CV isn't impressive? What are your odds if 1,000 of these applicants have better CGPAs or academic results than you?

BRAC University is not the only university in this country and you are not the only student. Thousands will graduate with you in the same year as you. How many vacancies do you think will be available that year? How many people do you think will apply for one job opening? If you're not competitive, you're done.

Remember not to bury yourself behind books all day. Active leadership in clubs and forums is vital in developing leadership skills; develop the ability to work in teams, grow your interpersonal skills.

If you don't know how to work with people in clubs and forums, don't expect you will ace it on the job. In the job market, you will not be competing with people of your same age but with seniors too.

If you have a year or so to go till you complete Bachelors then it's high time you got up and got busy if you haven't yet. Go achieve something. Learn a new trait. Build your skills. Apply yourself in leadership opportunities. Lose the competition if that's what it comes to, fall, but rise again and win!

Don't be afraid to fail. Knowing what you don't know is more important than what you do know!

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

### I. The Onset

Delegates, suit up! It is the season for the residential MUN all over again and people around Bangladesh and a few other countries are flocked here to participate in BUGMUN, where diplomacy and debate reign over all. The opening ceremony commenced on the morning of 15th December, and a plenary session was held later that day where the chairs of 14 committees got together to explain the agendas and functions of each committee.

### II. Brain Trust

Committee Sessions may sound boring and serious, but it's a war of words, between each of the countries, competing to come out on top. Committees usually focus on one agenda/issue to tackle in a series of sessions. When some of the countries have finally stopped arguing (or not), a draft resolution is proposed by a group of countries which lists a set of solutions to overcome the problems in the agenda.

### III. Bijoy Shayanno

Victory Day was celebrated on the 2nd night of BUGMUN wherein many native songs and dances were executed by various performers and a freedom fighter appeared to grace the delegates with the history of Bangladesh.

### IV. Revolution Roulette

The delegates, executive board members and organizers showed off their latent talents in this exhilarating session. The delegates really brought it out on the stage and the audience was bound to sing and dance along with the performers. An unforgettable and mesmerizing performance which left everyone amazed and awe-struck was a surprise fire-spinning show which lit up 'Durbar'.

### V. The Football Match

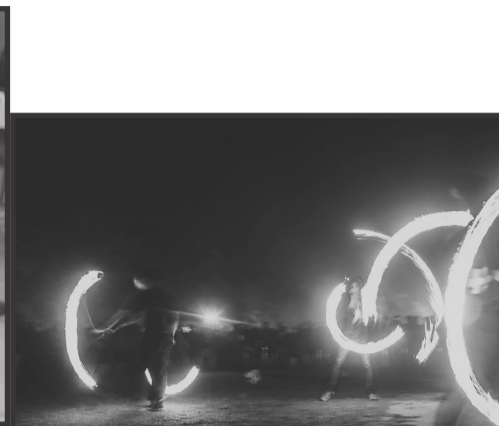
There was more to the draining committee sessions at BUGMUN 2016. The football match that took place on the third day was one of those events which helped MUNers restore their energy. There were total of 14 teams with six players each and 8 minutes were allocated for each match. The first two matches between AU and DISEC & UNSC and SAARC was a draw. But the most anticipated match of the whole tournament was the one between AFC and EB. AFC delegates won the match 2-0 and went in for the finals to face an intense finale with UNEP. The slight possibility of a dispute arising was immediately eliminated by captains of both the teams, who maintained a composed aura. Finally in BUGMUN 2016 football tournament, the Asian Football Confederation emerged victorious.

### VI. Project Kombol, Finding Bangladesh, Concert

A presentation was held on the 3rd night for Finding Bangladesh, which encouraged the youth to explore Bangladesh, and Project Kombol, which is a programme for spreading winter-clothing to impoverished areas around the country. A concert was also held on the 4th night where bands such as Caffeine, Minerva, Moors and Indalo put up a spectacular performance.

### VII. Closing Ceremony

On the 5th night, the most prominent delegates were awarded for their efforts and they finally said goodbye to TARC and BUGMUN. With that being said, BUGMUN 2016 came to an end after 6 Days and 5 Nights of intense sessions, press conferences and extravagant social events, fireworks, and much more. With heavy hearts and tedious bodies, yet eyes glistening with pride and delight, the delegates bade farewell to the most spectacular residential MUN, not empty-handed, but with memories to last a lifetime on their glorious journey at BUGMUN 2016.



# FEATURE

## BUGMUN 2016 in pictures & words

The world is ailed and is morphing into a worse state than the day before. To understand the gravity of the situation, we need leaders and high-fliers with the thirst to seek solutions to derelict problems.

Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. In Model UN, students step into the shoes of ambassadors from UN member states to debate current issues on the organization's agenda. BRAC University Global model United Nations (BUGMUN) is the unique and full pledged residential MUN in Bangladesh where delegates from all over the world not only discuss, negotiate and find solutions, but also they share cultural diversities and communal living. BUGMUN is organized by International Association of Business Communicators (IABC | BRAC University) with the help of Office of Co-curricular activities, BRAC University.

The theme of BUGMUN 2016 was "Protocols of Tomorrow: A Sanctuary for Visionaries". Serving as the only residential MUN, it will be accommodating national and international visionaries, who as delegates, will discuss key global issues, with the intention of building a better a world and gain immense knowledge, confidence, enhanced leadership, diplomatic and communication skills in the process.

### A word from the president:

Upoma Rashid, President of IABC, says that the root of their success lay in the cooperation and unity within the 43 member club. She mentions that throughout the event, organizers were constantly working, either on site or on transportation duty. Upoma goes on to say that not everything went as planned. And although her time at BRACU has ended, if given another shot, she says she would have worked on time management, and not relied as much on people outside the club to come through.

All's well that ends well, as the event received much praise from both the BRACU administration and the participants. She mentions it would not have been possible without the support of the Vice Chancellor, OCA, OCSAR; faculty members Mr. Zaheed Husein Mohammad Al-Din, Ms. Adiba Naoshin, Mr. Riyashad Ahmed; and members of the secretariat Salahuddin Sagar, Azimul Haque Shuvo, Sadika Noor Diya and Ahsan Habib Anoy.

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## OFF CAMPUS

## Baliati Palace - an architectural relic of the early 18th century

Balital Zamindar bari is located in Manikganj district in Sauria upazila. It was built by a salt merchant named Gobinda Ram Shaha, who belonged to the same Baliati family that founded the Jagannath University.

BRAC University often arranges short study trips for the students and the Zamindar bari can be an ideal spot for the next tour. The palace is rich with history and can provide the students with an insight on the luxurious life of royal families during the 18th century. Students can also learn about the architectural significance of the place, not to mention its beauty.

The 5.88 acres of the palace consists of 3 royal buildings, a museum and more than 10 small buildings. Beyond the palace, there



are two lakes surrounded by walls which heighten the beauty of the palace significantly. To enhance the magnetism of the palace, there are more than a thousand trees which blend well with the hundred-year-old buildings.

This would definitely be a worthwhile trip for the university authority to consider arranging. Students interested in visiting by themselves, or with family can consult

with local tour companies to arrange a trip. Otherwise, there is a direct bus from Gabtoli (SB Link) to Sauria at a price of 60 taka per person only.

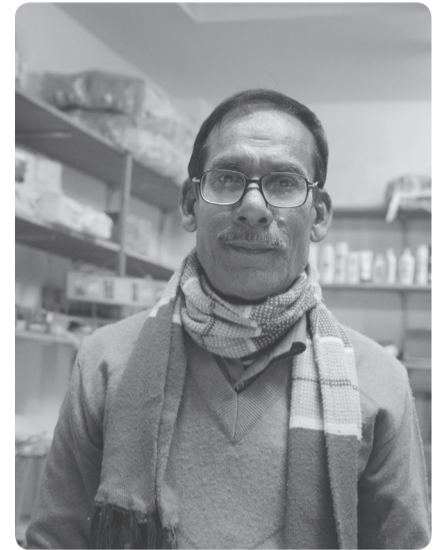
Despite being one of the architectural grandeurs and having a feasible distance from the city, it has not gained much popularity. We hope our voice reaches far enough to give this

glorious artifact what it deserves.

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**Course: ENG091**  
**Semester: Fall 2016**  
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*If you want your writing to be published, please email us at [bracuexpress@gmail.com](mailto:bracuexpress@gmail.com)*

## Call me uncle



Mr Abdul Hannan

### SELIMA SARA KABIR

There are many aspects that make Savar Residential Semester special. Undoubtedly, a big reason is the people who populate it. While new people flood the fields and Anandapur each new semester, one person never leaves. This very man has been working at TARC since 1978, even before it was taken over by BRAC University. We are talking about Abdul Hannan who spends his days in a little shop, at the Savar campus, selling groceries.

Mr Hannan spends more than three-quarters of a year at the Residential Campus, without any complaints, even though his wife and children live in Comilla. However, he bestows his gratitude to the administration for granting him frequent leaves, so he can go visit them.

During his long tenure, Mr Hannan had many interactions with BRAC founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, which he recalls with great fondness. He expresses that he takes pleasure in meeting and conversing with the new students - but is always overjoyed to see a familiar face, as was the case during BUGMUN 2016.

When asked if Mr Hannan has had any grievances with the students or staff, he said with a smile, that he would not have stuck around for this long if such was the case. Mr Hannan's role in the Residential Campus is indispensable, he grants the students' wishes almost like a magician. He secures a place in our hearts because of his friendly nature, jokes and smile - as long as you remember to call him 'Uncle'.

## Let art feed thy soul



SAKIB MAHI

The one thing that's common in every architecture studio of BRAC University is the beautiful artwork on the walls. Every design studio has a good number of talented artists and painters who make their studios unique. However, a particular group of students have taken this tradition to the next level.

Eudgir Arman Khan, Maisha Marzan Momo, Fahim Rubby and Mahfujur Rahman Shishir, a group

of 3rd and 4th year students of BRAC University Architecture Department, have started their own entrepreneurial journey with Rongbaz.

During the semester break, after summer '16, Arman, Momo and Fahim received their first assignment from a fellow student of BRACU for a floral wall painting project at her residence. In a very short time of just three months, with the addition of Shishir, they have since completed 6 projects, 2 of which were interior decorations for fashion houses, a newly established restaurant and 3 more residences. Rongbaz is already

preparing for 4 more upcoming projects and also planning to expand beyond interior decorations and wall paintings, to design custom jewelry and crafts.

It was a big leap of faith for them to start this project as they have only had considered art as a hobby. Nonetheless, they plan to continue to try and improve their quality of work, with the right mix of fun and professionalism, and deliver the best possible artwork.

**Link: [www.facebook.com/rongbazbd](http://www.facebook.com/rongbazbd)**



# SPORTS & RECREATION

## BRAC University Men's Table Tennis Team underperforms

AHNAF RAHMAN

In 2015, the BRAC University Men's Table Tennis Team entered the inter-university arena with very little formal coaching, but with a lot of help from the alumni, BRACU performed surprisingly well at the 8th UIU Inter-University Table Tennis Tournament 2015. BRACU returned home

with the runners up trophy in the Men's Doubles category. Bold shots and a free-flowing playing style made our university a team to watch for the next edition of the tournament.

However, BRACU failed to live up to expectations this Fall, 2016. The tournament, held during 13th - 15th December, started a day after the end of final exams at our university. This was possibly a significant factor which contributed to the poor performance of the team. The three-day tournament featured some of the best table tennis players at the



Standing his ground: Abdullah Fahim of BRAC University

university level playing in three different categories. Highlights of BRACU's performance in each format of the game is given below.

**Teams:** Held on Day 1, BRAC University won their first match against University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in straight sets. A loss to North South University (NSU) afterwards set up a semifinal clash against the hosts United International University (UIU). BRACU lost the semifinal 1 - 3 to UIU.

**Doubles:** The pair of Fahim and Junayed from BRACU finished

as quarterfinalists where they lost to Tameen and Bappy from UIU.

**Singles:** With only Fahim reaching the 2nd round, every other member of the 5-man team crashed out in their respective 1st round matches.

NSU pulled off a cleansweep and

won all three categories with UIU coming in as runners-up. Whether or not other private universities organize tournaments in the near future is uncertain but UIU will surely host this event again approximately a year from now. If BRACU's team is to do well then regular practice sessions, more intra-university tournaments, proper utilization of facilities in the indoor games room, recruiting young players, and a more structured indoor games committee are just a few areas we need to work on.

## BRAC University Premier League 2016

SAMIUL HASAN

When the cricketers of UNESCO Club and BRAC University Adventure Club (BUAC) took their positions at the Shyamoli Club Cricket ground at 2pm on 25th November, one thing was certain: history was about to be made. The gravity of the occasion was overwhelming, as both sets of supporters waited anxiously to discover the champions of BRAC University Premiere League (BUPL), the top cricketing event of the institution.

Both finalists had an incredible run to the finals. BUAC pulled off a miracle in the super over against Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) in their semifinal. It was an achievement in itself for UNESCO club as they reached the final on their first appearance. The combative attitude of the players showed that neither side wanted to rest on their

laurels. However, the fledgling team ultimately prevailed over BUAC for a dream victory by 43 runs. BUAC had to settle for their second runners-up title in three years. Mahbub Bishal (BUAC) was the highest scorer of the tournament.

Ahmed Group sponsored the sixth edition of BUPL organized by Cricket Club BRAC University (CBU). The Daily Star, Shomoy News and Radio Dhol also contributed to its success.

On a related note, cricket lovers will be delighted to know that the BRAC University authority recently awarded CBU an indoor training space for net practice. The facility is located near Niketon 3rd gate. It will immensely improve player skills ahead of "Clemon Indoor University Cricket" and "ULAB Fair Play Tournament" which the cricketers are currently practicing for.



## The blind bandit



SHITAB M ISLAM

Limitations can bind you up to a certain point, but beyond that are endless possibilities. The best chess player of BRAC University is visually impaired, but he can surely see himself at the top of his game. Starting from 1994, he has played a handful of tournaments up to national level and currently enrolled in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Program. Ejaz Hussain is, at this moment, the best chess player in BRAC University.

In the year 2003 he lost his eye sight but his passion for the game got him back on the board. By touching a special board for navigation, he was able to make his move through sensations. With dedication and a lot of practice, he was able to master the form in 4 months. Then after a long break, he came back to his chess career through 2nd Division Tournament in 2014.

**With BRACU:** In 2016, he joined BRAC University and he became the champion in his first intra-university tournament. Following up with a successful National Tournament and winning the Best University Team title, Ejaz Hussain has made his form consistent. "BRAC University has a good practice of the game which is very inspiring." - Ejaz Hussain

**Goals:** Complete Masters and become a top-rated player; most importantly having fun in playing the game.

**International Rating:** 2046 points  
**Current involvement:** Senior teacher at Elegance International Chess Club, Disability Rights and Development, chess activities in Korail Slums, BRACU Chess Club.

**What makes him the best:** Enjoying the game rather than thinking about the outcome.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Our New Year's resolutions:

1. Combat procrastination, hopefully, before December.
2. Pass MAT 215. Do they let you take it a fourth time?
3. Attend 8am classes on time at least thrice a month.
4. Not lie about the number of puri at bottola. Maybe, just the cha.
5. Stop forgetting ID card, or suffer the crippling inconvenience of getting a temporary ID.
6. Problem: Avoid library fines. Solution: Avoid the library.
7. Not lose my phone with the silent mode on.
8. Avoid TV show/fan fiction marathons during finals week
9. Eat healthier food, like Chillox.
10. Use zebra-crossing and not be run over. Apply to all aspects of life.
11. Try not to copy other's assignments an hour before submission.
12. Stop making to-do lists. And resolutions!



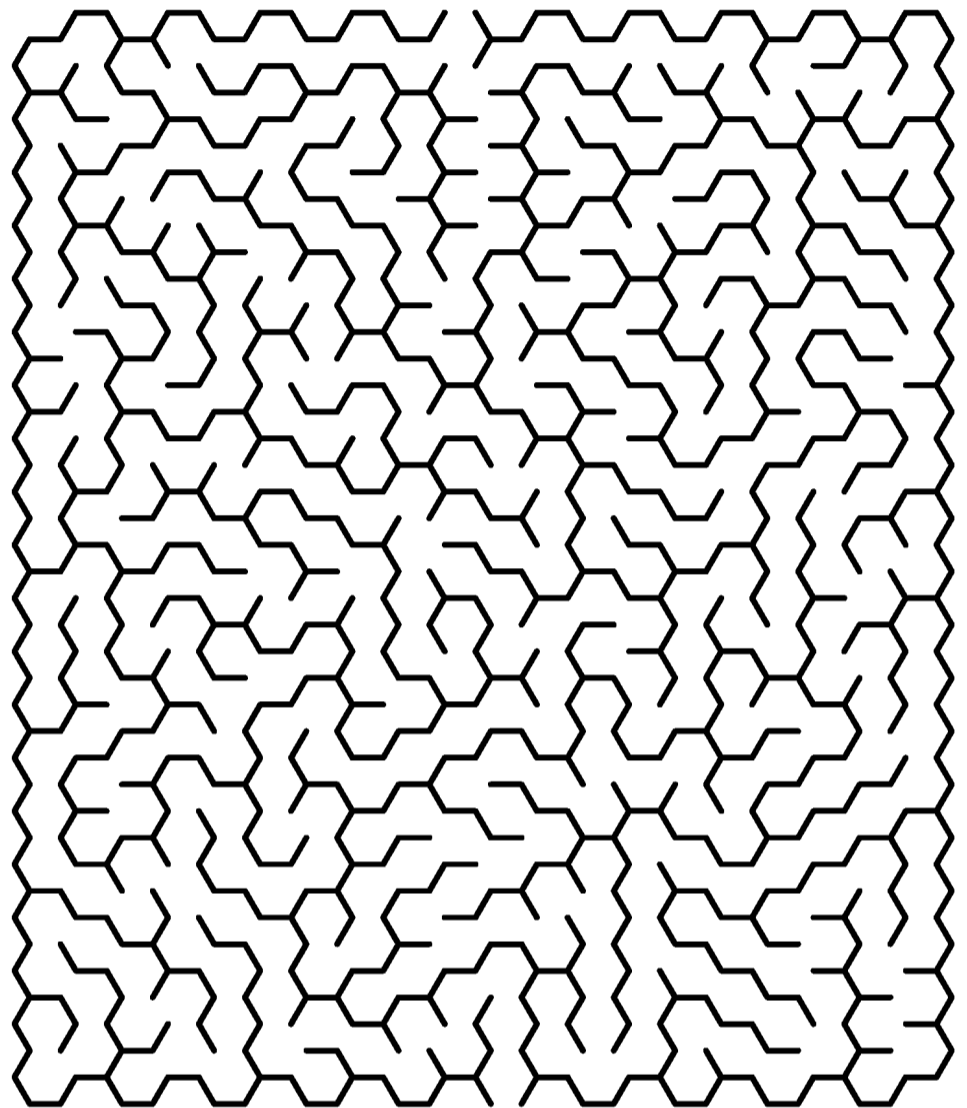
## HOROSCOPE

-  **Aries** – Don't fret over what hasn't happened yet, dear Aries. The New Year might have unexpected surprises.
-  **Taurus** – It would be beneficial for you to avoid any major changes this month. March will be your happy month.
-  **Gemini** – Carry on the lame joke streak Gemini; people are starting to like it!
-  **Cancer** – You have to be the maker of your own destiny. Stop relying on others unduly.
-  **Leo** – The New Year awaits amazing things! Just be patient.
-  **Virgo** – Looking for a new love interest Virgo? You might just be in luck!
-  **Libra** – Don't worry Libra; you will get through your advising issues. If not, there's always chocolate!
-  **Scorpio** – Let go of the past. A fresh start will definitely lead you to success.
-  **Sagittarius** – Don't underestimate yourself and take on every challenge with confidence and enthusiasm. It's gonna be a good year!
-  **Capricorn** – Dilemmas everywhere. Choose wisely dear Capricorn or you would be in for a treat.
-  **Aquarius** – Prime flirting season it is. Listen to the heart. Luck with a crush is absolutely in the cards!
-  **Pisces** – You'll kick off 2017 on a high note. Don't go hiding in your comfortable cocoon in the later months.

## ROAD TO GRADUATION

MAZE CHALLENGE

GRADUATE



FRESHER

### Correction:

We humbly apologize for an error made in the masthead for the previous semesters' issues. The 'Faculty Advisory Panel' will henceforth be 'Advisory Panel' due to our diversified panel members. Sincerest apologies from the BRACU EXPRESS team if any confusion or inconvenience was created because of this. If any reader detects any error from here on, factual or grammatical, please send us an email at [bracuexpress@gmail.com](mailto:bracuexpress@gmail.com)

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an independent monthly publication by BRAC University students

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