

A word from the Editor

Sayema S Hossain

Editor-in-Chief

I hope you have all had a wonderful break leading into the new semester. We welcome Fall, which, in Bangladesh, promises blue skies, puffy white *kashful* and a more temperate weather. In other words, it promises change—and change there certainly has been!

Take the paper, for example. It may look a little different this time around: our nameplate has been redesigned, and the home team at BRACU Express has grown. However, despite all that *has* changed, we would like to assure you that our dedication and determination to bring you a paper you can trust has certainly not.

Much has happened around the university and we realise you may have turned to BRACU Express to learn more. We want to give you a fair, truthful and comprehensive account of the matter, but in the course of our investigations, realised that there is much that has not yet settled. We hope to provide you with an in-depth look into the events and their aftermath in our October issue. So keep an eye out!

Among all the yellowed leaves the one thing we hope remains unchanged: your love and support for us.

Straying off the beaten path?

Samiul Hasan

Web Content Manager

As students begin to approach the final year of their undergraduate lives, they start to plan ahead for life after graduation. For some, this means searching for a good job. For others, end of graduation heralds the start of further studies.

One of the top concerns of students is where to enrol for higher education after graduation. The costs of studying abroad are generally significant, especially if there are no scholarships to cut the heavy financial burden. The current atmosphere of unrest and xenophobia overseas, especially targeted towards non-white and non-Christian minorities, is not particularly encouraging for students either. All of this leads many to question the feasibility of going away for further studies.

Postgraduate programmes help future job-seekers fine-tune professional skills and develop themselves on an individual level. In line with a university's responsibility to foster and strengthen the potential of its graduates for their professional fields, some of the notable programmes on offer at BRAC University are: Masters in Development Management and Practice, Master of Science in Applied Economics, Master of Development Studies, Masters in Procurement and Supply Management. The oft sought out nature of these programmes by many seeking careers in these fields perhaps speaks

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for the relevance of these programmes in our times.

Taking these factors into consideration, re-enrolling in BRAC University for graduate level studies is now an option open to many of its alumni. Apart from “home advantage”, undergraduate students of BRAC University can avail tuition waivers. Of course, picking an institution for one's graduate level studies should still be done with research into suitability of the curriculum with one's personal ambitions, and the particular expertise of faculty members on the roster, among other things.

In a world where clouds of uncertainty loom large over the horizon, the familiarity of a campus so close to heart may be the stepping stone to a great future for BRACU graduates.

Digital ID card: Questions answered

Adepto I Ahmed

Opinions Editor

With work on a digital ID card system already having begun with the introduction of the BRACU mobile app, we spoke to Ripon Rana, senior manager, Software Development, to understand what the initiative is and to get answers to questions students have had regarding it.

What spawned the idea for a digital ID and what are the plans for this system going forward?

The system is part of an effort to digitize all possible aspects of the university's functioning—for example, Human Resources—and to go paperless. To this end, services that can be rendered to students via the app itself, access to class notes for example, are also being explored. At the same time, more immediate problems like ID cards left at home and subsequent acquisition and returning of temporary

ID's are addressed by digitization. In scheming, the hope was to have a functional and beneficial system put in place, for the use of every member of BRAC University.

There have been reports of students not being able to generate digital IDs via the app and concerns from students who do not use smart-phones, or android phones. What measures are being taken to address these concerns?

I can confirm that we have plans to launch versions for both Apple and Windows phones soon. A version for the iOS can be expected to arrive at the soonest. We do plan on making the digital ID the primary ID system. But for any student who does not use smart-phones, it would still be possible to use a physical ID.

For security concerns, how much of an improvement will this be over regular ID's?

A physical ID is relatively easy to duplicate, the digital one is not. We have included a live clock



The BRAC University student ID card

within the app so that screenshots of other's IDs can be identified. Eventually when we move to the new campus, we might be able to phase out the need to manually check IDs and have an automated clocking-in-and-out mechanism.

Given inclusivity, ease of use and an assurance of security, digital IDs could eventually be just as important to us as the ones we use every day.

OPINION & ACADEMICS

Student Reppin'

Selima S Kabir

Managing Editor

To whom does the private university belong? It should not be contentious to say that a university exists for its students; it is, in fact, meaningless without them. Despite this, students claim that they often go unheard when it comes to key decision making. Students, individually or collectively, do not know which part of the administration to go when there is an issue. When communication happens, it is mediated by many channels, hence becomes wayward. Hence, due to lack of commonly known avenues, it is not possible for students to raise their concerns to effective consequence.

This lack of direct communication leads to both parties being unaware of the other's problems and concerns. It gives rise to the idea that the administration is not concerned with the students' best interests, even if this is not truly the case.

There needs to be a system in place through which students can directly communicate, get advice or negotiate with the administration to ensure that their interests are represented and secured. To the university's credit, the need for better dialogue has been acknowledged via a statement issued by the Vice-Chancellor encouraging students to reach out to the administrative body with complaints or grievances—the most notable method being through an email account (BRACUvoice@gmail.com).

The best solution to this lamentable growing rift

may be the formation of a student representative body. Visiting Professor Dina M Siddiqi summarizes the need for this, “The body, or government, will exist to provide a channel of communication; to actively participate in decisions that affect student life, e.g., policies on dress, or curriculum; and to protect students from arbitrary forms of retaliation, usually informal, when individuals refuse to conform or when they express dissenting views.”

As key stakeholders in every decision taken by the university, the student representative body would work towards establishing a system in which the students can have a say in decisions that directly impact them. In Nilima Jahan's article “Is ‘Politics’ a Dirty Word?”, published August 11th in The Daily Star, the VC of BRAC University, Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, is quoted to say: “Yes, there is a need for student-led governance for major issues like curriculum design and teacher recruitment.” Hence, the existence of a representative body falls in line with the VC's own desire to have continued meetings with a small group of students to share ideas. By having a fixed representative body, the VC can meet with them at appointed times to not only exchange concerns, but also continue the conversation to include measures to bring about changes to address the concerns.

Statements from students, alumni and faculty members all express deep agreement that there is a need to provide a mechanism that can handle the demands of the student collective. Shehzad M Arifeen, alumnus, sums it up best:

“While there are mechanisms in place to address individual student grievances, none exist that may handle collective student demands. There is a need for such a mechanism, both to avoid chaos and confusion, as well as for the welfare of the University at large, if we agree that the students' and the University's welfare are one and the same.”



Silence on suicide leads to silent suicide



Zeheen Ahmed of Mechanix (left); Chester Bennington of Linkin Park (right)

The death of Linkin Park's frontman Chester Bennington left fans around the world heartbroken. Only two days after this tragedy, Zeheen Ahmed, the lead guitarist of the Bangladeshi metal band Mechanix, took his own life. With shock and sadness reverberating through social media, came statuses about the isolating effects of suicide, and mental health issues. The discourse highlighted an

Nishat Tasneem

Journalist

uncomfortable truth: that mental illness can affect anyone around us.

Many of us probably know of people who suffer from depression or trauma. Despite being a genuine public health epidemic, research is not widely circulated, and nationwide attempts to understand depression or mental health are few and far in between. Moreover, as seminars on mental illnesses in Bangladesh have shown, the social attitude towards mental health is stagnant, if not outright harmful. Taboos contribute to a culture of negligence and unpreparedness to deal with an ever-present problem.

As with every other medical issue, educating oneself about mental health is important. Besides exercising empathy towards those affected, one

can educate and familiarise themselves with an understanding of the most common mental illnesses. An ordinary person cannot hope to offer the help of a trained counsellor to their friend or family member in need. Still we must see that our unpreparedness as a society is unacceptable.

We must show commitment to unlearning the deficient ways of thinking, and show unyielding commitment to not give up on anyone who might be giving up on themselves.

If you think you, or anyone you know, may be in need of mental support or counselling; reach out to the country's first ever emotional support helpline *Kaan Pete Roi*.

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Banglalink: +880-19-8527-5286

Robi: +880-18-5203-5634



OPINION & ACADEMICS

Thesis Spotlight: Azraf Uddin Ahmad, BSS in Economics

Adepto I Ahmed

Opinions Editor

We caught up with Economics alumnus Azraf Uddin Ahmad, who is currently pursuing his Master's degree at Simon Fraser University, to take a look at the kinds of complex sociopolitical and economic problems our students are working with. Besides his undergraduate thesis, Azraf has also co-authored a paper published in the journal *Economic Analysis and Policy*.

What is your thesis titled and what is about?

The thesis was titled "The Effects of Income Inequality on Government Spending: An Instrument Variables Approach". I was hoping to shed some light on the uncertainty regarding how government spending changes in response to rising inequality.

Inequality either causes governments to respond with higher spending on redistributive programs (which should ideally be the case) or higher inequality leads to changes in political

institutions which actually leads to limiting social spending. This is concerning, because a government's priority needs to be the people's welfare, not the interests of specific interest groups.

What interests you about this topic?

Inequality is one of the most serious issues of our time, with widespread and appalling effects on society. There is a tendency in Bangladesh to dismiss inequality as a concern in favour of prioritizing growth, suggesting that growth is more important and that inequality will, consequently, eventually diminish. As the results of my thesis suggest, growing inequality actually cuts away at the very tools used to fight it and can become a chronic problem.

Please describe your methodology and comment on the findings.

I looked at data for government spending for a panel of 70 countries (developed and developing) and looked at the effects of income inequality on government spending. In addition, I looked at housing, unemployment, and old age benefits for a panel of 24 countries of the Organization

for Economic Co-operation and Development. Using panel regressions and an instrument variables approach, without us getting any more technical than that, I found that higher inequality actually leads to lower government spending. Higher inequality leads to lower spending on even old age and unemployment benefits, although there is no such effect for housing benefits.

Is there something you want to say to undergraduate students who currently are or will be undertaking their thesis soon?

For those who are looking to get into undergraduate research or a thesis, I suggest carrying out a proper literature review to identify what variables you will need, and whether data regarding these variables exist. A rigorous literature review makes things much easier down the line.

Did you enjoy the work you were doing?

I certainly found it a learning experience. It can be a very rigorous and tiring process at times, when everything is fighting against you. But, if you like challenges, a thesis is fun.

Thoughts are safer than words

Mahpara Sanjana

Head of Administration

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh guarantees its citizens the right to freedom of expression, but not without reservations. One does have to face legal repercussions if the State thinks one is guilty of violating any of the limitations prescribed by law. Although all fundamental rights are deemed to be absolute, most are accompanied by limitations and restrictions, and the right to freedom of expression is no exception. Often, these restrictions curtail the right to freedom of expression and impedes the free flow of ideas and information.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines the right to freedom of expression and explains the ambit of its exercise. Yet, this idea remains the subject of much speculation. The unnecessary curtailment and violation of one's rights causes something known in legal terms as a "chilling effect" in a society, where individuals are too afraid to speak their minds for fear of legal sanctions. Article 57 of the ICT Act, 2009, for example, purposely curtails freedom of expression and arguably violates the constitutional right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press as per Article 39 of the Constitution, causing this "chilling effect" in our society.

But what does this mean within the



academic arena? Academic freedom incorporates (1) the independence of all individuals to express uninhibited opinions or conclusions about the framework within which they work, (2) to conduct professional activities and duties without segregation or having the threat of suppression, (3) to take an interest in expert or representative scholastic bodies, and (4) to enjoy all internationally acclaimed human rights pertinent to other individuals under the same authority. The exercise of academic freedom also means certain responsibilities. For instance, the obligation to guarantee the reasonable discourse of opposite perspectives.

Disputes regarding freedom of speech and expression have been prominent in contemporary scholastic deliberation. Neoliberal forces in higher education have had a debilitating impact with regard to academic freedom and the expression of dissent in universities; a topic with much discourse surrounding it. This leads to a discouragement in critical thinking, dissent, and freedom of expression on topics deemed 'controversial'. Perhaps this is what the "chilling effect" means in academia.

The collateral of cyber-warring

Zahra Mayeesha

Copy-Editor

'Keyboard warrior' is a term as recently popularised as 2014. It refers to a unique consequence of social media's open and combative platform for uncensored discourse, and a supremely libertarian defence of the right of free speech. Thus born is the keyboard warrior: online commentator on an incident of public interest.

With the speed and reach of social media, hate speech, cyberbullying, and false rumours go viral within the span of minutes. This is what gives keyboard warriors their particular influence. Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of these moral crusaders is that they are often guided by good intentions (or, well, good enough).

It is the most controversial, 'viral' incidents that draw this kind of attention: those that divide and confuse onlookers. In the absence of information, people jump to speculation and, more often, useless bellicose arguments. Social media feeds the flames by allowing more than the ordinary few numbers to join in; which quickly, sometimes, lead to 'cyber lynch mobs'.

An offhand unwise remark taken out of context and spread like wildfire amongst groups who would have no contact with the original poster otherwise, and an innocent person is abruptly labelled a "traitor" or "dimwit". All of a sudden, this "traitor" is confronted with tens upon tens of vitriolic messages flooding their inbox, demanding they take back their comment "or else".

It seems unnecessary to point out that this kind of behaviour is counterproductive, if not downright harmful. A shared goal ends up being a point of contention, rather than a unifying force? At the cost of advancing a cause, people become busy with deliberating pointlessly and taking personal issue with others.

When confronted with the obtuse anger of keyboard warriors, one may do well by remembering the golden rule of constructive criticism: do not criticise, without first offering a solution.

SPECIAL

Home away



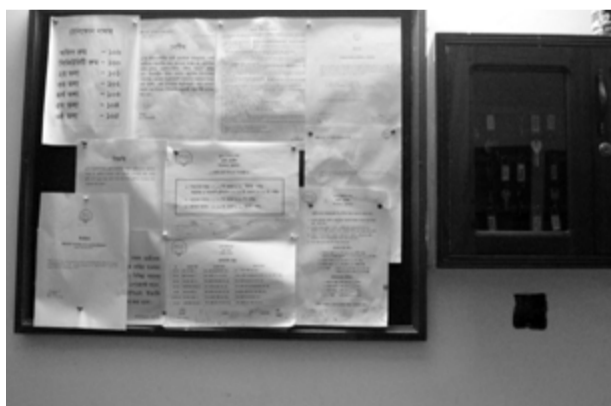
Front view of the BRACU female hostel in Niketon



The dining space of BRACU hostel



The supervisors: Minakshi Das and Mahmuda Tasnim Lata



All notices are put on the noticeboard and the girls are asked to check it regularly

Photos: Tasnim Alam Ananya

Many of us have the luxury of having our university in our hometown, even near our neighbourhood. But there are, of course, many others who do not avail the same privileges. Coming from a different town or city, or simply living too far away from the campus, means many students live away from their home and family. BRACU Express explores the perks and quirks of such a life, be it for those living in shared apartments or in hostels.

A regular day begins rather differently in the off-campus female student hostel of BRAC University. Located on one of the quieter streets of Niketon, the six-storied building is home to over a hundred female students. Often used by the girls when their families come to visit, the lobby of the building is instantly familiar to any BRACU student because of its “Speak in English” sign.

With a spot to keep bicycles, the elevator will take the girls to their rooms. Each floor consists of about 10 rooms. There is a small common space between every 5 rooms where the girls can keep their shoes and other belongings, functioning as a pseudo-living-room. Equipped with a dining room, a living space and a spacious rooftop for cool evening hangouts, the BRACU hostel is one of the most secure places for students who live away from home.

Rise and Shine

Waking up, the first people Karishma Mohiuddin, a senior, sees are her two roommates. On weekends, dorm life can be the right blend of relaxation and busyness. The three share their room and have an understanding of whose space is where. While weekdays are filled with the rush of getting to class, weekend mornings can be lazier.

The three chitchat their way to the common dining room. The dining room television, which can be watched till 11pm, is usually turned off during the breakfast hours as the room fills with the chatter of the students.

Meals are served based on a token system. The girls can choose what they want from a list of options and pay for that item only. Meals have set time periods for when breakfast, lunch and dinner are available. Once in a while, there are those who take out their last night’s leftover pizza or even homemade biryani from the common fridge instead of feasting on the hostel menu. While not owning kitchen facilities can be an inconvenience, sometimes it is satisfying to have ready-made food on those lazy Saturday mornings.

“

Yes, hostel life can often get hectic, especially if you do not get along with the other girls. Luckily, I’m quite close to my roommates, and they help me out regularly with cleaning the room, or making my bed for me.

”

Midday Agendas

One of the perks of living in a dorm is the numerous study sessions. Even if one does not have roommates or dorm mates who study the same subject, the whole “studying at the same time in the same room habit” makes opening books to get started much easier to do.

Sometime during the day, the girls run into their supervisors, Mahmuda Tasnim Lata and Minakshi Das, who make sure that everything is running smoothly in the dorm. In cases of emergency or trouble, these two capable ladies intervene and sort out the situation, although, normally, there is little need to do so. As long as the hostel is open, at least one of them is always available on hostel premises.

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FEATURE

Living from home

Subah Shaheen

Journalist

Our job is to take care of the girls so that they feel at home and are at ease,” said Akshi Das explained. “There is a lot of adaptation involved. For example, foreign students often have trouble with food. So, we try to make something according to their taste until they can adjust.”

While attendants are available who regularly help clean the room, one must play their part when one lives in a dorm. Cleaning, laundry, dusting, and essentially maintaining the cleanliness of their living space is something all the tenants have to contend with.

Sometimes, hostel life can often get hectic, especially if you do not get along with the other girls. Luckily, I’m quite close to my roommates, and they help me out regularly with cleaning the room, or making my bed for me,” Karishma laughed.

The rooms come with the basic facilities like bed, mattress, blanket, wardrobe and desk. However, once students rent them for the semester, they may decorate as they like.

Students have access to the rooftop and all the common facilities of the hostel; they are allowed to go out at will as long as they maintain the curfew. The dorm is quite strict about the gate closing time and if any student is going to be even a minute late, they have to call the supervisor or submit an application in advance.

The best part of it all, though, is that I’m independent and I can set my own daily routine according to my wish. The worst part is that being a procrastinator, waking up on time can be a hassle.

When the moon beams

Night-time is when the dorm buzzes with activity as the girls return home after a tiring and exhausting day. The night is spent by catching up with each other between chores, watching television, and gather up with the occasional board-game session. Occasionally, students are surprised by their roommates with an unexpected surprise birthday party!

It’s all fun until you start missing your family back home, but our supervisors take very good care of us,” said Ariana*, who is a foreign student on scholarship. She explains how “according to my scholarship, it is a criterion that I live here in the hostel.” Although rooms are rented out every semester, the dorm is usually full. Seats are limited and the current occupants are usually given preference over new ones.

Living in a Parallel Place

Aside from hostel life, students can avail alternative living options. The cost of rent, which often includes WiFi and kitchen facilities, ranges from Tk 5000 to Tk 9500 per month. While there are always security concerns for a female student living alone, the facilities are often preferred by the students.

The best part of it all, though, is that I’m independent and I can set my daily routine according to my wish,” says Lamisa Tahsin, a junior at BRACU. Although from Dhaka, hectic class routines have made it necessary for her to move somewhere closer to university. “The worst part is that being a procrastinator, waking up on time can be a hassle.” Her advice for people looking for these living spaces is to “always try to find a roommate of the same department. That way, you will not be the only one freaking out before the finals!”

Name has been changed to protect the privacy of student



Perks of Living Alone

Fahim Imtiaz

Sports Editor

Having spent all my life in Chittagong with my family, it took me a while to adjust to living alone in the capital. It entailed new responsibilities, new outlooks, and definitely some new experiences.

I have had the blessing of having a living space that is owned by my parents, but also where I am the sole tenant. So I mainly have to worry about utilities and WiFi (and food, of course). This twofold blessing means finally having the freedom to make my own decisions. This means no curfew, being able to decide when I sit down to study, whether I am going to have a single proper meal in a day... Although, at the end of the day, it really just forces you to try to live life responsibly—because while surviving on instant noodles for weeks was fun, what was not fun was the effects it had on my health. At least now, I can surprise my family with my cooking skills during holiday visits.

Living an independent life is half about having your own choices and half about learning to multitask. Suddenly, on top of your own life’s worries—studying (and traffic), extracurricular activities, your social life—you also have to worry about whether you left the stove on before leaving. While juggling between chores and general student concerns can get quite exhausting, it does mature oneself.

For those looking for their own apartments, shared or otherwise, make sure you can find a place that is within your budget and always try to pay your bills on time!



Droid Digger: An ambitious effort

Maesha Rashedin

Journalist

With student entrepreneurs littering the cityscape, we look at BRAC University's own students who brave this wild. BRACU Express talked to Md Shakerul Islam Sakib, the CEO of Droid Digger about his unique experience.

Tell us about Droid Digger.

Droid Digger is a Bangladesh-based Android app development and publishing company. We started our company in April 2015 with just three of us: Monwar Jahan Mufad and Mihodi Hasan Lushan, and I. We build apps for our clients and bring their business dream or ideas come to life. So far, we have won several Hackathon contests and worked with several clients.

What inspired you to start this venture?

I saw the rising demand in the mobile sector for apps and saw an opportunity to begin something. My friends were also studying



The entire team of Droid Digger

Android app development, and it seemed like a perfect partnership to me. So I called them and asked them to form a business team with me.

What is your biggest project or achievement so far?

Gaining work experience has changed much of our work ethic. Being the Champion of National Hackathon 2016 has totally changed our mindset and goals, I believe. However, I think winning Nutrition Hackathon and BRACathon II on the same day was possibly our biggest achievement. Something like that is rare.

What problems did you face and

how did you overcome them?

Keeping the whole team motivated and managing time for work is our biggest challenge, as all of us are students. However, weekly virtual meetings and an organized work chart have lessened that burden.

What future do you have in mind for Droid Digger?

We formed Droid Digger intending to go international at some point. Hence, our target is to achieve international awards and recognitions as well as work with Fortune500 or Inc500 companies.

CASPER BRACU launches flood relief project

Sumaiya Tasnim

Journalist



Bystanders watch as floods submerges house in Kurigram, northern Bangladesh | Photo: Vox

Early August saw prolonged rainfall lead to the flooding of over 300 villages in Dinajpur. Officials predict that the central part of Bangladesh lies in the flood's path. The long-lasting flood has crossed India-Bangladesh borders and resulted in fatalities, as well as risking the livelihoods of hundreds of villagers. Food, clothing, and shelter, are scarce. Reports say this flood has exceeded the magnitude of the flood of 1988, with water levels rising up to 20.78 metres, as reported by *The Daily Star*.

CASPER Foundation has organised a flood-relief volunteering project. To help the people in affected areas, the Foundation proposes that students and individuals can contribute via monetary donation or can participate directly.

A group of students will go to the field and offer help to the flood victims. The group left for Dinajpur with food, saline and medicine on 7th of September.

Any donation is appreciated. CASPER BRACU is inviting people from outside the campus to join and help with the project in order to broaden the scope of aid. For donation and further information, you are advised to bKash to +880-16-7501-5270. Any donation or help is highly appreciated.

Bridging the gap

Zaira Zafroon

Journalist

Fresh graduates tend to apply to be teacher's aides (or alternatively, teaching assistants) in the department that they graduated from, because it is often an easy way to enter the academic field professionally. However the job itself comes with its own trials and tribulations. Arnab Ghosh, a TA in the Department of English and Humanities, took some time to share insight on being a teacher's aide.

Being a student of Dhaka University, he was initially wary of BRACU students when he began his job, and doubted his ability to work with them. It was a natural fear, but one that faded with time, and with the camaraderie of colleagues.

His typical semester starts with guiding students by giving them course outlines and lists of reference

books. He handles communication between students and the course teacher; for example, fixing consultation appointments.

Students often choose to share their queries with him because they find him amicable and, certainly, more approachable than their teachers. Experience has made him adept at helping them with the nitty-gritty and giving anxious students the guidance they seek.

Other daily duties include updating the attendance sheets, checking assignments, and teaching students on study hacks which would enable them to perform well in exams.

According to Ghosh, one challenge he regularly faces is how to vet the excuses of absentees. "I have faced multiple cases where students tried to forge medical certificates or gave false excuses for missing class." In this kind of situation, it is difficult to remain



The other side of Arnab Ghosh

empathetic towards students while simultaneously ensuring observance of the rules. In spite of this, it is in his habit to always attempt to reach out and be the friendly helping hand.

Ghosh is currently preparing to take the BCS exam. After his experience at BRAC University, he is considering choosing the teaching sector if all goes well.

SPORTS & HEALTH

BUFL round up

Safir Zawad

Journalist

The BRAC University Football League (BUFL) kicked off on July 14th, at the Army Stadium Hockey Field located in Banani, Dhaka. The event was organized by the Football Club of BRAC University (FCBU), and presented by Active Colours. They were partnered with *The Daily Star*, *SHOUT*, Madchef, Plaantik, *Shomoy News*, and Wedding Foods. There was a lot of hard work, practice and planning put into making the biggest sporting event of BRACU a successful one; and to all evidence, they prevailed.

The Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) Gladiators became the champions of BUFL 2017 after defeating the BRAC University Natural Science Club (BUNSC) Warriors in a thrilling final that went to penalties on the 29th of July.

The 12 teams that qualified for the tournament were divided into two groups. The EDF Gladiators kicked off their campaign with a



comfortable win over the defending champions, BUPC (BRAC University Photography Club), thrashing them 3-0. They finished at the top of their group, winning all but one of their matches in the group stages. Meanwhile, the NSC Warriors scraped through to second place, after drawing in their first two games. The two finalists were placed on opposite sides of the bracket, with the EDF Gladiators having to go through IABC (International Association of Business Communicators), and BUCuC (BRACU Cultural Club), on their way to the finals; while the NSC Warriors defeated BUFC (BRAC University Film Club) and BUIGC

(BRAC University Indoor Games Club).

When they met in the group stages, the NSC Warriors drew first blood, winning 1-0, but the final was a different story. From the start, the NSC Warriors were on the back foot, having to defend a flurry of attacks from the Gladiators. The Warriors ended up wasting their only real chance of scoring, and the match went to penalties. The painstakingly long tiebreaker involved 24 penalties, with the Gladiators winning 8-7.

EDF's Arannya Khan was named the Man of the Match in the final, and EDF's Saadman Ahmed was named the Man of the Tournament.

BRACU to host 1st Inter-University Chess Tourney

Marium N Oishee

Journalist



(L to R) Grandmaster Niaz Morshed, AKMS Nawaj, and Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed | Photo: Mobtasim

BRACU Chess Club (BUCHC) is organizing an inter-university chess championship, sponsored by Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited (BPBL), to be held on the university premises from September 25th to the 27th. In an effort to promote the game of chess at the university level, this contest will be open to all university-level educational institutes throughout the country.

A press conference, held at the National Press Club on July 27th, announced the tournament. A K M Sadeque Nawaj, the General Manager of Marketing at BPBL was present as the Chief Guest whilst Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director of BRAC Institute of Languages, attended as a special guest. The first Grandmaster from South Asia, Niaz Morshed, presented the keynote paper and Md Haroon Or Rashid, International Chess Arbiter, explained the rules and regulations of this grand scale game of wits. Shams Ud Duha, the faculty advisor of BUCHC, acted as the moderator for the session.

In this team-based event, each university primarily reserves the right to register only one team consisting of four core players and two reserves. In the case that the university seeks to enter a second team, a special request must be submitted before the registration deadline, upon which the latter team will be added to the waiting list.

The championship will follow the international rules and regulations of the game, as established by the World Chess Federation. The top three teams will receive cash prizes of Tk 40,000, Tk 25,000, and Tk 15,000 respectively. Interested students may visit the BRAC University website for more details.

The warriors of tomorrow

August 3rd saw BRAC University's basketball team in its first Inter-University Basketball Tournament. The Muktijuddah Kazi Kamaluddin (Bir Bikram) Inter-College and University Basketball Tournament 2017, hosted by the Bangladesh Basketball Federation, was held from the 3rd to the 5th of August. The tournament had a total of 12 universities and colleges competing in it, namely: Vertical Horizon, St Joseph's School, Shahid Kamruzzaman, Notre Dame College, North South University, Jahangir Nagar University, Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur (IUT), Islamic University, Kushtia, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Dhaka University, Daffodil University and, last but not least, BRAC University.

BRAC University was placed in Group A, along with Dhaka University and Shahid Kamruzzaman



BRAC University Basketball Team at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium

University. In their first match, BRAC University lost to Dhaka University 33-29. The team's condition did not improve in their second match and they faced another bitter defeat at the hands of Shahid Kamruzzaman, with the final score being 50-24. And with that, BRAC University's journey in the tournament came to an abrupt end. Shahid Kamruzzaman went on to become

Muntaqa Bari

Journalist

the runners-up while Jahangir Nagar University took home the trophy.

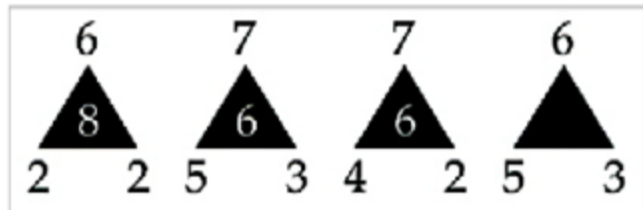
While this was not the players' best performance, it is important to note the factors at play that led to the team's less than satisfactory performance. The current team has not been playing together for long; the team was formed only recently and, that too, for the sake of the tournament. Despite the odds, it truly is commendable that the captain Tanzeer Ahmed was able to unite a group of talented players, and led them to perform on such a competitive stage. With more practice, support from the university, and a passionate audience to cheer them on, we may see these players come together and show their true mettle.

ENTERTAINMENT



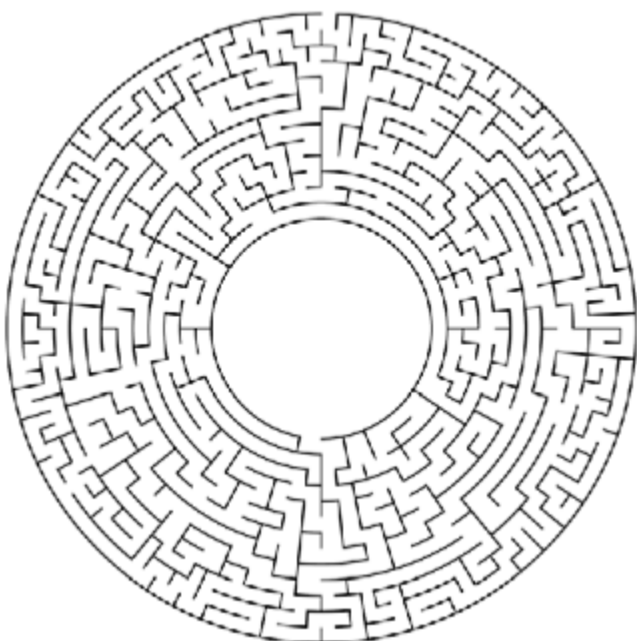
- Next time nod your head while asking a question it makes the other person more likely to agree with you!
- Use silence to your advantage when negotiating. People have a natural tendency to be uncomfortable with silence, and will often do whatever it takes to break it. Just be patient!
- Whisper something to someone, it almost guarantees that they will whisper back!
- When trying to find something, look right to left instead of left to right. You are more likely to miss things because your eyes are used to looking one way!
- If you want to mess with someone who is counting something, say a set of numbers in order instead of saying random numbers. Their brain will catch onto the pattern!
- When high-fiving, look at their elbow and you'll never miss!
- If you have a song stuck in your head that you can not seem to get out, think of the end of the song and it should go away! This is due to something called the Zeigarnik effect, which is basically your mind having a problem with things left unfinished.
- If you are playing a game against someone and you want them to mess up, ask them how exactly they are playing so well. They will overthink it!

Brain Teaser!!!!

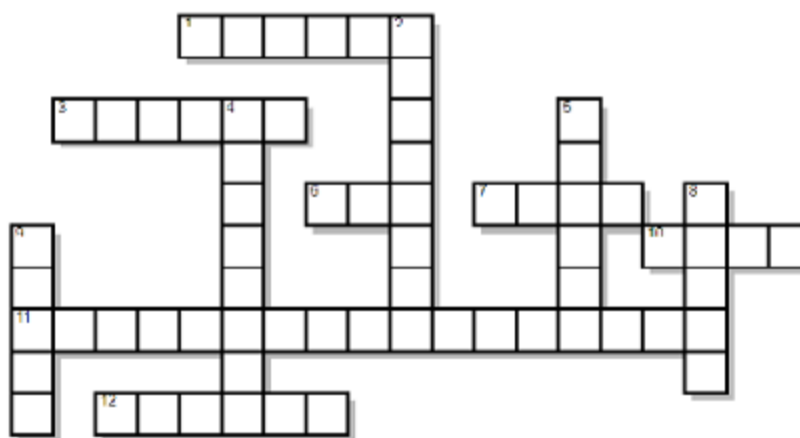


Question:
Which figure should be placed in the empty triangle?

FIND YOUR WAY OUT!!!



Crossword puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Origin of a tool that you use in your Math exams
- 3 555 in Thai language
- 6 3.14 write it backwards
- 7 The only number which can not be represented by Roman numerals
- 10 An even number
- 11 $0.01 + 0.001 + 0.0002 + 0.00003 + 0.000005 + 0.0000008 + 0.00000013 + 0.000000021 + 0.0000000034$
- 12 Secret way of writing

DOWN

- 2 What is 10! seconds
- 4 Meaning of 120
- 5 Shortest perimeter
- 8 Popular number of all
- 9 Unit of time for 1/100th of a second

Horoscope

- Taurus** (Bull): Signpost of Venus and Mars says that you are super lucky that you got courses for this fall semester. However, be careful you do not let it get to you.
- Gemini** (Twins): Chillax burgers will set you on the path to glory, so do not overthink about curtailing your intake.
- Leo** (Lion): Stay alert on Cinnamon's labors, the more common there!
- Aries** (Ram): Beware of the duke in a blue shirt in the 11th of 10th, he is going to be trouble.
- Virgo** (Virgin): Mary is bright tonight, danger's ahead!!
- Libra** (Scales): Do yourself a huge favor, STUDY!!!
- Sagittarius** (Centaur): Saturn is certain that too much of sweet food will take you straight to ICEDREAM "RIGAM!!"
- Cancer** (Crab): Hours of Jupiter have confirmed that frequent visits to the indoor auditorium will give you your heart's desire.
- Scorpio** (Scorpion): Catch up on your beauty sleep, there's a possibility of you getting married soon.
- Aquarius** (Water Carrier): Mar the wall, Winter has come!
- Capricorn** (Goat): Buy more stuff from Amazon, the semester will go good for you.
- Pisces** (Fish): Take less than four courses. Excess attending classes in the new campus will bring you prosperity.



Advisory Panel

- Farhaan U Ahmed
- Roohi Huda
- Rifat Mahub
- Mahreen Mamoon

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- | | | |
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