

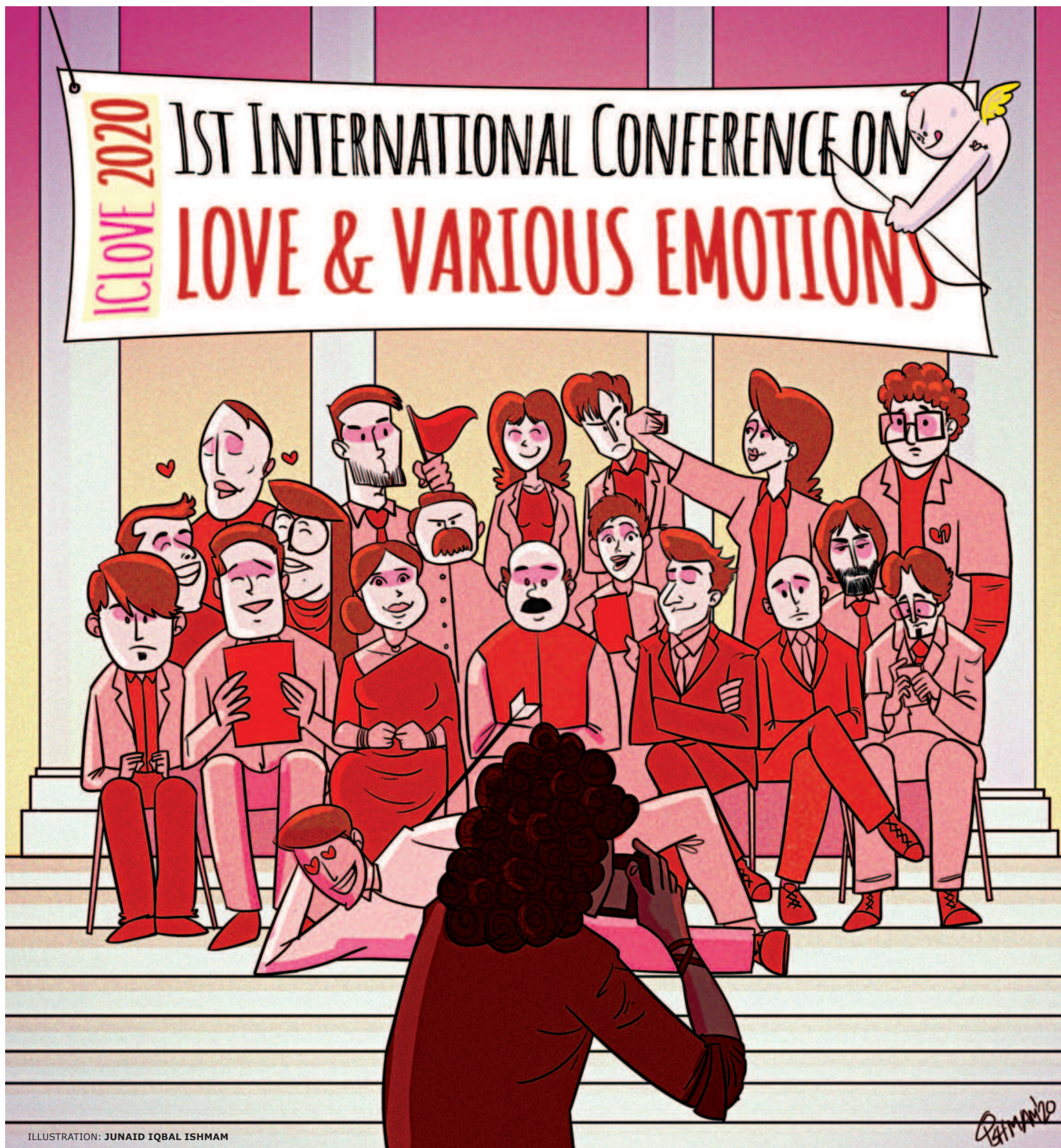


WHY YOU SHOULD BREAK
UP ON VALENTINE'S DAY

PG 3

NISHITA

PG 7



EDITORIAL

By the time this issue of SHOUT goes out, it will have sunk in. But as I'm writing this, Bangladesh U19 men's cricket team have won the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup less than 24 hours ago and I am unable to process this. It's had the effect of making me smile every time my mind has drifted towards cricket this past day, and Akbar Ali's heroics seems to be what everyone is talking about. What a time to be alive!

What does this mean for the future of the national team? Will these kids develop into world class cricketers? Can the senior team learn something from them? It's hard to tell, but I choose to look at this as an achievement of 15 young people, which has had the gargantuan effect of making Bangladesh feel good for a day. With our smiles, with the way we've been raving about Akbar, Shoriful, and Joy, what's really changed is that we've finally realised that after a certain point, we do win.

– Azmin Azran, Sub-editor, SHOUT



PLAYWATCH YOUTUBE PLAYLIST REVIEW

OTHERS AND US



ALIZA RAHMAN

Often in our lives, we need a fresh perspective in our relationships. Friends and family may not always be available, and you may sometimes dread making that call to someone to discuss deeply personal issues that have been aggravating you for a while. For such problems you might find comfort and solace if not solid advice from the YouTube channel *The School of Life* which has a playlist called "Relationships" containing 190 videos on the many aspects of this important part of our lives.

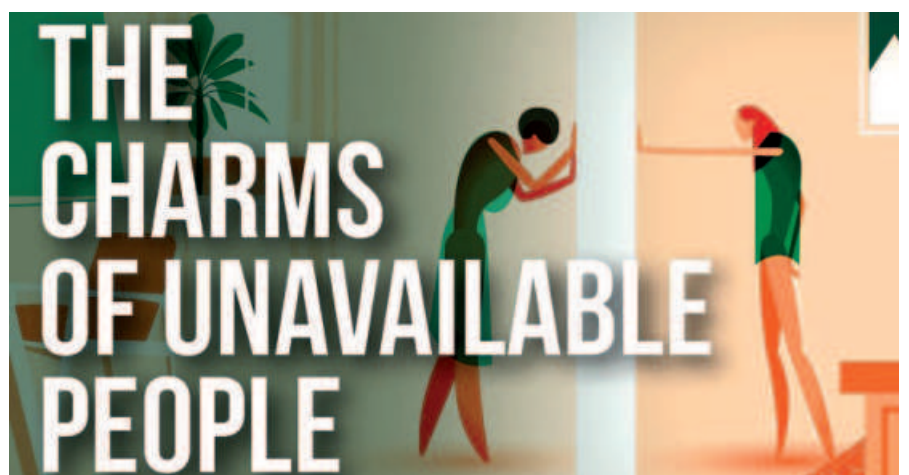
If you've ever felt like you don't know how to approach a person or what to do with yourself on dates or just simply feel like you're unable to see something in yourself and others, you can skim through the playlist and it is very likely you'll find the video you're looking for. From videos on simple questions you might've always had such as "Why, how & when to Flirt" to "How to Have a Good Conversation", and frustrating questions you couldn't find answers to such as "The Charms of Unavailable People", "When Your Partner Tries to Stop you Growing"—*The School of Life* has a ton of videos discussing each of these issues in videos that can be as short as three minutes to as long as ten minutes.

Moreover, not all the videos on that playlist only discuss issues in terms of your relation with others. Some require you to take a look at yourself too such as "Are You Difficult to Love?". This, questioning ourselves and examining our own behaviour, is an important thing many of us forget to do, especially when we feel hurt or betrayed and our attention falls solely on the faults of the other person.

The videos provide recommendations for how to view a personal event through a different lens and tries to make us think differently about the many situations that we encounter in our day-to-day lives. Mentions of the intricacies of our daily lives and the things we've all seen or heard, a neat sectioning of the subtopics that is covered, a clear narration style along with stunning and different styles of illustrations that perfectly complements what is being said in almost every video make these very pleasant to watch.

Even if you're not looking for anything specific, you might still enjoy watching videos on this playlist for they cover topics that might seem odd, somewhat comical, and unusual such as "Existentialism and Dating" and "The Importance of Soft Toys".

Aliza is Matilda resurrected. Reach her at aliza.hridula@gmail.com



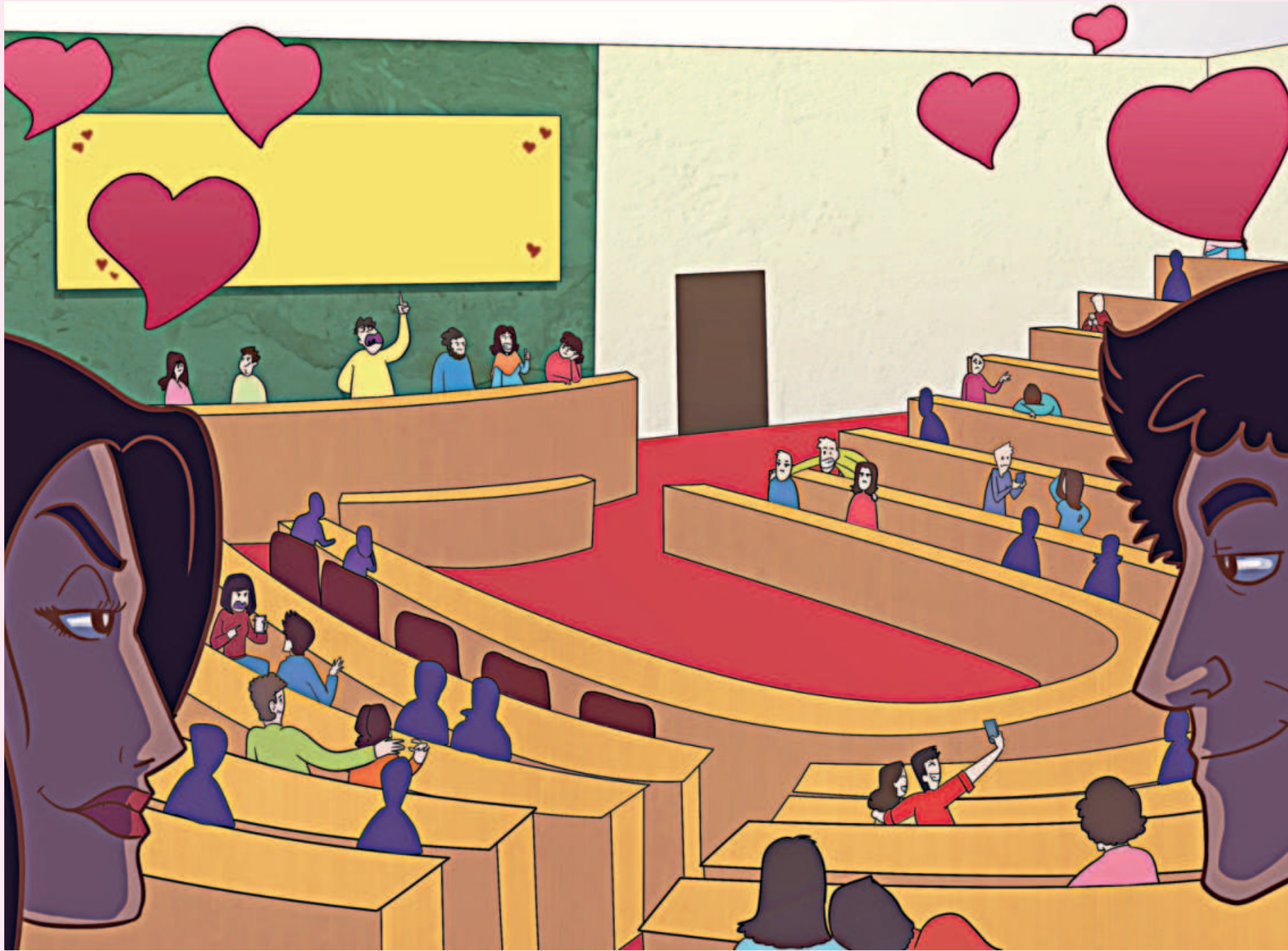


ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

THE DEFINITIVE YOUTH MAGAZINE
SHOUT

1st International Conference on LOVE & VARIOUS EMOTIONS (ICLoVE 2020)

TASNIM ODRIKA & FAISAL BIN IQBAL

The three-day-long “1st International Conference on Love and Various Emotions (ICLoVE 2020)” successfully took place on February 10-12, 2020 at Hotel Amaderi Dhaka. The event was organised by Bangladesh University of Professional Lovers (BUPL). Many renowned academic scholars and researchers in the complex field of love and emotions, and other dignitaries along with enthusiastic students from all across the world came together to participate in this conference.

Days one and two consisted of keynote presentations exploring romance of all depths from different angles, with discussions and potential solutions to some critical problems. Over the course of the three days, various workshops were also held. One of the more popular workshops was titled “How to be a Model Third Wheeler”.

This one-of-a-kind conference was overseen by Charming Prince, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Love Affairs. The inauguration ceremony was a romantic brunch where he discussed his foray into this field after falling in love and rescuing his beloved from an evil witch.

ROLE OF THIRD-WHEELERS

The keynote session of day one was titled “Role of Third Wheelers in Modern Relationships” conducted by Dr. Prem Pushpo, Associate Love Guru, Bangladesh University of Professional Lovers (BUPL).

“A third wheeler is to a relationship what the Metro Rail project is to Dhaka city,” compared Dr. Pushpo. “You are tolerating it for now because someday, it might be of good use to you.”

Dr. Pushpo explained how important third wheelers are in modern relationships. Her research suggests that nine out of ten couples turn to their third wheelers after breaking up to talk trash about their former significant other. The tenth one, however, gets back together. The research also points out that newly separated couples reach out to their third wheelers individually to tell them how they were always right about everything and how their partner had always been a bad person.

Apart from being an Associate Love Guru, Dr. Prem Pushpo is also a veteran third wheeler. She happens to be an honorary member of the Fellowship of Third Wheelers (FTW).

PREVENTIVE RED FLAG DETECTION

The second presentation of the day was delivered by renowned love scientist Dr. Hercule Pirit of the Department of Hazardous Relationships, National Institute of Romance (NIR).

Dr. Pirit’s talk was on red flag detection before entering into a relationship. According to him, 99 percent of all relationships fail due to the inability of the individuals to identify the warning signs beforehand. The remaining one percent go on ignoring the red flags until they eventually decide to take a break, thinking that a little time away from each other will help them accept those red flags.

“Prevention is better than cure,” suggested Dr. Pirit. “In the case of relationships, identifying the red flags before you commit yourself is much better than ignoring those flags and then sharing that infamous ‘Looking through rose-coloured glasses’ quote from *Bolack Horseman* on social media.”

In order to detect the red flags, Dr. Pirit suggested that couples should date for at least three years before making things official. He also suggested that they avoid sugar-coat things for each other.

DATING FOR DUMMIES

The talk titled “Dating for Dummies” was delivered by Dipu Kala-Bhuna, CEO of Kala Bhuna Stories, an online dating platform for the people of Chattogram. Kala-Bhuna’s lecture focused on the mistakes people make while dating, how to set up a dating profile, and how people should approach a potential dating partner prior to asking them out.

“Dating is not an easy task,” stated Kala-Bhuna.

“If you are not familiar with this extreme sport, I recommend that you pay attention to me and my slides instead of the buffet table to your right. Lunch is not on for another couple of hours. So, till then, your eyes should be on me.”

Kala-Bhuna advised the audience to follow the “FML” approach while on a date. FML stands for “Feelings, Marriage, Love”, and he strongly advised the audience not to talk about these things while on a date, especially the first one. Kala-Bhuna also showed the audience examples of good and bad dating profiles. The audience were shocked when they saw his own dating profile on the slide, marked as a bad one. They were confused as to how a dating expert was unable to work on his own dating life. But Kala-Bhuna was quick to explain that he “deliberately” ruins his dates for research purposes.

NEED FOR BOUNDARIES

Day two began with tackling an all-important topic. Guest speaker Dr. Eida Loveless delivered her presentation where she discussed the importance of maintaining individuality even after getting into a relationship.

“Yes, I understand how alien this might all sound but my research has indicated that there is actually no need to completely immerse yourself into your significant other’s life. It is okay if they decide to go to sleep a little early instead of staying up talking to you till dawn,” declared

Dr. Loveless.

Her revelations really shocked the crowd and towards the end of the session, a lot of them posed questions like, “My person won’t reply within five minutes. Does that mean he is seeing someone else? Why else would it take him so long to get back to me?”

DEALING WITH THE JEALOUSY MONSTER

After a small break for snacks, the presentations continued. The second keynote presentation of the day was given by Mohabbat Mia, renowned author of the book *Love in the Time of Social Media*.

He talked about what drove him to write the best-selling book, “You see, every relationship has insecurities and that’s okay. But, the emergence of social media has amplified those fears and insecurities. This is actually an elaborate ploy to keep us busy checking which posts our partners are ‘heart’ reacting so that we don’t pay attention to the aliens taking over. I was just like you people once. Naïve. Then, one day I dreamt that the aliens were taking over and after waking up I knew right away it was a sign. I realised what I had to do and I immediately started writing this book.”

Further questions regarding the topic at hand were shoved off as unimportant. “The aliens are taking over and you’re worried about your partner liking an Instagram model? Shame on you,” he concluded.

KEEPING THE ROMANCE ALIVE

Along with being a crowd favourite topic, this was also the last presentation of the day. The crowd was still bright-eyed even after a whole day of hearty and intellectual discussions. This last presentation was delivered by Dr. Gether Flowers, whose doctoral research was on how to keep the spark alive in a relationship.

It turned out relationships actually require some work. Even though a person toils day and night to woo their partner, the work doesn’t stop after they manage to bamboozle their significant others

into being with them. Apparently, one needs to work actively throughout the entirety of the relationship to make their partner feel loved just like they felt in the beginning. The crowd was surprised and most took notes on the little ways they could be more romantic towards their respective partners.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of the conference was graced by the presence of the chief guest Dr. Dave Das, Honourable Member of the Chamber of Unsuccessful Lovers (ChUL).

The ceremony began by awarding the best papers of the conference. The papers titled “A Qualitative Analysis of the Friend Zone”, “Role of Artificial Stupidity in Premature Break-ups”, and “Comparisons between a Break and a Break-up” received the best paper awards in their respective categories.

This was followed by a short cultural programme where popular bands Panic at the Bijoy Sarani Signal, My Formalin Romance, and The Strokes entertained the audience.

Finally, the event was brought to a close with a vote of thanks from the conference secretariat, and a few short speeches by the conference guests and sponsors. The night ended with a short meet-and-greet with the press, and a gala candlelight dinner.

Faisal wants to be the very best, like no one ever was. To survive university is his real test; to graduate is his cause. Send him memes and motivation at abir.afc@gmail.com

Tasnim Odrika likes pineapple on pizza and is willing to fight anyone who opposes her on this. Reach her at odrika_02@yahoo.com

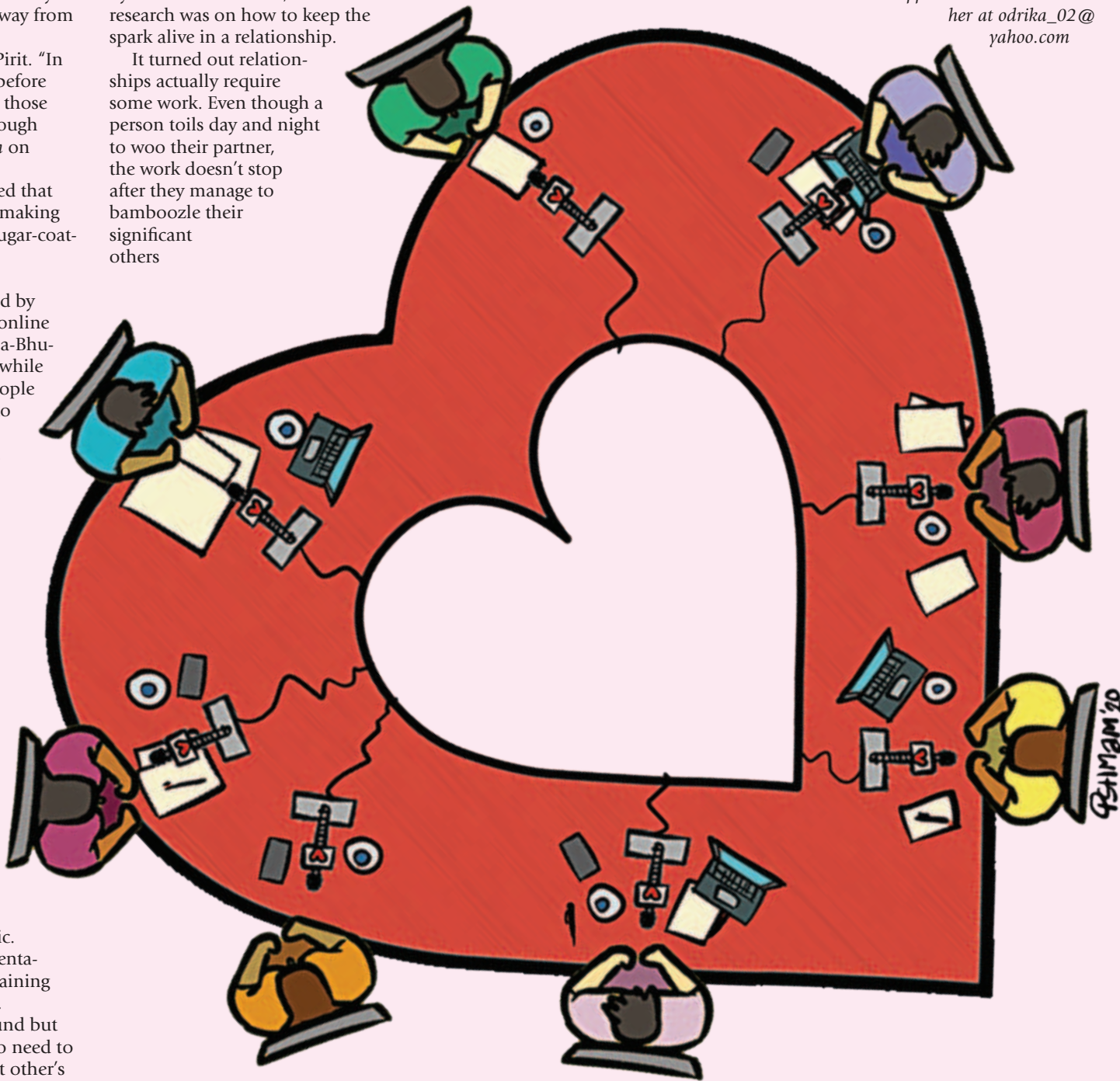


ILLUSTRATION: JUNAID IQBAL ISHAMAM

AUW observes Open House Day in Chattogram

Asian University for Women (AUW) observed Open House Day at Chattogram campus on February 1, 2020. Parents and students collected relevant information on the admission process, activities and other pertinent academic information by participating in the programme. For the 2020 academic year, interested admission candidates of the university received the opportunity to interact with the international faculty members, current students and alumni of the university. The five major courses offered at the Asian University for Women are Bioinformatics, Public Health Studies Politics, Environmental Sciences Philosophy and Economics. Interested stakeholders were also apprised of the Dual Major program on offer.

Other AUW booths showcased were the Science and Maths Centre, the AUW Writing Centre, Career Development Centre and the Health and Wellness Centre. The students association shared projects on community activities and highlighted activities of 17 other clubs. Interested students were given the opportunity to complete application forms with the help of the representatives of the University.



UAP holds Pharma Fest 2020

The Pharma Science Club (PSC) of the Department of Pharmacy, University of Asia Pacific (UAP) organised the Pharma Fest 2020 for the third time at UAP City Campus, Green Road, Dhaka on February 5, 2020. Director General, Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) Major General Md. Mahbubur Rahman addressed the programme as the chief guest. C.M. Shafi Sami, Chairman, BOT, UAP and Md. Mizanur Rahman, Executive Director, Operations, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. were present as special guests while the programme was chaired by National Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, UAP. M Mosaddek Hossain, Managing Director of UnimedUni-health Pharmaceuticals and Muhammad Mahbubul Haq, Secretary, Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh also graced the program as guests. Prof. Dr. M. R. Kabir, Pro-VC, UAP; Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury (Retd.), Treasurer and Director, Directorate of Students Welfare, UAP; Sarwar R Chowdhury, Registrar, UAP; Prof. Dr. Swarnali Islam Khandaker, Head, Department of Pharmacy; and UAP faculty members of the Pharmacy Department and guest faculties from different participating universities were also present and inaugurated Pharma Fest 2020 with a cake-cutting session.

The theme of this year's Pharma Fest was "A Platform to Exhibit Your Ingenuity". A total of 125 participants from 18 institutions participated in the poster exhibition and Pharma Olympiad. The top three positions in poster presentation were secured by UAP, North South University and University of Dhaka respectively, while in the Pharma Olympiad UAP secured the top three positions.



EU holds orientation programme

The orientation programmes for undergraduate students of Eastern University (EU) for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 was held on February 8, 2020 in Ashulia Model Town, Savar.

Renowned educationist and author Prof. Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal graced the occasion as chief guest. VC Prof. Dr. Shahid Akhtar Hossain chaired the programme. Emeritus Professor Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad delivered the welcome speech. Chairman of the BOT of EU Sk. Sayedur Rahman was the guest of honour.

Former Chairman and current Member of the BOT of EU Liaquat Hossain Moghul; Member of the BOT and Chairman of the University Admission Committee Mohammad Ali Azzam; and Member of the BOT Anwar Hossain Chowdhury were present as special guests. Deans, faculty members, officials and students were present there.

IUB inaugurates new Sports Complex



Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) inaugurated its newly constructed Sports Complex that provides plentiful spaces to play football, basketball, cricket, hockey, badminton and other indoor games. Trustees, faculty members, management officials, and IUB alumni jointly inaugurated this complex on February 2, 2020.

Emphasising on extracurricular activities to a large extent, as IUB believes in the philosophy that "sport is not a part of education; sport is an education"—the university encourages its students to stay bold and physically sound in order to cope with the rapidly changing world with healthy merit.

On this occasion, A Matin Chowdhury, Chairman, BOT, IUB; Javed Hosein, Chairman, Finance Committee, IUB; Trustee Tanveer Madar; Prof. Milan Pagon, VC (Acting), IUB; Treasurer, Registrar, members of the faculty and management, IUB alumni and a large number of students were present to inaugurate IUB Sports Complex.

The opening ceremony was followed by enthralling football and basketball matches between faculty and students where keenly contested performances were witnessed by the audience.

Alumni Association of BUBT arranges Alumni Carnival 2020

Alumni Association of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) arranged its Alumni Carnival 2020 at the field of BUBT on February 7, 2020. Various programmes including a football match, raffle draw and other games including a cultural session was arranged at the carnival. Members of BUBTAA, Members of BUBT Trust, Deans and Prof. Md. Abu Saleh, VC, BUBT participated in the ceremony. AHM Azmal Hossain, President, BUBTAA and other alumnus spoke at the carnival.



Averroes Int'l School Dhaka celebrates Annual Sports Day

Averroes International School Dhaka celebrated its 3rd Annual Sports Day on February 6, 2020 with the theme "Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman". Sadek Khan MP of Dhaka-13 attended the occasion as chief guest. He congratulated all the students on their performances and stressed on the importance of sports in the lives of all. Chairman of the school Khan Mohammad Aktaruzzaman mentioned in his speech that without Bangabandhu there would be no Bangladesh. We feel proud to be part of the Mujib Borsho. The event highlighted various events like display, march-past, dress as you like and so on where students participated with pride and confidence. Tribute was given to 60 Liberation War heroes of Averroes family for their sacrifice and contributions. CEO & Head of School Mohammad Anisur Rahman (Shohagh) addressed the celebration of Mujib Borsho with over 1200 participants, 5000 guests and 145 events. He appealed to the parents to give their children enough time to play so that they can improve their overall development. Averroes has now three branches and six campuses with over 1400 students. Mohammad Anisur Rahman (Shohagh) is an educator, author, public speaker and entrepreneur and has been working as a local working partner of British Council for over 12 years.



NISHITA

UPOMA AZIZ

Her name was Nishita, but in my head, I called her Ta.

Ta was our neighbour, but by no means was she the 'girl next door'. She had never showed up on our doorstep cradling an ice-cream box full of *pakor*s her mom made, perhaps in the very same box I had delivered to their home a week earlier. She never went up to their roof dragging a bucket of just-washed clothes behind her, never wrung them dry and hung them one after another as the sweet, clean scent of soap mixed with jasmine and lemon made the air humid. When all the kids were just kids and played together, or much later when the non binary group inexplicably divided into boys and girls – Ta wasn't there. Ta was an enigma to us.

Growing up, almost all of us went to the same school. Ta went to school too, just not in the same one we did. She would be seen disappearing behind the dark tinted glass of their car, a pink barbie schoolbag, then the height of fashion, hanging behind her, her hair done in two even braids. That's all I could catch in the split second that she got down from their building and into the car.

When we all got catapulted to teenage, the concept of attraction infiltrated our otherwise boring, two dimensional world. After listening to numerous tales of those around my age; how their hearts skipped beats and their stomachs would behave funny when a particular girl smiled, twisted a lock of her hair between her fingers, or even breathed, I realised I was in love with Ta. She had graced the world and humbled me simply

by existing. Why I would fall in love with a girl I was never introduced to was beyond me, but upon learning that a merciful, kind, wise man had stated that if it is meaningless, it was probably love, I was convinced that love it surely was.

One fall after the other went by, my peers fell in love, broke their hearts, vowed never to be in love again, and then fell in love with someone new, but I was still stuck in a sweet dilemma. One of the many advantages to being in love with a semi fictional girl was that there were no limitations to what I might imagine. But for the most part, I daydreamed about what she would be like. I imagined us holding hands for the first time, and that's as far as I'd imagine us together, so it was the first time, over and over again. People around me in long distance relationships constantly complained, and I sighed because the one and a half feet gap between our buildings had become insurmountable – she was right there, but was she really? I hoped that she was real, but I kind of also hoped she wasn't.

Ta became a memory, then she became the memory of a memory, like a feeling you remember but not the memory associated with it, just like the shadow of a person she was. I stepped out of my safe cocoon of a town, not exactly as a butterfly, and hoped not to get trampled by the people always on the go in the city. My father would ask about my studies when I called home, my mother would tell me about the new shopping mall that had taken up our old playground or a new housing estate that had eaten up half the riverbank. They would come visit me every few months,

and I'd started feeling that maybe it wasn't that bad after all.

On the last day of winter, I went home. My safe haven had been reduced down to my own home, the rest was unrecognisable, as the city expanded, it became a huge wild expanse of an urban area. I had hoped that the sky would be the same to say the least. Though spring was already in the air, the sky was not nearly as blue as I remembered it to be, it looked as if someone had powdered it down. It had aged as fast as I did.

My heart skipped a beat as I walked past the house next to us, and it took me awhile to remember the name of the girl who had me hooked for the entirety of my teen years. Still, I couldn't stop feeling hopeful. Every girl around my age had me throw a second, dubious glance at them. A while later, I was done with myself and decided to stop being the creep.

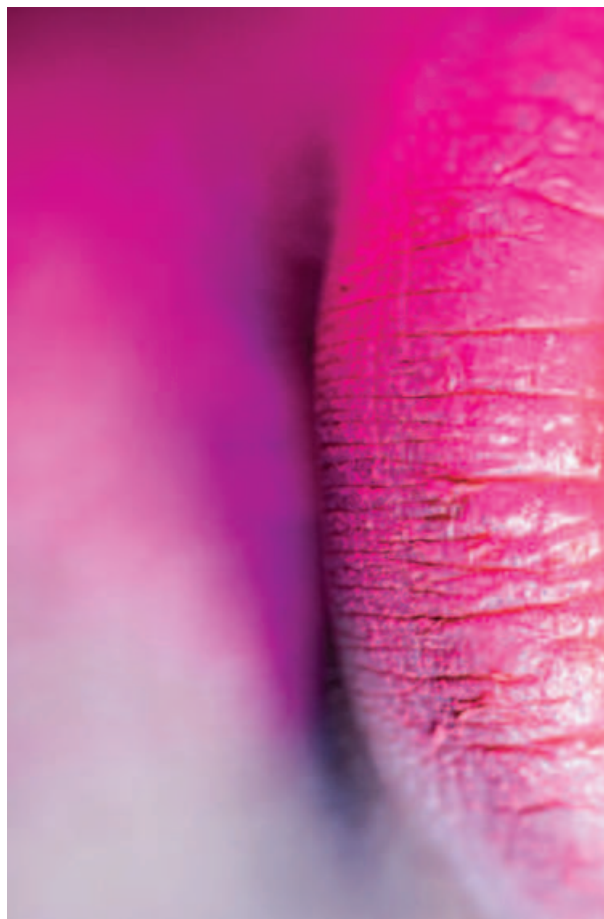
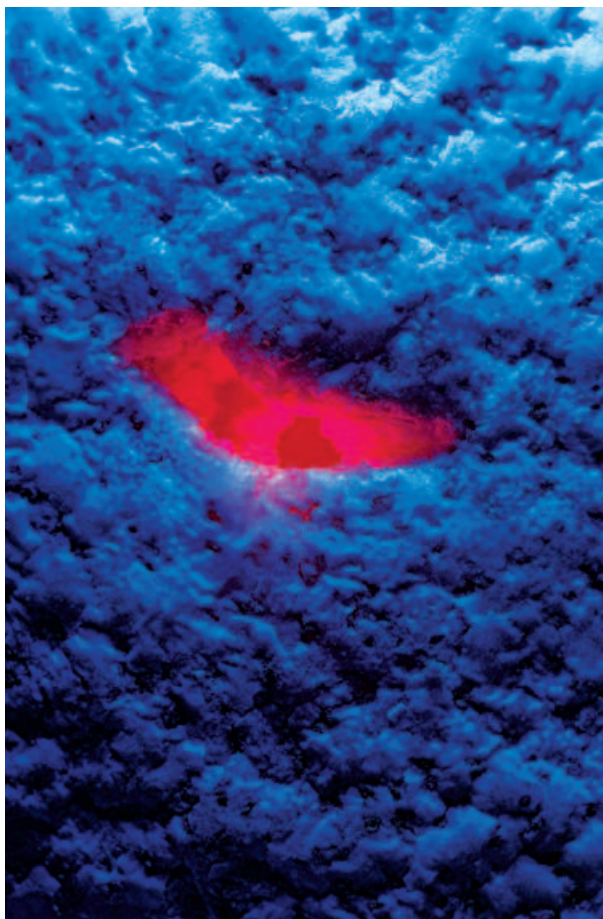
As the evening call for prayers sounded, I doubled my pace towards home, because that was the curfew back then. When I was just under our building, I stopped short at the sight of an older woman with her arm wrapped around a much younger girl. I stood dumbstruck as they walked slowly towards me, and then the girl looked at me.

I couldn't remember what emotions I'd expected to see from her the first time we locked eyes, but it surely wasn't the blank stare she gave me. Ta wasn't like us, after all. She was special.

"Nishita," the older woman tugged gently and she responded with a ghost of a smile, that of an innocent, and they went on walking. "Goodbye, Ta." I whispered to no one.



ILLUSTRATION: NOOR US SAFA ANIK



MIRRORLESS

The purpose of my life is to uncover new thoughts. Sometimes I refer to a world of inspiration: the future of imagination. The eyes—of a splendid colour, in the form of puzzles—forces me to explore strange environments and create conflicts. And I learn to ask questions.

PHOTO & TEXT: MOHAMMAD HASAN ZOBAYER

