I received the call just after an hour I talked to Romel...I received a text on my way back to Chittagong from Dhaka...she was just about my age, probably a year younger... or two? I think two. Still, it was not her time to go...

"Our life is but a winter's day:
Some only breakfast and away;
Others to dinner to stay and are full fed;
The oldest man but sups and goes to bed;
She that goes soonest has the least to pay..."

Fowzia was not my friend, she was just one of the many junior students from my department who always greeted me whenever I stumbled into her on the stairwell or in the library. For me she was she was a highly energetic person always full of life. The first time I saw her was in the fresher's day program where she recited a Bengali poem very beautifully. After that she was hard to miss. We found her everywhere - staging plays, reciting poems, debating, arranging programs, initiating rallies on occasions such as 21 February...

When we returned to university in the beginning of this semester, we heard about her illness, and we all refused to believe it. It was pretty impossible to imagine such a healthy and lively person lying on a hospital bed fighting death. Every time we enquired about her we only got bad news, yet we never thought she would die. Perhaps it was just a hope flickering against the hopeless darkness that was closing in on us, yet it did burn bright with our sincere well-wishes and heartiest prayers.

Our paths never crossed, she just used to pop up in my Facebook newsfeed. Whenever I logged in there used to be a post on the walls of our mutual friends... even from bedridden state she used to reach out to us with all her sincere spontaneity to touch our hearts... she used to be curious about every little details about everything going on in the campus... she missed it... she missed us... she missed being here with us, among us, being one with us...

15 October, 2008: Department of English Language and Literature, Premier University arranged for a Dua-Mehfil for Fowzia Sultana Tumpa's recovery, a student of sixth semester who is at Bangkok at present for treatment. She is suffering from non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. Teachers, students, and other well wishers present at the gathering prayed for her and wished her recovery.

Allah had decided for a different fate for her... as the Maulana in the mehfil said, "Allah calls away people whom HE loves the most."

"Today they brought no letter for us:
She forgot to write or maybe went away;
She was with us such a short time ago,
So in love, tender, ours
But that was in white winter.
Now it's spring, and springs melancholy is poison
She was with us such a short time ago..."

Sadaf Iqbal & Shahidul Alam Chowdhury
(The writes are students of the Department of Language and Literature, Premier University, Chittagong)

Writing for a Cause

Dear Editor,

Khondoker Wahid-Ul Asif is a student of Civil and Environmental Engineering department of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet. He is suffering from a critical disease called Thaimuma, a form of cancer. It is a disease that requires a lot of money for its medication. Furthermore, its treatment is not available in Bangladesh and hence, he needs to be sent to Singapore. Many cultural and welfare organizations of SUST have already raised their helping hand toward him. The students of all departments also put in their effort for money collection for Asif. A 'Human Chain' was held and a charity concert is being organized. Deek Theater will organize a charity drama festival. Sports SUST, Natai, Sport Council of SUST are going to hold indoor and outdoor tournaments. We are also praying to the Almighty for his remedy from cancer.

Sheikh Md. Faysal
(Department of Business Administration, SUST)

About Ambassador Moriarty

Dear Editor,

How could you change the gender of US Ambassador James F Moriarty in the current issue of Star Campus? (Ambassador Moriarty gives a speech at IUB, Page 2 by Raisa Rasheeka). I did not expect such a blatant mistake from a newspaper of your standing. The picture that you published also do not pertain to Amb Moriarty.

Mozammel Hossein

Our Reply...

Dear Mozammel Hossain,

The news report was about Ambassador Lauren Moriarty (U.S. Senior Official for APEC - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and not James F Moriarty, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh. There wasn't any mistake about the picture or gender of the concerned. We acknowledge the fact that the report should have had more description about the ambassador than it did.

Editor
Star Campus