

AROUND THE WORLD WITH CIMA

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

CIMA



Razib Hassan

Razib Hassan is the Finance Adviser, Strategy & Performance Unit at the DFID (Department for International Development), which is the UK government Ministry/Department, responsible for international development.

According to Hassan, emerging markets in Bangladesh, just like any other emerging markets in a developing country has the need to match existing resources against delivery points to ensure resources are available at its most strategic direction. "CIMA is a unique professional accounting body that trains its members to ensure that such mapping is done in a controlled environment. The Institute goes beyond traditional bean counting techniques and continuously explores value generating options as in risk and control management to make sure that its products (members) are fit for purpose to emerging markets," he says.

CIMA has taken Hassan from Afghanistan to Zurich for work. "I have worked in fast paced private sector companies like Mercedes

Benz in UK to a world leading management consultancy practice based in London and finally to a UK government department (public sector)," he adds. "CIMA helped me to make these transitions in a very smooth and rewarding manner. CIMA was valued along with my professional experience and I could use progression in my qualification to take up increasing challenges and enhanced positions. I became a Finance Director aged 25 for Maxwell Stamp PLC in London and when decided to jump fence from private to the public sector, I could secure a band A finance advisory position in DFID."

University finance qualifications provide a good background for would be finance professionals, but a professional qualification provides the deep dive that employers are searching in a specialist role, he says. "CIMA being a professional accounting qualification with strong emphasis on management and controls will ensure that students can take the escalator instead of the stairs in their pursuit of a professional finance career."

ENDEAVOUR

CELEBRATION

Those who live away from your mothers must be familiar with their concern regarding your appetite and food intake. Before every meal you get a call asking whether you have had your food or not. A simple 'yes' will never suffice, you need to sound convincing enough and state specifically what you had and whether you liked it.

When they cook your favourite dishes (which they usually don't when you are not around), they remember you. When they go past your favourite fast food shop, they remember you. When they attend some wedding without you and the chicken roast tastes very good, they remember you.

Every time I visit my mother, she packs a whole lot of food for me. Her list goes something like this-

One box of munchies that I can eat during my journey, a box of food that I can eat right after reaching Dhaka and many other boxes of raw or half-cooked food that can be kept in the refrigerator and can be consumed after heating, for as long as needed.

I don't eat much, she knows. The city has food and we don't starve here in Dhaka, which she is aware of as well.

Yet she takes all the trouble to prepare that huge amount of food, just for her children.

"Mothers do things which do not require reasons," she said to me once.

Not only your favourite dishes, your belongings also evoke an emotional reaction everytime they see them.

They make sure your room looks exactly the same as when you left it. Your favourite t-shirt that you used to wear frequently is now her favourite. She often flips through the fictions that you used to read under your textbooks so as not to get caught. She preserves everything- your handwriting, your smell, your existence.

THE "MOTHER'S" LOGIC

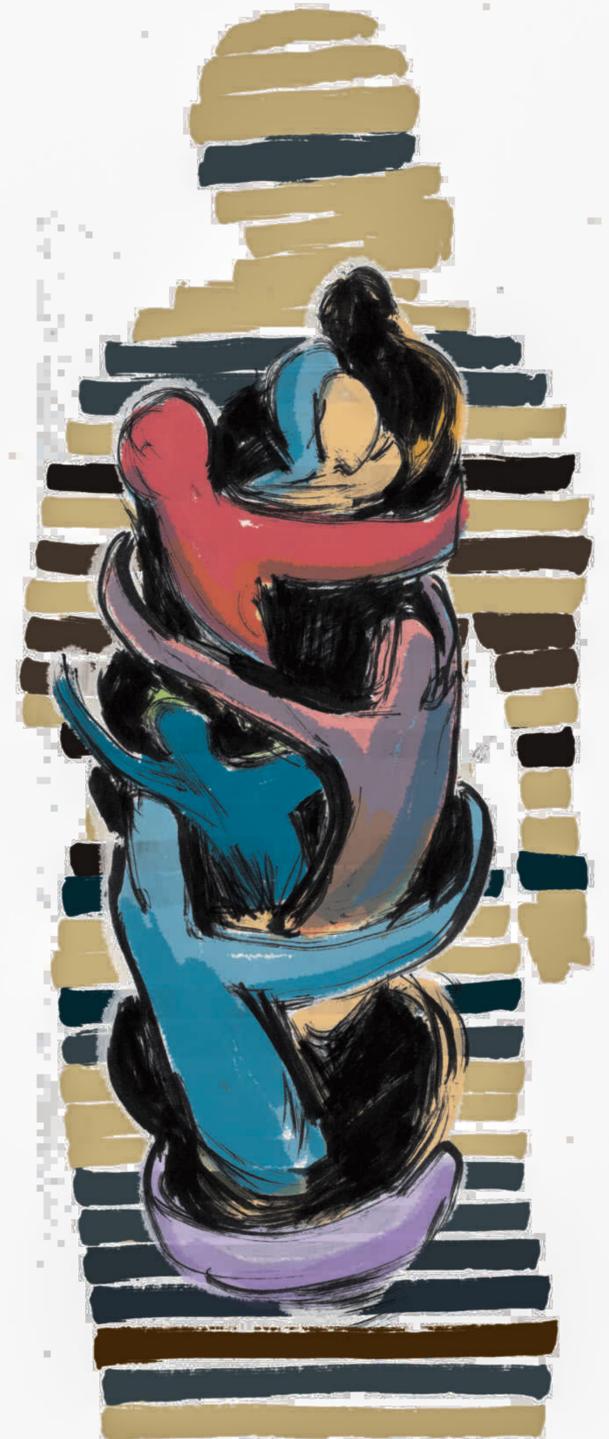
FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

I have seen and heard my mother doing this. My mother, like many of your mothers, loves to time travel with her children's belongings that we leave behind. Her collection is even more fascinating- my first blanket, my brother's *panjabi* from when he was 6 months old, his first pair of Bata sandals, my sister's first school dress, my last college dress, our report cards, all my dolls and their belongings, our kitchen sets, the toy cars, - she has everything in her treasure trove.

For years now she has been carrying a room full of memories of her children which are never going to be of any use. This is the 'mother logic', I believe.

Perhaps they know deep down in their hearts that they cannot keep their children with them all their lives. These items will then give them company. Perhaps they hope that one day, when their children are all grown up and famous, these items will be on display in a museum. Perhaps they keep these memories to show their children how their parents were like, or perhaps, they keep them just for themselves.

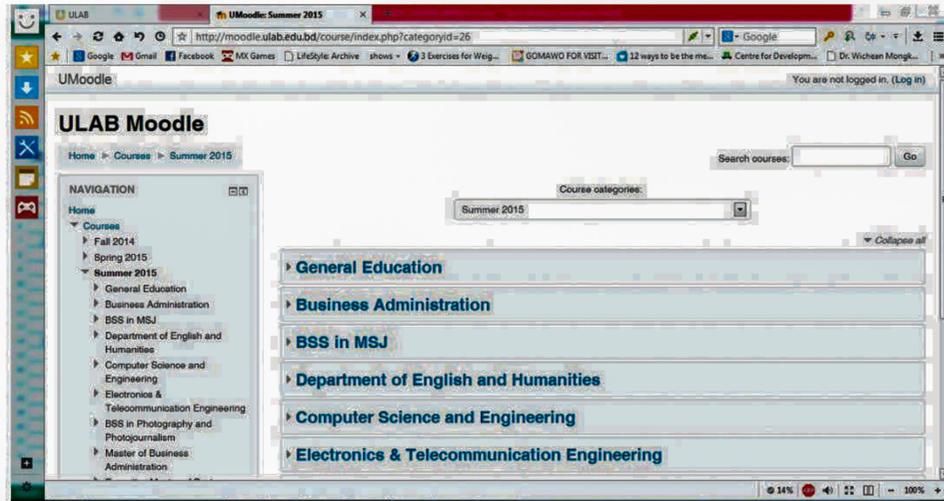
They are mothers after all, and mothers do things that don't need any reason.



CAMPUS

MOODLE AT ULAB

ARIFA GHANI RAHMAN



With the advancement of technology, online learning has become a viable and acceptable mode of teaching and learning throughout the world. As a forward-thinking university that promotes the liberal arts, ULAB has become a pioneer in the field of online education in Bangladesh and has adopted the learning management system (LMS) Moodle to supplement face-to-face classes. Moodle is an open source LMS that is customisable, versatile, and easy to use.

Using Moodle, faculty members can upload lectures in different formats including videos; give and receive assignments; return graded work with comments; conduct quizzes; have online discussions; take attendance; and so on. Best of all, grades are all available in real-time. This means students can see where they stand at any given moment during the semester.

The transparency accorded by the availability of grades and the overall picture they present to students is widely

appealing and is one of the reasons both students and faculty have welcomed this initiative at ULAB. A Moodle app available on all smartphones has also encouraged the usage of Moodle across the board.

By adopting this system and integrating it with every course in a given semester, ULAB has provided faculty and students with an opportunity to explore learning outside the classroom. Accessibility from home and anywhere on campus allow both parties to communicate in ways that enhance participation like never before. Learning, therefore, can continue if students cannot attend classes for any reason or faculty members are on leave.

The adoption of Moodle also supports ULAB's "Going Green" programme that has been launched to make the university the first completely sustainable campus in Bangladesh. By accepting assignments online and by uploading syllabi, lectures, and handouts, faculty and students have reduced their use of paper significantly.

A training workshop is held every semester for this purpose. Faculty members are expected to introduce students to Moodle at the beginning of the semester and instruct them as and when the need arises during the term.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB

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