



ECHOES BY
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Food for thought about wasting food

Today people have more food to eat than ever before. Technology has made it possible to produce surplus food in many countries. Improved marketing chains have made it possible to deliver food at peoples' doorsteps. And yet, in spite of all this progress, there have always been pockets where some people can't get enough to eat. Food is unlike other products people produce. Its wastage has never been encouraged.

Before agriculture, people would hunt for food. The survival of a community depended on the skills of their hunters. When food was available, people would feast. When it wasn't available, people would pray for the hunters to come back home victorious. After the domestication of animals, it was possible to have a stock of food, but domesticated animals need grass to survive. Thus in many places of the world, people would become nomadic tribes moving from one green pasture to another. The advent of agriculture meant people no longer needed to hunt for food, but the problem of food security wasn't over. In the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta, where Bangladesh stands today, there were only two seasons for harvest. Outside the harvest seasons, there were many who had to go without food as some still do today.

May be this is why it's been passed down from one generation to the next: do not waste food. How are we doing



today though?

Scenario 1: You've gone to a restaurant. Food is being served in a buffet. You've paid for the food. You start with salad and soup. It's highly probable you didn't see the whole selection on offer. You didn't like the salad or the soup, but you ate it. For the second course, you take some chicken and then some vegetables. You now see salmon. It's been ages since you've had salmon. What do you do? You fill your plate with more than you could

handle. You go back to your table. Before you start the second course, ask yourself: did you take more food than you would have been able to eat? Chances are very high, the answer is yes.

Scenario 2: A defining feature of modern life is the supermarket. Here you get all you want under one roof. In the olden days, people would buy things separately and pay separately. In the supermarket, you take a trolley. You walk slowly down the aisles. You see nice

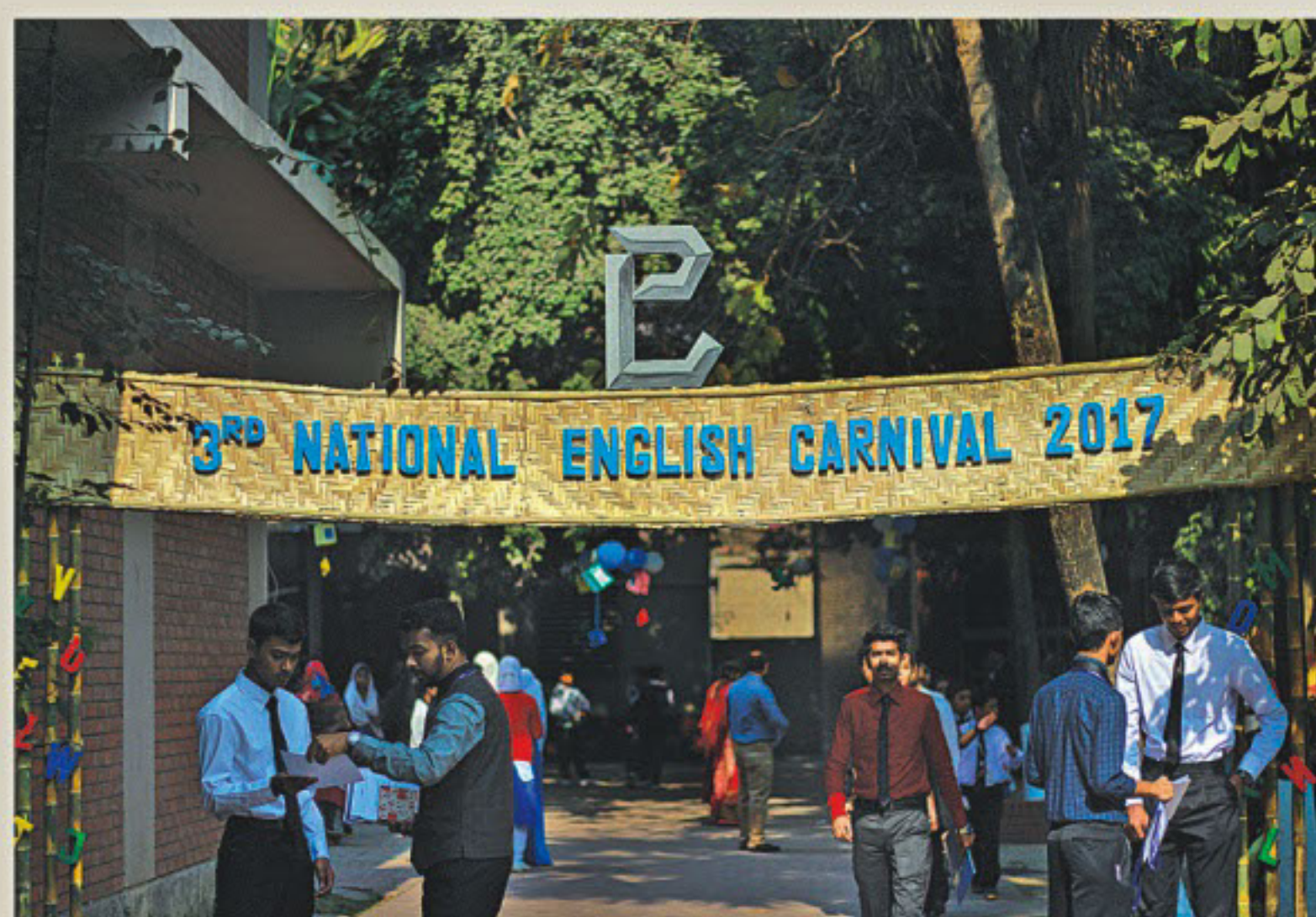
offers. Some you can resist. Others you can't. Once you reach the check-out, it's not over. There are nice sweets, batteries and many other little items. You buy some. Ask yourself again: did you buy more food and other items than you would have needed? Is the answer once again a yes?

Scenario 3: Let's go back to the restaurant and the supermarket. Many food items are sold with a quick expiry date. Countries have laws that don't allow vendors to sell expired food. What happens? The food you failed to consume at the restaurant or a wedding may well be thrown away, and also many food products are now out of date.

If you and I were the only people wasting food or buying too much food, a drop in an ocean won't make a difference. Unfortunately, we're not the only ones. Like it or not, whether intentional or unintentional, many of us do waste food. Next time, you waste food, think about the many people in our country and other countries, who still find it difficult to have enough to eat. Humans have fought food-security, but food shortage for some is still a biting reality. That's food for thought that's difficult to waste.

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ONE FLAMBOYANT ENGLISH CARNIVAL



PHOTOS: NDEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notre Dame English Club recently organised the "Bank Asia presents 3rd National English Carnival 2017 powered by The Daily Star", aiming to abate the fear of learning and practicing English from the minds of students and amplifying their confidence in the universal language.

With thirteen intriguing events such as parody news reading, turn coat, literature quiz, crossword puzzle, anagrams, spelling master, multimedia presentation, recitation, English Olympiad, extempore speech, etc. and over two thousand participants from more than 130 institutions of the country, the perfect atmosphere for learning and showcasing the skills of

language lovers was created. Moreover, the splendid decorations and rush of the enthusiastic participants at the historic campus of Notre Dame School and College further enhanced the festive mood of the whole carnival.

The primary rounds of most of the events took place on the first two days with the participation of eager students from different institutions. The third day, however, had the final rounds and participants displayed their adroitness with most of the events culminating after nail-biting contests.

Dr. Rafiqul Hassan Khan, former Joint Director of B.Sc. (Surgical Science), Imperial College of London and lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, was the chief guest in the closing ceremony and his valuable

words motivated the young learners. Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing, The Daily Star and Md. Arfan Ali, President and Managing Director, Bank Asia Ltd. were also present as special guests and their utterly unique and motivational speeches inspired the participants to a great extent. After the prize giving ceremony, a cultural programme was arranged which was much enjoyed by the present audience and guardians. Finally, the carnival ended with satisfied participants proudly displaying the prizes they earned and leaving positive appraisal about the entire programme.

Overall, the whole carnival had a nice, festive vibe and Notre Dame English Club appreciably organised it fulfilling their objective to encourage not just learning but exploring the fascinating language - English.