

# Debating within the Walls of an Engineering School

MYAT MOE KHAING

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is widely known for its success in different national and international programming contests, Olympiads and idea generation contests. However, the top engineering university has successfully harboured its debating culture to foster understanding, cooperation, and a free and lively exchange of ideas over the years.

As a part of the initiative, BUET Debating Club (BUETDC) organised its annual debating championship from April 20 to May 5, 2017 at BUET campus under the title sponsorship of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. Its media partner was SHOUT, GTV and Radio Foorti. The SJIBL-9th BUETDC National Debate Championship consisted of four segments: English Inter Varsity (IV), Inter Club Bangla, Inter School Bangla, Inter School English. The chief guest of the opening ceremony was Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice Chancellor of BUET.

Quality motions, equipped adjudication core and delicious food make the biggest respite for debaters on weekends. Over 500 debaters and adjudicators from around 150 teams altogether competed for the championship. The champion of English IV was IBA, DU. The other finalists were BUET, IUB and NSU. Asif



Mehedi Adi from North South University became the Debater of the Tournament.

The tagline of the Inter Club Bangla segment was "Bibhajoner Prithibi: Shongkot Muktir Shongkolpe". Group of Debaters (GOD) bagged the championship while BUET Nandonik became the runners of Inter Club Bangla. Isty Ahmed of GOD was announced the Debater of the Tournament.

The tournament was inclusive in its

nature, organising separate school level championships from May 4-6, 2017. Motijheel Government Boys' School (MGBS) owned the champion's title and St. Gregory's came out second in inter-school Bangla segment. In bringing together students from vastly different backgrounds, the inter-school English segment was organised to boost preparations for debaters willing to make it to the World's School Debating Championship

Team Bangladesh. Viqarunnisa Noon School won the title and St. Joseph achieved second position.

To Towhidur Rahman Turag, the president of BUETDC, this tournament was meant to be inclusive for debaters of all segments. Saima Alam Prima, vice president of the club, said "BUET has always competed in competitions that function as recruitment platforms for different organisations. The club and the tournament aim to provide experiences that are conducive to cognitive and presentational skills for engineering students."

The closing ceremony took place on May 6, 2017. It was presided over by Professor Emeritus and former Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Ainun Nishat.

Among all the events the club organises, this month-long national tournament is the biggest. With records such as breaking open in World University Debating Championship 2016, BUET has a fantastic record in dominating the world of discourse and persuasiveness. The SJIBL-9th BUETDC National Debate Championship creates an avenue for such a glorified culture.

*Myat Moe is an occasional philosopher whose favourite pastime is confusing people with her nationality. Reach her @145michelle@gmail.com*

# STRUGGLES OF BEING UNATHLETIC

ZARIN RAYHANA

When I was younger, I used to hide in the toilet in order to skip Physical Training class. Not only did I lack the desire to participate in any kind of sports, but I also didn't have the reflexes and hand-eye coordination needed to perform well. The struggles are painfully real. If you're a non-athlete, you can relate to almost all of them.

## THE VERY THOUGHT OF SPORTS GIVES YOU A HEADACHE

Sleeping is the only enjoyable physical activity. Period.

## BEING JUDGED BY THE STAR ATHLETES

Every school team has people who are a little too intense about sports. Not only will they crumble your walls of self-confidence with their aptitude but will also complain about how you would have done better if you really tried, even if you have been putting your heart and soul in it. But it's not your fault that you have slow reaction time, right? The solution: get bitten by a radioactive spider.

## COMING LAST IN SPORTS COMPETITIONS

This is the kind of humiliation I received in every sports competition I have ever participated in. Not to mention tripping myself in the middle of a race and chafing my skin. Even if I managed to outrun some of the runners, I would eventually get pushed over by someone. Getting hurt is only commonplace. At this hopeless moment, all you think of is, "Welcome to Loserville. Population: 1. Me."

## DEALING WITH CRAMPS

An hour into soccer and you'll already feel your muscles failing. And then you will feel dependant on paracetamol for the rest of the day.

## ALWAYS GETTING HIT BY THE BALL

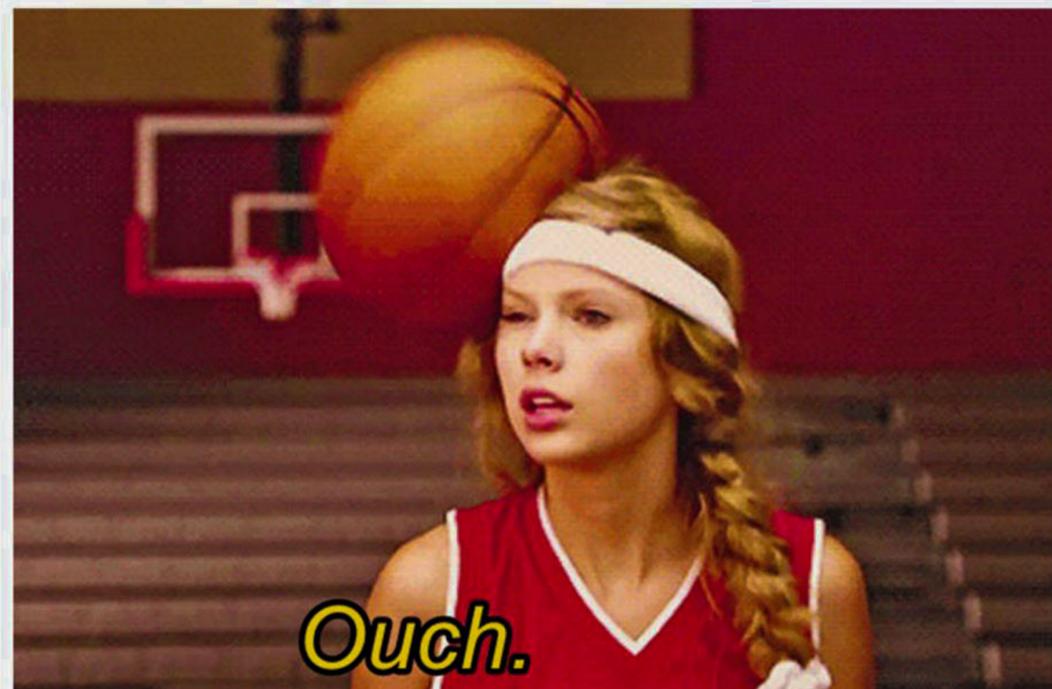
Unathletic people mostly get the job that

painful and awkward situation. The only fun is playing with a team where all the members are equally bad as us. Only then do we feel better about ourselves.

## EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTIVE AND ATHLETIC

Yes, we are horrible at hitting the ball

with staying in shape. Being bad in sports doesn't mean we're inactive as well. Being unathletic isn't a big deal at all. There were times when I would stress about not being good enough like my athletic counterparts, but then you always find out that you have other passions. And sport just isn't one of them.



require the least physical effort and that is why we almost always get to be the goal-keeper in a soccer match. We keep imagining the ball coming towards us with the speed of light, and it always seems to target our face. Not to mention our friends having a good laugh out of our

with our bat and always miss the catches. However, that doesn't mean we are couch potatoes who sit at home all the time and binge-watch TV serials. Most of us do exercise, whether by working out at the gym or walking to the supermarket, since almost everyone nowadays is obsessed

*Zarin Rayhana is a self-aggrandizing ambivert who ponders over philosophical epiphanies during rainy evenings and waits for her crush to jump straight out of her favourite novel. Treat her with novel suggestions at ericaavianazarin@gmail.com*