



RIDING THE MURIR TIN LIKE A PRO

NAZIFA RAIDAH

I have a love-hate relationship with the public bus. It's one of the most integral parts of my everyday commute. The rides are as cheap as a packet of *jhalhuri* but it's safe to say it's not going to be a joyride if you don't take a few precautions.

ALWAYS GET THE WINDOW SEAT

This step is more of a survival instinct. Let me paint you a picture: buses ALWAYS take more passengers than they can accommodate which means it's going to get immensely hot and suffocating. The people start sweating and it smells. And if the bus is stuck on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue or anywhere near Farmgate, then may God be with you. However, if you

have the glorious window seat, you have the access to the gentle breeze and save yourself from the heat and stink inside the bus. The bonus here is that when you see vehicles on the other side moving, you'll feel a rush of optimism that you will indeed reach home...at some point.

NEVER FORGET YOUR EARPHONES

If I've learnt anything in my years of riding the bus, it's that more than the physical discomfort itself, it's the boredom that'll drive you crazy. Let's face reality here, if you're in Dhaka, traffic jam is a part and parcel of your life and you never know when a mere 45-minute commute turns into a 5-hour quest. Once you've plugged in the earphones, you can mute

everything and distract yourself. And for a short while, you will feel invincible and not bothered by the random stranger snoring on your shoulder.

NEVER TAKE YOUR PHONE OUT OF THE BAG

They are always watching. They will follow your bus window to trace you till the bus stops at a signal, to take the one thing that you love the most. Yes, I'm talking about your phone. You might wonder how a *chhintaikari* would steal a phone from a bus window that's set so high. You, my friend, are completely underestimating how skilled these individuals are. If you must take a phone call, remember to always hold your phone against the ear that's away from the window. Pro-tip: be

extra careful when you're at Gulistan, Farmgate and Asad Gate, as snatchers are typically busy there.

KNOW YOUR ROUTES

If you're a first timer on the bus, make sure you know beforehand which buses go by your required route and always ask the conductor to remind you when your stop is approaching. You don't want to end up in Mirpur and lose communication with civilisation.

Lastly, carry a bottle of water with you always. Good luck to you, grasshopper.

Nazifa is a paranoid teen who obsesses over the use of memes and music in order to tackle real life problems. Send help at nazia45678@gmail.com

International English Debate Tournament at IUB

SHOUT Desk

A three-day long International English Debate Tournament, titled 'IUB Ascension 2017' was held recently at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). The university organised this tournament to encourage students to be more pragmatic, insightful and exposed to real issues which will eventually enable them taking leadership roles. Eighty-four teams from 54 different schools, colleges and universities from the country and abroad participated in this international debate tournament. Apart from all renowned schools, colleges and universities of the country, participants came from the UK, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Nepal.

In the Open category, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore clinched the championship trophy while International Islamic University, Malaysia became the runner-up.

In High School category, Mastermind School, Dhaka became the champion and European Standard School, Dhaka became the runner-up.



'IUB Ascension 2017'
Champion in University category is receiving the award

In Novice category, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University became the champion while Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) seized the runner-up position.

At the concluding session and award giving ceremony, the chief guest Rashed Chowdhury, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB; trustees of the university; and Vice Chancellor Professor M. Omar Rahman gave away trophies and other prizes

among the champion and runner-up teams as well as individual winners.

Apart from prizes, winners of the High School category are to receive full scholarships while studying at IUB. Members of IUB Debate Club received special awards as recognition of their splendid contribution to making the tournament a major success.

Among others, Towhid Samad, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Chittagong Independent University and different



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sponsors of the tournament spoke on the occasion.

The 'IUB Ascension 2017' was sponsored by Nescafe, bKash, NuVista Pharma, Amazon Immigration Services, Pepsi, Pran, Aquafina, Aamra, Abinta Kabir Foundation, Filmstation, Kwaliti and IUB Debate Club,

Professor Milan Pagon, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IUB and Towhid Bin Muzaffar, Head, Department of English, IUB, delivered formal vote of thanks.