

Things we did during lunch breaks

MASHIYAT IQBAL

School lunch breaks had been the beacon of light amidst non-stop lectures, surprise tests, and lengthy class works. The period right before lunch break used to be greeted with an inexplicable restlessness, a mid-way clash between enthusiasm of getting close to (temporary) freedom and intolerable exhaustion from having to somehow doze through the previous lectures. Once the bell rang though, all hell would break loose, and boundless energy would disperse across the school field and hallways.

THE DRAMA

The lunch breaks would serve the main dish to the students' entertainment. There would be indoor games, outdoor games, pen fights, friendly banter leading to heated debate sessions leading to a weeklong separation between best friends leading to confessions, breaks ups, make ups, rumours, games of Chinese whisper, a whole lot of laughing and crying and experiencing teenage angst first hand.

THE SLACKERS

They would be the ones coming in late, after missing the first two periods; getting to realise about all the dues and tests awaiting them after lunch break, then



commencing to rant and annoy everyone to help them prepare for the upcoming doom they're about to face. They'll either be begging for help with studying for a looming exam, or sitting at the end of the classroom trying to finish a two-hour worth homework within 20 minutes or less. When they're not busy struggling to survive the ruthless education system of the country, they're usually bunking class.

THE FIGHTS

Be it over petty issues, misunderstandings

or merely taking frustration out using violence as a mean to vent, the fights that happened back in school were a highlight for most. They may have broken up friend circles and relationships, or even traumatised adoring parents, but they would be the popular topic of discussion for the next couple of weeks that followed. Most important fights would, of course, happen during lunch breaks. That was the time when rules could be blurred out and lines crossed. One tiny hint of a

possible fight would attract attention like wildfire.

THE TEACHER'S PET

We all knew this one – they could have been the committed first bencher, the rule abider, the note taker or the tattletale slaving to impress the teachers. They'd be missing the entire time during school lunch breaks, either attempting to network with teachers or asking for extra consultation hours to discuss the class lessons in detail. Or worse, they'd be the Randall snitching at every wrong turn.

THE HUNGRY

There would always be someone, who would look forward to the school lunch breaks simply for the food. They'd day-dream about their lunch throughout the first few periods, and then settle down to consume anything they can obtain in the short span of the lunch break. And when the bell would ring to signal the resuming of classes, they would go back to day-dreaming about food again.

Mashiyat Iqbal is a procrastinator, a coffee-addict and an insomniac whose friends say she is hopelessly optimistic but she begs to differ. Send her some much needed luck at tenfinance10@gmail.com

What not to do on a Champions League stay over



AAQIB HASIB

The middle of the week is just a reminder to how far the end really is. But this week it's different. Why? Because the Champions League is on tonight!

The UEFA Champions League is for football fans, what the "Super Bowl" is for Americans, only not boring or elongated. Almost every other Tuesday and Wednesday there's always either a group or knockout match. And what could be a better plan, than a Champions League stay over with ones best friends. So, for everyone out there looking to plan a UCL stay over, here are some common things to avoid doing, otherwise the night might not be as fun as I hyped it up to be.

FORGETTING THE MUNCHIES

As with any stay over, everyone is assigned with bringing a certain food item or beverage for the night. Make sure that one, there are enough items to last the night and two, that everyone is given multiple reminders so as to not forget to bring their designated item (someone always forgets something).

NOT PREPARING FOR LOAD SHEDDING

We've lived in Bangladesh long enough to know how common an occurrence a load shedding is. We also know that a run of the mill one hour load shedding eats up more than half of a football match. Therefore, in order to avoid the problem of load shedding, plan the stay over at a friend's place with a generator that runs his TV, or at least buy enough mobile data to be able to stream the game if the worst happens.

NOT HAVING FIFA

FIFA is like breathing for football fans, and it's only natural that the 15 minute half-time break is spent playing a game of FIFA. However, even with a PS4 present, there are still a few issues that might occur. For one, there may not be enough controllers available for everyone. Avoid this particular issue by hoarding as many controllers as possible from all your other friends and relatives.

Additionally, always remember to install and update FIFA on your console before the night begins. Having to witness your console update during half time can be excruciatingly painful.

SLEEPING EARLY

There's always that one friend who is an absolute buzzkill, who assumes the UCL theme is a lullaby and falls asleep early into the first half. Our suggestion? Load him up with coffee. It'll ensure he stays awake and alert at least for the full duration of the match.

EATING ALL THE FOOD

There's always that one friend, whose hand always strays towards the packet of chips or the coke without him even being aware. He's a compulsive snacker, and cannot sit still without keeping his hands busy; and with food being the closest thing available, it won't be long till he finishes the entire night's rations by accident. The solution? Give him something to keep his hands busy, maybe a Rubik's cube. Also keep extra snacks hidden in the pantry.

It's quite easy to just plan a stay over for a UCL night, but coordinating it to perfection is something else. If one were to follow all the suggestions above, then it would be a step in the right direction towards ensuring your stay over is the best it can be.