



IUB hosts prize giving ceremony of Gaming Fest 2022

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A CORRESPONDENT
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) hosted the prize giving ceremony of “IUB Gaming Fest 2022” on November 30. The event was organized by IUB Esports Club and supported by the Department of CSE, with Bangladesh Youth Development & Electronic Sports Association (BYDESA) as the associate partner.
More than 650 gamers from all around the country had joined the event to play games such as *Valorant*, *League of Legends* (LoL), *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* (MLBB) and *FIFA 23*. All the *FIFA 23* matches were played physically at the IUB campus, marking one of the biggest LAN events in this segment in recent times.
Some of the biggest esports teams of Bangladesh such as Exceeli Esports, Red Viperz, MercenarieZ, VENOM Esports, and Deimos Force participated in the widely anticipated tournament, where the total prize pool was BDT 1,60,000. Morshed Zaman from MercenarieZ became the champion in the *FIFA 23* segment, Exceeli Esports became the champion in the *Valorant*, Deimos Force became the



champion in the *LoL*, and Quincy Crews became the champion in the *MLBB* (male segment).
To promote girls’ participation in gaming, a separate segment was offered in the *MLBB* section for the female gamers where MLT ODDH became the Champion. “IUB Gaming Fest was an enormous initiative from IUB Esports Club to have a separate division for the female players.
Being a woman, I believe that we have the potential to reach the pinnacle of esports. At this rate of tournament consistency, we are certain that our next generation will have a promising esports future.” said Kazi Fabiha Leah, who is a student of IUB and the team leader of MLT ODDH.
At the launch of the event, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD said, “Many

researches now suggest esports might improve problem solving skills, leadership skills and some other soft skills which are crucial now a days for everyone. IUB has always given the students opportunities to shine, not only academically but also in all sorts of extracurricular activities and this type of event is a perfect epitome of it.”
To further encourage the gamers, Founder Secretary General of Bangladesh Archery Federation and Chairman of Mousumi Industries Limited Mr. Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol said, “Huge movement related to esports is happening in the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Moreover, the global esports industry is growing exponentially and it is projected to reach more than 5 billion dollars by 2029. This is not the time for our society or our parents to stop our children from participating in esports. We all need to start dreaming bigger.”
“IUB Gaming Fest 2022” was supported by Kiyans Collectibles, BrandFix, Make My Event, NADE Digital, Dekchi, GTV, and SHOUT, The Daily Star as sponsors and partners.

Banks no longer opening student files

How the dollar crisis is affecting abroad-bound students

FABIHA AFIFA

With many leading private banks discontinuing their services for student files, this past month has been especially stressful for Bangladeshi students living abroad as well as for prospective applicants.
For those unaware, a student file is necessary for international students to convert their Bangladeshi Taka into the currency of the country they are studying in. This makes the file, which is tagged with the student or their sponsor's active account in the bank, very important for paying their school fees or other expenses like housing and transportation.
As numerous banks stopped opening new files and allowing transactions via existing ones around the same time, there was initially a rumor that it was the Bangladesh Bank’s decision to prevent



scarce, precious US dollars from leaving the country. However, Bangladesh Bank spokesperson Md. Abul Kalam Azad has since clarified that the restrictions are being put in place by the banks themselves due to their limited reserves of foreign exchange and that the central bank is not involved with the ongoing issue. He has also expressed confidence that it will all be over soon, he said “The crisis should come to an end quickly.”
Meanwhile, current students are struggling to find alternative means to pay their pending fees and incoming students are worried that the delayed payments might cost them their admission altogether. The fact that banks changed their policies overnight has prospective students second-guessing whether they should apply at all.
Mahabub Mehadi, a recent graduate of Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College and a Class of 2027 hopeful headed to the US, explains, “Given that Bangladeshi credit cards have a limit of 300 USD per transaction, they are not a feasible substitute at all and I have no clue what to do at this point. Besides, some fees specifically require a student file to be paid. It's just scary how the banks have stopped opening new files and blocked existing files out of the blue.”
It is important to note that some banks are still allowing previously opened files to operate, though. Masrur Refin, the Managing Director of City Bank, has stated that between January and October 2022, City Bank has opened 7,840 new student files and until the country's acute dollar

Our obsession with institutional pride

AHMAD SALEH ABDULLAH

One of our classmates got into the Department of Mechatronics Engineering at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), a very well-deserved achievement given his passion for robotics. But whereas we expected him to post photos in front of blueprints of robotic models, we instead received Instagram stories from him in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Dhaka.
Ask any first-year college student about what they want to study, and an overwhelming majority will answer that they haven't decided yet. The common consensus is that they would like to wait it out and see. And with the weight of expectations looming over them, all they can muster up the courage to say is any discipline in Dhaka University or Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).
These two instances portray our longstanding obsession with institutional reputation.



There’s nothing gravely wrong about it, but the prospective candidates believe the institutions are magically going to land them in the Secretariat.

Our society is still only willing to accept two possible career pursuits for students – either being a doctor or an engineer. As such, talking about one's passions is still taboo and following them, is treachery. What's more, the fates of the students are decided well before they themselves can actually

take a decision. This poses a significant threat to the students’ notion about what they find intriguing and what their true calling is.
We have now come to a stage where the quality of a university is evaluated based on the number of its alumni in the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS). People even (possibly in jest) pity the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University for not having as many graduates in the BCS as the least-ranking university in Bangladesh. Where it was once shameful for undergraduate students to not have a future plan, now it's more humiliating for us to not be willing to sit for the BCS exam.
There's nothing gravely wrong about it, but the prospective candidates

believe the institutions are magically going to land them in the Secretariat.
Institutional reputation has become so deeply steeped in our consciousness that we equate getting admission to our self-worth. But acing the admission tests is only just one measure of a person's talent. It's a shame how we overlook the truest manifestations of a person's genius.
Just because a huge number of highly successful people happen to be from leading public universities doesn't mean all their achievements can be attributed to their institutions. Universities can only do so much. Moreover, students gravitate towards only a handful of institutions because of the availability of necessary infrastructure and resources. As a

result, it generates stigma around other, even better institutions.
Such conviction puts enormous pressure on the students. Failure to get into public universities leaves them mentally drained. It sucks up every zeal they had for studying, clouding their lives with an implausible regret and inferiority complex. They even turn against their passions.
Who's going to take the blame for such silent deaths of dreams?
People of our country have so far worshipped institutional reputation and influence. The true divinity, however, lies within the individual.

Abdullah gracefully drowns in the proses of Joyce, Dostoevsky, Faulkner. Call him ashore at asabdullah.ag@gmail.com

Meanwhile, current students are struggling to find alternative means to pay their pending fees and incoming students are worried that the delayed payments might cost them their admission altogether. The fact that banks changed their policies overnight has prospective students second-guessing whether they should apply at all.

crisis passes, the bank will not open any new file. “But existing files are still active,” he assured.
With every passing year, the number of Bangladeshi students flying overseas for higher education is increasing exponentially. According to UNESCO’s “Global Flow of Tertiary Students” report, a staggering 49,151 Bangladeshi students left the country for higher education in 2021. Furthermore, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank, 98.8 million USD was sent abroad for higher educational purposes in the first quarter of the 2021-22 fiscal year, compared to 153.1 million in the first quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year.
The rise in the number of international students means the recent banking problem will be of great inconvenience to many, and let us hope for their sake that everything settles down soon.

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