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CAMPUS

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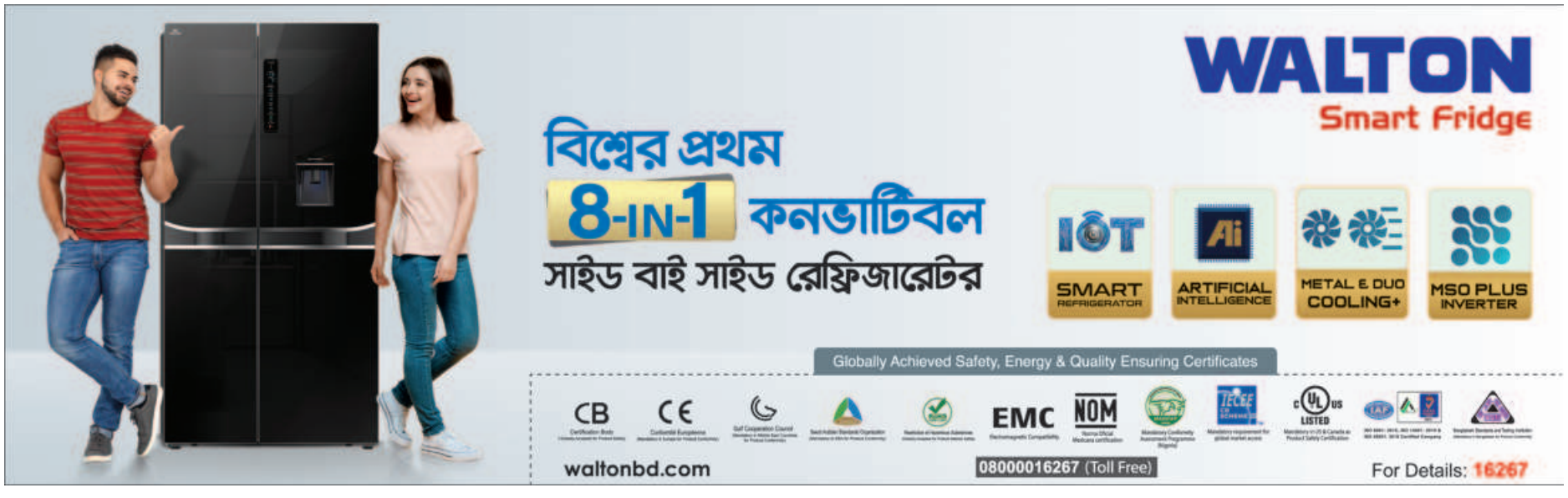
COMMUTING

IN DHAKA AS A STUDENT

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

PURSUING A CAREER IN ANIMATION

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT OF LAW



TV SERIES REVIEW

BECAUSE THIS IS MY FIRST LIFE

What do you do when you're struggling to rent a house, pay off your mortgage, and are constantly plagued by societal expectations to get married by a certain age? You sign a contract for a marriage of convenience with your housemate, of course.

Because This is My First Life is a hilarious yet eye-opening k-drama shedding light on the realities of the financial and emotional struggles young adults go through, marriage as an institution, healing from past relationships, and making the best out of the worst life throws at you.

MOVIE REVIEW

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH

If "gloomy" is your word, dive deeper into the blues with this movie set at the peak of World War 1. Based on the autobiography of Vera Brittain, it is the memoir of a young British woman, whose triumph of getting into Oxford University is diminished with the departure of her brother and fiancé to the war. Driven by the horrible scenario created by the war, Vera abandons her dream of being an Oxford grad and becomes a nurse instead to contribute to society. It's a unique coming of age story illustrating life in the early twentieth century.

OPPORTUNITIES

HR Intern at BJIT

ELIGIBILITY

- HR majors from a reputed private or public university
- All courses must be completed except the internship
- Must be able to commit full-time
- Very good English communication and presentation skills
- Basic knowledge using MS Excel, Word and PPT

Send your resume to career@bjitgroup.com with the subject line "HR Intern" to apply

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22

Tarbell Fellowship

ELIGIBILITY

- A deep interest in artificial intelligence and its effects on society
- Passionate about journalism
- Excellent writing skills
- Fellows must be open to criticism and recognising ways they can improve their writing and thinking

Visit www.tarbellfellowship.org/programme to apply

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1

Intern (Brand) at Praava Health

ELIGIBILITY

- Theoretical knowledge about marketing and branding
- Basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
- Social media and technology savvy
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Proficient with Google Workspace

Visit web.praavahealth.com/career to apply

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30

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Photographer
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Graphics & Layout
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LETTER

Dear Campus,
Now that I am done with my A levels, it's time to face the daunting task of applying to universities abroad. My destination of choice is the USA. While the application process is taking up a lot of my attention, I can't help but feel nervous about what lies ahead. Going to a new country, settling into a new culture, and living away from my parents seem like things that I'll have a hard time coping with. Nonetheless, the prospect of learning new things, making new friends, and exploring a new country excites me. I will be stepping out of my comfort zone and in the process, learning more about myself. And I suppose that is what makes the future both exhilarating and existential.

Best regards,
Progga Parmita Rupkotha
A level graduate
Scholastica

RESPONSE

Dear Progga,
While it is completely okay to be nervous about new beginnings, one should also be open to experiencing new things. It is a leap of faith and the fall is only inevitable. But to take some of the edge off, don't let your nerves get the best of you. Loosen up a little and let the anticipation lead to a smooth landing. Moving away from home and doing everything on your own, all the while attempting to balance your studies may be daunting but it will only mould you into a stronger, more well-rounded individual. We hope the application process eases up a little and you come out at the end of it with plenty of acceptances.

Best of luck,
Campus

EDU GUIDE

What to expect as a first-year STUDENT OF LAW

MD. NAYEEM HAIDER

Law is an intriguing subject, albeit not an easy one. Successfully completing a Bachelor of Laws program – also known as LLB – requires a lot of perseverance and hard-work. It presents excitement, an omnipresent hint of danger, and, of course, a dosage of healthy confusion.

At the cusp of turning over a new chapter of our lives at university, many of us wonder with excitement and apprehension what campus life will be like. LLB students studying Bangladeshi law at public universities like the Dhaka University (DU), or private universities, such as North South University (NSU) or BRAC University, will find their life at campus to be not too different from their peers at the same institution majoring in a different discipline. However, the university experience for students of British law might be a bit different as even the most prominent institutions, such as LCLS (South), Bhuiyan Academy, and Newcastle Law Academy, have premises that are much smaller in size.

Nashrah Gazi, who completed the first two years of her LLB at Bhuiyan Academy before transferring credits to UWE Bristol in the United Kingdom, says, "We didn't have a campus, to be frank. That made things so monotonous for me, especially because there weren't several athletic activities for us to take part in."

The main advantage of these smaller universities is the amount of attention and care they offer to individual students. With the institutions dedicated almost entirely to law and their faculties comprising of practicing barristers, advocates, and respected academics, students will have a greater opportunity to get their doubts and queries sorted out. However, public universities such as DU may be better for those who prefer highly competitive environments.

When asked about the struggles of first year law students in public universities, Professor Dr Md. Selim Toha, Professor of Law and Ex-Treasurer at the Islamic University (IU), Kushtia, shares, "Up until college, students study in environments they are comfortable in, alongside people they are habituated with. But life at university uproots them from that zone of comfort. They need to interact with and befriend people who hail from different regions, have differing mindsets, values, and lifestyles. At the same time, they need to deal with the complexities of law, a subject that, to them, is as unfamiliar as it is vast. It is the tricky storm that every LLB student learns to weather in his or her first year."

However, for Tahsin Hasan Ameer, a student at BRAC University, his unfamiliarity with Law was the primary reason behind its allure. "Studying rules that are omnipresent in society, yet I knew so little about, and then applying that knowledge to real-life scenarios – all of that was an extremely enjoyable experience for me," he recalls fondly.

While learning legal principles and their applications can be fascinating for many, a sizeable proportion will find it frustrating simply because of the language requirements. In places like NSU, BRAC, and British law institutions, English is the primary language of instruction. This means that students lacking proficiency in the language always face an uphill battle, both in reading the textbook and in taking notes. Both LCLS (South) and Bhuiyan Academy offer special English courses to students who may need it, and while these are extremely helpful in bridging the gap, it is of pivotal importance to be patient with oneself.

Law can be an intimidating subject. From its student, it demands both a sharp memory and an even sharper set of critical thinking skills. From its teachers, it requires absolute clarity of explanation and unending patience. Ayesha Fariha, a Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn and an academic guidance tutor and lecturer at LCLS (South) says, "There is no hard and fast rule for doing well, just as there are no short-cuts. One may improvise with their studying hours depending on their situation, but there is no alternative to attending classes regularly. The student's understanding must be clear, and they must be able to demonstrate that through both analysis and argument."

According to Professor Dr Md. Selim Toha, however, the burden on the law student far exceeds the weight of just academics. "Today's law student may well be tomorrow's lawyer, and what is a lawyer if not an actor on the stage that is the courtroom? When he represents his client before the judge, he must be able to embody the emotions of the defendant, showcase his side of the story, and put together a solid, viable defence. He must be well-spoken and exude an aura of confidence. Presentation is key in this profession and the training for that begins as you walk through the gates of your university for the very first time."

Nayeem is a first-year LLB student at London College of Legal Studies (South)

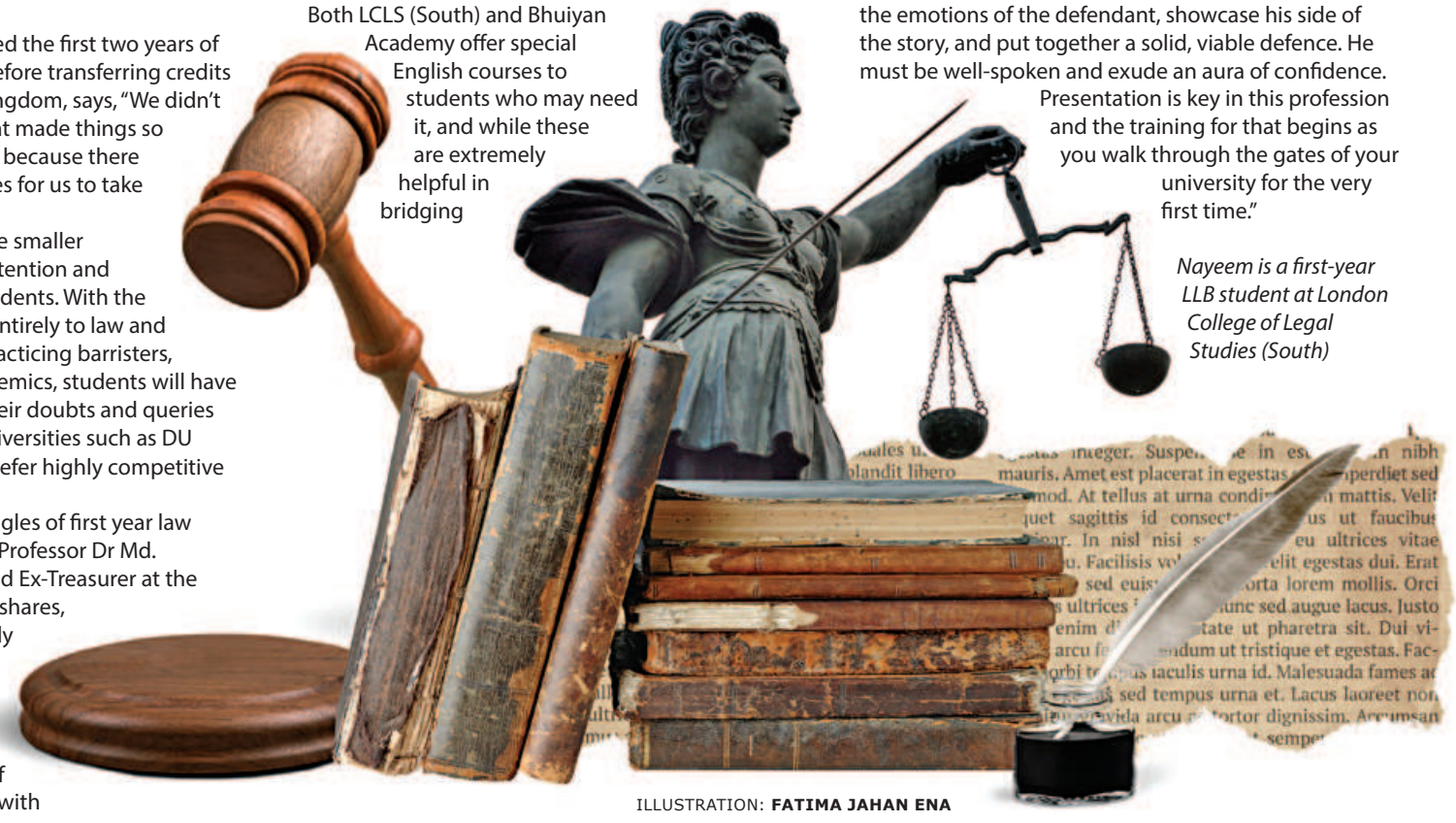


ILLUSTRATION: **FATIMA JAHAN ENA**

CAREER

How to build a career in HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY

RAIAN ABEDIN

Broad in nature yet with a common goal, the world of healthcare technology is involved in developing and making use of modern technological innovations to further the world of healthcare. It is, in effect, a marriage of two of the most important fields of research in today's world and serves the singular purpose of improving the diagnosis and administration of health care.

Of course, even with all that being stated, it might be difficult to pinpoint exactly what the world of healthcare technology even is. An easy way to understand this would be to ask yourself a question – when hospitals run blood tests, what are they making use of? Machinery, of course. Sophisticated devices and equipment that aid in carrying out tests to see whether the patient's body is in a healthy state or not. All of this is made possible by the innovations brought about by the field of healthcare technology and biomedical engineers.

Biochemistry tests and medical imaging

Most biochemical tests require accurate quantitative results to measure whether the patient has healthy concentrations of certain substances in their body. To measure these values, specific machinery is required, which the hospitals pay large sums to buy.

Mohsinul Islam, a Clinical Biochemist at Dr MR Khan Shishu Hospital & Institute of Child Health, talks about the importance of medical blood tests, "We can't tell if the patient has an infection or an iron deficiency or complications in the liver without any of these tests. The machines are important, we might not be developing them here but all biochemists working in a hospital must be aware of the importance of each and every one of the tests they carry out as well as how to operate the machines. For that, plenty of lab training is required."

In addition, Mohammed Nawshad, a master's graduate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, also shares his experience with using modern techniques for biochemical tests.

"Techniques such as ELISA can be used for disease detection and also play a pivotal role in biological research areas. The results you get here are quantitative and they allow you to identify particular substrates, so it can be very sophisticated. The experience for me was overwhelming, and I think it's imperative for all interested scientists to brush up their laboratory skills," he says.

Of course, even with all that being stated, it might be difficult to pinpoint exactly what the world of healthcare technology even is. An easy way to understand this would be to ask yourself a question – when hospitals run blood tests, what are they making use of?

In general, when it comes to the application of healthcare technology in lab-based situations, a background in life sciences is always expected. However, given the variety present in this field, engineers and physicists can also play a role in the development and maintenance of the equipment. X-rays and MRIs, for instance, are based entirely on concepts popular in physics and are merely applied in healthcare facilities.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning

Artificial intelligence (AI) is playing a huge role in boosting medical care services. While these facilities are not utilised all across the globe, many hospitals are slowly making use of the various advantages provided by modern AI technology. According to an article by Foresee Medical, clinical documentation, symptom pattern recognition, and precise drug prescription can all be boosted in speed and efficiency thanks to machine learning. On top of that, skills and methodologies well known by AI researchers, like natural language processing, to develop medical algorithms are highly sought after in upscale hospitals and research centres.

While this work is focused on healthcare facilities, this is a field with a particular demand for people with a background in computer science and, preferably, AI. While career-wise this might seem like a niche trajectory, Foresee Medical predicts the future for AI in medicine to be bright and filled with possibilities.

Electronic record keeping

This is perhaps the most fundamental application of technology in medical services to the point where many might not even think of it to be "technology". Electronic record keeping is important not only to keep track of patients' status but also to compare it to previously existing data to find patterns in diseases and to study potential pathogen spread and growth. The development and maintenance of applications that keep track of large amounts of data on a regular basis is, thus, crucial.

Reference:
Foresee Medical. *AI in Healthcare.*

Raian Abedin is a student at NSU.

OFF CAMPUS

COMMUTING IN DHAKA as a student

ABIR HOSSAIN

Very few words or phrases capture the full extent of Dhaka's dysfunctionality as well as "bursting at the seams". And in no way does this become more apparent than when commuting in Dhaka. Every acre of asphalt feels unsafe as if the streets have been laced with some sort of charm that causes the most fatal of events to unfold. Whether a split second or a few inches away, there is no doubt that catastrophe is always near on the streets of the capital.

Commuting in Dhaka is almost always enraging and on a good day, tolerable. Much like myself, there are a thousand other students travelling across the capital on a daily basis who have to put up with this nightmare.

"The commute is the worst part of my university life and I would even go as far as to say that, right now, it is the biggest roadblock to my productivity. As a result, I am compelled to utilise every single minute at university doing something productive," says Hasan.

Mehelika Anan Ramisha, 19, 1st year student at Dhaka University states, "I use Dhaka University's Taranga bus to get to campus and either opt for a rickshaw or private car to get home. However, I don't think the mode of transport I use affects the traffic I face."

Nazmun Nahar Khan, a 20-year-old student at Dhaka University, talks about the hurdles of commuting to and from campus on a daily basis, "The experience is very hectic. The university bus usually doesn't wait for students even for a minute. With Dhaka's traffic, it takes somewhere from around one and a half to two hours every day getting from Mirpur to Dhaka University. And that is obviously very tiring."

"Most of the passengers are unable to find a seat for themselves and the heat makes it unbearable. There are also people brushing up close to your body which makes it more uncomfortable. I have also seen people make the entire journey around the bus entrance with one of their feet dangling off the edge," she adds.

While the university bus service at Dhaka University is free, it does very little to address the safety needs of the students. But alternative methods of commute are more expensive and public buses are far more dangerous. As a result, students have no option but to stick to the transportation services by their institution.

On the other end of the spectrum, there are students whose institutions don't even offer such transportation services. This issue, coupled with the stress of making it to class on time, not only has an impact on their mental well-being but is also very likely to leave a dent on their finances as well.

Hasan Mahmud Abdullah, 19, 1st year student at United International University (UIU), talks about his experience of commuting to campus, "On days that I miss the UIU bus, I resort to one of two options. I either take the slow and crowded Mohammadpur-Kuril BRTC or catch a *leguna* to Shyamoli, from where I catch an Abdullahpur bus, then catch a Dhaka-Chaka bus from Banani to Notun Bazar, and last of all catch another rickshaw to UIU."

"If I use public transport, the total daily cost can climb up to BDT 200, but the university transport does shave that cost down to only the rickshaw fares. Then again, you do have to pay a per-semester transport fee of BDT 4000," he states.

Even if a student is able to use a personal vehicle every other day, the mere act of sitting in traffic for hours is draining. Having to do so after multiple long strenuous classes is likely to leave them exhausted. With students having little to no energy left for the remainder of the day, they will be unable to devote their time to school work or anything else for that matter.

"The commute is the worst part of my university life and I would even go as far as to say that, right now, it is the biggest roadblock to my productivity. As a result, I am compelled to utilise every single minute at university doing something productive," says Hasan.

If the majority of the students in a country, regardless of their institutions, are forced to have their precious time be wasted because of something they have no control over, then it is likely to lead to a nation of frustrated and demotivated individuals. Something as essential as daily commute should be seamless. Yet, every second that we spend on the streets feels like a battle – one that constantly leaves us feeling defeated.

Abir Hossain is a sub-editor at Campus.

PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

NOTICE BOARD

IUB inaugurates historic summer school in Linguistics

The Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence (SCMLE) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) marked the commencement of its pioneering Sasheen Summer School in Linguistics (SSS) on September 3.

For the first time in Bangladesh, students and community researchers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a comprehensive

program from September 3-21. Seven native speaking researchers, representing languages of Pangkhua, Khumi, Mro, Bawm, Khyang, Chak, and Mandi, have joined the school with 15 student researchers from IUB. This endeavour will comprise two weeks of intensive theoretical and hands-on sessions at IUB, culminating in a week-long field placement to the Bandarban Hill District in Bangladesh's southeast.

Under the leadership of Dartmouth College's Prof. David E. Peterson – a renowned expert in Tibeto-Burman languages with a profound connection to Chittagong Hill Tracts languages since 1999 – participants are guaranteed unparalleled mentorship. The formidable team of instructors comprises Dr Bokhtiar Ahmed and Towhid Bin Muzaffar from IUB, Dr Shapla Parveen of North South University, Md. Mashrur Imtiaz of Dhaka University, and Dr Mostafa Rashel from Daffodil International University. Prof. Dr Mahmud Hasan Khan, Director SCMLE, is curating the summer school besides instructing sessions.

HSC grads can enroll at University of London through CHESS at UCB

Bangladeshi students with Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) or O levels will be able to gain direct entry into all the University of London degrees upon completion of Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (CHESS) in Dhaka. Universal College Bangladesh (UCB launched the CHESS programme at its Gulshan campus recently.

"As the first higher education institution in Bangladesh to be given permission by the Ministry of Education to offer international university programmes, it has been our objective to open the door to high quality and affordable foreign education," said Prof. Hew Gill, President and Provost at UCB. "We offer programmes under the academic direction of the London School of Economics, with world class educational content which will equip students with the skills that lead to careers as highly paid professionals."

Dr James Abdey, Associate Academic Director of UoL Programmes at LSE, said, "We are enthusiastic to support UCB in this innovative endeavour to enable HSC grads to study towards a University of London academic award right here in Dhaka."

Bangladeshis from all schools and curriculums now have the opportunity to get a world-class UK degree at home, added Prof. Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs.

2nd International Conference on Big Data, IoT and Machine Learning (BIM 2023) held at DIU

The three-day long 2nd International Conference on Big Data, IoT and Machine Learning (BIM 2023) ended at Daffodil International University (DIU) on September 8. The event was hosted by the Center for Intelligent Computing in partnership with the Institute of Information Technology (IIT) at Jahangirnagar University and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, DIU.

Prof. Dr Md. Sazzad Hossain, Member of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was present virtually at the inaugural ceremony of conference as the Chief Guest while DIU VC Prof. Dr M. Lutfar Rahman was present as the guest of honour. Prof. Dr Md. Nurul Alam, Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University was present as the Special Guest. The conference was addressed by Prof. Dr Syed Akhter Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Science and Information Technology, Prof. Dr M. Shamim Kaiser, Prof. Dr Sheak Rashed Haider Noori, and Prof. Dr Mohammad Abu Yousuf. Conference Chair Prof. Dr Mohammad Shamsul Arefin presided over the conference.

Initiation programme for Fall-2023 held at IUBAT

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) warmly received fresh students of Fall 2023 through an initiation program held on September 7.

During the initiation program, the fresh students were provided exposure to the university's education and service delivery system to make their academic journey at IUBAT smooth, enjoyable, and effective.

IUBAT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdur Rab impressed that IUBAT strives to prepare the students for success in life and career, and advised the students on how to meet the challenge of coping with the demands of quality education. The Deans, Chairs, Coordinators, Registrar, Controller of Examination, and other key administrative officers introduced themselves and their respective units and members. The faculty members who will teach courses for the fresh students were also introduced. Earlier the students visited the university campus, classrooms, labs, seminar halls, indoor games room, auditorium, library, etc.

CAREER

Pursuing a CAREER IN ANIMATION

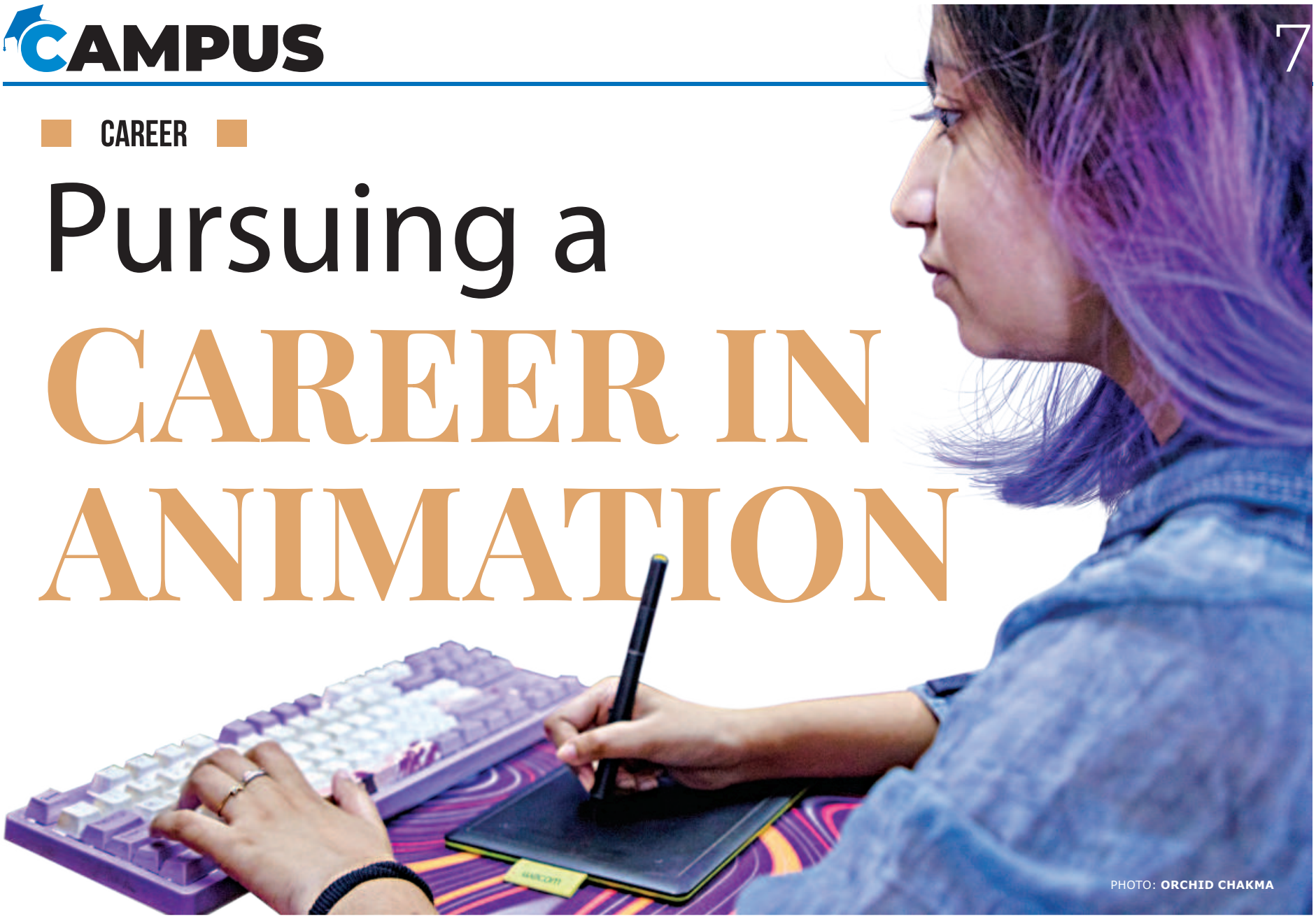


PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

ARANYO RISHI CHOWDHURY & SABIL SADAT ZAHIR

For over a century, people have been using the medium of animation to bring stories to life. Therefore, it's no surprise that working in a medium that knows no creative bounds sounds like a fun and rewarding experience. However, due to how uncommon of a career path it is, it can be hard to find resources and direction. So, here are some things you should know about the industry.

Before you get started on work, you should know what kind of work you want to do. From 2D and 3D to stop-motion, there are several unique branches of animation. Choose which area piques your interest the most and then carve out your skills accordingly.

The global animation community is relatively small, tight-knit, and immensely supportive. Consequently, there's no end to the number of online resources helping young animators. Basic knowledge about human and animal anatomy, as well as a good grasp of things like momentum, friction, and inertia are important fundamentals to work on.

Next, you'll want to have an idea of where you want to work. While Bangladesh has certainly made some strides in animation, the industry here still has a long way to go. You'll find fewer restrictions in countries with a more developed scene, like Australia, the United States, or Canada. However, they are much more competitive, and investing in a degree is a good idea if you plan to work there.

While a degree can be expensive abroad, it provides you with valuable experience. The classes also teach you the less flashy parts of the job, such as the business aspects, or how to actually send your work to clients in desired formats. It'll also teach you the technical terms about certain parts of the process.

Being self-taught is also a viable option. The time you take to study animation should be treated just

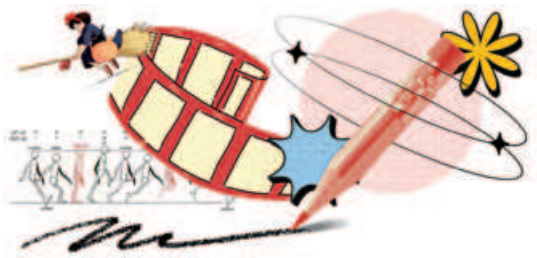


ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

like the two or four years you would've otherwise spent in college. Often, it'll require even more work. Buying courses or finding free ones is vital for learning, and pursuing internships is also really important to build a portfolio which you can eventually present to employers.

An animated project has a lot of cogs in the machine. Initially, entry-level jobs include interns, junior animators, and assistant animators. You can work as a storyboard artist, a writer, a character or prop designer, a background artist, and many more. Eventually, you can work your way up to being a director or showrunner.

Whether you are working at a studio or doing freelance work, most animation jobs tend to be project-based. As a result, job stability and availability vary as animators are required to move from one project to the next. While there is a lot of creative freedom to be had, often creativity is restricted based on the project, as you have to work based on the vision of the director or showrunner. Furthermore, animation work can also be quite stressful depending on the project and studio demands.

Animating is not like a regular nine-to-five job, and trying to adhere to strict deadlines can lead to pressure-inducing workloads. Constant developments and innovations in the industry also mean you will have to keep learning.

The primary obstacle in trying to find animation work in Bangladesh is the fact that the local industry is still new and growing. Freelance work is the most viable way to earn as an animator, as that way you are not necessarily bound by borders and can get both local and international clients.

"I started my journey into animation by doing a project for a local Facebook science group, which allowed me to get into a network through which I would do various commissioned work. In the meantime, I learned both 2D and 3D animation and character

The global animation community is relatively small, tight-knit, and immensely supportive. Consequently, there's no end to the number of online resources helping young animators.

modelling on my own. Eventually, I got into video game modding, and from that community, I started getting foreign clients. Most of the work I get is from these networks," said Rezauddin Nur, a self-taught freelance animator currently pursuing his bachelor's degree at BRAC University.

In the end, pursuing a career in animation might have its ups and downs, but it is one of the most fulfilling fields you can pursue. As long as you are passionate, are willing to work hard to gain skills and build a good portfolio, you can have a successful and fulfilling animation career.

Aranyo Rishi Chowdhury is a student at SFX Greenherald International School.

Sabil Sadat Zahir is a student at BRAC University.

DPS STS SCHOOL DHAKA CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL IGCSE & A-LEVEL RESULTS

In a momentous celebration of academic excellence, the DPS STS School Dhaka proudly honors the exceptional accomplishments of its students in the May-June 2023 board examinations conducted by the Cambridge Assessment International Education.

A total of 157 students hailing from DPS STS School Dhaka embarked on the challenging journey of the IGCSE/O Level examinations. Among these diligent scholars, four outstanding individuals were bestowed with the prestigious Cambridge International Certificate in Education award, with three securing distinctions and one achieving a merit. Furthermore, an impressive tally of ten students earned six or more A* distinctions in the IGCSE, while sixteen demonstrated their exceptional capabilities by scoring an overall 90 percent or higher. Notably, 35 students have earned the distinction of eligibility for The Daily Star award. In the IGCSE results, a commendable 49% of students secured A* and A grades. On a parallel note, DPS STS School Dhaka saw 132 students participating in the International AS examinations and 88 students sitting for the A Level examinations. Among these examinees, six A Level students achieved the significant milestone of scoring an overall 90 percent or higher. Furthermore, a dozen students proudly donned the mantle of excellence with three or more A* distinctions in the A Level examination. An impressive cohort of 20 students has qualified for The Daily Star Award in recognition of their outstanding achievements. In the A Level examination, an impressive 38% of students secured A* and A grades, underscoring their exceptional capabilities.

DPS STS School students win first prize in Nasa Space Settlement Contest

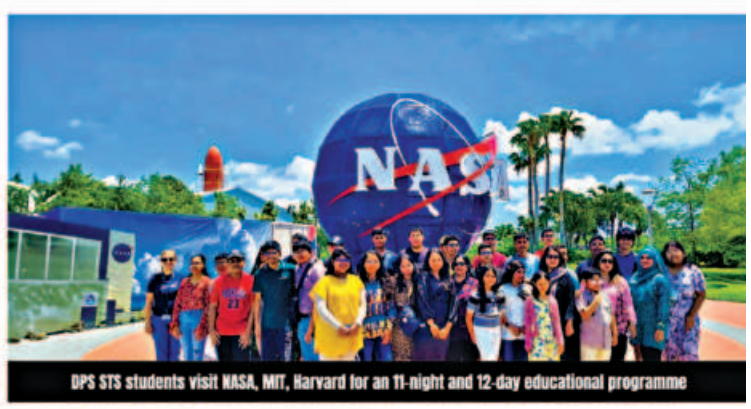
DPS STS School Dhaka became the first school in Bangladesh to launch the Cambridge Early Years Programme

DPS STS School Dhaka has partnered with the Cambridge University Press and Assessment to delightedly announce the launch of "Cambridge Early Years Programme" for the first time in Bangladesh. A signing ceremony, held on August 22, at the DPS STS Junior School auditorium featured the Managing Director of the Cambridge University Press and Assessment, South Asia, Arun Rajamani, and the CEO of STS Group, Manas Singh, wherein they signed the agreement for offering Cambridge EY on behalf of their respective organisations. Principal of the DPS STS School Dhaka, Dr Shivananda CS and other esteemed guests attended the ceremony alongside parents of the DPS STS students. The Cambridge EY Programme is a holistic educational approach designed for children aged 3-6 years. Termed the 'First stage to the Cambridge Pathway', this programme focuses on developing children's knowledge and skills in certain areas, namely - personal, social and emotional development, physical development, communication and language, mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts and design, and much more.

DPS STS School Dhaka became the first school in Bangladesh to launch the Cambridge Early Years Programme

Top 100 Global University Placements

This year's graduate students from DPS STS School Dhaka have demonstrated overwhelming success in university admission to pursue higher education. Their academic excellence helped them to secure admission with exciting scholarships in the top universities in the world, including Cornell University, King's College London, University College London, University of Warwick, University of Pennsylvania, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, University of California, Berkeley, Purdue University, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, University of Toronto, McGill University, University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, York University, Imperial College, University of Manchester, University of Glasgow, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney, Monash University, Australia, University of Western Australia, etc.



DPS STS students visit NASA, MIT, Harvard for an 11-night and 12-day educational programme