DHAKA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, *ASHWIN 6, 1430 BS* | A PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

CAMPUS

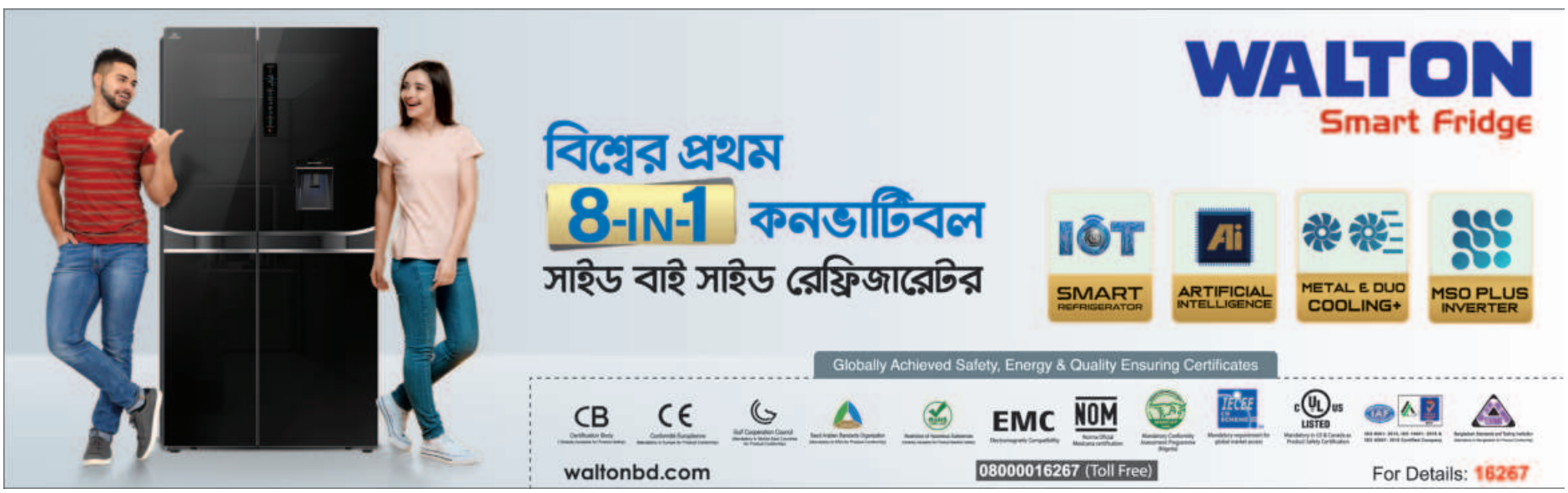
SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS CAMPUS ONLINE

The Allure of Studying PURE SCIENCE

ILLUSTRATION: SUHAS NAHIAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNSELLING IN UNIVERSITIES

HOW TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER



ANIME REVIEW

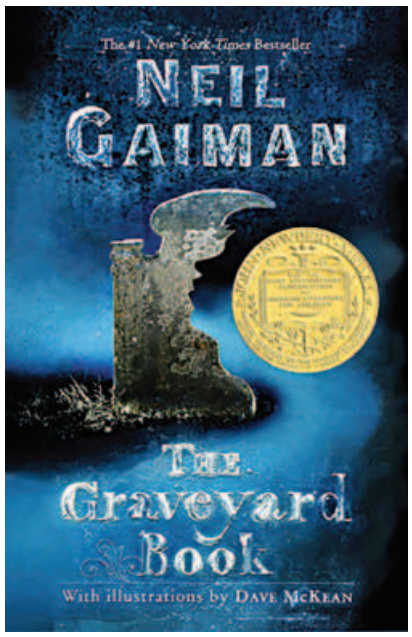
THE YAKUZA'S GUIDE TO BABYSITTING

Toru Kirishima is a member of the Sakuragi yakuza family and he is known for his love for violence. To get Kirishima to reform his ways, the head of the family, Kazuhiko Sakuragi, assigns him to look after his 8-year-old daughter, Yaeka Sakuragi.

Although this might sound like a perfect set-up for gap moe – a trope where a character does things contradictory to their usual personality, the anime does not lean into it too much. Kirishima does not hesitate to abandon his tough exterior and hardened ways when it comes to Yaeka. Neither does he struggle to understand how to deal with children. Almost with ease, he settles into his role as her carer.

BOOK REVIEW

THE GRAVEYARD BOOK



While *The Graveyard Book* is a young adult novel, it makes for a good read for adults. The protagonist Bod, who was raised in a cemetery by two ghosts, learns about family, friendship, and growing up as he matures and discovers his role in the universe. The lesson of the story is to live our own lives, be the protagonists of our own stories, and fall down and get back up again.

OPPORTUNITIES

Intern (HR) at Daraz

ELIGIBILITY

- Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any reputed university
- Good command over spread sheet applications (MS Excel and Google Sheet)
- Good Communication skill is a must

Visit www.linkedin.com/company/daraz to apply

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30

Intern (Data Intelligence & Business Strategy) at ADA

ELIGIBILITY

- Thinking critically and being a team player
- Having passion when it comes to connecting the dots between data, media, and content
- Prior experience on working with Microsoft Suite or Google equivalents
- Good presentation skills
- Proven ability to influence peers with data driven information and inspired insights

Visit adaglobal.darwinbox.com/ms/candidate/careers to apply

DEADLINE: NOT MENTIONED

Intern (Graphics Designer) at foodpanda

ELIGIBILITY

- Excellent attention to detail and creative eye or aesthetics in color and typography
- Ability to meet multiple deadlines
- Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suites
- Fluent in English and Bangla

Visit boards.greenhouse.io/foodpandabangladesh/jobs/5364770 to apply

DEADLINE: NOT MENTIONED

Editor & Publisher
Mahfuz Anam

Deputy Editor of Features and Head of Content Marketing
Ehsanur Raza Ronny

Campus Editor
Azmin Azran

Campus Team
Faisal Bin Iqbal
Syeda Afrin Tarannum
Fatima Jahan Ena
Abir Hossain

Photographer
Orchid Chakma

Graphics & Layout
TDS Creative Graphics

Production
Shamim Chowdhury

Send your articles, feedback, and opinion to campus@thedailystar.net
Find our content online at thedailystar.net/campus

LETTER

Dear Campus,

I think people often assume that I want to be a journalist when I tell them that I am in the Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) department. But that's really not the case. When I was looking for universities to pursue my passion for visual arts, I realised that the options were limited. Of course, later, I found out about ULAB's MSJ department and the communication programme really caught my eye. This is a great outlet for people who are looking to pursue a degree that's creatively fulfilling. Now that I am nearing the end of my degree, it is safe to say that I am glad that I chose this degree.

Sincerely
Anica Hossain,
4th year student,
Media Studies and Journalism,
ULAB

RESPONSE

Dear Anica,

It is both refreshing and incredibly inspiring to come across a story such as the one you've told us. We are glad that you're coming out at the end of your four-year degree satisfied and happy and hope that you continue on an upward trajectory. Regardless of wherever you go from here, you should be proud of the hard work and perseverance that you have displayed.

Best of luck,
Campus

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The complex experience of ACADEMIC GUILT

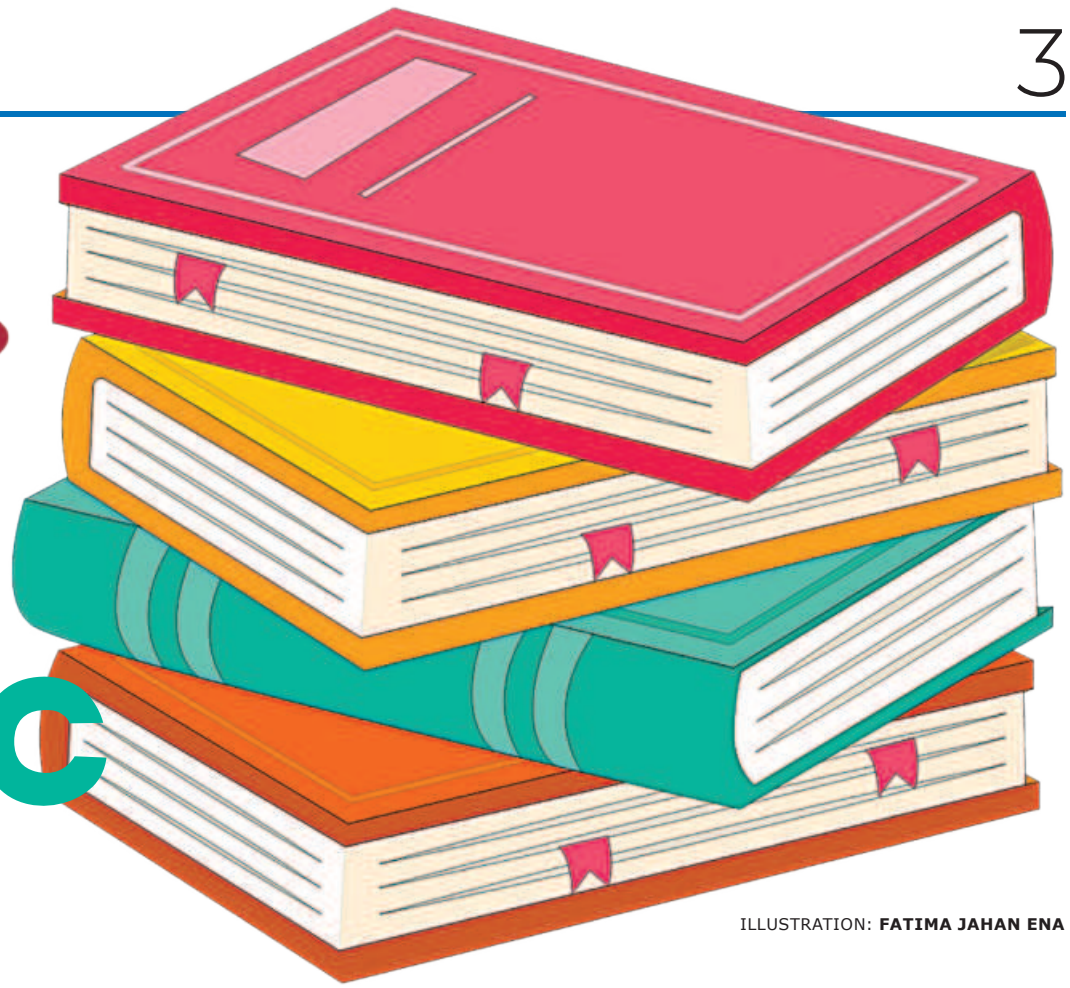


ILLUSTRATION: **FATIMA JAHAN ENA**

NADERA NAEEMA OHI

Guilt associated with not achieving what you want to, or need to, academically, is a complex experience. Whether in its causes, or how it manifests and how one tries to deal with it, each person has their own circumstances. This begs the question: does everyone develop academic guilt the same way, and for the same reasons?

The most common background for someone who feels guilty for their academic performance is of a student who is perceived to always excel, or at least who always expects themselves to excel. According to Sania Lamisa*, a high school student, the most important thing is the satisfaction she feels when her hard work gets results – but that comes with the added pressure of being a "top student". She says, "When I started eleventh grade, my monthly tests weren't going very well. I put in more effort, but when it didn't pay off, I felt very demotivated. Everyone had the expectation that I'd do well."

For others, the path isn't so straightforward. "When I was younger, other people cared more than me about my grades. I didn't feel as significantly then as I do now after my O and A level results," says Mithila Das, a twelfth grader from Maple Leaf International School.

Academic guilt can manifest in a variety of ways for different individuals. Nusrat Sharlyn Sheikh, a law student at the University of London, shares, "During COVID, before my exams, I neglected eating, sleeping, everything, to sit at my table and study like nine hours a day. It's still the case for me now, sometimes. My recent results have been better than almost everyone, but it just feels like it's never enough, and I could have done more."

Negative self-treatment is, unfortunately, a common consequence of this kind of guilt. It may not be easy to understand - but as ingrained with mental health and self-worth as grades can be for students, it's a small wonder that many find it an emotionally and physically exhausting ordeal to manage.

Other ways academic guilt negatively manifests in people's lives can include self-isolation and frequent overthinking or regrets about past actions.

In the extreme end of the reality of academic guilt, it can be closely tied to students' experiences of familial abuse.

For Srabon Chowdhury*, a private candidate for A Level, familial abuse from childhood to adulthood has been one of the toughest aspects of trying to heal from their guilt. Good grades became a necessity for a more stable home, rather than something they wanted for themselves. They say, "It's like you spend your entire life trying to simply survive, and then suddenly you're an adult. You have to consider that 'I have to perform academically well right now, because if I don't, I could lose the prospects of having a good job, of sustaining myself as an adult'. That brings on additional guilt, because it's not about your parents anymore, suddenly you're involved as well, and you don't know how to handle that."

So, what are the different ways we can try to deal with our feelings and problems and how can we be more compassionate towards each other?

There are two common approaches to managing academic guilt. Firstly, if improving one's grades is the best way to manage it, is to go all in. Mithila shares, "My advice is: cry for as long as you need. Then start studying and making yourself better than you were before. That's not to say other things don't matter in life - if you can balance your studies and what you're passionate about, do it. You'll be fine."

On the other hand, Nusrat tries to make herself feel better to manage feeling overwhelmed. "I try to talk to someone about it. If I can't, I'll sit in silence and blast music through my speakers. If it's still bad, I'll go for a walk by the morning, sit in a cafe, and sit in solitude. My advice: talk to someone you trust and who believes in you."

"When I started eleventh grade, my monthly tests weren't going very well. I put in more effort, but when it didn't pay off, I felt very demotivated. Everyone had the expectation that I'd do well."

Kindness towards ourselves is the most important part of healing from guilt. To encapsulate the discussion, Srabon says it best, "I try to give myself small acts of kindness that remind me my circumstances are not permanent, and that I'm doing the best I can. It's important to take the guilt and shame off your shoulders. And for those who want to do well for themselves, to look at it from the perspective that if you do well, it could lead to a beautiful life for you. A peaceful life where you're happy, and that just really helps for me."

**Names have been changed upon request.*

Nadera Naeema Ohi is a student at Maple Leaf International School

PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

CAREER

How to become a POLICE OFFICER

AZRA HUMAYRA

We frequently encounter articles wherein authors provide guidance on pursuing traditional disciplines such as engineering, medicine, law, and business, among others. Law enforcement is not commonly considered in the same context as the aforementioned fields. However, if you have an interest in joining the highly competitive field of law enforcement, this article may be of value to you.

There are four entry-level positions available for the interested applicants. To become a Constable, the applicant must have completed SSC or an equivalent degree. All Constables are hired directly. The Sergeant is a mid-level entry position, and the Sub-Inspector (SI) is Bangladesh Police's non-cadre mid-level entry rank. The applicant must complete graduation from a government enlisted university or have an equivalent degree for both of the positions.

The goal is to dedicate oneself to supporting the criminal justice system to ensure justice. A quality police officer genuinely just wants to help people.

The Bangladesh Police's highest entry-level position or rank is Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP). Two-thirds of the total ASP positions are filled directly, and the other one-third are filled through the promotion of Inspectors. The Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) manages the direct hiring process for ASP. Applicants must be a graduate or possess a degree that takes four years or its equivalent.

It is easy to gather that you must pass the competitive BCS examination to be an ASP. The BCS examination consists of three phases. The first phase is the preliminary examination, typically conducted in May or June each year, with notifications released about one month prior and results published approximately one month after the exam. The second phase comprises the written examination, the primary test, generally held in November or December annually. Notifications are issued about one month before the exam, and results are typically published six to ten months after the examination. The third phase involves the Viva Voce, an oral test conducted following the publication of the written results.

PHOTO: **PAHN CHAKMA**

Sitting for the BCS is a daunting prospect for many graduates, given its highly competitive nature and improbable acceptance rates. We spoke to Md. Rubel Haque, Assistant Police Commissioner (36th BCS), Rajshahi Metropolitan Police about the difficulty in overcoming this challenge to chase the dream of becoming a police officer.

"During preparation, a candidate needs to be highly motivated. He/she needs to be full of confidence, patriotism and keep things in perspective because this is the most competitive national level career exam," he said.

The BCS police cadre holds a prominent position among job seekers, with some ranking it as their top preference, while others place it in second or third place. Progressing within this cadre offers opportunities for advancement, leading to positions such as Additional Superintendent of Police, Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Inspector General, Deputy Inspector General, Additional Inspector General, and Inspector General. If assigned to a metropolitan area, the designation will be Assistant Commissioner of Police. Subsequently, promotions follow a structured progression, leading to positions such as Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Joint Commissioner of Police, Additional Commissioner of Police, and finally, Commissioner of Police.

An ASP from the police cadre must work for the Ministry of Home Affairs' Public Security Division. The cadre is then transferred from the ministry to the Bangladesh Police Headquarters on the same day. After completing the foundational and fundamental training, an apprentice ASP is exposed to all activities first-hand for a total of six months. This time is split between two months at one district police station, one month in the circle, and various intervals at other district police offices. After that, they were assigned to various police departments and branches, including the Detective Branch (DB), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and others.

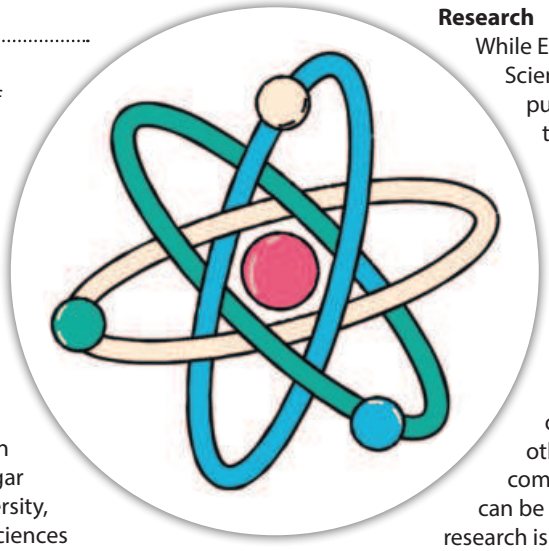
To realise this dream of serving one's country by working in law enforcement, a lot of hard work and perseverance is needed. According to Senior Md. Rubel Haque, there is plenty to be inspired by, "The dream of a police officer is to be given the responsibility for protecting and serving their communities, helping people in times of need, fighting crime, etc. It is the most demanding career in Bangladesh. The goal is to dedicate oneself to supporting the criminal justice system to ensure justice. A quality police officer genuinely just wants to help people."

Azra Humayra is currently majoring in Journalism in the University of Dhaka.

EDU GUIDE

The allure of studying PURE SCIENCE

SADMAN AHMED



"Why did you take (insert any pure science major) instead of engineering or medical?"

This is the question pure science majors continuously face from the beginning of their undergrad life. There is a hidden assumption in the current social scenario that more students should pursue engineering, medical, or at least applied science majors, and pure sciences are negligible. Even in Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, and Rajshahi University, once known for strong pure sciences departments, students who get admitted are far more interested in applied science subjects such as Computer Science, Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering, etc.

But don't pure science subjects deserve more attention? Should undergraduate students be more interested in pure sciences?

The answer is an emphatic YES.

"I came to biochemistry because of my passion for learning about the intricacies of the internal works of living organisms. Now it has become my full-time affair," says A.H.M. Nurun Nabi, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dhaka University.

Passion

Four years at university can be very stressful in one's life and it is important to spend that time studying a subject one loves, or else university quickly becomes miserable. Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Botany, and Zoology are some subjects which can be included in the pure science category. These are taught to students from class nine in the NCTB curriculum and a bit earlier in the English Medium curriculum. Many are involved with olympiads such as Math Olympiad, Physics Olympiad or Biology Olympiad in their early years, and have proven a certain level of expertise in that area. The result is that students grow a passion for these subjects early on, which can be very effective in latter stages.

"I came to biochemistry because of my passion for learning about the intricacies of the internal works of living organisms. Now it has become my full-time affair," says A.H.M. Nurun Nabi, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Dhaka University.

Research

While Engineering and Medical Sciences are important, it is pure science which provides the knowledge that can be implemented in those fields.

"Without the advances in pure sciences as such, the country can't be expected to excel in applied sectors like Engineering or Medical Sciences," says Professor Feroz Alam Khan, Professor of Physics at BUET. On the other hand, intellectual patents come from research, which can be helpful to researchers. So, research is not only important for the general population but also researchers themselves.

Transitioning to applied science

For those wanting to pursue engineering, medical, or other applied subjects, majoring in pure sciences can help. Pure science majors are an important portion of post-graduate engineering students.

As Muntasir Alam, Assistant Professor in Applied Mathematics at Dhaka University opines, "Studying in Energy and Environmental Engineering opened up a new horizon for me after completing undergrad in Applied Mathematics. Those who fear that transitioning from pure sciences to engineering is not practical are simply misguided."

As the world becomes more and more specialised, a pure science background in the undergraduate level and pursuing applied sciences in post graduate is becoming more and more valuable.

Career

For any university student, career choices are important factors. In recent times, the drop in interest in pure sciences is mostly due to the common perception that there are fewer career choices in pure sciences. However, upon closer inspection, this assumption can be challenged.

Firstly, the most obvious career choice for a pure science major is being a researcher. Working in universities is an attractive option for pure science majors, in Bangladesh or abroad.

Statistics and Mathematics are in high demand in many sectors such as Computer Science because of their universality. Likewise, every pure science subject has its specific applications – such as the physics majors are in demand in the electronics industry as well as in nuclear engineering, chemistry majors in various chemical industries, etc. The bottom line is that there are feasible career options for those who are passionate about pure sciences, and there is no reason to be disheartened.

While in our country pure sciences have taken a backseat, this scenario is not true for other countries. Top universities invest in pure science research because of multiple incentives – profit from intellectual property rights, industry development or just pure knowledge for which there might be unexplored benefits. While Bangladeshi universities are struggling to make research facilities better, students also need to come forward to bridge that gap.

Sadman Ahmed Siam is a student at Islamic University of Technology.

NOTICE BOARD

Daffodil Education Network hosts "Daffodil Education Expo-2023"

The two-day-long "Daffodil Education Expo 2023" took place between September 17 and 18 under the initiative of Daffodil Education Network with the theme "Education Skills and Jobs".

Safiul Islam Mohiuddin, MP inaugurated the fair as the Chief Guest. Sarwat Reza, Director, Business Development, British Council Bangladesh was present as the Special Guest.

Safiul Islam Mohiuddin said that today's Digital Bangladesh will be transformed into the Smart Bangladesh of Prime Minister's cherished dream by the hands of the students of the new generation. So, students need to be trained in modern IT education and skilled manpower in both software and hardware industry to keep pace with the advancing world.

NSU promotes gender equality through "Shomotontro: Debate and Dialogue" session

The Office of External Affairs (OEA) in collaboration with the Office of the Students Affairs (OSA) of North South University (NSU) and BRAC jointly organised an event titled "Shomotontro: Debate and Dialogue" session on gender equality for the students. The event aimed to establish everyone's equal opportunities, rights and a world without discrimination.

The Chief Guest, NSU VC Prof. Atiqul Islam remarked, "Equality is not uniformity, it is equal opportunity. We have to work on our equal rights and equal opportunity. In our society, boys are seen as property and girls as responsibility. We have to change our concepts about these terms."

Nobonita Chowdhury, Director of Gender Justice and Diversity Programme at BRAC, conducted an interactive session with the students, exploring into the core principles of equal opportunities, rights, and the pursuit of a world devoid of discrimination.

PAVING THE PATH FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN BANGLADESH

Dr. James Abdey, Associate Academic Director for the LSE-UoL programmes, speaks about the recently launched CHESS (Certification of Higher Education in the Social Sciences) Programme's functionality and features, opportunities for the students under the National Curriculum, and the future prospects of completing the programme.

Could you please tell us about the new partnership for the CHESS program between Universal College Bangladesh (UCB) and the London School of Economics (LSE-UoL)?

James Abbey: CHESS offers a pathway for students to enroll in a University of London degree. CHESS is effectively year one of the undergraduate degree program, and we are all about maximising access and opportunities for students to ultimately take a University of London degree.

Students who do not immediately meet the degree level entry criteria can enroll on CHESS, complete the first year of a degree program, and provided they do sufficiently well in the examinations, their registration status then changes into a full degree student.

Could you elaborate on the key features and unique aspects of the CHESS curriculum that make it an appealing alternative for students seeking global education?

JA: The CHESS program courses are undergraduate-level courses. They form part of the main bachelor's degrees, and all of these modules and individual courses are designed by LSE academics. As an academic, I wrote the course materials for the statistics courses on CHESS. And while doing so, I've ensured alignment with the sort of equivalent modules which I teach on campus at LSE.

LSE is a world-renowned research-led teaching institution. The quality of our graduates is held in very high regard by major corporations around the world. Here at UCB, students will have the same opportunity at a much lower cost.

How does the new CHESS program differ from other educational options for students in Bangladesh, particularly for students under the National Curriculum/HSC?

JA: UCB will be conducting its own admissions process of interviewing students to take admission tests and aptitude tests. I'd again mention the admission statement of the University of London's international programs about maximising access. We run these programs not just in Bangladesh, but around the world. Education and school systems largely vary, but we don't want to exclude anybody. And so, the CHESS program is appropriate for students who cannot immediately meet the full degree-level entry criteria.

How can the relationship between UCB and LSE contribute to the greater objectives of international education and cross-cultural understanding?

JA: What the students will be learning here will be designed in London by LSE faculty, who themselves come from all parts of the world. Therefore, students here will be exposed to different ways of thinking. We are going to be using the tutorial voice of the academic, who's written the learning materials. Also, if UCB students wish to, there are opportunities to actually travel overseas to London, and pursue, for example, a summer school program with us. They can directly interact with their peers from around the world. Even if they don't come to LSE summer school, they will remain a part of the global community. We have over 10 thousand students pursuing various LSE programs around the world. There is always a great opportunity for students to expand their networks beyond Bangladesh.

CAMPUS LIFE

Empowering students through COUNSELLING IN UNIVERSITIES

SABIL SADAT ZAHIR

Your early twenties might be one of the most, if not the most important period of your life. This is the ideal time for self-growth and development, and looking after your mental health is the most important thing for progressing in life and being the best version of yourself.

Therapy is one of the most useful tools to help young people deal with the challenges of life, and many universities nowadays provide free counselling to students. But the question is, how do you realise that you need therapy?

Social stigmas and misconceptions, as well as not understanding what therapy really is, prevent people from seeking the help they need. People tend to think that counselling is only for those with psychological disorders, but that is not true. Everyone deals with issues like stress, sadness, anxiety, etc., and therapy is a means to regulate and manage the negative thoughts which may hinder your progress. You do not always need to be in a hopeless or dire condition to seek therapy.

Furthermore, therapists do not provide solutions to your problems, and instead of giving advice or suggestions, they provide a fully confidential and non-judgmental environment for people to find better ways to deal with their challenges within themselves.

"We do not think for the clients. Because if we think for the clients, they will not develop their decision-making skills," said Monzia Mushtaq, a counsellor at a renowned private university. "Counselling is not just about talking. It is a scientifically proven approach where we use different methods like cognitive behavioural therapy, transactional analysis and neuro-linguistic programming to help the clients explore their inner qualities."

Counselling is a continuous process, and you cannot expect immediate improvement over just one session. Therapy helps to boost confidence and positivity, which in turn helps you improve other facets of your life, such as interpersonal relationships with family members and friends, academics, physical well-being and so on.

From her professional experience, Mushtaq claimed, "In our culture, we usually do not promote positivity or appreciate our children enough. So, when students come for sessions, we try to appreciate their strengths and their inner selves. Over time, they begin to see their strengths and capabilities clearly and feel more confident about tackling their life challenges."

ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

Whatever your personal struggles may be, therapy helps you to focus on the present and try to cope with things more efficiently. "During the initial sessions, the students usually focus on either their past or future when they're vulnerable. After a few sessions, they become more mindful of the present moment and can live their life improving one step at a time," added Mushtaq.

Taking the first step in seeking help is the hardest part. But once you start, life starts getting easier as you go. Zarin Rahman, a student of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), who used to go to her university's counsellor, said, "Therapy helped me a lot. Personally, it saved my life and gave me the tools to cope that I never knew of before. Initially, I expected judgment but that wasn't the case. Counselling gives guidance. It's like having a personalised self-help book that listens to and identifies your problems and gives you tools to solve them."

I, personally, have been going to therapy for a little over a year, and it certainly changed my life for the better. For most of my life, I have struggled with self-hatred, lack of confidence, and anxiety, and felt quite hopeless due to things beyond my control. Through counselling, I was able to overcome most of those lifelong obstacles. I learned to see the positive sides to those dark thoughts and managed to convert that self-hatred into motivation for being better. Therapy helped me to be more optimistic, and made me understand that I always had the potential to improve deep within me, I just needed a little guidance and clarity to find that potential.

In the end, the most important thing to do is to not lose hope. University life is a rollercoaster full of bad and good moments. If you feel overwhelmed with academic pressure and personal struggles, you should not feel hesitant to seek help from your university's counselling unit. There is no shame in taking care of your state of mind. There is always hope, and the journey of self-improvement only starts once you use that little bit of hope to take the first step.

Sabil is a student of BRAC University.

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR FIRST THERAPY SESSION

1. Do Your Own Research
Try and identify what kind of help and type of therapist would suit your needs the best. Also consider going through the reviews for various therapists or mental health facilities.

2. Treat It Like Any Other Medical Appointment
When making the initial call to book and confirm your appointment, they will ask you to provide some personal information. It is crucial that you be assertive here and share your preferences with them. It does not matter how miniscule your preferences are.

3. Be Sure to Attend the Session
Oftentimes, the first ever therapy session may seem unnerving. You might even feel tempted to not go. To make this experience less daunting, you can share your plans with your close friends and family members. They can empathise with you and hold you accountable as well.

4. Follow Through
Just book that next appointment and push through the emotions. It is easy to not attend the follow up sessions by telling yourself that they will not work. However, doing so will only leave you more overwhelmed.

EDU GUIDE

Getting scholarships and waivers IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

ILLUSTRATION: FATIMA JAHAN ENA

TAASEEN MOHAMMED ISLAM

Completing your HSC/A levels is a draining experience. While there's a grace period of well-deserved rest and existential dread as you wait for your results to get published, there's no harm in applying to universities and exploring your options for future studies. Most parents prefer public universities over private ones for several reasons. Most public institutes have prestigious reputations, highly-skilled and respected faculty members, a vibrant and colorful cultural scene, and, most importantly, are affordable. However, private universities have their own merits as well. Renowned private universities also boast prestigious faculty and facilities similar to public ones.

Students may also be given sibling waivers if multiple siblings attend the same university, as long as they have a certain CGPA and number of completed credits. Several institutes provide the family members and descendants of freedom fighters with some form of tuition fee waiver upon verification of necessary documentation.

Many see the high cost of tuition as a deterrent to attending private universities but getting a scholarship at these institutes isn't as complicated as most believe. Private universities usually provide waivers ranging from 25 to 100 percent of tuition costs. It goes without saying that students must fulfill a few grade requirements to be eligible for admission and scholarships. While these vary from university to university, there is a standard of at least a minimum GPA of 3.5 in both SSC and HSC exams, with a combined GPA of 8.0. For English medium students, a minimum average grade point of 2.5 in five O level subjects, and a minimum average grade point of 2.0 in two A level subjects are the minimum requirements to sit for admission tests.

Private institutes offer students two different types of scholarships: merit and need-based. Merit-based scholarships are disbursed based on your high school academic achievements or university admission test performance. Getting scholarships based on admission test performance is the easiest. Sumaya Tashfia, a 100 percent scholarship awardee at NSU, says, "The syllabus of admission tests is similar to what we learn in our O and A levels, so with a bit of studying and practice, it's not impossible to score enough to get a scholarship."

Many institutes also award scholarships based on your academic performance in school. At AIUB, applicants with GPA 5 in both their SSC and HSC exams, or applicants with five A grades in their O level exams as well as two A grades in their A level exams, are allowed to sit for scholarship exams, which must be passed to avail a waiver.

Getting a waiver based on your university academic performance is considerably more challenging. Some private universities are known for requiring very invasive information, from your parent's occupation, bank and property statements, all the way to the square footage of your residence.

On the other hand, there are need-based scholarships. These are given to deserving students on humanitarian grounds who cannot afford to attend the institution or to current students who suddenly face a lot of financial distress, say in the face of a parent's passing. However, these waivers can be difficult to get a hold of due to the lengthy screening and verification processes they entail.

Students may also be given sibling waivers if multiple siblings attend the same university, as long as they have a certain CGPA and number of completed credits. Several institutes provide the family members and descendants of freedom fighters with some form of tuition fee waiver upon verification of necessary documentation.

Beyond the traditional merit and need-based scholarships provided, a few universities have started implementing special scholarships aimed at female students as well as minorities and underrepresented groups of students. IUB has a female student fee waiver of 10 percent. AIUB has scholarships directed toward underrepresented groups of students, which includes ethnic minorities, newly settled refugees, and low-income individuals.

Even though securing a scholarship can be challenging, it's definitely not an impossible task. When planning to apply for private university scholarships, it's important that you understand the type of waiver or benefits you are entitled to, and show yourself as the best possible recipient, and to always hope for the best outcome.

Taaseen Mohammed Islam is a student at NSU.