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CAMPUS

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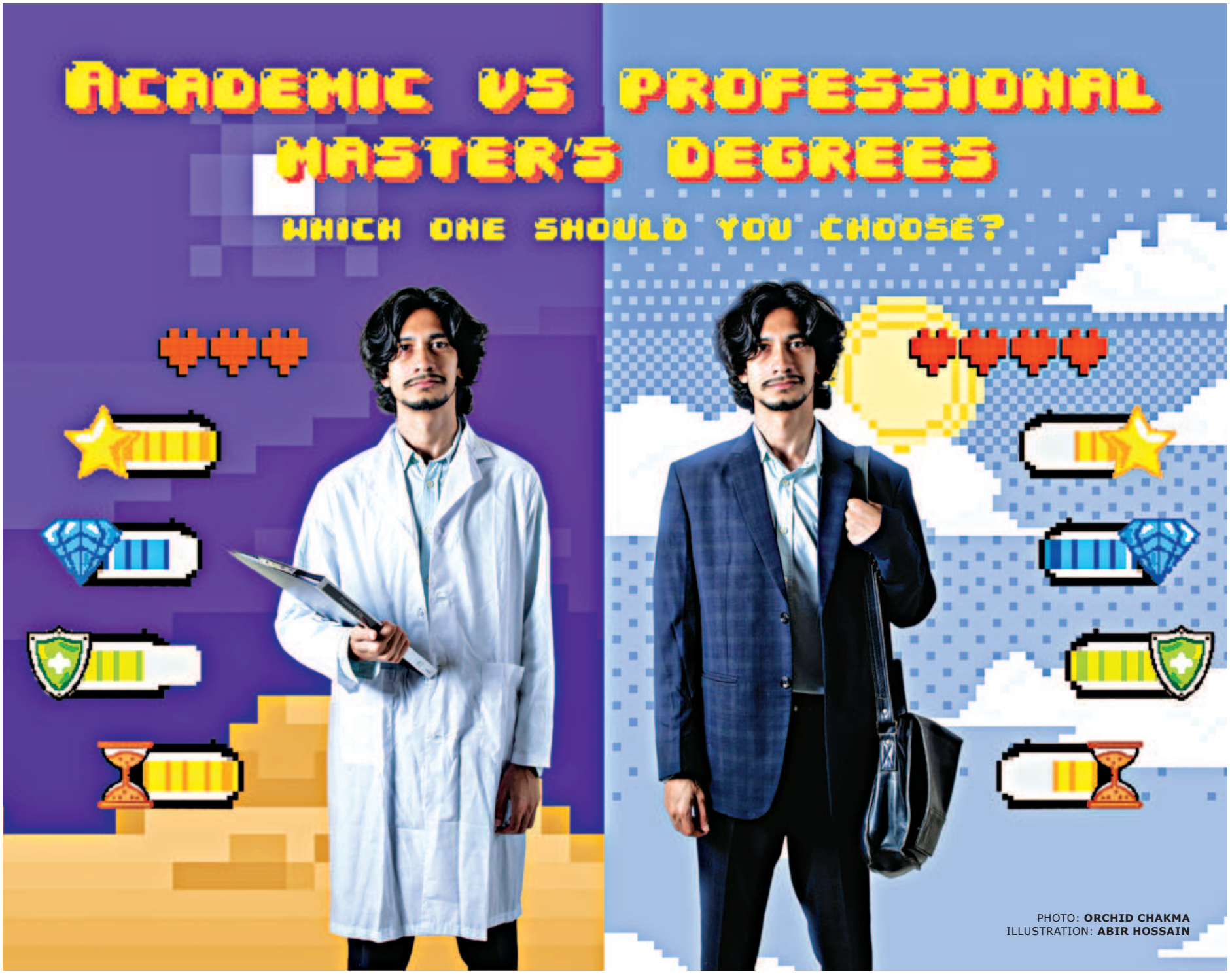

PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**
ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

MOVIES

INSIDE OUT 2

A sequel that empathises and enthrals

NUSRAT MEHERIN FAIZA

Inside Out 2 follows the story of teenage Riley who has retained much of her passion for hockey from the first movie but is starting to develop new personality traits and a barrage of emotions. As she moves to a new city and leaves all her friends behind, Riley is forced to reckon with a new set of emotions.

Anxiety is a carrot-coloured sprite with jumpy eyebrows. Anxiety is accompanied by Envy – a tiny, turquoise-blue being – the latter fuelling the former's antics. Embarrassment also joins the team as a shy, rose-coloured giant hooded figure. Lastly, Ennui, a navy emotion obsessed with her phone and a chic haircut, represents the teen's boredom.

These new characters don't just make the narrative compelling but also makes it more relatable. Riley's panic attack in the movie is an accurate depiction of what it's like experiencing such a harrowing ordeal. Similarly, when Anxiety is shown frozen in place and spinning around in circles, it perfectly illustrates the mental chaos I often feel during anxious periods. The dynamics between the old and new characters are also thoroughly entertaining and nuanced. This is particularly the case between Anxiety and Joy, as the emotions clash over what they believe is best for Riley. Anxiety wants to prepare her for any potential problems while Joy completely disregards Riley's unhappy memories.

Nonetheless, the love and care that has gone behind the production of this sequel is evident. The story doesn't just help us empathise with Riley but also does its due diligence in representing the very real emotions that nearly all of us experience.

Inside Out 2 deserves the praise and recognition that it is currently receiving. This heartwarming film is a must-watch – pushing its audience to experience the same rollercoaster of emotions that its characters on-screen go through. In the process, it also manages to make one feel truly understood and has rightfully earned its place as one of the biggest animated films of the year.

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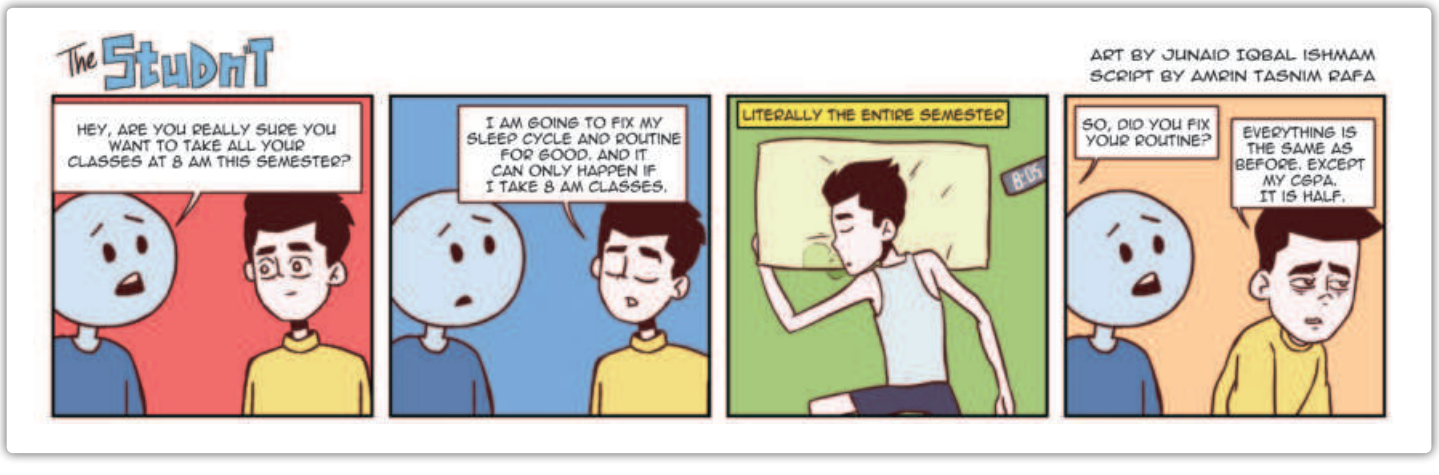

OPPORTUNITIES

CAMPUS STARS

ELIGIBILITY

The student has to be an undergraduate student from a UGC-approved university in Bangladesh.

The student can't represent or be associated with any other media organisation.

The student must be a member of at least one student club or forum at their respective institution.

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DEADLINE: JULY 24

Humphrey Fellowship
A Fulbright Exchange Program

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ELIGIBILITY

Be a Bangladeshi citizen and residing in Bangladesh.

Be a young, mid-career professional in a leadership position.

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Excellent communication and people skills.

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EDUCATION

Do you too regret your UNIVERSITY MAJOR?

Every now and then, I wonder about the exact moment I was whisked into my university major. I try to retrace my footsteps between now and high school, when I was tasked with making this decision, and thus, inevitably burdened by the weight of expectations, aspirations, and later, regret. It seems unfortunate that we should have to make such a consequential decision when we are very young and unaware of the kind of life we are signing up for.

ILLUSTRATION: **ABIR HOSSAIN**

IRINA JAHAN

It is hardly a rare circumstance that only two or three years down the line, we realise that our chosen path is not what we expected it to be. We are left to push through and burn out the last of our willpower, or contemplate whether to reroute entirely. Then again, is such a misjudgment really worth beating ourselves up over?

When we had to choose, most of us did not have a ton of options. There is very little flexibility in universities to explore and determine what would actually be right for us. That is why the first step to making peace with this is not blaming yourself or anyone else whose foresight we may have relied on in the past.

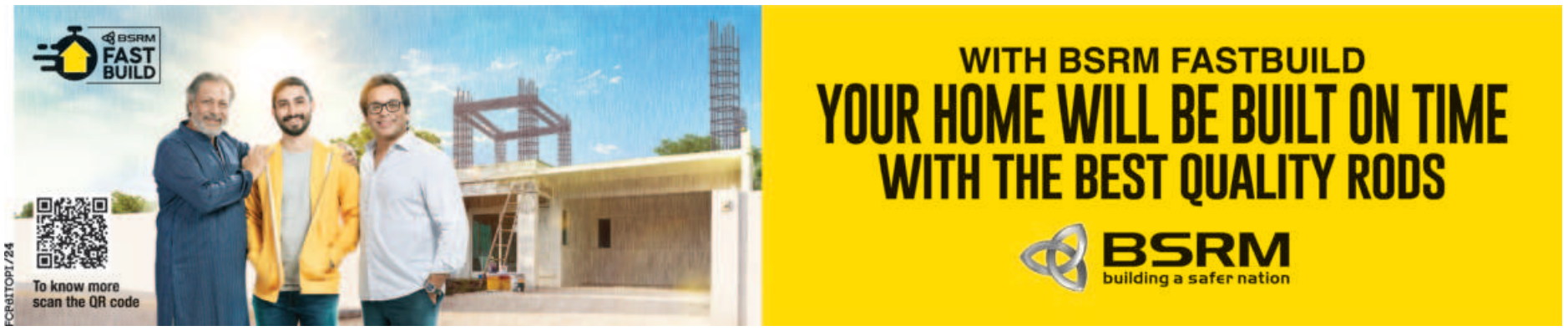
The regret is all the more painful when we think of the ideal future we had imagined for ourselves, one that we hoped could be reached through a steady forward trajectory. It is for times like this when we have to ask ourselves if this entitlement to our initial dreams is altogether healthy.

When we are young and inexperienced, a lot of our dreams are based on the best-case scenario, with a few blind spots due to youthful ignorance. With time, our views change and we learn things that no longer serve our ideal visions. If we refuse to let go of these ideals and readjust our plans, this rigidity will hinder our ability to evolve in difficult times. To say this is not to prime ourselves to endure a terrible major we have regrettably taken, but to take a realistic look at such a situation. When abandoning everything we've done so far is not an option, we could think about how we might be overlooking the merits of our current path.

While we ponder how to move past our academic mishaps, we might find some comfort in the fact that the current track does not necessarily have to be permanent. But how do we make sure things change for the better? The new way forward may be yet another turbulent ride for us with a new set of obstacles and setbacks. While that definitely sounds bad for morale, it shouldn't discourage us from dabbling about a bit more in our academic journey. Surprisingly enough, statistics indicate that it could potentially be good for us down the line.

A paper published by economist Ofer Malamud described how research shows that students specialising in a chosen field later on in their lives, after a period of trial and error, tend to do better both financially and in terms of career success.

Hopefully, changing our approach to look at our early decisions as learning opportunities can help us see our missteps in a new light. Our academic journey may not look like what we had wished for due to multitudes of reasons beyond our control, but it could be an invitation for growth that launches us forward in unprecedented ways.



EDUCATION

Are private universities ready for PHD PROGRAMMES?

RAIAN ABEDIN

With the recent updates from University Grants Commission (UGC) stating that they are seriously considering allowing private universities to hold PhD programmes, a wave of excitement has seemingly passed through the field of academia in Bangladesh. However, with it comes confusion, fear and several questions looming in the distance, yet not too far away. The bottom line of all this worry is simple: are private universities ready to offer PhD degrees?

A PhD programme is inherently research-intensive which means that the very structure of a PhD programme is expected to be completely different from anything a student may have undertaken thus far. There are, obviously, certain expectations to be met by the supervisors and the university at large. On this, Salekul Islam, Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at United International University, sheds light.

"While we are undoubtedly excited about the prospect of private universities finally having PhD programmes, they must be closely monitored to ensure that the quality of education and training offered is of the highest calibre possible. To ensure this, we must start with ensuring that the supervisors who will be responsible for a candidate's PHD are up to the task," he says.

He further adds, "Just having a degree does not mean you are up for the task— a supervisor should have an in-depth understanding of their particular niche. Not just this, we will also need to ensure the presence of an external board of examiners consisting of researchers outside of that specific university. After this, a solid infrastructure can be built."

According to Prof. Salekul, both the aforementioned criteria are standard and crucial practices. However, what may be more pressing for private universities in the country are issues regarding internal infrastructure and a potential lack of funding.

With the ostensible lack of research facilities and resources in mind, research may not be feasible for every single domain. However, with time and the development of a healthy culture dedicated to academic research, there is t possibility of alleviating this issue.

Mahbubul H. Siddiqee, Associate Professor at BRAC University's Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, says, "On the one side, I think we are definitely very positive towards this change as those faculty members who are actually interested in research can have experienced researchers working for a long time to answer a particular research question," he states.

"But caution must be exercised, as not all private universities are of the same calibre. While it is true that some private universities may be capable of meeting the requirements, many others struggle to meet even the most basic undergraduate or master's level needs for their students. In this regard, UGC should obviously not allow *all* the private universities to provide PhD degrees. Maybe a handful of them initially, which can then be observed for the next few years to see their progress, and after a thorough review proper changes can be made," adds Associate Prof. Mahbubul.

ILLUSTRATION: **SYEDA AFRIN TARANNUM**

Whether a university should be allowed to hold PhD programmes, ultimately, is a discussion based on the logistics of what the university itself is able to provide— and this factor varies based on fields of study quite drastically.

Labiba Rifah, a 24-year-old Master's student studying English Language at BRAC University, says, "Since much of my work will depend on reading a lot of papers, I can use my university's help to access them. However, for any sort of fieldwork that I may have to do, I do have my doubts that they will be able to help. A PhD in my niche would mostly function in the same way. If a university is willing to support their students, I think people in my field may benefit from it."

According to Associate Prof. Mahbubul, another important point to consider is that even though most public universities in Bangladesh are capable of granting a PhD, the truth is that not all the public universities that have this ability have the necessary infrastructure, or even the faculty body, to take in PhD students.

Not just that, the culture around academia isn't necessarily one that has developed to a healthy position yet, and as such many problems are found deep within its trenches. Associate Prof. Mahbubul further elaborates on this topic saying, "In some public universities, the culture around PhD degrees has become corrupted and rife with foul play and nepotism— and this is largely due to lack of oversight from UGC. If private universities are allowed to grant PhD without any real oversight, we may end up having the same problem over here."

However, hope still remains that private universities across the country will be able to foster a culture of research at a PhD level. Associate Prof. Mahbubul and Md Kabir Uddin, Assistant Professor at North South University's Biochemistry and Microbiology Department, highlight the need to work with collaborators both in academia and industry in order to gain access to facilities that one single university may not be able to provide.

Assistant Prof. Kabir says, "As it stands, access to funding is limited, but I wouldn't say that it doesn't exist. If we manage to work together and create big changes over time, there is no doubt that more funding will come our way. We may not have access to all kinds of equipment for the time being, but we still need to start somewhere. And only in a few years, the change that can be brought about may be immense."

On the topic of availing funding, Associate Prof. Mahbubul notes that "Of the funding that is available from the government, most of it is inaccessible to professors from private universities. There is obviously something wrong here that needs to change at a systematic level."

A similar concern is shared by students, who have commented on the availability of resources for research at undergraduate and master's levels of education. Nayara Noor, a 23-year-old Master's student studying Microbiology at BRAC University, says, "In some ways, yes, there is a huge scope for research but this is only possible when universities collaborate with the industry or other universities. What we have right now can, otherwise, feel very limiting even at a master's level."

As such, the reality of the situation highlights several systemic barriers that stand in the way of private universities from being functional institutions able to grant PhDs. However, is it not time for these things to slowly take change?

EDU GUIDE

Academic vs professional MASTER'S DEGREES

Which one should you choose?

Navigating university applications is a Herculean task since plenty of factors, starting from location to financial aid opportunities to employment prospects, are at play while choosing the perfect institution. And when it comes to looking into a master's programme, another layer of complexity arises – whether to pursue an academic or a professional master's degree.

MASHIYAT NAYEEM

Subtle differences exist between the two, and deciding which one to pursue ultimately boils down to your personal goals. Although the distinction varies from country to country, this article explores some of the general differences.

An academic master's programme is broader and sets the foundation for further study after undergrad or prepares for a career in academia. It can be of two types: taught and research-based.

Taught programmes are structured linearly, where courses progress with scheduled lectures and seminars. Much like an undergraduate degree, learning is instructor-led and students study independently. Furthermore, depending on the university, students may be allowed to personalise the curriculum by choosing from the offered courses.

On the other hand, classes in a research-based programme are less structured and there is a heavy focus on planning and conducting independent research. One or more extended projects have to be undertaken to complete the degree. Supervisors provide guidance and feedback, but most of the learning is self-directed. Such a programme is generally a stepping stone for doctoral research.

Tazreen Jahan Bari, a master's student of English Literature at McGill University in Canada, talked about her career aspirations, "I plan on going into academia, which is why I have chosen this degree. It is research-based and it's split between one year of coursework and one year of research work. I basically wanted an excuse to keep studying what I love. For me, the next step would be to do my PhD. However, a master's degree in English is very versatile. I have people in my cohort who are planning on going into law, communications, social work, media, publishing, and many other fields".

Oftentimes, a research-based master's provides the opportunity to specialise within the field.

Redwan Rahmat, who pursued an MSc in Infection and Immunity at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands and is currently enrolled in a PhD programme, shared, "The program provided a balanced approach, with approximately 80 percent of study time dedicated to independent research projects. I chose this programme as it aligned perfectly with my interests in the field of infectious diseases and my career aspirations in biomedical sciences. Graduates from this programme typically progress to further specialise in their chosen field through doctoral studies. The master's programme itself offers ample opportunities for specialisation within the field, allowing graduates to pursue their preferred areas of focus successfully".

A professional master's programme is meant for building careers in a specific field and usually offers a specialised path of study. It provides a direct entry to the field and often results in immediate employment after graduation.

Furthermore, it also provides early or mid-career professionals with the opportunity to expand their skillset or advance further in their domain.

With a focus on real-world applications, professional programmes focus on mandatory work placements or a capstone project, which is like a thesis but more applied in nature.

Nafis Khan, who recently completed an MS in Data Science, Computer Science Track from Texas A&M University, talked about the structure of his programme, "The programme was entirely coursework based, research was not a requirement. However, I took a research-based capstone project and it's about to get published. The data science program was very flexible, allowing me to pick 6 of my 10 total classes. Some of them had final exams at the end and others were project-based. Typically, you want to get into a data profession with this programme. Most aim for data scientist or data analyst positions in the industry"

Sometimes, the capstone project is a collaboration with a real-world company, which is an invaluable addition to your resume to get a head start in the job market if you have little to no previous work experience or are someone looking to switch to a different field.

The cost of attendance is typically high due to the specialised or accelerated nature of the professional programmes and the availability of financial aid is also rare. If scholarship opportunities are available, they usually have very specific criteria, for example, being a professional with notable leadership experience.

For some people, choosing a particular type of master's programme may be a no-brainer. But if you are struggling to pinpoint what you want to do after completion of the degree, ask yourself: Am I fully set on a specialised role or am I open to different roles in a certain field? Do I want to continue working in the career I am currently in? Do I want to have the option of doctoral studies? Do I prefer a structured learning environment? Am I comfortable with long periods of independent research and writing? How much time am I willing to dedicate to my studies?

Choosing one type of master's programme over the other does not mean your future options have to become limited. You can still pursue a PhD and a career in academia with a professional degree, and you can still excel in the industry and climb corporate ladders if you complete a research-based master's. Often, the distinction between the types is blurred as programmes tend to have a unique blend of learning modes. While weighing your options, it is a good idea to explore the programme's career outcomes page or look up the programme's alumni on LinkedIn to get an insight into the different paths available upon graduation.

Mashiyat Nayeem is an undergraduate student at North South University.

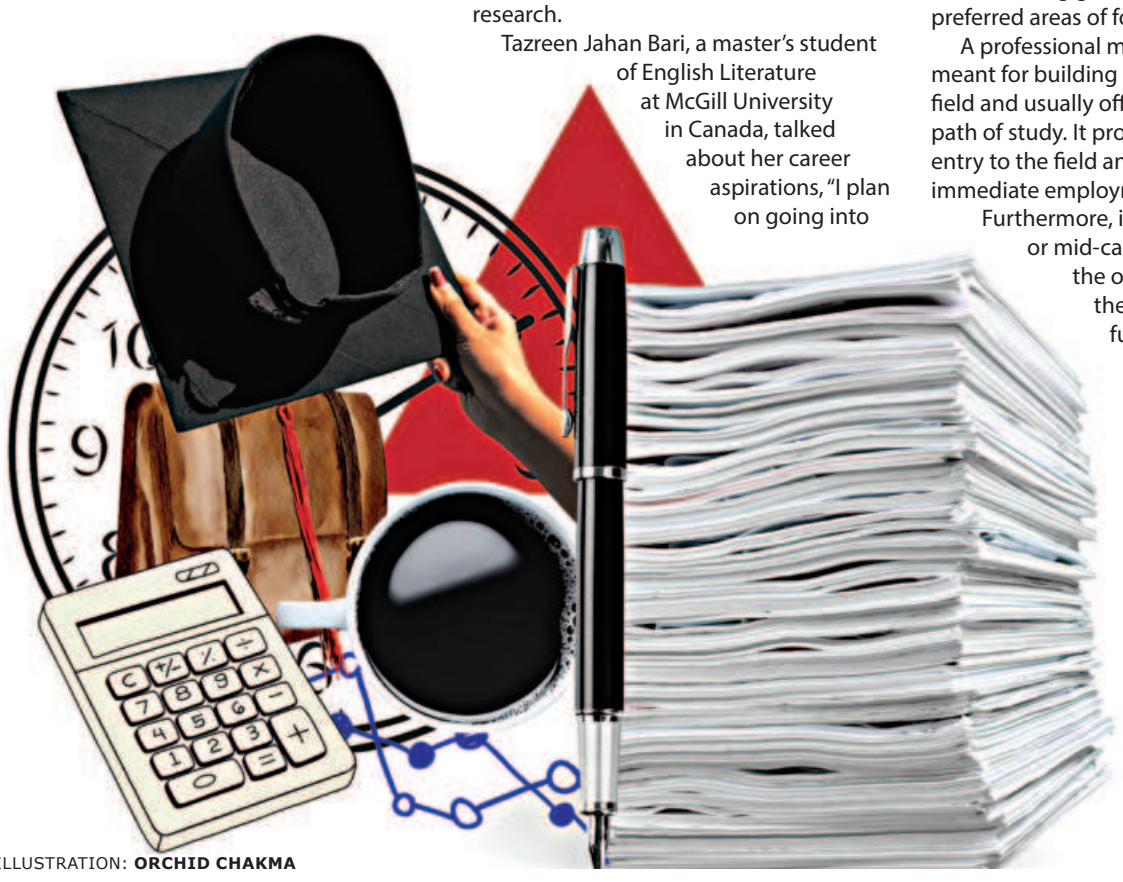


ILLUSTRATION: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

NOTICE BOARD

BRAC Business School hosts closing ceremony for "Uddami Ami" women entrepreneurship training programme

"Uddami Ami", BRAC Business School's flagship women entrepreneurship training programme concluded its Cohort 6 on July 6 at BRAC University's new campus in Merul Badda. The closing ceremony celebrated the training's completion by 20 women entrepreneurs across varying sectors of Bangladesh. Uddami Ami has successfully trained nearly 120 women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh since its inception in September 2021.

The event was graced by Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman, Director, SME & Special Program Department, Bangladesh Bank; Md Rezaul Karim, Company Secretary, HATIL; Dr David Dowland, Registrar, BRAC University (BRACU), and Mohammad Mujibul Haque, PhD, Professor and Associate Dean (Acting Dean), BRAC Business School, BRACU.

Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman congratulated the participants on their courage to pursue entrepreneurship. He reminded the participants of the government support available to women entrepreneurs through BDT 35,000 crore allocation by Bangladesh Bank. He encouraged the participants to expand their business models and products to avail of these funds.

Rezaul Karim was delighted to host the women entrepreneurs at HATIL Factory for the industry visit session of Uddami Ami. He earnestly requested BRAC Business School and BRACU to undertake developing local business cases so that students and entrepreneurs can learn the local context of the dynamics of business in Bangladesh.

Dr David Dowland continued the praise on the courageous entrepreneurs and thanked BRAC Business School, BRAC Bank PLC, Bangladesh Bank, and HATIL for their collaborative effort to make the training programme a success.

Mohammad Mujibul Haque emphasised that BRAC Business School is actively engaged in upskilling entrepreneurs and professionals in Bangladesh. This includes developing local business cases through the 1st International Case Conference on Business and Management (ICCBM 2023) and conducting research and training programmes that offer collaborative opportunities for all stakeholders at the Uddami Ami closing ceremony.

Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner visits Daffodil International University

Haji Haris Bin Haji Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in Bangladesh visited Daffodil International University (DIU) on July 8 at Daffodil Smart City in Birulia, Savar, Dhaka. The high commissioner praised the activities of DIU for its exclusive academic partnerships with universities in Brunei and for having a beautiful green campus. In his speech, he said that Bangladesh-Brunei Darussalam relations will reach new heights in multilateral aspects and will move forward in coming days.

Presided over by Professor Dr SM Mahabub Ul Haque Mazumder, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) of the university, the welcome address was delivered by Dr Md Sabur Khan, Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees, DIU and Daffodil Family. The meeting was also addressed by Dr Mohammad Nuruzzaman, CEO of Daffodil Family; Dr Md Emran Hossain, COO of Daffodil Family; Professor Dr Md Fokhray Hossain, Director of International Affairs; Professor Dr Md Kabirul Islam, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Director of Division of Research; Syed Raihan-Ul Islam, Deputy Director, International Affairs, and Md Safiullah, Deputy Director, Daffodil Islamic Center of Daffodil International University.

Later on, Haji Haris Bin Haji Othman spoke as the chief guest at a session for the students entitled "Brunei Beyond Borders: Exploring New Horizon for Bangladeshi Youth".

Haji Haris Bin Haji Othman emphasised supporting the skilled and trained people with professional visas and outlined the scope for notable migrant destinations for Bangladeshi students. He also mentioned that they are interested in signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with exchanges and technical collaborations at the university level in both countries, especially on entrepreneurship as he mentioned that entrepreneurial students can change the country.

IUBAT launches pre-university English course for freshmen

The International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) has launched a pre-university English course for students admitted in the Fall 2024 semester. The inaugural class of the course was held on July 6. IUBAT Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Abdur Rab and Treasurer and Director of Administration Professor Selina Nargis attended the inauguration.

The pre-university English course at IUBAT is designed to bridge the gap between high school and university education by enhancing the English language skills of incoming freshmen. This intensive one-month programme aims to improve students' proficiency in listening and speaking, ensuring they are prepared for the linguistic demands of university-level courses. It also focuses on building essential academic skills, such as critical thinking and effective study strategies, while fostering confidence and active participation in classroom activities. By providing a supportive environment, the course facilitates a smooth transition to university life and promotes active learning, ultimately helping students develop the necessary language and academic competencies to succeed in their studies at IUBAT.

Professor Selina Nargis highlighted that IUBAT's pre-university English course is a one-month intensive programme designed to be completed before the start of regular university courses. Through this course, students will

develop independent and active learning skills that are essential for their success as university students. She emphasised that IUBAT is committed to providing the necessary support to transform students into valuable assets for the country.

Dr Abdur Rab remarked that many students entering the university after high school lack sufficient English communication skills. There is a significant gap between the university's expectations and the student's current abilities. To address this, the pre-university English course has been introduced to strengthen the foundational skills of our students.

The inaugural class was conducted by Associate Professor Sadekul Islam and Associate Professor Md Forhad Hossain from the Department of English and Modern Languages. The session was further graced by the presence of Professor Dr Momtazur Rahman, Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, and Professor Dr Bijoy Lal Basu, Advisor of the Department of English and Modern Languages.

OFF CAMPUS

Representing Bangladesh and navigating business challenges on a global stage

Team Bangladesh, which consisted of Maisha Islam Monamee, Hridita Islam, Syeda Ramisa Munia, and Al Nafee Ibna Siddique from IBA, Dhaka University, won the HSBC-IBA Business Case Competition. They represented Bangladesh in the international finals in Hong Kong. Maisha reflects on their journey and preparation.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

PHOTO: **COURTESY**

The road to Hong Kong was not just about the thrill of competition; it was a profound learning experience that stretched beyond textbooks and classrooms. It tested our abilities to think critically under pressure, collaborate effectively as a team, and present our ideas with clarity and conviction. These skills are not merely academic exercises but essential qualities for thriving in today's competitive business environment.

Competition format

The HSBC-IBA Business Case Competition is an intense, high-pressure test of business insight, creativity, and presentation skills. The format is simple yet challenging – participants are given four hours (three hours in the international round) to solve a business case with no access to any electronic device or the internet. Instead, we had to rely entirely on our knowledge, analytical skills, and creativity.

During those three hours, we drew our slides on paper. It forced us to think more carefully about how to present our ideas clearly and succinctly. The presentation itself lasts 10 minutes in the national round and 20 minutes in the international round, followed by a rigorous Q&A session with the judges. This part of the competition is crucial as it tests our solution and ability to defend and justify our decisions under pressure.

From my experience, the most important aspect of getting to the case solution is problem identification. Understanding the core issue at hand and how our proposed solution addresses it efficiently is vital. The judges are looking for quality over quantity – fewer, well-thought-out solutions with a significant impact and a thorough cost-risk analysis are far more valuable than numerous superficial ideas. This was a lesson in strategic thinking and precision.

Building a winning team

A key component of success in such competitions is building a strong, cohesive team. Our team was composed of individuals with complementary skills. I believe it is crucial to focus on individual strengths and how they contribute to the overall synergy of the team.

Ideally, you should have members who excel in different areas: problem analysis, industry knowledge, financial acumen, and most importantly, presenting and handling Q&A. This diversity in skills would allow you to approach problems from multiple angles and come up with well-rounded solutions. Effective communication and collaboration are the pillars of a winning team.

We spent a substantial amount of time discussing, debating, and refining our ideas, ensuring that everyone was on the same page and that our final presentation was coherent and compelling. Trust and mutual respect within the team are also essential, as they enable open and honest discussions, which are crucial for developing the best possible solutions.

Preparing for the competition

Preparation for the competition was intense and thorough. We practised previous Harvard Business School (HBS) and Asia Case Research Centre (ACRC) cases, which helped us get familiar with the format and types of problems we might encounter. Each practice session was followed by a review where we got our solutions checked by seniors or mentors. Their feedback was invaluable, providing us with different perspectives and helping us refine our approaches.

One of the most important aspects of our preparation was learning to manage our time effectively. With only four hours to solve the case, every minute counts. We developed a structured approach to divide our time between understanding the problem, brainstorming solutions, and preparing our presentation. This time management skill was crucial during the actual competition.

The Hong Kong experience

Representing Bangladesh on an international stage in Hong Kong was a truly remarkable experience. The competition, held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU), was intense, but the experience was invaluable. The extended 20-minute presentation and the subsequent Q&A session were challenging, but they provided a real taste of the high standards expected in international business competitions.

The feedback from the judges was constructive and gave us insights into areas for improvement. The knowledge we received in the mentorship was invaluable and opened a new window of business analysis.

Building connections

The competition kicked off with an exhilarating "Amazing Race" on our first day. Teams were formed with students from various countries, each eager to explore the city's iconic landmarks while striving to win the challenge. It was a thrilling blend of competition and cultural exploration as we raced through Hong Kong's bustling streets, navigated its efficient public transport system, and solved clues that led us to hidden gems and historical sites.

Despite the competitive spirit, the experience fostered bonds of friendship and camaraderie among participants from diverse backgrounds.

Additionally, connecting with professionals from HSBC was a valuable opportunity. Their insights into the banking and finance industry were enlightening, and I gained a better understanding of the skills and knowledge required to succeed in this field.

Importance of business competitions

Business competitions are an essential part of academic life. They offer a platform to apply classroom concepts to real-world business problems, bridging the gap between theory and practice. These competitions develop critical skills such as analytical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and effective communication. Moreover, they provide an opportunity to network with industry professionals and peers from around the world, creating connections that can be valuable throughout one's career.

Reflecting on my time in Hong Kong, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Bangladesh on such a prestigious platform. The experience has enriched my understanding of international business dynamics, enhanced my confidence in tackling complex challenges, and broadened my perspective on global collaboration.

The author is a Finance major at IBA, DU.

CAREER

JOB HUNTING ON LINKEDIN

A beginner's guide to finding and applying for jobs through the platform

FAISAL BIN IQBAL

Finding, applying to, and securing jobs via LinkedIn doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, compared to your usual job posting sites, LinkedIn has a lot more to offer in terms of opportunities, especially if you're looking for freelance work or remote jobs.

That being said, job hunting on LinkedIn can feel tiring and occasionally pointless, particularly for those who are new to the platform or don't use it that often. However, knowing how to efficiently look for and apply to jobs can help you make the most of this platform for your professional goals.

The most common way to look for jobs on LinkedIn is through its dedicated job searching feature. Simply mention the type of job or position you're looking for and your preferred working location, and LinkedIn will show you all the jobs that are available for your search query.

Like many other job posting sites, LinkedIn lets you filter these search results to a great extent. One filter that is very important to utilise here is "Date Posted".

"Date Posted" refers to how long back the job was posted on the platform or when the position opened up. When searching for jobs, first look for the ones that were posted in the last 24 hours or one week. Since these jobs have only been around for a short while, there's a chance that they haven't received hundreds of applications yet.

PHOTO: **ORCHID CHAKMA**

Job hunting on LinkedIn can feel tiring and occasionally pointless, particularly for those who are new to the platform or don't use it that often. However, knowing how to efficiently look for and apply to jobs can help you make the most of this platform for your professional goals.

If you can't find anything that's to your liking, you can extend the search results to include all the jobs posted in the last month. While this option will show you more job openings, there's a good chance that a lot of these vacancies are already overwhelmed with applications. Plus, some of these jobs may have already shortlisted candidates for interview or even hire. Hence, even if these job posts show that they are recruiting till a certain deadline, they might not even notice your application.

Apart from the job search option on LinkedIn, joining different job posting groups on the platform is also helpful. The best thing about these groups is that you'll find dedicated groups for different professions.

For instance, if you're a content writer, you should join groups where members share recruitment posts specifically for content writing and other relevant positions. Similarly, you'll find groups for jobs related to programming, graphic design, marketing, etc. Basically, irrespective of the field you're working in, be rest assured that there's a group on LinkedIn that will specifically have job postings related to the field. You just have to search for these groups, and the search feature works fine for this purpose. On LinkedIn's search bar, use keywords and phrases that include your field's name along with words like "jobs", "community", etc.

Lastly, and, in my opinion, the best way to find jobs on LinkedIn is through connecting with people. This approach is especially useful if you're looking for freelance or remote work.

Don't hesitate to connect with people from your field no matter where they are based. Ideally, you should be looking for people who work as recruiters or at their respective company's talent acquisition or HR team. Again, use the search option on LinkedIn to your advantage for this. Simply search for terms like "talent acquisition", "recruiter", etc. along with keywords related to your field of interest.

You should also connect with people who work in similar positions as you. This is because these people themselves might occasionally be looking for jobs on LinkedIn. For that, they will occasionally react to or comment on various recruitment posts. When they do that, those recruitment posts will show up on your feed, as long as you are connected or following the people who are engaging with such posts. You can then decide whether or not you want to apply to those jobs.

Having said all this, you must remember that applying via LinkedIn doesn't increase your chances of securing a job, especially if said job is a freelance position or located in a different country with remote working options. One thing that might also frustrate you is that some remote jobs require you to be located in a specific country or region. Of course, this makes no sense, but it shows how the idea of working remotely still varies across the world.

However, this shouldn't discourage you from applying to all these jobs. From my personal experience, as well as that of a few others, I can tell that you might still have a shot at securing jobs outside the country as long as you have the right qualifications. Just make sure your LinkedIn profile and CV is up-to-date and highlights all your skills, qualifications, portfolio, and relevant experiences.

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