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WHY ASPIRING BANGLADESHI PILOTS SEEK TRAINING ABROAD



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VIDEO GAMES

SILENT HILL 2 REMAKE

A love letter to an already perfect game



SHAIKH SABIK KAMAL

"Lightning in a Bottle" is the best descriptor for *Silent Hill 2*, the pinnacle of survival-horror games. To remake such a timeless piece of art is a bear of a task. However, the game developer, Bloober Team, has achieved that and more with near perfection.

Leading up to the release of the remake of *Silent Hill 2*, the audience wasn't exactly thrilled due to the choppy trailers and unpromising gameplay mechanics highlighted. Yet, the final product has challenged the suspicions of nostalgia-driven fans and has been hailed victorious, gaining thousands of positive reviews

from global critics.

The game follows the story of our protagonist, James, who has been mysteriously summoned to the town of Silent Hill by his wife, Mary, who has allegedly been dead for three years. From battling the manifestations of his inner demons to solving mind-boggling puzzles, *Silent Hill* proves to be a place of nightmares.

Silent Hill 2 is a fruitful amalgamation of powerful, atmospheric storytelling and entertaining puzzles and riddles. Like the original, the remake has absolutely nailed every aspect of the story. It doesn't shy away from the original's interpretations by introducing shortcuts or modifications. Rather it expands impressively on every detail without making it messy or tedious.

The remake's gameplay mechanics are more akin to modern games' over-the-shoulder perspective. However, most gameplay mechanics as well as details and features are completely faithful to the original. All endings from the original are available, with the addition of two new haunting endings.

The dreamlike, eerie atmosphere of the original is present in the remake, though not exactly replicated. The ambience gets amplified thanks to the detailed graphics and the team's attention to the details of the town. The horrifying and heartbreak aspects of the game get a broader narrative too, with the introduction of darker and more dangerous areas, daunting monsters, and cinematically enriched cut scenes paired with professional acting.

In the current realm of games, the chances of finding a faithful yet satisfactory remake of a legendary game are awfully thin, to say the least. Yet, the remake of *Silent Hill 2* does an exceptional job of rebottling the charm of the original.

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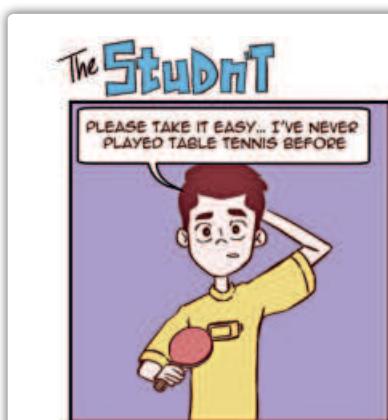
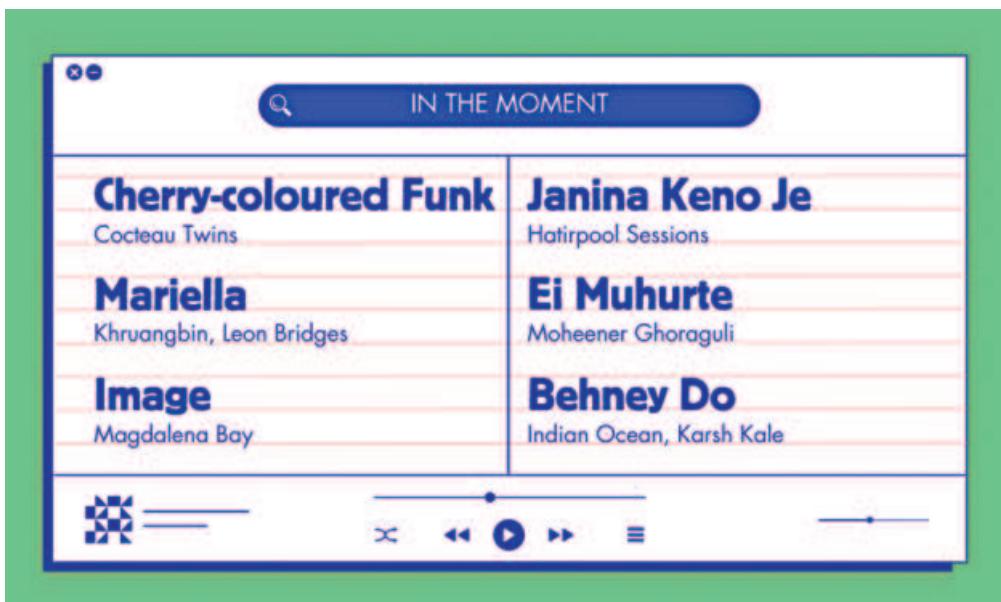
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■ SATIRE ■

BBA student gets married, calls it the best networking experience of his life

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

If there's anything that makes a BBA student in Dhaka happier than doing their assignments in overpriced coffee shops, it's a good networking opportunity. After all, nothing is impossible – if you believe in your ability to make the right connections, that is.

While swapping out most definitions of interpersonal relationships for the umbrella term "networking" is not uncommon amidst students of this cutthroat stream, Sakeeb Hossain took it to a whole new level when he dubbed his own matrimonial proceedings as such.

"I have always looked down on my classmates who settled down before me, and thought that they were unambitious and too emotionally driven. But really, they were two steps ahead of me the whole time. If you take a moment to think about it, a wedding reception is nothing but a large-scale networking event where people actually want to network with you," Sakeeb said.

Rafiq Ahmed, Sakeeb's friend and classmate, is less enthusiastic about the groom's business-minded outlook. He lamented, "Look, I'm a BBA student too and I appreciate the lucrative opportunity of chatting

up that one gullible uncle with money to waste on whatever tired startup vision we have, but Sakeeb takes it way too far. I helped the decorators set up the stage for his *holud* and he's been introducing me as his Chief Logistics Officer ever since."

When asked if his attempts have borne fruit, Sakeeb enthusiastically explains that he has not only been able to foster meaningful potential professional relationships, but the reception has also been an incredible success in crowdfunding. "My rich uncle laughed at me when I pitched my startup, but he didn't hesitate to drop generous amounts on my wedding gift. And really, what is marriage but starting up your lives together?"

When asked about the bride's opinion on him treating their marriage like a professional partnership, he explained, "I think any young woman with an entrepreneurial mindset would be able to appreciate this as a smart ROI (return on investment) for all the wedding expenses." Upon taking a moment to think about it, he adds, "Besides, it's really no big loss if she chooses to divorce me over this. A second wedding means a fresh batch of connections waiting to be made, and money to be raised for a brand-new startup."

FINDING AND APPLYING TO JOBS ON LINKEDIN: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Use the dedicated job search feature

Enter your desired job title and location in the search bar. Apply filters, especially the "Date Posted" filter, to target recent job openings, like last 24 hours or week, to avoid highly competitive job posts. Broaden the filter to jobs posted in the last month if needed, but note that older postings might already have shortlisted candidates or hired.

Join job posting groups

Search for LinkedIn groups dedicated to your profession – like content writing, programming, marketing, etc. You can also use keywords like "jobs", "community", or your field of work or interest in LinkedIn's search bar to find relevant groups.

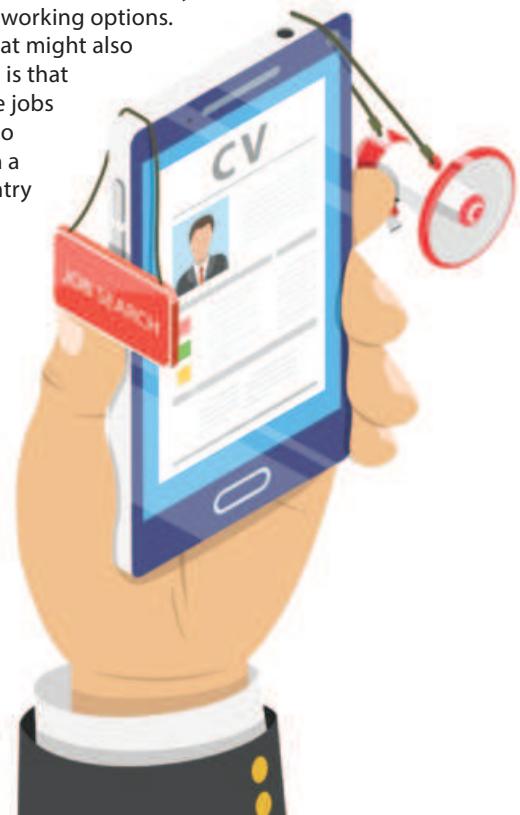
Leverage professional connections

Connect with recruiters, HR personnel, and talent acquisition professionals using keywords like "recruiter" or "talent acquisition". Also, don't hesitate to build connections with professionals in your field who may engage with job posts on the platform. Their engagement on such posts will bring those job posts to your feed.

Consider the limitations

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.



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CAREER

Do age gaps impact WORKPLACE DYNAMICS?

FARNAZ FAWAD HASAN

After being surrounded by people of the same age nearly all our lives, finding ourselves in a room full of people who belong to different age ranges can make us shift in our seats a little. But is it really all that bad? How does one navigate being one of the youngest in the room amongst people from different generations?

For Nayla*, a junior executive at NEXT Ventures, the first challenge was fitting in. Although she did not face any significant challenge regarding workplace acclimation, she found herself unable to relate to the things her coworkers were saying. "Ageism wasn't an issue since my colleagues were just a bit older, but I often felt out of place," she shared.

Joining a team where other members have known each other for longer than you have can feel isolating, considering that they share years of camaraderie. "Their inside jokes about finances, family, and kids didn't resonate with me. As one of the few women on the team, I struggled to connect, especially since they were dismissive about things like TikTok and Snapchat, and claimed that they're silly which is why I just focus on work instead," she added.

Feedback and communication can also be a tricky terrain for freshers. Lack of communication and understanding can cause major hurdles when adjusting to a new workplace. Often, many managers might forget or not feel the need to share key information

with their subordinates which creates a lack of clarity and transparency. "There was a real disconnect between my manager and I," shared Aminul Islam, a former Consulting Engineer at an IT conglomerate. "I had to manoeuvre tasks blindly because I wasn't given proper guidance or access to the resources I needed. This made the job much harder than it had to be."

In situations like this, it is extremely crucial to proactively ask for information and clarification. Maintaining a positive look, even when things don't go your way, is important albeit very difficult.

Despite these initial hurdles, many young professionals find that working with older colleagues offers benefits because a lot of coworkers are genuinely good mentors and guides. Muballigh Hossain, a solution architect at Huawei says, "If shown the ropes, learn them."

It might be hard to adjust at first due to the differences in skill set and even outlook, but with time you get familiar with how things work. "You'll be surprised how much you can learn from them if you keep an open mind and be cordial," he explained.

Elsewhere, legal counsel, Jalal Uddin Ahmed, shares the same views. He said, "Early on, I noticed differences in work styles and communication. Navigating these differences required flexibility and patience."

Building bridges with older coworkers begins with mutual respect. "I often thought that older colleagues are rigid and resistant to new ideas. Most of them

seek respect from younger colleagues whereas, they themselves extend the courtesy," said Mohd Ashraful, a marketing professional.

It is important to figure out whether it's the age gap driving the wedge between coworkers or some other factor. Effective communication and adjusting the tone of voice facilitates smoother interactions. One must focus on being assertive without coming off as abrasive.

"Despite the generational gap, I've learned that mutual respect and open-mindedness can create a collaborative environment that benefits everyone. I am fortunate that my senior colleagues were helpful and open-minded which made my job easier," expressed Jalal.

Finding common ground can further pave the way for professional rapport. Shafin Mahmud, a software engineer at Japan Bangladesh Connect Ltd, recalls bonding over his shared love for football and exploring various cuisines with his colleagues. Whether it's a shared hobby or interest, finding a common ground eases the generational gap by miles.

All seasoned professionals were once freshers, and all freshers have the potential to show their mettle and become the mentors they needed. Embrace the differences, build connections, and let the workplace become not just a job, but a place of growth and collaboration.

*Name has been changed upon request.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

CAREER

Why aspiring Bangladeshi pilots seek TRAINING ABROAD

NUSRAT MEHERIN FAIZA

"When I grow up, I want to be a pilot" – this is a dream many children hold onto as they're captivated by the allure of soaring through the sky. As time goes by, this dream often collides with harsh realities and only a few remain committed to this goal. The rest either pursue a different career path or abandon their dream altogether due to the financial challenges of being a pilot.

In Bangladesh, turning the dream of becoming a pilot into reality is particularly difficult. Those who remain committed to their dreams must put up with significant financial burdens, obsolete training facilities, and uncertainty about future career prospects. These challenges often force aspiring pilots to make tough decisions, either switching to a different career field or, in some cases, seeking training opportunities abroad.

The cost of training in flying schools in Bangladesh presents a significant challenge. Flight schools, in general, can be expensive, irrespective of the country. However, the major issue most aspiring Bangladeshi pilots, who seek training abroad, face is in terms of the standard of the training facilities offered here. In most cases, these facilities are not worth the money trainees have to pay.

"Two primary deciding factors for most aspiring pilots are the time required to complete flight training and the cost of training," says Ahmed Farhan, a commercial pilot trained at a private flying school in Dhaka. "Due to the increase in fuel prices globally, flight training in Bangladesh has become significantly more expensive. Aspiring pilots realise that the cost of training in Bangladesh is comparable to that of schools abroad. Given the choice, why pay nearly the same amount and lose more time?"

In addition to paperwork and regulatory issues, the job market in Bangladesh provides limited opportunities for pilots.

The main issue that doesn't justify the cost is the outdated and poorly maintained aircraft that flying schools use here. The most commonly used training aircraft are the Cessna 150 and 172 models, which were once reliable but now show signs of wear and tear, often disrupting training schedules.

"The maximum number of aircraft a flight school has in Bangladesh is five, while the minimum is one," Farhan added. "This is not enough to accommodate all the trainees who are waiting to get their flight hours, leading to long delays. The unpredictable weather further adds to the challenge. As a result, many find it more appealing to go abroad for training to finish in about a year and accumulate nearly 100 flight hours."

Besides, the aviation training options in Bangladesh are limited compared to countries such as the United States, Canada, Thailand, or Australia, where

abundant training facilities are equipped with the latest technology. "The disparity in training options is a major reason why many aspiring pilots choose to go abroad for their training and education to access better resources and gain more comprehensive experience," said Farshid Ahamed Siad, a private pilot trained in the United Kingdom.

Rafid Hussain, a commercial pilot license (CPL) holder who completed his training at a renowned flying academy in Melbourne, Australia, emphasised on the high standards maintained by Australia's Civil

In addition to paperwork and regulatory issues, the job market in Bangladesh provides limited opportunities for pilots. Since students, in most cases, cannot finish their training on time in Bangladesh, airlines themselves struggle to fill in the pilot shortage from time to time. Bangladesh's aviation sector is relatively small, with a limited number of airlines and minimal openings for newly qualified pilots. "Competition for these positions is fierce, and the pay scales often need to catch up to those in other countries," added Farshid.



ILLUSTRATION: ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM

Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). CASA ensures that Australian aviation programmes meet the highest international benchmarks. When asked why he chose Melbourne for flight training over any other location, he highlighted Moorabbin Airport's extensive flight training facilities. The airport is Australia's leading general aviation flight training airport, home to around ten flight academies with well-maintained aircraft like the Cirrus SR20, Diamond DA40, and Piper Archer. Rafid noted that this choice helped him obtain the CASA license and develop valuable soft skills.

The regulatory environment also adds to the complexity. The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) oversees pilot licensing and regulation, a process which often gets lengthy and challenging. Another issue that compounds the problem is obtaining an equivalency certificate if a student is from a different curriculum. Some student pilots suggested that the CAAB can embrace a more flexible policy regarding the recognition of Cambridge curriculum certificates, no matter where the training is completed. Currently, the pilots from the Cambridge curriculum are required to secure an equivalency certificate from the Dhaka Education Board, a laborious process that can take several months to complete. Once the equivalency certificate is in hand, CAAB allows these student pilots to embark on their flight training. This often leads to delays in flying hours – something trainees cannot afford.

Despite the challenges within the aviation training sectors, an initiative has been launched by a private airline in Bangladesh to train cadet pilots. This is a commendable development in the local aviation industry as it enables selected cadets to undergo flight training in Florida, where the duration to complete their training is significantly shorter compared to the typical timelines in Bangladesh. More specifically, the cadets are able to graduate in a mere year and a half. This acceleration in training not only demands less time commitment but also offers the cadets an early start to their careers. It facilitates their swift return to serve as commercial airline pilots, a beneficial move for both the cadets and the airline industry in general.

While the challenges aspiring pilots face in Bangladesh are deep-rooted, there are still signs of progress. The opening of the new terminal and introduction of new aircraft for international and domestic flights have renewed hope that the country's airline infrastructure will receive further investment. With the right support, investment, and proper infrastructure, aspiring pilots can complete their flight hours on time. Through continued advocacy and reform, the dream of soaring high may soon be within reach for many more young Bangladeshis.

Nusrat Meherin Faiza is a writer, tutor, and chronic overthinker. Reach out to fuel her overthinking at nmfaiza15@gmail.com

NOTICE BOARD

Humanitarian architecture proponent Yasmeen Lari inspires BRAC University students

The Department of Architecture at BRAC University recently hosted a lecture by Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan's first female architect and an internationally celebrated humanitarian, at the university's Merul Badda campus.

The event marked the 150th edition of the department's "Angan Lecture Series", a vibrant platform for leading thinkers and practitioners in architecture and design to share innovative ideas and inspire the next generation of architects.

Lari delivered a compelling talk titled "Save the Planet, Save Humanity: Decarbonize, Decolonize, Democratize Architecture", emphasising the transformative role that architecture can play in addressing climate change, fostering equity, and building resilience in vulnerable communities.

"Architecture is not just about building structures; it's about creating solutions that heal the planet, empower communities, and foster equity," said Lari. "By decarbonising, decolonising, and democratising architecture, we can design a future where sustainability and humanity go hand in hand."

Afterward, the audience comprising

students, faculty members, and architects from across Bangladesh engaged in a discussion moderated by BRACU's architecture department's Chairperson Zainab Faruqui Ali.

The discussion shed light on her work encompassing fashionable brutalist villas, mirrored office towers, heritage restoration projects, and essential humanitarian relief for the poorest of the poor and their relevance to architectural practices in Bangladesh and beyond.

Yasmeen Lari also conducted a week-long winter school where architecture students built a zero-carbon bamboo building, a prefabricated structure which can be used as a disaster rehab building. A multi-disciplinary session was also held with architect Lari as the main panelist.

For over two decades, Lari has championed disaster-resilient, zero-carbon housing solutions and empowered marginalised communities through her "Barefoot Social Architecture" philosophy. Her efforts brought her accolades, such as the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2023 and the Jane Drew Prize in 2020.

Angan Lecture Series 150
BRAC University
Dhaka, 23 December 2024



UIU Social Services Club distributes winter clothes

The UIU Social Services Club (UIUSSC), an initiative under the Directorate of Career Counseling and Student Affairs (DCCSA) at United International University (UIU) recently organised a distribution of winter clothes to support distressed families in the cold-stricken Koyra Upazila in Khulna.

The cold-stricken community of the northern region of Bangladesh have been severely suffering due to excessive cold waves during this winter season. Many of them do not have any warm clothes to protect themselves against the unbearable cold.

The young members of UIUSSC collected over 2000 old but usable clothes by setting up a booth at the UIU campus. They also raised funds from faculty members, administrative staff, and students of UIU for the winter clothing programme. Additionally, faculty members and officers of UIU willingly donated a good amount of money to purchase blankets for the programme.

A team from UIUSSC marched to the remote cold-stricken area of Koyra Upazila and collected data by going door-to-door. They sorted and selected the individuals who were in genuine need of warm clothes. After collecting data, they properly distributed 400 blankets, over 2000 warm clothes, and 600 units of petroleum jelly. These donations facilitated more than 750 families in Koyra Upazila.

The UIU Social Services Club is committed to serving the community. Prof. Dr Md Abul Kashem Mia, Vice-Chancellor of UIU, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the faculty members, administrative officers, and students of UIU for standing beside the cold-stricken people.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

OFF CAMPUS

Postgraduate trainee doctors deserve better

MEHRAB JAMEE and RAIAN ABEDIN

The Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree is a five-year-long undergraduate course filled with struggles and hurdles. After being thoroughly drilled to sit for four professional exams on various medical subjects and a year of mandatory internship in their respective medical colleges, students then get the license to practice medicine in this country. Post-MBBS is a land of tough competition as there is a wide disparity between undergraduate seats, jobs available for only MBBS doctors, and postgraduate opportunities. Even the recently published 43rd BCS results had health cadre positions numbered in the hundreds only.

With odds stacked against them in government jobs and in hopes of receiving a specialised postgraduate degree, many graduates attempt the FCPS part-1 exam under the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) or for an MD/MS degree under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Although these degrees vary in syllabus according to subject and speciality, they all offer specialised training for three to four years and, on paper, some amount of remuneration. This is where the trouble begins.

Postgraduate trainees form the backbone of tertiary and specialised medical institutions in this country. But the compensation they are offered in return is not satisfactory, to say the least. They are the lowest in South Asia – and the payment sees no systemic yearly increment as in other countries such as Pakistan. Before 2023 the amount was a meagre BDT 20,000. After peaceful protests, the wages were increased to BDT 25,000. A slight improvement, yet in today's unfavourable economy, it remains very insufficient for postgraduate trainee doctors to sustain a healthy way of living.

Nazmush Shakib Bappi, a Postgraduate Trainee Doctor from Sir Salimullah Medical College, echoes the sentiment carried by nearly all in his position.

"By the time we enter our postgraduate trainee phase, most of us are over 26. Some are married and even starting families," he says. "How are we supposed to manage a family, manage our own expenses, and pay for our expensive exams – each of which cost north of

Tk 13,000 – with that money?"

In the current economy, it is quite impossible for a junior doctor to sustain themselves let alone their families with such a low income. To add to the list of problems, the wages are disbursed once every six months. The recent protests for better wages by postgraduate trainees reflect years of neglect and the lack of long-term planning in terms of budget allocation to the health sector.

Mobarak Hossain, spokesperson of the United Medical Organizations of Bangladesh (UMOB), sheds light on the nature of their protests. "The Doctors Movement for Justice (DMJ) and UMOB have jointly worked to organise postgraduate trainees and protest in a peaceful manner. From our end, the demand was for a remuneration of Tk 50,000 or equivalent to a ninth-grade government employee payment which is what BCS appointees to postgraduate programmes under BSMMU and BCPS receive. But the interim government has communicated its limitations. The allowance has been set at Tk 30,000 with promises to increase it up to Tk 35,000 after July 2025."

He also said that the announcement had not met their expectations, and it was difficult for them to accept it. Considering the current woes the country is going through, postgraduate trainees have reluctantly withdrawn from the present strike and have rejoined their posts.

However, even with the increase in wages, is the allocated amount enough? Will the struggles simply subside? For Habibur Rahman, a postgraduate trainee from Chittagong Medical College, the reality still looks grim.

"I have to put my family through a lot of trouble just for this postgrad trainee course. The burden of these five years can be excruciating sometimes. And what many don't realise is that this period is an investment not just for us but for the government as well. They benefit directly from supporting doctors who are highly capable in their fields. If we have all the medical resources right here in Bangladesh, people won't have to go to other countries to seek treatment. The fact that this training period is so rough is part of the reason why the medical field has seen so many problems," he said.

The issues here are deep-rooted, and addressing

them will require time and effort. In our country, the road to building specialised doctors is a very difficult one. If a doctor has to stress over money, the atmosphere it creates is not ideal for doctors to carry out their responsibilities.

To add to the list of troubles, many doctors have also cried out about the issues related to postgraduate trainees not being allowed to attend private practice chambers. If they are caught doing so, they are not paid their wages. According to Nazmush, "In our current economic landscape, this makes living a normal life extremely difficult with our meagre wages. Despite it, some doctors attend chambers in peripheral regions of Dhaka, working long shifts just to make ends meet."

And while long working hours are by no means unheard of in the medical profession, postgraduate trainees reportedly have to work an average of 60 hours a week. With these working hours, a payment of even BDT 35,000 might seem too low. Yet, our trainees are expected to deal with it, with many of them living in debt for long stretches of time. The onus is on the system to treat our doctors better, and on us not to laugh it off when they stand in protest.

Habibur recounts the most recent protests and how it was received, "Many have said we are attempting to conspire against the current government when the reality is that our efforts long precede this current regime. Some media outlets have also dismissed our efforts, which has been disheartening to see."

The truth is that for most people who visit a government hospital, it is more likely that they will be attended to by one of these trainees than a professor. With our current healthcare infrastructure and the huge number of patients attending hospitals every day, the functionality of the system unfairly hinges on these postgraduate trainees working long hours for low wages. It is important that we do not dismiss their struggle.

Mehrab Jamee is an activist at Sandhani, a fifth-year medical student at Mugda Medical College, and writes to keep himself sane. Reach him at mehrabjamee@gmail.com.

Raiyan is a poet, a final year student at North South University, and a contributor at The Daily Star.

OFF CAMPUS

Decay of law and order is causing growing unease amongst daily commuters

AZRA HUMAYRA

When night falls, my phone lights up with my father's calls—a ringing of worry that, even without words, imparts his heightened sense of unease. This isn't about curfews; it's about a feeling of perceived insecurity. I reassure him that I'm safe—that I'm nearly home—but even as I say it, a creeping unease steals into my own thoughts, taking up space in some corner of my mind and refusing to leave.

I am scrolling through Facebook, where the headlines, status updates, and shaky videos present another wave of distressing news. The feed is full of repetitive mugging, stabbing, and theft reports. It creates a peculiar sense of unease. For women, the risks are even higher: they have to deal with harassment, catcalls, and unwanted advice, and each story makes them feel a little more vulnerable. The city is always chaotic, yet with every post, it takes on a darker atmosphere, reminiscent of a place where finding safety has become increasingly challenging. Among the interviewees, an unspoken fear pervades their accounts. The erosion of law and order looms large, casting a shadow that shapes their movements, their choices, and the fragile sense of security they once knew. "It's not like I was particularly safe before, but law enforcement would come forward when asked for assistance. That is no longer the case, and the examples of robbery and harassment I see every day on social media aren't helping either," says Noshin Nuha, a fourth-year student of Jahangirnagar University.

She recounts a moment that remains etched in her memory, her voice steady but tinged with frustration. "I was on my way somewhere with a friend when two men, clearly under the influence, started hurling insults at us, demanding we cover our heads," she said. Trapped in traffic on a rickshaw, there was no immediate escape. They looked away, willing the ordeal to end, but the bystanders offered no intervention—silent spectators in the unfolding drama. "When our rickshaw began to move, one of them ran after us and tried to touch us from behind. We screamed," she recalled, the anger palpable. Yet even then, their cries for help went unanswered. Two

volunteers, ostensibly tasked with overseeing the roads, were indifferent, dismissing their pleas with a casual apathy.

The lack of immediate response or visible action from authorities has emboldened criminals, further undermining trust in the system designed to protect them. Since August 5, a palpable sense of insecurity has taken root among the public, with citizens expressing growing concerns about their safety on the streets.

This is her reality, one that leaves little room for retreat or safety. "I don't have the privilege to stay home," she explained. Now, she carries a box cutter—a small but potent act of self-defence in a city where trust is a luxury she can no longer afford. The sharp blade, tucked into her bag, is a grim reminder of the lengths one must go to feel even marginally safe.

Raunaq Jahan Rafa, final-year student of Dhaka University, has to stay out late for tuitions. She states, "Dhaka city's regular commuting itself is a struggle that we go through every day. Added to this, the absence of law enforcement by authorities, increased traffic, recent catcalling incidents, and increasing pickpocketing keep me alarmed and paranoid at all times."

Interviewees shared an overall sense of paranoia that grips them, even when stepping outside for the most mundane tasks. The recent tragic deaths of Kamrul Hasan and Zarraf Ahmed, who were stabbed and killed by muggers, demonstrate the alarming lack of security on the streets. Despite the presence of CCTV cameras, the perpetrators show no hesitation, continuing their attacks in plain sight, further diminishing any sense of safety in public spaces.

Another student of Dhaka University, Hasibul Islam, talks about his anxiety moving around the city. He says,

"I don't

actually feel frightened of getting mugged, but I feel anxious about getting pickpocketed or snatched during commuting for university or tuitions, especially when I am using public transport. It feels unsafe walking alone after 9 PM or 10 PM, as these kinds of incidents are happening in my surroundings every now and then."

The growing tally of incidents illustrates the distressing reality of law and order. When asked why they chose not to file complaints, many interviewees voiced a sentiment that has become dishearteningly familiar. "What will happen even if I do it?" one remarked with a resignation that seemed to carry the weight of countless similar stories. It's an answer less rooted in apathy than in a learnt helplessness—a quiet indictment of a system that has consistently failed to respond, much less deliver justice.

Salman Sakib Shahryar, a graduate of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) now working full-time, shares how life has changed for him. His job often keeps him out late, sometimes until 1 or 2 AM. "I used to feel anxious, but I had faith in the law enforcement and the people around me," he explains. That faith has faded. Now, he says, he can't even trust passers-by to help if he's attacked. "These days, I feel completely alone," he admits.

For Shahryar, the fear comes from the absence of reliable law enforcement. He finds it harder to distinguish between being cautious and simply being troubled. He shares his location with family wherever he goes, but the constant anxiety has taken a toll. "It doesn't feel like living anymore," he says. "It's just surviving."

In a city where survival has taken the place of living, the loss of trust in law enforcement isn't just personal—it's a crack in the foundation of society. Security, once a basic right, now feels like a privilege, leaving communities on edge. Rebuilding faith will take time, but the path forward is clear: the systems meant to protect must be strengthened. Only then can people regain the confidence to step outside each day without fear.

Azra Humayra is majoring in Mass Communication and Journalism at the University of Dhaka. Find her at azrahumayra123@gmail.com



ILLUSTRATION: ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM