



the ULAB

A STUDENT MOUTHPIECE

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JUNE 2013



Ekattor TV CEO Samia Zaman, MSJ Head Dr. Jude Genilo and Journalism educator Anis Alamgir are analysing student works

Documenting Me the Bangladeshi

MSJ Media Exhibit, spring 2013

Zulker Naeen & Nasrin Humayra

"I am very impressed; truly I am. Your today's production - based on a format followed by a TV station - was very professional. I am pleased to see that the reporters acting as presenters. I appreciate it very much. We are also trying to change the usual format of the TV stations. We have already changed many things at

Ekattor; you all know it. It is the right time for you. Don't narrow your thoughts on our frame; think broadly." said prominent broadcast media personality and CEO of Ekattor TV Samia Zaman at the closing ceremony of MSJ Media Exhibit 2013.

The Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) Department presented its Spring Semester 2013 Media Exhibits from April 24 to 28, 2013. The exhibits brought together the works of students from various courses -

presentation of theoretical papers, advertising campaigns, visual art, digital art, video art, photography, digital productions, television productions and online exhibits. Every semester, the MSJ Department launches an exhibit - the latest one being its twelfth. The theme for Spring Semester 2013 was "Documenting me the Bangladeshi."

The theme for this semester highlights the document theory pioneered by Otlet, later modified and re-introduced by Winfeld Lund. Lund (2010) defines documents as "any result of human efforts to tell, instruct, teach or produce by using some means in some ways." According to Lund, the process of documentation can be seen as constituted by four elements: producers, instruments, modes and documents.

There are 11 courses under the Curriculum Integration Program of MSJ: Electronic Journalism, Propaganda, Persuasion & Public Discourses, Convergence Communication I, Film History, Visual Communication, Mass Communication, Public Relations, Introduction to Photography, Convergence Communication II, Advertising, and Communication and Technology.

Distinguished guests, the students of MSJ, Dept Head Dr Jude Genilo, along with members of the faculty were present at the Media Exhibit of 2013. In this session, certificates were awarded to the apprentices of the film course. The programme came to an end through the speech of ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor Imran Rahman.

A Bottom-up Approach towards a better ULAB

Zulker Naeen

The ULABian has been providing a platform to point out key issues and widen the scope to discuss issues with open minds. It is mainly a bottom-up approach. This helps ULAB top brass to identify internal problems, and chalk out innovative strategies and methods to mitigate them.

To make the voices of the students heard, ULAB has for the first time launched an online survey. From February to April, 2013, the survey continued on the website: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ULAB2013. In order to know the notions of the students both on academic and administrative issues, this initiative was aimed at building a better



ULAB Students are performing in the online survey

ULAB. The Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) worked with ULAB's Academic Research unit during this survey. Students needed 20 minutes to fill out the survey form that contained 82 questions - both open and close ended - and the answers were kept anonymous and confidential. During the last session, that is Spring 2013, 52

full-time faculty members and 800 students completed the survey. Dr Daniel M Sabet, now the director of CES, has shared his regards with the "First Students' Survey" - a "bottom-up approach" towards academic development. The survey had several objectives. Firstly, ULAB wanted to get an idea of the level of

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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Mahbubul Alam Shourav

After getting admitted to ULAB, I found many new faces around me in my class; all are different from others in terms of their moods and attitudes. Some are introvert while some are verbose. A few classmates made their own circles very early by choice. Since I am very fond of traveling, I always look for friends with cheerful, frank and fresh minds who love to smile. Finding a couple of good hearts was not so tough. We made a circle of seven friends who liked to roam outside. Komol, Shuvo, Sagor, Walid, Ismail, Shafayat and I were the members of our small team. Following grinding academic pressure at the end of the 1st semester, we were looking for natural refreshment. The day the the last exam ended, we were chatting in the canteen, when suddenly we decided to go on an excursion somewhere inside the country. When I said "How about the Sundarbans!" Everyone readily agreed.

Why the Sundarbans? There are many other tourist destinations in our country like Cox's Bazaar, the longest unbroken sea beach in the world, Sylhet, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Kuakata. But we chose the Sundarbans because none of our team members had ever been to the biggest mangrove forest in the world. So, we all agreed and were eagerly waiting to be in the Sundarbans. But as it turned out, planning is a lot easier than to make the plan happen.

We were seven - all with different problems! While one was worried that his parents would not permit, another was running low with the pocket money. While one had additional pressure of work, another needed to go to his village home. Making the tour seemed completely impossible.

But despite all the problems somehow we were all present at the the Kamalapur Railway Station on June 2, 2011. Although the train was scheduled to leave at 7pm, we had reached by 6pm so that we could take some necessary preparations. We were waiting for four hours and listening to the announcement that our train "Chitra express" was coming from from Khulna. So, we literally sat for an examination of patience. It finally arrived at around 11pm and within 15 minutes we were on our way. As the whistle was blown, we all gave out a loud cheer. The splendid night view outside the window as the train moved along, the sudden sparks of light, the sound of the wind going past our ears and the magical "ku-jhikjhik" the train made - all combined into a really enchanting experience.

I felt the taste of freedom from the mechanisations of life - the experience was just unexplainable. We passed the night playing card games and chatting. We reached the Khulna station at around 8am.

With our sleepy eyes, we took some group photos. We went to a restaurant and had breakfast. Then we started our journey again to the Mongla port by bus. After two hours, we reached the port. We booked a hotel named "Poshur", located at the Mongla port and was very close to the Sundarbans. We reserved two rooms that overlooked the river. After having lunch, we finally started our cherished journey to the Sundarbans.

First of all, we went to the beautiful "Koromjol." The place was simply awesome. As some places are restricted for tourists, we bribed the officials and took an armed guard with us to go deep inside of the forest by an engine boat. We were amazed by the panoramic view of the Sundarbans and

finally came to realize why it was among the new "Wonders of the World." We saw many animals inside the forest. Sweet chirpings of many birds soothed our minds and the jumping and screaming of monkeys made our trip more exciting. Unfortunately we could not see any Bengal tiger. We saw the reptiles at crocodile farm - cultivated for local and international business. We came back to the hotel in the evening after thoroughly enjoying the trip.

We roamed visited a number of renowned places in Khulna and got ourselves ready to go to the historical architectural sight of the Shat Gambuj Mosque, established by Khan Jahan Ali.

On Friday, we crossed the beautiful Rupsha Bridge by bus. We took baths and swam in the huge old pond just beside the more than 100 years old mosque. Then we offered Jumma prayers at the Shat Gambuj mosque. As we were saying our prayers, a heavy downpour started. The downpour outside and the calm and sacred environment inside the mosque created a sooth in our minds. The mosque looked very holy from the inside and we were surprised to see the equipment used to build it. We visited the museum there but there was no light.

The rain was incessant. We came out of the mosque, climbed on to the roof of a bus and got fully drenched by the time we reached the the bus station. We booked ticket to come back to Dhaka that night.

It was the first ever tour that we made after joining the university. It was also the first tour of the 111 batch. After this successful tour, we have plans to go to some of the famous places outside Bangladesh. That was the promise with which we ended the tour. "May our friendship live long!"



Sabiha Sultana

It was one of the coldest November nights last year. All the sleepy luxurious apartments were lurking in the dark blue of the night. At midnight, Lira was waiting for her husband beside her one-year-old baby boy. It seemed like the pale glow from the street light has snatched away the brightness of her face. Even the mobile screen looked pale and blue when it flashed, "The number you have dialed is currently unreachable".

Her eyes were fixed on the screen with her body motionless on the bed by the glass window. She has turned into a piece of ice.

Milon Rahman worked as a sales executive in a multinational company. New job, low

classes and managed to continue doing the classes with the help of Monica, the housemaid.

She helped Lira in every way possible. She was a very good listener and would silently listen to all her depression and aggression. She took care of her Madam's cigarette box and lighters. Apart from the baby boy, Monica was the only person that Lira could talk to and share her feelings.

"Oh! Monica! I will paint again." Lira's happiness knew no bound. "Here see ...my old painting book. I haven't seen it in years! I will do it again Monica, again!"

"But, Madam.....what about sir?" Monica looked scared.

"Master? Monica, I want to paint. Want to

moves on you know! Just trying to adjust with it!"

She looked frustrated. Her face made it obvious. Even Farhan didn't know what to say.

Lira said, "Drop all these. Let's talk about you. Did you get married? What about kids? How many of them do you have?"

Farhan smiled and said, "You married someone else, who will marry me? You read my letter and never said anything. You went away."

"I didn't reply doesn't mean that nobody will ever love you! And, truly ...A promising handsome man like you is up for stealing anyone's heart!"

"If so, why didn't I get you?" Farhan sounded

AN ABATING ESTEEM

income, and even lesser attention to wife and family. He got nearly 10 jobs in six months; joined three, gave up seven. Virtually every first week of a month he would come up to Lira and say, "I'm switching job." "I don't feel like working here" or "I need of more money" were his excuses.

At 2 in the morning, Milon came home drunk. Lira was not astonished; neither did not shout. "I thought you would come early" Lira said in a husky voice. "It was our anniversary."

"Ah! Anniversary? Oh! I didn't remember. Umm....look at you....you were expecting gifts and flowers from me right?" Milon mocked at Lira's tears. "Ha ha ha! Gifts and red roses do not come for free." His voice became harsh. "You need money for celebrations!"

"I never wanted those," she Calmly said. "I just wanted to have you by my side. Just wanted to feel like your wife. Just wanted your love," she broke into tears.

"It needs no money to get husband's love at least."

"Oh! It's all about money you foolish woman. You have a chicken's brain! You don't know anything. Stop all the drama. It is late. I need to sleep...sleep..."

Milon sunk into deep sleep in a minute. Lira kept looking at her husband's face for a while. Right away she went back to the study, lit a cigarette with the fire from the white candle.

After few days, Lira went to pick up grocery. A poster of a art training caught her attention. She used to paint in college. She registered her name and came home with lots of hope. After getting married, she stopped everything. Lira's parents were rich, ready to spend money for her study and livelihood. Milon wanted Lira to stay home and take care of household and the baby. She didn't let Milon know about the painting

play with colours again," Lira sounded frustrated. "I spend my whole day doing nothing but looking after my baby only. I feel lost. Lonely like anything when he sleeps. Look, your master remains outside the whole day and I'm just alone, Monica. I need to do something for my own. I need to breathe."

"But, Madam"

"No but Monica. I'm doing it. And that is final." Lira affirmed.

The next day Lira went to her painting class. Not very far from home. There were four large rooms with huge windows. Each room wore colourful looks. Lira was amazed to see the extended space. She saw a man in white shirt standing before a painting, looking at it with his keen and sharp eyes.

"Excuse me, is this the Art Academy? I'm here to join my first class," said Lira to draw the attention of the man.

He turned around habitually, "Oh! Yes, you are at the right place ma'am." He curiously asked, "Umm ...excuse me, do I know you? Are you Lira? Lira Hamid?"

"Who are you? Are you Farhan Zaman? Oh my god, it is you, Farhan!" Lira giggled excitedly, "Oh my God! Farhan? So good to see you here."

Both of them were really delighted to seeing each other after such a long time.

"How are you? Where have you been all these years?" Lira asked.

"Well! I went to Paris for an art degree. Didn't feel like staying there. Came back home. Wanted to open this Art school and here I am. How have you been?"

Lira remained silent for a while before she said, "You know about that short notice wedding - wished and arranged by my mother. I conceived right after. You know my husband was struggling. Struggling for money." She paused for a few moments and then said, "Yes, all is good.... but... life just

serious. He remained silent for a while, embarrassed with the question.

Lira looked directly into his eyes. Farhan got nervous. To hide it he said, "Just kidding. Did you quit smoking?"

Lira smiled drily, "I have to leave now. My little boy is home alone." She almost ran away from Farhan. He kept standing there, feeling guilty for saying all those.

Would Lira ever come back? Did he lose her again? Farhan asked himself.

Lira stormed back home and lied-down on bed beside the baby. She saw her baby was giggling at her sight. Lira played with him, sang and thought of Farhan. There was a feeling of regression within Lira that if she had accepted his proposal, her life would have been different.

Farhan Zaman is really handsome. His sharp black eyes, the manly baritone, his perfect height, smooth fair complexion, the lovely tenderness and the affectionate approach kept intruding Lira's thoughts. She was stumbling. As if something was happening and she was failing catch it. She was restless and confused.

As usual, Milon came home at 2am. He did not need to ring the doorbell. The door was open as usual. Lira was waiting for him with a burning cigarette in her hand. She didn't say anything. Milon went for a shower, ate dinner and went to bed. Lira went to bed too, laid right by him. Watching his face closely but thinking of Farhan. Lira passed the night this way.

The next morning Lira was sitting in front of the mirror, dressing up for Farhan, asking herself questions after questions. "Am I still in love with him? Should I tell him? How? Is this right to feel the love now, to feel his love? What should I do? Why am I taking the pain to look beautiful by rubbing these cosmetics

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Saddat Hossain

When the sparkling stars fell in love with the vast blue sky and they lived as a family, children as adorable as the moon were born as blessings on planet earth. They appear on their mortal protectors' arms with a pair of small white wings wrapped around their body. They possess a pair of stars in a couple of sockets in their heads by which they look towards the faces of their guardians. While being blessed on this earth, they cry out as if they are willing to fly vast distances through the same blue sky and wish to wave hands to the same sparkling stars. However, the wings take almost a year to make the first

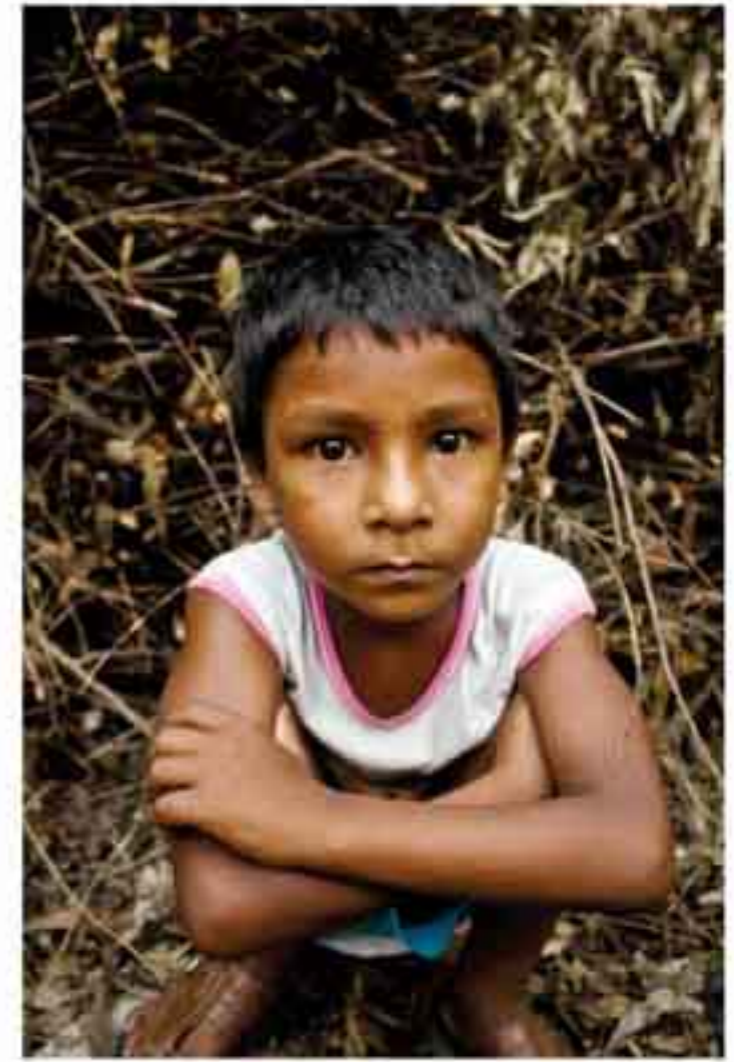


Sacred Creations



appropriate flaps to transcend from the ground; they often fall as immediately as they make their first efforts: some keep falling, while others manage to glide a little more and still fall, while some hold their stable grounds.

Whether planned or not, children all around the world are perceived as innocent beings, tabula rasa! Though they symbolize angels in



this world, they really do not have the wings to fly. Yet, they take quick and subtle footsteps with their tiny little feet to run around corners of the house or on open grounds. The very first few words of mortal beings often directly address their parents - the vast blue sky and the sparkling stars. Sacred words they are! As if they are uttered directly by the spirits themselves.

With very young and fresh minds, children do not have the capability of understanding the harsh drama of life going around them all the time. Yet with their miniature evolving brains, they sow large dreams everyday of becoming someone recognizable. We can hardly guess how each of their lives will turn out to be as they grow up! There will always be obstacles to trip them down when they get clear ideas about the harsh drama of life. Some lack financial support, some lack inspiration, while others lack good parents.



All of them are indeed recipes for disaster! There are solutions too; but not every child is blessed enough to have a solution. One needs to ponder about the causes and effects in their lives.

EDITORIAL

WHY ONE HAS TO BE A+ TAGGED

Parents would never want to see the depression in their son who couldn't get admitted to his desired college. No student wants into disappear from the undergrad admission test. Nobody wants to accept failure as fate. This is a very common story with the students here in Bangladesh. Who are really responsible for this situation? Aren't the students good enough to study medicine or engineering or something else at esteemed institutions? So is it necessary to be tagged with both A+?

It is extremely stirring to see that the results of this year's SSC exams have exceeded all previous performance records on all counts, including the madrasa and vocational education boards. The pass rate hit a record high of 89.72 percent, 3.40 percentage points higher than that of the last year. Last year, the combined pass rate was 86.32, which was 82.31 percent in 2011.

A total of 77,381 students under eight



2013 SSC passed student's joy

Source: The Dhaka Tribune

general education boards secured the highest grades GPA-5 this year, up by 12,129 on last year. The number of top graders in 10 boards combined also rose to 91,226 from last year's 82,212. Only 76 students managed to secure GPA-5 in 2001 when the grading system was initiated.

On the 9th of May, during a crowded press conference at the ministry, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, "The results showed a positive progress in all indicators. Not only the pass rate, a qualitative change in the standard of education is also apparent." The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education of the government has showed a lot of statistics about the overall performance. But the ecstasy of many students will not last long due to the uncertainty surrounding their admission into preferred colleges. The number of good colleges is not increasing at par with the number of successful SSC candidates every

year. Although a total of 15,40,249 seats are available at the eleventh class in all the colleges across the country, only a few quality institutions have adequate facilities for the students. It is therefore by no means enough considering the 89.72 percent success rate in SSC.

What is more alarming is that colleges do not have the necessary space to accommodate all the students who came out successful in the SSC exams. Even the upcoming results of the HSC exams are also expected to break all previous records. But what would happen when the successful students try to pursue a bachelor degree? Many won't be able to get into a public university, with still many of them unable to afford the expenses of a private university. A question then inevitably comes: what is the use of such outstanding results? Even many students with A+ tags in both SSC and HSC would be reeling. Who will narrate a satisfactory story to them with illustrative causes?

A Bottom-up Approach

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satisfaction of the students and the faculty members with ULAB and to generate and encourage specific ideas and suggestions for improving ULAB. Second was to have a better understanding of the student body. Third was to look for improving campus learning by collecting data on some basic learning indicators. Fourth, the survey was designed to inform about specific programs and projects.

CES has informed that primary data collection has just been finished and analysis was going on. Even the students from the 12th term, who have neared graduation, have also been surveyed by this initiative. The survey entailed graduates to evaluate ULAB and offer suggestions for betterment. An additional focus was put on the assessments to find out what approach the ULAB students adopt in the field of jobs. CES hoped for a greater response from students in future.

The survey was intended to help ULAB continually improve as an academic institution. At the evaluation stage, most graduates expressed concerns about the poor

and rough behaviour of the ULAB staff. This deliberates ULAB to organize staff training to address the issues raised. CES mentioned that the designed questions allowed ULAB to better address a host of challenges including ensuring an effective Student Affairs Office and improving English education.

Dr Daniel M Sabet asserted that the Survey was a continuous process to monitor ULAB's progress over time. But including even the 12th term students in the survey, CES aimed to ensure that satisfied ULAB graduates would make future leaders. ULAB has always been ready to listen to the students' opinions; but this endows students an easy means to express.

Most institutions trail "top-down approach" in their academic development and welfare, where student participation is always a secondary issue. Such an approach would never allow the top brass of the institution's management to hear pioneering voices from the students. Of ULAB's many firsts, this "bottom-up approach" is just another - initiated to take in to account students' innovative strategies. By this approach, ULAB again ensures the liberty of arts.

Message from Editor

The ULABian hub is once again conceited to publish yet another issue of ULABian. This is indeed a great opportunity for the contributors to get concurrent experience of how newspaper works. One great thing about ULABian, here it allows students from ULAB's other departments to gain valuable experience, with this initiative. If not journalism, the team work and being driven for an objective will come in handy in the future.

In this issue, within our limited space we touchdown on a number of things. Starting from what's happening at ULAB to critical situation in our country affecting all our lives. This time, we have also kept some room on personal development topics for students.

It has been a pleasure working with everyone. We hope you will feel the same while reading it. Lastly, don't hesitate to get in touch with the ULABian team, a student mouthpiece. If you want to contribute or share any of your ideas on how we can make ULABian a better publication, get involved!!

The ULABian Team | Chief Advisor: Dr. Jude William R. Genilo, Advisory Editor: Mahbulul Haque Osmani, Editor: Zulker Naeen (MSJ), Sub-Editor: Khan Mohammad Faisal (USB), The ULABian hub: Sabiha Sultana (DEH), Naim Mustafiz (MSJ), Saddat Hossain (MSJ), Samira Tasnim Karim (MSJ), Nahian Muntasir Chowdhury (MSJ), Mahbulul Alam Shourav (MSJ), Ananta Gourab (MSJ), Tasnima Akhter (MSJ), Modina Jahan Rime (MSJ), Tasnuva Atique (USB), Nasrin Humayra (DEH).

The ULABian requests its readers to send views, comments and press releases via email to the ulabian@ulab.edu.bd. The campus paper greets photographs, features, and stories from the university Students. Your best story will be printed after selection. So you, our interested candidates may be called for interview to unite with the ULABian. Your submissions are subject to editing.

The Glory of the Regulars

Ananta Gourab & Tasnima Akhter

By habit or by nature, students look pretty ordinary doing daily classes and addafying on streets. Sporadic learning is common with the undergraduates and there is hardly anything unusual next to political nuisance. These tedious moments can give rise to momentary spark of thoughts, filled with witty insights. But apart from that, it's all pretty usual, really mundane things with a mostly procrastinating bunch of students. Who thought that these students could blaze up with an unprecedented incident that took place out of nowhere?

paid for the day, they kept on working until the building collapsed with more than 3,000 souls in it.

The tragedy brought everyone together. Everyone tried to save as many lives as possible at that time. From the armed forces member to the common passerby, everyone tried to carry out their humanistic responsibilities. The city students, many of whom were from miles away, made their mark in this humanitarian crisis.

Mishu, a ULAB CSE department student, who is also a cartoonist, said, "I knew it won't

did what I could do best. I drew. I sat in front of both the campuses and did caricature of my friends, they paid me with money which I donated for the supplies."

His total contribution was a staggering Tk21,250! He modestly added, "I don't know how much this means for all those victims, but when it's for a good cause, I believe the amount doesn't matter."

We can get glimpses of personalities like Mishu, who care truly for people, only at times like these. The ULAB Social Welfare Club also collected Tk10,000 for the Savar victims, and stood by them with 1,000 pieces of bread, 500 pieces of dry cake and electric instruments like bulb-holder and electric.

Right after the accident, many university youth organizations in the country started their own blood donation programs. North South University's Social Services Club (NSUSSC) helped Savar tragedy victims with utmost dedication. They provided food, water and other supplies and donated nearly Tk6,00,000. NSU architecture student Abrar Rahman said, "One of the biggest drawbacks we face is soil testing, which is absolutely necessary before building something and sadly, it is not maintained here. They are supposed to go to private organizations or BUET to get the soil tested."

Students of the MSJ department Susanta, Rony and Hasan are also musicians, who arranged a small concert to raise money for the victims by performing inspirational songs. These songs upheld the struggles of the marginalized people and asked them to be conscious of their own rights. The amount collected by selling tickets was donated to the National Orthopedic Hospital for the treatment of the injured garment workers.

They were but all regular students like you and me, who knew their responsibilities; they showed us that becoming extraordinary was possible through kindness by whatever means possible at desperate times by helping people. Nothing probably gives a person more satisfaction than this. We can be absolutely sure that people like them will always be in plenty because otherwise, the world would have been a far worse place to live in. For all the regular and average people, this was their story of glory through small contributions.



A Rana Plaza catastrophe injured is taken for medical treatment

24th April, a catastrophe befell our city. It left our country along with the rest of the world in a state of shock. As a disaster prone country, we are quite used to hazards. But the Savar Tragedy surpasses all devastations. This episode is the most terrible industrial catastrophe in Bangladesh's history, a thousand casualties, with couple of thousands more injured, many of whom lost their limbs. The readymade garments factories housed inside the ill-fated Rana Plaza catered to the needs of the western markets. The building however was reported to be made of sub-standard materials, without any proper architectural plan. Initially it was supposed to be a mere five-storied building, but the greedy owner illegally turned it into a nine-storey one.

This tragic accident could have been easily avoided. The day before the incident, all the factories inside the building were closed down when cracks appeared on the walls. But Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, assured the tenants that the building was safe enough to carry on with their works. Police too had ordered evacuation. The bank on the first floor was closed down as well on the 24th. The managers of the garment factories, on the floors above, forced workers to keep working longer shifts. Fearing that they might not be

matter much if I went to Savar to help those victims. There were already so many people helping them. Food and water were also in plenty. But there was a shortage of oxygen cylinder and medicine. I wanted to help them but didn't have enough money and I didn't want to go ask people for money either. So I



An injured is rescued from the collapse

Street nourishment for UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Md. Naim Mostafiz

"In a lot of ways I think food is starting to take the place in culture that rock and roll took 30 years ago, in that eating has become incredibly political. And just as the street has always dictated fashions on music and other things, it's starting to happen that way in food." —Jonathan Gold, L.A. Weekly food critic.

Street food is very much trendy with young people in Bangladesh. Some take street food as a daily custom, while others take occasionally with friends. Dhanmondi is one of the busiest areas in the metro, with

Stamford University, lives with her husband at Banani. She too likes to eat street food because these are very tasty and reasonable. She is habituated to taking street food when she hangs around outside the campus. But she is a very concerned about the side effects like food poisoning, gastric problems and effects on the liver in the long run. She suggested that the manufacturer should be more careful about hygiene while making these food. She expects that the government, with mobile courts, would be remain vigilant in ensuring that these roadside shops supply and sell quality food.

In Dhanmondi, street food comes in a variety

was going this month, he said, "As most of the universities are closed due to semester break, business was a bit dull." It is clear from his answer that most street food shops operate around the university campuses.

Recently a study was carried out on the socio-economic conditions, commitment towards hygiene and sanitary practices of street food vendors in three areas namely Dhanmondi, Mothijheel and Lalbag under Dhaka City Corporation. A sample size of 300 street food vendors selling commonly consumed foods was selected equitably. In Dhanmondi, 50% of the analyzed food contained multiple drug resistant bacteria, 33% contained Ampicillin and Penicillin resistant ones, and only 17% showed susceptibility to antibiotic or single drug resistance. Dr Rukhsana Amin, HMO of

Dermatology at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital, said, "By eating street food one can usually have stomach infections, food poisoning. Moreover, severe diseases dysentery, typhoid, cholera, jaundice, e coli, gastro intestinal, kidney infections, etc. may occur in the long run." The government has no specific law to monitor the quality of street food. So, if your stomach hurts after taking a load of "vel puri", you can't blame anyone for it. It's always good to keep a part of your stomach free. Controlled and contained eating is always good for health.

The rapid pace of urbanization would mean that in future, more and more food would be needed just to ensure

everyone's survival. A large number of people would find self-employment by setting up street food shops. The government can ensure the quality of street food only by formulating a few policies like regulations and licenses for street food vendors, infrastructure, services and vending unit design and construction by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). A proper schooling should be initiated for food handlers so that they can ensure hygienic environment and food.



A student is taking nourishments

numerous campuses of schools and private universities, where a number of street food shops are available around campus.

For having long scheduled classes, Rubayet Hasan Porag, a student of ULAB, has to eat street food almost every day. He lives in a students' mess in Shajahanpur. He never asks any question about the quality of street food. He, however, admits having problems like acidity, food poison and subsequent stomach pains.

Kaniz Fatema Nishi, a student of the

of forms. New items enter frequently to appeal the customers. The latest item is the Egg burger, a very popular food item among the students and passers by of Dhanmondi 4/A, in front of the ULAB campus. Just beside it, KK (Kazi and Kazi) tea booth is the latest addition.

Md Rubel, a street food vendor at Dhanmondi 15/A bus stand, said, "People of all ages come to eat our food, but most of our customers are students from schools and universities". When asked how his business

Keeping it clean

Khan Mohammad Faisal

Every time we go for holidays to a developed country, we are readily impressed by the better infrastructure, beautiful places to visit and most importantly the cleanliness. Now focusing on the cleanliness part, we generally develop a notion from these observations that they have been always like that and their people knew their civic duties. We follow their rules, admire them and feel sad when we come back and carry on with

our mundane day to day activities, and continue with our age-long habits.

If you have been in Bangladesh for most of your life, I am sure at one time or the other you have littered on the street, at a park or any other public places without any hesitation. You have never thought much about it, even though you are the same person who complains how filthy the city is or stop breathing every time you pass the dumpsters. I am sure it's just the other day round when you finish your bottle of Coke and throw it away anywhere after you finish drinking. The same goes with food packages. Do you remember how many times you have

spit without the minimum consideration? ULAB students need to be aware of the effects that littering can have on the environment. Where did you leave the dirty paper packets from the last "jhal-muri" or the chips that you had? Do you remember the sound it made every time you threw garbage from your room through the window or the balcony? Perhaps not. It is essential for us to keep our campus and our city clean.

Not only do we lack the necessary infrastructure to dispose of the waste produced by the urban dwellers, we in general are not aware of our responsibilities.

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Duke of Edinburgh Awards at ULAB

Tasnuva Atique

It has been for a while; ULAB launched the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh's Award for all Ulabian students. Many students have attended the information seminars; still many are unaware of this program. The initiative has entailed through an event at ULAB auditorium with Mr. Jim McCabe, Treasurer of DofE's Award Foundation in Bangladesh, now serving as the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank here.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award abbreviated as DofE is an award, given for completing program of activities, undertaken by anyone between ages 14 to 24. These programs can take 1 to 4 years to complete depending on the route taken. The participants must commit to complete their program by their 25th age. This international award reinforces on a belief, liberal arts education helps to nurture a complete human being.

There are three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections at



Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. With the assistance from adult leaders (respective faculty members in the case of ULAB), participants select and set objectives in the following areas:

1. Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community.
2. Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
3. Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
4. Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
5. At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth Residential section, which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity.



Amitabh Reza's talk on advertising and marketing trends in Bangladesh

Advertising & marketing trends in Bangladesh

Prolific ad maker Amitabh Reza was the keynote speaker of a seminar entitled "Advertising & Marketing trends in Bangladesh", organized by the ULAB School of Business on March 10, 2013.

In his discussion, Amitabh shared the stories about the Banglalink television commercials. He also shared his experiences about visual blocking, different treatments of camera, and about why (Pre-Production Meeting) PPM is obvious in the policy of an advertising agency.

The seminar was complemented by another renowned producer and director Syed Gousul Alam Shaon, managing director of Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd.

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP for Women at ULAB

On April 12, 2013, volunteer group "Agamee" and the Student Affairs Office of ULAB organized a "Self-defense workshop for women." Judo expert Nayana Chowdhury, Assistant Director of the Physical Education Centre of Dhaka University, coached 22 dynamic female students of ULAB on how to protect themselves from physical attack. The trainer demonstrated techniques with ULAB volunteer Pervez, and held a practice session for the participants. She believes that there is a need for this kind of practicum so that

women can learn how to protect themselves. Terming all forms of sexual harassment a social evil, she hoped that this initiative would contribute to the empowerment of Bangladeshi women. She expressed satisfaction with the workshop and thanked ULAB.

The workshop was prearranged, as part of Agamee's mission to combat violence against women and communal violence. Agamee was founded by journalist Ananta Yusuf, along with ULAB students and ELT Professionals Rebeqa Badiozaman and Afia Alam.



Self Defense Workshop Trainees

Aly Zaker speaks on Marketing and Communications

Aly Zaker, chairman of Asiatic 3Sixty, spoke at ULAB as part of the Business and Economics Talk Series CES and ULAB on February 27, 2013. He spoke on the situation of Marketing and Communications in Bangladesh.

Aly Zaker is widely known for his long and successful acting career. However, he is also the chairman of Asiatic 3Sixty, a successful group of firms dedicated to marketing and communication, media, public relations, broadcast, audio-visual productions, and research. In addition to being a pioneer in theater and television, he has also been at the forefront of the country's growing industry of marketing communications. Moreover, his company Asiatic Marketing Communications Ltd. is one of the country's most successful marketing communications company, serving many of Bangladesh's biggest brands.



Aly Zaker at CES Series Talk



ULAB Beats Sri Lanka's Moratuwa in Red Bull Campus Cricket World Tournament

ULAB beat Sri Lanka's University of Moratuwa by 8 wickets in the first match of Group B in the Red Bull Campus Cricket World Finals Tournament, in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 2, 2013.

In the day-night match at the Premadasa Stadium, Moratuwa won the toss, chose to bat first and scored 86 runs in the stipulated 20 overs. ULAB's Arman

Badsha, Asif Sazzad and Tanmoy Roy picked up 2 wickets each. Morsalin Mortaza was the most economical bowler, giving away only 5 runs for 1 wicket in his 4 overs. In reply, ULAB cruised to victory scoring 88 runs in only 9.3 over, losing just 2 wickets. Hasan Zaman scored 35 runs of 23 balls.

The tournament was a platform for young

cricketers "to discover and maximize their potential and connect with their inner heroes." This was second edition of the annual tournament, and had brought together six cricket teams from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, England and Australia following qualifier tournaments in their respective countries. ULAB represented Bangladesh.



Chris Riley talks in Seminar, at ULAB Auditorium

Talk by Chris Riley, Strategic Planning Consultant

ULAB organized a talk entitled "Nike, Apple, Samsung and Beyond: The Changing Nature of Global Brands" by Chris Riley, Strategic Planning Consultant, on February 7, 2013. He mostly talked about two brands: Nike and Apple. He said they were two master storytellers. Both brands exhibit great discipline, commitment to high quality, and consistency in approach to Global Marketing strategy.

In comparison, he said, Apple had a simpler story. Unlike Nike, Apple did no celebrity endorsement.

He also said Samsung was destined to be the largest global brand very soon with its already established global image.

About the secret of success of the global

brands, Chris said, "Powerful Storytelling creates market strengths, and the commitment to very high quality execution is the reason after this"

Chris Riley, one of the world's leading strategic consultants on brand and communications, has been working as a strategist and researcher in advertising, design and marketing since 1983. He led the worldwide strategic planning function of advertising agency Wieden + Kennedy from 1991 to 2002. Between 2002 and 2005, he worked out of Portland, Munich, Helsinki and Singapore. Between 2005 and 2010 he was the head of Strategic Planning in Apple Inc's Graphic Design and Marketing Communication Group in Cupertino, California.

Human Trafficking Sex Workers and their children in Bangladesh

On February 7, 2013, an imperative colloquium on "Human Trafficking, sex workers and their children in Bangladesh" was held in collaboration with the MSJ and the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB. Rafeya Azad presented the research findings, exploring "Vulnerability of the sex workers' children and the potential risks in the mainstreaming process." The other findings were presented by Zakir Hossain on, "Steroid use, sexual risk and violence among brothel based sex workers." Under the direction of Action Aid Bangladesh, the LEADR Project has been promoting the human rights and dignity of sex workers and their children in three of the country's major brothels. As a component of this endeavor, CSD in partnership with Action Aid Bangladesh has worked to foster the development of research into the risks and vulnerabilities confronting these marginalized groups. Not only giving voice to the country's trafficking victims, sex workers, and the children of sex workers, but they also pointed the way towards more effective societal and governmental responses to the challenges they face.

The research was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) as part of the "Liberation and Empowerment: Attaining Dignity and Rights for Sex Workers and their Children in Bangladesh" (LEADR) Project.



Advantages of Learning a Third Language

ULABian Desk

There are many advantages of learning a foreign language. Some are well known others are less talked about but just as important, nonetheless.

First, it is clear that one of the key advantages of learning another language lies in the fact that a second or third language can advance one's career in ways that were not possible before. In the increasingly global, competitive multicultural economic and business environment, a key advantage of learning another language is the confidence it will build in communicating with a larger percentage of colleagues and peers in your particular industry. It is often the basis of promotion and relocation to more advantageous career avenues when a person knows a foreign language. Armed with this information, one can clearly see the advantages of learning another language from a business point of view.

Second, from a personal standpoint, there are also advantages of learning another language. It is true that many great works of literature are translated from the writer's native language to that of many other languages. So a wider audience can read his or her work. One of the less talked about

advantages of learning another language is that you can read great works of literature and non-fiction in the language of which it was first intended. Imagine reading Einstein's theory of relativity in German, or Dostoyevsky in Russian. This can be a great motivating factor for English speakers to learn another language, but is also useful for non-English speakers to learn a second or third language. It is often a requirement in many graduate level liberal arts programs.

There are many other advantages of learning another language. With the proper attitude, motivation and success mentality, a second or third language can be mastered and life reach a new level of meaning and enjoyment. Places in Dhaka where you can learn a foreign language:

German : Goethe Institute

French : Alliance Francaise

Japanese : JUAAB

Persian : Iranian Cultural Center

Hindi : Indira Gandhi Cultural Center

Chinese : BRAC and NSU's Chinese Language Center

We also have our very own Institute of Modern Languages in Dhaka University where you can also learn Spanish, Arabic and Korean besides the languages mentioned above.

GRE & GMAT

A positive yardstick for your CGPA

ULABian Desk

Many of us, in our third or fourth year of study at the university, plan to go abroad for further studies in respective subjects. Besides having a good CGPA and strong extra-curricular presence, it is important to know about standardized tests like GRE & GMAT. A common standardized test is IELTS, conducted jointly by the British Council, IDP & the University of Cambridge, which tests English language abilities required for studying in an international university

where English is the principal medium of instruction. While IELTS is befallen as a common exam, still GRE & GMAT are attempted by a limited number of students. Graduate Records Examination (GRE) is a uniformed test for almost all lines of study ranging from engineering to humanities. If one wants to get into a top university with a scholarship, a good GRE score is a must. Imagine how a good GRE score can save you 15-20 lakh taka annually! Both exams test your aptitude and give the education officers a fit scaffold to do glowing at masters' level. These exams consist of two sections - the qualitative and quantitative. Though the two exams are similar, they have many differences in testing approach and the

ULAB becomes member of the UNAI Team

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is pleased to proclaim that it had become a member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in furthering the realization of intellectual social responsibility and promoting the Millennium Development Goals. Members are expected to further policies and programmes that reflect the principles governing the UNAI, including undertaking one new activity each year, like research



projects and papers, the hosting of a conference, the financing of participation of students in a specific United Nations activity in the field, or a specific action or activity on campus.

With 9 universities from Bangladesh as members of UNAI, ULAB is the only university in Bangladesh with a core value of Sustainable Development. Through its Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), ULAB conducts research and collaborates on multiple initiatives which include the MDGs.

syllabus. Besides, GMAT is specially designed for post graduate level business programs, especially MBA. One needs a good GMAT score for getting into any top business school. In fact it can be assumed that schools requiring high GMAT scores for MBA are generally the top business schools. GRE & GMAT are so important that these foreign universities receive applications from all over the world, and it is difficult for them to evaluate students just from their CGPA which generally varies regionally, making these standardized tests a positive yardstick for comparison.

It is possible to prepare for GRE & GMAT tests on your own and also at a number of private

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An interview with Abdul Kader Mohamed Gedi

Samira Tasnim Karim

Talking to Abdul Kader Mohamed Gedi has been a great experience. He is a Somali national studying ETE at ULAB. We had many long and fascinating conversations but I never thought that I would ever interview him. In fact, this conversation was not intended to be an interview either.

About his journey here, with Bangladesh: If I remember correctly, I came to Bangladesh in 2009. Before I came to Bangladesh, I live in my birthplace Somalia. One of my Somali friends Md. Adi, who also lives in Bangladesh, inspired me to come and obtain my under graduate degree from here. I pondered on his suggestion and finally decided to come to Bangladesh to pursue my academic career.

How he chose ULAB:

Honestly speaking, what I really wanted was a better quality of education than that of my country in a suitable place where I could live close to my university. Apart from all these reasons, my prime focus was to find such a university, where I could get the best of education at an affordable cost. Then I heard about ULAB. I learnt that they offer great courses and that too well within my budget. Although I had other universities in mind, I decided to join ULAB in 2010 and got enrolled

in the department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering.

His satisfaction with the quality of education at ULAB:

ULAB is much better compared to my previous university and the institution has earned my respect. However, since most of the students are Bengali, it is a little hard to fiddle in with them. But still I am striving hard to be an aspiring Engineer and be a worthy ULABIAN in future.

He thinks ULAB is the right place to be productive.

If any student has the zeal to do something productive, whether local or foreign, undoubtedly ULAB is the right choice. It is a great honor to be part of such a great university, where students from all backgrounds can get admission and nurture their hidden excellences so that they can become real stellar in their lives.

ULAB is a unique arena of Education:

There are no signs of lamentation and despair in ULAB. People here are always in a gleeful mood. ULAB offers the best education in a package at reasonable cost, modern facilities, clubs, scholarships and so forth. ULAB has made a strong position in the arena of education and can easily claim that it is different from all the other universities.

Hobby:

I have a great interest to learn Bangla. In fact I am learning Bangla at the National Mother Language Institute. I love to cook and watch football. My favourite teams are Manchester United and Italy. I don't really watch Cricket but whenever I do I always support Bangladesh. I love to listen to Bangla music. I am a food lover. I love Kacchi Biryani, Chicken Biryani, Firni, doi, halua, etc. When I was back home, I wasn't too familiar with spicy hot foods. But after coming to Bangladesh, I have turned into a complete Bangladeshi who can't even start his lunch without a chili! I want to visit Cox's Bazaar and travel all the seven divisions of Bangladesh to know more about this country.

Future-plan after graduation:

I want to acquire double major degrees and later establish a wireless internet company in Somalia. I also want to open a restaurant where Bengali foods will be served. The vision of building such a company came to my mind because of the low internet penetration in my country, where many students can't even access the internet for their study purposes.

Some interesting facts:

In Somalia, it is acceptable for one to marry four times if one is economically solvent. I want to marry twice, a Bengali girl and a Somali. I got to know an interesting fact about my name. In Bangla, my name GEDI means a little baby girl. But in our language it actually means a Traveler.

Keeping it Clean

Continued from page 4

Our lack of interest, and hence knowledge has kept our society in darkness and all our combined efforts have gone down the gutter. Littering makes our city look ugly. We all need to re-learn how to dispose waste materials in an appropriate location. Besides the ugliness factor, it also has a huge environmental impact and can degrade the quality of life. If you have seen any of the canals running through Dhaka city you would get a clear idea of what you are doing. Littering is a big concern in the developed world as well, but at least they have the resources to fight it. Our only option is awareness right now. We need mass-awareness. Air and soil pollution kill more people in Bangladesh than AIDS.

Anti-littering campaigns could become a norm in Dhaka and elsewhere. In 1953, The USA launched the "Keep America Clean" and the UK launched "Keep Britain Tidy" campaigns. If we can spend hours cleaning our apartments to live healthy, why can't we do the same for our city collectively?

We need bins, many of them, hundreds and thousands of them all over, which should be disposed in a proper manner and re-cycled whenever possible. Legislations would be useless until we get to the problem itself with our heart and brain (is there one?). If you have to dispose a piece of paper and can't find a bin, put it in your pocket until you find one!

GRE & GMAT

Continued from page 4

tuition centers. Some centers that offer GRE & GMAT courses are: The Princeton Education, GRE Center, Gateway Education, GED Center, St. John's Tutorial, and Mentor's. All of them have branches in and around Dhanmondi. It is easy to look them up on the internet for contact details.

If you want to prepare on your own, you can buy more than enough resources at reasonable prices from Nilkhet and almost all the other book stores in the capital. We recommend Nilkhet for its comprehensive collection. The big names in terms of preparatory materials are Barron's, ETS (they are test makers), and Knewton. You will also find books designed specifically for the Bangladeshis, published by local GRE/GMAT tuition providers. If you are the curious type, you will find hundreds of thousands of free resources on the internet. There are also communities on the social media where you can connect with fellow test takers and discuss strategies.

It's never too late to start working on your verbal. It is essential to have a good vocabulary for a healthy score. For math, you can ask your younger brother and sister studying at SSC or O level for their math book to brush up your math skills if it has been a while.

So, what are you waiting for? Shape up your future!

Bands at ULAB

MD. Nahian Muntasir



*"Life is for the living.
Death is for the dead.
Let life be like music.
And death a note unsaid."*

Langston Hughes, The Collected Poems.

At the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, there are many bands and musicians who are dedicated to come up with the finest musical experiences possible. With adequate music senses and experiences, they give the stage of ULAB an extraordinary blast of colorful music. Many bands such as Velvet Wings, Achin, T.L.B., and Porojibi are giving tastes of different genres of musical inside and outside the university campus. They have completely different views in the lights of contributions, future plans, dreams and goals.

Velvet wings prefers alternative rock. But they fuse melody with it as well. Currently they are recording their solo album at the "Zone S Recording Studio." This is the same studio where legendary rock band Warfaze recoded their latest album "Shotto". Besides, Velvet Wings' unreleased tracks are frequently played on ABC Radio FM 89.2. The band is also trying their level best to reach the mass people with their new blend of sound. With the combination of melody and rock, they try to write/choose the lyrics very carefully by which the band can cast a message to the audiences. They said, "We do music for peace. The band is involved in creating sounds which will heal the wounds in one's soul." Velvet Wings did not want to disclose the numbers that are in their solo album. The members of the band better loved to keep it a secret. "We want the audiences to judge our work," they added. The members of this band are Raj - vocal & guitars, Tushar - Lead guitars & backing

vocal, Rifat - keyboards & backing vocal, Nazeid - drums & band management, and Saife - bass guitars.

Velvet Wings has been performing for quite long. They have performed at the ULAB Freshers' Orientation, National Library Auditorium, Cafe Thirty3, BUET Central Auditorium with Old School, "Rockerz in custody" & "Underground Invasion" at Radio Aha, Cuppa Coffee Lounge as a headliner, Bangabandhu International Conference Center, ULAB with Bohemian and Kral and many others.

ULAB houses another band named T.L.B. This band has a very different expertise. They focus on Beat Boxing and rap & their future plan is to promote "human beat boxing" and "bangla rap song" in Bangladesh. The band's main goal is to introduce this kind of music into the Bengali Culture. They believe it will give the listeners a different taste of music. Starting their journey on ULAB club day, they have already done five performances at ULAB. They have also performed in most of the private universities including Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Daffodil University, IUBAT at Uttora, Hip Hop Culture Fest in Bangladesh and also in some other programs. Their last big performance was on ULAB CLUB DAY and Bashanto Utsob. Niaz Morshed, Hasibul Islam, Foysal Prince, Shishir, Md Towhidul Amin Shikdar are the members of this band.

Kazi Ferdous Pavel from the band 'Achin', gave me another story. He told me that the band loved to work with mellow and soft rock and folk. They too prefer alternative rock and melody.

"I always wanted to do come up with the band's original songs. I also wanted to work on our evergreen folk songs," he said. He basically helps with the music

compositions of the band. The last performance of Achin was in Cambrian College.

EPITAPH started its journey officially on February 28, 2008. They are trying really hard to take Bangla music to the international level.

In 2008, Prince and Atul decided to form a band after creating few connections with the music. Currently they are doing Rock, Hard Rock and Heavy Metal numbers.

They also said they had not been that much serious about this project first. The members took one of their best friends Jisan as the drummer and started jamming with Creed's "One Last Breath." At that time their friends liked it. Then they brought Aldrin as their lead guitarist & Mishu as a bassist. After that began full-fledged jamming started. Meanwhile, Aldrin left the band because he had some problems with his academic stuffs. At that time another friend of theirs, Mayoukh, took the place of the lead guitarist. Sometimes Russell helped them in jamming and composition & made appearances as a guest guitarist.

EPITAPH was initially intended to become an alternative rock band. But the members soon got inclined towards heavier and power stuff. Today EPITAPH mostly does heavy stuff.

In a cruel twist of fate, EPITAPH went through an accident. The band's founding member and guitarist ATUL died of brain hemorrhage on May 7, 2009. It was a devastating shock for the band members. It was hard for them to replace Atul because he had God gifted abilities with the guitar. But, still, life had to go on. They started anew without him with new inspirations. Their Present Line-up is: Prince on vocal, Jisan on drums, Tanvir on bass, Shuvro on guitar and Tamim on guitar.

An Abating Esteem

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on my face? Why am I wearing the beautiful dress? Why these jewelries? For whom are all these? For Farhan? No! I shouldn't do it. I shouldn't."

Monica noticed that Lira was talking to herself. She came forward and asked, "Madam, are you alright?"

"No, Monica!" Lira strangely replied, "I need to go. Please take care of my baby for a while. I'm coming. It's urgent."

Lira rushed to Farhan and asked rudely, "What's happening? What have you done? I could not think of anything else but you. Why are you doing this to me? Go away from my life."

Farhan tried to stop her, "Lira!"

"Leave me. Just leave! I don't love you, understand? Never expect me to come here. Never try to contact me. You are a monster!" Lira cried loudly and ran out of the place.

Coming back home Lira didn't talk to Monica. After feeding the baby, she put him to sleep. She went to the living room and lit a cigarette. There were 10 packets on the table.

She kept lighting one cigarette after another. Milon came home at 2 in the morning as usual. The door was open too. He couldn't see as everything because the room was almost dark from the smoke. It was mysterious. Milon started coughing and calling out "Lira...Lira...where are you." He came close Lira. There was cigarette ash everywhere. Empty packets lied all around the place. She was sitting still and cold. As if she has just slept. One last butt end of a cigarette was still held between her fingers, spreading smoke around. The darkness was lurking around the apartment like a hungry dog.