



# the ULABian

A STUDENT MOUTHPIECE

*Contains exclusive  
Bangla and English  
content...*

September 2012

## The alarming rise of student plagiarism in Bangladesh

Tazlina Khan

Department of Media Studies and Journalism



Photo: Saddat Hossain, ULAB

We all know that education is the backbone of a nation. However in Bangladesh, the dark practice of student plagiarism is becoming all too common. An increasing number of students intentionally exploit the efforts made by others by copying and pasting content from the internet into their assignment papers and so forth, and then proclaiming it is their own work rather than someone else's. The thoughtlessness of simply cutting and pasting text does nothing to develop a student's analytical abilities and it also exposes them to the possibility of being found liable of copyright infringement.

In this context, copyright infringement can also be described as "academic fraud." In layman's terms, copyright infringement involves the unauthorised use of intellectual property which is protected by existing legislation, or infringing the copyright holder's exclusive rights, such as reproducing an individual's work without crediting the author or not seeking their permission if a large amount of content is reproduced. In the British Indian subcontinent, the first copyright laws came into effect in 1914. The legislation was primarily based on British copyright law, which was enacted three years earlier. In Bangladesh, the earliest copyright legislation was called the Copyright Ordinance of 1962; which was replaced by the Copyright Act of 2000.

Nowadays, the disregard for copyright law has resulted in students frequently taking information from the internet for their own academic benefit without citing any references. While interviewing students about plagiarism, their attitudes towards it were diverse.

For example, Modina Jahan Rime, a student from ULAB's department of Media Studies and Journalism said that she doesn't want to solely rely on online sources of information. She strives to ensure that all

her academic papers are original works of her own, rather than searching for information available online. Her approach has paid off, as she constantly gets good grades. Rime is also a far better student than those who simply copy and paste from internet without giving the topic itself much thought!

I came to know of a second semester student from the department of Media Studies and Journalism, who admitted to entirely relying on online data without disclosing the real source. Another undergraduate said her assignments are a concoction of internet based information and her own inventiveness. She sometimes includes the

source reference, but "in her own style." Plagiarism is a major problem in countless educational institutions, because the internet makes it so much easier than copying out passages from library books.

When it comes to ULAB's faculty members' opinions about plagiarism, each and every one described it as "theft." Faculty members believe that if a student fails to properly reference the original source of information and instead presents it as his or her own creation, it is an act of major academic dishonesty.

Md. Asiuzzaman, the Proctor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, told The ULABian, "It is clearly stated in ULAB's code of conduct that a student found guilty of plagiarism will be given an 'F'. Most of the assignments teachers receive are not appropriately sourced, as many students don't know how to do this correctly. These days, they are becoming more indulgent about this issue."

Fortunately, ULAB took steps to deter plagiarists by organising a colloquium in collaboration with Bangladesh Copyright and Industrial Property (IP) Forum on 8 March. "Intellectual Property Issues in Branding" (BCIPF) was held at ULAB's Campus A auditorium and Peter Anthony Dindial, CEO of Grameenphone IT Ltd, attended as chief guest. The seminar discussed ways to shield intellectual property from improper use and the benefits this will deliver to trendsetters, manufacturers and purchasers. ULAB's Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Imran Rahman launched the seminar, which also covered the infringement or "piracy" of intellectual property by sharing or downloading music and movies from the internet for free.



Photo: Saddat Hossain, ULAB



the  
**ULABian**  
 TEAM

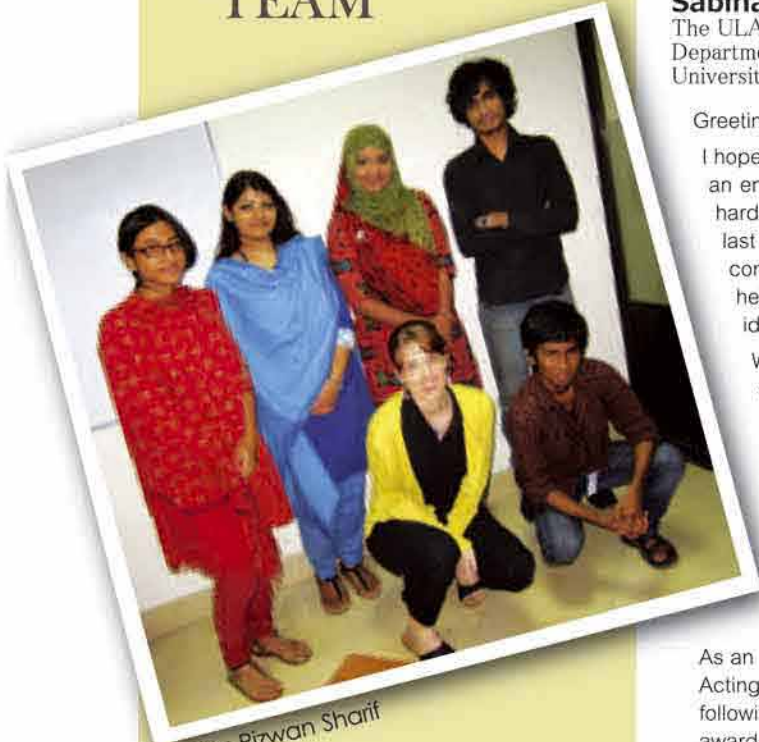


Photo: Rizwan Sharif

#### Chief Advisor

Dr Jude William R. Genilo

#### Advisory Editor

Jessica Mudditt

#### Editor

Sabiha Sultana

#### The ULABian Team

Tazlina Khan  
 Seoul Ahmed  
 Mahnaz Khan  
 Saudia Afrin  
 Sabiha Sultana  
 Aritra Ankan Mitra  
 Md. Mahbul Alam Shourav  
 MD. Zahid Hasan  
 Ahammed Bin Mannan Asik  
 Saddat Hossain  
 Syed Ebney Jubaer

#### Graphics Designer

Optimism Communications

The ULABian requests its readers to send their feedbacks, comments and press releases via email at [theulabian@ulab.edu.bd](mailto:theulabian@ulab.edu.bd). The campus paper welcomes photographs and stories from the students of the University. The best stories will be printed after selection. Interested candidates may be called in for interview to join the campus paper. All submissions are subject to editing.

## Message From The ULABian's English Section Editor

### Sabiha Sultana

The ULABian's English Editor  
 Department of English and Humanities  
 University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh

Greetings to ULAB students and staff!

I hope you'll find that reading the fourth edition of The ULABian is an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Our team has worked hard to improve on the previous edition, which was published last November. I would like to thank readers for sending us your comments, suggestions and opinions – this was extremely helpful. I'm proud to present an edition filled with many new ideas, views and an improved format!

We encourage readers to continue sharing your valuable comments, incredible ideas, suggestions, queries, criticisms and article submissions via email to [theulabian@ulab.edu.bd](mailto:theulabian@ulab.edu.bd)

The ULABian provides a fantastic opportunity for the students at ULAB who are interested in writing and learning about various aspects of journalism, which are discussed during regular workshops. We welcome enthusiastic writers and photography contributors to join the team - even if you've never published an article before, please don't hesitate to contact us!

As an incentive to generate more content from students, I'm delighted to announce on behalf of ULAB's Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Imran Rahman and Head of MSJ, Professor Jude Genilo that from the following edition, two certificates and digital recorders - for conducting interviews with ease - will be awarded to the best article in The ULABian's Bangla and English sections.

The ULABian team also benefits from a workshop held each semester with a guest speaker, who offers career advice and insights into the practice of journalism. On 11 April, business reporter and sub-editor Sherpa Hossainy shared his professional experiences at The Independent and The Daily Star. Hossainy said the current scenario in newspapers and news agencies in Bangladesh is positive - but there remains room for major improvements in terms of press freedom, creativity and investigative journalism. He discussed a number of practical factors potential journalists should consider such as salaries, the work environment and job satisfaction. He said that despite popular misconceptions, the salaries of journalists in Bangladesh are on par or sometimes even higher than the national average – and added that the working environment in most newspapers is better than traditional corporate jobs. He explained how his low levels of job satisfaction in a conventional corporate position as an engineer made him decide to switch to a career in journalism, which offers greater challenges and provides scope to exercise creativity. He also shared his experiences as a freelance translator and fixer and provided us with useful names of international publications where we could begin submitting freelance articles. He emphasised that freelancing and blogging may result in additional sources of income for budding journalists, as well as highlighting the importance of developing fast typing skills, both in Bangla and English.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone associated with The ULABian for literally making it THE student mouthpiece!

Many thanks and happy reading...



Sabiha Sultana

## To the Editor

I just went through the newspaper and I think it looks great! The layout and make-up is really nice, the pictures are great and I also like the quality of the paper you're using. The content, judging from what I've read so far, is also interesting. I like that you have a separate feature section and the fiction and lifestyle sections are also quite fun to read.

**Anika Hossain** Feature writer, The Daily Star Weekend Magazine

#### 01 NEWS

The Alarming Rise of Student  
 Plagiarism in Bangladesh  
 Tazlina Khan

#### 04 STUDENT PROFILE

Exclusive Interview with ULAB's Konal  
 Saudia Afrin

#### 06 EDITORIAL

Fasion on Campus  
 Sabiha Sultana

#### 09 ARTS & CULTURE

Retrospective on Tareque Masud  
 The lost diamond of  
 Bangladesh's Film Industry  
 Md. Zahid Hasan

#### 12 COLUMN

Your Problem : Your Solution  
 Sabiha Sultana

#### 03 FEATURES

The Perils of Crossing Satmasjid Road  
 Seoul Ahmed

ULAB's Faculty Members Describe  
 their Saddest and Happiest Memories  
 Mahnaz Khan

#### 08 CAMPUS NEWS & EVENTS

Triumphant outcry of youth in eASIA  
 Md. Mahbul Alam Shourav

ULAB Students Cruise along Meghna River  
 Aritra Ankan Mitra

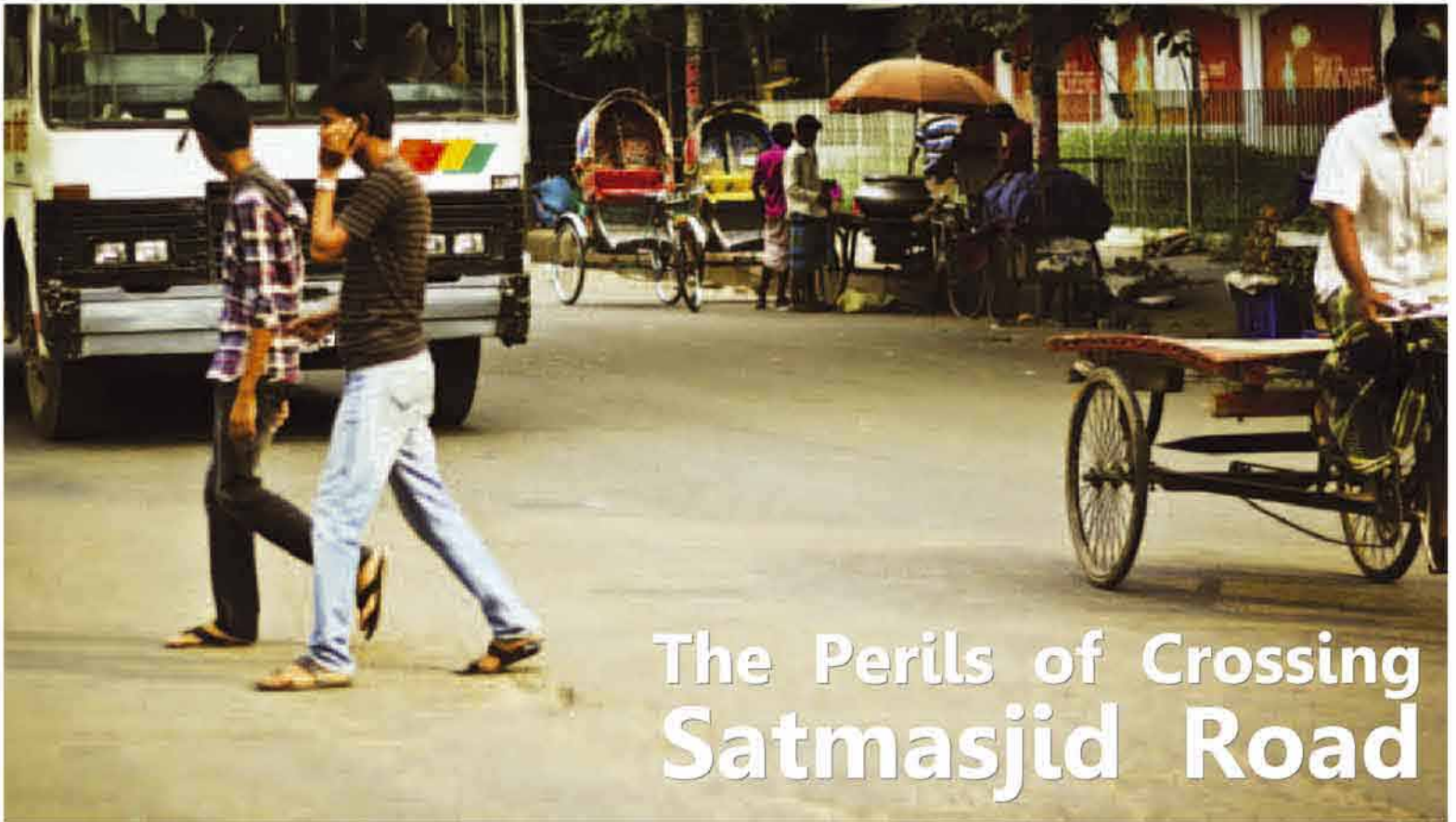
ULAB SWC embarks on an exciting Journey  
 Ahmed Bin Mannan Asik

#### 10 PHOTO FEATURE

Photographing Holi for the First Time  
 Saddat Hossain

## Contents





## The Perils of Crossing Satmasjid Road

Photo: Seoul Ahmed, ULAB

**Seoul Ahmed**

Media Studies and Journalism Department

The road in front of our university is very long and wide - and it lacks speed breakers. Satmasjid Road also has two bus stops on both sides of the stretch outside ULAB, as well as a tempo stand. As a result, there are always huge numbers of people crossing the road every day. However due to the absence of speed breakers, vehicles coming from both sides almost always travel at very high speeds. We are constantly at risk of being hit by reckless drivers, who refuse to slow down even when they see someone trying to make a safe crossing.

I spent several hours watching ULAB's students trying to cross Satmasjid Road. It was often close to impossible - I noticed the fear in their eyes while trying to avoid being hit by speeding buses and other vehicles. Drivers seem mysteriously desperate to reach their destination without thinking of the dangers involved.

A ULAB student who requested anonymity, said, "It's a really painful experience to cross this road. It's so busy and because there aren't any speed breakers, most vehicles drive really, really fast."

We read newspapers articles about road accidents every day. Recently, a BUET student died in a road accident. Rabbi Hossain, a sixth semester ULAB student from the Bachelor of Business Administration Department died in a road accident

on Road 2 in Dhanmondi on 27 May last year. In 2011, Bangladesh also lost two of its greatest media personalities, Taruqe Masud and Mishuk Munir, who were killed while travelling on a road that also lacked speed breakers. The tragic loss of these lives is preventable and thus intolerable.

In Bangladesh, road accidents claim an average of 12,000 lives every year and result in some 35,000 injuries, according to Dhaka-based accident research institutes. And according to 2009 estimates by the World Health Organisation (WHO), this figure could be as high as 20,050. Surprisingly, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and the police reported less than 3,000 road accident fatalities in 2008. Other statistics reveal that Bangladeshi children under 16 years of age comprise an alarming 21 percent of the total number of road accident victims.

So whenever you cross Satmasjid Road, be sure to pay extra attention to the traffic flow and look both ways before attempting to cross it. Don't chat with your friends and walk quickly, as this will distract you staying safe. Launching a campaign to introduce speed breakers on Satmasjid Road is essential to protect ULAB's students and staff, as well as local residents.

## ULAB's faculty members

describe their saddest and happiest memories

**Professor Abdul Mannan**

ULAB School of Business

### SADDEST MEMORY

The sudden loss of my father, who died in an accident in 1974. I was 26-years-old and became the only family member earning an income - my monthly salary was Tk 450. I was financially responsible for my two brothers' high school education fees. It was a tough time, but with my mother's blessings and inspiration, we managed to bring them up well.

### HAPPIEST MEMORY

The emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign country in 1971. I fought in the Liberation War and saw thousands of people die. I also witnessed the sacrifices made by so many Bangladeshis to win our independence.

**Md. Shayekh Us Saleheen**

Dept. of English & Humanities

### SADDEST MEMORY

My maternal grandfather died of cancer on 31 December 2011. He knew about the recent birth of my baby girl, but I was unable to take her to see him before he passed away.

### HAPPIEST MEMORY

My baby girl was born on 11 December 2011. It was the happiest moment of my life. My wife and I spent seven or eight months preparing for her arrival. When my daughter was born, she was totally pink in colour and so sensitive. I kissed her forehead; it was truly a gift from the Almighty.

**Dr. Jahirul Haque**

Academic Affairs

### SADDEST MEMORY

The death of ULAB's first Head of English and Humanities Dr. Razia Khan Amin in 2011 was very sad news for us all. Dr. Amin was widely acknowledged as one of the finest English professors, both at the University of Dhaka as well as ULAB. In addition to her excellent academic qualifications, she was also a very cordial woman.

### HAPPIEST MEMORY

ULAB's first successful convocation in 2011 is one of the happiest moments in my professional life. It was organised very successfully and greatly appreciated by all, including the Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Zillur Rahman and the Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh.

**Riaheen Farzana**

ULAB School of Business

### SADDEST MEMORY

When students complete their studies and leave ULAB, the separation makes me feel very sad, as I am very emotionally attached to them.

### HAPPIEST MEMORY

When I became a mother. My son Ishraq was born on 7 March 2002 and my daughter Raini was born on 22 February 2009.

**Mahnaz Khan**

ULAB School of Business





Photo: Saddam Hossain, ULAB

Exclusive interview with

# ULAB's Konal

## A Classical Music Singing Sensation

*Somnur Munir Konal is one of Bangladesh's most promising young singers. She's been blessed with an adorable voice. Before commencing her studies at ULAB's Media Studies and Journalism Department in 2011, Konal studied at United International University (UIU) in BBA, as well spending five years studying classical Hindustani music at Rabindra Bharati University in Kuwait.*

How did she end up there, I ask?

"When I was very young, my family shifted in Kuwait because of my father's job. After growing up in Kuwait, I faced adjustment problems after deciding to stay in Bangladesh."

She told The ULABian, "I come from a family of musicians – our interest in music spans four generations. Singing is in my blood - and also a gift from God. I believe that family support is essential for success, so I'm very grateful that my own family has encouraged me from the very beginning of my career."

Konal said, "Maa is my number one musical guru. She's my inspiration, my muse, my mentor, my idol and also the best locker pioneer. She inspires and supports me in every step I take in life. She means everything to me. When she is standing by my side, I feel

like I could climb the Himalayas. She is always willing to instruct me, no matter how far away we are." Konal added that her mother and father are still living in Kuwait.

Konal's second music guru is Keka Mukhargee, an Indian Hindustani classical music teacher who was a former student of Pandit Ajoy Chakravarty. In fact, Konal has dedicated her new album to Keka Mukhargee.

When Konal was just a year away from completing her diploma in Hindustani classical music at Rabindra Bharati University, she was selected to compete in 'Shera Kontho' contest in 2009. Konal decided not to continue her studies because she wanted to make the most of the opportunity to perform live on television. Her decision paid off – Konal was declared the winner.

She also spent a year as a BBA student at the

American University of London in Kuwait. She transferred the credit and resumed her BBA at United International University in Bangladesh. However she abandoned her course once again after deciding that, "BBA requires a great deal of commitment. And now that I'm working in the media, I thought it would be more beneficial to join ULAB's Media Studies and Journalism Department."

She added, "I've wanted to be a reporter since my childhood. I used to watch the news on BBC to observe the reporters - they really motivated me. In future, I'd like to work as a film director, as well as composing music. And I have plans to complete my diploma."

"I have no interest in being a film actress or a model. However she added that "I was in an Airtel commercial because they wanted to show a circle of friends - and they choose us."





Photo: Saddat Hossain, ULAB

To emphasise her point, Konal downplays her experience in television programmes. She said, "I've only made a guest appearance on "Laltip" as a radio jockey. I do receive many offers to act in movies and for modeling as well, but I refuse. I want to stick to music. Always." However Konal is happy to work as a singer for movies.

Konal describes herself as a, "very friendly and emotional" person. However the young beauty is no stranger to resentment or envy, as she explains, "When people - particularly girls - first see me, they often think I'm moody, arrogant, and unfriendly. But when someone gets to know me, they usually say their first impression was totally wrong."

“ WHEN PEOPLE PARTICULARLY GIRLS FIRST SEE ME, THEY OFTEN THINK I'M MOODY, ARROGANT, AND UNFRIENDLY. BUT WHEN SOMEONE GETS TO KNOW ME, THEY USUALLY SAY THEIR FIRST IMPRESSION WAS TOTALLY WRONG. ”

In any case, Konal has coped very well with the challenge she's faced in her life so far. She said, "One of the positive things about me is that whenever I face a problem, I somehow manage to overcome it. And I've never failed to succeed; I prosper from whatever work I've undertaken so far."

So it's no surprise to learn that Konal's leads her life according to the following motto: "Life is lived once. So love it, live it and enjoy it to the fullest!"

Konal speaks with excitement about her forthcoming album, Konal's Jaddu which is a collaboration involving many talented musicians, such as Prithwi Raj, Fuad al Muqtadir, Hridoy Khan, Bappa Majumdar, Shafiq Tuhin and Ibrar Tipu.

She said, "One song is dedicated to the freedom fighters of Bangladesh. It's a cover version of Joan Baez's Bangladesh, which the American folk singer famously performed during the 1971 Concert for Bangladesh.

Releasing a solo album at Konal's young age would be daunting to even the most confident of performers.

Konal said, "This will be my first solo album and I have many dreams and hopes invested in it. My friends supported me in winning Shera Khontho. So please, stand beside me and support my upcoming album. I need your blessings to succeed."

Konal is also preparing to host a programme on channel i called Walton

ghore ghore gaaner utshob.

The singer modestly acknowledges that, "I still have a long way to go in my career. I want to work with Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loyed, Vishal-Shekhar, Adele and so many other great musicians. For example, Runa Laila and Kaushiki Chakravarty are two people who really inspired me to work in the music industry."

Yet for all the excitement and glamour in Konal's life, she is not stuck in the present – a fact she makes clear as she reveals her long-term plan to establish a music therapy institution. In a sincerely passionate tone, she says, "Music can cure certain diseases, whether mental or physical."

And for the young singer's many fans, it also provides a great deal of joy.

#### Saudia Afrin

Media Studies and Journalism Department



Photo: Saddat Hossain, ULAB





A female student wearing a decent top with jeans and a scarf. Photo by Saddat Hossain  
Photo: Saddat Hossain, ULAB

## FASHION ON CAMPUS

# The Do's and Don'ts!

**Sabiha Sultana**

Department of English and Humanities

Who doesn't love to be fashionable and stand out in a crowd? Everyone has their own sense of style, which is a reflection of our personality and attitudes.

There was a time when the only suitable fashion attire for Bangladeshi girls was a sari or salwar (loose-fitting trousers) kameez (a knee-length top) with a dupatta (scarf). Likewise, boys dressed in punjabis or shirts with formal trousers. However during the last five years or so, the many changes in Bangladesh's fashion scenario is highly noticeable, and due to societal developments.

Nowadays, young women also feel comfortable in jeans, fatuas (a long-sleeve loose-fitting top mostly worn with skirts or jeans), t-shirts, shirts, leggings, kurtas (a loose collarless shirt) and a kameez with jeans. Boys are also becoming more fashion conscious and stylish. They love to wear jeans, mostly with t-shirts or short-sleeved shirts, plus other popular items such as sunglasses, watches and accessories - including jewelry.

But are all of these new fashion styles appropriate for the classroom or an educational environment in general?

“ FEMALE STUDENTS  
BEGAN TO APPEAR IN  
LONG KAMIZES AND  
SALWAR WITH SCARVES  
BY ALTERING THEIR  
SARIS, WHILE FOR BOYS,  
A NEW ALTERNATIVE  
WAS FORMAL TROUSERS  
AND FULL OR HALF  
SLEEVE SHIRTS. ”

I remember one fashion item in particular that was clearly inappropriate for the campus setting. During one of my earliest semesters at ULAB, a classmate – let's call her "Nita" to respect her privacy - arrived on campus in western attire; including a black sleeveless top. Its low cut design provided an overly generous exposure of her neck and shoulders! Nita appeared relaxed during class; possibly because she was unaware of the sense of discomfort her outfit created for the rest of the students, as well as our teacher. In fact, our teacher couldn't look at her for more than a few seconds while he was delivering the lecture – a fact clearly noticeable to the rest of us. We began to ask ourselves, "Is this what some people call fashion?"

A sleeveless top is indeed fashionable when it is worn in the right context; however this does not include a classroom.

Every society has its own cultural norms and values. Bangladesh is no exception – while our national identity welcomes western clothing, a lack of modesty or vulgarity in the name of "fashion" is discouraged.

While interviewing both male and female students about ULAB's fashion scene and what "fashion" means to them as individuals, the opinions shared were so unexpectedly diverse! One student said, "Simplicity is my idea of fashion," while others talked about feeling comfortable and relaxed. By contrast, some students only focus on being trendy - by imitating the styles worn by famous film stars and singers; regardless of whether they look decent and actually suit such getups!



My classmate Pragati said, "To me, fashion means wearing a dress that I am comfortable in." She loves to wear western attire, like jeans, fatuas and t-shirts, but maintains decorum in the university environment.

Afsana, an English and Humanities student, shared her views about what is appropriate dress-sense for educational institutions. She said that one shouldn't dress in a way that distracts the attention of other students during classes.

I was eager to discover Professor Emeritus Dr. Rafiqul Islam's views on the variety of fashion styles worn by ULAB's students.

He told The ULABian, "Nowadays, student fashion tends to be informal. He compared this with his own experiences as a student at Dhaka University – it was a time when campus attire was strictly formal.

He noticed a slight change among students during the 1960s, and also recalled that teachers also began to dress casually.

However he added, "No one ever wore jeans, because they were not available in Bangladesh back then."

Dr Rafiqul Islam said that female students began to appear in long kamizes and salwar with scarves by altering their saris, while for boys, a new alternative was formal trousers and full or half

sleeve shirts.

He said, "The idea of 'fashion' doesn't match with the concept and purpose of an educational institution - as this is a training ground for future life. Dress styles can be formal or informal, depending on the type of occasion arranged by the institution. A student should look neat and clean: students should look like students!"

Dr Rafiqul Islam encouraged me to describe forms of clothing which are distasteful within an educational environment. These include sleeveless tops, kamizes which are overly short, both in length and sleeves, as it will expose the waist and neck. Other inappropriate items include salwars that are very short or skin-tight; excessively short t-shirts for males and females, transparent clothing, three-quarter length trousers or dresses.

He also said, "I would not allow an informally dressed candidate to sit before an interview board! Students who fail to understand the importance of dressing formally will face huge problems when they enter the majority of employment sectors."

He also compared the attire worn in Bangladesh's universities with educational institutions in places such as Hawaii and other parts of America, as well as London and Europe. Appropriate dress sense depends on cultural



A salwar kameez and scarf worn in a different but appropriate way. Photo by Saddat Hossain

norms and shared moral values. He believes that taste and aesthetic beauty will blossom with a sense of individuality.

"It's a learning process and requires an appreciation of human dignity," he concluded.

Before adopting a new fashion style, I believe it's absolutely necessary to ask yourself whether it will suit your body shape and personality. For example, leggings, dresses and lipsticks in lollipop colours are the new fashion styles - but it's better to think hard before following the latest trends. Ask yourself – "Do I look good in this and does it really suit me?"

Now let's turn to ULAB's foreign faculty members. During office hours, I always see them wearing formal clothing that properly covers the body. Aren't they fashionable or stylish? What do you think? They dress like typical Bangladeshi girls, in the sense that their western style of clothing covers the body. They are stylish and display their sense of decorum and decency.

English and Humanities Lecturer Nadia Rahman feels that an outfit can represent a person's intelligence, in terms of appreciating the need to complement a specific time, place, occasion and purpose.

She said, "Outfits that make someone look overly-exposed is vulgar - not fashionable!"

Assistant Professor Shayeekh Us Saleheen agrees that students should show respect to their teachers by dressing appropriately - and believes that if a dress-code was created, it would offer positive guidance to ULAB's students.

Abdullah Al Mamun, an English and Humanities Department lecturer and coordinator said, "Fashion can be funky, but it should also be culturally acceptable. It's better to fall within the parameters of decorum, decency and to show respect for the elderly."

Though fashion is definitely related to individuality, in my view it's preferable to dress tastefully in an educational environment, whether in a formal or informal sense. Blindly imitating someone else's fashion style suggests a lack of self confidence. Believing in your own fashion choices is the only sure way to become a smart, confident, decent and stylish individual!





PHOTO COURTESY: SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB

## TRIUMPHANT OUTCRY OF YOUTH IN EASIA

**Md.Mahbubul Alam Shourav**

Department of Media Studies and Journalism

eASIA, the largest premier Information Communications Technology (ICT) event in Asia took place at Dhaka's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre from 1 - 3 December 2011. Around 2,000 internationally renowned ICT experts from different countries participated in various seminars and workshops, with many also attending as guest speakers. The eAsia ICT fair was organised by Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the fair and highlighted that her government is working hard to implement "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021.

Many high profile international brands and organisations, including Intel, AMTOB, UNDP, BASIS and Nokia were involved in the event's 30 seminars and workshops. Each played a key role in introducing a new dimension of the digital age and discussed accompanying perspectives.

The fair attracted a huge number of visitors, including many students and various professionals. The event's main attraction was the opportunity it provided to gain knowledge about freelancing and outsourcing ICT jobs and software applications. New and exciting forms of technology were demonstrated in pavilions by representatives from countries such as India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Japan and Thailand.

Organisers expressed confidence that the event has greatly boosted existing levels of ICT knowledge in Bangladesh. More importantly perhaps, eAsia has encouraged and enthused the young generation to learn new skills and seek employment in this prosperous sector. It could also lead to earning huge amounts of foreign currency in the near future – a benefit not only for the individuals involved in ICT, but also in terms of strengthening economic development in Bangladesh.



PHOTO COURTESY: SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB

## ULAB SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB EMBARKS ON AN EXCITING JOURNEY

**Ahammed Bin Mannan Asik**

Department of English and Humanities

ULAB's Social Welfare Club (ULAB SWC) has embarked on an exciting journey that involves conducting welfare activities outside of ULAB. The club aims to benefit society in a significantly broader way.

On May Day, the Social Welfare Club distributed over 350 food packages (Khichuri) to poor labourers and street children in various locations in Dhaka, including Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Dhanmondi, Dhanmondi Satmosjid Road, Jigatola, Science Lab, New Market, Nilkhet, the Dhaka University area, Dhaka Medical College, Shohid minar, Ajimpur, Beribadh, Khilga, and Tejgaon.

On 4 May, 2012 ULAB SWC arranged a free health clinic providing basic health check-ups, blood grouping, prescription and medicine distributed to day labourers and street people in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. A tremendous number of people attended the health clinic.

SWC's clinic was supported by various organisations, such as Dream maker in Mohammadpur, Ahoban Manusher Pashe in Gopibag, Manush in Mirpur, White Prijin and IBN SINA. We are grateful for their assistance in helping to ensure the clinic was highly successful.

The programme was coordinated by the president of ULAB SWC Mr Md. Towhidul Islam Shawon. ULAB SWC hopes to broaden such activities beyond the areas of Dhaka. We seek your support to further motivate us in continuing this journey.



ULAB STUDENTS ENJOYING THE CRUISE

PHOTO: KANON SHIKDER

## ULAB STUDENTS CRUISE ALONG MEGHNA RIVER

**Aritra Ankan Mitra**

Department of Media Studies and Journalism

River cruise: these two words made a thousand hearts jump with joy and our eyes filled with happiness when ULAB's department of Media Studies and Journalism arranged a day-long river cruise on 26 March. All students were in very energetic moods when they turned up at Campus B to begin a day travelling along Meghna River. The first activity during the cruise was a raffle draw - the winner received a brand new mobile phone. This was followed by a musical performance by a ULAB student band – the audience sang along as they played a number of hit songs. A few students preferred to gossip in a quiet corner, while listening to the music and enjoying the natural beauty of the calm river. We went to Bochila ghat for lunch, which was followed by the day's main attraction: a live DJ show! Every student danced to the beats on the boat's deck. As the evening approached, the time came to make the return journey home. It was such an enjoyable day that students began feeling sad as it came to an end. Many said the day seemed to pass as quickly as the blink of an eye. Our thanks go to the cruise advisors, Shams Bin Quder and Imtiaz A. Chowdhury as well as its organisers, Pappu Khan, Seoul Ahmed and Didar.





**MD. Zahid Hasan,** Department of Media Studies and Journalism

The late Tareque Masud was an award-winning Bangladeshi independent film director. He is best known for directing *Mukhtir Gaan* [The Song of Freedom] (1995) and *Matir Moina* [The Clay Bird] (2002), for which he received two international awards: one was the International Critics' Prize, FIPRESCI Prize, in the Directors' Fortnight section outside competition at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival.

*Runway* was his last film. Tareque died in a road accident on 13 August 2011 while returning to Dhaka from Manikganj on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway after visiting a film location. His long-time colleague, the cinematographer Mishuk Munier, was also killed in the accident, while Masud's wife Catherine was seriously injured. Catherine Masud is a Chicago-born film editor, who was also her husband's co-director and film editor for over two decades. The couple have a son called Nishad Bingham Putra Masud.

A retrospective on Tareque Masud was organised by The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in association with the Tareque Masud Memorial Trust on 9 February. It was held at ULAB's auditorium and was moderated by ULAB Senior Lecturer Shams Bin Quader.

During a roundtable titled, 'Tareque Masud's Vision: The Way Forward,' Assistant Professor Juditha Ohlmacher from ULAB's Media Studies and Journalism Department presented the keynote paper.

She said, "Tareque believed that films should not be crude, nor contain propaganda. To him, films were works of art and must also be relevant to society."

The roundtable's panel members included the event's chief guest Catherine Masud, Morshedul Islam and Shahnewaz Kabir. Other participants in the day-long retrospective included film director Morshedul Islam, the Head of ULAB's Media Studies and Journalism Department (MSJ) Professor Jude Genilo, along with many ULAB faculty members and students.

The programme opened with a poignant slideshow featuring photographs of Tareque Masud that spanned from his infancy to his final days. Two of his films were then screened. The first was *Adam Surat* [Inner Strength], a documentary about the life and work of a Bangladeshi painter called S.M. Sultan. Catherine Masud said *Adam Surat* was converted into a digital format by a New York studio and added that this was its first ever screening. The film will soon be released across many parts of Bangladesh, though not in Dhaka.

This was followed by *Noroshundor* [The Barber] which is a short film set during the period of Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971.

The Head of MSJ, Professor Genilo said, "ULAB was the most logical choice of venue for the retrospective, as our MSJ department has one of the finest digital films and television production programmes in Bangladesh."

Professor Genilo said there is a growing discourse on Masud's work, life and philosophy and emphasised that, "This is something that students at ULAB as well as the younger generations must learn about."

Juditha explained the significance of Tareque and Catherine's films, which examine various aspects of nature and the origin of politics, culture, society and national identity. Views were exchanged on Tareque's view of Islam versus Nationalism as depicted in his films. Juditha also expressed hope that the young generation will carry Masud's vision far into the future.

During a discussion on 'Islamic Identity of Women,' Catherine said that *The Clay Bird*, *Antarjatra* and *Runway* shared a common theme: the relationship between a mother and son.

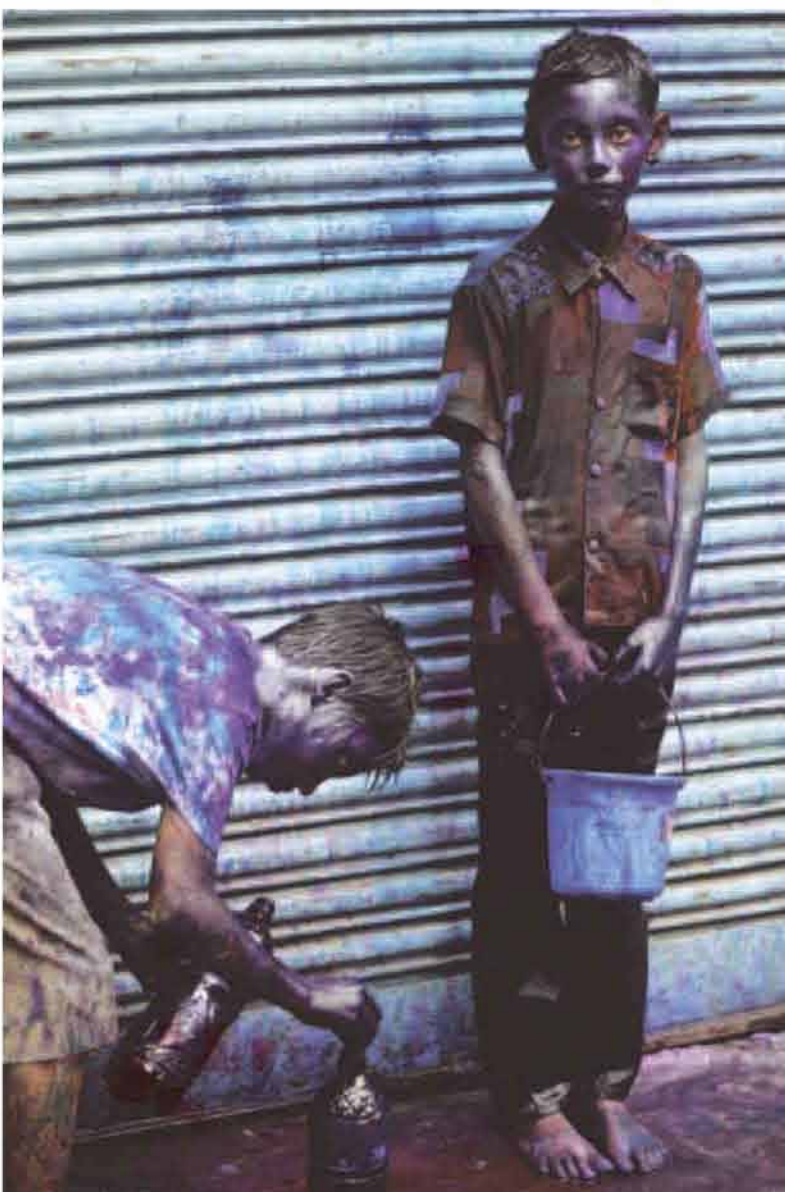
The programme concluded with a screening of Masud's most recent film - *Runway*. The main character is a young boy called Ruhul, who lives with his family in a small hut next to an international airport runway. Ruhul's mother Rahima is struggling to support her family by selling milk from a cow she bought with a microcredit loan. Ruhul's sister, Fatima, works long hours in a garment factory and is the family's main breadwinner. Their father left Bangladesh to work in the Middle East - a month passes and not a word is heard from him.

After dropping out of a madrasa, Ruhul spends his days aimlessly wandering beneath the shadows of aeroplanes. He is frustrated that his efforts to find a job were futile. Then one day he meets Arif in a cyber cafe. The young man is computer savvy and exudes confidence and a sense of purpose. Arif introduces Ruhul to a world outlook that feels new and inspiring. However Arif encourages Ruhul to join an Islamic extremist party and Ruhul's life eventually spirals into a nefarious netherworld of intolerance and violence. Ruhul undergoes training to prepare himself for a suicide mission. Fortunately, when Ruhul hears of Arif's own unsuccessful mission, Ruhul realises he is on the wrong path to get closer to Allah and decides to return home. Through Ruhul's eyes, *Runway* portrays how terrorist groups often recruit people who live below the poverty line.

I believe that each of Tareque Masud's films raise important issues. Women in Bangladesh are far from being considered equal to men, although this is now changing. I agree with Masud's perspective that nationalism and Islam are totally distinct and admire how this was portrayed in his films. Some years ago, Islam was biased by certain people killing others in the name of so-called Jihad. But at long last, *Runway* shows us how it is often the poorest people who are most vulnerable to extremist religious groups.

When Tareque Masud died last year, Bangladesh lost the diamond of its film industry; the man who succeeded in creating Bangla films of international acclaim.





## Photographing for the

**Saddat Hossain**

Department of Media Studies and Journalism

As a photography addict, I always keep an eye out for outstanding shots by professionals, as well as those taken by so many young talented minds. However I rarely venture out to take photos. Every time I see a masterpiece, I wonder how it was captured. Yet for me, what's more important is to focus on the story being expressed. I truly believe in the motto of a famous international street photographer called Eric Kim - "Photography is not a hobby, it's a lifestyle."

A few weeks ago, I heard from my ULABian photographer friend, Sheikh Mehedi Morshed that the Hindu festival of Holi was approaching. Holi marks the beginning of spring each year and celebrations involve people throwing lots of coloured powder and water. My friend invited me to Shakhari Bazar in Old Dhaka to enjoy and capture the special moments of Holi this year. However I really didn't know what to do because I had other work commitments on the same day Holi was taking place.

So I decided to visit a Hindu temple near my home on 8 March, the day before Holi began. But as it was a very small gathering and the ceremony ended very quickly, I missed the moments I'd hoped to capture. Luckily, at 9am the next morning I had a call from another photographer friend called Syed Syfee, who said he was going to Shakhari Bazar to photograph Holi. I was confused as to whether I would go. I thought for a second and realised the lengths legendary photographers will go to in order to capture a breath-taking moment. This was when I figured out that I'll never learn how to take impressive photos if I don't follow the trail left behind by the masters. So, leaving my other work commitments behind, I hastily got ready and rushed off towards Old Dhaka.

As soon as I reached Shakhari Bazar I saw many photographers with faces that were really difficult to identify, as locals had splashed the colours of Holi all over them. Without a doubt, my adrenaline levels shot up: not only because I knew I'd look even darker in complexion than I already am - arghh, disgusting! Ha ha... And I also knew it would be really tough to protect my camera from the flying colours. This was my biggest worry. Somehow I successfully managed to protect my camera by wrapping a polythene bag around it, so that only the end of my lens was exposed.

“NO MATTER HOW BUSY THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE THAT DAY, THE OLD DHAKA LOCALS WERE REALLY FRIENDLY TO EVERYONE, AND WERE EXTRA-FRIENDLY TO THE 100-ODD FOREIGN VISITORS”





## Holi first time

From the moment I entered Shakhari Bazar's main alley, I knew I was witnessing something special. I watched people dancing to loud music and saw people of all ages fully immersed in the happiness Holi brings. It wasn't only the kids and the middle-aged splashing colours over everyone – the elderly did so too, with great enjoyment.

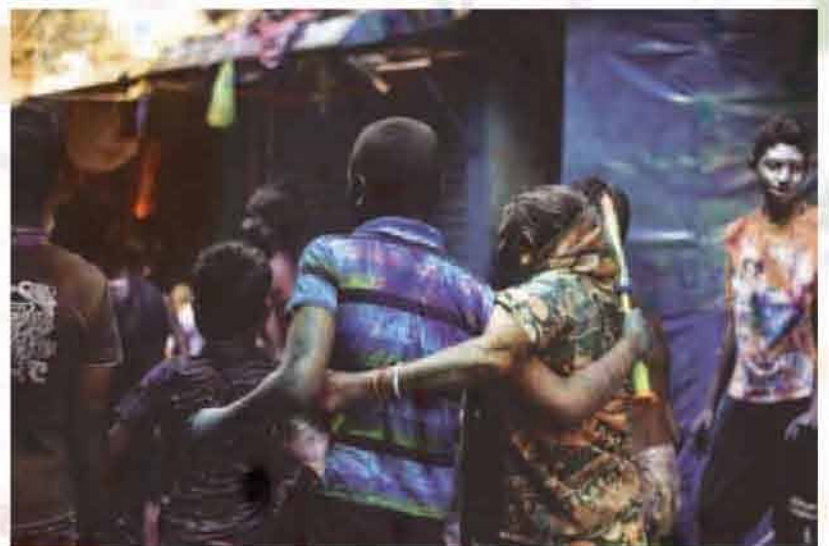
With shaking legs, I walked into the alley and took a few photos. Out of nowhere, a kid behind me started running towards me and spoiled my shorts; and then my t-shirt. I found some of my school friends a few minutes later and they completely covered my face in greenish-blues. I looked like an alien!

Soon enough I forgot about my appearance and was pulled into the flow of photography. Other ULABian friends were there too, and regardless of their level of skill, every photographer was on the look-out for trouble that could damage their cameras, despite the protections taken by each of us. There were colours and loud music coming from every direction. People even poured water up from the windows of their homes.

No matter how busy the circumstances were that day, the Old Dhaka locals were really friendly to everyone, and were extra-friendly to the 100-odd foreign visitors (though only a handful of them were daring enough to throw the colours!). Amazingly, there was not a single mention of a damaged camera. This was because locals rightly knew what was precious to whom. In fact, they helped us take beautiful photos by posing and some were even intentionally dancing before the cameras.

The day slowly crossed noon and lunch time began. Every photographer who had arrived early in the morning was gradually becoming tired. I was tired too and finally decided to return home. Holi has always been a great source of attention for every level of photographer – even to a fresh learner like me.

Although my face, my favourite t-shirt and shorts were spoiled by the colours of Holi, my first experience of the festival was well worth it: I had taken some of the most precious photographs in my life. I wish to return again and again in the coming years.





## Your Problems, Your Solutions

## TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Sabiha Sultana

Department of English and Humanities

Hey friends, how's university life treating you? Now that we are university students, we no longer lead strongly regulated lives, and so we expect many freedoms as a right; we'll do whatever we love to do. Here lies my main point – if students abuse certain freedoms, it creates major obstacles to learning. However there are ways to avoid this, which I'll outline below.

Are you often late to class? Do you regularly forget your ID card, which prevents you from entering the campus? Are you ever penalised or disciplined by teachers for creating noisy chaos outside classrooms?

Yes?

Oh no! Very sad! But don't despair - this article will provide some simple but useful tips for avoiding all these nightmares.

One of my classmates, who I'll call "Silvi", is the regularly late student in our batch. Every day she arrives late, whether 15 minutes, 20 minutes, or sometimes even 40 minutes. She doesn't seem to feel guilty about being late, as she never tries to arrive in time. Every day and in every class, she distracts us with the delayed arrivals.

I was curious to know the secret behind her lack of timekeeping. When I asked for an explanation, she replied, "I don't know..." Then she thought for a bit and said, "There is too much traffic."

Avoiding traffic in a country like ours is impossible. It is unacceptable to use the traffic jams as a justification for being late. We can all head out bit earlier than usual. At night, we can also put our books inside our bag and iron the clothes that will be worn the next day. Can't we?

I know other female students who live alone and complete all the housework before they step outside. One such person is

Pragati Chakma, a fifth semester student of the English and Humanities Department. Pragati used to work at Nandos, but she had to quit because her day-to-day schedule was already overloaded.

She explained, "My family lives in Rangamati, so I have to clean my home and prepare breakfast before coming to ULAB. I do all this myself - without a housemaid of course! I do sometimes arrive late because I have so many responsibilities."

ULAB has a rule for latecomers: if a student arrives more than ten to fifteen minutes later than their teacher, the student is not allowed to enter the classroom. Some teachers allow some leeway on this rule, while others do not.

If you're already late to class, check how late you are before opening the door, then enter and sit down. Don't make a sound! There's no need to ask for permission if you're not more than 10 to 15 minutes late. Because whenever a student asks for permission to enter, he or she might be unaware that their entrance distracts the other students who weren't late and were paying close attention to the teacher. If the student is allowed to enter, it takes at least three minutes for both the teacher and other students to return to the same level of concentration. If five people are late to a single class, we lose fifteen minutes

of learning. How many hours do the latecomers waste every semester, I wonder?

There's another important issue I do not want to miss. It's about cell phones. Switch yours off or put it on silent during class. Loud, informal ringtones irritate everyone. The distractions caused by some cell phone users show a lack of courtesy to other students and teachers. Some may consider these as minor issues, however the importance of being punctual and committed to studies is so great that it can make or break a student's academic success and career prospects.

Forgetting identity cards (ID) is a common problem among students. ID cards prove we're students at The University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh and this ensures security for us all, because outsiders cannot enter either of ULAB's campuses. ULAB requires every faculty staff member and student to wear an ID card around their neck. ULAB's management is strict

on not allowing anyone inside the campus without one. So don't ever leave it behind. After taking it off when you leave ULAB, keep your ID card in your bag or wallet. Trust me, this works: you'll never have to miss a class again. I learnt this from personal experience, after experiencing the frustration of missing two classes because I forgot my ID card. So I started this habit immediately afterwards and promised myself to never again forget my ID card. I haven't since.

However if you do forget your ID card, all is not lost. Head to reception at Campus A, where you will meet the front desk officer, Mr Mahfusur Ahmed.

Mr Mahfusur Ahmed told The ULABian, "Students who forget their ID card can fill out a form from Mutual Trust Bank and pay a Tk 100 fine for the day. You will then be issued with a red ribbon ID card. Outsiders may also collect a guest ID card with an orange ribbon after providing their name, phone number and so forth."

Our campus is congested due to the high number of students. Excluding the underground cafeteria in both campuses, there is no other place for students to sit and relax during breaks. So many students sit on staircases, in front of lifts or worse, outside classrooms – the noise is a massive nuisance to those inside!

Our classroom walls are made of glass and they are not sound proof. So when students talk loudly outside classrooms or even bang on doors, they show no concern for other classes taking place - they deliberately choose to ignore the "Keep Silent" notices stuck to every classroom's outside wall, as well as on every floor's notice-board. The students affected find it very difficult to concentrate and even the teachers can't deliver lectures properly due to the intolerable and unnecessary chaos going on outside.

Shouldn't ULAB's students act considerately by silently passing by other classrooms? If you were inside a class during the final minutes as an important topic was being discussed, how would you feel if you tried but failed to hear your instructor's advice? Question yourself.

It's unfair to create unnecessary sounds during class hours, whether you're inside or outside the classroom. If your class is cancelled, you can go to the library and make use of the valuable time – it's far better than wasting it by disturbing other classes. What do you think? You can stay there, gossip quietly or leave altogether in silence. A better alternative, surely?

Mr Shayeeekh-Ul-Saleheen, Assistant Professor of the Department of English and Humanities said, "The Proctor body of ULAB can monitor the situation and will keep a handle on it as necessary."

In conclusion, I hope this article provided readers with some simple yet important tips on how to free ourselves from these minor but irritating problems. Remember that it's our university and we must accept responsibility for improving the campus environment – it's in everybody's best interest to do so.



PRAGATI CHAKMA HAS MANY RESPONSIBILITIES BUT DOES NOT FORGET TO BRING HER ID CARD!  
PHOTO: SADDAT HOSSAIN