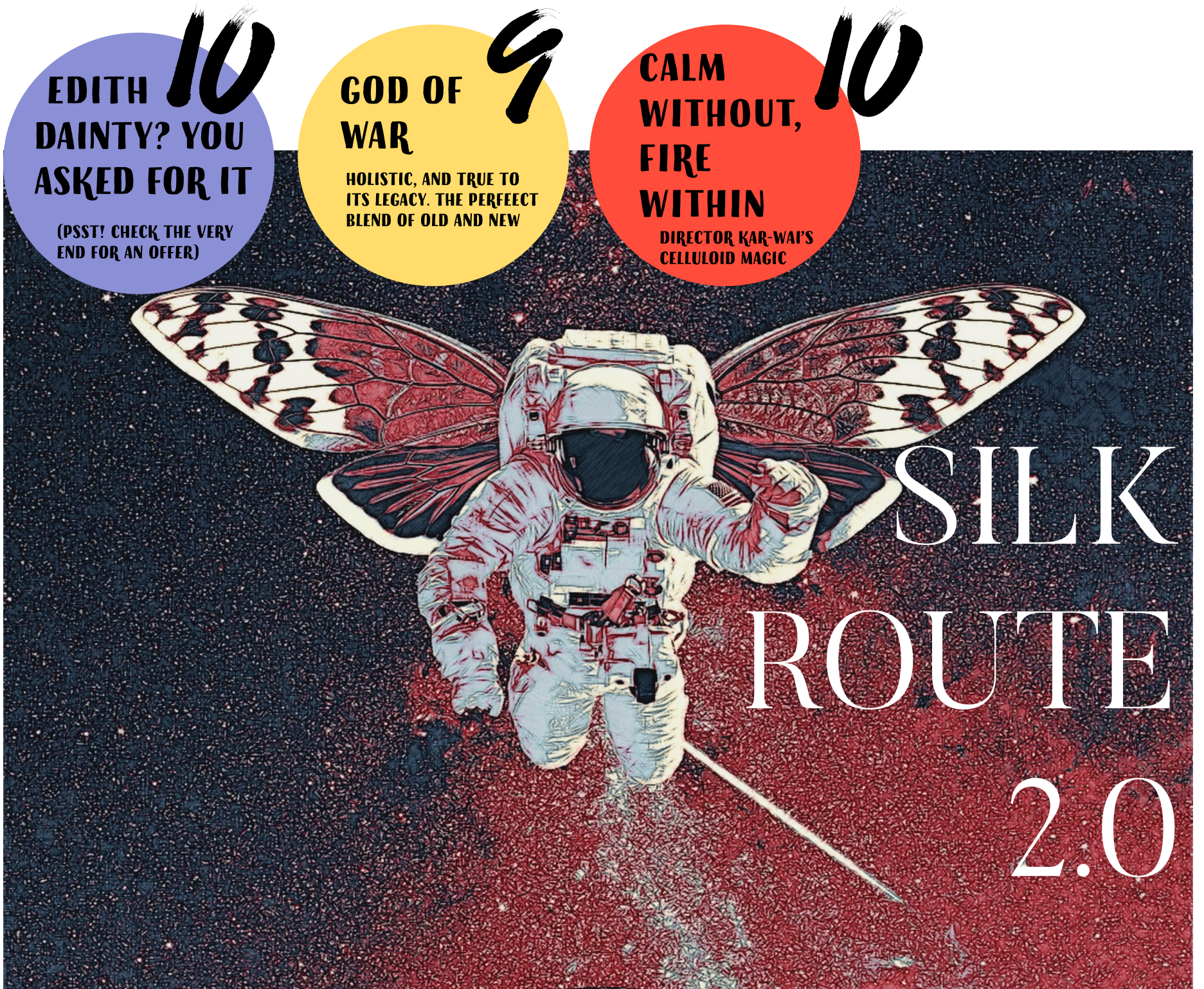


HOPE CENTRAL



10
EDITH DAINY? YOU ASKED FOR IT

(PSST! CHECK THE VERY END FOR AN OFFER)

9
GOD OF WAR

HOLISTIC, AND TRUE TO ITS LEGACY. THE PERFECT BLEND OF OLD AND NEW

10
CALM WITHOUT, FIRE WITHIN

DIRECTOR KAR-WAI'S CELLULOID MAGIC

SILK ROUTE 2.0

Cruising down the Coast, Goin' 'bout 99(% the speed of light) ARTWORK BY SERG NEHAEV, INSTAGRAM @serg_nehaev

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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5 STEPS TO ACE THE SAT

achieve
more®

Abrar Rahman Prottyasha

Before we get started, what is the SAT? The SAT is an aptitude test administered by the Collegeboard. Universities, particularly those in USA, use your SAT score primarily to compare you to the rest of the applicant pool. It comprises of two mandatory sections, Mathematics and Critical Reading (read- Hell), and an optional essay. Take a moment to convince yourself that the SAT is NOT a devilish exam which will ruin your morale and make you hate the English language forever. The SAT is designed to be a measure of your smartness. Meaning, working smartly will lead to great results!

1. THE RESOURCES

Here in Bangladesh, we are in a troublesome situation regarding SAT resources. You should know that, unlike our traditional O/A level system, Question Papers and Mark Schemes are not available for the SAT test. Also, since the new SAT has just got around, the book stores in Bangladesh are not 'stocked' with a variety of books. It's a general suggestion to purchase the Collegeboard Official SAT Guide along with the Barron's SAT Guide. Personally, I would suggest learning from Khan Academy's online SAT Course.

2. VOCABULARY

Frankly speaking, this is more of a life hack in the long run. Adding to your word stock will help you professionally and socially as you interact with all parts of the world in the course of your life. As far as your SAT prep is concerned, Collegeboard has tried desperately since the inception of the new SAT to underplay the role of SAT. Ask any student who's appeared for the new SAT and they'll let you know how everyone lies. Admittedly, you will not explicitly be tested on your ability to recall ridiculous words like 'Pulchritudinous', but a good word stock is still quintessential for you to fully comprehend the passages on the test. I'd suggest learning as many words as you can from Ivy Global or Majortests.

3. READING COMPREHENSION

It should be noted that the SAT is not a test which has to be 'prepared for' in our traditional sense, mostly because it doesn't assign a fixed syllabus to study from. Your ability to comprehend English passages should have developed over the course of your school life. And for that to happen, READ! Read as much of every genre you can. Read about history, about the sciences, about modern issues. I believe NYTimes and Scientific American are two great news portals you should follow. Also, read as many books as you can find. My personal favorites are 'The Five People You Meet In Heaven' by Mitch Albom and 'Roots' by Alex Haley. Over time, you'll find yourself developing a natural intuition and a better understanding of all types of material.



REGARDLESS OF WHICH EXAM YOU'RE SITTING FOR AND WHAT YOUR APTITUDE IS; THE MORE YOU PRACTICE, THE BETTER YOU GET.



Section	Old SAT time per question	New SAT time per question
Writing and Language	43 seconds (49 questions, 35 minutes)	48 seconds (44 questions, 35 minutes)
Mathematics	78 seconds (54 questions, 70 minutes)	84 seconds (57 questions, 80 minutes)
Reading	63 seconds (67 questions, 60 minutes)	75 seconds (52 questions, 65 minutes)

4. TIME MANAGEMENT

The Two Passes Strategy is a method you can use to structure your time strategically while working through a group of questions. It can help to ensure that you don't run out of time before you have had the chance to work on the all of the questions that are easiest for you. Basically, you start by identifying the easiest group of questions in a section, and work your way up to the hardest ones. This is the first pass of the section. Then, you should look at the remaining questions and judge how many you want to approach with the time left. In these cases, choose your battle wisely. If you just do not understand how a geometry question should be approached, answer it on a hunch, which gets me to the next point.

5. KNOW HOW SCORING WORKS & EDUCATED GUESSING

Educated Guessing, as I like to coin the term, is the situation when you're not 100% of an answer choice but you can certainly bring down the number of possible answer choices to less than 4. Always take full advantage of this. If you are confused over 2 answer choices, mark any one of them anyway. You have a 1/2 chance of getting a correct answer, which means you can get up to 5 marks for every 10 questions you guess smartly!

Please note that IHSB is one of the examination centres of the SAT in Dhaka.

Treat the SAT like any other class. The key to success is taking small steps over a planned period of time and staying consistent!

BRIDGING GAPS THROUGH WORDS

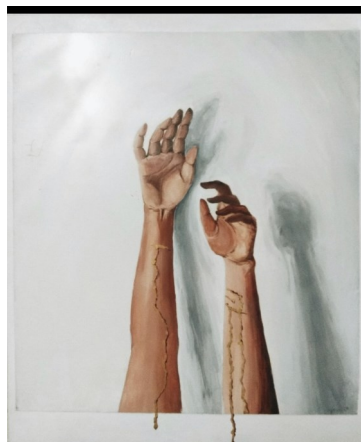
Adhora Tabassum Ahmed

For me, one of the most-awaited events of this year was Dhaka Lit Fest. I had visited this festival for the first time last year with a group of friends, but could only stay for a short while. This time around, in its eighth incarnation, I was determined to savour the atmosphere—induced with the smell of books and the gentle din of thought-provoking debates.

The eighth Dhaka Lit Fest took place on 8-10 November, on the grounds of Bangla Academy. I visited on the 9th, which was a Friday. To avoid the weekend crowd, I reached the venue early, when the first sessions of the day were taking place in several auditoriums and stages scattered around the premises. I attended a session with an upcoming writer, Arif Anwar, introducing his debut novel “The Storm”, based on the 1970 Bhola cyclone. I was impressed enough to buy the book later on and even get an autograph from the author, although I still haven’t gotten around to reading it. I spent rest of the morning wandering around the stalls, poring over books and even buying some. Checking the event’s schedule from a brochure, I was excited to find that the famous actress Tilda Swinton would be giving a reading that very afternoon. When I entered the designated auditorium on time, I found the place teeming with people, perhaps eager to catch a glimpse of a Hollywood celebrity. Swinton’s arrival was welcomed with a hearty applause. She read an excerpt from the science fiction novel “Last and First Men: A Story of the Near and Far Future” by Olaf Stapledon. Her mesmerising voice had a soothing effect on us as we listened in pin-drop silence. After her reading, Swinton treated the audience with a video depicting her pet dogs performing various tricks. It was a truly enjoyable session.

I was pleased to see so many people from all corners of the globe gathering in this chaotic city of ours for their shared love of literature. In a world full of unease and petty conflicts, fostering such events dedicated to art and culture can bring a sense of normalcy in our daily, mundane lives. I would encourage everyone to attend this wonderful event, if you haven’t already.

It is to be mentioned that Mr. Giuseppe had arranged a day-long excursion to Dhaka Lit Fest for interested IHSB students.



Artwork by Reyna Ahmad

A TALE OF TWO VOICES

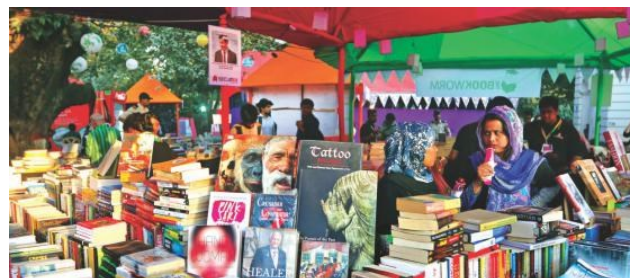
Sarah Wasifa Ferdousi

Museumplein, with its palette of blues and D minors, tells us a story many of us are familiar with- the highways of mental illnesses, and the places they take us. Eyes submerged in melancholy, grey faces, hands desperate for help just out of their axis of their reaches- the works can only be described as haunting. And rightly so, representing the stigma and strife faced by those affected in this city, and beyond.

Organised by SO(u)L, the exhibition featured works of more than 35 artists, emboldened by the desire to make a change to the ignorance and taboo surrounding the topic. Depression isn’t just a phase, anxiety isn’t just shyness; they stem from causes deeply embedded and for reasons aplenty. For many, the sole conduits from the grey within is to paint their worlds in the colours of music, dance, writing, and of course, art. Art is a powerful healing tool to explore deep emotions - the sorrows, the struggles, and joys. It has the ability to transform us by awakening parts of ourselves to recover and heal from earlier traumatic memories. Through artwork, people can develop their own personal vocabularies for a fuller identity.

As 1/4 of Project Semicolon, the exhibition was aimed at easing awareness at the fragility of the human psyche, and seeking the balance in life through the cathartic effect brought on by the arts.

In closing, if you or someone you know is in need of help or requires someone to talk to please call Kaan Pete Roi at 01779554391.

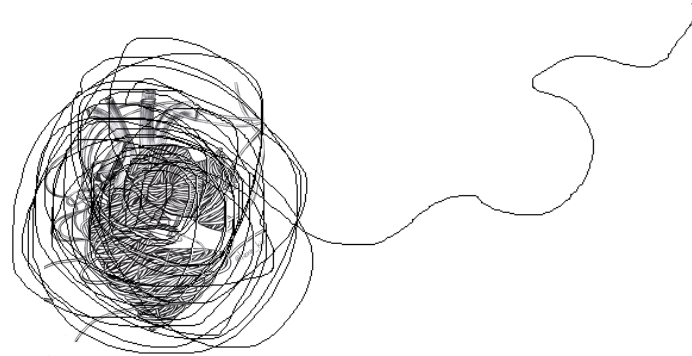


LYRICS OF THE HEART Aminah Tahirah Khandaker

With my lungs choking
and arteries blocked,
My brain puzzled and my
soul locked.
Self harm, self
destruction,
The only two words that
I've nursed in pain.
How possibly can I survive
in denial?
For it was so inhuman of
you to leave me in this
turmoil.

As I bawl my eyes out and
drink the night away,
How I refuse to let in the
sun's ray,
How I shiver and quiver
under the scorching heat,
With an arrow through
my heart and a bullet
through my spine,
I wonder how you've
killed me so neat.

LIMBO Wasi Iqbal



It was one of the darkest nights of the year, silence reeking in the deepest darkest veins of the tunnel which would soon lead to dawn. The hospital was dead, unlike the ones residing in it, for they were holding onto life by a thread, subconsciously hoping it would be strong enough to feel the sun once again.

Cutting through the silence were the faltering steps of a young girl, staccato footfalls just managing to prevent two souls from falling, herself being one half of the two. Leaning over the reception, she broke the trance of the attendant who had been snug in the otherwise cold, greying hall that resembled any other hospital. As for the girl, the beeping of the machines buzzed through her head, their loudness amplified tenfold, adding to the pain she was already in.

“Baby, here.” She managed to blurt out before rendered breathless.

She was carried off on a stretcher into the operation theatre – no forms filled, no kin called.

The gynaecologist who was paged had been praying to get out of her house. Tired of the incessant scowls and never ending quarrels about the ungodly hours outside from the person who had promised her togetherness, both in sickness and health. She served her patients well, for they were the only salvation she could find.

Under the blinding lights, the girl was blinded by red; she couldn't feel anything but pain. It hurt to breathe. It hurt to bleed. Maybe, her heart felt the pain as it pumped too. It was all a haze, every rise and fall of her chest became strained as her energy seeped out.

The doctor called for a suction. The mother wasn't pushing hard enough. The baby inside was suffocating; she couldn't let another life end before it began.

The cold sensation was gaining in on the girl as she lay on the metal gurney. The warmth fading out, and it was fading out fast; the air running thin. She was tired – very much tired. And then, there was a flash. A flash of everything – her childhood, her friends, the countless sunsets and the never ending stars. A knock on the door, a man in a uniform with a folded flag, flickering birthday candles, shattered headlights and a blood spattered steering wheel, broken dreams and empty promises. And him. Oh, the thought of stargazing with him would have warmed her up but she went ice cold the next instant where he left.

She lay still as life was ripped away from her fragile body. Her soul beating like a caged bird on its last strain of energy, revolting against its prison bars. Neither reluctance, nor welcome to the abrupt departure of life.

The doctor sighed with relief as the baby ventured out into the world. But just as the sound of life filled the room, a shrill, continuous sound coexisted. At the same moment in time, in the same second, like the clockwork of destiny. The peaks of the cardiac monitor flattened, and the mother's chest fell one last time.

Life and death had crossed paths.

THE ESSENCE OF TRUE BEAUTY

Rezwanā Habib

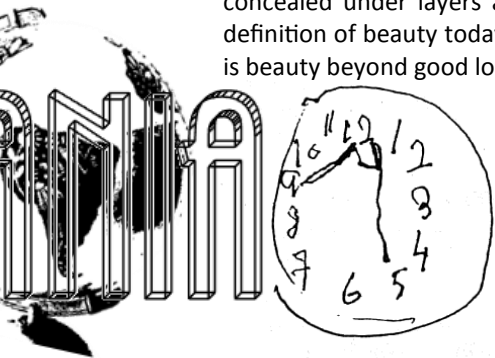
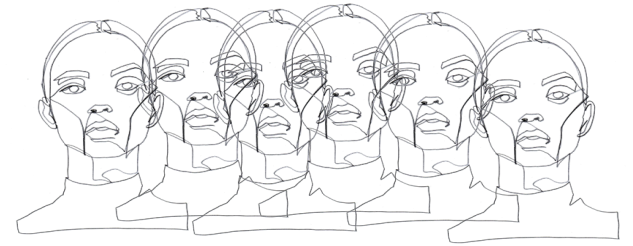
It is often said that the girls of this generation are vain, self-centred, narcissistic;

“Why can’t they put their brains into books instead of good looks?”

Blaming girls is just as easy as a double click to press a like to a picture of theirs, but when it comes to being in their shoes, one realizes how ill-fitting the template today’s society has made for a girl. We believe the empowerment of women has finally taken a turn for the better, but has it really been victorious?

It is as if girls are held under a microscope day in day out; as if beauty no longer exists unless everything is crossed off the checklist: plumped lips, curvy hips, glowing skin, unblemished nose, redrawn into the sketch if not perfect because, without all that, she is unacceptable. Back in the days when racism existed, individuals were looked down upon because of their color and race. Now, many sunsets later, we’ve created an illusion of racism being abolished, but in turn have given birth to an impression far worse. The norm of beauty and grace has been replaced with the airbrushed images of cover magazines and billboards where showcasing a flawless body and face is advertised as a way of life.

This misogyny has created a perception for girls to presume that their originality is no longer enough, that artificial beauty is the key to charm and that is the sole reason why these young girls seem so vain. Don’t blame them, for it was not their choice to be born in a world where a perfect body is valued more than a healthy one, where a dyed hairdo is desired more than a natural one or where pimples and stretch marks are such a shame that they must be concealed under layers and layers of tears and foundation. Don’t blame these girls, for each and every individual has a role to play in this sickening definition of beauty today. It’s not the girls who must change, it is the world that must accept girls as they are with all their imperfections and flaws. There is beauty beyond good looks, there is beauty within the individuality they portray, as God’s masterpieces, walking in broad daylight.



MY FAVOURITE TIME OF THE DAY

Nashra Zaman

A chilly breeze escapes through the curtains and brushes my hair as I sit with anticipation, waiting for the time to commence. Outside, I perceive the sky, bleeding out shades of pinks, reds and greens, hugging them close, as they kiss each other and sway away.

The loud tick of the clock in my room, makes me more impatient. Staring at the sun bidding me goodbye, I hear the commotion of girls and boys laughing and giggling as they head back to their homes in bicycles after a long day, ringing their bells.

The leaves rustle as the birds return home to their nests, as the colour disappears into the abyss of the dark sky. The rattling of pots and pans greet my ears, as I inhale the smell of the spicy chicken curry diffused in the air around me, watering my dry mouth.

Finally, I hear the ding of my doorbell, and I run, feeling the wind against my face, pushing my hair back. My bare feet touch the cold tiled floor beneath, sending a chill up my spine.

Turning the door knob, I stare at the giant man, his tie loosened at his neck and his face prickly with beard. As he embraces me, I feel the strong muscle on his arms lifting me up, the beard on his face pricking my skin, as I hear the loud chuckle of his raspy deep voice.

The view of the romance between the sky and the sun shedding tears as they disappear, the hustle and bustle of the children screaming in joy and the smell of my mother cooking my favourite meal. None of them came close, to how happy it made me to see my father after a long day. The favourite time of my day.

BURI MA

Mehnaz Tabassum

There is a crooked luster
In the way Buri Ma grins
Can an earthborn being such as her
Be unbound with flaws and sins?
No; yet Buri Ma holds her impeccable composure
Not as if the planets align and separate
Just for her and her well-wishers
But as if the mishaps caused unintentionally
Are none she must be apologetic for;
As if the tribulations that lay waiting
On the lane to so-called elation
Are ones that need not leave her in affright.
Those are qualities to ponder over
To admire in enchantment



For beauty does not lie within people
Who rank high in conventional standards
Alas! On days of downheartedness
It is not even in the eyes of the beholder
Rather, splendour cultivates in those individuals
Who discover strength in themselves.
Ones such as Buri Ma
Who are impregnable in trying times.
That, to me, is true magnificence,
In the deep recesses of your mind as well
People such as her are of utmost significance,
Though you may not acknowledge it
For superficiality was the language we were taught
But not necessarily the one we implement.



Jean-Michel Basquiat

Proactive vs. Reactive

Adhora Tabassum Ahmed

Making decisions and acting on them is a continuous process in our daily lives. From the time we wake up till we fall asleep, we are always making choices, whether it is during completing mundane household chores or tackling larger difficulties at work or school. The methods we use in resolving problems can differ in the efficiency or outcome. Two of the most analysed approaches in carrying out a task are proactive and reactive approach.

The actual definition of these techniques may seem complicated, but we are no stranger to them. A proactive approach takes care of all the problems before attempting the task, thus there is less room for error. On the other hand, a reactive approach learns from past mistakes or shortcomings before trying again. For example, receiving a vaccine for chickenpox can protect your body against the disease; this is a proactive approach. Conversely, going to the doctor after you notice rashes appearing on your skin is a reactive approach.

There is much debate on which approach is better in carrying out duties, but it actually depends on the situation and circumstances. Most experts claim that a proactive approach is generally more effective. The well-known adage "Prevention is better than cure" also promotes this method. Proactive approach indeed has benefitted mankind many times. For example, with the help of modern technology, weather forecasts can predict natural disasters, thus we can prepare ourselves for any upcoming storms or floods. However, to err is human and it is impossible to take a proactive approach on everything. Learning from our mistakes is imperative for our personal growth, especially when studying. The more we practise by rectifying our errors, the more we harness the skill. Thus, a reactive approach comes in handy in such cases.

We often resort to a reactive approach when a proactive one would have been more effective. More often than not, compensating for mistakes is very difficult. Therefore, going about our tasks more proactively can improve our lives.

Redolent of a home long lost

Sarah Wasifa Ferdousi

Blessed are the eyes which haven't seen war. They do not breathe in the smell of coagulated death, of blood burnt in unmarked funeral pyres.

They do not know the meaning of incarcerated freedom.

The term, Rohingya, first added to the mainstream Bengali vocabulary in mid 2015, had begun its final descent into a popular curse not long before calendars shifted to 2017. Ostracised and oppressed, these souls ran with their lives slipping past their fingers only to step into a world where their own identity was denied the right to live. Here is where we can draw parallels, little tears where history has bled into the fabric of time. Or maybe we didn't progress at all. We didn't learn. We never do. We still trust politicians to be spitting images of honesty and resilience, but maybe in between losing citizenships and wrongfully apprehending journalists, they may accidentally deny evidence linked to repugnant treatment of the minority or obstruct humanitarian aid. They're only human.

Drawing parallels, where was I? Systematic ethnic cleansing. Genocide in its finest form. Persecuted for their religion. 1945. 2018. As the another anniversary of the Rohingya crisis cruises by, marked by silent prayers and a vast percentage of ignorance, let us remember that bullets know no prejudice. That somewhere, amongst those lost faces, it could have been us. Orphaned; uprooted. See the world from their eyes, and decide for yourself why diminishing humanity is, by far, the worst of humanity's nightmares.

Rohingya isn't just a word. It's a terminal cry for justice.

The SRC Elections: A top-down view

Debjyoti Bhadra

The school has changed a lot in the past 6 months. From a new management, to new rules, to even a new newspaper, everything seems to be new this year. And although all the new things seem to be coming from different places, they all emerged from a single brainwave "Bridging the gap between students and the authority".

That is what the school intended to achieve last month during a weeklong presidential election for the "Students' Representative Council". This event turned out to be a hit as students seemed to enjoy the political atmosphere, shrouding the whole campus with banners and posters while chanting comical taglines such as, "She's the best, forget the rest" and even preparing stamps for their preferred candidates. A week of "cheerful rivalry" later the votes were cast and the people that would be representing the school were selected.

Although, tangible outcomes are still long ways off, I believe the campaigning week showed us what the students of this school are truly capable of. From flawlessly delivering a moving speech to coming up with unique taglines to designing beautiful posters, our students did it all. And that I believe was the biggest accomplishment of this event and is what keeps our hopes up - showcasing our own talents and working in a group to achieve a common goal - towards accomplishing the main objective "Bridging the gap between the students and the authority".

The spark is there, it is now our turn to make a fire out of it.



Faraz Bin Hasan



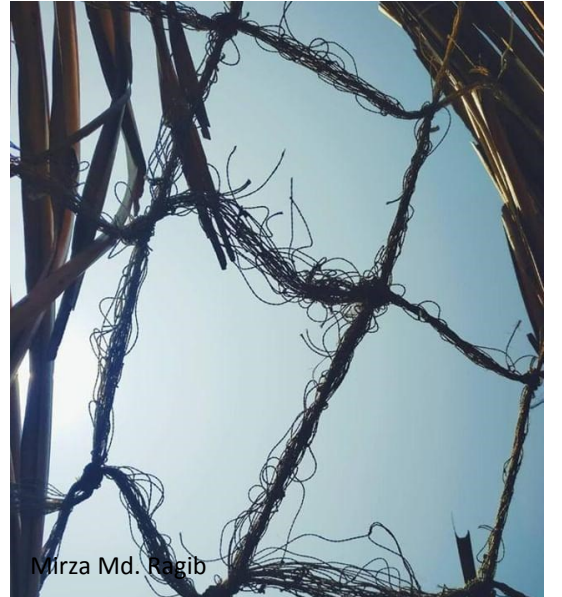
Safa Akhter Noon



Urooba Yusuf



Nafisa Muhammad



Mirza Md. Ragib



Vishwa Patel



Marwah Younas



Safa Akhter Noon



Safa Akhter Noon



Rezwana Habib

THE 'GOD' PARTICLE?

Mohammad Ali Hasan

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is probably something many of us have heard of; be it from a fancy science video on the internet, textbooks (if you are studying physics in A-levels), or a peer in your science class who merely made mention of it just to pretend to be cool. Rest assured, if not anything else, the LHC is something scientists can surely brag about! It is in the LHC that scientists have made the groundbreaking discovery of the so-hyped 'God Particle'.

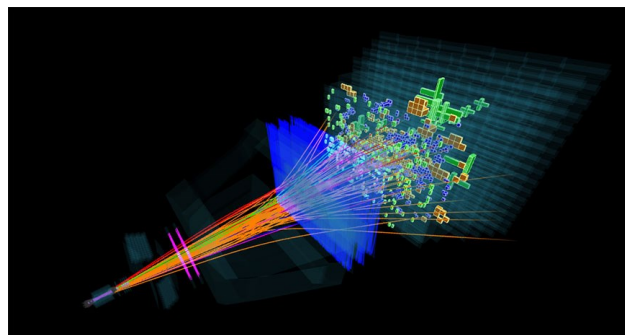
Now, before delving into this mysterious God particle, I believe it's only fair that I introduce you to the LHC. In more conceivable terms, the LHC is basically a long tunnel (26.8 km to be exact), which has an electric field that causes charged particles to accelerate at extremely (I mean EXTREMELY) high speeds – we're talking about around 1,079,999,989 km/h! And guess what scientists do then? They smash these fast-moving particles with one another and see what they are made of (of course they don't literally see it because they smash things like tiny protons together; they detect them through complicated probes and detectors).

Now that we know what scientists have been up to with all the research money they get, let's talk about the real stuff: what on earth is the God Particle?

Without sounding overly complicated (which is practically impossible when you are talking about in-depth particle physics), the "God Particle" or Higgs-boson is an elementary particle (a building block of the universe) in the Standard Model of particle physics, produced by the quantum excitation of the Higgs field, one of the fields in particle physics theory. It is named after the physicist Peter Higgs, who in 1964, along with six other scientists, proposed the mechanism which suggested the existence of such a particle.

In 2012 the 'thing' just got real as CERN experimentation in the LHC confirmed its existence. On December 10, 2013, two of the physicists, Peter Higgs and François Englert, were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their theoretical predictions. In mainstream media the Higgs boson has often been called the 'God particle', from a 1993 book on the same topic. Being one of the most fundamental components of the fabric of our universe, it's a hard thing to wrap our mind around. The Higgs field is like a field of snow, and the different kinds of particles are like people and animals traversing that snow. The Higgs mechanism sets up a field that interacts with particles to endow them with mass, and the Higgs boson is the particle associated with that field – just as photons are associated with an electromagnetic field. Higgs boson is the stuff that gives stuff what it takes to be stuff in the first place (mass).

Now if that's enough to justify Higgs boson as the 'God Particle' is something debatable, but here is a little interesting thing you might want to know: the 'God Particle', because it was so damn difficult to observe through experimentation, was actually called the 'Goddamn Particle' by scientists. Now that leaves a little clue as to where the famous title of 'God' Particle really came from!



Mosa



THE WOLVES ARE BACK

Rafiqul Ameer

Wolverhampton Wanderers (better known as the Wolves) was one of the founders of the English League back in the 19th Century. The West Midlands club reached its zenith as a football team during the 1950s winning the top division title three times. But as the Manchester and Liverpool giants started to dominate English football, the Wolves gradually went into a decline. They have spent most of the recent decades in the lower echelons of English football.

However, a large-scale Chinese investment in the summer of 2016 was a big boost to the club. And there was an instant dividend, as the Wolves won the 2017-18 Championship title to return to the EPL. Despite this success, in the beginning of the season, there was apprehension among many fans about the Wolves' chances against the big boys. That apprehension was quickly dispelled as the Wolves gathered 15 points from their first 8 games. A dip in form since then has seen them get only 1 point from the last 5 games, but they are still comfortably placed in the 11th position.

Three players have impressed immensely in the Wolves' current campaign. Right wing-back Matt Doherty (Ireland) has impressed in both defense and attack, and always remains a goal threat. Midfielder Ruben Neves (Portugal) had the honor of scoring the Wolves' first League goal on their return to the top flight of English football (against Everton); with a superb free-kick that gave Jordan Pickford, England's Number 1 goalkeeper, no chance. The striker Raul Jimenez (Mexico) has impressed everyone with his relentless hard-work.

Two weaknesses have, however, hampered the Wolves' progress this season. Firstly, the conversion rate of their forwards has been poor; they have missed plenty of clear-cut chances. The other problem is that the Wolves seem to struggle if the oppositions raise the tempo of their game. Both Watford and Huddersfield have used this tactic successfully against the Wolves in recent fixtures.

If they can sort out these problems, then they have a very strong chance of finishing in the top half of the table this season.

[Dedicated to the memory of my dad, who was among the very few Wolves fans in Bangladesh till his death in 2011.]

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CHEAPER IN THE AIR

Nibras Iqbal

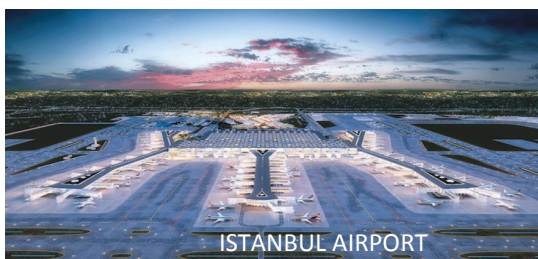
With Beijing's Daxing International Airport set to open on September 2019 and the Istanbul Airport due to be fully operational by the 1st of March, intense competition for flights is to push down air fares to the lowest in history.

In the East, the Daxing International Airport will be occupying an area of 97 football fields. Its name "Daxing" was announced earlier this year, which means starfish – implying the structure of the airport. This \$11.5 billion mega-hub airport with 700,000 m² terminal area is forecasted to accommodate at least 100 million passengers and 600,000 flights per year upon completion. The number of air travellers in China is projected to triple in the following two decades and the sole purpose of the construction of Daxing is to meet this enormously growing demand.

On the other side of the world, rivalling the Daxing is the Istanbul Airport situated on an area of 76.5 million square meters – larger than the island of Manhattan. The airport will have a total capacity of accommodating 200 million passengers and with six independent runways it will be the world's largest aviation hub by the first quarter of 2019. Alongside this mammoth aviation center, the Turkish Government is providing a subsidy of \$6000 per flight in order to revive its tourism industry amidst the ongoing political crisis. The fierce competition in the aviation industry fuelled by world's two largest airports is expected to create a downward pressure on the price of air tickets. It is predicted that long haul flights, such as from London to Sydney – a 10,000 mile journey – could be as cheap as \$350.

Unfortunately, these low air travel prices are unlikely to persist. Soon airlines would have to take into account of their carbon emissions and eventually they will have no other option but pass it in the form of higher ticket prices to the passengers. Thus, it would be rational for travellers to go on vacations in 2019 before the industry sees a rise in fares.

Nevertheless, the opening of the Daxing International Airport is a clear signal to the world that the center of the world's economy has shifted to the East.



GOD OF WAR

Mirza Md. Ragib and Hrittik Biswas

In today's world there seems to be an endless number of games released. However, among this varied and continually varying list there is this one particular game that stands out. This is none other than the best-selling game on console: God of War. Usually, any game stands out because of its unparalleled graphics in the time the game was released, its gameplay or the storyline. God of War has all three of these components, and then some. The developer has made sure that the community never feels that the game is a sub-par storyline, making sure that it is action packed more than any other game out there. Consisting of many historical characters and surroundings, what makes this more interesting is the fact the developer has implemented both Greek and Norse mythology.

To begin with, the game consists of a demigod called Kratos, who is called the god of war as he served Aries when he begged for his life in exchange for his service as a warrior. In each of the games squeals, Kratos, demised of his past, wants to find out the truth of what happened to him by fighting against mythological characters from the Greek and Norse mythology to be free of Aries and to find his long-lost brother.

As the 2005 God of War took the individual great combat ideas from its time and blended them together, so does the new God of War for a new era. God of War (2018) is feisty and full fledged, and tells the story of both a fearless and fearsome warrior- Kratos. The main objective this time around is, wait for it- parenting. Seriously! This relaxed pace frees you to explore, and it allows Kratos to focus more on parenting than on saving the planet. On more than one occasion, he threatens a bratty Atreus, his son, that he will turn this canoe around and head straight back home, and it feels like he might actually do it. The combat is a joy and the dialogues set the scene perfectly. There are no load screens. From the opening frame, through the credits and beyond, the camera lingers behind Kratos, the story proceeding in real time. God of War takes place in one shot, making it more like a movie. Polygon puts the single camera take as a technical marvel.

This is why, to anyone who hasn't played it before, this is one of the games I would recommend you to delve in. Awe-inducing and adventurous, God of War is, in a single word, holistic.



A DEEPER INSIGHT

Debjyoti Bhadra

Although most of our news-worthy knowledge about our soon to be home, Mars, is driven by "Curiosity" a new NASA space mission has recently been launched in order to get a deeper "InSight" into the planet's inner workings.

Developed in a collaborative effort by both NASA's Jet Propulsion Labs and aerospace-giant Lockheed Martin, the InSight rover was designed to obtain geophysical data from deep within the red planet. As a matter of fact, that is where it got its name from, Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight). Fitted with a myriad of sensors and probes that reach into the martian soil, InSight is expected to provide us with a slew of new information about the planet's geological makeup and what it "looks" like on the inside. But why put a seventh rover on the same damn planet? The answer is easy, a possibility of habitation. Mars is the closest planet to earth and is often touted as the home of the "Martians" in pop culture. Although recent scientific ventures have proved that to be false, the Curiosity rover in 2013 discovered traces of water on the then believed dry planet. This discovery sparked the interests of countless billionaires and gave meaning to the plans of numerous aerospace agencies such as Elon Musk's SpaceX and even Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin. The next space race is now truly on as these companies are now trying to build reusable rockets and the UAE is even planning to build a human settlement on the red planet as soon as 2117.

That is why InSight couldn't have launched at a better time, providing vital information about the inner workings of the planet will allow us to uncover even more secrets about the planet and understand what it truly is like up there, and maybe one day we will too be able to farm potatoes on the red-planet like Matt Damon does in "The Martian".



CALM WITHOUT, FIRE WITHIN

Asef Arman Sameer

"It's me. If there's an extra ticket... would you go with me?"

It's me. If there's an extra ticket... would you go with me?"

Captured through the ephemeral spirals of cigarette smoke and with luscious colours used to create ravishing frames from the 60s, *In the Mood for Love* is, in its entirety, dazzling eye candy and of equal parts succour for the soul, examining the secrets that join men and women and those that keep them apart.

Director Wong Kar-Wai recreates a 60s backdrop in Hong Kong, when on one fateful day Mr. Chow, a married editor and Su, a married assistant, move into adjacent apartments; both neglected by their spouses who work late or in general leave them to their devices for extended periods of time. They find each other in the narrow hallways of their building and on the busy streets of Hong Kong, sharing curious glances and polite exchanges. Through a dinner and some meticulously written dialogue they find out their spouses are having an affair with each other. Shrouded by the paradoxical loneliness of a crowded city and their mutual link to infidelity, they strike up a platonic relationship, re-enacting how their spouses met and got together and rehearsing how they will confront them. Through the pages of make-believe, they develop feelings for each other and fall in love.

"For us to do the same would mean we are no better than they are."

Both of them agree to the sentiment, but are tested as time flows and their relationship grows roots in their souls. Yet they are adamant to not do what their spouses did. Through all this Wong Kar-Wai leaves the cheating spouses off screen, leaving them faceless as a device of denying them undue attention. Their entities meet in Tokyo, China or a downtown hotel but never on screen as their infidelity is boring and commonplace while the reticence of Chow and Su elevates their love to a noble kind of perfection. Rather than relate to the odd couple Wong Kar-Wai asks us to empathize with them which proves to be a more complex assignment with greater rewards.

The film is strikingly exuberant with deep colours of red, browns, greens that bleed out of the screen. Cinematographer Christopher Doyle constructs enchanting sequences using enclosed geometry and contrasting dresses to create an entrancing atmosphere which could only be described as some of the best camera work in the history of modern cinema, which only elevates the amazing performances from the two leads whose commendable use of body language complements their exceptional delivery of dialogue. With this film Wong Kar-Wai creates a character study of perseverance, diffidence and unrequited love.

They are in the mood for love but neither in the time nor place for it.



DAINTY? YOU ASKED FOR IT

Ishrath Rawshan Chowdhury



"Stars shining bright above you

Night breezes seem to whisper "I love you"

Birds singing in the sycamore trees

Dream a little dream of me"

A gentle melody played as my group of friends and I entered the tempting patisserie, Edith, the delightfully sweet smell of cake and freshly baked goods difficult to ignore. To say Edith was dream-like would be an understatement. The interior of the café perfectly captured a very Alice in Wonderland meets Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory ambience with the peculiar vintage décor and eye-catching glass display cases filled with colourful macarons and other delectable treats.

After taking in the surroundings, the waiter brought our orders of *macarons*, *chocolate religieuse* and *chocolate mousse*, all presented in a gold birdcage dessert stand (honestly, a real cage couldn't and wouldn't stop us from eating), followed by a milkshake, lattes, and three dainty white pots of tea. Each had a rather distinctive taste, and surprisingly, the flavours I expected would leave a strange aftertaste were the more enjoyable ones. Moving on to the three white ceramic teapots, each radiating its own distinct scent, we served the tea (metaphorically and literally). The *Rose & Roselle*, dark reddish in colour with a mellow floral fragrance, was most enjoyable and left a sweet aftertaste on my taste buds. The dark brown *Pu'er* was not quite my cup of tea, pun intended, but would be more enjoyable for those with a taste for more musky and strong teas. Last but not least, the *Chrysanthemum* tea graced us with a honey-like sweetness and a citrusy trace, with an equally cute pale yellow colour. Now, if you are no fan of "hot leaf juice", there is a range of coffees and shakes that Edith has to offer. For example, the *Confetti* milkshake; a vanilla ice-cream based drink decorated with whipped cream topped with rainbow sprinkles. Or their *hazelnut latte* (that may make one giggle at the sight of the peculiar latte art).

With the sun beginning to set, we set our eyes (and spoons) on the religieuse and mousse. Each bite more chocolate-filled than the last before all of it was gone. If I had to pick between the two, I would definitely order the chocolate mousse again as it had a perfectly smooth and creamy texture without the thick, oily feeling afterwards. It was the perfectly sweet goodbye before we left (our table, because we had to spend about 20 minutes more to take photos or else it'd be a missed opportunity for the 'Gram).

EMINEM: KAMIKAZE

Qazi Amio Wasif

In late August, Detroit heavyweight Eminem dropped a surprise album out of thin air on Aftermath Entertainment and Shady Records. The album flew into the market as the artist's 10th album and an obvious rebuttal to the underwhelming reception to *Revival*, his last record released in 2017. So can his latest endeavour, *Kamikaze*, be his saving grace? This isn't the first time the multi platinum selling artist has either dropped a surprise or a response album. *Recovery* was the rapper's earlier strive against his 2009 plight *Relapse*, which was not a bad album in my opinion. But *Recovery* was just, wow!

However, after his 2017 effort has been dubbed by the vast majority as the megastar's greatest collapse, can *Kamikaze* be Mr. Mather's revival? In short: Yes, followed by a distant No.

While 'Kamikaze' sees the rapper returning to a more traditional hip hop sound after dipping his feet into the rap-rock pond on his last album with Dr. Dre, *S1*, Mike Will Made It returning to the producer's panel, the monotony and some of the whiny subject matters accumulates into a detriment for me later on after sailing past the overarching great production team. However, does that mean that Eminem isn't exuding lyrical and technical prowess throughout this project? Absolutely not. The emcee's forte has always been his technical ability, humour, wordplay and stacks of flows and this album surely attested to this. Tracks like "The Ringer" and "Greatest", probably the best cuts on the album, showcasing Slim Shady's flow-game the best. "The Ringer" in particular sees the rapper switching flows like seasons, with a different cadence every 8 bar as he got angrier with each line. But that was where it ended for me. The rest of the album seemed like an overly stressed and stretched out vendetta against the critics and supposed "mumble rappers" who seemed to have destroyed the rap game; the Aftermath Records artist's lack of relevance being collateral damage. Apart from that too, some of the topics just seemed painfully one dimensional coated with fancy wordplay. While the beats made for good songs to blast in the car, I really didn't have much desire to hear a 45-year-old man calling out YouTubers and name-dropping rappers with hostility, who obviously won't fight back. Prominently enough, this has been the main criticism for most people. A deviation from the zeitgeist of a Marshall Mathers album, sulking to appease a commercial audience, gave birth to tracks which were just a no-no for me.

Leaving that aside, on a grand scale, I did enjoy this album to an extent; 50% of it to be exact. The shortcomings are personal biases and definitely ignorable if you're a hard stan. But since I'm not on board that deep, my mind reads into it a bit differently. *Kamikaze* definitely fulfilled its purpose of overshadowing and tugging *Revival* under the dirt, much like *Recovery*, as the sales are skyrocketing. Another platinum plaque just might be awaiting the highest selling rapper of all time!



COLOURS BEYOND VISIBLE SPECTRUM

Antara Fairuz



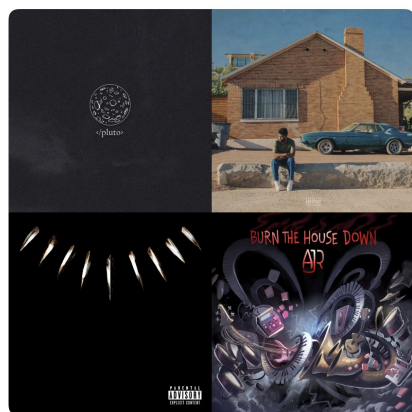
To be honest, "All the Light We Cannot See" is a book that you'll fail to appreciate if you stop too soon. Each page is brutal with minute details of the physical world of 1940s Paris and Germany- the dark and haunting aura of the Nazi empire, as opposed to long afternoons in the mazes of a museum, alongside innumerable scientific and metaphorical references to light- all that we see, and all that plays hide and seek in plain sight. It is a beautiful work of literature, but might get a bit too dense and overwhelming at times.

It is the story of two childhoods torn and traumatically bruised by a vicious monster- War. When the Nazi cast their shrouds upon Paris, Maire-Laure, who has been blind since the age of six, is forced to flee to the coastal town of Saint-Malo to live with her uncle, carrying a priceless blue diamond called Sea of flames, which allegedly endows its keeper immortality, but at the heavy price of a cursed fate. Meanwhile, in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan with an innate understanding of circuitry comes of age in the coal-mining town of Zollverein. His passion for science and gift for radio

mechanics earns him a place at a nightmarish training school for the Nazi military elite. By the time he graduates, he is sickened by the brutal fate of all the people he caught with illegal radio transmission.

His path converges with Maire-Laure's when allied forces land on the beaches of Normandy, and his unit is dispatched to trace illegal broadcasts from Saint-Malo. These two lives we are introduced to seem to be worlds apart, yet they weave together intricately, only to be changed forever. This book may not be a very illuminating one, but it is one where people do not disappear - but become a part of the light we cannot see.

Don't forget to check out "All the Light We Cannot See" from our very own library.



17 Songs, 1 hour

▶ Play

↻ Shuffle

Nubeculae Magellani

Anika Tabassum
Updated Yesterday

✓ DOWNLOADED

	Pluto (feat. Ivri)	Aidan	2:08
	Suncity (feat. Empress Of)	Khalid	3:09
	All The Stars	Kendrick Lamar, SZA	3:52
	City of Stars	Logic	6:17
	Waves	Normani & 6LACK	3:36
	Burn Out (feat. Dewain Whitmore)	Martin Garrix & Justin Mylo	3:20
	Eclipse	Pink Floyd	2:10
	A Sky Full of Stars	Coldplay	4:28
	134340	BTS	3:50
	Planets	Nicklas Sahl	3:23
	moonchild	RM	3:26
	Burn the House Down	AJR	3:32
	Moonlight	XXXTENTACION	2:15

A Haven of Beauty

Faraz Bin Hassan

A dive into the deepest bits of the world map imitates a humongous variety of ideologies, landscapes and savoury. This bizarre perception motivates me to travel around the corners of the world. Today, I will take you amidst the wilderness of the state of the Yankees. A place lesser known to tourists and even New Yorkers themselves: The Thousand Islands.

An eight-hour drive up north-west from the Central Park region of NYC takes you to the rather remote but subtle, quiet but eccentric, unorganized but monotonous beauty of Alexander Bay. The threshold to the city consists of a small town, almost invisible within the artistry of the fresh fumes of earthstones, and the olive and ebony of the forest that chaperones the beige husks of farms. During summer (when I visited), a gleaming sunshine hugs the entire area, that wakes up every bird, every soul and every tourist within. This creates a jubilant symphony that can be felt at the entrance of Alexander Bay. Ice-cream parlours in every street corner, seafood restaurants crowded along the coast, bars and pubs lined up behind herds of men, the muffled beauty is abruptly contrasted by joyous streets.

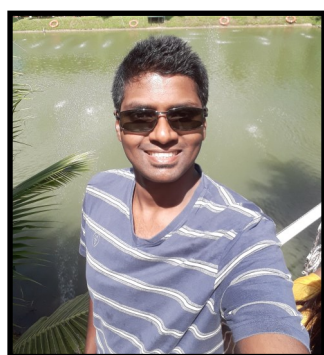
Brushing against the city's coast are the faint waves of the St. Lawrence river, that flows along the border of the U.S and Canada. The river straddles along the coasts of over 1700 islands, from being meagre to humongous – thus its name; The Thousand Islands. Exuberant island mansions such as the Boldt castle on Heart Island, and Singer Castle on Dark Island show off their astute passageways and gothic architecture. An Uncle Sam Boat tour, costing around \$15-\$20, covers most of the attractions that the islands have to offer. From the flights of hundreds of seagulls at once, to the aqua color of the clear river water, every part of the islands' seascape inspires us be awe-inspiring. To show gratitude to the creator for such astounding beauty, a parasail or hot-air balloon ride over the St. Lawrence river is essential. Moreover, surprisingly the hot-air balloon ride costs lesser than the boat rides, making it a must-do on your checklist.

Savoury kingpins in the heart of the city of Alexander Bay. Though expensive compared to regular seafood diners, the scenic allurements of the peak of the Boldt castle from Bella's diner thrives to astound anyone who visits, along with the finest of seafood dishes. With regards to breakfast and desserts, Pan Chancho bakery utterly nourishes your sweet tooth, and is definitely a must try for incredible waffles and pastries.

A fully composed tourist spot thus is situated amidst the craziness of New York. Consisting of exquisite aspects of nature while stupefying everyone with its ecstatic mood, the Thousand Islands has to be one of the most fulfilling places I have been to. To ameliorate your errand, try to stay in for the weekend to enjoy the wondrous display of breathtaking fireworks in Heart Island, above the grotesque structure of the Boldt Castle. Even if you cannot, don't worry, you will be overwhelmed by the raw elegance of the islands, anyways.



ALUMNI



PRANJAL RAHMAN

It was the spring of 2002 and I had just returned to Bangladesh after a decade. I was quite new to Bangladesh as I spent my entire childhood abroad. My parents were quickly searching for a good school for me. I had an interview with the then Principal of International Turkish Hope School and I thoroughly enjoyed my chat with him. After taking the admission exam and passing it with flying colors (according to the

Principal), I was accepted into the school. The cherry on top was the Principal offering me to study in one higher grade, bumping me from the 6th grade to the 7th grade. This was the beginning of my wonderful experience at ITHS. When school would end in the afternoon, it was not the end of our time together. Oftentimes, many of us from our class would go to one of our teacher's home and learn together after school. This was quite astonishing to me as it demonstrated how dedicated and passionate my teachers were. They went above and beyond what most teachers would do. They genuinely invested time into their students and they honestly wanted us young students to succeed academically. I deeply admired and appreciated this work ethic from my teachers at ITHS. Of course, it was not all work. Sometimes, we used to play sports together after school. Football, basketball, badminton – you name it, we played it!

There is so much more to write about my experiences as a student at ITHS, but I need much more space! As I think about it, they come rushing to me and I am struck by nostalgia. I have some very fond memories of my time studying at ITHS. It was the best teenage years I could ever ask for because the entire school, from the teachers to the management, took care of me. I am forever grateful to the school.



ANEKA ZAHEEN KAMAL

ITHS has been my second home from the beginning of my life, as I joined this school when I was in Class-2 only and graduated completing A Levels. ITHS contributed in paving my academic career and built the foundation of my accomplishments. After finishing A Levels by the guidance of my proficient teachers, I went to Fatih University, Istanbul to study in Bachelors of Chemistry. From then onwards I never looked back and successfully completed MS in Chemistry, published one article on my studies and became a PhD candidate in Bio and Nano Tech Engineering. ITHS has imparted me with great knowledge and the courage to know the unknown. Here I am now back at ITHS not as a student but as A Levels chemistry teacher!