

TAPASYA

“.... a quest for knowledge”

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Editorial

“Rethinking Success: Education for Life, Not Just Livelihood”



In the world of academics, success is often reduced to two milestones: securing high marks and landing a placement. For years, this narrow definition has shaped the ambitions of students and the expectations of parents and institutions. Exams become the yardstick of potential, while jobs are viewed as the ultimate destination. But is that all success should mean? Or is it time to broaden our perspective?

True success lies in curiosity, creativity, resilience, and the ability to adapt. Some of the most impactful innovators, leaders, and artists were never class toppers, yet they changed the world with their vision and persistence. Even within campuses, countless students excel beyond classrooms—organizing, volunteering, creating, or building. These contributions may never appear on a marksheet, but they prepare students for life far more than memorized formulas.

This is where the spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 becomes significant. While not perfect, NEP 2020 makes an important shift: it recognizes that education must go beyond rote learning and narrow definitions of success. By encouraging critical thinking, flexibility across disciplines, and practical skills like communication and problem-solving, it aligns education with the realities of the 21st century. But even more than policy, the change begins with mindset. Universities must celebrate not just academic excellence or placement records, but also leadership, creativity, and social impact. For students, rethinking success begins with self-reflection. Instead of only asking “What grades did I get?” or “Which job did I secure?”, one must ask: “Am I learning in ways that matter? Am I becoming a better version of myself? Am I contributing positively to others?” Success then becomes a journey of growth, balance, and purpose.

In a world where technology and industries evolve rapidly, adaptability and innovation will matter far more than a grade sheet. Preparing for this reality means valuing learning over memorization and contribution over competition. Ultimately, grades and placements can open doors, but what we choose to do once those doors are open—that is the true essence of success.

Imnasangla Ao
Assistant Professor & Head
Department of Economics

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Thought Smith**The Plight of Street Dogs**

As we all know, man's bestfriend is a dog – loyal, faithful and forever by our side. While we may not see many street dogs in Dimapur, my experience in Guwahati, Assam during my school days opened my eyes to the unkind reality these furry friends face. Seeing the dogs on the streets, it's clear that they don't receive food for their survival and are forced to eat garbage thrown away by the people.

In today's fast-paced life, people are busy with their careers and often don't have time for their families. However we should show responsibility towards our environment and those living in it. A recent incident in Delhi, the Supreme Court had ordered the removal of all the street dogs as they were accused of the people, spreading diseases and infections all around the environment. Instead of removing all the street dogs, why not provide anti - rabies vaccination? The anti - rabies vaccination process in India is not being utilized effectively. Why not give them shelter, food, and water to drink? With this process, even the street dogs will be saved and also the people and the environment. About 50% of the people in India are raising their voices for the dogs, shouting for the street dogs freedom, walking miles, letting their voices reach the government's ear. The only issue is that they are removing the dogs from the streets and leaving them in a place to die without providing them proper facilities. This is the reason why Indian citizens are raising their voices for the innocent creatures. In the government point of view, criminals, murderers, rapists and people fighting for their land are not prioritized by the government, but street dogs are seen as the only major threat by the government. Street dogs deserve our care. They may not have a voice, but we, the humans are responsible for raising our voices for the innocent dogs. Let's come together, provide them food, shelter and water, let's make difference and give the innocent creatures a chance and let them live a happy life.

Jennifer Lalduhsaki Koch
BBA 1st Semester

Thought Smith**Our Waste, Our Responsibility**

Dumping garbage on the streets is an unfortunately common practice, even though it is disgusting and can transform any place into something unpleasant. Many places have entire sidewalks filled with trash, which destroys the surrounding natural environment and subsequently prevents people from walking nearby, due to the foul odour and flies being attracted to the trash.

Many places have informative murals painted on the walls that warn against littering, but that awareness almost never works and ends up failing, which results in people disregarding the mural completely and littering anyway. Even signposts that show a fine for dumping trash are ignored, with people littering right below them. These are some of the reasons that the government should enforce stricter rules and punish those who break them. Instead of throwing waste everywhere, there should be trash cans or dumpsters placed along sidewalks to encourage people to dispose of their garbage properly inside those, instead of just throwing it on the ground. I used to live in Saudi Arabia before coming here, and there they had a system where almost every area had a large dumpster bin in which garbage was disposed of, and garbage collectors would come and empty them out every four to seven days. This helped keep almost every street clean and pleasant to walk past. I think our government should try their best to adopt this method, or any method similar to it, alongside imposing stricter fines on littering.

However, cleanliness is not only the responsibility of the government. It is also the responsibility of the citizens. Living in a clean environment benefits everybody. People must learn to dispose of their garbage properly, avoid littering, and report those who break the rules. We can start by separating the waste in our household into simple groups, like biodegradable or non-biodegradable waste. We can reduce our usage of single-use plastics, like buying bottled water unnecessarily. Doing small actions like using reusable bags, metal water bottles, and such can greatly reduce the amount of litter and waste plastic generated. We can also host or participate in community clean-up drives. Encouraging little kids, or our neighbors, friends, and families to adopt such practices can also help us. Spreading awareness through social media might also inspire others to act responsibly. The four R's - Reduce, Reuse, Replace, Recycle - have been taught to us from a very early age, but many of us fail to follow them through.

Keeping our streets clean is not just about hygiene; it's about respecting our community, and more importantly, our nature. Together, the government and citizens can ensure a cleaner city and a healthier life overall for everyone.

Farzan Khan
BBA I

Thought Smith**The Sweet Story of My Favourite Black Forest Cake**

Of all the foods that I've ever eaten, Black Forest Cake has somehow wormed its way into my heart and became my favourite food. Although cakes are usually considered desserts, for me, its much more. The Black Forest Cake is my favourite food because of its rich flavour, soft moist texture and the sweet memories it brings.

Black Forest Cake is known for its soft moist chocolate sponge cake, the sweet fresh whipped cream and juicy cherries. It is decorated with chocolate shavings, whipped cream and lots of cherries as its topping and layering.

Making a Black Forest Cake takes time, patience and care. First, we bake the Chocolate sponge cake and then we cool it down. It is then cut into layers, I usually cut into three layers because, with four layers, it cannot fit into the refrigerator after it is decorated. To make it possible to fit, I usually use a tin-mould with a 21 cm diameter.

The ingredients to make a chocolate sponge is simple, we require eggs, (I usually use 6). Flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, sugar, oil, a warm cup of milk and a dash of vanilla essence.

First, the dry ingredients, i.e., Flour, cocoa powder and baking powder are mixed and sieved thoroughly. Then, in a separate bowl, we mix the eggs, sugar and vanilla essence and whisk it thoroughly until white and fluffy. I always lessen the amount of sugar to make the sponge less sweet as with the original amount, the cake becomes very sweet when we layer it with sugar syrup. Here, mixing the dry ingredients slowly and making sure there isn't any lumps left is very important as the sponginess of the cake depends on it.

We pour the batter into a prepared mould. We bake it at 180°C for 30 to 45 minutes. After it finishes, we wait for it to cool then cut the sponge into three layers. We layer it with whipped cream, sugar syrup, chocolate curls and cherries. I substitute the cherries with strawberry crush and although, the sugar is usually mixed with rum, I skip it as there is not much difference in taste. Then, after decorating, the cake is cooled in the refrigerator for 1 1/2 to 2 hours then, it is ready to be served. The final result is a cake that looks as good as it tastes.

After many trials and errors, the first time the cake turned out perfect was on my mum's birthday. She was very pleased with it as it was also her favourite. My dad, who usually did not have a liking towards cakes as most of them were too sweet, had two slices and now, whenever I bake, I keep their happy and pleased reactions in my mind and strive to make it better than the last.

Black Forest is now an all-time favourite food in our home. Its rich flavour, the fluffy layers along with the cherries as toppings, the chocolate curls as a bonus, makes it look special and inviting. The Black Forest Cake is a symbol of good times and happy hours with my family. The joy I get when I enjoy my own home-baked cake with my family is one of the best reasons why the Black Forest Cake is my favourite. Now, I can't wait for the next holiday to come so I can bake it and enjoy it again.

Ingredients

Flour: 250 grams

Cocoa powder: 50 grams

Baking powder: 2 tsp

Eggs: 5/6

Sugar: 80 grams

Oil: 125 ml

Warm cup of milk/ 250 ml

Vanilla essence: 2 tsp



Peleneinu Patricia Rutsa
BCA 1st Semester

Thought Smith

The Cultural Essence of Anishi with Smoked Pork

Among the Naga people, food is not only a necessity but a reflection of our rich tradition and identity, food also play a significant role in preserving ancestral knowledge. Anishi with smoked pork is a traditional delicacy of the Ao Nagas, it combines the rich taste of the smoked pork with the earthy flavor of fermented yam leaves.

The heart of the dish is the Anishi, which is prepared from yam leaves, it is dried in the sun. After drying, it is mashed into a paste and after the paste is dried, it is flattened into cakes that can be stored for months. The second essential component is the smoked pork, which is made by smoking fresh pork over the fire until it turns brownish-black. And lastly the the third item, it is not a food item but it is the soul of the dish, The infamous aluminum Mizo pot.

To prepare Anishi with smoked Pork, the following ingredients are required: half a kilo of smoked pork, two cakes of Anishi, Two tomatoes, Three potatoes, few dried red chilies. Garlic, salt to taste, and water. First, the Anishi cakes are roasted over the flame until it releases an aromatic scent, cut the tomatoes and potatoes into cubes, crush the garlic and dried chilies. Next, All the ingredients are added to the pot and water is poured in just enough to cover the meat, and the mixture is left to simmer for about an hour. After that, the Anishi cakes, potatoes, tomatoes and chillis are taken out and crushed in a mortar and pestle, until it turns into a paste. The crushed ingredients are put back in the same pot, and mixing it until it turns less watery. The dish is seasoned with salt and served hot, usually accompanied by plain rice.

Anishi with Smoked Pork is more than just a meal, it is an emotion for me and many. It is an identity preserved through food, preparing it requires patience. Its distinctive taste and cultural value, makes it my favorite dish.



Imkongnukshi Aier
BCA 1st Semester

Thought Smith**Essay Writing Competition during****“Internation Youth Day 2025”****Winner****Local Youth Actions for SDGs and Beyond**

“You are never too young to lead, and never too old to learn” - Kofi Annan.

We often hear the world say that the youth are future of tomorrow. But I believe that youth of today are the future of today. We are not waiting in the shadow for our turn- our turn is now. By taking actions that are necessary, the youth can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and can even go beyond that.

Firstly, Good Health and Well Being (SDG3) begins with us. As young leaders, we can always encourage living a healthy lifestyle in our families and friends. It includes morning walks, maintaining a balanced diet and creating a space where people feel open to share about mental health. Young people can always initiate or volunteer to participate in health camps, blood donation drives, and ensure that people have access to life-saving information. Even a small act like guiding someone to a free medical check-up or encouraging friends to quit unhealth habits can save lives.

Quality Education (SDG4) is the foundation on which all other global goals stand, inspiring minds and opening doors to opportunities. As a youth, one can contribute towards this goal in countless ways – teaching the underprivileged children, organizing books or stationery donation drives or conducting online study groups to connect learners across distance. Every time a young person spreads knowledge, they help light a candle that can never be put out – one that not only illuminates a single mind, but inspires countless others to learn, to dream, and to achieve.

Water is life, and Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG6) should never be a privilege. Young leaders can always achieve this goal by organising cleanliness drives, ensuring public spaces are clean, planting awareness boards near water bodies, installing low-cost water filters in rural areas, and advocating the judicious use of water. Small actions like carrying reusable water bottle or avoiding litters can create a huge ripple.

Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) can be achieved through shared responsibility. To make one's hometown greener and safer, youth can plant trees, initiate the segregation of waste, encourage carpooling and cycling, and even construct a community garden to live in a healthy space. A small tree planted today may give shade and oxygen to generations ahead.

Climate change is at our door, and Climate Action (SDG13) cannot wait. Our earth health depends on our actions. From conserving energy and practising afforestation, to protesting for environmental causes and raising our voices online and offline to pressurise leaders to protect the nature, every step counts. By reducing carbon footprints, to participating and raising awareness about climate change, we can push leaders to be bold and quick to save the world.

Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG14) strives when youths come together and advocate for a fair and just society. By practising conflict resolution skills, encouraging communication, and ensuring that all sections of society are treated with the same amount of equality and respect, we can make them feel heard and seen.

Every small step counts. Whether you plant a sapling, share a book, or speak words of peace-you create a difference. Local actions are not just a ripple, but they are waves in an ocean that can travel across distances. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not a distant dream but they are a blueprint of a future we want. Youths can always come together with purpose in their hands and vision in their hearts to create a world where we not only achieve the SDGs, but also make a future that the generations will take us for.

**Ms. Smita Rai, MA-I Semester
Department of Political Science, IUN**

Thought Smith

CARTOON SPEAKS: AN ANALYSIS OF SANDEMO NGULLIE'S WORK

Contributed by:

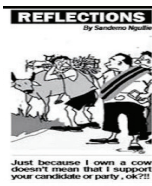
Olong Longkumer, BA III Sem, English department; Kiki Narsen, BA III Sem, Political Science department; Enoni, BA III Sem, Political Science department (ICFAI University Nagaland)



The first cartoon by Sandemo Ngullie, published in The Morung Express, serves as a sharp satire on our modern dependence on technology. The scene portrays a frustrated man who, having grown weary of his family's constant reliance on their mobile phones, decides to take a drastic and ironic step. He is shown at a hardware store, purchasing pre-industrial tools like a scythe and a plow. The humor and central message are captured perfectly in the caption: "I'm tired of recharging your phone, so I'm buying a few things for you... these things don't need battery." The cartoon's wit lies in this paradoxical solution. To counter a problem of advanced technology—a dead battery—the man chooses to revert to a simple, physically demanding way of life. It's a clever and humorous commentary on how technology, despite its promise to simplify our lives, can often introduce new forms of dependency and frustration.



This political cartoon, by S. Sandemo Ngullie, offers a sharp critique of political campaigns and the underlying anxieties they can create. The scene depicts a candidate being warmly welcomed with a banner, a common sight in political rallies. The focus, however, shifts to a man on the left, an impoverished villager, who poses a single, pointed question to the candidate: "But the question is will you make us wear khaki half pants if you win?" The cartoon's satire is rooted in this seemingly insignificant query, which is in fact a powerful symbolic shot at the political promises being made. The humor lies in the profound contrast between the grand political welcome and the voter's specific, almost absurd, concern. Instead of asking about economic policy or infrastructure development, the villager asks a question about personal attire. This highlights a deeper fear: that the incoming government might impose a specific social order or ideology, thereby stripping away personal freedom in a subtle but significant way. Ngullie's work thus brilliantly uses a single, loaded symbol to comment on the nature of power and the voter's true concerns.



This political cartoon by Sandemo Ngullie offers a sharp, humorous critique of electoral malpractice, specifically the practice of vote-buying. The artist uses a simple scene to highlight the corruption that can plague the democratic process. In the cartoon, a political figure, identifiable by his traditional attire and a sash, is trying to engage with a farmer who stands beside his cow. The farmer's posture—hands raised in a gesture of frustration or dismissal—shows his weariness with the politician's approach. The punchline is delivered through the caption, which quotes the farmer's retort: "Just because I own a cow doesn't mean that I support your candidate or party, ok?!". This line cleverly reveals the politician's flawed assumption, suggesting they either tried to bribe the farmer with something in exchange for his cow or wrongly assumed his identity as a farmer automatically meant political alignment. The cartoon's primary critique centers on the attempt to force voters with material goods rather than win their support with genuine policies and principles. The farmer's blunt refusal to be bought serves as a powerful symbol of disobedience against this corrupt practice, emphasizing that his political choice is not for sale.

(Thank you Dr. Resenmenla Longchar, Assistant Professor, Department of History for giving us the opportunity to analyze the cartoons as part of our class assignment on Archives Keeping. This task provided a unique and valuable way to apply the concepts we are learning.)

Dr. Resenmenla Longchar
Assistant Professor
Department of History
ICFAI University Nagaland

Thought Smith**An Insightful look into Mari by Easterine Kire**

There's a lot I took away from Mari. For me, the book felt very close because it talks about people and places that we can relate to. What really stayed with me was the history it showed, the way people suffered during the war, losing loved ones and carrying scars that didn't go away. It made me want to think more about our past. At the same time, I noticed how people cared for one another even in those hard times. That sense of unity really stood out to me.

Mari herself left a strong impression. She had to face the horrors of war when she was still very young, and she wasn't like a typical main character. She was not loud or heroic. She was simple, wanted a simple life, but her life turned out to be full of pain. What I admired most is how she never gave up. Her strength was quiet, but it was still powerful.

Her family's story also touched me. They were separated during the war, but they found each other again and continued to care for one another. That reminded me how much family matters, especially in times of hardship.

The book also made me think about the aftermath of war. Even when the fighting ended, the pain did not just go away. People carried it inside them for years. I also felt that even the Japanese soldiers suffered in their own way. It showed me that in war, everyone loses, there are no real winners.

In the end, Mari made me feel grateful for the life we have today, living in peace and surrounded by family. It reminded me that history is not just events we read about, but the real experiences of people.

Chongkoi Khiamniungan
M.A. 3rd Semester
English Department

Words Worth

O Death

I await death with the yearning to meet you,
Life passed by, chasing the memories of you.
Without you, every joy feels incomplete,
As if these breaths exist only to fulfill old customs.

Your picture lies hidden somewhere within my heart,
Every heartbeat is adorned with your name in loyalty.
Behold, O Death, the extremity of this love.
I'm alive, yet have long been dead after losing her.



Words Worth

To Casabianca*

A literary master piece, but tragic.
Where have you seen the boy,
Was it real or magic?
Have you written it with joy?

A fool the boy was, but he was only little
What can a little boy understand?
No options to run, no riddle
But to wait for his father and stand.

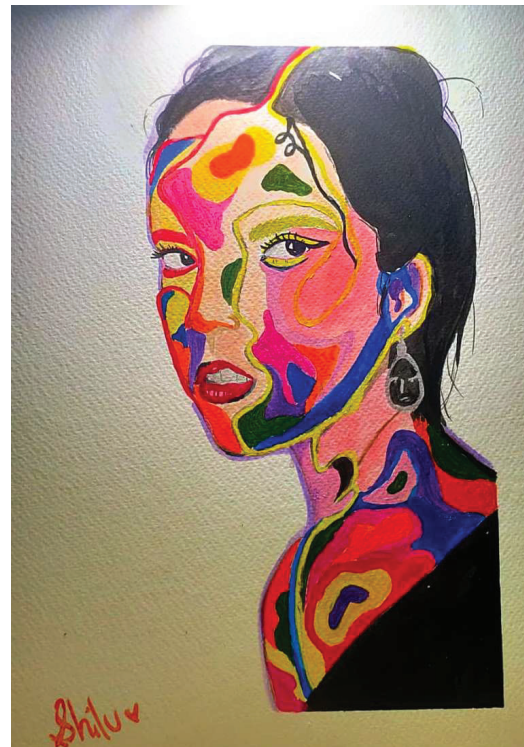
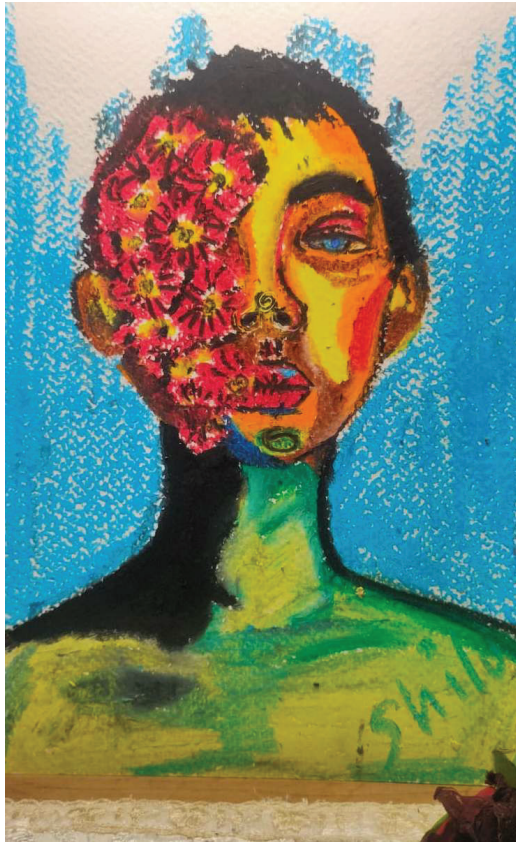
Fragile he was, but in heart he was honest.
Lost to the fire, but fire was in his heart
Brave to the end, may he rest
Lost to the sea, but remain in the ocean's heart.

What to call this tragic take?
What to call this brave tale of his?
The boy on the burning deck,
Brave and loyal, but hopeless.

*An attempt at a response to Felicia Dorothea Hemans poem
“Casabianca” written in 1826.

Lipok Sanen Jamir
BA English 3rd Semester

Galleria



Art By: Shilukumla (BA- 5th Semester)

Galleria



Art By: Lipok Sanen Jamir (BA- 3rd Semester)

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The ICFAI University Nagaland (IUN) celebrated the “**National Sports Day**” on 29th August 2025 with Sports activities with the direction of UGC and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI and by the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, IUN. The program was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand and to make the students aware and understand the importance of sports for development of physical health, social values and team spirit.

The VBYCP, IUN in collaboration with Sports, IUN have taken the initiative in organising various sporting events that include Chess, Badminton and Carrom. Students from various departments of the university had participated. All the events were organized smoothly with cooperation and support from the faculties and members of students’ council, IUN.

Initiated By:-

Dr. Rupendra Chakma
Nodal Officer (VBYCP)

Keyipho Longkumer
IUN Faculty-in-charge (Sports), IUN



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Mr. & Ms. FRESHERS 2025

Mr. Imtitoshi Longkumer (BBA 1ST Semester Dept of Management)

&

Ms. Karuna Kumari (BA 1ST Semester Dept of English)

Campus Abuzz

Campus Interview

Q. How was your first month in the university been?- one challenge and one happy moment?

A. My first month in the university has been a journey of exploration, especially diving into the new curriculum and understanding how everything works here. The biggest challenge was adjusting socially, figuring out where I truly fit in and connecting with the right people who share my values. But a memorable happy moment was when I got to hang out with new friends during our free periods; those simple yet meaningful conversations made me feel at home.

Q. What's one thing you've learned in university already, that high school never taught you?

A. University has already taught me the importance of independence and self-discipline. In high school, things were structured and closely guided. Here, higher education pushes me to take charge of my own learning and manage my time wisely.

Q. What's the first thing that made you feel "Yes, am I really in university now"?

A. It was the sense of freedom. Unlike high school, where everything was controlled and scheduled, university life gave me the space to decide how I want to spend my time, what activities to join, and even how I want to grow personally. That freedom really made me realize — yes, I'm in university now.

Q. If your classmates had to give you a nickname today, what do you think it would be?

A. While I can't be certain, I believe it would be something connected to kindness or being a gentleman. My friends often notice how I treat people with respect and try to be supportive in small ways, so I imagine my nickname would reflect that.

Q. As Mr. Fresher, how will you make a positive difference among your batchmate?

A. As Mr. Fresher, I would aim to be someone who creates a spirit of unity in our batch. University can feel overwhelming at times, especially in the beginning, so I'd like to encourage openness, motivating people during tough times, or just being approachable. My goal would be to make sure no one feels left out, and that we grow not just as individuals, but together as a supportive group.

Interviewed by Temjenwapang Jamir(BCA 3rd sem)



Mr. Fresher (Imtitoshi Longkumer)

Campus Abuzz

Campus Interview

Q. How was your first month in the university been?-one challenge and one happy moment?

A. The biggest challenge for me was shifting to a whole new environment and trying to cope with university life, which feels completely different from school. Everything from the routine to the people is new, and adapting to that was not easy at first. But the happiest moment came when my batchmates extended their hands of friendship, and together we explored the university. That sense of belonging turned the new environment into a welcoming one.



Ms. Fresher (Karuna Kumari)

Q. What's one thing you've learned in university already, that high school never taught you?

A. University has taught me the art of managing myself. In high school, everything was structured, timetables, teachers guiding every step. Here, I've realized that no one will chase you, and it's up to you to balance academics, social life, and personal growth. That ability to manage my time, priorities, and choices is something high school never prepared me for.

Q. What's the first thing that made you feel "yes, am I really in university now"?

A. For me, it was the atmosphere. The moment I walked into lectures with students from different backgrounds, saw the vibrant campus life, and felt the energy of independence all around, it hit me that this isn't school anymore. This is a place where real experiences, diverse people, and bigger opportunities shape who you become.

Q. If your classmates had to give you a nickname today, what do you think it would be?

A. I've often been referred to as Brain or Chilli. "Brain" because of my sharpness and confidence, and "Chilli" as a fun reflection of my personality as someone who can stand out with a strong and confident presence.

Q. As Mr. Fresher, how will you make a positive difference among your batchmate?

A. As Miss Fresher, I would want to leave a positive impact by encouraging my batchmates to build strong willpower and face challenges without fear. University life will test us in many ways, but with the right mindset and mutual support, we can turn every challenge into growth. I'd like to inspire my mates to stay motivated, confident, and supportive of each other.

Interviewed by Temjenwapang Jamir(BCA 3rd sem)

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