

RBSMUN CHRONICLES

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Welcome !

Winter is not always exciting. The ice- cold water, freezing air and the long struggles to catch that elusive bit of sunlight can leave us all gloomy at times. Nevertheless, winter holds a special charm for the students in RBS because it signals the arrival of RBS MUN, one of the major highlights of the Rato Bangala experience.

For the past 6 years, Rato Bangala School has organized its own MUN conferences where students from grade 7 and above are assigned countries to represent in mock UN sessions supervised by the senior students, who take on the responsibility of guiding their respective committees through intense debates and negotiations. Each MUN conference so far has come up with some excellent resolutions to address world issues. More importantly, the conferences have been a great way to teach students how to be eloquent, persuasive and sometimes, manipulative. The knowledge about world issues that the delegates obtain through their research and discussions in committees is something that goes beyond the normal social studies or geography lessons. In fact, some delegates have confessed that if it hadn't been for MUN, they might have never watched BBC at all. And this year, the Secretary General Ms. Apekshya Prasai and the entire MUN club seem to be working hard on making this conference better than all the preceding ones.

RBS MUN 2011 has introduced two new committees: the Special political and decolonization committee of the General Assembly and the NATO. Students from grades 7,8 and 9 will be present in GA,UNEP and Human Rights council while A level students are debating in NATO and the two security councils. All the 9 committees have held 5 practice sessions and the now the stage has been set for the real thing. The grade 10 students, who will not be representing countries this year, form a part of the Press committee and shall bring out a MUN chronicle filled with the juicy details of each committee to warm us up every morning. However, the one thing that is guaranteed to make RBS MUN 2011 the best MUN so far is (drumroll....) the delegate dance, the first of its kind in RBS. Yes, the tickets have been sold, the music is ready, eye contact shall be allowed and we can all expect to see A LOT of motion on the floor.

So here's to the best 3 days in the RBS winter term, the days of elegant suits and eloquent statements, of great debates and better resolutions, clever lobbying and some hard-earned consensus. Working papers will be drafted, emergencies will be handled and chits will be passed around (a lot of them so watch out grade 6!). Cheers to 3 days of MUNY fun!

From the delegates:

The M.U.N. might seem like a baffling maze of technical terms and debates to a person on the outside (trust us, we've been there and are still in the same place). So we decided to reach the delegates and get an inside scoop on what the practice sessions of the committees were like.

HSC:

Opinion was highly divided among these delegates. While many recognized and really appreciated the participation of the vice-chair, some were not as enthusiastic. There were many who thought that the chair stepped in when needed but wasn't as fully involved ('maybe

due to his illness on some occasions' – some added). Some complained that the meetings were a little too informal and that the delegates had done too little research and participated little. But most recognized that it was probably due to the meetings being practice sessions and added that they were pretty sure the actual M.U.N. would go down well.



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From the delegates. (contd.)



GAI (Disarmament):

The general consensus was that there was relatively little interaction (and everyone's supposed to interact) in this committee. But other than that, everything seemed to be going on okay from the delegates' perspective. The meetings were just as formal as the actual M.U.N, and though there were times when the meetings were a tad bit informal too, at least the work was getting done.

SC:

Delegates of this committee mentioned that both the chair and the vice chair were very active and, in a way, were perfectionists. The discussions had started out slow and there were relatively less interactive sessions with many people being first-timers and not used to MUN. But in recent weeks, interaction has picked up. Everyone seems to know their stuff and there have been

instances when the floor has exploded with debates (now this is inter-action). One delegate did comment that the sessions would be very interesting as long as guns were not allowed.

NATO:

The delegates from NATO conceded that the countries with more power like the U.S. participated more but, in general, there seems to be a fair level of interaction. The practice sessions have been fairly good

and the chair and the vice chair seem to be doing their jobs. Though certain delegates did complain that less work was being done (research wise) than their previous MUN experiences, they did agree that even they did not have time for comprehensive research amidst a landslide of tests (teachers should note this). They also admitted that though some people looked less serious currently, it would change in the actual M.U.N session.

The Committees

GAI – Disarmament and International Security Committee

The first practice session kicked off with a bit of briefing about procedures and what MUN is all about. Being a committee with not many first timers, it didn't seem hard to make the delegates understand the procedures and other aspects of MUN. As the practice session proceeded, we got to see the enthusiasm of many delegates to do really well and to be the best, the delegate of china seems interested in introducing a new protocol during our session which seemed to a pretty good idea. During the recent practice sessions however, many delegates have started to participate more actively and seem more interested than they were before. On 7th December 2011, when we started our first topic, there was some amount of heated debate in our committee with the delegate of USA being constantly blamed for proliferating nuclear weapons to other countries. And with the delegate of USA looking for dates in almost anything and everything, all of us had a good laughter in the committee for a while. Since he seemed so interested in dates, we were wondering if could someone find him one for the delegate dance ;P ??? On a more serious note, the delegates have improved themselves over the many practice sessions that have taken place and we are positive that during the MUN sessions, our committee will do really well in terms of debate and participation.



The Committees (contd.)



GA II - The Economic and financial committee



Comprising of an enthusiastic delegate community of 33 (from classes seven through A-levels) and the committee led by Aadya Pandey, Shashank Sharma and Liza Maharjan, GA-TWO has gotta be one of the most happening committees ever! Although it was off to a grim start, the committee is catching up: progress clearly evident -in the rising level of debate and increasing participation from the delegates who would have resorted to 'golden silence' otherwise. Making the best use of the available time, the committee has moved on from training the delegates on the basic MUN procedures, informal debates, "heated (lukewarm)" discussions on numerous topics ranging from school food, role of microcredit financing in alleviating poverty, use of economic measure to mitigate environmental problems etc. to finally discussing its main topics: Economic recession and Foreign aid. The delegates even had an opportunity to talk to and clarify their doubts with the guest speaker, our very own J. P. sir, who enthusiastically took all the questions. Whether by posting articles and clips in the facebook page, or quizzing the delegates, transforming them from laymen to confident delegates who can take any crisis head on, powerful debaters able to firmly state and hold on to their beliefs as well as negotiate, our effort as mentors was rewarding and the whole MUN journey: incredible!

Overall, the trend of growth of GA-TWO is a linear graph with a positive slope, and we wish our delegates the best of luck!

GA III - Dangerous clones, little fetuses and food.

The socio-humanitarian committee will be discussing human cloning and food crisis this year and so far the discussions have been as interesting (not to mention a little weird). The committee has covered the second topic of "human cloning" and formulated a resolution that bans all forms of reproductive cloning and calls for strict monitoring on therapeutic cloning. GA 3 is one committee where the students of grade 7 seem to overshadow their seniors and their participation is what keeps the debates going. In fact, one debate even turned into a declaration of war (oops!). Perhaps the most entertaining aspect of the committee is the rivalry between the delegate of USA and the delegate of Japan: their never-ending arguments sustain the debate while cracking everyone up. Chair Aswasan Joshi who conducted the first sessions with an easygoing attitude is growing sterner as the conference draws nearer but has balanced kindness with firmness so far. During the conference, the committee shall discuss the global food crisis so a lively debate with the participation of all the countries is to be expected. However, what the delegates really ought to look forward to is the 'motion for entertainment' during the final conference as the executive board claims that it has "saved the best for last".



GA IV - Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

The largest committee in the RBS MUN 2011: The GA4 will discuss two most polemic topics that are still extant in the world today .One topic the very controversial question of Palestine and the other which evokes even the deepest feelings in human conscience the aftermath effects of the Japanese mega quake 2010.The committee holds enthusiastic delegates from grade 8,9 and A1 and passionate and dedicated dais members the Chair Aishwarya Kansakar, Vice- chair Samikshya Sivakoti and Rakesh Budathoki as the Moderator.

The Special Political and decolonization committee this year seeks an answer to the Question of Palestine, a question which even the United Nations is uncertain about. Within this topic the committee seeks to solve the problem of the refugees displaced by the land segregation, also seeks an ultimate solution for the dispute over Israeli territories claimed to be Palestinian lands. In addition, the dispute regarding the ownership of re-

The Committees (contd.)



sources such as water and fossils along with the concern of Gaza Strip are aimed to being resolved.

Another aim of SPECPOL this year is to find an answer to the political question that even today plagues the world regarding the aftermath effects of the Japanese Mega quake 2011 and whether the United Nations will be able to take on devastation as such in the future. How will nations support in case of a potential disaster politically in the future if required and how do governments perceive such situations and what are potential solutions to fight such disasters will also be debated upon.

Inside the committee there is all time decorum maintained by the dais members to bring upon a real United Nations experience for the delegates and the viewers. The dais members hold quizzes' based on MUN procedures and the two core topics to build more enthusiasm into the delegates and the final conference is planned to have video projections related to the core topics along with a guest speaker which would make it a fruitful learning experience for the delegates .

With such dedicated delegates and dais members the committee is building momentum to solve universal problems that are extant today ,making GA IV SPECPOL one of the best committees in RBS MUN 2011.



Historic Security Council: Making History (Or Repeating It)



An Insider's POV:

Silence fills the room. The atmosphere is tense. Delegates have deep frowns, concentrating upon the task at hand. Terrorists have seized nuclear weapons. Their demands have been made. Then, the delegate of UK makes a crude remark about Austin Powers.

The chair, mallet in one hand and an hourglass in the other. The vice chair, staring into the confines of the room with cold, calculating eyes, picking out the speakers. The moderator, steadfastly keeping track of every little comment made, every snide remark passed, every vote for and against.

And the delegates.

Haphazardly sitting around. The few that are speaking are doing so feverishly. Others are staring endlessly into the space near the podium, trying to grasp meandering crisis presented to them. The noise rises, and the mallet comes down with a sharp crack. "DELEGATES," the chair says, and silence reigns.

A fierce debate goes on. The terrorists have demanded that Fidel Castro be publicly executed. Many nations agree; the terrorists have nuclear weapons, and what is the life of one man to the rest of the world, they argue. Others vehemently deny their claims, verbally chastising the immoral decision. (How could anyone even think about killing someone in the Security Council is beyond the vice chair.)

The decision is made. The fate of the world teeters on the brink. The only sounds are the hushed murmurs of the delegates furiously conferring amongst themselves and the delegates outside, shouting out that the communiqué must include certain clauses, threatening others with their veto powers. What will happen? Only time will tell...

Just another day in the HSC.

Editor's Note: Phew! We wish the committee good luck with its executions- with all the drama, how could anyone want to miss out on the fun? RBS delegates remain empowered!!

The Committees (contd.)



Human Rights: More Religion, Less Indian Television!

The Human Rights Council has been practicing hard for the conference. Though the delegates have been plodding through the topic, "Combating the Defamation of Religion", the committee awoke deliciously to a crisis this last practice session. Needless to say, the committee quite enjoyed picking on the delegates of Pakistan, where mass rioting between different religious groups caught the attention of the international community, and South Africa, whose bellicose statements and enthusiastic response to the deployment of troops got some delegates pretty riled up. Though the committee will be discussing ' Human Rights Violations in Conflict-Stricken Nations in the Middle East and North Africa' during the conference; the dais can't help but wish for a little drama to spice up the committee. (Although the Indian television debate was pretty spicy.) We've had a little trouble with formality (standing up super-straight doesn't come naturally to all of us) but the chair doesn't intend to let this ruin the actual conference. We look forward to a lively, engaging conference that comes to a comprehensive agreement. Good luck delegates!



UNEP: Much more than just fish stocks.



The UNEP, United Nations Environment Program, is a committee through which the international community deals with environmental challenges all over the world. It acts as an advocate for the wise use of earth's resources for sustainable development. The committee has 30 delegates mostly from grade 7, with most of the delegates having a different stance on the issues being addressed. This year, the UNEP has extremely interesting topics: "Depletion of Fish Stocks" and "Sustainable Practices of Tropical Rainforest". The UNEP has been giving special Themphasis to the guidance provided to the junior delegates as it will ensure a noteworthy experience in the committee and improve their experience in larger committees in the future. It's filled with fantastic discussions, brand new ideas and capable resolutions. The spectacular performance of the juniors is perhaps what makes this committee focused, determined and competitive.

The exploits of NATO



A recent addition to RBSMUN, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the only committee that is not, in reality, part of the UNO. While the initial purpose of the North Atlantic Council (The supreme authority of NATO) was to deter the former Soviet Union from waging a full-scale war upon the West, the relevance of NATO in present terms has changed. No longer is Russia considered a threat to the well-being of the nations that were previously willing to engage in absolute military with it. Bearing this mind, the delegates of RBSMUN NATO have addressed the more pertinent issues of the current moment: Military Operations in Afghanistan, the Weaponization of Space, the Control of Conventional Arms, and Relations with Russia.

The committee does seem rather nonchalant, with repeated pleas from the Secretary General to conduct a more formal session. The delegate of the United States of America, Ananda Gauchan, and the Delegate of Spain, Ashraya Upadhaya, are regularly facing off in intense debate, something that never fails to amuse the committee. The dais members exhibit a great deal of chemistry in their decisions, a synergy perhaps only matched by that of the HRC.

Here's to a rousing session and a great time, good luck delegates!

The Security Council



What do you expect from the Security Council? A bunch of power hungry, incredibly crafty bullies (some big bullies preying on smaller bullies) who are able to word their needs in such a way that the international community often mistakes their avarice for altruism. Well that's what you'll get. USA's repeated proclamation of them being the "key factor in the economic development of..." well, of every country in the world is perhaps under shadowed only by the rather controversial statements by the delegates of the Russian federation showing blatant disregard for international peace.

The display of superiority in the security council cannot be matched by any other committee- not exactly something to be proud of I hear you say, but it reflects how deeply the delegates have assumed the role as the representatives of their respective countries and how far they go to show their patriotism and concern for their national sovereignty. It's almost as if we were placed in the midst of the real delegations itself. Real but inexperienced and haughty and enthusiastic and eager for any form of heated argument- even though it sometimes ends up straying from the topic being discussed at that moment. It's very entertaining although, at times, ineffective.

The practice sessions have been rigorous to say the least, as ensured by our chair whose demands have reached the level of Miss Perry's homework regime. Looks can be deceiving and if we were to portray the physical manifestation of our honorable chair's ideologies it would take upon the figure of a 20 foot tall giant with a club in one hand and a whip in the other. The end products of this tough regime are to be put to test in this MUN conference. It's an exciting prospect for all of the members of the security council- we've all grown through this process where we've found solutions to problems in Somalia, explored the strained relations between Iran and Israel, and had a massive seizure when USA and France requested NATO troops to invade Congo, although they claimed they were "invading FDLR (a rebel group) grass, not Congolese soil".

As we are embarking on a journey for three days we have to swiftly move through the many barriers that lie ahead- the impenetrable routes of injustice in Afghanistan have to be broken and the many traps that surround the non-proliferation of small arms have to be avoided. We have to tread carefully yet confidently on these delicate issues to reach the goal we've been working on so arduously these past weeks. The fact that we've all taken to heart those discussions we were submerged in for 3 hrs every Sunday, is a great indicator of how intense the sessions to come will be.

I can only hope now that the P5 countries do not veto everything within visible range.



WHAT AND HOW TO WEAR IT AT RBSMUN :



Being in a school where uniform is mandatory and choice of accessories and add-ons are very limited often shields your potential to dress more creatively . With MUN right around the corner, one of the major stress busters for all delegates would obviously have to be CLOTHES and keeping this in mind (not to mention all the energy that could be channeled into resolutions, speeches and position papers) I have a few tips for what to wear while you're in that moderated caucus:

SUITS : Suits for both girls and boys would have to be (obviously) in black or white (note: guys, please stay away from white). Make sure that while you choose colors you stick to ones that are compatible with your skin tone (but just because you're white doesn't give you the right to show up in pink and orange- Elle Woods in legally blonde, anyone?) Plain suits go pretty well on everyone, but those of you bold enough can opt for patterns as well (as long as it doesn't cross the fine line between plaid and disaster.)

Skirts, Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants:

Though there are all kinds of skirts to choose from, keep in mind that since you'll be spending eight hours in that one skirt, it better be comfortable! A pro tip: the height of your shoes should be directly proportional to the length of your skirt. No one wants to see you in stilts and a miniskirt. Pants are simple enough, they have to be plain formal (or semi formal) trousers that match your suit/coat (jeans will get you negative marks, delegates!!) .Also, the pants shouldn't be too baggy or tight as those wear-off the formality of your required look .Girls: when it comes to nylons, please make sure they aren't whiter than your skin one (puh-lease!) and please don't wear socks on top of them, because you'll be headed for disaster.

Shirts, Tops, Blouses: Having a collar in the shirts and blouses is extremely important. Even though you may have decided to wear a turtleneck make sure that you have a collar popping out somewhere, because without the collar the formality will be simply incomplete. It may be fun to play around with shirt colors but bear in mind that subtle colors like white, light pink, light blue work best.(if your suit is black opt for a white shirt, they go really well).

Shoes and Footwear:

The selection for shoes for girls is pretty vast : toes to pencil heels. Make sure that the shoes neon colors (!!!). Don't go crazy just because you have blisters to show for your madness. A bit of night party. (If you can pull it off, though: whoa!!)



from stilettos to pumps, to ballet flats, to loafers, to peep-toe shoes you wear aren't too glittery or flashy and also refrain from wearing heels or by the end of the day you'll have a sore heel is fine, but don't wear shoes you wouldn't wear to an all-We admire you, girl! Rock it!

For guys: oxfords and even your school shoes can be brown or black. Remember that MUN is a formal

affair so Converse, flip-flops and sandals are a big no-no!!

Accessories :

Scarves: Scarves are a major fashion highlight especially with formals. The plain suits are dull enough, so brighten them with scarves. While choosing scarves make sure you opt for a bold color (but stick to limits) red , pink (a dark shade) and navy are great colors.

Ties: Like scarves, go for bold colors but fewer patterns when choosing your ties.

Bags: Choose bags that are big enough to hold all your folders and papers. The bag color should be limited to: black, brown, red or navy. White is also an open option but that is if only you have no choice. Longchamps usually go excellently with formals because of their size, simplicity and colors. So choose plain bags as they usually go better with formals.



Jewelry: Brooches add more elegance to the clothes, so if possible try to pin up one (not on the scarf but on your coat).

The best jewelry advice for formals can be summed up in one word pearls. The Best. Combo. Ever. (Not counting Taylor Lautner and his abs.) With these tips in mind , you should be looking pretty decent darn awesome during your conference! just remember to keep one point in mind : this is a formal affair so dress like it is one :)

Horoscope (MUN style):



Aries (March 21- April 19) – Well, it's time to awaken the risk-taker in you and raise some motions!!! Lend a voice to your inner moderated caucuses and all will be well.



Taurus (April 20 – May 20) – Don't be stubborn and slow, it's time to show how active the bull is (red bull) and you might just sweep away the awards. Oh and please be careful while climbing stairs... just saying. We wouldn't want your awesome speech-giving brain to be hit by anything other than interesting debate.



Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20) – Stay Alert! Other delegates might try to intimidate you. But now it's time to show that you're not just the friendly Gemini nobody's afraid to intimidate, show the side of you nobody has ever seen – the fierce and scorching Gemini. Burn.



Cancer (Jun 21 – July 22) – The crab, characterized by being sensitive and shy, should use its pincers for a heated debate and you know what? You'll be pretty darn successful, to the surprise of everyone who thought you would never overcome your reticence.



Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) – The Leo – creative and optimistic and egotistical will have a hard time dealing with the crisis situation. (Beware!) But well, Lions fight till the end, don't they? Oh and Leo girls beware, you will get blisters from those high-heeled shoes.



Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) – Virgo, the analytical and hypocritical one you will astonish the chair and vice-chairs a lot, in a positive way of course. Your practical and grounded nature allows you to see solutions that all your quixotic companions miss, and these will dazzle your dais!



Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) – Don't be lazy Librans. I am seeing a lot of conflict in your future but well MUN is all about tackling it, strategically. Your ability to see both sides of a scenario give you the emotional and intellectual upper hand, and you won't let yourself get carried away in debate.



Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) – To all those strong-willed and secretive scorpions- its time to let it all out, pull out all the stops and the secrets from your sleeves! (Make sure you have proof, or the Virgos will get you.) Make a difference. And you need to be careful while walking to the podium to give your speech.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) – Athletic Sagittarians- it's time to show everybody that you got game in the session as well and yes I can tell that you will be winning some races in the interior of your committee. Your points will be well aimed, like arrows, and if you're planning to take someone down, now's the time to do it!



Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) – Capricorns be really careful while answering questions after your speech. I see a torrent of questions being asked. Get ready to fight these off with your (metaphorical) horns. Be careful, though, bleat too much and I see a suspension in your future.



Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18) – Aquarians are supposed to be opinionated, rebellious and unconventional. Don't let your rebellious nature play a part in you offending other countries (delegates), stay diplomatic and tactful. If you can pull this off, your dais is sure to be amazed.



Pisces (Feb 19 – March 20) – Beware of unknown traps in the session (if somebody calls you to be a signatory of some resolution think thrice) don't be vulnerable. Black is definitely your lucky color for the delegate dance. Yes, go with black. Never forget your water bottle anywhere or you will have no ideas for a resolution.

Behind the Scenes at RBS-MUN (Take One)



UN HSC meeting...

Vice Chair



CRISIS
SITUATION
!!!

Terrorists
want
Fidel
Castro
dead..

*Le delegate...



lets fake the
execution..
blah blah
derp herp..
use drugs..
blah success!

*Le all delegates



NO

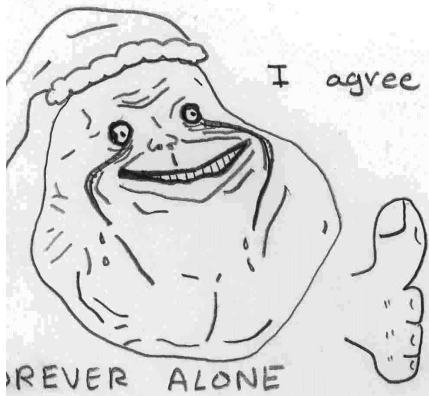
Turkey's plan not approved

Y U NO

agree...



vice chair



I agree

FOREVER ALONE



TRUE STORY...



The Delegate dance



Ah... the most exciting and thrilling moment that all you MUNers have been waiting for...the delegate dance!!! Just the thought of it excites us enough to want to dance. After a long day of hectic and stressful MUNing, how awesome would it be to let loose and dance?? I suppose the most exciting part of it is going to be the bon fire- marshmallows, anybody? So all you MUNers gear yourselves up for the probably the most exciting part of the MUN...the delegate dance!! Make sure you eat well so that you don't collapse while dancing and not enjoy the moment.

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