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# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, August 22 | Issue No. 2411



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## For Kin and Country

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Major General (Retd) GD Bakshi, who visited the School on Independence Day.

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What prompted you to join the Army?**

**Major General GD Bakshi (GDB):** When I was in the 10th grade in high school, my brother was in the Army. He was shot in battle and his death really motivated me to do something for my country. So, I enlisted myself in the armed forces, without letting my parents know, and much to my parents surprise, I received a letter saying that I had been admitted into the Army. Two weeks later, I began my training.

**DSW: There has been a major decline in people wanting to join the Army as officers. What, according to you, is the reason for this?**

**GDB:** I think that the main reason for this is that there are so many more opportunities available for graduates now than there were a few decades ago. People these days prefer to take up 'soft' jobs, the ones that earn you more money. Everyone wants to be a lawyer or an engineer but no one wants to be on the front-lines. Being in the Army is tough and it is very physically straining. People find themselves preferring to work indoors or at least behind a desk than to defend their own country's borders.

**DSW: What do you think needs to be done to prevent regular infiltrations across the Indo-Pak border?**

**GDB:** The Indo-Pak border is very heavily armored for the most part. There are fences stretching miles, which are manned by troupes on both sides, heavily armed and equipped with seismic detectors, flood lights and electric currents. Yet, there are still patches of land where there is no proper fencing. These patches are not secure because of the presence of numerous rivers flowing from one nation to the other and thick, dense forests near the border. Infiltrations occur on both sides at these insecure patches. Unless these rivers and forests are properly watched, these infiltrations will continue.

**DSW: There has been a lot of debate recently on the One Rank- One Pension scheme. What is your opinion on the matter?**

**GDB:** The one rank one pension scheme existed until the early 1980's. As officers, we have immense respect for the soldiers we lead into battle as we train and fight with them. But this is something that is not seen by our bureaucrats, who have persisted in delaying and diverting the issue to suit their own needs. China and the US maintain a constant 70% of the previous salary as the pension for their retired army personnel, whereas in India the pension rate has been reduced to 50% to make up for various other expenses incurred by the government. How will retired *jawans* or widows support their families with a pension of Rs. 4000?

One of the main reasons as seen by most defence personnel is that our politicians have no interest in serving the nation, and therefore do not pay any attention to the men who protect our borders. There has been no politician who has sent their children to serve in the defence forces. The queen of England has two grandsons who have served in the Air Force and Army, along with being stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan respectively. Our politicians barely visit the border to interact with the men who let us sleep peacefully at night. The soldiers have to bear the brunt of arrogant government officials.

An Army has to be kept young, so most *jawans* retire by their mid 30's. To support them, they need a basic level of income which comes in the form of a pension. Therefore I, along with thousands of other defence personnel, feel that the one rank one pension scheme should be implemented immediately.

**DSW: Considering the recent Gurdaspur terrorist attacks, do you feel that India's Armed Forces are equipped to fight terrorism? If not, then what must be done to rectify this?**

**GDB:** When the attacks took place at the police station, many people fell upon constant infiltrations that are taking place at the border. Infiltrations that take place at the Indo Pak border are a constant threat to the safety and well being of our civilians residing around that area. Our police respond well when attacked, but our government never makes an effort to support the police with proper equipment. So much so that our soldiers even fought the Kargil War without water proof boots and other vital equipment. Our police forces retaliate well when attacked, but there are always deaths due to lack of preparation or anticipation of attacks. The police are also well prepared, but lack basic equipment which must be provided by our government. If you compare police

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## Regulars

### The Coup d'Etat

A delegation of 11 boys participated in the **1st Welham Boys School Model United Nations Conference** held from **August 5 to August 7, 2015**. Devansh Agarwal, Nikhil Saraf, Daksh Bhatia, Aditya Bhardwaj, Arth Gupta, Smayan Sahni and Chaitanya Kediyal won **Best Delegate** awards in their respective committees. Ishaan Kapoor and Jaivir Puri jointly won the **Most Outstanding Delegate Award** in their committee. Kanav Ghai and Shaksham Goel also jointly received an **Honourable Mention** in their committee. The Doon School Delegation won awards in **all committees** and received the trophy for the **Best Delegation**.

Congratulations!

### Silver Fins

The **Doon School Aquatic Meet** was hosted by the School on the **14th of August**. The results are as follows:

#### Seniors:

Pratyaksh Parmar won a **Gold** in the **50m Breaststroke** event.

Nihal Singh Maan won a **Silver** in the **50m Breaststroke** event.

Raghav Kumar won a **Bronze** in the **50m Butterfly** event.

The Senior Team won a **Silver** in the **4x50 Freestyle Relay**.

#### Mediums:

Rishabh Goel won a **Silver** in the **50m Backstroke** event

Tanay Gopal Agarwal won a **Bronze** in the **50m Freestyle** event and a **Silver** in the **50m Butterfly** event.

Shiven Dewan won a **Bronze** in the **50m Breaststroke** event.

The mediums Team won a **Bronze** in the **4x50 Freestyle Relay**.

Well done!

*"This is our world, a common world. Everybody should feel a common responsibility."*

**Ban Ki-Moon**

### The Kingsman

The **Doon School 'B' team** participated in the **2nd Welham Girls Inter- School Chess Tournament**, held between the **August 12 and August 14, 2015**. The team stood **4th** in the tournament.

Well done!

### Aquarelle

The water-colour paintings of Harshit Verma, Pratham Bansal and Rana Sanjog were published by **'Eklavya'**- a leading national educational publication.

Congratulations!

### IAYP

The following students have completed the **Bronze** level of **The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for Young People**:

Ishita Bhardwaj  
Aneesh Choudhary  
Manraj Singh Sra  
Mihir Gupta  
Udesh Kairon  
Pragun Agarwal  
Shreshth Mehra  
Raj Sankla  
Ahaan Gupta  
Advait Ganapathy  
Tanay Agarwal

Congratulations!

### Peace and Prosperity

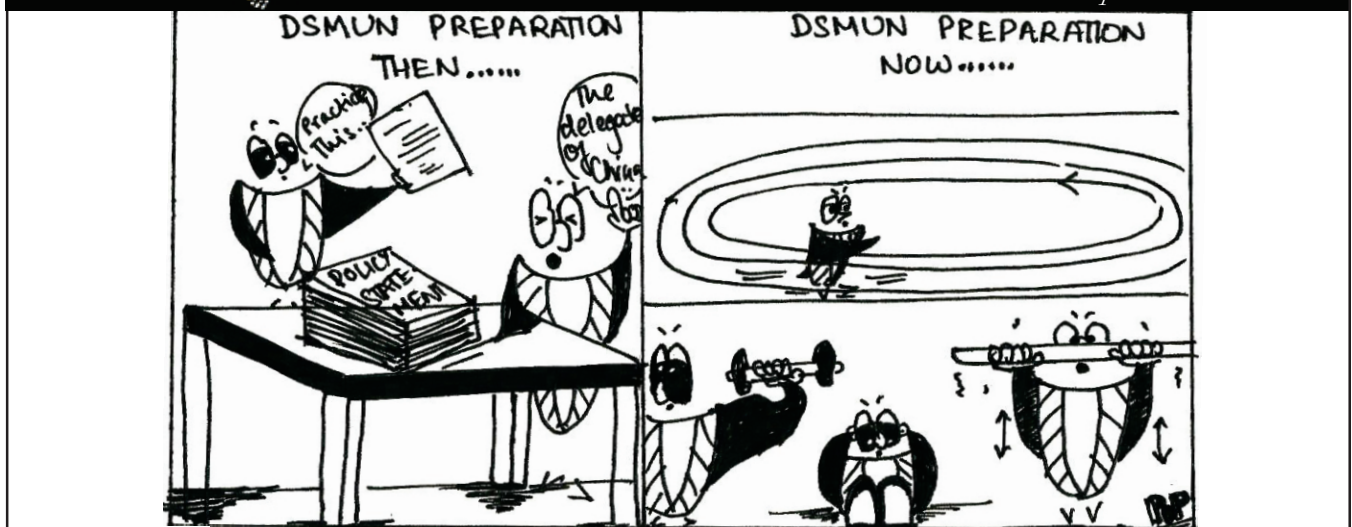
The *Weekly* welcomes all delegates and guests to the 9th Doon School Model United Nations, 2015. We hope you have a fruitful stay at Chandbagh.

Good Luck!

### Dosco Doodle

### Fit for 'Duty'

*Anirudh Popli*



# The Roving Eye

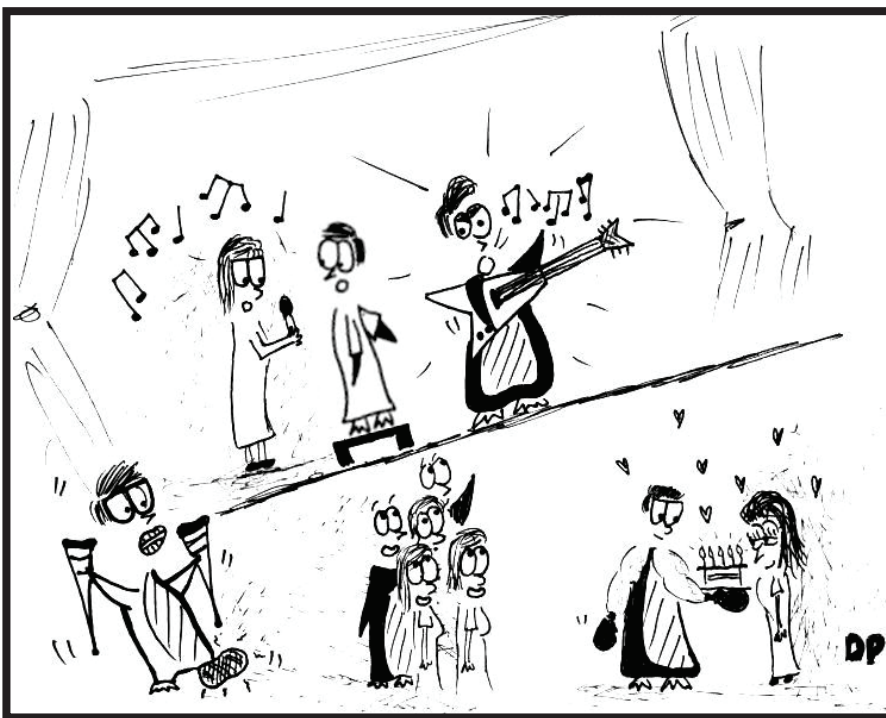
## School Basketball Captain

Ahhhh Socials! Since most of the School community has not experienced it first hand, let us give you an insight into socials. Socials is a place where you see the most well-washed faces, the cleanest kurtas, and the most hesitant/nervous/self-conscious smiles.

You see three kinds of Doscos during socials. First, people who want to be there. Second, people who don't want to be there. Third, the AV squad. The people who want to be there have a sense of impatience in them as they are eagerly waiting to meet someone. The people who don't want to be there have a sense of impatience to get over with everything and leave. The AV squad is not interested. This time the socials were just as always (mostly). The onset of rain did light a spark in the hearts of the hopelessly romantic, only to have that light extinguish with the sweat caused by the humidity.

The evening began with the Doscos sweetening the atmosphere with various fragrances, waiting for the ladies to arrive. As the girls in the white and blue arrived, they were to pick up chits randomly and dance with the person whose name would be on it. Something of a fixing was heard about it, but the Basketball Captain swears he had no role in any kind of a scam and that he played fair (he was in charge of the chits). The night began with the

performance of 'Hey Jude' and 'R U Mine' by the popular band which surely gained a lot of popularity both in and beyond Chandbagh. Doscos and Welhamites were seen stepping up to the somewhat interesting 'task' of dancing with a stranger. A special mention must be made for all the House Captains, who really stepped up to the job of keeping up the Dosco spirit. School Hockey Captain got 'lucky' with the chit picking as House Captain Hyderabad House was seen making certain 'captain-relations' with the dear Games Captain, while the Prefects' Representative did a remarkable job representing the prefects in what seemed like a formal meeting. Our Secretary-General was also seen establishing diplomatic relations with their School Captain



(on and off the dance floor, if we might add) while the Senior School P.T. Leader made a guest appearance for a minute every now and then.

The band performance was followed by a harmonious duet which could have served as a potential threat for the outbreak of an internal conflict in the under Secretary-General office. The School Orchestra Leader was seen orchestrating a serendipity with a certain movie critic while the School Football Captain did not let down his image of a sport as he danced even with a sprained foot. Socials this time also featured solving mysteries such as what is 'Kathal' and why its served at Socials. The School Swimming Captain was seen re-establishing friendly relations while the School Boxing Captain now stands as an example for all of us when it comes to romantic gestures towards a special 'friend'. A faint happy birthday chorus was heard in one corner while 'AWKWARD' cries were heard on every third table.

The man that stole the show : God

Best Dance : School Football Captain

Best Debut : Einstein

Best Performance : Kanav Ghai

Most Trending : Kathal

Most Wanted : Ashvin Solanki

Most Controversial : Under Secretary-General(s) , Sappy and Chip, IAYP Boy-in-charge and the Mess Committee Secretary, Budhau and Makhhi.

'Socials Hangover' was also displayed by the School Athletics Captain while working out on campus rounds on Sunday!

Socials served as a good warm-up for the upcoming DSMUN race, and looking at how interesting socials were, we have already put the popcorn in the oven. Until next time!



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forces in other countries with our CRPF, you would notice the difference in emergency tactical equipment that is provided. Pakistan has to be warned as well because the rate of infiltrations has increased over the past 3 years. The lapse in security is their fault and regular cross firing has not helped the two sides at all.

**DSW: What advice would you give to students who plan to join the armed forces?**

**GDB:** It is imperative that boys such as those of The Doon School join the armed forces because, as I said in my speech, the people who are in high positions should inspire people to man the frontlines. The nation needs students from elite schools to join and lead the armed forces. The number of students who do so has dropped drastically over the last couple of decades. Once again, as I said in my speech, the Queen of Great Britain has two sons; both of them are in the Army. It is that type of, not only inspiration, but also motivation that others need to join the Army. If the people of influence take up the mantle then others will surely and naturally follow.

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## Hanging the Noose

Ritzy Rajaswi argues against capital punishment.

Is Death Penalty the absolute?

*Before you embark on a journey of revenge dig two graves.*- Confucius.

There has recently been a hanging in our country which became a matter of mass rejoicing. Yakub would be proud of at least one fact that he could be the cause for humanity uniting. Humanity has built a consequentialist idea that executing certain people can bring happiness in that society. I think the Indian legal system should try scaphism next time in place of hanging as it would be pleasurable.

One of the primordial questions which needs an answer is whether we need capital punishment. I would refer particularly to Indian politics and Yakub in that case. Someone like Rousseau would say that every being is on a social contract and whosoever breaks it is bound to face the death penalty. Society shouldn't work on the concept of, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". I would refute this by saying that the capital punishment liberates the person from his guilt sometimes even resulting in martyrdom. Often, it results in martyrdom. Statistics also show that a country like the USA spends more on an execution than the criminal's life imprisonment. There have been cases of misjudgments throughout the course of history. Talking of India the criminal would live on the money from the taxpayers whereas the innocent poor would die of hunger. But we cannot base our judgements on the basis of such contracts or political wrong doings. They are contained though. We tend to take the penalties as a set back because we personify the execution. Be it an heinous crime, we empathize and that's the sense of fear. Jesus also said that we are all guilty. Some are under surveillance. That's how the state functions. We have our distinct incarnations in the colony.

The case of Timothy Evans was the reason behind the abolishment of capital punishment in UK. He was convicted of his wife's and daughter's murder but three years after the execution it was revealed by the serial killer John Christie that he had murdered them. Therefore severe blunders have occurred and the ones who actually suffer are the family. So why not abolish the bygone fundamental of terror codified by King Hammurabi of Babylon. Jacques Derrida would state that we maintain a legal accusation even when we forgive. The article-In Search of Alternatives by V.Venkatesan in the 21st August issue of Frontline- seconded by Brinda Karat and Shashi Tharoor talks about the injustice as well as of remission to life convicts in our judicial system. Someone like Asasuddin Owaisi would say it was on the basis of religion as the killers of Beant Singh( Rajonna and Dilawar Singh Babbar) and Rajiv Gandhi (Santhan, Murugan, and Perarivalan) are on life imprisonment. While Yakub was on the verdict of execution, Maya Kodnani was on her sixth bail. But that doesn't matter, for our judicial system is not flawed and does justice to all.

A country has never achieved anything through the executions of the foot soldiers. Ajmal Kasab was a victim of brain washing. We only know the volitional part of the criminal but what about the other side of the person? It doesn't make him less guilty but we cannot be judgmental about somebody's life without highlighting every aspect if it. Truly, the judicial system has created the Ram Rajya society and has given justice on what is commonly accepted. In such a situation, Ethics and jurisprudence plays its part. We cannot be critical of it or else it won't have been the right-wing ruling India. Albert Einstein said, "No problem can be solved from the same consciousness that created it."

There is something unique about the death penalty, else the rapists would have been raped in turn for the crime. The guilty should be ceremoniously punished as that rejuvenates the society. In Japan, the guilty is known a few minutes before his execution thereby the guilty lives without parole. Anton Chekhov's short story, "The Bet" portrayed life imprisonment as physical decay and death penalty as a form of cruelty of mankind? We look for substitutes for executions like the lethal injections in the USA whereas the deterrence is passed over frequently. According to the Amnesty International, 140 countries, which is more than two thirds of the world have abolished the death penalty. It is time for the democracies and various other nations to bid it goodbye. The retribution from the law is not justifiable. It is said that deterrence would act against the act of committing but it is a much later stage when the criminal is put into that jurisdiction. Yakub's appeal for reprieve was also rejected as he didn't have a party to support his guilt nor was it a common public belief. I am not talking of the applications of amnesties but a repent of a kind which doesn't take another human life. The perception of the death penalty enters the domain of vengeance and hatred and thereby we allow our consciousness to get at par

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# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is regarding Chaitanya Kediya's front-page article on Independence Day (issue no. 2410), titled 'The Rainbow Paradox'. I would like to commend Chaitanya as well as the Editorial Board for addressing such an important issue on human rights in the country on Independence Day.

This summer of 'historic' victories for the 'LGBT' community', with Ireland's referendum and the American Supreme Court's ruling, throws into sharp relief the many challenges that lay ahead for society, both in India and internationally. There are profound questions staring us in the face, like the very meaning of the term 'LGBT community' and how it is fraught with the tension between the apparent homogeneity of the term and the staggering heterogeneity — socially, economically as well as in terms of more complex gender identities not adequately emphasised by the visible movement — of the people whom it is used to represent. There is also the question of whose history we are talking about when we call these events historic because, as Chaitanya rightly suggests, many of these freedoms are still inaccessible to several millions of people around the world. But kudos to Chaitanya and also Anirudh Popli in his cartoon for drawing attention to the 'paradox' (or worse, hypocrisy) of the overzealous rainbow-washing of one's profile on social media by a vast multitude of people in celebration of these events (or in ignorance of the true context of the trend) that only serves to belie the insidious prejudices one may still hold.

**“ One can only imagine the uphill struggle that it will be in India, against the reactionary and the intolerant, to delete Section 377 by an act in Parliament. ”**

As with any such movement for social justice, critical reflection on the nuances of the matter is always our best ally. The event the Internet celebrated so vehemently, the American Supreme Court ruling, merely highlights the fracture within American democracy: Chief Justice John Roberts, in his dissent against the ruling, emphasises that the judiciary is not legislature, and that its job is decide 'what the law is, not what it should be'. Broadly speaking, this is along the same lines as the grounds for our Supreme Court ruling to reinstate Section 377 of the Penal Code in 2012. Judge Roberts' dissent has come under great criticism, some even going as far as to say he is on the wrong side of history, nevertheless his point regarding the role of the judiciary is quite ominous. That we find ourselves in a grim reality wherein one of the world's most powerful countries, indeed one that seems to command the global media, can only guarantee human rights for an oppressed people by the subversion of its own constitutional process, rather than the democratic mandate of its people, means that the victory is only pyrrhic. It is starkly unlike Ireland, a small country with an all-too-recent history of reactionary opinion, sectarian violence and social conservatism, which was nevertheless the first country to recognise gay marriage in its constitution through a popular referendum, although there was no Facebook app dedicated to celebrating this. (I hesitate to even begin discussing how a consumer-capitalist media seems to commodify Pride™ as I fear that would be going down a Marxist-theoretic rabbit hole.) One can only imagine the uphill struggle that it will be in India, against the reactionary and the intolerant, to delete Section 377 by an act in Parliament, let alone the struggle to end all forms of discrimination, hatred and injustice rife within society. But I suppose we must keep hoping and fighting despite all this.

Having said all that, I commend the Editorial Board's decision to publish such an important article and to engage in such a crucial conversation on Independence Day. I believe that the greatest way to honour the legacy of our country's struggle for freedom is to continue fighting for the freedom of people who are yet to be equal, and are yet to access the very rights that the struggle was for in the first place. These conversations are how they begin, and let us never forget the atrocities committed against members of our own society who are still oppressed for who they are. And like Chaitanya, I suppose I too am quite idealistic. But I guess now will always be the time to keep the struggle going, and I am reminded of the titular adage from the late Nadine Gordimer's last novel, 'no time like the present'.

Sincerely,

Vivek Santayana

Ex-369 O '11

Editor-in-Chief, 2010

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with the legality of the killer dwelling in cold blood . We seek inappropriate justice through killing. Such a mentality can be called mob thinking. We inflict the same killing on man. We revert the revenge and retribution through death penalty .

There is a distinction between remorse, forgiveness and amnesty. Someone like Derrida would say that forgiveness is alien to the political or legal. It cannot be trivialized.

“What says the law? You will not kill . How does it say it? By killing!” - Victor Hugo.

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## The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

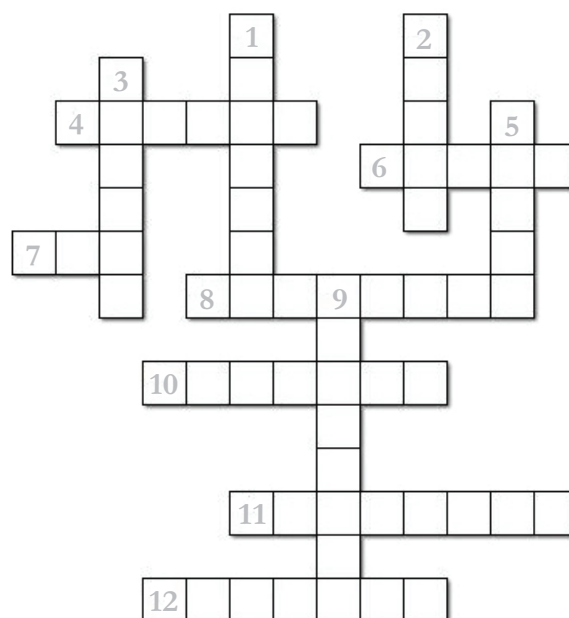
“War is peace, freedom is slavery”, and more importantly, ignorance is strength”. The moment that all of us have waited for; for some it is the end, others continue to pursue their passion, fervently believing that success will be attained one day. Certain individuals will revel in the three day holiday that is provided to them at the expense of others hard work. This, by far, is the only week that every member of our School fraternity looks forward to, for reasons known only to them.

Last week we marked 68 years since our country gained independence. There were huge areas of School which went under the scanner. Boys were seen cleaning clogged gutters, collecting waste and scrapping moss of from the Rose Bowl steps. The boys and masters must be commended for a job well done. The MPH was witness to an eye opening, sleep preventing and more importantly, interesting speech given by Major General GD Bakshi, who was our Chief Guest this year. He went on to urge our lads to view the defense services as a career option and a future well worth living, something that should be considered by our 'Future Proof' Doscocs. This week's English assembly talk referred to the same issue, except in a shorter and subtle manner.

Football was held of for a few days due to the incessant rain which allowed most of us to prepare for DSMUN. Our soccer team heads to Sikkim this week, to take part in the annual IPSC tournament. We do have high hopes of them and wish them the best of luck!

A big sigh of relief will be heard once this week is over. The end of the second largest event in school and some vital time for us to prepare for test week. Next month is no joke, but we will all be prepared better, prepared for the aftershocks. A detailed report will surface next week on the intricacies of major events that took place at DSMUN, so hang on for it. Apart from that, it only remains for me to request everyone to make use of this weekend, so that work and sleep can be overcome. The next few days are numbered, so make the most of them.

## Crossword



### Across

4. His doctrine provided American aid for post-WWII reconstruction in Europe.
6. The Egyptian leader who signed the Camp David Accords.
7. He was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations.
8. This city houses the headquarters of NATO.
10. He is the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain.
11. The Libyan city where the US Ambassador was killed.
12. Only non-UN Security Council member to negotiate with Iran on its nuclear programme.

### Down

1. A document which grants rights to an entity.
2. The current leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.
3. This country's queen gave Michelle Obama the most expensive diplomatic gift till date.
5. The Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations were decided upon here.
9. The first country to secede from the former Yugoslavia.

Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

8.Brussels	9.Slovenia
7.Lie	5. Paris
6.Sadat	12.Germany
11.Benghazi	3.Brunei
1.Benghazi	2.Abbas
3.Truman	10.Hammond
1.Character	1.Character

### Answers to This Week's Crossword:

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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