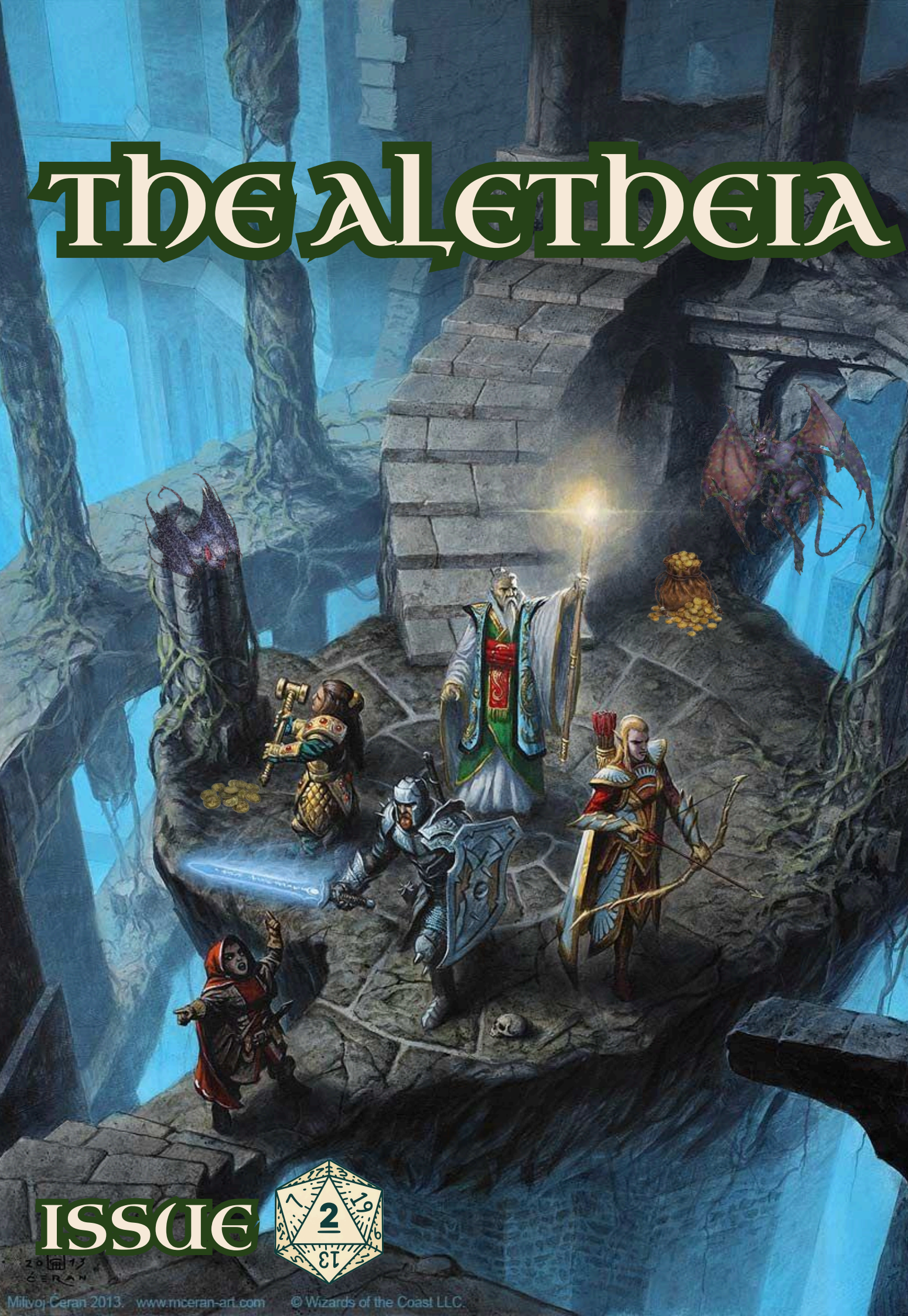


The Alethra



ISSUE



Editorial

Why do we have to write an editorial every day? Isn't it enough that I got my thoughts out once in the previous issue? Like, how much could my thoughts possibly change in one day?

Turns out, quite a bit. The reason? A comfortable place to work. It's crazy how much of a difference an AC and no rabid dogs can make. Everyone repeat after me—All Hail Kalyani.

As I walk around the campus, typing this piece with my nail polish covered fingers, I can't help but think....how insanely tired this kind of phrasing is. Even typing this, I was overwhelmed with déjà vu from every first person thing I have ever read.

There's a short person next to me who keeps trying to insert herself into my editorial, so I'd best end this here.

Continue? Initiative (see, this is the problem with catchphrases). Please let me sleep now, rest is so close I can smell it.

Peace

The One Who Writes Editorials

Team



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Basketball—BITS Pilani A vs DDU

As a proper nerd whose entire sports-watching history consisted of India vs Pakistan cricket finals or the occasional Olympics stream, appearing informed at a live basketball match felt like a Goliath-level task for the BEP writer assigned to cover the first match of the BITS basketball Team A. But this David brought his spirit—and a last-minute YouTube tutorial marathon—to somehow become a basketball master in an hour. Naturally, he hoped for a full-blown fight or some cinematic main character to drop fifty points and hand him an easy headline for this article.

Instead, the universe had other plans. As the second BITS took on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College (DDU), his self-proclaimed analytical brain completely short-circuited. Fast breaks turned into a whistle-heavy marathon of constant fouls and tense free throws that had everyone holding their breath. The crowd was a total mess of mood swings—complete pandemonium whenever the home team scored, followed by coping noises and petty boos when DDU sneaked in a basket (whatever, it's just one or two points, we're totally fine).

On the court, Sharma from DDU was chucking three-pointers like his life depended on it, while Viva kept pulling off smooth layups with the crowd chanting his name. At one point, BITS tried running some secret 'triangle strategy', but the guy literally tripped over his own sneakers right before it happened.

Right beside the writer, some fresher was losing his mind screaming at phantom fouls, and honestly? Five minutes later, he was screaming right along with him, suddenly feeling this weird, fierce pride for complete strangers over rules he didn't even know a second before.

The energy is the court was truly unmatched when the home team won with a score of 51-29. Playing sports is cool and all, but watching live at BOSM? On another level entirely.

Stall Review

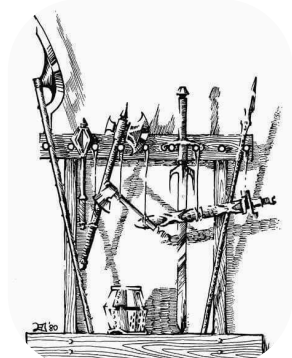
With BOSM 2026 in full swing, the BEP took it upon itself to conduct a stall review (read: torture the second-year writers who already had impending mid-semester syllabus).

Stopping by the Cubing Club stall, the correspondents discovered a plethora of games, including one affectionately referred to as the 'Anti Twin Towers' game, wherein participants had to build towers of Rubik's cubes, ensuring they did not collapse. After rigorous investigation, the correspondents uncovered the MetaNova gaming stall. The organisers explained that they would be hosting many tournaments in the coming days, like Free Fire, BGMI, Valorant, etc.



Later, the BEP correspondents came across several stolen goods, such as, but not limited to—a Virat Kohli standee in the RecNAcc booth, which the members present conveniently shrugged off, saying, 'Don't ask us!'; a chassis "borrowed" from the IKE boiler room for the Gaming Club setup (more accurately described as a tetanus hazard); and finally, completely original and unique leftover Oasis decorations, consisting of totally functional lanterns (somebody please call the EEE department!) and Christmas lighting.

Last but not the least, they arrived at the ever-familiar, very reasonably priced food stalls, at one of which, peri-peri fries could be yours for the low, low price of 5—dollars, that is, not rupees (what are we, paupers?). To avoid allegations of theft at such a steal of a price, most students could be found pivoting to ANC, Looters and FM. Truly a masterstroke by the BITS administration (Dhurandhar 3 when?).



Football—BITS vs BVP

Bharati Vidhyapeeth (BVP), Delhi's football team went up against the home team, BITS Pilani, at 9:45 PM on September 16, 2026, in a one-sided match that BITS won 5-0.

The match, as expected, started fifteen minutes late, and BITS took an early lead with a stunning header on a corner kick. The opposition immediately responded with a flurry of fouls on the home team, but couldn't manage to hold on to the ball as BITS dominated possession. BVP players on the sideline were clearly agitated, shouting instructions and urging their team to 'push'.

BITS's defense was on point with tackling and stealing the ball, before clearing it into BVP's half. Things came to a head when BITS's header into goal was labelled offside and BVP took the opportunity to press the opposition defense, showing brief flashes of attacking intent, but eventually failed to convert any opportunities before halftime.

Once play resumed, the BVP team seemed to have had new life breathed into them, as they tried to maintain possession and take the ball to BITS's half. However, BITS's defense came in clutch, repeatedly stealing the ball before the penalty arc, much to the disappointment of the BVP supporters. BITS regained possession, and after a few wide shots, converted another corner into a goal. The team rode their high to score yet another goal with a beautiful shot into the top corner from outside the box. The home crowd was elated, with several outsiders also appreciating the BITS team.

BITS sealed the deal by scoring two more goals in quick succession—another header and a tap-in from open play. The spectators noted that BITS had tactically outclassed BVP by maintaining penetrative pressure and not giving the opposition an inch. On their win, one player remarked that everyone had been on top of their game and had created a good base for themselves in the first half before finishing it off in the second.

The second game was much more one-sided compared to the first, with the SKIT team missing a smash and a couple of shots, letting Piyush and Abhinav institute a sizable lead, attacking with lightning-fast smashes and drops.

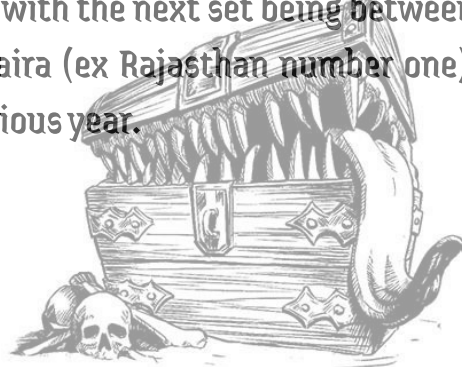
Post-match interview, Piyush stated his confidence in the team and was hopeful they would end DU's dominance in this edition of BOSM.

Table Tennis (Girls)—BITS vs SRCC

The BITS Girls' Table Tennis (TT) team took on their counterparts from the Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in a lackluster clash at 4:00 PM on September 17, 2026, and won the game 3-1.

The match started at 5:20 PM (c'mon, if you're not accounting for BST by now, what are you even doing?). The format of the match was best of five sets, with each set consisting of three games. The first set was won easily by Tanisha Malani of BITS, who, after breezing through the first game against her opponent (11-1), started playing the next with her non-dominant hand in a stunning display of athleticism. The BEP correspondent would like to note that, after losing three consecutive points in this manner, Tanisha reverted back to her original hand.

The next set, played by Rakshita Pandey, was against Samaira Sharma from SRCC. It proved to be a tough one for the home crowd—despite their wild cheering, the SRCC player won the set 2-0 by unleashing a flurry of smashes and chops. BITS got a walkover in the third set, as the player from SRCC was ill and unable to play. BITS was now up 2-1, with the next set being between Tanisha (ex Delhi number three) and Samaira (ex Rajasthan number one), who had also faced off in the finals the previous year.



Badminton(Men)—BITS A vs SKIT

Day 1 of BOSM featured a banger performance by the BITS Pilani A team, winning both rounds of the men's singles and the men's doubles against SKIT.

Game-1: Singles

Divyansh (BITS A) beat Satyam (SKIT) 21-10, 21-19. The first game was a quick win, with Divyansh quickly establishing and maintaining a sizable lead over Satyam with rapid shots and the occasional smash, much to the excitement of the spectators and team cheering for him.

The second game was much tougher, with both players going neck and neck till the very end—with the score reaching 18-15—before Divyansh established dominance and won the game.

Game-2: Singles

Bhavya, the captain of the badminton team beat Aditya Sharma (SKIT) 21-13, 21-13. In the first game, Bhavya quickly upheld the lead, before losing the advantage after a couple of unlucky shots. The game then progressed to challenging rallies with both players going head-to-head (side note: the score was 6-7), until a few stellar smashes by Bhavya that set the tone for the game.

The second match was a rocky start for Bhavya, but he forged a consistent lead, with the occasional break to discuss with his coach. Aditya Sharma slipped and fell on the court towards the end, and needed a little medical assistance after the match.

Game-3: Doubles

Piyush and Abhinav (BITS A) beat Aditya Sharma and Arjun (SKIT) 24-22, 21-13. The first game was hard fought with insane rallies from both sides until the very end. A lot of the points were scored and lost due to the shuttle narrowly missing or making the bounds of the court, leaving the audience at the edge of their toes (there weren't enough seats).

As the players warmed up with smashes and counters for the next set, the SRCC player repeatedly seemed to blame the balls she sent into the net on its height, the draught of air that was coming from the open window, or the open door. After rectifying these factors—the door was closed, the curtain drawn, and the height of the net verified—the set began. Tanisha immediately dominated the game, taking the lead with vicious smashes and misleading serves. Samaira fought back with shots of her own, but it is to be noted that she had asked for the door to be closed more times than she had scored a point in the first game. She put up a better fight in the second game, even taking the initial lead, but had no answer to her opponent's speed and technique, eventually losing 0-2.

When asked about the game, Tanisha remarked, 'It was a good match, a fighting match, but I was slightly confident that I would win...'. The readers should note that this was the second, more diplomatic answer given by Tanisha after being informed that it would be printed in the fest issue.



Cricket—BITS vs MIET

Few awakenings are as harsh and sobering as a call from one's chief-editor, commanding them to cover an afternoon cricket match. Such was the predicament of one BEP writer who had been assigned the momentous (and sweaty) task of covering the BITS vs MIET (Meerut Institute of Engineering and Technology) game.



BITS won the toss and opted to bat first, hoping to gain an un-chaseable lead. What followed was impassioned to say the least, with the players (and the singular audience member) shrieking their support for their teammates with the occasional 'koi baat nahi

[sic]'chal chal chal [sic]', and needless to say, the classic 'AYE's and 'OI's. This was, naturally, in sharp contrast to the expletives reserved for their opponents, one of which notably involved a cricket kit and a threat regarding its installation.

The match was kicked off by an early wicket, after which the crowd was treated to a strong few overs from vice-captain Pratham Jain. 'I don't know bro,' replied one team member when he was requested by the writer to fight the umpire to, 'get some masala for the article'. As it turned out though, the writer had nothing to worry about, with the latter half of the innings being marred by arguments—and much to the bored writer's delight—an instance of a player being headbutted thanks to some particularly abrasive sledging. The inning then finally concluded with a score of 205 runs of eight wickets.

The second inning was dominated by the home team, with five wickets falling in nine overs before the game (and the writer) obtained a well-deserved break owing to the rain. Upon resumption, it was revealed that MIET would have to score 107 runs in five overs, and the visitors ended up losing the match after managing to score a grand total of 98 runs, thus falling significantly short of the DLS target.



Dhwani

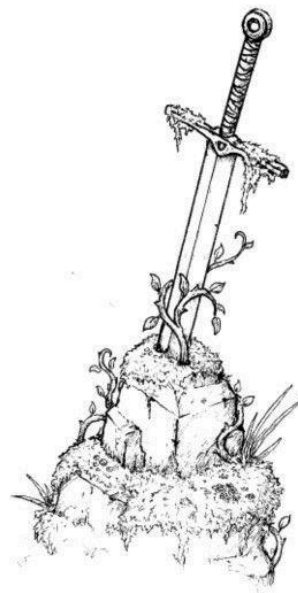
Gurukul began their flagship BOSM event, Dhwani, at 8:55 P.M. with a jamming session to set the mood. A conversation with the coordinator of Gurukul, Sheelvratt, shed some light on their preparations. Sound check began late the previous night and extended till the early hours of daylight. He added that the dissatisfaction with the performance of the new sound equipment during their Inaug performance motivated the intense preparation. Wong

Sheelvratt mentioned the song 'Better' by Cory in particular as one to look forward to.

The setlist included a variety of songs; ranging from popular hits like 'Diamonds' by Rihanna, 'All the Things She Said' by t.A.T.u., to rock tunes like 'Layla' by Eric Clapton, and Bollywood tracks like 'Dil Dhadakne Do', 'Saibo', and 'Hairat'.

The performances were well received by the audience who responded with a great degree of enthusiasm to each song. The mixing in particular drew a great amount of praise from both the musicians and the general audience, noting the clarity of the vocals and powerful drums.

In conclusion, Dhwani remained a relatively punctual and extremely successful event, despite the many technical issues that seemed to prevent it from being so.



Volleyball(Men)—BITS B vs DDUC

Following heavy BST, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College (DDUC) and the BITS Pilani Men's Volleyball Team B took to the court for a thrilling match under the gleam of the glistening moon.

The BITS B team gathered in a tight huddle, chanting "Bajrangbali ki jai [sic]," while DDUC on the other side chanted a resounding "Har Har Mahadev [sic]." The game had almost as much sledging as rallies, with banter straight out of Chhichhore.

The scores remained neck-and-neck for most of the first set; however, BITS B eventually managed to take the lead, winning the set with a score of 25-21. The setter's pinpoint precision gave the BITS spikers plenty to work with, while their Libero defended the rivals' attacks skillfully.

Just when the audience began to expect BITS to win the match, DDUC turned the tables in the second set. They retaliated fiercely, racing to an 8-2 lead and putting the BITS team under pressure. With DDUC leading 14-6, the comeback seemed increasingly unlikely. But BITS B refused to go down quietly and won five consecutive rallies. Both teams fought hard for every point. Despite BITS' late resurgence, DDUC kept the pressure high and won the second set 25-23, forcing the match into a deciding 15-point set.

The final set began much like the second, with DDUC taking an early 4-1 lead. BITS B, however, once again fought their way back, levelling the score at 7-7 and ensured that DDUC did not have it easy. In the end, DDUC managed to edge ahead and win the deciding set 15-12, bringing the fierce and gripping match to its conclusion.



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