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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Bangladesh Needs to Think Out of the Box for Sustainable Energy Transition

On September 25, 2019, Professor Joyashree Roy, the inaugural Bangabandhu Chair Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, talked on "Multidimensionality of Challenges for a Fast Developing Country like Bangladesh in Sustainable Energy Transition" at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Dhaka. This interactive session, presided over by ULAB Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, was joined by senior and mid-level faculty members from all departments and centers of the university.



Professor Roy, a member of the IPCC's Nobel Peace Prize 2007 winning panel and the Coordinating Lead Author of WGIII (mitigation) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set the tone by explaining the dire need for a sustainable energy shift from a fossil-fuel-based one to a renewable-energy one, especially under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era. She explained why much focused renewable sources, like solar, wind or bioenergy, would not be sufficient for Bangladesh in the coming decades for such a transition. "We need a 'Just, Sustainable, Peaceful Transition,' and we need it fast," she emphasized. Drawing examples from Nordic countries, she argued how transforming the natural gas and coal-exploitation-centered expertise and infrastructure of Bangladesh could be capitalized on building geothermal and hydrogen fuel capacity, and it has to be started with pilot demonstrations. The exciting talk by Professor Roy was followed by a vibrant discussion on pertinent technological, social, economic, and cultural issues. The conversation further explored the opportunities for Bangladeshi academics, researchers, and students to collaborate on joint research, to undertake academic activities, and to join capacity development with the AIT and other institutions and programs in the region on energy, climate change, SDGs, blue economy, and evidence-informed policy influencing.

CAS Lecture on "Bengal's Contribution to Jaina Sculptural Art: The Introduction of Dikpalas as Subsidiary Figures"

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) organized a seminar on "Bengal's Contribution to Jaina Sculptural Art: The Introduction of Dikpalas as Subsidiary Figures" on December 11, 2019 at ULAB Auditorium, Campus A. Dr. Gerd J R Mevissen, a Germany based specialist on ancient Indian art, architecture and iconography and editor of several international research journals, was the keynote speaker of the seminar.

By referring to interesting Dikpala sculptures from Jaina religion found in Bengal, Dr. Mevissen informed the audience about the significance of Dikpala sculptures in the religious history of Bengal. The Jain sculpture commonly called Astadikpala has only been found in Bengal and generally regarded as a Bengal invention. The presence of Jain sculptures in Bengal clearly testifies that Jainism was once a flourishing religion in ancient Bengal though there are very few followers of Jainism in Bengal at present. The seminar ended with a lively discussion by Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director of CAS, ULAB, and other national experts.



CES Leadership Talk



The Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) organized the CES Leadership Talk for Fall 2019 on October 23, 2019 at the ULAB auditorium. The talk was delivered

by Ms. Rubaba Dowla, Founder and Managing Director, Pulse Healthcare Services.

Ms. Dowla spoke to a packed auditorium of more than 200 students about her career as a corporate leader and her decision to take the path less traveled: entrepreneurship. She shared some best practices in entrepreneurship: the importance of finding the right partner, generating your own motivation, taking risks, valuing diversity, speaking up, staying positive, being resilient, and putting knowledge to use.

Grand Finale of Intra-University Presentation Maestros 2019 Competition

The Grand Finale of the "Presentation Maestros 2019," organized by the ULAB School of Business (USB) was held at the Campus A Auditorium on December 12, 2019. Five teams participated in this third and final round.

Students from multiple disciplines demonstrated their presentation skills on the topic "The State of Democracy Around The World" followed by a Question & Answer session. The judges' panel included Niaz Morshed Patwary, Assistant Professor, USB; Ms. Rumana Liza Anam, Assistant Professor, USB; Mr. Nafees Intiaj Ahmed, Senior Lecturer

and Coordinator, BBA Program; Wafi Aziz Sattar, Lecturer, MSJ; and Ms. Tazrian Shainam Shahid, Lecturer, USB. Each team received a total of 10 minutes to showcase their presentation skills and knowledge on this critical and complex global issue. Exhibiting exceptional skills throughout the competition, Team "Backbenchers" became the champion of Presentation Maestros 2019. The 1st and 2nd Runners-up were Teams "Aristocrats" and "Ex-Ronins," respectively.

Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business, delivered a few words of inspiration and handed over the prizes to the winners. To conclude the event, Adnan Kabir, Lecturer, USB, gave the closing remarks and vote of thanks.



Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day Commemorated

ULAB commemorated the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day on December 17, 2019 at the Campus A Auditorium in Dhanmondi.



Earlier in the day, National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam and ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, inaugurated the ULAB Library two day-long (December 17-18) Book and Photo Exhibition on Martyred Intellectuals, Bir Sreshthos, and the Liberation War.

ULAB Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza; Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Treasurer; and Professor Akhter Ahmed, Former Registrar, were present at the occasion along with the Professors, Heads of Departments, faculty members, admin members, and students of the university.

The program began with a one-minute silence to pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals of 1971 followed by a rendering of the National Anthem by ULAB Shangskriti Shangshad and a screening of a documentary on the Liberation War. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, delivered the welcome speech. Then, Professor Abdul Mannan, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and faculty member of ULAB School of Business, presented his keynote speech. Students from ULAB Shangskriti Shangshad presented poetry and a song on the Liberation War.



MSJ Curriculum Integration

The Curriculum Integration (CI) Exhibition of Fall'19 organized by the Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) was held on January 2-5, 2020. This time the visual exhibition took place at the university's Permanent Campus and the debate and film exhibition took place at the Chhayanaut Auditorium. For the Fall '19 term, the department focused on the idea of "Conditioning," a study by Pavlov on the process of training or accustoming a person or animal to behave in a certain way or to accept certain circumstances, as its subject of research.

Based on this, students of MSJ showcased various artworks in the form of street art, masks, posters, photographs, and digital productions focusing on the theme. The visual art exhibition was showcased at the ULAB Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur and was inaugurated by Chief Guest Rahnuma Ahmed, anthropologist and columnist, on January 4, 2020.

The second half of the program took place at Chhayanaut Auditorium where a debate on "Bangladeshi Journalists Condition Society to Uphold Social Peace" was held where Sushmita S. Preetha, the Editor of The Star Weekend, graced the event as the judge. Screening of visual works done by the students was scheduled for later. Works like "Ballo Bibaho," a public service announcement video on child marriage, by Reza Us Salam Nur of the course Created Private Media and "Artcell: Rise of an Evolving Band," a documentary done by the students of the course Documentary Production especially grabbed everyone's attention.

The Department organized its Spring 2020 Curriculum Integration exhibition on "The Communication Apprehension Theory" from June 30, 2020-July 6, 2020. This was the first time that the department organized the exhibition on the virtual platform. Visual arts, posters, photographs, masks, video arts, animation, films, documentaries and speeches from different courses were presented at the event. Renowned photographer, Nasir Ali Mamun, Filmmaker Khijir Hayat Khan and Filmmaker/Producer Arifur Rahman were present at the event as the Special Guests.



ULAB Wins Bangabandhu Gold Cup

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) became the champion of the BUFT "Bangabandhu Gold Cup Inter-University 9-A-Side Football Tournament 2019." A total of 18 university teams participated in this tournament organized by the BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT) at their permanent campus in Ashulia, Savar. ULAB beat BUFT 4-0 in the final match. ULAB defender midfielder Chinmoy Roy scored 2 goals in the first half and striker Shorif Ahmed Shoshy and winger Zakirul Islam scored 1 goal each in the second half to win the championship trophy. ULAB goalkeeper Azizur Rahman Piyash became the Man of the Match and best keeper of the tournament for his match winning saves. At the Closing Ceremony, ULAB was awarded the Champion's trophy and a cash prize of fifty thousand taka.



Launching of Mujib Borsho Celebrations at ULAB



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) called a press conference on January 27, 2020 at the ULAB campus in Dhanmondi, titled "Mujib Centenary Celebration." National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam, who is also the President of the National Implementation Committee to celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, highlighted the importance of the Mujib Centenary in the presence of journalists. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque outlined the programs of the Mujib Centenary to be organized by ULAB and gave a briefing on why ULAB is celebrating this Centenary.

A delegation led by ULAB's Vice Chancellor would begin the celebration programs by going to Tungipara to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Apart from this, ULAB will mark the Mujib Centenary with the following activities: student visits to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, The Museum of Independence, Liberation War Museum and Bangladesh National Museum; launch a commemorative volume at ULAB; department-wise Lecture Series on Bangabandhu; book fair and photography exhibitions; film/documentary shows on the Liberation War and Bangabandhu; essay competition on Bangabandhu; cultural competition on Bangabandhu; Club Day activities on Bangabandhu; discussions by students on Bangabandhu; webpage making on Bangabandhu; launch the Bangabandhu Corner at the ULAB Library; tree plantation program at the ULAB Permanent Campus at Mohammadpur; and Bangabandhu Fair Play Cup. Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, and Coordinator of the Mujib Centenary Celebration Committee at ULAB, presented the closing remarks.

ULAB Pays Tribute to Bangabandhu at Tungipara

A delegation of professors, led by ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, paid tribute to the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at Tungipara on January 29, 2020. After placing a wreath at the grave of the Father of the Nation, the delegation observed some moments of silence as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of Bangladesh's independence.

Professor H M Jahirul Haque was accompanied by Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Department of English and Humanities; Professor Abdul Mannan, ULAB School of Business; Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Dean, School of Science and Engineering; Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering; Professor Omar Rahman, Advisor, ULAB; Professor Pinki Shah, ULAB School of Business; Lt Col Md. Foyzul Islam (Retd), Registrar, ULAB; and Mehedi Rajeb, Director of ULAB Co-Curricular Office and Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business.



Inauguration of “Shongjog-2020” of the Two Bengals



St. Xavier's College Kolkata Alumni Association and Banga Sahitya Samiti inaugurated the Two Bengals' "Shongjog-2020" program on February 9, 2020 at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka. The "Shongjog-2020" program of the Two Bengals was inaugurated in honor of the International Mother Language Day by paying homage to the language martyrs with flowers and lighting a torch. The Indian Embassy Head Secretary, Bishwapratim Chakraborty, was present on the occasion. A cultural program was also held with the participation of students. Father Milton Costa, who led the delegation from Kolkata, said that the ceremony was being held to pay homage to the language martyrs. The convener of the event, Dipan Das said that the main goal of the

program is to show respect to all languages, to one's mother tongue, and to build intercultural communication. After the Central Shaheed Minar ceremony, the torch was carried to the premises of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) where it was received by the ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque.

ULAB CES Symposium on “Digital Disruptions in Business and Society”

The Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a Symposium on “Digital Disruptions in Business and Society” on February 18, 2020. This event aimed to inspire discussion and knowledge-sharing among academics, practitioners, students, and media across a spectrum of sectors and areas. CES researchers showcased their latest research on digital transformation of business, and the impact thereof, on society. CES Research and Communication Associate Md. Oliur Rahman Tarek presented his research on “Sharing Economy and Ridesharing in Bangladesh.” He covered the current



challenges, solutions and policy implications in the field of ridesharing in the country. Lumbini Barua, Research Associate, CES, gave a presentation on “Role of Disruptive Digital Technologies in Countering Violent Extremism.” Ahmed Saad Ishtiaque, CES Researcher and Assistant Professor of ULAB, shared his research on “Role of Entrepreneurship in Enabling Union Digital Centers.” He talked about several success factors for the sustainability of the centers across different districts of Bangladesh. The event was graced by the presence of ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Sajid Amit, Associate Professor of ULAB and Director, CES and EMBA; faculty members and researchers from different universities, corporate companies, and journalists.

ULAB Seminar on Global University Ranking

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and the General Education Department (GED) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) jointly organized a seminar on "Global University Rankings and Implications for Quality Assurance" on February 23, 2020 at its Permanent Campus, Mohammadpur. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Riyad A. Shahjahan, Associate Professor of Higher Education, Michigan State University. Quality assurance (QA) has become an important policy issue, institutional practice, and a concern for study in the field of higher education. Institutions are looking for various tools to ensure and demonstrate quality in both their both input and output. The role of QA in the global competition fetish of higher education can no longer be ignored. Within this context, this talk interrogated the growing role of global QA practices and critically probed the underlying assumptions of such practices in a globalized context. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Associate Professor, GED, and Director, CETL, and about fifteen other academics from different universities participated in this seminar.



Hasina: A Daughter's Tale Screened at ULAB

The docu-drama on the life of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, *Hasina: A Daughter's Tale*, was screened at the auditorium of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) at Dhanmondi on February 24, 2020 as part of the Mujib Centenary Celebration at ULAB. The grandson of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mr. Radwan Mujib Siddiq, and the Director of the film, Piplu Khan, took part in the discussion after the screening of the film. The discussion was followed by an engaging question and answer session. Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Vice President, ULAB Board of Trustees; Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB; National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam; Ms. Ameenah Ahmed, Member, ULAB BoT; Kazi Inam Ahmed, Member, ULAB BoT; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Lt Col Foyzul Islam (Retd), Registrar, ULAB; teachers, students, and guests were present at the event. The film was jointly produced by the Centre for Research and Information and Applebox Films. In the film, Sheikh Hasina represents herself in the title role and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana as herself.



ULAB Screens Documentary on Bangladesh 1971 Genocide



The Department of General Education at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) screened the film titled *Merciless Mayhem: The Bangladesh Genocide through Pakistani Eyes* by Fuad Chowdhury. The film was screened at ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur on March 4, 2020 as part of the university's year-long activities to celebrate the Mujib Centenary. The 61-minute film tells the story of the genocide in Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War through the eyes of a group of Pakistanis. Directed by Fuad Chowdhury, the documentary reveals the conspiracy of West Pakistan in the 1970 general election and the subsequent war that

gave birth to Bangladesh in 1971. The documentary features interviews of Pakistani journalists and government officials who shared their experiences of the genocide committed by Pakistani occupation forces in 1971. Besides the interviews, the documentary also contains video footage of speeches by the then Pakistan President Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, which were aired on different television channels. Before the screening, Professor Abdul Mannan gave his introductory remarks about the film. He discussed the importance of the documentary for the next generation. National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam also spoke at the program.

The program was chaired by Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director of CAS, ULAB. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business, along with other ULAB faculty members and students were present at the screening.

ULAB Celebrates International Women's Day

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated the International Women's Day with several programs at both its Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi Campus from March 7-9, 2020. ULAB's MBA program organized an event titled "Inspiring Women in Business" where three young women entrepreneurs, Ms. Tahmina Shoilee, founder of Shoilee Creative Studio; Ms. Prity Waresa, Managing Director at Gen4W Events Ltd.; and Dr. Fahreen Hannan, founder of Dhaka Cast, shared their journey with the students of ULAB and spoke about the challenges they faced.



ULAB's Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) arranged a talk on "Mainstreaming Gender in Research Design and Decision Making" where Research Associates shared their findings on leadership roles of women in decision making, increasing resilience of women towards climate related hazards, and gender issues linked with land rights. Ms. Ishrat Shabnam, Acting Chief of Party, Care Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest of the seminar. The Special Guest was Ms. Dilruba Haider, Program Specialist–Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Humanitarian Action, UN Women.

Paper Canoe, the ULAB Literary Society, launched a wall magazine and organized a photo-shoot session. The magazine's theme was "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights." The World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW), Bangladesh Chapter at ULAB, also organized an event where Gender and Management Specialist, Ms. Nilufer Ahmed Karim, President of Women Entrepreneurs' Association (WEA), Bangladesh, was invited as the Chief Guest. The events were inaugurated by ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, and attended by faculty members and students of the university.

Bangabandhu Corner Launched at ULAB

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) launched the Bangabandhu Corner in its Library in the Dhanmondi Campus on March 11, 2020 as part of the ongoing celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the Bangabandhu Corner, along with ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, at the ULAB Library. ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Treasurer Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Department of English and Humanities, and Professor Abdul Mannan, ULAB School of Business, were also present at the occasion along with the heads of departments, faculty and admin members, and students of the university.



ULAB Celebrates the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



March 17, 2020 is the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the occasion of the Father of the Nation's birthday, a discussion meeting was organized on March 18, 2020 at the Permanent Campus of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Mohammadpur.

ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque gave a welcome speech at the meeting. Professor Abdul Mannan of the ULAB School of Business, and former Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC), presented the keynote speech on the occasion. He discussed the life and philosophy of Bangabandhu.

Among others, Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Freedom Fighter Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head of CSE Department and Dean, ULAB School of Science and Engineering, also spoke. At the end of the discussion, Bangabandhu's birth centenary was celebrated with the cutting of a cake. ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Treasurer Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Registrar Lt Col Md. Foyzul Islam (Retd), and other faculty and admin members were also present at the occasion.

Online Education for ICT/CSE Students



The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar titled "Online Education for ICT/CSE Students" on May 16, 2020. The speakers of the session were Professor Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Department of CSE, Shahjalal University of Science and Engineering; Md. Rezaul Karim, DG of Digital Security Agency and PD of LICT project; Syed Almas Kabir, president of BASIS; Habibullah N. Karim, CEO of Technohaven Company Ltd.; Rasib Khan, Assistant Professor, Northern Kentucky University, USA; Professor Kaykobad, Department of CSE, BUET; and Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB. This live event was participated in and viewed by a good number of participants from home and abroad. The welcome speech was given by Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib where he highlighted the importance of online education in keeping students motivated along with the basic challenges of online teaching and

learning in the country. Later, Professor Muhammed Zafar Iqbal highlighted the existing technical challenges faced by the students in pursuing online education.

ULAB Career Services Office (CSO) Webinar on Necessary Post-Pandemic Skills

The Career Services Office (CSO) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), in collaboration with leading telecom multinational corporation Banglalink Digital Communication Ltd., organized an hour-long webinar titled "New Essential Skillsets Required after the Pandemic" on May 20, 2020. ULAB has been organizing such online career sessions to help students cope with the job market after the corona crisis. Head of Talent Management of Banglalink Ms. Ayesha Saeed conducted the session. Ms. Ayesha Saeed said that students have to cope with the New Normal, which means redefining the way we used to do things before the COVID-19 crisis. Dilara Afroz Khan Rupa, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, Student Affairs Office (SAO) & Career Services Office (CSO), said, "ULAB CSO is very committed to career placements of ULAB's graduates. We should be prepared with different career skills for work after the Corona epidemic to stay competitive in the job market. Therefore, it is high time to develop students' soft skills and other skillsets that corporate leaders need so they can get their desired jobs after the epidemic." After the presentation there was an interactive question-answer session. The session was coordinated by Aurthima Naznoor, Talent Management Lead Specialist, Human Resources and Administration of Banglalink. More than one hundred students from different departments of ULAB participated in the session.



ULAB IoT Lab Webinar on "Practical Application of Data Science"



Considering the importance of Data Science today, the IoT Lab at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar titled "Practical Application of Data Science" on June 1, 2020. Mr. Abul Al Mohaimin, a Senior Director of Data Engineering in Dun & Bradstreet in New Jersey, USA, presented the practical applications of Data Science and the demand of data scientists globally. He also talked about how to begin working in this field and how students can increase their expertise in Data Science. Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Associate Professor, Department of CSE and Executive Advisor of the IoT Lab, introduced

the IoT Lab to the participants while Dr. Mohammad Shariar Rahman, Associate Professor of the same department, moderated the session. The webinar was powered by the IEEE Computer Society Bangladesh Chapter, in association with IEEE ULAB SBC, IEEE Computer Society ULAB SBC, and IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group. Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB, highlighted the importance of the webinar. He wrapped up the event with a vote of thanks.

ULAB CSO Webinar on Job Market Realities of Bangladesh during and post COVID-19

The Career Services Office (CSO) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar on job market realities of Bangladesh during and post COVID-19 on June 9, 2020. Hussain M Elius, Co-Founder & CEO, Pathao, and Don Sumdany, Chief Inspirational Officer, Don Sumdany Facilitation, were present as speakers. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, presented the welcome speech. Dilara Afroz Khan, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, Student Affairs Office (SAO) & Career Services Office (CSO) moderated the event. Speakers of the workshop emphasized on the best use of time during corona virus crisis. They advised students to enhance their skills using online platforms to cope with the job market during and post COVID-19. After the presentation there was an interactive question-answer session. More than one hundred students from different departments of ULAB participated in the session.



ULAB Webinar on “Preparing for Future Workplace in Post-Covid Era”



The Career Services Office (CSO) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar on June 13, 2020 on “Preparing for Future Workplace in Post-Covid Era.” The invited speakers were Mr. Monjurul Alam, Fellow CIPD and Head of Human Resources, and Ms. Anubhab Rahman, Head, Organization Development, Eastern Bank Limited (EBL). Mr. Alam shared one unique criterion regarding EBL's job exam, that is, an application-based examination, which he said is different from other banks. Ms. Rahman said that students from any discipline (English, Engineering, etc.) can pursue their careers in human resources if they can develop good communication skills, behavioral skills, and other soft skills. Both speakers emphasized on customer satisfaction and community approach while running operations. They also emphasized on utilizing the current time to acquire additional skills through various reputable online sources. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque presented the welcome speech and vote of thanks during which he requested students to take this time as an

opportunity to keep themselves busy with study. This would help them to avoid the anxiety caused by thoughts of the coronavirus. An interactive question-answer session followed the discussion in which over a hundred students and faculty members from different departments of ULAB participated.

ULAB SAO Discussion on Mental Health of Students during Corona

The Student Affairs Office (SAO) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a special Facebook Live event on June 25, 2020 in association with Maya, a mental healthcare organization, on mental health care for young people during the Coronavirus pandemic. Professor Mehtab Khanam, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, Dhaka University, spoke to the students on the event. The event was moderated by Maya's Senior Mental Health Counselor Monzia Mushtaq. Professor Mehtab Khanam said, “When misunderstandings develop in relationships with those who are close to us, or we face challenges, it becomes more painful than physical illness because it cripples people both physically and mentally.” She also added, “If the relationship with the close people deteriorates, we might not say it orally but we can solve the problem by writing because writing helps to express our minds clearly.”



Features

ULAB Champions Cup



The ULAB Champions Cup 2019, the Inter-English Medium School T20 Cricket Tournament, was inaugurated at the ULAB Cricket Ground in Mohammadpur on October 11, 2019.

Kazi Inam Ahmed, Director of Bangladesh National Cricket Board and Member of ULAB's Board of Trustees, graced the opening ceremony of the tournament as the Chief Guest and Habibul Bashar, Former Captain of Bangladesh National Cricket team and Member of Selection Committee, BCB, was present as the Special Guest.

Scholastica School became the champion in the final match of the ULAB Champions Cup 2019 held on October 22, 2019. Ms. Juditha Ohlmachar, Member of ULAB's Board of Trustees, graced the final ceremony of the tournament and handed over the trophy to the Champion of the Tournament.

ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza delivered a speech on the occasion and Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque gave the vote of thanks. Professor Akhtar Ahmed, Former Registrar, ULAB, and teachers and students from the schools were also present at the Awards Ceremony with other distinguished guests.



Eight schools participated in the two-week long ULAB Champions Cup 2019 tournament. The participating schools were Scholastica School, DPS STS School, Cardiff International School, Maple Leaf International School, Sunnydale School, South Breeze School, Mangrove School, and Dhanmondi Tutorial School.

ULAB's 15th Foundation Day



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated its 15th Foundation Day on October 16, 2019 in the auditorium of its Dhanmondi campus.

Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning, was present as the Chief Guest while Sheikh Kabir Hossain, Chairman, Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) and Chairman, Trustee Board, Fareast International University, was present as the Special Guest.

Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Vice President of the ULAB Board of Trustees, delivered the welcome speech, while Founder and President, ULAB Board of Trustees, Kazi Shahid Ahmed, and National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam also spoke at the program. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque delivered the closing remarks.

The formal part of the ceremony began with the ULAB theme song rendered by ULAB Sangskriti Shangsad followed by a video presentation.



Guests, members of ULAB's Board of Trustees, ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque; ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; and representatives from ULAB's Alumni Association cut a cake to mark the 15th Foundation Day milestone. Among others, Treasurer Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Former Registrar Professor Akhtar Ahmed, deans, heads of departments, faculty and admin members, students, and alumni attended the Foundation Day celebration.

After the formal event, the ULAB Alumni Association organized a cultural program to celebrate their institution's 15th Foundation Day. The event started with a welcome speech by Ahmed Raqib, President, ULAB Alumni Association. Then a presentation and video of the recent homecoming program was screened. Songs, a dance, poetry recitation, and an unplugged music performance were presented by the members of the Alumni Association.



ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahurul Haque, Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business, delivered speeches at the celebration. ULAB Alumni Association handed over a



souvenir crest to the ULAB Board of Trustees. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Md. Khurul Anam, GS, ULAB Alumni Association.

4th Annual Conference for Sustainable Development

The 4th Annual Conference for Sustainable Development, organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), was inaugurated on October 18-19, 2019. Tracking progress on Sustainable Development Goal 13, "Climate Action" was seen taking center stage. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, School of Business, ULAB; and Dr. Samiya Selim, Director of CSD and Associate Professor, ULAB, delivered the welcome and opening speeches respectively. All the speeches emphasized on the importance of sustainability in the context of Bangladesh and finding solutions to the current problems associated with climate change.



On the opening day, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), Prime Minister's Office, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, delivered his speech as the Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony. Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) and Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED), and Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Vice President of the ULAB Board of Trustees, were present as the Special Guests. The key session of the day focused on the data we need to track

progress towards SDG 13, "Climate Action." Sessions focusing on the crucial issues of pro-poor technology for coastal development and how to embed gender equity in climate action were also included on the first day of the conference. The international organization Oxfam showcased their work on the use of ICT to enhance gender empowerment as part of climate change resiliencies, illustrating well the cross-cutting nature of these complex problems.

A wide-ranging program of discussions and debates on topics central to the achievement of the SDGs was seen on the second day of the conference. The Chief Guest, Ms. Habibun Nahar, Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, noted the crucial importance of the topics covered and called for greater collaboration among all concerned stakeholders. Sessions were also held on "Making Cities Truly Livable" and "Student in Action" focused on "Building a Circular Waste System: Engagement of Youth to Reduce Waste and Pollution."

3rd International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence (IJCCI 2019)



The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in association with Jahangirnagar University (JU), Bangladesh, and South Asian University (SAU), India, hosted an international conference titled "3rd International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence (IJCCI 2019)" from October 25-26, 2019 at the ULAB auditorium in Dhanmondi.

Professor Md. Sazzad Hossain, Member, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh, was present as Chief Guest and Professor Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, was present as Special Guest at the inauguration ceremony of the conference. Dr. Hossain emphasized on being ready for the 4th industrial revolution that is going to happen around the world. He said that we need to be prepared for the automation of jobs that might

make some of the regular jobs obsolete. He mentioned that the Bangladesh government, with the help of the UGC, is taking necessary steps to prepare our youth for the technological challenges ahead of us.

Dr. Iqbal stressed the importance of knowledge accumulation and knowledge creation in Bangladeshi universities through research. He advised that the UGC could increase the number of PhD and research grants throughout Bangladesh which should incorporate not only public but private universities too.

The conference began with a welcome speech by ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahurul Haque; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, School of Business, ULAB; Dr. Mohammad Shahriar Rahman, Associate Professor of Department of Computer Science and Engineering, ULAB; and Mr. Shaikh Abdul Aziz, Chairman, Leads Corporation, also spoke at the inauguration. Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB, presented the vote of thanks.

Dr. Lawrence Ma, President, Hong Kong Blockchain Society, Co-founder, CEO and Chief Scientist, eMALI.IO Limited, Hong Kong, presented the keynote speech. The session was chaired by Professor M Kaykobad, CSE, BUET. A panel discussion on "Why AI and Blockchain are important for Bangladesh?" was held where panelists included Mr. Ehsanul Parvez, Joint Secretary, ICT Division; Dr. Lawrence Ma; Syed Almas Kabir, President, BASIS; Dr. Arif Dowla, Group MD of ACI Group; Professor M Kaykobad, CSE, BUET; and Professor H M Jahurul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB. The session was moderated by Habibullah N. Karim, Founder and CEO, Techno haven Company Ltd.

Many distinguished guests from home and abroad, faculty members, and students attended the conference, which was supported by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Bangladesh and ICT Division, Bangladesh.

2nd ULAB MUN Conference



The 2nd conference of the ULAB Model United Nations Association (ULABMUNA) titled "ULAB Model United Nations Conference 2019" began on October 31, 2019. The event took place from October 31–November 2, 2019 at the ULAB Campus premises in Dhaka. The theme of the three-day long conference was "Global Amity: Good Governance as a Tool of Sustainable Development."

The Opening Ceremony was graced by Chief Guest, Sudipto Mukherjee, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, and Special Guest, Humayun Kabir, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh High Commission and President of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

The conference was guided by its Chief Advisor, Professor H M Jahurul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB; Moderator Abdul Wahid, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB; and the Secretary General of ULABMUNA Conference 2019, Kazi Raihanul Bari.

The conference was attended by more than 200 student delegates from all around Bangladesh, representing different member states of the United Nations under 7 committees: United Nations Security Council, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Disarmament and International Security Committee, United Nations Human Rights Council, International Press, and our very own Special Committee for Bangladesh Affairs.



ULAB Co-Curricular Fest

The ULAB Co-Curricular Fest 2019 was the biggest gathering of the year that took place on November 28, 2019. Organized by ULAB Co-Curricular Office, this day-long program had all the colors of a festival at ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur where 4000+ audience members including all the students, faculty members, admin, and alumni gathered to add vibrancy to the fest. The day began with the ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque's inauguration of the program. ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza; Tawhid Ziauddin, Director and Chairman, and Consultant of Eastern Housing Limited; and Mr. Mehdi Rajeb, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, ULAB Co-Curricular Office; attended the opening ceremony. The objective of the Fest was to welcome the freshmen and introduce them to the importance of extracurricular activities and opportunities at ULAB. The clubs set up booths and showcased their activities through performances and video presentations. The festive day ended with a concert headlined by Warfaze, followed by a grand fireworks display.



T20 Wheelchair Cricket Match at ULAB



On December 5, 2019, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) marked the "UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities" at ULAB's cricket ground in its Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur with a T20 Friendly Match of the Bangladesh National Wheelchair Cricket Team. The Bangladesh National Wheelchair Cricket Team played the friendly

match between themselves (Red and Green Team) where the Green Team beat the Red Team by 3 wickets.



During the Closing and Prize Giving Ceremony, Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, delivered a speech to congratulate the teams and spoke of how inspiring they are. Media personality Adnan Faruque Hillol and ULAB's Former Registrar Professor Akhtar Ahmed presented the honorary crest to the captains of the Red Team and Green Team, respectively. Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Palash, Manager of Bangladesh National Wheelchair Cricket Team and CEO of International Council of Wheelchair Cricket, handed over an honorary crest to Professor H M Jahirul Haque. With this match, ULAB hoped to inspire its community to engage in sports and champion the cause of differently abled persons.

Bangabandhu ULAB Fair Play Cup 2020

Bangabandhu ULAB Fair Play Cup 2020, the Inter-Private University T20 Cricket Tournament, organized and hosted by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, was inaugurated on February 7, 2020 at the ULAB Cricket Ground in Mohammadpur. Md. Mahbub Hossain, Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, was present as Chief Guest in the ceremony and declared the tournament open in his inaugural speech. Kazi Inam Ahmed, Director of the Bangladesh Cricket Board and Member, ULAB Board of Trustees, gave the opening speech. This year the tournament is named Bangabandhu ULAB Fair Play Cup in honor of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.





The final match of the Bangabandhu ULAB Fair Play Cup 2020 was held between University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Stamford University Bangladesh on 20 February, 2020 at the ULAB Permanent Campus located at Mohammadpur. In the match, Stamford University won the toss and decided bat first. They scored 162 by two wickets in 20 overs. In return ULAB scored 155 runs by 5 wickets from 20 overs. Md. Shamsuddin of Stamford University bagged 3 wickets giving only 15 runs and became Man of the Match.

Mr. Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Vice President of Bangladesh Football Federation and Member of the ULAB Board of Trustees, was present at the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, delivered the vote of thanks. Director of Bangladesh Cricket Board and Member of ULAB Board of Trustees Kazi Inam Ahmed; Vice Chancellor of Stamford University Professor Mohammad Ali Naqi; Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB; Ms. Juditha Ohlmacher, Member, ULAB of ULAB Board of Trustees; Dr. Anwarul Iqbal Mitu,

Advisor, Aspire Creat Excel (ACE), attended the match and handed out the awards. The Treasurer, Registrar, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students of participating universities were also present at the ceremony.

ULAB organizes this Fair Play Cup annually to establish good relations among private universities and to create an atmosphere of enjoyment and fairness in competition. The tournament has already gained huge popularity as it is the only cricket competition held for private universities. Besides host ULAB, a total of 12 private universities are participated this year: North South University (NSU), BRAC



University (BRACU); Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB), Daffodil International University (DIU), United International University (UIU), University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Prime University (PU), Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT), Stamford University Bangladesh (SUB), Southeast University (SU), and European University of Bangladesh (EUB).

National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam Paid Tribute to the Language Martyrs



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a tribute to the language martyrs on February 21, 2020 on the occasion of Language Martyrs and International Mother Language Day. The event was held at ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur. A minute of silence was observed to pay homage to the language martyrs.

National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam presented a wreath at the Shaheed Minar on campus on behalf of ULAB's Board of Trustees. Subsequently, ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Registrar Lt Col Md. Foyzul Islam (Retd), Deans, faculty members, admin members, club members of the ULAB Co-Curricular office, and current and former students of ULAB paid their respects to the language martyrs.

National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam was the keynote speaker at the event and Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque delivered the vote of thanks.

ULAB Discussion on Bangabandhu's Historic 7th March Speech



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a discussion session on the historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on March 9, 2020 at ULAB's Permanent Campus Auditorium in Mohammadpur. Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, was present as the Chief Guest. ULAB organized this session as part of the university's year-long series of events commemorating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation.

The program began with a welcome speech by ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque. After this, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic 7th March Speech was screened. Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury then spoke about the vision of the Father of the Nation. Recalling Bangabandhu, the Deputy Minister said, "Bangabandhu envisioned a nation at the age of 32 and wrote about this at 34. I urge the youth to read

Bangabandhu's own writings for inspiration. We have lost such a leader as Bangabandhu. If he had been alive, Bangladesh would have achieved greatness in the first ten years of independence, and today, we would have been much more advanced."

Later, Freedom Fighter Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB, also shared his experiences during the Liberation War. Finally, ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza presented the vote of thanks.

Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, then inaugurated the four-day (9-12 March) Photo Exhibition organized by the ULAB Library. Faculty members, Heads of Departments, members of the admin and students of the university also attended the program.



STUDENT NEWS

Young Entrepreneurs Fair at ULAB



ULAB Business Club organized a Young Entrepreneurs Fair with the participation of university students at the Permanent Campus of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in Mohammadpur. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business, inaugurated the three-day long special fair on December 10, 2019. He also visited each stall and talked to all young entrepreneurs and congratulated them.

Some of the entrepreneur students have started businesses in garments, leather shoes, books, and some have started selling fast food. These young entrepreneurs have brought a touch of modernity to every business. Besides directly selling to customers, some students sell their products online too.

Nura Fatima, a 7th semester student from the Department of English and Humanities (DEH), said, "Through this event, I have been able to develop my products while many more people are learning about them." Students who came to the fair thought that these types of fairs should be organized every semester to encourage young entrepreneurs.

Social Welfare Club Distributed Winter Clothes in Bandarban

On January 3, 2020, the Social Welfare Club of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) distributed winter clothes and blankets to three tribal communities in Kacchapatali Union, Roangchari Upazila, Bandarban District. The distribution began from Jadumonipara, Kadamtali Union where over 250 people from the Tongsangaia, Tripura, and Marma communities received help.



ULAB Students Win DEA Gold Award



Students of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) have achieved yet another milestone. On February 2, 2020, 25 students received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is the highest award in the DEA's award program. Students from 12 different institutions including ULAB were enlisted as gold standard winners. To achieve the award, students needed to complete various social services, develop skills, engage in sports and join adventure activities. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a prestigious international award program by DEA International. The winners were invited to the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Robert Chatterton Dickson's residence in Dhaka to receive their awards. The DEA Trustee Board Chairman Shamsuddin Khan, DEA Executive Committee Chairman Rezwan Bin Faruque, DEA Country Director Brig. Gen. Kaisar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of ULAB Professor H M Jahirul Haque; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business, and Mehdi Rajeb, Director of ULAB Co-Curricular Office and Assistant Professor, USB, were also present at the occasion.

Nutrition and Wellness Club Food Carnival 2020

ULAB Nutrition and Wellness Club organized The ULAB NWC Spring Food Carnival 2020 on March 3-4, 2020. The aim of the program was to create a platform for ULAB students who are engaged in the food



business to showcase their recipes and promote their business. The carnival promoted healthy and hygienic food and celebrated the role of food in our lives with some wonderful and unique dishes. The carnival took place in ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque inaugurated the event on March 3, 2020 and said that such platforms are important to encourage students to start their own ventures and be job generators instead of job seekers. ULAB Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza gave the closing speech on March 4, 2020 and said that such events are important to encourage businesses and students to provide healthy options on their menu. The event was attended by over 3000 people including students, alumni, teachers, and staff members.

ULAB Alumni Association Supports the Poor in the Pandemic

The Alumni Association of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) provided daily essentials to people in need as many are forced to stay at home to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The members of the Alumni Association delivered groceries to 50 families in different parts of Old Dhaka on April 19. They distributed packages containing 10 kg rice, 1 kg pulses, 2 kg potatoes, 1 kg onions, 2 kg flour, soap, powdered milk, oil, and salt. Nafisa Khan, an alumna of ULAB's Department of Media Studies and Journalism, coordinated the task of locating these helpless people and delivering the food. Earlier, on April 18, ULAB alumni also provided food assistance to 20 families in the remote areas of Rowangchhari Upazila in Bandarban.



The distribution was facilitated by Rowangchhari Upazila Executive Officer Mehdi Hassan Real. The Alumni Association created a fund in an effort to provide support to the underprivileged members of the community in the current coronavirus crisis. Ahmed Raqib, President of the ULAB Alumni Association, said, "The initiative was taken in the belief that professionals would stand by the helpless in this time of need." He also said, "We received a good response on short notice. In the first phase, we delivered one week's supply of food items to a total of 70 families. Our initiative will continue until the situation returns to normal." Former students of different departments of ULAB are coordinating the process of collecting funds and providing food aid to the needy people of the community.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

MoU with St Xavier's College (Autonomous) of Kolkata

Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Rev. Father Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Rector and Principal, St. Xavier's College of Kolkata, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on October 20, 2019 at ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur, Dhaka on behalf of their respective institutions.

Purpose: This agreement will involve student exchange for study, research, internships, and short study tours; academic staff exchange for purposes of teaching and research; reciprocal assistance for visiting academic staff and students; and coordination of activities such as international conferences, joint research, lectures, and training.



MoU with SACMID for Promoting Media Information Literacy (MIL)



Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Syed Kamrul Hasan, Director-in-Charge SACMID, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) on December 8, 2019.

Purpose: The two organizations will work to promote Media Information Literacy (MIL) and raise awareness about misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and rumors; conducting research and holding workshops and trainings on the issues.

MoU with MRDI

Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Hasibur Rahman, Executive Director, MRDI, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at an event held at ULAB's Permanent Campus Auditorium in Mohammadpur, Dhaka on December 8, 2019.

Purpose: Both the parties will work together to review the curriculum of the Media Studies and Journalism Department, enhance the capacity of the faculty members, and exchange resource materials for use in classrooms.



EDUCATOR OF THE TERM

Dr. Nafees Mansoor

Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. Nafees Mansoor started his career at ULAB as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering in January 2016. He received his PhD degree from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) where his doctoral research focused on Cognitive Radio Networks. Earlier, he completed his bachelor's degree in Computer Science and a Masters in Telecommunication Engineering from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Dr. Mansoor teaches both applied and theoretical computing courses at ULAB and has developed the syllabi to stimulate students' active learning. Additionally, at the department level, his role also includes supervising students in and out of the classroom, counseling students in co-curricular activities, supporting research activities, and serving in various department committees. He is also the coordinator of ULAB's Office of Faculty Research where he sustains the research infrastructure of the university. Additionally, as an active researcher himself, he has been conducting his own research and publishing the outcomes in reputed journals and conferences regularly. He has also been advising the IEEE ULAB Student Branch as the Branch Counselor since Fall 2017.



Dr. Mansoor is currently working on several research projects including one government-funded project. These research projects mostly focus on Wireless Communications and Intelligent Systems and he is collaborating with internal and external research scholars on these. Since March 2020, he, in collaboration, has published four international conference papers and one indexed book chapter from these projects. Moreover, during this period, he and his fellow researchers have also filed a patent. Dr. Mansoor is a member of the organizing and technical committees of three upcoming international conferences, and serving as an associate editor of IEEE Access®, an ISI indexed journal published by IEEE.

Being truly passionate about his research, Dr. Mansoor envisions himself as spearheading communication research and development in Bangladesh.

Dr. Mansoor loves spending his free time with his 3-year-old daughter and family. He also enjoys surfing the web and playing table-tennis. Dr. Mansoor appreciates the vibrant and friendly working environment at ULAB that allows him to enjoy the seamless cooperation with his senior colleagues and peers with whom he can consult easily.

EMPLOYEE OF THE TERM

Dilara Afroz Khan

Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business

Director, Student Affairs Office (SAO), Career Services Office (CSO), and Alumni Affairs Office



Dilara Afroz Khan started her career at ULAB as Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business; and Director, Student Affairs Office (SAO) and Career Services Office (CSO) on January 5, 2020. She has also recently been appointed as the Director of the Alumni Affairs Office. Ms. Khan completed her Bachelor of Science degree in EEE from State University of New York (SUNY, New Paltz). After that she received her Masters in Business Administration in Finance from the same university.

Ms. Khan teaches a course at the ULAB School of Business. In addition, she is involved with the strategic planning for the Student Affairs Office (SAO), Career Services Office (CSO), and Alumni Affairs Office to ensure that their activities are in alignment with the university's goals. She organizes the Central Orientation Program and Student Advising Day Program; provides new students with academic and non-academic support to ensure their smooth transition from college to university; organizes interactive talks and workshops with experts on physical and mental health; ensures internship and job placements; invites industry experts for webinars and training to equip students with the necessary soft skills for the market and to network. Ms. Khan's offices also organize national events; build effective networks with employers, health and wellness centers, and other relevant entities through outreach programs; and liaise with the Alumni Association to utilize their knowledge, expertise and resources for the benefit of the current students.

One of Ms. Khan's professional goals is to bring all the non-academic student service units (SAO, CSO, Alumni Affairs) under one umbrella to be able to guide students individually while helping them become socially responsible human beings. Ms. Khan aspires to a higher administrative position at ULAB to enable her to contribute at the strategic level while her personal goal is to pursue her PhD degree to strengthen her academic career.

Ms. Khan believes in honesty and dedication, in passion and professionalism, in positive values, kindness, humility, mutual respect, ethics, and in being a patriotic, responsible citizen. Her hobbies include singing, acting, poetry recitation, travelling, and cooking. She also serves the country through various non-profit ventures and loves to spend quality time with her only child.

Ms. Khan likes ULAB's open-mindedness, and its high moral, ethical, and patriotic values that are integrated into its culture. She appreciates the endless opportunities to contribute to the university, and to interact with renowned professors for moral and professional guidance.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. School of Arts and Humanities

Department of English and Humanities (DEH)

- Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Head of DEH, attended the South Asia Higher Education Symposium in Boston, Massachusetts from September 15-20, 2019.
- Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, authored a book chapter titled "Many Histories" published in *Paideuma: Modern and Contemporary Poetry and Poetics*, Vol. 45 in October 2019.
- Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam attended a symposium on "Homelands: Art, Conflict and Displacement in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan" at the University of Cambridge on January 18, 2020.
- Dr. Sarker Hasan Al Zayed, Assistant Professor, DEH, and MA in English graduate Raihan Rahman translated Ian Almond's *The Thought of Nirad C. Chaudhuri: Islam, Empire and Loss* into Bangla. The book was published by The University Press Limited at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020.
- Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, DEH; Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH; and Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, presented a panel on February 21, 2020 titled "Voices from Bangladesh: Women Writers" at the three-day 19th International MELOW (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the World) Conference at Panjab University, Chandigarh, India from February 21-23, 2020.
- Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam was interviewed on the Partition of 1947 for the Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies of The Netaji Shubash Open University, Kolkata for the People's Project on Partition Repository prepared by the Centre. The Repository was launched on March 29, 2020.
- Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of DEH, and Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, DEH, with Professor Colla MacDonald (University of Ottawa), received a Hollings Center Small Grant in June 2020 to make a series of videos that will be designed to highlight new learning processes that will result in educators taking the first steps toward the effective design and delivery of online education products.
- Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Head of DEH, was a panelist at the South Asia Higher Education Webinar, Hollings Center, USA, Zoom Event on June 17, 2020. He spoke on "Online Teaching in Bangladesh."
- Professor Shaila Sultana, Advisor, CLS, with M. Roshid, Z. Haider, N. Kabir, and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan, Associate Professor, DEH, have edited *The Routledge International Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh*. The book is being published by Routledge in 2020 and includes papers by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro-Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Head of DEH, ULAB; Professor Shaila Sultana, and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan.

2. ULAB School of Business (USB)

- Asif Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor and Director, MBA Program, authored a document with three others from the government's a2i Programme entitled *Future Skills: Finding Emerging Skills to Tackle the Challenges of Automation in Bangladesh*.
- Dr. Kazi Md. Tarique, Assistant Professor, USB, (jointly with Mezbah Uddin Ahmed) presented a conference paper at the 1st International Conference on Business, Management and Information Systems 2019 held in Universiti Teknologi Brunei, Brunei Darussalam.
- Dr. Minhaz Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor, USB, authored a Thought Leadership Article (strategic research piece) titled "Financing Sustainability: Potential and Challenges of Green Finance Thought Leadership" and published by ULAB's Center for Enterprise and Society on September 2, 2019.
- The ULAB EMBA Program organized two masterclasses.
The first masterclass, "Advanced Company Valuation Masterclass," was conducted by Kazi Mahboob Hassan, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, Grameenphone on November 15, 22, 29, and December 6, 13, 20, 2020.
The second masterclass, "Blockchain Masterclass: Global Use Cases and Potential Applications in Bangladesh," was conducted by Nazmul Karim, CFA, CAIA, Senior Investment Manager, Aavishkaar Frontier Fund on February 29, and March 6, 13, 2020.
- Asif Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor, USB, ULAB, with Asad-Uz-Zaman, Policy Specialist, a2i, Zubayer Zakir Khan, Adjunct Faculty, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), authored a document titled "Post COVID-19: Jobs and Skills in Bangladesh." The research was conducted under the aegis of a2i, UNDP and Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh and published in June 2020.
- Asif Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor, USB, ULAB, was a speaker at "Cultivating Innovation and Change for Improved Education Outcomes" organized by EdTech Asia (Singapore) on June 23, 2020.
- Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, and Director, EMBA Program and CES, ULAB, organized 4 online webinars, including a webinar series, between April 13 and July 11, 2020. The webinars were: "Impact of Covid-19 on Startups of Bangladesh: How Do we Win?" "Career Planning Amid Covid-19," "Digital Credit for Covid-19 Economic Recovery" (Episode 1: Market Demand For Digital Credit in Bangladesh; Episode 2: Digital Credit: Challenges in the Supply-side; Episode 3: Transformation of MFIs for Digital Credit; Episode 4: Alternative Credit Scoring & Delivery Channels; Episode 5: Digital Credit: How International FinTechs are doing it; Episode 6: Legal and Regulatory Challenges for Digital Credit), and "How to Future Proof your Career Post-Covid."

3. School of Science and Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

- The faculty members of CSE authored and published 6 SCOPUS indexed conference papers.
- One patent on "IoT-enabled Portable Insulated Container for Storing and Transporting Vaccines" was jointly filed by Dr. Shahriar Rahman, Associate Professor, CSE, ULAB, Dr. Nafees Mansoor, Assistant Professor, CSE, ULAB, and Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman, Assistant Professor, EEE, ULAB.
- Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB, served as session chair in keynote speeches of 4 international conferences and served as member of the organizing/advisory committees of 3 international conferences. He delivered a speech on the Fourth Industrial Revolution as Special Guest in a conference organized by Dhaka School of Economics.
- Professor Md. Abdul Mottalib, Head, Department of CSE and Dean, School of Science and Engineering, ULAB, and Dr. Mohammad Shahriar Rahman, Associate Professor, CSE, ULAB, conducted and spoke at a Webinar on Online Education for ICT/CSE students at ULAB on May 16, 2020.
- Dr. Nafees Mansoor, Assistant Professor, CSE, ULAB, authored a chapter in the SCOPUS-indexed *Algorithms for Intelligent Systems* on May 23, 2020. He also virtually presented research in the International Premium IEEE Conference (indexed by ISI and SCOPUS) on May 25-28, 2020. Dr. Nafees Mansoor also authored an article published in the virtual SCOPUS-indexed International Conference held by IEEE Region 10 Symposium (TENSYPMP 2020) on June 5-7, 2020.

Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)

- Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Department of EEE, ULAB, received a Certificate of Participation from the "9th Wief Global Discourse on 4IR: Seizing Possibilities for the Future" held on October 30, 2019 at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden Hotel, organized by SEACO and WIFE.
- Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman, Assistant Professor, EEE, ULAB, filed a patent application, with two faculty members of CSE, for "A Portable Insulated Container for Storing and Transporting Vaccines" on February 5, 2020.
- Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Department of EEE, ULAB, Dr. Barkat Mollah, Assistant Professor, EEE, ULAB, and Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, EEE, ULAB, authored three journal articles/book chapters published in SCOPUS-indexed journals with high impact factor.
- Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, EEE, ULAB, with Muhammad Shafeeq, Muhammad Ibrahim, Zahid Ullah, Abdul Hafeez, presented a paper titled "A Wearable Millimeter Wave MIMO Antenna Design for High Frequency Applications" in the International Conference on Advances in the Emerging Computing Technologies (AECT) in Saudi Arabia on February 10-12, 2020.
- Mohammad Muntasir Hassan, Lecturer, EEE, ULAB, attended the online "Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO) 2020" held in San Jose McEnery Convention Center, San Jose, California, USA on May 11-15, 2020.
- Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Department of EEE, ULAB, served as Technical Program Committee Member and chaired a Technical Session in IEEE TENSYPMP 2020 on June 5-7, 2020.

4. School of Social Science

Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ)

- DW Akademie launched the book *Journalism Education in Bangladesh: From Aspiring Journalists to Career Professionals* on January 29, 2020 at the Lakeshore Hotel, Dhaka. Co-authored by Professor Jude Genilo, Head of MSJ; Professor Fahmidul Haque, and Dr. Shameem Mahmud, the book presents the results of a study on journalism education in an effort to investigate the process where young people fulfill their dreams to become media practitioners. The book was funded by DW Akademie.
- The Creative Time Summit is one of the annual highlights of the MSJ Department. As part of the Summit, in mid-November 2019, the department organized an interactive graffiti with the theme "Speaking Truth." The graffiti was displayed on the sidewalk of ULAB Campus A for the general public, ULAB students, staff, and faculty members who added their thoughts to the graffiti on "Speaking Truth" through paint or words. The graffiti, after being unveiled, illustrated specific acts that took place in the country relating to speaking and/or suppressing the truth. The interactive graffiti was sketched under the creative vision and the direction of A.F.M. Moniruzzaman Shipu, Assistant Professor, MSJ, and Summit Convener. Wafi Aziz Sattar, Lecturer, MSJ, was co-convener of the Summit. The Summit is an annual gathering of thinkers, dreamers, and doers working at the intersection of art and politics from all over the world. ULAB's MSJ Department took part as a screening site in this event for the sixth time.
- The Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) organized the 6th Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival from February 28-29, 2020. From the 557 films submitted, 202 films were selected for participation in the festival. The films came from 41 countries. The festival jury consisted of Arifur Rahman (Independent Film Producer), Sadia Khalid Riti (Film Critic) and Devaki Bist (Film Maker and Multimedia Journalist). The event concluded with a public screening in Star Cineplex in the presence of Kamar Ahmad Simon (Filmmaker) and Gitiara Nasrin (Professor, University of Dhaka).
- The Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) organized a seminar entitled "Open Data Day 2020: Towards Data Literacy in Bangladesh" on March 9, 2020 at the ULAB Permanent Campus Auditorium to celebrate Open Data Day. The seminar was jointly organized by the Department Outreach Program Axis MIL (Media and

Information Literacy) with SACMID (South Asia Center for Media in Development) and Dataful. The seminar emphasized the significance of data in research and journalism.

- The Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) participated in the PAMIL (Philippine Association for Media and Information Literacy) and GAPMIL (Global Alliance for Partnerships in Media and Information Literacy) Asia-Pacific Chapter webinar on May 22, 2020. Aminul Islam, Adjunct Faculty, MSJ, spoke on Axis MIL Project: Media Information Literacy amid Pandemic in Bangladesh.
- Dr. Jude William Genilo, Head of MSJ, spoke as a resource person at the webinar entitled "COVID-19 and Vulnerable Communities" on June 24, 2020. The webinar was hosted by the Asia Centre, Thailand. The webinar focused on the hate speech against vulnerable communities due to COVID-19 and the responses from civil society and government.

5. General Education Department (GED)

- National Professor and ULAB's Professor Emeritus Dr. Rafiqul Islam attended the *Language, Communication and Conflict in South and Southeast Asia* international seminar, organized by the Asiatic Society Calcutta and the Department of Linguistics, University of Calcutta, in October 2019 as the keynote speaker.
- Professor Muhammad Ibrahim authored two books, *People and Science: An Enthusiast's Memoir* and *What is This Thing called Science?* which were published on February 1, 2020.
- Professor Salimullah Khan conducted a course in Advanced Theory entitled "Decolonizing Psychoanalysis: Psychiatric Writings of Frantz Fanon" from October 26-December 28, 2019.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED, and Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS), ULAB, participated in the Comparative Regional Archaeological Workshop, "Archaeological Evidence for the Planning of Early Historic Cities and their Environs in Bangladesh and their Current Preservation," held in Lumbini, Nepal. The seminar was organized by the Lumbini Development Trust, Government of Nepal in coordination with the Department of Archaeology (Government of Nepal) and UNESCO's Chair in Archaeological Ethics and Practice in Cultural Heritage (Durham University, UK) from March 5-8, 2020.
- Professor Salimullah Khan authored an article titled "Jati Kono Podartha?" published on March 26, 2020 in *Desh Rupantor*.
- Selima Quader Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, GED, authored an article titled "Covid-19: The Artist's View," published on April 15, 2020 in *Showcase Magazine*.
- Professor Muhammad Ibrahim authored an article titled "Can AI Prevent the Next Pandemic?" published on May 21, 2020 in *The Daily Star*.

6. Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS)

- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, chaired the session on "Islam and Narratives" at the International Conference on "Islam, Utopia and Youths in Bangladesh," organized by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Gerda Henkel Foundation from November 11-12, 2019.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, was invited to be an advisory member and member of the selection committee for "SAF 2019" Awards in the Fourth Shanghai Archaeology Forum on "Archaeology of Urbanization and Globalization: The Past for the Common Future of Humankind," organized by the Institute of Archaeology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences through the Shanghai Academy under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Shanghai Municipal Government, held in Shanghai, China from December 14-17, 2019.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, chaired the 55th seminar of The International Centre for Study of Bengal Art on "Teaching through Architecture" by art historians Dr. Heinrich Poel and Dr. Gerald Kozicz from Austria, on December 21, 2019.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, participated in "Tracing the Routes of Buddhism from India to Southeast Asia," an International Conference on Indian Culture and Heritage in South and Southeast Asia (with special reference to Indian Literature), organized by Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana (ABISY), New Delhi from February 22-23, 2020 at Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, was an invited participant at the International virtual seminar on Buddhist Heritage and Tourism organized by the Buddhist Heritage and Tourism Council, Bodhi Gaya, Bihar on May 7, 2020.
- Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of GED and Director, CAS, ULAB, was present as a special guest in the virtual Launching Ceremony of the documentary film titled "Daahuk: A Pursuit of Sustainable Tourism," organized by the Sammilito Parjatan Jot on May 21, 2020.

7. Center for Bangla Studies (CBS)

- National Professor and ULAB's Professor Emeritus Dr. Rafiqul Islam authored two books titled "আমার ভাষা" and "মুক্তিযুদ্ধ-সমগ্র." The books were published by Moyurponkhi Prakashan and Agami Prakashan respectively.
- National Professor and ULAB's Professor Emeritus Dr. Rafiqul Islam delivered the keynote speech at the online event "Dhaka University in Centenary: Movement and Struggle" on July 1, 2020.

- Professor Tapati Rani Sarkar authored a book named বাংলা ভাষা বিষয়ক প্রবন্ধ. This book was published by Swasti Printing on June 25, 2020.

8. Center for Enterprise and Society (CES)

- Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program, and Lumbini Barua, Research Associate, ULAB, co-authored a book chapter titled "Systemic Constraints to Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh and Recommended Solutions" in *Base of the Pyramid Markets in Asia: Innovation and Challenges to Sustainability* published in February 2020 by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Oliur Rahman Tarek, Research and Communication Associate; Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program, were awarded the Second Best Paper Prize at an international conference organized by Centre for Business & Economic Research (CBER) UK on December 8-10, 2019. The paper was titled "Sharing Economy: Conceptualization; Drivers and Constraints; and Avenues for Research in Bangladesh."
- CES won a prestigious international grant from the British High Commission, Dhaka, using which it conducted a research and organized a seminar on "State of Media in Bangladesh" with prominent civil society leaders on March 5, 2020. *Dhaka Tribune* was a partner.
- Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program, authored a white paper titled "Coronavirus and the Bangladesh Economy: Navigating the Black Swan Event of 2020" published on March 29, 2020 in *The Dhaka Tribune*.
- Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program; Md. Oliur Rahman Tarek, Research Associate, CES; and Lumbini Barua, Research Associate, CES, conducted a comprehensive online survey, "CES Covid-19 Consumer Pulse Survey," aimed at assessing the outlook of the Bangladeshi consumer during the coronavirus pandemic. The results were published in *The Financial Express*, *The Dhaka Tribune*, and *The Business Standard* on May 5, 2020.
- Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program, and Tazrian Shahid, Lecturer, ULAB School of Business, authored an op-ed titled "Fixing Bangladesh Capital Markets: Now or Never" published in *The Dhaka Tribune* on May 31, 2020.
- Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; Sajid Amit, Associate Professor, ULAB School of Business and Director, CES and EMBA Program; Md. Oliur Rahman Tarek, Research Associate, CES; and Ahsan Senan, Lecturer, Economics and Social Sciences Department, BRACU and Projects Coordinator, CES, published an op-ed titled "Re-opening the Bangladesh Economy: Search for a Framework" on June 30, 2020 in *The Dhaka Tribune*.

9. Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)

- Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, with Basundhara Tripathy-Furlong and Meherun Ahmed, edited the book *Resilience in Action: Challenges and Solutions to Climate Change in Bangladesh*, which was published by the United Press Limited in October 2019.
- CSD was awarded a £60,000 Dublin City University Jean Monnet Grant for the project "Ensuring Women and Minority Rights in Land: An Analysis of EU-supported Public Awareness and Participation Efforts around Reforming Land Administration in Bangladesh."
- Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, was the keynote speaker at the Kolkata Youth Summit on Climate Change, the largest gathering of youth in India focused on climate action, on January 27-28, 2020.
- Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, received an International Research Grant for the project "Vulnerability to Viability (V2V): Global Partnership for Building Strong Small-Scale Fisheries Communities" in April 2020. The grant amount is Canadian \$259,618.
- Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director, CSD; Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor; and Joy Bhowmik, Senior Lecturer, received a Research Grant from the International Labor Organization (ILO) for the project "Technical Assistance in Greening Seven (7) Model TVET Institutions and Two (2) Centers for Skills Excellence" in April 2020. The grant amount is BDT 1,640,376.
- Dr. Oliver Scanlan, Research Fellow, CSD, participated as a speaker in "Sustainable Security Index Launch" on June 12, 2020 at the Oxford Research Group.
- Dr. Shantanu Kumar Saha, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD, and Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, authored a journal article titled "Recreational Services in Tourism Dominated Coastal Ecosystems: Bringing the Non-economic Values into Focus" published in *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism* in June 2020.

10. Dhaka Translation Center-Bengal Lights Books (DTC-BLB)

- The Dhaka Translation Center with Bengal Lights Books published three novels in 2019: *Broken Voices* by Srabonti Narmeen Ali; *Like a Diamond in the Sky* by Shazia Omar; and *Absurd Night*, A Novel originally by Syed Manzoorul Islam, translated by Pushpita Alam and edited by Arunava Sinha. The third novel was published under the Library of Bangladesh series.

ULAB Ranks amongst World's Top 50 Universities for Innovation and Creativity

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has placed 46th in the World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) Ranking for 2020. In ceremonies held on June 11, 2020 in the Korean capital of Seoul, WURI Project Leader Professor MOON Hwy-Chang announced that ULAB is among the top 50 universities in the world under the "Industrial Application" category. The top five ranking universities under the said category are: (1) Stanford University (USA), (2) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA); (3) Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute (USA); (4) California Institute of Technology (USA); and (5) Arizona State University (USA). ULAB is the only Bangladeshi university that placed in the WURI Ranking 2020.

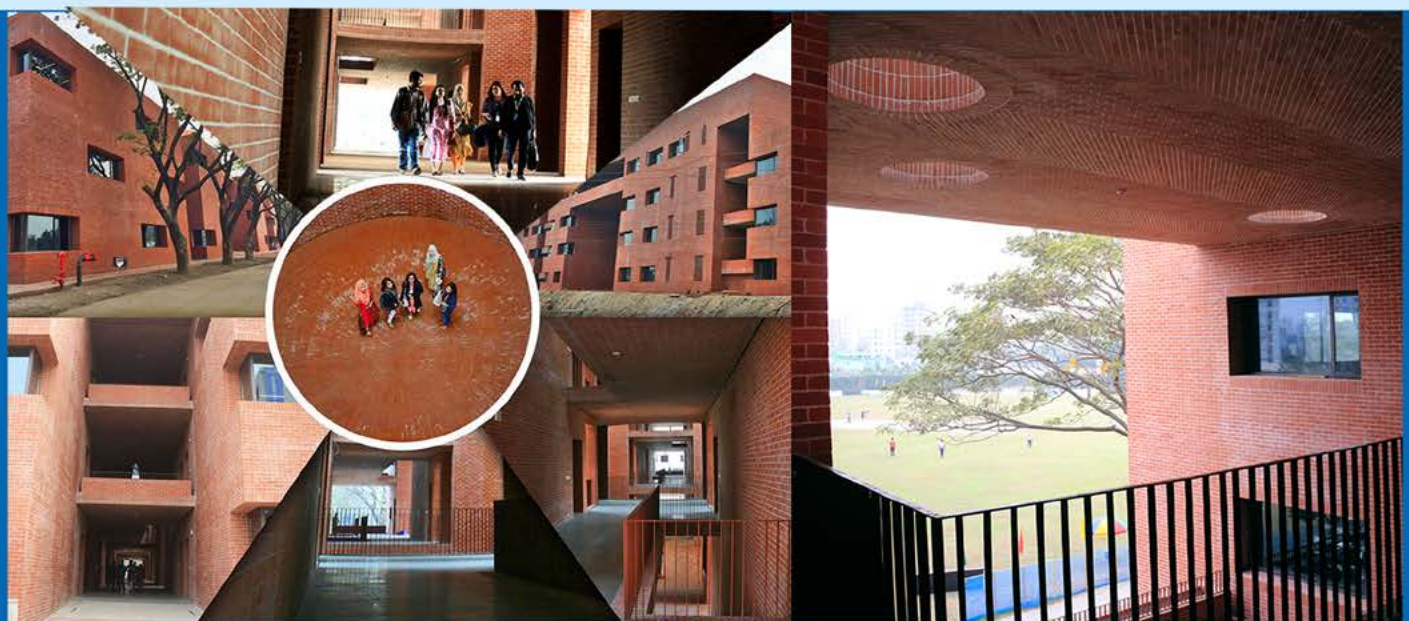


ULAB's entry to the WURI Ranking for innovative and creative approaches with regard to industrial application is the thesis of the Masters in Communication program offered by the Media Studies and Journalism Department. To provide better guidance to the students, the program has also developed two kinds of mentoring systems - joint mentoring and specialized mentoring. It has likewise utilized a reflexive approach in thesis writing and a co-creator philosophy in knowledge creation. Such approaches depart from the traditional way theses are done where student interaction is limited to his/her adviser in their final term; working on theoretical instead of practical topics.

At the ceremony, the Hanseatic League of Universities Second President and Incheon National University President CHO Dong-Sung delivered the keynote speech. He mentioned the problems with current ranking systems, which are as follows: academism, uniformity, past-orientation and commercial-orientation. In light of this, the HLU was founded in 2018 to pursue a vision of orientation towards practice in program development, customer in membership, external in service and learning in action. To realize the vision, HLU launched the WURI ranking system. WURI was created to stimulate and evaluate universities' flexible and innovative efforts to foster the workforce that meets the demand from industry and society. Thereby, WURI considers the overall social impact of universities as effective educational institutions.

WURI Ranking Director MOON Hwy-Chang explained the ranking methodology. There are three evaluation phases: (1) Evaluation: The presidents (or designates), who have been invited to submit their applications, will evaluate all applications; (2) Judgment: The representatives of the university leagues (e.g., AAC&U) and higher education-related media (e.g., newspapers, magazines), and the members of the WURI Evaluation Board will review the Evaluators' evaluation scores; and (3) Final Check: The WURI Evaluation Board aggregates the recommendations of the Judges, checks the reliability of the contents in the submitted applications, and finalizes the entries in the "Global Top 100 WURI 2020."

The HLU Board of Trustees consists of university presidents from the Netherlands, China, Russia, Germany, South Korea, USA, and Finland. The mission of HLU is innovation in teaching and research in higher education institutions. Given its mission, HLU has formed an alternative ranking system called WURI. Instead of looking at statistics on research, internationalization and perception, it evaluates a university's real contribution to society. It highlights creative and innovative approaches to university research and education.



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