



**ULAB**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

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## News Highlights

### ULAB observes National Mourning Day 2019

ULAB organized a discussion session along with a documentary screening of “Speech of Bangabandhu on 11 January 1975” to commemorate National Mourning Day on August 25, 2019. The program began with a minute of silence followed by the opening speech by the ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD. Dr. Fakrul Alam, UGC Professor, University of Dhaka, spoke about his experience in translating Bangabandhu’s *Incomplete Autobiography* where many interesting and enlightening incidents and observations are recorded. The program was attended by Dr. Kazi Anis Ahmed, Vice President of the Board of Trustees; National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam; Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, along with faculty members, students, and admin officers. The event ended with poetry recitation by ULAB students and alumni. A day-long book and photo exhibition was arranged by the ULAB Library to mark the National Mourning Day 2019 on the university premises.



### ULAB EMBA organizes seminar on Financial Intelligence and Investment Literacy

ULAB Executive MBA (EMBA) Program organized a seminar for its students titled “Easy as ABC: Personal Finance Simplified” at the ULAB Auditorium, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on June 19, 2019. Mr. Asif Khan, Director, Edge Asset Management, introduced to students the best practices of savings and investing. This event is part of an ongoing initiative by the ULAB EMBA program to offer its students a market-driven, skills-focused curriculum that not only enhances the real-world practical skills of its students, but also connects them to industry leaders and practitioners who can speak about sectors such as financial services and capital markets.



“English and teachers of English: Reflecting on ideology, agency, and pedagogy” was presented by Dr. Obaidul Hamid, PhD, University of Queensland, Australia. He focused on the paradigm shift in English among emerging English-using societies. The seminar facilitated reflective thoughts for the audience to experiment and implement novel ideas and activities both in the national and international contexts of teaching-learning field.



The seminar was attended by a large audience comprising faculty and students from ULAB and several other universities.

### BELTA-CLS & DEH, ULAB host English Language Seminar

ULAB’s Center for Language Studies (CLS) organized an English Language Seminar in collaboration with BELTA and Department of English and Humanities, ULAB at the university’s auditorium in Dhanmondi on July 4, 2019. Two papers were presented at the Seminar. Chris Tang, PhD, King’s College London, UK, presented a paper titled “‘Hard to reach’: The role of the Sylheti-Bengali diglossia, orality and multilingualism in promoting public health and community resilience amongst UK Bangladeshis during extreme weather events.” The second paper titled



### “KITC Career Bootcamp Campus Recruitment” held at ULAB

Kazi IT Center (KITC) and ULAB Career Services Office organized a Career Bootcamp Campus Recruitment for the students and alumni of ULAB. An Information Session for the Pre-Placement at KITC was held in ULAB Campus A auditorium on July 15, 2019. Ms. Zara Jabeen Mahbub, Country Director and CEO, KITC; and Mr. Abdullah Mahsum, Operation Manager, Lead



of KITC Campus Recruitment Program, gave an insightful presentation about the work culture and recruitment of KITC. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, appreciated the participants and organizers of the event in his speech and encouraged students to explore the opportunity further for a better career. Many students attended the aptitude test later for the current positions at KITC.

## International Youth Day 2019 jointly celebrated by UNV, ULAB and VSO

UNV Bangladesh, ULAB, and VSO Bangladesh jointly organized an event titled ‘Transforming Education and Youth Volunteerism’ on the occasion of Youth Day on August 27, 2019. The volunteers shared their inspirational stories of passionate volunteerism. This was followed by a panel discussion and an interactive session where the speakers answered and gave solutions to the students’ various questions regarding career development, inclusive education, gender issues, and overcoming obstacles. Around 150 youth and volunteers gathered at ULAB to celebrate the power of youth. The theme of this year’s Youth Day was “Transforming Education.” Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh, delivered the opening remarks and said that volunteerism is an important element in transforming education.



## ULAB Intra-University Debate Competition “Devangers”

“Devangers,” an Intra-University Debate Competition, was organized by ULAB Debating Club on August 31, 2019. The competition was held at ULAB’s Permanent Campus in Moham-madpur. 16 teams representing different clubs participated in the competition. The objective of the event was to show how anyone who has the ability to reason and prove one’s point can debate. After the day-long rounds of competition, ULAB Yes Club was declared the champion and ULAB Debating Club the Runner-up of Devangers 2019.



## ULAB celebrates Tsukimi: Harvest Moon Festival

The Center for Language Studies (CLS), ULAB, organized a Japanese cultural event titled “Tsukimi: Harvest Moon Festival” on September 3, 2019, at the ULAB auditorium in Dhanmondi.

This festival was held as part of the Japanese language course offered by the Center for Language Studies at ULAB. Machiko Yamamura, Head of Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, graced the event as Chief Guest.



Students from ULAB and the Department of Japanese Studies, Institute of Modern Languages (IML), University of Dhaka, participated in the cultural program. ULAB team presented Japanese songs and an enticing show of Japanese martial arts. An Origami workshop demonstrating how to make a paper box was facilitated by Kazi Bushra Ahmed, Cultural Specialist, Embassy of Japan, for the audience. Ms. Yamamura showed a clip of autumn culture of Japan and talked about Japanese scholarship for Bangladeshi students.

## ULAB Presentation Maestros 2019

ULAB School of Business (USB) hosted the first round of ULAB Presentation Maestros 2019, an intra-university presentation competition, on September 5, 2019 at ULAB’s main campus. A total of eleven teams, consisting of 26 students from different departments, participated in the first round. The teams were divided into different groups and each group was judged by a panel of three faculty members from different departments of ULAB. Each team showcased a 10-minute presentation on “The Future of Bangladesh Economy” followed by a Q&A session.



## ULAB Biz Wizards 2019

ULAB Biz Wizards 2019, an Inter-College National Management Fest, was held at ULAB on March 8, 2019 at its Campus A auditorium. 88 participants from 22 colleges participated in the two-day long event.

Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, former Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest of the event, Professor Tridib Sen Gupta from St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, and Mr. Abdullah Mohammad Talha, Deputy Managing Director of Noman Group, were present as Special Guests, Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, Pro Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to ULAB Board of Trustees and Dean, ULAB School of Business; and faculty members, admin members, and students were also present during the event.



# Features

## DEH Holds “What’s Your Spirit Animal?”

Some of the most acclaimed professors of English in the country engaged in a lively discussion on their individual spirit animals at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on August 20, 2019. The event was organized by ULAB’s Department of English and Humanities (DEH).

ULAB DEH faculty members Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, PhD; Professor Kaiser Haq, PhD; Professor Fakrul Alam, PhD; Professor Azfar Hussain, PhD; Professor Golam Sarwar Chowdhury; Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD; Professor Shaila Sultana, PhD; and Dr. Sohana Manzoor talked about their own animal totems.

Former State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury was present as the Chief Guest at the event, while ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, was the Guest of Honor.

The professors each presented their own interpretations and experiences on respective animals which included ducks, bears, coyotes, dogs, cats, whales, snakes, and bats. They drew inspiration from different literary texts to present their arguments on how the human psyche embodies these animals and how the animals guide the human spirit.

The event was attended by faculty members and students of ULAB, and guests from many other institutions.



## Two-Day Conference on Higher Education at ULAB

ULAB's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) hosted the 1st CETL two-day conference on Higher Education titled "In Pursuit of Quality in Higher Education: Challenges Ahead" on August 22-23, 2019 at the ULAB auditorium in Dhanmondi.

Professor Kazi Shahidullah, PhD, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, was present as Chief Guest and Professor Vincent Chang, PhD, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, was present as Keynote Speaker on the opening day.

Emphasizing on quality education, the Chief Guest of the opening day of the conference, Prof. Shahidullah said, "The most important problem in higher education is quality. This problem exists in both public and private universities. We have no quantitative problems in higher education. If we had that problem, we wouldn't have so many universities."

A plenary session titled "Dissecting Higher Education Quality Debate: What We Know and What are We Missing Out?" was held on the second day (23 August) of the conference.



On the first day of the conference, Prof. Dr. M. Omar Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB); Professor Syeda Tahmina Akhtar, Director of Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University; and Professor Rezwan Khan, Director, Institute of Engineering and Scientific Research, and Former Vice Chancellor, United International University (UIU), participated in the plenary session where Professor Imran Rahman, Dean of the ULAB School of Business and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees chaired the session.



Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Chief Advisor and Founder Vice Chancellor, East West University and Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank, was present as Chief Guest on the closing day. The closing remarks were given by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, Pro Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, presented certificates to the participants.

About 50 local and international scholars participated in this conference.

## ULAB EEE Fest 2019

ULAB's Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in association with ULAB Electronics Club organized an Inter-University technology oriented program, EEE FEST 2019. The aim of this grand event was to foster creativity and technology knowledge among the students. The two-day long series of events took place on September 5-6, 2019 at ULAB. The fest had several segments that allowed both university and higher secondary level students to participate.

Students from different universities participated in different segments of the event. The fest consisted of different segments such as Project Showcasing, Poster Presentation, Brain Teasers (Science related quiz), Game Fiesta, Tech Adda, Interaction with Industry and Cultural Program.

The event was inaugurated by Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, Vice Chancellor, ULAB. The Head of EEE Department Professor Samia Subrina, PhD, and the Head of ETE Department Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, PhD, were also present. The event continued with poster presentations in groups from different universities. Another event of the day was Game Fiesta, a gaming competition with three different games.



The second day of the festival started with the project showcasing. Another interesting segment of the second day was Brain Teasers where the students had to solve tricky science-related problems. In the later segment of the day, there were Tech Adda, interaction with industry, cultural program and prize giving ceremony.

Eminent Computer Scientist Mohammad Kaykobad, PhD, Professor of Department of CSE, BUET, known to many for his remarkable contributions in popularizing Math Olympiad in Bangladesh, was present as chief guest. Special Guest of the event was Dr. S M Mahabubur Rahman, Professor of Department of EEE, BUET and Registrar, BUET. The list of guests also included Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD. Guests emphasized the importance of finding technology-based solutions to day to day problems and inspired the students to participate actively in programs like this.



## 5th DEH Inter-University Student Conference & Cultural Competition

The Department of English and Humanities at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized its 5th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition. This year's competition, themed "The Romantic and The Gothic," was held at the ULAB Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur. The event featured two segments: an academic session and a cultural competition.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony. Fifteen public and private universities participated in the academic session on Day 1.

The academic paper presenters were judged by Chidananda Bhattacharya, PhD, Professor and Head of Department of English, Rabindra Bharati University; and Professor Abdus Selim, Chairperson of Department of Language-Literature, Central Women's University. Five universities competed for the cultural competition crown. They were judged by Dr. Chidananda Bhattacharya; Dr. Kirsten Hackenbroch, Director, Goethe-Institut, Dhaka; and Ziaul Karim, Head of Brand & Communication, Eastern Bank Ltd. The winner of the academic session was Shamael Mortuza from ULAB for her paper titled "The Fault in Coleridge's Stars: A Contrapuntal Reading". ULAB also won the cultural competition, while the runner-up was University of Asia Pacific.



ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, and Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, were also present during the prize-giving ceremony. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, ULAB Pro Vice Chancellor and the Head of Department of English and Humanities, gave the vote of thanks.

## Club Day Summer 2019

ULAB Co-curricular Office celebrated Club Day for the Summer Term on July 18, 2019. The festivities included stalls, a cultural program, and a concert. Clubs showcased their activities at the individual stalls. The cultural program began with the National Anthem rendered by the Shangskriti Shangshad.

Cultural activities like songs and dances were also presented along with different performances including beat boxing, drama, live art performance, poetry recitation, games and quiz on stage performed by the different clubs. The Triathlon Club showed a video of cycle stunts done by their member. The Adventure Club and Indoor games Club also showed videos of their club activities. The event ended with a concert organized by ULAB Shanskriti Shangshad. Md. Golam Shaklain and Shahrukh Iqbal received the Best Active Member Award Summer 2019.



## Students News

### ULAB Literary Society Club hosted a workshop on German Language

Paper Canoe, the ULAB Literary Society, organized a workshop on German language on July 4, 2019 at ULAB. The workshop was attended by more than 20 enthusiastic students from different departments of ULAB.



Afsana Rahman, a student of the Department of English and Humanities, conducted the workshop and talked about the stereotypes that the German language and its culture have been facing throughout history. She started the workshop by showing the students how the German alphabet looks and how the letters are pronounced. Later, she showed the attendees the common myths and misconceptions the rest of the world has about the German people and their culture. Students also conveyed how they feel about this particular culture and from which sources they came across these notions and/or misconceptions. The light-hearted tone of the workshop suggested that the common misconception that Germans are devoid of any sense of humor is probably not true. The later part of the highly interactive workshop included feedback from a number of participants. Most of the participants demanded that more sessions be conducted on different languages in the future, especially on German.

### Department of EEE and ETE jointly organized Field Trip to DPDC Substation

The Departments of EEE and ETE jointly organized a field trip on July 25, 2019. Students visited DPDC's 132/33 kV AIS (Air Insulated Switchgear) substation at Kamrangirchor and 132/33 kV GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) substation at Lalbag, Dhaka. About 30 students were accompanied by Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, PhD, Mr. Shameem Hasan, Lecturer, EEE, and Mr. Mohammad Muntasir Hassan, Lecturer, EEE. Engr. Abul Fazal Md. Badrul Alam, Superintending Engineer (DPDC), and Engr. Harichand Halder, Executive Engineer (DPDC), briefed students during the visit. The participants observed different equipment of the substation like CT, PT, bus bar, circuit breaker, relays, switches, lightning arrestors, and other components related to the protec-



tion and operation of substation. They also learned how to transform the voltage level from 132 kV to 33 kV and from 33 kV to 11 kV. Students were also briefed about the SCADA and control system of the substation and different types of transmission and distribution lines.

### Ryann Husyn the Brave Grappling Champion

On July 28, 2019, Ryan Husyn, a student of ULAB and member of Triathlon Club, participated in Grind, the first invitation-only professional grappling event of India, held by Sports Jam, Inc. in Park Street, Kolkata. He participated in four matches and won two. This led to his winning the competition.



This was the 1st pro Nogi BJJ won by Ryann and it made him the first Bangladeshi to win a Pro Grappling Debut by Triangle Submission.

### ULAB Classical Music Competition 2019: "Guru Bina Kaise Gun Gaowe"

On July 31, 2019, ULAB Shangskriti Shangshad organized an Inter-ULAB Classical Music Competition 2019 titled "Guru Bina Kaise Gun Gaowe" ("গুরু বিনে কায়সে গুন গাওয়ে"), at the ULAB Auditorium in Dhanmondi. Ms. Ameenah Ahmed, a prominent Rabindrasangeet vocalist and Member of the ULAB Board of Trustees, was present.

Twelve students from different departments of ULAB partici-



ated in this competition. Shaeka Islam Nabila (Raag Malkosh) was the champion, Anika Nusrat Ridme (Raag Bhimapalshree)



became the 1st Runner Up and Rowshan Jamir Shovon (Raag Kalashree) was the 2nd Runner Up. Students were trained by Dr. Mintu Krishna Pal who teaches classical music. Pandit Dileep Kumar Chakrobarjee, Asit Biswas Esraj and Bhajan Kumar accompanied the singers on their instruments. In her speech, Ms. Ameenah Ahmed emphasized on practicing of pure Classical Music. She also handed over crests to the winners.

### ULAB's Alumnus attended the Youth Forum in Chennai as Peace Ambassador

Md. Talebur Islam Rupom, a recent graduate of the Department of English and Humanities, attended the International Youth Forum on Health, Peace, Social Justice and SDGs as the Ambassador of Peace during the Chennai Youth Fest which was held from September 14-15, 2019 in Chennai, India. It was organized collaboratively by Youth for Human Rights International and the Ministry of Health of Tamil Nadu State and India, where more than 200 young minds across the world shared their ideas, thoughts and activities on the role of youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Talebur received the "I am



extraordinary" medal from Ashwini Kuman Chobey, the Minister of Health, Government of India.

Talebur also successfully completed the three-month Indonesian Arts and Culture Scholarship Programme organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, with 72 other global awardees. The program was held from May 4 to August 16, 2019 in multiple cities of Indonesia and fully funded by the Government of Indonesia.

## New Partnerships

### MoU with Heidelberg Institute for Global Health

ULAB and the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), one of the research institutes in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Heidelberg, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 2, 2019.

Purpose: Collaboration and exchange of students, faculty members, and technical staff to facilitate knowledge transfer involving identified areas of academics.



### MoU with UNIRAZAK

Professor Datin Paduka, Dr. Samsinar Md, Sidin, Vice Chancellor of University Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), and Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 17, 2019.

Purpose: Establishment, promotion and development of cooperation between the parties in the field of research, education and training programs of mutual interest.

### Collaboration with City Bank

City Bank signed an agreement with ULAB. The agreement was signed at City Bank Center in Gulshan. Prof. Akhtar Ahmed, Registrar of ULAB, and Masudul Haque Bhuiyan, Head of Cards, City Bank, signed the agreement on behalf of the respective organizations.

Purpose: Allowing students of ULAB to pay their tuition fees on ULAB's official website with any Visa/MasterCard/Amex debit or credit card.



### MoU with BPCL

ULAB and Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 30, 2019. Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Mr. Khadem Mahmud Yusuf, MD & CEO, BPCL, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, Dr. Samiya A. Selim, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Sustainable Development, ULAB, and other officials from both institutions were present.

Purpose: Collaboration on research studies or projects, seminars, conferences, and training programs; exchange of academic information and materials in fields of mutual interest.

## Educator of the Term

**Samiya Ahmed Selim**  
Associate Professor and Director  
Center for Sustainable Development



Dr. Samiya Ahmed Selim started her career at ULAB as the Director of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) in July 2016. She did her PhD in Biological Sciences, focusing on Marine Ecology, from the University of Sheffield, UK, and received her Masters in Sustainable

Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Leeds, UK.

According to Dr. Selim, “I think of my job as wearing different hats. I have my academic hat where I am focused on teaching, developing curriculum, writing papers and sharing knowledge around climate change, sustainability science and education. On the other hand, I also wear my Director hat, where I liaise with different stakeholders ... as well as attend meetings and conferences, collaborate on projects, apply for funding, and disseminate the works of CSD and ULAB.” Recently, Dr. Selim published two books on achieving SDG goals in Bangladesh and on Climate Change Resilience.

“ULAB's Minor in SD is doing well. We have 150+ students who have registered. We plan to open a Masters program in Sustainable Development in 2021,” said Dr. Selim.

Very recently, CSD completed its Annual Conference on Sustainable Development 2019, and now is busy with their research projects with international partners - Keele University, Dublin City University and Heidelberg Global Health Institute.

Currently, CSD is running several projects around climate change adaptation, nature based solution for urban sustainability, gender and ICT, land rights and role of universities in achieving SDG targets. Dr. Selim is also working on Sustainable Aquaculture in coastal regions with visiting professor Dr. Marion Glaser from ZMT Germany.

Dr. Selim shared her hopes for the future: “I strive to become the leading sustainability scientist/academic in Bangladesh, become a better educator, and inspire students to be more and do more on leading sustainable lives.” She believes ULAB stands up to its “Liberal Arts” name and has a dynamic working environment. “You are expected to do and achieve a lot, but you are given the freedom to do it the best way you can.”

Dr. Selim likes traveling, reading, yoga, running, blogging, fire spinning, and several other outdoor ventures. “I try to get out once a month and explore within Bangladesh and other neighboring countries.”

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## Employee of the Term

**K. M. Hasan Emam**  
Joint Librarian  
ULAB Library

Mr. K. M. Hasan Emam started his career at ULAB as a Deputy Librarian in 2006. Today, Mr. Emam is ULAB's Joint Librarian.

Mr. Emam obtained his postgraduate degree in Information Science and Library Management from the University of Dhaka. He also participated in a seminar on virtual libraries at Jadavpur University, India.

During his time at ULAB, Mr. Emam has contributed greatly towards enriching the ULAB Library to serve students, faculty members as well as foreign scholars better. With guidance from National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam he has not only developed an academic library but also managed to refabricate it as a reference library.

The ULAB Library has a unique collection of historical resources on such topics as the Liberation War, Language Movement, Rabindranath Tagore, and Bangladeshi culture. The library introduced an audio-visual section which was the first such section among private universities in Bangladesh. On different national days, under Mr. Emam's direction, ULAB Library organizes photo and book exhibitions. He also provides training on reference management to students and faculty members at ULAB.

Mr. Emam believes that everything is achievable with positive attitude, hard work, willingness, and a target-oriented mindset. Being a multi-tasker, he indulges in many hobbies including photography and music in his leisure time.



## Community Achievements

### Vice Chancellor's Office

- Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, also Head of DEH, ULAB, represented Bangladesh in the South Asian Higher Education Boston program from September 15-20, 2019. The program was organized by The Hollings Center which also sponsored Dr. Mortuza.
- Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, presented a Keynote Speech at the University of West London during BAASANA International Conference on August 16, 2019. The speech was titled "Internationalization of Higher Education: Regional Context."
- Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, spoke on "Leadership in Higher Education in Third World Countries-Bangladesh" while Professor Imran Rahman and Professor Haque jointly delivered a speech on "Role of Higher Education in Achieving UN's Sustainable Development Goals and ULAB's Initiatives on This" at Adelphi University on June 17-19, 2019.
- Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, delivered a Keynote Speech on "Regional Internationalization of Higher Education" at Kunming organized by Yunnan University, China on June 11, 2019.

### School of Science and Engineering

- Shahriar Rahman, PhD, Associate Professor (CSE, ULAB), Nafees Mansoor, PhD, Assistant Professor (CSE, ULAB), Mirza Rasheduzzaman, PhD, Assistant Professor (EEE, ULAB) and Nabeel Mohammed, PhD, (ECE, NSU) received a fund of Taka Twelve (12) Lac for the project titled "Development of an IoT Based Intelligent Vaccine Carrier Monitoring Module for the Unreached" from ICT Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh Government.
- Faculty members of CSE, ULAB published 1 Scopus indexed journal and 1 Scopus and ISI indexed conference paper.
- Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, PhD, Head of ETE, received the BANGLADESH EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARD 2019 - "Best Professor in Telecommunication Engineering Studies" from World Education Congress.

### School of Arts and Humanities

- Tabassum Zaman, PhD, Associate Professor of DEH, was invited by The Hollings Center for International Dialogue as one of two speakers from Dhaka to join an international round-table dialogue conference on *Megacities* in Jakarta, Indonesia from July 24-28, 2019. Dr. Zaman was fully sponsored by The Hollings Center.

### General Education Department

- Professor Salimullah Khan, PhD, organized a semester-long workshop on Humayun Kabir on Genealogy of Bengali Poetry from June 22 to August 24, 2019.
- Mr. Ahamed Sharif, Senior Lecturer, GED, participated in the Colloquium on "Rivers and the Relics: Archaeological Heritage in Sultanate Dhaka on the Bank of the Buriganga" on August 1, 2019.

### School of Social Sciences

- Four faculty members of MSJ, Professor Din Mohammad Sumon Rahman, PhD, Assistant Professor Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, PhD, Senior Lecturer Mahmudun Nabi, and Lecturer Wafi Aziz Sattar presented their papers on "Understanding and Combating Fake News: the Bangladesh Experience" in a panel at the International Conference on Fake News and Elections in Asia, Bangkok from July 10 to 12, 2019. The panel was moderated by Professor Sumon Rahman.
- In the Exchange Program under the MoU between ULAB and the London School of Public Relations, Jakarta, MSJ Lecturer Wafi Aziz Sattar went to LSPR Jakarta for two weeks in May 2019. Dr. Syafiq Basri Assegaff visited the department and conducted different sessions for the courses on Development Communication and Public Relations Campaign from July 28 to August 9. Dr. Assegaff also held a Master Class on Strategic Crisis Management for the MComn program.

### ULAB School of Business

- USB faculty members published 5 papers in international journals and 1 in conference proceedings.
- ULAB EMBA Director Mr. Sajid Amit participated in 4 national and international conferences and workshops as either facilitator or moderator.

### Center for Enterprise and Society

- Professor Imran Rahman, ULAB School of Business (USB) Dean and Special Advisor to the BoT, and Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES and EMBA, moderated two high-level panels on corporate governance and financial inclusion, respectively, at the Finance Summit 2019 organized by Eastern Bank Ltd at the Westin, Dhaka.
- Mr. Sajid Amit, Director, CES, and Ms. Lumbini Barua published the CES Current Event Analysis report titled "Social Media and Radicalization of University Students in Bangladesh."

### Center for Sustainable Development

- The Center for Sustainable Development received grants for academic collaboration for the research from OXFAM under the Participatory Research and Ownership with Technology Information and Change (PROTIC) project.
- Assistant Professor Shantanu Kumar Saha, PhD, received the ACU Blue Charter Fellowship as one of a cohort of 10 successful fellows. The fellowship provides funding for talented researchers to travel from an ACU member university to a host institution in another country for research work themed on the critical global issue of marine plastics.

## 8th SSEASR Conference at ULAB

The eighth biennial conference of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) was inaugurated on June 13, 2019 at ULAB. On the opening day, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, was present as the Chief Guest and the Honorable High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, was present as the Guest of Honor. Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, mentioned that this conference will pave the way for the future of Bangladesh and develop cultural ties with countries of South and Southeast Asia. Along with other invited guests, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, inaugurated the 8th SSEASR Conference on Rivers and Religion.

During the Closing Ceremony, Planning Minister M. A. Mannan, MP, was present as the Chief Guest and Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Kanbar Hossein-Bor, was present as the Special Guest. Mr. Mannan, MP, mentioned that the theme of the conference was a befitting one as it is necessary to acknowledge that rivers and people cannot be separated. Emphasizing on the need for further research capabilities of the country, the minister also assured that he would personally look into possibilities of ensuring more funding for the academia in Bangladesh.

A total of 170 research papers from 30 countries were presented during the four-day conference in 37 parallel academic sessions under 15 subthemes.

ULAB Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, thanked the participants at the Closing Ceremony and said the SSEASR conference has shed light on how religions originated from the rivers and how rivers carried their own religions. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, called for more research initiatives by the country's scholars. ULAB Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque, PhD, presented the vote of thanks.



ULAB Liberal Times/Summer/2019/V1



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