

■ Prominent philosopher-revolutionary Bernard-Henri Lévy at ULAB.

The 1971 spirit is still visible: Lévy

■ Zulker Naeen

his love for Bangladesh had not trickled an ounce in all these four decades.

“Bangladesh has been so successful in such a short time... The country has emerged as a model of a democratic nation in the global community,” he said, praising the socio-economic developments in Bangladesh.

“The young people sitting here know how precious this freedom is. I do not know of any other example in history,” he said.

Recalling the tough days from 1971, Lévy said Bangladesh was a colonial province and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman rebuilt the country in just three and a half years. That, he said was unprecedented in the world and the name Bangabandhu would be remembered forever as a revolutionary leader.

Lévy ended his inspiring speech saying: “I have experienced how sweet this country is. I have also learned a lot from the spirited freedom fighters. Now I see the same promise that I was committed to 43 years ago.”

Prof Imran Rahman, vice-chancellor of ULAB, delivered a note of thanks on behalf of ULAB.

Members of the ULAB Board of Trustees, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof HM Jahirul Haque, Registrar Lt Col (retd) Md Foyzul Islam, department heads, members of the faculty and admin, students and external guests were present at the program.

One of the first journalists to witness and report on the birth of a country from the battlegrounds in 1971, Bernard-Henri Lévy recently came to Bangladesh for his first visit in 43 years.

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted a talk entitled “Philosophy and Commitment: for a philosophy of action” on April 26 at the auditorium to mark his return to Bangladesh.

Noted writer Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed welcomed the audience during the session. Olivier Litvine, director of Alliance Française de Dhaka, introduced the special guest.

Born to a French Algerian family in 1948, Bernard-Henri Lévy graduated from the elite and highly selective École Normale Supérieure in 1968 with a degree in Philosophy. Inspired by André Malraux’s call for assistance, Bernard-Henri Lévy came to Bangladesh, working through the war and later advised the unexperienced administration.

Lévy said his participation in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 was the most glorious time of his life and

A TRIBUTE TO **KHALED KHAN**

The man who taught us to dream

■ Zulker Naeen

This incredible person could not just disappear from among us. He is still very much alive everywhere at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Nobody else can replace him. He is none other but Khaled Mahmood Khan, the irreversible identity of the ULAB Family.

His deadly disease had to fight long and hard to bring him down because he was not the kind of a person to give up so easily. Sitting on a wheelchair for years, he performed his duties, which were by no stretch of the imagination any easy task. His efforts took him to the coveted post of the treasurer of the University. Khaled Mahmood Khan was a man of indomitable energy; he was a workaholic.

Khaled Khan – popularly known as Juboraj – was truly the prince of the country’s art, culture and theatre arena, and he will continue to live among his co-artists for many years to come. He came to Dhaka in 1973 and joined the Nagorik Natya Sampradaya at a very tender age. He remained active in the



■ The incredible personality Khaled Mahmood Khan.

theatre circle for decades thereafter, but not a single gossip has ever surfaced around him.

As a teacher, he used to narrate interesting episodes relating to various subjects which never failed to capture our attention. He was also a master of mimicry.

Juboraj was “Juboda” to our generation. As an actor, when he used to appear on stage, he grabbed the audience’s attention with ease with his inimitable diction and attractive baritone. He

EDITORIAL

DID WE SING

JUST FOR A RECORD?



A portion of gathering that joined the chorus of the national anthem at the National Parade Ground.

On March 26, as part of the 43rd Independence Day celebrations, the nation came together to sing the national anthem and make yet another Guinness world record. The campaign was titled “Lakho Konthe Shonar Bangla” (the national anthem in thousands of voices) was literally meant for rewriting the record book of Guinness.

The target was to break the record for a chorus national anthem by assembling the highest number of people in the history of the world.

A call for action was disseminated long before the event. The slogan for the campaign was “Amra Sobai Mile Jatio Songeet Gaibo, Ar Bisswa Record Gorbo” (we all will sing together to make a world record). Television commercials were

run for weeks and newspapers published special reports on the preparations.

Bangladesh Army coordinated the world record attempt, with assistance from the cultural affairs ministry of the government. According to the organisers, the target was to assemble at least three lakh people at the National Parade Ground on Independence Day.

For the first time in history, the nation was set to make a record with a staggering total of 254,681 Bangladeshis singing the national anthem.

The massive gathering eventually sang simultaneously to celebrate the Independence Day and also paved way for writing the 6th world record by Bangladesh.

What then was our main objective? Was

it singing collectively to showcase our patriotism and nationalism or to write a new record? It is true that this initiative was to understand how a song can bring the entire country together. It was also necessary to make everyone understand the anthem and how it came to be.

However, critics have slammed the event as a mere marketing ploy of some of the big corporate names in the country. Such criticisms have been there since the very beginning of the initiative. After the event, mass criticism took the social media by storm. The cultural affairs ministry was lambasted for “commercialising” patriotic values.

Noted Writer Syed Abul Maksud said, “Such purely patriotic events have been tarnished because of the commercialisation through sponsorship of multinational companies and donation from different commercial bodies.”

He said, “There was a time when people used participate in cultural programmes spontaneously; they did not require any patronisation from companies.”

He also added, “Governments usually play the role of local agents of global capitalism... Such trends are not healthy for our culture.”

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of the Ganasanghati Andolan, said: “Our national anthem is our eternal source of inspiration. When we sing it to make a Guinness record, it is really unfortunate.”

Singing for rewriting the Guinness book did no way symbolise our patriotism; neither did it highlight our responsibilities as citizens of the country. Our country is one of those very few in the world which had to achieved by fighting a bloody war. That should be enough to stimulate our sense of nationalism.

PRESS: CAN'T BE NEUTRAL BUT BE OBJECTIVE

■ Yemad Fayed Ahmed

Critics often accuse mainstream press of bias. The press should practice its aptitude to remain impartial but maintaining objectivity has always been a problem. The press often takes a

neutral stance at the cost of objectivity. Objectivity does not mean being impartial. Impartiality means when a reporter has no position on a particular issue in question. In contrast, for a reporter, objectivity means taking a stance in accordance with the available evidence and thus reach a rational conclusion on particular issues. Objectivity also corrects the prejudices associated with the political affiliations of the author. This is not done by forcing the writer to remain neutral, but rather by asking authors to present information

and analysis that led them to their positions. Even if reporters do their job well, they cannot remain neutral all the time.

During the Iraq war, the media was criticised for not making clear to readers that the evidence put forth to justify US government’s actions in the middle-eastern country were unreliable or fabricated. After the Iraq war, The New York Times even apologised for failing to carry out its duty. One reason

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My experiences with DITF 2014

■ **Naim Mustafiz**

After a long political chaos, the people of Bangladesh seem to have finally gotten the opportunity to enjoy shopping time at Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2014 that started on January 5 this year.

Every year, the Export Promotion Bureau and the Ministry of Commerce organise the DITF with an aim to showcase local products to the international market. This year more than 300 stalls – from home and abroad – joined forces and exhibited their products. Exhibitors from 12 countries including India, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Iran, South Korea, US, UK, Singapore and Turkey took part in the month-long event.

While the prices of products available at stalls were very cheap and negotiable, the prices of foodstuff were fixed.

Like many other window shoppers, I too was keen on roaming around the international stalls. However, I was very disappointed, as almost every international stall was crammed with local products.

It seemed that the DITF had quality management issues, as the organisers had approved local products at the behest of big syndicates, who seemed to have influenced policies. It is important to note here that such a cycle of dissatisfaction is nothing new – we come across them virtually every year.

Many stalls could be seen adopting popular marketing tactics of offering “buy one get one free” and “up to 50% discount.” I spotted several stalls offering 50% discounts; some of them were influential brands like SMARTEX from where I ended up buying a suit at an unbelievably affordable price of Tk 1, 500. Of course the quality was nowhere near the desirable mark. My mother bought some household stuff and some of them



■ Entrance of the Dhaka International Trade Fair 2014.

turned out to be defective, as we found out later.

Furthermore, the organisers poorly managed the traffic situation in and around the venue. In retrospect, such management issues should have been their primary concern, given the event was held in the middle of the capital.

This year the DITF got a poor start because of the political turmoil. However, the weekends seemed to have saved the traders from heavy losses, with boosted turnout and sales. The emotion among customers were mixed – while some were happy and considered themselves lucky with the deal they got, others were not as lucky.

A quick trivia: the very first DITF was held 19 years ago with a vision to projecting quality local products to the international arena. But sadly, persistent mismanagement and quality control issues are causing DITF’s vision to fade, even today.



■ A performer’s risky performance at Flash Mob.

Flash mob

New generation performing arts

■ **Zulker Naeen**

The nationwide celebration surrounding the ICC World T20 has been buzzing the universities. The celebration has more to do with the flash mobs than the cricket matches themselves. With the theme song “Char Chokka Hoi Hoi,” Bangladeshi students in various universities around the globe have been teaming up with their own flash mob dances.

Although a new phenomenon, flash mobs have become very popular among young men and women and are taking place all over without any prior notice of time and venue. This irregularity has given the flash mobs the status of a fresh trend in the performing arts scene.

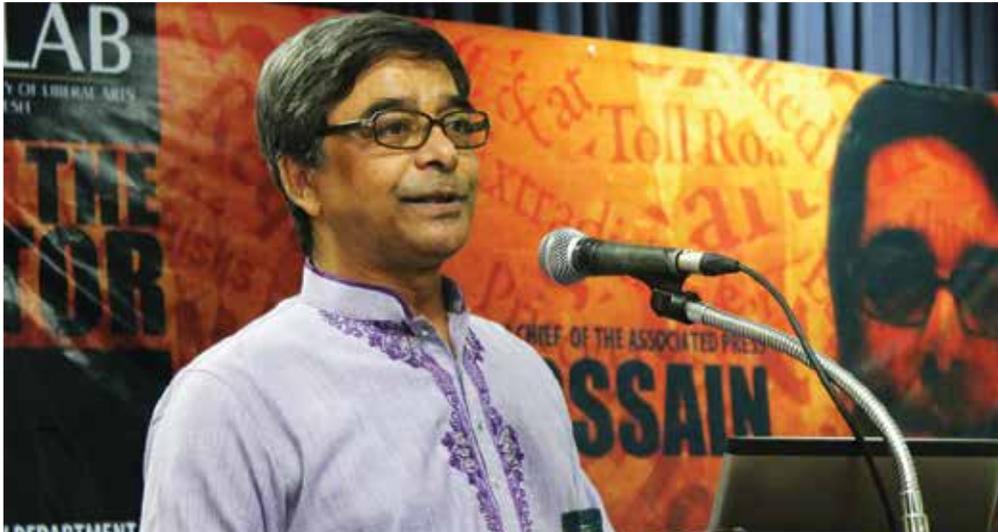
What are flash mobs?

Flash mobs are entertaining dance shows that a group of people stage by coming together at an undeclared location and time, taking the people mainly on the streets by surprise. They start off with one person dancing and many others from the crowd joining in to complete the routine.

For this occasion alone, participants of the flash mobs are all university-goers and have a set theme song to dance to that they have practiced among themselves in groups representing their universities. For the universities, mobs come as a chance to display their enthusiasm and patriotism about the T20 event because it is being held in Bangladesh for the first time. The idea became a viral one and soon gripped the universities because Bangladesh is a cricket-crazy nation.

The term flash mob was coined in 2003, when it was organised for political protests, commercial advertisements and publicity stunts that involved public relation firms and of course, paid professionals.

The first ever flash mob in Bangladesh was performed in Dhaka 2012, to Korean artist Psy’s song “Gangnam Style.”



Former Bangladesh bureau chief of AP Farid Hossain at ULAB

When it comes to journalism **ACCURACY IS KEY**

“Accuracy is more imperative than objectivity where the grammar of journalism is concerned,” renowned journalist Farid Hossain recently told the students of ULAB.

The former Bangladesh bureau chief of the Associated Press (AP) was speaking at a seminar styled “Meet the Editor” at the ULAB auditorium on February 27, 2014.

“Objectivity is not the main criterion of news, especially when it harms the accused even when he does not have proof,” he said.

He briefly discussed the code of ethics in journalism and the proper implications of ethical reporting. He projected cases in the prospect of public interest and ethical reporting where sometimes

PRESS: CAN'T BE NEUTRAL

<< PAGE 2 COLUMN 3

was that too many reporters sought to remain neutral between competing claims rather than taking a position on their truthfulness. Perhaps the tendency to remain neutral has become harmful during political campaigns. As many critics have argued, campaign reporters often seem caught up in the horse race rather than informing voters about the issues and the pledges made by the candidates. One reason for this is that it is easier to remain neutral when reporting on campaigns than on issues. Election stories often end up simply being the “he said/she said” sort. As a result, readers are left wondering whether candidates’ claims or counter claims are really trustworthy.

Moreover, describing stories that probe into issues are also very important. For example, whether the Awami League’s “vision 2021” can achieve what it promises to; how it differs from reality and vision; and whether their estimated planning costs reflect the reality or not are all factors that probe into the issue and seek explanation. People need to know not only what the candidates say about the plan, but also about whether

the analysis of present condition can help in reaching this vision.

Journalists need to be informed, not just about whether the candidates support lower or higher taxes on imports, but also about whether recent tax cuts have benefited the economy in any way, as Awami League candidates claim, and how those benefits have been distributed.

The cost of neutrality is an ill-informed public. Voters tend to trust the statements of their political leaders, and to some degree, they should. But it is the press’s obligation to let people know about the reality about political leaders by questioning their authorities. If reporters are unwilling to be objective because they favour neutrality, the press will never deliver its promise. A press that is open to discussions and probes into facts but does not stay neutral may serve us better than a press that privileges neutrality over objectivity.

There has never been a golden age for the press. Politicians directly and indirectly sponsor competing editors, and most newspapers can directly be identified with one party or another.

The bottom line is: neither should an objective press be tied to a party, nor should it allow neutrality to interfere with its obligation to tell the truth.

reporters had made serious mistakes in calling a person dead before they actually died, among other cases.

He also emphasised on the ethical ways for treating victims and accused when interviewing or writing about them. He narrated how detailed reports should be written, how accurate and objective they should be and reasons behind non-disclosure of the names of those harmed or accused.

The key statement of the presentation was his emphasis on ethical reporting especially in the cases of children, of those accused, in peril, or victims. He requested the aspiring journalists to practice the global standards in journalism. “Although it might not be possible to maintain such standards with every issue as we do live in a polarised society where corporate ownership is mixed with government’s involvement with almost every issue.” However, in practicing journalism, four key points must be ensured –work hard, know the context inside out, the ability to gather information, and write news with ethics and moral standards kept high.

Head of MSJ department Dr Jude William Genilo ended the programme with a note of appreciation to the editor and handing Mr. Farid over a crest.

KHALED KHAN

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was an actor of rare genius.

Juboda was not only a passionate actor but also a singer and an educationist – a combination too rare to be found in anybody else. He showed his theatre audience that singing as part of acting on stage was not the same as rendering songs with the accompaniment of musical instruments.

He earned a lot of fame for his sterling performance in TV plays, soap operas and films. He played one of the key roles in the widely acclaimed film “Poka Makorer Ghor Boshoti.” He was also well-known for lending voice in hundreds of radio and television commercials.

He handpicked the song “shotter opore mon” as ULAB’s anthem.

Just like everyone else in the country, ULAB will always remember him as a great son of the soil who loved its people and lived its culture.

It feels like he is still very much there – moving around like a young man in his wheelchair, teaching drama to the students of ULAB; and most importantly, teaching them how to dream.

Sabirul shares his seven Ps to success

ULAB Career Service Center and the Junior Chamber International (JCI) jointly organised a seminar titled “The World at Your Feet” under the campaign “Inspire 1 Million Bangladesh” on September 24, 2013 at the ULAB auditorium.

Founder of the “Inspire 1 Million” campaign Sabirul Islam, 22, was the main speaker at the programme. He has been travelling around the world to achieve his goal in making a difference to the lives of millions. His vision is to empower people worldwide in such a way so that they see success along the way forward. His journey around the world included the visit to ULAB.

Sabirul gave a number of guidelines to the students of ULAB, telling them how to be a part in taking Bangladesh to a leading position in the world.

He also shared seven rules for becoming successful. He said they were the seven P's: positivity, passion, perseverance, persistence, patience and believing in the power of people.

ULAB Awards Research Grants

ULAB awarded eight research grants to its faculty members at a ceremony on November 7, 2013. Vice Chancellor of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) Professor M Omar Rahman, was present as the chief guest at the programme.

Following a laborious application process, ULAB chose eight deserving projects to fund: “Constructing Local Knowledge and Practices in the Sundarbans,” “Women’s Citizenship in Digital Bangladesh,” “HAMiGram: Holistic Arsenic Mitigation Program (A Holistic Mitigation Approach to Arsenic Contamination Via Sensing, Communication and Collaboration),” “Poor Utilization of Road Networks & Variable Vehicular Speed: An Empirical and Modeling Study of the Factors to Traffic Congestion,” “Measurement and Analysis of Traffic Noise,” “Underuse of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010,” “Review of Bangladesh Monetary Policy-2009 to 2013” and “The impact of the index options introduction on volatility and liquidity; evidence from Asia (India, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore).”



Founder of the “Inspire 1 Million” Campaign Sabirul Islam at ULAB.

All About Radio Workshop for buzzers

ULAB Radio Cambuzz organised a daylong workshop for the buzzers titled “All about radio” on December 25, 2013 at the ULAB auditorium. AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO of BNNRC and Amin Al Rashid, senior reporter of ABC Radio, were the main speakers. Deputy executive producer of ABC radio and advisor to ULAB Radio Cambuzz Kebria Sarkar facilitated the programme.

The programme was divided into three parts: the first dealt with the present scenario of the radio industry; the second introduced the structures and formats in which news is presented on radio; and finally the third included

what a radio jockey (RJ) does and how he or she deals with problems and challenging situations.

According to AHM Bazlur Rahman, four key features are prioritised in the radio broadcasting world: information, education, entertainment and motivation. Amin Al Rashid meanwhile spoke about how news is formatted and set into criterions for detailed presentation.

Blessing the process and announcing the executive body of Radio Cambuzz, Dr. Jude William Genilo, head of MSJ department, ended the programme. The steps towards a complete web-based campus radio station have been set and the buzzers of the campus are working hard towards making it a reality for all.

BGreen calls upon the youth for climate solutions

January 10, 2014 marked a special day at the campus A auditorium of ULAB with more than a hundred young individuals, aged 16-22, sang in a chorus at the BGreen Conference. The song was on air pollution and it went somewhat like this: “There is too much heat in the air! There is too much carbon monoxide in the atmosphere! Let us act on it! Get some satisfaction out of it ...”

The two-day-long conference was hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) of ULAB. Director Belen Vallina Gonzalez welcomed the participants. The event was aimed at connecting the dynamic Bangladeshi students to innovative processions, programmes and methods, all under an organised platform where issues of climate change and environment are dealt with and taken action upon.

The participants put forth several creative solutions such as animation books, online environmental campaigns, poster and postcard-making competition, youth participation in green activities etc.

A close encounter with Jaago & Khijir Hayat Khan

With support from the ULAB Film Club and the ULAB Social Welfare Club, the ULAB Student Affairs the film “Jaago,” screened February 10, 2014, before a session with prominent director Khijir Hayat Khan at the ULAB auditorium.

After the daylong screening, Khan showed students a few behind-the-scene clips of the film “Jaago” and his experiences of making of this film. He further explained the context, why he chose the particular genre, and what the key message behind the film was.

The programme was designed with an all-round communication process in mind. The ULAB Student Affairs took this initiative and turned it into a forum for active participation of students. The proceeds from the screening went to the underprivileged-schools in the Dhanmondi area.



New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, ULAB Vice-Chancellor Prof Imran Rahman and Senior Adviser to ULAB Strategic Planning Professor Brian Shoemsmith with the recipients of the ULAB Merit Scholarships.

Showcasing Nobel Prizes for Literature

ULAB's department of English and Humanities organised a display of Nobel prizes in literature alongside daylong discussions and exhibitions on December 13. To mark the 100-year celebration of Tagore's Nobel Prize for literature, DEH organised this programme.

Canadian High Commissioner Heather Cruden inaugurated the exhibition featuring the life and works of 106 Nobel laureates from all over the world. While speaking on the works of Alice Munro, winner of this year's Nobel literature award, before a packed auditorium, Heather amazed the audience with the parallels she drew between the limited space that was allocated to women and her chosen form of short story.

Prolific writer and Vice-President of ULAB Board of Trustees Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed in his speech, encouraged the new generation of writers to come forward and write in English to make their presence felt at a global platform.

The best part of the day was the launch of Tagore's Gitanjali, edited by Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam.



Entertainment desk

The "Red Apple" is coming soon. So what is this Red Apple? Is this something about the brand Apple? Or is it the fruit that costs of Tk170-200 a kilogram?

It is neither of them. It is in fact ULAB Film Club's "Red Apple." "Red Apple" is a 40-minute fiction made by the ULAB Film Club. The story revolves around a criminal, who is tangled badly with the underworld.

There are more than 15 characters in this film including the four main ones. The message that the film wants to deliver is: "Commitments should be kept."

The Red Apple project was successfully guided by Bikash Ch. Bhowmick, advisor to the ULAB Film Club. The members of the ULAB Film Club and the ULAB Co-Curricular authorities are jointly producing the film. ULAB Film Club is glad to inform that all the procedures of making the film including the post production have already been finished.

Scholarship Award Ceremony at ULAB

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh on April 19, 2014 awarded scholarships to 37 students from five departments for their outstanding achievements in the fall, spring and summer semesters of 2013.

The scholarships will cover full tuition fees of the recipients for one semester. Nurul Kabir, editor of the daily New Age, attended as the chief guest the ceremony held at ULAB's Dhanmondi campus.

"University is where scholars are born. They are the ones that will raise questions and discover the things that are going on around them. These are what make a scholar," he told the aspiring students.

ULAB Vice-Chancellor Prof Imran

Rahman handed over the scholarships to the recipients of the Dean's Honors List Scholarships while Nurul Kabir handed over the Vice Chancellor's Honors List Scholarships.

Zulker Naeen from the Media Studies and Journalism Department got the prestigious Kazi Anisur Rahman Scholarship, and Tonmoy Kar from the Department of Business Administration received the ARM Inamul Haq Scholarship.

Nurul Kabir handed over these two scholarships as well. Prof Brian Shoemsmith, ULAB's senior advisor for strategic planning, delivered his welcome speech at the programme and Prof Imran Rahman gave the closing speech.

ULAB Hosts Public TV Conference

ULAB hosted the Mini INPUT (International Public Television) 2014 conference on January 11 and 12 at the ULAB auditorium.

The conference was aimed to give the local TV professionals a flavour of the kind of programmes that get world recognition and to encourage them to produce programmes of that standard.

Every year, the INPUT conference features the best TV programmes from around the world. These programs are

screened, discussed and debated by professionals.

Many documentaries including "The Light Bulb Conspiracy" by Cosima Dannoritzer, "Children of the Revolution" by Shane O' Sullivan, "Escape from Paradise" by Ernest Saj and "Panorama- FIFA: Football's Shame?" by Andrew Jennings were screened at the conference.

The meet was inaugurated by Advisor to the PM Dr Gauhar Rizvi on January 11. ULAB Vice-Chancellor Professor Imran Rahman delivered the welcome speech. Mini INPUT conveners and faculty from ULAB's MSJ department acted as discussion facilitators.

Up close with

Rafael Stemplewski

Rafael Stemplewski was born in Poland, but spent the most part of his life in Germany. He studied law but ended up becoming a filmmaker. Recently, he came to Bangladesh to take part in the “Dhaka International Film Festival” and screened his debut film “Dendrologium.” In this interview we tried to take a glimpse at Rafael’s perspectives about our culture, the film industry, his personal experiences, thoughts and plans. He is presently involved in ULAB TV and other MSJ Department activities.



You studied Law but ended up making films. How did that happen?

Rafael: Well, that is a 10-page long history!

Could you describe them in lines for me?

Rafael: Well, it [law] wasn’t my cup of tea. I started studying law and I realised that I wasn’t really that interested in it. Then I did some business, but I felt there was still something missing. It took some time, but I realised what I wanted to do eventually.

Your debut film “Dendrologium” was released last year. Tell me about the kind of technology you used, especially in light of the fact that you had a very small crew. How did you manage all the hilly and snowy locations? How much did it cost you?

Rafael: The shooting itself was very difficult. We had a small crew, small budget and not much technology at our expense. So, we had a good camera and used light cranes. The film cost us about €40,000.

What are your views about the Bangladeshi culture?

Rafael: Well, it is a very common question that I have been answering. People that I have met are open-minded and very friendly. Yet, some people have a kind of an annoying curiosity. It is like they have grown up, but there was still a child inside. Let me give you a metaphor: a worm was born inside an apple; the worm ate the apple from the inside and came out. The worm did not know anything about the outside world until it came out. Similarly, you really can’t know the world until you come outside to see the real deal. Bangladesh has a colourful culture and the people are hospitable. I couldn’t see the “Pohela Boishakh” celebrations because I was travelling from Feni that day. I have also visited Chittagong, Cox’s Bazar and the island of Moheshkhali. It was very pleasant.

How do you think a film should be made?

Rafael: It depends on the type of film you are making. In Dendrologium, we used light cranes and a good camera. But you can always use new technologies like steadicam, visual effects and CGI.

What is your most favourite film genre?

Rafael: I like fantasy and I prefer meaningful commercial films.

What do you think about the Bangladeshi film industry?

Rafael: They are copying from Bollywood mostly. And the copies is like B-grade. If I am generous, I will give them 3 in 1-5 scales. I attended the “Dhaka International Film Festival” and I had the opportunity to watch a couple of films. However, I appreciate every filmmaker’s efforts. Film making is really hard.

Do you think this industry will sustain?

Rafael: Yes. The government should create a fund and finance film script development with content.

Tell us about experiences with ULAB.

Rafael: It was a very good experience. It is a very good place to study. ULAB is well equipped and cares for the students. They have good facilities and I think it’s a good place to study films.

Tell us about your stay in Bangladesh. Did you like it?

Rafael: I like the weather, if it does not get too hot. The people are hospitable and reliable. I am getting used to the city. Dhaka is kind of hell, but there is something nice about this place. The water cuts off sometimes and so does the electricity. There is traffic jam, dust and dirt and the city is over-crowded. But for some reason it is likeable.

What are your future plans?

Rafael: I came here to see the film festival. My film was screened at ULAB. Now I want to stay in Bangladesh for a longer period and may be also get involved with ULAB. At the moment, I am developing the screenplay for my second feature film. This time I need a bigger budget. If I can shoot as part of the film in Bangladesh, I think it will be cost effective.

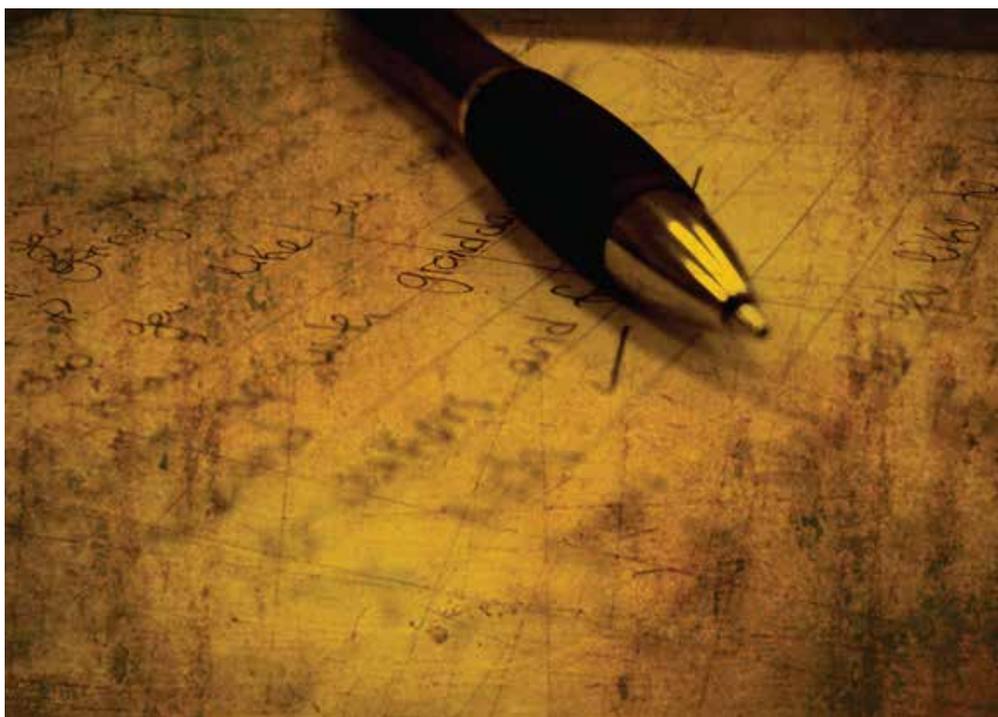
Any advice for the next generation of film makers?

Rafael: Just do it. Don’t just go after the money, but go for the work. Money will come.

■ Imran Hasan khan

ETHICAL JOURNALISM

In the context of Bangladesh



The professional reporters must avoid controversial write up.

■ Yemad Fayed Ahmed

It can be argued; journalism is increasingly becoming more controversial. For today, it is common with many journalists to adhere to telling stories in great detail in the name of freedom of expression. But does this freedom of expression mean that maintaining sensitivities is not important when reporting on crime?

It seems that in most cases, a story written by a journalist usually ends up creating a negative persona of the said perpetrator or victim and this has with its consequences. So we must ask ourselves, should we not hold those reporters responsible for negligence?

The truth is that most of such cases are being neglected and as a consequence, seems there has been an impact on the readers. For instance, with the case of Oishee, she was labelled a killer for murdering her own parents, resulting in tainting her image to the public and which will most likely have a negative effect on her future. While on the one hand, by law no one is guilty until proven guilty, the media here has been very negligent in its speculations of Oishee. The by-product of which is that a negative image of her has been created even before there has been a ruling from the courts. Such is one of the many examples of unethical journalistic practices present in Bangladesh today.

Further, the language used in reporting on rape cases or suicide attempts, will often fail to condemn the wrong acts in the eyes of the reader. For instance, language like "Jorpurbok Dhorshon kora Hoeychey" (Insist to rape) or, "Raat Vor Dhorshon" (Night long Rape) is obviously both improper and immoral.

When journalist interviewed Megh as a witness, after the murder of his parents, they behaved as thought they were interrogating him, as would the police investigator. And all of this was done without the slightest consideration of his loss or mental well-being.

Similar is the case with Reshma, the girl rescued from the rubbles of the Rana Plaza tragedy. For as she was recovering from severe injuries, journalists were adamantly asking her insensitive questions such as, "How do you feel?" as they held their bright lights and cameras to her bandaged face.

These are all examples of unethical code of conduct from newsmen from an ineffective and incompetent Press council. It is high time such practices are eliminated and effective academic institutions are introduced that will help incorporate ethical practices in professional journalism.

On an endnote, UNICEF has recently taken an initiative for establishing ethical reporting practices on and for children. But why is it that they are yet to address the lack of desire for change in senior journalists?

The annual Spring and Club day celebration held

Every year, ULAB holds a festival to celebrate the Bangla Boshonto culture and to encourage new students to join clubs and engage in extracurricular activities. This year was no different, as the daylong celebration was held with much fervour, fanfare and festivity.

Marking the day, ULABians including male, female and youngsters were spotted wearing red, orange and yellow in the form of saris and panjabis while arriving at the ULAB field in Ramchandrapur, early morning. Sixteen clubs decorated their designated stalls. Students were seen planning, painting, and decorating colourful designs to promote their club's identity. As the crowd grew larger, the mood turned merrier.

ULAB's Shangkriti Shangsad started off the program with a few welcome songs.

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ULAB Awards certificates for "Skills for Life" Campaign 2013

The participants of the "Skills for Life" course were awarded certificates by ULAB at its Dhanmondi campus on November 14, 2013. Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning Professor Brian Shoesmith was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Every year, ULAB organises the "Skills for Life" course to impart skills and values to the young generation, which is rarely found in the academic syllabus. These skills are designed to develop better citizens and give them a push forward in their professional lives.

Under the line-up, ULAB imparts practical knowledge and training on the desired composition of career, social responsibility, regular saving schemes, how to face an unexpected calamity, English and technical skills.

This unique campaign is designed for the HSC and A level students free of cost. About 102 students took part in the course from June 13-26.

Communications and Student Affairs Advisor Juditha Ohlmacher delivered the opening speech and ULAB Registrar Lt Col (ret'd) Foyzul Islam spoke a note of thanks to everyone who participated.

Hollywood admirers and film addicts must have heard the name of Martin Scorsese at some point in their lives. Because every time Scorsese comes out with a movie, he does it with a bang. The best thing is that his favourite partner has always paid for him. The crème de la crème movies like “Gangs of New York,” “The Aviator,” “The Departed” and “Shutter Island” all speak for themselves. The one common name in all these movies is none other than Leonardo DiCaprio.

If you have not been keeping track of charts, then you ought to because Scorsese and DiCaprio have come back with a new hit “The Wolf of the Wall Street.”

The film is their fifth work in collaboration and most of the online reviews have claimed that it is a “match made in heaven.” The story and the context revolve around the life of Jordan Belfort, a man, who spent his life spiralling down drugs, greed, and sex, also known as the life in the Wall Street job market.

If unfamiliar with the name Jordan Belfort, then some research would help in shedding some contextual light on the film, as many scenes might be of distaste to some. The movie is based out of Jordan Belfort’s book “The Wolf of Wall Street” dealing with the crude ways of how he paved his career into a stockbroker whose methods were illegal to begin with and later became a millionaire whose life and work became nothing short of a party.

Although the movie has its moments when DiCaprio is forming his life into a strip joint full of hookers, coke binges and alluring ways to make money, the movie takes hold of a critical life story and tells it like it really was. All in all “The Wolf of Wall Street” is an enjoyable movie with a hint of over-the-top personalities.

“The Wolf of Wall Street” portrays a charming young Belfort, who starts as a stock broker’s assistant. He invests time to become a broker, only to be unlucky enough to have his first official day fall on Black Monday, the day of the infamous stock market crash of 1987.

A few months later, Belfort takes a job at a Long Island store front penny stock operation and soon realizes he can milk hard-working blue collar folks out of thousands of dollars. Belfort recruits Donnie Azoff to start his own boiler room operation, and it becomes so

Movie review

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

Scorsese and DiCaprio back with a bang!



successful, he turns it into a full-fledged Wall Street firm. But gradually he becomes a chain drug addict who cannot spend one day without taking drugs. As his reputation as a monster stock market operator kept going higher and higher, law enforcers started suspecting him. But confident Belfort with his powerful motivation techniques even tried to influence an FBI officer. This time it did not work like it usually did with his customers and finally he had to go to jail. There are no heroes and villains in the movie, there is just one Jordan Belfort, and as much as you would want to hate him, as much as you would want to despise him, you just cannot. His charming demeanour, his exhilarating speeches and his will-not-quit attitude almost takes focus away from the wretched human being he actually is.

Apart from DiCaprio, there are some knockout performances by the rest of the cast. Although Belfort is at the centre of the film, the people he meets along the way influence him to no end. Jonah Hill delivers a hilarious and brilliant performance as Donnie Azoff, Belfort’s pill popping partner in crime.

One of the best things about the movie is Scorsese’s direction. He never gets stuck with normal conventions and is not at all afraid of going outside the box to tell his stories. Belfort often breaks the forth wall to explain what is happening, coupled with some flashbacks in the beginning. Unlike Wall Street, the film does not focus on the technical jargon; instead Belfort tells the audience to focus on what is really important – “Greed might not necessarily be good, but no one can deny, it’s a hell of a lot fun.”

The three-hour long movie may at some points make you wonder what is the point of it all? Is Belfort’s life something you want, or something you despise?

Moreover, the film has been nominated for five Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actor. The movie has already won two Golden Globes including DiCaprio as the best actor.

The bottom line is that “The Wolf of Wall Street” is an obnoxious and voyeuristic film, but it is definitely brilliantly entertaining and one of the best films to come out in a long while.

A TESTIMONIAL FOR THE MASTER IN COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME



Ishita Sharmin Rayhan

After my graduation I have worked for various media and communication agencies as a part-timer and also as a full-timer. Currently, I am working as a programme officer with Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programs (BCCP). Here, I have to recognise media practices and run development projects. I get to communicate with different people in the society and in the process have found out many still are lagging behind in terms of using media for personal development and collective social change. The masters program I finished was like launching pad that allowed me to understand the major challenges and opportunities in digital media.

When I first looked at the courses offered in 2012, I felt very excited about pursuing the programme. In my first meeting with the faculties in an interview session, I was asked questions on the topic I wanted to do a research on. Those questions eventually turned out to be the turning point for my educational career. I can recall today that I had told them about my desire to conduct research on the portrayal of children and women in

Bangladeshi media. During my study for a Masters degree in Communication, I hardly had in mind what I told my interviewers that day. As a result, I struggled with my research topic and had to change it several times. But, with help from the course teachers of "Communication Research," "Communication Theories" and "Research Methodology," I managed to land back on track. From the very first semester, MSJ departmental head Dr Jude William Genilo had been telling me to conduct research on something that is really close to my heart.

Now, I am in my final year of the Masters programme. I am working on a topic that deals with the representation of children in television commercials in Bangladesh and the incidents of violation of international code of ethics in advertisement.

Big corporate companies constantly push advertisers to make unique commercials that will attract the target market. What the AD-makers also tend to ignore is the social impact these commercials may have, violating international code of ethics and recording things that are unacceptable in the society.

After attending the graduate program at ULAB, I have started to think differently. These days, I constantly keep asking questions like "why" and "how" about virtually everything that I come across. Without having gone through the research steps, I would have never developed this capability to think critically. This programme has taught me to think big. The faculty members at the

ULAB are very friendly and cooperative. I can say this because I used to engage in discussions with them whenever I had a question in my mind or needed a point of view on something. One of my favourite teachers is Dr. Sumon Rahman. He used to tell me that the Masters programme was not for learning, it was rather for disseminating my existing knowledge to make some useful contribution to the society through my thesis.

While studying crisis management, public relations, strategic communication, and conflict management, I found out that these courses were very much relevant in the Bangladeshi context. After having participated in several public forums, I was able to understand that there is a gap between leaders and leadership when it comes down to the communication sectors in the country.

In the last semester, I completed a course titled "International Communication" under former ambassador and advisor Mohammad Zamir, who shared his experiences and explained a difficult subject in the simplest of ways. That bears testimony to what this programme holds in store for students like me. The programme is definitely a launching pad for the aspiring future leaders because it has quality course curriculum and qualified teachers. As a student of this programme I have been fortunate enough to reach a high level of academic intellect, energy and creativity. With the kind of help I have been blessed with, I am sure I will be able to spread my knowledge in the form of a thesis in the communication and development sectors in Bangladesh.

Club day celebration held

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As the program continued performances by the Business Club, Computer Programming Club, Debate Club, Film Club, Language Club, Media Club, and Theatre Club were also staged. Other clubs arranged various entertaining game shows on the field.

Divided into two parts the program started at 10:30am with a display of stalls and a cultural program to follow. While the second part featured game shows including female cricket matches, haribhanga, 100-meter dash, cycling, moroglorai, and much more.

On another spectrum, initiatives such as anti-corruption awareness and blood donation were featured at stalls amongst the festivity.

Training on Open Street Mapping

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organised a training on "open street mapping" in association with the WSP and World Bank on the February 20. Students from various departments of ULAB took part in this innovative training. Open Street Map (OSM) is built by a community of mappers that contribute and maintain data about roads, trails, cafés, railway stations, and much more, all over the world. It was a collaborative project aimed at creating free editable map of the world. Two major driving forces behind the establishment and growth of OSM have been restrictions on the use

or availability of map information across the world and the advent of inexpensive portable satellite navigation devices.



TRAINING ON
OPEN STREET MAP

TRACKING THE

WILD ELEPHANTS

Longadu upazila in Rangamati district is a hilly area with vast stretches of green land. We went there a couple of years ago to find out about the wild elephants who roam around the villages. These wild animals have on many occasions destroyed the crops and the belongings of villagers.

After our team of the BTEF (Bangladesh Tourism Expansion Forum) reached Rangamati, we crossed the Kaptai Lake by boat. In three hours, we reached the Shuvolong Bazar. From there we went to the Boiragi Bazar and finally arrived at Longadu at night.

The next morning we started trekking into the hills and the jungle to see the wild elephants. It was so exciting and scary. Our guide told us: "Move fast and if you see any elephant, do not move on a



// The road to Shuvolong



// Trekking to draw close to the elephants



// A house built high to keep away the elephants



// The explorers



// The road to Barkol

straight line. Take a zigzag path so that the elephant does not follow you easily."

A little later, we saw something moving inside the jungle. We tried to listen to the movement minutely and kept our camera ready. There was indeed a flock of elephants. We moved in very silently and tried to draw close to the bulls. It was really dangerous but we were very thrilled.

Unexpectedly one of the elephants noticed that we were following them. Our team leader told us to back off and we just ran, ran and ran for our lives!

■ Homaed Ishaque Moon