



Department of English and Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

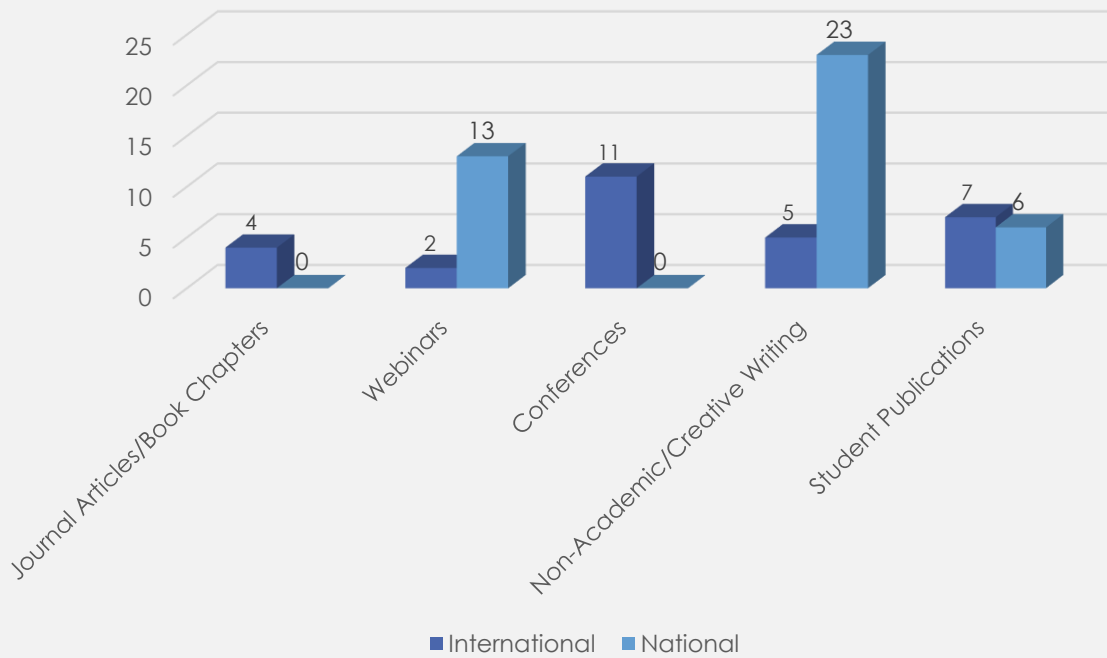
Publications and Events Report

Spring 2021

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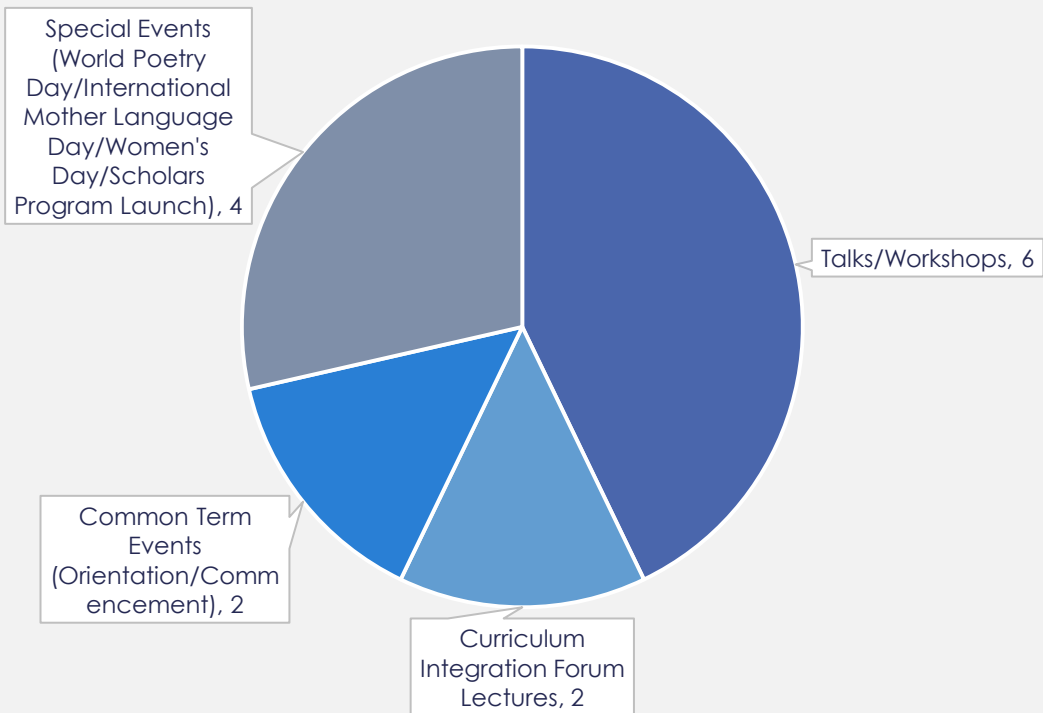
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Publications Summary



Events Summary

Total: 14



Publications

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

International

Atiya, Nishat. "Laughing Out Loud: The Popular Politics of Schadenfreude in *Joker*." *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2021. ISSN: 0975-2935.

Sultana, Shaila. "Indigenous Ethnic Languages in Bangladesh: Paradoxes of the Multilingual Ecology." *Ethnicities*. SAGE, 2021. DOI: 10.1177/14687968211021520.

Noor, Qazi Mustabeen. "Packing: A Poem." *Journal of International Women's Studies*, vol. 22, no. 1, 2021. ISSN: 1539-8706.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Fault Lines." *Journal of The Association of the Commonwealth Universities*, 26 April 2021. <https://www.acu.ac.uk/the-acu-review/fault-lines/>

Books

Noor, Qazi Mustabeen, Subeditor. *Lamp: A Collection of Poetry*. Vol. 1. Dots Publication, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-6489598-0-9

Conferences/Webinars

International

Mortuza, Shamsad. SAARC Interviews and Conversations: Poetry Reading and Interview by Prof. Subir Dhar. *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.

Haq, Kaiser. SAARC Interviews and conversations: In Conversation with Syed Manzoorul Islam. *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.

Haq, Kaiser. SAARC Interviews and conversations: An Interview by Rifat Munim. *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.

Haq, Kaiser. SAARC Poets Meet: Poetry Reading. *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.

- Islam, Syed Manzoorul. SAARC Interviews and conversations: An Interview by Prof. Kaiser Haq. *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.
- Manzoor, Sohana. SAARC Papers and Fiction Readings: Short story “Elusive.” *South Asian Online Literary Conference*. Sahitya Akademi with Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL). March 15-18, 2021.
- Noor, Qazi Mustabeen. *Babu Bangladesb!* Webinar. The Reading Circle. April 16, 2021.
- Sultana, Shaila. “Religionism, Nationalism, and Ethnicism in the Digital Translingual Spaces.” Webinar. Department of English Studies, Akal University, Punjab, India. May 27, 2021.
- Haq, Kaiser. “Bangladeshi Fiction in English: Problems, Progress and Prospects.” Keynote Speech. *Bangladeshi English Novels: From Emergence to Efflorescence*. International Conference. University of Salerno, Italy. June 24-25, 2021.
- Haq, Kaiser. “Interrogating Bangladeshi English Novels.” Panelist. *Bangladeshi English Novels: From Emergence to Efflorescence*. International Conference. University of Salerno, Italy. June 24-25, 2021.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. Discussant/Session Chair of Prof. Fakrul Alam’s keynote speech on “The Bangladeshi Novel in English: A Golden Jubilee Year Reevaluation.” *Bangladeshi English Novels: From Emergence to Efflorescence*. International Conference. University of Salerno, Italy. June 24-25, 2021.
- Atiya, Nishat. ““Their own secret histories of laughter and pain’: Humanized Historicity in *The Storm*.” *Bangladeshi English Novels: From Emergence to Efflorescence*. International Conference. University of Salerno, Italy. June 24-25, 2021.

National

- Manzoor, Sohana. “Rizia Rahman’s *Rokter Okshor*: Politics of Prostitution and the Consciousness of Civic Society in Bangladesh.” Webinar. Department of English, Jahangirnagar University. March 8, 2021.
- Atiya, Nishat. “The Politics of Laughter in *Joker*, the Movie.” Webinar. Paper Canoe: ULAB Literary Society, ULAB. March 19, 2021.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “Role of Educators to Promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.” Webinar. Fulbright Alumni Association, Bangladesh and BLI, Independent University, Bangladesh. April 5, 2021.
- Haq, Kaiser. “Bangladeshi English Writing: Problems and Prospects.” Webinar. Department of English, Jahangirnagar University. April 11, 2021.
- Haq, Kaiser. “Dhaka University and the Formation of Bangladeshi Literary Culture.” International Conference. Arts, Literature and Culture. Celebrating the 100 Years of the University of Dhaka. April 13, 2021.

- Haq, Kaiser. “The Sonnets of Shakespeare.” Colloquium. *Shakespeare: The Wilful Bard*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. April 22, 2021.
- Islam, Syed Manzoorul. “Shakespeare from a Postmodern Point of View.” Colloquium. *Shakespeare: The Wilful Bard*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. April 22, 2021.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “Shakespeare from a Post Humanistic Viewpoint.” Colloquium. *Shakespeare: The Wilful Bard*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. April 22, 2021.
- Manzoor, Sohana. “The Problems of Cross-dressing in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*.” Colloquium. *Shakespeare: The Wilful Bard*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. April 22, 2021.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “টেকসই উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে আমাদের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়: ULAB’s Measures towards Fulfilling SDG Goals.” Webinar/Live Discussion. Daffodil International University. April 25, 2021.
- Islam, Syed Manzoorul. “A Reading of Saramago’s *Blindness* in the Time of Pandemic.” Webinar. Department of English, Jahangirnagar University. April 27, 2021.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. “50 Years of Bangladesh Short Stories.” Discussion on *The Demones: The Best Bangladeshi Short Stories, 1971-2021*. Daily Star Books. May 3, 2021.
- Sultana, Syeda Farzana. “Online Teacher Identity Development: What We Need to Know.” Colloquium. *Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Future Directions*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. May 29, 2021.
- Sultana, Shailla. “My Research Itinerary from Applied Linguistics to Sociolinguistics.” Colloquium. *Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Future Directions*. Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. May 29, 2021.

Non-Academic and Creative Publications

International

- Manzoor, Sohana. “In Search of Her Roots.” *The Best Asian Short Stories*. April 2, 2021. https://tbass.org/in-search-of-her-roots/?fbclid=IwAR2_PYAYHebor73hDvhxY4rXPQz3269mQYDV5BjQmv_Ml1HbHbtrya66RuU
- Atiya, Nishat. “Tagore Translations: One Small Ancient Tale.” *Borderless Journal*. April 14, 2021. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/04/14/tagore-translations-one-small-ancient-tale/?fbclid=IwAR1UY0hw62CqBmmklnyR5zilkc4z6viM8aAkvytc0rT69UFy5T51t52h7oc>

- Manzoor, Sohana. "Elusive." *Borderless Journal*. April 14, 2021. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/04/14/elusive/?fbclid=IwAR3rbCxJsqX29LHE1q3dx1XXr1iHJHhhaA9HrLHRpEeMHNNQ8xBVhpZ2HWo>
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Pohela Boishakh: A Cultural Fiesta." *Borderless Journal*. April 14, 2021. https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/04/14/pohela-boishakh-a-cultural-fiesta/?fbclid=IwAR2Vo9vQylE_nyV9ZWDcbVgICF1fyycJBWc5xMo8GtdLtUXa0F559skIEVM
- Manzoor, Sohana. "A Tale of Devotion and Sacrifice as Opposed to Jealousy and Tyranny." *Borderless Journal*. April 14, 2021. https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/04/14/a-tale-of-devotion-and-sacrifice-as-opposed-to-jealousy-and-tyranny/?fbclid=IwAR0FAXdTN1lcwFwdmaoYQv3I_0RE3npqdbAWQ-w1C7jCtI4LAHvm1VDd0u

National

- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Mosquito and the Ear." *The Daily Star*. February 27, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-mosquito-and-the-ear-2051609>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Off-shore Campuses." *The Daily Star*. March 6, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/shore-campuses-2055581>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "When the Deaf is Heard." *The Daily Star*. March 13, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/when-the-deaf-heard-2059493>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Saga of a Three-Finger Salute." *The Daily Star*. March 20, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-saga-three-finger-salute-2063497>
- Haq, Kaiser. "Nationality and Other Difficulties." *Dhaka Tribune*. March 26, 2021. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/magazine/arts-letters/2021/03/26/nationality-and-other-difficulties?fbclid=IwAR0CwH7JNVlrOuXiJLCW5fCyNFzBkte0-B-NWodV Ori5kAdI14ewO254Kmw>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Binge Watching Borderless Borders." *The Daily Star*. March 27, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/binge-watching-borderless-borders-2067317>
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Why Doesn't The Mayna Speak?" Translation of Abu Ishaque's "Moyna Keno Koi na Kotha." *The Daily Star*. March 27, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/literature/news/why-doesnt-the-myna-speak-2067517>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "It Ain't Over till It's Over." *The Daily Star*. April 3, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/it-aint-over-til-its-over-2071049>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Colours of Life." *The Daily Star*. April 10, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-colours-life-2074969>

- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Education in a Post Covid 19 World." *The Daily Star*. April 17, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/education-post-covid-19-world-2078625>
- Manzoor, Sohana. "In Praise of Sarees." *Dhaka Tribune*. April 21, 2021. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/magazine/2021/04/21/in-praise-of-sarees?fbclid=IwAR0viHJTkP5fVGHw9Mh5CLeyU- iqLVBUcP9pBdoEYsSiujAwDhxygCvkRw>
- Noor, Qazi Mustabeen. "A Hope Grows in 'Borderland': Short Story Review." *The Daily Star*. April 22, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/book-reviews/news/hope-grows-borderland-2081773>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Covid Induced Stress Factors Impacting Our Students." *The Daily Star*. April 24, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-covid-induced-stress-factors-impacting-our-students-2082633>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Creating an Appetite for Bangladeshi Fiction." *The Daily Star*. April 29, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/book-reviews/news/creating-appetite-bangladeshi-fiction-2085713>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Whose May Day?" *The Daily Star*. May 1, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/news/whose-may-day-2086509>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Tortoise, The Hare and The UGC." *The Daily Star*. May 8, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-tortoise-the-hare-and-the-ugc-2089985>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "How do I Hate Myself? Let Me Count the Ways." *The Daily Star*. May 22, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/how-do-i-hate-myself-let-me-count-the-ways-2096521>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Desperate Times, Desperate Journeys." *The Daily Star*. May 29, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/desperate-times-desperate-journeys-2100669>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Students Getting a Slim Slice of the Budget Pie." *The Daily Star*. June 5, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/students-getting-slim-slice-the-budget-pie-2104953>
- Haq, Kaiser. "Elegy Written in a Redbrick House." *The Daily Star*. June 8, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/literature/news/elegy-written-redbrick-house-2105137>
- Noor, Qazi Mustabeen. "Relationship Lost and Found in Debut Novel *Punyah*." *The Daily Star*. June 10, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/book-reviews/news/relationships-lost-and-found-debut-novel-punyah-2108225>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Please Forgive Me..." *The Daily Star*. June 12, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/please-forgive-me-2109133>
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "A Canary in the Mine." *The Daily Star*. June 19, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/canary-the-mine-2113557>

Student Publications

International

Chowhdury, Salwah. "Sanctuary." *SAMPAD*. April 8, 2021.

Tamanna, Nasrin. "মায়ের যাদু বাঘিনী" *SAMPAD*. April 8, 2021.

Al Rashid, Radia. *Frozen In Time - Part 2 Novel*. Bookrix. February 2021.

<https://www.bookrix.com/ebook-radial-rashid-frozen-in-time/#>

Hossain, Shahriyer. "'Purify My Life': A Translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's 'Shuddho Koro Amar Jibon'." Reprinted from *The Daily Star. Borderless Journal*. May 14, 2021.

<https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/05/14/nazruls-poetry-purify-my-life/>

Al Rashid, Radia. "Battle of Life." *Setu: A Bilingual Monthly Journal*. May 2021.

<https://www.setumag.com/2021/05/poetry-radial-rashid.html>

Hossain, Shahriyer. "The Significance of Roll Numbers." *Borderless Journal*. June 14, 2021.

<https://borderlessjournal.com/tag/bangladesh/>

Hossain, Shahriyer. "'The Equaliser': A Translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's Poem 'Samyabadi'." *Borderless Journal*. June 14, 2021.

<https://borderlessjournal.com/2021/06/14/the-equaliser-by-kazi-nazrul-islam/>

National

Ahmed, Tasfia. "Freedom." *KrayonMag*. April 1, 2021. <https://krayonmag.com/tasfia-ahmed/>

Hossain, Shahriyer. "'Purify My Life': A Translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's 'Shuddho Koro Amar Jibon'." *The Daily Star*. April 24, 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/literature/news/purify-my-life-2082845>

Rahaman, Md. Mashiur. "How to Embrace English as a Language That Matters." *New Age*. April 25, 2021. <https://www.newagebd.net/print/article/136236>

Hira, Md. Sahedul Islam. "কৃষ্ণচূড়ার নীলপদ্ম" *শৈল্পিক (Shoilpik)*. April 26, 2021.

Mehtaj, Sumaiya Samad. "Critique of Pablo Picasso's Famous Artwork 'Guernica'." *শৈল্পিক (Shoilpik)*. April 26, 2021.

Rahim, Faria Mahub. "Public Speaking: Becoming a Bit More Confident." Casper Academy. June 9, 2021. <https://casper.academy/public-speaking-become-a-bit-more-confident-today/>

Students in Film and Media

Arunav Das (Batch 173), Director of *The Endless Circle*, A Short Film, selected at the Liverpool John Moores University, UK MA Film Festival. Arunav is the only representative from Bangladesh. His film has also been nominated for the Paper Bird Award.

Mou Aysha (Batch 103). *82 Portraits of the Beautiful Bangladeshi People* published in *Bored Panda*.

Afia Tabassum Borno (Batch 162) starred in *Rehana Maryam Noor*, the first ever Bangladeshi movie to be screened at the 55th Cannes Film Festival.

Event Reports

EVENT 1: DEH HOLDS FRESHERS' ORIENTATION SPRING 2021



On February 18, 2021, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held a Freshers' Orientation Program for the students who have been admitted into the BA and MA programs in the Spring 2021 semester.

The Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, Professor H M Jahirul Haque, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, were present at the event.

The program was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Ms. Shuborna Chowdhury, Additional Director General, Inspection Directorate of Taxes.

The event commenced with the opening remarks of the HoD, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, before which a short introductory video on the department was played for the audience. Ms. Rahman then introduced the faculty members of the department to the students.

Next, Professor Kaiser Haq, senior Professor at DEH, delivered a speech to welcome the freshers and offer valuable insight into adjusting to life as a student of the department. This was followed by a speech by Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, senior Professor of DEH, who emphasized on the importance of participating in all curricular and extracurricular activities and opportunities offered by the university and department.

The Head of the General Education Department and Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan then briefly explained how her department offers courses that allow students to experience the ethos of liberal arts.



Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, then spoke of how ULAB as a place that is alive to changes in global discourses. After his enlightening speech, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, Professor H M Jahirul Haque, addressed the students and described DEH as a happening place with a variety of cultural and academic activities.



The much awaited speech by the distinguished Chief Guest, Ms. Shuborna Chowdhury, Additional Director General, Inspection Directorate of Taxes, came next. She emphasized on the

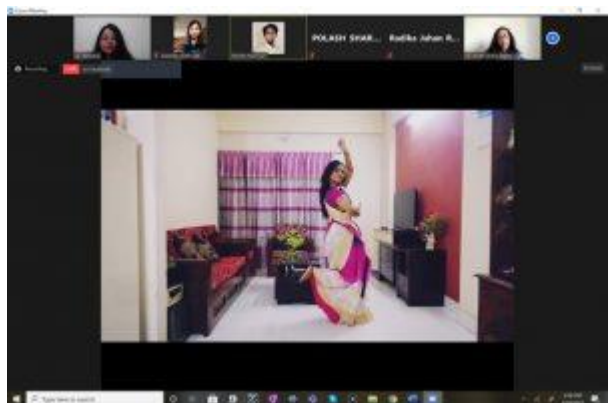


importance of attending all classes and concentrating on class lectures while taking notes religiously. She stated that the texts of the syllabus should be thoroughly enjoyed because that is the ultimate reward of being a literature student. She also highlighted the fact that the scope for career development is endless for literature students. She finished her address by advising the newcomers to dream big and be themselves.

To begin the more fun part of the evening, a quiz game was organized for the freshers who took part enthusiastically and won prizes. The winners were Fardeen Azwaad, Fatema Aftab Miah, and Akbar Fida.

In the cultural segment, a medley song was first performed by Tasfiyah Saba followed by a short speech by incoming BA student Fatema Aftab Miah. She detailed her reasons behind choosing ULAB. Videos of poetry recitations by Lamia Jashim Uddin and Humaira Mehnaz Audity, and a dance performance by Arpita Podder were then broadcast.

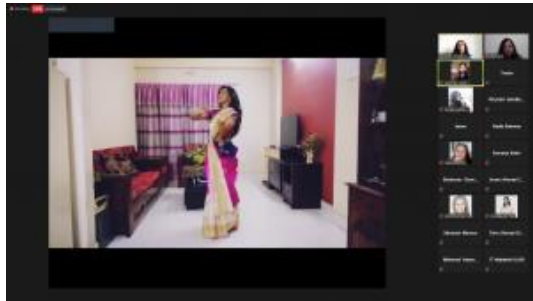
A fresher from the MA program, Polas Chandra, next delivered a speech on his reasons behind choosing ULAB. This was followed by a skit prepared by Paper Canoe, the literary club of the department. Nishat Tabassum, Monisha Tasneem, Sahedul Islam Hira, and Nishat Tasnim acted in the skit. A dance performance by Susmita Roy Ushno and a musical performance by Mustafa Zahir and Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish concluded the fun-filled evening.



The HoD, Ms. Rahman wrapped up the event with a vote of thanks.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/229050632276798>

Some glimpses of the event:



EVENT 2: SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY



In accordance with this year's theme of multilingualism chosen by UNESCO for the International Mother Language Day, the School of Arts and Humanities (SAH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a three-day event from February 22-24, 2021 to reflect on the significance of mother tongues all over the world. The SAH program, “Mother is the Wor(l)d” / “আমোর ভাষায় আমোর বিশ্ব,” celebrated the

diversity and plurality of mother tongues.

On the first day, an audio-play, “Kajol,” from Kolkata was showcased. The play focused on the significance of preserving mother tongues. The author of the play, Dr. Piyali Bhattacharya, from Chapra College, Nadia, India, also played a role with her co-actors Dr Kusumita Mukherjee Debnath and Smt Chaitali Bhattacharya. This was followed by a highly engaging and interactive session on German tongue twisters, superstitious beliefs, and German words in English conducted by Astra Talitha Khan and Mona Rahmatullah Munir from the Goethe Institut, Dhaka. The program ended with a screening of letters to mothers in 21 different languages read by native speakers from all over the world.



The second day began with an academic panel discussion on the language policy in higher education in Bangladesh. The panelists were Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan with Prof. Kaiser Haq acting as the moderator. All three panelists are from the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The panelists emphasized that the Bangla learning and speaking scenario in Bangladesh must improve alongside English.



They argued for designing an effective educational policy in Bangladesh to address these issues. A highly thought-provoking session on 'Lullabies across Cultures' by Showvik Das of UNHCR followed. Das shared his experience of collecting lullabies from different cultures across Bangladesh and provided an insightful interpretation of the lyrics and their association with the socio-cultural realities of our world.



On the final day, a traditional Noh and Kyogen play called 'An Evening of Noh and Kyogen', courtesy of the Japan Foundation, was screened with a brilliant introduction on the form of the drama by Prof. Dr. A K M Yusuf Hassan from Department of Drama & Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University.



The three-day event was inaugurated by ULAB Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jahirul Haque. The Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of SAH, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, gave the opening speech where he spoke of the significance of 21st February, Bangladesh's gift to the world. In both this and his closing speech, Dr. Mortuza reiterated the importance of respecting all mother languages and fostering multilingualism. The event was attended by audience members from all over the globe.

Day 1: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/461370214988109>

Day 2: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/859767908138225>

Day 3: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/441041553909633>

EVENT 3: DEH CELEBRATES “SHEROES” ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a talk with writer and researcher Supa Sadia to celebrate the International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021. In keeping with this year's theme for International Women’s Day, "Choose to Challenge," the program was titled “Celebrating ‘Sheroes;” where Ms. Sadia talked about her work on the female heroes of 1952 and 1971. Students as well as teachers joined the online program held from 7-8 pm on Zoom.

The event commenced with the opening remarks by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. Qazi Mustabeen Noor, Lecturer at the Department of English and Humanities engaged in a conversation with Ms. Supa Sadia and asked her a few questions. Ms. Sadia has written two books titled *Bayannor 52*

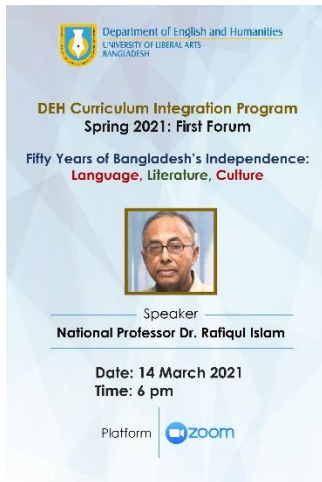
Nari and *Ekattorer 71 Nari*. In the former, she has written about 52 women heroes who made significant contributions to the Language Movement of 1952, and in the latter, she wrote about 71 valiant women who made various contributions in our Liberation War. She stated that her father, who was a freedom fighter, writer and researcher, was her inspiration behind exploring our history.

Ms. Sadia mentioned that not a lot of research has been done on the contributions of women in the Language Movement of 1952 and the Liberation War of 1971. She argued that women’s contribution in our Liberation War has been limited by the fact that they are just discussed as “Birangonas” where women are only seen as victims of the war, and their heroic acts are largely ignored. She then detailed the challenges she faced while collecting data about the sheroes for writing her books. She acknowledged that the work would have been impossible if the surviving family members of the sheroes did not provide her with the information she was looking for. Ms. Sadia also read out excerpts from the two books. The shocking account of freedom fighter Bhagirathi Saha’s horrendous killing left the audience reeling.

The conversation was followed by Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Shamsad Mortuza’s remarks. Dr. Mortuza complimented Ms. Sadia’s work for highlighting the gender politics that prevails in detailing the history of our liberation. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman wrapped up the event with her vote of thanks to the guest, the event organizers and the participants.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/700255160032971/videos/445435256888584>

EVENT 4: FIRST FORUM WITH PROF. RAFIQU L ISLAM: DEH CURRICULUM INTEGRATION PROGRAM SPRING 2021



National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam has said, “Before the language movement in 1952, there was no proper or significant representation of Bengali Muslims in Bangla literature. It was only after the language movement that a distinct literary language of East Bengal, capable of expressing the distinct East Bengali experience, emerged.” As the keynote speaker, Dr. Islam spoke about the language, literature and culture of Bangladesh at the First Forum of the 4th Curriculum Integration program to be held at the Department of English and Humanities in Spring 2021. The forum was held on March 14, 2021.

In honor of the fiftieth year of the independence of Bangladesh, the theme for Spring 2021 is “Fifty Years of Bangladesh’s Independence: Language, Literature and Culture.” Typically, the department holds two forums with speakers who are experts in the area of the chosen themes. Students are given an overview in the first forum and a more focused approach in the second so that they can design projects and presentations to reflect their understanding in connection with the courses they are enrolled in.



After being introduced by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Rafiqul Islam discussed the role of Dhaka University in shaping the social, political, cultural, educational, and especially the literary history of this part of Bengal that covers contemporary Bangladesh. He shared his lived experiences of the rise of Bengali consciousness in this land that ultimately led to the historic Language Movement and the emergence of Bangladesh. He talked about the role of Buddhir Mukti Andolon (movement for the emancipation of the intellect) in challenging the thought patterns of Muslim orthodoxy in Bengal and the continuation of the Bangla language movement in Assam and West Bengal. According to Professor Islam, Bangladeshi women writers are yet to write much on the Language Movement, and great literature on the Liberation War of 1971 is yet to be written.

The CI First Forum was inaugurated by the Head of the Department Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman and the forum was hosted by Vincent Dip Gomes, a student of BA in English at ULAB.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/1330946327270312>).

EVENT 5: 2ND FORUM WITH PROF. SYED MANZOORUL ISLAM: DEH CURRICULUM INTEGRATION SPRING 2021



Renowned postcolonial critic and eminent academic, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam said, “A similar colonial attitude persists in all countries of the Indian subcontinent. But we are supposed to be a little different, and we should not allow our paths to be driven by the same colonialist energy that we have seen operating from 1947 to 1971.

Professor Islam was speaking at the Second Forum of the Department of English and Humanities Curriculum Integration Program for Spring 2021 held on March 21, 2021



The theme of the Spring 2021 semester’s Curriculum Integration is “Fifty Years of Bangladesh’s Independence: Language, Literature and Culture.” The chosen theme honors the fifty years of Bangladesh’s independence. After a formal introduction by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam

discussed the theme with references to postcolonial literary works, and why the emergence of Bangladesh is a unique phenomenon. In his talk, Prof. Islam explained that the difference between Bangladesh and the rest of the subcontinent lies in the fact that this nation has fought a war for independence from the colonial powers – twice. He insisted that the people of this country should start decolonizing the practices of public and private life if the impacts of colonization are to be overcome. Behavior must be critiqued for how and why individuals follow a certain pattern in their attitude towards others.

In her opening remarks, the Head of the Department, Arifa Ghani Rahman, explained the rationale behind the department’s Curriculum Integration Program. Students find ways of connecting their course materials to a significant and relevant overarching global theme through projects and presentations. Two forums with experts are held to help the students in this process of connection.





The Spring 2021 Curriculum Integration was organized by the CI Committee led by Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan, Associate Professor, DEH. Working with him were Nazah Farhat, Lecturer, and Tasmia Mayen, Lecturer, DEH.

The forum was hosted by Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, a student of the BA in English program at ULAB.



Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/467325848025504>

EVENT 6: A CELEBRATION OF POETRY

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

A CELEBRATION OF POETRY
World Poetry Day 2021

CHIEF GUEST
PROF. SHAMSAD MORTUZA, PhD
Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB
Dean, School of Arts and Humanities

GUEST OF HONOR
PROF. KAISER HAQ, PhD
Professor and Poet
Department of English and Humanities

SPECIAL GUEST
SHAIRA AFRIDA OYSHEE
Poet and Publisher
Doha, Qatar

Performances by
Paper Canoe - ULAB Literary Society

22 MARCH, 2021
MONDAY | 7:00 PM

Platform ZOOM

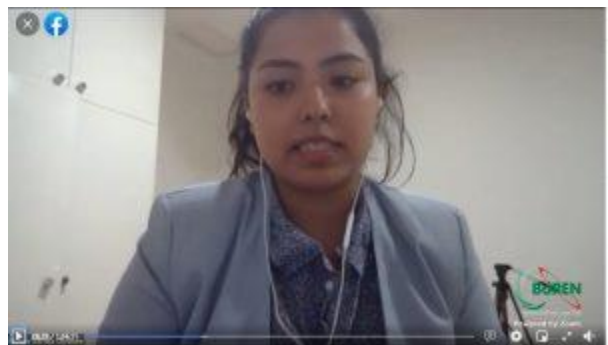
To observe World Poetry Day 2021, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh held a virtual program aptly titled “A Celebration of Poetry” on Monday, March 22, 2021. Though World Poetry Day is in fact on March 21, the program was held a day later. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Poet and translator extraordinaire Professor Kaiser Haq was the Guest of Honor. The program also featured poet and publisher Ms. Shaira Afrida Oyshee as Special Guest. Much to the delight of the audience, the esteemed guests shared their work and talked about their writing process. The program also included charming performances by members of Paper Canoe – ULAB Literary Society. The virtual celebration attracted a large audience including ULAB students of all departments as well as faculty members. The presence of Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, eminent writer, critic and Professor of English at ULAB, was a treat to the attendees.



The program began with a welcome note by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, DEH, who immediately asked a question to the audience: “Who among us has never written a poem?” As one might have guessed, most of the attendees had tried their hand at poetry at least once in their lives, signifying the vocal presence of poetry in our lives. Introducing the esteemed guests, the Head of the Department ushered in the

beginning of the celebration.

The eminent English poet of Bangladesh and Professor of English at ULAB, Professor Kaiser Haq began his session with his experience with a fast-approaching deadline and the subsequent pandemic themed poem composed for a science fiction journal. He walked the audience through the process of his writing, peppered his speech with related anecdotes and occasionally stopped to recite a poem of his own. The icing on the cake for this session was his latest creation: “Ode on the Sari,” which is a sequel to the poet’s highly acclaimed poem “Ode on the Lungi.” The audience thoroughly enjoyed Professor Kaiser Haq’s highly educative session that was full of his unmatched sense of humor and ready wit.



Shaira Afrida Oyshee, an up-and-coming voice in the anglophone poetry scene of Bangladesh, led the next session, which was geared towards young poets looking to get published. She was introduced to the audience by Qazi Mustabeen Noor, Lecturer of English, DEH. Shaira is a poet and publisher who divides her time between Melbourne, Australia, and Dhaka. She is the author of two bestselling poetry books, has edited a poetry anthology, and is the think-tank behind Melbourne-based independent publishing house, DOTS Publications. In her session, she spoke in detail about the importance of literary friendships and connections in the life of a poet. She believes that a poet has to put their work “out there” in order to receive feedback and criticism not just from ordinary readers, but also from other poets, literary critics and writers. According to her, building an online presence around one’s writing is an important step to getting noticed and published. Shaira Afrida Oyshee’s session was

informative and hands-on, which greatly benefitted the aspiring poets present in the audience. Qazi Mustabeen Noor then moderated a question-and-answer session where the attendees further benefitted from the Special Guest's experience with the poetry and publishing scene.



Besides being a prolific scholar, the Acting Vice Chancellor, ULAB and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Shamsad Mortuza also happens to be a brilliant poet. Much to the delight of his students and colleagues, Professor Shamsad Mortuza revealed this side of his by reciting from his notebook quite a few of his poignant creations. To the audience, he posed the important question of whether poetry is simply a refuge for the restless

mind, a space to politically engage or if there is more to poetry than what meets the eye. In one of his poems titled "Poet Performer," he speaks of imposter syndrome and the poet's struggle with the process of writing. Professor Shamsad Mortuza's poems in this session were heavily relatable and gave the attendees much food for thought.

The final session of the program had electrifying performances organized by Paper Canoe ULAB Literary Society. The performances included recitations in both English and Bangla by Paper Canoe members and eager volunteers Humaira Mehnaz Audity, Prapti Cathy Gomes, Radika Jahan Rothe, Lamia Jashim Uddin, Nishat Tabassum, and Zarin Tasnim. The poster for the event was designed by Syed Masudur Rahman Siam who had assistance from Israkul Islam. The performances were carefully curated by Paper Canoe President Md. Sahedul Islam Hira, and members Radika Jahan Rothe and Humaira Mehnaz Audity.



The program was organized and hosted by Qazi Mustabeen Noor, Lecturer, DEH, and Faculty Advisor for Paper Canoe, who, in her closing remarks, thanked the esteemed guests for their enlightening sessions, the performers from Paper Canoe for their hard work, and the audience members for their enthusiastic presence.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/184625150137523>

Some glimpses of the event:



EVENT 7: SCHOLARS PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT DEH



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) launched a Scholars Program for its undergraduate students on March 25, 2021. The mission of the Scholars Program is to provide a platform for those high-achieving students who strive for academic excellence and are ready to explore extensive educational opportunities not covered by the standard curriculum.

Following a rigorous application process and interview, seven DEH students from 3rd year onwards were selected to begin the program in Spring 2021. These students will have the opportunity for better intellectual engagement through specialized skill-building workshops, higher level course audits, guided participation in conferences, and other academic pursuits. By participating in this program, the selected students will have a better understanding of the liberal arts philosophy and create a large network of learners

so that they can draw upon the resources of collaborative work. They will also learn how to work with professionals in different capacities and fields.



In his introductory comments, the Advisor of the Scholars Program, Dr. Sarkar Hasan Al Zayed congratulated the selected students and explained the objectives of the program and stressed the need for resilience in such an intensive academic opportunity.

Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of DEH, appreciated the students' enthusiasm to take on challenging projects to improve their academic competencies. She also noted that students' participation in this program would enable them for the job market or

higher studies.

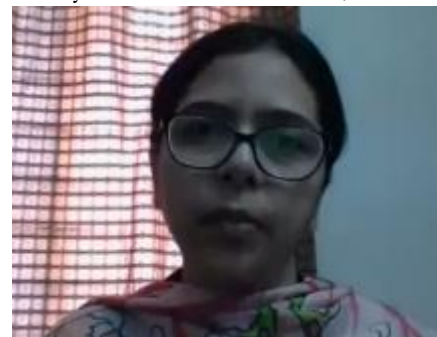
Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, emphasized that the students must combine knowledge and skills to not only make their mark but to become role-models and mentors to inspire others.



The program was then formally inaugurated virtually by the Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Prof. H M Jahirul Haque who, in his speech, praised this initiative of DEH and appreciated the department's commitment to quality teaching. Professor Kaiser Haq, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, with all



other faculty members and students of DEH, were also present in the event. The ceremony, orchestrated by Nadia Rahman, ended with the scholar students introducing themselves and speaking about their reasons



for joining the program.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/videos/289868285841973>

The seven students selected in the first round for the Scholars Program are:



Md. Mashiur Rahaman (173)



Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (181)



Fairuz Maliha Surma (181)



Noshin Nisa (181)



Sheikh Tasmima Mrenmoi (182)



Abida Alam (182)



Debjani Das (191)

EVENT 8: DEH ALUMNI TALK: “AIMING TO STUDY ABROAD”



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in collaboration with its Alumni Association organized a talk on March 27, 2021 with Rebeka Badiozzaman, a highly accomplished alumna of the department, and Mohammad Shams Ud Duha, PhD student at Purdue University, USA. The talk, “Aiming to Study Abroad: Behind the Scenes (Canada and USA)” was focused on providing guidance to students who aspire to study abroad.

Rebeka Badiozzaman, a Learning Technology and Change Management



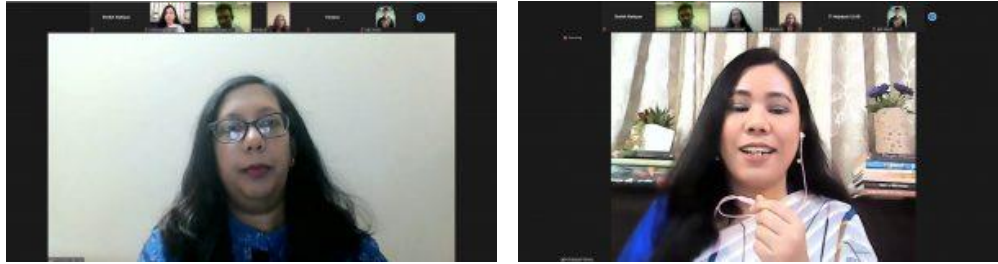
Consultant (Instructional Design, E-learning, and Digital transformation) with her own consulting firm, and Mohammad Shams Ud Duha shared their experiences about

the various aspects of studying abroad, in Canada and the US respectively, beginning with the preparation phase. They stressed the importance of the Statement of Purpose where students should highlight their personalities and weave a story by building connections among their different experiences. Speaking about the basic requirements for applying to Canada or the US, Mr. Duha emphasized that students must allow enough time to prepare for standardized tests required by most US universities, such as the GRE. Ms. Badiozzaman added that finding the appropriate programs can prove to be overwhelming, so ample time and patience are needed.



To apply for a PhD in the US, Mr. Duha suggested finding a suitable supervisor. He also said that students should apply to a balanced selection of universities to increase their chances of success. Ms. Badiozzaman mentioned that climate, living conditions, and living costs of the location must be considered carefully. She also emphasized the importance of mental health.

The final topic of conversation was funding. Ms. Badiozzaman noted that full funding is rare in Canadian universities. Students should therefore have the funds to live in a foreign country and not rely on any part-time jobs to pay their way. Mr. Duha described various options for funding in the US. The speakers pointed out that students may not need a lot of experience or research before applying. However, it is important to portray a genuine interest in participating in the program of choice.



EVENT 9: WORKSHOP ON FEATURE WRITING

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

**Workshop on
Feature Writing**

Workshop Facilitator:
Nahid Riyasad
Staff Writer
New Age
ULAB DEH Alumnus

06 April 2021
Tuesday
7:00 PM

Platform | Google Meet

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized an online workshop on feature writing for its students on April 6, 2021. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Nahid Riyasad, an alumnus of the department and staff writer at the online news portal, New Age. The workshop began with a welcome address by the Head of Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, who praised the collaborative nature of the program where current students of the department can benefit from the experiences of the alumni. She also noted the importance of learning different skills to become equipped for the job market of which media is a relevant field. She thanked Nahid Riyasad for sharing his experiences with the purpose of guiding the students towards the development of an important skill and she hoped that such collaborations and exchanges would continue to encourage a better learning environment.

In the workshop, Nahid Riyasad discussed different aspects of journalism and feature writing, such as, how to choose a topic, the importance of brainstorming, the significance and procedures of research, and how to structure and edit the final draft. Himself a politically conscious person, and working in a socially responsible daily newspaper, Mr. Riyasad shared many personal experiences that he has gathered over the course of his professional life.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion session where the participants shared their feelings and asked questions to the facilitator. The workshop was coordinated by DEH TA Md. Mashiur Rahaman and hosted by Tashfiya Saba, a student of the department.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/700255160032971/videos/3663740317084894>

EVENT 10: ELT THROUGH A PANDEMIC: A CALL FOR A CHANGE OF MINDSET

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BENGALURU

DEH Spring 2021
Seminar Series

**ELT Through a Pandemic :
A Call for a Change of Mindset**

Thursday, 8th April 2021 | 6:00 PM | Platform:

Dr. Rabia Hos

Bio
Dr. Rabia Hos is an Assistant Professor of TESOL/ Bilingual and Dual Language Education at The University of Rhode Island, USA. She was an ESL teacher and an administrator in Rochester Public Schools for over a decade before moving into higher education. After receiving her PhD from the University of Rochester in 2012, she served as an Assistant Professor in the English Language Teaching Department at a Turkish university and at Illinois State University. Her research focuses on the experiences of newcomer immigrant and refugee students with interrupted formal education (SIIFE) and English language teacher professional development. She is the Co-editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Educational Research and serves on multiple international, national, and regional professional organizations.

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a seminar with guest speaker Dr. Rabia Hos, Assistant Professor of TESOL/ Bilingual and Dual Language Education at The University of Rhode Island, USA. The webinar focused on improving teaching methods in pandemic times and the context of online education and distance learning. Students, as well as teachers, joined the online program on April 8, 2021.

Dr. Rabia Hos talk focused on the importance of using a social and emotional approach



and growth mindset to approach distance learning during the pandemic. She acknowledged that many teachers are struggling with teaching online – and pointed out that trial and error is a necessary part of this adjustment. She gave importance to acknowledging the extraordinary and said that the real point is to provide a rich experience to all learners who are now without “traditional” teachers standing beside them in class. To improve the learning and teaching experience, she suggested reducing workload for both teachers and students. She also stated that providing an emotional and psychological context to teaching is vital.

She asked teachers to be mindful of the students who are facing severe challenges during the pandemic. Later she asked the audience to look at the bright side – the new normal has enabled us to form collaborative partnerships across the globe and it has provided access to many open educational resources.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW APPROACHES and GROWTH



She went on to define Social Emotional Learning (SEL) as a system of learning that provides the structural processes for adults and students to develop fundamental emotional and social competencies. She informed her audience of the five core competencies that SEL teaches and asserted that Social Emotional Learning promotes success in school and life. She went on to advocate

self-care for educators and encouraged openness, flexibility, adaptability, and humor. She also suggested checking in with the students to help them open up about their mental health.

The presentation was followed by an enthusiastic Q/A session with audience members.

The event was inaugurated with the opening remarks of Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, where she noted the importance of changing teaching methods to adjust to the new normal. Assistant Professor of DEH, Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, leading the DEH Event Committee, wrapped up the event with her vote of thanks to the guest, the event organizers, and the participants.

The webinar can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/748968599072574>.

EVENT 11: “SHAKESPEARE: THE WILLFUL BARD”



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a colloquium to commemorate William Shakespeare’s birth and death anniversary. The event, “Shakespeare: A Willful Bard,” was held on April 22, 2021. Speakers at the program included Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice-Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Kaiser Haq, poet and translator; Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, fiction writer and critic; and Dr. Sohana Manzoor, fiction writer and editor of The Daily Star Literature page; all faculty members of the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB.

Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, eminent writer, critic, and Professor of English at ULAB, discussed Shakespeare from a postmodern point of view. He began with the warning to remember that Shakespeare was not of the postmodern era but it is possible to find postmodern elements in Shakespeare’s plays in the ontological questions posed by the characters, his experimentation with the form and language of his texts, and the questions posed to the grand narratives of his time, like the idea of man, of gender identities, and of homosexuality. He argues that Shakespeare was well aware of the idea of subculture and he incorporated these elements without the typical judgmental notions of his contemporaries. Professor Islam argued that Shakespeare identified the issues of race and colonization much ahead of his time, making him immortal.





Professor Kaiser Haq, the eminent English poet of Bangladesh and a Professor of English at ULAB, discussed the sonnets of Shakespeare. He hinted at Shakespeare's poetic playfulness and enlightened the audience with readings, references, analysis, and a discussion on the sonnets. Professor Haq discussed how intricately the sonnets are composed and how much of Shakespeare's mindfulness is apparent in his sonnets. Professor

Haq also highlighted Shakespeare's experimentation with the sonnet form, his signature defiance of the regular, and subscription to the unusual in the contents. Professor Haq assured the audience that he does not subscribe to any of the propositions on the matter as undebatable, but he loves to ponder upon the topic like other Shakespeare enthusiasts.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, discussed Shakespeare from a posthumanistic viewpoint. His presentation, "Human Being/ Being Human," began with the idea that human beings always pondered upon what it takes to be human. Using Hamlet as an example, Professor Mortuza argued that Shakespeare defined human beings by impressing his contemporaneous renaissance values upon them. Professor Mortuza also referred to the play King Lear and its postmodern rendition by Akira Kurosawa in RAN, and related his stance with the argument of the French philosopher, Bruno Latour.



Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, spoke about "The Problem of Cross-dressing in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*." She explored Shakespeare's experimentation with gender identities. In Shakespeare's time, women were not allowed to act on stage, and, therefore, in the plays, male actors played female characters who often disguised themselves as male. Thus, the

actors were required to doubly cross-dress. According to Dr. Manzoor, Shakespeare was conscious that gender is a performed activity. He intended to question the tyranny of gender dichotomy. She opined that the interplay of gender roles in the plays of Shakespeare created room for discussion on the otherwise static gender identities.



The colloquium, attended by participants from all over the country, began with the opening remarks by the Head of Department, Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, and was hosted by Assistant Professor Nadia Rahman of DEH.

To add flavor to the colloquium, Tasfiya Saba, a student of the department, sang a Shakespeare song. The program ended with a vote of thanks

by Sumaiya Kabir, Lecturer, DEH.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/467220534492337>



Some photos from the colloquium:



EVENT 13: “THEORY AND PRACTICE IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND TESOL: FUTURE DIRECTIONS”



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) arranged a webinar on “Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Future Directions,” on May 29, 2021, featuring Prof. Shaila Sultana, Advisor, Center for Language Studies and Adjunct Faculty, DEH, and Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB.

Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana began her presentation on “Online Teacher Identity Development: What We Need to Know” with a reflection on the identity of the teacher, specifically, if there is any difference between the traditional teacher identity and online teacher identity. Teachers from various institutions shared their

challenges regarding online teaching such as plagiarism, interaction, non-human interaction, assessment difficulties that have been affecting their online teacher identity in the current time. Dr. Sultana took these comments into account and discussed how, in the US and UK, online teaching has been practiced for long and that has helped tremendously during the pandemic. She mentioned that the teachers’ ability to cope with the changes and adapting allows for a greater modality for teachers’ identity.



In this, interaction with and recognition by the self and others play a vital role. She stated that content and pedagogical knowledge are the core elements of online teaching. There is a stigma around online teaching everywhere in the world but that has the effect of turning some teachers into advocates of the system. Dr Sultana also mentioned that teachers’ identities are influenced by their own learning and professional experiences, perceptions, instructional decisions, teacher training, and so on. These can have a positive impact on teaching and these external and internal matters could complement their teaching.

Prof. Shaila Sultana then spoke about her research itinerary from applied linguistics to sociolinguistics. She placed emphasis on teachers' practicality, and the need to adapt to changes to better the teaching and learning environment. In her talk, she mentioned how external factors affect students' learning in the classroom. She shared the issues in sociolinguistics in teaching and learning that remain under-researched. She also suggested how language policies could be revised so that a multilingual ecology could be maintained and languages can co-exist. It would then promote a balanced approach to language and culture rather than create segregated and marginalized settings for languages which demonstrate unrealistic practices. The silence and non-participation of the students in the online environment could perhaps be a reflection of their socioeconomic background and practices. In order to understand the interaction in classrooms, she said, we need to look into sociolinguistic backgrounds such as media, gender, business, law, religions, popular culture, linguistic landscapes, nationalism, digital discourses and spaces. They all add to various semiotic possibilities. She ended by directing young researchers to areas that need to be explored.



The webinar began with an introductory speech by Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, where he emphasized the relevance of the webinar which would focus on the importance of modified teaching strategies and renewed productive strategies. Prof. Kaiser Haq also spoke at the event which concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head, DEH. The webinar was hosted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH. Students and teachers from schools, colleges, and universities all over Bangladesh and abroad, as well as members of BELTA, TESOL BD, CIRCLEd, the English

Teachers Association of Bangladesh (ETAB), and others, who attended the webinar participated enthusiastically with their questions and responses.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/544858856510302>

EVENT 14: DEH SPRING 2021 COMMENCEMENT: "MILES TO GO..."



The Spring 2021 Commencement Program, "Miles to go..." for the outgoing students of the BA and MA programs of the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB was held on June 10, 2021. Manager and Head of Business, Mobile Division, Bangladesh Branch Office, Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., was present as the Commencement Speaker. Mr. Rahman spoke of his experiences of entering the corporate world with his degree in English literature. He reminded the students that, within every genre they studied, they also encountered politics, religion, history, philosophy, psychology, learning critical skills and empathy in the process. This foundation and knowledge would provide them with entry into any field. He advised the students to have passion, determination, and patience to reach their goals.



Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice Chancellor, ULAB, pointed out in his speech that students have been exposed to a liberal arts education, an area that is being recognized as a significant aspect of education worldwide. He quoted Steve Jobs who advocated a marriage between technology and liberal arts. Professor Mortuza reminded the students of the different situations, different possibilities they have encountered and they are well prepared to carve their own niche. He also reminded them to be humane and ethical.

Professor Kaiser Haq and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam offered their best wishes and motivated the students with their inspiring thoughts. They appreciated the resilience the students have shown over the last year and a half as well as their enthusiasm during their classes on campus.



The event was organized by Batch 173 but students of different batches entertained the graduating students and audience with songs, dances, and poetry. Jannat Sancharika Shuchi, who spoke on behalf of the outgoing 172 batch, remembered how she had to fight against all odds to study at the Department of English and Humanities. Muttaki Mahmud, MA outgoing student, spoke on behalf of the graduating MA students and said that the one word which comes to his mind when thinking about DEH and ULAB is “home.”

The outgoing students were presented with a brochure keepsake, designed by Syed Masudur Rahman Siam (Batch 191), of which a slideshow was played in their honor. The graduates then spontaneously shared their feelings of gratitude and appreciation as well as beautiful memories.



The program ended with a brief speech and vote of thanks by Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of Department. In her speech, she asked the students to remember their ULAB/DEH roots and to offer their juniors the same kind of support that they have received.

Finally, she congratulated all the graduates on their success.

Link to the program: <https://www.facebook.com/700255160032971/videos/222181002862949>

Some glimpses of the program:





**Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH**

PERMANENT CAMPUS

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ULAB RESEARCH BUILDING

House 56, Road 4/A (Satmasjid Road) Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

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<https://sah.ulab.edu.bd/>



Editor and Composer: Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English and Humanities

Information collected and compiled by:

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Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor; Tanzia Siddiqua, Senior Lecturer; Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturer; Sumaiya Kabir, Lecturer

Poster Designers:

Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturer; Syed Masudur Rahman Siam (191); Amimul Ihsan (191)