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News Highlights

Global Climate Change Week 2020

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has celebrated the Global Climate Change Week 2020 on October 27, 2020. To observe the week, CAS organized an online discussion on Climate Change and its impact on Bangladesh archaeology. The webinar began with a welcome speech by Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head, GED, and Director, CAS.

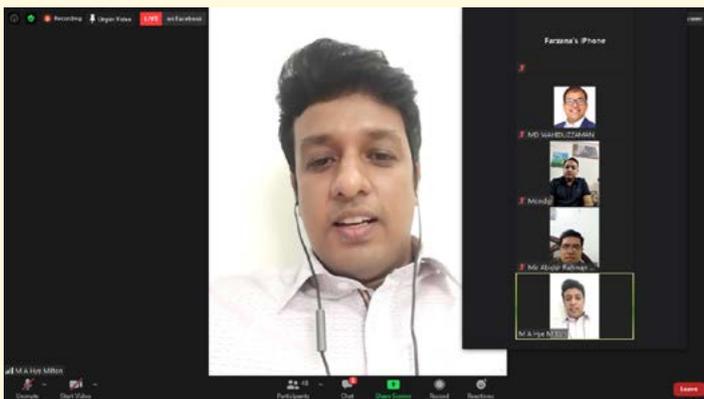
Dr. Swadhin Sen, Archaeologist, and faculty of Jahangirnagar University informed us that ‘Climate change is not a new phenomenon, it has been happening throughout human history. He suggested changing the current approach of climate change study. Currently, archaeologists’

discussion is mostly limited in how to protect the archaeological sites from rapid changes in the country’s climatic conditions. He emphasized studying past human-ecology relationships to fight the present change. Dr. AKM Khorshed Alam, former Director-General of Geological Survey of Bangladesh tells us that the issue of climate change is not a hoax, rather, it is a reality as we are encountering many changes in regional climatic conditions including longer rainy seasons. Since 80% of the country’s surface area is covered by the floodplain, archaeological sites in Bangladesh are highly vulnerable to rapid changes happening in the global climate.



Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, an eminent ecologist and visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Development of ULAB mentioned three trends in climate change discussion including mitigation, adaptation, and loss & damage. Dr. Haseeb emphasizes that people should be aware of the non-economic loss of life which is conventionally ignored in a mainstream discussion on the impacts of climate change. By echoing Dr. Swadhin Sen, Dr. Haseeb invites interdisciplinary study to learn how people responded to climate change in the past. The webinar culminated by answering different questions asked by the participants. Faculties and students from different universities and members from different cultural organizations were present at the webinar.

ULAB Career Talk for English Graduates

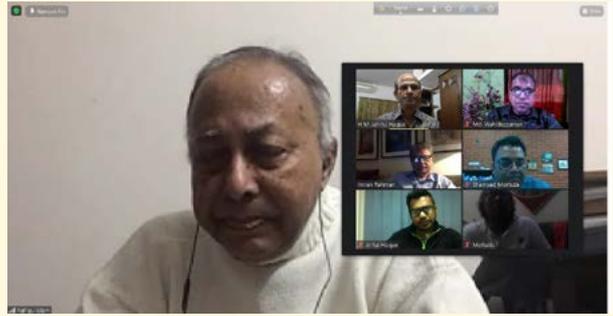


The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a virtual adda titled ‘Career Talk for English Graduates’ on December 4, 2020, for its students. Three distinguished guests from the Bangladesh Civil Service, Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton, First-Secretary Designate, Passport, and Visa Wing, Bangladesh Embassy, Washington DC; Mir Abidur Rahman, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Police Headquarters; and Mondip Gharai, Senior Assistant Secretary, BIDA, Prime Minister’s Office, were present at the program as speakers. The goal of the talk

was to encourage students of the English Department to think about their career options and to understand that the choices open to them are varied. The three speakers, graduates of English themselves, discussed their career choices and how they related their course of studies to their professions. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, Acting Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, participated in the live chat where the three guests also shared their life-changing experiences in the civil service. Finally, Dr. Mortuza offered his vote of thanks to the guests and participants. Faculty members and students of the department actively participated in the adda and asked meaningful questions.

ULAB Commemorates Martyred Intellectuals Day

The University Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) commemorated the Martyred Intellectuals Day on December 14, 2020. The program began with the presentation of the National Anthem by the ULAB Shangskriti Shangshad, followed by a minute of silence to pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals of 1971. A documentary on the Martyred Intellectuals was screened for the audience. After the screening, National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam gave the keynote speech where he stated that the killing of the intellectuals did not happen



only at the end of the war. Rather, this had begun from the night of March 25, 1971, when the Pakistani armed forces instigated massive attacks on Dhaka University, particularly in the Dhaka University Nilkhet residential area, Zahurul Haq Hall, Jagannath Hall, University Club, Bangla Academy, Shiva Temple in the University area, two Kali temples at Ramna, Shaheed Minar, and the residential area of Dhaka Hall. National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam, a direct witness of the Language Movement in 1952 and the great Liberation War of 1971, added that the Pakistanis also raided the offices of several newspapers to kill the journalists. The massacre also took place at the Rajarbagh Police Station where the policemen were Bengalis. In this way, the Pakistanis and their Bengali collaborators sought to undermine the very fabric of the emerging nation. Closing remarks were delivered by ULAB's Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, who said that ULAB has a responsibility to record this history through documentaries particularly because we have an expert resource as National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam and also because of ULAB's unique location close to the Rayerbazar Killing Field.

ULAB Celebrates Victory Day

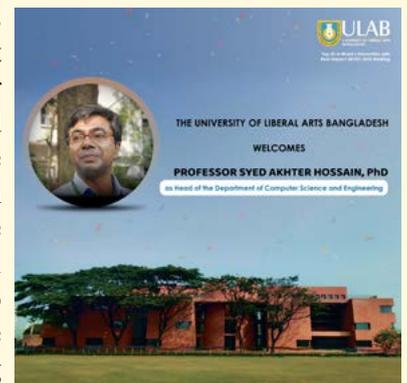


The University Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated Bangladesh's Victory Day on December 16, 2020. Kazi Nabil Ahmed MP, Member of ULAB Board of Trustees, gave the keynote speech. He said that to make Bangabandhu's dream of a Sonar Bangladesh come true and to create a hunger-free, poverty-free Bangladesh, we must think with the spirit of the Liberation War, and we must be diligent and patriotic. We must work together from our positions to help Bangladesh stand out amongst others.

The program began with the National Anthem. A documentary on the Liberation War entitled "Bijoyer Golpo" was screened and members of the ULAB Sangskriti Shangshad recited a poem and song on the occasion. The program was attended by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, Acting-Vice Chancellor, ULAB; National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees; the Treasurer, Registrar, Heads of Departments, faculty, admin, and students.

Professor Syed Akhter Hossain joins ULAB as Head of CSE

Professor Syed Akhter Hossain joined the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on January 1, 2021, as the Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Before joining ULAB, Professor Hossain served as Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Daffodil International University (DIU) for ten years. He has done BSc and MSc degrees in Applied Physics and Electronics with a gold medal and distinction, and his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science and Engineering with postdoctoral research in automation and artificial intelligence. As an Erasmus Mundus postdoctoral fellow, he contributed to the field of Informatics and Industrial Engineering at University Lumiere Lyon 2 in France. Professor Hossain was responsible for transforming the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at DIU with his innovative ideas. With more than 30 years of experience working in the industry, education sector, and



in research and training, Professor Hossain has been actively involved in research supervision/ research projects/ research collaborations with Institutes/ Industries and has over 250 publications/presentations to his credit. His work is listed in ACM, DBLP, IEEE Xplore, and other research databases. Furthermore, he works closely with the ICT Division of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunication, and IT of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and has received several national and international awards for his outstanding contribution to ICT education and his innovative projects for the visually impaired. He also received other international awards for his research, particularly for his contribution to the machine translator for Bangla Braille for the visually impaired. He was presented with the Best Researcher Award in 2019 by DIU. His current research interests include Machine Learning and AI with Natural Language Processing.

ULAB Celebrates Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day



On January 10, 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of Nation, returned to his motherland. To celebrate the occasion, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) arranged an online discussion program on January 10, 2021, where Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, a Member of ULAB's Board of Trustees, was present as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest, Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, said, "This year marks the 100th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It marks the 50th year of our independence. Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day, therefore, is special because, without his return, the independence of Bangladesh might have been in jeopardy. Freedom would have been incomplete. The people would have been incomplete. The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was truly the one who put Bangladesh on the global map. It is for him that we Bangladeshis now stand with our heads held high." The speaker at the program was National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam, a witness to the return of the Father of the Nation. In a touching tribute to the day, Professor Islam reminisced about January 10, 1972. He said, "That day, after landing in his homeland, Bangabandhu made his way to Ramna Park to address the people. There were tears in his eyes, as there was in ours. From April 1971 till January 8, 1972, Bangabandhu was incarcerated in Pakistan. What could have been more painful or torturous? But he was certain about one thing: he did not know if he would live but he knew that his country would be independent." The program began with the National Anthem followed by the screening of a documentary on Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day.

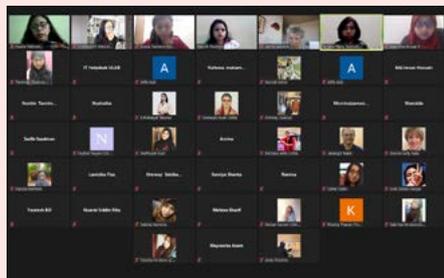
ULAB hosts Art of the Emergence to mark Bangabandhu Birth Centenary

The General Education Department (GED) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a prize-giving ceremony on January 7, 2021, for its student competition, "Art of the Emergence," held in honor of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam delivered the welcome speech where he highlighted the importance of the Liberation War of Bangladesh and the contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. About 450 students from the different departments of ULAB, registered in the GED course, "History of The Emergence of Independent Bangladesh" in Summer 2020, participated in the competition. All the students submitted creative works in a form of their choice. Entries included drawings, paintings, photography, digital posters, animations, video documentaries, poetry, short stories, and essays, with a focus on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the history of the emergence of Independent Bangladesh.



"My Sisters' Keeper": Webinar on Domestic Violence

As part of a social awareness project, "My Sisters' Keeper," the World Academy for the Future of Women (Bangladesh Chapter) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held a public webinar on February 6, 2021. The speakers, Syeda Samara Mortada, Regional Movement Builder from She Decides Asia, and Farjana Reza, Gender & Inclusion Specialist from Plan International Bangladesh, aimed to explore the history of domestic violence and explain how to overcome it. The speakers shared their experiences of



working to reduce domestic violence and raise awareness through the webinar. They briefly discussed the forms and signs of domestic abuse, how to recognize the signs and cycle of abuse, and the roots of domestic violence. According to them, domestic violence is connected to gender, religion, culture, patriarchy, social education, and ethics, which give birth to different forms of oppression.

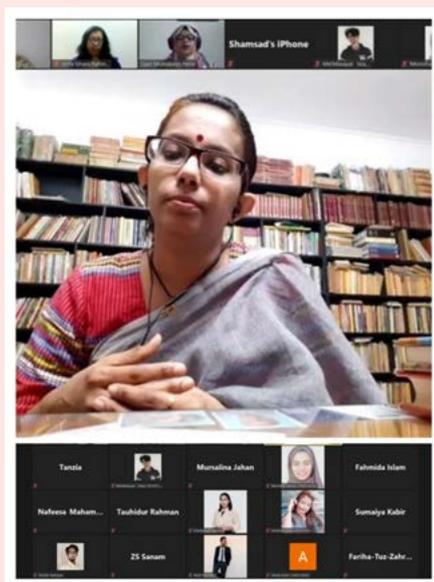
My Sisters’ Keeper (MSK) is a youth-led initiative working to address and raise awareness about the increase of domestic violence during the COVID19 pandemic. The MSK project is supervised by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW), a USA-based non-profit organization working for the advancement and acceleration of women leaders globally. WAFW founder Jerrie Ueberle, facilitator Bridget E. Kelly, Shannon Wallace Knell, and WAFW ULAB Project Lead Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH attended the webinar.

ULAB pays tribute to language martyrs on 21 February

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) paid tribute to the language martyrs on February 21, 2021 at ULAB’s permanent campus in Mohammadpur. Eminent critic, writer, Ekushey Padak recipient Professor of ULAB’s Department of English and Humanities Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam paid homage to the martyred language heroes by placing wreaths at the ULAB’s Shaheed Minar. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of ULAB Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, Professor Imran Rahman paid tribute to the martyred language heroes. Wreaths were placed on behalf of Professor Jahirul Haque: Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD: Treasurer Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, PhD; Registrar Lt. Col. Foyzul Islam (Retd.) and Heads of the Departments, Faculty Members, Admin Members, Students, Alumni of various departments paid tribute to the martyred language heroes. The solemn ceremony of “Amar Ekushey,” began with the immortal song – “Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February, Ami Ki Bhulite Pari’ (Can I forget the twenty-first of February, incarnadined by the love of my brother?). Prior to paying homage to language martyrs, a minute’s silence was observed.



ULAB Celebrates “Sheroes” on International Women’s Day



The Department of English and Humanities at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a talk with writer and researcher Ms. 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. The event commenced with the opening remarks by Associate Professor Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. 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. 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.

Ms. Sadia also read out excerpts from the two books.

ULAB Holds Discussion on Bangabandhu's Historic 7th March Speech



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organised a discussion session on the historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on March 7, 2021. H.E. Md Zahangir Alam, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the Republic of Uzbekistan was present as main speaker and National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam was present as the special speaker. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic 7th March speech was screened. ULAB's Acting Vice-Chancellor

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB BoT and Dean of ULAB School of Business Professor Imran Rahman, Treasurer Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Registrar Lt. Col. Md Foyzul Islam (Retd), faculty members, admin members, and students also attended the programme.

ULAB Celebrates the Birth Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day on March 18, 2021 at online platform 'Zoom'. Professor Abdul Mannan from the ULAB School of Business and former Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was the main discussant of the event. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice-Chancellor; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees; Professor Milan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Treasurer; Lt. Col. (Retd.) Md. Foyzul Islam, Registrar; faculty members, admin officers, and students of ULAB were also present at the event.



ULAB celebrated the golden jubilee of Bangladesh Independence

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) celebrated the golden jubilee of Bangladesh independence on March 28, 2021 on the online platform Zoom. The programme began with the welcome speech by the ULAB's Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Murtoza, PhD, and a patriotic song played by 'ULAB Shangskriti Shangsad'. National Professor Rafiqul Islam then recounted the reminiscences of his involvement in the country's independence movement from 1952 to 1971. The keynote speaker of the event, freedom fighter Professor Kaiser Haq from ULAB's Department of English and Humanities, and the Director of the Dhaka Translation Center also shared his heroic feat during the 1971 liberation war that begot a new flag. He said, "We were never doubtful about the independence of our nation, and with endless courage and intellectual feat during the war and after the independence, we have now positioned ourselves far ahead of Pakistan in every aspect." The programme ended with a concluding remark by Professor Imran Rahman, the Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees.



Archaeological Exploration at Khirtala Village, Sirajganj

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized its regular CAS seminar in form of a webinar on Monday, 3 May 2021. The seminar titled "Archaeological Exploration at Khirtala Village, Sirajganj" was commenced with the welcome speech by the Head of GED Department, and the Director of CAS Professor Shahnah Husne Jahan, PhD. Speaker of the seminar Md. Rifat-Ur-Rahman is a young archaeologist who is currently conducting archaeological survey in Sirajganj district of Bangladesh. Md. Rifat-Ur-Rahman is working as a lecturer in Department of Cultural Heritage and Bangladesh Studies of Rabindra University, Bangladesh. In the seminar Mr. Rahman discussed the

archaeological and anthropological context of the village Khiritala. A number of nine archaeological sites including structural mound and ancient pond has been located in the village. Most of these mounds are in dilapidated condition due to the poor state of preservation. Among the interesting artifacts, three terracotta plaques have been found during the fieldwork and one of which is a representation of Dhayni Buddha.

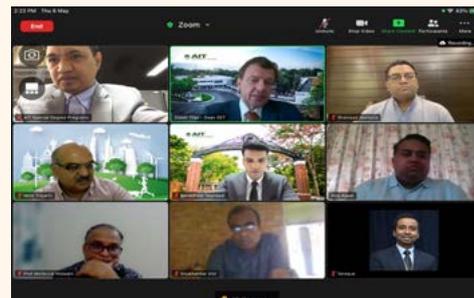
. Other cultural materials include brickbats and potsherds. The seminar was followed by a compulsive discussion by Dr. Bulbul Ahmed, Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University. Dr. Ahmed stresses on the analysis of the name of the village which might give an insight about the people who inhabited this village in past. He also discussed the importance of studying inscriptional records discovered early in the region.



Webinar held on academic collaboration between ULAB and AIT, Thailand

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) along with the Asian Institut of Technology (AIT), Thailand has organized a webinar on the academic bridging program on May 6, 2021. A memorandum of accommodation signing has been made between two universities, for which students of ULAB can now join the master's program of AIT or transfer their credits as an intern. Professor Shobhakar Dhakal, Academic Vice President, AIT, has given his speech during the program. In the bridging program, he has talked about how ULAB students, previous students (Alumni), and different faculties can be benefited through academic collaboration.

As part of a grant of the Bangladesh Government, Bangabandhu Chair professor Joyoshree Ray has assured that she is concerned to give opportunities to the researchers in her office for alternative sections and enduring development purposes. She believes that it will bring opportunities for ULAB faculties and students in their careers to go beyond. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Phd, Acting Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, has put importance on expanding knowledge and meaningful partnership in the program. Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor, Board of Trustees, ULAB, has highlighted to put importance, providing teamwork in research in his talk. To join IT to get opportunities for student's internships or other programs has been discussed effectively in the webinar.



ULAB Launches First-ever Massive Open Online Course to promote Tolerance & Pluralism among Students



The Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) at ULAB organized a virtual launching of the first ever Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Bangladesh dedicated to promotion of diversity, tolerance and pluralism. The event was held on zoom on June 20, 2021, 4:00 - 4:45 pm. The project engaged various domestic and international academics, practitioners and experts including Dr Tariq Modood, Founding Director, Research Centre for the study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, Bristol University. The online course will be available on

Bohubrihi website, an online education platform based in Bangladesh. The course comprises 14 open, online lectures that explore pluralism and various dimensions of diversity: religious, ethnic, gender, sexual, cultural, historical and political and has brought together 8 experts, local, regional and international, to produce work on one platform. These experts include Abantee Harun, Assistant Professor, General Education Department, ULAB; Simi Mehta, CEO and Editorial Director, Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI); Farzana Ahmed Julie, MEAL Coordinator, Action Against Hunger, Start Fund Bangladesh; and Fahmida Rahman, Lecturer, Political Science, Brac University. On the launch, ULAB Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, Professor Imran Rahman, delivered opening remarks. Associate Professor Sajid Amit, Director, Center for Enterprise and Society, moderated the discussion.

ULAB's Center for Enterprise and Society's "Building Resilient Universities Project" ranked 39 in the prestigious World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) Ranking for 2021.

ULAB Professor Emeritus Dr. Rafiqul Islam appointed as new Bangla Academy President



National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam has been appointed as the new President of Bangla Academy by the government. Professor Islam is an eminent educationist, academician, researcher, writer, and cultural activist, who has been honoured with Independence Award, Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Literary Award, and International Mother Language Award. He is currently a Professor Emeritus at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and also serving as Chairman of the Nazrul Institute.

The announcement of his appointment was confirmed via a government notice issued by the Ministry of Public Administration on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. He will serve as the President of the institution for the next three years. He was the former head of the Bangla Department of the University of Dhaka and also served as the Director General of Bangla Academy. He is currently the Advisor of ULAB's Center for Bangla Studies and a member of ULAB's Board of Trustee. He was also the former Vice-Chancellor (2007-2011) of the university.



Features

ULAB Listed in World’s Top 10 for Media Studies and Journalism

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has been listed as one of the top ten mass communication colleges across the globe for Indian students in 2020 for its Media Studies and Journalism program. The Higher Education Review Magazine stated that a panel of experts reviewed and scrutinized the institutions on the list as being able to deliver exceptional education, outstanding infrastructure, top-notch mentoring facilities, and placement opportunities. According to the report, “Higher education has changed lanes from just imparting theoretical knowledge to the students to equipping them with the needed skills required to thrive in the modern world.” The institutions in the list are Cardiff University (Wales), Columbia University (USA), King’s College London (England), Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Stanford University (USA), University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (Bangladesh), University of Pennsylvania (USA), University of Southern California (USA) and American University of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan).

19/10/2020 Mass Communication Colleges Across Globe - November 2020 - Higher Education Review Magazine

TOP 10 MASS COMMUNICATION COLLEGES ACROSS GLOBE FOR INDIAN STUDENTS - 2020

Institution Name	Location	Description
American University of Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	It is American University of Central Asia offers programs for online and Mass Communication programs for our best 500 top-ranked Mass members of the media industry.
Cardiff University	Wales	With over 7,000 international students from more than 120 countries, Cardiff University is a modern and international for the effectiveness of higher education.
Columbia University	USA	Columbia University was founded in 1787 and it is the oldest educational institution in the United States and the 10th oldest in the United States.
King's College London	England	It is the oldest of all the universities of Great Britain and the oldest in the world. It is the oldest of all the universities of Great Britain and the oldest in the world.
Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	It is Nanyang Technological University, Singapore is the second oldest public university and the oldest in the country. It is the oldest of all the universities of Singapore.
Stanford University	USA	Stanford University offers a wide range of communication programs with an intent to understand the social and professional power of communication.
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	Providing more than 100 years of education, it is one of the oldest universities in the world. It is one of the oldest universities in the world.
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)	Bangladesh	Offering research and practice and innovation programs in the field of mass communication and industry leading to a growing reputation in Bangladesh.
University of Pennsylvania	USA	It is one of the oldest universities in the world. It is one of the oldest universities in the world.
University of Southern California	USA	It is one of the oldest universities in the world. It is one of the oldest universities in the world.

https://www.highereducationreview.com/mass-communication-colleges-across-globe-november-2020/

CSE Fest 2021

CSE Fest 2021 was organized by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on January 23, 2021, at its Mohammadpur Permanent Campus. The CSE Fest aimed to create opportunities for students to network and exchange ideas with renowned professionals and entrepreneurs in the field of computing and engineering. “To make our mark internationally, we must improve academia-industry relationships and help the nation through innovations, talent, and research,” said UGC Member Professor Sazzad Hossain to current and former students at the CSE Fest 2021. Reminding the students that they are talented and the future of the nation, eminent computer scientist Professor Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad said, “We must respect ourselves and be confident in the abilities of our youth. It is by employing these talents that we can hope to develop our nation further.” Professor Syed Akhter Hossain, Head, CSE, ULAB, welcomed the audience, and speeches were given by Professor H M Jahirul Haque and Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Acting Vice-Chancellor, ULAB. Among the guests was Engr. Enamul Kabir, Director, Bangladesh Computer Council; Engr. Tapan Kanti Sarkar, Founder President, CTO Forum Bangladesh; Mahmudur Rahman, Founder, and CEO, Mukto Software Ltd.; and Rezwan Islam, MD, Prism Immersive Ltd.



ULAB HULT Prize Grand Finale Concludes

The Grand Finale of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) HULT Prize concluded online on February 11, 2021. Team BaxSpace was declared the winner. The HULT Prize is an esteemed business competition that sources unique and sustainable business ideas from the leaders of tomorrow. This year the theme for the competition was “Food for Good”. The ULAB HULT



Prize Committee in collaboration with ULAB Co-curricular Office organized the 5-months long event. Team BaxSpace was declared the Winners along with Team Peacemakers and Team FooDonors as Runners Up and Second Runners Up of the ULAB HULT Prize among 11 other finalists. All three teams will represent ULAB in the HULT Prize Regional competition.

The esteemed panel of judges included Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees and Dean of ULAB School of Business; Mohammad Yeasin Tutul, Managing Director of YN Group of Industries; Zia Ashraf, Co-founder, and CEO of Chaldal.com; Mr. Ashikul Alam Khan, Founder and CEO of Priyoshop.com; and Mr. Fahad Ifaz, Co-founder and CEO of ifarmer.asia.

The plethora of events came to a closure with the winner announcement and vote of thanks delivered by Mehdi Rajeb, former director, ULAB Co-Curricular Office and Assistant Professor of ULAB School of Business; N M Baki Billah, Advisor of ULAB HULT Prize and Senior Lecturer of ULAB School of Business as well as the Campus Director Shakiba Hossan Tanha for the program.

National Professor Dr. Rafiqul among four named for mother language award



The first-ever International Mother Language Award has been conferred on three people and an organization for their contribution to the preservation and promotion of the mother language nationally and internationally. Education Minister Dipu Moni handed over the awards on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday during an event at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka. The Prime Minister attended the ceremony virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban. National Professor Mohammad Rafiqul Islam has been honored for his contribution

at the national level. A Nazrul researcher, Professor Dr. Rafiqul is the first Nazrul Professor of Dhaka University's Bangla Department and the first director of Nazrul Research Institute.

ULAB English Department Commemorates Shakespeare

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, Phd, 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.

ULAB Observes National Mourning Day

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a virtual discussion program along with a short biopic of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled "Bangabandhu: Bojre tomar Baaje Banshi" to commemorate the 2021 National Mourning Day on August 14, 2021. The program began with a minute of silence to remember and pay homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all the martyrs who were brutally murdered on 15 August 1975.

Emeritus Professor and Director of the ULAB's Centre for Bangla Studies Dr. Rafiqul Islam in his opening speech said, Bangabandhu, who sacrificed his whole life for the country, had to give his life in return. There is nothing more heinous than this."

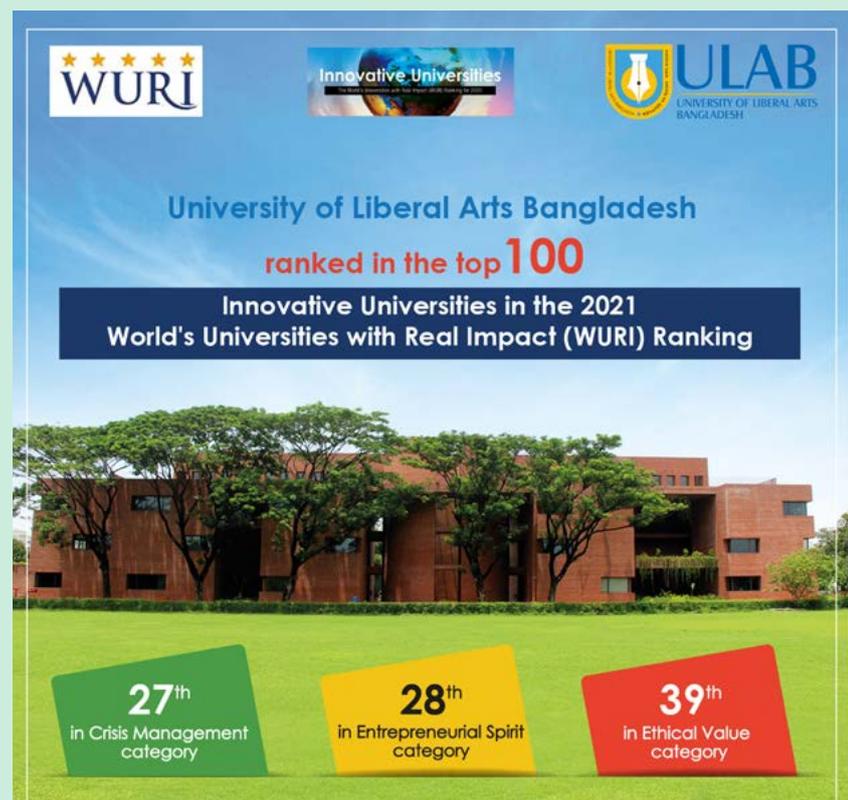


Dr. Abdul Mannan, former Chairman of the University Grant Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and Professor of the ULAB School of Business was the keynote speaker at the event. He said, "It is not a new

thing in the history of the world to overthrow a government through political assassination or terrorism, but it has never happened that the founder of a country, who is recognized as the father of the nation, will be assassinated in his own family by some people loyal to him. To murder the father of an independent country is to kill that country and its history, which was the ultimate target of the assassins of ‘75.’”

The closing speech of the program was presented by the ULAB’s Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Phd, who commented that, “Bangabandhu’s biggest weakness was that he believed in everyone. He was confident that these people would never harm him. But his unconditional trust costed him his own life.”

ULAB Ranked in the Global Top 100 Innovative Universities in the 2021 WURI Ranking



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has been ranked in the global top 100 innovative universities in the 2021 World’s Universities with Real Impact (WURI) ranking.

ULAB’s world standing was officially cited by the WURI founding director, project leader and Professor Emeritus of Seoul National University Moon Hwy-Chang in a virtual ceremony held on 10 June 2021 in Seoul. Professor Hwy-Chang announced that this year ULAB is the only Bangladeshi university that has been placed within the top 100 universities. WURI was created to evaluate the innovative programmes of universities and to measure the performance of universities in creating real value to society and providing opportunities for

the future. The ranking is composed of the Global Top 100 and the Top 50 ranking in each of the following categories: (1) Industrial Applications; (2) Entrepreneurship; (3) Social responsibility, ethics and integrity; (4) Student mobility and openness for exchange and collaboration; and (5) Crisis Management. Among these categories, ULAB placed itself 27th in the ‘Crisis Management’, 28th in the ‘Entrepreneurial Spirit’, and 39th in the ‘Ethical Value’ category.

ULAB’s acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Phd, lauded the resilience and team work of ULAB family that made this global endorsement possible. “The ranking will galvanize our commitment to change the ecology of higher education in Bangladesh,” he added.

ULAB’s WURI project leader Professor Jude William Genilo, Head of Media Studies and Journalism said “ULAB has always seen itself as a partner in community and nation building. It has an enabling environment that supports creativity and innovation. In the 2021 ranking, WURI recognized three of ULAB’s programs as these are in line with its vision of active and practical learning; producing graduates that industry and society really needs.”

This ranking is a manifestation of ULAB’s promise of utilising its innovative online teaching and learning techniques in responding effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic. ULAB will continue to offer its high-quality academic programmes online and ensure the continuity and reach of education to all its students.

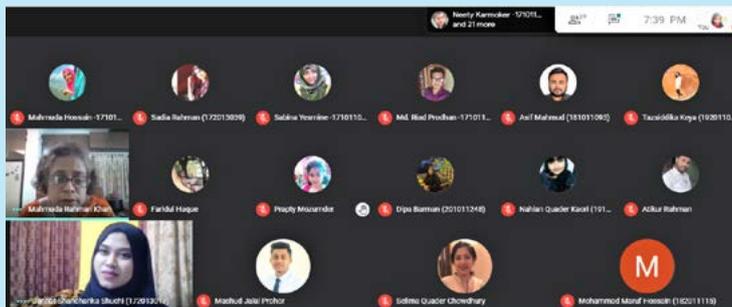
Student News

Workshop on Self-Defense arranged by ULAB Social Welfare Club

The ULAB Social Welfare Club, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) arranged an online workshop on self-defense on November 12, 2020. Mohammad Ibrahim was the trainer and the Chief Guest for the workshop. The club's advisor, Selima Quader Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, GED, and executive members of the club were present during the workshop. The workshop's goal was to demonstrate some of the basic self-defense techniques and discuss the different aspects of self-defense. During the workshop, the trainer Ibrahim said that due to decline in morality, our society's crime rate is increasing, and to tackle the rising crime rate, we need to have a strong mindset to go against this evil. He also said that due to the recent incidents, knowing how to defend oneself has become a must for everyone, especially women. The first and foremost step of self-defense is to create a strong mindset, and the second step is to know the techniques for defending oneself.



Sexual Harassment Webinar



Social Welfare Club of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar on “Sexual Harassment: Awareness, Prevention, and Recovery” on December 10, 2020, to commemorate 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign against gender-based violence. The Webinar started with a welcome speech by ULAB Social Welfare Club advisor Selima Quader Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, GED.

Gender Specialist and General Secretary of Shishu Angina Ms. Mahmuda Rahman Khan and Gender Specialist S. M. Faridul Haque was the guest speaker. They engaged the students in conversation in the relation to the root causes of sexual harassment, how to prevent sexual harassment and how to recover from sexual trauma. They motivated the students by saying that they could play a key role in preventing this situation.

ULAB Social Welfare Club stands beside the Cold-Affected People

ULAB Social Welfare Club of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) helped the Residence of Noktowa Para, Thanchi, Bandarban with warm clothing and teaching aid on the 1st day of the new year 2021. It's harder for people living in hilly areas of Bangladesh to access warm clothing during winter. On top of that, the hilly areas' environment allows winter to be harsher on the people living in those areas. To help these people in need, ULAB Social Welfare Club took the responsibility to donate warm clothes. The club members collected both monetary and old warm clothing from students and faculty members at ULAB. With the monetary donation, they had bought warm blankets. Later, the club executives visited Noktowa Para and donated the clothes there. With the combined effort of general students, faculty members, and the ULAB Alumni Association the program ULAB Social Welfare Club stands beside the underprivileged people.



Webinar on “Career Path in Marketing”

ULAB BUSINESS Club once again conducted a very fruitful webinar on “Career Path in Marketing’ on April 24, 2021. Marketing is an extensive topic and to do it people need to have specific sorts of skills and analytical abilities. To give a proper elaboration of this topic the executives of this club invited Ms. Paromita Fairuz who is currently the senior category manager at Perfetti van Melle Bangladesh Ltd. In the



past she had also been associated with senior marketing roles at various reputed multinational companies such as Nestle Bangladesh Limited, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, Brac and Aarong. Ms. Paromita had her BBA and EMBA done from IBA in Marketing forum and possesses a very in-depth knowledge of marketing.

Ms. Paromita prepared a brief PowerPoint presentation to the students so that they get a good idea about this topic. To begin with, she first asked the students a question to understand how much knowledge they already have about it. Then she explained the multi skills and activities that a marketer usually has to possess and implement. She also made the students aware of the skills which will be quite in demand in the future and advised them to start practicing from various platforms. However, apart from learning new skills she also suggested they keep on nurturing the skills which they already know about or else they might be out of practice. At the end, she gave emphasis on the point that a marketer must learn on how to research before launching a new product as there may be times when they'll be given a lot of data but they have to know how to formulate the information out of it.

ULAB Sustainable Development Club Organized a Week Long “Campaign for Restoring Our Earth”

ULAB Sustainable Development Club cherishing Earth Day, 2021’s theme of ‘Restoring Our Earth,’ has successfully organized “Campaign for Restoring Our Earth,” in collaboration with Farming Future Bangladesh and with the supervision of Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) with a view to mainstreaming sustainable practices among the Bangladeshi youth from 24 to 29 April, 2021. Out of 100 applicants, 20 of the most creative and dedicated participants from different universities of Bangladesh were finally selected for the campaign, who did not only attend the workshops interactively but also planted trees and established segregated bins at their homes for waste segregation. The work shop focused on spreading the knowledge and significance regarding the topics of “Growing your Own Food,” “Identifying Recyclable Solid Waste,” and “Social Behavior Change Communication,” in order to make the participants aware of the effective and sustainable techniques that can be easily incorporated to their daily lives.



Entrepreneurial Decision-Making Mind Map

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) Business Club hosted a webinar on ‘Entrepreneurial Decision-Making Mind-map’ on May 8, 2021. The honorable guest for that webinar was Mr. Samit Bin Salam who is the founder of Kiva Han Gruppo as well as the Managing Director at SAS Ventures. The advisor ULAB Business Club Assistant Professor Niaz Morshed Patwary moderated the webinar and shared some of his thoughts and experiences along with the speaker. The webinar was held to provide a deeper understanding of the entrepreneurial mindset of the students who aspire to become future entrepreneurs.

ULAB Sustainable Development Club organizes workshop on “Make Your Own Mask”

ULAB Sustainable Development Club and clothing brand “Rotnaboli” has organized a virtual workshop, titled “Make Your Own Mask” on May 20, 2021. The virtual workshop started at 3 pm in the afternoon and the periodical workshop has been led by trainer Bijoya Rotnaboli, who guided the participants on how to make masks very easily with usable clothes at home. Moreover, according to her guidance, several participants has made their own masks in an instant during the workshop and has presented them to the trainer Bijoya Rotnaboli, which reflected the participants’ interest. About the virtual workshop, Bijoya Rotnaboli said, “At the beginning of COVID-19, I asked myself, how can I help the unfortunates on my behalf? I had fashion design ideas. Therefore, I used my house clothes to modify fashionable and well-protecting masks and have been able to provide high-quality and long-lasting masks to poor people. And added up with ULAB Sustainable Development Club to fulfill this motive successfully.



New Partnerships

ULAB signs MoU with DCCI

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) on December 27, 2020 at ULAB's permanent campus in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

Purpose: Conducting awareness and training programs; certificate courses, and executive education to develop human capacity in the areas of mutual interest and areas that are important for the country's growth.



ULAB signs MoU with IoT Lab BD



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IoT Lab Bd on February 12, 2021 at ULAB's permanent campus in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

Purpose: Will hire students from ULAB for their internship and job placement. IoT Lab BD LTD., will take part as an event partner and service provider in different career related workshops, job fairs, seminars, competitions, career fest, mock interviews, career counseling events to be organized by ULAB. ULAB will provide required support for employer branding of IoT Lab BD LTD.

ULAB signs MoU with RUDN University of Russia

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RUDN University, Russia on March 10, 2021 at ULAB's permanent campus in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

Purpose: Establishing framework for cooperation in the field of science, technology and education between the parties, ensuring efforts to respond to global and regional challenges through shared experiences and complimentary capacities in the aforementioned fields, generating and sharing new knowledge and development of innovative products and services, subject to resources and partnership facilities available to the parties whenever it is appropriate.



ULAB signs MoU with Moner Bondhu



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Moner Bondhu, a mental health and wellbeing service provider on April 18, 2021 in a virtual platform.

Purpose: Providing psycho-social services including emergency support to the students of ULAB, addressing mental health issues and personal wellbeing.

ULAB signs MoU with HSBC

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HSBC on June 22, 2021 at ULAB's permanent campus.

Purpose: ULAB's students, alumni and faculty can avail special offers, advisory services, and safe overseas account opening services for studying abroad.



Educator of the Term



Sajid Amit

Associate Professor
Director, Executive MBA
Director, Center for Enterprise & Society (CES)
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Mr. Sajid Amit started his career at ULAB in Fall 2015 as an adjunct faculty member. He received his BA degree from Dartmouth College (Vivian Allen Foundation Scholar) and MA from SOAS, University of London. As a director of Executive MBA (EMBA) and Center for Enterprise & Society (CES) Mr. Amit deliver high quality research and publications, engage the larger corporate and civil society sectors through various CES and EMBA programming, win grants and execute projects with international donors, pursue and implement collaboration with various corporate and civil society actors, in sectors such as digital

finance, startups, and NGOs that work to promote tolerance and diversity.

Recently Mr. Amit and his team working on nine academic papers this year, four of which have already been published, a fifth of which is close to publication. This year, they broadened their horizon to variety of “COVID-impact” related themes - from COVID’s impact on startups - to how telemedicine is faring globally and locally due to COVID-19. Other than that, he and his team did something exciting this year by launching a first-ever MOOC in Bangladesh, on tolerance, diversity and pluralism, which features pre-eminent international scholars.

Mr. Amit’s professional goal is to serve ULAB well and contribute to ULAB becoming one of the top universities in Bangladesh, and a standout university globally.

Mr. Amit is coping well mentally and emotionally during this pandemic period. He is also looking forward to a return to normalcy, to going back to office, mingling with colleagues, and being out and about again without risk to him or people around him.

Mr. Amit’s primary hobbies are writing and reading and listening to music. . He is very serious about his hobbies. He reads widely across disciplines. He writes regularly beyond his professional engagements.

Mr. Amit likes most about ULAB is an organization with a soul and a spirit. Truly sustainable and successful organizations have that he believes. It is an essence often imbued by the values and thinking of those who have founded it; those who have led and loved it; and those who follow the vision that is there, in order to bring it to life, adding their own little flavor and personality to it. That is what is special about ULAB.

Employee of the Term

Md. Roknuzzaman

Manager
Accounts Office
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Roknuzzaman started his career at ULAB on December 1, 2008 as Senior Accounts Officer. Mr. Roknuzzaman completed his M.Com from Dhaka College. He also obtained his CA-CC certification from Masih Muhith Haque & Co.

Mr. Roknuzzaman's main responsibilities are budgeting and forecasting, Accounts receivable and payable management, arrange internal audit and support to the external auditor to complete the audit. He also prepare various types of financial reports for analysis and decision making as per the need of the authority.

Mr. Roknuzzaman also maintain the project financial matters for various centers. He recently completed a project "Budget for the year 2021".

Mr. Roknuzzaman's professional goal is to manage the ULAB accounts team in such a way so that the team can serve efficiently.

During the pandemic period, he maintained his personal life and work life by managing his task on the basis of priority and completing task by deadline with the support of his team members and following instructions from his supervisors and top management.

In his free time, he loves to play cricket, exploring new places and reading books.

Thing he likes most about ULAB is ULAB provides excellent working environment.



Community Achievements

School of Arts and Humanities

Department of English and Humanities (DEH)

- **Professor Kaiser Haq**, DEH, published a book chapter titled “Alhamdulillah: With Gratitude and Relish”, in an anthology called *Desi Delicacies: Muslim Food Culture in South Asia*, edited by Claire Chambers, and published by Picador India in November 2020. A British edition is expected to come out this year from Beacon Books.
- **Professor Shaila Sultana**, M. MoninoorRoshid, Md. Zulfeqar Haider, Dr. Mian Md. Naushaad Kabir, and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan coedited *The Routledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh*. It was published by Routledge London in November 2020. The book was formally launched in January 2021. The book has, among others, 5 chapters that were contributed by Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor Shaila Sultana, and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan.
- **Professor Shamsad Mortuza**, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Dean, DEH, was on a discussion panel on “Reimagining Higher Education in a Post-COVID-19 World” with Dr. Frank J. Dooley, Chancellor of Purdue University Global in the U.S. Embassy’s Virtual Speaker Program: Reimagining Higher Education in a Post-COVID-19 World on October 28, 2020.
- **Arifa Ghani Rahman**, Associate Professor and Head, DEH, conducted two international Webinars at Bamyar University, Afghanistan on “Student-Centered Learning: Transitioning Online.” and “Student-Centered Learning: How do YOU Teach?” on October 20 and November 2, 2020. She also facilitated 2 sessions of Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research (fLTR) (national) on “Learning Management System (LMS): Repository and Access” on November 27, 2020 and February 12, 2021.
- **Dr. Sohana Manzoor**, Associate Professor, DEH, wrote short story, “In Search of Her Roots,” which got selected in *The Best Asian Short Stories 2020* on April 2, 2021.
- **Professor Shamsad Mortuza**, DEH; **Professor Kaiser Haq**, DEH; and **Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam**, DEH; was present as a discussant at South Asian Online Literary Conference on March 15-18, 2021.
- **Professor Kaiser Haq**, DEH, was present as a keynotespeaker in International Conference on “Bangladesh English Novels: From Emergence to Efflorescence” on June 24-25, 2021 at University of Salerno. He was also a panelist in the “Interrogating Bangladeshi English Novels” panel at the same conference.

ULAB School of Business

- **Dr. Ishraat Saira Wahid**, Assistant Professor, USB, with Sheikh Ashiqurrahman Prince published an article titled “The purchase of organic fish in Bangladesh: Safeguarding against COVID-19” in *Cogent Business & Management* in November 2020.
Publisher: Taylor & Francis
- **Sajid Amit**, Associate Professor and Director EMBA Program, Organized seminar titled: “Are Startups the Answer?” The objective of this discussion was to cast a wide net on startups and their wide-ranging impact on Bangladesh: from creating value, digitizing how we do business, creating employment, bringing in FDI, and catalyzing economic growth as well as positive social change on November 22, 2020.
- **Md. Adnan Kabir**, Lecturer, USB, published an article titled “Foreign Aid Effectiveness: Evidence from Panel Data Analysis” in *Global Journal of Emerging Market Economies*, Vol. 12, Issue 3, pp. 283-302. On October 2020.
Publisher: Sage Journals
- **Sajid Amit**, Associate Professor and Director EMBA Program and MD Oliur Rahman Tarek, Research and Communication Associate, CES, presented paper on “Ridesharing in Bangladesh”, at the International Conference on Management of Innovation and Sustainability, organized by IBA, DU on December 20, 2020.
- **Sajid Amit**, Associate Professor and Director EMBA Program, organized Skill Development Workshop: “Get Hired in the Finance and Banking Sector!” to find out and learn strategies to develop a career in banking and finance on January 18, 2021.
- **Sajid Amit**, Associate Professor and Director EMBA Program moderated a panel discussion titled: Leadership Role for Innovation in Bangladesh Business Innovation Summit 2021 on 12-14 March, 2021.

School of Science and Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

- **Professor Syed Akhter Hossain**, Head, CSE, along with Abu Kaisar Mohammad Masum, Md. Majedul Islam, Sheikh Abujar and Amit Kumer Sorker, published a chapter titled “Bengali News Headline Generation on the Basis of Sequence to Sequence Learning Using Bi-Directional RNN” in : Borah S., Pradhan R., Dey N., Gupta P. (eds) *Soft Computing Techniques and Applications. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*, vol 1248. pp 491-501, Springer, Singapore on November 28, 2020.
- **Professor Syed Akhter Hossain**, Head, CSE, along with Shifat Nayme Shuvo, Fuad Hasan, Mohi Uddin Ahmed and Sheikh Abujar published a paper titled “MathNET: Using CNN Bangla Handwritten Digit, Mathematical Symbols, and Trigonometric Function Recognition” in In: Borah S., Pradhan R., Dey N., Gupta P. (eds) *Soft Computing Techniques and Applications. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*, vol 1248.pp 515-523, Springer, Singapore on November 28, 2020.
- **Dr. Nafees Mansoor**, Assistant Professor, CSE, along with F. N. Choudhury, F. Rahman and M. R. Jamil published a paper titled “Sensor Searching Techniques in Internet of Things: A Survey, Taxonomy, and Challenges” in *ICT Analysis and Applications* (pp. 755-763). (Scopus Indexed) on December 16, 2020.
- **Dr. Farhana Sarker, Assistant Professor, CSE**, along with Walifa FarZana, Tom Chau3 and Khondaker A. Mamun published an article titled “Technological Evolvement in AAC Modalities to Foster Communications of Verbally Challenged ASD Children: A systematic review” in *IEEE Access*, USA on January 2021.
- **Dr. Abul Kalam Azad**, Associate Professor, CSE; **Dr. Mohammad Rifat Ahmmad Rashid**, Assistant Professor, CSE; **Bijan Paul**, Senior Lecturer, CSE; **Khan Raqib Mahmud**, Lecturer, CSE; along with Md. Shahabub Alam and Md. Asifuzzaman Jishan published an article titled “Bangla language textual image description by hybrid neural network model” in *Indonesian Journal of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*, 2021 on February 2021.
- **Professor Syed Akhter Hossain**, Head, CSE along with Maruf Ahmed Tamal, Rabia Akter, and Karim Mohammed Rezaul published an article titled “A Weighted Scoring Based Rating Scale to Identify the Severity Level of Mathematics Anxiety in Students” in *International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies (iJIM) Indexing: Scopus, DBLP, IET Inspec,etc. Cite Score : 2.8, Quartile: 50%, Country: Germany* on April 2021.
- **Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria**, Associate Professor, CSE, along with Md. Mamunur Rashid, Al-Akhir Nayan, Md. Obaidur Rahman, Joyeta Saha, and Sabrina Afrin Simi published an article titled “IoT based Smart Water Quality Prediction for Biofloc Aquaculture”, in *International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications (IJACSA)* on June 6, 2021.
- **Dr. Farhana Sarker**, Assistant Professor, CSE, along with Walia Farzana, Tom Chau and Khondaker A. Mamun, published an article titled “Technological Evolvement in AAC Modalities to Foster Communications of Verbally Challenged ASD Children: A Systematic Review”, in *IEEE Access*, (2021).
- **Dr. Nafees Mansoor**, Assistant Professor, CSE, along with Al Omar, Abdullah, Abu Kaisar Jamil, Amith Khandakar, Abdur Razzak Uzzal, Rabeya Bosri, and Mohammad Shahriar Rahman published an article titled “A Transparent and Privacy-preserving Healthcare Platform with Novel Smart Contract for Smart Cities.” in *IEEE Access* (2021).

Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)

- **Shameem Hasan**, Lecturer, EEE, with Ahmmad Raian Jabir, presented a paper titled “Simulation and Performance Analysis of Flyback Rectifiers with Active Power Decoupling Method and Transformer Isolation”, at *IEEE 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Technologies for Industry 4.0(STI)* on December 19-20, 2020. He also presented another paper titled “Optimized Energy System Design and Analysis for Sonadia Island”, at *IEEE 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Technologies for Industry 4.0 (STI)*, on December 19-20, 2020.
- **Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain**, Head, EEE with Mobasshir Mahbub and Md. Shamrat Apu Gazi published an article titled “Cloud-Enabled IoT-based embedded system and software for intelligent indoor lighting, ventilation, early stage fire detection and prevention,” on January 15, 2021 at

Elsevier website. Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1389128620312858>

- **Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman**, Assistant Professor, EEE, published a paper in the IEEE East-West Design & Test Symposium 2020, entitled “An IoT based Real-time Data-centric Monitoring System for Vaccine Cold Chain“, was highlighted in IEEE website as “IEEE Xplore Innovation Spotlight” on January 20, 2021.
- **Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain**, Head, EEE, was present as a plenary speaker in 3rd *International Youth Conference on Radio Electronics, Electrical and Power Engineering (3rd REEPE 2021)*, Moscow Power Engineering Institute Moscow, Russia (Online) in 11-13 March 2021. Topic was “Outcome Based Education and Importance of Accreditation in Engineering Education”.
- **Shameem Hasan**, Lecturer, EEE, and Golam Sarowar published an article titled “Amelioration of Ship Control with Improved Dynamic Response of Motor Controller”, in *Przeegląd Elektrotechniczny*, vol. 4/2021, pp. 32- 40.
- **Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain**, Head, EEE; **Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman**, Assistant Professor, EEE and **Shameem Hasan**, Lecturer, EEE presented a paper titled “Impacts of COVID-19 on the Electrical Power Dynamics and Environment of Bangladesh”, in *International Youth Conference on Radio Electronics, Electrical and Power Engineering (3rd REEPE)*, Moscow, Russia (online), pp. on march 11-13, 2021.
- **Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain**, Head, EEE along with Nahid A Jahan, Mohammad Fairuz Bin Amir, Md. Ashraful Islam, and Mamun Bin Ibne Reaz, published an article titled “Design and Performance Analysis of Low Voltage and Low Power Schmitt Trigger for 0.18 μm CMOS Process,” in *IOSR Journal of VLSI and Signal Processing (IOSR-JVSP)* vol. 11, Issue 3, Ser. I (May. - June. 2021), pp. 01-17

School of Social Science

Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ)

- **Professor Jude William R. Genilo**, Head, MSJ; **Dr. Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal**, Assistant Professor, MSJ and **Mohammad Shazzad Hossain**, Assistant Professor, MSJ, was present in a panel discussion on “Baseline Studies on Bangladeshi Youth” at the Kolkata Media Conference 2020 on “Transmedia, Media Narratives, Performances and Storytelling” on November 6 – 10, 2020. They were present from an online platform.
- **Aminul Islam**, Lecturer, MSJ, published a book chapter titled Living culture of today’s apartment dwellers: social interactions, social media and urban living in Bangladesh, in Moor, Bhakti (Ed) Emergent technologies, New Media and Cities on November 2020. Publisher: Common Ground Research Networks; USA.
- **Dr. Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal**, Assistant Professor, MSJ; **Aminul Islam**, Lecturer, MSJ and **Apon Das, Undergrad Student** published a book chapter titled *An investigation into risks to mental health of Bangladeshi journalists*, In: Dr. Sadia Jamil, Barış Çoban, Bora Ataman and Gifty Appieah-Adeji (eds) Discrimination, Gender Disparity, and Safety Risks in Journalism on December 2020. Publisher: IGI Global; USA
- **Bikash Ch. Bhowmick**, Assistant Professor, MSJ, published an article titled “*The audience and the star: Genre as the interface and expectation-fulfillment as the catalyst of their relationship*” Aesthetics Media Services Impact Factor: SJR2020/0.16 on March 2021.
- **Dr. Habib Mohammad Ali**, Assistant Professor, MSJ, and Herbert Batta, Henry C Ogaraku published an article titled “*Communicating Covid-19 Pandemic on Facebook: Illustrations from Users’ Screenshots from Nigeria and Bangladesh*” in Asian Journal of Media and Communication, Department of Communication, Universitas Islam Indonesia/Islamic University of Indonesia on April 2021.
- Dr. Abdul Kabil Khan, Assistant Professor, MSJ and Sabbir Ahmed jointly published a book titled Social Mobile Journalism Bangladesh Times on May 2021.

General Education Department (GED)

- **Professor Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan**, Head, GED and Director, CAS, was the Chair in the Webinar titled Archaeological Survey and Excavation at Wari-Bateshwar Region: Preliminary Report (2019-20), organized by Oitihya Onneswan (archaeological research centre) at the Seminar Room of the Department of Archaeology, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka on November 4, 2020.
- **Professor Salimullah Khan**, GED, translated “*This Was Radio Bangladesh 1971*” by Alamgir Kabir into

Bengali from the original English. ULAB, Modhupok and Agamee Prakashoni, Dhaka, December 2020.

- **National Professor Rafiqul Islam** published a book titled Hajar Bochorer Bangla Sahitya-1. Oitijjhya, Dhaka, 2021.
- **Professor Muhammad Ibrahim**, GED, published a book titled SHIKOR (The Roots), the flow of gene, life-style, and language, from Africa to Chittagong.
- **Selima Quader Chowdhory**, Senior Lecturer, GED, published a book titled “Muktijuddhe Narir Obodan-Jantrana” on April 4, 2021.

Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS)

- **Ahmed Sharif**, Senior Lecturer, GED and Research Associate, CAS; published a peer reviewed article titled “Dhaka” jointly with Sahidul Hasan. In: History of Bangladesh: Sultanate and Mughal Periods (c. 1200 to 1800 CE), Momin Chowdhury (Ed), Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 2020.
- **Professor Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan**, Head, GED and Director, CAS; was the Guest of Honour in the International Webinar on “Exploring Antiquity of Jainism in Asia, Africa and America”, organized by All India Digamber Jain Heritage Preservation Organisation, New Delhi on 1 November 2020.
- **Professor Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan**, Head, GED and Director, CAS; presented the Keynote Address on Buddhist Art Heritages of Bangladesh in the Online Lecture series titled Know Our Neighbours based on the Archaeology of the neighbouring countries of India, organized by the Centre for Extra Mural Studies University of Mumbai, in collaboration with Directorate of Archaeology and Museum, Government of Maharashtra, Sathye College, Mumbai; Pradaya Heritage Services Pvt. Ltd. Pune on 16 December 2020.

Center for Bangla Studies (CBS)

- ULAB and Center for Bangla Studies (CBS) has jointly organized the webinar for commemoration of Martyred Intellectuals Day. In the webinar, discussed about the Commemoration of Martyred Intellectuals Day and also screening documentary on December 14, 2020. National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam was the Keynote Speaker in the event.
- ULAB and Center for Bangla Studies (CBS) have jointly organized the webinar and celebrated the national Victory Day on December 16, 2020.
- **National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam** was the keynote speaker in the International webinar “World Nazrul Congress 2020” organized by Nazrul Center for Social and Cultural Studies, Kazi Nazrul University on a zoom platform on December 27, 2020.
- **National Professor Dr. Rafiqul Islam** was present as the chief guest of the World Cultural Heritage 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman titled Muktir Dako on a zoom platform on April 12, 2021.

Center for Enterprise and Society (CES)

- **Lumbini Barua**, Research Associate, CES, published Current Event Analysis titled “COVID-19 and Emergence of EdTech” in November 2020.
- **Sajid Amit**, Director, CES, and EMBA Program, and Associate Professor, delivered a speech on Financing for Renewable Energy at a socially-distanced workshop titled “Private Sector Technical Workshop”. The workshop was organized by four United Nations (UN) Agencies - UNDP, ILO, UNCDF, and UN WOMEN, as part of an initiative titled Integrated National Financing Framework for Achieving SDGs in Bangladesh (INFF4SDGs) on December 29, 2020.
- **Sajid Amit**, Director, CES, and EMBA Program, and Associate Professor; Professor Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, ULAB and Sadat Mannan presented a written research paper titled “Social Media and Radicalization of University Students in Bangladesh”, was published by the Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter-Terrorism on January 7, 2021.
- **Sajid Amit**, Director, CES, and EMBA Program, and Associate Professor; **Lumbini Barua**, Ex Research Associate, CES and **Abdulla – Al Kafy** Urban Planner & Project Officer ICLEI South Asia Rajshahi City Corporation published a research article titled “A perception-based study to explore COVID-19 pandemic stress and its factors in Bangladesh” in a global journal on May 13, 2021.
- **Sajid Amit**, Director, CES, and EMBA Program, and Associate Professor; **Lumbini Barua**, Ex

Research Associate, CES and **Abdulla – Al Kafy** Urban Planner & Project Officer ICLEI South Asia Rajshahi City Corporation published a research article titled “*Countering violent extremism using social media and preventing implementable strategies for Bangladesh*” in a global journal on May 30, 2021.

- ULAB CES project titled Building Resilient Universities Project (BRUP) was ranked 39 under the Ethical Value Category on June 2021.

Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

- **Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman**, Associate Professor, GED and Director, CETL, was invited as a resource person at the webinar titled, “Engaging technology with pedagogy and some other aspects of online teaching” organized by St Xavier’s College on October 21, 2020, in the online platform.
- **Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman**, Associate Professor, GED, and Director, CETL, was invited as a guest speaker at the 5th Yunnan conference on, “International exchange of professional and the forum of cooperation on cultivating intellectuals” on October 25, 2020, in an online Platform.
- **Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman**, Associate Professor, GED, and Director, CETL, spoke as a panelist in the webinar/talk program on Science Education: Thinking Out of the Box jointly organized by Goethe Institute and UNESCO on November 26, 2020, in online Platform.
- **Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman**, Associate Professor, GED and Director, CETL, talked in a webinar titled, “CONVERGENCE” organized by Singapore University of Social Science on November 30, 2020, on the online platform.

Center for Health, Population, and Development (CHPD)

- **Center for Health, Population, and Development (CHPD)** received four-year research (June 2020 –May 2024) grant called “ENHANCE” funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, UK.

Center for Language Studies (CLS)

- **Iram Mehrin**, Lecturer, CLS: “Promoting critical thinking through cultural topics in Bangladeshi tertiary EFL context”, *Journal of NELTA*, 25(1-2), 1-17 on December 2020.
- **Professor Shaila Sultana**, Advisor, CLS, and Adjunct Faculty, DEH along with S., Roshid, M., Haider, Z., Kabir, N., and Hasan, M was the chief editor of *The Routledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh*. London: Routledge in 2021.
- **Rezwana Islam**, Lecturer, CLS, presented a paper titled “Humanize live pedagogy during Covid 19: Reduce cognitive load.” In the 1st HCT International Conference on Emotional Intelligence, Happiness, and Well Being on February 20, 2021.
- **Iram Mehrin**, Lecturer, CLS, wrote an article titled **Promoting Critical Thinking through Cultural Topics in Bangladeshi Tertiary EFL Context**’- published in the *Journal of Nepal English Language Teacher Association (NELTA)* on March 2021.
- **Professor Shaila Sultana**, Advisor, CLS, and Adjunct Faculty, DEH published a research article titled “**Indigenous ethnic languages in Bangladesh: Paradoxes of the multilingual ecology**” on June 2021. This writing project was supported by the 2019 Advancing Women’s Research Success Grant,
- **Rezwana Islam**, Lecturer, presented a paper titled “**Measuring Psychological Well-being in Digital Environment: Preparing the Tool**” at the 9th Open TESOL International Conference 2021 at Ho Chi Minh City Open University, Vietnam on May 21-22, 2021.

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)

- **Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah**, part-time visiting research fellow, CSD, published an article titled “So, what does resilience mean for scholarly publishing?” in *Learned Publishing*, Special Issue, January 2021
- **Dr. Samiya Selim**, Associate Professor and Director, CSD; **Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah**, part-time visiting research fellow; and **Joy Bhowmik**, Lecturer-cum-Research Associate, CSD, published an article titled “Empirical Evidence from Bangladesh of Assessing Climate Hazard-related Loss and Damage and State of Adaptive Capacity to Address them”, on January 2021.
- **Dr. Samiya Selim**, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, has secured research funding of 6,000

USD/= (Six Thousand US Dollars) for “study on climate change and migration” between the International Political Economy and Environmental Politics group at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences (D-GESS), ETH Zürich and the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh on February 2021.

- **Dr. Rumana Sultana**, Assistant Professor cum- Research Associate, CSD, has secured research Grant of BDT 400000 for the Government DRR Project: “Climate Change Induced Draught in Bangladesh: Vulnerability Indicators and Effectiveness of the Adaptive Strategies” on March 4, 2021.
- **Joy Bhowmic**, Lecturer cum Research Associate, CSD, received research grant of BDT 600000 for OXFAM TROSA Project: “Capacity needs review and Capacity building program development on water and Natural resource for governance for women on March 7, 2021.
- **Dr. Samiya Selim**, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, Published Journal Article: “Look Who’s Asking—Reflections on Participatory and Transdisciplinary Marine Research Approaches”: *Frontiers in Marine Science* on June 10, 2021.
- **Dr. Samiya Selim**, Associate Professor and Director, CSD, received Research Grant of BDT 2617502 for the ETH Zurich Project: “Climate Risk, Land Loss and Migration: Evidence from a Quasi Experiment in Bangladesh” on June 4, 2021.

ULAB ranked 4th in Bangladesh in the 2021 THE Impact Ranking

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) ranked 4th among the universities from Bangladesh and 156th in SDG 17 among 1115 universities worldwide in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2021. To compile the prestigious global ranking, THE evaluates several aspects of a university's performance—including teaching, research, outreach, and stewardship (faculty, staff, and alumni)—and further assesses universities against the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). THE introduced this impact category in 2019 to give opportunities to teaching universities which do not have the resources of research-intensive universities.

This was the first time ULAB had participated in this ranking. The application process was supervised by Professor Jude Genilo, PhD, Director of ULAB's Quality Assurance Cell. Additional to the SDG 17 category (Partnerships for the Goals), ULAB has also ranked in SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health & Well Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) in which the University has been positioned among the top 200 in the world and 2nd in Bangladesh.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD, the acting Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, said, "Participating in this ranking process has been a learning curve for us", further adding, "We had to align our policies, curricula, research to see how our faculty and students make a social impact. We changed to bring changes to society to show our commitment to UN SDGs."

Dr. Samiya Selim, Associate Professor and Director of the ULAB Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), said, "Achieving such a high score in SDG 17, which was mandatory for all Universities, and being number 156 out of nearly 1200 Universities really highlights how successful ULAB has been in working on all SDGs with different stakeholders and partners. The Center for Sustainable Development, established in 2006, has been actively working on embedding sustainability in curriculum, campus and community. This is done through their Minor in Sustainable Development, Greening ULAB program and their research which generate knowledge for achieving the SDG Goals in Bangladesh".

The THE Impact Ranking is trusted by students, parents, academics, industry leaders, and governments. For ULAB to reach 4th place in Bangladesh is an outstanding achievement. This recognition underlines the strength of ULAB as a global centre for quality teaching, learning, and research, as well as recognising the tremendous student experience that it offers.



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