



**ULAB**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH



## Report on **ULAB's Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals 2023**

**November 2024**





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## Message from the Vice-Chancellor of ULAB

From its inception, one of the guiding principles of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has been sustainable development – the “idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report 1987). For this reason, the university has established the Center for Sustainable Development, passed policies ensuring student learning of sustainable development, and undertaken various outreach projects to contribute towards the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Hence, when Times Higher Education (THE) initiated the Impact Rankings – the first global attempt to measure university progress around the SDGs – ULAB saw this as an opportunity to highlight the great work that we have done. In this sense, the report on “ULAB’s Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2023” is a testament to our endeavors to fulfill the SDGs.

There are indeed a lot of people to thank for making this report possible. I would like to first express my gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their guidance, particularly on the university’s position vis-à-vis sustainable development. My heartfelt thanks to the various faculty members (led by their deans and department heads) and centers (led by their directors) for their research, teaching, and outreach activities around the SDGs.

I am indebted to Interim Director for the Institutional Ranking Cell Dr. Md. Kamal Uddin and Pro Vice Chancellor Jude William Genilo – for their efforts in showcasing ULAB’s commitment to sustainable development.

This is the fifth report the university has compiled to show its contribution to the SDGs, and was ranked. In 2024, ULAB ranked first in Bangladesh in SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) categories, and ranked second in SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) category. ULAB was also ranked in SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) categories.

I am sure that this will continue moving forward. All the best.

### **Professor Imran Rahman**

Vice-Chancellor



# Introduction

In 2004, the establishment of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) was driven by a clear vision<sup>1</sup>: to become the premier university in Bangladesh and a leader in South Asia. This vision is deeply rooted in the university's mission, which centers on nurturing young minds to reach their full potential through the pursuit of knowledge in a free and creative manner. ULAB is dedicated to shaping responsible and compassionate global citizens among its male and female students.

To achieve these objectives, ULAB offers a mix of traditional and innovative academic and extracurricular programs, exposing students to the finest achievements in arts and sciences worldwide.

The institution upholds a set of core values that serve as the foundation of its culture and behavior expectations. These values encompass a passion for lifelong learning, the practice of integrity and leadership, the encouragement of innovation, the promotion of tolerance, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

Moreover, ULAB is unwavering in its commitment to providing quality education. It actively develops and implements systems to enhance both academic and administrative performance, fostering a culture of quality and embracing best practices. The university maintains strict compliance with all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements.

## Sustainable Development and ULAB

While placing a strong emphasis on delivering quality education, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has consistently upheld 'Sustainable Development' as one of its six fundamental principles since its establishment. This commitment is encapsulated in the principle of "Employing sustainable practices and respect for human rights, to become responsible leaders of the future." ULAB's other five guiding principles encompass Liberal Arts, Progressive Education, Active Teaching and Learning, Research, and Engaged Citizenship.

The ULAB's Strategic Plan for 2017–2023<sup>2</sup> elaborates on its pursuit of sustainability. This includes seeking international accreditation for its sustainability programs, which integrate sustainable development into all aspects of teaching, learning, research, and administrative practices. Additionally, the university aims to create a state-of-the-art green and sustainable campus that incorporates the latest environmental, communication, and educational technologies through the implementation of the "Green Plan" and "Sustainability Plan."

Established in 2006, the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)<sup>3</sup> at ULAB is its oldest research center and a pioneering institution in Bangladesh dedicated to teaching and researching sustainable development. In addition to contributing to ULAB's core strengths in teaching and research, the CSD actively upholds the university's guiding principle of Sustainable Development. The CSD has a vision for a sustainable future and pursues its mission through research, education, and advocacy, achieving notable progress and impact over the past 15 years.

<sup>1</sup> ULAB – Vision, Mission, Values: <https://ulab.edu.bd/about-us/mission-and-values/>

<sup>2</sup> ULAB Strategy Plan 2017–2023: <https://ulab.edu.bd/about-us/strategic-plan/>

<sup>3</sup> Center for Sustainable Development (CSD): <https://csd.ulab.edu.bd/>



# About ULAB's SDG Report 2023

Since the inception of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in 2015, various sectors, including public, non-governmental, and business entities, have been aligning their endeavors with the SDG framework. This framework comprises 17 goals, 169 targets, and 244 indicators. The Government of Bangladesh, drawing from its past experience with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015, has demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving the SDGs.

In accordance with its core principles, policies, values, and strategies, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has been actively contributing to SDG 4 by providing quality education and conducting research at the tertiary level. The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at ULAB has directly supported specific SDGs through its SDG Minor, research initiatives, and outreach programs. Likewise, other research centers and departments within ULAB have also been contributing to various SDGs and their associated targets, albeit without a comprehensive compilation of these efforts.

In 2024, ULAB initiated an effort for the fifth time to comprehensively document its collective contributions to all 17 SDGs based on activities conducted throughout the year. This endeavor involved extensive consultations among ULAB faculty, department heads, research center directors, and administrative staff, guided by the senior management, including the Academic Council, Syndicate, and Board of Trustees. A strategic plan was developed to execute this internal assessment, and this report is the result of that pioneering collaborative effort.

In the subsequent sections of this report, you will find concise descriptions of both on-campus and off-campus activities carried out by teachers, students, research centers, and faculty members in the context of each of the 17 SDGs. These activities encompassed a wide range of initiatives, such as organizing seminars, workshops, and international conferences, engaging in collaborative research partnerships with national and international institutions through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), presenting and publishing research findings in a variety of outlets, including Scopus-indexed journals, representing Bangladesh at international forums, and offering specialized courses to a diverse audience.

ULAB is committed to publishing the SDG Report on an annual basis to share its ongoing contributions to global efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs.

## Abbreviations

BBA	Department of Business Administration of ULAB
CAS	Center for Archaeological Society of ULAB
CAT	Center for Advanced Theory of ULAB
CES	Center for Enterprise and Society of ULAB
CETL	Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning of ULAB
CHPD	Center for Health, Population and Development
CLS	Center for Language Studies of ULAB
CSD	Center for Sustainable Development of ULAB
CSE	Department of Computer Science and Engineering of ULAB
CQS	Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies
DEH	Department of English and Humanities of ULAB
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Engineering of ULAB
EMBA	Executive Master of Business Administration of ULAB
ETE	Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering of ULAB
GED	Department of General Education of ULAB
HE	Higher Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSJ	Department of Media Studies and Journalism of ULAB
SD	Sustainable Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY



## White paper: Post-pandemic Situational Analysis of the e-commerce Industry in Bangladesh

In April 2023, ULAB CES researchers Raihana Sayeeda Kamal and Sajid Amit published a white paper titled “Post-pandemic Situational Analysis of the E-commerce Industry in Bangladesh,” examining the significant growth and challenges faced by the e-commerce sector following the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, it relates to SDG 1 (No Poverty), as e-commerce can reduce poverty by providing more income opportunities and improving living standards. Overall, the white paper highlights the critical role of e-commerce in promoting sustainable development in Bangladesh. You can access the paper [here](#).



CES KNOWLEDGE NOTE

April 2023

### Post-pandemic Situational Analysis of the e-commerce Industry in Bangladesh

Raihana Sayeeda Kamal, Researcher, CES  
Sajid Amit, Director, CES

#### Introduction

The e-commerce (electronic commerce) is a virtual marketplace where sellers and customers buy and sell products and services online. The e-commerce industry in Bangladesh includes logistics, food and delivery online etc. The industry set sail its journey in 2009. Since then, the industry has been expanding slowly and steadily. However, in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry boomed as the country went under lockdown and city dwellers leaned towards online shopping to avoid contact with infection. According to the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), online sales rose about 70% in 2020 compared to 2019, and the market size of the industry stood at nearly USD 2 billion as of August 2020<sup>1</sup>. After such significant growth during the pandemic, the industry stumbled post-pandemic due to the scams and restricted or complete shutdown of operations of e-commerce giants Evaly, Dharmaka Shopping and E-orange<sup>2</sup>. However, these setbacks helped the industry to identify loopholes in the system and adopt a regulatory policy. Despite setbacks, the industry is still growing. According to Statista, by 2023, the market is predicted to reach USD 3 billion.<sup>1</sup> This paper aims to explore the current situation of the e-commerce industry, identify its loose ends and recommend a way forward to improve the industry.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.e-cabbd.com/buzz/2021/12/28/e-commerce-in-bangladesh-food-in-e-commerce-in-2021>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dinews.net.bd/economy/commerce-gol-pandemic-tocod-all-going-strong-275678>

## Webinar on ‘Meet The CEO: A Talk With Tasvir Ahmed Faheem’

On Monday, July 10, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) hosted a webinar titled “Meet the CEO: A Talk with Tasvir Ahmed Faheem,” featuring Tasvir Ahmed Faheem, CEO of InsureCow. The event focused

on the importance of livestock insurance and management services, showcasing innovative solutions aimed at enhancing agricultural resilience and empowering marginalized farmers through real-time data and technology. During the discussion, Tasvir Ahmed Faheem addressed the challenges faced by farmers in managing livestock risks and explained how InsureCow’s tailored insurance products and management tools help address these issues. The webinar aligned with several key Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 1 (No Poverty), which emphasizes financial security for marginalized farmers; it also cross-cuts through SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), focusing on improving livestock management for food security; and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).



CES WEBINAR

### MEET THE CEO A TALK WITH TASVIR AHMED FAHEEM

Monday, July 10, 2023  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LIVE Center for Enterprise and Society

Tasvir Ahmed Faheem  
Guest Speaker  
Founder & CEO  
InsureCow



Sajid Amit  
Opening Remarks  
Associate Professor, ULAB  
Director, CES, ULAB



Md. Mushfiqur Rahman  
Moderator  
Sr. Manager, Projects and  
Research, CES, ULAB

2 ZERO HUNGER



## Webinar on 'The Future of AgriTech in Bangladesh'

ULAB CES and Future Startup organized a webinar titled "The Future of AgriTech in Bangladesh," featuring Tasvir Ahmed Faheem (Founder & CEO of InsureCow) and Sakib Hossain (Founder & CEO of Fashol), held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The event included a keynote presentation on the current state and future potential of the AgriTech industry in Bangladesh, followed by a live discussion moderated by Ruhul Kader (Editor, Future Startup). The discussion explored the challenges, opportunities, and innovations shaping the AgriTech landscape in Bangladesh. The webinar made significant contributions to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by discussing how technology can enhance food security and improve agricultural practices. It also supported SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through its focus on how AgriTech innovations can help develop a more resilient agricultural sector, utilizing advanced technologies to improve productivity and sustainability. Additionally, the event aligned with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by highlighting the role of AgriTech in promoting sustainable farming practices and efficient use of resources in agricultural production. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).



## EEE Publications on Agriculture

EEE Faculty M. Rasheduzzaman submitted a paper titled, "Understanding the Information Landscape in Agricultural Communities in Rural Bangladesh," to the Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, Wiley Online Library, ISSN: 1681-4835.

## Study Tour to Akij Food and Beverage Factory

The ULAB Business Club recently embarked on a captivating two-day study tour, venturing into the heart of Chapai Nawabganj to the renowned Akij Food and Beverage Factory. With 40 enthusiastic students primarily from the School of Business, accompanied by faculty members and club executives, this tour served as a captivating gateway into the inner workings of a prominent industrial giant. The journey was a captivating blend of education and excitement, offering participants an intimate encounter with the multifaceted operations of the Akij Factory. The highlight of the expedition was an up-close encounter with the mango pulping process, a pivotal step in the creation of the beloved Frutika mango drink. Beyond the obvious educational value, the Akij Factory visit underscored the industry's emphasis on quality control, innovation, and sustainability. This firsthand experience left an indelible mark on the young minds, cultivating a profound appreciation for the intricate tapestry of modern manufacturing.







## DEH Picnic for Well-Being

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held a picnic on February 9, 2023 at Nokkhotrobari Resort for its faculty members, staff, students, and alumni. The picnic was organized with the goal of increasing the bond between all members of the department. It was a day of fun and relaxation, away from the stress of work and study. The journey began early in the morning in four buses. Students and teachers sang and danced to set the mood. Upon arrival at the picnic venue, the students enjoyed swimming in the pool after a hearty breakfast while the faculty members played Frisbee. Everyone took advantage of the playground equipped with swings and see-saws. The venue was picturesque and 20 the environment relaxing. Towards the end of the day, after lunch, a game of pass the ball was played by everyone. Prizes were given away for a raffle draw. The picnic was organized by Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, DEH, with the help of the Teaching Assistants, Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, Sanzida Alam, and Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury as well as Md. Sahedul Islam Hira, Sanjida Akter, and Isra Tahiya Islam.



 Department of English and Humanities  
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## DEH PICNIC 2023

# Nokkhotrobari Resort

Thursday, 9 February 2023  
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM



### What to Expect?

- Games
- Breakfast
- Swimming
- Music
- Lunch
- Snacks

*All students of BA, MA and Alumni are invited  
(Spouse/children welcome)*

*Amount: 2,000/- Per Person*

Sign up with Tithi Das  
Admin Office, DEH

Sign up deadline:  
**FEBRUARY 5th, 2023**





## EEE Publications on Health

1. M. Rasheduzzaman and A. B. M. S. U. Doulah, "Application of Augmented Reality Interventions for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): A Systematic Review," Computers, Special Issue "Extended or Mixed Reality (AR + VR): Technology and Applications," MDPI, ISSN: 2073-431X.
2. A. B. M. S. U. Doulah, "Towards smart helmet for motorcyclists: automatic stress level detection using wearable accelerometer sensor system," in 2023 International Conference on Communication, Circuits, and Systems (IC3S), Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-2590-4.
3. R. K. Sadhukhan, "Comprehensive Assessment of Radiation Impact from Natural Radioactivity and Tritium Around Rooppur NPP Before Commissioning and Predicted Exposures of NPP Operation," Progress in Nuclear Energy, Elsevier, Online ISSN: 1878-4224, Print ISSN: 0149-1970.
4. A. Jawad, "Motor Imagery Hand Movement Classification Using Attention Network Integrated Inception Model," IEEE, Electronic ISSN: 2771-7917.
5. A. Jawad, "Enhancing Parkinson's Disease Detection Through Handwriting Analysis: A Deep Learning Approach with Segmentation and Transfer Learning," IEEE, Year 2023

### Research Collaborations

S/N	Title of the research	Chief Investigator	Co-Researcher(s)	Source of Fund
1	Feasibility study on a self-assembled digital stethoscope for automatic detection of pneumonia in toddlers: data analysis and user perception	Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah	Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh Government
2	Designing a Smart Wearable to Keep Our Senior Citizens Safe	Muhammad Anwarul Azim	Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah	ICT Innovation Fund 2021-2022
3	Feasibility Study of Self-Assembled Digital Stethoscope: Automated Pneumonia Diagnosis in Young Children through Data Analytics and End-User Insights	Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah	Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman, Dr. Mohammad Walidur Rahman, Dr. Ahmed Imran Kabir	ICT Innovation Fund 2022-2023

## ULAB's Professor Kibria presented a research paper at an International Conference in South Korea



Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, from the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), embarked on a journey to South Korea to participate in the 23rd International Conference on Control, Automation, and Systems (ICCAS) in 2023, held from October 17th to October 20th. At this prestigious event, he presented a research paper titled “IoT-based Smart Ankle Foot Orthosis for Patients with Gait Imbalance,” which was co-authored by Fahim Hossain Sifat, Ferdous Rahman Shefa, and the esteemed Professor Dr. Sayed Chhattachan Shah, who is affiliated with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Throughout his stay in South Korea, Professor Kibria not only attended keynote addresses but also engaged in meaningful discussions with distinguished professors and researchers. He shared insights and discussed potential avenues for collaborative research projects. In addition to his conference activities, Professor Kibria took the opportunity to explore some of the world-renowned universities and research facilities in South Korea including Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFs), the Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), Woosong University, Chungnam National University, and Sejeong University. Moreover, he seized the chance to immerse himself in the local culture and sights of South Korea.

## Media Studies and Journalism Department Publication on Health

Name of the Faculty	Research Title	Publisher
Mohammad Aminul Islam co-authored with Monaemul Islam Sizear, Sharmin Akhtar, Monimul Huq	Communicating health and risk information among senior citizens in Bangladesh	International Journal of Public Health Science (IJPHS)
Mohammad Aminul Islam co-authored with M. Rezaul ISLAM	Exploring the impact of Covid-19 on children’s social media usage: a pragmatic analysis of excessive screen time and its effects on child development	Journal of Community Positive Practices

## Workshop on Medical Humanities

Two USB faculty members organised a workshop on 20 March 2023 at the ULAB main campus on Medical Humanities for their respective Business Communication and Industrial Psychology classes in the Spring 2023 term. The workshop’s purpose was to make students more interested in understanding how medicine has changed the shape of our culture and the people in it over time. With Farah Binte Bashir as the guest speaker, this workshop was divided into three segments where the speaker briefly gave an overview of what medical humanities entails. The guest has a Master’s degree in Comparative Literature and a minor in Music Studies from the University of Hyderabad, India. The students were divided into groups where they were given a particular brain teaser and they all shared their opinion as a group. Moving forward, some music-related exercises were also integrated into the session. Overall, the students truly enjoyed the session and they have expressed an active interest in learning more about their body mind relationship.







## White paper: Impact of ChatGPT & AI on University Education

In March 2023, ULAB CES Research Associate Nazifa Mussarrat published a white paper titled “Impact of ChatGPT & AI on University Education.” This paper discusses how integrating AI technologies like ChatGPT has changed the learning environment in universities. AI enhances the quality of education (SDG 4) by offering personalized learning experiences, providing instant feedback on assignments, and improving accessibility for students with disabilities. Additionally, AI fosters innovation and better educational infrastructure (SDG 9) by changing teaching methods through blended learning and data-driven decisions, which help improve educational quality and resource use. It also prepares students for the workforce (SDG 8) by equipping them with essential skills and supporting entrepreneurship with useful insights and resources. Moreover, AI encourages partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) between universities, tech companies, and research institutions, promoting knowledge sharing and collaborative research. This teamwork addresses global challenges and enhances educational equity by reaching underserved populations. By effectively using AI technologies, educational institutions can help create a more inclusive, fair, and sustainable future, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. You can access the paper [here](#).



## ULAB EEE Department Hosts Successful Seminar on Applied Control System and Robotics

A seminar on “Applied Control System and Robotics” organized by the Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) Department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in collaboration with ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club!

The seminar, held on 10th April, was a resounding success with a tremendous turnout of enthusiastic students and faculty members. We were honored to have Md. Tasnim Rana, an expert in mechatronics systems and PLC-based industrial automation, as our esteemed guest speaker. The seminar was packed with insightful discussions and engaging presentations by Md. Tasnim Rana, who shared his in-depth knowledge and experience in the field. The attendees were captivated by the practical applications of control systems and robotics in modern industries, and the interactive Q&A session was highly engaging and informative.

It was truly inspiring to see the level of excitement and curiosity among our students, who actively participated in the seminar and expressed their eagerness to learn more about the subject. The event provided a unique platform for our students to gain valuable insights and broaden their horizons in the field of applied control systems and robotics.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Md. Tasnim Rana for his valuable contribution to the seminar. His expertise and passion for the subject were evident throughout the seminar, and we are grateful for his time and effort in sharing his knowledge with us. We would also like to thank all the students and faculty members who joined the seminar and made it a grand success. Your active participation and enthusiasm were truly appreciated.

As a department, we are committed to organizing such informative and engaging events that foster learning and growth among our students. We look forward to more such opportunities to learn, share, and collaborate in the future. Stay tuned for more exciting events and workshops from the EEE Department of ULAB!

Link: [ULAB EEE Department Hosts Successful Seminar on Applied Control System and Robotics | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)





## Seminar on “Higher Study Abroad” arranged by UERC, ULAB

The seminar on Higher Study Abroad, featuring Nafisa Sadaf Prova, Adjunct Faculty at ULAB, was a resounding success. Organized by the ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club, the event provided participants with valuable insights and knowledge about the necessary preparation and requirements for higher studies abroad. Held on June 19, 2023, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm in Room PA211, the seminar attracted a diverse group of attendees eager to learn and network with like-minded professionals. The informative session left participants well-equipped with the knowledge they need to pursue their academic goals abroad.

Link: [Facebook](#)

## Information Session on “CCI Program: Your Opportunity to Build an International Network”

The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, arranged an Information Session on the CCI Program offered by the US Department of State on January 19, 2023, titled, “CCI Program: Your Opportunity to Build an International Network.” Facilitated by Ms. Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia, Assistant Director, English Zone, and CCI Alumna, this session focused on giving the students information about the Community College Initiative Program, to encourage them to apply for it. The session started with Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, introducing Ms. Tasmia, following which the facilitator discussed what the CCI Program is, the five pillars of the program, the opportunities that CCI Program students and alumni receive, and how to fill up the application form. Ms. Tasmia began with what the CCI Program is and gave the students an understanding of how community colleges work in the US, and what activities the program includes to help their students give back to their communities. Following this, she discussed the five pillars of the program which extended to a discussion on the fields of study that the program offers, as well as the benefits and international networking opportunities that alumni receive. Ms. Tasmia also shared details on the application process where she mentioned some of the common mistakes that applicants make, shared tips on how to connect their ideas and goals to the five pillars in the application, and also gave the students ideas on how the selection process works and what to expect at the interview if they get selected. Additionally, Ms. Tasmia also showed the students some important websites, such as the website of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, so that they can use them during the application process. At the end of the workshop, students had the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns, following which, Ms. Rahman shared some tips and words of encouragement, bringing the session to a conclusion.

[CCI Program Information Session | Department of English and Humanities](#)

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
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Information Session

**CCI Program: Your Opportunity to Build an International Network**

**Date:** January 19, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Google Meet

**Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia**  
Assistant Director, English Zone, ULAB, and CCI Alumna

**What to Expect:**

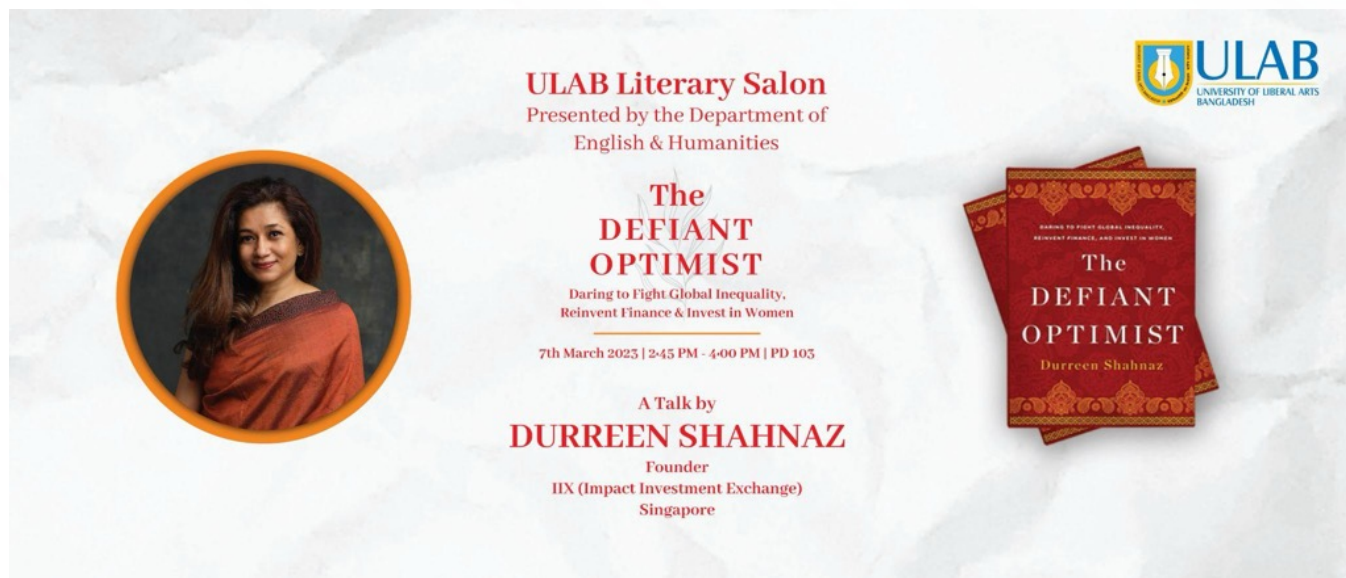
The session will be divided into two segments. In the first segment, the speaker will introduce the program, share how CCI will contribute to students' professional development, and opportunities they will receive as US Exchange Alumni.

The second section will focus more on the application writing process and what to expect in the interview. There will be a brief Q/A session at the end.

## 7th ULAB Literary Salon with Durreen Shahnaz

The 7th ULAB Lit Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, was held on March 7, 2023. Moderated by ULAB Visiting Faculty, Sudeep Chakravarti, this Lit Salon showcased a conversation with Professor Durreen Shahnaz, and a poetry recitation by Ms. Sadaf Saaz. Sudeep Chakravarti began the conversation with Prof. Shahnaz and delved into her personal experiences and stories, enchanting the audience with insights on her sources of inspiration for her upcoming book, *The Defiant Optimist*. Being an investment banker and the founder of IIX (Impact Investment Exchange), Singapore, she further talked about her being a part of the finance industry that helped her curate the book. Ms. Sadaf Saaz was also invited to come forth, where, not only did she uphold the grassroots problems of women that persist, but she also recited her poem.

"I was born into a body" is Ms. Saaz's poem featured at the beginning of *The Defiant Optimist*, which talks about the woes of being a woman in a patriarchal society that objectifies their bodies. The program was graced by the presence of Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB; Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB; Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, DEH, ULAB; Ms. Nadia Rahman, Associate Lecturer, DEH, ULAB; as well as other faculty members and students of ULAB. The event wrapped up with some final remarks from Sudeep Chakravarti, and a token of appreciation for the guests, Professor Durreen Shahnaz and Ms. Sadaf Saaz.



[7th ULAB Lit Salon with Prof. Durreen Shahnaz | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2023

The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held the Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seminar on March 7, 2023, to provide the MA students with a platform to present their research papers which they had produced as a part of their course work in the previous semester. The paper presentations were showcased in the presence of the Dean, the Head of Department, faculty members and students. Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and MA Coordinator, welcomed the audience and invited the first presenter, Khondokar Shahad Muktadir (Batch 222). Shahad presented his paper on "Books and Bookstores: Examining the Interrelationship between Cultural Capital, Cultural Space, and Consumer Behavior." He called attention to how spaces such as bookstores have diminished into becoming backgrounds in people's photos as fewer people visit them today to actually read or buy books. The next paper was presented by Sejuti Islam Proma (Batch 222). Her paper, "Creativity and Fiction Writing," showcased her own experience with literature and writing. She spoke about the authors and books that inspired her, and shared what she learned from Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam while attending his course on fiction writing. She concluded with her short story, "A 'Mundane' Day with the Weighing Scales," which she had written for the course, using a photograph as a prompt. The third paper presenter, Fahmida Akter (Batch 223), presented on how Bangladeshi media uses slang and abusive language, influenced by the western culture, in her presentation, "Adaptation of Slang and Western Culture in Recent Bangladeshi Dramas and Web Series: Cultural Degradation or Trend?" She argued that the modern dramas and web series of Bangladesh are losing their personhood in the process of adapting to the western culture in attempts to cater to a younger audience. The final



presenter, Arohe Roy Lazz (Batch 223), presented “Syllabus Design Theories in a Real World Context: Current Situation and Future Directions.” She discussed how schools in Bangladesh use a Grammatical Syllabus which includes memorization, GTM method, emphasis on writing, no oral communication, and deductive method, and suggested improvements that can be implemented. The Spring 2023 Graduate Student Seminar concluded with some words of wisdom from Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities.

[Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2023 | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## Workshop on Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules” on March 9, 2023. Mohammad Zaki Rezwan, Senior Lecturer, DEH, facilitated the workshop instead of Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman as originally intended. The workshop was specifically designed for ENG 413, 499, and 498 students. The workshop’s objective was to give the students proper knowledge about recommendation letters. Mohammad Zaki Rezwan started the workshop with a brief introduction about recommendation letters, giving an overview of what a recommendation letter is, why it is required, from whom the students should get them, and where they will be needed. The facilitator then asked the students questions about recommendation letters, to which the students responded from their own viewpoints. Following that, the facilitator explained what to include in the letter when preparing a draft of the recommendation letter. Mohammad Rezwan advised students to offer as much information about themselves as possible, as well as a brief summary of their achievements and skills, and clarified what should be highlighted when drafting the recommendation letter. The facilitator clearly explained to the students what they should and should not do while drafting the recommendation letter. By the end of the workshop, Mohammed Rezwan gave a few more suggestions and added a question about what they should do if their recommendation letter request is refused. He advised students to always keep a backup choice in hand and to remember that once the letter is completed, students should always be grateful and thank their referee for the effective usage of the letter. The facilitator answered the students’ queries and concerns during a question and answer session that took place towards the end of the workshop. 26 This workshop is one of a series of workshops created for students in their last semester to provide them with essential knowledge regarding their professional life.

<https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/2023/04/13/deh-workshops-final-term-students>





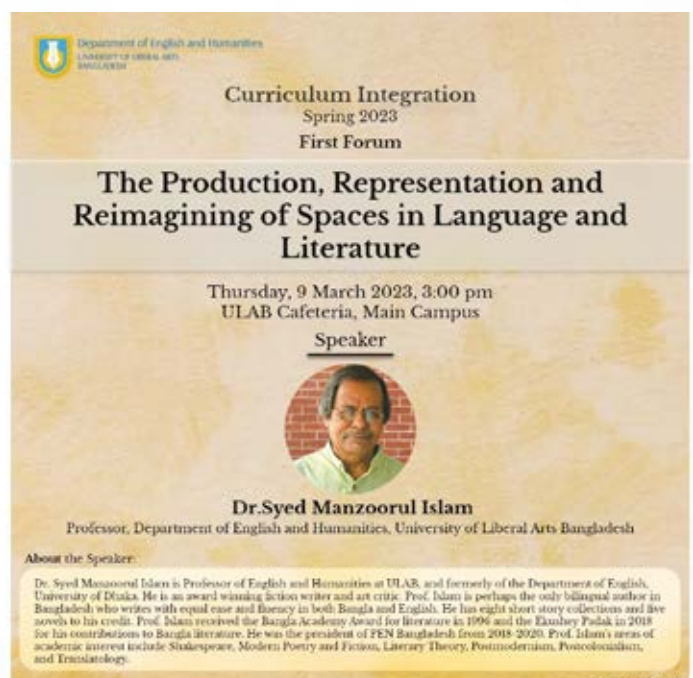
# DEH Student Workshop on Writing Statements of Purpose

On April 6, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a student workshop titled "Writing Statements of Purpose." This session was part of a series of mandatory workshops arranged specifically for ENG413/498/499 students. The workshop's goal, which was organized for the Spring of 2023 term's DEH thesis/internship/non thesis students, was to instruct the attendees on the critical elements of creating a strong Statement of Purpose (SoP). Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, was in charge of the workshop and started by reviewing the significance of a Statement of Purpose and its function in the graduate school admission procedure. She underlined the necessity of a great initial appearance, and setting oneself apart from other applicants through an outstanding Statement of Purpose. An SoP, according to Dr. Manzoor, is a personal essay that describes a student's academic and professional aspirations, their drive to enroll in a specific course or program, and how that program will help them advance their careers. Following this, the main components of a Statement of Purpose, such as the introduction, academic background, professional experience, research interests, and future objectives, were covered in the workshop. Dr. Manzoor offered illustrations and pointers on how to plan and arrange each component properly. In addition, she stressed the importance of understanding one's audience and adjusting the SoP to meet the particular needs of the program or institution. Students discussed their encounters with and worries about drafting an SoP during the interactive session. Dr. Manzoor offered insightful criticism and pointers for enhancing their writing abilities. She recommended pupils be explicit about their accomplishments and long-term objectives and avoid clichés. She emphasized the necessity of displaying a sincere interest in the subject and emphasizing one's special skills and expertise. Dr. Manzoor finally discussed students' typical errors when creating an SoP and how to avoid them. Students had the chance to query Dr. Manzoor about the SoP writing process during the question and answer session that followed the workshop. She gave thoughtful responses to their inquiries and insightful advice that would help the students create effective SoPs.



# Curriculum Integration SP23: First Forum

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH), at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized the first forum of its Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) program on March 9, 2023. This program enables the students to make real life connections between their course materials and a specified theme based on real-world significance. This semester the theme is "The Production, Representation and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature." Two forums, with expert speakers on the subject, are organized to help students understand the concept and how it may be related to their courses. The speaker of Forum One was Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor, DEH, who discussed the concepts of space in literature. The program began with a welcome note and comments on the CI and the chosen theme by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees. The Dean of the School of Arts



and Humanities, Professor Kaiser Haq spoke about the term space itself and the history of poetry. The Speaker of Forum One, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam began by giving students a background history of how space is relevant to literature. He shed light on how space is not just a physical entity, but is also cultural, political, economic, industrial, psychological, emotional, and geographic. He also discussed examples from different writers, philosophers, and even architects to give a clear picture of 33 space and its usage from every sector of life. He reflected on the loss of personal space, and how its definition and idea changes with time and modernization. The relationship between literary geography and topography, postmodern play of places in the era of globalization, national/supranational and border space, space and power, emancipation of space, space vs place, etc., were some of the ideas Prof. Islam shared that the students could relate to their course materials and establish a project on. Subsequent to Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam's elaborate discussion, the floor was opened up for a round of questions. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. The program was organized by Ms. Mehek Chowdhury and Sheikh Nahiyan, Lecturers, DEH. The volunteers and students actively participated and contributed to the event.



Curriculum Integration Spring 2023: Forum One | Department of English and Humanities

## Curriculum Integration SP23: Second Forum

On March 11, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, organized the second forum of its Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) program at the ULAB Research Building. Every term the Department holds the Curriculum Integration Program for students to compete and show off their creativity by connecting a specific chosen theme to the contents of their courses. The theme for the Spring 2023 term is "The Production, Representation, and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature." Prior to the group projects, two forums, featuring speakers who are experts in the field, are held to help students understand the theme and how to relate it to their courses. The first forum featured Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam who spoke about the theme in relation to literary studies. The second forum featured Dr. Shaila Sultana, Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, who made connections between the theme and language/linguistics and identity. Professor Shaila Sultana talked about the spaces that connect an individual with their language and identity, and how important each different space is in regard to this. Professor Sultana further shared anecdotes from various students, a general overview of the lack or presence of certain spaces and how they are created, how spaces affect the mindset of pupils and teachers, and especially her overall take on Language, Space, and Identity. After her talk, a Q&A session commenced for students and teachers to clear any confusion or quench their curiosity related to the topic which led to the conclusion of the 2nd CI forum for the term. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Mehek Chowdhury, Lecturer, DEH, who is one of the event coordinators this term along with Sheikh Nahiyan, Lecturer, DEH.

Department of English and Humanities  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

**Curriculum Integration**  
 Spring 2023  
 Second Forum

**The Production, Representation and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature**

Saturday, 11 March 2023, 11:30 am  
 Auditorium, ULAB Research Building

Guest Speaker

**Dr. Shaila Sultana**  
 Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka

**About the Speaker:**  
 Shaila Sultana, PhD is a professor and the former Head of Department of English Language, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has been educated at Jahangirnagar University (Dhaka), Monash University (Melbourne), King's College (London) and the University of Technology (Sydney). She has published extensively in a different top-tiered peer-reviewed international journals. Her recent publications include a co-authored book *Popular Culture, Voice and Linguistic Diversity* (Macmillan, Palgrave, USA) and a co-edited handbook titled *Routledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh* (UK), and a special issue of *Australian Review of Applied Linguistics* titled *Translingual practices entangled with semiotised space and time*. She is on the editorial boards of *Language in Society* (Cambridge University Press), *Journal of English-medium instruction* (John Benjamins), *Ampersand* (Elsevier), *Journal of Asia TEFL*, *Crossings*, *Journal of BELTA*, and so on.

PC: Md. Nahid Hossain



# 9th ULAB Literary Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted the 9th ULAB Literary Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee on Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the auditorium of the ULAB Research Building. The Literary Salon is an initiative of the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB to bring together writers, readers, thinkers, and publishers from Bangladesh and other South Asian countries in an interactive setting. Dr. Nusrat Rabbee, daughter of martyred intellectual cardiologist Dr. Fazle Rabbee and Dr. Jahan Ara Rabbee, was here to discuss her memoir *The Spirit of 1971*. 44 Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, moderated the discussion with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee, an eminent scientist and author of *The Spirit of 1971: A Memoir of Dr. Mohammed Fazle Rabbee and Dr. Jahan Ara Rabbee*. Dr. Rabbee stated that the book is divided into three parts where she captured memories starting from 1961 to the end of the war in 1971. The book is not just a memoir, however, but a roadmap of how the country “Bangladesh” was born. Dr. Rabbee advised the audience to know why the war was fought. Dr. Nusrat Rabbee reminisced about her childhood with her parents as Prof. Mortuza requested her to share, and reconstructed her parents from her memory. With deep emotion, she described how amazing and dedicated her father was as a physician. She also shared the contribution of her mother in the health sector and population control management of East Pakistan and Bangladesh. Both of her parents had a positive influence on the people of this country. During the discussion, Dr. Rabbee also reflected on the imbalance, discrimination and inequality that was present between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. She briefly talked about the heinous military attack that started with the mass killing on March 25, 1971, under “Operation Searchlight” and ended with the killing of the intellectuals on December 14, 1971. She also stated that Pakistan targeted the intellectuals as they were the blueprint of the nation. The intellectuals had the ability to shape the cultural, social, and political fabric of the country. Dr. Rabbee told Prof. Mortuza that she translated the memoir into English as it was necessary to let the world know about the genocide which is still unknown to many. She empathized with the need for international recognition of the genocide that took place during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. Later, students read out excerpts from the book to give the audience an idea of what the book is about. There was a question-answer session at the end of the discussion in which people actively participated. 45 Some people asked questions, while some shared their insights on the Liberation War. Dr. Nusrat Rabbee then requested the audience to restore and uphold the spirit of 1971. ULAB’s Board of Trustee members, the French ambassador to Bangladesh, parliamentarians Suborna Mustafa and Nahid Ezahar, students and teachers of ULAB, and the family members of the martyrs graced the event with their vivid presence. Mrs. Ameenah Ahmed, a member of the Board of Trustees, at ULAB, ended the program by thanking Dr. Nusrat Rabbee and the guests of the event. She also handed a crest and gift hamper to Dr. Nusraat Rabbee as a token of appreciation. The program ended with a Liberation war song in memory of the people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country.

[9th ULAB Lit Salon with Dr. Nusrat Rabbee | Department of English and Humanities](#)

The poster for the 9th ULAB Literary Salon is presented by the Department of English & Humanities and the ULAB 1971 History Club. It features a portrait of Dr. Nusrat Rabbee and the title of her book, *THE SPIRIT OF 1971*. The event is scheduled for 19th March, 2023, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at PO 105, ULAB Campus, 688 Barabach Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka - 1207. The poster also includes the book's cover image and the names of the authors: Dr. Mohammed Fazle Rabbee and Dr. Jahan Ara Rabbee.





# Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, at its permanent campus in Mohammadpur, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, hosted a highly interactive workshop titled "Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh." Farah Binte Bashir, a graduate student of comparative literature at the University of Hyderabad in India, facilitated the workshop. Ms. Bashir began the session by inquiring about the participants' perceptions of what medical humanities might be. Giving the example of a cockroach, she told the participants not to think of it as an insect arousing a feeling of disgust but rather to empathize with its existence, as Gregor Samsa did in *The Metamorphosis*. "From that empathy comes medical empathy," she remarked. She described medical humanities as a field where the effects of music, frequency, paintings, etc. on the human brain as a therapeutic tool are studied, and art and literature are examined with an empathic eye. She illustrated how physical injuries affect psychological suffering in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *Padma Nadir Majhi* and *Pragaitihashik*. In the second part of the workshop, Ms. Bashir talked about how literary studies in 21st-century Bangladesh have embraced medical humanities with disability studies, memory studies, nostalgia studies, and trauma studies. She then instructed the participants to divide into groups and identify disabilities, trauma, and traumatic amnesia in "Jonakir Basha," a poem by Al Mahmud. Then she discussed *Torko Shojjay Mrittu* by Mahbub Mayukh Rishad as a consciously written medical humanities fiction. The next part of the workshop was focused on the framing of medical humanities as a real model. To show this, she asked the participants who have chronic or autoimmune diseases to sit in a separate group. After that, she played several pieces of music at different frequencies: at 148 Hz, a pain relief instrumental and at 528 Hz, an anxiety relief instrumental, the sound of Isha, and two lyrics conveying "negative intervention" and "positive intervention." She then advised the participants to close their eyes and connect with the music. Finally, she asked the participants to share their feedback on listening to the musical tunes and lyrics to which they responded positively. 47 The program was attended by Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities; Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor of the department; Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH; several other faculty members and students from the Department of English and Humanities, and the



Department of Bangla Language and Literature, ULAB; and guests.

[Physical Wounds in Literature: A Talk and Workshop on Critical Medical Humanities in 21st Century Bangladesh | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration Showcase

On April 13, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held the Spring 2023 Curriculum Integration (CI) Program Showcase. The main objective of this event was to showcase the best projects selected by the faculty members of the participating courses. These projects were thoroughly evaluated by the judges of the event, who then announced three winners towards the end of the program. The event with welcome speeches from Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, and Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, who shared their remarkable words of experience and wisdom as encouragement to the participants. After that, all the submitted projects were showcased. The projects were quite varied in nature, from scrapbook projects and video projects to presentations and paintings. Each held excellent significance in relation to the theme of the semester, "The Production, Representation, and Reimagining of Spaces in Language and Literature." 50 The judges for the day, Professor Kaiser Haq, Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturer, skillfully evaluated each project to shortlist the winners. As the program approached its end, the emcee invited Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department, who shared her words of appreciation for all the participants as well as the coordinators of the event, Ms. Mehek Chowdhury and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturers, DEH. Following this, the judges announced the winners of the Spring 2023 CI program. The winners received monetary prizes for their projects and hard work. 51 The winning

team comprised Joye Florence Rozario (Batch 222) and Rushda Humaira (Batch 222) for their project on Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" from the course, "Introduction to Fiction and Nonfiction" (Section 2). The course teacher was Ms. Samirah Tabassum, Lecturer, DEH. The first runner up team comprised Rowjatun Jannat (Batch 212), Rabeya Rahman (Batch 183), Faiza Imam Hridika (Batch 212), Nafisa Tasnim (Batch 212), Lamia Faiza (Batch 212), Bushra Binte Zahed (Batch 191), Roksana Akter (Batch 193), and Saika Binte Reza (Batch 212) for their project, "Dhaka" 52 as a parody of Blake's "London" from the course, "Romantic Poetry." The course teacher was Prof. Shamsad Mortuza. The second runner up was Md. Sorif Hossain (Batch 201) for his original research on curse words from the course "Sociolinguistics" taught by Dr. Rafi Saleh. The event was hosted by Mubashshira Tasnim Mahmud (Batch 193).

[SPRING 2023 DEH CURRICULUM INTEGRATION SHOWCASE | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## So, What's Next? A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates

A session entitled "So, What's Next: A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates" was conducted by the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), with an emphasis on upcoming academic plans for the BA graduating students of Spring 2023. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, facilitated the session. The session was held online on May 18, 2023. Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator, set the program into motion with warm congratulations to the successful graduates. Ms. Arifa Rahman then commenced the main segment. The aim of the program was to assist the students in deciding what to do next. Ms. Rahman began with emphasizing that graduate studies was an absolute necessity in the competitive job market. She provided information on what the students could expect if they were planning to study abroad. Pointing out the importance of gaining specialization in a certain field, Ms. Rahman encouraged the students to work toward a master's degree to hone their skills further, and get an upper hand in the job market. She elaborated on the procedure of applying for higher studies abroad step-by-step, such as assembling academic documents (transcripts and certificates), recommendation letters, SoPs and other necessary essays, as well as proof of funds and language proficiency tests. She further underlined the merit of initiating contact with possible supervisors beforehand and creating a research proposal, which would increase the likelihood of the students being awarded with funding for their degree. Since the application process and research for study abroad takes at least a year, Ms. Rahman urged the students to make use of the time by completing their Masters at ULAB in the interim in a familiar environment to get better used to the rigor of graduate school. Following Ms. Rahman's discussions, Mr. Zamal Uddin Bhuiyan, Director, Admissions, ULAB, presented the graduating students with necessary information on graduate studies at ULAB. He prompted the students to seek the multifarious opportunities, faculty expertise, and facilities that come with the different tracks of MA in English at ULAB. The session elicited a variety of responses from students towards the end, and was rounded up with Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman and Ms. Nadia Rahman clarifying the students' concerns and queries about studying abroad and at ULAB. Thus, the crucial session regarding the future prospects for graduating 57 students concluded with the students finding it extremely valuable to embark on their next academic adventure.



[So, What's Next?: A Guidance Session for Spring 2023 Graduates | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Session on Choosing a Minor

On June 13, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) arranged an informative online session titled “Choosing a Minor” to provide undergraduate students with the necessary insights and guidance to select a minor field of study alongside their primary degree in English literature and linguistics. The speakers of the session were professors and lecturers from the different departments that currently offer minor courses to DEH students. The session commenced with a welcome note from Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities. The first speaker of the session was Ms. Nandita Tabassum Khan, Senior Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Coordinator of the Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ). Ms. Khan briefly explained the four study concentrations of the MSJ courses offered as minors and highlighted their direct connection to the communication and media industries. She also discussed how pursuing a minor in MSJ would enable English and Humanities undergraduate students to acquire significant skills in digital media, along with enhanced analytical ability, which would likely benefit their future prospects in the corporate world. Following Ms. Khan’s segment, Mr. Sudeep Chakravarti, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for South Asian Studies (C-SAS), spoke about the Minor in South Asian Studies offered by C SAS and provided a comprehensive discussion on how the courses are interdisciplinary in nature and deal with issues such as Climate Change, Globalization, Sustainable Development Goals. He also mentioned that the principles and philosophy of C-SAS courses align with the principles of both DEH and MSJ curriculum, making the course contents easily accessible and relevant for the students. Dr. Mohammed Ashikur Rahman, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), then proceeded to explain the courses specially designed for the Minor in CSE. He informed the audience that these courses include at least one mandatory structured programming course and three ICT-based courses. Furthermore, Dr. Rahman provided a detailed explanation of the contents and objectives of these courses, emphasizing their relevance and importance in today’s digital age. The next speaker of the session was Ms. Rumana Liza Anam, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business (USB). Ms. Anam emphasized that pursuing a Minor in Business would greatly expand students’ career options. She specifically highlighted the significance of focusing on Finance and Accounting as part of the minor program, noting that it would make students strong candidates during their job search period. 14 Following this, Md. Emon Rahman, Research Associate of the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), took the floor to discuss the study objectives of the Minor in Sustainable Development offered by CSD. He explained how completing a minor in Sustainable Development would nourish the students’ analytical capacity and provide them with a strong foundation in this field. Mr. Rahman emphasized that the Minor in SD would open doors to research opportunities and also lead to career opportunities aligned with the study objectives of Sustainable Development. He highlighted the relevance and importance of this field in addressing global challenges and creating a sustainable future. Finally, Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Head of the General Education Department, provided insights on how minor courses differ from GED optional courses. She explained the conditions under which a student might consider opting for GED optional courses instead of pursuing a minor in a specific field. Professor Jahan emphasized the importance of students’ passion and interest in selecting their courses, encouraging them to choose subjects that genuinely intrigued them. She also addressed several student questions along with Ms. Arifa Rahman. Towards the end of the session, Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, the BA coordinator and Lecturer of the Department of English and Humanities, expressed her gratitude to the speakers and extended her appreciation to all the participating students for their active involvement. The session was emceed by Isra Tahiya Islam, Teaching Assistant, DEH.



[DEH Session on Choosing a Minor | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Faculty Research Adda at DEH

Faculty members at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, met on June 15, 2023, to discuss tips and strategies for research and publication. The session was facilitated by two of the department’s prolific researchers, Dr. Rafi Saleh, Assistant Professor, and Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer. Mohammad Mosiur Rahman shared his insights on publishing in high impact journals and their significance while Dr. Rafi Saleh advised his colleagues to focus on developing a specialized area of research. The latter also suggested areas in which collaborative research could be conducted. 16 Faculty members shared their concerns and queries at the end of the session.



[Faculty Research Adda at DEH | Department of English and Humanities](#)

# Student Workshop on Plagiarism

To tackle the issue of students' tendency to excessively rely on online mediums and AI tools for generating answers for their course assessments, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), conducted a workshop on "Plagiarism" on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. The workshop was conducted by Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (MA, Batch 223), Teaching Assistant, DEH, and Peer Tutor, English Zone, who gave students a general idea about the types of plagiarism and how to avoid them. Mr. Islam initiated the workshop with an anecdote relating to the consequences of borrowing materials without citing the appropriate sources. Grabbing the audience's attention, he moved on to define plagiarism so that the attending students were familiarized with it. Then he proceeded to explain the different types of plagiarism that students normally encounter: Global Plagiarism, Paraphrasing Plagiarism, Verbatim Plagiarism, Mosaic Plagiarism, Self-Plagiarism, and Accidental Plagiarism. Mr. Islam then went on to discuss ways to avoid plagiarism by using checkers such as Turnitin. He advised the students not to use AI tools or copy information from online sources since faculty members can detect them through their years of hands-on experience, even if Turnitin cannot. He further suggested using proper citations, using Turnitin to check for accidental plagiarism, and also to record bibliographic information accurately to avoid plagiarism. To conclude the workshop, Mr. Islam provided a short multiple-choice questionnaire to the participants. The questions aimed to gauge students' knowledge about different types of plagiarism and their understanding. The workshop was graced by the presence of Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, and ended with a question-and-answer session to clarify any confusions the students might have.



[Student Workshop on Plagiarism | Department of English and Humanities](#)

# DEH Graduate Student Seminar Summer 2023

On June 21, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held the Summer 2023 Graduate Student Seminar where ten students from the MA in English program had an opportunity to present their research papers that they had written as part of their coursework in the previous semester. The presenters were nominated by their course faculty from the following tracks: Literature and Cultural Studies, and Applied Linguistics and TESOL. The program was initiated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and Coordinator, MA in English. She invited the first presenter Rashmona Akther Rime (Batch 222) to present her paper on "Gendered Language Features in Advertisements" where she talked about common gendered language features observed in advertisements and discussed their implications on gender roles, stereotypes, and consumer perception. The next speaker was Kaniz Fatema Lamia (Batch 231), who presented her paper on "How Bengali Children Acquire Bangla: Behaviorism or Innatism?" She gave an overview of the theories of language development in children, and discussed the importance of 18 speaking practices for language acquisition, arguing that the acquisition of Bangla can be attributed to Innatism. The third presenter, Rownok Jahan Akhi (Batch 223), in her paper, "Cultural Construction of Madness in Bangladesh: An Analysis of the Movie Molla Barir Bou," discussed the perception that madness can be influenced by religious beliefs, traditional practices, and that societal norms and mental health issues have historically been stigmatized, especially for women, in many societies including Bangladesh, often preventing individuals







from seeking appropriate help and support. Following this, Sumaiya Nawshin (Batch 231), in her paper, “Redesigning a Syllabus for Contextual Sustainability: A Strength-Based Approach,” explored different syllabuses and how schools pressurize students to memorize grammatical rules. She additionally suggested effective learning strategies for ESL to Bangladeshi students. The next presenter, S.M. Imrul Hasan (Batch 222) presented on “The Cultural Construction of S.M. Sultan in the 21st Century” where he called attention to how Sultan’s artworks, depicting the marginalized Bangladeshi agrarian society, can be associated with different literary theories such as Marxism and Feminism. Jannatul Ferdous (Batch 222), in her presentation, “From Theory to Practice: Material Evaluation and Design in ELT,” presented the importance of developing materials for effective ELT by interweaving language and culture. Next, Sayma Afsana (Batch 223) presented her paper titled “From a Modern Woman to a Sex Objectification: A Journey of Tagore’s ‘Binodini’ through Media’s Interpretation.” She discussed how Tagore’s Binodini from Chokher Bali, who was portrayed as the rebel of the then society has now been turned into a mere sex object as observed in the recent adaptations of this character by the contemporary media. Anika Binte Nazrul (Batch 231) came forward next to present, “Beyond Words: Exploring Theories of First and Second Language Acquisition to Enhance Our Understanding of Language Learning,” where she talked about how understanding the differences between first and second language acquisition can help address challenges faced by second language learners and tailor language learning approaches accordingly. Sanjida Akter (Batch 222) then presented on “Analyzing the Cinematic Trend in Selected American Superhero Films” where she explored the cinematic trends within the genre, focusing on selected American superhero films that promote neocolonialism. Following her, Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (Batch 223), in his paper, “Practices of Translanguaging and Its Impact on English Language Teaching 19 and Learning at the Tertiary Level,” displayed the significance of translanguaging practices for English Language teaching and learning, and the development of policies and practices that promote effective language learning at the tertiary level. The Graduate Student Seminar articulated interdisciplinary discussion and knowledge exchange among the students. The graduate students were complimented by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, for their excellent performances, and were also provided with advice regarding their research papers that would be beneficial to them in the future. Finally, Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, felicitated the presenters and commented on their growth and confidence. At the end of the program, Certificates of Participation were handed over to the presenters by the Dean and the Head of Department.

[DEH Graduate Student Seminar Summer 2023 | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## A Conversation about Storytelling in the AR/VR and the Metaverse

On July 5, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized “A Conversation about Storytelling in AR/VR and the Metaverse” at its permanent campus premises. The facilitators were Dr. Joseph Jerome, a Privacy and Technology Lawyer and Expert in AR/VR Policy based in Washington, DC, and Dr. Sohana Nasrin, a faculty member in the Department of Communication at the University of Tampa, Florida. Dr. Joseph Jerome initiated the session and elaborated on the term “Metaverse” in his presentation. He emphasized that the Metaverse encompasses not only social media or virtual reality but also comprises numerous buzzwords that signify the magnitude of its concepts. Dr. Jerome then provided explanations of the terms “Augmented Reality” (AR) and “Virtual Reality” (VR). He focused on how AR conceptualizes the real world by layering virtual content on top of it. He further showcased instances of the advancements in AR and VR, which foster nearly realistic communication among people. His discussion aimed to introduce the various uses of AR and VR, while elaborating on their future implications in everyday life. For example, he highlighted how these immersive technologies might help generate empathy in people and emphasized

the research possibilities in this field for students from underdeveloped countries. The conversation then shifted towards the investments of companies in this sector. It was asserted that this is one of the fastest-growing business sectors, as these advanced technologies can provide personalized and immersive experiences to everyone. The discussion further delved into how VR can be utilized for training purposes and how companies are leveraging its benefits. At this point, Dr. Sohana Nasrin inquired about the utilization of AR and VR technologies in creating a new platform for storytelling on various issues like the climate crisis. During the question-and-answer session at the end of the conversation, the facilitators addressed queries regarding the emergence of AI, the accessibility of AR/VR technologies for all people, the utilization of the Metaverse, and their adaptation and importance in people's lives, particularly in developing countries like Bangladesh. Dr. Sohana Nasrin made a concluding remark, emphasizing the importance of continuous innovation and experimentation. She highlighted that people should never stop innovating or experimenting, as it can help them stay ahead of the game and pass on knowledge to others. The session ended with concluding remarks from the facilitators and a presentation of a token of appreciation to the guests by the Head of Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, attended the session along with other ULAB faculty members and students. The session was of special interest to students of English and Media Studies.



[A Conversation about Storytelling in the AR/VR and the Metaverse | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Student Workshop: Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a workshop on July 13, 2023 titled "Recommendation Letter: Ground Rules" at the institution's permanent campus. The workshop was held as a partial requirement for the students of ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499 courses, and facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH. Ms. Rahman began the session by explaining the distinct features and purposes of a recommendation letter. As the session progressed, she elaborated on its importance in job applications and higher education pursuits. Ms. Rahman also provided valuable insights into the dos and don'ts when requesting a recommendation letter, emphasizing the significance of receiving a proper letter from a faculty member, club advisor, or similar sources. The facilitator also talked about the importance of extracurricular activities in a student's life, and how it can contribute to enrich their Curriculum Vitae (CV) impacting their professional pursuits positively. Ms. Rahman also provided suggestions for students who seldom participate in such activities stressing on how interpersonal skills outside the classroom can help define a person's abilities. She also advised the students to develop soft skills, time management skills and utilize available resources alongside other activities as they can immensely contribute to their overall growth. The participants were then asked by Ms. Rahman to write a sample letter to their faculty members, asking for their recommendation. As a general feedback, the facilitator put special emphasis on the information that students should provide a faculty member with, and the etiquettes and attitude they should maintain when asking for the letter. Afterwards, Ms. Rahman discussed her personal experiences of receiving recommendation letters from her teachers, as well as her experience of writing recommendation letters for her students. The students were later given the floor to the participants to extend their queries which Ms. Rahman addressed with insightful replies. This interactive session was then brought to an end with an exchange of thanks between the students and the facilitator.



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[DEH Student Workshop: Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules | Department of English and Humanities](#)



# Public Talk: The Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature

On July 26, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB hosted a public lecture by Dr. Azfar Hussain, Summer Distinguished Professor at DEH, ULAB, and the Director of the Graduate Program in Social Innovation at Grand Valley State University, Michigan. The lecture, titled "The Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature," focused on two distinct areas of literature and people's perceptions of the multifaceted aspects of literature. Following the introduction, Dr. Azfar Hussain commenced the lecture by dividing his discussion into two parts. The first part was about the politics of 'world literature' and its origin. He started with two epigraphs that inspired him to understand the politics of the world and comparative literature, one by Bharatchandra Ray and the other by Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o. He mentioned that, in Western philosophy, there is a practice of creating connections in various literatures around the world, and questioned the medium upon which the connections are established. He discussed how Europeans are at the forefront of creating these connections by referencing the German poet and playwright, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and his perception of literary works beyond Europe through a Eurocentric lens. One of the significant aspects of the lecture was the mention of a letter written by Goethe to his student, Johann Peter Eckermann, where the term "World Literature" was mentioned, leading to the Westernization of the world's literature, from where the norm became to compare literature all around the world with that of the Europeans. Furthermore, to help understand the world of comparative literature, Dr.

Hussain gave an example of Rabindranath Tagore, using him to show that there is an entire world of literary works outside the voices of Europe. He argued that although "world literature" is often compared to European literature, the comparison should rather be done amongst literary works outside of Europe, like Asian or African literature. The speaker also added that comparative literature can be seen as an interdisciplinary discourse where other works are seen or substituted, and that colonialism and Eurocentrism play a huge role in creating the discipline of comparative literature. In his lecture, Dr. Hussain also mentioned Kazi Nazrul Islam who claimed that Europe should be respected but not solely relied upon. To conclude his public lecture, Dr. Hussain provided the insight that, even though the "Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature" has thus far been Eurocentric, the literature students of the new generation can help bring change in this aspect in the field of "World Literature" and Comparative Literature by synthesizing their native literature with the literature of the rest of the world, especially with African and Asian literature, rather than only the literature of the west. The lecture ended with a question and answer session. At the event, Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, gave the welcome speech while Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, Professor Shamsad Mortuza introduced the speaker. The event was attended by a large and varied audience amongst whom were Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, and Professor Claire Chambers from the University of York, UK, along with ULAB faculty members, students, and alumni, as well as distinguished scholars from different universities, artists, and practitioners of different disciplines. The event was moderated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The event was livecast from Facebook and the recording of the lecture is available on the DEH YouTube Channel.

["The Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature" Public Lecture by Dr. Azfar Hussain | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Student Workshop: Writing Statements of Purpose

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on “Writing Statements of Purpose” at its permanent campus on August 8, 2023. The workshop was attended by the students of the following courses, ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499, and the students of the Masters program. The session was facilitated by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB. Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, inaugurated the workshop. She then handed the floor over to Ms. Manzoor, who started the session by addressing the type of attitude students should maintain to pursue their higher education abroad and the purpose of the Statements of Purpose (SOP), stressing on its impact on a student’s chances of success in entering their desired institutions. As the session progressed, Dr. Manzoor informed the participants about the required documents besides the SOP needed for applications for higher studies, such as transcripts, results of standardized tests like IELTS, TOEFL, GRE, and GMAT, CVs, writing samples, recommendation letters, etc. She then elaborated on the importance of these documents in creating a positive impression on the Graduate Admissions Board. Afterwards, the facilitator discussed her own experiences before and after going through the process, and addressed the myths that often arise as an individual prepares for this new overseas journey. Dr. Manzoor placed special focus on students’ concerns about their academic results, emphasizing that a person’s academic performance cannot influence the potential of the SOP. She commented that the quality of an SOP determines an applicant’s likelihood of being accepted by the Graduate Board. Dr. Manzoor also noted that when writing their SOPs, individuals can choose between an “academic” or a “creative” structure. However, regardless of the style chosen, they should be attentive to the quality and quantity of information provided in the SOPs. This factor further defines the approach a candidate should take when composing it. At the end of the session, Dr. Manzoor suggested creating and maintaining connections with their faculty members, as well as creating contacts with the directors of the concerned institutions. She suggested the latter so that students can inquire about any information related to the institution that may help them develop their SOPs. She also advised students to select their destinations before proceeding to choose the universities, and gain an understanding of the program they are interested in, as prior knowledge would help the students plan and structure the content in their SOPs accordingly. Dr. Manzoor emphasized handling their confidential documents discreetly in order to avoid possible mishaps. The session ended with a round of questions-and-answers, and some affirmations from Dr. Manzoor.

[DEH Student Workshop: Writing Statements of Purpose | Department of English and Humanities](#)

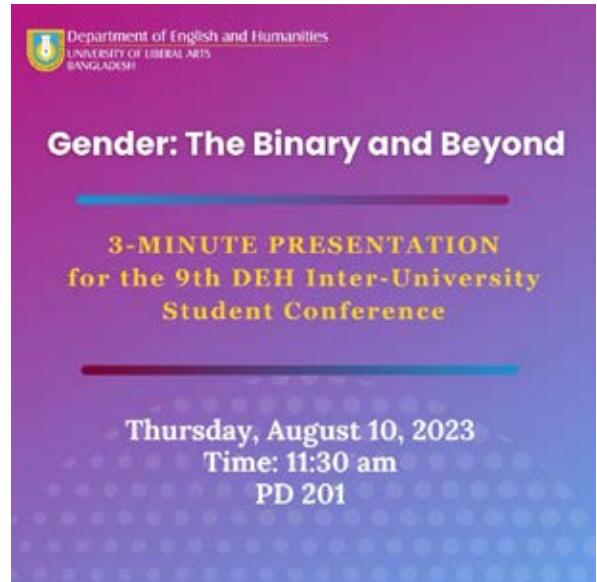


## 3-Minute Presentation for Student Conference

On August 10, 2023, students from both BA and MA in English programs of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, presented their research proposals for the upcoming 9th Inter University Student Conference. The 3-minute presentations were held as part of the selection process to find the student who would represent DEH and ULAB at the Conference. The conference is organized annually by the Department of English and Humanities and only one paper is selected. The students were given the opportunity to present their research topics focusing on the finalized theme of this year’s conference, “Gender: The Binary and Beyond.” The first presenter, Ritobina Ria Dey, a BA student, presented her topic titled “The Language of Gender: Shaping Attitudes and Promoting Acceptance for Non-Binary Identities in the Mainstream Media.” She claimed that not much research has been conducted on how language in popular culture affects non-binary people as previous studies have largely concentrated on how language influences gender. Hence, she intended to address the influence of mainstream media and how inclusive language might benefit the media industry to foster more welcoming workplaces for all people. The next presenter, Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, another BA student, presented her proposal “Against Assimilations: Literature as a Tool of Retaining and Reclaiming Trans and Gender Diverse Identity in Bangladesh.” She argued that literature is history, especially for marginalized communities. Her presentation emphasized how sexually marginalized people are often met with the threat of violence and erasure, and for them, oral lore and written documentation become the primary, if not the only, means of holding on to history



that would otherwise be long lost, and thus forgotten. She further explained how her paper would take an anti-assimilationist approach to examining and analyzing examples of queer Bangladeshi literature as a mode of dissidence and resistance against nationalist, corporate, and cis-heteronormative hegemonies and their agendas which are rife with respectability politics and conceptions of “model minorities.” The next topic “Deconstruction of Normalizing Abuse in Promising Young Woman” was presented by Md. Naimul Islam, an MA student. His presentation reflected on Emerald Fannell’s *Promising Young Woman* (2020), a shrewd response against the male narrative and the tropes constructed by the media. He argued that by subverting the conventional revenge thriller genre of a tortured woman going on a violent spree of murders, this film instead portrays the honest experience of a woman, Cassie, who is traumatized and scarred by an event that took her friend’s life. The primary focus of Naimul’s presentation was to examine how Cassie and her actions counter the male narrative tropes in the film. In doing so, he contended that *Promising Young Woman* deconstructs the normalizing of abuse as a necessary vehicle for character growth and strength. The next presenter Ereti Rhidil Rahman, a BA student, presented her topic “Representation of Gender and Sexuality in English Language Teaching Textbooks of Secondary Schools in Bangladesh.” She brought out the issue of misrepresentation of gender in secondary school textbooks in Bangladesh. She mentioned that the purpose of her study is to observe the ELT textbooks taught in secondary schools in Bangladesh, *English for Today* and *Secondary English*, for Grade 6 and Grade 7, and analyze the way they present female and male characters in their text, images, and illustrations; examine if they only portray cis-heteronormativity or whether they are inclusive of diverse gender identities as well; what their average degree of heteronormativity is; and whether the representation varies between Bangla and English medium textbooks. Next, Tarin Ahmad Diba, a BA student, presented the topic “Language Expression, Safe Space, and Suppression: Perspectives from Bangladeshi Queer People.” The main argument of her presentation was that queer communities in Bangladesh suppress their identity through the use of sign languages. For instance, she mentioned that trans-linguistic suppression is visible among the Hijra community as they use the language “Ulti” so that people outside of their community cannot understand them as it contains sexual connotations, and represents their customs which may go against the social norms. She also added that transgenders and homosexuals often go through trans-semiotic suppression as they have to act like cisgender people, and sometimes homophobic, in order to hide their queer identity, and live a dual life (straight in public and queer in safe spaces). She proposed that through personal observation, semi-structured interviews, and thematic analysis, her paper will bring out the issues related to language expression, suppression of queer identities, and the concept of safe space. The final presenter, Abrar Farhan Zaman, a BA student, focused on the topic “Transcending Boundaries: Ursula K. Le Guin’s *Trailblazing Journey through the Gender Binary and Beyond*.” His presentation reflected on Le Guin’s seminal works *The Left Hand of Darkness* and *The Dispossessed* by discussing how these science fiction novels transport the readers to worlds where gender defies traditional norms. He further exemplified how her narratives construct societies where individuals possess fluid gender identities or none at all. His proposition was that Le Guin’s visionary narrative depicted in the novels demonstrate how her exploration of the gender binary and beyond remains profoundly relevant in our evolving understanding of gender and its role in shaping the human experience. By concentrating on Le Guin’s literary legacy, the presenter aspired to ignite meaningful argumentation and foster a more enlightened perspective on gender through his research paper. At the end of the presentations, each participant answered questions, received feedback for further improvement, and gained new insights regarding their research topics from the faculty members as well as from the audience. The event was attended by the Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Arifa Ghani Rahman, MA Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Nadia Rahman, BA Coordinator and Lecturer, Nusrat Tajkia, and other faculty members and students.



[3-Minute Presentation for Student Conference | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum One

On October 12, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities organized the first forum of its 9th Curriculum Integration Program through an online event where Dr. Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, Professor, Akademia Ekonomiczno Humanistyczna w Warszawie, Poland and Coordinator of the Graduate TESOL certificate, George Washington University, United States, was invited as the guest speaker to speak about the theme of the term’s CI program, “Language as a Weapon.” Hosted by Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, DEH, the forum officially commenced with the introduction of the guest speaker to the students and faculty members present at the forum. Dr. Rafi then explained the purpose of the Curriculum Integration Program and the selected theme for this term before inviting Dr. Herrera to begin his presentation. Dr. Herrera began his interactive and insightful discussion with the concept of “Language Weaponization” by sharing an anecdote from his own childhood that reflected the influence of derogatory language on individuals belonging to minority groups. Throughout his presentation, he minutely discussed the ways the dominant groups in a society strategically employ language to segregate, stereotype, harm, and dehumanize minoritized groups of the society.

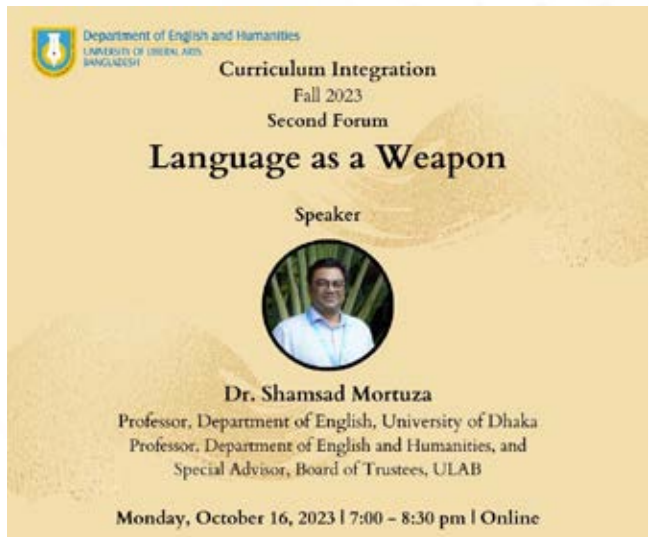
He further discussed how language, like a weapon, can influence a large group of people to conform as a result of societal and political pressure. Following his elaborate discussion, Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, shared his comments. He commended Dr. Herrera on his analytical discussion on the far-reaching effects of language on every aspect of life. Afterwards, a question and answer session was held during which the students shared their queries and remarks regarding the concept of Language Weaponization. Finally, Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, extended his gratitude towards the guest speaker for providing the students with ideas that they could contemplate and work on for their CI projects. 15 The event came to its conclusion with Dr. Rafi acknowledging the speaker's role in making the forum interactive and successful, and thanking the attending students and faculty members for their presence. The Curriculum Integration Program is a tool used to guide students towards the practical application of their learning materials to real-world issues. Dr. Herrera's lecture and the comments following are available on the DEH YouTube Channel.



[9th CI Fall 2023: Forum One with Dr. Luis Javier Pentón Herrera | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum Two

On October 16, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities presented the second forum of the 9th DEH Curriculum Integration Program via an online event where Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, was invited as the guest speaker to expound on the theme of the term's CI program, "Language as a Weapon". He focused on language weaponization in Literature and Culture. Hosted by Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, the program began with welcoming the speaker, faculty members, and students present at the forum. Dr. Rafi then briefly introduced the purpose of the Curriculum Integration along with the theme of the term. He further provided historical and scholarly evidence of how language is used as a weapon. Dr. Mortuza then began his meaningful and enlightening information exchange by sharing how language is used as a weapon in literature. He began by reiterating the key points of Forum One. Then, using a storytelling approach, he drew examples from literary texts, such as the Bible and Homer's Iliad, to explain manipulation of language and victimization as a result of language weaponization. He also spoke at length about George Orwell's treatises on weapons, politics, and language. According to Orwell, "If people cannot write well, they cannot think well, and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them." 16 Political leaders have also used language to dehumanize others and becomes a tool of oppression. Language can also be used to discriminate ("linguicism"). While still recognizing the necessity of using language as a tool to shape society, the speaker emphasized on its negative aspects. He stated, "Innocence of language can be lost by weaponization," and supported it through the example of how Covid-19 was called China virus which victimized the Chinese. Dr. Mortuza ended on a positive note with a reference to Toni Morrison who spoke about the power of language to distinguish humans from other creatures: "But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives." The event concluded with a question and answer session to address any concerns the attending students had. The Curriculum Integration Program is a tool used to guide students towards the practical application of their learning materials to real-world issues. Dr. Mortuza's lecture and the comments following are available on the DEH YouTube Channel.



[9th CI Fall 2023: Forum Two with Prof. Shamsad Mortuza | Department of English and Humanities](#)



# 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) concluded its 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition, a two-day event organized by the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bangladesh. The conference, held on October 19-20, 2023, delved into the theme “Gender: The Binary and Beyond,” and showcased the collective efforts of students from public and private universities across Bangladesh. “Beyond the Mirror,” the cultural production by ULAB won the Championship in the cultural competition while the Stamford University bagged the Runner-Up Award. Raina Isabela of BRAC University won the Best Paper Award while Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and Rohama Chowdhury of Metropolitan University jointly won the Runner-Up position. Academics from non participating universities ensured fairness and transparency in the adjudication process for both academic papers and performances. This year, 19 universities presented academic papers on 19th October, competing for the prestigious Best Paper Award, while Day Two saw seven universities vying for the coveted Champion’s trophy in the Cultural Competition. The event’s grand finale was the Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony, which took place on Friday, October 20, 2023. Iqbal Hossain, Program Advisor of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangladesh, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest, adding prestige to the culmination of two days of academic and creative exploration. Professor Jude William Genilo, Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Professor Kaiser Huq, Dean of School of Arts and Humanities, and Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, handed over the awards to the winners. The winners received a crest, a certificate of recognition, and prize money as awards. The DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition has established itself as a prominent fixture in the academic calendar, offering a unique platform for students to engage in scholarly discourse and creative expression. One of the notable highlights of this year’s conference was the introduction of an Art Exhibition, exclusively featuring artwork by DEH students and alumni, providing a visually captivating dimension to the event and attracting a diverse number of audiences.



[ULAB Wins at 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Recommendation Letters – Ground Rules

On November 2, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh commenced a series of mandatory workshops for Fall 2023 for the ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499 students on the online platform, Google Meet. The workshop series aims to equip the final term students with certain skills before they begin their careers or higher studies. The series began with a workshop on “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules” where students received training on how to obtain a valid recommendation letter, which is needed when applying for jobs or higher studies. The session was facilitated by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. The workshop began with a task assigned by the facilitator. Students were asked to write an email requesting a letter of recommendation from a referee. Subsequently, emphasis was put on why and how recommendation letters are important for the upcoming graduates. It was also stressed why maintaining the ground rules to obtain the letter was necessary for students intending to pursue higher studies or to achieve a career position. The key points in the discussion revolved around good composition, Do’s and Don’ts to request a recommendation letter, and how and how not to ask for a recommendation. The facilitator further explained that recommendation letters require time to compose, so students should not expect request the letters at the last minute from referees. She mentioned how students would need to provide at least three weeks of time to their referee, along with relevant information and documents, so that the recommendation letter can be customized. The facilitator also suggested some ways to highlight achievements. Moreover, she discussed the proper etiquette that needs to be maintained throughout the procedure. As the end of the workshop session approached, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman encouraged the participating students to state their concerns which she promptly resolved. The workshop concluded with a review of all the points discussed and the concerns that caught the spotlight.



[DEH Student Workshop: Recommendation Letters – Ground Rules | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Writing Statements of Purpose

On November 30, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), arranged an online workshop on “Writing Statements of Purpose.” The workshop was organized for the students of ENG 498, 499, and 413, who are in their final semester in Fall 2023. The workshop was facilitated by Associate Professor Dr. Sohana Manzoor to teach the students about the steps and elements of writing Statements of Purpose (SoPs), and how it is beneficial for students who wish to pursue higher education in national and international institutions. The workshop is part of a series of mandatory workshops designed to guide final term students in their pursuit of jobs and higher studies. Dr. Manzoor began the workshop by talking about the crucial steps of the application process for higher studies, and how the SOP is a core element of it. She listed the requirements for graduate studies applications, which include transcripts, standardized tests (IELTS, TOEFL, GRE/GMAT), writing samples, statements of purpose, CVs, and recommendation letters. She discussed every element in detail, emphasizing how they each differ from each other, what importance they hold, and how each should be written or collected. She offered an overview of fellowships and scholarships, discussing the differences and advantages. Further explanations were focused on SoPs, where important points were discussed. Dr. Manzoor, elaborated on browsing through university websites regarding programs, requirements, and funding opportunities, and to look for prospective supervisors before applying. She additionally gave a detailed insight into the components of writing an SoP, where she discussed every aspect with examples. She even mentioned the process and what the graduate committee looks for when assessing an SoP and application from a student. She emphasized on writing a concise SoP within 1-2 pages, single-spaced, by giving an introduction, summarizing student achievements, discussing the relevance of recent activities, and elaborating on academic plans. She suggested writing with brevity and to maintain approximately 500 to 800 words. She also showed two well-written SOPs as samples, pointing out the key features in every paragraph. Lastly, Dr. Manzoor talked about staying motivated and not stopping the application process after rejection, for there can be several reasons for refusal and it is better to keep applying to other places. The workshop concluded with a question and answer session.



[DEH Student Workshop: Writing Statements of Purpose | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Presentation Skills

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized the student workshop on “Presentation Skills” on December 14, 2023. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH. This workshop is a part of the series of workshops conducted for students of the final term to help them navigate life after graduation as they explore higher studies and job opportunities. 26 The session began with Ms. Rahman asking students about the difficulties they faced during presentations as undergraduate students. She then addressed the presentation skills of students and their struggles to put content on slides. This was followed by addressing the distress and fears that manifest during the actual presentations and how to effectively avoid them. From there, a discussion panned out on preparing slides and presenting in front of a crowd, the etiquette and manners to be maintained, the appearance of the presenter, etc. Moreover, the facilitator emphasized the role of students as audience during the presentations and how their participation affects the entire environment. More importantly, Ms. Rahman introduced and elaborated on the objectives of a presentation which are mainly the physical and visual messages of the story, and it is crucial to hold up the messages appropriately. As the workshop approached the end, she highlighted the “Four Ps of Presentation” which were Plan, Prepare, Practice, and Perform, and the “Pecha Kucha” method was explained. To conclude the workshop, Ms. Rahman summarized all the important points of the session. Additionally, she suggested some tips and methods to the students to alleviate their anxiety for their upcoming thesis defense and to induce some confidence in them. The session ended with Ms. Rahman wishing the graduating students luck. This workshop was followed by a session on “So, What’s Next?” by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, to acquaint the students with the next step forward.



[DEH Student Workshops: Presentation Skills and So, What’s Next? | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## “So, What’s Next?”

The session is titled “So, What’s Next?” The purpose of the session was to provide insights to the students on the next steps after the completion of their undergraduate degree. The session focused on ideas about graduate studies and what students should consider as they proceed. Ms. Rahman began the session by discussing certain factors regarding why a student should pursue graduate studies after completion of their undergraduate program. She talked about how it makes the student competitive in the job market, broadens their networking opportunities, improves their current skills, and boosts their salary. Ms. Rahman discussed in detail the requirements of graduate study applications. She gave an idea about the time required to complete the process of researching and application, which is about a year. She also gave a list of the documents and communication required during the process such as transcripts and certificates, recommendation letters, communication with potential supervisors, applications for funding, language proficiency tests, CVs, SoPs and other essays, research proposals, passport and visa applications, proof of funds, and other documents required by individual institutions. She elaborated all the steps while responding to students’ questions regarding the process. Ms. Rahman also provided an overview of the MA in English program at ULAB, discussing the different tracks, the format of the courses/classes, and how the learning would be beneficial for those seeking to pursue higher studies as the MA degree at ULAB provides them with a solid foundation to face the challenges of studying abroad. In addition, there are numerous facilities for ULABians. The MA Coordinator, Ms. Nadia Rahman, joined the workshop to share her perspectives on the graduate program at ULAB. She elaborated on Ms. Rahman’s points by discussing the services, facilities, and external faculty who are part of the program. Ms. Arifa Rahman also gave some examples of previous and current students’ achievements in the MA program, which could motivate the graduating students. The session ended with a brief question and answer session with the students.



[DEH Student Workshops: Presentation Skills and So, What’s Next? | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Graduate Student Seminar Fall 2023

The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held its Graduate Student Seminar of Fall 2023 online, on November 16, 2023. Thirteen MA in English students, nominated by their respective course instructors from the prior semester, presented their diverse research papers, with faculty members and students in attendance. The participants presenting their papers were from the three MA tracks: Literature and Cultural Studies, Applied Linguistics and TESOL, and Literature and Creative Writing. Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, inaugurated the seminar, giving a warm welcome to the presenters, faculty members, and students. She, then, introduced the first participant, Md. Naimul Islam (Batch 222), who presented his paper, “The Contribution of Frankfurt School in the Development of Cultural Theories on Popular Culture.” Naimul provided a contextual background on the Frankfurt School and brought forth the various modern theories and current cultures that the school had been a foundation for. The second presenter was Anika Tahsin (Batch 223), whose paper was titled “Corpus assisted Discourse Analysis.” Anika delved into the linguistic elements utilized for corpus assisted discourse analysis and the applications of CADA, highlighting its contribution to the depth of the English language. The third presenter was Shah Mohammad Tauhidur Rahman Afridi (Batch 232), who introduced his paper “Keyword: ‘Creative’: The Art of Incorporating Creativity in Nonfiction Writing.” He pointed out the objectives of specific nonfiction writings from the respective course, displaying the scale of creativity of the genre and how that had been implemented in his own nonfiction work. The next presenter was Kaniz Fatema Lamia (Batch 231) and her paper, “Translanguaging as a Medium of Instruction (MOI) and a Pedagogy in Classrooms,” explained the effectiveness of flexible language use as an MOI for equitable education. She also presented a step-by-step demo lesson plan as an example of what could be utilized in Bangladeshi classrooms. Rownok Jahan Akhi (Batch 223) was the fifth presenter, with her paper “The ‘Raw’ vs the ‘Cooked’: An Analysis of Padma Puran Narrative and Padma Puran Gan Performance in Natore, Bangladesh.” Rownok differentiated between the narrative (the “raw” version) and the performance (the “cooked” version) of Padma Puran, whilst highlighting the unique characteristics of the protagonist. The next presenter was Maliha Huq (Batch 202), whose paper was titled “Reading ‘Candles from the Mausoleum’: Using Magic Realism and Folkloric Elements in Short Fiction”. She began by discussing the genres of folklore and magical realism, after which she presented her own work of fiction and how elements from the aforementioned genres had been incorporated into it. The seventh presenter was Sumaiya Nawshin (Batch 231) with her paper “Theories on First and Second Language Acquisition.” Sumaiya discussed the theories and concepts learned from the respective course and how they carry applications in real-life linguistic scenarios. The next presenter was Sayma Afsana (Batch 223), whose paper “Contradictory Ideas of Women in Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Comedies,” demonstrated how the playwright reinforced stereotypes of women in his tragedies while challenging those same stereotypes in his comedies, bringing forth the conflicting ways women

were represented in Shakespeare's two genres of works. Abida Alam (Batch 232) was the next presenter and her paper was titled "Memory and English Language Teaching." She explained the remembering strategies used to strengthen memory in ELT and how there might be certain biases towards normality in recollection, understanding both of which leads to effective ELT. The tenth presenter was Fabiha Haider (Batch 222), and her paper "Theoretical Orientation and Teaching-learning Methods in the National Curriculum of Bangladesh" discussed the National Curriculum of 2012 and how it encouraged the implementation of the Constructivist theory. Fabiha emphasized the significance of this theory and how to utilize it in regard to the methods of establishing an effective learner-based classroom. The following presenter was Md. Mushfiqur Rahman (Batch 231) and his paper was titled "Cultural Construction through Literature and Media." He analyzed the connection between literature, media, and culture, highlighting the concepts of media literacy and the dynamic influence of literature; all of which contributed to one's cultural understanding. The twelfth presenter, Fariha Mahfuz (Batch 221), presented her paper, "ELT Methods in the 21st Century," which brought forth the distinction between traditional ELT methods and those of the current century. She prioritized on the issues of ELT methods in Bangladesh and how these methods could be made more relevant and effective. The final presenter was Rashmona Akther Rime (Batch 222), whose paper was titled "Agency, Development, and Displacement: A Postcolonial Ecocritical Study of Gun Island." She accentuated the three fundamental concepts of the Postcolonial Ecocritical theoretical framework, and how these were represented and depicted in the novel Gun Island. After the students successfully completed their presentations, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, and Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, DEH were invited to comment on the presentations. They commended the participants on their excellent research papers and presentations, pointing out the broad range of specialties and knowledge exchange that had been illustrated. The seminar was brought to a close by Ms. Nadia Rahman thanking the presenters, the respective course teachers, and audience for their participation.



[Graduate Student Seminar Fall '23 | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Curriculum Integration Fall 2023 Final Project Showcase

On December 10, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held the Final Project Showcasing of the Fall 2023 Curriculum Integration Program that revolved around the theme of "Language as a Weapon." The event showcased faculty-nominated presentations of ten different courses, which demonstrated the connection between the course contents and the theme. The panel of judges included Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts & Humanities, ULAB, Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Language Studies (CLS), ULAB, and Ms.



Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of English & Humanities, ULAB. There were three different types of presentations submitted for the CI program: video, posters, and literary analyses. Among them, the video and poster submissions were presented during the event, while the literary submissions were sent directly to the judges for evaluation. Dr. Rafi Saleh, Assistant Professor, DEH, who coordinated the Fall 2023 CI Program, began the program with a short introduction to the theme of the CI. Following this, the first video presentation by Mahmuda Akter Hasu (Batch 221) began. Mahmuda shared her vision through her topic, "Language as a Weapon in Ode: Intimations of Immortality by William Wordsworth of the Romantic Era" where she portrayed the power of language in romantic poetry and how its timeless relevance can evoke strong emotions from its readers. The next presentation, "Language Weaponization in Politics," by Nada Tabassum (Batch 201), Habiba Akhter Lubna (Batch 201), Nasfiyatto Zaman Nodi (Batch 201), and Ritobina Ria Dey (Batch 201), displayed the place of language in politics and how it is often used by politicians to amass votes from the general public. By providing both national and international examples of the topic, the presenters encouraged the questioning of language being used for personal gain. The third group for the video presentations comprised Mehedi Hasan Simanto (Batch 191), Parisa Saba (Batch 211), Mursalina Jahan (Batch 211), Samia Nur Rashid (Batch 211), Sakibul Hasan (Batch 212) and Atika Islam Omi (Batch 212) who explored the effects of language in the business realm with their presentation, "Can the Strategic Use of Language Boost the Sales of a New Company?" They investigated the use of language from a psychoanalytic perspective and portrayed how salesmen examine their customers and alter their patois as a tactic to increase their sales. The fourth group comprised Alan Henry Costa (Batch 211), Tasnina Reza (Batch 181), Sakibul Hasan (Batch 212), Atika Islam Omi (Batch 212) and Raisa Nidhi (Batch 212), who enacted their twist on the famous Greek play, Oedipus the King. Titled "The Influential Role of the Chorus," these students brought forth the use of language



by the Chorus to sway Oedipus. In the next video presentation, the presenter exhibited her prowess as a writer with an organic poem that was written from the perspective of the protagonist of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*. Using her poem "Echoing Lights," Samia Zahin (Batch 211) encapsulated the suffering of women of the Latin-American community and how as a result of this, Esperanza decided to be the voice of her silenced sisters. The next presentation was about the "Differences of Using Language as a Weapon" by Jerin Tasnim (Batch 192), Fatema Tuz Zohura (Batch 192), Sadia Rahman Sumaiya (Batch 191), Noshin Sharmily (Batch 201), Juhi Rubaba Jurana Jahan (Batch 201), Mustafa Zahir (Batch 192) and Mostafa Al Wakil (Batch 192). They showcased the duality of language and how it can be used either as a bridge to connect people or a harmful divide. They emphasized the importance of tone. The seventh presentation was carried out by Tahosin Tasnim Hoque (Batch 192), Afrida Lubaba Khan (Batch 201), Nandeta Saha Dola (Batch 201), Md. Habibur Rahman (Batch 201), Fahim Ibrahim Chowdhury (Batch 202), Kazi Bushra Orpy (Batch 203), Jannatul Fariha Mim (Batch 211) and Lamia Faiza (Batch 212). Their video, "Modern Teaching Materials: The Illumination of Acquiring Second Language as Weapon," showed the power that language has in classrooms. They emphasized the importance of the methods and approach of educators and how it impacts students. The final video presentation was by Rabeya Rahman (Batch 183) and Rowjatun Jannat (Batch 212). They presented on "Vonnegut's Prose in Lewis' Postmodern Musings" where they focused on the many elements of Kurt Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions* and how he welded them to get his point across. The final presenter of the event was Ali Naznin (Batch 221). She presented a handmade poster that contained her interpretation of William Blake's poem "London" and portrayed how he carefully crafted the language and vocabulary in his poem to showcase the binaries of the socio-economic classes in the often romanticized British life. Her vibrant poster contained original drawings and Blake's perspective of London. After the presentations, Professor Kaiser Haq shared his insights on the event as well as some words of wisdom. Finally, Ms. Nadia Rahman announced the winners. The Runner-Up was ENG 3102 (Psycholinguistics, Section 1) with the presentation on "Can the Strategic Use of Language Boost the Sales of a New Company?" The winner of the Fall 2023 Curriculum Integration Program was the group from ENG2201 (Sociolinguistics, Section 1), with their video "Language Weaponization in Politics." The event was brought to a conclusion by Dr. Rafi Saleh with his closing remarks and vote of thanks. The event was hosted by Ereti Rhidil Rahman (Batch 193)

[Curriculum Integration: Final Presentation, Fall 2023 | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## Seminar on 'Research Opportunities at University of Malay' held at the CSE Department

The Department of CSE organized a seminar on higher studies at the University of Malaya (UM) on March 5, 2023 at ULAB main campus. Prof. Dr. Hendrik Simon Cornelis Metselaar, Dr. Zati Hakim Azizul Hasan, Ms. Tuty Haryati Kassim and Muhammad Irsyad Bin Zainiwere from UM conducted the seminar. Prof. Hendrik, in his speech, focused on several research opportunities, faculty and student exchange program at the UM. He also mentioned the opportunities of postgraduate programs including Master's and PhD at the UM. Prof. Mofazzal Hossain, Dean of School of Science and Engineering (SSE), Prof. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Head of the CSE Department, faculty members and students of the CSE department attended in the session.



## Summer 2023 CSE Freshers' Orientation on 08 June 2023

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Summer 2023 CSE Freshers' Orientation to welcome the newest members of the family on 08 June 2023 at ULAB Main Campus. Professor Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, former Professor of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was present as the Chief Guest. Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Dean of School of Science and Engineering Professor Mofazzal Hossain, Head (Acting) of the Department Professor Muhammad Golam Kibria, faculty members, and freshers were present at the orientation program.

Chief Guest, Professor Kaykobad, in his speech focused on the kindness and respectfulness to others. He emphasized on lifelong learning as well as engagement with different co-curricular activities during their course of study to get familiarize with the real world.



## ULAB CSE Freshers' Orientation Fall 2023 held on 05 October 2023

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Fall 2023 CSE Freshers' Orientation on October 5, 2023, at the ULAB Permanent Campus. Mr. Russell T. Ahmed, the President of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Mr. Russell T. Ahmed expressed his gratitude for being invited to the Freshers' Orientation. In his speech, he emphasized the delicate balance of life and believed that maintaining a cheerful disposition is the key to simplifying its complexities. His counsel to students was grounded in the wisdom of adaptability, urging them to align themselves with the ever-shifting tides of the current situation and context. He encouraged young minds to embark on a journey of self-discovery, prompting them to ask themselves what they truly wished to achieve, and advocating for regular self-assessment. Moreover, he stressed the importance of visionary thinking, reminding students to keep their long-term aspirations in mind when making decisions.

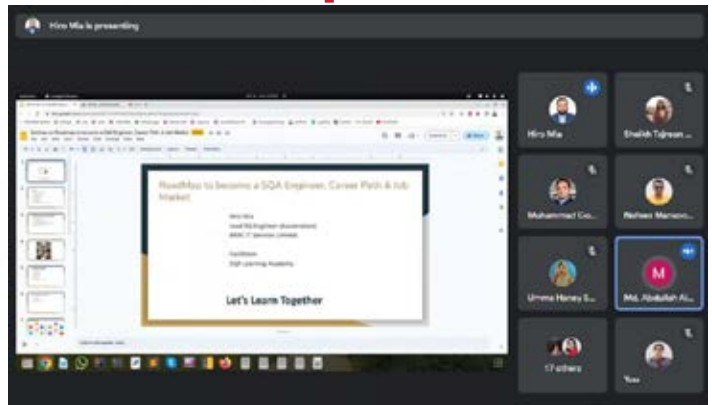
Professor Dr. Mofazzal Hossain, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Acting Head of the CSE Department, faculty members, and the freshers attended the orientation program.





## Webinar on “Software Quality Assurance and Career Path” Organized at the CSE Department

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at ULAB organized a webinar on “Roadmap to become a Software Quality Assurance (SQA) Engineer, Career Path & Job Market” on 14th March 2023. Mr. Hiro Mia, a Lead SQ Engineer (Automation) at BRAC IT provided clear guidelines on SQA engineer career path to the students in the session. He also discussed various features of SQA such as software testing fundamentals, automation testing, career path, and the current job market for SQA engineers. Mr. Hiro Mia, a Lead SQ Engineer has 13 years of Experience as SQA Engineer who developed several custom automation frameworks for all platforms including Web, Mobile & API. Prof. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Head (Acting) of the CSE Department, faculty members and students of the department attended the webinar.



## MATH OLYMPIAD 2023 was held at ULAB

To celebrate the International Day of Mathematics (14 March), the School of Science and Engineering (SSE) organized a MATH OLYMPIAD at ULAB main campus on 16 March 2023. More than 100 students enthusiastically participated in the MATH contest. Mr. Ahsun Ahmed Sun became the Champion where Md. Eakramul Karim Tarik and Tamanna Akter were the first and second runner-up respectively. Three toppers were awarded Crests and all the participants were awarded Certificates. Professor Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Dean of the SSE, Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Head (Acting) of the CSE department, Professor Dr. Riaz Khan and faculty members were present at the award-giving ceremony.



Prior to the MATH contest, a workshop on “The Role of Mathematics in Critical Thinking” was held to motivate the students of CSE and EEE. The workshop was conducted by the BANGLADESH TEAM, who achieved 10th position among 100 teams around the world in the International Math Competition (IMC), 2022. Coach Dr. Md. Shariful Islam, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics at Dhaka University led the team. It is worth mentioning that the SSE always prioritizes student participation in MATH OLYMPIAD to establish the culture in all the departments.

## UCPC Organized Workshop on Git and Github at ULAB Permanent Campus

ULAB Computer Programming Club (UCPC) organize an extensive and interactive workshop centered around Git and GitHub on the 17th of August, 2023. The event was supported by the ULAB CSE department. The workshop featured Nure Siddiq, the CEO of bongoDev and Software Engineering Manager at Optimizely, as the guest speaker. Mr. Siddiq shared his valuable insights with the participants, discussing both fundamental and advanced concepts of Git and GitHub, along with emphasizing the significance of these version control tools. The event was attended by Prof. Muhammad Golam Kibria, the Acting Head of the department, Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Ashikur Rahman, UCPC's Advisor, as well as faculty members and students from the department.



## UCPC Organized Workshop on “How To Start Programming As a Fresher”

The ULAB Computer Programming Club (UCPC) successfully organized a workshop, “How To Start Programming As a Fresher”, on October 4, 2023, at the ULAB permanent campus featuring Software Engineer Ahmed Shahriar Tanvir. Freshers, as well as other students, actively participated in the event. UCPC advisor and course coordinator, Dr. Mohammed Ashikur Rahman and other respected faculty members graced the event with their presence.



The workshop covered the basics of programming, provided insights into competitive programming, and offered resources and tips for getting started as a programmer. An engaging Q&A session allowed attendees to seek answers to their programming questions and refine their ideas.

## “Take-Off programming contest, Fall 2023” held at ULAB CSE Department

The Department of CSE actively promotes student involvement in events like the Take-off programming contest, held every semester to foster a thriving programming culture.

Encouraged by the department, the ULAB Computer Programming Club successfully organized ‘Take-off Programming contest, Fall 2023’ on October 12, 2023, at the ULAB permanent campus, where a group of talented and enthusiastic participants demonstrated their coding skills and creativity.



As a token of appreciation for their participation, each contestant received a T-shirt and a certificate, presented by the esteemed faculty members who graced the event with their presence. Their support and encouragement have been crucial in shaping the event and promoting a vibrant programming culture within the institution.

## EEE Olympiad – Summer 2023 organized by EEE Department ULAB

The department of EEE ULAB has successfully organized the grand event “EEE Olympiad – Summer 2023”.

On August 23, 2023, the ULAB Main Campus came alive with the energy of enthusiastic students from school of science and engineering (SSE) participating in four engaging segments - project showcasing, poster presentation, quiz competition, and technical talk. From seniors to juniors, the event was a showcase of their brilliant works, ideas, and talents.

The technical talk by our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Muhammad Riazul Hamid, added an insightful dimension to the event. The excitement was palpable as students eagerly participated in the quiz competition, displaying their knowledge and skills. The event concluded with a splendid prize giving ceremony, graced by the presence of the department head and our esteemed faculty members.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a resounding success! Special thanks to ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC), ULAB IEEE RAS, and ULAB IEEE student branch chapter for powering this grand event.

Link: [EEE Olympiad – Summer 2023 organized by EEE Department ULAB | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)



## Executive excellence 2023

our Executive Excellence 2023 event has ended successfully, followed by the last and one of the most informative and fundamental combined sessions on “Higher Study and Job Opportunities in Germany and South Korea” held on Saturday, November 25, 2023. The sessions were conducted by the well-accomplished alumni of ULAB, Marjahan Akter Promi and Sharif Ahmed Apu from the Department of ETE and CSE respectively to aid the students by sharing their practical knowledge and experiences.

Marjahan Akter Promi is currently working as a Data Operations Analyst at RWE Renewables Europe & Australia GmbH, whereas Sharif Ahmed Apu is a Senior Researcher at Opt-AI Inc., LG Sciencepark in Seoul, South Korea. They talked about higher degree application procedures, and career prospects led by the environmental, and economic conditions of Germany and South Korea, which were very enlightening for the participants. Thus, we are utterly grateful to have them as our sessions’ speakers.

With that note, the event has reached an end, and soon we will be announcing the certificate-giving ceremony date and time, which will be held online. That would include certificate distribution to all the students, who participated in at least 6 or more sessions and also we would like to ask for feedback from the participants regarding the event sessions, which we will heed, acknowledge and implement accordingly for the upcoming events in future.

A huge thanks to everyone including the Ex-Com team, EEE and CSE Students, and the honourable faculties, who dedicatedly supported us throughout the event.

Link: [Facebook](#)

## Webinar on “Data Analysis and Bibliography Management”.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ramisha Rabeya, Lecturer at ISTEM, Bangladesh, for her insightful session at our recent event on “Data Analysis and Bibliography Management”.

Special thanks to all the students whose active participation made the event a success. Your enthusiasm and engagement contribute to the ongoing success of Executive Excellence 2023!

Link: [Facebook](#)

## Webinar on “Hands-on Network Simulation with VirtualBox”

Executive Excellence – “Hands-on Network Simulation with VirtualBox” featuring one of the talented alumni of ULAB, Ramisha Rabeya.

Learn the ropes of network simulation and get hands-on experience with VirtualBox. Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills!

**Date:** October 27th, 2023

**Time:** 18:45 BST

Link: [Facebook](#)

## Executive Excellence 2023, titled “Speak with impact, Ace the interview

Event Announcement: “Speak with Impact, Ace the Interview”

Join us on October 6, 2023, at 7:00 PM for an inspiring session on refining your communication skills. Our esteemed speaker Imran Hossain will share his valuable insights and techniques to help you excel in the interviews and make a remarkable impression.

**Date:** October 6, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 PM (BST)

**Platform:** Google Meet

This event is organized by Executive Excellence 2023

Link: [Facebook](#)

# Mastering the Art of Cover Letter and CV Writing

At Executive Excellence 2023, we have organized a comprehensive workshop that will provide students with practical insights and techniques to craft an effective CV and cover letter. Whether you are a student planning for your future or an alumnus seeking to refine your job application materials, this event is designed to cater to all.

Our guest speaker, Imran Hossain, is an industry expert with years of experience in talent acquisition and career development. He will share his expertise, tips, and best practices to help you create compelling CVs and cover letters that stand out in the competitive job market.

This event is an excellent opportunity to: Learn the key components of a strong CV and cover letter. Gain insights into tailoring your application materials for specific job opportunities.

Event Details:

**Date:** 29th September 2023

**Time:** 18:30 (Bangladesh Standard Time)

**Platform:** Google Meet

Link: [Facebook](#)



# Integrating Technology & AI in Students' Teaching & Learning

This workshop aimed to provide educators with valuable insights and practical strategies for effectively incorporating technology and artificial intelligence into the teaching and learning process. More than fifty teachers from different renowned colleges of Dhaka and the faculty members of the USB attended this event recognizing the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in today's learning. Organized by Dr. Faisal Chowdhury and the Communications office, the discussion explored different tools, apps, and software that can be utilized in the classroom to enhance student engagement and facilitate personalized learning. The discussion highlighted the significance of familiarizing teachers with AI software which would empower them to effectively embrace and utilize this technology to enhance teaching and learning experiences while being cautious about its limitations and implications.



## Interpersonal Skills and Etiquette

Organized by Rumana Liza Anam, Assistant Professor of the USB, the event featured Ms. Deneb Zeenat Latif, a Consultant and Organizational Development Specialist and Managing Partner at Magnum Management Consulting, as the guest speaker. The objective of the event was to educate and inform the students about the significance of interpersonal skills and etiquette in the corporate world. Ms. Latif, drawing from her own extensive industry experience, delivered an insightful presentation, highlighting the importance of these skills and providing practical strategies for developing and enhancing them. The event was well-received by the attendees, who gained valuable insights into how interpersonal skills and workplace etiquette contribute to professional success. Overall, the talk proved to be an excellent platform for fostering awareness and understanding among the students about crucial aspects of professional behavior within the corporate environment.





## Spring 2023 CSE Freshers' Orientation on 21 January 2023

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Spring 2023 Freshers' Orientation to welcome the newest members of the family on 21 January 2023 at ULAB Main Campus. Professor Dr. Lafifa Jamal, Professor of the Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka was present as the Chief Guest. Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Dean of School of Science and Engineering Professor Mofazzal Hossain, Head (Acting) of the Department Professor Muhammad Golam Kibria, faculty members, and freshers were present at the orientation program.

Chief Guest, Professor Jamal, in her speech focused on the lifelong learning, learning outside the classroom as well as engagement with different co-curricular activities during their course of study to get familiarize with the real world. She emphasized on women empowerment and improvement of their social and economic status that would enhance their decision-making capacity at all levels. The welcome address was delivered by Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of ULAB.



## WOW Festival 2023: Empowering Women, Celebrating Diversity

The Women of the World (WOW) Festival in Bangladesh, launched in 2017 and adapted to virtual formats during the pandemic, is hosting its two-day "WOW, Women of the World" event at Dhaka Shilpakala Academy on February 24th and 25th, 2023. The festival, inaugurated by Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, addresses critical issues such as colorism, moral policing, and gender equality. The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) actively participates by showcasing an exhibition that applauds regional women entrepreneurs in stitching and mending businesses. ULAB's involvement contributes to the broader discourse on gender equality and women's rights. The festival features interactive workshops, speed mentoring sessions, a marketplace supporting women-owned businesses, and diverse cultural performances, including the disability arts theater piece "SwarnaBoal" and a closing performance by the rock band Chirkutt. The WOW Festival serves as a vital platform for dialogue, celebrating diversity, and empowering women, fostering ongoing efforts for gender equality and inclusivity.





## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



# Ensuring sustainable access to improved WASH services for rural people in Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur District, Bangladesh

Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), with SAJIDA Foundation, has successfully completed the project “Ensuring sustainable access to improved WASH services for rural people in Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur District, Bangladesh”. In January 2023, an end-line study based on SAJIDA Foundation’s WASH services in the area was conducted to evaluate the impact of the project in the community, analyze the progress made since the baseline, and identify best practices, gaps, and challenges for WASH in that area. As the area faces grave challenges when it comes to access to services such as water supply, and basic sanitation facilities, the project involved assessing the impacts of the newly installed piped water supply and WASH blocks in the schools and community clinics of the area.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



# Successful Workshop on Solar Cell Design using SCAPS 1-D at ULAB organized by EEE Department

We are thrilled to announce that the ‘Workshop on solar cell design using SCAPS 1-D’ held at ULAB permanent campus was a huge success! The workshop was conducted by Ashrafur Islam, a graduate of EEE and a researcher on thin film solar cell technologies.

We are delighted to report that the workshop was attended by a large number of students, faculties, and the head of the EEE department, who all expressed their appreciation for the informative and hands-on nature of the workshop. The attendees were able to gain valuable insights into the field of solar cell design and had the opportunity to learn how to use the SCAPS 1-D software.

The success of the workshop is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Ashrafur Islam and the EEE department of ULAB. We are proud to have hosted such an informative and valuable event, and we are confident that the knowledge gained at the workshop will prove beneficial to all attendees in their future endeavors.

Thank you to all who attended the workshop and contributed to its success. Stay tuned for more exciting events and workshops from the EEE department of ULAB in the future!

Link: [Successful Workshop on Solar Cell Design using SCAPS 1-D at ULAB organized by EEE Department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

# Seminar On Clean Energy Harvesting Organized by EEE Department

We're thrilled to announce the successful completion of our enlightening seminar on "Clean Energy Harvesting for Sustainable Development and Environment Protection: The Role of Solar Cells" held on August 2, 2023, organized by ULAB Electrical and Electronic Department and powered by ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club.

Our esteemed speaker, Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, PhD, SM IEEE, the Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, captivated the audience with his profound knowledge and insights on harnessing clean energy for a greener future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants and our distinguished speaker for making this event a resounding success!

Link: [Seminar On Clean Energy Harvesting Organized by EEE Department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

# Seminar on Power Electronics organized by EEE Department, ULAB

We are thrilled to share that the EEE department of ULAB successfully hosted a seminar titled 'Power Electronics Applications in Modern Technologies' at our permanent campus. The seminar was conducted by the esteemed resource person, Md Ohirul Qays Joarder Akash, who is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Engineering-Electrical and Electronic Department at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia. The seminar was powered by ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club.

Mr. Akash's insightful speech on modern applications of power electronics and his discussion on several research aspects left the audience spellbound. His research interests include cutting-edge renewable energy resources, power system stability, control systems, machine learning, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, and more.

The seminar was attended by students from the EEE department along with our esteemed faculty members, who made the event a grand success. We thank Mr. Akash for sharing his expertise and knowledge with us and making the seminar informative and engaging. Stay tuned for more such informative events in the future.

Link: [Seminar on Power Electronics organized by EEE Department, ULAB | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

## Publications:

1. M. Mofazzal Hossain, "Outstanding Conversion Efficiency of 38.39% from a Perovskite/CIGS Tandem PV Cell: A Synergic Optimization Through Computational Modeling," Heliyon, vol. 9, no. 10, p. E20558, 2023.
2. M. Mofazzal Hossain, "Feasibility Study of a Rooftop Solar System on ULAB Permanent Campus Building," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-4805-7.
3. M. Mofazzal Hossain, "Numerical Simulation and Optimization of CsSnI<sub>3</sub> Perovskite PV Cell using SCAPS-1D," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 978-1-6654-7601-0.
4. A. Jawad, "Small-scale floating photovoltaic systems in university campus: A pathway to achieving SDG 7 goals in Bangladesh," Energy Conversion and Management, ISSN: 1879-2227.
5. A. Jawad, "Optimal deloading of PV power plants for frequency control: A techno-economic assessment," Electric Power Systems Research, ISSN: 1873-2046.
6. A. Jawad, "Techno-economic assessment of power generation potential from floating solar photovoltaic systems in Bangladesh," Heliyon, ISSN: 2405-8440.
7. A. Jawad, "Outstanding conversion efficiency of 38.39% from a Perovskite/CIGS tandem PV cell: A synergic optimization through computational modeling," Heliyon, ISSN: 2405-8440.
8. A. Jawad, "Participation of battery energy storage system for frequency control in renewable dominated power systems: An analytical approach," Energy Reports, ISSN: 2352-4847.
9. A. Jawad, "Optimal Supercapacitor Energy Storage System Sizing for Frequency Control in a Large-Scale PV Integrated Grid," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-6971-7.
10. A. Jawad, "A Case Study of Enhancing Frequency Stability of PV Integrated Grid under PV Variability," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-3540-8.
11. A. Jawad, "Investigation of Frequency and Voltage Stability of High Renewable Penetrated Grid," IEEE.
12. A. Jawad, "Impact of Distributed Energy Resources on the Frequency Response of a Renewable Integrated Grid," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 2159-3604.



13. A. Jawad, "Optimal Load Shedding Allocation for Preserving Frequency Stability in a Large-Scale PV Integrated Grid," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 978-1-6654-7517-4.
14. A. Jawad, "A Coordinated Wind Deloading Estimation Approach for Frequency Control of a Renewable Integrated Grid," IEEE.
15. A. Jawad, "Optimal Placement and Sizing of Synchronous Condenser to Enhance System Strength of Renewable Energy Integrated Weak Grids," IEEE.
16. A. Jawad, "Feasibility Study of a Hybrid CSP-CPV Power Plant in Saint Martin's Island, Bangladesh," IEEE, Electronic ISSN: 2159-3604.

## **Research on Prospect of rooftop solar PV systems in Industries in Bangladesh: A thematic analysis on Drivers and Barriers**

CSD has done research on Prospect of rooftop solar PV systems in Industries in Bangladesh: A thematic analysis on Drivers and Barriers. The main objective of the research was to understand the underlying causes of the slow progress in installing rooftop solar PV systems the present research will focus on the driving factors for installing the rooftop solar PV systems, and the barriers to shift from captive power plants to rooftop solar systems, and give recommendations based on the findings to how to incorporate rooftop solar into the industry. It was found from the study that cost effectiveness, energy security, environmental awareness has driven the uptake of RSS whereas the upfront cost, cumbersome paperwork, structural barrier in old buildings roofs, and lack of accurate information has worked as barriers for installation of RSS. If the information gap can be reduced between the industry actors and favorable policy can be formulated with the end users, the uptake can be even more which will help achieve our goal to have 40% renewable energy by 2041.



## CES Webinar on ‘Meet The Founder: A Talk With Ilmul Haque Sajib’

A webinar, titled “Meet the Founder” featuring Ilmul Haque Sajib, co-founder of Sheba.XYZ was organized by ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society CES, held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, from 3 pm to 4 pm. The live talk, broadcast on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook Page, focused on Mr. Ilmul Haque Sajib’s career journey and his alignment with Sheba.XYZ and its impact on the local economy. Sajib also shared insights into startup challenges, the role of technology in transforming service industries, and future expansion plans. This event in particular aligns with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) as it showcases successful entrepreneurs who share insights into building startups and creating employment. It promotes economic growth and quality infrastructure. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).



## Skills for Success: ‘Navigating Youth Dynamics in Bangladesh’

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) hosted a leadership talk with Tasmiah Rahman, Associate Director of the BRAC Skills Development Program, titled “Skills for Success: Navigating Youth Dynamics in Bangladesh.” The discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities for Bangladeshi youth in career progression, the evolving job market, and the essential skills needed for success. The talk supported SDG 4 (Quality Education) by emphasizing skill development and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by focusing on career progression and promoting decent work opportunities for young people. The event was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).





# CES Webinar on 'Meet The Founder: A Talk With Sifat Hasan'

On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) hosted a webinar titled "Meet The Founder: A Talk with Sifat Hasan." Organized in collaboration with Future Startup, the event featured Sifat Hasan, People and Culture Lead at Klikit. Moderated by Ruhul Kader, the discussion delved into Hasan's career journey, his insights on work culture, and effective hiring practices, with a special focus on fostering a high-performance culture within Bangladesh's tech industry. The webinar supported SDG 8 of providing decent work and economic growth by emphasizing career progression and creating meaningful opportunities for young professionals. It also contributed SDG 9 to industry, innovation, and infrastructure by offering insights into the tech sector and fostering a culture that drives innovation and industrial development. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the webinar recording [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).



# Roundtable Discussion: 'Empowering Graduates for Job Readiness'

ULAB CES organized a Roundtable Discussion titled "Empowering Graduates for Job Readiness" on Friday, July 14, 2023, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM at ULAB research building. The event featured prominent speakers, including Sajid Amit (Director, Center for Enterprise and Society (CES), ULAB), Parveen S. Huda (Managing Director, Consulting and Research Gateway), Minhaz Anwar (Chief Storyteller, BetterStories Ltd.), Jannatul Ferdous (Regional Development Manager, Pearson), Sayeda Farzana Maisha (Country HR Representative, Global Apparel Brand), Khawar Saud Ahmed (CEO, Magnito Digital), Rubaiyat Farhan (COO, Markopolo.ai), Maria Mumu (Founder, Moshal Mental Health Organization), Tarif M. Khan (Head of Brands and Strategy, Dekko ISHO Group), Arshia Aziz (Head of Marketing, Exams, South Asia, British Council), Shazzad Hossain (General Manager, Product, 10 Minute School), and Md. Mushfiqur Rahman (Senior Manager, Projects and Research, CES, ULAB). The discussion aimed to identify skill gaps in the current workforce and explore strategies for enhancing graduates' employability through a finishing school program. It is aligned with three key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). By preparing graduates for meaningful employment, the discussion promoted SDG 8, focusing on decent work opportunities and sustainable economic growth. The press release can be accessed [here](#).



## Seminar on Cloud Computing organized by SSE

The School of Science and Engineering, ULAB organized a successful seminar on 2nd Jan 20, 2023, in the ULAB permanent campus. The title of the seminar was 'Cloud Computing an Equal Opportunity Employer - Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime.' The resource person for the event was Engr. Akhtar Hossain, an IT professional and Principal Cloud Solution Architect at Microsoft Corporation, Inc. USA. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof Imran Rahman graced the occasion with his presence. The Head of the departments of EEE, CSE along with other faculty members were also present in the seminar. Students from all over joined the session with great enthusiasm.



Link: [Seminar on Cloud Computing organized by SSE | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

## Executive excellence 2023

Our Executive Excellence 2023 event has ended successfully, followed by the last and one of the most informative and fundamental combined sessions on "Higher Study and Job Opportunities in Germany and South Korea" held on Saturday, November 25, 2023. The sessions were conducted by the well-accomplished alumni of ULAB, Marjahan Akter Promi and Sharif Ahmed Apu from the Department of ETE and CSE respectively to aid the students by sharing their practical knowledge and experiences.

Marjahan Akter Promi is currently working as a Data Operations Analyst at RWE Renewables Europe & Australia GmbH, whereas Sharif Ahmed Apu is a Senior Researcher at Opt-AI Inc., LG Sciencepark in Seoul, South Korea. They talked about higher degree application procedures, and career prospects led by the environmental, and economic conditions of Germany and South Korea, which were very enlightening for the participants. Thus, we are utterly grateful to have them as our sessions' speakers.

With that note, the event has reached an end, and soon we will be announcing the certificate-giving ceremony date and time, which will be held online. That would include certificate distribution to all the students, who participated in at least 6 or more sessions and also we would like to ask for feedback from the participants regarding the event sessions, which we will heed, acknowledge and implement accordingly for the upcoming events in future.

A huge thanks to everyone including the Ex-Com team, EEE and CSE Students, and the honourable faculties, who dedicatedly supported us throughout the event.

Link: [Facebook](#)

## Inauguration of the ITEE Training Program for the CSE Students held at ULAB

To create global work opportunities for computer science and engineering graduates, a national level Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) is conducted by IPA, Japan. ITEE certified engineers will get work permit in China, Japan, Korea and many more Asian countries. To increase the pass rate in ITEE exam and uphold the image of our graduates, with the collaboration of Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), ULAB and Bangladesh computer council (BCC), a 60-hrs training program has been started from 19 March 2023 at the ULAB Main Campus. Dean of School of Science and Engineering (SSE) Professor Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head (Acting) of Department of CSE Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, faculty members and participants were present at the ITEE training program inauguration ceremony.





# ULAB CSE held a seminar on “Technology-driven Career Opportunities in IT Industries”

As a part of interactions with the Industry, and knowledge sharing by industry experts on career opportunities and IT market demand, the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at ULAB organized a seminar on “Technology-driven Career Opportunities in IT Industries” on 17 August 2023, Thursday.



Mr. Rajeeb Tarafder, Director-IT of the Wunderman Thompson Bangladesh conducted the interactive session. Wunderman Thompson is a creative, data and technology agency with 200 offices around the world. Mr. Tarafder focused on the importance of fundamental knowledge blended with skills and engagement with different industry-oriented co-curricular activities during the course of study. Prof. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Acting Head of the department, faculty members and students attended the seminar. ULAB Computer Programming Club (UCPC), IEEE ULAB Student Branch, IEEE ULAB Computer Society supported the seminar.

## Career Talk – English Major: Friend or Foe

On January 16, 2023, DEH organized a career talk titled “English Major: Friend or Foe.” Ms. Sumaiya Binte Sarwar, Business Consultant and Researcher, was invited as the speaker for the session to share her insights and experience as an English major excelling in the corporate world. Ms. Sarwar initiated the session by briefly discussing the diverse nature of English as a discipline and how it aids the students to approach a situation from different perspectives. She specifically focused on learning from literature which, according to her, cultivates analytical and critical thinking in an individual, helping them resolve the problems encountered in the professional domain much more effectively. Contrary to popular belief, she shared that the business world needs individuals who are creative, innovative, as well as empathetic, and hence English graduates get the upper hand as their curriculum instigates them to exercise and adopt these qualities. Furthermore, she added that English being the international language keeps the graduates a step ahead in their linguistic proficiency acquired from their academics. The capability to communicate with professionals from both home and abroad effectively is a key to striving in the highly competitive fields, and she suggested that the students from English, therefore, can utilize their communication skills in this area. Being an example of making a successful career as a corporate professional herself, she believes that English graduates should not limit themselves to the career stereotypes, such as a teacher or BCS candidate. She advised that they should explore different fields and step into one that aligns with their passion, allowing them to incorporate their academic learning and acquired skills in the respective sector. Finally, she shared some of her fond memories as a student of English Literature at the University of Dhaka. Then she proceeded to address the participants’ concerns and queries. The event was coordinated and hosted





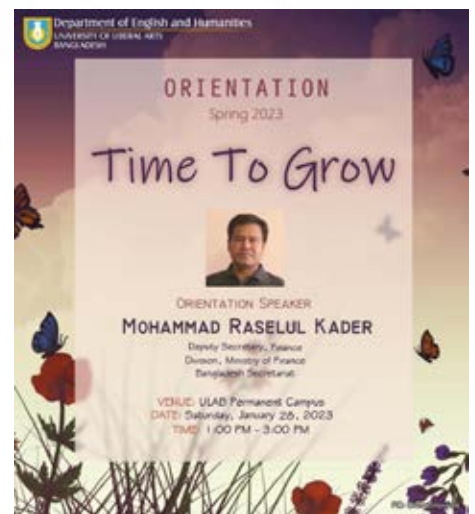
by Arifa Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, and ended with a vote of thanks by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees.

Link: [DEH Career Talk: "English Major – Friend or Foe?" | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## Orientation Spring 2023

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held its Spring 2023 Orientation program on January 28, 2023 to welcome the new students of Batch 231. The program was held at the ULAB Permanent Campus. The Orientation Speaker for Spring 2023 was Mr. Mohammad Raselul Kader, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Secretariat, who shared some anecdotes from his life signifying the importance of gaining knowledge outside of coursework and concentrating on other fields of interest. Also, while talking about skill development, he emphasized that every student should pay special attention to developing communication, 17 analytical, and IT skills. In his final remarks, he motivated the freshers to always strive for victory but remain humble and respectful to others. The Orientation program was commenced by the Head of the Department, Associate Professor, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. She warmly welcomed the freshers and delivered a speech filled with words of wisdom and hope. She advised the students to come out of their shells and encouraged them to actively participate in extracurricular activities alongside their academics. Stressing on the orientation theme "Time to Grow," she inspired the students to take ownership of their lives and consider every challenge as an opportunity to grow. She also gave a shout out to the volunteers who helped in arranging the event and ended her speech by introducing the faculty members of DEH. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, also gave an inspirational speech to the freshers. He urged all the new students to make the most of their time at ULAB and utilize everything the university has to offer. He ended his speech by expressing how he looks forward to seeing his students flourish and accomplish great things ahead. After the speeches, the cultural segment of the program began. The first performance was by Oriha Shouptik, Batch 221, who beautifully sang a cover of Ed Sheeran's "I See Fire" which was followed by a poem recited by Fahmida Akter, from MA program, Batch 223. Nusrat Jahan Esha from Batch 221 gave a mesmerizing dance performance on "Esho Shyamolo Shundoro." 18 The cultural performances continued with Mustafa Zahir and Akib Mostafa of Batch 192 singing "Jocchona Snan" by Bay of Bengal, and Mithila Akter Trisha, Batch 223, dancing gracefully to the song "Mayabono Biharini." Later, Anjum Azaz Opa spoke on behalf of the newbies of Batch 231, detailing her excitement at starting a new campus life, while Sumiya Nawshin spoke on behalf of the MA 231 freshers, sharing her experiences so far at DEH as well as reminiscing on her journey in the BA program that gave her the confidence to continue in the MA program. The final performers of the event were Alen Henry Costa, Batch 211, and Bimurta Binyas, Batch 193. They captivated the audience with their rendition of the song "Dukkho Bilash" by Artcell. The showstopper signalled an exciting and energetic ending to the event. The program was hosted by Adrita Chowdhury from Batch 223, and the volunteers from Batch 221, 222 and 223 helped to organise the event, which was coordinated by the TAs of DEH. The entire orientation program was overseen and directed by Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, BA Coordinator, and Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator.



Link: [DEH Spring 2023 Orientation | Department of English and Humanities](#)





## DEH Student Workshop: CV and Cover Letter Writing

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, a mandatory student workshop was held on Writing CVs and Cover Letters for the final semester students in ENG413/ENG498/ENG499 at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia, Assistant Director, English Zone, ULAB, and attended by approximately 35 students. The objective of the workshop was to guide the students on how to write an effective CV and cover letter to increase their chances of getting a job. The workshop began with a brief introduction of Ms. Tasmia and her experience in the field of professional writing. She then discussed the importance of a CV and cover letter and their role in securing a job. She also explained the difference between a CV and a resume, and the various components of a CV such as personal information, educational qualifications, work experience, skills, and achievements. Ms. Tasmia then moved on to the purpose of cover letters in job applications. She explained how to write an effective cover letter by highlighting one's skills and experience, and showing how they align with the 27 requirements of the job. She further provided tips on how to make the cover letter stand out and impress the employer. The workshop ended with a Q&A session where students were given the opportunity to ask Ms. Tasmia any questions they had regarding CVs and cover letters. The student workshop on Writing CVs and Cover Letters was very informative and beneficial for the students. The students left the workshop with a better understanding of how to write an effective CV and cover letter, with increased confidence in their job application process.



Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

### Workshop on Writing CVs and Cover Letters

For ENG413/498/499 students only

Facilitator



**Khadija Rubaiyat Tasmia**  
Assistant Director, English Zone

Thursday, 16 March 2023  
Time: 11:30 am; Room: PD 209

## DEH Student Workshop on Job Hunting and Networking

On March 30, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), hosted a workshop on "Job Hunting and Networking." The workshop facilitator was Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the department. The workshop is one of the six mandatory workshops for final term students from the courses ENG413/ENG498/ENG499. The workshop aimed to provide students with insights into the job market, strategies for job hunting, and techniques for building effective networks. Ms. Rahman began the session by highlighting the value of self belief and the relevance of confidence in achieving success in any vocation. Following this, the discussion moved on to the benefit of developing a personal website as a tool for exhibiting one's abilities to prospective employers. Next, the facilitator emphasized the necessity for students to be open-minded and consider several career paths, even if they are not directly related to their field of study. She urged students to begin developing their network by joining professional associations and connecting with industry experts on social networking sites like Bdjobs.com, LinkedIn, etc. Ms. Arifa Rahman reiterated the value of volunteering as a way to gain practical experience and develop transferable skills. She advised the students to look for volunteering opportunities in their communities actively and to think about how volunteering could improve their chances of landing a job in the future. Furthermore, the speaker provided some guidance on how to get ready for job interviews, such as doing background research on the organization and the role, dressing appropriately, and practicing answers to typical interview questions. She, additionally, stressed the significance of highlighting abilities and experiences that align with the demands of the position and the company's ideals. Writing strong resumes and cover letters was another major topic in the session. Samples of resumes and cover letters with skill, experience, and accomplishment highlights were provided by Arifa Rahman. Additionally, she underlined how crucial it is to personalize each job application's cover letter and CV. The workshop came to an end with a question-and answer session where the participants could speak with Ms. Arifa Rahman and get any of their questions answered. The

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

### Workshop on Job Hunting and Networking

For ENG413/498/499 students only

Facilitator



**Arifa Ghani Rahman**  
Associate Professor and Head,  
Department of English and Humanities

Thursday, 23 March 2023  
Time: 9:40 am; Room: PD 209

PC: Md. Sahedul Islam Hira

students were appreciative of the opportunity to learn from a seasoned professional like Ms. Arifa Rahman, who presented useful information about the job market and networking techniques. In conclusion, Ms. Rahman's workshop on "Job Hunting and Networking" was extremely successful. The students departed with a better awareness of networking techniques and the job market, as well as useful tools and knowledge that could help them improve their professional prospects.

## DEH Student Workshops: Interview and Presentation Skills

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, a workshop was held for ENG413/498/499 students on interview and presentation skills. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities, at the ULAB Research Building. Typically, the workshops are held separately but this time, one workshop in two parts was held. The first part of the workshop focused on interview skills and the second part on presentation skills. Ms. Rahman provided a comprehensive overview of what employers look for during interviews and how to prepare for the different types of interview formats. She

also discussed common interview questions and how to answer them effectively, as well as techniques for controlling nerves and projecting confidence during the interview process. During the second part of the workshop, Ms. Rahman covered the key elements of effective presentations, including how to structure a 31 presentation, how to use visual aids, and how to engage the audience. She also provided tips on how to overcome nervousness and deliver a well-prepared and professional presentation. The workshop was mandatory for students of ENG413/498/499 of Spring 2023. There were approximately 30 students present and they actively participated in the workshop by asking questions and engaging in discussions. Ms. Nadia Rahman presented the materials in a clear and concise manner which provided students with the necessary skills to prepare for job interviews and give them the confidence to perform well in the future. She also addressed each student's concerns and provided valuable feedback on their questions. Overall, the workshop was a success, and students found it to be very informative and helpful. They were provided with the tools they needed for effective and engaging interviews and presentations. The facilitator, Ms. Nadia Rahman's guidance was greatly appreciated by all attendees.



## Commencement Spring 2023

On May 13, 2023, the Spring 2023 Commencement program of ULAB's Department of English and Humanities took place in the Research Building Auditorium. The theme for the event was "The World Awaits" and Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom) joined the event as the Commencement Speaker to motivate the graduating students with his career trajectory. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, formally began the program. She congratulated the graduates and reminded them that DEH is a family. They will always have a place here. She also urged them to speak about DEH with respect to outsiders. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam then offered their inspirational words to the graduates. Following their speech, Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom), an independent researcher, columnist, development practitioner, youth leader, as well as a DEH alumnus of Batch 151, was invited on stage to address the graduates of the BA and MA programs. Mr. Islam shared his journey to success and offered motivational words to heighten the spirits of the graduates as "The World Awaits" to offer them great experiences. He also spoke about how the Department had nurtured and prepared him to accept bigger challenges. Talebur is currently completing his MA degree in Indonesia. After the speeches, the cultural program began with a sweet song by Hanifa Hanif (MA, Batch 223) followed by a mesmerizing dance performance by Mithila Akter Trisha (BA, Batch 223). Speeches





were delivered by Rupak Saha, on behalf of the outgoing BA students, and by Umme Hani Anika on behalf of her fellow MA graduates, where they both shared their experiences at ULAB as students of DEH all these years. In the later segment, a video of the keepsake brochure and a drama about the typical yet memorable student life at ULAB were shown, much to the delight of the audience. The spectacular drama was directed by Quazi Frahina Hassan and coordinated by Mahjabeen Hassan Wretee (Batch 193) along with their classmates from Batches 193 and 201. The final performances were rendered by Marzuk Khan Mojlish (Batch 182) and Allen Henry (Batch 221), who splendidly performed two songs for the graduates. To formally end the event, Ms. Tanzia Siddiqua, Senior Lecturer, DEH and Batch Manager of 193, offered her vote of thanks to all the graduates, faculty members, the speaker, and all the student volunteers who organized the beautiful event. The event concluded with a group photograph of the graduating students with the faculty members. The whole event was organized by the students of Batch 193 with some help from students of other batches under the supervision of Ms. Tanzia Siddiqua, Ms. Anika Tahsin (Lecturer, DEH) and Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (TA, DEH). The event was hosted by Janie Lionita (Batch 193) and the Keepsake Brochure was designed by Salman Al Farsy (Batch 222).

Link: [Spring 2023 DEH Commencement: The World Awaits! | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Orientation Summer 2023

The Summer '23 Orientation Ceremony of the incoming students of the BA and MA programs in the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, was held on June 1, 2023 at ULAB Permanent Campus premises. The Orientation theme was "Shine Bright," keeping in mind the objective of introducing the freshers to the faculty members, the facilities, and the opportunities that can help them make the best use of their university life. Before the Orientation formally began, Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, Lecturer, DEH and BA Coordinator, provided the students with an overview of the relevant department and university policies and facilities like the English Zone, on-campus work opportunities, as well as the important administrative contacts and Teaching Assistants. The formal program began with a welcome speech by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, who also introduced the faculty members, the Teaching Assistants, and admin officers. Following this, Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, showered the students with his words of wisdom and advised students to "be confident." Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, then addressed the students with advice to become involved in the many opportunities at the university. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, spoke about ULAB, its origin, the Board of Directors, and its liberal arts philosophy. The Orientation Speaker, Ms. Humaira Chowdhury, Co-Founder



and Managing Director, Frontier Technology Ltd., then addressed the students in a warm, interactive session. She shared her personal experiences on how she became an entrepreneur in a field where women are few. She discussed ideas for being proactive and shared numerous life lessons. After her session, a token of appreciation was handed over to her by the Head of the Department. 12 New MA student, Sadia Mukarrama (Batch 232), and BA student, Aiman Swaad Ahmad, spoke to the audience about their experiences at ULAB and DEH so far. They were very excited to be able to become a part of this prestigious institution. In the cultural segment, Joye Florence Rozario (Batch 222), Shafiullah Quaraisy Sotto (Batch 222), and Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish (Batch 182) with Alen Henry Costa (Batch 211), sang some wonderful songs, and Tabassum Hossain Supti (Batch 222)



performed a dance. A special segment was conducted by MA Coordinator, Ms. Nadia Rahman, to hand over Certificates of Participation to all the students who took part in the Graduate Student Seminar since its inception last year. 21 students received certificates that were handed over by Professor Shamsad Mortuza and Professor Kaiser Haq. A special segment was conducted by MA Coordinator, Ms. Nadia Rahman, to hand over Certificates of Participation to all the students who took part in the Graduate Student Seminar since its inception last year. 21 students received certificates that were handed over by Professor Shamsad Mortuza and Professor Kaiser Haq. The Orientation concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Nusrat Tajkia. The event was hosted by Adrita Chowdhury (Batch 223).

Link: [DEH Summer 2023 Orientation | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Student Workshop: Writing CVs and Cover Letters

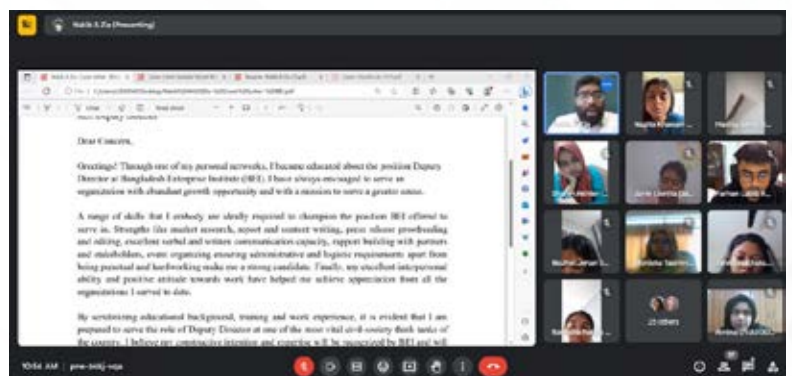
On July 27, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted a virtual workshop titled "Writing CVs and Cover Letters." The workshop catered to students completing their finals in courses ENG 498, ENG 499, and ENG 413, aimed at equipping them for future endeavors. Conducted by ULAB alumnus, Nakib A. Zia, currently serving as a Senior Officer at the Graduate Program Office at ULAB, the session's primary objective was to assist students in crafting effective CVs and cover letters – crucial materials for pursuing further studies or job opportunities. Participants were enlightened about the significance of tailored CVs and cover letters during the workshop's commencement. Mr. Zia emphasized that different areas demand distinct CVs, highlighting specific skills relevant to the chosen path. The workshop sought to ensure that students left with a draft of their CVs and cover letters. To guide students, Mr. Zia emphasized the importance of conciseness in CV writing. Rather than including an excessive amount of information, he advised focusing on relevant experiences and skills essential for the next career step. He shared his own resume as an example and provided do's and don'ts to enhance CV quality. Key sections such as the profile, education, experiences, and contact details were also discussed. Moving on to cover letters, Mr. Zia compared them to business proposals and offered multiple pointers for crafting successful ones. Encouraging creativity, he suggested that applicants go beyond 26 summarizing their CV content when applying for jobs requiring both documents. Cover letters, according to him, should highlight unique attributes not mentioned in the CV and be customized for each application. Students were shown Mr. Zia's own cover letter, emphasizing its vital role. The workshop concluded with an interactive question and answer session, during which students had the opportunity to share their CVs for review by Mr. Zia. The event proved to be a success, empowering participants with valuable insights to shape their professional journeys.

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

Workshop on  
**WRITING CVs  
AND COVER  
LETTERS**  
(for ENG 413/498/499  
students only)

DATE: THURSDAY 27, JULY  
TIME: 10AM  
ROOM: PD209

Facilitator  
**NAKIB A ZIA**  
DEH Alumnus  
Senior Officer, Graduate Business Program | ULAB  
Former Consultant | EMK Center  
Former Training & Communication Lead | International Culinary Institute (ICI)



Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Writing CVs and Cover Letters | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Student Workshop: Job Hunting and Networking

On August 3, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a highly informative workshop titled “Job Hunting and Networking” for the outgoing students of ENG 413/498/499. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor at the Department of English and Humanities (DEH). Its primary objectives were to equip students with insights into the effective job market approaches and to develop powerful networking skills. To begin with, Ms. Rahman emphasized the importance of becoming self-aware before selecting a field within the large job market. Following this, she stressed that being open-minded and wisely utilizing available opportunities may lead one to better prospects. Additionally, she discussed the importance of considering one’s own interests, the required skill set, and their ultimate career goals when searching for such opportunities. Ms. Rahman next

suggested that, in the step of job hunting, students should explore their strengths and weaknesses first. Furthermore, she emphasized on the importance of having an updated CV with a professional email account and a formal passport-size photo in order to develop networking and connect with like-minded individuals in their field of interest or professional industry through different sites such as LinkedIn, BDjobs, etc. Moreover, she provided tips on how to build a professional profile, 27 highlighting accomplishments and customizing it to capture a person’s personality. As for practical experience and



portable skills, Ms. Rahman advised the students to look for volunteering opportunities in their community to enhance their chances of future employment. Besides this, Ms. Rahman provided more insights for applying for the job and interview. She recommended doing background research about the organization, checking email regularly, and doing market research to understand the salary range. Furthermore, she gave importance to creating a good impression and retaining liaisons with former employers or faculty members. Lastly, she mentioned the necessity of maintaining ethics and responding to job offers with polite emails even if the student is unable to accept it. Ms. Rahman concluded the workshop with a question-answer session, and a reminder to the students to not underestimate the importance of experience that they might have gained through their different volunteering and extracurricular activities during their university life. This workshop is part of a series of workshops held specifically for students in their final semester to assist them with finding employment.

Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Job Hunting and Networking | Department of English and Humanities](#)

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

WORKSHOP ON  
Job Hunting and Networking  
(For 413/498/499 students)

DATE  
AUGUST 3, 2023

TIME  
10:00AM

VENUE  
PD209

Facilitator:  
**Arifa Ghani Rahman**  
Head and Associate Professor  
Department of English and Humanities

## DEH Alumni Talk on Impactful Youth Leadership

On August 17, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a talk by DEH alumnus Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom) who shared his experiences of being a youth leader and how it opened up numerous opportunities for him in higher studies. Mr. Islam is simultaneously a researcher, columnist, commentator, development and communications professional, and advocate for international development, international relations, politics, economics, and foreign policies. Mr. Islam began his talk by expressing his gratitude to his institution. He stated that he believes it is his responsibility to give back to ULAB as it has given to him by sharing his experiences. He gave his insight into the opportunities he took advantage of while he was at ULAB. He then talked about how he was unsure of a lot of things while he was a student. However, what intrigued him the most was the GED courses because they provided him with so many options for study. As he became involved with club activities, he started to develop his hard and soft skills. During his third year at ULAB, Mr. Islam participated in a conference in Nepal. Within the next couple of months, he attended another conference in India. Gradually, over time, he came to represent Bangladesh more than forty times on international platforms. Building on his experiences, he then provided the insight that the more an individual accesses global

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

ALUMNI TALK  
Impactful Youth Leadership: Higher Studies,  
Global Opportunities, and Beyond

Speaker  
**Md. Talebur Islam (Rupom)**  
Independent Researcher, Columnist,  
Development Practitioner, Youth Leader

Time: 11:30 am Date: August 17, 2023 Location: PD204

building on his experiences, he then provided the insight that the more an individual accesses global

opportunities, the more their experience will be enriched. Mr. Islam highlighted the importance of staying committed and moving forward when coming across such opportunities. Through this, he wanted the audience to know that anyone can make the most out of available resources found at universities. He also focused on the importance of networking to create more opportunities. Mr. Islam strongly encouraged students to always explore things beyond their comfort zone because that is when they will be able to unleash their true potential. Among a variety of opportunities, it is important that students always choose the right option, and there is always help around. Since these decisions leave a track mark, figuring out what one really wants to do is important. The session ended successfully as students took the opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Islam who responded enthusiastically. He also welcomed the session participants to keep in touch with him if they had further questions or needed more information.



Link: [DEH Alumni Talk on Impactful Youth Leadership | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Student Workshop: Interview Skills

On August 17, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop titled "Interview Skills" to help students feel confident and make the right preparations to face interviews. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor of DEH, conducted the workshop and spoke about her experience with interviews. Ms. Rahman started the workshop by asking students to deliver their idea of what interview skills are and why they are necessary. From there, she underlined the importance of going for an interview with confidence and preparedness because the interview is to evaluate what the applicants have to offer and prove themselves. Ms. Rahman emphasized instant action to show enthusiasm, proactiveness and smartness to impress the interviewer. She advised students to be prepared after applying in places, such as receiving calls from unknown numbers and checking emails frequently. Ms. Rahman asked further questions to the students, after which they were provided with pointers on how they can precisely and successfully handle the situation. Ms. Rahman next mentioned that one of the key points to take



note of is doing a thorough background study of the institution or company. Following that, making the right preparations based on their requirements, which might differ from company to company. The facilitator provided pointers on how to prepare for the important day, 33 such as ensuring timely arrival, relaxing their nerves and preparing to tackle the interview. She also provided tips on presenting themselves in front of the interviewers, such as being mindful of their body language, knowing the appropriate formal wear and carrying very little items so as not to appear clumsy. Since the interview



is taken to learn more about the applicant, they must generate interest among the interviewers by passionately talking about their acquired skills, their aspiration and goals, leaving their personal stories and information out unless they are asked. Ms. Rahman warned the students to be careful about mentioning information that might give away their weaknesses. Another piece of advice the workshop addressed was the knowledge of culture when preparing for interviews. Ms. Rahman provided tips for engaging in Cultural Exchange Programs and participating in cultural events because doing so demonstrates awareness of one's own culture as well as that of others. The workshop continued to discuss areas of common mistakes and provided additional tips to deal with unfamiliar questions. It concluded with a lively discussion where Ms. Rahman motivated the students to be confident and offered further advice in response to their questions and concerns.

Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Interview Skills | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Student Workshop: Job Hunting and Networking

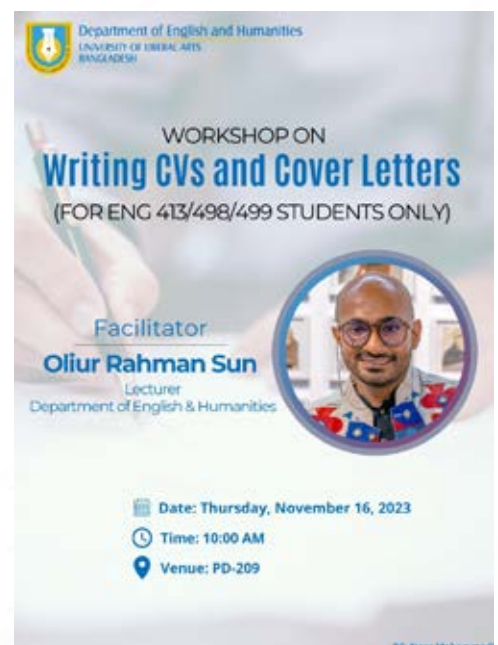
On Thursday, November 23, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online student workshop titled “Job Hunting and Networking” via Google Meet. The workshop was conducted to aid the students in their career pursuits. The third in a series of mandatory student workshops for students enrolled in courses ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499, it was facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department. Ms. Rahman commenced the session by emphasizing on the importance of building connections with people, stating that job searching is a challenge without networking. Following this, she urged students to assess themselves first; she asked them to discover their passions and pinpoint the skill sets that set them apart in the job market. Furthermore, she asked the students to map out their ultimate career goals before searching for job opportunities in the market. Although seeking a job can be an arduous process, Ms. Rahman encouraged students to believe in themselves. She advised the students to craft an error-free and concise CV, suggesting they should keep two CVs: one for academic jobs and another for corporate jobs. Furthermore, she suggested that students should create a professional email and regularly check and respond to emails. Ms. Rahman also urged students to establish connections within the professional industry using platforms such as LinkedIn and BDJobs. She emphasized that students should follow social media pages and groups that share job opportunities to smoothly navigate through the spectrum. With the world becoming technologically advanced, Ms. Rahman brought attention to the importance of creating websites that can easily allow employers to understand the candidates. Additionally, Ms. Rahman urged the students to put similar kinds of information on both CV and cover letter, since having different information on both increases the chances of being rejected. Besides this, Ms. Rahman provided tips on applying for jobs and what to do while doing the former. She recommended students to be careful about submitting necessary documents, informing people from the organization about attending the interview, and having a good understanding of the salary range and expectations. She also gave pointers on how to look for jobs in international organizations. She guided the students to utilize keywords effectively in their search. Ms. Rahman then went on to accentuate the importance of volunteering. A question-and-answer session was held to clarify any questions or concerns that students had. Lastly, she concluded the workshop with a reminder that English graduates have a high potential due to their critical analysis and communication skills, thus motivating them, and wishing them luck for future endeavors.

Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Job Hunting and Networking | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## Writing CVs and Cover Letters

On November 16, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online workshop titled, “Writing CVs and Cover Letters.” The workshop was outlined especially for the students of ENG 498, 499, and 413 to guide them through the importance, objectives, and steps of writing CVs and Cover Letters. The workshop is part of a series of workshops designed to prepare the final term students for their careers and higher studies. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Oliur Rahman Sun, Lecturer, Department of English Language and Humanities. Mr. Sun started the workshop by discussing the meaning and origin of CVs, and how, from a rough outline introduced by Leonardo Da Vinci in 1482, the structure and significance of the CV has changed over time. He offered an overview of the formatting of a CV for both academic and employment purposes. Further emphasis was put on the ways a student can showcase their work and experience by creating websites or LinkedIn profiles in order to represent their potential worth to institutions and organizations. Mr. Sun also gave some examples of poorly written CVs where he pointed out the flaws in grammar, font, formatting, and false information. He then demonstrated the correct steps for writing a proper CV with detailed information within 2 to 3 pages. He mentioned the elements of a CV, which include Contact Information, Academic History, Professional Experiences, Relevant Skills/Qualifications, Publications/Presentations, List of Achievements, Professional Associations and Affiliations, and Hobbies/Interests. The facilitator also gave an example of a well-written Work Experience section, discussing how, with bullet points, one can separate the Work Experience and Achievements, to offer a more precise outlook for the recruiters. He elaborated on the About/Profile section, mentioning it should give a brief summary of a student’s personality, achievements, and work experience. Students were given an exercise to write their own About/Profile



section and share it with the class, where they were given feedback. Mr. Sun used his own CV as an example to discuss more about the primary components in detail. Finally, Mr. Sun briefly discussed Cover Letters and talked about how it is different from a CV, where it is written as a letter and addressed to the Recruiting Manager. He gave an idea about the tone of the letter, where it will start off with a brief introduction about the student, their background, and how they can contribute to the particular position they are applying for. He emphasized pointing out the achievements and accomplishments, highlighting the student's potential for the position, and writing everything within one page. The workshop successfully came to a conclusion with a round of questions from the students, followed by Mr. Sun's responses and suggestions.

Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Writing CVs and Cover Letters | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Student Workshop on Interview Skills

To help students smoothly embark on a new journey after graduation, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh held an online Student Workshop on Interview Skills on December 7, 2023. The workshop, part of a series of mandatory student workshops designed to equip graduating students with guidance, was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the MA in English program at DEH. The beginning of the workshop was marked by interesting anecdotes from a few students who had previously faced in person interviews where they discussed their strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Rahman asked the students to write down their expectations from the workshop, to which the answers ranged from suggestions for overcoming interview anxiety, guidance on appearance and etiquette, and ways to answer complex questions professionally. During the main part of the workshop, Ms. Rahman touched on a variety of topics in detail, such as knowing your purpose, reasons to attend an interview, preparing for an interview, what areas to focus on and know more about as a candidate, preparation for cultural exchange programs and what to expect there, interview etiquette (e.g., punctuality), etc. As the session approached its conclusion, the students were reminded of important points to be kept in mind before attending an interview. They were given sample questions that they can expect at interviews as well as pointers to help them create proper answers and advice on how to deal with unfamiliar questions. Before the workshop ended, the graduating students were familiarized with common interview mistakes, as well as given further important and useful tips. After a quick question and answer session between Ms. Nadia Rahman and the students, the workshop concluded with good wishes.

Link: [DEH Student Workshop: Interview Skills | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## DEH Commencement Summer 2023

On September 2, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, hosted the Summer 2023 Commencement Ceremony for the outgoing students of the BA and MA programs at the auditorium of the ULAB Research Building in Dhanmondi. The theme for the event was "Chasing Rainbows, Seizing Dreams," where the Commencement Speaker was DEH alumna, Sirajum Munira Joti, Fellow, 2022 Cohort, Teach for Bangladesh. Head and Associate Professor of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, and Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor (BoT), respectively, congratulated the graduates and shared their inspirational words, urging the graduates to inspire others as they move on to different paths. The graduates were encouraged to remember to give back to others and contribute to society just as they have received many opportunities. The Commencement Speaker, Sirajum Munira Joti, shared anecdotes of her journey to success from DEH and offered motivational words for the students, asking them to embrace change and continue pursuing knowledge through hard work and perseverance.

Following their speeches, Mustafa Zahir Sheikh (Batch 192) presented a song accompanied by Gazi Md. Mostafa Al Wakil (Batch 192), the beatboxing wizard. Then, graduating students Janie Lionita Das 40 (BA, Batch 193) and Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (MA, Batch 223) gave speeches on their journeys with ULAB and DEH. Next, Marzuk Khan Mojlish (Batch 182) and Allen Henry Costa (Batch 211) performed songs for the graduates. For a moment of fun and memory sharing, the graduates played an engaging word game, following which a video of the keepsake brochure was displayed. The event, hosted by Tasmin Bahsira Binth Arman (Batch 201), was organized by Batch 201 under the supervision of Mr. Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturer, DEH.







Link: [DEH Summer 2023 Commencement | Department of English and Humanities](#)

## DEH Fall 2023 Orientation

On October 7, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held the Fall 2023 Orientation program to welcome incoming BA and MA students. The program, held at the ULAB Permanent Campus, was themed “Discover...Connect...Excel” to help students discover themselves, create connections, and make the best use of their skills. The Orientation Speaker was Ms. Farzana Akter Tisha, Executive Officer and Associate Customer Service Manager at Citygem, an alumna of the department. The Orientation program commenced with an opening song by new faculty member, Jahanara Tariq, Lecturer, DEH; Sumaiya Swati Udita, incoming MA student, and Antara Roy (BA Batch 223). Following this, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, delivered an encouraging speech and warmly welcomed the freshers. She then introduced the faculty members as well as the Teaching Assistants and the administrative officers of the department. Antara Roy then performed another song, “Tomar Ghore Bosot Kore,” accompanied by Md. Shayon Mia (BA Batch 232) and Faisal Hasan Anik (BA Batch 232). Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, then gave an inspirational speech to the freshers. He welcomed the new faces and delivered his words of wisdom which was followed by another intriguing speech by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees. Both professors spoke about building bonds, making connections, utilizing skills, and becoming the best version of oneself. A poetry recitation was then performed by Mst. Suraiya Alam (BA Batch 231). She recited “Tokhon Shotti Manush Chilam” by the late poet, Asad Chowdhury. The Orientation Speaker, Ms. Farzana Akter Tisha, was then invited on stage to share her experiences as a DEH and ULAB alumna, and how these helped her succeed. She emphasized the importance of participating in co-curricular activities and encouraged students to volunteer at various departmental events and clubs, while also mentioning how these help to build connections with peers and faculty members. Ms. Farzana also reminisced about her time in the department where she was well-known for her photography skills. Following her speech, Senior Lecturer Golam Kader Zilany, Advisor to the English Zone, proceeded to introduce the EZ to the freshers, the services offered, and invited weaker students to avail the services while others who are capable could assist by becoming Peer Tutors. In the last performance of the cultural segment, Jannatul Tasnia (Batch 232), Faisal Hasan Anik, and Md. Sayon Mia came together to perform the song, “Tomar Jonne Nilche Tara.” Naziah Alam, an MA fresher, spoke on behalf of the incoming MA Batch 233, sharing her experiences so far at DEH. Fatema Haque Shova then spoke on behalf of the BA Batch 233 freshers, detailing her excitement at starting a new campus life and her expectations of being a part of DEH. The event concluded with Professor Kaiser Haq handing over a token of appreciation to Ms. Farzana, followed by a group photo with all the freshers, faculty members, volunteers, TAs, and admins of the department. The program was organized by Assistant Professor, Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammed Rafi, and Senior Lecturers, Tanzia Siddiqua, and Al Mahmud Rumman as well as volunteers from Batches 223, 231, and 232, and was hosted by Sadia Hoque Akhi from Batch 222 and Sadia Mukarrama of MA Batch 232.



Link: [DEH Fall 2023 Orientation | Department of English and Humanities](#)

# Fall 2023 Commencement and Certificate Giving Ceremony

The Fall 2023 Commencement was organized by the Department of English and Humanities of ULAB on December 26, 2023, at the ULAB Permanent Campus for the graduating students of the BA and MA in English programs. The students of Batches 202, 203, and 211 arranged the cultural segment of the program as a farewell to the graduating students. The theme of the event was “Echoes of Change,” and the Commencement Speaker was DEH alumna Nahida Shabnam Urmi, Business Operation Specialist at Yodo1 in Beijing, China. The program began with DEH Head, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, congratulating the graduating students on their success. She recalled the many contributions the graduating batches had made to the department and to the university, pinpointing their engagement with different social issues such as human rights and sustainability. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, during his congratulatory speech, recited a poem of his written to his own mentor that reflected on the teacher–student relationship. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor, ULAB Board of Trustees, then imparted some invaluable advice to the students, emphasizing the importance of soul searching and values. The Commencement Speaker, Ms. Nahida Shabnam Urmi spoke to the graduating students by first detailing her time at ULAB as a student, professing that despite English not being her first choice of subject, after joining ULAB, it felt like her true calling. She elaborated on her journey of being a PR leader for the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW) project, and how the leadership experience changed her perspective on life. She spoke against the stigma of studying English Literature, emphasizing that she utilizes her learning from her degree in her current job. She ended her inspiring speech by advising students to find themselves and create their true value before stepping out into the real world. She was then presented with a token of appreciation by Prof. Kaiser Haq. The cultural segment began with Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, reciting a poem that spoke of changes. There were performances by the organizing batches that began with a song by Alen Henry Costa (Batch 211) and alumnus Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlsh. Fardeen Azwaad and Rubaiyat Raiyan (Batch 211) recited a captivating poem, and then graduating student from the BA in English program, Sanzida Alam (Batch 201) spoke on behalf of the outgoing students. She shared her experiences as a student of DEH and conveyed encouraging words to her batchmates. Then, graduating BA students, Tasfiah Saba, Tanjila 44 Fairuz, and Mahzabin Montaha Tamim, along with Alen and Marzuk, took the stage to perform a choir song. Graduating MA student Maliha Huq was invited on stage to share her experience at ULAB on behalf of her fellow graduates. She did this with an incredible poem she had written. The performances carried on with an entertaining skit scripted by MA students Quazi Farhina Hassan and Mahjabeen Hassan Wreete along with their team. Alen and Marzuk, once again, took the stage to end the performances with a beautiful song. A certificate–giving session was held at the end of the program where the Prof. Kaiser Haq, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, and Ms. Arifa Rahman handed over certificates to the student presenters of the Fall 2023 Graduate Student Seminar and the graduating Scholars Program students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan, Assistant Professor, DEH. The program was hosted by Fatema Aftab Miah (Batch 211).



Link: [Commencement Fall 2023 | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## CSD Talk: Sustainable Solutions with Mr. Mirajul Huq, Founder of Baah Store

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) organized a talk on sustainable solutions featuring Mr. Mirajul Huq, the Founder of Baah Store, on April 9th, 2023, at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Permanent Campus. Baah Store is a pioneering digital sustainable brand in Bangladesh, specializing in eco-friendly, upcycled, and sustainable goods. The session aimed to provide ULAB students with insights into the integration of sustainability into business models. Mr. Mirajul Huq, as the founder of the first-of-its-kind sustainable brand in Bangladesh, shared his expertise on navigating the intersection of profitability and minimal societal and environmental impact. The talk served as an educational opportunity for students, fostering an understanding of how businesses can prioritize sustainability without compromising profitability. The session highlighted the innovative approaches adopted by Baah Store in promoting eco-friendly and upcycled goods. The belief underlying the organization of such seminars for students is to cultivate a culture of sustainability within the university campus. By empowering students to become change agents and encouraging informed and responsible actions, the university aims to contribute to a more sustainable future. The talk with Mr. Mirajul Huq underscored the significance of incorporating sustainable practices in business and inspired students to consider the environmental and societal impacts of their future endeavors. Such initiatives align with CSD's mission to instill a culture of sustainability and responsible decision-making among the students of ULAB.



## What will it take to shape the workforce of the future?

An event featuring a panel discussion on what it will take to shape the workforce of the future took place on 25 February 2023 at the ULAB Main Campus. The panelists were Dr. Muhammad Faisol Chowdhury, Associate Professor & Director BBA program, Ms. Umme Salma, Head of HR at Nitol Niloy Group, Mr. Mir Omar Naser, Head of HR at Shanta Securities, Mr. Mohammad Mostofa Jaman, Head of Partnership & PR at Genex Infosys Limited, and Ms. Farah Tanjeem, Business Partner & Circle HR at Grameenphone. The panel discussion focused on the skills and competencies that will be necessary for success in the workforce of the future, as well as the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The speakers shared their insights and experiences on the changing landscape of the workforce, and how individuals and organisations can adapt to stay ahead of the curve. They emphasised on the importance of lifelong learning and the need for individuals to continuously upskill and re-skill to remain relevant in the workforce, emotional intelligence in an era of automation and artificial intelligence, challenges and opportunities brought about by remote work and the need for organisations to create a culture of trust and collaboration, strong partnerships and networks to succeed in a rapidly changing business environment, diversity and inclusion in order to attract and retain top talent.



# Fostering Good Citizenship and Ethical Values Among University Students

Organized by the BBA Program Office at ULAB, this workshop was delivered by Juliana Awo Quist Lawson, Coordinator of Stakeholder Engagement at the UN Global Compact Network Bangladesh (UNGCB) and Olive Kwao, an Educational Consultant from DexServe Bangladesh, aimed to raise awareness among BBA students about corruption and its adverse societal impact. The event successfully achieved its primary objectives, which included helping students understand the significance of good citizenship and ethical values, providing practical examples of applying these values in daily life, facilitating discussions and interactive activities to promote critical thinking and self-reflection, and encouraging students to develop personal action plans for incorporating ethical values and good citizenship into their lives.



## Career Conversation With bKash Limited

The ULAB Business Club recently organised a career conversation session in collaboration with the BBA program. The key speakers of the session were Jobaida Khanom, the Senior Vice President of HRBP-Product & Technology of bKash, Dr Muhammad Faisal Chowdhury, Associate Professor and Director of the ULAB BBA Program, and Mr Abdul Baten, Assistant Professor, BBA Program. The session was hosted by Mr Abu Usuf M Rashedul Amin, General Manager of Employer Branding at bKash Limited. The session proved to be an invaluable opportunity for students seeking guidance in their career paths. During the session, Dr. Chowdhury posed insightful questions to Jobaida Khanom, drawing on her extensive experience in the fintech industry. Ms Jobaida emphasised the significance of continuous learning and skill development for those embarking on a career in fintech. She highlighted the pivotal role networking played in overcoming challenges and shared effective strategies for excelling in fintech job interviews.



## Poster and Video Presentation

On March 22, 2023, BBA Students of Micro and Macroeconomics courses at ULAB showcased their Group Projects. They presented their poster entitled "Unemployment after Graduation and Creating Employment Opportunity," as well as group video projects on "Scarcity, Choice, Opportunity Cost, and Responsible Consumption." The event was coordinated by Dr. Shamsuddin Ahamad, Assistant Professor at USB and course instructor for Macroeconomics and Microeconomics. Professor Dr. Sarwar Uddin Ahmed graced the event as the guest of honour. Associate Professor and BBA Program Director, Dr. Muhammad Faisal Chowdhury was also present in the event as the session chair. This poster presentation was the result of a cooperative project by BBA students. In addition to the exploration and problem-solving endeavors, the purpose of this project was to help students develop an entrepreneurial attitude through critical and creative thinking, innovation, teamwork, and leadership.



## The Role of Emotional Intelligence at Workplace

With Nazmun Nur Eva, Lecturer of the USB, this particular event featured Mr. Talukder Mohammad Shabbir, an Entrepreneur and Managing Director of Green Grocery, as the guest speaker. Mr. Shabbir, who is also the former CEO of BASIS Institute of Technology and Management (BITM), shared his extensive industry knowledge and experience with the attendees. The objective of the event was to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical industry experience, providing diversified insights into the importance of emotional intelligence in the workplace. The session fostered an interactive and inspiring environment, energizing the students and encouraging continuous learning to empower the next generation. Participants gained valuable insights on how emotional intelligence contributes to a positive workplace culture, enhancing productivity and fostering effective teamwork. Overall, the event proved to be an enriching platform for students to align their theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, equipping them with the skills necessary for success in their professional endeavors.



# Roundtable Discussion: 'Empowering Graduates for Job Readiness'

ULAB CES organized a Roundtable Discussion titled "Empowering Graduates for Job Readiness" on Friday, July 14, 2023, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM at ULAB research building. The event featured prominent speakers, including Sajid Amit (Director, Center for Enterprise and Society (CES), ULAB), Parveen S. Huda (Managing Director, Consulting and Research Gateway), Minhaz Anwar (Chief Storyteller, BetterStories Ltd.), Jannatul Ferdous (Regional Development Manager, Pearson), Sayeda Farzana Maisha (Country HR Representative, Global Apparel Brand), Khawar Saud Ahmed (CEO, Magnito Digital), Rubaiyat Farhan (COO, Markopolo.ai), Maria Mumu (Founder, Moshal Mental Health Organization), Tarif M. Khan (Head of Brands and Strategy, Dekko ISHO Group), Arshia Aziz (Head of Marketing, Exams, South Asia, British Council), Shazzad Hossain (General Manager, Product, 10 Minute School), and Md. Mushfiqur Rahman (Senior Manager, Projects and Research, CES, ULAB). The discussion aimed to identify skill gaps in the current workforce and explore strategies for enhancing graduates' employability through a finishing school program. It is aligned with three key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It aimed to enhance the employability of graduates by addressing skill gaps, supporting SDG 4's goal of improving the quality and relevance of education. By preparing graduates for meaningful employment, the discussion promoted SDG 8, focusing on decent work opportunities and sustainable economic growth. Additionally, the event embodied SDG 17 through collaboration among various stakeholders, demonstrating the power of partnerships in tackling educational and employment challenges. The event was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the social media link [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).

**CEES** **ULAB**

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**  
EMPOWERING GRADUATES FOR JOB READINESS

 <b>SAJID AMIT</b> Moderator Director, Center for Enterprise & Society (CES), ULAB	 <b>PARVEEN S. HUDA</b> Managing Director, Consulting & Research Gateway	 <b>MINHAZ ANWAR</b> Chief Storyteller, BetterStories Ltd.	 <b>JANNATUL FERDOUS</b> Regional Development Manager, Pearson
 <b>SYEDA FARZANA MAISHA</b> Country HR Representative, Global Apparel Brand	 <b>KHAWAR SAUD AHMED</b> CEO, Magnito Digital	 <b>RUBAIYAT FARHAN</b> COO, Markopolo.ai	 <b>MARIA MUMU</b> Founder, Moshal Mental Health Organization
 <b>TARIF M. KHAN</b> Head of Brands & Strategy, Dekko ISHO Group	 <b>ARSHIA AZIZ</b> Head of Marketing, Exams, South Asia, British Council	 <b>SHAZZAD HOSSAIN</b> General Manager, Product, 10 Minute School	 <b>MD. MUSHFIQUR RAHMAN</b> Co-Moderator Sr. Manager, Projects and Research, CES, ULAB

**Friday, July 14, 2023**  
**4.00 PM - 5.30 PM**  
**A601, ULAB Research Building**

# Student Workshop on Email Etiquette

On June 14, 2023, a workshop on "Email Etiquette" was arranged by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, for the students of the department. The facilitator was one of the Teaching Assistants of DEH, Sanjida Akther. At present, she is pursuing her MA in English degree in Literature and Cultural Studies. Ms. Akhtar began with a brief discussion on what significance the word "Etiquette" holds in both academic and professional settings. Stressing its importance, she then proceeded to explain how to write a formal email. She began by showing examples of formal and informal emails, and why the latter should be avoided. Then she shared the basic format of writing a formal email and educated the audience on appropriate language that is to be used in emails. She stated that formal emails should always consist of "third person pronouns" and the writing should have a polite tone with little to no use of colloquial phrases. Following that, she presented the do's and don'ts of email writing. She advised not to use any nonstandard fonts, emojis, or vague words. Moreover, she stressed that students should be mindful of the tone of the writing as an improper and demanding tone in an email can create a poor impression of the writer. She also suggested that the writer must proofread before sending any email, and send a follow-up email in cases of unresponsive correspondents. Thereafter, Ms. Akhtar handed out a worksheet activity and asked the participants to identify and correct the errors of the two emails given in the sheet while addressing their queries. Finally, she asked for feedback on the workshop from the audience and concluded the session.

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

**Workshop on  
Email Etiquette**

  
**Facilitator**  
**Sanjida Akter**  
Teaching Assistant, DEH

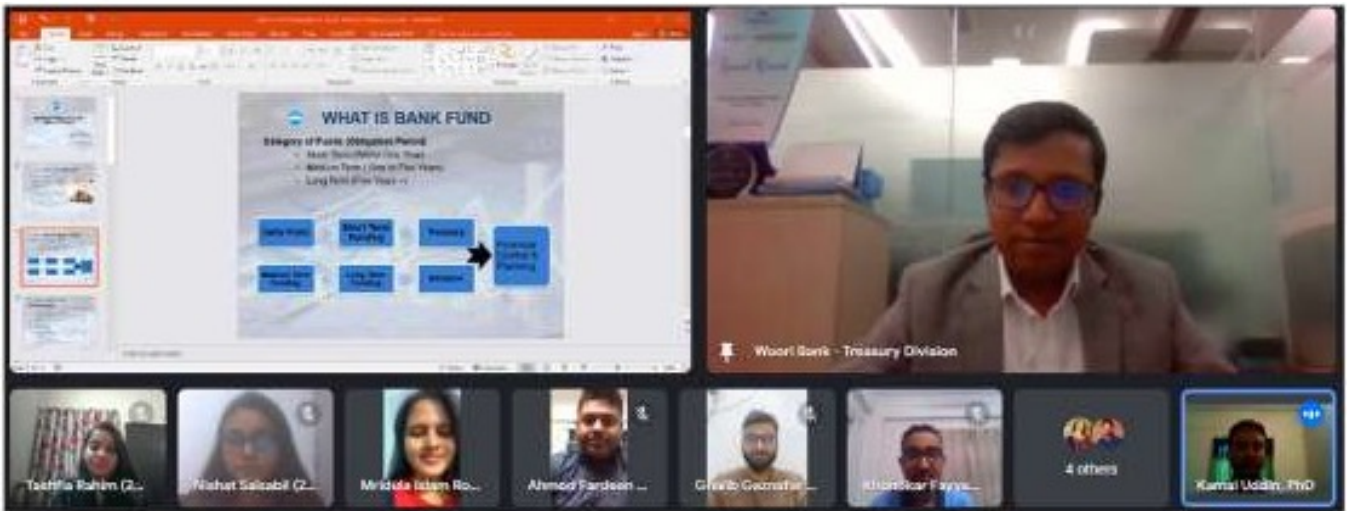
**Date: 14 June 2023 (Wednesday)**  
**Time: 2:40 PM Room: PA-211**

[Student Workshop on Email Etiquette | Department of English and Humanities](#)



# Bank Fund Management: Current Practice

This webinar was organised by Dr Md. Kamal Uddin, Assistant Professor of Finance. The guest speaker was Mr Sushanta Sekhar Deb, Assistant Vice President and Head of Treasury, Woori Bank. The main aim of the webinar was to familiarise students with the intricacies of banking operations. Students were afforded a valuable opportunity to bridge the gap between their theoretical understanding of banking and the practical insights shared by the speakers. The speakers reflected on the nuanced landscape of bank fund management, offering a comprehensive overview of how financial institutions handle the complexities of handling their funds. They artfully illuminated the sources and applications of various types of bank funds, emphasising the strategic management of capital, liquidity, investments, and adherence to regulatory requirements. 23 students of finance actively engaged with the session, drawing connections between classroom theories and real-world practices. The interactive nature of the webinar allowed the students to pose probing questions from diverse perspectives, further enriching their understanding. The guest speaker's positive approach to fostering interactivity contributed to the overall success and enjoyment of the session. In essence, the webinar encouraged a dynamic exchange of ideas, making it a rewarding and successful learning experience.





## Webinar on 'The Future of AgriTech in Bangladesh'

ULAB CES and Future Startup organized a webinar titled "The Future of AgriTech in Bangladesh," featuring Tasvir Ahmed Faheem (Founder & CEO of InsureCow) and Sakib Hossain (Founder & CEO of Fashol), held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The event included a keynote presentation on the current state and future potential of the AgriTech industry in Bangladesh, followed by a live discussion moderated by Ruhul Kader (Editor, Future Startup). The discussion explored the challenges, opportunities, and innovations shaping the AgriTech landscape in Bangladesh. The webinar supported SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through its focus on how AgriTech innovations can help develop a more resilient agricultural sector, utilizing advanced technologies to improve productivity and sustainability. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording [here](#). The press release can be accessed [here](#).



Webinar

### The Future of Agritech in Bangladesh

Saturday, Oct 28, 2023 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



**RUHUL KADER**  
Host  
Editor  
Future Startup



**TASVIR AHMED FAHEEM**  
Guest Speaker  
Founder & CEO  
InsureCow



**SAKIB HOSSAIN**  
Guest Speaker  
Founder and CEO  
Fashol



**FAHAD FAZ**  
Guest Speaker  
Co-Founder and CEO  
iFarmer



**SAJID AMIT**  
Opening Remarks  
Associate Professor, ULAB  
& Vice President, DFFB



## White paper: Startup Fundraising Trends

In June 2023, ULAB CES Research Associate Nazifa Mussarrat published a white paper titled "Startup Fundraising Trends," which looks at how startup financing is changing and its effects on economic growth. The paper highlights important trends in fundraising, showing that investors are increasingly interested in innovative areas like technology and sustainability. These trends relate to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by supporting innovation and the development of the infrastructure needed for modern industries. Overall, the white paper emphasizes how startup fundraising can help promote sustainable development in Bangladesh. You can access the paper [here](#).

## White paper: A Review of the Private Equity Industry in Bangladesh

In August 2023, Fateen Tahseen Alam and ULAB CES Director Sajid Amit published a white paper titled "A Review of the Private Equity Industry in Bangladesh," which examines the current state and future potential of private equity in the country. The paper highlights key trends, challenges, and opportunities within the industry, emphasizing its role in driving economic growth. The findings align with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by showcasing how private equity can foster innovation and support the development of infrastructure necessary for modern businesses. Furthermore, it discusses the importance of building strong partnerships among investors, businesses, and policymakers, linking to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which encourages collaborative efforts to strengthen the private equity landscape. Overall, the white paper underscores the significance of private equity in promoting sustainable development in Bangladesh. You can access the paper [here](#).



CES KNOWLEDGE NOTE

June 2023

### Startup Fundraising Trends in 2022

Nazifa Mussarrat, Research Associate, CES

#### Sectoral Trends

On the surface, the year 2022 may appear to have been a reasonable year for startups in Bangladesh with a total of USD 109 million being raised. The sectors that had shown promise in previous years, began to thrive in 2022 – namely – fintech, logistics and mobility-based startups. Education and e-commerce startups also showing promise in the context of being able to secure. However, relative to the previous year, 2022 saw a significant decline in foreign investments coming into the country with total investments seeing a whopping 74% decline from the USD 415 million raised in 2021 to a meagre USD 109.

This decline in funding however was not exclusive to Bangladesh, with overall global funding also declining considerably, owing to the instability in the world economy<sup>1</sup>. Uncertainties brushed onto the global venture capital firms causing them to tighten up their fundings, especially in developing countries like Bangladesh. These pressures on global capital flows manifested in the Bangladesh startup sector. While the second quarter of the year saw USD 82 million raised the first saw only 10 and the third, a meagre 8. A silver lining was that locally sourced investments saw a rise, taking up 8 percent of the total share of the funds raised<sup>2</sup>.



## Seminar on augmented reality organized by EEE department

We're elated to share the highlights of the captivating seminar on Augmented Reality that took place on August 13, 2023. The event was a resounding success, thanks to our esteemed speaker, Mr. Faed Ahmed Arnob. With a rich background as a Research Engineer at UIU and ULAB, and as a former Lecturer at BRAC's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Mr. Arnob's insights were truly enlightening.

The seminar delved into the exciting realm of Augmented Reality, shedding light on its applications, challenges, and future prospects. Attendees were spellbound as Mr. Arnob expertly navigated through the intricacies of this cutting-edge technology. The seminar was very interesting and the participants got a glimpse into the potential AR holds in transforming various industries.

Link: [Seminar on augmented reality organized by EEE department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)



## Seminar on Power Electronics organized by EEE Department, ULAB

We are thrilled to share that the EEE department of ULAB successfully hosted a seminar titled 'Power Electronics Applications in Modern Technologies' at our permanent campus. The seminar was conducted by the esteemed resource person, Md Ohirul Qays Joarder Akash, who is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Engineering-Electrical and Electronic Department at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia. The seminar was powered by ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club.

Mr. Akash's insightful speech on modern applications of power electronics and his discussion on several research aspects left the audience spellbound. His research interests include cutting-edge renewable energy resources, power system stability, control systems, machine learning, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, and more.

The seminar was attended by students from the EEE department along with our esteemed faculty members, who made the event a grand success. We thank Mr. Akash for sharing his expertise and knowledge with us and making the seminar informative and engaging. Stay tuned for more such informative events in the future.

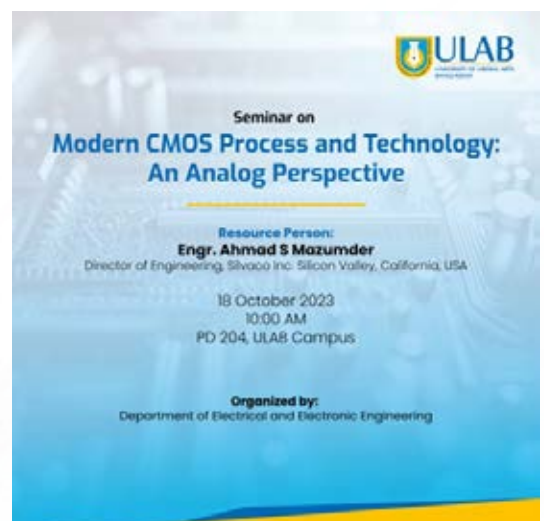
Link: [Seminar on Power Electronics organized by EEE Department, ULAB | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)



## Seminar on "Modern CMOS Process and Technology: An Analog Perspective"

This seminar, organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, provided valuable insights into the cutting-edge developments in CMOS technology from an analog standpoint. Engr. Mazumder (Director of Engineering at Silvaco Inc., Silicon Valley, California, USA) with his expertise, promised an engaging session that broadened students' understanding of the modern CMOS process.

Link: [Facebook](#)



## The School of Science and Engineering organized a successful seminar titled 'Connecting the Internet to Satellites and Space.'

The School of Science and Engineering organized a successful seminar titled 'Connecting the Internet to Satellites and Space.' on 3rd January in the ULAB permanent campus. The resource person for the event was Prof. Mohammed Atiquzzaman, PhD, Senior IEEE member, University of Oklahoma, Norman, USA. He provided insightful details about his current satellite communication research. Additionally, he offered potential work possibilities in this area. Along with other faculty members, the heads of the EEE and CSE departments attended the seminar. Students from several departments enthusiastically participated in the highly effective session.

Link: [The... - ULAB Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering | Facebook](#)



## Development of IoT with an illustration of Real Life Applications

The webinar was held on 26 November 2020 from 02:30 – 04:00 pm. The platform of the workshop was Google Meet. Mr. Mobasshir Mahbub, Specialization in IoT was the resource person. The webinar was intended to make the students familiar with the IoT applications and motivate them to work and research in IoT lab of ULAB which has updated equipment for research. Mr. Mobasshir shared his experience regarding a Scopus-indexed journal publication in IoT and the preparation, mindset and writing procedure to be followed for a journal publication. This webinar encouraged the students to perform high standard research in IoT. The webinar was interactive. Students from EEE, ETE and CSE departments participated in the webinar. Faculties from the EEE department also joined the program. Finally, the webinar ended with a question-answer session between the resource person and the students.

Link: <https://sse.old.ulab.edu.bd/eee/2021/01/03/350/>

## Successful Workshop on Analog IC Design Organized by EEE Department

Analog IC design is one of the most important concepts in Electrical Engineering. Very few professionals are available all over the world in this esoteric yet very demanding field. To this end, a workshop was organized by the Dept. of EEE, ULAB on 19th January to familiarize students with these prospects, as well as provide them with up-to-date knowledge on the global tech industry. The title of the session was "Workshop on Analog IC Design". It was conducted by Engr. Ahmed S Mazumder, who is affiliated with Silvaco Inc., Portland, Oregon, USA as the Director of Engineering. He worked as a Senior Engineering Manager at Intel Corporation for 11 years and as a Senior Principal Engineer at Broadcom Corporation for 2 years. He also held many respectable positions at IBM, Trident Microsystems, C-Cube Microsystems, Microchip technology etc.

The workshop was organized in the permanent campus of ULAB. Students from all over joined the session with great enthusiasm. Also, the Head of the department of EEE along with other faculty members were also present in the seminar.

Link: [Successful Workshop on Analog IC Design Organized by EEE Department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)





## EEE Publications

Md. Liton Hossain, "Key communication technologies, applications, protocols and future guides for IoT-assisted smart grid systems: A review," Energy Reports, ISSN: 2352-4847.

1. Md. Shahjalal, "Enabling technologies for AI empowered 6G massive radio access networks," ICT Express, Elsevier, Online ISSN: 2405-9595.
2. A. Jawad, "A RoCoF-constrained underfrequency load shedding scheme with static voltage stability-based zoning approach," Sustainable Energy, Grids and Networks, ISSN: 2352-4677.
3. A. Jawad, "Optimal capacitor placement in northern region of Bangladesh transmission network for voltage profile improvement," Energy Reports, ISSN: 2352-4847.
4. A. Jawad, "Prediction of Frequency Response of Power Grid: An Ensemble Learning Based Approach," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-6971-7.
5. A. Jawad, "A Machine Learning Based Frequency Response Prediction of Deloaded PV Under Variability," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-6971-7.
6. A. Jawad, "A Technique for Early Identification of Network Separation to Enhance Frequency Resilience," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 978-1-6654-7517-4.
7. A. O. M. Shamsuddoha, "A Review Paper on Recent Applications of Auger Electron Spectroscopy (AES) Technology in Semiconductor Industry for Semiconductor Characterization," Bangladesh Electronics and Informatics Society, International Conference on Electronics and Informatics, 26-28 Jan. 2023.

## ULAB IEEE Robotics and Automation Society organized "Intra University Line Following Robot Competition"

We are delighted to announce the success of the ULAB IEEE Robotics and Automation Society event. Our sincere appreciation goes to all participants, the committed organizing team, and our generous sponsors. Your collective efforts have contributed to the excellence of this event, showcasing a strong commitment to advancing the field of robotics and automation. Thank you for making this event a resounding success. A sincere thank you to our outstanding Champions Aranya Apsara, Md Ismail Hossain, and Dibyandu Banik Das! We also extend our applause to the talented runners-up Rahat Talukder, Md Abdul Hossain, Munnaf Mitul, and Mohosin Hossain Shishir. Special appreciation to all participants, sponsors Neural Semiconductor, and everyone who played a role in the success of this remarkable event.

## ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club organized a workshop on Android Control Car

We are grateful for the insightful Android Control Car workshop. We would especially like to thank Moshir Rahman Sohan, our outstanding speaker, for informing us on such solutions.

We appreciate the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department and the Ulab Electronics and Robotics Club for organizing this beneficial event!

The Ulab Electronics and Robotics Club put a lot of effort into organizing the event, and we are so proud of this amazing community. Let's keep pushing the boundaries of knowledge and innovation together!

Keep supporting UERC and become energized!

## Webinar on Empowering Research In Artificial Intelligence."

Executive Excellence 2023 is organizing another session titled "Empowering Research In Artificial Intelligence."

Join us in welcoming our esteemed speaker, S M Sharif, Senior Researcher at Opt-Ai Inc, LG Science Park, Seoul, South Korea. With his boundless expertise, Sharif is all set to demystify the world of AI research and teach how to use LaTeX.

Save the Date: 11th November, 2023

Time: 18:45 PM (BST)

Join us as we embark on a journey into the future of technology and innovation. Plus, don't forget that you will have the opportunity to learn how to create beautifully formatted documents with LaTeX during this session. LaTeX is a document preparation

system used for the communication and publication of scientific documents.  
We're excited to have you with us as we explore the endless possibilities of Artificial Intelligence.

## Webinar on “VLSI Software Journey: Inside the Chips”

Session, “VLSI Software Journey: Inside the Chips” took place today. We are utterly grateful to our highly knowledgeable instructor, S.K. Shah Alam.

A brief invention history and the subsequent evolution of very large scale integration system has been discussed, followed by its uses, advantages, and applications in the industrial level. Moreover, short software demonstrations on transistor design, and semiconductor inverter scale drawing & configuration have been implemented as well.

Finally, the milestone of VLSI industry, corresponding job prospects and opportunities in Bangladesh were talked over. It is always fascinating to stay updated and well-informed on the cutting-edge technologies for an emerging future.

## A software session titled “Dive into the Magic of AI and Robotics”

Prepare yourself for a voyage into the future as Executive Excellence 2023 presents a software session titled “Dive into the Magic of AI and Robotics”. Join us on enlightening evening with the industry visionaries.

Speakers : S M A Sharif and Md. Rakibul Islam.

Discover the wonders of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. Engage with insightful discussions by our esteemed speakers.

Mark your calendars: October 14th, 2023.

Time: 19:00 (BST)

This event promises to be an eye-opener, unveiling the limitless possibilities of technology. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with experts in the field.

Hope to see you there!

## EEE Department Research Collaborations

S/N	Title of the research	Chief Investigator	Co-Researcher(s)	Source of Fund
1	Next-generation intelligent wireless communications	Prof Yeong Min Jang	Md. Shahjalal, Md. Habibur Rahman, Md. Morshed Alam, Mostafa Zaman Chowdhury	ITRC, South Korea

## CSE HACKATHON held at ULAB CSE Department

The long-awaited CSE Hackathon was held on March 23, 2023, at the ULAB Main Campus. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) organized the hackathon, where engineering students enthusiastically participated in two categories. The event showcased various projects on Machine Learning, Blockchain, Robotics, IoT, and other technologies. In the Hackathon category, the project “IoT-based Smart AFO for Patients with Gait Imbalance” became the Champion, while the projects “Bangla Sign Language Recognition using Cusbon Dataset” and “Green House Monitoring with Roof Control” became the first and second runner-up, respectively. In the Ideathon category, the project titled “Relief Matte” became the Champion, while the projects “AID Nexus” and “ReEEDP: Reliable and Energy Efficiency Routing Protocol for UAV” became the first and second runner-up, respectively. The winners were awarded Crests and Certificates at the Prize Giving Ceremony, which was attended by the Chief Guest, Mr. Ratan-Hasan Rahman, MD of Data Soft Manufacturing & Assembly Inc. Ltd., the Dean of SSE, Prof. Dr. M Mofazzal Hossain, the Acting Head of CSE, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, the Chair of the CSE Hackathon, Dr. Nafees Mansoor, judges, faculty members, and students. The CSE Hackathon was supported by the UCPC, IoT Lab, IEEE ULAB SB, IEEE CS ULAB SBC, and WIE AG-ULAB.



Presenting Crest to the Chief Guest, Mr. Ratan-Hasan Rahman, MD of Data Soft Manufacturing & Assembly Inc. Ltd.



# ULAB CSE Department organized an Industry visit to Datasoft Manufacturing & Assembly (DMA) Factory

The long-awaited CSE Hackathon was held on March 23, 2023, at the ULAB Main Campus. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) organized the hackathon, where engineering students enthusiastically participated in two categories. The event showcased various projects on Machine Learning, Blockchain, Robotics, IoT, and other technologies. In the Hackathon category, the project "IoT-based Smart AFO for Patients with Gait Imbalance" became the Champion, while the projects "Bangla Sign Language Recognition using Cusbon Dataset" and "Green House Monitoring with Roof Control" became the first and second runner-up, respectively. In the Ideathon category, the project titled "Relief Matte" became the Champion, while the projects "AID Nexus" and "ReEEDP: Reliable and Energy Efficiency Routing Protocol for UAV" became the first and second runner-up, respectively. The winners were awarded Crests and Certificates at the Prize Giving Ceremony, which was attended by the Chief Guest, Mr. Ratan-Hasan Rahman, MD of Data Soft Manufacturing & Assembly Inc. Ltd., the Dean of SSE, Prof. Dr. M Mofazzal Hossain, the Acting Head of CSE, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, the Chair of the CSE Hackathon, Dr. Nafees Mansoor, judges, faculty members, and students. The CSE Hackathon was supported by the UCPC, IoT Lab, IEEE ULAB SB, IEEE CS ULAB SBC, and WIE AG-ULAB.



## Entrepreneurial Marketing – The Plan

The event 'Entrepreneurial Marketing' was a great event to expose ULAB students to the aspects of entrepreneurship and their take on the marketing process. The event took place on the 6th of february in the ULAB Permanent Campus. The facilitator of the event was Ms. Mehnaz Huda, lecturer at USB and the guest speaker was Mr. Rehanur Rahman. He is the founder franchisee of Crimson Cup and being human Bangladesh. He is a graduate from Warwick Business School. He worked as a faculty member in North South University (Part time) and was also a guest lecturer at Dhaka University and IBA. Mr. Rahman began the discussion on how he, along with his partner, propagated the coffee culture among young adults in Bangladesh while making Crimson Cup such a strong brand locally. He spoke about the resource contrainsta of an entrepreneur and how it heavily affects the marketing strategy of a new brand. He also shared the innovative and creative approaches that he had to adopt in the form of their marketing strategy to maximize the brand's impact. This truly was an enlightening session for the BBA students who got in touch with the real world branding aspects.



## Grand Final of Hult Prize Competition

Hult at ULAB is a student-led initiative that organises annual events to foster collaboration and innovation among young leaders from diverse backgrounds. The theme for the year 2023 is sustainable fashion. Mr. Oeshwik Ahmed, Senior Lecturer, ULAB School of Business and advisor of ULAB HULT Prize competition was the speaker at the event which took place on 20 February 2023 at the ULAB Research Building auditorium. The event focused on showcasing innovative ideas and solutions for sustainable fashion, ranging from circular economy models to eco-friendly design practices with guests from diverse prominent corporate houses. The objective of this particular event was to find the top three (3) teams out of twenty (20) teams of participants who came up with unique business ideas for the sustainable fashion industry. Team Hawk Insights has been crowned as the winner of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) Hult Prize 2023. Through this event, Hult at ULAB aims to inspire and empower young leaders to become change-makers in the fashion industry, promoting sustainability and social responsibility.



## Seminar on Financial Management and Political Economy in Great Britain

The seminar was organized by the ULAB BBA Program Office and International Affairs Office in an endeavor to provide insights into the policies, strategies, and challenges faced by the country in managing its finances in the current global economic scenario. Dr. Shabbir Dastgir, Senior Lecturer in Financial Economics at the University of Huddersfield, UK visited the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on 20 February 2023. He was accompanied by Mr. M.A.R. Khan, Chairman, International Education Consultancy Ltd. They were welcomed by Dr. Muhammad Faisol Chowdhury, Associate Professor and Director, BBA Program and Ms. Jennifer Hossain, Director, International Affairs. Dr. Dastgir delivered a short session on the recent political economy of the United Kingdom. He discussed the recent economic situation in Great Britain and its relationship with Brexit as well as the Russia-Ukraine crisis. He also talked about political affairs and why the office of the prime minister in the UK has been so volatile in recent years. He mentioned the importance of London as an international financial hub and the city's role in the national and regional economy. Before concluding, he addressed several questions from the students concerning the session as well as higher education in the UK.





## A Talk on Data Detectives – A Storybook

Professor Zaki Eusufzai from the Economics Department at Loyola Marymount University, USA, delivered an informative session on Data Analytics for BBA students. He discussed the concept of 'data detectives' and their role in investigating and analyzing data. Data detectives refer to individuals or organizations that specialize in gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data for various purposes, such as solving crimes, uncovering fraud, or identifying trends. These detectives use a combination of technical skills and investigative techniques to extract insights from large datasets, making them an essential resource in fields like cybersecurity, forensic science, and business intelligence. The talk explored how data detectives use different techniques and tools to uncover insights and patterns in complex data sets. This informative event was engaging, offering attendees an opportunity to learn more about the field of data analysis and its applications. This talk was a valuable resource to anyone interested in data analysis or who wants to understand how data detectives can contribute to decision-making and problem-solving.



## Project Showcasing and Poster Presentation – Spring 2023 organized by ULAB EEE department

We are thrilled to announce that the Project Showcasing and Poster Presentation – Spring 2023, organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at ULAB, was a resounding success! We had an overwhelming participation from ULAB EEE students, showcasing their innovative projects and presenting their posters.

The event was a festive occasion, with students displaying their hard work and creativity. The prize giving ceremony was held to congratulate the winners, who received gifts of appreciation and certificates for their outstanding efforts. Congratulations to all the winners as well as the participants.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the participants, faculty members, and staff for making this event a memorable one. Your enthusiasm and dedication to excellence are truly commendable. We look forward to organizing many more such events in the future, providing opportunities for our students to showcase their talent and creativity. Thank you for your continued support, and congratulations to all the participants and winners of Project Showcasing and Poster Presentation – Spring 2023!

Link: [Project Showcasing and Poster Presentation – Spring 2023 organized by ULAB EEE department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

## Seminar on Cloud Computing organized by SSE

The School of Science and Engineering, ULAB organized a successful seminar on 2nd Jan 20, 2023 in the ULAB permanent campus. The title of the seminar was 'Cloud Computing an Equal Opportunity Employer - Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime.' The resource person for the event was Engr. Akhtar Hossain, an IT professional and Principal Cloud Solution Architect at Microsoft Corporation, Inc. USA. Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof Imran Rahman graced the occasion with his presence. The Head of the departments of EEE,CSE along with other faculty members were also present in the seminar. Students from all over joined the session with great enthusiasm.







## Seminar on 'Born a Muslim: Home Truths about India's Pluralism'

ULAB Center for Enterprise and Society CES and the Center for South Asian Studies (C-SAS) at ULAB co-organized a seminar titled "Born a Muslim: Home Truths about India's Pluralism" featuring Ghazala Wahab, an award-winning author, on Monday, March 13, 2023, from 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM at ULAB Permanent Campus. The event evaluated the changing nature of religious tolerance in India and its implications for social welfare, economic development, democratic practices, and global integration. The seminar is closely aligned with two key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequalities within and among countries by promoting social, economic, and political inclusion, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic status. By exploring the challenges and opportunities for pluralism and democratic practices in India, the seminar contributed to fostering a deeper understanding of the role of inclusivity and tolerance in maintaining social harmony and strengthening democratic institutions. These discussions are essential for creating a society that upholds justice and equality, furthering global efforts toward sustainable peace and development. You can access the social media link here. The Dhaka Tribune press release can be accessed here.



## Public Talk: The Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature

On July 26, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB hosted a public lecture by Dr. Azfar Hussain, Summer Distinguished Professor at DEH, ULAB, and the Director of the Graduate Program in Social Innovation at Grand Valley State University, Michigan. The lecture, titled "The Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature," focused on two distinct areas of literature and people's perceptions of the multifaceted aspects of literature. Following the introduction, Dr. Azfar Hussain commenced the lecture by dividing his discussion into two parts. The first part was about the politics of 'world literature' and its origin. He started with two epigraphs that inspired him to understand the politics of the world and comparative literature, one by Bharatchandra Ray and the other by Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o. He mentioned that, in Western philosophy, there is a practice of creating connections in various literatures around the world, and questioned the medium upon which the connections are established. He discussed how Europeans are at the forefront of creating these connections by referencing the German poet and playwright, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and his perception of literary works beyond Europe through a Eurocentric lens. One of the significant aspects of the lecture was the mention of a letter written by Goethe to his student, Johann Peter Eckermann, where the term "World Literature" was mentioned, leading to the Westernization of the world's literature, from where the norm became to compare literature all around the world with that of the Europeans. Furthermore, to help understand the world of comparative literature, Dr. Hussain gave an example of Rabindranath Tagore, using him to show that there is an entire world of literary works outside the voices of Europe. He argued that although "world literature" is often compared to European literature, the comparison should rather be done amongst literary works outside of Europe, like Asian or African literature. The speaker also added that comparative literature can be seen as an interdisciplinary discourse where other works are seen or substituted, and that colonialism and Eurocentrism play a huge role in creating the discipline of comparative literature. In his lecture, Dr. Hussain also mentioned Kazi Nazrul Islam who claimed that Europe should be respected but not solely relied upon. To conclude his public lecture, Dr. Hussain provided the insight that, even though the "Politics of 'World Literature' and Comparative Literature" has thus far been Eurocentric, the literature students of the new generation can help bring change in this aspect in the field of "World Literature" and Comparative Literature by synthesizing their native literature with the literature of the rest of the world, especially with African and Asian literature, rather than only the literature of the west. The lecture ended with a question and answer session. At the event, Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, gave the welcome speech while Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, Professor Shamsad Mortuza introduced the speaker. The event was attended by a large and

## Workshop on Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children

The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, organized the Workshop on “Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children” on March 10, 2023. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Arifa Rahman of Dhaka University, Prof. Sue Garton of Aston University, UK, and Dr. Aileen Ireland of University of Stirling, UK, and Prof. Rahman’s research assistant, Ms. Syeda Tasnima Tasnin, Senior Specialist, HCMP, BRAC. Prof. Arifa Rahman introduced their research on learning English as a second language that was conducted by Dr. Aileen Ireland, Prof. Sue Garton, and Ms. Tasnin, in the context of Bangladesh through students of government funded primary schools. Following this, Dr. Ireland began the discussion of the subject matter by explaining why and how the research was conducted. She mentioned how they helped students become enthusiastic about the research by giving them art books which they could use to answer their research questions. She then called upon Ms. Tasnin to talk about her experience in selecting each of the three schools included, and about conducting the research with children. Ms. Tasnin discussed how she had built rapport with them, and the students themselves conducted portions of the research, for instance, by interviewing their peers and parents. The next part of the workshop was conducted with insights from both Prof. Ireland and Prof. Garton, where they spoke about the results of the research which was conducted in a total of four countries. The research concluded that children are more insightful than they get credit for.

This is exhibited through their adaptation to the research methods, and their competence in developing their own research



questions, thus making them capable of being researched with. Towards the conclusion of the workshop, Dr. Ireland asked the audience to come up with their own research questions that they would like to have answered for the research, following which a brief 35 question and answer session was held. The program concluded with some final remarks from Prof. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Language Studies, ULAB.

[Workshop Held on Researching WITH Children, Not ON Children | Department of English and Humanities](#)



## ULAB, UNHCR collaborate on a five-week mobile filmmaking workshop

**Publish Date: Monday, September 25, 2023**

A five-week-long mobile filmmaking workshop will take place from 6 October onwards, jointly organized by the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIMFF) and the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

This workshop is open to undergraduate students from any educational institution. During the workshop, students will receive hands-on training and create films on the theme “Forced to Flee”, a new category established with UNHCR’s support for the tenth edition of DIMFF, reads a press release.

The workshop sessions will occur every Friday and Saturday, from 6 October to 4 November at the permanent campus of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).





varied audience amongst whom were Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, and Professor Claire Chambers from the University of York, UK, along with ULAB faculty members, students, and alumni, as well as distinguished scholars from different universities, artists, and practitioners of different disciplines. The event was moderated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The event was livecast from Facebook and the recording of the lecture is available on the DEH YouTube Channel.



## EEE Publications

1. M. Mofazzal Hossain, "Sound Pollution Monitoring System and Awareness Creation in Modern Cities: A Case Study," IEEE, Electronic ISBN: 979-8-3503-4805-7.
2. A. Jawad, "Design and Analysis of Off-Grid Solar-Powered EV Charging Stations for Sustainable Transportation in Bangladesh," IEEE.

### Research Collaborations

S/N	Title of the research	Chief Investigator	Co-Researcher(s)	Source of Fund
1	Next-generation intelligent wireless communications	Prof Yeong Min Jang	Md. Shahjalal, Md. Habibur Rahman, Md. Morshed Alam, Mostafa Zaman Chowdhury	ITRC, South Korea

## Community Engagement and Social Innovation to Combat Air Pollution

Sameera Zaman participated as a panelist at the South Climate Conclave: Dhaka Chapter on September 27, 2023. During the panel, she had dialogues and interactive sessions on the topic of Community Engagement and Social Innovation to Combat Air Pollution, during which she had the opportunity to deliver an expert perspective on how to engage youth at higher education institutions and at the community level to improve air quality. The conclave was organized by GenLab, with the support of the U.S. Department of State at Radisson Blu Water Garden, Dhaka, where participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and The U.S. Department of State attended.



# Workshop on 'Navigating Diversity Through Cumilla's Heritage'

On Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) hosted a workshop titled "Navigating Diversity Through Cumilla's Heritage." The field trip included visits to archeological sites in Comilla, such as Rupban Mura and Nobo Shalbon Bihar, and was guided by Dr. Muhammad Sohrab Uddin from the Archeology Department of Comilla University. ULAB students explored these significant historical sites while the workshop featured speakers who emphasized interfaith harmony, heritage conservation, and the importance of inter-university partnerships. The workshop addressed SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing students with experiential learning opportunities that enhance their understanding of cultural heritage and diversity, as well as it touches upon SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The press release can be accessed [here](#).



# Research Directions in Sustainability in the Built Environment

The Center for Sustainable Development and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) collaborated to host a seminar featuring Dr. Simi Hoque, P.E., Professor, and Program Director at the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA. The seminar, titled "Research Directions in Sustainability in the Built Environment," took place on August 2, 2023. Dr. Hoque's presentation centered on crucial aspects of sustainability within the built environment, offering valuable insights into contemporary research directions. Attendees had the opportunity to delve into topics related to sustainable practices, environmental considerations, and the future trajectory of sustainability in the construction and development sector. The seminar provided a platform for ULABians to engage with an esteemed expert in the field, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainability challenges and opportunities within the built environment. The collaborative effort between the Center for Sustainable Development and the Department of EEE exemplifies ULAB's commitment to facilitating knowledge-sharing sessions that contribute to the university's academic and research excellence. The event concluded with a vibrant exchange of ideas and discussions, further emphasizing the importance of sustainability research in shaping the future of the built environment. The ULAB community extends gratitude to Dr. Simi Hoque for sharing her expertise and contributing to the university's academic discourse. The seminar's success reflects ULAB's dedication to providing a holistic educational experience, incorporating valuable insights from distinguished professionals to enrich the learning journey of its students.







## Trashion Show Summer-23 to be held at ULAB

A Trashion Show Summer' 23 will be held at 4 pm on Thursday (August 17) at ULAB Research Building Auditorium in the city. Reputed fashion designers Bibi Russel and Humaira Khan will be present as Chief and Special Guest respectively at the Show.

"Trashion Show" is a show where fashion meets art through recycled materials. In this era of Fast-fashion, we often wear aesthetically pleasing clothes without thinking about what impact these will have on the environment.

The Trashion Show is curated by A.F.M Moniruzzaman Shipu and supported by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. The ULAB Trashion Show started its journey in 2022. This show is a part of the course Convergence Communication-1 instructed by A.F.M Moniruzzaman Shipu. Here, the students showcase outfits based on different themes that will convey various impactful messages to society. All of the outfits showcased by our students are mostly made out of scrap materials like- newspapers, used plastic bags, bottle caps, worn-out clothes, old CDs etc.

The sustainability-focused fashion show aims to raise awareness about fashion's environmental impact, promote sustainable practices, and inspire change. By showcasing outfits from plastic and trash materials, it challenges norms, educates on waste repurposing, fosters creativity, and encourages responsible fashion choices. It also engages the community, fosters collaboration, and supports a shift towards sustainability.

## Fashion meets art through trash at ULAB's Trashion Show

The Department of Media Studies & Journalism (MSJ) at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organised "Trashion Show" – a fashion show where students crafted different outfits and accessories using recycled waste materials.

As an essential part of the coursework of their Convergence Communication course, the students of the MSJ department dedicate themselves to the rigorous process of developing an artistic method of conveying a critical message on a specific real-life issue during the Trashion Show. The selected theme for the Fall'23 event was "Ecosystem Restoration", a nod of recognition to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The most notable aspect of the Trashion Show is that the students try to promote the practice of upcycling rejected waste materials.

Lourdes Mary Rosario, a fourth-term student from the MSJ department, who also participated in this term's Trashion Show as a model, recounts the whole process and the requirements for the show.

"Firstly, we must use and reuse trash materials for making our costumes as well as all the props we would be presenting during the show. The selected theme for the term's Trashion Show is announced to us in the first two weeks of the term. After that, we have to form a group of four to five members and decide which role should be assigned to whom," says Rosario. "From the very beginning, we have to keep records, stating who was assigned which role, how many times we gathered together to work on our costumes and props, and how much time it took to get them ready. All this data will have to be incorporated in each participant's portfolio which must be presented to the course instructor by the end of the term."

The four-to-five-member group is supposed to consist of one team manager, two-three models, and one production manager. Each group chooses separate topics to work on. After gaining the course instructor's approval and further guidelines for the next steps, the students start collecting raw materials for the couture the models will be wearing and presenting during the Trashion Show. They also have to include pictures of them collecting and processing the trash materials in their portfolio.

"No team can start working on their creative project until they submit their chosen topic to the instructor of the course for his approval," adds Rosario. "They have to explain their reasons for adopting a particular topic and provide a compact and clear picture of what kind of couture they are envisioning and what trash material they are planning to recycle."

This term's Trashion Show took place on December 9 at ULAB's permanent campus. ULAB VC Prof. Imran Rahman, Pro-VC and also the Head of the MSJ Department Prof. Jude W.R. Genilo, and the instructor of the Convergence Communication course Assistant Prof. A F M Moniruzzaman Shipu were present among the audience at the event.

During the Trashion Show, participants had to convey a critical message to the audience while walking on the ramp, celebrating the rationale of the Convergence Communication course.

The models of the team Resto Couture – Lourdes Mary Rosario and Shyma Ahsan Raya – enacted an instance of marine pollution. Lourdes entered the stage with a used cigarette butt in her hand and heftily threw it in the water-filled glass bowl her stage partner Shyma was carrying, which represented the water bodies.

Lourdes represented the concept of “harm” as she wore a dress made of cigarette butts and packets of chips – products that play a huge role in polluting water bodies. Shyma embodied the concept of “harmed and eventually healed”, wearing costumes adorned with natural products like real leaves and shells.

There were a total number of 13 groups that participated in the Trashion Show Fall’23 and boldly celebrated the boundlessness of creative expressions.

## Sustainable Initiative: Waste Management and Recycling at ULAB Campus

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) has partnered with Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) to implement a progressive initiative aimed at installing waste bins dedicated to collecting PET bottles within the ULAB Campus. This initiative has been designed with the primary objective of enhancing knowledge, promoting practical waste management, and raising awareness among students regarding recycling practices on the campus. As part of this collaborative effort, BPCL will take charge of collecting PET bottles deposited in the designated waste bins. Subsequently, these bottles will undergo recycling processes, ultimately being transformed into resins used in the production of various products. The primary objectives of this initiative revolve around three core goals. Firstly, it seeks to enhance

knowledge among the student body through the installation of waste bins, which will serve as educational tools fostering a deeper understanding of waste management and recycling practices. Secondly, the initiative emphasizes practical application by encouraging students to actively participate in the separation and disposal of PET bottles. This hands-on engagement in waste reduction practices contributes significantly to the overall cleanliness and sustainability of the campus. Lastly, the initiative aims to build awareness about the importance of responsible waste disposal and recycling, fostering a sense of environmental consciousness within the campus community. Together, these goals form a comprehensive approach to instilling sustainable practices and environmental awareness among students. Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) will play a pivotal role in the success of this initiative. Their responsibility involves



the collection of PET bottles from the designated waste bins, followed by the recycling process that transforms these bottles into valuable resins. The repurposing of these resins will contribute to the creation of diverse products, aligning with principles of a circular economy. The introduction of this waste management and recycling initiative signifies ULAB’s commitment to environmental sustainability. The university envisions each member of the campus community actively participating in waste reduction practices, thereby collectively contributing to the broader goal of achieving a sustainable campus environment. In embracing this eco-friendly initiative, ULAB is taking a significant step towards becoming a more environmentally responsible institution. The collaboration with BPCL underscores the importance of industry partnerships in fostering sustainable practices. As the initiative unfolds, it is anticipated that ULAB’s campus will serve as a model for waste management and recycling, inspiring

## The ULAB Earth Day Fair 2023

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) successfully organized the Earth Day Fair 2023 on Wednesday, celebrating Earth Day in advance. The event, generously sponsored by Organikare and Kazi Tea, aimed to promote sustainable practices and environmental responsibility, as highlighted in an official press release. The primary objective of the fair was to provide the next generation of citizens with an alternative platform prioritizing the planet over profit. It served as a unique opportunity for businesses to showcase products designed to minimize environmental degradation. This year’s ULAB Earth Day Fair offered a diverse range of activities, including Tie-Dye sessions, Play with Clay, and Pick and Paint with Clay Station Dhaka. Attendees had the chance to immerse in a Yoga session and engage in games and fun-based activities centered around learning about investing in our planet. CSD organized a special workshop during the Earth Day Fair, led by the talented designer Rukaiya Purna. The workshop provided a platform for emerging designers in Bangladesh to delve into sustainable fashion, exploring innovative ways to create fashion with minimal negative impact on the environment. A highlight of the fair was the sustainability talk session by Dr. Maliha Mannan Ahmed, managing director of Organikare and a member of ULAB’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Maliha’s insightful discussion focused on the significance of entrepreneurship and investment in sustainable practices to safeguard the future of our planet. The Earth Day Fair 2023 underscored ULAB’s dedication to sustainable



development and its role in shaping environmentally responsible citizens. The event served as a demonstration of the university's commitment to promoting sustainable practices across various aspects of life. Organized by the Centre for Sustainable Development, ULAB, the Earth Day Fair 2023 exemplified a commitment to inspire a new generation dedicated to preserving the planet for future generations. Through such events, the CSD aims to contribute to the broader mission of promoting sustainability not only in Bangladesh but beyond.



## EcoQuest 1.0: Trash to Treasure

Greening ULAB, in collaboration with ULAB Sustainable Development Club, successfully organized an engaging and student-centric event called "EcoQuest: Trash to Treasure Creation." This event aimed to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12), focusing on recycling, responsible consumption, and sustainable production. The primary objectives were to raise awareness, provide hands-on experience, and instill a sense of community responsibility among the student body. The event commenced with an interactive workshop conducted by Nayma Akther Jahan Lecturer-Cum-Research Associate, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), setting the stage for the participants by imparting knowledge on sustainable living, recycling, and eco-friendly practices. This session laid the foundation for the subsequent activities, ensuring that students were well-equipped with the necessary information. The heart of EcoQuest was the treasure hunt, where teams, formed by participants, embarked on a thrilling journey across the campus. Clues related to the SDGs guided teams to various locations where they uncovered ingredients or materials associated with sustainable practices. This activity not only made learning enjoyable but also promoted teamwork and problem-solving skills. During the treasure hunt, teams actively collected eco-friendly materials, underscoring the importance of sustainable sourcing. Each collected ingredient was intricately linked to a specific SDG, enriching participants' understanding of the interconnected global goals. The highlight of the event was the Product Creation Challenge. Post the treasure hunt, teams utilized the collected ingredients to craft innovative and eco-friendly products. Examples included Eco-bricks from plastics, DIY crafts, painting arts from natural substances, and repurposing old clothes into bags. This challenge not only stimulated creativity but also encouraged teams to align their creations with specific SDGs. Teams showcased their creations during a presentation session, elucidating the connection to SDGs and the significance of their choices. Judges



awarded prizes based on established criteria, recognizing outstanding contributions. This segment served as a platform to celebrate the achievements of the participants and reinforce the importance of sustainable practices. EcoQuest: Trash to Treasure Creation emerged as a successful and impactful event, accomplishing its objectives of raising awareness, fostering creativity, and promoting sustainable practices. The collaboration between Greening ULAB and ULAB Sustainable Development Club underscored the university's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. The event not only educated students about the SDGs but also inspired them to actively contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future.

## Patharghata and Moheshkhali Field Trip on Climate Change Adaptation of small Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh Patharghata: Unveiling the Resilience of Fishermen

In the pursuit of understanding the socio-economic dynamics of coastal communities, a research team led by Emon Rahman embarked on a transformative field trip covering two distinct locations: Patharghata and Moheshkhali. This report encapsulates the vivid experiences, challenges, and observations made during the four-day expedition.

## Patharghata: Unveiling the Resilience of Fishermen

The journey commenced along the southern coast, immersing the team in the lives of hundreds of fishermen. The exploration of Patharghata revealed a stark reality of vulnerability and uncertainty, counterbalanced by the resilient spirit of the community. Despite facing numerous challenges, the people in Patharghata exhibited a profound sense of hospitality. At every encounter, the team was asked about meals, and in some instances, locals generously offered food and tea. This unwavering warmth stood out as a testament to the indomitable human spirit prevailing in the face of adversities. A poignant aspect discovered was the persistence of the Dadan system, introduced by the East India Company in the 18th century. Nearly 80% of the male population in the region worked as fishermen, bearing the weight of overwhelming loans that they struggled to repay. The decline in fish stocks and the unpredictability of the sea added to the challenges faced by these resilient individuals. A concerning trend emerged as the protectors of the ocean, namely the Naval Police, Foresters, and Coast Guard, were perceived as extortionists by the locals. Frustration and resentment brewed among the residents due to their experiences with these authorities. Furthermore, the intrusion of foreign fishermen during bans added to the woes, with naval patrols seemingly inactive in protecting Bangladeshi waters



## Moheshkhali: A Microcosm of Struggle and Hope

The field trip extended to Moheshkhali, providing the team with insights into the unique challenges faced by KO like their counterparts in Patharghata, were depicted as individuals surviving on borrowed time. The risks posed by tropical cyclones, storm surges, and coastal flooding were well-known to them, yet they persevered with limited choices. The intrusion of Indian fishermen during fishing bans in the Bay of Bengal highlighted a critical issue. While Bangladeshi fishers were penalized for rule violations, foreign counterparts seemed to operate with impunity, showcasing an imbalance in the protection of maritime boundaries. The field trip, though short, served as a catalyst for further exploration into the challenges faced by coastal communities. The stories of resilience, economic struggles, and the clash between local fishers and external authorities provide a compelling narrative that calls for attention and action. The team acknowledges the need for continued research to delve deeper into the complexities of coastal life, advocating for sustainable solutions and policy interventions to alleviate the burdens on these communities.



## Systems Understanding for Governance in Bangladesh – Insights from Netmapping Exercise with Coastal Stakeholders

Dr. Samiya A Selim delivered a presentation during the course on Ocean and Coastal Conflicts at the University of Bremen, Germany, from January 16th to 19th, 2023. The course, led by Marion Glase, focused on exploring the origins, trajectories, and management of conflicts in ocean and coastal environments. Dr. Selim's presentation delved into the social-ecological system of Bangladesh, specifically addressing opportunities and challenges under changing climatic conditions and the unique flat and low-lying topography. The coastal region's funnel shape, coupled with high population density, presented challenges that were examined in-depth. The presentation underscored the unique challenges posed by the funnel-shaped coastline,



presenting a series of geographical constraints and heightened vulnerability to environmental changes. Dr. Selim delved into the repercussions of high population density along these coastal areas, shedding light on its far-reaching impacts on resource management, infrastructure development, and the broader socio-economic fabric of the region. Moreover, the social-ecological system was described as being marked by a substantial level of poverty, with diverse livelihoods intricately tied to climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and water resources. This intertwining of poverty and dependence on climate-sensitive industries accentuates the complexities and interdependencies within the region's socio-economic landscape, necessitating comprehensive strategies for sustainable development and resilience. The transformation of traditional rice fields into shrimp farms, driven by salinity intrusion, has resulted in the impending loss of livelihoods for up to 20 million coastal residents. This shift has particularly affected the landless population, presenting them with limited opportunities for sustainable income. Faced with this challenge, many individuals are compelled to make difficult choices, such as migrating in search of better prospects or accepting low-paying and sometimes hazardous jobs. The situation is exacerbated in regions like the Sunderbans, where alternative livelihoods are scarce, forcing communities to grapple with the economic repercussions of the changing landscape. Dr. Samiya A Selim's presentation provided a comprehensive understanding of the social-ecological dynamics in Bangladesh's coastal regions. The insights gained from the netmapping exercise with coastal stakeholders shed light on the interconnected challenges and opportunities within the system, emphasizing the urgency of effective governance to address complex issues arising from climate change and ecological shifts.

## ULAB Students' Visit to CCDB Climate Center

As part of their coursework on Global Development to Sustainability, Environmental Science, Introduction to Climate Change, and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, students from the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) embarked on two field visits to the CCDB Climate Center in Sreepur, Gazipur on March 11, 2023, and August 10, 2023. The primary aim was to provide practical insights into the impacts of climate change on Bangladesh's ecological zones and explore sustainable technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

During the visits, students were exposed to a range of sustainable technologies, including desalination of drinking water, solar drip irrigation, agroforestry, hydroponic vegetable cultivation, and floating rice cultivation. These technologies were showcased as practical measures for climate change adaptation. The CCDB Climate Center's role in minimizing fossil fuel use and developing prototypes for climate change mitigation was observed and appreciated by the students. The visits strongly aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action, emphasizing the urgency to combat climate change and its impacts. Additionally, the experience touched on other SDGs such as affordable and clean energy, life on land, clean water and sanitation, and industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Key learning points included a nuanced understanding of how climate change affects the diverse ecological zones of Bangladesh and the importance of adaptive measures. The exposure



to sustainable technologies emphasized the role of innovation in addressing climate challenges and highlighted the CCDB Climate Center's pivotal role in research, development, and practical application of climate change mitigation strategies. The field visits to the CCDB Climate Center proved to be enriching experiences for ULAB students, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications. These educational excursions reinforced the importance of proactive measures, technological innovation, and collaborative efforts in addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change. The visits align with ULAB's commitment to providing holistic learning experiences, preparing students to be informed, responsible, and proactive contributors to sustainable development.

## Dealing with the manifestation of localised vulnerabilities of climate change

The 3rd Annual Gobeshona Global Conference on Research into Action, organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, commenced from 10th to 16th March 2023. Dr. Samiya Ahmed Selim, Professor and Director of CSD-ULAB, played a pivotal role as a Panelist in the Opening Session on 10th March at 10 AM (Bangladesh Standard Time). The weeklong online conference brought together global experts to delve into the theme of "Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience," addressing crucial aspects of climate change research and action. The Center for Sustainable Development extended an invitation to a session at the Gobeshona Global Conference-3 titled "A Value-based Approach to Understanding Non-economic

Loss and Damage.”

Jointly organized by SAJIDA Foundation and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), this session aimed to facilitate a discussion on the role of context-specific values in comprehending non-economic loss and damage. The session, scheduled for 12th March 2023 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time), centered on exploring how values unique to specific contexts can enhance our understanding of non-economic loss and damage. The collaborative effort involved SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB, promising a diverse and insightful discussion. Dr. Samiya A Selim shared expertise and insights during the Opening Session and contributed to shaping the dialogue around Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience. The Gobeshona Global Conference-3 session exemplifies the commitment of academic and research institutions, including ULAB and SAJIDA Foundation, to actively engage in discussions that contribute to a deeper understanding of climate change challenges. The value-based approach discussed in the session reflects a concerted effort to find context-specific solutions and pave the way for effective strategies in addressing non-economic loss and damage.



## ULAB CSE Organized Seminar on the Digital Safety and Security

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a Seminar titled 'Digital Rights and Safety' on June 19, 2023. The Keynote was given by independent law practitioner advocate of Supreme Court- Bangladesh Mr. Shahnewaj.

The Seminar started with a welcome speech by Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, the head of the Computer Science and Engineering, ULAB. The speaker Shahnewaj in his speech focused on the Digital Security ACT 2018 and its importance for Engineering students and professionals including how to maintain their safety online. Dr. Ahmed Abid concluded the seminar with a thank note to the key note speaker and the students and audience. The discussion became more lively through the question and answer session of the researchers, guests, ULAB faculties and students participating in the seminar.



## Independence Day Programming Contest held at ULAB CSE Department

To celebrate the Independence Day of Bangladesh, the Department of CSE and ULAB Computer Programming Club (UCPC) organized the "Independence Day Programming Contest Spring 2023" on March 23, 2023 at ULAB permanent campus. Students of the CSE Department enthusiastically participated in this competitive programming contest. A total of five problems were set for the contestants. Ahsun Ahmed Sun solved 3 problems and became the champion. Talat Mahmud Lam and Abu Saleh Muhammad Naeem solved two problems each and based on the points became the first and second runners up respectively. The top three contestants were awarded with crests during the prize giving ceremony. The ceremony was chaired by Dr. Mohammed Ashikur Rahman (Assistant Professor, CSE Department and Advisor, UCPC). Professor Dr. Muhammad Golam Kibria, Head (Acting) of the CSE department, faculty members, UCPC executive members and the contest participants were present at the award-giving ceremony. It is worthwhile to mention that the Department of CSE always prioritizes student participation in competitive programming contests to establish the programming culture in the department. of Mathematics at Dhaka University led the team. It is worth mentioning that the SSE always prioritizes student participation in MATH OLYMPIAD to establish the culture in all the departments.





# Mou between ULAB and Walton DigiTech Industry

ULAB and WALTON Digi-Tech Industries Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12 June 2023 at ULAB Campus. The main objectives are to collaborate in joint research and training, campus ambassadorship, internships and job placements, and study tours at Walton establishments.

Link: [Post](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

## Industry visit to the Horipur 412 MW by ULAB EEE Department

The EEE Department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) successfully arranged an industry visit to the Horipur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant of EGCB (Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited) on July 27, 2023. The visit was powered by ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) and ULAB IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (ULAB IEEE RAS).

A group of enthusiastic students from the EEE and CSE departments were accompanied by the faculty members during the visit. The students attended several seminars and took a guided tour around the combined cycle power plant. They gained practical knowledge of the operation and maintenance of combined cycle power plant and the functioning of the necessary auxiliary systems. We express our heartfelt thanks to the EGCB Authority for their cooperation and hospitality during the visit. Our deepest gratitude to Major General Moin Uddin (Retd), Managing Director of EGCB for giving us permission for the visit.

Link: [Industry visit to the Horipur 412 MW by ULAB EEE Department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

## Exploring the Scopes of VLSI Design: A Visit to Neural Semiconductor Limited

ULAB EEE department is excited to announce our recent industrial visit to Neural Semiconductor Limited on 16th February 2023. Students from our department along with two faculty members had a wonderful time exploring the company's scopes, which include IC design, testing, and validation.

During the visit, our students also got a chance to witness the tools used in the industry, such as Cadence, and the importance of Verilog coding. The session also included a site visiting session and a technical session that provided valuable insights into the industry's workings.

Our students were thrilled to learn from the industry experts and get a glimpse of the real-world applications of their theoretical knowledge. We thank Neural Semiconductor Limited for giving us this opportunity and hope to continue such collaborations in the future.

Link: [Exploring the Scopes of VLSI Design: A Visit to Neural Semiconductor Limited | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

### Research Collaborations

S/N	Title of the research	Chief Investigator	Co-Researcher(s)	Source of Fund
1	Feasibility study of the effectiveness of AR technology in assisting children with autism spectrum disorder for literacy.	Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah	Dr. Khondaker Abdullah Al Mamun Dr. Abul Kalam al Azad Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman Dr. Farhana Sarker Dr. Md Anwar Ullah, FCMA	Institute of Applied Research (IAR) of United International University (UIU) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)



## EEE Publications

1. M. Mofazzal Hossain, M. Rasheduzzaman, "Assessing the Environmental Consequences of ICEVs and BEVs in Dhaka City via Vehicle Fleet Modeling and Support Vector Regression," in 2023 International Conference on Energy, Power, Environment, Control, and Computing (ICEPECC), ISBN: 978-1-6654-7601-0 (electronic).
2. A. B. M. Sayeed Ud Doulah, "Assessing the Environmental Consequences of ICEVs and BEVs in Dhaka City via Vehicle Fleet Modeling and Support Vector Regression," in 2023 International Conference on Energy, Power, Environment, Control, and Computing (ICEPECC), Electronic ISBN: 978-1-6654-7601-0.
3. R. K. Sadhukhan, "Assessing the Environmental Consequences of ICEVs and BEVs in Dhaka City via Vehicle Fleet Modeling and Support Vector Regression," in 2023 International Conference on Energy, Power, Environment, Control, and Computing (ICEPECC), IEEE Xplore, Online ISSN: 978-1-6654-7601-0, Print ISSN: 978-1-6654-7602-7.

## Workshop on Social and Green Entrepreneurship

On 20 March 2023, a workshop on Social and Green Entrepreneurship was held at the permanent campus of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). The event was moderated by Assistant Professor and Director of the ULAB EMBA Program, Dr. Shamsuddin Ahamad, and featured two guest speakers: Assistant Professor and Director of the Graduate Business Program at ULAB, Asif Uddin Ahmed, and CEO of Bangladesh Youth Enterprise Advice & Help Centre (BYEAH), Md. Rashed Mamun. The workshop focused on how entrepreneurs can create a positive impact through their businesses while maintaining commercial viability. The speakers shared their experiences and knowledge about social and green entrepreneurship and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of the sector. The workshop was interactive, and attendees were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions. During the workshop, an announcement was made for the launch of the call for applications for the upcoming Social and Green Entrepreneurship (S&GE) Incubation Program. This program will provide support and resources to entrepreneurs who are working on businesses that have a positive social or environmental impact. Overall, the workshop was a success and provided attendees with a platform to learn, interact, and gain insights into the world of social and green entrepreneurship. The speakers shared valuable information, and the announcement of the S&GE Incubation Program provided attendees with an opportunity to further widen their knowledge and pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.





# Greening ULAB Session at Fresher's Orientation (SAP Day)

Greening ULAB, an initiative dedicated to promoting sustainability at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), conducted an informative session during the Fresher's Orientation (SAP Day) on September 11th and 12th, 2023. The session aimed to empower incoming students with knowledge about sustainable practices and inspire them to contribute to a greener campus. The session, led by ULAB CSD's Teaching Assistant, Sanzida Alam, covered a range of topics related to environmental sustainability. Emphasis was placed on actionable steps students could take to reduce their environmental footprint, such as minimizing plastic waste, embracing sustainable alternatives, and adopting energy-efficient practices. Through interactive discussions and informative presentations, the session engaged students actively. The goal was not only to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability but also to inspire the incoming class to become advocates for a greener campus and planet. The session represented a pivotal step in fostering a culture of sustainability at ULAB. By reaching out to the incoming students, Greening ULAB aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and encourage proactive participation in preserving the environment. The Greening ULAB session at Fresher's Orientation marked a significant effort towards promoting sustainability within the university community. As the new academic year commenced, the initiative set the stage for a greener and more environmentally conscious campus, with the incoming class motivated to play an active role in this collective endeavor.



# The Case for Just Transitions in the Energy, Agricultural and Ready-Made Garments Sectors in Bangladesh



The Case for Bangladesh's Just Transition - A roundtable discussion jointly organized by ULAB and Dhaka Tribune on the launching of 'The Case for Just Transitions in the Energy, Agricultural, and Ready-Made Garments Sectors in Bangladesh' report. Professor. Dr Shamsad Mortuza, Special Adviser to the ULAB Board of Trustees, was the project lead while ULAB Associate Professor Dr Minhaz Uddin Ahmed co-authored the report. The report and discussions foregrounded the importance of managing the distributive costs and benefits of transitioning to a low-carbon and resilient society through a participatory process. The thought leaders collectively underscored the necessity for united efforts and visionary actions to effect a just transition across Bangladesh's multifaceted landscape.

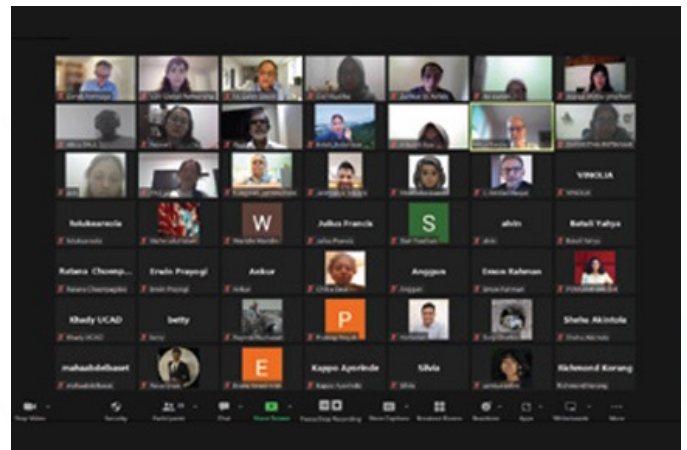


## “Bridging Shades of Blue” workshop, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain)

Dr. Samiya A Selim participated in the “Bridging Shades of Blue” workshop on March 23–24, 2023. The workshop focused on sharing insights from a Seascape Assessment of Global Environmental Assessments and collaboratively exploring ways in which the International/Intergovernmental Panel for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) could enhance the global ocean science-policy interface.

## Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership

On 20–24 February, the V2V team of CSD-ULAB (Professor Samiya A Selim, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, and Md. Emon Rahman) participated in a series of virtual workshops organized by the V2V Global Partnership – a collaboration of institutions based in 12 countries in Africa and Asia, led by the University of Waterloo. Dr. Irfanullah, co-lead of the Knowledge Mobilization Working Group (Kmb WG), co-designed and co-facilitated the workshop of the Kmb WG on 23 February.



## Blue Economy Development in the Current Climate Induced Challenges

On 20–24 February, the V2V team of CSD-ULAB (Professor Samiya A Selim, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, and Md. Emon Rahman) participated in a series of virtual workshops organized by the V2V Global Partnership – a collaboration of institutions based in 12 countries in Africa and Asia, led by the University of Waterloo. Dr. Irfanullah, co-lead of the Knowledge Mobilization Working Group (Kmb WG), co-designed and co-facilitated the workshop of the Kmb WG on 23 February.



## CSD-ULAB Team Participation at the 5th ECCWO Symposium in Bergen, Norway

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) demonstrated its commitment to global collaboration and climate research by participating in the 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World’s Oceans (ECCWO). The symposium, held from April 17–21, 2023, in Bergen, Norway, served as a platform for international experts to discuss the profound impacts of climate change on ocean ecosystems. The 5th edition of ECCWO aimed to foster a comprehensive understanding of climate impacts on ocean ecosystems, emphasizing the ecosystem services they provide and the interconnectedness with communities, businesses, and individuals reliant on these ecosystems. During the



recent event hosted by CSD-ULAB, Dr. Samiya A Selim, the Director and Professor at CSD-ULAB, delivered a distinguished talk on 'Reflections on Participatory and Transdisciplinary Research Approaches in Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Development.' Dr. Selim emphasized the significance of the V2V project as an exemplary transdisciplinary initiative, showcasing its effectiveness in addressing the transition from vulnerability to resilience. Another noteworthy contribution came from Md Emon Rahman, a Research Associate at CSD-ULAB, who presented research findings on 'Adaptation Strategies of Small-Scale Fishers to Storms and Extreme Climatic Events in the Coastal Region of Bangladesh.' His presentation delved into the intricate dynamics of the social-ecological context and its impact on fishers' vulnerability to extreme events, shedding light on their decision-making processes related to fishing in the aftermath of such events. Importantly, this research project represents a collaborative effort between ULAB and East Carolina University, USA, reflecting the commitment of CSD-ULAB to fostering global partnerships in addressing critical issues related to climate change and sustainable development. The CSD-ULAB team's active participation in ECCWO signifies a commitment to global collaboration in understanding and addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By sharing insights and research findings, the team contributed to the collective effort to find sustainable solutions for ocean ecosystems and the communities intertwined with them. The ECCWO Symposium provided an invaluable platform for the CSD-ULAB team to showcase their research and engage with the global scientific community. The shared knowledge and experiences contribute to the broader discourse on climate change and sustainable development, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts in mitigating the impacts of climate change on our oceans and communities.



## Art Competition and Poster Exhibition on SDG 14: Life Below Water

Greening ULAB, in collaboration with ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC), organized an Art Competition and Poster Exhibition centered on SDG 14: Life Below Water. This innovative event aimed to spotlight the magnificence and critical significance of marine life while advocating for the preservation of our oceans and aquatic ecosystems. The call was open to all artists, and an enthusiastic array of students participated, showcasing their creative prowess and commitment to raising awareness about ocean conservation. The Art Competition encouraged students to express their interpretations of marine life's beauty and the urgency of safeguarding it through various artistic mediums. Their vibrant and insightful artworks depicted the diversity of underwater ecosystems and highlighted the pressing need to protect and conserve our oceans. Additionally, the Poster Exhibition served as a platform for students to exhibit their compelling visuals, conveying powerful messages about the importance of SDG 14.



## Curriculum Integration Forum Fall 2023

The Curriculum Integration Forum Fall 2024 was held on 5th October, 2024. The theme of the term was UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration. In fall 2024, MSJ ULAB collaborated with Science Film Festival 2023 to bring out the theme in the students' work. The forum was held to make the students more learned and involved on the issue. Dr Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, Associate Professor, MSJ ULAB presented the lecture on the theme.





## Restoration in Action: Cases from Bangladesh

On 19 April, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah delivered a virtual lecture titled 'Restoration in Action: Cases from Bangladesh' to the students of the Master's Programme of the Graduate School of the Environment, Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK, where he presented three case studies on restoration and community-based management of Tanguar Haor, mangrove enrichment plantation, and restoration of Rohingya refugee camps.

## Inception Workshop for ENGAGE Project by CSD-ULAB in Collaboration with SAJIDA Foundation

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) joined hands with SAJIDA Foundation to conduct a successful Inception Workshop for the ENGAGE project. The project, titled "Social Resilience in the Sundarbans Delta: Eliciting Needs-based Grassroots Action through Cross-Group Engagement," aims to enhance social resilience in the Sundarbans region. The primary goal of the ENGAGE project is to bolster social resilience in the Sundarbans Delta through the implementation of climate-smart and diverse livelihood options. To achieve this, the project seeks to transcend political boundaries in the Sundarbans by fostering transboundary knowledge exchange. The collaboration involves creating a consortium of academics and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from both India and Bangladesh.

The academic partners, including ULAB, IIT Kharagpur, and the University of Lausanne, will primarily focus on the research components of the project. On the implementation front, SAJIDA Foundation and Sundarban Jana Shramajibi Mancha will take the lead, working on-field in both countries to execute adaptive practices. This unique collaboration between academia and implementation partners aims to create a holistic and effective approach to address the challenges faced by the Sundarbans Delta. The ENGAGE project is made possible through funding from the Swiss National Foundation under their call SOR4D - Solutions Oriented Research for Development. This support underscores the project's alignment with solution-oriented research that contributes to sustainable development in the Sundarbans region. The successful inception workshop marks the commencement of a vital initiative aimed at promoting social resilience in the Sundarbans Delta. The collaboration between CSD-ULAB and SAJIDA Foundation, supported by academic and implementation partners from both India and Bangladesh, reflects a comprehensive and transdisciplinary approach to addressing the complex challenges in the region. The ENGAGE project sets the stage for impactful research, knowledge exchange, and on-the-ground interventions to enhance the well-being of the Sundarbans communities.





## Regional cooperation on adaptation to cascading climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Tahura Farbin, Lecturer and Research Associate participated in a Science-Policy Dialogue on “regional cooperation on adaptation to cascading climate risks in the Hindu Kush Himalaya” in Nepal. The two day science policy dialogue engaged stakeholders from key constituencies from the eight regional member countries(RMCs), including: policymakers, adaptation experts, UNFCCC national focal points, climate scientists and academics, civil society organizations, Indigenous people, economists and practitioners, as well as experts from international organizations.



Day 1 of the science policy dialogue the participants discussed cascading climate risks of the transboundary rivers across the HKH and the importance to the HKH and the need for regional cooperation on adaptation to these types of risks, and build a collective HKH voice at the global level, Day 2 and 3 the participants explored the barriers and enablers of building a regional cooperation mechanism of adaptation in the HKH, how these barriers can be addressed and collectively worked on a shared vision of what a cooperation mechanism on adaptation in the HKH region should look like. The 2.5 days of science policy dialogue ended with some clear objectives to be taken to COP 28 and presenting a united front to negotiators at COP 28. Some of the objectives that received the most attention were: More regional cooperation on adaptation to climate change in the HKH. The cooperation has the potential to yield multiple benefits: reducing the costs of climate action, helping overcome national- level resource constraints which limit the scale of ambition and action by state and non-state actors, adding credibility to voluntary climate pledges and targets, and enhancing climate diplomacy. Collaborating on the basis that the HKH is an ecosystem rather than predominantly on political borders. The workshops ended up calling for more collaborative research that are transboundary rather than focused on only one country. The science policy dialogue put emphasis on cross-scale governance capacity and policy support using the structures already in existence like the SAARC; actively working on climate diplomacy,



## Group Polarization Discussed in Curriculum Integration Program

The Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a curriculum integration (CI) program for Summer 2023 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Friday.

The theme for the program was group polarization, which, in social psychology, refers to the tendency of a group to make decisions that are more extreme than the initial inclination of its member, reads a press release issued on Tuesday.

Group polarization occurs when one's social focus or discussion leads a group to adopt attitudes or actions that are more extreme than the initial attitudes or actions of the individual group member, the press release said.

Rezwan Shahriar Sumit, a renowned and award-winning filmmaker, was present as the special guest at the event.

He said: "As a filmmaker, on set, not everyone has the same value system. Everyone has a different story to tell. It is very important to pay heed to both individuals and groups. This is where understanding group polarization has become so crucial."

ULAB Media Studies and Journalism head and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Jude William Genilo introduced the theme of group polarization and its relevance in the current time.

"As the election season approaches, it is more relevant than ever to discuss this, especially as people decide whom to vote for. It is crucial that students learn how to handle such phenomena should these situations arise," he said.

MSJ Assistant Prof Dr Muhammad Abdul Kader delivered the vote of thanks.

## Webinar on 'The Kolkata Partition Museum Project: A Talk With Rituparna Roy'

ULAB CES organized a webinar titled "The Kolkata Partition Museum Project: A Talk with Rituparna Roy," featuring Rituparna Roy, the initiator of the Kolkata Partition Museum Project. The event took place on Sunday, April 16, 2023, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM. During the discussion, Miss Roy shared her vision for the project, which aims to memorialize the history of the partition and highlight the continuities between West Bengal and Bangladesh. The project supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by addressing historical events and promoting understanding, thereby fostering peace-building efforts in the region. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording here. The press release can be accessed here.



**Dhaka Tribune**



**Sajid Amit**  
Host

Associate Professor, ULAB  
Director, CES, ULAB



**Dr. Rituparna Roy**  
Guest Speaker

Initiator of the Kolkata  
Partition Museum Project

**CES WEBINAR**

**THE KOLKATA PARTITION  
MUSEUM PROJECT:  
A TALK WITH RITUPARNA ROY**



Sunday, Apr 16, 2023  
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

**f LIVE Dhaka Tribune**





## Webinar on ‘Digital Bank in Bangladesh: Opportunities & Challenges’

ULAB CES webinar, titled “Digital Bank in Bangladesh: Opportunities & Challenges,” was held on Friday, November 17, 2023, from 8:30 PM to 10:00 PM. It explored the key characteristics that successful startup leaders possess in Bangladesh. It also supported SDG 17 by fostering collaboration between multiple organizations. CES organized this webinar in partnership with Digital Finance Forum Bangladesh (DFFB), Global Fintech Institute (GFI), and Global Impact FinTech (GIFT). The event featured speakers such as Md. Ashrafal Alam (CDFP, Advisor, DFFB, Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank), Rahel Ahmed (MD & CEO (Proposed), Kori Digital Bank), Gazi Yar Mohammed (Director, KubeMoney, UK, Co-Founder & CEO, Dana), Shyamol B. Das (Chief Digital Officer, Nagad Limited), Sajid Rahman (Chairman, Digital Bank Plc), and Sajid Amit (Associate Professor, ULAB, Director, ULAB CES, and Vice President, DFFB), who discussed the opportunities and challenges within the sector. The webinar was broadcast live on the Dhaka Tribune Facebook page. You can access the event recording [here](#), and the press release [here](#).



## MoU between ULAB and Walton DigiTech Industry

ULAB and WALTON Digi-Tech Industries Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12 June 2023 at ULAB Campus. The main objectives are to collaborate in joint research and training, campus ambassadorship, internships and job placements, and study tours at Walton establishments.

## Industry visit to the Horipur 412 MW by ULAB EEE Department

The EEE Department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) successfully arranged an industry visit to the Horipur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant of EGCB (Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited) on July 27, 2023. The visit was powered by ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) and ULAB IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (ULAB IEEE RAS).

A group of enthusiastic students from the EEE and CSE departments were accompanied by the faculty members during the visit. The students attended several seminars and took a guided tour around the combined cycle power plant. They gained practical knowledge of the operation and maintenance of combined cycle power plant and the functioning of the necessary auxiliary systems. We express our heartfelt thanks to the EGCB Authority for their cooperation and hospitality during the visit. Our deepest gratitude to Major General Moin Uddin (Retd), Managing Director of EGCB for giving us permission for the visit.

## Exploring the Scopes of VLSI Design: A Visit to Neural Semiconductor Limited

ULAB EEE department is excited to announce our recent industrial visit to Neural Semiconductor Limited on 16th February 2023. Students from our department along with two faculty members had a wonderful time exploring the company's scopes, which include IC design, testing, and validation.

During the visit, our students also got a chance to witness the tools used in the industry, such as Cadence, and the importance of Verilog coding. The session also included a site visiting session and a technical session that provided valuable insights into the industry's workings.

Our students were thrilled to learn from the industry experts and get a glimpse of the real-world applications of their theoretical knowledge. We thank Neural Semiconductor Limited for giving us this opportunity and hope to continue such collaborations in the future.

## Teachers' Professional Development Program

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized an extensive day-long Teachers' Professional Development Program on March 16, 2023 where English teachers from 16 schools and colleges of Dhaka participated. In this workshop, different teaching methods, outcomes, and their implementation were discussed. With remarks about the importance of active and lifelong learning, Professor Imran Rahman, the Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, initiated the program and welcomed the participants. The introductory session was moderated by Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and the participant teachers introduced themselves. Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, welcomed the participants and spoke about the need for schools/colleges and universities to collaborate to ensure the best outcome for students. The first workshop on "Online Teaching and Student-Centered Learning" was conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH. In this session, the use of different types of LMSs (Learning Management Systems) in facilitating student-centered teaching to enhance the experience of online teaching and learning process was discussed. The usefulness of a blended teaching method constituting both online and physical classes was emphasized. The second workshop was conducted by Professor Kaiser Haq on "How to Teach Literature in the Classroom." During the workshop, Prof. Haq emphasized the teaching of English literature through the basic features of the English language. He stressed on giving importance to internalizing literature and integrating it into the everyday life of the English language and literature learners. Finally, he shared three criteria for teaching literature in the classroom: introduce the literary background, connect the author's biographical background, and lastly, closely read the literary text. The third workshop, titled "Materials Development: An Introduction," was facilitated by Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH. The workshop focused on the development of materials and their evaluation. The necessity of blending authentic text with literary texts, developing additional material for innovation, and whether to adopt and adapt materials were also discussed. A round table discussion followed the workshops where the issues and problems concerning the current English teaching curriculum were elaborated on by the participants. Professor Kaiser Haq remarked that school teaching should be made a respectable job to attract graduates in this sector. The discussion revolved around the need for structural and cultural changes in implementing a better teaching-learning environment. Lastly, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, in a video message, suggested developing language skills as a necessary part of 21st-century skills, allowing students to relate to literature, and end education inequality in the country. The concluding remarks were delivered at the end of the day by Arifa Ghani Rahman with the anticipation that these kinds of interactive sessions will assist in reaching the ideal phase of the 43 education systems in the future. The daylong training program concluded with the distribution of official certificates to the participants.





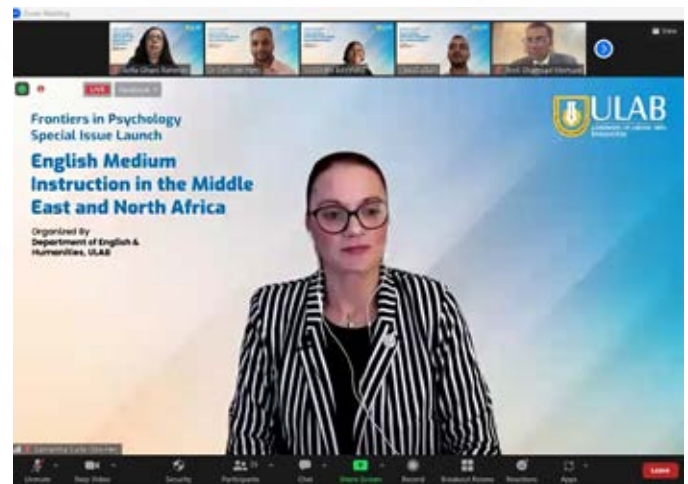
## Creative Writing Certificate Course

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) concluded its six-week long Creative Writing Certificate Course on August 26, 2023 at a grand ceremony on its premises. The event's highlight was the participants' readings of their writings after which they received their Certificates of Completion. The focus of this iteration of the course was creative nonfiction. The Chief Guest of the event, Mr. Sudeep Chakravarti, writer, historian, and currently Director, Center for South Asian Studies, ULAB, encouraged the participants to use different techniques to tell their stories. He also pointed out that writers must be able to accept feedback and willing to revise their writings repeatedly. ULAB's Vice Chancellor, Professor Imran Rahman, spoke about the importance of storytelling to appeal to a wider audience and hence, the necessity for good writing skills. He also spoke about ULAB's unique initiatives such as the MA in Literature and Creative Writing program as well as the Dhaka Translation Center that support the student- and research-centric activities of the university. ULAB's Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, expressed his appreciation for the writings produced during the course and encouraged the participants to incorporate humor, if they could. He also reminisced about the early days of the certificate course and his session for this iteration. Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam, another facilitator of the course, spoke about the importance of truth in writing. He emphasized the need to be honest and authentic, especially in this time of fragmented post truths. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, mentioned how this course helped to discover some unique talents who later became full time students of ULAB's MA in English program. One of them, a BUET engineer by training, not only became ULAB's gold medalist, he is now pursuing his PhD in Literature in the US. Another student, with a background in finance, completed her MA in Creative Writing at ULAB and published her first collection of short stories at last year's Ekushe Boi Mela. This, according to Ms. Rahman, shows that successful creative writers can come from any background. As a special treat, Joyee Chakma, one of the participants of the course, sang a multilingual rendition of "Jamaica Farewell" in Bangla and Chakma. The song had been co-translated by Joyee and her friends. ULAB's Department of English and Humanities launched the Creative Writing Certificate Course in 2016, one year after the launch of its MA in English program which offered as one of its three Tracks, a degree in Literature and Creative Writing – a unique offering in Bangladesh. Many wished to explore the program before making a commitment, and hence the idea of a certificate course was born. Since then, the course has been offered every year, focusing on specific genres and catering to diverse groups of participants. The current cohort was composed of university teachers, development agency professionals, graduate and undergraduate students, and PR professionals. While most had a 35 background in English, some did not. And yet, what brought them together was their great desire to write. The course was designed by Maisha Hossain, pursuing her PhD in Creative Writing at Florida State University. She also conducted the practical sessions of the course. The facilitators of the course were Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Prof. Kaiser Haq, Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof. Azfar Hussain, and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, who all delivered high impact lectures on aspects of creative nonfiction and editing. The participants were Abrar Farhan Zaman, Afroza Khan, Dola Saha, Joyee Chakma, Kifayat Jahan Zerine, KM Arefin, Mahadir Omer Fahad, Md. Shahrear Talukder, Md. Abul Hashem Rony, Sonika Islam, Tanzina Tabassum Nova, Tasnim Naz, and Tazim Sikder Arna. UAB looks forward to conducting the certificate course on translation next.



# ULAB Launches Special Issue of Frontiers in Psychology Journal

On August 29, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH), ULAB, organized a virtual launching ceremony for a Special Issue of Frontiers in Psychology, a SCOPUS-indexed journal with an impact factor of 3.8. Titled “English Medium Instruction in the Middle East and North Africa,” this Special Issue addresses the issues and opportunities related to research on English Medium Instruction (EMI). Hosted by Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, one of the editors of this Special Issue, the program was joined in by his co editors Dr. Cihat Atar, Associate Professor, Sakarya University, Turkey; and Dr. Samantha Curle, Reader, University of Bath, UK. The lead editor is Professor Tariq Elyas, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia. Authors of three of the eight articles in the journal also joined the program. Professor Yasemin Bayyurt, Boaziçi University, Turkey, a specialist in Applied Linguistics, was present as the Panel Discussant. In his welcome address, Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, stated that, as a marker of internationalization and quality education, English medium instruction (EMI) has become widespread in higher education institutions in countries where English is not the native tongue. Almost every university appears compelled to offer programs in English, whether at the postgraduate or undergraduate levels. Private universities in Bangladesh are not an exception to this trend. Economic, social, and political forces, as well as educational factors, drive the expansion of English medium instruction here. However, implementing EMI comes with a plethora of challenges, including students’ and teachers’ lack of English proficiency to benefit from EMI, lack of appropriate classroom materials, and teacher education programs. Prof. Rahman felicitated the editors of the journal for their research initiative in this area and expressed his delight that ULAB has been a part of it. Dr. Cihat Atar then spoke about the rationale for the Special Issue. Speaking primarily from the perspective of Turkey and the Middle East, Dr. Atar emphasized how there is a lack of research on the nature of EMI, despite the challenges and concerns that have arisen with its globalization. He mentioned how studying at higher institutions that used EMI has become a prestige issue and is associated with better jobs. 38 Dr. Samantha Curle provided the audience with the aims of the Special Issue and the process by which it was conceptualized and developed. She stated that the Special Issue seeks to generate new insights for practical recommendations for educators, policy makers, and academic institutions. It provides a comprehensive scholarly examination of the impacts and challenges of EMI within the Middle Eastern and North African regions that have pedagogic and sociolinguistic implications for the stakeholders. The authors of three of the articles then presented the highlights of their contributions. Dr. Iman Oraif gave an overview of her paper that had focused on the context of Saudi Arabia. Her paper was titled “Using English Medium Instruction to Teach a General Course in a College of Business and Management.” Dr. Mahboubeh Rakhshandehroo discussed her co-authored paper on “The Attitude of Iranian Students and Instructors toward Implementing EMI through Virtual Exchange.” Following this, Dr. Berrington Ntombela introduced his paper on “The Sociolinguistic Problems of English Medium Instruction in the Middle East and North Africa: Implications for Epistemic Access” and discussed his experiences of the issues concerning EMI, particularly in the context of South Africa. Following the insightful discussions by the authors, Professor Yasemin Bayyurt acknowledged the importance of research on EMI. She emphasized the necessity of contextualized research, deeming it the best starting point for understanding various perspectives from students and teachers, and encouraged initiatives that promote such research. She spoke of taking into account the history of a language to guide research, which is also essential to be done by non-native speaking countries like those who contributed to the journal under discussion. A lively question and answer session ensued after the discussions and the editors of the Special Issue provided responses to the points of concern raised by the audience. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Professor, DEH, and Special Advisor, ULAB Board of Trustees, gave the closing remarks by firstly congratulating the editors and authors of the journal on their initiative. He shared his experiences, as Director of the International Office, DU, with the international students whose faculty members often resorted to Bangla only, whereas at universities like ULAB, English is the medium of instruction. So two systems run parallel in the same country. He also suggested that English should be localized to add value to it as a language and to aid better understanding because, without this, we cannot have a sustainable future. 39 The program, attended by over fifty scholars from home and abroad, ended with a vote of thanks from Associate Professor Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities. The full video of the launching ceremony is available at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, YouTube channel.





# Special Issue Launch of Critical Inquiry in Language Studies

The Department of Urban Education at Rutgers University Newark and the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) jointly organized a Zoom session on November 6, 2023, to launch the Special Issue of Critical Inquiry in Language Studies (CILS). The Special Issue, focusing on “Centering Southern Perspectives in Translanguaging Research,” is guest-edited by Dr. Zhongfeng Tian from Rutgers University–Newark and Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi from ULAB. The event featured prominent figures in the field of translanguaging, including Professor Li Wei from University College London, UK, and some of the contributing scholars. Dr. Zhongfeng Tian opened the session by emphasizing the need for a dynamic and fluid understanding of language as a social practice, transcending traditional linguistic categories. He pointed out that translanguaging is a multifaceted concept encompassing practice, theory, and pedagogy, leading to increased metacognitive and metalinguistic awareness and a heightened awareness of language’s role in power dynamics. Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi focused on the importance of centering southern perspectives in translanguaging research. He highlighted the exponential growth in translanguaging 28 research and its relevance in addressing issues of marginalization and sociocultural challenges faced

by the Global South, such as capitalism, consumerism, and silence. Saskia Van Viegen, Editor-in-Chief of the journal and an Assistant Professor at York University, provided an overview of the Special Issue of Critical Inquiry in Language Studies, discussing its aims and scopes. CILS is a peer-reviewed journal that explores applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, language policy, literacy studies, and education, with a focus on qualitative, critical, pedagogical, and emergent paradigms. Li Wei, the Director and Dean of the UCL Institute of Education, spoke as the Discussant of the Special Issue. He emphasized the special issue’s goal of challenging the colonial approach to research in applied linguistics. He hoped there would be more contributions, data, theoretical advancements, and methodologies to enrich the field. Following these introductory remarks, the contributors to the issue spoke about their papers. Lara-Stephanie Krause-Alzaidi, an Assistant Professor at the University of Leipzig, presented her paper on “Relanguaging Translingual Writing in a Khayelitshan Primary School.” She discussed problematic conceptual binaries and presented an alternative spatial perspective on re-languaging, focusing on heterogeneous classroom repertoires. Jiajia Eve Liu, a faculty member at the City University of Macau, discussed her paper on implementing translanguaging pedagogy in higher education. She shared her research question, methodology, and findings, highlighting the challenges students face in adopting translanguaging strategies. Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi and other facilitators discussed the paper titled “Translanguaging in Higher Education: Experiences and Recommendations of International Graduate Students from the Global South” authored by Shakina Rajendram, Wenyangzi Shi, and Justine Jun. They presented research questions, context, methods, analysis, and recommendations, emphasizing the importance of incorporating translanguaging into course curricula and resources. The interactive session concluded with Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, ULAB, offering closing remarks, and expressing gratitude to the guest speakers and authors. He highlighted the session’s goals of promoting diversity, fluidity in translanguaging, and decolonizing research methods in multilingual settings, thus concluding the session. The program can be viewed on the DEH YouTube Channel.



# National Symposium – English Connects

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a one day National Symposium on the theme of “English Connects” on December 8, 2023, where educators and 34 students of English studies from educational institutions all around Bangladesh were welcomed to present their scholarly papers on diverse topics. The event commenced at 9 am with warm greetings to the attendees by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB. Afterward, Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at ULAB and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees of ULAB welcomed the audience and appreciated their scholarly participation in this symposium. The Symposium was then formally inaugurated by Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB. Professor Kaiser Haq, in his Keynote Address titled “Connecting the Dots,” shared his insights on how the practice of English had evolved in the educational sector after Bangladesh’s independence. He then read an excerpt from a book to explain the journey of world literature to its current state and explored the ability of the English language to reflect one’s culture and tradition. The Keynote provided a comprehensive study on the journey of English studies and how all the dots between different literatures in English can be connected. The first plenary session, “English Studies in the Digital World: Restoring Human Connection,” was

delivered by Professor Emeritus Syed Manzoorul Islam, University of Dhaka, who spoke about the paradigm shift of the eras from the classical to the “post-” and “-isms” in literature such as postmodernism, modernism, feminism, all of which symbolize plurality. He further elaborated on how English Studies allow both close and further readings, which can then let the theories produce reflective practices, encourage meaningful productions, and challenge established norms. The session concluded with the acknowledgment that the crux of AI is humanism, and using this, the inner workings of it can and will be further improved to be more emotionally intelligent and human-like. 35 In the second plenary session, Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, explored the complexities of language that allows one to connect and disconnect in regards to colonizers. In his talk titled “Monolingual University Meets Multilingual Students: Connection, Disconnection and Translinguistic Fiesta,” he spoke about the traditional and ecological perspectives of language, and how one language does not inject into another. The speech also delved into the importance of the medium of instruction and how all institutions have decided to adopt a particular language for communication in classrooms. At present, the educational



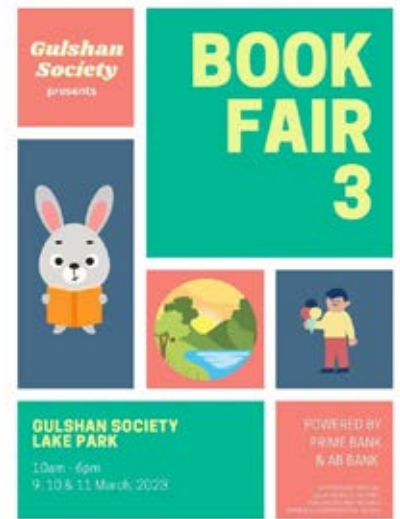
institutions are going back to adopting English which eventually disconnects the student from their own culture, which makes them incapable of connection at a global level and this can further alienate them. The third plenary speaker, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, spoke on the connection between language and historical and religious beliefs in a talk titled “Stories Beyond Armageddon: Rethinking Human and Nonhuman Interdependency.” He discussed the relationship between humans and machines, and how they control each other. However, Dr. Mortuza also acknowledged that though the technological advancements did not reach the human consciousness level, there might be possibilities of when the machines can parallel human emotions and creativity when proper training modules are created. He also explained the organic relation that is established between the teacher, student, and the textbook through the use of language as an essential medium of communication. Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hassan, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, and Symposium Coordinator moderated the open forum where he invited the presenters and participants of the Symposium to an open exchange of thoughts on how the practitioners as well as the students of English discipline can create a conducive environment in academia. Many in-depth thoughts were brought up and discussed such as the ability of language to connect people globally through social media trends and how English as a global language has allowed us to connect with authors from all over the world. Two parallel sessions were held where 100 presenters from 24 universities, 8 schools, and colleges presented their papers on diverse topics of English studies. The sessions provided 36 a unique opportunity for the presenters to exchange their vibrant insights and bridge the prevailing gaps in our compartmentalized education system. The day-long conference was brought to its conclusion with closing remarks by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB, and a shout-out to the student volunteers and faculty members from the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB for their unflinching support of the entire event.





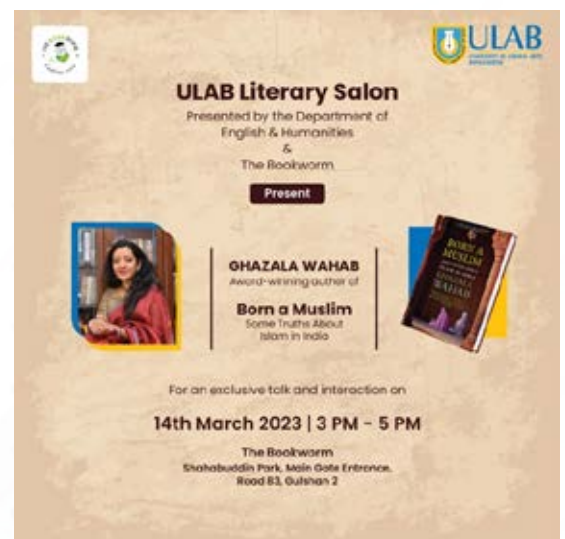
## DEH Represented at Gulshan Society Book Fair 3

The Gulshan Society Book Fair 3 took place from March 9 to 11 at Gulshan Society Lake Park, Gulshan 2. Organized by Shayaan Seraj, the Convener of Gulshan Society, the fair included book stalls by ULAB Press, The University Press Limited (UPL), Bookworm Bangladesh, Baatighar, Prothoma, Nymphaea Publications, among others. On the second day of the event, readers were treated to short story, poetry and creative nonfiction readings by Tashfia Ahamed, Sumaya 36 Mashrufa, and Kazi Mahdi Amin, regular contributors of Daily Star Books and Star Literature. The session was moderated by Sarah Anjum Bari, Books & Literary Editor of The Daily Star. This was followed by a session with Professor Shamsad Mortuza and Professor Kaiser Haq, Professors at the Department of English & Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), who discussed the journey of ULAB Press transitioning from Bengal Lights Books into the only academic press at a private university. Afterwards, renowned author Sudeep Chakravarti hosted a conversation on Poetry in the Park with Professor Kaiser Haq and poet, writer, and Dhaka Lit Fest Co-Director and Producer Sadaf Saaz. Professor Haq recited his longest poem ever written, "The New Frontier", which deals with themes of climate change and its possible impacts on the Global South while Sadaf Saaz recited her poems about women's rights and the Rana Plaza incident. The session ended with Professor Haq's recitation of his poem "How Many Buddhas Can They Destroy", which was written after the 2012 Ramu communal violence. The highlight of the Book Fair was a discussion at 4 PM on Saturday, titled Institutionalization of Creative Writing: A Session with DEH Alumni and Students, that tackled issues related to the impacts of teaching creative writing in a classroom. Can creative writing be nurtured or shaped through institutional set ups? How can teachers contribute to developing new writers? Moderated by Sheikh Musharrat Jahan (Aanchal), a recent graduate of the MA in Literature and Creative Writing, ULAB, the session focused on these topics with students and alumni of Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Other participants were Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, Risalat Rahman Hridoy, Khadija Begum Atia, Maliha Huq, and Sejuti Islam Proma. The students were guided by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH.



## 8th ULAB Literary Salon with Ghazala Wahab

The ULAB Lit Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held its 8th Literary Salon on March 14, 2023 at the premises of its co-organizer, The Bookworm at Shahabuddin Park, Gulshan 2. Moderated by ULAB Visiting Faculty, Sudeep Chakravarti, this Lit Salon showcased a conversation with the award-winning author Ghazala Wahab. In conversation with Ms. Wahab, the session delved into her personal experiences and stories, wherein she discussed her latest non-fiction, Born a Muslim: Some Truth about Islam in India. Ms. Wahab started with a thought-provoking discussion, drawn from events she has experienced in her lifetime while living in India. She talked about how communal violence is not innate but is rather instigated and often veiled under the same label as patriotism, mostly to favor the benefactors. Next, she spoke about the treatment of Muslims in India and her family's experience with prejudiced ideology aided by the insurgence of terrorism. This discussion led to a discourse on the political strife between Hindus and Muslims in both India and Bangladesh. Following this, Ms. Wahab talked about how she addressed these topics in her book. She mentioned that, in her book, she wrote about the history of Islam in India and the socio-economic factors that have led the people of the country to be so skeptical of them. Moreover, she also talked about some of the political uproars discussed in her book and how they affected Indian Muslims. She spoke of how this contributed to her sense of insecurity in the country as a Muslim. The floor was later opened to the audience for a question and answer session.



## Collaboration with Keele University under SDGs 4 and 13

Furthering the ongoing collaboration between the CSD-ULAB and Keele University, UK, on 24 February 2023, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah delivered a virtual lecture titled 'Climate Change, Impact, and Solutions – The Story Bangladesh Tells' organized by the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment of Keele University under its course 'Climate Change & Sustainability: Global Perspectives'.

## Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing between SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB

An important milestone was achieved in the realm of collaborative efforts for sustainable development, climate change, and health. SAJIDA Foundation and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) formalized their commitment to working together by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This collaboration signals the commencement of an exciting journey towards fostering cooperative efforts in sustainable development, climate change, and health, as highlighted in the press release. The primary objectives of this partnership include leveraging the combined expertise, resources, and networks of both organizations to conduct impactful research, create innovative solutions, and promote sustainable practices. Zahida Fizza Kabir, Chief Executive Officer of SAJIDA Foundation, and Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, served as the key signatories representing their respective organizations during the MoU signing ceremony. Zahida Fizza Kabir expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "We are thrilled



to announce our partnership with ULAB. This MoU signifies the start of a dynamic collaboration focused on sustainable development, climate change, and health." The collaboration reflects a shared vision to address pressing global challenges through joint efforts and coordinated initiatives. The press release emphasized that the collaboration will extend its impact across multiple domains, including sustainable development, climate change mitigation, and health-related initiatives. By pooling their strengths, SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB aim to contribute significantly to addressing complex issues within these vital sectors. The signing of the MoU between SAJIDA Foundation and ULAB marks a strategic and promising alliance in the pursuit of sustainable development, climate resilience, and improved health outcomes. The collaboration sets the stage for meaningful research, innovative solutions, and the promotion of sustainable practices, reflecting a shared commitment to

## Engaging with International Scholarly Publishing Initiatives

On 21 and 22 February, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah virtually participated in the hybrid workshop titled 'Strategies for Improving Sustainability' organized under the Researcher to Reader (R2R) Conference 2023, in London, UK. On 19 April 2023, he was a panelist of a virtual panel discussion on 'Policy Brief on South-South and North-South Collaborations on Open Access' organized by Open Access India. Dr. Irfanullah was on the Advisory Panel of R2R Conference 2023, a member of the Conference Program Committee of the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA), UK for 2023, a member of the Organizing Committee of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian Council of Science Editors (ACSE), Dubai, and a Co-Chair (since April 2023) and a member (since January 2023) of the 'Environment and Sustainability Committee' of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), UK. In June 2023, Dr. Irfanullah was elected as a Council Member of the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), UK for 2023-2025.



## V2V members in Action: Participating in the 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (ECCWO 5) in Bergen, Norway

The 5th International Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (ECCWO 5) in Bergen, Norway, witnessed robust participation from the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership. Dr. Prateep Kumar Nayak, the V2V Project Director from the University of Waterloo, played a pivotal role by convening two sessions. Dr. Samiya Selim and Dr. Jenia Mukherjee, V2V country coordinators, were invited speakers, while Md. Emon Rahman, an early-career researcher, presented a case study. The sessions covered topics such as transitioning fisheries systems, ocean-based carbon dioxide removal approaches, and adaptation strategies for small-scale fishers in Bangladesh. The symposium showcased 19 papers on fisheries vulnerability and resilience and eight papers on ocean-based carbon dioxide removal. These contributions underscored the V2V Global Partnership's commitment to advancing research on climate change impacts, resilience strategies, and sustainable development in marine ecosystems.

## International Hybrid Event: Launch of alliance for locally-led approaches for transformative action on loss and damage (ALL ACT)

Ms. Tahura Farbin participated in the Launch of alliance for locally-led approaches for transformative action on loss and damage (ALL ACT) hosted by ICCCAD and IIED, on 6 March 2023. The event was a hybrid event attended by dignitaries from all over the world.

Dr. Saleemul Huq of ICCCAD and Tom Mitchell from IIED gave the opening speech introducing the key issues, priorities and vision for tackling Loss and Damage particularly in context of COP 27 decision and roadmap for COP28 and beyond. ALL ACT will directly support countries and communities experiencing loss and damage by helping them optimize existing finance, expertise, and delivery mechanisms through creation of a national facility, and make them ready to deploy the additional funds when available. This initiative has been designed based on the shared vision that emerged from the deliberative dialogues series organized by IIED and ICCCAD, jointly worked with Least Developed Country (LDC) group, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Youth Coalition and other stakeholder groups to co-develop a shared understanding of the issues, possible solutions and potential approaches to tackle and finance Loss and Damage (L&D). At the launch event ICCCAD and IIED co-presented their shared vision of LDCs, SIDS, the support partners along with progressive funding agencies and Philanthropies in actioning ALL ACT. During the event the parties also shared approaches to closing the knowledge gap on non-economic loss and damage by creating a Loss and Damage Research Observatory. This online platform will lay the foundations for a collaborative South-South-North community of practitioners, ultimately leading to informed policy on this critical area of climate action.

## MoU Signing: ULAB and CCDB for Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) signed an MoU with Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) for Research Partnership, Knowledge and Resource sharing, Capacity Development, Internship, Advocacy, Networking, and Joint Project and Technology Development related to Climate Change and Sustainable Development. CCDB Climate Centre will also arrange Exposure visits and Talent showcases for the students of ULAB. In the signing program Vice Chancellor of ULAB Prof. Imran Rahman, Executive Director of CCDB Juliate Keya Malakar, Head of Climate Change Program of CCDB Mr. Foelullah Talukder, Dean of School of Science and Engineering Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain, Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Acting coordinator of CCDB Climate Centre Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Adaptation Manager of CCDB Climate Centre Md. Kamal Hossain, Associate Professor Mirza Rasheduzzaman, and Lecturer Tahura Farbin were present.





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