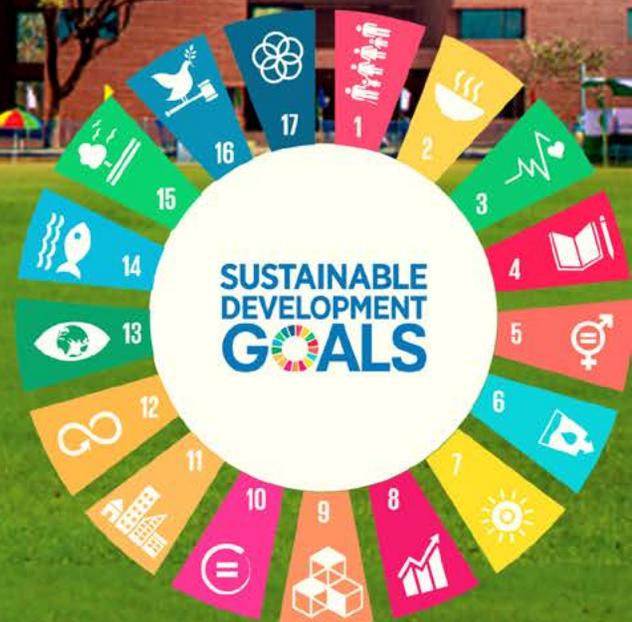




# Report on ULAB's Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2020



November 2021  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

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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 fulfilment 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 2020” 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 THE SDG Committee - Professors: Shamsad Mortuza, Jude William Genilo, Omar Rahman, Sumon Rahman, Dr. Samiya Selim, and Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman - for their efforts in showcasing ULAB’s commitment to sustainable development.

This is the second report the university has compiled to show its contribution to the SDGs. We participated for the first time and ranked 156 out of 1100+ universities in SDG 17. We also came in 1st in SDG 11 for Bangladesh. I am sure that this will continue moving forward.

All the best.

**Professor Imran Rahman**  
Vice Chancellor

# Introduction

In 2004, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) was established with a Vision<sup>1</sup> to “be the best university in Bangladesh and a leader in South Asia.” As highlighted in its Mission, the ULAB is an institution devoted to developing young minds to their fullest potential through the free and creative pursuit of knowledge. The university is firmly committed to helping young men and women to become responsible and caring citizens of their nations and the world. To fulfil these aims, the ULAB adopts an array of traditional and innovative academic and extra-curricular programs and brings to its students the best that has been thought and accomplished in the arts and sciences throughout the world.

The ULAB’s core values are the standards that drive its culture, guide its conduct, and set the minimum expectations for everyone at the ULAB and include Love of Lifelong Learning; Practicing Integrity and Leadership; Encouraging Innovation; Promoting Tolerance; and The Pursuit of Excellence.

The ULAB is committed to quality education by developing systems for conscious, consistent, and catalytic action to improve academic and administrative performance. It promotes measures for institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices. It ensures, at all times, compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements of the land.

## Sustainable Development and ULAB

In addition to making quality education its core policy, ‘Sustainable Development’ has been one of the six guiding principles of the ULAB since its inception, which is met by “Employing sustainable practices and respect for human rights, to become responsible leaders of the future.” The other five principles include Liberal Arts; Progressive Education; Active Teaching and Learning; Research; and Engaged Citizenship.

The ULAB’s Strategic Plan 2017–2023<sup>2</sup>, further elaborate show the university aims at attaining sustainability, for example, by achieving international accreditation for its sustainability programs that embed sustainable development in all teaching, learning, research, and administrative practices and by building a first-class quality green and sustainable campus that incorporates the latest in environmental, communication and educational technologies through developing and implementing “Green Plan” and “Sustainability Plan”, respectively.

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD)<sup>3</sup> of the ULAB was established in 2006 and is its oldest research center. It is one of the pioneering research institutes in Bangladesh dedicated exclusively to teaching and conducting research on sustainable development. While contributing to the core ULAB strengths of teaching and research, the CSD is also responsible for curating one of ULAB’s guiding principles: Sustainable Development. With a Vision for a sustainable future and Missions focusing on three interconnected approaches – research, education, and conveying power – the CSD has attained commendable progress and impact over the last 15 years.

## About ULAB’s SDG Report 2020

Since the adoption of the UN SDGs in 2015, public, non-government, and business sectors have been aligning their efforts against the SDG Framework, which outlines 17 Goals and 169 Targets to be measured against 244 indicators. The Government of Bangladesh has already shown a strong commitment and vision towards attaining the SDGs, encouraged by its recent-past experience with the MDGs (2000–2015).

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

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

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

4 ULAB’s Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2020

In line with its guiding principles, policies, values, and strategies, the ULAB has strongly been contributing towards achieving SDG 4 by offering quality education and research at the tertiary level. CSD has been directly contributing to certain SDGs<sup>44</sup> through the SDG Minor, conducting research, and organizing outreach programs. Similarly, other research centers and departments of the ULAB have been supporting attaining SDGs and the targets to different extents. However, no comprehensive collation and mapping of these efforts have been made till date.

In 2021, the ULAB for a second time took an initiative to capture its collective contributions towards the 17 SDGs based on its wide range of activities done during January–December 2020. Through rigorous discussions among the ULAB faculty members, heads of the departments, directors of the research centers, and the administrative officials, and also with the guidance from the senior management, including the Academic Council, the Syndicate, and the Board of Trustees, a strategic plan was developed to conduct this internal exercise. This report is an output of that pioneering collective effort.

In the following sections of this report, under each of the 17 SDGs, brief descriptions of on-campus and off-campus activities by the teachers, students, and research centers and research and publications by the faculty members are given. The activities ranged from organizing seminars, workshops, and international conferences, conducting collaborative research with national and international institutes under MoUs, presenting and publishing completed research in a wide range of avenues included Scopus-indexed journals, faculties representing Bangladesh at international forums, and offering special courses for a wide audience.

The ULAB looks forward to publishing the SDG Report annually to share its contributions to global efforts in attaining the SDGs.

## **Editorial Board**

**Haseeb Irfanullah**

**Samiya Selim**

**Shamsad Murtaza**

**Jude William Genilo**

**Tauheed Raihan**

# 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



## ULAB Alumni Association provides daily essentials to people in need

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Alumni Association created a fund to provide support to the underprivileged people during the coronavirus crisis. The members of the association provided groceries to 50 families in different parts of old Dhaka. They distributed 10 kg rice, 1 kg pulses, 2 kg potatoes, 1 kg onion, 2 kg flour, soap, powdered milk, oil, and salt.

Nafisa Khan, an alumna of ULAB's Department of Media Studies and Journalism, coordinated the task of locating these helpless people and delivering the food. The association also provided food assistance to 20 families in the remote area of Rowangchhari upazila of Bandarban. They distributed packages containing 10 kg rice with oil, pulses, potatoes, salt, and soap.



## CES Digital Credit

From the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) advocated for the initiatives and policies needed for the recovery of economic sectors from potential irreversible damages caused by the country-wide sustained shutdown. During that time, CES launched two major COVID Advocacy campaigns in partnership with relevant stakeholders of the country's financial sector.

## CES COVID-19 and the Revival of Bangladesh's Capital Market

CES worked closely with practitioners in Bangladesh Capital Markets to lobby for regulatory changes to revive the moribund stock market in Bangladesh, which was actually shut down during COVID. CES's advocacy included webinar meetings, drafting internal policy notes based on research for the stock market regulator, and op-eds.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



### CSD Climate Change Induced Drought in Bangladesh: Vulnerability Indicators and Effectiveness of the Adaptive Strategies

Agriculture is the largest employment sector in Bangladesh. It contributes to employment for more than 42% of Bangladeshi people. However, this sector is at risk due to the negative consequences of environmental changes. So, understanding the human- nature system in the context of agriculture can show us the path of climate risk reduction in this sector.

In June 2021, the CSD team conducted a field survey to explore more of this situation in rural agriculture-dependent communities of Bangladesh and intend to contribute to this sector through research addressing SDG: 2 Zero Hunger, 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This research was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh.



# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## CES Research Project: Economy in pandemic

In order to ensure that good health prevails at a time of COVID, when confusion prevailed regarding what sectors to open and how to re-open the economy, the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) came forward with a framework for re-opening the economy. The issue of whether to re-open the Bangladesh economy or to keep it under total shutdown has attracted intense debate. In this debate, economists, policy-makers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders have offered various justifications, sometimes, evidence-based, but often, speculative.

In this paper, CES researchers have attempted to make sense of these national debates as well as those taking place in other countries, using a mixture of desk-based and primary research. It has conducted 100 key informant interviews with Bangladeshi economists, analysts, industrialists, and other business leaders to create what we hope will be a pragmatic framework for re-opening the Bangladesh economy.

## CHPD Corona: Simple Questions, Complex Questions

Center for Health Population and Development (CHPD) started a collaborative 4-year project on maternal depression with the University of Liverpool UK and other partners from Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. On June 15, 2020, CHPD and CQS of ULAB organized a discussion on COVID-19 pandemic titled “Corona: Simple Questions, Complex Questions” where renowned epidemiologist and ULAB Dean of Research Professor Omar Rahman and Communication expert Professor Sumon Rahman were engaged in a Facebook Live discussion which was organized by a national web portal named “Bangla Tribune”. The program was moderated by ULAB Lecturer Arzoo Ismail. The program was viewed by more than 4000 viewers and the experts responded to the queries of the audience.

## CLS Developing Humanistic Language Teaching Materials: Humanising A Second Soul The Center For Language

Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a two-day online workshop on developing humanistic language teaching materials on 1 April and 8 April, 2021 consecutively on the ZOOM platform. Prof. Dr. Md. Zulfeqar Haider works as a teacher, teacher trainer, textbook and curriculum writer and an assessment specialist for a number of national level projects and organizations in Bangladesh. While the first session of the workshop highlighted the theoretical aspects of humanizing course books, the second session included hand-on practice on applying practical aspects of developing language teaching materials

Figure 2: To Open or Not: A Quadrant Analysis of Sectors



that are sensible, engaging, culturally appropriate and ‘humanistic’. Participants were encouraged to develop and use their own materials featuring activities such as storytelling, folktales, oral texts, role plays, small plays etc. Teachers and researchers from different institutions in Bangladesh and other countries participated in the workshop and shared their ideas.



## CLS Humanize Live Pedagogy During Covid 19: Reduce Cognitive Load

On 20 February, 2021, Rezwana Islam, lecturer of Center for Language Studies presented a paper titled “Humanize live pedagogy during Covid 19: Reduce cognitive load” at the 1st HCT International Conference on Emotional Intelligence, Happiness and Well Being. This e-conference was hosted by the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), United Arab Emirates. This presentation focused on the pressing issue of adult learners’ mental well-being due to their divided concern for both real world (pandemic riddled) and ideal world (education focused). Different techniques were suggested to reduce learner cognitive load in virtual classes.

## CLS Measuring Psychological Well-being in Digital Environment: Preparing the Tool

On May 21, 2021, Rezwana Islam, lecturer of Center for Language Studies, presented a paper titled “Measuring Psychological Well-being in Digital Environment: Preparing the Tool” at the 9th OpenTESOL International Conference 2021. This online conference was hosted by Ho Chi Minh City Open University, Vietnam. The presenter analyzed the six dimensions in Ryff’s (1995) psychological well-being to identify learner mental health and cognitive effort in an online classroom. A version of Ryff’s (1995) scale was proposed which can be applied for measuring psychological well-being of tertiary learners in digital EAP (Online English for Academic Purpose) classes.

The live recording of the program can be found on the Facebook page of Bangla Tribune [here](#) The Facebook page of the national news portal has also shared the update about the program ahead of time which can be seen [here](#)

## CSD Ongoing Research Project: Health in Climate migrants

The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) in association with Heidelberg University, Germany, was conducting research entitled “Health in climate migrants: generating qualitative accounts of health in the Bhola Slum, Dhaka, Bangladesh.” A team of ULAB graduates interviewed 60 climate migrants and 10 healthcare workers in the Bhola slum of Dhaka city. Based on the data both institutes started working on papers highlighting the health and well-being of the climate migrants, emphasizing government policies to address these issues.

The second part of the research was on “Left Behind Communities in Bhola,” which started in October 2020. CSD sent a research team to Char Fasson Upazila to interview residents of families, relatives, or neighbours who migrated to other cities for a better life. In October 2020, the team conducted 60 interviews to assess the living conditions of this climate-vulnerable coastal region.

## CSD Ongoing Research Project: Mental Health in Climate migrants



A team of ULAB graduates interviewed 60 climate migrants and 10 healthcare workers in the Bhola slum of Dhaka city. Based on the data both institutes started working on papers highlighting the health and well-being of the climate migrants, emphasizing government policies to address these issues.

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## CQS Pandemic centric locally-relevant health communication interventions

During the early phase of COVID-19, when there was a global “info-demic” was going on along with the prevalence of fear and stigma among the general mass about COVID-19, ULAB’s Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQS) Director Professor Sumon Rahman, collaboratively accomplished two rapid research with University of Sussex, BRAC and Bangladesh Health Watch. The global objective of this research was to identify the context-specific and locally-relevant health communication interventions for COVID-19 amidst the pandemic which has not only brought the disease, but also brought in lots of new vocabularies. Our specific

objective was to understand these new terms (such as quarantine, social isolation, lockdown etc. as to how these are perceived among different stakeholders with limited literacy.

Links of the publication of this research as an opEd in the national daily can be found [here](#) and the research has been listed in the ULAB website [here](#). The full report of the research is available [here](#)

## CQS Fear and Stigma in the Context of Pandemic in Bangladesh

The second rapid research undertaken jointly by ULAB Professor Sumon Rahman and University of Sussex UK Professor Shahaduz Zaman was titled “Fear and Stigma in the Context of Corona Pandemic in Bangladesh: a Rapid Research”. Since all pandemics generate a considerable amount of fear and stigma, the objective of this research was to firstly conduct a rapid situation assessment of the localized nature of fear and stigma related incidences. Secondly, investigating the source of fear, stigma and rumour; thirdly, having a comparative understanding of Corona-related stigma with the pattern of stigma and fear of previous epidemics (such as Ebola, SARS etc) in order to provide policy recommendations. And finally, recommending possible culturally informed and socially relevant recommendations to mitigate the fear, stigma and discrimination towards Corona victims or associates. Publications on this research can be found on a national daily [here](#). The study was funded by Bangladesh Health Watch and the detailed report can be traced at their website [here](#)

## CQS Public health palliative care project in Bangladesh

ULAB-CQS collaboratively undertook a research project titled “Partnership to ensure the sustainability of a public health palliative care project in Bangladesh through Community Theater: A follow on project” with University of Sussex, University of York (UK), BSMMU and BRAC University and BRAC (Bangladesh). This is a follow-up project to the previous study titled “Partnership to ensure the sustainability of a public health palliative care project in Bangladesh through Community Theater” This project attempts to support the sustainability of community-based palliative care in a resource-poor setting.

The project was funded by AHRC-UKRI and the details can be found in their website [here](#) and has also been mentioned at the ULAB website [here](#).

## DEH Webinar on Significance of Mental Health during COVID – 19

The Department of English and Humanities in collaboration with the Student Affairs Office (SAO) and “Maya”, an organization that works with Health and Wellness issues, organized a webinar titled “Mental Health Care: Healing from Grievs and Losses” on June 29, 2020. The speakers were Ms. Tasnuva Haque, Mental Health Counselor, Psycure & Ms. Monzia Mushstaq, Sr. Psychosocial Counselor, Maya. The event started with a note of condolence from Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam on the recent demise of one of the first term students of DEH, Prova Motia Haq, who was a victim of mental depression.

## DEH “Pandemic: A Pandora’s Box – Covid-19 and beyond”: DEH Curriculum Integration Summer 2020

The Department of English and Humanities organized the first forum of its Summer 2020 Curriculum Integration (CI) program on August 6, 2020. The theme was “Pandemic: A Pandora’s Box – Covid-19 and beyond.” Invited discussants for this forum were Professor Mohammed Omar Rahman, academic psychiatrist and epidemiologist/demographer and Professor Din Mohammad Sumon Rahman from Media Studies & Journalism (MSJ) department of ULAB. The speakers reflected on the way the narrative of the Coronavirus has been unpacked against the background of the lockdown. During this lockdown and the state of isolation, “a social cohesion must come out by not being together,” and that “we need to work together in trying to be isolated,” were Prof. Omar’s first responses. Prof. Sumon Rahman unpacked the Corona narrative by distinguishing between disease and epidemic, in which case, the first experience is individual, while the second one is social.

## EEE Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Paper: Monitoring and power management system of vaccine carrier

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology of the Government of Bangladesh funded the paper, titled “Development of An IoT Based Intelligent Vaccine Carrier Monitoring Module for the Unreached.” The paper sheds some light on how the transportation of vaccines in developing countries is the breach of the cold chain as it takes around between two to seven days to reach anywhere in health centers.

Link: [Development of a monitoring system and power management for an IoT based vaccine carrier - IOPscience](#)

## EEE Detection of motor imagery (MI) event in Electroencephalogram (EEG) signals using AI

In this work, a method for the detection of the MI events using the electroencephalogram (EEG) signal is proposed. Data from thirteen random subjects from a publicly available dataset was utilized.

Muhammad Yeamim Hossain, a student of the ETE department of ULAB, under the supervision of Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah from EEE department published a paper on “Detection of motor imagery (MI) event in Electroencephalogram (EEG) signals using artificial intelligence technique” in *2020 IEEE East-West Design & Test Symposium (EWDTS 2020)*, Varna, Bulgaria, 2020.

Link: [Detection of Motor Imagery \(MI\) Event in Electroencephalogram \(EEG\) Signals using Artificial Intelligence Technique](#)

## EEE Advances in the Emerging Computing Technologies (AECT) paper: Wearable Millimeter Wave MIMO Antenna Design For High Frequency Applications

A millimeter wave wearable MIMO antenna with reduced noise characteristics has been proposed in this paper. The proposed design solved the issue of mutual

coupling in MIMO antennas. Slots are introduced on either side of the transmission line to overcome this issue. Muhammad Shafeeq, Muhammad Ibrahim, Zahid Ullah, Abdul Hafeez, and Tama Fouzder published a paper on International Conference on Advances in the Emerging Computing Technologies (AECT) on this topic, Saudi Arabia, February 10-12, 2020.

Link: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9194218>

## EEE, ETE Event entitled familiarization with biomedical signals and its application

Department of EEE & ETE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) jointly organized an online workshop on “Familiarization with biomedical signals and its application” Students from EEE, ETE and CSE departments attended the workshop.

Online Workshop On  
**Familiarization with Biomedical Signals & its application**

Instructor:  
**Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah, PhD**  
 Assistant Professor | EEE, ULAB

Google Meet link:  
<https://meet.google.com/tzt-oetw-tmx>

Date: 23 July 2020  
 Time: 4:00\_5:00 PM

Organized By  
 Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

ULAB Electronics Club

Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

## GED Health and Wellbeing: A study of returned labour survivors

This presentation gives an account of the effects of irregular migration on health and wellbeing, and related functional outcomes of irregular migration mainly on the trafficked returnees from Bangladesh. The findings reveal that informal migrants were abused and tortured by their traffickers. This presentation first analysed their motivations to acquire financial resources through migration and then the effects of resource loss on health, wellbeing and daily functioning. It also reveals that a significant number of the returnees have ongoing health problems and some of them had injuries to their limbs

and organs that limit their work and social functioning which continued to affect them long after their return home.

General Education Department  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

ULAB  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

The Department of General Education (GED), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) cordially invites you to a webinar titled

**Health and Wellbeing:  
 Labour Trafficking in Bangladesh –A Case Study**

Wednesday July 14, 2021 at 4:10 pm  
 Online Platform: Zoom  
 Live: facebook.com/ULABian

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Ahmed Abid, PhD**  
 Member of the Humanisation and Development Research Initiative (HADRI), School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University, Australia

**Discussant**  
**Professor M. Omar Ejaz Rahman, PhD**  
 Dean of Research and Director, Center for Health, Population and Development, ULAB

**Welcome Speech**  
**Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, PhD**  
 HoD, GED and Director, Center for Archaeological Studies, ULAB

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



### CAS Visiting Liberation War Museum

As a steward of cultural heritage preservation efforts and its promotion, Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) regularly organizes museum visits for ULAB students where the youths can experience and appreciate the contributions of our ancestors to the nation or in broader sense to human civilization. In March 2020, a group of ULAB students visited the country's Liberation War Museum and learned about Bengalees' struggles for an independent nation in costs of blood. After experiencing the display of the museum related to our war of liberation, the students also participated in a quiz program organized by the museum.

### CAS Tour at historical monuments of North Bengal

Archaeological sites and historical monuments are the tangible evidence of the achievements of human civilization. The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) of ULAB regularly conducts study tours for its students at the country's different archaeological sites and historical monuments. A group of ULAB students attending "Experiencing the Past" course participated in a 16 days study tour in January 2020 in Bochaganj and Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur district. In the study tour the students participated in an archaeological survey program where they attained hands-on experience in studying tangible cultural heritage. Through visiting the Kantajir Temple, a beautiful specimen of terracotta art, the students experienced a special mode of art expression unique in Bengal.

### CAS Webinar on metal cannons of medieval Bengal

Promoting youths working in the field of cultural heritage research is one of the activities of CAS through which the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) of ULAB regularly organizes seminars, talks where young scholars share their research with a wider audience. In August 2020, young scholar Sabikun Naher, faculty of archaeology, discussed metal cannons, a weapon generally used in war in medieval Bengal. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the seminar was organized in the form of a webinar where academicians as well as laymen participated, thus could enhance their knowledge on war occurred in medieval Bengal.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/114648/webinar-on-cannon-technology-of-medieval-bengal-held-at-ulab>  
<https://www.banglatribune.com/my-campus/news/639148/>

### CETL Organized a student round table discussion on Quality Teaching and Learning

ULAB Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) held a student round table discussion on "Students' Perspective on Quality Teaching" on 5 March at its Dhanmondi campus. The objectives of this discussion were to give students a platform where they could share their experiences, their perspectives on quality teaching and learning, their expectations and recommendations for effective teaching-learning strategies which will help them to make the best out of a course at tertiary level. A total of 19 Students from different departments participated in that discussion.

Senior Lecturer of ULAB School of Business, Fariha Saleh, conducted the interactive session. Among others Associate Professor Dr Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Director ULAB CETL and Arzoo Ismail, Senior Lecturer, Coordinator of CETL were present. Here's the news link from the national dailies:

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/education/round-table-discussion-students-perspective-quality-teaching-ulab-53011>

## **CETL Workshop on “Global University Rankings and Implications for Quality Assurance”**

The Center in collaboration with GED organized a seminar on 24th of February 2020 on “Global University Rankings and Implications for Quality Assurance”. This timely seminar was facilitated by Dr Riyad A Shahjahan, Associate Professor of Higher Education at Michigan State University. Quality assurance (QA) becomes an important policy issue, institutional practice and a concern for study in the field of higher education. The facilitator highlighted this matter and discussed further how such ranking is impacting the national quality education initiatives and how such initiatives could be handled in such a way so that the positive benefits could be maximized.

Here's the news link: <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/464973/Seminar-on-Global-University-Ranking-held-at-ULAB>

## **CELT Seminar held on “Online Teaching Learning pedagogy in emergency context”**

A seminar organized by CETL held on the Online teaching-learning pedagogy in emergency context on 18th May 2020. The workshops gathered 3 prominent scholars from home and abroad to discuss how online teaching learning strategies be incorporated with the actual practice specifically for emergency context. Discussants emphasize that in the emergency context academics need to be empathetic and flexible towards students. They also highlighted the digital divide that could result from excessive technology dependence.

## **CETL organized a workshop on “Enhance professionals’ Efficiency & Productivity”**

CETL organized a two days long training workshop for the non-academic staff to enhance their Efficiency & Productivity on the 23rd and 24th of January 2020. The training was facilitated by Najjur Rahman from Mind works. This training focused on lean models that discuss how to increase self control and bring more energy to the work. More than forty non academic staff participated in this workshop.

## **CETL organizes “Workshop on students support and quality teaching”**

A workshop series was conducted by Bidita Sadiq, a British expert on teaching quality and student support. These workshops were held on the 6th August and 29th of August respectively on Quality teaching and quality student support. She mostly emphasized on the importance of Peer support, communication, collaboration, trust, empathy, mental health and wellbeing, cooperation and learning continuity. Here's the photos/videos of the workshop:

## **CETL Webinar on “Manuscript writing and publication”**

On the 17th of September, CETL organized a webinar on Manuscripts writing and publication. Renowned professor HO JO An conducted this workshop where she highlighted the key principles of writing a good manuscript for publication. Apart from that she also shared her experience regarding how to find a good journal for publication and more importantly how to prepare to publish in those journals.

## **CETL organized “Training workshop on integrating technology with pedagogy”**

CETL organized a number of training workshops for a number of degree college teachers on, “how to integrate technology with pedagogy”. CETL organized these workshops to help these teachers who do not

always get necessary training to become successful in online teaching. All together around 120 academics were trained in three sessions. Teachers were suggested to focus more on making better connections to the students and follow the basic human qualities so that they can understand the students' context that they experienced during the pandemic.

### **CETL Workshop organized on “ Building a quality university in South Asia-the Case of Asoka University”**

On December 10th CETL organized a workshop on, “ Building a quality university in South Asia-the Case of Asoka University “. DR Vanita Shastri, the dean of global education and strategic partnership facilitated the workshop where she discussed her views on building an excellent university in india. The workshop was very useful to understand some of the necessary ingredients that are considered essential for establishing a quality higher education institute. Being a new university, Asoka's experience was found very useful for ULAB as it is also considered a new university which has celebrated its 17th birth anniversary in October.

### **CETL director appears as one of the distinguished speaker on the 5th Yunan Conference for the International Exchange on Professionals for cultivating intellectuals**

On November 20th 2020, CETL director joined the 5th Yunaan conference as one of the distinguished speakers. The conference aimed to bring together academics and education professionals to further strengthen corporations within the South and Southeast Asia universities. In his speech CETL director Dr Rahman emphasized the importance of strengthening this platform as this could start growing an alternative quality discourse for the universities in this region.

### **CELT Panel discussion organized by Goethe Institute on, “Science Education: Thinking Out of the Box”**

On 7 December 2020, CETL director joined as a penlists in a discussion organized by the Goethe Institute on, “Science Education: Thinking Out of the Box”.

The discussion broadly discussed the challenges and prospects of science education in the region and how alternative forms of education can further bring more interest in science education. The panelists discussed film as a medium of instruction to bring some more interest into Science education.

### **CETL director spoke as special guest speaker on “ CONVERGENCE” organized by Singapore University of Social Sciences**

CETL director Dr Mohammad Tareque Rahman spoke as a special guest speaker in CONVERGENCE 2, a virtual exchange program organized by the Singapore University of Social Sciences on the 18th of December 2020. In his speech Dr Tareque emphasized that we as humans should reflect on how we are connected to each other, to the community, its people and other lives and rediscover who or what we take as very important in our lives and by what logic.

### **CLS Authentic (Alternative) Assessments in Crisis Teaching: The Whats, the Whys and the Hows**

The Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online workshop on Authentic (Alternative) assessment on 29 April, 2021 in ZOOM platform. The speaker of the session, Dr. Julian Chen is a Senior Lecturer of Applied Linguistics/ TESOL in the School of Education at Curtin University, Western Australia. The main focus of the workshop was to implement classroom-based assessments in online classrooms which will ensure student engagement. Dr. Chen started the session by introducing the principles behind language assessment and discussed their related practicality and washback in the context of crisis teaching. Then the pros and cons of different performance-driven assessments were explored as plausible alternatives to traditional language testing. Participants experimented with different digital tools like Padlet, Google doc which can be used for formative assessment in live classes. Teachers from different institutions and countries participated in the workshop.

Center for Language Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGALADESH

ULAB  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGALADESH

A Webinar on  
**Authentic (Alternative) Assessments in Crisis Teaching:  
The Whats, the Whys and the Hows**

Thursday, 29 April, 2021  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Platform: ZOOM

Facilitator  
**Mr. Julian Chen**  
Senior Lecturer of Applied Linguistics/TESOL,  
Curtin University, Western Australia  
Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction,  
University of Maryland, USA  
M.Ed. in Language & Literacy Education,  
University of British Columbia, Canada

Julian Chen is a Senior Lecturer of Applied Linguistics/TESOL in the School of Education at Curtin University, Western Australia. Well-versed in mixed-methods designs and narrative, ethnographic and participatory action research, Julian has conducted studies related to technology-mediated task-based language teaching, 3D virtual environments, teacher identity and learner engagement. He has led multiple grant projects to build interdisciplinary synergy across applied linguistics, education, and TESOL. His work has appeared in high-impact, flagship journals, including but not limited to TESOL Quarterly, System, Modern Language Journal, Language Teaching Research, Computer & Education, ReCALL, and Computer Assisted Language Learning. He is also the book review editor of Australian Review of Applied Linguistics and currently editing a volume entitled "Emergency Remote Teaching and Beyond: Voices from Language Teachers and Researchers," to be published by Springer in 2021.

**Abstract**  
The global pandemic has forced language education severely hard in a virtual class into crisis teaching, which also poses pedagogical and technological challenges facing English language teachers. One of the daunting tasks is to implement classroom-based assessment in the virtual space while still ensuring student engagement. It also begs the question as to how teachers select and design assessments that are meaningful to the students, thus leading to positive learning. Specifically, how do we integrate an open-ended digital tool that can further facilitate assessment delivery and enhance learning outcomes?

The webinar intends to explore these learning issues that have confronted English language teachers in the most difficult times. We will examine the principles underpinning language assessment and discuss their related priorities and workload in the context of crisis teaching. We will then scrutinize the types of authentic and performance-based assessments and explore their potential to serve as alternatives to traditional language testing. We will also examine case studies and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of these assessments and rubrics. To conclude the webinar, we will review and share feedback digital tool for assessment delivery and highlight future directions in alternative assessment.

## CLS Beauty Secrets and Translanguaging Pedagogies: A Research Story

The Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online webinar titled "Beauty secrets and translanguaging pedagogies: A research story" on 26 August, 2021. This webinar was conducted by Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, a sessional academic, teacher-educator and doctoral research candidate in Linguistics at James Cook University, Australia. It focused on the findings and experiences from his forthcoming publication titled "Translanguaging as a transformative act in a reading classroom: Perspectives from a Bangladeshi private university". He described how translanguaging pedagogies enabled a group of Bangladeshi students to examine the colonial construction of beauty standards in their society and transformed their knowledge and subjectivities about such standards into a more inclusive concept.

Center for Language Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGALADESH

ULAB  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGALADESH

A Webinar on  
**Beauty Secrets and Translanguaging  
Pedagogies: A Research Story**

Thursday, 26 August 2021, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

ZOOM

Speaker  
**Mr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi**  
Sessional Academic  
College of Arts, Society and Education  
James Cook University, Australia

Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi is a sessional academic, teacher-educator and doctoral research candidate in Linguistics at James Cook University, Australia. He is a former research fellow at the University of New England, Australia. He specialised in Sociolinguistics at Liverpool Hope University, UK and studied English literature at Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. His research interests include translanguaging pedagogies, teacher education, indigenous education and critical race theory. Alongside his academic endeavours, Mr. Rafi took on several leadership positions, such as International Advisor, UNEUJIE Postgraduate Member, Academic Board and Founding President, Bangladeshi Student Association of the University of New England. He worked closely with the senior management in developing, monitoring and reviewing academic policies at the University of New England.

**Abstract**  
In this webinar, I will share a research story from my forthcoming publication titled "Translanguaging as a transformative act in a reading classroom: Perspectives from a Bangladeshi private university". I will discuss how translanguaging pedagogies enabled a group of Bangladeshi students to examine the colonial construction of beauty standards in their society and transformed their knowledge and subjectivities about such standards into a more inclusive concept. I will conclude the webinar by comparing translanguaging pedagogies with the existing English medium instruction to assist the participants to make an informed judgment about languaging practices in their classroom environment.

## CSD Sustainable Living– an Event at Sir John Wilson School

On 19th February 2020, Sir John Wilson School in Dhaka gathered some experts from different occupational fields and contributed to raising awareness about sustainability in young minds. The first session of the program covered presentations from the distinguished guest speakers on Sustainable Fashion, Animal Life Conservation, and Plastic Recycling. The second session included a demonstration of a beautiful project on 'Sustainable Farming', a rap song on 'Climate Change' performed by six students of class 4, a fantastic experience-sharing by two students on 'Ethical tourism' around the country, and an exciting 'Climate Change Game' arranged by the CSD.

## CSD Minor in Sustainable Development Studies: Impact and Further Opportunities

Student satisfaction is important for the well-being of the students, and it also helps the university to understand

the student's knowledge and requirements. Sustainable Development Studies (SDS) gives the students a chance to explore different sectors apart from their major subject. This comes in the form of a minor, which is a second academic discipline, and usually, it sets apart from the major subject. It can sometimes support major subjects or be stand-alone learning subjects as well. Students usually take minor subjects to diversify their learning in different areas. Minor in SDS offers the students to expand their knowledge on environment and sustainability, and they will get a chance to expand their opportunities in different fields in the job markets. The objective of the SDS minor is to make the students aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been introduced by the United Nations (UN). The minor subjects are designed to make the students understand the basics of the SDGs and incorporate the knowledge in their individual careers to prosper.

## DEH, CLS Publication on Language Education in Bangladesh

Prof. Shaila Sultana, et. al. edited a book entitled *The Routledge International Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh* published by Routledge in December 2020. The book has several chapters contributed by DEH and CLS faculty Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Prof. Shaila Sultana, and Dr. Mahmud Hasan Khan (former). Link: <https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-English-Language-Education-in-Bangladesh/Sultana-Roshid-Haider-Kabir-Khan/p/book/9780367405755>

## DEH Publication of *Crossings: A Journal of English Studies*

One special volume of *Crossings: A Journal of English Studies*, the journal of the Department of English and Humanities, was published to commemorate 200 Years of Marx and the regular annual volume was published in September 2020. The journal provides a platform for research publications and aims to disseminate knowledge among peers and researchers locally and globally.

## DEH, CLS Publication on Language Policies in Bangladesh

Prof. Shaila Sultana, Adjunct Faculty of DEH and Advisor to CLS, published a chapter entitled "TV advertisements in the mediascape of Bangladesh: A disjuncture between the realities of the emerging 'transsemiotic' arena and the language policies in practice" in *Language, Digital Communication and Society* published by Peter Lang in 2020.

## DEH Collaborative Outreach Project on Teaching and Learning Online

Prof. Shamsad Mortuza and Arifa Ghani Rahman of DEH collaborated with Prof. Colla MacDonald of Ottawa University and Dr. Suhail Islam of Nazareth College, NY, to produce a video series titled "Get Started: A Video Series for Educators Preparing to Teach Online" with a grant from The Hollings Center for International Dialogue, USA. The videos were designed to support teachers new to online teaching as the pandemic forced education to online platforms in 2020. The videos were disseminated globally. Link: <https://hollingscenter.org/get-started-a-video-series-for-educators-preparing-to-teach-online/>

## DEH Webinars on Online Teaching/Learning

Prof. Shamsad Mortuza of DEH spoke at webinars/roundtables on "Transition to Remote Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (The Hollings Center) on June 17, 2020; "Online Teaching Bangladesh" (South Asia Higher Education Webinar, Hollings Center, USA) on July 17, 2020; "E-Learning in Bangladesh: A New Normal or Temporary Fix?" (ULAB-Dhaka Tribune Online Round table) on July 26, 2020 ([Link](#)); "Reimagining Higher Education in a Post-COVID-19 World" (U.S. Embassy's Virtual Speaker Program: Reimagining Higher Education in a Post-COVID-19 World by Dr. Frank J. Dooley, Chancellor of Purdue University Global) on October 28, 2020; Professor Shamsad Mortuza of DEH participated as a discussant in a webinar entitled "Higher Studies in the US: Opportunities for Returnee Scholars" organized by the Engineering Students' Association of Bangladesh with EducationUSA on July 26, 2020. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/esab.bd/photos/>

## **DEH, BBA Student-Centered Learning and Outcome-based Education**

Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor of English and Humanities, and Wazir F. Ahmad, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business, were invited to conduct 2 sessions on “Student-Centered Learning” and “Outcome-based Education,” respectively. The first session was conducted for teachers of Bamyan University, Afghanistan on October 20, 2020 and the second session was for teachers of various universities in Afghanistan conducted on November 2, 2020. Both sessions were organized by Bamyan University.

## **DEH Training on Online Teaching/Learning**

To build ULAB’s online teaching/learning capacity, the E-learning Committee, chaired by Arifa Ghani Rahman of DEH, developed guidelines for online teaching and learning for teachers and students of ULAB. The Committee also organized and provided training to faculty members to help them better adapt to the online teaching environment. Materials were also developed for dissemination among the students.

## **DEH Understanding the Online Teaching/Learning Environment: Preparing to Meet the Challenges**

Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor of English and Humanities, was invited by The Grid Media, Ltd., UK-based content development company, to develop a video lecture titled “Understanding the Online Teaching/Learning Environment: Preparing to Meet the Challenges” for an online video-based course called, “Global Perspectives for Educators: Digital Education.” The course has been designed for K12 teaching professionals in the US and specifically focuses on digital education being the innovative use of digital tools, platforms and technologies during teaching and learning. Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/444912466>

Arifa Ghani Rahman of DEH with Jillur Rahim of USB facilitated a session on “Learning Management System (LMS): Repository and Access” at the 1st CeLT (Certificate in e-Learning and Teaching) course organized by the

Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research (fLTR) on November 27, 2020.

Dr. Sohana Manzoor presented a webinar on “Teaching English online at private universities during COVID-19” at the BELTA Research Initiative Webinar on June 12, 2020.

## **DEH Seminar Series Summer 2020: “Teaching in the Time of Disruption: Understanding the Design and Implementation of Effective Online Courses”**

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) Summer 2020 inaugural session was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 with a presentation by Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, from the Warner School of Education, University of Rochester, USA. The timely topic, “Teaching in the Time of Disruption: Understanding the Design and Implementation of Effective Online Courses,” focused on the usefulness of online teaching and its various challenges, solutions, and possibilities. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/videos/409933723291485/>

## **DEH Seminar Series Summer 2020: “Rhetoric and Composition in Context: Teaching of Literacies and Writing in US Universities”**

DEH Summer Seminar Series #3 was held on Friday, August 7, 2020 on “Rhetoric and Composition in Context: Teaching of Literacies and Writing in US Universities.” The speaker for this public session was Dr. Shakil Rabbi, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies at Bowie State University, USA. Dr. Rabbi spoke about strategies with which to enhance students’ practice of writing.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2020/08/08/deh-seminar-series-sessions-2-and-3-0>

## **DEH Seminar Series: “Seeking Alternatives to Traditional Assessments: Adapting, Adjusting and Managing Assessments in Online Learning Environments”**

DEH Summer Seminar Series #4 featured Dr. Nasreen Sultana with her talk on “Seeking Alternatives to Traditional Assessments: Adapting, Adjusting and Managing Assessments in Online Learning Environments.” Dr. Sultana spoke about various modes of assessment and held discussions with participants of the session on what works and what doesn’t in online classes.

## **DEH 6th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition**

The Department of English and Humanities held its 6<sup>th</sup> Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition on September 3- 4, 2020. The theme of this year’s conference was “Of Nations and Narrations.” The annual conference fosters research, collaboration, and networking among students of different universities all over Bangladesh. Eight universities participated in the Academic Paper competition and five universities competed for the prize in the cultural competition. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/1212977352405173>

## **DEH Seminar Series Summer 2020: “Regaining Balance: Learning to Make Sense”**

The Department of English and Humanities organized an online seminar on September 26, 2020 where Dr. Ahmar Mahboob gave a talk on alternative pedagogy, titled, “Regaining Balance: Learning to Make Sense,” questioning the Western paradigm of teaching and learning, particularly the way we study language and communities. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/videos/623253781682694/>

## **DEH Curriculum Integration: Fall 2020**

The Department of English and Humanities held the first session of its third Curriculum Integration (CI) Program on November 21, 2020 featuring Dr. Azfar Hussain of Grand Valley State University, Michigan, who spoke on “The Normal, The Abnormal, and the New Normal: How Do We Explain the World We Live in?” The speaker drew on Foucault, Deleuze, Said among others to demonstrate how the categories are all interconnected. The second session was held on November 26, 2020 where the speaker, Professor Firdous Azim of BRAC University, addressed the CI theme using both postcolonialist and feminist lenses. Engaging with theorists like Michel Foucault, Sigmund Freud, and Edward Said, she focused on the left out women in arenas in literature produced from the Enlightenment era to mid twentieth century and went on to show how they struggled to be included in the dominant discourse of their time. Referring to writers as diverse as Emily Bronte, to Wollstonecraft, to Woolf, and to Arundhati Roy, her lecture showed how norms are established and broken, and how the new normal is constructed through many forms of subversions and transgressions. The Final Project Exhibition was held on January 14, 2021.

Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/posts/3606847236040401>

<https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/posts/3621038807954577>

## **DEH Seminar Series Fall 2020: “Digital Humanities: A New Approach to Scholarship”**

The Department of English and Humanities held a workshop on November 29, 2020 titled, “Digital Humanities: A New Approach to Scholarship” facilitated by three PhD candidates from the University of Maryland, USA. Sohana Nasrin discussed how aspects of humanities and traditional topics are studied under the lens of digital humanities (DH); Bobby Foster spoke of how, in digital culture, we tend to perform different identities based on the need to be recognizable and to fit in. In this regard, selfies were also brought into the discussion; and Md. Mahfuzul Haque elaborated on computer assisted

text analysis. The purpose of this workshop was to raise awareness and educate DEH students about the latest trend in the Humanities.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/posts/3629943373730787>

## DEH Seminar Series Fall 2020: “Getting Started with Getting Published”

Dr. Anne McLellan Howard, a professor at the Miyazaki International College in Miyazaki, Japan, presented a session titled “Getting Started with Getting Published” as part of the Fall 2020 Seminar Series on December 22, 2020. Dr. Howard, who is also a member of the Japan-based voluntary teacher organization called Teachers Helping Teachers (THT), discussed ways to get started with publishing and gaining confidence as academic writers. She also discussed the basic process of getting published – from selecting a journal, submitting a paper, and making revisions, and self-plagiarism and how to avoid it, as well as what to do if the author disagrees with the reviewers or what to do if the reviewers do not agree with each other.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0d4ogxYTVQ>

## DEH International Conference: “Entangled Englishes in Translocal Spaces”:

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held a three-day International Conference on “Entangled Englishes in Translocal Spaces” from September 2-4, 2021. The conference was organized by the Center for Language Studies (CLS) and the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. The three-day International Conference also showcased three roundtable discussions, five plenary sessions, a poetry recitation session, and a panel discussion by renowned academics, scholars, and researchers from home and abroad. These sessions included discussions on disentanglement from the hegemony of English(es) and its localized power politics; creation of new languages and performing new identities; how nationalism turns out to be a site of class struggle as well as a site of unequal production relations and power relations involving ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities in Bangladesh today; English in early and late colonial Bangladesh; and SDG-based impact

ranking of higher education and the role of English-perspective from Bangladesh. Scholars, researchers, and professionals from ten countries, including Bangladesh, showed how Englishes may introduce new forms of ideologies, prejudices, racism, and social segregation and marginalization in communities.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENTANGLED ENGLISHES IN TRANSLOCAL SPACES**  
21-22 June 2020  
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Dhaka

Englishes are entangled in our lives. They are used in a range of meaning-making practices in diverse contexts across the world. In the process, they incorporate linguistic and cultural resources from multiple codes, modes, genres, locations and cultures. These Englishes, ideologically value-laden, segregate people, communities, and nations, engineering some while proscribing others. A disproportionate access to Englishes based on individual demographic, cultural, educational, and socio-economic backgrounds is perceived as a source of anxiety and apprehension. Progress, morality, and status are often experienced, enjoyed, discriminated in various forms for Englishes too. Considering the pervasiveness and strong ideologies associated with Englishes, the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) invites papers for conference and contest the hegemonic status of English in various domains of life. It also wants to initiate a discursive platform to explore possible ways of “de-entangling” Englishes for sustainable development of human resources.

300-300 word abstracts of papers, posters, panels, and postgraduate student presentations are invited as, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Sociolinguistics (e.g., Language & socioeconomic class, gender, style, varieties, identity etc.) • Comparative Linguistics • Language and Technology • Language and Media • Language Acquisition and Learning (L1, L2, L3, L4, Lx) • Language Policy, Language Planning • Language Education • EAP/ESP/ EOP • Language and Mobility • Literature and New Englishes • Professional Writers in English • Linguistic Imperialism • Language as a Local Practice • Translinguals and Transcultural • Linguistic Landscape and Multilinguality • Language in the Workplace • Language for Sustainable Development

Selected papers will be considered for publication in the planned international volume.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**  
ABSTRACTS: JANUARY 31, 2020  
PRESENTER REGISTRATION/EARLY-BIRD: MARCH 15, 2020

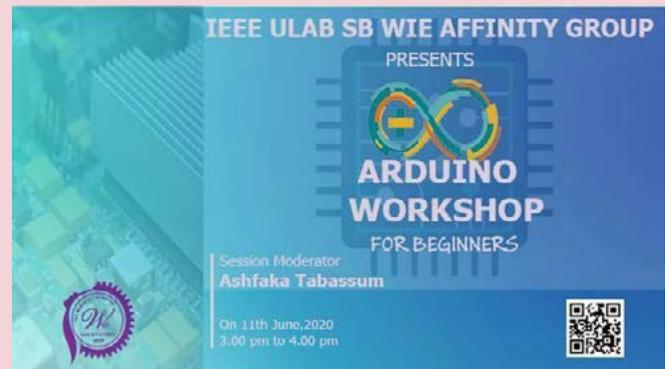
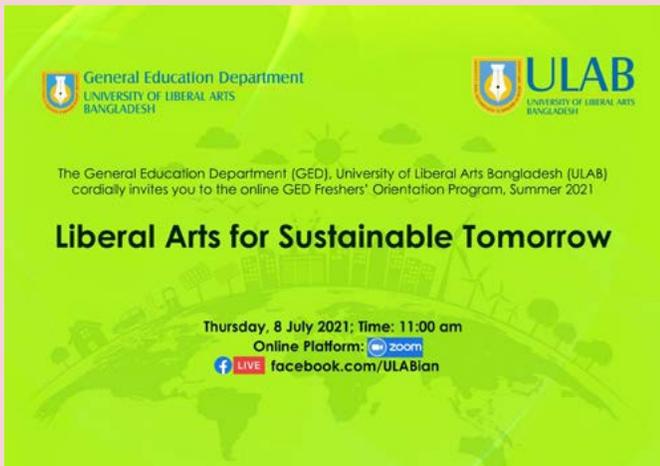
Email: [conference\\_english@ulab.edu.bd](mailto:conference_english@ulab.edu.bd)  
Conference Website: <https://ulab.ulab.edu.bd/conferences>

Organized by  
**ULAB**  
Center for Language Studies (CLS)  
Department of English and Humanities (DEH)

Registration Fee:  
Early Bird: \$1000  
Standard: \$1200  
Late: \$1500  
Local: \$1000  
International: \$1500

## GED Liberal Arts Education for Sustainable Tomorrow

The Department of General Education at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online meet and greet for freshers of the Summer 2021 term on 8 July 2021, Thursday on the theme of Liberal Arts Education for Sustainable tomorrow. National Professor Rafiqul Islam, welcomed the students to the department and highlighted the significance of studying liberal arts. He added that without exposure to GED courses student’s higher education cannot be fulfilled.



## EEE Introduction to OBE and how to Prepare an Effective SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT (SAR)

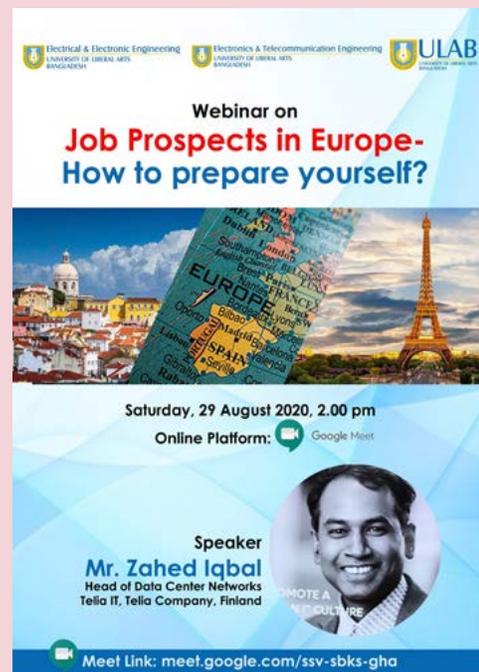
On 12 November 2020, Professor M. Mofazzal Hossain ran a day-long workshop on “Introduction to OBE and how to Prepare an Effective SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT (SAR)” in the EEE Department, Daffodil International University, Dhaka. All faculty members from the department of EEE and the Head of the Textile engineering department were present in the workshop. There were two sessions. At the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the workshop, Prof. Hossain gave an introduction to Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and briefly described the Boom’s Taxonomy. Then he explained the importance of Accreditation by IEB (Institute of Engineers Bangladesh) and the process of Accreditation. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Prof Hossain elaborately explained the writing process and critical points of the Self-Assessment Report.

## EEE Workshop On Arduino For Beginners

IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group organized a workshop titled “Workshop On Arduino For Beginners’ . Arduino, an open source platform used to build electronic devices and projects. With a programmable circuit board and a software of IDE, Arduino is an Engineer’s First Friend. The objective of this workshop is to give the basic idea about Arduino and projects making with it. Speaker of this event was Ms. Ashfaka Tabassum. Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE and Advisor of IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group encouraged students to participate in this event.

## EEE, ETE Webinar on “Job Prospects in Europe – How to Prepare Yourself”

A successful and informative webinar on “Job Prospects in Europe – How to Prepare Yourself” - jointly organized by Departments of EEE and ETE at ULAB. Resource person of the webinar was Mr. Zahed Iqbal, Head of Data Center Networks, Telia IT, Telia Company, Sweden. The online platform for the webinar was Google Meet. The webinar was highly informative and interactive.



## MSJ Data and Media Literacy Seminars Conducted

The Media Studies and Journalism Department organized a seminar entitled “Open Data Day 2020: Towards Data Literacy in Bangladesh” to celebrate Open

Data Day on March 9, 2020 at the ULAB Permanent Campus Auditorium. The seminar was jointly organized by the Department Outreach Program Axis MIL (Media and Information Literacy) with SACMID (South Asia Center for Media in Development) and Dataful. The seminar emphasized the significance of data in research and journalism. The Media Studies and Journalism Department also participated in the PAMIL (Philippine Association for Media and Information Literacy) and GAPMIL (Global Alliance for Partnerships in Media and Information Literacy) Asia-Pacific Chapter webinar on May 22, 2020. Lecturer Aminul Islam MSJ spoke on Axis MIL Project: Media Information Literacy Amid Pandemic in Bangladesh.

### **MSJ DIMFF and Axis MIL Holds Outreach Activities**

The Department's outreach programs launched a webinar series among the youth from July to December

2020. Axis Media and Information Literacy (MIL) organized a series of eight webinars on "Childhood in the Digital Age" to promote MIL in collaboration with the South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) and A2i's BD Konnect. The episodes were broadcasted live through the Kishor Batayon digital platform. From October 2020, Axis MIL collaborated with Dhaka Online School to conduct four lectures on MIL to raise awareness among students and teachers at the school and college levels. Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival (DIMFF), another outreach program of the Media Studies and Journalism department, conducted an online course entitled 'Filmmaking for Everyone' from October to December 2020. Using 'Aspire to Innovate's (a2i) digital platform 'Kishor Batayon', the course guides the new generation to express their ideas and creativity through mobile devices.

## **5 GENDER EQUALITY**



### **CSD Capacity Needs Review and Capacity Building Program Development on Water and Natural Resource for Governance for Women Leaders**

Water Governance in the Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSAs) is an Oxfam implemented project supported by the Government of Sweden. The project wants to enable the communities that depend on Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin in Nepal,

India, Bangladesh, and the Salween river of Myanmar to claim their rights, participate in decision-making on water governance, and build their resilience. The project focuses on strengthening women's participation in water governance and natural resource management and increasing the capacity to influence the policy. In this context, the CSD is working with Oxfam in Bangladesh to increase the transformative leadership of women leaders living in Bangladesh to create sustainable change that promotes women's rights and gender equality. As part of this engagement, the CSD will review the

capacity needs of women leaders to identify the gaps and required knowledge for future advocacy on water and natural resource governance. Moreover, interactive training modules will be designed to enhance women leaders' capacity towards water and natural resource governance.

### CSD Event: "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights"

On 8th March 2020, International Women's Day was celebrated uniquely at the ULAB. A short seminar was organized by CSD with a gathering of some research experts, ULAB's Vice-Chancellor, and two guests Ms Haider, Program Specialist-Disaster Risk Reduction Climate Change and Humanitarian Action, UN Women and Ms Shabnam, Chief of Party, SHOUHARDO III, CARE Bangladesh. The seminar was held at the auditorium of ULAB's Permanent Campus in Mohammadpur. Dean of ULAB School of Business and Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees warmly welcomed and greeted the guests of the event on International Women's Day. He appreciated the idea of the CSD on choosing such a topic for the seminar, which was 'Mainstreaming Gender in Research Design and Decision Making'.

### DEH Publication Exploring Female Agency

Arifa Ghani Rahman published a paper titled "Negotiating Masculine Circles: Female Agency in Aphra Behn's Work" in *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities* (Vol. 12, No. 4, 2020) The article examines the possibilities of female agency in a patriarchal world through the works of feminist writer Aphra Behn.

### DEH Panel Conference Presentation

Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Nadia Rahman, and Arifa Ghani Rahman of DEH presented a panel titled "Voices from Bangladesh: Women Writers" at the 19th International MELOW Conference at Panjab University, Chandigarh, India on February 21, 2020. The panel aimed to highlight women writers from Bangladesh who have been mostly overlooked simply because of their gender. The goal was to draw attention to the gender disparity towards women writers of Bangladesh. The panelists presented papers on authors Rizia Rahman, Dilruba Z. Ara, and Shaheen Akhtar.



## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



### CSD Webinar on “Clean Technology Solutions for Artisanal Fisheries in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges”

The CSD organized the above webinar on 22nd July 2020. This program was a joint initiative of Keele University, UK, and the ULAB. This online program aimed to identify the key challenges in the use of technology to support sustainability in rural communities, identify priorities for developing solutions and to form a working partnership, and plan to help develop and embed solutions that have an impact.

### EEE Efficiency Enhancement of p-i-n Solar Cell Embedding Quantum Wires in the Intrinsic Layer

A high efficiency InAs/GaAs quantum wire solar cell is modelled by embedding a periodic array of InAs quantum wires (QW) in the intrinsic layer. The promising low dimensional heterostructure such as Quantum Wells, Quantum Wires, Quantum Dots or Dashed (elongated Dots) based intermediate-band-gap solar cells are recently being grasped for ongoing third generation solar cell studies. In this particular work, we contrive, design and thereby simulate the solar cell incorporating QWs with a view to magnify the efficiency. After implementation of 15 layers of InAs QWs conjugated within the intrinsic layer and with the adaptation of AM1.5 solar irradiance, the proposed cell structure ensued a  $V_{oc}$  of 1.26 V,  $J_{sc}$  of 32.83 mAcm<sup>-2</sup> and a fill factor of 89.4%, which evaluates an overall cell efficiency of 37%. We achieved an efficiency of 26.98% with the same materials and dimensions without QWs in the intrinsic layer. Therefore, it may be optimistically appealed that the insertion of QWs in the intrinsic layer

has an affirmative impact on the efficiency of the cell. Published by Nahid Akhter Jahan, M. Mofazzal Hossain in ASTES Journal (vol 5, 2020)  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.25046/aj050367>

### EEE Paper Published on “Design and Comparative Feasibility Analysis of Optimized Hybrid Energy System for a Remote Island”

Shameem Hasan published a SCOPUS indexed IEEE publication entitled “Design and Comparative Feasibility Analysis of Optimized Hybrid Energy System for a Remote Island” in 2020 IEEE Bangalore Humanitarian Technology Conference (IEEE BHTC), Bangalore, India.

Author: **Shameem Hasan [Lecturer, Department of EEE, ULAB]**

Link: [Design and Comparative Feasibility Analysis of Optimized Hybrid Energy System for a Remote Island](#)

### EEE Optimized Energy System Design and Analysis for Sonadia Island

Shameem Hasan published a SCOPUS indexed IEEE publication entitled “Optimized Energy System Design and Analysis for Sonadia Island” in 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Technologies for Industry 4.0 (STI), 19-20 December, Dhaka.

Author: **Shameem Hasan [Lecturer, Department of EEE, ULAB]**

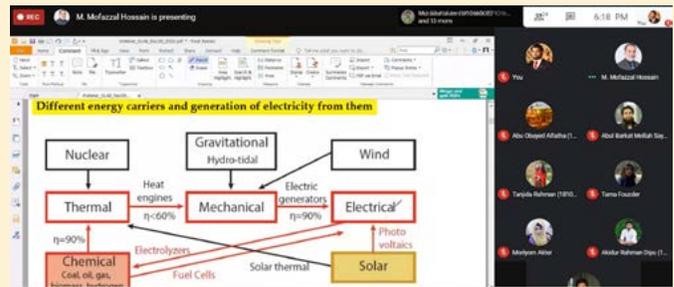
Link: [Optimized Energy System Design and Analysis for Sonadia Island](#)

Electricity plays a significantly important role in the development of modern technology and life-standard. Most of the electricity generating sources are fossil fuels

based. Considering the high usage rate of the natural resources in electricity production, it can be assumed that in the near future, natural energy resources will be almost empty. Consumption of energy from natural sources has increased significantly worldwide from 2011. Carbon and other harmful element emission from natural energy-based power systems is considered a prime reason for global warming. Because of the above-mentioned reasons, appropriate use of renewable green energy has been considered a suitable solution to the problems.

### EEE Workshop on “Solar Cell Design”

The Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club jointly organized an online Workshop on “Solar Cell Design” Resource person of the workshop was Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Professor and Head, Dept. of EEE, ULAB. The workshop was held on 29 December, 2020 at 6pm - 8.00pm in Google Meet platform.



## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### CES Digital Credit for COVID-19 Economic Recovery

COVID-19 brought to sharper focus income inequalities which are exacerbated by inequalities in levels of financial inclusion of people in Bangladesh. Many of the government’s stimulus packages did not reach intended beneficiaries which were left out as a result of being financially excluded. Because financial inclusion is integral to inclusive development and growth, and

better work conditions, and in the spirit of SDG 8, CES organized an advocacy campaign with several important stakeholders in the public and private sector to lobby for the promotion and realization of digital credit in Bangladesh . The goal of the webinar series was to assess the scope, challenges and policy implications for digital credit. The series featured leaders from commercial banks, NBFIs, MFIs, startups, NGOs, FMCG Companies, and various government agencies, e.g. the Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank, MRA, ICT Division, SME

Foundation, etc. The series had six episodes.  
(news report [here](#))



## CSD Webinar on “Jobs in the New Normal Life”

The COVID-19 pandemic has already impacted the whole world more than anyone was prepared for and the collateral damage that has happened to the new job opening has been unprecedented. Governments and citizens are finding ways to come out of this catastrophe while companies move more to hire freelancers and a contractual workforce. Simultaneously, a crisis may create different jobs, such as healthcare and wellness sectors, which will get a boost and create more jobs. CSD organized a webinar for the ULAB students to listen to from the experts who were already working in the development sectors. The CSD offers a minor in sustainable development studies mainly taken by the students majoring in different subjects and this webinar aims to share the opportunities in the development sectors. Experts from different educational backgrounds shared their stories in getting involved with this sector, what specific skills, knowledge, and training are required. They discussed the impacts of COVID-19 in the workstream of the development sector and how fresh graduates can fit themselves in the changed conditions.

## DEH Translation Workshop: “Translating Literary Works”

A student workshop was organized by the Teaching Assistants of DEH on “Translating Literary Works” on August 20, 2020. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor of DEH.

While inaugurating the workshop, Prof. Kaiser Haq gave an introductory lecture on translation culture. The workshop aimed to make students aware of potential career opportunities in translation.

## DEH Seminar Series “Careers in English: A DEHian Perspective”

DEH Summer Seminar Series #6 brought in Monabbir Johan, a PhD student at the Universiti Sains Malaysia who is a DEH alumni, to speak about “Careers in English: A DEHian Perspective” on September 7, 2020 where he shared his personal journey of being a PhD candidate and answered students’ questions on how to develop an academic career.

## DEH Career Talk for English Graduates

The Department of English and Humanities organized a virtual adda titled “Career Talk for English Graduates” on December 4, 2020 for its students. Three distinguished guests from the Bangladesh Civil Service, Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton; Mir Abidur Rahman; and Mondip Gharai, were present at the program as speakers. The goal of the talk was to encourage students of the English Department to think about their career options and to understand that the choices open to them are varied. The three speakers, graduates of English themselves, discussed their career choices and how they related their course of studies to their professions. The speakers also shared stories of some of the different projects they are or were involved in. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/421528515920864>

## DEH Skill Building Workshop: “ Edit This: The Art of Great Revision”

Editing is one of the important skills the English students are supposed to have. The skill is not only important for the students who are planning to get into a career in the publishing or media industry, but it is also important for the ones who are planning to go to other career paths as well. Therefore, to equip the students with editing skills, the Department of English and Humanities organized a workshop on December 17 2020 titled “Edit This: The Art of Great Revision” facilitated by Arifa Ghani Rahman.

## EEE Events entitled “Webinar on Cyber Security: Current Trends and Future Directions”

IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group in association with the Department of EEE organized a webinar titled “Webinar on Cyber Security: Current Trends and Future Directions” on August 20, 2020 via online platform. In this time of global pandemic, when more and more people are relying on virtual platforms, the number of cyber-crimes and threats are increasingly massive. With proper knowledge, this problem can be easily averted. Moreover, when the whole world is facing a job crisis, there is still a lack of experts in the cyber security field to protect millions of users from this vulnerability. Total 42 students from EEE, ETE, CSE, BBA, DEH and MSJ Department and distinguished faculty members joined in this webinar.

## EEE Event entitled “Graphic Design and Freelancing”

IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group along with Silicon Valley IT Institute Bangladesh organized a Workshop on “Graphic Design and Freelancing”. A good graphics designer is very important for today’s world. The clients of international and our country’s are very much dependent on graphic artists for their business promotion. So, this is the time to take those places through the platforms of freelancing. Speaker of this event was Ms. Rafia Tasneem, Lead

Graphic Design Mentor at Silicon Valley IT, Bangladesh. Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE and Advisor of IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group encouraged students to participate in this event.

## EEE Event entitled “Workshop on Video Editing for Beginners”

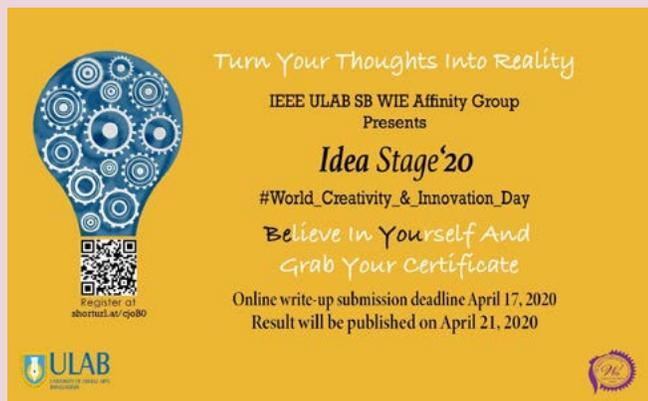
A good video editing can help to make your content attractive. It illustrates and enhances views, engagement levels and a variety of metrics.

IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group in association with IEEE ULAB Student Branch and Department of EEE organized a workshop titled “Workshop on Video Editing for Beginners”. Speaker of this event was Mr. Shiam Prodhan.

Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE and Advisor of IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group encouraged students to participate in this event.

## EEE Event entitled “Idea Stage’20”

On the celebration of “World Creativity & Innovation day”, IEEE ULAB WIE Affinity Group has arranged “Idea Stage’20” a global innovative idea writing contest open for all universities’ engineering students, where students participated with your creative & innovative ideas to achieve victory through talent. Students from some foreign universities also participated in this event. Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE and Advisor of IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group encouraged students to participate in this event.



## EEE Event entitled “Logo Design Contest”

IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group organized an event titled “Logo Design Contest”. Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE and Advisor of IEEE ULAB SB WIE Affinity Group encouraged students to participate in this event.



## EEE Event entitled “MATLAB for Signal Processing”

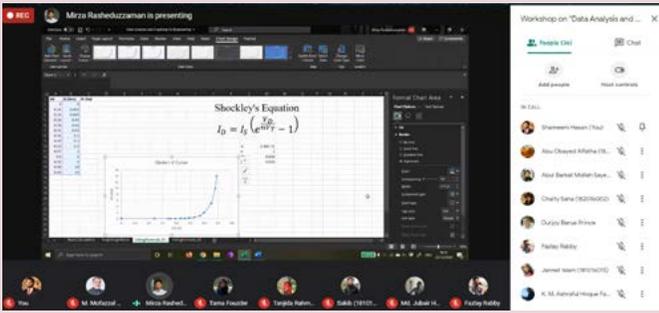
A successful workshop entitled “MATLAB for Signal Processing”, was jointly organized by Dept. of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). The resource person of this event was Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, ULAB. The workshop was highly informative and interactive.



## EEE Event entitled “Data Analysis and Graphing for Engineering”

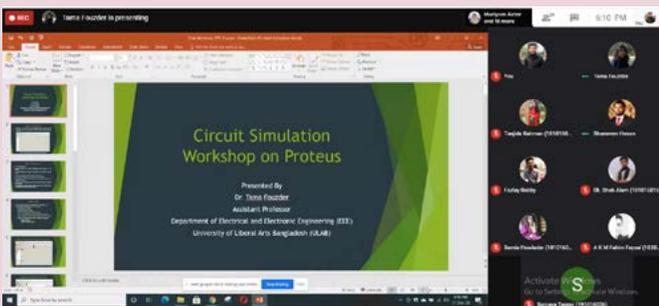
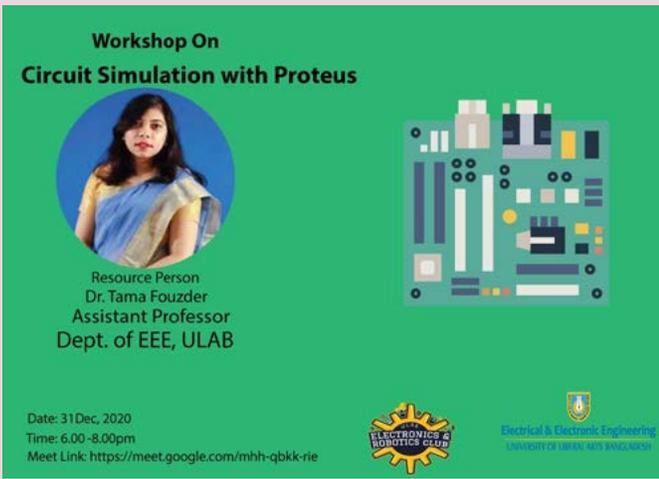
A successful workshop entitled “Data Analysis and Graphing for Engineering”, jointly organized by Dept. of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) was held on 22 december 2020 at 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The resource person of this event was Dr Mirza Rasheduzzaman, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, ULAB. The workshop was highly effective and informative.





## EEE Event entitled “Circuit Simulation with Proteus”

A successful workshop entitled “Circuit Simulation with Proteus”, was jointly organized by Dept. of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). Dr. Tama Fouzder, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, ULAB, was the resource person. The workshop was very interactive.



## EEE Event entitled “Power System Simulations Using Simulink”

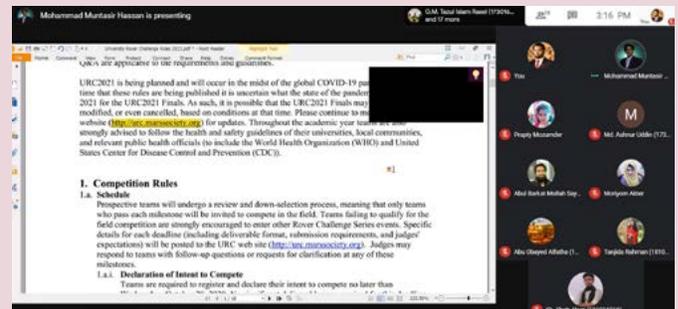
The Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club jointly organized an online Workshop on “Power System Simulations Using Simulink” The resource person of the workshop was Mr. Shameem Hasan, Lecturer, Dept. of EEE, ULAB. The event was held

on 24 December, 2020 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Online platform for the event was “Google Meet”



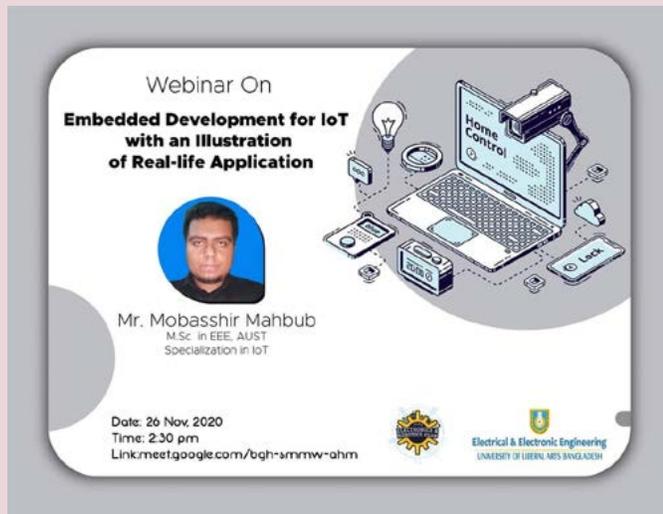
## EEE Event entitled “International Rover Challenge Preparation”

A successful seminar entitled “International Rover Challenge Preparation”, was jointly organized by Dept. of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). The resource person of this event was Mr. Mohammad Muntasir Hassan, Lecturer, BUET.



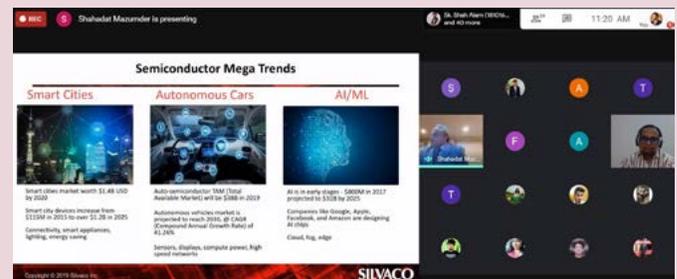
## EEE Event entitled “Embedded Development for IoT with an Illustration of Real Life Application”

A successful webinar entitled “Embedded Development for IoT with an Illustration of Real Life Application”, was jointly organized by Dept. of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). The resource person of this event was Mr. Mobasshir Mahbub. The workshop was held on 26 November 2020 at 2:30 pm in Google Meet.



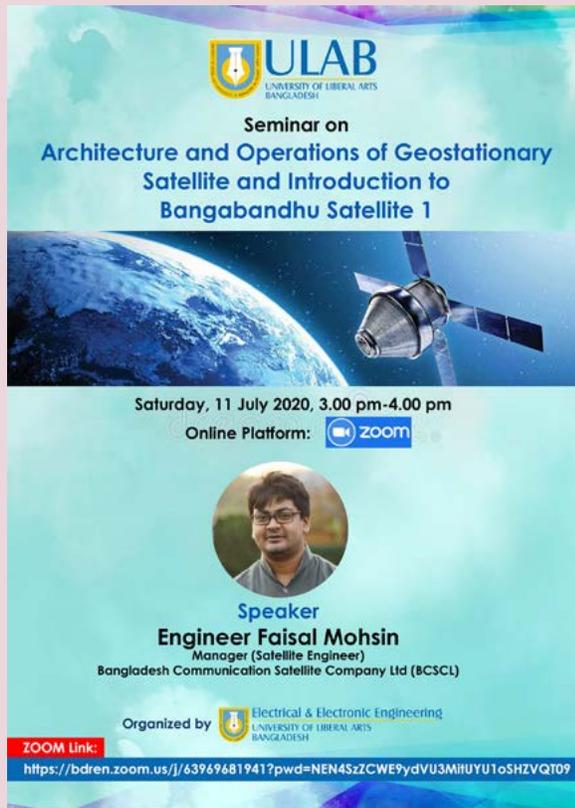
## EEE Event entitled “Thriving in VLSI Analog Circuit Design”

A successful and highly informative webinar on “Thriving in VLSI Analog Circuit Design” was jointly organized by the Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). Honorable resource person of the webinar was Engr. Ahmad S Mazumder, Leader, Analog IP Development Business Division, Silvaco, USA. The webinar was held on 6 August 2020 at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.



## EEE Event entitled “Architecture and Operations of Geostationary Satellite and Introduction to Bangabandhu Satellite 1”

A successful and informative webinar on “Architecture and Operations of Geostationary Satellite and Introduction to Bangabandhu Satellite 1” was organized by the Department of EEE, ULAB. The online platform for the webinar was “Zoom”. Resource person for the event was Engr. Faisal Mohsin, Manager (Satellite Engineer), Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Ltd (BCSCL).



## EEE Event entitled “MATLAB for Beginners”

Online workshop on “MATLAB for Beginners” was jointly organized by the Department of EEE and ETE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC). The event was held on 10 June 2020 at 3:00 pm. The resource person of the workshop was Mohammad Muntasir Hassan, Lecturer, Department of EEE, ULAB.



## EEE Event entitled “Robotics Vision: Idea Competition 2020”

The Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) organized “Robotics Vision: Idea Competition 2020” to celebrate World Robotics Day 2020. The prize giving ceremony of the event was held on July 11, 2020. The chief guest of the event was honorable Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, Prof. Dr. H. M. Jahirul Haque. The program ended with the vote of thanks from Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Department of EEE, ULAB. All the faculty members of EEE, some notable alumni of ETE Alumni association attended the prize giving ceremony. Students from different departments of ULAB participated in the competition.



## EEE Workshop on “Arduino and Robotics”.

The department of EEE and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) organized a workshop on “Arduino and Robotics”. This workshop consisted of five sessions. First session was held on 5 March 2020 at 2:00 pm and 2nd session was held on March 12, 2020 at 2:00 pm.



## MSJ Masterclass on Crisis Management Held

The Media Studies and Journalism Department's Masters in Communication, in collaboration with the International Association on Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Bangladesh organized a public lecture on "Leading in Crisis" in September 2020. Canada-based Maiden Manzanal-Frank, President and CEO, GlobalStakes Consulting was the main resource person. Regarding the masterclass, MSJ HoD Prof. Jude William

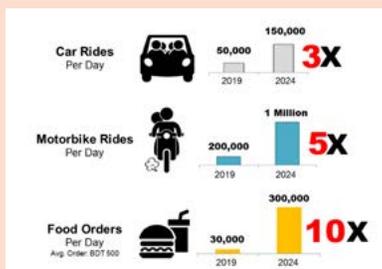
Genilo stated that "sometimes, you need someone to point in a certain direction; a direction you would not have otherwise thought of. Maiden Manzanal-Frank's talk helped us reconfigure threats as opportunities, accept rather than resent ambiguity and look inward in order to go beyond resilience. There is a lot to take in her words. But, the effect is awe inspiring. If we wish to thrive in the current environment, there is no other choice but to mine opportunities strategically and set higher standards. This is "leading in a crisis."

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



### CES With 7.5m rides a month, ridesharing services take over Bangladesh

CES Researchers Sajid Amit and Oliur Rahman published an important research paper on the Sharing Economy, Global Ridesharing and forecasted its future growth in terms of revenue. This paper was a first-of-its kind and based on secondary / desk-research as well key-informant interviews. Findings from this paper was published on the first page of The Business Standard newspaper. Link to the newspaper article [here](#) and the original research paper [here](#).



### EEE Paper Published on "An IoT based Real-time Data-centric Monitoring System for Vaccine Cold Chain"

Raisa T Hasanat, a student of the ETE department of ULAB, under the supervision of Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman (EEE) and Dr. Nafis Mansoor (CSE) from ULAB published a paper on "An IoT based Real-time Data-centric Monitoring System for Vaccine Cold Chain", 2020 IEEE East-West Design & Test Symposium (EWDTS 2020), Varna, Bulgaria, 2020. In this work, the authors presented a real-time data-centric cold chain monitoring system for the continuous monitoring of the vaccine distribution and transportation process. The proposed system provides the unique feature of creating and managing individual trips for the vaccine transportation process along with the regular supervision of temperature and humidity of the carrier. Moreover, the hardware and software components for the system also track the location of the carrier. This proposed system can be particularly highly

effective in increasing vaccine coverage in the remote regions. This is because the proposed system enables the remote monitoring of the entire process and ensures transparency in the distribution process.

Link: [An IoT based Real-time Data-centric Monitoring System for Vaccine Cold Chain | IEEE Conference Publication | IEEE Xplore](#)

### EEE The paper published titled “Power Efficient FPGA-based TCAM Architecture by using Segmented Matchline Strategy”

Najib Ur Rehman, Omer Mujahid, Zahid Ullah, Abdul Hafeez, Tama Fouzder, Muhammad Ibrahim published this paper in International Conference on Advances in the Emerging Computing Technologies (AECT), Saudi Arabia, February 10-12, 2020. Ternary content-addressable memory (TCAM) is famous for its high-speed search operation but this speed comes at the cost of high-power consumption. The paper presents a power efficient architecture for TCAM on field-programmable gate array (FPGA) by using segmented matchline (ML) strategy. Each segment has nine bits. The proposed TCAM architecture is implemented on Xilinx Virtex-6 FPGA for the size of 64 × 36. Implementation results show that during search operation, the proposed TCAM results in 13.88% reduction in dynamic power consumption compared to the latest FPGA-based TCAMs while not compromising on speed.

Link: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9194189>

### EEE Paper Published on “Automatic Ingestion Monitor Version 2” – A Novel Wearable Device for Automatic Food Intake Detection and Passive Capture of Food Images”

Dr. Abul Barkat Mollah Sayeed Ud Doulah from the EEE department published a journal article from his extended PhD work in one of the prestigious journals in the field - IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics (Q1 quartile, Impact factor – 5.78). Use of food image capture and/or wearable sensors for dietary assessment has grown in popularity. “Active” methods rely on the user to take an image of each eating episode. “Passive” methods use wearable cameras that continuously capture images. Most of “passively” captured images are not related to food consumption and may present

privacy concerns. In this work, we propose a novel wearable sensor (Automatic Ingestion Monitor, AIM-2) designed to capture images only during automatically detected eating episodes. The capture method was validated on a dataset collected from 30 volunteers in the community wearing the AIM-2 for 24h in pseudo-free-living and 24h in a free-living environment. The major contributions of the proposed work are: (1) AIM-2 uses a combination of acceleration and temporalis muscle sensors for accurate detection of food intake and triggering of a wearable camera; (2) The proposed gazed-aligned camera mounted on eyeglasses reliably captures the food being consumed; (3) AIM-2 provides a potential solution to significantly reduce the number of images captured; (4) this study suggests and tests a method for validation of sensor-based food intake detection sensor in free-living against images captured by a wearable camera; and (5) This study demonstrates that capture of images only during detected food intake significantly reduces privacy concerns of both the users and nearby people.

Link: [Automatic Ingestion Monitor Version 2” – A Novel Wearable Device for Automatic Food Intake Detection and Passive Capture of Food Images](#)

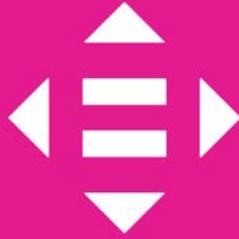
### ETE, EEE Paper Published on “Simulation and Performance Analysis of Flyback Rectifiers with Active Power Decoupling Method and Transformer Isolation”

Shameem Hasan and Ahmmed Raian Jabir published a SCOPUS indexed IEEE publication. Ahmmed Raian Jabir, a student of the ETE department of ULAB, under the supervision of Shameem Hasan from the EEE department, published the paper entitled “Simulation and Performance Analysis of Flyback Rectifiers with Active Power Decoupling Method and Transformer Isolation” in 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Technologies for Industry 4.0 (STI), 19-20 December, Dhaka. In this paper, the active power decoupling method for single-phase rectifier and transformer isolation method for three-phase rectifier have been simulated for the improvement of performance parameters.

Authors: Shameem Hasan [Lecturer, Department of EEE, ULAB] and Ahmmed Raian Jabir

Link: [Simulation and Performance Analysis of Flyback Rectifiers with Active Power Decoupling Method and Transformer Isolation](#)

# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## CSD Ongoing Project on “Ensuring Women and Minority Rights in Land”

The website for CSD’s ‘Ensuring Women and Minority Rights in Land’ project, pursued in collaboration with Dublin City University, Ireland and Wageningen University and Research (WUR), the Netherlands. Rebranded “PPLA” or “Politics and Power in Land Administration”, the website is live at [www.ppla.eu](http://www.ppla.eu). Featuring information on the project, key personnel, and partner organizations, it also hosts a blog, which is regularly updated, including research notes from the field. This second stage of research includes a third research site: Kalapara and Amtali upazilas in south Bangladesh. This will ensure that the greatest variation in physical characteristics is studied by the research, adding a coastal area prone to disasters to existing study sites in North Bengal and Mymensingh. Preparations for the project’s “virtual classroom” component were well underway. Project partner organization “Uttaran” will be engaged in bringing the day to day experiences of its field staff to the classrooms of development studies majors in

WUR. This will give the students a far clearer idea of what happens when “the rubber meets the road” during development interventions while also raising awareness of Uttaran’s work and the problems emerging from land administration faced by Bangladeshis.

## DEH Seminar on “Translating voices from the margins” by Venkateswar Ramaswamy

The Department of English and Humanities organized a public lecture titled “Translating voices from the margins” on 27 February 2020. The Speaker of the lecture was Translator and Non-Fiction Writer Venkateswar Ramaswamy based in Kolkata. As an activist working for the rights of the labouring poor, Ramaswamy has written about workers, squatters, slums, poverty, housing and resettlement, and has been at the forefront of efforts to envision and initiate the rebuilding of his city from the grassroots.



# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## EEE IoT-Cognizant Cloud-Assisted Energy Efficient Embedded System For Indoor Intelligent Lighting, Air Quality Monitoring, And Ventilation

Mobasshir Mahbub, **M. Mofazzal Hossain**, Md. Shamrat Apu Gazi

Pervasive monitoring, delivered through the innovations of wireless sensor systems, disperses across numerous areas of modern living. This enables environmental parameters to be detected, interpreted, evaluated and deduced from natural resources. The increase in the number of Internet-connected devices has prompted the escalation of the technological revolution in the Internet of Things (IoT). The seamless integration of sensors and actuators enables IoT technologies to be one of the paramount of modern life. The continuous development of IoT technologies allows it to become more intelligent, resourceful, and user friendly every day. IoT evolutions include smart homes, smart grids, smart cities, connected cars, wearables, smart industries, smart retail, etc. A variety of key experiments and analyses have been carried out to develop infrastructure through IoT. Intelligent ventilation systems, indoor automated lighting, and auto autonomous decision-making systems are among the most significant and recent implementations of IoT. This article focuses on the design and implementation of an intelligent autonomous lighting and air ventilation system capable of energy-aware self-sufficient lighting, monitoring temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, and smoke. This paper has prescribed an embedded system for autonomous lighting and ventilation systems with

HTTP protocol based monitoring over smartphones or PCs. Moreover, the system is capable of logging real-time data into the cloud server through which a user can also monitor the real-time over the cloud from anywhere in the world. Since it is a wireless gadget, communication with the control system takes place via the GSM and WiFi network, using the modern HTTP protocol. Moreover, the work has performed energy consumption and economic analysis of the prescribed system to show its effectiveness. The article has also provided an overview of IoT infrastructure at the commencement of the work.

## MSJ 2020 Curriculum Integration Series Completed

The Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) department organized its Spring 2020 Curriculum Integration exhibition on “Communication Apprehension Theory” on June 30, 2020- July 6, 2020. This was the first time that the department organized the exhibition on the virtual platform. Visual arts, posters, photographs, masks, video arts, animation, films, documentaries and speeches from different courses presented at the event. Renowned Photographer, Nasir Ali Mamun, Filmmaker Khijir Hayat Khan and Filmmaker/Producer Arifur Rahman were honored as the Special Guests at the event. For Summer 2020, the department organized online the Curriculum Integration Summer 2020 Visual and Film Exhibitions in October 2020. Under the theme “Psychology of Pandemics,” students produced posters, photographs, masks, video art, animation, fictional narratives and television news packages. The students explored the areas of mental health information, conspiracy theories and combating fake news. Dr. Pia Arboleda, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, addressed the

audience as chief guest of the event. For the Fall 2020 Semester, the department organized the Curriculum Integration Media Exhibit with the theme “Motivated Reasoning.” The Chief Guest of the opening event was Proshoon Rahman, a renowned filmmaker and writer. The Exhibition presented 106 Photographs, 22 Masks, 12 Posters and 19 Video Productions; including Animation Films, Advertisements, PSAs, Fictional Short Films and News Packages.

## MSJ Mobile Film Festival Winners Announced

The Media Studies and Journalism Department organized the 6th Dhaka International Mobile Film

Festival on February 28 to 29, 2020. From the 557 films submitted, 202 films were selected for participation in the festival. The films came from 41 countries. The festival jury consisted of Arifur Rahman (Independent Film Producer), Sadia Khalid Riti (Film Critic) and Devaki Bist (Film Maker and Multimedia Journalist). The event concluded with the public screening in Star Cineplex with the presence of Kamar Ahmad Simon (Filmmaker) and Gitiara Nasrin (Professor, University of Dhaka).

Article Published in Elsevier’s Journal: **Internet of Things (vol 11, 2020)**

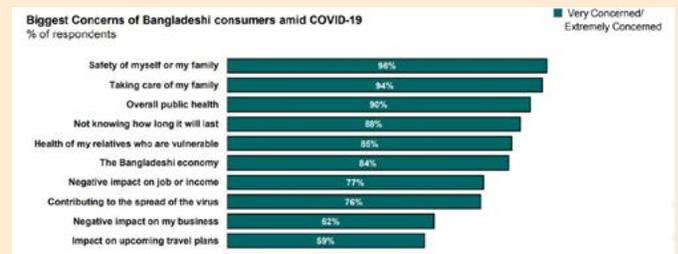
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iot.2020.100266>



## CES COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Survey

In line with Goal 12, ULAB, after COVID-19 broke out, attempted to identify data and market trends to enable both products and consumers to make sense of COVID-affected consumption matters, so as to enable better utilization of resources. The well-regarded survey titled “CES COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Survey” was conducted by **Center for Enterprise and Society (CES)**. These consumers were working professionals and living in urban areas. Income of the surveyed people started from Tk40,000- Tk250,000 a month and above. The survey was aimed at assessing Bangladeshi consumer sentiments in the context of the pandemic, upcoming the economy will be impacted for 6-12 months or longer and show slow growth thereafter, while 30% are pessimistic and said COVID-19 will have lasting impact on the economy

and cause lengthy recession. According to the survey, 15% of respondents were optimistic, who said the economy will rebound within 6 months and grow just as strong as or stronger than before COVID-19. Beyond Eid, customer spending was expected to increase only for Pharmaceuticals and online learning, decrease for all else; and decrease the least for groceries, survey findings showed. This survey was well-regarded by various business institutions as it helped with their product and service launches. News report on the survey [here](#).



## CSD Greening Dutch Club

The CSD in collaboration with Dutch Club (Netherlands Recreation Centre), provided internship opportunities to two ULAB students to complete their graduation at the ULAB. During their internship period (February to April 2020), they were assigned to work on two areas of the club. The first assignment was to find out possible ways to reduce the use of single-use plastics and the second assignment was to find a way for sustainable solid waste management. Their internship role at Dutch Club was also focused on greening the institution with relevant research to conduct both at the club and fieldwork.

## CSD Greening TVET Institutions

There is no alternative to protect our nature without greening educational institutions. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions is a platform that provides an enhanced tool to equip youth and adults with the skills needed in the changing world of work, including the knowledge and competency requirements to make the transition to green economies and societies. The CSD has been working on a project since April 2020 on Greening Training sessions at the Gaibandha TVET .....institute, seven Model TVET Institutions and two Centre for Skills Excellence with the International Labour Organization (ILO). This project aims to support the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in reforming its (TVET) system through a partnership with the European Union (EU) and the Government of Canada. The primary role of the CSD is to establish sustainable practices and an improved link between education and training systems to growing worldwide demand for sustainable TVET. The CSD conducted scoping missions by visiting and moderating training sessions at selected model TVET institutes and prepared action plans with identified green initiatives. Besides, a webinar was organized on sharing the findings of Greening TVET Institutions' work on 20th July 2020.

## CSD Energy Efficiency & Pollution Free Production: A Visit to Kapita Auto Bricks Ltd.

As a part of learning directly from the field, a group of ULAB students recently visited Kapita Auto Bricks LTD to study their operations. Energy-efficient pollution-free bricks seem to be the future of the brick industry.

Students also gathered information in regards to the investment in this new technology. The usual scene of red brickfields and black smoke all over the area is common in Bangladesh as the country's brick demand is being fulfilled through the conventional kilns. However, the use of science and technology has changed the conventional kiln to an advanced kiln, known as Hybrid Hoffman Kiln (HHK) that reduces the number of toxic air pollutants. It has been designed to improve heat retention in the kilns and to capture waste heat for re-circulation in the drying tunnel, which is used to absorb the moisture of the brick. The HHK doesn't have a tall chimney. Therefore, it reduces the emission of black smoke and other harmful gas. Kapita auto bricks limited is one of the eight factories of Bangladesh that manufactures bricks through HHK technology.

## EMBA Workshop with Food Panda on the On-demand Food Delivery Market

The ULAB EMBA Program is an active supporter of the startup ecosystem in Bangladesh. For years, the ULAB EMBA Program has contributed to the startup ecosystem by assisting student startups, startups external to ULAB, and by arranging various dialog, symposia, and other events for knowledge generation and knowledge sharing. In 2020, the EMBA Program organized career development workshops with FoodPanda, the largest and most successful on-demand food delivery startup with the goal of disseminating knowledge of how to get employed at FoodPanda, what careers at FoodPanda look like, and so forth.



# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



## CAS Climate Change and its Impact on Bangladesh Archaeology

The adverse effect of changing world climate is visible on many aspects of the cultural and natural world. Bangladesh archaeology is also at risk of global climate change phenomenon. Considering the global climate change phenomenon, the for Archaeological Studies of ULAB has celebrated the Global Climate Change Week 2020 on Tuesday, 27 October 2020 by organizing an online discussion on Climate Change and its impact on Bangladesh archaeology. In the webinar, national experts discussed the diverse impacts currently Bangladesh is facing in the field of archaeology due to climate change. The experts also challenged the conventional approach to climate change study and proposed a few considerations that might be taken in both short and long term policy in climate change study.

## CAS Celebrating World Tourism Day 2020

Archaeotourism is now one of the thriving areas of the tourism industry all over the world. Along with contributing to the country's national economy, this sector is also playing a vital role in fostering rural development where new income opportunities are being created in the rural areas. Being a steward in cultural heritage preservation and promotion, the Center for Archaeological Studies of ULAB plays its due role in this ever increasing sector. In September 2020, CAS organized a program to observe World Tourism Day 2020 with a theme Archaeotourism in Bangladesh: Foster Rural Development. The national experts in the area shared opinions on how sustainable archaeotourism can empower a country's rural communities.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/117673/ulab->

[observes-world-tourism-day  
https://www.banglatribune.com/my-campus/  
news/644859/](https://www.banglatribune.com/my-campus/news/644859/)

## CSD Kolkata Youth Summit on Climate Change

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director of CSD participated and gave a plenary speech on "Changing Narratives – Acting Local Going Global" at the Kolkata Youth Summit on Climate Change, the largest of its kind in East India. More than 3000 students from more than 80 schools attended the event. Talks on the first day were very inspiring – from Neurosurgeon Dr. Sandeep Chatterjee and a Green Oscar award winner wildlife filmmaker Asheika Kapur. A short documentary "Kolkata 2070" by Malika Jalan was also shown at the summit. In her speech, Dr. Selim provided ideas and inspiration on career paths, choices, and ways to lead more sustainable lives.

## CSD Part of Gobeshona Platform on Climate Change Research



Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD presented her paper in the plenary

session entitled “Flood Disaster Risk and Household Level Coping Strategies: A Study on the Padma River Islands of Bangladesh” at Gobeshona 6 Conference, organized by International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Friendship. Basundhara Tripathy Furlong, another team member of CSD, also presented on “Climate crisis and mobility: Reality or exaggeration?” at GOBESHONA 6 Conference. It was Parallel Session 03: “Climate Change and Migration” and was hosted by ICCCAD and ULAB.

## CLS Climate Action in Language Education: Impactful ways to integrate environmental issues in English language teaching

The Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a webinar titled “Climate Action in Language Education: Impactful ways to integrate environmental issues in English language teaching” on 24 April, 2021 in ZOOM platform. Mr. Colm Downes, Director English, Education and Society at British Council Indonesia, conducted the webinar. In this session the Speaker suggested various practical ways English language teachers can develop and deliver lessons with a sustainability focus, moving beyond traditional course book environment units. Different ways were suggested to actively involve the global English language teaching industry to tackle climate change. He stressed on the effectiveness of the green lessons which remain relevant to the learner experience. The facilitator introduced useful websites, online resources and online course modules which will help the teachers to explore the environmental issues for research and teaching purposes.

The poster is for a webinar titled "Climate Action in Language Education: Impactful ways to integrate environmental issues in English language teaching". It is organized by the British Council and the Center for Language Studies (CLS) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). The webinar is scheduled for Saturday, 24 April 2021, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and will be held on the Zoom platform. The speaker is Mr. Colm Downes, Director English, Education and Society at the British Council Indonesia, and Technical Lead for the "Climate Action in Language Education" project. A circular portrait of Mr. Downes is shown on the right. The poster includes a detailed bio of Mr. Downes, an abstract of the session, and a Facebook link for CLS.

**BRITISH COUNCIL** | **Center for Language Studies** | **ULAB**

**A Webinar on**  
**Climate Action in Language Education: Impactful ways to integrate environmental issues in English language teaching**

**Saturday, 24 April 2021, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
**Online Platform:** zoom

**Mr. Colm Downes**  
 Director English, Education and Society  
 British Council Indonesia  
 Technical Lead, 'Climate Action in Language Education'

Colm (MA in ELT & Applied Linguistics, Kings College London) has been involved in education, specifically language education and professional skills training, for over 20 years across Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. He is currently the Director English, Education and Society at the British Council Indonesia. Colm has extensive experience in EAP (English for Academic Purposes), ESP (English for Specific Purposes), publishing 'Cambridge English for Job Hunting' for Cambridge University Press and 'English for UN Peacekeepers'. He is passionate about equipping future leaders with the specific language skills, network, and opportunities they need to drive transformative social economic change and develop solutions to global challenges.

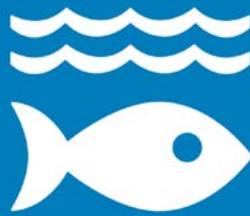
**Abstract**  
 This session will be centred around the research strand of the British Council's new 'Climate Action in Language Education' project. Drawing on case studies of good practice from around the world, this session will focus on practical ways English language teachers can develop and deliver lessons with a sustainability focus, moving beyond traditional coursebook environment units. The session will conclude with a broader discussion about how all actors in the global English language teaching industry can take action to tackle climate change.

**LIVE** CLS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/clsulab>

## MSJ Media Faculty Published Works on Sustainable Economy

Media faculty published book chapters on urban living and sustainable economy. Lecturer Aminul Islam jointly published in 2020 with Abdullah Al-Maruf, Afshana Sarmin and J. Craig Jenkins a chapter entitled “Coastal Zones of Bangladesh: A Tale of Pessimism and Optimism,” in the book: Climate Adaptation for a Sustainable Economy: Lessons from Bangladesh, an Emerging Tiger of Asia. Nova Science Publishing (USA) was the book publisher. Lecturer Aminul Islam also jointly published with Naziat Choudhury a chapter entitled “Living culture of today’s apartment dwellers: social interactions, social media and urban living in Bangladesh,” in the book Emergent technologies, New Media and Cities published from Common Ground Research Networks, USA. Moor Bhakti edited the book, which was published in 2020.

# 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



## CSD Research Project: Impacts of Climate and COVID-19 on Marine Socio-ecological System

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread globally, many countries are taking unprecedented lockdown measures to control its impact on public health. However, such measures significantly impact other human activity domains, including livelihoods, gender equality, jobs, food security, and potential social unrest. In 2020, the CSD conducted a research project on the impacts of climate change and COVID-19 on the socio-ecological system of the Bay of Bengal, which was funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). A mixed method was used to collect data through extensive literature review and telephone ethnography. One hundred respondents were interviewed from the fisher community of Patharghata upazila of Barguna district and Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar district. In October 2020, a virtual outreach event of this project was organized. Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD, participated in that discussion, in partnership with MJF, titled "What ecological changes will happen to the Bay of Bengal from global warming?". Honorable Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Md. Shahab Uddin was present at the talk as the Chief Guest. Dr. Selim said that the fishing community in coastal areas of Bangladesh need a sustainable solution for their livelihood as climate change is causing damage to the fish habitats. Dr. Selim recommended, to enhance climate change resilience for marine ecosystems and resources, knowledge dissemination through proper channels, protect ocean from land-based activities such as alteration of habitats, destructive fishing, untreated sewage, oil pollution from ocean and inland vessels and increase climate-friendly investment. She also said the government needs to adopt science-based fisheries

management practices to fine-tune spatial and temporal closures and gear modifications.

Dr. Rumana Sultana participated in a round table discussion on 7th September 2020 organized by Prothom Alo and MJF on the "65-day ban on marine fishing: The status of fishermen in Corona Pandemic and future course of action" to present the findings from this research project. Dr. Sultana emphasized alternative income source generation, women empowerment, and equitable access to financial services as the key issues to overcome prevailing challenges.

## CSD International Project: No Crises

The CSD partners in this 3-year multi-country project NO CRISES funded by Belmont Forum Transdisciplinary Research on Ocean Sustainability. The goal of ocean management is to accomplish fair and sustainable resource use. This means simultaneously achieving economic development (blue growth), environmental sustainability, social equity, and inclusion across space and time in a context of growing demands. With this project, the CSD proposes a mixed-method approach and cross-case study comparison to assess the origin, drivers, and mitigation strategies of ocean conflicts. Each of the six case studies will represent a hot spot where a different combination of social and ecological pressures, together with trade-off decisions, trigger ocean conflicts. A core set of methods is developed and applied to ensure comparability across locations to facilitate global learning. The origin of conflicts will be reproduced, and socio-ecological interactions qualified and quantified through participatory methods. Local artists' visualizations will collaboratively produce culturally meaningful narratives that will explicate trade-offs, and

their negotiability, and allow ocean conflict pathways to be mapped from origin to possible resolution.

### **CSD International Project: Vulnerability to Viability (V2V)**

The CSD is a partner of one of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) partnership grants working on Small Scale Fisheries - Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) partnership. The project's goal is to bring together a diverse team of experts (scientists, practitioners, policy and community actors) through the platform of the V2V Global Partnership to address this critical gap by focusing

on fundamental questions concerning the impacts of global change on coastal-marine fisheries systems and how they can reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their viability. This partnership will work with coastal-marine fisher communities in selected regions of Asia and Africa to help identify, highlight, and recognize their inherent strengths and develop the capacity to trigger viability elements. Thus, the CSD proposal underscored an urgent need to apply a transdisciplinary perspective that can be used to build on the strengths of coastal-marine fisher communities to respond to the challenges and overcome their vulnerabilities.



### **CSD Reducing Marine Pollution through Land Based Activities: Rangamati**

CSD Organized dialogue on eco-tourism among the youth and local people to motivate and encourage tourists to sustainably manage the solid wastes from their visit. Otherwise, solid waste like plastic bottles and other forms of plastic might increase the pollution of the Bay of Bengal as Kaptai lake is connected with the Bay of Bengal through Karnaphuli river. Organized waste audit at Moanghor residential school to train the students of Moanghor about sustainable solid waste management practices. This will help them to identify different types of non recyclable solid wastes that are harmful for marine ecosystems. Also identify the recyclable wastes for recycling and to conserve the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems.

### **CSD Waste Management Program at Ulab to Reduce Soil Pollution and Flora of Ulab Campus**

CSD took steps to establish segregated bins at the university campus to sort out solid waste at source and identify recyclable waste specially plastic bottles and organic wastes for recycling. Organic wastes are stored to produce vermi-compost for use as fertilizer for the plants grown in the university campus and plastic bottles are sent to Bangladesh Petrochemical Company Limited (BPCL) for recycling. Both of these initiatives help to maintain the soil quality of the university area and a better environment for the existing flora. Regular campus cleaning initiative by the students is helpful to create awareness on solid waste among students. All these will be helpful to reduce the amount of pollutants that are responsible for ocean pollution. Otherwise, these bottles might be washed away to the Bay of Bengal through Buriganga.

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



## CES Study: Private newspapers still most trusted news source

CES completed a half-year long project on Promoting Freedom of Speech and Media Freedom with Dhaka Tribune as partner. This project was sponsored by the British High Commission in Dhaka. The project entailed a quantitative research study, expert interviews with media personnel, and finally, desk research to posit recommendations on how to make various laws and policies governing the media, more amenable to a just society and strong institutions. The final paper launch event was attended by 100 guests at the ULAB Campus A auditorium. A Dhaka Tribune report on the event [here](#).



## MSJ Media Professor Speaks on COVID-19 and Vulnerable Communities

Prof. Jude William Genilo, Head of the Media Studies and Journalism Department, spoke as a resource person at the webinar entitled COVID-19 and Vulnerable Communities on June 24, 2020. The webinar was hosted by the Asia Centre, Thailand. The webinar focused on the hate speech against vulnerable communities due

to COVID-19 and the responses from civil society and government. The other speakers included James Gomez (Asia Centre), Khin Mai Aung (Coalition for Human Rights in Burma), Lutfi Hakim (Independent Communications Professional) and Dhanansara Oranop na Ayutthaya (National Institute of Development Administration).

## MSJ Media Faculty Published Works on Journalism

Media Assistant Professor Abdul Kabil Khan published in 2020 a book that discussed the importance of mobile journalism in Bangladesh. The book is entitled: *Mobile Journalism; Journalism of Our Time*, published by Samogro Prokashon in Dhaka City. Lecturer Aminul Islam and Assistant Professor Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, together with their student Apon Das, wrote a chapter in 2020 entitled “An investigation into risks to mental health of Bangladeshi journalists,” in the book: *Discrimination, Gender Disparity, and Safety Risks in Journalism*. Dr. Sadia Jamil, Barış Çoban, Bora Ataman and Gifty Appieah-Adeji were the book editors.

The book was published by IGI Global, USA.

## MSJ ULAB and NSHM Conference Successfully Concludes

ULAB’s Media Studies and Journalism Department was the Associate Partner of the Kolkata Media Conference 2020. The conference on “Transmedia, Media Narratives, Performances and Storytelling” was held from 6 to 10 November 2020. NSHM Knowledge Campus Kolkata was the organizer of the event. The department presented two papers, one masterclass and one research panel. The following faculty participated in the conference:

Professor Jude Genilo, Dr. Barbaq Quarmal, Shazzad Hossain, Dr. Abdul Kabil Khan, Nandita Tabassum and Aminul Islam.

## **MSJ Nonviolent Communication Workshop Held**

The Media Studies and Journalism Department and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (India) organised an Online Certificate Course on Nonviolent Communication

on 19 November 2020. Following the introductory note of Professor Jude Genilo and GSDS Director Dipanker Shri Gyan, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu conducted the main session. Dr. Kundu has done extensive work and research both nationally and internationally on nonviolent communication, peace and conflict resolution, media and information literacy.

## **17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**



## **CSD Conference on the SDGs by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK**

Joy Bhowmik, Lecturer and Research Associate of the CSD participated in the conference on the role of universities in achieving SDGs by the Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK. Universities play a significant role in the SDG agenda through the operations in curriculum, teaching & learning, students, staff & community engagement, and research & communication. Moreover, universities are pioneers in capacity building, advocacy, and creating evidence from the field. Also, they act as a catalyst in monitoring the progress of the SDG agenda that helps the decision-makers to review and modify the actions of activities. In this regard, strong partnerships among different universities, governments, development agencies, and private sectors may reduce the barriers to the operations of universities and would strengthen the capacity to contribute to the SDG agenda. Universities' contribution to the global and local arena will ensure that no one will be left behind on the global SDG agenda.

## **CSD's Participation at the 1st EWUCRT Research Fair**

A day-long 'Research Fair' was organized by the East West University Center for Research and Training (EWUCRT) at the East West University (EWU) at Aftabnagar, Dhaka on 5th March 2020. The CSD, along with some research organizations and industries of the country, participated in the 'Research Fair' offering their books and publications. On the occasion, speakers highlighted the essentiality of quality research for the advancement of developing countries like Bangladesh. Researchers, industrial personnel, teachers, and students from different institutions participated in the program. The objective of the 'Research Fair' was to showcase the best practices of research and development being carried out in Bangladeshi organizations and educational institutions, with the hope to create a bridge between academia and industry to foster research and innovation for the betterment of our country.

## CSD Scientific Film Festival

CSD, in Collaboration with the Goethe Institute Bangladesh, organized a scientific film festival on 7th December 2020 in order to encourage young people's interest in science: The focus was on the light of the different roles and its applications play in our everyday lives and what this reveals about the nature of the universe. The series of activities stretches from watching science films and further learning about science itself in the form of simple scientific experiments. Furthermore, on 17th December, CSD arranged "Learning through Interactive Games & Roles Playing" event based on SDGs intended for children aged between 5 to 13 years.

## EEE Participated as a Panel Discussant in ICCIT 2020

The 23rd International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT) was held in Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka during 19-21 December 2020. Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain (Head of EEE, ULAB) attended as a panel discussant in the event. The topic was "The Importance of Accreditation in Engineering Education". The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Mohammad H. Rashid, Florida Polytechnic University, USA. Among other discussants Prof. Dr. Anisul Haque (East West University), Prof. Dr. Saiful Amin (BUET) and Prof. Dr. Issam Damaj (Beirut Arab University, Lebanon) were present. The speakers discussed the importance of Accreditation of Engineering programs and the challenges of OBE implementation in higher education, especially in Bangladesh.

Link: <http://iccit.org.bd/2020/speakers/>

## EMBA Partnerships to Launch Founder Institute Program

The ULAB EMBA Program partnered with LightCastle Partners, a leading consulting firm in Bangladesh, and BetterStories, a startup incubator program, to welcome Founder Institute, a Silicon Valley based accelerator to Bangladesh. The incubator program also involved partnering with leading startups in Bangladesh such as Pathao, Shohoz, Praava, as well as government authorities such as the ICT Ministry and the Planning Ministry. The goal of the partnerships was to actualize a hands-on incubator program in Bangladesh focused on early-to-seed stage startups. The scope and diversity of the partnerships was significant and involved 30-35 partners as the ULAB EMBA Program completed the first online accelerator program in Bangladesh, and that too, backed by the Founder's Institute.

## MSJ MOU Signed on Youth Capacity on SDGs

ULAB's Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) Department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed in September 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to build youth capacity in online communications on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the MOU, ULAB and UNDP will jointly organize courses, seminars and workshops on documentary filmmaking and mobile filmmaking.





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