



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



**ULAB**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

# Report on ULAB's Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021



**November 2022  
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

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## Message from the Vice Chancellor

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 (CSD), passed policies ensuring student learning of sustainable development, and undertaken various outreach projects to contribute towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It has also ensured that students across the university imbibe the core values of sustainable development through offering major and minor study programs as well as integrating SDGs into the learning objectives of various courses in the different undergraduate programs.

The Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) Department has a major in Communication for Development and the General Education Program through the CSD offers a minor in Sustainable Development. Based on the Curriculum Manual, every course should be mapped to see its contribution to the SDGs.

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. The university then participated in the last two THE Impact Rankings – in 2021 and 2022. ULAB ranked fourth among Bangladeshi private universities and seventh among all Bangladeshi universities in 2022. It ranked first in the country for SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) categories. Over 1,400 universities from all over the world participated in the ranking.

The report on “ULAB’s Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021” is a testament to our continuous 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-Professor Jude William Genilo, Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman and Ms. Rumana Anam -for their efforts in showcasing ULAB’s commitment to sustainable development. This is the third report that the university has compiled to show its contribution to SDGs. 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 to “be the best university in Bangladesh and a leader in South Asia”. As highlighted in its Mission, 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, 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.

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.

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.

ULAB’s Strategic Plan 2017-2023, further elaborates how the university aims at attaining sustainability, for example, by achieving international accreditation for its sustainability programs that embeds 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 environmental, communication and educational technologies through developing and implementing “Green Plan” and “Sustainable Plan”, respectively.

The center for Sustainable Development (CSD) of the ULAB was established in 2006 and is its oldest research center. It is one of the pioneering research institutions 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 mission 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 2021

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).

In line with its guiding principles, policies, values, and strategies, 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 through the SDG Minor, conducting research, and organizing outreach programs. Similarly, other research centers and departments of 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 to an initiative to capture its collective contribution towards the 17 SDGs based on its wide range of activities done during January-December 2020. In 2022, ULAB will participate in the rankings for the third time and this report from January-December 2021 is proof of the commitment of the university to the SDGs. Through rigorous discussion among the ULAB faculty members, heads of the departments, directors of the research centers, and the administrative officials, and also with the guidance from senior management, including 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.

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

### Editorial Board

Jude William Genilo  
Mohammad Tareque Rahman  
Rumana Liza Anam

### Graphic & Design

Maksudul Islam

## 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
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 Department 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

## SDG 1: No Poverty

Knowledge Sharing: CES-DT Leadership Talk on “Leading with Digital Transformation” with Sonia Bashir Kabir

Centre for Enterprise and Society (CES), ULAB, and Dhaka Tribune jointly organized a Leadership Talk, titled “Leading with Digital Transformation” on 25 February 2021. The session featured Sonia Bashir Kabir, founder, and chair of venture capital company SBK Ventures. It was an hour-long session where Sonia shared her thoughts on leadership, and digital transformation and spoke to a highly engaged and participatory online audience of youth, students, founders, and decision-makers in the startup ecosystem of Bangladesh. She highlighted the importance of common-sense approaches to building startups and underscored how she looks for founders who have a good work ethic. She also added that implementation is a key driver to startup success, not just creative ideas.



CES-DT Leadership Talk on “Leading with Digital Transformation” with Sonia Bashir Kabir (Knowledge Sharing)

The event falls under SDG 1 No Poverty, particularly sub goal 1.4.1 for Local Start-up assistance as it provides information on key characteristics of startups and entrepreneurs that are sought by venture capital firms while investing and how local startups can attract financial assistance.

This Event Falls also under SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, (8.3, 8.6), and is part of our larger initiative on generating data and insights about entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. CES is a leading entrepreneurship research center and a co-founder of a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneurship training program and incubation program called the Founder Institute Accelerator Program in Bangladesh. CES is committed to SDG 8 and its constituents and the leadership talk contributes to this goal by promoting the development of a sustainable ecosystem for startups that can reduce unemployment and create more decent jobs.

The Leadership Talk also falls under SDG 9, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, (9. b) because here she talks about digital transformation in the tech industry which is in support of domestic technological development in developing countries.

Press Release on DT: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/education/2021/02/28/webinar-on-leadership-with-sonia-bashir-held>

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabemba/videos/2870859063241639>

### CSD hosts a Webinar on Earth Day

On World Earth Day 22 April 2021, CSD has organized a webinar titled “Ecofriendly entrepreneurs for restoring our Earth”. This event was organized to celebrate Earth Day and to remind everyone the

importance of taking care of our planet. This year's event was organized by inviting a few of the eco-friendly entrepreneurs in Bangladesh who created their business to bring awareness among people through their work.

### **CES Leadership Talk on “LDC Graduation and Aspirations for 2041”**

On 30 September 2021, Centre for Enterprise and Society (CES), ULAB organized a Leadership Talk titled, “LDC Graduation and Aspirations for 2041: Perspective of a Private Sector Leader” which featured Asif Ibrahim, chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), and vice chairman of New Age Group of Industries. It touched upon Bangladesh's journey and growth, and the drivers of sustainable growth that need to be unlocked to achieve that.

The event fits under SDG 1, No Poverty (1.4.4) as it discusses Bangladesh's journey of poverty alleviation particularly among groups that once fell below the poverty line. The discussion revolves around the government's initiatives to establish access to key resources like electricity, promotion of MSMEs, and national goals that nudged the country towards LDC graduation as well as our Vision 2041. It elaborates on the policy areas that need to be strengthened for Bangladesh to succeed as a developing country.

This particular event on LDC graduation of Bangladesh also falls in line with SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, (8.1, 8.2, and 8.10). It disseminates information about Bangladesh's economic progress over the last three decades and its move towards a developing country status. The discussion elaborates on Bangladesh's success in reaching better levels of economic productivity, technical and digital advancements, and development in high-value-added and labor-intensive industries. It also discusses policy matters like improving the capabilities of domestic financial institutions to encourage and increase access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all.

The event comes under SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (9.2, 9.3, 9. b) since it promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization, increasing resource access of small-scale industrial and other firms, and domestic technological development, research, and innovation.

The event fits within SDG 10: Reduce Inequality (10.4, 10.5, 10. A) because it promotes official development aid and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, improved regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, strengthened execution of such regulations, and adoption of policies, particularly fiscal, wage, and social protection policies, to gradually attain more equality.

The areas of SDGs 8, 9, and 10 are directly related to CES's research priorities, whereby the center promotes research to encourage FDI, entrepreneurship, and mobile financial services in the country. The recent whitepaper titled “Mitigating the Dollar Crisis in Bangladesh: Policy Recommendations for the Near and Long Term” published in September 2022 contributes further to knowledge cultivation in achieving the SDGs.

Press Release on DT: <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/event/2021/09/30/ces-leadership-talk-for-summer-2021-held>

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/DhakaTribune/videos/912414546298402>



## Training: MBA Students Train Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Partnership with WorldFish

During the 2nd quarter of 2021, ULAB MBA program partnered with International NGO WorldFish to train 20 female MBA students on rural enterprise promotion and business development. After the three weeks long training, the female MBA students then went to the southern districts of Bhola and Jhalakathi to work with rural women entrepreneurs from economically marginalized fishermen community to help them better manage and expand their business. Each female MBA student worked with three rural women entrepreneurs to train on cash flow management, bookkeeping, personal selling and business process management. The female MBA students stayed in the field for two weeks working with them to develop a long term understanding and trust with the women entrepreneurs. Under the project, the female MBA students provided mentoring support to women entrepreneurs till December 2021. However, some of the MBA students are still providing support to the women entrepreneurs over the telephone. This was done for two reasons: first to encourage female MBA students to contribute towards poverty reduction through supporting women entrepreneurs for economically and socially marginalized rural households, and second, to help the female MBA students learn resilience and real challenges of business management in a rural context.

Link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/experiential-learning-the-ulab-mba-program-helping-women-realise-their-leadership-potential-2961001>

## CSE Fest 2021

Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in active collaboration with ULAB Computing Society (UComSoc) and in association with ULAB Alumni Association hosted a festival “CSE Fest 2021” for upholding spirit of computing and re-energizing spirit in post-pandemic time for students and teachers and also celebrating new year 2021 in the permanent campus at Mohammadpur on 23 January 2021. Professor H. M. Jahirul Haque, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Professor Sazzad Hossain, Honorable Member, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh as the Chief Guest, Professor D. M. Kaykobad, Distinguished Professor and a learning of programming contest in Bangladesh as the Guest of Honor were present.



CSE Fest 2021

Link: <https://cse.ulab.edu.bd/2021/11/18/cse-fest-2021>

## CES publishes white paper on “Digital Credit in Bangladesh: COVID and Beyond”

The current condition of digital credit at the time of COVID-19 is examined in this relevant white paper by CES experts, published on 21 March 2021. In Bangladesh, fintech has made significant progress in recent years. Digital credit, which is a subset of larger fintech-related concerns, is more important than ever because small businesses do not have bank accounts and rely on digital credit channels to acquire stimulus funding. For banks, startups, and microfinance institutions (MFIs), as well as huge

conglomerates, digital credit is becoming increasingly important for supply-chain financing. This paper is based on findings from the ULAB Digital Credit Webinar Series, the Digital Finance Forum Bangladesh (of which ULAB is a University Partner), a2i, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). 45 business leaders discussed various aspects of digital credit as part of this series.

Due to its focus on developing and implementing policies to promote sustainable tourism that supports local culture and products while also creating jobs, this paper falls under SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.9, 8.10) as well as SDG 1: No Poverty. It also discusses building the capacity of domestic financial institutions to promote and expand access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all.

The discussion in this paper relates to facilitating sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through improved financial, technological, and technical support to a least developed country, like Bangladesh, and falls under SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (9. a, 9. b). Assuring a supportive policy environment for, among other things, industrial diversification and the value addition of commodities, it also supports domestic technological development, research, and innovation in emerging nations.

Link: [http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/03/Digital-Credit-Bangladesh-COVID-and-Beyond\\_SAJID-AMIT\\_OLIUR-RAHMAN.pdf](http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/03/Digital-Credit-Bangladesh-COVID-and-Beyond_SAJID-AMIT_OLIUR-RAHMAN.pdf)

### **BBA Program Holds Event on the Future of Work After Covid-19**

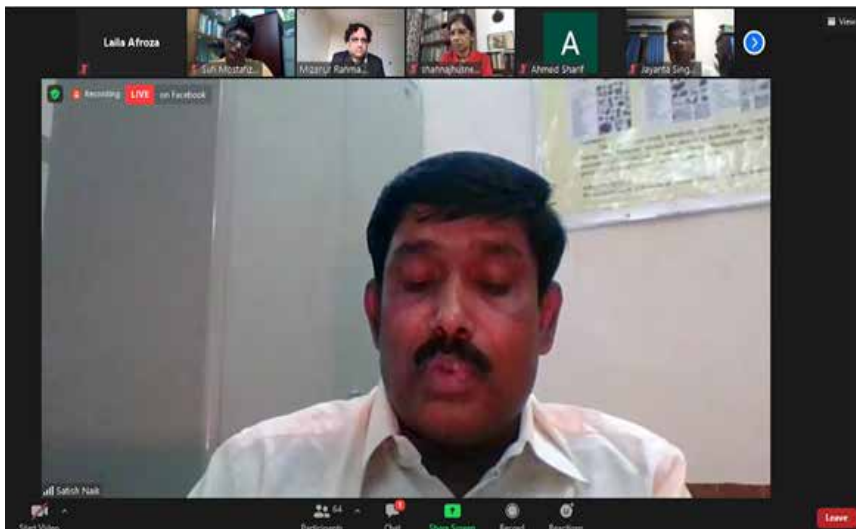
On 9 August 2021, a discussion was held on the above topic by Mr. Maruful A. Chowdhury from Robi Axiata, Dr. Faisal Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of the USB and Mr. Abu Rasel from Career Services Office.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed many ways of our known surroundings and has surely made changes in our way of working. Pandemics like this directly affect economic activities leading to very high economic losses throwing many households into poverty. Maintaining a collaborative communal effort and mitigating social challenges can therefore have a great positive impact on our country's economic and employment sectors. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is a prerequisite for sustainable development, which can contribute to improved livelihoods for people around the world. Economic growth can lead to new and better employment opportunities and provide greater economic security for all. Moreover, rapid growth, especially among the least developed and developing countries, can help them reduce the wage gap relative to developed countries, thereby diminishing glaring inequalities between the rich and poor.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=591416655570362&set=a.107634593948573>

## SDG 2: Zero Hunger

### Archaeobotanical Rice: Disentangling Forgotten Human Past of Early Bangladesh



Archaeobotanical Rice: Disentangling Forgotten Human Past of Early Bangladesh

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) organized a webinar titled “Archaeobotanical rice: disentangling forgotten human past of early Bangladesh’ on 11 April 2021. The seminar commenced with the welcome speech by the CAS Director and Head of the Department of General Education Professor Dr. Shahnah Husne Jahan. The keynote speaker was Jahangirnagar University Associate Professor Md. Mizanur Rahman. In the webinar, he Rahman discussed his works on

ancient domesticated rice. His research revealed three Asian domesticated rice that could have been cultivated in early Bangladesh, and of which, *Oryza Sativa Aus* could have originated in Bangladesh through the introgressive hybridization with other two Asian rice variants Japonica, and Indica. His research has further revealed that medieval period rice cultivation was based on wet rice which was responsible for population growth, expansion of agriculture and emergence of trade and commerce along with urbanization. The seminar was followed by compulsive discussion by Dr. Satish Naik from Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, India, and by Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Professor of Archaeology and the Executive Director of Oitihya Onneswan (an archaeological research center). Dr. Satish states that the discovery of the origin of Aus rice in Bangladesh is a significant discovery for botanical study in Bangladesh archaeology.

Please see the news published in Daily New Age:

Link: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/136027/ulab-holds-seminar-on-rice-origin>

### CSD organizes a weeklong campaign on restoring our Earth

On the occasion of the World Earth Day 2021 celebration, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC), in collaboration with Farming Future Bangladesh, under the supervision of CSD-ULAB, has successfully organized a week-long campaign titled ‘Restore Our Earth’. This was a social media, and home-based campaign where 20 youths from 110 applicants were selected from different educational institutions and learned to grow at least five edible plants (mix of vegetables and medicinal plants) at their home to consume in their daily lives. Also, they were guided to install waste segregated bins at home to recycle the recyclable solid wastes, including paper, plastic, and organic waste. They had to post all the evidence of their activities from their Facebook profile by tagging five of their friends as a challenge to do the same as part of their social behavior change communication practices.



## SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

### Better access to Nutrition and Health and Hygiene Products

ULAB MBA Program partnered with EU funded and CORDAID and RDRS implemented SONGO Project in the northwest part of Bangladesh, to assist the organizations to create a system through which the women and girl child can have better access to nutrition and health and hygiene products. The ULAB MBA team led by its Director, also worked with women who are trying to sell nutritious



Better access to nutrition and Health Hygiene Products

products, sanitary napkins and other health and hygiene products door to door in the rural areas to help them to develop their confidence and other soft skills as well as their business acumen. They were also taught about the social power structure that creates the gender inequality and how to work in a family or if required individually to challenge and work through this power structure and achieve systematic changes. This programme is also applicable under SDG 5 as it deals with women's issues.

Research: Center for Enterprise and Society publishes a white paper on “Work from Home: Does Working Remotely help or hinder Productivity?”

On 12 July 2021 CES published a white paper on Work from Home. How sustainable is work-from-home (WFH), is one of the concerns this essay aims to address. During WFH, does employee and company productivity decline, stay the same, or perhaps go up? Does this differ by industry? The question of productivity during WFH and how it relates to the type of work being done, the setting of the home office, and the work management style of both the employer and the employee are covered in research on the subject as well as numerous accounts and articles on WFH. To clarify how WFH impacts productivity, this white paper takes research that has been undertaken globally into account. This essay also considers WFH about Bangladesh.

This paper aligns with SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being, (3.3, 3.9, 3.d), as it relates to eradicating epidemics like AIDS, TB, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases; fighting hepatitis, water-borne illnesses, and other communicable diseases; and significantly reducing the number of deaths and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination. Additionally, it talks about enhancing the ability of all nations, particularly emerging ones, to handle national and international health hazards through early warning systems, risk reduction, and management.

Due to its focus on promoting safe and secure working conditions for all employees, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment, this paper also falls under SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.8).

Link: [http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/07/CES-Current-Events\\_WFH\\_Nusaiba-Hossain\\_Sajid-Amit\\_July-12-2021.pdf](http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/07/CES-Current-Events_WFH_Nusaiba-Hossain_Sajid-Amit_July-12-2021.pdf)

## **Yoga Session**

The Department of CSE had organized a YOGA session for the faculties and admin officers on 21 June 2021 for their good health and well-being. The session was interactive and enjoyable.

ELT through a Pandemic: A Call for a Change of Mindset

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

Dr. Rabia Hos talk focused on the importance of using a social and emotional approach and growth mindset to approach distance learning during the pandemic. She acknowledged that many teachers are struggling with teaching online – and pointed out that trial and error is a necessary part of this adjustment. She gave importance to acknowledging the extraordinary and said that the real point is to provide a rich experience to all learners who are now without “traditional” teachers standing beside them in class.

Links: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/04/20/deh-spring-2021-seminar-talk-dr-rabia-hos>

<https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/748968599072574>.

## **Virtual Workshop: Make your own Mask**

On 20 May 2021, ULAB Sustainable Development Club (USDC) and clothing brand Ratnavali jointly organized a virtual workshop called “Make Your Own Mask”. About 50 students from different schools, colleges, and universities of Bangladesh participated in this national-level virtual workshop.

Joy Bhowmik, Advisor, USDC and Lecturer, CSDULAB, A.FM Moniruzzaman, Assistant Professor, ULAB, and Raka Nashin Nawar, Director and Ad-maker, Apple Box, were present during the mask making session.

## ULAB-GED holds a Webinar on Labour Trafficking in Bangladesh

Department of General Education (GED), ULAB organized a webinar titled “Health and Wellbeing: Labour Trafficking in Bangladesh-A Case Study” on 14 July 2021. The webinar began with the opening remarks of the Head of the Department Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan. Dr. Ahmed Abid, Humanities and Development Research Initiative (HADRI), Western Sydney University in Australia was the keynote speaker and ULAB Professor Dr. Mohammed Omar Ejaz Rahman, Director, Center for Health, Population and Development, ULAB was the discussant in the webinar. The speaker Dr. Ahmed Abid opined that an employer should not only receive services from the workers but also needs to ensure a healthy and safe work environment for them.

Link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/ulab-holds-webinar-labour-trafficking-276367>

## Department of EEE and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) organizes webinar on “Machine Learning Applications in Healthcare”

A webinar on “Machine Learning Applications in Healthcare”, was jointly organized by the Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC) on 11 April 2021 (Sunday). Dr. Mohammad Enamul H. Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering Qatar University, Qatar was the resource person of this webinar. The resource person discussed the application of Machine Learning for the detection of COVID 19 and severity investigation with the help of chest X-ray images from his research works. He mentioned the effectiveness of Chest X-rays and CT scans to identify the COVID 19 affected people compared to the RT-PCR tests as RT-PCR test results sometimes can be misleading. He also discussed the possibility of Machine learning applications to find out other diseases.

Students from the Department of EEE and ETE joined the webinar. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Professor, and Head of Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), along with all the faculty members of the Department of EEE joined the program. The webinar was highly informative. This successful webinar ended with a question-answer session between the resource person and the attendees.

[Department of EEE and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club \(UERC\) successfully organized webinar on “Machine Learning Applications in Healthcare”](#) | [Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

## Webinar: “A Corona Story” – Diasporic Experiences of the Pandemic (Event)



Webinar: “A Corona Story” – Diasporic Experiences of the Pandemic (Event)

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a webinar titled “A Corona Story: Diasporic Experiences of the Pandemic, by Dr. Chris Tang, Lecturer in International Education & Applied Linguistics, King’s College London, in association with the English departments of NSU, BRACU, and IUB, and coordinated by Professor Shaila Sultana. The webinar was held online on 22 January 2022. An animation film was launched at the webinar. The study and film offered insights into a different kind of applied linguistics through an exploration of the roles of language, family life and community in how UK Bangladeshis had to learn about and live with the coronavirus. The project team included Dr. Chris Tang, Julie Begum and Ansar Ahmed Ullah, Mrs. Rajahan Begum, one of the project participants, and Diwas Bisht, the film’s animator.

Link: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/2022/01/22/webinar-a-corona-story-diasporic-experiences-pandemic>



## SDG 4: Quality Education

### CES Leadership Talk on “The Value of a Liberal Arts Education”

**CES**  
Center for Enterprise and Society

**Dhaka Tribune**

**ULAB**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

**THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION**

**CES LEADERSHIP TALK**

**SUNDAY | DEC 5 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**SAJID AMIT**  
Moderator  
Director, Center for Enterprise and Society  
Director, ULAB EMBA Program

**Dr. OMAR AMIR**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor, Mount Sinai  
MD, Stanford University; MS, Harvard University

Dhaka Tribune's Facebook Page

CES Leadership Talk on “The Value of a Liberal Arts Education” with Dr. Omar Amir (Knowledge Shar-

On 5 December 2021, CES held a session featured Dr. Omar Amir, Medical Director at Mount Sinai Morningside Hospital New York City, and Clinical Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine. Dr. Amir is a graduate of Harvard University, Stanford University, and Dartmouth College. The discussion revolved around what “liberal arts” is, what it isn’t, how it is prevalent among the best universities in the United States, and how his liberal arts background has helped him become a better doctor, leader, and decision-maker. He also cautioned students against the impulse to “over-specialize”.

This activity falls under SDG 4, Quality Education, (4.7), as it promotes a higher quality of education enabling all students to have marketable skills and knowledge of sustainable development. It emphasizes holistic education on sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship, and an awareness of cultural diversity and the role that culture plays in advancing sustainability.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/DhakaTribune/videos/1352874515132087>

### ULAB’s Media Studies and Journalism Program Obtains International Accreditation

The Academic Council of the Swiss-based Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management (GA) has accredited the Bachelor of Social Science in Media Studies and Journalism programme of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). GA President and CEO Justin Green (together with GA Delegate-at-large and Academic Council Member Angel Alloza) officially presented the accreditation certificate to ULAB Media Studies and Journalism Department Head Prof. Jude William Genilo via Zoom platform on 28 July 2021. In a report, Dr. Amybel Sanchez de Walther, Chair of GA’s Academic Council and Dean of the Facultad de Ciencias de la Comunicacion,

Tursimoy Psicologia of Universidad San Martin de Porres (Peru), mentioned that the ULAB undergraduate programme is substantially in compliance with the GA Accreditation Assessment Guidelines and Policy 11 of the GA Accreditation of Education and Training Qualifications.

Link: <https://en.prothomalo.com/youth/education/masterclass-on-science-and-art-of-storytelling-held-at-ulab>



Inauguration Ceremony of Competitive Programming Lab and Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning Research Lab

### **Inauguration Ceremony of Competitive Programming Lab and Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning Research Lab**

Two dedicated labs were inaugurated on Thursday 11 February 2021. The Competitive Programming Lab (for students to nurture problem solving for programming context on 7X24 basis) and Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning Research Lab (for all NLP and research works of colleagues and students) were inaugurated by the VC of ULAB, Special Advisor to Board of Trustees and the

Pro-Vice Chancellor in presence of the Registrar, colleagues and ULAB Computer and Programming Society members.

Link: <https://cse.ulab.edu.bd/2021/11/18/inauguration-ceremony-competitive-programming-lab-and-natural-language-processing-and>

### **Liberal Arts Education for Sustainable Tomorrow**

The Department of General Education of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized three online programs for Quality Education of the students in 2021. The dates were 8 April, 8 July and 4 November, respectively. The distinguished professors of home and abroad highlighted the significance of liberal arts education for a sustainable tomorrow.

Links: <https://www.banglanews24.com/education/news/bd/868164.details>

<https://www.risingbd.com/english/campus/news/83450>

### **GED Online workshop on teaching and learning**

The Department of General Education, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online teaching and learning workshop for faculties of the department on 22 October 2021. The program focused on the various online teaching and learning tools to engage students in their online class activities.



GED Online workshop on teaching and learning



### **Professor Salimullah Khan translates a book**

Professor Salimullah Khan of the Department of General Education translated a book titled *Uhara Batashe: Kabita (1958-1980)* by Panty Sariksky, which is published by Modhupok, Dhaka.

### **Professor Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain delivers a plenary talk in International Conference**

Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Dept. of EEE, delivered a plenary talk in IEEE International Youth Conference on Radio Electronics, Electrical and Power Engineering (3rd REEPE 2021), Moscow, Russia on 11 March 2021. The title of his talk was: “Outcome Based Education and Importance of Accreditation in Engineering Education”.

Link: <https://eee.ulab.edu.bd/2021/03/16/professor-dr-m-mofazzal-hossain-head-dept-eee-delivered-a-plenary-talk-international>

### **DEH Faculty Workshop on “Strategies for Publication in Indexed Journals”**

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a workshop titled “Strategies for Publication in Indexed Journals” on 19 August 2021 for faculty members’ professional development. The workshop facilitator was Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, PhD Fellow at the School of Languages, Literacies and Translation, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Mr. Rahman’s areas of specialization include macro-level language policy, curriculum development and implementation to micro- level classroom language teaching. He has published more than 30 journal articles, indexed on the Web of Science and SCOPUS databases.

The event was inaugurated with the opening remarks of Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, where she noted the importance of research and the pitfalls of the publication process. She also wrapped up the event with a vote of thanks to the speaker and the audience, which comprised faculty members from all departments of ULAB.

### **Graduate Student Seminar**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized its first Graduate Student Seminar on 26 August 2021. Five graduate students selected by respective course teachers, presented their papers and projects which they worked on in the spring semester.

The seminar started with a short yet enlightening speech given by Professor Kaiser Hamidul Haq. He emphasized on the importance of this seminar saying that it will allow the students to exhibit their ability of presenting lectures and research papers.

The program came to an end after a brief yet compelling question and answer session where the participants of the program asked various questions to the presenters, which was followed by a concluding remark from Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities.

### **DEH Workshop on Writing Statements of Purpose**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a workshop on writing statements of purpose (SoPs) for students who aspire to pursue higher studies abroad. The online workshop was held on 14 August 2021.

The workshop was conducted by Qazi Mustabeen Noor, Lecturer, DEH. The purpose of the workshop was to demonstrate how to write an effective SoP to help students who are planning to apply for higher

studies as well as those who are planning to apply for jobs. Knowing how to write an effective SoP can help with writing cover letters and practicing the elevator pitch to impress an interviewer.

At the end of the workshop, Ms. Noor advised the students to explore their chosen or selected foreign universities from their 3rd year of university as this will help them to pursue their future goals in a more planned and organized manner. The workshop was attended mainly by DEH students but there were also student participants from the other departments.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/12/13/deh-organizes-workshop-%E2%80%9Cwriting-statements-purpose%E2%80%9D>

### 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 2 to 4 September 2021. The conference was

organized by the Center for Language Studies (CLS) and the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.

Honorable Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC), Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah, and Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Member, Board of Trustees, ULAB, were present as the Special Guests.

The Keynote Speaker of the conference was Distinguished Professor Alastair Pennycook, Professor Emeritus at the University of Technology Sydney and Research Professor at the MultiLing Centre at the University of Oslo. Through an insightful discussion, the keynote speaker expressed that Englishes are entangled with social, political, cultural, and material realities of individual and collective lives and attain meanings by historical precedents, and with reference to multisensory, multimodal and multilingual resources available in different times and spaces.

The keynote speech, plenaries, roundtable discussions, and the panel discussion are available at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiWD6sBSXcOQVZAidTYlNRxGnXX8ChAXR>.

Event page: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/entangled-englishes>





International Conference: Entangled Englishes in Translocal Spaces (Research, Event, and Knowledge Sharing)

### **DEH Webinar on “Design-based Research: Bridging Research and Practice”**

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a webinar on 16 September 2021, with guest speaker Mohammad Shams Ud Doha, a PhD scholar in Learning Design and Technology at Purdue University. The webinar covered various topics to help participants understand Design-based Research or DBR, and how academic research should be focused around practical and real-life implications.

The speaker was introduced by the emcee, Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana. Mohammad Shams Ud Doha is the recipient of Purdue’s prestigious Andrews Fellowship. He has worked as an Instructional Designer for Purdue Repository for Online Teaching and Learning (PORTAL) and the Para-impact Project at Purdue University. He currently serves as President of the Purdue Association of Learning Design & Technology (PALDT), a student association within the Learning Design and Technology Program.

The webinar audience comprised students and faculty members of ULAB as well as participants from different institutions.

### **Forum with Prof. Rafiqul Islam: DEH Curriculum Integration Program Spring 2021**

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

In honor of the fiftieth year of the independence of Bangladesh, the theme for Spring 2021 is “Fifty Years of Bangladesh’s Independence: Language, Literature and Culture.” Typically, the department holds two forums with speakers who are experts in the area of the chosen themes. Students are given an

overview in the first forum and a more focused approach in the second so that they can design projects and presentations to reflect their understanding in connection with the courses they are enrolled in.

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

### **Scholars Program Launched at DEH**

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

Following a rigorous application process and interview, seven DEH students from 3rd year onwards were selected to begin the program in Spring 2021. These students will have the opportunity for better intellectual engagement through specialized skill-building workshops, higher level course audits, guided participation in conferences, and other academic pursuits. By participating in this program, the selected students will have a better understanding of the liberal arts philosophy and create a large network of learners so that they can draw upon the resources of collaborative work. They will also learn how to work with professionals in different capacities and fields.

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/videos/289868285841973>

<https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/03/25/scholars-program-launched-deh#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20Scholars,covered%20by%20the%20standard%20curriculum>.

### **DEH Alumni Talk: “Aiming to Study Abroad”**

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

Rebeka Badiozzaman, a Learning Technology and Change Management Consultant (Instructional Design, E-learning, and Digital transformation) with her own consulting firm, and Mohammad Shams Ud Duha shared their experiences about the various aspects of studying abroad, in Canada and the US respectively, beginning with the preparation phase. They stressed the importance of the Statement of Purpose where students should highlight their personalities and weave a story by building connections among their different experiences.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/deh.ulab.edu.bd/2021/03/27/deh-alumni-talk-%E2%80%9Caiming-study-abroad%E2%80%9D>

### **“Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Future Directions**

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

Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana began her presentation on “Online Teacher Identity Development: What We Need to Know” with a reflection on the identity of the teacher, specifically, if there is any difference between the traditional teacher identity and online teacher identity. Teachers from various institutions shared their challenges regarding online teaching such as plagiarism, interaction, non-human interaction, assessment difficulties that have been affecting their online teacher identity in the current time. Dr. Sultana took these comments into account and discussed how, in the US and UK, online teaching has been practiced for long and that has helped tremendously during the pandemic.



“Theory and Practice in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Future Directions (Event and Knowledge Sharing)”

Links: <https://www.facebook.com/125162620861384/videos/544858856510302>

### **ULAB Afghan Colloquium 2021: Afghanistan in Critical Conversations**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized an international virtual colloquium on “From Kabuliwala to the Fall of Kabul: Afghanistan in Popular Imagination” on 30 to 31 October 2021. The first of its kind in the new reality of a fallen Kabul, the academic event was applauded for its timeliness and a nuanced understanding of a political phenomenon with a tremendous popular appeal. The event hosted participants from all over the world—those who responded to the concept note circulated just a month before the event. It was the urgency of the political situation that made the event come into being in the first place, and the participation of delegates from around the world evidenced the need for critical conversations on Afghanistan and its place in popular imagination. In addition, the colloquium also hosted an inter-university creative contest for university students on the theme of “Flight from Kabul” to critically engage them in this discourse. Drawing from creative and critical domains, the event has truly demonstrated what it has put forth as its theme: “critical empathy.”

The videos of the different sessions can be viewed here.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/11/11/ulab-afghan-colloquium-2021-afghanistan-critical-conversations>

### **Student Workshop: “Strategies for Research and Writing”**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a two-part workshop titled “Strategies for Research and Writing.” The first part, focusing on Academic Writing, was held during the Summer 2021 semester, and the second part, focusing on Research, was held on November 20, 2021. Both the sessions were conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of DEH, The aim of the workshop was to acquaint the students of ULAB with the standard methods and strategies of approaching, conducting and presenting research papers, proposals, and reports in an organized manner.

Part II of the workshop reiterated the ideas presented in Part I which included the dos and don'ts of formal writing. Part II focused on developing a research topic and research questions, conducting a background study, literature review, and using primary and secondary sources.

### **Research Adda at DEH**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a “Research Adda: Choosing a Viable Topic for Research and Selecting an Academic Journal for Publication” on 2 December 2021.

Facilitated by Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer at DEH, the Adda was attended by 80+ participants, who are either doing their thesis or in their penultimate semester at University. Faculty members from different disciplines also participated in the Adda.

The objective of this Adda was to enlighten participants, especially young researchers, about the factors required for choosing a certain research topic starting with its usefulness, how much information is available, if this information can be extracted, how affordable is the chosen research methodology going to be for the researcher, and so on.

### **Lecture Series on Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Inaugural Episode**

The inaugural episode of the DEH Lecture Series on Applied Linguistics and TESOL, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, was held on 4 December 2021. The speakers at the inaugural episode were Professor Shaila Sultana, PhD, Department of English Language, IML, University of Dhaka, and former Advisor to CLS, ULAB, and Professor Muhammed Shahriar Haque, PhD, Professor, Department of English and Executive Director, EWU Center for Research and Training, East West University.

The objective of this lecture series is to disseminate knowledge and encourage participants, particularly young researchers and practitioners of Applied Linguistics and TESOL, to broaden their ideas and update their knowledge of teaching methods that can be used in the classroom to make learning of language more fun and interactive.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0I4luVu8p8>.

### **A Flipped Approach to Help Students Write Stronger Essays**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a talk on 19 December 2021, with Shamael Mortuza, a highly accomplished alumna of the department. The talk, “Essay Grading Guidelines: A Flipped Approach to Help Students Write Stronger Essays,” focused on providing guidance to students to improve the quality of their academic writing.

Shamael Mortuza recently graduated with an MA in English Literature from Queen's University, Canada. She earned her BA in English and MA in English Literature and Cultural Studies from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Ms. Mortuza worked as a Teaching Assistant during her time at Queens. Instead of discussing dos and don'ts of academic essay writing during her talk, she took an interesting approach by sharing her grading criteria with the students. She discussed elaborately what teachers look for when reading student papers.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/deh.ulab.edu.bd/2021/12/19/deh-alumni-talk-%E2%80%99Cessay-grading-guidelines-a-flipped-approach-help-students-write-stronger>

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH

Sunday | December 13, 2021  
7:00 PM

**DEH ALUMNI TALK**

**ESSAY GRADING GUIDELINES: A FLIPPED APPROACH TO HELP STUDENTS WRITE STRONGER ESSAYS**

Essays are probably an unavoidable part of tertiary education, especially for those studying subjects of English or Arts and Humanities. Essay writing can be challenging as it requires both creativity and logical planning. I feel it is helpful for students to learn a teacher's grading criteria. Therefore, the aim of my talk is to communicate the dos and don'ts of essay writing. Instead of talking about basic essay types or structures, I will delve into the characteristics of a student paper from each letter grade (A+ to D). My hope is that my guidelines will help students improve the quality of their essays.

**BIO**

Shamsul Marhata recently graduated with an MA in English Literature from Queen's University. She earned her BA in English and MA in English Literature and Cultural Studies from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Ms. Marhata worked as a Teaching Assistant during her time at Queen's. Furthermore, she was volunteerism, good mediator and worked with female students for both her BA and MA, results at ULAB's 5th Convocation. She currently resides in Toronto, Ontario.

**Shamsul Marhata**  
DEH Alumna, Batch 191

Sponsored by  
U.L.A.B. English Club

A Flipped Approach to Help Students Write Stronger Essays”

## Student Workshop: Speaking Skills

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online student workshop on “Speaking Skills” on 9 January 2022. The workshop was conducted by Md. Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, DEH.

The aim of the session was to highlight the importance of speaking skills and help students understand the ways to hold the audience’s attention. There was a lot of emphasis on getting the audience involved in the discussion while keeping the structure organized. Some non-verbal aspects of being a good speaker include wearing formal attire, changing facial expressions, movements and gestures, etc.

Some other tips to overcome stage fright were suggested. These include taking deep breaths, exhibiting confidence, positive self-affirmations, avoiding errors and managing eye contact. The tips and tricks mentioned in the workshop can be used to enhance speaking skills, especially for course presentations.

Link: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/2022/01/09/deh-student-workshop-speaking-skills>

## Student Workshop: Applying for Higher Studies

A webinar on “Applying for Higher Studies” was organized by the Department of English and Humanities on 13 January 2022. Facilitated by Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities (DEH), the workshop ran for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes and was attended by 85+ participants. The objective of this webinar was to guide participants about the crucial factors that must be considered when applying for higher studies abroad. Dr. Sultana also shared some personal anecdotes about her experiences and gave useful insights regarding the importance of choosing a university and a career after thorough research. She highlighted how every practical aspect of life must be taken into consideration before making the final call since finance and mode of survival are very difficult and can vary from one individual to another based on their personality.

### (1) Online Teaching Learning: Integrating Technology with Pedagogy

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) ULAB

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman PhD

**Training Theme:** Online Teaching Learning: Integrating Technology with Pedagogy

**Session:** Series of workshop (14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021)

**Objective:** To enhance the online teaching capacity of the college teachers who are based remotely to support them during the pandemic.

**Number of recipients:** Roughly 40 college teachers of 11 colleges from two remote districts.

### (2) Workshop on “Techniques/tools for Greater Student Engagement

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) ULAB

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mamiza Haq, the University of Queensland

**Training Theme:** Techniques/tools for Greater Student Engagement

**Session:** workshop (22 April 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to discuss how to engage (and retain) students in the learning process especially when teaching is done online. The webinar recognized this as a critical question as the sudden shift to a different educational paradigm can leave some students disoriented and unmoored from the learning practices.

Empathy and flexibility, student-teacher partnership, online teaching tools, innovative assessment techniques for example were some of the agendas covered in the webinar.

**Number of recipients:** Total 147 academic and related admin staffs were trained.



CETL Workshop on “Techniques/tools for Greater Student Engagement

### (3) Workshop on Moodle (Learning Management System)

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) ULAB

**Facilitator:** Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor ULAB.

**Training Theme:** Moodle

**Session:** Workshop (16 February 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train the academics Moodle, ULAB’s official learning management system. During the pandemic ULAB conducted major portion of its teaching-learning activities through Moodle.

**Number of recipients:** Total 24 fresh academics were trained.

### (4) New Faculty Orientation: Spring 2021

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) ULAB

**Facilitator:** Senior academics of ULAB including the VC and Pro VC.

**Training Theme:** New Faculty Orientation

**Session:** Workshop (18 March 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train the newly appointed academics at ULAB’s regarding various teaching techniques along with informing them some of the relevant policy matters. Various topics were covered including- Discussion on Ideal teaching session (learning objectives,



student engagement, lecture review, assessment; Outcome-based Education, Blooms Taxonomy, Accreditation; Online Teaching-Learning; Discussion on Assessment (Focusing learning objectives for assessment, Understanding normal curve, various learning competencies, etc.  
**Number of recipients:** Total 10 fresh newly appointed academics were trained.

### **(5) Workshop on Google Classroom**

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Director CETL and Mr. Sharif Ahmed, Senior Lecturer GED

**Training Theme:** Workshop on Google Classroom

**Session:** Workshop (18 February 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train the General Education Department academics Google Classroom, ULAB's second official learning management system. During the pandemic ULAB conducted all a significant number of course teaching-learning activities through Google Classroom.

**Number of recipients:** Total 9 fresh newly appointed academics were trained.

### **(6) Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics-Session 1**

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

**Facilitator:** Dr. Christine Slade, University of Queensland

**Training Theme:** Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics

**Session:** Series of Workshops-First Session (29 July 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train academics using assessment rubrics to make student's evaluation more effective and transparent.

**Number of recipients:** Total 47 academics were trained.



Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics-Session 1

### **(7) Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics-Session 2**

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mohammad Golam Jamil, Leads Trinity College

**Training Theme:** Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics

**Session:** Series of Workshops-Second Session (5 August 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train academics using assessment rubrics to make student's evaluation more effective and transparent.

**Number of recipients:** Total 32 academics were trained.

### **(8) Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics-Session 3**

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

**Facilitator:** Dr. Hasibul Chowdhury, University of Queensland

**Training Theme:** Seminar on using Assessment Rubrics

**Session:** Series of Workshops-Third Session (2 September 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to train academics using assessment rubrics to make student's evaluation more effective and transparent.

**Number of recipients:** Total 20 academics were trained.

## (9) Workshop on Sustainability in Curriculum

**Organized by:** Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

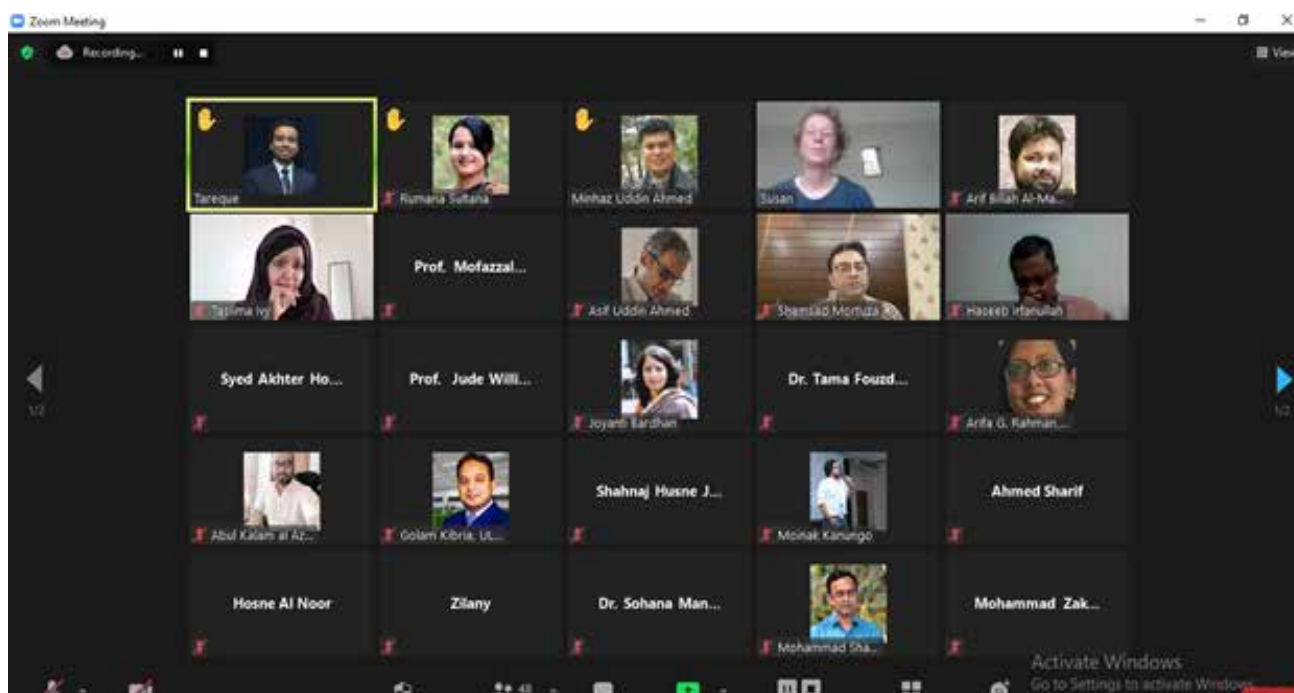
**Facilitator:** Dr. Susan Brown, University of Manchester

**Training Theme:** Workshop on Sustainability in Curriculum

**Session:** Series of Workshops-Second Session (31 July 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the session was to help ULAB colleagues to understand and conceptualize how to incorporate sustainability in their day to day teaching, learning and administrative work.

**Number of recipients:** Total 48 academics were trained.



Workshop on Sustainability in Curriculum

## (10) CETL director discusses Quality Online Education with Bangla Tribune, a leading national print media

**Organized by:** Bangla Tribune-National Daily

**Facilitator:** Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Director CETL ULAB

**Discussion Theme:** Quality Online Education

**Session:** Interview (28 October 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the interview was to discuss how online teaching and learning are perceived by the academics along with the students and how to even further positively change it to ensure quality education.

**News Link:** <https://www.banglatribune.com/educations/709708/%E2%80%98%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87%E2%80%99>

## (11) Webinar on Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education Sector focusing on teaching and Learning: Bangladesh perspective.

**Organized by:** British Council Bangladesh in Collaboration with The Daily Star (Leading national daily)

**Facilitator:** David Maynard, Education and English Director- British Council

**Discussion Theme:** Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education

**Session:** Interview (12 December 2021)

**Objective:** The key objective of the webinar was to understand the Bangladeshi higher education perspective in general from the lens of quality education. More specifically it discussed how to mitigate the challenges that were brought together in the discussion.

**News Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews/videos/605194364132967>

The graphic is a purple rectangular banner. At the top left, it features the British Council logo and the text 'BRITISH COUNCIL | 70 YEARS IN BANGLADESH'. At the top right, it says 'The Daily Star'. The main title is 'Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education Sector focusing on teaching and learning: Bangladesh perspective'. Below the title are three circular portraits of speakers: Dr. Sabita Rezwana Rahman, Dr. Masuma Habib, and Dr. Mohammad Tareque. Each portrait is accompanied by their name and a brief professional description. At the bottom left, it states the date '12 December 2021' and time 'Time: 8:00 p.m.'. In the center, there is a 'Watch Live' button and social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, and The Daily Star. At the bottom right, there is a portrait of the host, David Maynard, with his name and title 'Host' and 'Director English and Education'.

Webinar on Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education Sector focusing on Teaching and Learning: Bangladesh perspective.



## SDG 5: Gender Equality

### USB conducts training for women on Accounting App “Bookkeeper”

BBA Program Office conducted a full-fledged training on Accounting App “Book Keeper” under a collaboration with ASPEN (<https://aspen.eccouncil.org/>) and BWCCI (Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry). The aim was to support small women led businesses or startups in making a good income statement and balance sheet which is essential to find bank loans.



USB conducts training for women on Accounting App “Bookkeeper”

### FAO and ULAB hold student film competition

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in Bangladesh Robert D Simpson on Monday said a safe Bangladesh for women and girls and all gender-diverse groups will accelerate economic and social growth as well as progress. The film competition was organized jointly by FAO of the United Nations and ULAB in Dhaka. The competition marked the international 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign. Beginning from 25 November, the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, the competition continued till December 10, the Human Rights Day. Three acclaimed directors and an award-winning comedian - Shabnam Ferdousi, Rezwana Shahriar Sumit and Proshoon Rahman - judged the competition held on Monday to highlight the issue of gender-based violence. Prof. Jude William Genilo, Dean of School of Social Sciences of ULAB, chaired the event while Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB also spoke.

Link: <https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=343348>

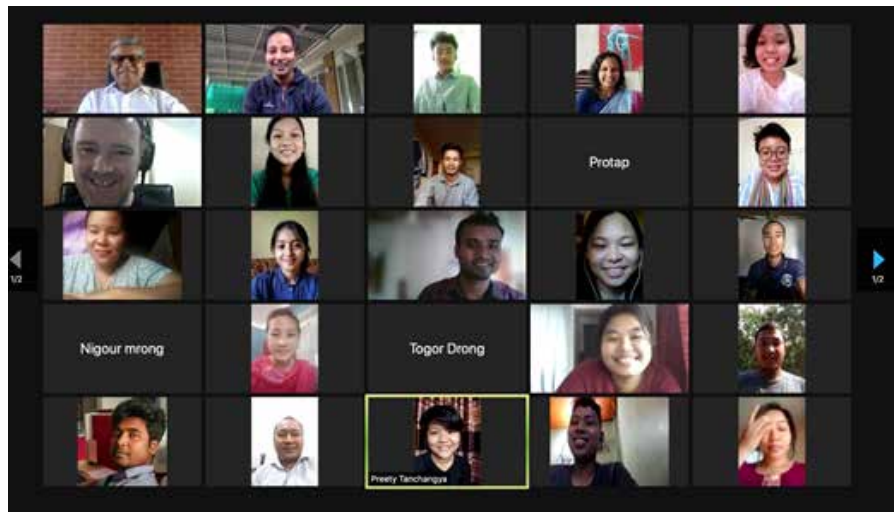
### USB Faculty publishes article on Flexible Work Options helping Women

Ms. Rumana L. Anam, Assistant Professor at the ULAB Business School, published an opinion piece in The Business Standard on flexible work options for employees and how Work from Home has opened up new doors for all employees. In particular, her article highlights how work from home and hybrid work options may be the answer to many a glass-ceiling issue for women.

Link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/what-pandemic-taught-us-about-flexible-work-options-employees-329374>

## Capacity Building Workshop

Professor Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, gave opening remarks at a capacity-building workshop for more than fifty researchers and enumerators working on a new project at CSD-ULAB. Prof. Rahman mentioned that the project was ideally suited to CSD-ULAB's areas of expertise, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous women, as well as on those working in the informal economic sector.



Capacity Building Workshops

Noting the importance of equity in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in ULAB's liberal arts pedigree which is best suited to analyze complex social problems, Prof. Rahman commended the team with the hopes of many long-term relationships in the future with CSD-ULAB. The capacity building day was organized by Dr. Oliver Scanlan, Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, and the project leader for this workshop. Mukatsree Sathi Chakma of Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities chaired the session in this event. Sarah Marandy, Director of Social Programmes for Gram Bikash Kendra, a key partner in the Dinajpur district, also attended. The training on the use of the software 'Open Data Kit' was provided by Mr. Anitta Mankhin."

## Book on Women's contribution to the Liberation War

Selima Quader Chowdhury (Senior Lecturer, GED) published a book on the contribution of women to the Liberation War, Bangladesh. Her book entitled Muktijuddhe Narir Obodan-Jantrana, was published by Mowla Brothers, Dhaka.

## BBA Program Organises Workshop on Diversity & Inclusion at Workplace

A diverse and inclusive workplace is one that makes everyone, regardless of who they are or what they do for the business, feel equally involved in and supported in all areas of the workplace. This workshop was delivered on 17 August 2021 for the ULAB students from a practical point to increase their awareness about diversity in the society and how a diverse workforce, in terms of age, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientations, gender, gender identity, and national origin brings various viewpoints and perspectives to the company. Students got the opportunity to learn from an industry expert about how gender equality is managed by multinational companies to achieve a culture where everyone can thrive, how organisational policies and practices are developed to establish a culture where all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully, and where their uniqueness is celebrated.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/UnileverCareersBangladesh/photos/a.535658889781338/6510236052323562/>

## DEH Celebrates “Sheroes” on International Women’s Day

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

The event commenced with the opening remarks by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. Ms. Sadia has written two books titled Bayannor 52 Nari and Ekattorer 71 Nari.

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



DEH Celebrates “Sheroes” on International Women’s Day

## SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

### **Project: Trans-boundary River of South Asia -TROSA**

Oxfam in Bangladesh and the Sweden government funded the Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia - TROSA project to address the poverty of the people living in the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna river basins in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The project addresses the underlying causes of poverty and marginalization of people living in the mouth of the Salween River. One of the primary beneficiaries of this project is the women living in the estuary, as the women living in these river communities are relatively more vulnerable. CSD-ULAB prepared a training manual written entirely in Bengali to enable women to speak and participate equally with men in river resource management decisions.

### **Outreach: Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Urban Resilience**

On 23 February 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, talked on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Urban Resilience to the master's students of the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. On 6 April 2021, he also spoke at the training session on Flood Green Guide Virtual Training, organized by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Environment & Disaster Management (EDM), USA for practitioners of South Asia. Presentation: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349521695\\_Nature-based\\_Solutions\\_NbS\\_for\\_Urban\\_](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349521695_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_for_Urban_)



## SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

### Everything Changes: Creativity and the Climate Crisis

On 16 June 2021, Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, participated in one of the discussion sessions of the above event as a panelist. During this session, they discussed how the energy of our planet would be in the future. Furthermore, other key questions were also addressed, which included, where will we get the energy in thirty years' time, will the houses and offices in the future be the energy drainers, or will they become energy producers? And under what leadership will we have reached net-zero, and if so, how did we do it? The most important aspect of the session was that with the idea of innovation and creativity, keep the world's remaining fossil fuels, or are we ready to use them carelessly like the last thirty years. These were the questions for discussion on the 5th day of the event.



Everything Change: Creativity and the Climate Crisis

### EEE Faculty Presents Research at IEEE International Youth Conference

Mr. Shameem Hasan presented the research paper entitled “Impacts of COVID-19 on the Electrical Power Dynamics and Environment of Bangladesh” in the IEEE International Youth Conference on Radio Electronics, Electrical and Power Engineering (3rd REEPE 2021), Moscow, Russia on 12 March 2021. The paper was authored by Mr. Shameem Hasan, Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman and Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain.

Link: [Research Paper presented in an International Conference by Faculty Members of EEE | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

### Research Paper presented at International Conference by EEE Faculty

Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman presented a research paper entitled “Consequences of Lockdown due to COVID-19 on the Electricity Generation and Environment” in the International “MES Conference 2021” – “Decentralized Electrification, Network Interconnection and Local Power Markets” in honor of Bangladesh's 50th Anniversary of Independence organized by Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, Technische Universität Berlin, Brac University, Bangladesh and Micro Energy System Research Group on 3rd March 2021. The paper was authored by Mr. Shameem Hasan, Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman and Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain.

Link: [Research Paper presented in the International Conference by Faculty Members of EEE Department | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)



## SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

### Episode 1: E-commerce in Bangladesh: A Sleeping Giant's Wake

On 7 October 2021, a podcast was hosted by Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB with guest speaker Waseem Alim, Co-Founder and CEO, Chaldal where he shared his experience on how Chaldal went from a startup to a booming business in just about a few years.

The Business Podcast is part of CES and USB's co-curricular activity in promoting business knowledge. It contributes to SDG 4, 8, and 9. It falls under SDG 4 as it attempts to enhance business education with practical industry-specific knowledge.

This Podcast falls under SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth as it promotes lasting, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, productive full employment, and decent work for all through their business.

This podcast is related to SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure since it discusses expanding access to information and communications technology. It also aims to make internet access accessible to all people at reasonable prices, modernize infrastructure, and update industries so they are resource-efficient and sustainable.

On 18 October 2021, a podcast was hosted by Professor Sajid Amit, Director, of the Center for Enterprise and Society with guest speaker Fahim Ahmed, President, of Pathao about how the startups were coping during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Business Podcast is part of CES and USB's co-curricular activity in promoting business knowledge. It contributes to SDGs 4 and 8. It falls under SDG 4 as it attempts to enhance business education with practical industry-specific knowledge. It also fits under SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.2 and 8.3) since it encourages development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and stimulate the formalization and growth of micro-, small-, and medium-sized firms, including via access to financial services.

Link: <https://soundcloud.com/the-business-standard/ridesharing-impact-of-covid-19-and-the-future-of-startups>

Link: [https://soundcloud.com/the-business-standard/e-commerce-in-bangladesh-a-sleeping-giants-wake-episode-1?si=9904438b362047babb1f1fa45e11eaa0&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/the-business-standard/e-commerce-in-bangladesh-a-sleeping-giants-wake-episode-1?si=9904438b362047babb1f1fa45e11eaa0&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

### DEH Workshop: Interview Skills

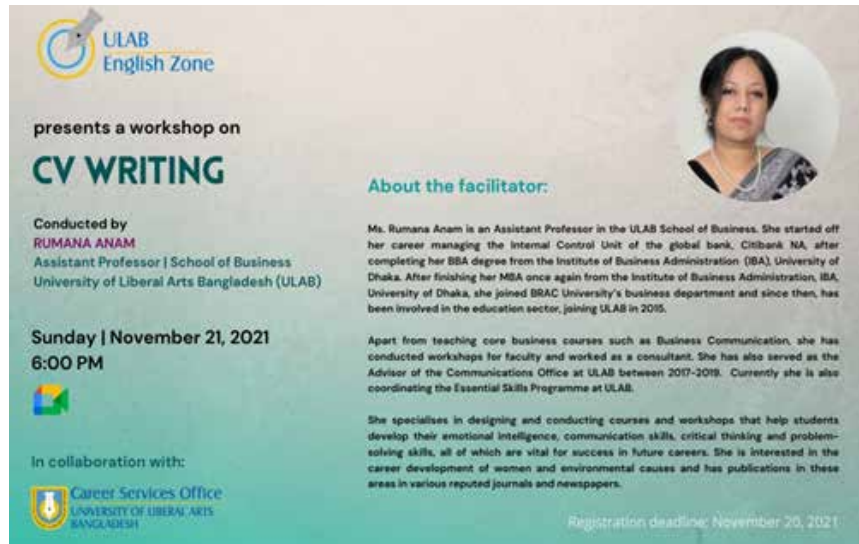
On 16 September 2021, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB offered a skill-building workshop for students titled "Interview Skills." The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor of DEH, who shared vital strategies and tips for tackling interviews. The workshop facilitator began with a short background of her extensive experience in working in different key administrative roles within the university. Thus, she had been on many interview boards and had

an opportunity to observe students during interviews. The speaker remarked that many attendees of this workshop would have concerns about preparing for an interview, including knowing how to word their thoughts within an interview setting better.

One of the key topics the workshop focused on was conducting background research into the institute or company one wants to work in. Moreover, Ms. Rahman emphasized on highlighting one's strengths.

### English Zone Organises Workshop on CV Writing Skills

A workshop was held on 21 November, 2021, facilitated by Ms. Rumana Liza Anam, Assistant Professor, ULAB School of Business and organized jointly by ULAB's English Zone and Career Services Office. During the workshop, Ms. Anam demonstrated in detail the CV Writing process and shared tips for greater success in the job search process. More than 250 students registered for the session. They participated actively, asking questions which were answered during the interactive and informative session. Such workshops help young graduates showcase their skills and qualifications professionally and increase the chances of landing appropriate jobs in the competitive job market.



English Zone Organizes Workshop on CV Writing Skills

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABEnglishZone/photos/a.1545124602251078/4444890002274509/>

### Webinar on “Job Prospects for EEE Graduates and Employers’ Expectations”



Webinar on “Job Prospects for EEE Graduates and Employers’ Expectations”

On 23 November 2021, the Department of EEE, ULAB organized a webinar on “Job Prospects for EEE Graduates and Employers’ Expectations”, held on 20 November 2021 (Saturday) at 8:00 pm. The resource persons in the webinar were Engr. Sayed Mahmud P. Eng, (B.Sc. Telecom), General Manager, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd. (TSS) and Engr. Tarif Mohammad Khan Founder, Head of Growth Transformation and President, ULAB ETE-EEE Alumni Association.

The webinar was moderated by the Dean of School of Science and Engineering and Head of the EEE Department, Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain. All the faculty members of the EEE Department and enthusiastic students

participated in the webinar. In this webinar, the job market reality was discussed at length. Students got to know the answers they seek out just after graduation and the resource persons were very welcoming

to the questions. They were also well versed regarding the jobs of their specialty.

Link: [Webinar on “Job Prospects for EEE Graduates and Employers’ Expectations” | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

### **Current event analysis- CES published a white paper on “E-Commerce in Bangladesh: A Sleeping Giant’s Wake” by Prottay Hasan**

This paper, published on April 5, 2021, discusses how the Bangladeshi e-commerce business is predicted to grow from \$2 billion to \$3 billion in less than two years. Because of high mobile phone penetration, robust mobile internet, and concentrated national policy, the population’s access to the internet has been fast rising. Furthermore, as compared to other nations, the populace chooses to spend a considerable part of their income. These are only a handful of the variables that have contributed to the quick expansion. Furthermore, during the COVID-19 lockdowns, Facebook-based companies experienced a boom in activity, with revenues increasing dramatically. The market’s expansion has brought with it new obstacles.

The capacity of domestic financial institutions to promote and increase access to banking, insurance, and financial services for all is discussed in this article, which comes under SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.10).

As it relates to improving small-scale industrial and other firms’ access to financial services, especially cheap loans, and their inclusion into value chains and markets, this article also pertains to SDG 9.3, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (9.3).

Link: [http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/04/ULAB-CES\\_Ecommerce\\_Prottay-Hasan\\_April-5-2021.pdf](http://ces.old.ulab.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/04/ULAB-CES_Ecommerce_Prottay-Hasan_April-5-2021.pdf)

### **Student Workshop: Job Search and Networking**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on “Job Search and Networking” on 23 December 2021. This is part of a series of workshops designed especially for the department students to aid them in their pursuit of a career or higher studies. The speaker of this workshop was the Head of the Department of English and Humanities and Associate Professor, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman.

The workshop aimed to prepare the students of DEH of ULAB for the job field and to acquaint them with the necessary skills required to tackle the challenges in the job industry. Ms. Rahman entered the workshop five minutes late on purpose to provide a lesson on the importance of punctuality. In any professional relationship, there is a mutual agreement and respect between the employer and the employee, and punctuality is key to maintaining this relationship.

Links: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/2021/12/23/deh-workshop-job-search-and-networking>

The workshop can be viewed here.

## BBA Program organizes event “Campus to Corporate”

This workshop was conducted for ULAB students to focus on the importance of inclusive and equitable education and to promote their interest in lifelong learning on which they can build their lives and careers. The discussants talked about innovative tools for setting a career and effective classroom learning to become global citizens. Students were given guidance to use their full potential through the free and creative pursuit of knowledge so that they can be responsible and caring citizens of their nations and the world. Students were encouraged to adopt an array of traditional and innovative academic and extra-curricular programs to unlock their potential to break free of social stereotypes and stigmas and can lead the life that they dream of.



BBA Program organizes event “Campus to Corporate”

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=588072005904827&set=pcb.588072129238148>

## Department of EEE, ULAB organizes “Workshop and Trainee Recruitment by Decon Digital”

The Department of EEE, ULAB organized “Workshop and Trainee Recruitment by Decon Digital”, on 16 March 2021 (Tuesday) at 3:00 pm. The workshop was followed by an on-campus recruitment test. The resource Persons for the workshop are: Engr. Mohammad Faijul Islam, General Manager, Business & Operation, Decon Telecom Solutions (BD) Ltd., and Engr. Md. Sohel Rana Humayun Kabir, RF Optimisation Engineer, Decon Telecom Solutions (BD) Ltd.

The program was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. H. M. Jahirul Haque, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of ULAB and Prof. Dr. Mr. Mofazzal Hossain, Head, Dept. of EEE, ULAB. All the faculty members of the EEE Department joined the workshop. The workshop was highly interactive and informative.

Link: <https://eee.ulab.edu.bd/2021/04/19/department-eee-ulab-organized-%E2%80%9Cworkshop-and-trainee-recruitment-decon-digital%E2%80%9D>

## SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Making Sense of National Budget 2021-22 (Policy Matter) by CES and USB

On 10 June 2021, at a virtual presentation, Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB, and Associate Professor Sajid Amit, Director, Center for Enterprise and Society presented key insights into the National Budget FY22 as well as recommendations on areas for improvement and cutting through the complexity, and understand how this budget affects everyone.

The National Budget is an essential policy matter that requires deeper understanding to be implemented at all levels of the economy. As part of the institutional commitments of CES and USB, this policy discussion falls under SDGs 4, 8, and 9.

The event fits under SDG 4, Quality Education since falls under USB's commitment to ensuring a higher quality of tertiary education by including relevant policy matters to co-curricular platforms of learning. It is a direct form of knowledge dissemination that builds on the relativity of national-level economics with business education.

The event contributes to SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, (8.2, 8.3, 8.6, 8.9, and 8.10) since the national budget directly links to economic growth and incentivizing jobless youth, design development-oriented policies, implementing those policies, technological upgrades and innovations, and capacity building of domestic financial institutions.

The event also contributes to SDG 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, because the National Budget directly relates to promoting resilient and sustainable infrastructure development in poor nations through improved technological, financial, and technical assistance.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/824494145130023/?ref=newsfeed>

### Department of EEE in IC4IR 2021: Leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution

On 13 December 2021, the Department of EEE actively participated in the International Conference on 4th Industrial Revolution and Beyond (IC4IR) 2021. All the faculty members were present during the opening ceremony. Students also participated with great enthusiasm. University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) had a stall and showed determination to head forward into the 4th Industrial Revolution and Beyond. The Honourable President and Prime Minister were the chief guests of the inaugural and closing ceremony respectively.



Department of EEE in IC4IR 2021: Leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution

[Department of EEE in IC4IR 2021: Leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](#)

## DEH Webinar: “Technology as a Cultural Artefact: The Figured World of Educational Technology in Higher Education”

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a talk on 9 September 2021 titled “Technology as a Cultural Artefact: The Figured World of Educational Technology in Higher Education.” The speakers were Dr. Taslima Ivy, Dr. Haleema Sadia, and Mr. Felix Kwihangana, Senior Tutors at Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester, UK. The aim of the talk was to briefly introduce Holland et al.’s (1998) theory of identity and agency in cultural worlds. The speakers showed how technology, when conceptualized as a cultural artefact, can help make sense of the complex dynamics of technology use in particular learning contexts.

The presentation was an interactive one. Dr. Taslima Ivy introduced the participants to the idea of overlapping implementation of technology, rather than the linear approach. She emphasized on the need to have a sociological perspective on the usage of technology. She also introduced the mechanisms of the theory: the figured world, positioning, authoring, and world making.

Video Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIUY\\_whZotM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIUY_whZotM)

## Take Off Programming Contest Spring 2021

On 27 February 2021, CSE arranged its first ever Take Off Programming Contest Spring 2021 with the leadership of its Department Head to encourage students to solve problems using competitive programming. This take-off programming contest encouraged students to get into competitive programming. The winners received cash prizes. This is a regular event and students are getting training by senior competitive programmers in the department on a regular basis.



Take Off Programming Contest Spring 2021

Link: <https://cse.ulab.edu.bd/2021/11/18/take-programming-contest-spring-2021>

## DEH Alumni Talk: Radia Al Rashid on Aviation Linguistics

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a talk on aviation linguistics titled “Language Beyond the Skyline” on 10 July 2021. The talk was given by one of the department’s fresh graduates, Radia Al Rashid, whose undergraduate thesis topic was related to the field of aviation linguistics. Former High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) Mahmud Hussain, graced the talk as Special Guest and Discussant.

In her talk, Radia Al Rashid first introduced the concepts in aviation linguistics and provided a brief history of the field to the audience comprised of students and faculty members. Then she discussed the linguistic problems related to air traffic control that are often faced by aviators. She clarified the need to understand such problems as they can be crucial to the field of aviation where a slight misunderstanding can have devastating results.

Links: <https://www.facebook.com/ulabdeh/videos/975750929938394>.

<https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/07/25/deh-alumni-talk-radial-rashid-aviation-linguistics>

## Research project on “Post COVID 19 Jobs and Skills”

ULAB MBA Program Director and Assistant Professor Asif Uddin Ahmed led a group of research associates and MBA students to conduct the second part of the Government of Bangladesh funded research project on “Post COVID 19 Jobs and Skills” in an effort to identify impact of COVID 19 on the jobs in the growth sectors of Bangladesh. The effort also included suggesting a set of strategy for Government and Industry to implement to address the impact of job loss and create more new jobs. The study is available at <https://file.nise.gov.bd/uploads/keIkekC4NsrnTAjdyrOaOb1g5YQzyH1647147307.pdf>

## MSJ department holds Curriculum Integration for Summer 2021

Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) arranged the Curriculum Integration (CI) Exhibition for Summer 2021 semester on “Digital Citizenship” both offline and online in Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) on October 8th, 2021 at 5:00 pm and on [www.ulabmsjci.net](http://www.ulabmsjci.net) from October 8th-11th, 2021 respectively. The theme of this semester’s CI was “Digital Citizenship”, which is about confident and positive engagement with digital technologies. It means how we act in digital platforms. How we interact with others digitally and how we consume the digital tools and make good use of those. Curriculum Integration (CI) Exhibition is an event where students show their project works and creative works from the courses they enroll in the university.



MSJ department holds Curriculum Integration for Summer 2021

## Field trip to Hi-tech Park and Alumni Meet



CSE Field trip to Hi-Tech Park and Alumni Meet

A group of students from the CSE department visited Hi-tech park in the Fall semester 2021. Senior lecturer Mr. Bijan Pal was the lead of that trip. From this industry visit, students have gathered a wide range of practical knowledge. The Department of CSE had organized a meet and greet session for its graduates. CSE graduates of ULAB have been working in the various fields of IT industry. They have shared their experience with each other and planned to share knowledge with the new students.

## DEH Organizes Workshop on Digital Humanities

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop titled “Introducing Digital Humanities: The New Horizon of Humanities and Storytelling Scholarship” on 1 July 2021. The workshop garnered attention from students and faculty members from all departments as this is a relevant and trending area of study.

The concept of the workshop was proposed and implemented by Dr. Ahmed Abid, a filmmaker and researcher, and co-facilitated with Dr. Ananya Raihan, Ashoka Fellow and CEO of iSocial, Infolady

Social Enterprise Limited, and Founder Executive Director of Dnet, and Ms. Humayra Akhter, development media professional and lecturer at World University Bangladesh.

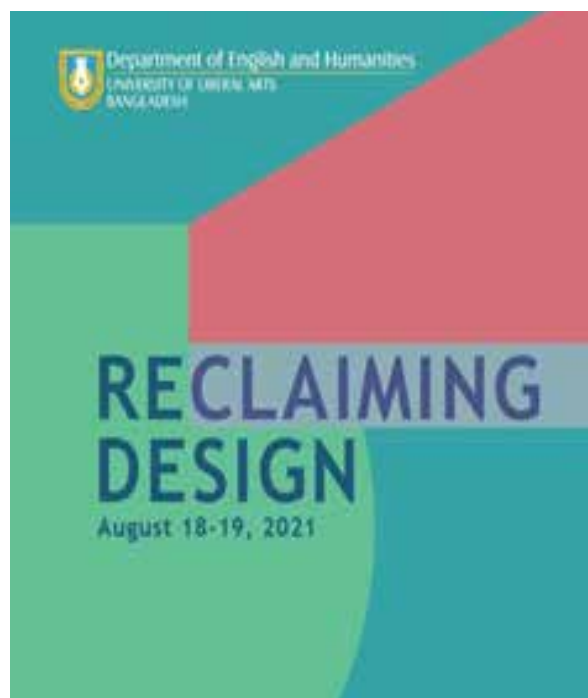
Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/07/02/deh-organizes-workshop-digital-humanities>

### **Student Workshop on “Reclaiming Design”**

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB organized a workshop titled “Reclaiming Design” on 18 to 19 and August 2021, for a selected group of design enthusiasts, students from DEH.

The workshop was facilitated by Mohammad Zaki Rezwana, Senior Lecturer, DEH. Rezwana’s areas of specialization include South Asian arts, aesthetics, and visual culture. His designs and illustrations have been commissioned by universities across Bangladesh.

At the workshop, he shared his experience and knowledge about design thinking, philosophy, and process. With vivid examples, he discussed different elements of graphic design in relation to the overall aesthetic choice. The workshop was designed to maximize the student’s contribution to a wide range of extracurricular activities at ULAB. This event concluded with the closing remarks delivered by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, where she noted how workshops like this are regularly organized by DEH to help students in developing skills related to creativity and communication.



DEH Student Workshop on “Reclaiming Design”





## SDG 10: Reduced Inequality

ULAB MBA Director and Assistant Professor Asif Uddin Ahmed and two other MBA students provided a three day-long training on “Entrepreneurship Development to Reduce Inequality among Host and Displaced Rohingya Communities” to the field staff of 14 international NGOs working in the Rohingya Camps in the Cox’s Bazar District. The training program was designed to help develop the capacity of the field staff in supporting youth-led enterprises in host communities so that they do not feel deprived. Such a measure would reduce the tension between the youth of host communities and displaced Rohingya communities.

### DIMFF holds filmmaking workshop with Munda community

The Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival held a five-day Community Digital Storytelling (CDST) filmmaking workshop with Munda ethnic community in Koyra, Khulna which started on 6 November 2021. The mobile filmmaking workshop solely focused on climate change and its impact on the life of the Munda people. A total eight participants from the Munda community joined the workshop. Participants have tried their best to cover different problem areas such as salination, livelihood destruction, soil erosion and flooding; showing the effects of climate change on the community. In the films they produced, topics ranged from health and safety, culture and language, and unemployment and displacement. Through their stories, they depicted the day-to-day life of Munda women, including her concerns for not providing enough nutrition to her family.

Link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/glitz/dhaka-international-mobile-film-festival-holds-cdst-filmmaking-workshop-munda-community-328675>



DIMFF holds filmmaking workshop with Munda Community

### CSD Project: Politics and Power in Land Administration

As a core component of its European Union (EU)-funded Land Project, the project set out an ambitious plan to bring “findings from the field” into the curricula of participating educational institutions. In theory, the aim is to facilitate the “cross-fertilization” of the overall project, which will include “EU Studies” and “International Development Curricula.” Four virtual classroom sessions and monitoring and evaluation activities have been carried out among instructors and students. The four classroom sessions had 196 enrolled students across both Dublin City University and Wageningen University.

Broadly speaking, student response has been very positive, with 82% agreeing or strongly agreeing that virtual classrooms contributed to their understanding of the issues in their courses of study. The virtual classroom also made them aware of the practicalities of development interventions. Additionally, the fieldwork component for the project had been completed over the last six months, which brought together international scholars from Senegal to Australia to produce a special issue on land administration.

### **Webinar on NGOs, Professionalization and Class Formation in Bangladesh**

The General Education Department organized a webinar entitled “NGOs, Professionalization and Class Formation in Bangladesh: Professional Power and Class Identity” on 4 May 2021. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kazi N.H. Haque, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia while the discussant was Dr. Sharin Shajahan Naomi, Department of Education, Asian University for Women. The webinar focused on the importance of professionalism in the NGO sector in Bangladesh and discussed how to reduce class inequality between NGOs and their stakeholders, and how to ensure equal participation of groups from different genders, religions, races, and economic classes.

100 years of Kazi Nazrul Islam’s Biddrohee poem

National Professor Rafiqul Islam edited a centenary volume of the Kazi Nazrul Islam’s Biddrohee poem. Kazi Nazrul Islam wrote Biddrohee poem in 1921. Since then hundreds of commentaries have been published at home and abroad. Professor Islam selected 100 commentaries on Biddrohee poem and compiled them into one volume. The volume is a wonderful work to understand Kazi Nazrul Islam’s view on extremism, incredulity, oppression as well as on life and nature.

### **Can Bangladesh become a secular state?**

Selima Quader Chowdhury of the Department of General Education completed a research on the resurgence of Islam and the obstacles to the secularization of Bangladesh and major findings of her research touched on the following: (i) military rulers’ attitudes towards Islam; (ii) madrasa education; (iii) Tableeg, jamat, ulema and various Islamic political parties.

### **CES publishes white paper on “Influencer Marketing: A Closer Look” by Zarif Ajhan Dhruba and Sajid Amit**

In November 2021, CES published the above white paper. The author of this paper analyzes how the term “influence” entered the English language as an astrological phrase referring to the use of occult powers by celestial bodies to influence human actions and fates. Of course, in the current vernacular, the term does not indicate anything esoteric. It simply refers to a person who can influence human judgments. Influencers are people who use social media to offer their thoughts on products, services, and businesses daily. They can be identified as thought leaders with a vast network of followers. Brands use social media influencers to provide authenticity and credibility to their products.

This study falls under SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth since it talks about the influencer industry, a relatively new sector that is providing jobs for young people of both genders and fostering inclusion. And thanks to them, a lot of MSMEs are becoming sustainable and playing a significant role in our country’s economic growth.

As it relates to empowering and encouraging the social, economic, and political inclusion of everyone, regardless of age, sex, handicap, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other position through those influencers, this article also comes under SDG 10, Reduce Inequality, (10.2).

Link: <https://ces.ulab.edu.bd/sites/default/files/CES-Sector-Report-Influencer-Marketing-Sajid-Amit-Nov-30-2021.pdf>

## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

### DIMFF Screening and Awarding

The 7th Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival (DIMFF) held its closing ceremony and screening at Bashundhara City, Star Cineplex, on 27 February 2021. The Chief Guest at the closing ceremony was eminent filmmaker Kawser Chowdhury. The Head of Media Studies and Journalism Department, Professor Jude William Genilo, honored the juries of DIMFF 2021 - Ratan Paul, Tanha Zafreen, Festival Director Rafi Ahmed and Chief Guest Kawser Chowdhury - with crests. The “Lost Pen” directed by Beraat Gokkus won the top prize “DIMFF Best Film Award.” “Agony” by Zarif Tashdeed from Bangladesh bagged the “ULAB Young Filmmaker Award,” while the Competition category winner was director by Kang Shingyu’s “On Off” from the Republic of Korea.



DIMFF Screening and Awarding

### DIMFF 2022 arranges masterclass on smartphone filmmaking

The 8th Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival (DIMFF) organized a masterclass on ‘Smartphone Filmmaking Theory and Practice’ on 20 December 20 2021. Dr. Max Schleser, Senior Lecturer in Film and Television and Research at the Centre for Transformative Media Technologies, Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne, Australia) conducted this masterclass. Smartphones are a part of our day-to-day lives. We often use smartphones to share our stories with the world in video format. “These smartphones have filmmaking-specific characteristics and personal forms of crafting experiences contribute to a formation of new storytelling approaches,” said Dr. Schleser about mobile filmmaking. The speaker talked about the diverse approaches towards smartphone filmmaking and gave an overview of the international mobile film audience. DIMFF’s journey began in 2015 to break the stigma that people need to access studio worthy equipment in order to make a good film. DIMFF believes in the motto, “New Generation, New Tools, New Communication.”

### ‘Bangabandhu in Sculptures and Murals’

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)’s Media Studies and Journalism department, through its apprenticeship programme Shutterbugs, launched the photography exhibition “Bangabandhu in Sculptures and Murals” in the capital on 23 December 2021. Thirty-five selected photographs were being displayed, showcasing the sculptures and murals captured by Shutterbugs members from the various districts of the country. Ekushey Padak winning photographer Pavel Rahman inaugurated

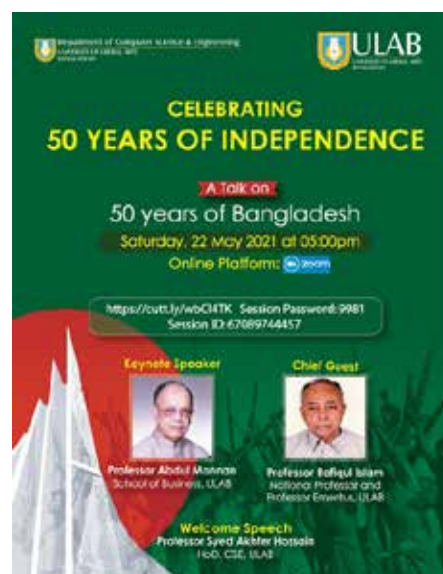
the exhibition as the chief guest. ULAB Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Imran Rahman and Pro-VC Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza were also present. While speaking at the event, Pavel said, “People remember Bangabandhu as the founding president of our country. However, he lived an unimaginably simple life. He avoided the usual luxurious lifestyle and always preferred vintage Bengali things and customs because he passionately loved the people, our country and everything in it.”

Link: <https://www.bangladeshpost.net/posts/bangabandhu-in-sculptures-and-murals-75857>

### **Celebrating 50 years of Independence: A Talk on 50 years of Bangladesh**

On the eve of “Celebrating 50 years of Independence,” ULAB organized on 18 November 2021 a webinar tackling the “50 years of Bangladesh”. The keynote speech was delivered by Professor Abdul Mannan of ULAB School of Business. National Professor Rafiqul Islam acted as the Chief Guest.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/11/18/celebrating-50-years-independence-a-talk-50-years-bangladesh>



Celebrating 50 years of Independence: A Talk on 50 years of Bangladesh

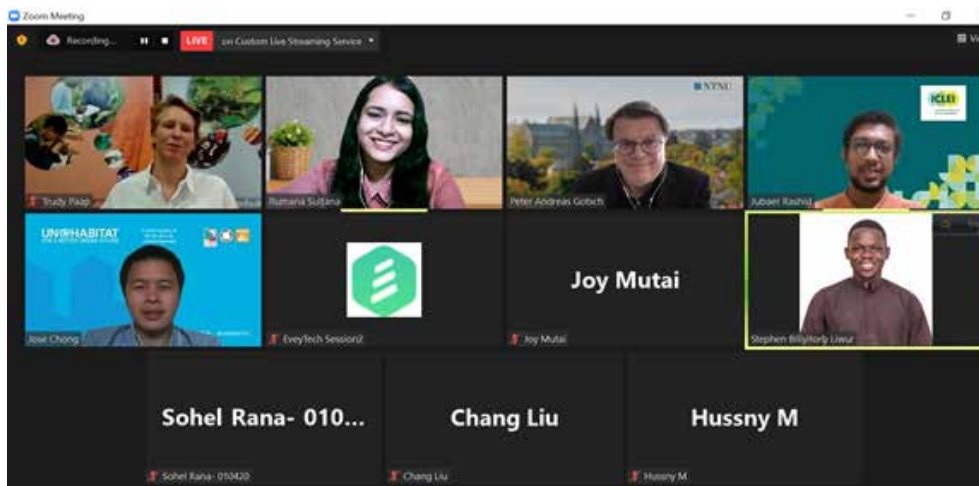
### **Outreach: Resilience Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Resilient Development**

Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, spoke on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Resilient Development during the training sessions on ‘Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) Tool and Guideline’. The sessions were organized under the National Resilience Programme – Programming Division Part (NRP-PD) of the Government of Bangladesh on 18 and 23 March 2021. He showed how NbS could be integrated into disaster management by harnessing ecosystem services. On 27 March 2021, Dr. Irfanullah also delivered a guest lecture on NbS in disaster management to the students of the Organizational and Policy Context of Disaster Risk Management Course of the BRAC University’s Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM), Dhaka.

Presentation: Link: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350134375\\_Nature-based\\_Solutions\\_NbS\\_for\\_Resilient\\_Development\\_A\\_Disaster\\_Risk\\_Management\\_Perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350134375_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_for_Resilient_Development_A_Disaster_Risk_Management_Perspective)

### **Outreach: Innovate 4 Cities Conference 2021**

Green spaces are well recognized for socio-economic and environmental benefits in cities by enhancing human well-being. United Nations’ SDG 11 also underlined the need for accessible, safe, and inclusive green and public spaces. On 12 October 2021, CSD-ULAB hosted a session on the “use of open-source tools and innovative methodologies for public and green space assessments and strategies” in collaboration with UN-Habitat, ICLEI (Bangladesh), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology at the Innovate 4 Cities Conference 2021. In the session, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, presented and discussed how participatory approaches can be integrated into sustainable urban green space planning. The key outcomes of this conference were updated to the Global Research and Action Agenda for Cities and Climate Change Science and COP26.



Outreach: Innovate 4 Cities Conference 2021

### Webinar: Public Space for a Healthy and Livable Dhaka City

On 31 January 2021, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, spoke in a webinar organized by Urban research Initiatives (URI) and the Center for Cities and Citizens (C3). She highlighted the importance of green space management and inclusion of local peoples’ perceptions in the urban green space management strategies for a healthy and livable Dhaka city.



Webinar: Public Space for a Healthy and Livable Dhaka City

### Dialogue: Challenges to Understanding and Managing Cultural Ecosystem Services

Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, spoke as a panelist on “Residents’ perceptions of the role and management of green spaces to provide cultural ecosystem services in Dhaka, Bangladesh” at the CEM dialogue organized by IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management on 16 December 2021.



Dialogue: Challenges to Understanding and Managing Cultural Ecosystem Services

In this webinar, the authors of a forthcoming special issue in Ecology and Society sponsored by CEM examined how cultural ecosystem service (CES) concepts have been applied across a range of cases, including different methodologies for eliciting and valuing CES.

### ULAB-GED Celebrates birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

The Department of General Education, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, organized an online creative art competition titled “Art of the Emergence” on 7 January 2021 on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Around 500 students submitted their artworks

and creative writings in the competition. On another occasion, the Department of General Education and the Center for Archaeological Studies jointly organized on 12 April 2021 a webinar on the World Cultural Heritage of the 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman. The discussants of the webinar were the students of the course GED 204: Cultural Heritage of Bangladesh. National Professor Rafiqul Islam inaugurated the program as the Chief Guest. It was a very remarkable discussion by the ULAB students about the Liberation War and the importance of the 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman for the birth of Bangladesh state.

### **ULAB-GED Celebrates Bangla Barsha Baran**

The Department of General Education, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online cultural Program titled “Bangla Barsha Baran”, on 11 April 2021. The students not only performed in the program but also brought to light traditional and cultural activities that are related to the New Year.

### **Archaeological Exploration at Khirtala Village, Sirajganj, Bangladesh**

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) organized a webinar on 3 May 2021. The webinar commenced with a welcome speech by the Director of the Center Professor Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan. Md. Rifat-Ur-Rahman (Lecturer, Department of Cultural Heritage and Bangladesh Studies, Rabindra University, Bangladesh) presented the archaeological and anthropological context of the village Khirtala. Nine archaeological sites including a structural mound and ancient pond have been located in the village. Most of these mounds were in dilapidated condition due to poor state of preservation. Among the interesting artifacts, three terracotta plaques have been found during the fieldwork and one of which is a representation of Dhayni Buddha. Other cultural materials included brickbats and potsherds. The seminar was followed by a compulsive discussion by Dr. Bulbul Ahmed, Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University. Dr. Ahmed stressed on the analysis of the name of the village which might give an insight about the people who inhabited this village in the past. He also discussed the importance of studying inscriptional records discovered early in the region. The seminar was attended by faculties and students from different public and private universities and heritage lovers of the City.

### **Maritime Ports in Bengal: 6th Century BCE-16th Century CE**

The Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies and the Head of the Department of General Education Professor Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan has published a book entitled *Maritime Ports in Bengal: 6th Century BCE-16th Century CE*, which was published by the Center for Heritage Studies (CenHerSt) in association with Tangon Publication, Dhaka in 2021. In this book, she attempted to portray a comprehensive study of the seven maritime ports (Tamralipti, Gangê, Wari-Bateshwar, Kotalipara, Sonargaon, Satgaon, and Chattogram) in Bengal with clear enumeration of all major aspects. She has determined the location, physical condition and the period of operation of the maritime ports by examining archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic, iconographic, ethnographic, literary, physiographic and geo-morphological evidence. Her research has revealed that these ports functioned as prime maritime gateways for Bengal one after another from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to the 16<sup>th</sup> century CE. These ports were also outlets of the landlocked regions such as Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal, Meghalaya, Assam, and Tripura and well connected to various nodal points on a series of maritime exchange routes between the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and the North China Sea. Consequently, the region of Bengal was important in the Indian Ocean maritime trade network due to its strategic location as well as for the commodities it could offer from its vast hinterland.

## Predictive 3D Modeling of Somapura Mahavihara

The Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) organized on 2 August 2021 a webinar titled “Predictive 3D Modeling of Somapura Mahavihara”. The webinar commenced with the welcome speech by the Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies and Head of the Department of General Education Professor Dr. Shahnah Husne Jahan. The keynote speakers were Jahangirnagar University Professor Md. Masood Imran and Mr. Miner Masud, an independent researcher and expert in information technology. In the webinar, the speakers



Predictive 3D Modeling of Somapura Mahavihara

showed the audience by using 3D computer simulated modeling technology how the ruins of Somapura Mahavihara also known as Paharpur Buddhist Vihara, a World Heritage Site might have looked like in the past. The team’s research also attempted to digitalize the country’s cultural heritage where 3D predictive modeling can be applied as a twenty first century’s instrument for digital conservation. The seminar was followed by a compulsive discussion by Dr. Md. Mozammel Hoque, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Jahangirnagar University. Dr. Hoque commented that the team’s work is an excellent effort to explore the probable form of the said ancient monument. He suggested that combined study of architecture and theology would shed a new light in understanding of the original form of the monument.

## DEH Organizes Workshop on Digital Humanities

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop titled “Introducing Digital Humanities: The New Horizon of Humanities and Storytelling Scholarship” on 1 July 2021. The workshop garnered attention from students and faculty members from all departments as this is a relevant and trending area of study.

The concept of the workshop was proposed and implemented by Dr. Ahmed Abid, a filmmaker and researcher, and co-facilitated with Dr. Ananya Raihan, Ashoka Fellow and CEO of iSocial, Infolady Social Enterprise Limited, and Founder Executive Director of Dnet, and Ms. Humayra Akhter, development media professional and lecturer at World University Bangladesh.

The workshop focused on providing participants with a hands-on experience of Digital Humanities from a cultural studies and digital life perspective.

This was followed by a hands-on workshop where participants were sent to breakout rooms and instructed to develop and demonstrate a couple of ideas to develop a project. These ideas were later shared and the facilitators used them to show how to enhance them with the right tools and methods.

Link: <https://ulab.edu.bd/2021/07/02/deh-organizes-workshop-digital-humanities>

## ULAB Holds 7th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition (Research and Event)

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized its 7th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition on 29 to 30 December 2021. This year, to celebrate the 50 years of the nation’s independence, the department chose the theme “Fifty Years of Bangladesh’s Independence: Language, Literature, and Culture.”

Ms. Ameenah Ahmed, Member, ULAB Board of Trustees, and Mr. Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, graced the occasion as the Guests of Honor.

Every year, the Department of English and Humanities organizes this student conference and cultural competition to foster scholarship and creativity in a friendly, competitive environment for students of all universities in Bangladesh. The department partnered with the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and The Daily Star for this year's event.



ULAB Holds 7th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition (Research and Event)

City International University, Chattogram; Premier University, Chattogram; Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST); Southern University Bangladesh, Chattogram; Stamford University; State University of Bangladesh; University of Asia Pacific; World University Bangladesh; and the host, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

This year, the conference received an overwhelming response. Students from 18 public and private universities participated in the two-day event. The universities are American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB); Asian University for Women; BRAC University; Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP); Central Women's University; Daffodil International University; University of Dhaka; Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University; Notre Dame University, Bangladesh; Port

News coverage can be seen at: [The Daily Star](#) | [Dhaka Tribune](#) | [Bangladesh -Pratidin](#) | [Daily Ittefaq](#) | [bdnews24.com](#) | [Banglanews24.com](#) | [The Daily Campus.](#) | [Bangla Tribune](#) | [risingbd.com](#) | [risingbd.com \( Bangla\)](#) | [The Statement 24](#) | [bdtone24.com](#) | [BahannoNews](#) | [Kalerkantha](#) | Others: [1](#) [2](#)

### Curriculum Integration: “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meets Practice”

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Final Presentation Showcase event of the Fall 2021 Curriculum Integration Program on the theme “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meets Practice” on 20 January 2022. In total, twenty-two groups from different courses of DEH presented their projects/presentations focusing on different SDGs - fusing them with their major/core academic subjects. The participating courses were ENG302 Novel -1 (section 1), ENG 208 Sociolinguistics (Section 1 and 2), ENG 2103 Morphology and Syntax, ENG 223 Romantic Poetry, ENG 225 Shakespeare, ENG 402 Victorian Literature, and ENG 411 Semantics and Pragmatics – both literature and linguistics courses.

Students contributed to the CI using self-written skits, posters presentations, academic presentations, and documentaries within a time limit of 10 minutes each. The judges of this competition were Dr. Tabassum Zaman, Associate Professor, DEH, and Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH. At the end, three groups were announced as the winners of the Fall '21 Curriculum Integration program.

Link: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/2022/01/20/deh-curriculum-integration-program-showcase-%E2%80%9C-sustainability-and-development-academia>

### International Mother Language Day

In accordance with this year's theme of multilingualism chosen by UNESCO for the International Mother Language Day, the School of Arts and Humanities (SAH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh



(ULAB) organized a three-day event from 22 to 24 February 2021 to reflect on the significance of mother tongues all over the world. The SAH program, “Mother is the Wor(l)d” / ÒAv(gv)i fvlvq Av(gv) i wek!,Ó celebrated the diversity and plurality of mother tongues.

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

Links:

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

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

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

# SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

## Global Citizenship Program

Around 30 ULAB MBA students participated in the Global Citizenship Program from 2 to 24 September offered by UK based leadership development NGO called Common Purpose (<https://commonpurpose.org/leadership-programmes/universities/>) along with more than 100 students from the Asia Pacific Region. Through the Common Purpose Global Citizenship programme, the students were equipped with the 21st century skills and inspiration needed to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that they are most passionate about. This three-week blended learning journey consists of synchronous and asynchronous components and a Common Purpose Global Citizenship micro-credential.



Global Citizenship Program

## CES published a white paper on “Can doing good be good for business?”

The paper, which was released on 24 October 2021, featured several firms that have been experimenting with greener policies and initiatives for some time now, and there are lessons to be gained from their experiences. This paper, authored by Syeda Nusaiba Hossain, examined some of the faults and advantages of the aforementioned policies, as well as activities by global and Bangladeshi enterprises that are experiencing growth and profitability despite, or maybe as a result of, greening initiatives. This paper relates to significantly lowering waste creation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse, which comes under SDG 12.5, Responsible Consumption and Production (12.5).

By the 10-year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead, this paper is also aligned with SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, (8.4) as it relates to improving global resource efficiency in production and attempting to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

Since the paper’s discussions are in line with upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable, increasing resource use efficiency, and increasing the adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, it also falls under SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (9.4). Link: [https://ces.ulab.edu.bd/sites/default/files/CES%20Knowledge%20Note\\_Sustainability\\_Oct%2024%202021.pdf](https://ces.ulab.edu.bd/sites/default/files/CES%20Knowledge%20Note_Sustainability_Oct%2024%202021.pdf)

## Project: Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutes

Since 2020, CSD-ULAB has been working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) as an implementation partner of the Skills 21 project, a joint initiative of the Government of Bangladesh and ILO, funded by the European Union. Within this project, the CSD team is working with seven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes and two Centres for Skills Excellence in Bangladesh to implement green initiatives to ensure green economic growth. In June 2021, scoping



Project: Greening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutes

missions were conducted in the Vocational Teachers Training Institute (VTTI), Bogura, Technical Teachers Training College of Tejgaon, Dhaka, Institute of Marine Technology, Bagerhat, Jamalpur Technical School and College, Jamalpur, Feni Polytechnic Institute, Post -Malipur, Feni Sadar, Feni to move this process forward. As a part of this project, CSD-ULAB's work was presented in a webinar jointly organized by German and Bangladeshi teams working on the TVET education system. More than 110 participants joined and discussed inclusive TVET education and greening practices.

### **Webinar: Scaling Up Sustainable Green Growth**

CSD-ULAB organized a webinar session with Ms. Eun Joo Allison Yi, Senior Environmental Specialist, Environment, and Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice (ENB), on 'Scaling Up Sustainable Green growth' on 19 September 2021. Vice-Chancellor and Dean of ULAB School of Business, Prof. Imran Rahman was present at this event as the chief guest. Prof. Rahman delivered the welcoming speech and Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, wrapped up the session with her closing remarks.

### **IEEE Paper publication in PEEIACON 2021**

On 5 December 2021, Tanjida Rahman, a final year student of the EEE department at ULAB, presented a research paper entitled "Effects of channel length and oxide layer modulation on the performance of Ga2O3 MOSFET" in the International Conference on Power, Electrical, Electronics and Industrial Applications (PEEIACON 2021) jointly organized by IEEE Bangladesh section (IEEE BDS) and IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) Bangladesh Chapter. The paper was authored by Tanjida Rahman, Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain and Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman.

[IEEE Paper publication in PEEIACON 2021 | Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(ulab.edu.bd\)](http://ulab.edu.bd)

### **DEH Organizes the First Forum of Curriculum Integration Program "Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meet Practice"**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the first forum of the Fall 2021 Curriculum Integration Program on the theme "Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meets Practice" on 21 November 2021. The guest speaker of the forum was Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Independent Consultant - Environment and Climate Change and Research System and Visiting Research Fellow, CSD, ULAB. The focus of the forum was to engage the students of DEH with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to explore the different aspects of their studies in literature, language, and linguistics, and address issues such as

inequality, quality education, and sustainable community. The main goal of this forum was to aid the students' project representations that will be showcased at the end of the semester.



DEH Organizes the First Forum of Curriculum Integration Program “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meet Practice”

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvf8aUuFSsU>.

### **DEH Organizes the Second Forum of Curriculum Integration Program “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meets Practice”**

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Second Forum of the Fall 2021 Curriculum Integration Program on the theme “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia Meets Practice” on November 25, 2021. The guest speakers of the forum were Mr. Md. Maksud Ali, PhD Candidate, School of Education, University of Queensland, Australia, and Ms. Munasir Kamal, PhD Candidate, University of Leeds, UK and Assistant Professor (on leave), Dept. of English, University of Dhaka. Like the first forum of the Fall 2021 CI, conducted by Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, the second forum also focused on Sustainable Development and its 17 goals intermingling with literature and linguistics. The goal was to enlighten the students and faculty members of DEH with SDGs so that they can present multiple projects relating to their respective course(s), which will be showcased at the end of the semester.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKX8kuFLfXM>.

### **Webinar on Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant: Working Principle, Radiation and Safety Issues**

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) successfully conducted a webinar entitled “Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant: Working Principle, Radiation and Safety Issues” on 11 November 2021. The resource person of the seminar was Mr. Ramit Kumar Sadhukhan, Lecturer, Department of EEE, ULAB who has completed M.Sc. in Nuclear Power Engineering and Thermal Physics from Russian Federation with full scholarship from the Bangladesh Government and the Russian Government. The event was moderated by Prof. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Dean of School of Science & Engineering and Head of EEE Department. All the faculty members of EEE, students from inside and outside ULAB participated in the webinar.

The facilitator's speech covered a wide range of topics like background, design features and working principle of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The convincing reasons behind choosing Generation III+ VVER- 1200 nuclear reactor with modern safety system from the Russian Federation was also

stated. Furthermore, Mr. Sadhukhan stated that the radiation impacts on population from natural radioactivity and tritium before commissioning and predicted atmospheric emissions during normal operation of the RNPP showed that there is negligible radiological risk on the population of Bangladesh both before and after commissioning of the RNPP.

Link: <https://youtu.be/BCRbogvJNbg>

### **“EEE Virtual Project Showcasing – Spring 2021”**

“EEE Virtual Project Showcasing – Spring 2021” was organized jointly by the Department of EEE, ULAB and ULAB Electronics and Robotics Club (UERC), and took place on 27 May 2021. Students from the EEE, ETE and CSE departments participated in this event. After the judgement, the top 5 groups received e-certificates. Prof. Dr. M. Mofazzal Hossain, Dean, School of Science and Engineering and Head, Department of EEE, ULAB was the chief guest of this program. All the faculty members of the EEE department were present in the program. The program was highly interactive and different showcased projects and idea-sharing helped students to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Link: [“EEE Virtual Project”](#)

## SDG 13: Climate Action

### CSD Research Project: Climate Change Induced Drought in Bangladesh



CSD Research Project: Climate Change Induced Drought in Bangladesh

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 about this in rural agriculture dependent communities of Bangladesh with an intention to contribute to this sector through research addressing SDG: 13 (Climate Action). This research

was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of Bangladesh.

### CSD Knowledge Sharing Event: Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort

In early June, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, joined the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)'s Climate Research Cohort programme as 'Research-to-Action Facilitator'. Representing the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), he supported twenty-six young and enthusiastic researchers from 16 countries, from Jamaica to New Zealand, to design and implement Research-to-Action (R2A) projects of this Cohort. Eighteen mentors (senior researchers) worked with one or two mentees in their journey till the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, UK.

Link: <https://www.acu.ac.uk/get-involved/cop26-commonwealth-futures-climate-research-cohort/?fbclid=IwAR0W3fyDBqTIKWm9xvEisan0Sgz6Re3hzW26sXjF1jEKhRhmLTgxHTGInps>

### CSD takes part in International Disaster Management Exhibition

On 19 May, at the International Disaster Management Exhibition, under the World Humanitarian Forum 2021 in London, Dr. Haseeb Md Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, was on 'Water Crises and Resilience' panel. He talked about the importance of outlooks towards the water crises, understanding of water security leading to conflict and instability under changing climate, and the role of civil



CSD takes part in International Disaster Management Exhibition

society and academics in transboundary water governance. He also highlighted how Bangladesh has been creating examples in climate finance (BCCTF) and budget and community-based adaptation.

## CSD collaborates with Keele University on the Integrity Project

CSD-ULAB, in collaboration with the Keele University, is working for salinity tests with citizen scientists and incorporating arts to present the vulnerabilities of climate change in Monpura under the Integrity project. As a part of this project, on 26 to 27 September 2021, a research team from CSD visited Monpura (an island very close to the Bay of Bengal and one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change) in Bhola. The objective was to facilitate participatory research by training young residents of the island to become citizen scientists by doing salinity tests of the soil of their own, making them address their vulnerabilities through arts medium with international communities; and to collect nine soil samples for salinity tests from three planned transect lines.



CSD collaborates with Keele University on the Integrity Project

## CSD part of Gobeshona Platform on Climate Change Research

On 24 January 2021, Gobeshona Global Conference-1 was organized by International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), and one of the sessions was jointly organized by CSD-ULAB and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). During this session, presenters discussed the importance of forests and their roles in moderating climate change mitigation and adapting as a Nature-based Solution (Nbs).



CSD International Research Collaboration with ETH Zurich

## CSD International Research Collaboration with ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich conducted a project in March 2021 to understand the climate risk, land loss, and migration of the people living by the Jamuna river bank. CSD's research assistants were part of the project. This research work was conducted to know why the people living by the Jamuna River bank frequently migrate, their problems during and after the

## CSD hosts a webinar on Research and Innovation for a Greener Bangladesh

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, spoke on a webinar session “Research and Innovation for a Greener Bangladesh” organized by the World Bank Group on 15 December 2021. Md. Mostafa Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was present at the discussion as the special guest.



CSD hosts a webinar on Research and Innovation for a Greener Bangladesh

## SDG 14: Life below Water

### International Project: NO CRISES



Satkhira Field Research

This project aims to contribute to the overall challenge of ocean sustainability, using the United Nations SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development) as the overall framework. As a part of this project, CSD-ULAB has been conducting research on resource use and governance in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. In January, the CSD team went to Moheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, for the NO CRISES (Negotiating Ocean Conflicts among Rivals for Sustainable and Equitable Solutions) project. In the fieldwork, the team attempted to understand the region's main problems through EGS and Governance mapping.

### Satkhira Field Research

A team of researchers led by Dr. Samiya A Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, has conducted a five-day (18 to 22 October 2021) field research on coastal resource use and governance near the Sundarban mangrove, Shyamnagar, Satkhira. The field study, part of the 'NO CRISES' research project, focused on obtaining data on coastal communities' access, utilization, and allocation of ecosystem services under climate change, and governance of natural resources and its conflicts. In the course of three days, a total of 30 participants (equally represented by both genders) from five locations- around the villages of Harpangasia, Chokbara, and Boropukur were part of the survey. The participants were divided into five groups to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGD); each contained six respondents. The participants were mixed, only women or men with varying professions ranging from farmers, honey collectors, and fishers depending on the survey zones. The topics were tailored, adhering to the NO CRISES agenda.

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

One of the CSD's core international project is the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) project, which is a transdisciplinary global partnership and knowledge network. The aim of this project is to support the transition of small-scale fisheries (SSF) from vulnerability to viability in Africa and Asia. This project is involved in conducting transdisciplinary, community-engaged research in six countries in Asia - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand - and six countries in Africa - Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania. In April 2021, CSD-ULAB prepared a V2V Situational Analysis (SA) report on SSF of Bangladesh based on existing and ongoing research and literature from secondary sources (From 2011-2021). It has been identified according to the geographic location within the country, e.g., rivers, bay, ocean, haor. This SA report is a part of V2V research and practice (e.g., policy briefs, journal articles) that is conducted by 12-member countries of the V2V global partnership. The SA report will soon be published in the "Working Paper Series" of V2V Global Partnership under the title "A Situational Analysis of Small-Scale Fisheries in Bangladesh: From Vulnerability to Viability". The Working Paper Series will provide a collaborative and interactive platform for academics, practitioners, representatives of civil society, and individuals interested in making written contributions to the theoretical, methodological, practical, and policy aspects of small-scale fisheries, both locally and globally. On 13 April, 2021, on behalf of the V2V Bangladesh Country team, CSD presented the insights and details of the SA report in a V2V Webinar.



## V2V Field School: Environmental Change and Governance Rethinking Coastal Sustainability and Development

The rapid social and biophysical changes confronting coastal communities (e.g., with livelihoods, property rights, physical and mental health, biodiversity, water and habitat quality, and climate variability) are in many respects unprecedented under pressures from COVID-19. The resulting implications for coastal sustainability and development, i.e., the resilience and well-being of coastal communities and the coastal ecosystems upon which they depend, are profound. The country urgently needs to consider if and how coastal communities are prepared to respond and adapt to rapid social-ecological changes amidst the ongoing impacts from the pandemic and to craft governance responses that foster deliberate transformations and help build sustainable coastal social-ecological systems.

### International Conference: IMBIZO 6

The impacts of increased human activity on marine ecosystems that have already been compromised by pollution, overfishing, and climate change, make the need for sustainable management crucial. In October 2021, Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, played the convener role in the IMBIZO 6: Marine Biosphere Research: Buoyant Solutions for Ocean Sustainability Conference Workshop 3 - ‘Ocean Governance and Climate Adaptation: Comparing Responses, Charting Future Courses’. In the same conference, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, CSD-ULAB, presented her research on “Social-Ecological Vulnerability to Climate Change and Risk Governance in Fishing Communities of Bangladesh”. She talked about the importance of organization, planning, and implementation level risk governance.

### Daily Star Roundtable Organized by MJF

Daily Star and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organized an online discussion titled “Sector-Wide Impact Assessment on Coastal Small Fishers” on 7 April 2021. Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, participated as a panelist at this event. She spoke about the findings from the CSD study on the Impact of COVID-19 and the fishing ban on coastal fishers. She mentioned the need to seek alternative livelihoods, particularly for women. Their study found that the women who had access to growing their own food or had other ways of meeting their economic needs, fared better during the ban period. Other findings included lack of agency, identity, and limited government support during the fishing ban. <https://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/news/sector-wide-impact-assessment-coastal-small-fishers-2083373>

### Maritime Research (MARE) Conference: People and the Sea XI 2021

Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, spoke on two sessions, “Blue conflicts and pathways to sustainability” and “Prospects for small-scale fisheries transitioning from vulnerability to viability” at the MARE Conference on 1 and 2 July 2021. CSD Visiting Research Fellow, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah delivered his speech in the session “Commons, Community, and Conservation: Making Commons Dynamic through Communication-Decolonization and Community-based Conservation”. In addition, Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor & Researcher Fellow, CSD-ULAB, talked in another session titled: Impacts and Responses to COVID-19 in Coastal and Marine Areas.



Maritime Research (MARE) Conference: People and the Sea XI 2021



## SDG 15: Life on Land

### Session: Nature Conservation in Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Bangladesh has been sheltering around a million Rohingyas since August 2017 in the world's largest refugee camp. In a couple of sessions, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research fellow, CSD-ULAB, spoke about environmental degradation due to this refugee crisis and how nature conservation and ecosystem management are being taken care of in Cox's Bazar. The first session was organized by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK, on 16 March 2021, and the second session was by Delta State University, USA, on the occasion of Earth Day.

Presentation: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350439277\\_Nature-based\\_Solutions\\_NbS\\_in\\_Disaster\\_Management](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350439277_Nature-based_Solutions_NbS_in_Disaster_Management)

### Session: World Environment Day

The CSD and ULAB Sustainable Development Club organized week-long activities on the World Environment Day celebration in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Farming Future Bangladesh (FFB). CSD arranged painting and speech competitions with a focus on solutions of ecosystem degradation for youths from school and college groups. Four brainstorming and training workshops on river and haor ecosystem, terrestrial ecosystem, and urban ecosystem restoration were also organized for youths from university groups. Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Former Executive Director-Arannayk Foundation, Mr. Ashraful Haque Nobel, Project Management Specialist, USAID, Dr. Khalid Hossain, Program Coordinator, IUCN, Md. Arif Hossain, CEO and Executive Director, Farming Future Bangladesh, Professor Dr. Jude William Genilo, head of Media Studies and Journalism Department, ULAB and Mr. Joy Bhowmik, Adviser, USDC and Lecturer, CSD-ULAB, were present during the closing ceremony of the competition where ten participants from different universities of Bangladesh presented their action plans. They were commended for their ideas, provided with further insights from the judges, and encouraged to continue their efforts in restoring ecosystems. The best three participants of the competition had the opportunity to visit some sites of IUCN to acquire practical knowledge on ecosystem restoration.

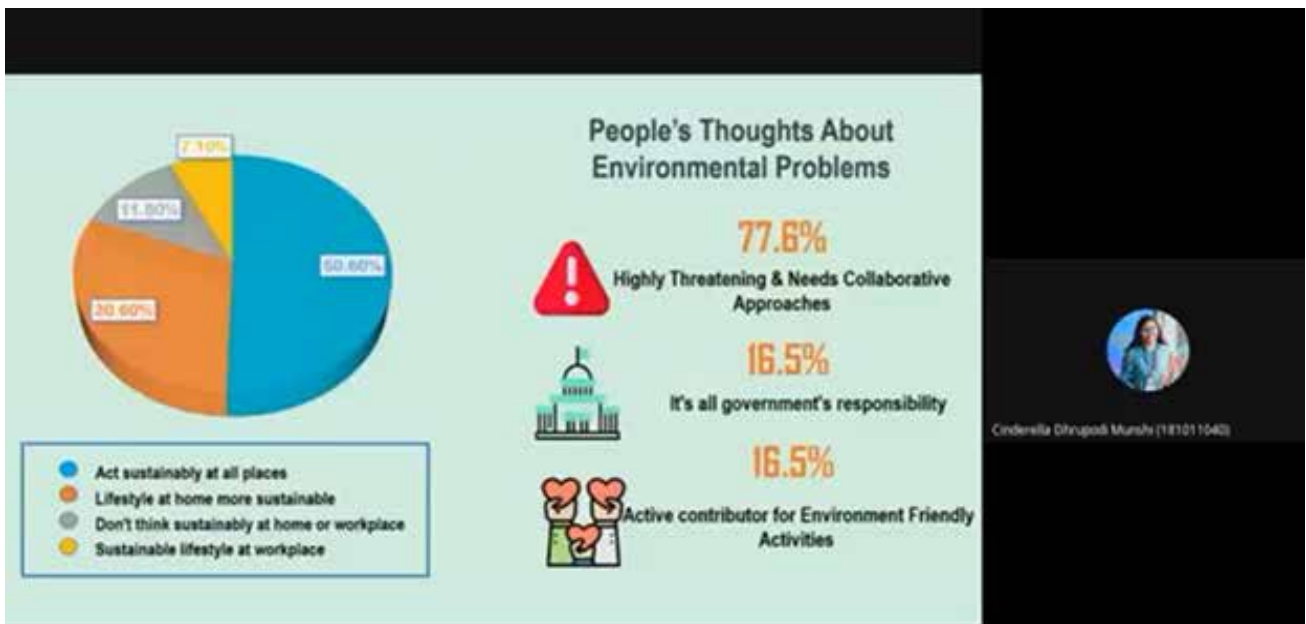
SHIKOR (The Roots), the flow of gene, life-style, and language, from Africa to Chittagong

Professor Muhammad Ibrahim of the Department of General Education published a book titled Shikor. For review of the book please follow the link below.

Review : <https://www.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bn/%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A7%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B7%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8:-%E0%A6%8F%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%81-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%BE-1621323238>

### Online Survey on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Regarding Sustainability

As part of their coursework, the students of GED 205 – Introduction to Sustainable Development and GED 209 – Environmental Science designed an online survey to collect data on an individual's knowledge about sustainability, their attitude or willingness to perform sustainable practices, and what actions they are taking in their regular lives.



Online Survey on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Regarding Sustainability

The students shared insightful results on the state of sustainability by surveying around 1000 respondents, where the majority of them claimed that they always try to minimize waste, use less plastic, try to save water and energy, take steps to reduce their carbon emissions and practice RRR (reduce, reuse and recycle). While the challenge to adopt sustainable habits still remain due to financial reasons, lack of skill and time, and ingrained habits, the students have analyzed and offered ideas to achieve a sustainable future in their group presentations.

Link: [CSD Annual Newsletter 2021.](#)

## SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

### ULAB, GSDS organize conference on non-violent communication

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)'s Media Studies and Journalism Department organised an online conference on “Integrating Non-Violent Communication in Curriculum” in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), India. The conference was held on the Zoom platform on 16 October 2021. The conference aimed to bring together academicians from the disciplines of communication, media and peace studies to discuss and reflect on the deepening of globalization, rise of hate speech and the advent of a post-truth era, and featured speakers from Bangladesh, India, Thailand, the Philippines and Sweden. The speakers at the conference discussed different aspects of non-violent communication and its importance in today’s society, and showcased their experiences of integrating the concept in the curricula of different disciplines including communication, journalism and media studies, peace studies, development communication and interdisciplinary studies.



ULAB-GSDS CONFERENCE ON  
**INTEGRATING  
NON-VIOLENT  
COMMUNICATION  
IN MEDIA AND  
COMMUNICATION  
STUDIES**

10:00 am  
Bangladesh Time  
**9 OCTOBER 2021**

ZOOM

Join at  
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ULAB, GSDS organize conference on non-violent communication

Link: <https://en.prothomalo.com/youth/education/ulab-gsds-organize-conference-on-non-violent-communication>

### Curriculum Integration Program for Spring Term 2021

The Department of Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Curriculum Integration (CI) Forum on 11 June 2021. The theme of Curriculum Integration Spring’21 is Non-violent Communication. Non-violent communication is when we are aware of what we are seeing, thinking, and doing so we can communicate more clearly and compassionately. Curriculum Integration (CI) is a unique program designed for the students of the Media Studies and Journalism (MSJ) department to display their creative work and enables students to collaborate and provides an interesting viewpoint.

### Special Orientation on Facebook Fundamentals for News

The Center for Communication Action Bangladesh, with support from Facebook, organized a special orientation session on ‘Facebook Fundamentals for News’ for ULAB journalism students on 11 November 2021. Over 1000 Bangladeshi journalists joined this training with a focus on online safety and best practices for storytelling and newsgathering on Facebook. During the orientation session, ULAB journalism students were introduced to the best practices for effective storytelling on Facebook, new storytelling such as Live, 360, Instant Articles, best use of video to take reportage to the next level and how to stay safe online and fight back against harassment and security threats. Syed Zain Al-Mahmood, Executive Director of Center for Communication Action Bangladesh, conducted the orientation session.

## Masterclass on Science and Art of Storytelling held at ULAB

The one-hour masterclass, entitled ‘The Science and Art of Storytelling,’ was held on Friday, 16 July at 8:00 pm. The first masterclass was held as part of the Digital Transformation Training Program at the initiative of the Department of Media Studies and Journalism, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB). The speakers of this masterclass were Len Clark, instructor at Notre Dame University, United States, and Mike Castellucci, mobile journalism expert. The speakers discussed the techniques needed to create a visual story and how to make a video acceptable to the viewers. The psychological issues of the viewer, why a viewer will watch a video, how a story moves the viewer – all of these were discussed by Len Clark. Mike Castellucci discussed story art. He spoke about how to do journalism from any part of the world with a mobile phone.

Link: <https://en.prothomalo.com/youth/education/masterclass-on-science-and-art-of-storytelling-held-at-ulab>

## Forum with Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam: DEH Curriculum Integration Spring 2021

Renowned postcolonial critic and eminent academic, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam spoke at the Second Forum of the Department of English and Humanities Curriculum Integration Program for Spring 2021 held on 21 March 2021. He said, “A similar colonial attitude persists in all countries of the Indian subcontinent. But we are supposed to be a little different, and we should not allow our paths to be driven by the same colonialist energy that we have seen operating from 1947 to 1971.”

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



Online Survey on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Regarding Sustainability

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/467325848025504>)

## Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Promotion of Diversity and Tolerance (Event)

The Centre for Enterprise and Society (CES) at ULAB organized a virtual launching of the first-ever Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Bangladesh dedicated to the promotion of diversity, tolerance, and pluralism on 20 June 2021.

The event was held on zoom and broadcast live on Dhaka Tribune. The project engaged various domestic and international academics, practitioners, and experts including Dr. Tariq Modood, founding director, of the Research Centre for the study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, Bristol University.

The online course is available on the Bohubrihi website, an online education platform based in Bangladesh. The course comprises 14 open, online lectures that explore pluralism and various dimensions of diversity: religious, ethnic, gender, sexual, cultural, historical, and political and has brought together 8 experts, local, regional and international, to produce work on one platform.



Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Promotion of Diversity and Tolerance (Event)

This event fits under SDG 4, Quality Education (4.3, 4.4, and 4.7) since it is a free online educational course open to both genders. Since the topic of discussion is a diversity course, it is essentially attempting to establish a sustainable environment for disadvantaged and indigenous people while also educating others to value cultural variety.

As the focus of this event is diversity, it comes under SDG 5, Gender Equality (5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5. a). We are attempting to establish a society, characterized by equity and equality, in which there is no gender discrimination, all types of violence against women and girls are eliminated, and the disadvantaged are valued.

This also fits under SDG 10, Reducing Inequality, (10.2) as the course, Promotion of Diversity, Tolerance, and Pluralism, aims to make a sustainable change in our society as well as in our youth by educating them about reducing inequality by empowering and encouraging the social, economic, and political inclusion of everyone, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic position.

This event also contributes to SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, since the course introduced at this event strives to minimize all kinds of violence and guarantee responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

CES has been implementing a five-year grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to promote resilience against violent extremism whilst promoting tolerance, pluralism, and diversity in Bangladesh. CES has considerable engagement with SDG 16 and 10. Over the next years, via the NED project, we hope to build greater sustainability of a tolerant environment among the youth of Bangladesh and also incorporate global cooperation sharing our knowledge and success with international counterparts in promoting diversity and tolerance.

Press Releases <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/education/2021/06/20/ulab-launches-course-to-promote-tolerance-pluralism>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/141622/ulab-launches-open-online-course-on-pluralism-tolerance>

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/DhakaTribune/videos/1218306765256895>



## SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

### Workshop: ULAB-Keele Workshop on Technology and Sustainable Development

ULAB and its partner Keele University, held a remarkable two-day long (28 to 29 July 2021) virtual workshop titled “Opportunities and challenges for circular technical energy storage in remote communities in Bangladesh”. Dr. Samiya Selim, Director, CSD-ULAB, and her colleagues represented ULAB. Prof. Imran Rahman, Special Advisor to ULAB Board of Trustees and the Dean of ULAB School of Business, also joined as



Workshop: ULAB-Keele Workshop on Technology and Sustainable Development

a guest. Also, his welcome speech and valuable opinions added to the significance of the program. The workshop was successful, with lively discussions between distinguished faculties and students from both universities. The discussions focused on identifying scopes of bringing the expertise of both the partners in examining the logistic, technical, economic, and cultural barriers to circular design in portable charging infrastructure in rural communities in Bangladesh. The two-day workshop ended with identifying expertise, links, resources, and opportunities for future collaborations.

### Part of ACU SDG Network

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is an international organization dedicated to building a better world through higher education. The ACU leads a strategic plan, ‘The Road to 2030’ that promotes the role of Higher Education (HE) to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through international collaboration. As a part of this initiative, ACU established a steering committee on the SDGs network across the globe to facilitate the discussion of the role of universities in achieving SDGs. Mr. Joy Bhowmik, Lecturer and Research Associate, CSDULAB, was engaged with the steering committee as a regional lead for South Asia. On 19 May 2021, the committee discussed the university’s experiences for local SDG contributions, where Mr. Bhowmik shared ULAB’s contribution. University might play a vital role in achieving a country’s SDG target; however, strong partnership among different stakeholders, including policymakers, is a prerequisite. Moreover, different governments worldwide must engage universities actively to achieve SDGs on time. A cluster of universities in partnership with private sectors can be assigned to lead the activities of different goals.

The full presentation is available at the following link-[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351661181\\_University\\_of\\_Liberal\\_Arts\\_Bangladesh's\\_Local\\_Contributions\\_to\\_the\\_SDGs](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351661181_University_of_Liberal_Arts_Bangladesh's_Local_Contributions_to_the_SDGs)

### An equitable and sustainable future of academic publishing

On 27 May 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, and a Chef of The Scholarly Kitchen, was on the panel of the Closing Plenary of the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP)’s 43rd Annual Meeting, USA. Dr. Irfanullah shared his thoughts on the environmental and climate responsibilities of the publishing industry. He also advocated for using sustainability lenses to see the world around us. On 19 January 2021, Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfanullah, Visiting Research Fellow, CSD-ULAB, presented a paper entitled “So, what does resilience mean to scholarly publishing?” in a



webinar organized by the Association of Learned and Society Publishers (ALPSP), UK. By using the resilience framework in the context of disasters, like floods, Dr. Irfanullah explained how resilience can be explained for academic publishing in the ongoing pandemic situation. Presentation: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348619222\\_So\\_what\\_does\\_resilience\\_mean\\_for\\_scholarly\\_publishing](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348619222_So_what_does_resilience_mean_for_scholarly_publishing)

## **Bangladesh 100 program**

Bangladesh 100 program, virtual immersion was organized by CSD-ULAB, on 26 January 2021. Bangladesh 100 is a part of the Common Purpose Global Legacy campaign, which invests in young people so they can become a connected generation of leaders with a clear vision for what their legacy will be. Bangladesh 100 builds the cultural intelligence and social capital that young people need to impact their city in the years to come. Participants took a societal challenge for Bangladesh 100, “How can we encourage Dhaka to maximize its use of renewable materials and energy sources, to help move the city towards becoming a zero-waste environment?” Dr. Samiya Selim, Director CSD-ULAB, spoke at the opening session pointing out the role of young people in environmental conservation and climate action. Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, and Joy Bhowmik, Lecturer, CSD-ULAB played an advisory role in the event.

## **CETL director discusses Quality Online Education with Bangla Tribune, a leading national print media**

Bangla Tribune-National Daily organised a discussion on Quality Online Education on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Director CETL ULAB was the facilitator. The key objective of the interview was to discuss how online teaching and learning are perceived by the academics along with the students and how to even further positively change it to ensure quality education.

News Link: <https://www.banglatribune.com/educations/709708/%E2%80%98%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%87%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B8-%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BF%E0%A7%9F%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AD%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9F%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87%E2%80%99>

## **Webinar on Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education Sector focusing on teaching and Learning: Bangladesh perspective.**

A webinar was organized by 12nd December 2021 by British Council Bangladesh in Collaboration with The Daily Star (Leading national daily). The facilitator was David Maynard, Education and English Director- British Council. Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Director CETL ULAB participated in the webinar.

The discussion was about the importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education

The key objective of the webinar was to understand the Bangladeshi higher education perspective in general from the lens of quality education. More specifically it discussed how to mitigate the challenges that were brought together in the discussion.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews/videos/605194364132967>



Webinar on Importance of quality enhancement in the Higher Education Sector focusing on teaching and Learning: Bangladesh perspective.

## SDG-Related Publications of ULAB Faculty

### Journal Articles:

Alam, Md. S., & Sultana, R. (2021). Influences of Climatic and non-climatic factors on COVID-19 outbreak: a review of existing literature. *Environmental Challenges*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envc.2021.100255>

Bhowmik, J., Irfanullah, H. Md., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Empirical evidence from Bangladesh of assessing climate hazard-related loss and damage and state of adaptive capacity to address them. *Climate Risk Management*, 31, 100273. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2021.100273>

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Breckwoldt, A., Lopes, P. F. M., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Look Who's Asking—Reflections on Participatory and Transdisciplinary Marine Research Approaches. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.627502>

Brodie, S., Frainer, A., Pennino, M. G., Jiang, S., Kaikkonen, L., Lopez, J., Ortega-Cisneros, K., Peters, C. A., Selim, S. A., & Văidianu, N. (2021). Equity in science: advocating for a triple-blind review system. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, 36(11), 957–959. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2021.07.011>

Irfanullah, H. Md., Smith, A. C., Tasnim, T., Turner, B., Chausson, A., Seddon, N. (2021). Nature-based solutions in Bangladesh: Evidence of Effectiveness for Addressing Climate Change and Other Sustainable Development Goals. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2021.737659>

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Nayna Schwerdtle, P., Baernighausen, K., Karim, S., Raihan, T. S., Selim, S., Baernighausen, T., & Danquah, I. (2021). A Risk Exchange: Health and Mobility in the Context of Climate and Environmental Change in Bangladesh—A Qualitative Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(5), 2629. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052629>

Pemberton, S., Tripathy Furlong, B., Scanlan, O., Koubi, V., Guhathakurta, M., Hossain, Md. K., Warner, J., & Roth, D. (2021). “Staying” as climate change adaptation strategy: A proposed research agenda. *Geoforum*, 121, 192–196. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2021.02.004>

Pennino, M. G., Brodie, S., Frainer, A., Lopes, P. F. M., Lopez, J., Ortega-Cisneros, K., Selim, S., & Vaidianu, N. (2021). The Missing Layers: Integrating Sociocultural Values Into Marine Spatial Planning. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.633198>

Scanlan, O. (2021). When Donors Collide: The Implications of Contradictory Interventions in a Bangladesh Agrarian Environment. *Studies of Transition States and Societies*, 13(1). <http://publications.tlu.ee/index.php/stss/article/view/902>

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Sultana, R., & Selim, S. A. (2021). Residents' perceptions of the role and management of green spaces to provide cultural ecosystem services in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Ecology and Society*, 26(4). <https://doi.org/10.5751/es-12656-260405>

### **Newspaper Articles:**

Zaman, S., (2021), The Pandemic Blow to SDG's, *The Financial Express*

Jui. U.M., (2021), Climate-induced migration, pandemic: impact on small fishers. *The Daily Observer*

Diba, S.A., (2021), Does the cost of sustainable products keep people away from living sustainably? *The Business Standard*

Diba, S.A., (2021), Do we know the reason behind asking for climate justice? *The Financial Express*

Zaman, S., (2021), Does helping the environment make you happier? *The Financial Express*

Budrudzaman, M., (2021), Masculinity: A Two-edged Sword. *The Daily Sun*.

Budrudzaman, M., (2021), "Crab Farming: How to do it sustainably" *The Business Standard*

### **Blog Articles:**

Budrudzaman, M., (2021), "Fisher folks in Gaburia demand government support for alternative livelihoods", Fifth Edition of V2V Commons

Budrudzaman, M., (2021), Bangladesh needs to factor mental health into disaster-response policies. *The Third Pole*

Selim, S. A., Ahmed, S.G (2021). Hotter, Wetter, Saltier. International Collective in Support of Fishworkers(ICSF) Trust. SAMUdRA Report no. 86. ISSN 0973-1121

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Raihan, S.T., (2021), Insight into Nijhum Dwip and their Fishing Community, Fourth Edition of V2V Commons Newsletter.

Diba, S.A., (2021) Country in Action: Bangladesh, Fourth Edition of V2V Commons Newsletter.

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 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



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