



Department of English and Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

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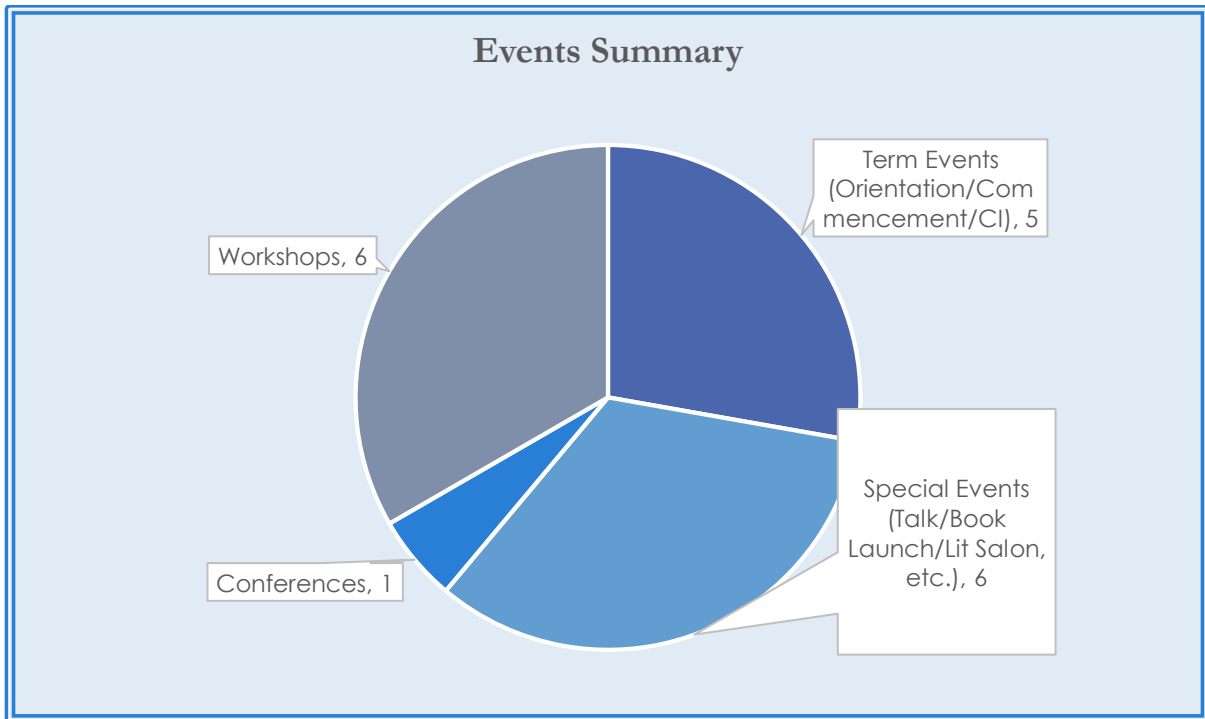
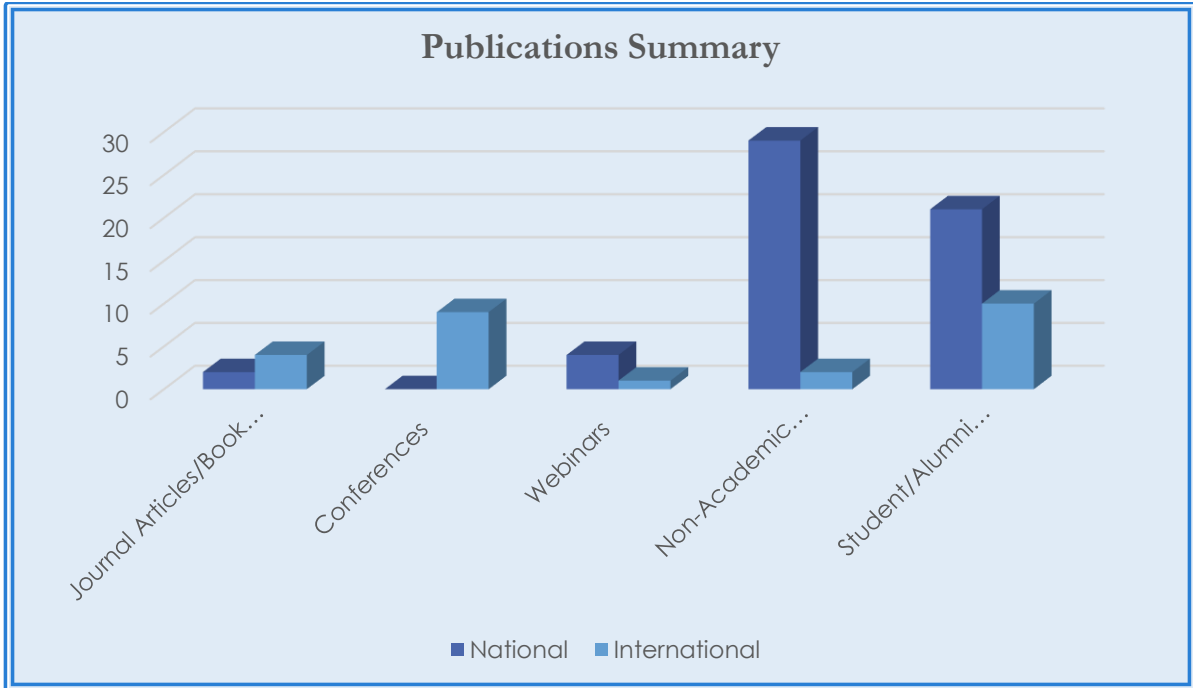
# Publications and Events Report

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Spring 2022

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# Publications

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## Journal Articles/Book Chapters

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### *International*

Shahed, F.H., & **Rahman, Mohammad Mosiur**. "Bilingualism in Bangladeshi Education: The Underlying Problems and Confusions." *Celebes Journal of Language Studies*, vol. 2, no. 1, May 2022. <https://harpressid.com/index.php/CJLS/article/view/83>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "A New Reality for Bangladesh." *Crisis Response* vol. 17, no. 1, March 2022, pp. 88-89.

Rahman, Mohammad Mosiur et al. "The Influence of Apprenticeship of Observation on Business Teacher's Beliefs and Attitudes towards English-Medium Instruction: A Case Study." *Pertanika Journal of Social Science and Humanities*, vol. 30, no. 1, March 2022. University of Putra Malaysia Press. <https://doi.org/10.47836/pjssh.30.1.10>.

Borasi, R., **Hafsa, Syeda Farzana**, Miller, D., & Morris, A. "Preparing Educational Psychology Instructors to Teach Online: The Role of Identity Development." In C. Roseth & P. Thompson (Eds.). *Teaching in Online, Distance, and Non-Traditional Contexts. Information Age Publishing*. [Book chapter accepted for publication in the book series titled "Educational Psychology for Teachers and Teaching" (USA).]

### *National*

Mortuza, Shamsad. Preface. *Syed Waliullah: My Husband as I Saw Him*. By Anne-Marie Waliullah. Edited by Simine and Iraj Waliullah. Nymphaea Publication, 2022.

Siddiqua, Tanzia. "COVID-19 on Education: Access-Self Materials to Enhance Learning." *COVID-19 and Bangladesh: A Living Document*. Daffodil International University Press (Matrivasa Prokash), 2021 [published in April 2022].

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## Conferences

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### *International*

Haq, Kaiser. "The aesthetic experience of Bengali poetry and Bangla culture." Keynote Speech. International Conference on Bangladesh Studies: An Overview. Paris, June 14-15, 2022.

Haq, Kaiser. "The New Frontier." Everything Change: Writing Change. Literature Wales, Swansea University UK and Dhaka LitFest. June 9, 2020.

Rezwana, Mohammad Zaki. "Devotion in Motion: The Image of Islam in Rickshaw Art of Bangladesh." *South Asian Art History Student Symposium*. The University of Victoria, Canada. June 4, 2022.

Haq, Kaiser. "Reflections on Hope." In Conversation. York Hope Consortium and University of York. May 25, 2022.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "In Conversation with Arifa Ghani Rahman." Online Literature Conference on Environment and Literature, Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) and Sahitya Akademi. March 27-29, 2022.

Haq, Kaiser. "In Conversation with Sanjeeda Hussain. Online Literature Conference on Environment and Literature, Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) and Sahitya Akademi. March 27-29, 2022.

Haq, Kaiser. "Poetry Session." Online Literature Conference on Environment and Literature, Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) and Sahitya Akademi. March 27-29, 2022.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Ekushey and the Shaping of Our Cultural Resistance." Keynote Speech. ULAB Multicultural Conclave: A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations. February 25-26, 2022.

Haq, Kaiser. "Bidrohi at 100: Resistance, Rebellion and Revolution." Panel Discussant. ULAB Multicultural Conclave: A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations. February 25-26, 2022.

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## Seminars/Webinars

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### ***International***

Manzoor, Sohana, and Shamsad Mortuza. Online Discussion on *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh*. Moderated by Saikat Majumdar. Ashoka University, India. March 20, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT94H5Z5Nu4>.

### ***National***

Manzoor, Sohana. Host. "Literary Matters" (Online Literary Discussion Series). Session 1 with Prof. Sabiha Huq, Professor, Khulna University and Ms. Noora Shamsi Bahar, Senior Lecturer, NSU. May 16, 2022.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "A Literary Adda." Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet. March 29, 2022.

Rahman, Arifa Ghani. "Learning Management Systems (LMS): Repository and Access." 5<sup>th</sup> Certificate in eLearning and Teaching. fLTR. March 19, 2022.

Mortuza, Shamsad. ATLEB Book Discussion. March 15, 2022.

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## Grants

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Rahman, Arifa Ghani, Shamsad Mortuza, Tabassum Zaman, Mohammad Zaki Rezwan. ACU Gender Grant 2021. 1000 GBP.

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## Non-Academic and Creative Publications

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### *International*

Rahman, Arifa Ghani, trans. "The Magic Staff" (Shaheen Akhtar's "Aloukik Chchori"), *Borderless Journal*, June 14, 2022. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2022/06/14/the-magic-staff/>.

Rahman, Arifa Ghani, trans. "Déjà Vu" (Shaheen Akhtar's "Emon Aro Raat Chchilo"), *Out of Print*, Issue 44, March 2022. [https://www.outofprintmagazine.co.in/shaheen-akhtar\\_d%C3%A9j%C3%A0-vu.html?fbclid=IwAR0X1nRkLthEa7u7-6KIUEQ\\_epihaBeTpZcM3vA7CdXUn--MN1xIqnqTwaw](https://www.outofprintmagazine.co.in/shaheen-akhtar_d%C3%A9j%C3%A0-vu.html?fbclid=IwAR0X1nRkLthEa7u7-6KIUEQ_epihaBeTpZcM3vA7CdXUn--MN1xIqnqTwaw).

### *National*

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Will Terminal 3 be Everything We Want it to Be?" *The Daily Star*. June 18, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/will-terminal-3-be-everything-we-want-it-be-3049766>.

Zaman, Tabassum. "Enjoying Dhaka Rain Doesn't Have to be a Privilege." *The Daily Star*. June 15, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/views/opinion/news/enjoying-rain-dhaka-privilege-3047481>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "If You Pay Peanuts, You Get Monkeys." *The Daily Star*. June 10, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/if-you-pay-peanuts-you-get-monkeys-3044181>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Heard Words are Worthy, those Unheard are Bitter." *The Daily Star*. June 4, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/heard-words-are-worthy-those-unheard-are-bitter-3038776>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Stuck in an Endless Loop of Corruption and Violence." *The Daily Star*. May 28, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/stuck-endless-loop-3033431>.

Manzoor, Sohana, trans. "Excerpts from Kazi Nazrul Islam's Hena." *The Daily Star*. May 27, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/excerpts-kazi-nazrul-islams-hena-3033466>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "How to be a Hypocrite: Courtesy of the West." *The Daily Star*. May 23, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/false-vanity-and-false-friends-3029411>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Lost in Translation." *The Daily Star*. May 21, 2022. [https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/lost-translation-3028256?fbclid=IwAR1CI3v\\_U0lCjB0DzzFIs7E4CTqCwC38AlcUx9sr-5RMoEi9onXu6Pgg0w0](https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/lost-translation-3028256?fbclid=IwAR1CI3v_U0lCjB0DzzFIs7E4CTqCwC38AlcUx9sr-5RMoEi9onXu6Pgg0w0).

- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "What we readers want from Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies'". Daily Star Books. May 19, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/pages-pixels-what-we-readers-want-zoya-akhtars-the-archies-3026936>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "A Two-Stroke Thrombosis." *The Daily Star*. May 14, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/two-stroke-thrombosis-3023031>.
- Zaman, Tabassum. "The Fantasy of an Empty Dhaka." *The Daily Star*. May 8, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/views/opinion/news/the-fantasy-empty-dhaka-3018586>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "From Rabindranath Tagore's Chhinnapatra." *The Daily Star*. May 7, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/rabindranath-tagores-chhinnapatra-3018176>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Blowing in the Media-Wind." *The Daily Star*. May 7, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/blowing-the-media-wind-3018091>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Puti Maach and the Selfish Giant." *The Daily Star*. April 30, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/puti-maach-and-the-selfish-giant-3015241>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Parallel Realities, Peripheral Existences: Saikat Majumdar's The Middle Finger." *The Daily Star*. April 23, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/parallel-realities-peripheral-existences-saikat-majumdars-the-middle-finger-3010486>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "On the Other Side of a Stray Bullet." *The Daily Star*. April 16, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/the-other-side-stray-bullet-3005286>.
- Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Shangskriti'r Mor Phera, Shangskriti'r Bodle Jawa." *Prothom Alo*. April 14, 2022. <https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%8B%E0%A7%9C-%E0%A6%AB%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%83%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A6%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%93%E0%A7%9F%E0%A6%BE>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Transitioning Back to 'Normal' Learning." *The Daily Star*. April 9, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/transitioning-back-normal-learning-3001056>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "In a World Dominated by Images." *The Daily Star*. April 2, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/world-dominated-images-2995821>.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Notun Shurur Jonno Amra Ki Prostut." *Prothom Alo*. March 26, 2022.  
<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A8-%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%AE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%A4>

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Fragmented Thoughts on Independence Day." *The Daily Star*. March 26, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/fragmented-thoughts-independence-day-2990541>.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Jiboner aar Kolponar Golpo." *Prothom Alo*. March 14, 2022.  
[https://www.kishoralo.com/lifestyle/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA?\\_gl=1\\*1l29hgl\\*\\_ga\\*MTA3ND E1MTI1Ni4xNjU4ODE2Mzg1\\*\\_ga\\_C4T51Z1NR8\\*MTY1ODgxNjM4NC4xLjEuMTY1ODgxNjc0My4w](https://www.kishoralo.com/lifestyle/%E0%A6%9C%E0%A7%80%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%97%E0%A6%B2%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AA?_gl=1*1l29hgl*_ga*MTA3ND E1MTI1Ni4xNjU4ODE2Mzg1*_ga_C4T51Z1NR8*MTY1ODgxNjM4NC4xLjEuMTY1ODgxNjc0My4w)

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Do We Need Semesters?" *The Daily Star*. March 12, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/do-we-need-semester-2980846>.

Mortuza, Shamsad, trans. "আলেহান্দ্রা পিজারনিকের তিনটি কবিতা." *BDnews24.com*. March 10, 2022.  
[https://arts.bdnews24.com/archives/36300?fbclid=IwAR1RC8s3xh1K\\_PbNkis5AwcdoZxr wUAbgPrr\\_ElGN0VfoilTnVMTy53m3qE](https://arts.bdnews24.com/archives/36300?fbclid=IwAR1RC8s3xh1K_PbNkis5AwcdoZxr wUAbgPrr_ElGN0VfoilTnVMTy53m3qE).

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Muktir Shongram." *Prothom Alo*. March 7, 2022.  
<https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/column/%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%81%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%B8%E0%A6%82%E0%A6%97%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%AE>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Historic March 7: Setting a Nation on the March." *The Daily Star*. March 7, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/historic-march-7-setting-nation-the-march-2977166>.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "Book Fair: An Affair to Remember." *The Daily Star*. March 5, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/book-fair-affair-remember-2975691>.



- Manzoor, Sohana. "A Conversation with Saikat Majumdar." *The Daily Star*. March 5, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/conversation-saikat-majumdar-2975921>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Save Us from the Brunt of Price Hikes." *The Daily Star*. February 26, 2022.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/save-us-the-brunt-price-hikes-2970621>.

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## Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements

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### *International*

- Islam, Md. Talebur. "Strategies of China for Establishing Modern Imperialism through Debt Trap, Economic and Foreign Policies." 1st International Graduate Conference on Economic Development. HIMMEP, Faculty of Business & Economy, Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, and JIEB Journal. June 4, 2022. [Selected as Best Speaker]
- Islam, Md. Talebur. "Is the 21st Century going to be the Asian Century?" and "Transition of Superpowers." Speaker. Seedhi Baat. Podcast from India. May 20, 2022.
- Islam, Md. Talebur. "Global Human Rights, Interfaith, and Harmony." Keynote Speaker. Harmony Camp on Human Rights and Interfaith, Indonesia. March 12-13, 2022 (Semarang), March 19-20, 2022 (Yogyakarta), March 26-27, 2022 (Bandung), April 9-10, 2022 (Pekalongan), April 16-17, 2022 (Salatiga).
- Islam, Md. Talebur. Local Dissemination Conference - IVS GREAT 2022. Global Citizen for Human Rights Project, organized by Great Indonesia in collaboration with the Indonesian State Islamic Institute and University, Ministry of Religion, Republic of Indonesia. April 28, 2022
- Islam, Md. Talebur Islam. "South Asia In Transition: Consequences of Neglecting the Neighbours." *LIFEWAYS: International Journal of Society, Development and Environment in the Developing World*, vol. 6, no. 1, April 2022, pp. 40-49.
- Leona, Krishti Aung. "Representation of the Liberation War of Bangladesh by Bangladeshi Women Authors." ULAB Multicultural Conclave: A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations. February 25-26, 2022.
- Ghose, Neha. "The East in the Bengal: The Influence of East Asian Popular Culture in Bangladeshi Manga." ULAB Multicultural Conclave: A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations. February 25-26, 2022.
- Mrenmoi, Sheikh Tasmima. "Representation of Bangladesh through the lens of US Media: A Postcolonial Study." ULAB Multicultural Conclave: A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations. February 25-26, 2022.

Rahman, S A M Raihanur. Admission to PhD Program in English Literature, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, from Fall 2022. Teaching Associate. Funding includes full tuition waiver, living stipend and health insurance.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. Admission to PhD Program in Rhetoric, Writing and Culture in the Department of English, North Dakota State University, USA, from Fall 2022. Full tuition waiver and Teaching Assistantship.

## ***National***

Mortuza, Arshi. *One Minute Past Midnight*. Nympha Publication, 2022.

Zafrin, Sofia. Honorable Mention. Inspiring Women Award. Leaders of Tomorrow Category. Women in Leadership, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Cyberbullying Rampant in Bangladesh.” *Daily Sun*. June 16, 2022.

Islam, Md. Talebur. “What Prevents Bangladesh from Implementing Sister-City Cooperation?” *The Dhaka Tribune*, June 13, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Sitakunda Tragedy— Lessons (Still Not) Learnt.” *Daily Sun*. June 7, 2022.

Shila, Zarin Tasnim. “A Journey to the Whimsical World of Wes Anderson.” *Dhaka Tribune*. May 19, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Essence of Poet Nazrul in Post-pandemic Era.” *Daily Sun*. May 25, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Domestic Violence Not a Subaltern Issue.” *Daily Sun*. May 17, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “On Writing: A Personal Anecdote.” *Daily Sun*. May 10, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Forgetfulness among Students.” *Daily Sun*. April 21, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Muhammad Nurul Huda’s “Behula’s Sari” in M Harunur Rashid’s Translation.” *Daily Sun*. April 14, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Independence Comes with Responsibility.” *Daily Sun*. April 2, 2022.

Badruzzaman, Mohammad. Guest Presenter. “Addressing Mental Health Stress Related to Climate Change and Disaster Management.” Sajida Foundation, Gobeshona Global Conference 2, and International Center for Climate Change and Development. March 29, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Introducing Bangabandhu to our children.” *The Business Standard*. March 17, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Promoting Skills-based Learning for Children’s Better Future.” *Daily Sun*. March 17, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Ashamoni: Her Honour Is Not in Her Vagina.” *Daily Sun*. March 15, 2022.

Islam, Md. Talebur. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place.” *The Dhaka Tribune*, March 15, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow.” *Daily Sun*. March 8, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Zero Discrimination against Girls Begins at Home.” *Daily Sun*. March 1, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Mohit Ul Alam’s Sahityapath: Totto O Talash.” *Daily Sun*. February 24, 2022.

Sonali, Jainab Tabassum Banu. “Using Digital Tools to Preserve Our Dialects.” *Daily Sun*. February 21, 2022.

# Event Reports

## Event 1: Orientation Spring 2022



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted its Orientation Program on February 20, 2022, to welcome the incoming BA and MA students of Spring 2022. The freshers were welcomed to their academic lives with motivation from prominent speakers.

The Head of the Department and Associate Professor of the Department of English and Humanities, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, introduced the freshers to the faculty members of DEH in her opening address. Following this, Professor Kaiser Haq and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam shared inspirational words of motivation and wisdom with the aspiring students.

Ms. Raihana Sultana, Cultural Affairs Specialist, Academic Exchange Programs, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, graced the orientation program as the guest speaker. She talked about the wide variety of career opportunities that English majors can access both locally and internationally under the tutelage of DEH during her speech.

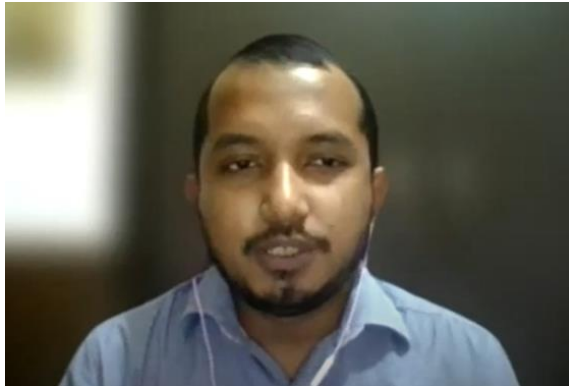


The cultural session began with Humaira Mehnaz reciting the poem “Ek shondhae ghore firi ami tomar hoyei” by Salma Sultana. A delightful cover, sung by Alen Henry Costa of the song ‘Everything I do, I do it for you’ by Bryan Adams, followed the poetry recitation. Later, Lamia Faiza, a second semester student, shared her experience at DEH to encourage the freshers. Afterwards, the cultural segment showcased a dance by Ryma Rahman Heya to the song ‘Basanta eshe geche’ and Lamia Jashim Uddin recited the poem ‘A Dream Within a Dream’ by Edgar Allan Poe. Following this, Md. Mashiur Rahaman, an MA student, spoke to the freshers about his experience and congratulated them on choosing DEH. He also offered valuable pieces of advice to the freshers. The segment ended with Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish and Fahmeda Akter Ador’s mesmerizing duet cover of the song “Ekta gopon kotha.” At the end of the orientation program, Senior Lecturer, Md. Zaki Rezwana gave the vote of thanks to the organizers, volunteers, and participants.

Sanzida Alam hosted the event with the help of Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, Teaching Assistant, BA in English, DEH. The event poster was designed by Md. Masayal Islam.

The full program can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKQani5-1g>.

Some glimpses of the event:

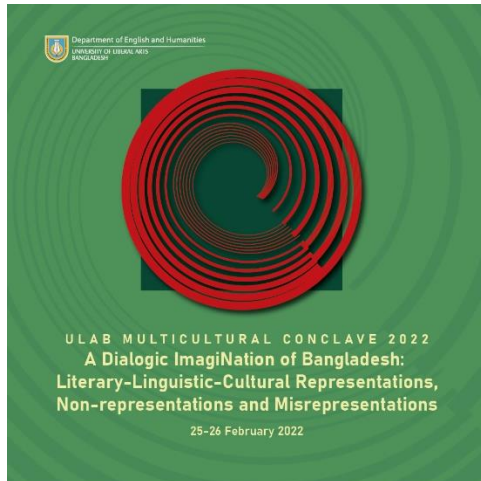


*Report by Ronjaton Jannat (212013013)*

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## Event 2: ULAB Multicultural Conclave 2022: “A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations”

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As we observe the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh and the 70th anniversary of 21 February 1952, a movement that catalyzed the beginning Bengali nationalist movements in East Pakistan, our celebrations create the scope to read and reread how this nation is imagined in manifestations of the public consciousness—in literary texts, films, and other popular media.

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) sought to raise these enquiries and more in its 2022 Multicultural Conclave, focusing on ‘A Dialogic ImagiNation of Bangladesh: Literary-Linguistic-Cultural Representations, Non-representations and Misrepresentations’.

The two-day online Conclave beginning at 9 am on Friday, February 25 and ending on the evening of Saturday, February 26, was held on Zoom and aired live on ULAB’s social media pages.

Keynote Speakers at the conclave included Professor Ganesh N. Devy, best known for the People’s Linguistic Survey of India; Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, award-winning fiction writer, critic, and professor of English at ULAB; and critic, educator, activist, and editor Professor Saugata Bhadhuri, specialist in the literary and cultural history of colonial history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

The Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Professor Imran Rahman; Pro-Vice Chancellor, ULAB, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, spoke on the occasion.

The keynote and plenary sessions explored the ideas of nation, nationalism, and nationhood; on how specific spaces and time periods shape the characters portrayed in narratives on Bangladesh; and how these local and global representations, in turn, shape relationships between this nation and those living in it. Through exploring and debating these issues, questions like the following were raised: can we reach towards a more inclusive narrative of Bangladesh in the coming years? Can we help envision a state whose story encompasses the episodes of history as yet inaccessible to students and the youth, a story that includes the experiences of all political, linguistic, ethnic, and gender identities?

The event saw discussions led by Professor Rachel McDermott, Columbia University; Professor Kaiser Haq, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh; Professor Azfar Hussain, Grand Valley State University; Professor Angshuman Kar, University of Burdwan; Professor Cara Cilano, Michigan State University; Professor Mohammad Azam, University of Dhaka; Professor Shoaib Gibran, Bangladesh Open University; Dr. Avishek Parui, IIT Madras; Dr. Christin Höne, Maastricht University; Professor Fahmida Akhter, Jahangirnagar University; and Professor Sudeep Chakravarti, writer, journalist, and Visiting Professor, ULAB.

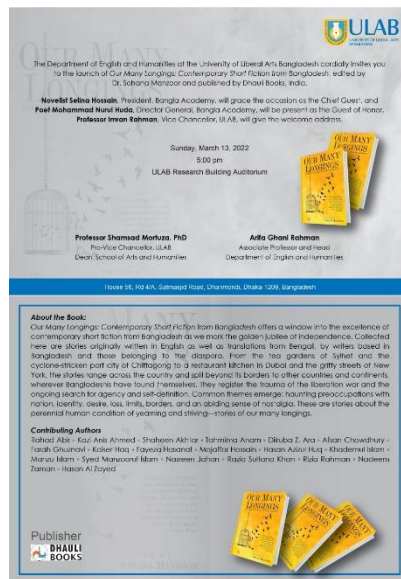
Speaker details can be seen at: <https://deh.ulab.edu.bd/conferences/ulabmulticulturalconclave2022>.

News coverage can be viewed at: [The Daily Star; The Daily Sun; The Daily Observer](#).

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## Event 3: Book Launch: *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh*

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The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a launching ceremony on March 13, 2022, for the book, *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh* edited by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor of the Department of English and Humanities, and published by Dhauhi Books, India.

Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda, Director General, Bangla Academy, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor. In his speech, Mr. Huda remarked that the stories in the book, *Our Many Longings*, depicted a number of conflicting issues which formed a good premise. Referring to the translations, the poet spoke of how the world became one during the time of the language barriers. He also speculated for a time when there might be one state and one language, where everyone in the world would articulate and interact with one another without the need for translation. However, he assured that translations would take a long time to become scarce.

On that note, he shared his work experiences in Bangla Academy and proposed a project from the Academy that would entail the translation of all the works by the Bangla Academy Award winners. He applauded ULAB's endeavor in translating works of renowned writers and poets. He further added that he was inspired by the collection of translated works included in the book *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh* to begin his proposed project.

The book launch formally began with the welcome address by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, who shared her reactions to the idea of the book. She also said that *Our Many Longings* is an important contribution to the literary perceptions in Bangladesh represented by both well-known and newer authors alongside translators and original writers of Bangladesh.

The editor of the book, Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, then delivered a candid speech about her first editorial venture. She also spoke about her experience in working with a publisher and learning many things about the publishing industry. Dr. Manzoor ended with a show of gratitude for the opportunity and to the contributors.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, Professor Shamsad Mortuza spoke of how the voices of Bangladeshi people are overlooked and how much this book represents that part of the society. He also pointed out that the book speaks about freedom and the breaking free from norms. He called *Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh* an eye-opener. In his speech, Professor Mortuza also emphasized how the book makes one have a closer look at their own existence and life choices.

*Our Many Longings: Contemporary Short Fiction from Bangladesh* was formally launched with the unwrapping of the book by the Guest of Honor and the contributors.

The publisher, Mr. Manu Dash of Dhauli Books, India, sent a video message with good wishes for the book launch. Mr. Dash expressed his gratitude towards the contributors and everyone included in the process of the publishing. Rahad Abir, Dr. Fayeza Hasanat, and Farah Ghuznavi, contributors of original stories, also sent congratulatory messages.

A reading of extracts from the book by the contributors rounded up the evening. Professor Fakrul Alam read from his translation of Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam's short story, "Alter Ego." Professor Kaiser Haq read from his original story named after "The Emperor's New Clothes." Professor Shamsad Mortuza shared an extract from his translation of Professor Afsan Chowdhury's short story "Torso." Dr. Sohana Manzoor and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman also read extracts from their translations of Rizia Rahman's "Petrea" and Shaheen Akhtar's "The Green Passport" respectively.

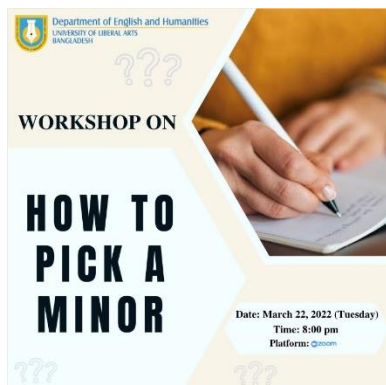
The book launch was attended by faculty members, students, alumni, and guests.

*Report by Tasmim Bashira Binth Arman (201013090)*

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## Event 4: Student Workshop: How to Pick a Minor

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The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop titled "How to Pick a Minor" on March 22, 2022. The workshop invited faculty members from MSJ, BBA, CSD, GED, EEE and CSE departments offering minor courses to the DEH students. It also welcomed selected senior DEH students who chose these subjects as minors. The aim of the workshop was to help the students who will be declaring their minor in Spring 2022 to make their decisions about a minor suitable for them.

Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English and Humanities, initiated the program with her welcoming remarks to the guest faculty members of the different departments of ULAB as well as the student speakers of DEH.

The first segment of the workshop consisted of faculty conversations, which began with Ms. Nandita Tabassum Khan, Senior Lecturer and Undergrad Program Coordinator from the Media Studies and Journalism department. Ms. Khan presented the course list of the MSJ minor and categorized them into various clusters and suggested clusters of courses which students can take if they want a career in a specific field. Students wanting a career in communication could take courses related with Strategic Public Relations. In contrast, if they want a career in production writing, students may take Writing for Film and Television, Aesthetics of Film, Introduction to Animation, Introduction to Photography, and Communication and Technology. Ms. Khan also informed students that for batch 203 onwards students declaring MSJ as minor can take two new courses: Visual Communication, and Cinema Studies. Towards the end of her talk, Ms. Khan showcased two projects – one photography and another animation, done by previous MSJ minor students. She concluded by mentioning that the MSJ department also invites renowned professionals in their fields to impart their knowledge onto the students of different courses.





**Course list**

**Tier 2: Any One from the following (1 X 3 = 3 Credits)**

- BUS105 - Microeconomics
- BUS201 - Macroeconomics
- BUS202 - Business Statistics I
- BUS203 - Principles of Management
- BUS207 - Financial Accounting
- BUS208 - Business & Legal Environment
- BUS209 - Organizational Behavior



The next speaker, Mr. Faisal Mohammad Shahriar, Assistant Professor and Co-coordinator of the BBA Program at ULAB, welcomed anyone interested in learning about the different aspects of business administration from a theoretical and practical perspective to take BBA as their minor. Mr. Shahriar explained the course structure which is distributed in three tiers: Tier 1 comprising compulsory courses like Function to

Business, Principles of Accounting and Business Communication. He suggested that students take the Tier 1 courses in the first semesters of starting their minor in BBA. Tier 2 includes optional courses like Principles of Management, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Business Statistics 1, from which students take any one course. Mr. Shahriar suggested the course, Principles of Management, which would help students get an idea on how to plan, coordinate, lead and control resources of an organization to achieve the organizational goals. Lastly, Tier 3, which consists of optional courses like Introduction to Finance, Principles of Marketing, Human Resource Management, MIS and E-commerce, where students can also choose any one course. Mr. Shahriar ended his talk by adding that a minor in business will help students become a professional regardless of the organization they enter. It would help any professional become more organized and overcome any problems, gain better perspectives and become a better person.

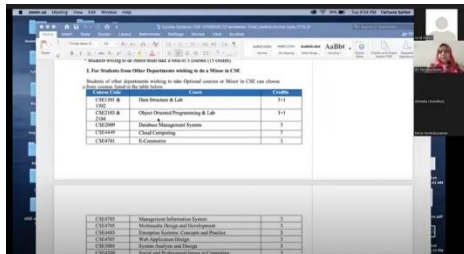
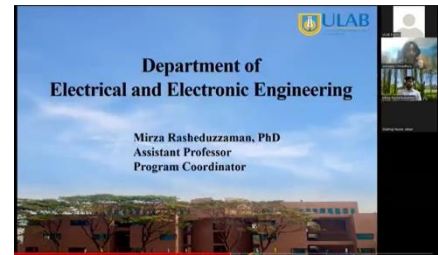
Dr. Rumana Sultana, Assistant Professor and Research Fellow, affiliated with the Center for Sustainable Development at ULAB, provided insightful details about the courses offered by the Center and opportunities that students may avail as a result of doing a minor in this discipline. Dr. Sultana elaborated that their offered courses focus on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations member states. The following goals, SDG 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 17 are emphasized more in the courses. Dr. Sultana additionally explained the course structure, where students have to take two compulsory courses, Introduction Sustainable Development and Social Theory and Methods of Social Research, the first course offering an introduction to the various SDGs while the latter is about social research relevant to sustainable development. Among the five optional courses, provided by the Center, Environmental Science, Introduction to Climate Change Debate, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, Organic Farming and Seminar on Grassroots Economic Development, students can choose any three. Dr. Sultana also spoke about students availing the opportunity to be an intern for the Center for Sustainable Development Studies, or taking part in research with faculty members in the Center and publishing papers in high impact journals which would enrich their CVs and help them get enrolled in reputed universities abroad as well as secure jobs. Dr. Rumana Sultana drew her speech to an end by mentioning that the Center offers opportunities to students by exploring what skills students have and where they can use and nurture them, and how they can commit themselves to do something bigger than themselves.



Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Professor of Archaeology and the Founder and Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies, as well as the Head of the Department of General Education at ULAB, shared her words of advice and wisdom regarding taking 'Optional' as a minor. The Professor also applauded DEH's initiative to hold an informative workshop on minor selection and suggested that students should make sure they have completed all courses before doing minor courses. She also shed light on how students can think of what they want to be in their professional life, where they want to contribute and try to

relate the minor courses to their own department's courses. This way, students can easily choose the minor they want. As the GED department offers 50 courses each term and students can choose about five, Professor Jahan suggested that they should cluster courses from one specific field instead of choosing at random. This would also provide them with expert knowledge on that discipline. In addition, the Professor advised that students can take a group of similar courses under any one of the broader subjects from History, Art and Architecture, Philosophy and Religion, Society and Culture, Development Studies, etc. Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan concluded by adding that students can broaden their knowledge by doing 'Optional' as a minor.

The penultimate faculty speaker of the workshop was Dr. Mirza Rasheduzzaman from the Electrical and Electronics Engineering department. He is an Assistant Professor in the EEE Department and the Department Coordinator. Dr. Rasheduzzaman began by mentioning the areas of electronics, power, communication and computer, which the minor courses focus on. While discussing the minor course list, Dr. Rasheduzzaman mentioned that for now students taking a minor in EEE will have to solve mathematical problems in most of the courses. However, the department plans to introduce courses where it will focus less on mathematics and theoretical aspects and more on the application so that students from other departments know how the solutions offered by engineers can be applied in different aspects of our lives. Dr. Rasheduzzaman also discussed career opportunities for DEH students doing minor in EEE, some of which included Public Relations Manager, Technical Writer, Social Media Consultant and Entrepreneur.



The final faculty speaker, Dr. Farhana Sarker, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science Engineering, reiterated the importance of knowing which career path to take, setting a goal and then choosing a minor, as was also mentioned by Professor Shahnaj Husne Jahan. While talking about the minor course list, Dr. Sarker briefly discussed the content of some courses, namely Multimedia

Design and Development- where students will learn about graphics and animation simultaneously. Another course named Tech Start-up is a timely course as mentioned by Dr. Sarker since, in recent times, the young generation have become interested in building up their own tech company. This course, therefore, will give an insight on how to proceed with the plan from beginning to end, while simultaneously helping students to analyze some case studies. Other courses offered by the department include: Cloud Computing, E-commerce, Management Information System, Web Application Design, System Analysis and Design, ICT for Development, Data Analytics, Internet of Things, Cyber Security, etc. Dr. Sarker, wrapped up her discussion by encouraging students to take CSE as a minor if they are interested in IT-related careers.

The last segment of the workshop, which consisted of senior students sharing their experiences of taking minors in specific fields, commenced with Sheikh Tasmima Mrenmoi, from batch 182, who is working on her minor in Media Studies and Journalism. She started off by mentioning the content of the MSJ courses, namely, Strategic Public Relations, Aesthetics of Film, Communication and Technology, Introduction to Photography and Reading Media Text. She briefly elaborated on the contents of the Reading Media Text course, which she is currently doing. The course is mostly theoretical but it also calls on students' critical thinking skills in analyzing short films, advertisements and other media texts. When talking about her reasons for choosing MSJ as a minor, she mentioned that she was always fascinated by the fusion of media and literature. Moreover, writing and editing

always interested her and she believes the knowledge imparted by her departmental courses combined with her minor courses will help her achieve her dream.

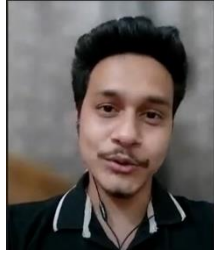
The next student speaker was Fahrin Hasan, currently an MA student at DEH, who chose BBA as her undergraduate minor. Fahrin began by listing the BBA courses she completed which included Introduction to Business, Business Communication, Principles of Management, Principles of Marketing and Principles of Accounting. While reminiscing about why she took BBA as her minor, Fahrin shared that since she was from Commerce background in her school years, it was easy for her to choose the minor. Lastly, she also suggested that in order to navigate the courses well, students should attend all the lectures, thoroughly follow what is taught, and take notes. Additionally, they need to understand the theoretical courses from their own perspectives, and practice a lot in the Accounting course since it is mostly mathematical.

The next student speaker, Mohammad Ekramul Islam Khan, chose the Optional minor track. While outlining his reasons for taking Optional as a minor, he mentioned that his perspectives aligned with the GED courses and he felt it would fulfill his purpose of doing courses which were highly relatable to Bangladeshi contexts. He named and briefly described the content of the courses he took, which included Introduction to Political Thought, Principles of Economics, Introduction to Sustainable Development, Global Political Economy and Environmental Science. In addition, he also outlined the benefits of doing Optional as a minor, and, as an example he shared that after doing the course, Political Thought and learning about Adam Smith's view on the economic system, he could compare and contrast with the economy of Bangladesh. While talking about future prospects of this particular type of minor, he shared that students can go into research in various fields, teach in non-governmental organizations, apply for public administrator jobs, and many more.

The final student speaker for the workshop was Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, who chose Sustainable Development as a minor. He began by sharing a mouthwatering contrast with food and the various minor courses. He then discussed the Sustainable Development courses he completed, which included, Introduction to Climate Change Debate, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, Introduction Sustainable Development, Environmental Science, and Social Theory and Methods of Social Research. His reasons for being motivated to take Sustainable Development as a minor were because Sustainable Development aligned with his interests and connected with his future goals. He also suggested that, if anyone is interested in research, higher studies or would like to do something for the environment, taking SD as a minor would be the first step to achieving that dream. He further added that, after graduation, some students are also called and offered the position of Research Assistant which comes with lucrative incentives. Lastly, he suggested that students can apply to Teach for Bangladesh if they want to focus on a specific Sustainable Development goal such as Quality Education.

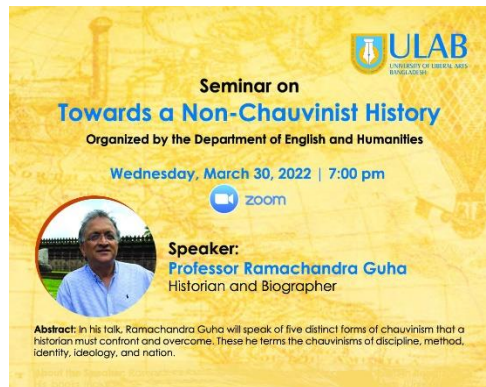
The event was hosted by Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury and the poster for the workshop was designed by Afrida Lubaba Khan.





Report by Umme Hani Anika (212055017), Teaching Assistant, DEH

## Event 5: Prof. Ramachandra Guha Speaks on “Towards a Non-Chauvinist History”



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a seminar on March 30, 2022, with renowned historian, social thinker, and biographer, Professor Ramachandra Guha. The seminar, “Towards a Non-Chauvinist History,” focused on the five distinct forms of chauvinism that a historian must confront and overcome in a world that is defining and redefining the role of leadership.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, formally welcomed the speaker who has a penchant for narrating the lives of charismatic figures with archival depth

and scholarly breadth. Mentioning the purpose of the seminar, Professor Mortuza highlighted the importance of creating a discursive platform where students are engaged in multi-disciplinary learning both in and outside the classroom. He emphasized how the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB ensures that both the students and the faculty members are constantly exposed to multiple perspectives.

Professor Kaiser Haq introduced Professor Ramachandra Guha as a “friend of Bangladesh” who has “written about Bangladesh, the subcontinent, and about the world.” Professor Haq also mentioned that the talk would contribute to the crucial understanding of non-chauvinist history, especially in this dark hour of the world where “there is too much chauvinism.”

Professor Ramachandra Guha began by sharing his journey of becoming an “accidental” historian. He focused on identifying five kinds of chauvinism that historians must be wary of in chronicling historical events: the chauvinism of discipline, the chauvinism of method, the chauvinism of identity, the chauvinism of ideology, and the chauvinism of nation. At the end of his talk, Professor Guha introduced a sixth chauvinism, the chauvinism of ego or personal vanity. During the talk, Professor Guha made associations with his personal experience that enhanced the discussion.



Professor Guha’s talk was followed by a question-answer session, where participants from Bangladesh, India, and the USA contributed to the discussion. Issues such as patriotism vs

nationalism, the role of historians in the age of post-truth, mass understanding of different approaches towards history were addressed in this part of the session.

At the end of the program, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, gave a vote of thanks to the speaker, and the audience for their participation.

The talk was livecast from [ULAB's Facebook page](#) and is uploaded on the [YouTube channel](#) of the Department of English and Humanities.

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## Event 6: DEH Lecture Series on Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Episode Two

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**Lecture Series on Applied Linguistics and TESOL**  
Episode 2  
Organized by the Department of English and Humanities

**"What holds educational reform back? The case of the 2012 national curriculum in Bangladesh"**

**Dr. Bijoy Lal Basu** is an Associate Professor at the Department of English, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has a PhD in Curriculum and Pedagogy from King's College London and an MA in TESOL from the ICL Institute of Education. He has co-authored *Endeavour An Introductory Language Coursebook* (2014) and published articles in journals including *TESL: EJ Asia*, *TEFL*, and *JAL*. His research interests include TESOL, curriculum and pedagogy, teacher education, pragmatics and discourse studies.

**A R M Mostafizar Rahman** is a professor in English at Khulna University, Khulna. He obtained his MA in ELT degree from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India and MA in Applied Linguistics from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2001 and 2008 respectively before earning his PhD in English Language and Linguistics from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2020. His fields of research interest include different areas of ELT, Applied Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis, and Research Methodology.

9 APRIL 2022 7.30 PM zoom

The second episode of the DEH Lecture Series on Applied Linguistics and TESOL was held on April 9, 2022, organized by the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. The speakers in episode two were Dr. Bijoy Lal Basu, Associate Professor at the Department of English, University of Dhaka, and Dr. A R M Mostafizar Rahman, Professor of English at Khulna University, Khulna.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Dean of the Department of English and Humanities and Pro Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, inaugurated the lecture series with his welcome speech.



The first speaker, Dr. Bijoy Lal Basu, presented his talk on the topic, "What Holds Educational Reform Back? The Case of the 2012 National Curriculum in

Bangladesh." Dr. Basu began by sharing some thought-provoking insights that he derived during his PhD research on the processes and outcomes of curriculum reform. The speaker aimed to highlight factors that constrained the 2012 curriculum reform initiative in the context of Bangladesh and to initiate a discussion to find strategies for more successful reform. With reference to curriculum implementation, the speaker discussed the three stages to curriculum development: initiation, implementation, and institutionalization, as mentioned by the educator Michael Fullan.



Dr. Basu later discussed the number of changes that the curriculum reform aimed to bring and they included the introduction of active learning, encouraging formative assessments, blending the use of English and Bangla as the method of instruction with the former taking precedence, encouraging the combination of various teaching methods, and teaching grammar by contextualizing it. The speaker also pointed out that there was a lot of

optimism in the curriculum document where it was mentioned that after needs analysis, the recommendations were used to design classroom activities and produce the textbooks. However, while examining the curriculum document, he identified some contradictions and vague statements. This led him to come to the conclusion that the change message in the curriculum reform has not been phrased in clear English.

The speaker further discussed one of the problems in the curriculum reform which was to use the same book for all mainstream Bangla Medium schools, not taking into account the location or students' and teachers' proficiency in English. The speaker also added that this was one of the factors

that held curriculum reform back. Through the course of his fieldwork for his PhD research, the speaker also shared his experience of observing classes in certain schools where he noticed there was very little active learning going on in classrooms of Bangladesh. And when teachers were interviewed about the matter, some had little knowledge about what it was while others, though aware, could not implement it as much because the exams did not require it. Dr. Basu also found differences in opinions with regards to the use of literary texts to aid in language learning, where some teachers deemed it as a waste of time since they did not appear in exams, but others expressed opposite viewpoints.

Dr. Basu pointed out that soon after the publication of the new books in 2013, teachers' guides were not published until 2017. When the speaker interviewed an NCTB official regarding the time gap, it was revealed that the funding ran out. With regards to textbooks, interview with an author revealed, that there was no time for trials and they were given very little time to write the textbook. To this the speaker added that, with such little time, it was difficult to produce high quality work. Another issue discussed by the speaker was that the teachers were not fulfilling the objective of developing critical thinking which the curriculum fostered. When interviewed, some teachers revealed that they skip questions relating to critical thinking because students will find it difficult to answer them. The speaker realized that teachers had low expectations and they were content if students can produce memorized answers.

Dr. Basu concluded his insightful talk by pointing out certain factors which hold curriculum reform back. These included, the "one size fits all" notion of using the same textbooks for all mainstream Bangla Medium schools, flawed time distribution in developing curriculum and textbooks. He also pointed out that when problems arise with a certain curriculum, policymakers take the shortcut by going for revisions, without changing the structure and process of curriculum. The structure remains largely unchanged with large classrooms, exam-oriented education, and lack of alignment between what is recommended in the curriculum and what is tested. The existing curriculum, therefore, serves as a sacrificial lamb. Funding was another issue, pointed out by the speaker, as authors are not being given much remuneration, so they work out of their commitment or for the education of the children.



The second speaker for the series, Professor A R M Mostafizar Rahman, Professor of English at Khulna University, Khulna, presented his intriguing talk on the topic, "Language Choice in Globalization and Super Diversity." Dr. Rahman began by introducing the key notions in the title of his talk, namely, language choice, globalization, and super diversity. He elaborated on the processes and reasons why people in bilingual or multilingual settings choose features from different linguistic sources. With respect to globalization and super diversity, the speaker discussed that globalization is a very important issue in sociolinguistics, because sociolinguistics deals with the use of language in society. So if globalization brings changes in society, social norms and values, it will impact the use of language. He then briefly provided the etymology and definition of the term globalization.

On the discussion of super diversity, Dr. Rahman mentioned that migration from one country to another has brought culture, language and tradition of different people together. Such mixing brought about extraordinary changes and complexities in social, cultural, ethnic and linguistic dynamics in the system. He also pointed out that migration along with digitalization are responsible for bringing diversity in the urban landscape. Urban people, he added, now share information on social media and this has brought about a change in the lifestyle of the urban people and diversity in the urban life. He identified that virtual communities are being created all around and that diversification is not only found in the physical landscape but also in the virtual community. People from different social, cultural, and regional backgrounds meet each other in online communication and gaming platforms.

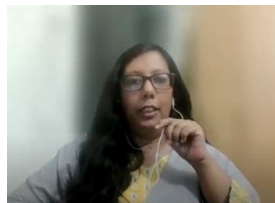
He mentioned that this has increased the diversity, but this diversification is not the same in every city. He then, presented some examples of signage in a London hospital and contrasted it with the signage from a suburban area of Bangladesh called Jashore.

Dr. Rahman explained that, due to super diversity and globalization, social and cultural norms as well as norms related to language use have been reorganized. Even our views on language and linguistic ideology has been restructured. It indicates that we have been diversified due to the sociolinguistic transformation because of globalization and super diversity.

The speaker contrasted structuralist ideas of language, linguistic communication, and language practices with the post-structuralist ideas which have changed due to globalization and super diversity. Dr. Rahman explained that people in urban areas use language in such a way that it is difficult to identify the source of different linguistic features. These people, said the speaker, mentioned that when they choose linguistic features they hardly distinguish between them and their language choice. It comes automatically from their linguistic repertoire, as the speaker elaborated. The speaker then presented excerpts from textbooks, speeches from religious festivals, newspapers, talk shows, and literature where, aside from the mix of English and Bangla, Arabic, Persian, Hindi/Urdu languages were prevalent. Dr. Rahman added that what was thought to be abnormal in the structuralist notions, in post structuralism particularly, due to globalization and super diversity, the blending of multiple languages are deemed normal.

Towards the end of his talk, the speaker outlined some theoretical and practical implications of the blending/hybridization of languages. He provided multiple examples of situations around the world where although the norm is to use one language at a time, the people practice blending of different linguistic features from different linguistic resources. He concluded his talk by sharing his thoughts on what can we think of translanguaging practices in Bangladesh with regard to official language policy. He also referred to Dr. Basu's talk on curriculum reform and pointed out that if hybridism/translanguaging is a practice in globalization and super diversity, he thinks we need to consider these issues while making policies for languages, at least in language acquisition policies. The speaker identified that as far as our official language policy is concerned it is said we should use only Bangla and the fusion of other languages is strictly prohibited. However, the speaker wrapped up his discussion by pointing out that if we want to become a part of globalization we need to admit the global impact on language and accordingly think about redefining our language policy.

The last segment of the lecture series was filled with some interesting conversations and experience sharing on the part of the speakers as well as the audience members.



At the end of the event, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English and Humanities, gave her vote of thanks to the speakers, event organizers and participants.

The lecture series was planned by Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer at DEH.



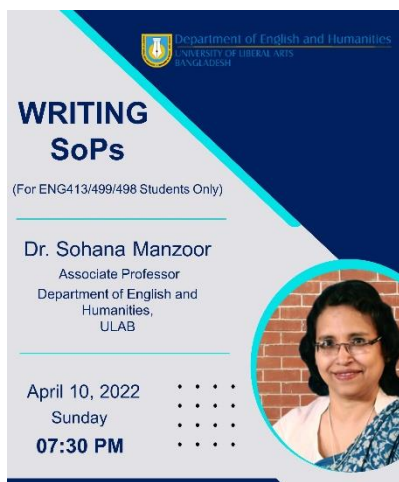
The full program can be viewed on the DEH YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw3dA-3bQyk>

*Report by Umme Hani Anika (ID-212055017), Teaching Assistant, DEH*

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## Event 7: Student Workshop: Writing SoPs

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The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on “Writing SOPs” (Statements of Purpose) on April 10, 2022. The session was conducted by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, aiming to enlighten DEH’s thesis/internship/non-thesis students of the Spring 2022 term about the standard procedures and techniques for writing an impeccable Statement of Purpose (SoP), which is one of the most vital documents that students have to submit to apply for higher studies abroad.

The facilitator started the workshop by providing a brief overview of all the necessary documents that are required for applying for higher studies, the SoP being one of them. Subsequently, the workshop highlighted how to exhibit applicants’ academic achievements, professional experiences, and a genuine interest in the

degree that they are applying for in an active, positive, and concise manner.

Towards the end of the workshop, a few samples of outstanding SoPs were shown to the participants to exemplify and sum up the significant points that were discussed throughout the session. The workshop ended with an interactive question-answer session, where the facilitator provided her valuable insights into the queries and concerns that the students raised.

This workshop is part of the series of mandatory workshops designed specially for students of ENG413/498/499 of each term.

*Reported by Vincent Dip Gomes (182013034)*

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## Event 8: Student Workshops for Final Semester Students

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As part of a series of mandatory term workshops designed specially for students of ENG413/498/499, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized four student workshops aimed at developing their knowledge about higher studies and job hunting.

The first workshop on “Writing SoPs” was held on April 10, 2022. The second workshop on “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules,” conducted by Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor



and Head, DEH, was held on April 21, 2022. In this workshop, Ms. Rahman guided students on how to ask for recommendation letters when applying for higher studies or jobs. Ms. Rahman also conducted the third workshop on “Job Hunting and Networking” on April 28, 2022. During this workshop, students learned some strategies that would help them find a suitable job. This workshop was followed by Ms. Nadia Rahman’s “Interview Skills” workshop on May 11, 2022, which highlighted the dos and don’ts of interviews.

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## Event 9: ULAB Literary Salon: Inaugural

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The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh kicked off a one-of-a-kind university-based literary adda, The ULAB Literary Salon, on May 14, 2022. The inaugural event featured a father-daughter poet duo, both of whom are ULABians. Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and his daughter, Arshi Mortuza, Lecturer in English at Southeast University, recited poetry and discussed what inspires them to write and create.

Presided over by Professor Kaiser Haq, poet, critic, academic, and mentor to the ULAB Literary Salon, the event was moderated by Sudeep Chakravarti, writer, researcher, and Associate Professor at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism, and the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza initiated the poetry recital, during which he largely focused on the art and craft of writing poems as he read from his poetry collection *Barkode* (2013). His readings were accompanied by anecdotes and nostalgic musings on writing and studying poetry as a person of color in the United Kingdom where he was doing his PhD.



Arshi Mortuza read selected verses from her debut poetry collection, *One Minute Past Midnight* (2022), while discussing her fascination with disillusionment, writing on topics such as depression, anorexia, mental health, postcolonialism, and discussing her personal approach to writing.

The readings and discussion were followed by a question-and-answer session. Members of the audience expressed interest in finding out more about the poets' experience with writer's block and writing for an audience, as well as with writing for one's family.

The ULAB Literary Salon aims to offer a space for literature enthusiasts in Dhaka and around the country to come together and celebrate literature. Each month, The ULAB Literary Salon will organize book launches, book readings, author signings, discussions with authors and publishers, and present a meeting hub for writers, editors and academics in ULAB's centrally located Research Building on Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The next Literary Salon event, scheduled for June 18, 2022, will launch Saad Z Hossain's latest science fiction novel, *Cyber Mage*, which is being published by ULAB Press.

The inaugural event was hosted by Sarah Anjum Bari, Adjunct Lecturer at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, and Editor, Daily Star Books. Bookworm Bangladesh was a partner. The event was attended by a large audience comprising students and faculty of ULAB as well as guests from all around Dhaka.

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## Event 10: SP22 Curriculum Integration Forum I

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The poster features the ULAB logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: 'Department of English and Humanities, Curriculum Integration, 18/04/2022, The Many Faces of Conflict, First Forum, Thursday, 21 April 2022, 11:00 am, ULAB Cafeteria'. A small portrait of Professor Shahab Enam Khan is shown next to his name and title: 'Guest Speaker: Professor Shahab Enam Khan, Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University'. A paragraph at the bottom provides a biography of Professor Khan, mentioning his roles as Director of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and as a senior faculty at the Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University. It also lists his various memberships and research interests.

The Department of English and Humanities organized the first forum of the Curriculum Integration Program for Spring 2022 focusing on the theme “The Many Faces of Conflict” at the Main Campus of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The guest speaker for the event was Professor Shahab Enam Khan, who is currently serving as Research Director at the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and senior faculty at the Department of International Relations, Jahangirnagar University.

The event was inaugurated by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.



After being introduced by Professor Mortuza, Professor Shahab Enam Khan went on to elaborate on the difference between the



verbatim of conflict a few millenia back which was mostly related to war and this millenium, where it has become vast and interdisciplinary. He then explained how the mural in TSC at the University of Dhaka can be interpreted in many ways and pointed out how one person interprets a situation differently to how another does. So, according to the speaker, the many faces of conflict come with individuality and, inevitably, we should always see it as a part of growing up.

Professor Khan opined that we should focus on the need to have communication because conflict arises when there is a lack of communication. He also pointed out the bright side of conflict, which creates opportunities and gives rise to creativity. He provided the example of the conflict between America and Russia without which there would have been no Internet now. The speaker then stressed

on the importance of all humans having a multiplicity of ideas. Professor Khan mentioned that we have stress, trigger points, and transformations, and we need to investigate the main root of conflicts. The speaker also provided the example of the recent clash in the New Market area of Dhaka to make his argument.

Professor Khan later pointed out the various elements connected with conflict, one of which is change – biological and social change. And, according to him, if we want to overcome the change, we need to renegotiate with the social structure because we need to survive and our economy has to grow. The other element discussed in his speech included how our identities come with a crisis, since everyone has their own genre of ideas and identities. The speaker exemplified his point by mentioning how great figures in history like Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman all had different ideas of nationalism.

Professor Khan later provided some ways of resolving conflicts by analyzing the conflicts. He pointed out that instead of blaming others or justifying our actions, we need to communicate our vulnerabilities to our counterparts, speak responsibly, blend our ideas, and be accountable for the problems we create.

Towards the end, the speaker discussed the origin of conflicts, which included the internal and external conflict. Professor Khan explained the two conflicts by drawing references from *Hamlet* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The two types of conflicts, as mentioned by the Professor, can give rise to further points of discussion such as individual versus nature, individual versus fate, and lastly, individual versus society. The speaker concluded his speech by mentioning the multiple dimensions that conflict covers, starting from economics to philosophy to politics to anthropology to literature. And conflict, as Professor Khan mentioned, should not always be seen as a peril or a depressing factor when we know how to deal with it.



During the question and answer session, students from various batches raised some thoughtful questions to which Professor Khan provided interesting and insightful responses.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks from the convener of the first forum, Md. Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities.

The event was hosted by Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, a student of BA in English at ULAB.





Report by Umme Hani Anika, Teaching Assistant, DEH

## Event 11: SP22 Curriculum Integration Forum II

**Department of English and Humanities**  
**Curriculum Integration**  
**The Many Faces of Conflict**  
 Second Forum  
 Saturday, 23 April 2022, 11:00 am  
 Auditorium, ULAB Research Building  
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Sudeep Chakravarti**  
 Associate Professor, IITK  
About the Speaker: Sudeep Chakravarti is an author, journalist, independent researcher, policy analyst, and media consultant. He has authored several non-fiction books on the history of conflicts, violence, terrorism, and the environment. He has mostly been a decade of experience in media, and has worked with global organizations, including The Asian Wall Street Journal, where he served as chief editor. He has also been a contributing editor of Sunday magazine, India Today magazine, India Today Group, and HT Media. He has also been a Hindustan Times columnist. As one of his earlier media engagements and regular newsmakers, Sudeep's experience is multimedia, across print and digital media, and television platforms.

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Second Forum of the Spring 2022 Curriculum Integration Program on the theme, “The Many Faces of Conflict,” on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the ULAB Research Building, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The guest speaker of the forum was Sudeep Chakravarti. Prof. Chakravarti is an author, journalist, independent researcher, policy analyst, and media consultant. Currently, he is the Associate Professor at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. His presentation topic associated with the theme of CI was “Alien in Your Own World: A Short History of Conflict and Conflict Resolution in South Asia.”

The event formally started with a welcome speech by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. Later, with Ms. Rahman’s invitation of

Prof. Chakravarti on stage, the guest speaker initiated his speech with the discussion of violence and the time periods linking with conflicts and situations, such as the British Indian Empire conflicts, the times during the Pre-Partition British India – the Colonial period – the partition of South Asia, the inherited crisis, and our current state in South Asia.

Later, Prof. Chakravarti discussed the root and causes of conflict. Referring from his speech, he pointed out the “It’s Often a Fight for Rights” cause – associated with dignity, blocking of aspirations, non-delivery of criminal action, and an unjust system. Furthermore, he discussed the conflicts correlated with religion, tradition, and culture such as those with the Maoist Group, Maoist Rationale, Maoist Rebels, Maoist-Tribal merch, Maoist perspective plan, and Maoist PR in Bangladesh. In the rest of his speech, he mentioned the other issues that are related to conflict such as population and climate-based issues. He ended his speech with a straight perspective that might eliminate the entire sequence of conflict. He stated: “There is no other option except shared peace and prosperity.”

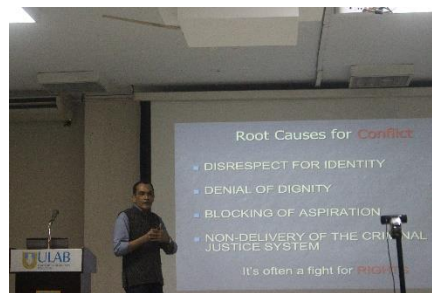


After the end of the guest speaker’s presentation, students of the Department asked several questions for their CI projects. The questions of these students were based on their courses as they have to associate their projects with the theme of conflict. Prof. Chakravarti answered the questions with vivid explanations, enlightening the students with better understanding of the topic.

The event was concluded by Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities. Prof. Mortuza added a few more points for the students of DEH to clarify the idea of conflict in an extensive manner. He proposed various strategies for students for their CI projects such as interviewing faculty members, poster projects, drama, documentaries, etc. Finally, he thanked Prof. Sudeep Chakravarti for his speech.

The event came to an end with the vote of thanks from the convener of the second forum of the Curriculum Integration Program, Ms. Tasmia Mayen, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities.

The forum was hosted by Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, Teaching Assistant at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.





*Report by Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, Teaching Assistant, DEH, ULAB*

## Event 12: Curriculum Integration Showcase Spring 2022



On May 19, 2022, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held the final presentation day for the 6<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Integration (CI) program for Spring 2022. Every semester, students are assigned a theme for the CI program and, through their different courses, they create projects integrating the theme with their course content. The theme for Spring 2022 was “The Many Faces of Conflict.” The theme encompassed both internal and external conflicts, with potential for conflict resolution. The projects are judged by instructors of non-participating courses and the winning teams are awarded with a cash prize.

The event commenced with a brief speech from Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB, and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Professor Kaiser Haq, Professor at DEH. This was followed by an exhibition of five live performances, fifteen video presentations and two poster presentations from eight different courses.

At the end of the exhibition, the judges mutually decided on the top three projects. The winning group presented a recorded video skit called “Dialect: A Battle of Prestige,” where they presented the conflict between socially approved dialects and naturally produced dialects through comedy, interviews, and real examples. Members of the winning group were Isra Tahiya Islam, Rafia Benta Yousuf Ritu, Mayesha Islam and Rishta Islam from ENG208/ENG 2201 (Section 1): Sociolinguistics.

The first runner-up team opted for a hybrid presentation with a video and live performance. They addressed conflicts arising from the right to love and the cultural pressure to be in a heteronormative relationship. The presentation was titled “Some Imagist Conflicts: Reading into Amy Lowell’s ‘A Decade’”. The group consisted of Amreeta Letha Chowdhury, Faria Karim, Nahian Noor Anjum,

Quazi Farhina Hassan, Tanzila Nawshin and Syeda Faria Purba from ENG 327 (Section 2): Modern Poetry.

The second runner-up team presented a dark tragedy through a video presentation called “The Lotus Door,” inspired by William Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily,” which narrated the journey of a serial kidnapper from her own perspective. The team members were Quazi Farhina Hassan, Nahian Noor Arjum, Syeda Ayesha Habiba, Tanzila Nawshin and Syeda Faria Purba from ENG 313 (Section 1): Modernism: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century English Literature.

Winners from the Fall 2021 CI program, who worked with the theme “Of Sustainability and Development: Academia meets Practice,” were also awarded at the event. The winning group had showcased a video presentation titled “Turning Point,” which focused on discrimination, especially in the workplace. The group members were Farhan Labib Reza, Amina, Sahar Islam and Noshin Tasnim Hassan from ENG 225 (Section 1): Shakespeare.

The first runner-up group commented on the role and influences of language on gender inequality via a graphic presentation. The group’s members were Syeda Maliha Mahmud, Mehelika Anan, Md Razin Saleh Alam, Md Khalid Saifullah and Shanjida Nusrath Ali from ENG 208 (Section 1): Sociolinguistics.

The second runner-up group addressed the role of multilingualism in sustainable development using the format of a mock-talk show. The video was submitted by Md. Abdullah Al Maruf, Shrabony Rahman, Nusrat Chowdhury Sojja, Tanjila Fairouz, Afra Anjum and Tasfiyah Saba from ENG 208 (Section 2): Sociolinguistics.

The event, attended by all the students and faculty members of the department, closed with the prize-giving ceremony.

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## Event 13: Workshop on Design-Based Research Part II

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methodology.

In the first workshop, DBR was discussed from a theoretical standpoint. The second workshop began with a brief recapitulation of the different aspects and principals involved in DBR. Participants then went through a worked example of DBR that focused on the Purdue Repository for Online Teaching and Learning (PoRTAL). Participants put that knowledge to use in a group task where they chose a

relevant educational issue, designed a DBR study to address the issue, and presented the study for peer and facilitator feedback. The event made space for educational practitioners and students to collaborate with each other, revise their knowledge of the concept of DBR, and understand its potential in addressing practical issues concerning the academic world.





## Event 14: DEH Students' Project Exhibition



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a Students' Project Exhibition. The exhibition, which displayed various creative works of students, was held on May 24 and 25, 2022. The works were displayed in the lobby area of Building D in the Main Campus from 11 am to 5 pm. As students walked across the main building to come in and out of classes, they could stop to experience a variety of creative works including poetry, essays, literary analyses and paintings.

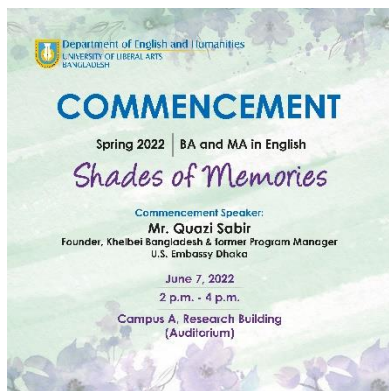
The presented works were originally meant to be creative assignments for courses that students are undertaking in the current semester. The participating courses were ENG 1201: Introduction to Poetry and Drama (Section 2) taught by Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, ENG 305: Contemporary World Literature in Translation taught by Ms. Sarah Anjum Bari, ENG 302: The Novel - 1 (Section 3) and ENG 327: Modern Poetry (Sections 1 and 2), both courses taught by Ms. Samirah Tabassum respectively. DEH was proud to give students an opportunity to showcase their creativity and hard work through the exhibition.





Report by Kashphia MIMOZA

## Event 15: Spring 2022 Commencement



The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized the Spring 2022 Commencement program on June 7, 2022, for the graduating students of BA and MA. The event was organized by the students of DEH from Batch 183 to congratulate and celebrate the well-deserved success of the graduating students, and wish them all the best as they set out into the world. The theme for this commencement was *Shades of Memories*.

The speaker at the Spring 2022 Commencement was Mr. Quazi Sabir, the founder and CEO of *Khelbei Bangladesh* and former Program Manager at the US Embassy Dhaka. Pointing out some major life lessons, Mr. Sabir encouraged the graduates to seek to make themselves heard. He drew attention to the fact that students of the English department are more inclined to acquire better comprehensible skills and view aspects of life from multifarious perspectives. The speaker motivated the graduates to work hard and keep learning. He rounded up his speech by enthusiastically insisting that the graduates shape their own journey according to their perception and passion.



The event was set into motion with warm congratulations to the successful graduates by Professor Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor, ULAB. Emphasizing the necessity of following one's passion, he advised the students to explore until they find their dream job. In his remarks, Professor Rahman highly encouraged the graduates to embark on a journey that would leave a footmark on the real world.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro-Vice Chancellor, ULAB and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, congratulated the graduates and wished them a “fare forward.” He prompted the students to explore every prospect of creativity, and urged them to advance by using all their learning and experiences from ULAB.



Professor Kaiser Haq then addressed the importance of studying English, as the discipline, being the successor to the classics, also comprises the knowledge of various fields. He concluded his speech by stating that every student has the potential to perceive, grow, and nurture themselves in their own way as every person is unique.



Despite being able to physically attend and celebrate the commencement event with the graduates, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of DEH, sent a heartfelt congratulatory video message as a surprise to the students. She stated her hope to meet the graduating students soon and asked them to keep in touch. She concluded by wishing the graduates the very best as they go forward into higher studies or jobs.

The formal segment was followed by the cultural program which began with a soulful recitation of Marina Keegan’s poem, “Bygones” by Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury. The spirits of the audience were lifted by the beautiful cover sung by Tanjila Fairoz of the song, “Dheem Ta Na” by Kona, with Mustofa Zahir on the guitar. To add a taste of nostalgia, DEH graduating student from MA, Krishti Aung Leona shared her experiences and memories that she had gathered during her journey with ULAB. The cultural segment was resumed with Tasfiyah Saba rendering an exciting musical piece, “Tomar Ghore Boshot Kore Koy Jona” originally sung by Borno Chakroborty. To everyone’s surprise and delight, an impromptu singing performance of Ayub Bachchu’s “Shei Tumi” followed, executed by a DEH graduating student from BA, Vincent Dip Gomes, accompanied by Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish’s acoustic guitar refrains. Later, a powerful musical performance of the song “Aj Raate Kono Rupkotha Nei” by Old School was staged by Mustofa Zahir on the vocals and Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish on guitar. After the successive singing performances, Shukanta Bhattacharya’s “Obhibadon” was recited by Nandita Saha. Another speech filled with nostalgic spirit was delivered by Shahriyer Hossain Shetu, a DEH graduating student from BA. The cultural segment ended with a thrilling dance performance by Tivana Rahman Ridi and Nishat Tabassum’s short speech on the theme (*Shades of Memories*) of the event, together with a slideshow showing graduates’ names and messages, as a tribute to the graduating students.

Dr Syeda Farzana Hafsa, Assistant Professor, DEH, delivered the vote of thanks to the faculty committee members who helped put the event together. The event was hosted by Umme Hani Anika from MA. The poster for the event was designed by Oriha Shouptik.





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## Event 16: Scholars Program Certificate Award Ceremony

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On June 7, 2022, a certificate-giving ceremony was organized for the graduating students of the prestigious DEH Scholars Program. One year since its inception, the Scholars Program saw the graduation of six Scholar students. The graduating students were Md. Mashiur Rahman (173), Fairuz Maliha Surma (181), Md. Sahedul Islam Hira (181), Noshin Nisa (181), Sheikh Tasmima Mrenmoi (182), and Nishat Tabassum (183).

Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH and Advisor to the Program, gave an overview of the program, focusing on the program details and what is the requirements of the program are. SP students who have completed two or more semesters in the program were awarded with certificates by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Imran Rahman.



The ceremony was arranged as part of the Spring 2022 Commencement program.



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**Compiled and Edited by:** Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB