



Department of English and Humanities

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

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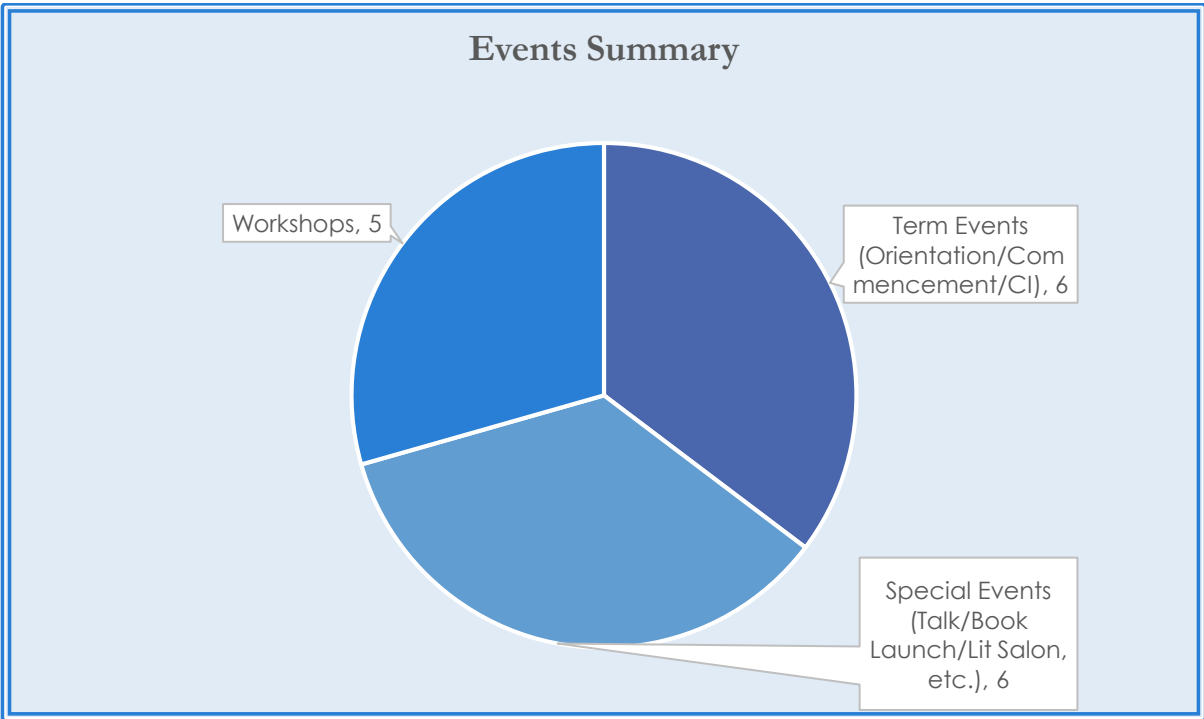
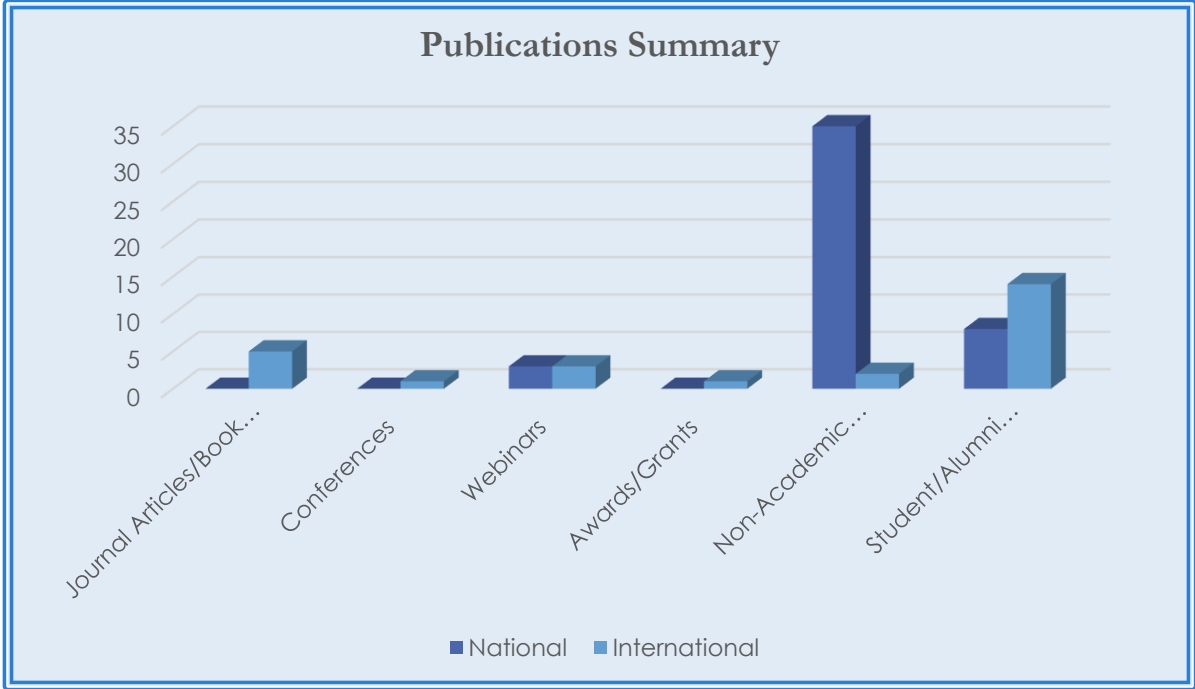
# Publications and Events Report

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Summer 2022

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# Publications

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## Journal Articles/Book Chapters

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### *International*

- Rahman, Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Manjet Kaur, and Mehar Singh. "The Ideology towards English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) Adoption in Higher Education in Malaysia: A Case Study." *3L: Language, Linguistics, Literature: The Southeast Asian Journal of English Language Studies*, vol. 28, no. 2, June 2022.  
[https://ejournal.ukm.my/3l/article/view/51876?fbclid=IwAR24JIs9lhc8buZFNArIraOdbFY-VhmlqNnh2XIIOEPVQ\\_zTBnqSBoGWjo](https://ejournal.ukm.my/3l/article/view/51876?fbclid=IwAR24JIs9lhc8buZFNArIraOdbFY-VhmlqNnh2XIIOEPVQ_zTBnqSBoGWjo). **[Scopus-indexed]**
- Haq, Kaiser. "The Partition and Bengal, Seventy-Five Years On." *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, September 7, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00219894221107287>. **[Scopus-indexed]**
- Manzoor, S.R., Kaur, J. & **Al Mahmud, A.** "The Implications of Work-Based Learning Initiatives by Universities". In Rosalind Raby, Krishna Bista and Jasvir Singh, *International Student Employability: Institutional and Individual Strategies from the Global South*, Routledge Studies in Global Student Mobility series, 2022.
- Rahman, Arifa Ghani. "Shaheen Akhtar." *The Literary Encyclopedia*. September 12, 2022. <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=14638>.
- Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Abdul Karim, & Manjet Kaur Mehar Singh. "English Language Policy and Planning in Malaysia: Issues and Outcomes." *The Journal of Asia TEFL*, vol. 19, no. 3, Autumn 2022 (Sept. 30, 2022), pp. 1079-1087.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.18823/asiatefl.2022.19.3.23.1079>. **[Scopus-indexed]**

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## Conferences

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### *International*

- Rahman, Arifa. Panel Discussant with Imran Rahman, Tareque Rahman, and Asif Uddin Ahmed. "Crisis Management and the Way Forward: A Bangladeshi Example." The Business and Applied Sciences Academy of North America (BAASANA) International Conference 2022. August 10-12, 2022. **[Best Panel Award]**

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## Seminars/Webinars

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### ***International***

Mortuza, Shamsad. Panelist. "Towards Sustainable Energy Future for Prosperous Bangladesh." *4 Years of The First Bangabandhu Chair*. Asian Institute of Technology. July 12, 2022.

Al Mahmud, A. Keynote Speaker. "The Post-Islamist Directions of Thoughts among the Ulama of Bangladesh." International Seminar on 'Secularization, Islamization and Globalization in South Asia: Beyond Bipolar Politics in Bangladesh. July 9, 2022.

Al Mahmud, A. Panel Discussant. "Secularization, Islamization and Globalization in South Asia: Beyond Bipolar Politics in Bangladesh." Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS). 21 August 2022.

### ***National***

Manzoor, Sohana. Host. "Literary Matters" (Online Literary Discussion Series). Session 2 with Prof. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Department of English, SUST, and Mr. Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, ULAB. June 28, 2022.

Manzoor, Sohana. Host. "Literary Matters" (Online Literary Discussion Series). Session 3 with Prof. Fahmida Akhtar, Professor, Department of Drama & Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University and Ms. Sanjeeda Hossain, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka. July 21, 2022.

Manzoor, Sohana. Host. "Literary Matters" (Online Literary Discussion Series). Session 4 with Ms. Shagufta Sharmeen Tania and Mr. Rahad Abir, notable writers residing in the UK and the USA. September 24, 2022.

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## Awards/Grants

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Tasmia, Khadija Rubaiyat. International Visitor, US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). October 3-24, 2022.

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## Non-Academic and Creative Publications

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### ***International***

Haq, Kaiser. "The New Frontier." *Everything Change*, June 9, 2022. <https://vimeo.com/717505532>.

Manzoor, Sohana. "A Cat Story." *Borderless Journal*, July 21, 2022.  
<https://borderlessjournal.com/2022/07/21/a-cat-story/>.

### ***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>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "The Myth of the Strong Woman." Op-Ed. *The Daily Star*, June 21, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/views/opinion/news/the-myth-the-strong-woman-3052256>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "In Search of Lost Respect." *The Daily Star*, July 2, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/blowin-the-wind/news/search-respect-3061416>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "A Sobering Call for Austerity." *The Daily Star*, July 8, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/sobering-call-austerity-3067031>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "You are what you eat in Mashiul Alam's 'The Meat Market' (trans. Shabnam Nadiya)." *The Daily Star*, July 11, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/short-story-review-you-are-what-you-eat-the-meat-market-3068391>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "I Just Need 30 Minutes of Silence." *The Daily Star*, July 13, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/i-just-need-30-minutes-silence-3069376>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Fault in our Star-Gazing: Do We Care About Teachers?" *The Daily Star*, July 15, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/the-fault-our-star-gazing-do-we-care-about-teachers-3071001>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Andrea Levy's *Small Island*: Racial Conflict in Post-War Britain and a Commentary on Our World." *The Daily Star*, July 16, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/andrea-levys-small-island-racial-conflict-postwar-britain-and-commentary-our-world-3071366>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Bangladesh Railway and the Political Dynamite." *The Daily Star*, July 22, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/bangladesh-railway-and-the-political-dynamite-3076771>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Cooling Conundrum." *The Daily Star*, July 29, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/the-cooling-conundrum-3082711>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Why the Mismatch Between What We Study and What We Do?" *The Daily Star*, August 6, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/why-the-mismatch-between-what-we-study-and-what-we-do-3089006>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Shohorbanu." *The Daily Star*, August 6, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/shohorbanu-3088811>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "The Books that Made 'Kaiser'." *The Daily Star*, August 11, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/the-books-made-kaiser-3092366>.

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- Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "Day of Self-Realisation." *Prothom Alo*, August 15, 2022. <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/z8zqku1krl>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Personal is Political." *The Daily Star*, August 15, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/national-mourning-day-2022/news/the-personal-political-3095391>.
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- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "Syed Waliullah: Husband, Artist, Thinker, Writer." *The Daily Star*, August 18, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/syed-waliullah-husband-artist-thinker-writer-3097671>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Real Worth of a Cup of Tea." *The Daily Star*, August 19, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/the-real-worth-cup-tea-3098566>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "Fahmida Azim 'enjoys drawing real people living extraordinary lives'." *The Daily Star*, August 22, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/fahmida-azim-enjoys-drawing-real-people-living-extraordinary-lives-3100701>.
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- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Plagiarism: A Menace in the Academic World." *The Daily Star*, September 2, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/plagiarism-menace-the-academic-world-3109526>.
- Manzoor, Sohana. "Abul Mansur Ahmad." *The Daily Star*, September 3, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/abul-mansur-ahmad-1898-1979-3109716>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2023 Open for Submissions." *The Daily Star*, September 5, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/commonwealth-short-story-prize-2023-prize-open-submissions-3111696>.
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- Mortuza, Shamsad. "There is Something at DU that Never Changes." *Journal of the Centre for English Teaching and Research*. Special Issue Celebrating 100 Years of Dhaka University and 50 Years of Independence. September 2022.
- Haq, Kaiser. "1971: Three Short Memoirs." *Journal of the Centre for English Teaching and Research*. Special Issue Celebrating 100 Years of Dhaka University and 50 Years of Independence. September 2022.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "The Possibilities of Slam Poetry." *The Daily Star*, September 15, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/the-possibilities-slam-poetry-3119836>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "The Government's Search for a Columnist." *The Daily Star*, September 16, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/the-governments-search-columnist-3120851>.
- Mortuza, Shamsad. "Is it Destination Death for our Migrant Workers?" *The Daily Star*, September 24, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/it-destination-death-our-migrant-workers-3126866>.
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- Mortuza, Shamsad. "To Kill a Mocking Monster." *The Daily Star*, September 30, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/blowin-the-wind/news/kill-mocking-monster-3131961>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "My job is to take someone's experience and make it visible." *The Daily Star*, October 1, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/my-job-take-someones-experience-and-make-it-visible-3132531>.
- Bari, Sarah Anjum. "On the Chaos of Teaching English." *The Daily Star*, October 5, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/the-chaos-teaching-english-3135746>.

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## Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements

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### ***International***

- Nisa, Noshin. Presenter. "Mourning and Melancholia in *Norwegian Wood* and *Never Let Me Go*." 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, June 15, 2022.
- Khan, Mohammad Ekramul Islam & Mohammad Ehsanul Islam Khan. "Linguistic Distinctiveness in the Communication System of Animals and Humans: George Yule's Perspectives." *Journal of Sustainable Learning and Development*, vol. 2, no. 1, June 2022, pp. 13-16. <https://jsld.helloteen.org/journal/jsld-21223/>.



- Mehtaj, Sumaiya Samad. Invited to be Coordinator of Bangladesh from the “South Asian International Association for Early Childhood Care and Development (SAIA4ECCD)” and Cohost with Sri Lankan educator at Final Summit, June 18-20, 2022.
- Mehtaj, Sumaiya Samad. Keynote Speaker (Bangladesh). “Promoting Quality Education for Academic Learners.” South Asian International Association for Early Childhood Care and Development (SAIA4ECCD). June 20, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw3dA-3bQyk>.
- Islam, Md. Talebur. Keynote Speaker. “On Career Preparation: Prepare Yourself, Start from Now.” Tegal, Guidance and Counseling Study Program, Pancasakti University Tegal, Indonesia. July 1, 2022.
- Nafis, Md. Abrar Shahriar. “Americana.” *A Thin Slice of Anxiety*. July 28, 2022. <http://www.athinsliceofanxiety.com/2022/07/fiction-americana.html?m=1>.
- Islam, Md. Talebur. “Bangladesh Cricket Wanted More Matches and Got Them. Now it’s Time to Perform.” *The Dhaka Tribune*, August 22, 2022. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/op-ed/2022/08/22/bangladesh-cricket-wanted-more-matches-and-got-them-now-its-time-to-perform>.
- Anika, Fairoz. “Condition of Menstrual Hygiene among adolescent young girls in Dhaka City.” **Highly Commended Entry in the Global Undergraduate Awards 2022**, Ireland, August 31, 2022. <https://undergraduateawards.com/winners/highly-commended-2022>.
- Mortuza, Arshi. “Matter.” *KITAB*, September 4, 2022. <https://kitaab.org/2022/09/04/short-story-matter-by-arshi-mortuza/?fbclid=IwAR2B2CVqDiJWjmvzRbDS09waUGQL68bABSQV1GONqvc9nRjRUGzNzWiWYE>.
- Mehtaj, Sumaiya Samad. “My Thought as an Educator.” *Ed-Lines Today*, vol. 3, no. 7, September-October 2022. [https://edudevsn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/V3-Iss6-SeptemberOctober-2022-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2WJmAcC0P0IRNmG9zGgfAhBZKR3\\_ivl3gUdvWgNzM8MmG19vB0R38DGB4](https://edudevsn.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/V3-Iss6-SeptemberOctober-2022-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2WJmAcC0P0IRNmG9zGgfAhBZKR3_ivl3gUdvWgNzM8MmG19vB0R38DGB4).
- Mortuza, Arshi. “Cooking in Eden.” *Borderless Journal*. September 14, 2022. <https://borderlessjournal.com/2022/09/14/cooking-in-eden/>.
- Islam, Md. Talebur. “Development Meant to Improve, Not Endanger, Lives.” *The New Age*, September 14, 2022. <https://www.newagebd.net/article/180997/development-meant-to-improve-not-endanger-lives>.
- Islam, Md. Talebur. “Why a Queen with no Executive Authority Continues to Dominate the World.” *The Business Standard*, September 19, 2022. <https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/why-queen-no-executive-authority-continues-dominate-world-499162>.

Islam, Md. Talebur. Global Talent. Global Innovation Lab, Mysore, India. UNLEASH (Denmark) and the Government of Karnataka, India. October 2022.

### ***National***

Tasnim, Zarin. “From Desk-Bangers to Rising Musicians: The Story of Chitropot.” *The Daily Star*, June 26, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/music/news/desk-bangers-rising-musicians-the-story-chitropot-3056731>.

Mehtaj, Sumaiya Samad. “An Untold Story of Sri Lanka.” *The Daily Star*, August 24, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/star-literature/news/untold-story-sri-lanka-3102036>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “Sectarian Bloodshed Wrapped in Romance and Adventure: Mr. and Mrs. Iyer.” *Dhaka Tribune*, September 3, 2022. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/arts-letters/2022/09/03/sectarian-bloodshed-wrapped-in-romance-and-adventure-mr-and-mrs-iyer>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “Anurag Kashyap: True to the Streets, True to the Hearts.” *The Daily Star*, September 10, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/anurag-kashyap-true-the-streets-true-the-hearts-3115936>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “An Ode to Jean-Luc Godard, Vanguard of New Wave Cinema.” *The Daily Star*, September 14, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/ode-jean-luc-godard-vanguard-new-wave-cinema-3119186>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “Remembering Leonard Cohen, the Poet of Melancholy.” *The Daily Star*, September 22, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/music/news/remembering-leonard-cohen-the-poet-melancholy-3125716>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “‘Look at You’: A Window into the Mind of Taylor Tomlinson.” *The Daily Star*, September 30, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/look-you-window-the-mind-taylor-tomlinson-3131741>.

Tasnim, Zarin. “‘The King’s Jester’: The Prodigal Son Returns.” *The Daily Star*, October 5, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/entertainment/tv-film/news/the-kings-jester-the-prodigal-son-returns-3135761>.

# Event Reports

## Event 1: Orientation Summer 2022



The Orientation Program of the Summer 2022 academic session of the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) was held on July 21, 2022, marking the new beginning for the students of BA and MA in English Programs. The Orientation theme this time was “Be Your Own Sunshine.” The event was held in the ULAB Research Building auditorium and offered the freshers an introduction to the faculty members and the department.

The Orientation Speaker at the Summer 2022 program was Mr. Parvez Akter, Vice President at DEG, KFW Bankengruppe, who shared his experiences as an English graduate who became successful in the banking business. He offered insightful advice and spoke of how students could

become successful in their own ways.

The program began with a welcome speech by the Head of the Department, Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, who emphasized the need to participate in all university activities and to be tolerant of others. Then, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro Vice-Chancellor, ULAB and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, spoke of the significance of studying humanities and developing critical thinking skills. Later, Professor Kaiser Haq provided some valuable words of advice to the students. The faculty members then introduced themselves and welcomed the freshers.



The cultural segment began with a soulful recitation of poetry by Rubaiyat Raiyan. The audience were then regaled with a song by Michael Tirtha Gomes with Sakib Mahmud Khan on the guitar. Later, another beautiful poem was recited by Manjuma Ferdoushi, an MA student. Two DEH undergraduate students, Oriha Shouptik and Kifayat Jahan Zerin shared their experiences and memories they have collected during their journey with ULAB so far. The song that won the audience’s hearts was “Ei Mon Tomake Dilam,” performed by Joye Florence

Rozario and Shafiullah Quaraisy Sottyo. Sottyo then rendered a solo of “Ore Neel Doriya.” Manjuma Ferdousi then shared her experiences at ULAB so far. Kazi Fouzia recited a marvelous poem which was followed by a solo dance performance by Tamima Akter Tonu. Nabila Faiza Islam recited “Sonnet

18” by William Shakespeare and the last performance by Fahmeda Akter Ador, with Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish on the guitar, “Rajahin Rajjo” by *Shunno*, ended the evening on a wonderful note.

The event ended with the vote of thanks by Anika Tahsin, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities. The event was hosted by Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury from the BA in English program. She was assisted by Sanzida Alam. The poster for the event was designed by Afrida Lubaba Khan.





*Report by Afrida Lubaba Khan (201013006)*

## Event 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> ULAB Literary Salon

"Our lives are shaped [by] short stories", said writer and editor Rifat Munim at the third ULAB Literary Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, on July 23, 2022 at the ULAB Research Building auditorium in their Dhanmondi campus.

This month's Lit Salon theme was, "An Evening in the World of Bangladesh's Favorite Literary Passion: Short Stories". The event brought together Rifat Munim, most recently the editor of Commonwealth Writers' adda magazine's Speak OUT! Issue 4 and former Literary Editor at Dhaka Tribune, and Sohana Manzoor, Literary Editor at The Daily Star and Associate Professor of English, ULAB in conversation

with Kaiser Haq, renowned poet, translator, academician and Professor of English, ULAB, and Sudeep Chakravarti, writer, journalist, and Visiting Professor, ULAB. Moderated by Sarah Anjum Bari, Editor of Daily Star Books and Adjunct Lecturer, ULAB, the discussion focused on three English short story anthologies published in commemoration of Bangladesh's 50 years—When the Mango Tree Blossomed (Nymphaea Publications), edited by academician, translator and editor Niaz

Zaman, *Our Many Longings* (Dhauki Books) edited by Sohana Manzoor, and *Golden: Bangladesh at 50* (UPL), edited by author Shazia Omar. The audience were joined, among notable others, by Ameena Ahmed, renowned Rabindra sangeet singer and member of the ULAB Board of Trustees, and Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Pro VC of ULAB, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and columnist at *The Daily Star*.

"It is relatively easy to publish short fiction... Even most of the novels published today in Bangladesh are long stories, novellas", Kaiser Haq said, explaining that the nature of life in Bangladesh—its cultural and historical developments—are better fitted to the short story form. Rifat Munim similarly reminisced about his days of growing up in the suburbs of a town—experiences that are easier portrayed through short stories. Professor Haq added that even today, the people of Dhaka are intimately connected to their villages.



Sarah Anjum Bari, who has reviewed both *Golden* and *Our Many Longings* for *The Daily Star*, highlighted the distinctive tone of each book. *Golden* is lighter and funnier in tone and bold in its choice of topics. *Our Many Longings* manages to be an inclusive anthology, with Sohana Manzoor having selected stories by and about diaspora and marginalized communities. When *The Mango Tree Blossomed* is the most ambitious in its scope, featuring 50 short stories from the country's most acclaimed and promising authors and translators.

An engaging discussion on translations unfolded at the event. Professor Kaiser Haq highlighted the importance of effectively translating the nuances of Bangla language and culture to English, as well as the lack of funding for well-trained translators. Speaking from the audience, Arifa Ghani Rahman, one of the translators appearing in two of the books and Head of the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB, stressed the need for proper recognition for translators. Editors of anthologies can play a key role in improving this situation, she shared.

The event included readings from the three books—by Arifa Ghani Rahman, Salahdin Imam, *Sehri Tales*-founder Sabrina Fatma Ahmad, and Nahyan Ameen. The evening ended with a certificate giving

ceremony for participants of the 4th Creative Writing Certificate Course offered by the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.

ULAB Literary Salon is a first of its kind literary platform in Dhaka which seeks to bring together writers, readers and publishers from Bangladesh and elsewhere in South Asia in an informal, engaging setting. Once a month, each month, it offers Dhaka's literary minded a Saturday evening of book discussions and sale of books at a discount by Bookworm Bangladesh and ULAB Press, ULAB Lit Salon's partners.



Sudeep Chakravarti, co-organiser of the ULAB Lit Salon, announced that India's Partition, its independence from the British Raj, and its effects on Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan will be the theme for the 4th Lit Salon on August 13, 2022. More updates are available on the ULAB Literary Salon Facebook and Instagram pages ([The Daily Star](#)).





Report by Maliba Huq (MA 202056005)



## Event 3: DEH Talk: Dr. Gregory Tweedie on “Socially Just Educational Measurement”

Open for all

Workshop on  
**Socially just educational measurement:  
Are educational language tests measuring up?**

July 25, 2022 | 1:10 PM - 2:30 PM | PD202, ULAB Feminist Campus

Workshop presenter:

**Dr. M. Gregory Tweedie**  
Associate Professor of Language & Literacy, University of Calgary, Canada

Dr. M. Gregory (Greg) Tweedie is Associate Professor of Language and Literacy at the Werkland School of Education, University of Calgary (Canada). He holds a PhD in Education (Applied Linguistics focus), and his research focuses on the assessment and pedagogy of English as an international language for professional communication. Dr. Greg's teaching and research draw heavily upon his experiences as a language teacher and language teacher-trainer in East, Southeast and Central Asia, the Middle East, Canada, and his native Australia.

On July 25, 2022, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held a workshop titled “Socially Just Educational Measurement: Are Educational Language Tests Measuring Up?” conducted by Dr. M. Gregory Tweedie, Associate Professor of Language and Literacy, Werkland School of Education, University of Calgary, Canada. Dr. Tweedie has a PhD in Education (with a focus on Applied Linguistics), and his research focuses on the assessment and pedagogy of English as an international language for professional communication.

The workshop’s main focus was to introduce the web application *TestPredikt*, which uses scientific and data-driven tools to help a student ace their upcoming language tests like IELTS and TOFEL. It is primarily based on the functions of machine learning, artificial intelligence for language learning and testing, and the knowledge of applied linguistics. With each practice test, TestPredikt automatically evaluates the test-takers’ performance and predicts how long it will take them to reach the scores they need. When a test taker is finally ready to take their language test, TestPredikt can show them by comparison which specific test type will give the best chance of success. Currently under construction, TestPredikt is expected to launch once it reaches a 90% percent accuracy rate of prediction.



Dr. Tweedie’s presentation was followed by a very active fifteen-minute Question and Answer session. The event was attended by students and faculty members of ULAB.








*Report by Maliha Huq, TA, DEH (202056005)*

## Event 4: SU22 DEH Curriculum Integration Forum I



The poster features the ULAB logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: "Department of English and Humanities Curriculum Integration Summer 2022". The main title is "Gender: The Binary and Beyond First Forum" with the subtitle "Diluted, yet Disputed: Negotiations and Institutions in Gender Space". The date and time are "Thursday, 4 August 2022, 4:00 pm" at the "Auditorium, ULAB Research Building". A circular portrait of Dr. Manosh Chowdhury is shown next to his name and title: "Guest Speaker: Dr. Manosh Chowdhury, Professor of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University". A bio section at the bottom describes his background and research interests.

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized the first forum of its Summer 2022 Curriculum Integration (CI) program on August 4, 2022 in the auditorium of the ULAB Research Building. This semester's Curriculum Integration theme is "Gender: The Binary and Beyond." The Department organizes the CI every term to enable students to make real-life connections with their course materials based on the assigned theme.

The invited speaker for the first forum was Dr. Manosh Chowdhury, Professor of Anthropology at Jahangirnagar University. Dr. Chowdhury began his speech by giving students ideas about gender binaries, and where the binaries stem from. He shed light on how the gender binaries are introduced to us at a very young age through language. He used the example of Bangla grammar books to illustrate this. He discussed how it is important to acknowledge the phrase

"gender identity" in social contexts and the importance of acknowledging other genders besides the binary, but he also explained that should happen in academic contexts as well. Dr. Chowdhury also talked about the limitations that every gender faces. For example, women often face certain limitations within the patriarchal society. He shed light on how women are often stereotyped into certain gender roles, and how men and women alike have to act according to the gender norms or construct of the society. He talked about how people, who are aware of the term "sexual identity" are well-informed. The main purpose of reflecting light on this matter was to address the complex issues of the ideological gender roles and construct of society that is ingrained in our minds from childhood.



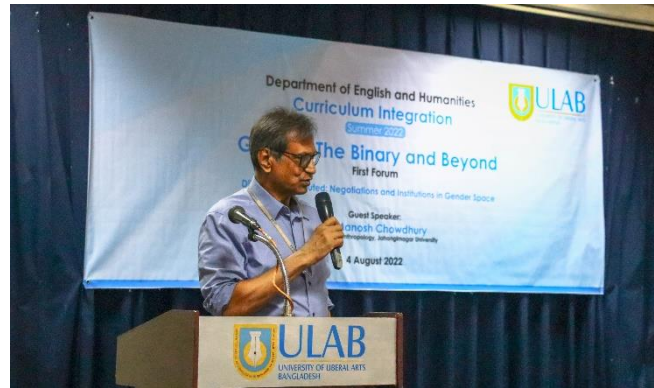
After Professor Manosh Chowdhury's elaborate discussion, the floor was opened for a round of Q&A during which students asked some interesting questions based on their knowledge and what they had gathered from the talk.

The forum was hosted by Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor, DEH, who is also the organizer of the Summer 2022 CI Program with Mr. Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, DEH. Dr. Sultana began the program by introducing the rationale for the CI, and how students can put their academic knowledge into perspective through the program. She focused on the gender issues of the current society, and then went on to note the participation rules for this particular CI forum. She then

welcomed the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Shamsad Mortuza on stage to give his insight on the matter. Professor Mortuza introduced the concept of the male and female binary, and how there are other gender identities beyond the binary. This was followed by Professor Kaiser Haq's brief speech of encouragement.

The program ended with Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, presenting the guest speaker, Dr. Manosh Chowdhury with a token of appreciation and a vote of thanks from Dr. Syeda Farzana Hafsa.

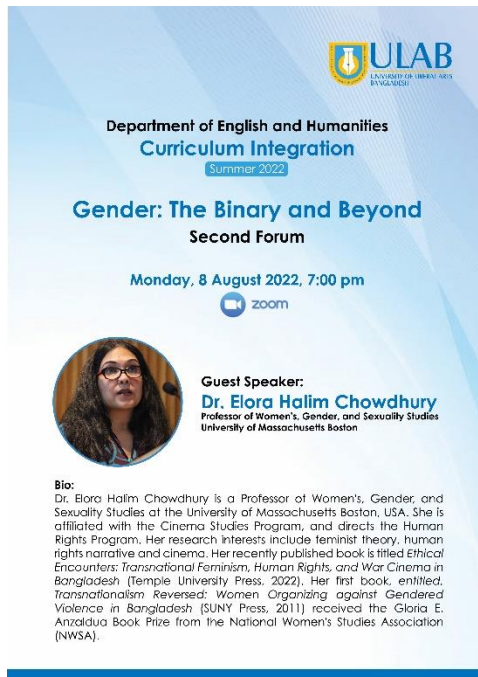
The full recording is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/720682749230972>.





*Report by: Nabila Faiza Islam (201013115)*

## Event 5: SU22 DEH Curriculum Integration Forum II



**Department of English and Humanities**  
**Curriculum Integration**  
Summer 2022

**Gender: The Binary and Beyond**  
Second Forum

Monday, 8 August 2022, 7:00 pm  
zoom

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Dr. Elora Halim Chowdhury**  
Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
University of Massachusetts Boston

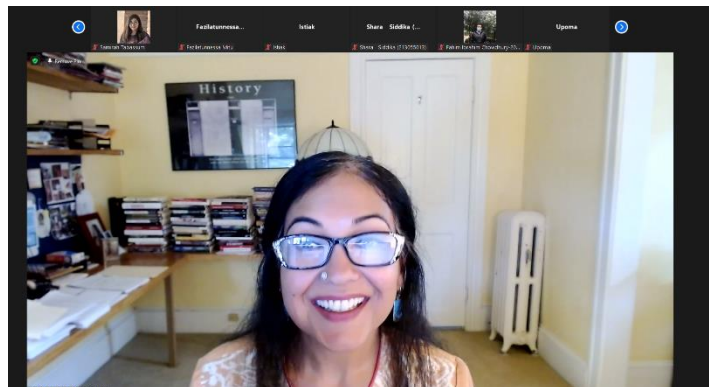
**Bio:**  
Dr. Elora Halim Chowdhury is a Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, USA. She is affiliated with the Cinema Studies Program, and directs the Human Rights Program. Her research interests include feminist theory, human rights narrative and cinema. Her recently published book is titled *Ethical Encounters: Transnational Feminism, Human Rights, and War Cinema in Bangladesh* (Temple University Press, 2022). Her first book, entitled, *Transnationalism Reversed: Women Organizing against Gendered Violence in Bangladesh* (SUNY Press, 2011) received the Gloria E. Anzaldua Book Prize from the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA).

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized the Second Forum of the Summer 2022 Curriculum Integration (CI) program online on August 8, 2022. This semester's Curriculum Integration theme is “Gender: The Binary and Beyond”.

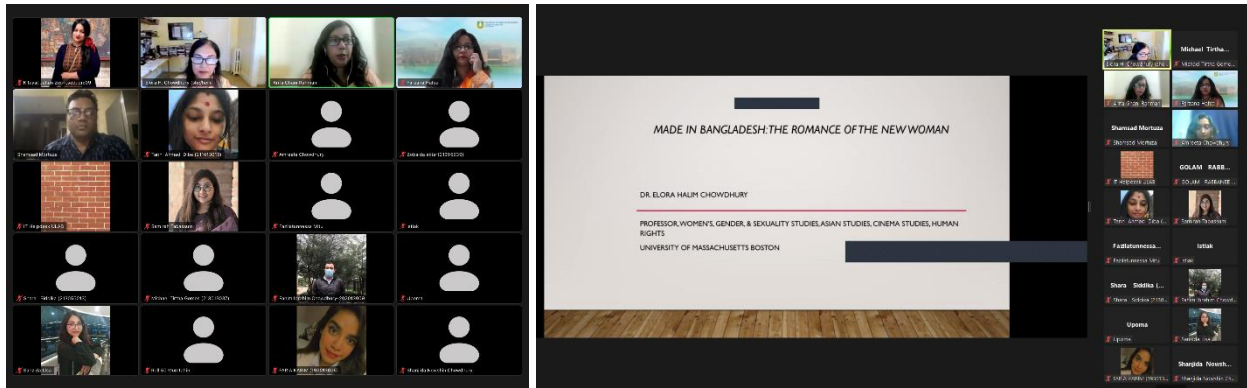
The guest speaker for the second forum was Dr. Elora Halim Chowdhury, professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. In her speech, Dr. Chowdhury broadly sketched the study of Transnational or International Gender Studies on women in particular. She raised the issue of how the transnational perspective influences our actions and other people across the world to make a connection between the lives and cultures of people. Dr. Chowdhury elaborated on the “Feminism” topic of how the globalized north became a “Feminized region.” She also shed light on physical violence against women even after they are participating in political and economic development. Dr. Chowdhury pointed out

how colonization, capitalist development, and racialization are the reasons for violence against women. She related this with “Neoliberalism and Women's Empowerment.” The main purpose for focusing on this matter was to address women's position in our society, culture, and economic development while they are being neglected and physically abused.

After the elaborate discussion, Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, addressed the third gender issue. She also thanked Dr. Chowdhury and other participants of the CI forum. Then Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana, Assistant Professor, DEH, also the organizer of the Summer 2022 CI program along with Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professor, DEH, gave her vote of thanks to the speaker, Dr. Chowdhury, the participants, and the volunteers. The second forum was hosted by Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, Teaching Assistant, DEH.

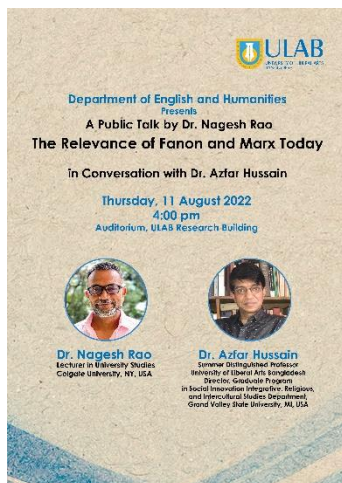


The full recording is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/3244473355799149>.



Report by: Faria Karim (193013096)

## Event 6: Public Talk: The Relevance of Fanon and Marx Today



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a public talk on August 11, 2022 at its Research Building on “The Relevance of Fanon and Marx Today” by Dr. Nagesh Rao, Lecturer in University Studies, Colgate University, NY, USA. The talk was followed by a conversation with Dr. Azfar Hussain, Summer Distinguished Professor at ULAB and Director of Graduate Program in Social Innovation Integrative, Religious, and Intercultural Studies Department, Grand Valley State University, MI, USA.

Dr. Azfar Hussain first gave an overview of the timeless philosophers and political theorists, Frantz Fanon and Karl Marx, followed by an introduction to Dr. Nagesh Rao, who was then invited to give his talk. Dr. Rao began his talk by referring to the famous social movements,

“from occupying Wall Street, to the Hong Kong revolt, to the Black Lives Matter movement” and various other socio-political movements that aimed to achieve equality. With these real life examples, Dr. Rao established why Marx is still relevant today. He emphasized on the relevance by referring to dual narcissism due to a black man’s existence in the society as both a “black man” and a citizen of a country which is largely white. He further mentioned the class disparity connected with one’s identity of blackness with the example of elite blacks and working class blacks which relates to the socio-diagnostics of Fanon. Dr. Rao stated how this reestablishes Fanon’s belief that, “Racism produces alienated individuals.” He also commented on the BLM movement having a significant influence on his students where he introduced Fanon. Dr. Rao referred to the famous texts by Fanon and Marx, *Black Skin White Masks* and *The Wretched of the Earth*, and *Das Kapital* respectively, to validate



Dr. Rao stated how this reestablishes Fanon’s belief that, “Racism produces alienated individuals.” He also commented on the BLM movement having a significant influence on his students where he introduced Fanon. Dr. Rao referred to the famous texts by Fanon and Marx, *Black Skin White Masks* and *The Wretched of the Earth*, and *Das Kapital* respectively, to validate



his arguments, while drawing references from contemporary times. Dr. Rao further acknowledged that neither Marx nor his friend Friedrich Engels was fully right always because Engel's *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, as well as Fanon's texts, fall short, when it comes to their relevance to the reality, and he described Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* as "intimidating to read," as it favors violence instead.

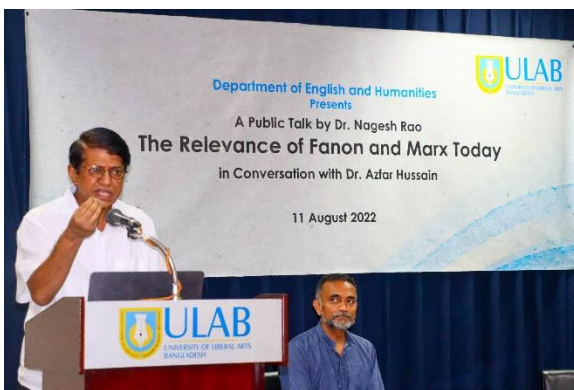


After his talk, Dr. Rao engaged in a discussion with Dr. Hussain, who began by sharing his thoughts on the use of language, drawing references from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and quoting from the text to show how language can be an essential element in Postcolonial Studies and Fanon's take on language. He also recited his haikus on Caliban to further illustrate his points.

The talk ended with a short question and answer round. The audience comprised ULAB students, faculty members, and guests from other institutions. The event was hosted by Samirah Tabassum, Lecturer, DEH, ULAB,

who ended the event with a vote of thanks.

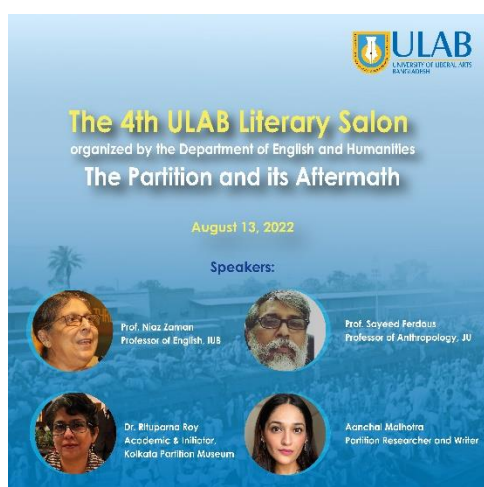
Volunteers for the program included Sumaiya Swati Udita (193), Sanzida Alam (201), Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury (201), Masayal Islam (201), Noor Mohammad (202), Michael Tirtha Gomes (213), and Kifayat Jahan Zerine (222).





Report by Sumaiya Swati Udita (193013047)

## Event 7: 4<sup>th</sup> ULAB Literary Salon



**“The danger in telling a single Partition story is that it completely erases the individual”**

On the eve of Partition, August 13, 2022, the ULAB Literary Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities, engaged in a lively, immensely informative discussion on the history and legacy of the Partition of India in 1947.

Moderated by writer and journalist Sudeep Chakravarti, Visiting Faculty at ULAB, and by Sarah Anjum Bari, Adjunct Lecturer, ULAB, and Editor of Daily Star Books, the discussion included among its speakers Dr. Niaz Zaman, editor, translator, and Professor of English at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB); Dr. Rituparna Roy, academic and initiator of Kolkata Partition Museum; Dr. Sayeed Ferdous, Professor of Anthropology at Jahangirnagar University and, most recently the author of *Partition as Border-Making: East Bengal, East Pakistan and Bangladesh* (Routledge, 2022); and Aanchal Malhotra, Partition researcher and author of *In the Language of Remembering: The Inheritance of Partition* (HarperCollins, 2022).

Sarah Anjum Bari: When we talk about the history of Partition, a lot of focus is given on West Bengal, India and West Pakistan and not so much on East Bengal. Could you tell us about your work in that area?



Sayed Ferdous: There's a huge debate in academia about why there is this silence about [the] Partition of 1947 in East Bengal. An easy answer is 1971 has taken up all the talking points of history in Bangladesh. But also in the Partition literature, East Bengal has been under-represented. Many years ago, Willem van Schendel worked on this issue of Partition and border making in the region, and talked about how Partition was focused to the West, the Punjab border, but the focus was on Calcutta—the refugees arrived in Calcutta. However, the

Partition had an effect on Assam and Tripura as well, among others.

For East Bengal, Partition was [also] a moment of hope and joy, a moment of assertion of new identity, emergence of new Muslim identity. People like Farrukh Ahmad, Akram Khan, and their fascinating literary works, crafting a new identity, started from 1937.

So, my emphasis was on the crucial fact that the non-Muslims from East Bengal had to leave before and after the Partition, in the decades that followed. Bengali Muslims, the predominant social category in East Bengal, had a historical responsibility behind this exodus. There were also non-Muslims in East Bengal who had to stay back—many didn't want to leave their ancestral place. Many found that they don't have the material support to migrate with their family. Partition literature hardly talks about them.

East Bengal was also a place where people secretly came to and settled from different parts of India. If we consider the aftermath, the non-Bengali Partition migrants who arrived immediately after the Partition, their trajectories show they had to give up everything. This was in '47, but by 1971, this section of non-Bengali Muslims became the villains of history in this land. Until very recently, we did not hear much about them.

Sudeep Chakravarti: Professor Niaz Zaman, you yourself have done extensive studies on this—you have curated anthologies on this issue and studied the novels that have been written in the three countries. Would you share some of your thoughts with us?

Niaz Zaman: The reason that the partition of 1947 was elided in East Pakistan is very complicated. One of the reasons that I mention in my book, *A Divided Legacy: The Partition in Selected Novels of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*, is that, in what was then East Pakistan, '47 was overtaken almost immediately by the language question, and the question of identity. We are Pakistanis, but we are also Bengalis. Now, how different are we from Hindu Bengalis? How similar or different are we from the Pakistanis? This language question started even before Partition took place. And it culminated, we can say, in 1952. With the language movement all questions of partition of '47 were forgotten.



In '47, '48, '49, it took a long time for news to percolate to the villagers. So we are talking really about the urban elite here, who are concerned and who are writing about things.

You think about Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* (1956), Bapsi Sidhwa's *Cracking India* (1988) or *Ice Candy Man* (1988). You think about Manto: the vignettes that he writes about in short short paragraphs, conveying the horror of Partition. Whereas, in East Pakistan, it was sort of forgotten, because of the language question, the identity question and the relationship of the East Bengali to the West Pakistani.

I think Bengalis or Bangladeshis were embarrassed about the role that they played in the Partition. The Muslim League was not formed in Lahore, or Karachi, or in that little lonely place Rawalpindi. It was formed in Dhaka. We have forgotten the Muslim League. We say they never existed. But the sad thing is, we cannot forget history.



Sudeep Chakravarti: Aanchal, you seem to have travelled almost a light year, from 1947 into remembering Partition in a very tactile way, through objects, through memories, and made a very fascinating anthropological study. Could you share some of that with us?

Aanchal Malhotra: Thanks, Sudeep. The first thing I want to say is that it's very difficult to homogenise the experiences of Partition, whether they come from Punjab or Bengal, and we must not ever fall in that danger of thinking there is one kind of story.

The danger in telling a Partition story only through those two lenses is that it completely erases the individual, and their sacrifices, their journeys, their voices. That is really what interested me in Partition. When I started, which [was] nearly a decade ago, it was because what I had learnt about Partition in school was a conversation of numbers and statistics. For someone who comes from four grandparents who migrated at the time of Partition, it was quite a shocking thing for me. The violence that they had witnessed and fled from seemed to come out far easier with the aid of an object. This is generally how subsequent generations are introduced to Partition, through these vignettes of nostalgia. We are not offered that entire landscape of horror. And it seems that where there is space in language for nostalgia, other things remain mostly absent or disassociated.

As an oral historian of Partition who comes from a Punjabi background, one of the main questions I am asked is, why there is a lacuna of voices from the Bengali Partition. And I actually don't think there is. The work is being done at the moment. It may exist in academia on this side of the border or that side and may not make its way to traditional publishing, or even may not be sensationalized as the Punjab partition has been because of the very intense violence in a very short period of time, which existed in a very fortified border.



There are political differences, ethnographic differences, linguistic differences from the east and the west. But there is a lot of work being done on this side. It gives you a lot of hope that we can come up with an organic archive of these multiple Partitions that have disturbed the land over many years

and created these three identities, these three countries that don't have a shared understanding of a history they do share. I think Rituparna can add a lot more.

Rituparna Roy: In school I was a great lover of history. Much later, I realized that what history books in schools gave me were actually facts about the freedom struggle that led to independence. But it is literature that introduced me to Partition.

It was in a museum visit that the first idea for a Partition museum came to me. The year was 2007, I had just left my tenured service to join my husband in the Netherlands. We were in Berlin for a very short trip. We took a historical walk and one of the pauses of that walk was Peter Eisenman's open Holocaust Memorial. That shook me in a way that nothing ever did before. For the first time it struck me that the Holocaust and Partition more or less happened at the same time. You have so many Holocaust memorials, so why is it that we do not have any public memorialization of Partition?

We have two primary aims. The first is to memorialize the specificity of the Bengal partition. We are also trying to change the partition discourse a bit. Another important emphasis is to remember the cultural continuity between the two Bengals.

Sudeep Chakravarti: Professor Sayeed, there is an aspect in Assam, in India, where on account of Partition, they had their own language movement. When East Bengal had Ekushey, they had Unishey, the 19th of May, 1961. Could you talk to us about some of these unintended effects of partition?

Sayeed Ferdous: Partition is all about unintended consequences. The countries were declared independent on August 14 and 15. The border was made public on 17th of August. So consider the misery along the border line. People were thinking that they may end up in Pakistan, but all of a sudden they discovered themselves as part of India. These things happened on both sides of the border. There was this huge confusion because people had been asked to cast their vote like a referendum, in which part the locality wanted to be in. I conducted my fieldwork in the district of Dinajpur, that is, just next to Southern Dinajpur, in India. In the referendum, they had voted for Pakistan with a huge majority and they were expecting that Uttar Dinajpur would be part of Pakistan. All of a sudden, after the border had been declared, they came to know that it was bifurcating. So, the township of that locality actually belonged to India, and the rural area became part of East Pakistan. People had divided livelihoods, lives, families, etc. And then people had this huge mistrust among the community. If you go there today, you will find these absurd, unreal, make believe stories that there's this conspiracy from the Hindus, and some local Muslim leaders are part of that in believing that India has taken away this part of our land.

I would take this opportunity to add two more points that have been disregarded. Number one, Partition studies is all about monotonization and absolutization of loss. But at the same time, for East Bengal, Partition was a moment of hope and joy, a moment of assertion of new identity, emergence of new Muslim identity. People like Farrukh Ahmad, Akram Khan, and their fascinating literary works, crafting a new identity, started from 1937.

The other part is the nationalization of nostalgia. When two states had been formed, and people were shaped within the status of nationalist domains, people's identity took a new turn. One of the major results of Partition is that India appeared to be the superpowers in this region. And that had consequences with India's relation with Bangladesh, with Pakistan. Ananya Jahanara Kabir, in her book, used the term 'indocentric' approach. Partition, so far, had been treated in a very indocentric way. Anything outside that was often disregarded. These are the areas that we should really take care of.

Sarah Anjum Bari: One of the main ways that the younger generations get to learn about history, as Dr. Roy said, is through literary text. How is Partition being taught in our classrooms in Bangladesh?

Niaz Zaman: Let me go back a few years. A very personal confession: the reason I took up the study of Partition novels is that the Asiatic society of Bangladesh had called for proposals for research. They were going to give a handsome amount of stipend. I took the opportunity to apply. I have to explain here that Aanchal, you are not the only Punjabi here. There are ethnicities, and there are nationalities. I am a Bangladeshi citizen, but I am Punjabi, and I am Chinese, and I am Irani. And this was true of many people in India when we lived together.

My husband was a Bengali from Kolkata, a refugee. And, he was a very very strong Bengali. When my first son was born, this was before 1971, he said that you have to talk to the child in Bangla. I said, I don't know Bangla. How can I talk to my child in a language which is not mine, which I had not heard from my mother? I struggled. In '71, I became very angry. I was a Punjabi, married to a Bengali and to whom did my loyalties belong? Did my loyalties belong to the Pakistani soldiers who were chasing us, and yes, I was chased twice in a single day. I hardly knew any words of Punjabi, unfortunately. I couldn't have conversed with them.

To the Bengalis who know me, I am not a Bengali. But when I go to Pakistan, I am a Bengali. In '71 I was very angry. And I consciously gave up all my connections to Urdu. When the Asiatic Society asked for proposals, I said, the language has not done me any harm, I am not fighting against the language. I would like to see how people who write in English, people who write in Bangla, people who write in Urdu, people who write in Punjabi, how these different linguistic and ethnic groups view the same episode. And I applied for that fellowship, but I did not get it. That was why I took up the study of the novels. And I saw that they all look at the same event but through different perspectives.

You know, this new identity, Professor Sayeed, which you talked about—there are two novels. There is one by Abul Fazal, *Ranga Probbhat (The Crimson Dawn, 1957)* and the other is a novel by Abu Rushd, *Nongor (Anchor, 1963)*. Neither of these have been translated.

Sarah Anjum Bari: Aanchal, when I was reading your book *Remnants of a Separation*, I noticed that one can really visualize you taking the interviews, having the conversations whose memories of Partition make up your book. It must not have been easy to bring out these memories that might have been traumatic, or memories that took place such a long time ago. Could you give us some anecdotes?

Aanchal Malhotra: Thanks for that question. When you are conducting oral history interviews with the generation that had witnessed that kind of trauma and violence, and has lived with that memory for decades, you realize very quickly that the interview is not about you.

As I mentioned, I was quite young when I started doing this work. So, my first problem really was, how can I ever relate to someone talking about something I had never seen and may never see, I hope, in my lifetime. How to ask the questions? We don't really have the vocabulary of trauma that we have developed over these many decades, which seems strange for countries really born from trauma. What topics can I approach? Can I use the word Pakistan? Can I call Pakistan home? Can I call them refugees? Because that's really what their identity was in post 1947. They even lived in refugee camps for nearly a decade in Delhi.



And the second thing is, not everyone wants to speak, even though they may have committed to speak about the events. I think it's incredible to listen to people who have lived through such traumatic times holding on to those memories, talking about things other than violence. In these conversations there are innumerable mentions, not just of people who lived side by side, but also the desire, the longing to go back to one's soil, the friend that was left behind, the girlfriend that was left behind, the people that reunited in the camp, the objects carried, the food that was missed, the entire lifestyles that changed after partition.



This kind of cultural and social ethnography of people's lives were equally as important to archive. When you sit with them three, four, five hours at a time, aiding them to talk as much or as little they want to; when you're listening to these interviews and transcribing, translating, and you are listening to the very unique phrases they are using, that are born from a particular historical context of them having survived this trauma, the enormity of the trauma dawns at you. And I think it's the voices that don't leave, for me and the voices that remain most

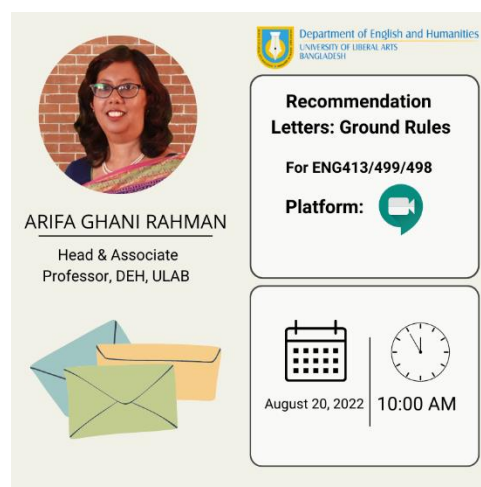
important for me.

How is memory inherited? How is it decreased? And how does it mean different things to different descendants in the three nations that were once part of the empire? It just gets you thinking that if a single date, a single year that impacts three nations, is not understood in one way and it provides its own multi-tributary kind of legacies—what does it mean for the future and how many more kinds of understanding will we have of a shared past?

The program ended with these points to ponder.

ULAB Literary Salon is a first of its kind literary platform in Dhaka which seeks to bring together writers, readers and publishers from Bangladesh and elsewhere in South Asia in an informal, engaging setting. Once a month, each month, it offers Dhaka's literary minded a Saturday evening of book discussions and sale of books at a discount by Bookworm Bangladesh and ULAB Press, ULAB Lit Salon's partners.


## Event 8: Student Workshop: Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules



The graphic features a circular portrait of Arifa Ghani Rahman, a woman with glasses and a colorful sari. Below her name and title, there are icons of envelopes. To the right, a box contains the text 'Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules' and 'For ENG413/499/498'. Below this, a 'Platform' icon is shown. Further down, a calendar icon indicates the date 'August 20, 2022' and a clock icon indicates the time '10:00 AM'. The top right corner of the graphic includes the logo and name of the 'Department of English and Humanities, UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS, BANGLADESH'.

**ARIFA GHANI RAHMAN**  
Head & Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

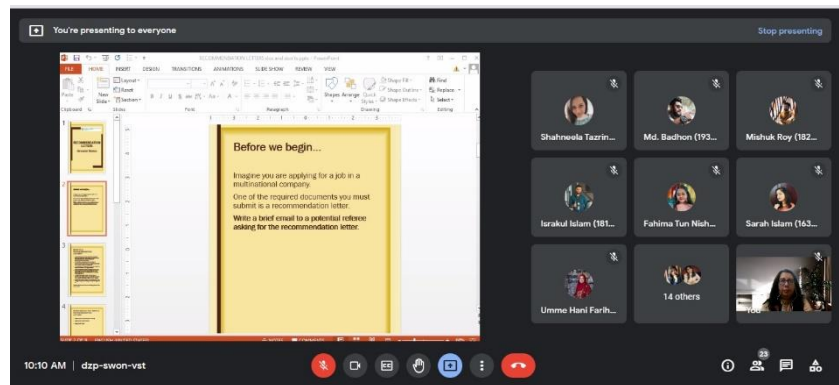
**Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules**  
For ENG413/499/498  
Platform: 

August 20, 2022 | 10:00 AM

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a virtual workshop on “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules” on August 20, 2022. The session was conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor, and Head, Department of English and Humanities (DEH), aiming to enlighten DEH’s thesis/internship/non-thesis students of the Summer 2022 term about the standard procedures and techniques for writing a faultless application for receiving a Recommendation Letter, which is one of the most vital documents that students have to submit for job applications, scholarships or funding and higher studies abroad.

The facilitator started the workshop with a short introductory session and explained what a Recommendation Letter is and where the students may need to submit it in the future. Next, the students were given a task to write a sample application requesting a Recommendation Letter to a respective faculty. The facilitator provided her valuable remarks on some common issues that often students make which may degrade an application. Thereafter, the facilitator provided a brief overview of whom to choose for a Recommendation Letter, how to request it in a polite and respectful manner, and what necessary documents are required for a clear reference. Moreover, the students were given a detailed overview of the components or format of a strong Recommendation Letter and DOs and DON’T’s for Recommendation Letter requests.

Towards the end of the workshop, a few samples of Recommendation Letter requests with errors and one perfectly written request 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.

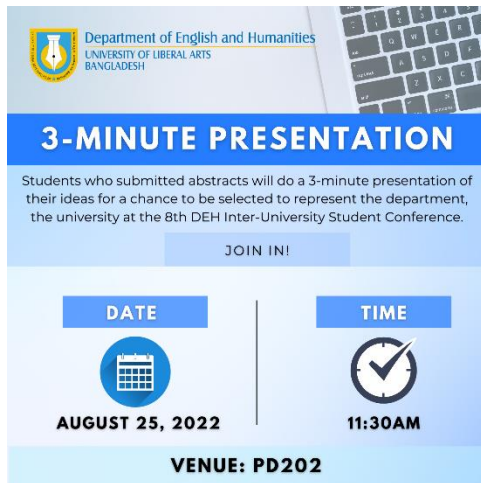


This workshop is part of the series of mandatory workshops designed especially for students in their final term and registered for ENG413/498/499.

*Report by Eliza Chowdhury Raka (183013034)*



## Event 9: 3-Minute Presentation for Student Conference Selection



The poster for the 3-Minute Presentation event is titled "3-MINUTE PRESENTATION" and is organized by the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. It states that students who submitted abstracts will have a 3-minute presentation to represent the department at the 8th DEH Inter-University Student Conference. The event is scheduled for August 25, 2022, at 11:30 AM in venue PD202. A "JOIN IN!" button is also present.

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a 3-minute presentation on August 25, 2022 to select a representative for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition. Six students submitted abstracts after an open call was circulated by the department. With the growing interest among students to participate in different conferences, the department adopted this method of selection to encourage participation and healthy competition among the students as well as to ensure transparency in the selection process.

The 3-Minute Presentations started with a brief introduction by the event coordinator, Dr. Abdullah Al Mahmud, Associate Professor, DEH, with support from the Conference Coordinator, Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturer, DEH. Of the six participants, five students presented their ideas in accordance with the theme of this year's conference, "Facets and Faces of Conflict." The presenters were Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, Ereti Ridhil Rahman, Rupak Saha, Ismat Murshid Khan, and Ritobina Ria Dey. Amreeta and Ereti highlighted differently the conflicts faced by the transgender communities. Ismat spoke about how language helped Ukraine emerge as an independent country. Rupak focused on how Bengal was freed from British colonialism, leaving the new nations with unresolved conflicts, while Ritobina presented on the history of the holocaust.



Following the presentation was a question and answer session that the presenters responded to. This further helped them with ideas and suggestions for improvement on their presentations and future articles. The session ended with words of appreciation from the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman.



*Report by Amina (193013022)*

## Event 10: Student Workshop: Job Hunting and Networking



**WORKSHOP ON**  
**JOB HUNTING AND**  
**NETWORKING**  
For ENG 413/499/498 students  
Venue: PD209

August 25, 2022 | 10:00 AM



ARIFA GHANI RAHMAN  
Head & Associate  
Professor, DEH, ULAB

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on “Job Hunting and Networking” on August 25, 2022 for the students of ENG 413/498/499. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities (DEH), conducted the workshop. The purpose of this session was to enlighten DEH students who will be graduating in Summer 2022 about job searching and networking. The workshop is part of a series of workshops conducted especially for students in their final semester to guide them in finding a job and applying for higher studies.

The workshop began with a brief overview of what networking is and why it is

important. After that, the facilitator explained the process of job searching. She described every possible and efficient way to search for jobs. Participants were also informed about what they should and should not do while they are looking for a job. In this session, Ms. Rahman shed light on what a person must do to prepare themselves to grab the opportunity and make the most of it. In the networking sector, she explained briefly how to build a network in the job industry and its efficacy. Ms. Rahman also provided some sources where participants can look for job opportunities.



The students of ENG 413/498/499 participated in this session.

*Report by Israkul Islam (181013078)*

## Event 11: Graduate Student Seminar

Department of English and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
BANGLADESH

**Graduate Student Seminar**  
Summer 2022

Sunday, 7:00 PM  
September 4, 2022

Join Online

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a Graduate Student Seminar online for the MA students to present their papers on September 4, 2022. In the Summer 2022 Graduate Student Seminar, four graduate students presented their papers. The students were Arunav Das, Tauhida Islam, and Sofia Zafrin, from the Literature and Cultural Studies track, and Md. Mashiur Rahaman from the Literature and Creative Writing track.

The aim of the seminar is to offer graduate students a platform to showcase their research. The seminar goes beyond academics, allowing participants to present

themselves among peers and faculty who can respond appropriately to their work. Students' ideas must be presented concisely, precisely, and effectively. This exercise is useful not just to prepare for conferences but also to handle real life situations. The seminars are held every term for the MA students in the English program with the students being nominated by their course instructors from the previous semester.

Arunav Das is a final term student and was recently awarded the highly competitive Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship to pursue an MA in World Literature at Nalanda University. His topic was "Migration and Refugee Crisis in Poetry: Birth of Bangladesh."

The second presenter was Tauhida Islam with her paper on "A Literary World inside the World of Social Media: The Use of Social Media Platforms for Literary Discussions." Her presentation was followed by Md. Mashiur Rahaman who presented his paper "Defiance of the Docile: Reading *The Adivasi Will Not Dance*." The final presenter of the seminar was Sofia Zafrin, presenting on "Beauty Pageant and Cultural Hybridity: An Analysis of Lux Channel i Superstar (2014 and 2018)."

The seminar, coordinated by the MA Coordinator, Dr. Tabassum Zaman, Associate Professor, DEH, began with an encouraging welcome speech by Prof. Kaiser Haq.

The seminar is available for viewing at: <https://youtu.be/sTJbKYP5L1o>.

*Report by Maliba Huq, Teaching Assistant (202056005)*

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## Event 12: Student Workshop: Interview Skills

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The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop on "Interview Skills" on September 1, 2022. The session was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH. The workshop is a part of the series of mandatory workshops tailored for students of ENG413/498/499 of Summer 2022 and aims to provide guidance on the necessary set of skills to ace an interview.

Ms. Rahman started the session with a brief overview on knowing the purpose for particular interviews and guided the participants through the possible networks to seek these opportunities. She proceeded to detailed pointers on polishing interview skills within the participants which included dress code, language skills, body language, punctuality, and communicative tactics. Ms. Rahman emphasized on being mindful about utilizing every possible skill in connection to the job position and organization.

One of the key pieces of advice was to use minor subjects as a bonus point to secure the position in the role that the company expects from the interviewee. She proceeded with an interactive question and answer session to enlighten students about connecting their backgrounds to the job description.

Furthermore, the session exhibited various ways to incorporate extracurricular activities, aspirations, academic skills, non-academic skills, and software skills in interview communication to ensure a good impression.

Towards the end of the session, common interview mistakes were discussed and the facilitator asked the students to refrain from sharing personal irrelevant information during an interview. She said that the focus should be on a positive and confident interaction that will ignite general interest in the candidate. This may include a conversation about a project that the participant is proud of or turning a weakness into a strategic skill for moments where the interviewer may put the participant in a challenging situation. Ms. Rahman ended the session with some more valuable insights for interviews and encouraged the students on their upcoming journey.

*Report by Sonjida Shajnin (182013029)*

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## Event 13: Student Workshop: Writing Statements of Purpose

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The poster is for a workshop titled "WORKSHOP ON Statements of Purpose" organized by the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. It is intended for ENG 413/499/498 students. The workshop is scheduled for Friday, 02 September at 06:30 PM. The facilitator is Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB. The poster includes a circular portrait of Dr. Manzoor and a "JOIN ON" button with a Google Meet icon.

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a virtual workshop on “Writing Statements of Purpose” on September 2, 2022. The session was conducted by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, Associate Professor, DEH. The workshop aimed to enlighten DEH’s thesis/internship/non-thesis students of the Summer 2022 term about the standard procedures and techniques for writing a flawless Statement of Purpose which is one of the most crucial documents that the students will need while applying for higher studies abroad.

The facilitator started the workshop by explaining what a Statement of Purpose (SoP) is and where the students may need to submit it in the future. In addition, students were also given a brief overview of the necessary documents that are required for applying for higher studies. Next, the facilitator mentioned the basic information that the applicants must gather before starting to write the Statement of Purpose (SoP) to fulfill the requirements of the university and the subject they are applying for. Thereafter, the facilitator discussed in detail the components of the SoPs and how to portray applicants’ achievements, personal experiences, and true interest in the degree they are applying for.

Towards the end of the workshop, a few samples of good SoPs were shown to the participants to exemplify and sum up the significant points that were discussed throughout the session. This interactive workshop ended with a few more questions from the participants, where the facilitator provided her valuable insights into the queries and concerns that the students raised.

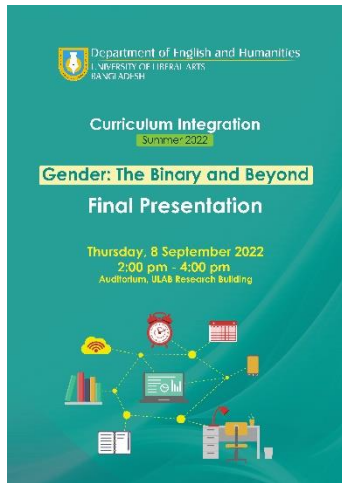
This workshop is part of the series of mandatory workshops designed especially for students of ENG413/498/499 each term.

*Report by Eliza Chowdhury Raka (183013034)*

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## Event 14: 7<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Integration Final Showcasing

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The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held the final showcase of the Summer 2022 Curriculum Integration (CI) program on September 8, 2022, in the auditorium of the ULAB Research Building. To assist their students in growth and creativity, the department organizes this event every term with unique themes. The theme of Summer 2022 CI was “Gender: The Binary and Beyond.”

Faculty members volunteer their courses for CI participation depending on the topic and its relevance to their course contents. This semester, the participating courses were: ENG1201: Introduction to Poetry and Drama; ENG2102: Writing about Literature; ENG225: Shakespeare; ENG2103: Morphology and Syntax; ENG302: The Novel – I; ENG313:

Modernism – Early 20th Century Literature; ENG32: Modern Poetry; ENG422: Cinema as Literature; and ENG406: Gender Theory and Literature.

The guest speaker, Sudeep Charavarti, Adjunct Faculty, DEH, expressed his amazement about the creativity and thoughtfulness behind each project, regardless of the terms in which the participants were. He went on to discuss how he found the noir theme and the music used in the different video projects very fascinating while the plots and presentation styles were thought-provoking. Furthermore, he elaborated on how each time the Bangladeshi people exceeded his expectations and this time he appreciated how the students at ULAB really embraced the liberal mindset and carved out brave works, living up to the institution's philosophy.



The Pro VC, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, shared his thoughts on the event too. He also expressed his appreciation towards the students for coming up with such amazing presentations and video projects, each with a uniqueness of its own. He shared some anecdotes related to the event's theme and the story plots presented in the videos. He also praised all the students for being brave enough to break the

stereotypes and portray their thoughts in imagination, without fear of society. Prof. Mortuza also shared the news about the end of his term as Pro VC, making it a very emotional moment. He talked about his experience at ULAB and how he would always cherish its beauty.

After the speeches, the judges announced the awardees of the CI program for the term of Summer 22. The winner of the CI Program was Quazi Farhina Hassan with an individual project from the course ENG422: Cinema as Literature. Her project, “Heathens Left in the Dark,” portrayed her depiction of how a cult of Inanna (an ancient Mesopotamian goddess of love, war, and fertility) and Galas (priests of the Sumerian goddess Inanna) went against stereotypes, especially of gender, and, instead, celebrated every gender as humans than specific entities, all via brilliant narration and videography with facts related to the central theme.



The 1st runner up was Team 6 from the course ENG313: Modernism – Early 20th Century Literature. The team connected Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway and Robert Browning’s Porphyria’s Lover to address the central theme, where they depicted the restrictions of a forbidden love, in this case, a same sex affair, and how the denial of society towards their relationship ultimately drove one of the lovers to take the life of another in order to preserve their love.

The 2nd runner up was Team 4 from the course ENG225: Shakespeare who presented a video project about the dilemma and discussion of the legendary author Shakespeare’s gender identity and how the world should accept his identity as a human rather than constantly trying to assume his gender.

The Summer 2022 CI Program was organized by Dr. Syeda Farzana Sultana and Muntasir Mamun, Assistant Professors, DEH. The judges, selected from non-participating courses, were Dr. Abdullah Al Mahmud, Associate Professor, DEH, Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, and Anika Tahsin, Lecturer, DEH.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Sultana.

The showcased video playlist is available on DEH YouTube Channel:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4HsbbodE4-GFPCyb6dqldWbGapvhchL>.





*Report by Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)*

## Event 15: Student Workshop: Presentation Skills

Department of English and Humanities  
 UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS  
 BANGLADESH

**WORKSHOP ON**

**PRESENTATION SKILLS**

For 413/498/499 Students

DATE: TUESDAY  
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2022  
 TIME: 6:30PM

Join on  
 Google Meet

**DR. TABASSUM ZAMAN**  
 Associate Professor,  
 DEH, ULAB

The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh conducted a session on "Presentation Skills" on September 13, 2022. Dr. Tabassum Zaman, Associate Professor and Coordinator, MA in English Program at DEH, facilitated the discussion to educate DEH's Summer 2022 thesis, internship, and non-thesis students to get a succinct idea about the accepted approach and standards for presentations as it is one of the most important skills anyone needs to practice when they speak in public or for a career at some point in their lives.

Dr. Zaman talked about the three key components of presentations: verbal, visual, and narrative messages. She further provided a more thorough analysis of these three aspects. Dr. Zaman discussed PowerPoint slides and various presentation formats, such as "Pecha Kucha," a technique in which 20 slideshows or visuals are used and shown for 20 seconds each. The presenter would speak normally as the slides proceed. This design guarantees that the speaker is brief, maintains the flow of the presentation, and covers all of their information. The facilitator then went over all of the tips and pointers for giving a successful presentation, conveying in a clear, dynamic, and positive way what the candidates can deliver with the correct postures and gestures in professional settings.

The workshop came to a close with an engaging question-and-answer session in which the facilitator shared her insightful thoughts on the concerns and questions brought up by the students.

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

*Report by Kazi Afia Tasnim (172013042)*

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## Event 16: 5<sup>th</sup> ULAB Literary Salon

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After hosting in August an outstanding session on the Partition and its effects with a stellar line-up (Professors Niaz Zaman and Sayeed Ferdous in Dhaka, Prof. Rituparna Roy, founder-trustee of Kolkata Partition Museum, and Aanchal Malhotra, a New Delhi-based writer who has written two engaging books related to the western Partition), the ULAB Literary Salon, organized by the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, held on September 17, 2022, showcased a discussion on one of the most pressing issues of our time: freedom of expression.

The matter was highlighted yet again with the recent attack on the writer Salman Rushdie. Writers of both fiction and non-fiction have come under increasing pressure and censorship across South Asia. Moreover, media persons and media houses across South Asia have, besides being bullied by censorship, come under outright attack by both state and non-state actors. Free speech and liberal opinion are threatened as never before.



To discuss these issues, the fifth ULAB Lit Salon brought together a diverse group of experts drawn from policy and its practice, publishing, and media: Khushi Kabir, coordinator of ‘Nijera Kori’, Trustee of the Centre for Policy Dialogue and among Bangladesh’s best-known advocates for human rights; Himanjali Sankar, Editorial Director of Simon and Schuster in India/South Asia; Zafar Sobhan, Editor of *Dhaka Tribune*; and Sudeep Chakravarti, South Asia analyst, author, columnist and, currently, visiting faculty at ULAB. Sarah Anjum Bari, Books Editor at *The Daily Star* and a faculty member at ULAB, helmed the conversation.



The Lit Salon is an initiative of the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB—University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. The Lit Salon is a first of its kind literary platform in Dhaka to bring together writers, readers, publishers and thought leaders from Bangladesh and elsewhere in South Asia in an informal, engaging setting.

Once a month, each month, the ULAB Lit Salon offers Dhaka’s literary minded a Saturday evening of book launches of leading authors, book readings, discussions, book signing, and sale of books at a discount by The Bookworm and ULAB Press, ULAB Lit Salon’s partners.

The discussion can be viewed in full at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ULABian/videos/1177855089435803>.





## Event 17: Commencement Summer 2022



The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized the Summer 2022 Commencement program on September 27, 2022, for the graduating students of BA and MA in English. The event, organized by the students of Batch 191, revolved around the theme “The Future Awaits.” from DEH Batch 191.

The commencement was honored by the presence of artiste extraordinaire Ms. Mehreen, who is famous as a multi genre artist, pop, jazz singing, judge of Bangladeshi Idol, crossover artist, and her gracious aura. Moreover, she had been working with the World Food Programme (WFP) as a goodwill ambassador, Women Federation for World Peace as Peace

ambassador and Vice president of Chapter Bangladesh. But, beyond that, in her inspiring speech, Mehreen reminisced about her experiences being a literature student herself of Professor Kaiser Haq and Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam. She encouraged the students with her beautiful singing and her sweet and inspiring words. After that, the Head of the Department handed over a gift to her on behalf of the department.



The opening of the commencement formally began with the profound words shared by the Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. After that, Professor Kaiser Haq gave his speech to encourage the fresh graduates.

“Commencement means starting something new and the future is here. It shouldn't wait for you. The future doesn't wait for you, and you don't wait for the future.” As always, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam

kept his students inspired by speaking in his thoughtful, humorous and motivational way.

After the speeches, Tasfiya Saba and Tanjila Fairuz from batch 192 performed to the beautiful song “Aaj Mon Cheyeche Ami Hariye Jabo” with the instrumental support from Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlish. After that, MA graduate, Risalat Rahman Hridoy, from batch 213, recited the poem “Life Doesn't Frighten Me” by Maya Angelou.

Eliza Chowdhury Raka, BA graduate, then shared some of her beautiful memories with the Department.



Khadija

Atia sang a beautiful and heartwarming song from MA batch 211, “I’ll be There for You by The Rembrandts while MA graduate Sirajum Munira Joti shared her experience afterwards. Before the final performance, Taslima Akter Mimi from batch 191 and Lamia Jashimuddin from batch 183 recited the beautiful poem, *Desiderata*, by Max Ehrmann,

Finally, Mustafa Zahir Sheikh from batch 192 regaled everyone with his singing of the 60s song, 60’s love by

Level Five. Lastly, the Head of the Department conveyed the vote of thanks to the volunteers of 191 batch for their outstanding decoration and organization. The commencement was emceed by Tasfia Ahmed. The organization was done by 191 batch representatives Sheikh Mohammed Shihab and Sadia Mukarrama under the supervision of Mohammed Zaki Rezwan, Senior Lecturer and BA Coordinator at DEH.







*Report by Sadia Mukarrama (191013002)*

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**UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH**

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