



Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

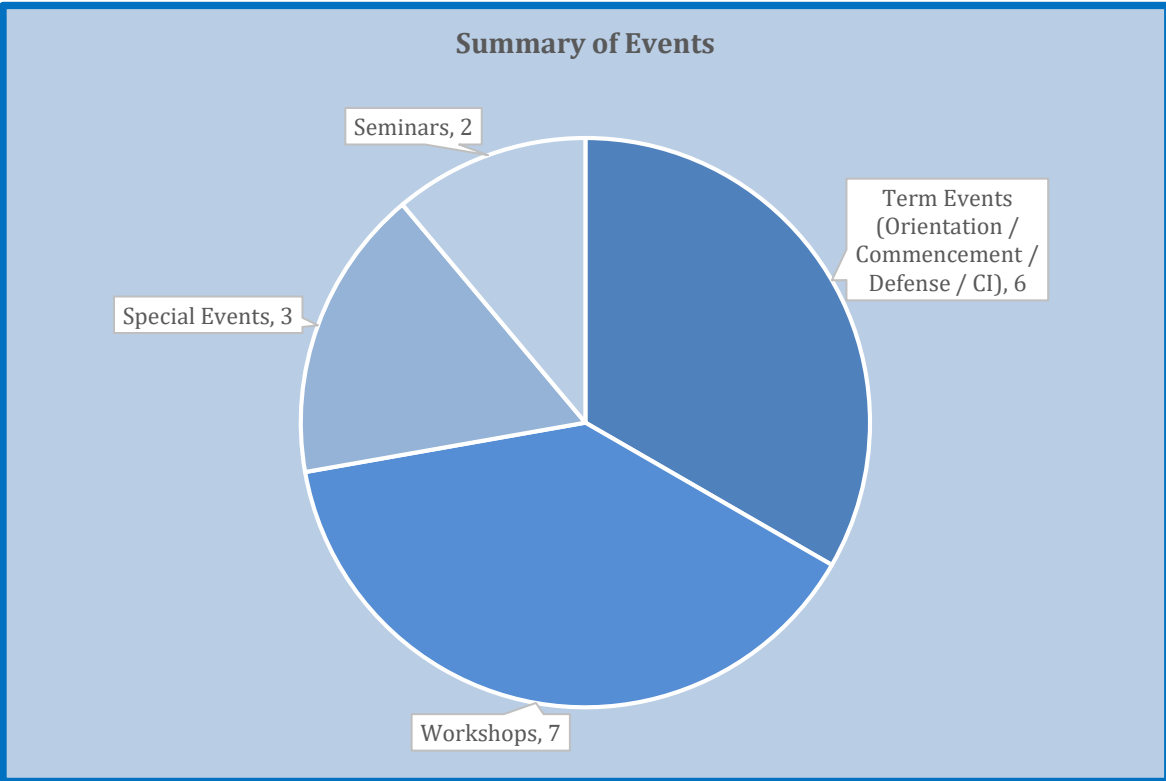
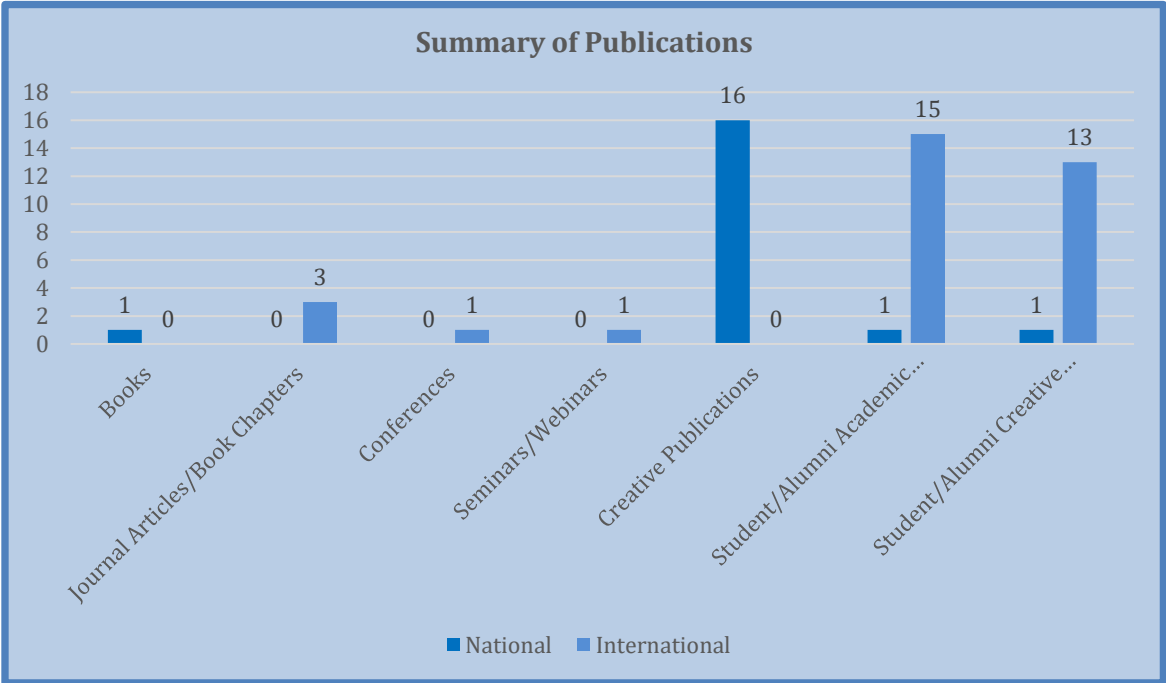
Publications and Events Report

Spring 2025
(January 24 - May 22, 2025)

Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Publications and Events Summary | 2 |
| Publications | |
| Book | 4 |
| Journal Articles/Book Chapters | 4 |
| Conferences | 4 |
| Seminars/Webinars | 4 |
| Non-Academic and Creative Publications | 5 |
| Student/Alumni Academic Achievements | 6 |
| Student/Alumni Creative Writing Contributions | 7 |
| Events Report | |
| Event 1: Spring 2025 Orientation | 10 |
| Event 2: Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2025 | 15 |
| Event 3: Faculty Grading Workshop | 21 |
| Event 4: Scholars Program Workshop | 21 |
| Event 5: Forum One: 11 th Curriculum Integration Program | 23 |
| Event 6: Forum Two: 11 th Curriculum Integration Program | 28 |
| Event 7: Five DEH Final Term Student Workshops | 33 |
| Writing CVs and Cover Letters | 33 |
| Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules | 34 |
| Job Hunting and Interview Skills..... | 35 |
| Writing Statements of Purpose | 36 |
| So, What's Next? | 37 |
| Event 8: Seminar on "Researching the Unconventional" | 38 |
| Event 9: Creative Writing Certificate Course 2025 on Translation | 41 |
| Event 10: Eid Reunion Program | 52 |
| Event 11: Curriculum Integration Showcase | 58 |
| Event 12: Seminar on "Translators' Choices: Comparing Translations of Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> " | 64 |
| Event 13: Celebrating Shakespeare: Scrabble Challenge | 67 |
| Event 14: BA and MA Theses Defence and Commencement Spring 2025 | 70 |

Publications and Events Summary



Publications

Books

National

Ghose, Neha and Syed Momin Iqbal (Trans.). *The Third Eye (Trityo Nayon* by Mallika Biswas), Poondraa Prokashan, 2024.

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

International

Rahman Mohammad Mosiur, and Guangwei Hu. "From Hypernationalism to Neoliberalism: A Multi-level Policy Analysis of English Medium Instructional Practices, Management, and Ideologies in Bangladeshi (private) Higher Education." *English Today*. Published online April 2025, pp. 1-6. DOI: 10.1017/S0266078424000221. [SCOPUS Q1]

Hasan, Md. Mahadhi, Sikder, A., & Mahmud, R. "Factors Influencing Bangladeshi English Teachers' Perceptions of Academic Policy, Academic Culture and Knowledge Related to Plagiarism in Higher Education." *Language Teaching Research Quarterly*, vol. 47, 2025, pp. 20-39. <https://doi.org/10.32038/ltrq.2025.47.02>. [SCOPUS Q2]

Nahiyan, Sheikh, Al Amin, M., & **Rahman, Mohammad Mosiur**. "Academic Literacy Development and EAP in English Medium Instruction: A Needs-Based Inquiry at a Bangladeshi Private University." *Training, Language and Culture*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2025, pp. 53-64. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22363/2521-442X-2025-9-1-53-64>. [SCOPUS Q1]

Conferences

International

Rumman, Al Mahmud. **Presenter**. "Cinematic Insights: Exploring Educational Implications from Movies for Language-Teacher Development." *29th NELTA International Conference 202*. Nepal. February 27-March 1, 2025.

Seminars/Webinars/Talk Shows

International

Tajkia, Nusrat. **Invited Speaker**. "Translators' Choices: Comparing Translations of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*." Department of English, Rabindra Mahavidyalaya (affiliated with University of Burdwan), West Bengal, India. April 23, 2025.

Non-Academic and Creative Publications

National

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Indigenous Debate: A Nation's Heart Beats in Every Leaf.](#)" *The Daily Star*. January 25, 2025.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "[Transform Primary Schools as Centre of Excellence.](#)" *The Business Standard*, January 30, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Why the Seven Colleges Want Out of Dhaka University.](#)" *The Daily Star*. February 1, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The Many Faces of Gender-Based Violence and Herd Mentality.](#)" *The Daily Star*. February 8, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[National Citizen Party: The New Kids on the Political Block.](#)" *The Daily Star*. March 1, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Why Bangladeshis Flee for Medical Treatment, and How to Stop It.](#)" *The Daily Star*. March 8, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Will the UN Chief's Visit Put Focus Back on the Rohingya Issue?](#)" *The Daily Star*. March 15, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Building a Future for Bangladeshi Football.](#)" *The Daily Star*. March 22, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Eid in a Time of Uncertainty and Change.](#)" *The Daily Star*. March 29, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The Pervasive Curse of Toxic Masculinity.](#)" *The Daily Star*. April 5, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Homecoming with a Purpose.](#)" *The Daily Star*. April 12, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The Sorry State of Our Green Passports.](#)" *The Daily Star*. April 19, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[KUET Protests and the Evolving Student-University Relations.](#)" *The Daily Star*. April 26, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The Crisis of a Fossilised Education System.](#)" *The Daily Star*. May 3, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[We Need More Than Air Purifiers to Clean Up Dhaka's Air.](#)" *The Daily Star*. May 10, 2025.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[InU Crisis Exposes the Rot in Our Higher Education System.](#)" *The Daily Star*. May 17, 2025.

Student/Alumni Academic Achievements

International

Badruzzaman, Mohammad, Bärnighausen, K., Selim, S., and Irfanullah, H. M. "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink: qualitatively unraveling the nuances of non-economic loss and damage in Bangladesh." *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, pp. 1–20, 2025. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2025.2496158>. [Taylor and Francis]

Banu, Jainab T. "Identity Narrative Assignment: How Writing About Students' Identities Shapes Their Writerly Voice." *Xchanges*, vol. 19, no 1, Spring 2025. <https://xchanges.org/identity-narrative-assignment-19-1>.

Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter**. "Promoting writerly voice in the age of AI: Teaching Situation-based Email Writing with and against AI". *GSOLE 2025 Conference*. February 6, 2025.

Mardia, Mariam, and Zaman, Nafisa. **Presenters**. "Humor as Resistance: The Role of Humor in Bangladesh's July Revolution." *International Student Conference on English Studies: Integrating Interdisciplinarity into English Studies*, organized by the Department of English, Stamford University Bangladesh (online). February 22–23, 2025.

Maria, Mahjabin. **Presenter**. "Intergenerational Transmission of Bengali Language in USA." *International Student Conference on English Studies: Integrating Interdisciplinarity into English Studies*, organized by the Department of English, Stamford University Bangladesh (online). February 22–23, 2025.

Sultana, Rafia. **Presenter**. "Identifying Postmodern Elements across the Marvel Cinematic Universe." *International Student Conference on English Studies: Integrating Interdisciplinarity into English Studies*, organized by the Department of English, Stamford University Bangladesh (online). February 22–23, 2025.

Nigar, Tuni. **Presenter**. "The 'Other' of a Nation: A Spivakian Reading of Subaltern Experiences in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* and Shahidul Zahir's *Mukher Dike Dekhi*." *International Student Conference on English Studies: Integrating Interdisciplinarity into English Studies*, organized by the Department of English, Stamford University Bangladesh (online). February 22–23, 2025.

Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter**. "Reimagining Fat Identity: Resistance, Selfhood, and Transformation in *Hunger* and *Landwhale* through a Feminist Disability Lens." *2025 Red River Women's Studies Conference: Rethinking Feminist Movements*. North Dakota State University. March 21, 2025.

- Banu, Jainab T. "Incorporating ChatGPT into a Business and Professional Writing Assignment." *MnWE Journal*, vol. 2. March 31, 2025.
<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/mnwejournal2/chapter/incorporating-chatgpt-into-a-business-and-professional-writing-assignment/>.
- Banu, Jainab T. "Teaching Blog Writing in Business and Professional Writing Class". *Journal of Response to Writing*, vol. 11, no 1, 2025.
<https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/journalrw/vol11/iss1/6/>.
- Banu, Jainab T. "Fetal Personhood and the Access to Reproductive Rights: A Question of Power and Precarity in Post-Roe America". *Journal of International Women's Studies. Special Issue: Reproductive Justice Across Disciplines and Demographics*, vol. 27, no 1, 2025. <https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3177&context=jiws>.
- Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter**. "Resisting Norms through Blogging: Life Writing and Disability." *NDSU Research Day 2025*. North Dakota State University. April 9, 2024.
- Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter**. "Reading Blake through Burke's Screens: Dramatism in William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience." *2025 Northern Plains Early British Literature*. Northern State University, South Dakota. April 11-12, 2024.
- Sanjida Kalam. **Recipient** of the Bill and Karmen Purcell Linguistics Scholarship. Department of English, University of North Dakota. April 25, 2025.
- Banu, Jainab T. Outstanding Graduate Research Award 2025. Department of English, North Dakota State University. May 8, 2025.

National

- Islam, Md. Jahidul. **Presenter**. "হিমু ও মিসির: বাস্তব ও অতিপ্রকৃতির দ্বন্দ্ব." *1st Inter-University Research Conference in Bengali Language*. University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). March 10, 2025.

Student/Alumni Creative Writing Contributions

International

- Mortuza, Arshi. "[Dracula's Bride Rants](#)." *Spillwords Press*. February 28, 2025.
- Mortuza, Arshi. "[Petrichor](#)." *Borderless Journal*. March 14, 2025.
- Mortuza, Arshi. "[They Named their Dungeons a House of Mirrors](#)." *The New Verse News*. March 19, 2025.
- Banu, Jainab T. Poetry Recitation. "The Recurrent Incidents." *The 5th Annual Hear the Herd*. North Dakota State University. April 7, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Six Poems.](#)" *Medusa's Kitchen*. April 19, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Matter.](#)" *A Thin Slice of Anxiety*. April 29, 2025.

Banu, Jainab T. Poetry Recitation. "Clouds through My Eyes." *Reading Event of Sonder: Through Our Eyes*. University of Minnesota, Duluth. April 30, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Malfunctions of a Poetic Kitchen.](#)" Point Clear Press. May 6, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Tin-foiled Lessons from Time.](#)" Point Clear Press. May 6, 2025.

Hassan, Quazi Farhina (pseud. Juniper). "[My Therapist Hates Human.](#)" *Spillwords Press*. May 20, 2025.


Mortuza, Arshi. "[My Ghost in Exile.](#)" *Shine Poetry Series*. May 22, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Lady Macbeth Sees a Psychiatrist.](#)" *Shine Poetry Series*. May 22, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Blood Moon.](#)" *Shine Poetry Series*. May 22, 2025.

National

Islam, Md. Jahidul. Editor-in-Chief. *Kishor Chirkut*. Magazine. February 21, 2025.



Event Reports

Event 1: Spring 2025 Orientation



On February 13, 2025, ULAB's Department of English and Humanities arranged its Orientation Program to welcome the incoming batches of BA and MA students for the Spring 2025 term. The theme of the event was "New Beginnings" and the Orientation Speaker was an alumna from the MA program, Ms. Ummay Marzan Jui, Program Implementation Manager at Maiya School.

The event began with a speech by the Pro Vice-Chancellor of ULAB, Professor Jude Genilo who

welcomed students to the new chapter of their lives at the university. He spoke about ULAB's goals for its students and the various opportunities available to them. Following this was a virtual welcome speech by the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Kaiser Haq, who addressed the moral and academic duties of the incoming students towards themselves and the country. Next, the Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, shared her words with the students on making the most of their time at ULAB and developing into individuals to be proud of. She asked the students to practice the virtues of tolerance and patience. Ms. Rahman then requested the faculty members of DEH to introduce themselves to the students.



In her speech, the Orientation Speaker, Ms. Ummay Marzan Jui, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to ULAB for its role in shaping her into the person she is today. She is a dedicated advocate of gender equality and her role as Program Implementation Manager at Maiya School allows her to create initiatives for Rohingya refugee girls and Bangladeshi women. As an alumna, Ms. Jui shared

how DEH gave her the space and comfort to hone her skills, taught her how to network, and helped her develop her confidence which have been crucial in her career as a journalist and researcher. She urged the students to make the most of their time at ULAB and the opportunities that the university provides its students and looks forward to seeing who they become at the end of their journey.



A video compilation by K. M. Kaisarul Islam (Batch 242) was screened to recap DEH events in 2024 to offer incoming students a glimpse of the department's activities.

Ms. Neha Ghose, Lecturer and Advisor to the English Zone, was then invited on stage to introduce the English Zone and its aim to provide students with any assistance they might need. She concluded her speech with an invitation to visit the English Zone whenever the new students required help.

S. M. Mehedi Hasan (Batch 251) from the MA program then shared his experiences at the department as a newcomer, which was followed by a speech by Mahima Rahman Mithila (Batch 251) from the BA program, who talked about her student life so far at DEH. Both freshers spoke effusively about the wonderful experience so far.

The cultural segment continued with a performance by Shreya Goswami (Batch 241) who rendered the song, "Phagun haway haway" by Rabrindranath Tagore as a tribute to the first day of spring. Then K.M. Kaisarul Islam (Batch 242) performed his beautiful, original song, "Dotola Restora."

Graduates of the Scholars Program, Riya Rani Saha and Akbar Fida Ononto of Batch 211, were awarded their certificates. Akbar Fida Ononto was then invited on stage to share his

experience of completing the BA Program so that incoming students too could avail the opportunity, urging them to join and take advantage of the chance to learn at a more advanced level.

Lecturer at DEH, Ms. Irtifa Hasan, gave the vote of thanks and the event ended with a photo session.

The program was organized by Batches 241, 242, and 243 with the assistance of their Batch Managers, Ms. Irtifa Hasan, Mr. Muntasir Mamun, Dr. Mahadhi Hasan, and Mr. Golam Kader Zilany. The event was hosted by Fatima Tarannum (Batch 242, BA) and Rudaiba Mahbub (Batch 243, MA).







Report by Fatima Tarannum (242013068)

Event 2: Graduate Student Seminar Spring 2025



On February 19, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB hosted its Spring 2025 Graduate Student Seminar. Thirteen MA students, nominated by their course instructors, presented their papers across DEH's three MA tracks: Literature and Cultural Studies, Applied Linguistics and TESOL, and Literature and Creative Writing.

Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator and Assistant Professor, DEH, commenced the seminar by warmly welcoming faculty members, presenters, and the attending students.

Ms. Rahman introduced the first presenter, Salma Akter Rumi (Batch 242), who presented her paper titled "Spectacle of Otherness: Breaking the Stereotypical Ideology of Female Beauty through Bangladeshi TVCs." In this paper, she explored the critical issue of marginalization of women based on the perception of their beauty in Bangladeshi society.



Next, Shaira Ali Konok (Batch 241) presented her paper titled, "Assessment for Learning: Reflecting on Its Impact in ELT Contexts," where she examined the dynamics of traditional teaching and the impact of rapidly advancing technology to increase students' participation.

Following shortly, Hamida Akter Mira (Batch 242) talked about her paper titled, “Writing ‘Lanterns of the Sylhet Nights’: A Creative Journey” in which she delved into her journey of writing her own short story full of cultural references, where she explores humanity's fragile relationship with nature and generational responsibility carried by individuals.

Anika Binta Nazrul's (Batch 231) paper, “Connecting Theory to Practice: A Reflective Research through Engagement, Inclusivity, and Effective Classroom Management,” explored different teaching methodologies and learning techniques that promote inclusivity and active student participation in a classroom.



Tasnova Tanjum Tanha (Batch 243) presented her paper titled, “Colonialism: Reasons, Impacts and End” in which she examined the impacts of colonialism and how it reshaped the world in many ways.

The sixth presenter, Fahim Ibrahim Chowdhury (Batch 243) shared his paper called, “Syllabus as Educational Justice: Significance of Need and Situational Analysis in EFL Syllabus,” where he shared the necessity of creating a syllabus and a curriculum relevant to the learners in the context of primary education in Bangladesh.

Afterwards, Nafisa Awal (Batch 241), shared her paper titled, “Writing English Plays in Relation to Social Capital in Bangladesh: A Double-Edged Sword”. For her presentation, she discussed how the English language is used as a tool of privilege in theater and how it is associated with the elites of the society, acting as a double-edged sword for global recognition and local limitations.

The next presenter, Muhammad Ibne Anis (Batch 242), came forth with his paper titled “The Importance of Culturally Relevant Materials: Lessons Learned from ENG - 540,” where he elaborated on the importance of using culturally relevant materials when teaching a language or developing materials and keeping in mind the social context and interactions of a certain society.



Afreena Rahman (Batch242) presented her paper titled “From Spectacle to Tragic Protagonist: Cleopatra’s Subjectivity in Shakespeare’s *Antony and Cleopatra*”. She analyzed how history exoticized Cleopatra but Shakespeare reimagined her as a multifaceted character, pulling her out of the systematic oppression and historical misrepresentation.

Nabila Faiza Islam (Batch 242) presented her paper on “Early Language Learning in Northern Europe, the UK, and Bangladesh: A Comparative Study,” where she dove into the different childhood education systems of different countries, highlighting the disparity and shortcomings of the education system of Bangladesh, especially the rural areas.

Afterwards, Syeda Faria Purba (Batch 243) presented her paper “Krishna, as a Trickster,” where she discussed the key elements of a trickster and explored different aspects of Lord Krishna’s personality, showing how a god can also have human-like attributes.



Mousome Mostofa Urmi (Batch 233) presented her topic “Emotionality in TESOL: Exploring Teacher and Student Experiences,” in which she dissected the impact of emotions in TESOL teaching and learning and how a teacher’s emotions can affect the students and the class outcome.

The final presenter, Rudaiba Mahbub (Batch 243) presented her paper “Art of the People: July Uprising through the Eyes of Debashish Chakrabarty,” in which she analyzed the artist’s digital posters and how art was used to speak against genocide, exploitation, and a fascist regime.

Following the conclusion of the presentations, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Kaiser Haq, conducted a short question and answer session and also shared his insights on the seminar. The Head of DEH and Associate Professor Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman also shared her feedback and gave a concluding statement, acknowledging the hard work of the students.

Finally, Professor Kaiser Haq and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman distributed certificates to the presenters for their participation. With a group photograph, the Graduate Student Seminar of Spring 2025 came to a successful end.







Report by Raisa Anan (232013009)

Event 3: Faculty Grading Workshop

The Department of English and Humanities organized a grading workshop for the faculty members on February 20, 2025. The purpose of the workshop was to offer guidelines to the faculty to ensure fair grading across the board.

Faculty evaluated anonymous exam scripts of high, average, and low levels. The following common errors were found: grammar and spelling (run on, fragments, subject-verb agreement), answers are not detailed enough, no thesis statement, irrelevant information, redundancies, responses not to the point, structure and organization, formatting, lack of examples, and overgeneralization.

Some suggestions were made to help faculty keep to a standard and help students keep track of their common errors: faculty would meet students, especially those with low scores, face to face to help them understand their errors; students doing poorly would be advised to visit the English Zone and submit a progress report which can be used as a reference point to track improvements; course teachers would refer to expected learning outcomes of previous semester's courses so students' learning is reinforced as they move to higher levels – this will help students also understand the connections between the different courses; exemplary sample answers (ideally written by former students of the course) with comments would be shared and discussed with students so they are clear about the expectations; students will make a list of their errors based on the feedback they receive and address them with support from the English Zone or TAs.

Event 4: Scholars Program Workshop



The poster for the Scholars Program Workshop features the following text and graphics:

- Department of English and Humanities, UNIVERSITY OF SOHRA, AHS, BANGLADESH
- Scholars Program Workshop
- BUILDING A STRONG THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUR THESES**
- Facilitators:
- ANIKA TAHSIN**, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities
- SHEIKH NAHIYAN**, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities
- Thursday, 20 February, 2025
- 3:05 PM – 4:25 PM
- PD 306



On February 20, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB organized a workshop for the Scholars Program students. This workshop was conducted by Ms. Anika Tahsin, Lecturer, DEH, and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyah, Lecturer, DEH. The goal of this workshop was to assist the SP students to properly frame their thesis or research papers according to their chosen topics. Dr. Md.

Mahadhi Hasan, Assistant Professor and Advisor to the Scholars Program, welcomed the

students and set the workshop in motion after introducing both the lecturers. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of DEH, ULAB, was also present at the workshop.

The workshop was divided into two sections – literature and linguistics. The first section was dedicated to students working on literature topics. Ms. Tahsin began the workshop by enlightening the students on the classical and hypothetical approaches, first by informing them about some common mistakes made by students. She then guided the students on how to choose topics for their theses without making it too broad, and where to find helpful resources. She ended her part of the discussion by highlighting the differences between annotated bibliography and literature review.

Mr. Nahiyan began his discussion by focusing on theoretical versus conceptual frameworks in applied linguistics. He then refreshed the students' memories of the three methods of conducting research – qualitative, quantitative, and mixed. He taught the students different ways to increase the validity of their research, as well as synthesize existing views. Similar to Ms. Tahsin, Mr. Nahiyan also ended his discussion by providing information about websites to find helpful resources for students' theses. The program ended with an engaging Q/A session with the members of the Scholars Program and a photo session.



Report by Tarannum Ahmed (231013042)

Event 5: Forum One: 11th Curriculum Integration Program



On February 27, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB hosted the first forum of the 11th DEH Curriculum Integration (CI) Program. This year's theme, "Edible Narratives: The Interplay of Food, Culture, and Identity," invited students to critically engage with the cultural, social, and philosophical dimensions of food. The session featured an esteemed panel, including Professor Emeritus, Department of English, DU, and Professor, DEH, ULAB, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam; Special Advisor (BoT), Professor, Department of English, DU and ULAB, Professor Shamsad Mortuza; and Lecturers of DEH, ULAB, Ms. Anika Tahsin and Ms. Jahanara Tariq. The program was moderated by Mr. Oliur Rahman Sun, Lecturer, DEH.

The event began with a welcome speech by the Department Head and Associate Professor Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman who expressed her gratitude to the panel, faculty members, and students. She emphasized how the forum would allow students to explore real-world issues through their coursework and creative projects, which would be showcased at the end of the term.

Mr. Sun initiated the discussion by reflecting on the deep connections between food, culture, and identity. After introducing the panel, he invited Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam to share his insights.



Professor Islam delved into the culture that surrounds food and gastro-criticism, discussing the politics of food. He explored historical perspectives, referencing ancient texts to highlight how food has long been connected to civilization. He also discussed how gastro-criticism parallels the rise of many theories, especially structuralism and post-structuralism, emphasizing food as a signifier of identity.



Professor Shamsad Mortuza discussed the role of social etiquette in food, how it reinforces ideas of us vs. them, and shapes cultural perceptions. Before concluding, he encouraged the students to critically examine these ideas in their CI projects.

Following Professor Mortuza's thought-provoking discussion, Ms. Jahanara Tariq began by exploring how food dictates our sense of belonging and identity. She also discussed how the female body is often objectified, tying this to themes of desire and highlighted how food is linked to power structures.

Ms. Anika Tahsin then focused on food as an expression of existence, illustrating her points with literary examples. She analyzed multiple characters, drawing connections between food and existentialism, reflecting on how the two have always been intertwined.



After sharing their individual thoughts, the forum speakers engaged in an introspective discussion on the imperative role that food plays in literature and, by extension, life.

As the discussion neared its conclusion, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman highlighted how food is a fundamental part of celebration across different cultures, including our own, and serves as a means to build community, especially in diasporic societies.

Following Ms. Rahman's remarks, Mr. Sun added to the conversation by discussing the role of food in cultural traditions, where food plays a crucial role in preserving heritage and identity.

The session concluded with a note of appreciation from Ms. Rahman who thanked Ms. Irtifa Hasan, Lecturer, DEH, ULAB and Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, ULAB for their efforts in organizing the event.

Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, expressed his gratitude to all the speakers and the moderator, presenting them with tokens of appreciation.

The event came to a close with a photo session and a vote of thanks by Ms. Irtifa Hasan.

The full discussion is available on the [DEH YouTube Channel](#).



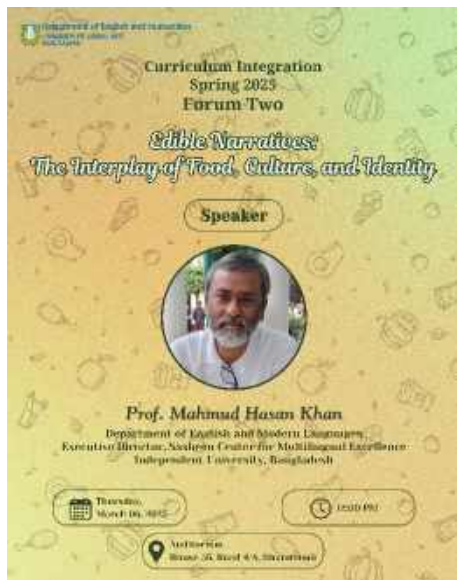






Report by Tuni Nigar (223013042)

Event 6: Forum Two: 11th Curriculum Integration Program



On Thursday, March 6, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted its second forum of the Curriculum Integration program on the theme “Edible Narratives: The Interplay of Food, Culture, and Identity.” The CI Program is designed to help students of the department make connections between their course contents and real-world issues or topics. In the second forum, the speaker was Prof. Mahmud Hasan Khan of the

Department of English and Modern Languages and Executive Director of Shasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence, Independent University Bangladesh.

Prof. Khan introduced food as “one of the crucial objects of any culture,” mentioning how it has the quality of carrying elite authenticity and discussed how factors such as colonization, migration as well as globalization, influence the culture that surrounds food. He focused on how food can have linguistic implications.



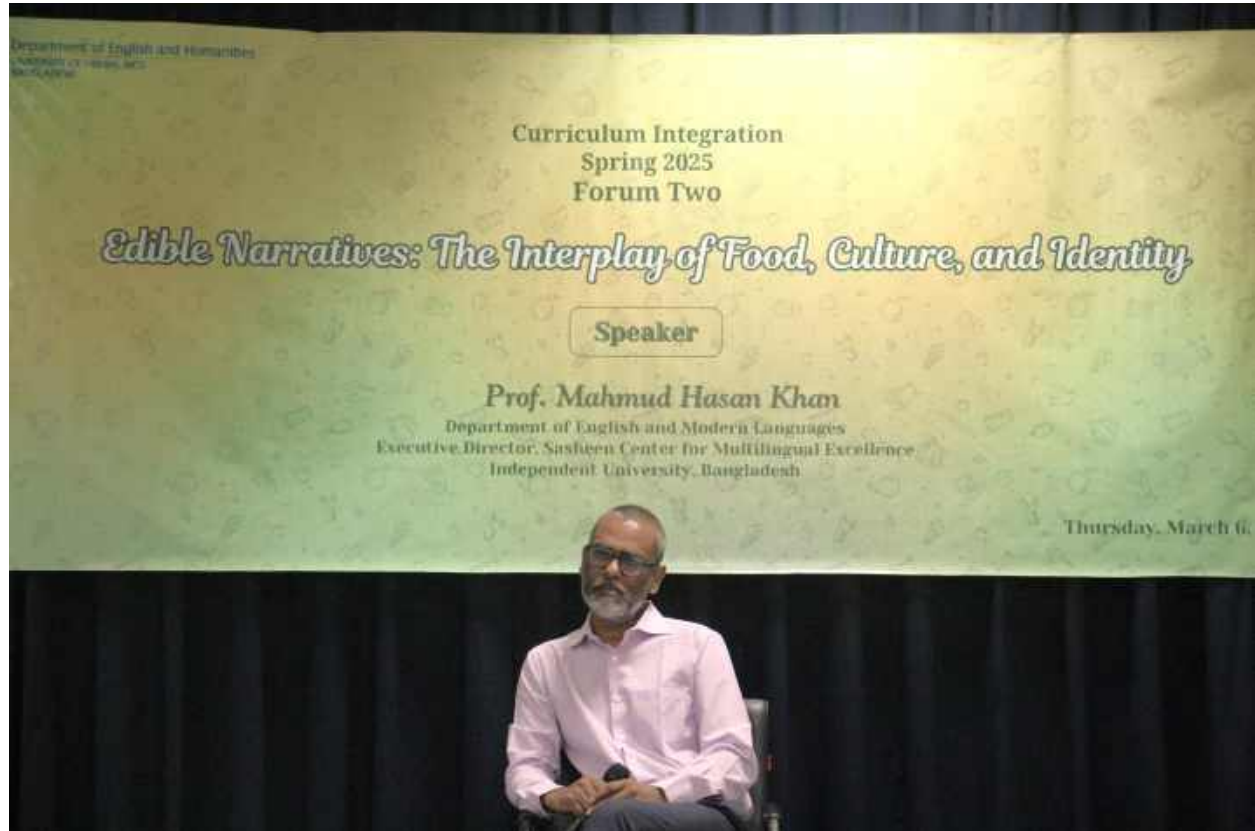
The next part of the forum involved a humorous discussion on restaurant menus in different countries using food as a means to show high status through multimodal elements. He used numerous menus as examples, which sparked interest amongst faculty members and attendees. He also addressed how some of these restaurants seek the use of empty signifiers which do not utilize or glorify cultures, but only make individuals question the true meaning or intention behind such names. Prof. Khan also discussed the recent increase in the use of Macaronic language in the context of Bangladeshi restaurant scenes and hinted that this could be done to create a clear class distinction between different types of customers.

Prof. Khan then went on to discuss the idea of locavorism and its popularity in recent times. He raised the crucial question of how much authenticity is actually enough until it borders on conservatism. He also highlighted the different aspects of sociolinguistic, psycholinguistic, and socio-international progress in food culture. Using examples from “pahari foodscape,” he further explored the topic of food culture in Bangladesh.

Prof. Khan then asked how these food descriptions are created and whether the restaurant owners are aware of the customers’ knowledge or not. He put emphasis on such people or businesses better articulating their narrative.



The forum ended with an engaging Q & A session involving several interesting questions and amusing anecdotes from faculty members and students. Finally, a gift was presented to Prof. Khan by Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, followed by a photo session with the DEH faculty members.



The program was hosted by Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, who was the organizer of the Spring 2025 Curriculum Integration Program, with Ms. Irtifa Hasan, Lecturer, DEH.

The full discussion is available on the [DEH YouTube Channel](#).







Report by Tarannum Ahmed (231013042)

Event 7: Five DEH Final Term Student Workshops



Every term, DEH organizes seven mandatory workshops to prepare final term students for further studies or the job market. The workshops are conducted by DEH faculty members.



Writing CVs and Cover Letters

On March 20, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB hosted a workshop on “Writing CVs and Cover Letters,” facilitated by Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, Ms. Nadia Rahman. The session targeted students from ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, as well as MA students, to equip them with the required skills to create effective CVs and cover letters.

Ms. Rahman began the workshop by talking about cover letters, stressing their role as a preview of one’s CV, and outlining their importance, types, and format.

She emphasized on the necessity of crafting a compelling narrative and tailoring key skills and experience to align with the target workplace.



Shifting to CVs, Ms. Rahman highlighted the value of self-assessment in identifying one’s unique skills, experiences, and knowledge in their CVs. Students were encouraged to reflect on their personal experiences and accomplishments to extract skills to present in their CVs.

Students were provided with a detailed checklist and formatting guidelines to help them craft well-rounded CVs and cover letters.



Report by Marifa Khan (211013012)



Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules

On April 10, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted a workshop titled “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules.” Designed to support undergraduate students enrolled in ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, as well as graduate students, the session offered crucial guidance on both crafting and requesting effective recommendation letters. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH.

Ms. Rahman began the workshop with a thorough explanation of the purpose of a recommendation letter, stressing on the importance of personalization. She introduced students to the different types of recommendation letters and emphasized the need to alter each letter according to the application. Advising students on the etiquette of requesting letters, she emphasized the importance of reaching out to potential referees well in advance as well as ensuring that the referee is familiar with the student and their achievements.



Ms. Rahman underscored the necessity of aligning the letter’s focus with the specific opportunity, whether by highlighting research skills, leadership qualities, or collaborative abilities. She followed this with a detailed discussion on encouraging students to send polite and clear requests, attach supporting documents like resumes and transcripts, and highlight notable accomplishments to guide their referees effectively.

Finally, Ms. Rahman outlined the key components of a persuasive recommendation letter: a strong introduction, concrete examples of the applicant’s strengths, an enthusiastic endorsement, and an appropriate conclusion. The session concluded with a reflective overview of deciphering between what to add and what to exclude in a recommendation letter, stressing that effective letters must be honest, precise, and professional. The workshop offered the graduating students a thorough understanding of how to approach recommendation letters as a thoughtful process that leaves a lasting impression.

Report by Fatema Aftab Miah (211013016)



Job Hunting and Interview Skills

On April 17, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held its student workshop titled “Job Hunting and Interview Skills”, led by Assistant Professor, DEH, Ms. Nadia Rahman. The session was organized for students from ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, along with MA students, and offered practical advice on how they could start exploring their career paths after graduation.

The workshop began with a focus on the topic of job hunting. To break the ice, Ms. Rahman asked students to call out words they associated with jobs, which encouraged them to reflect on their own experiences and perceptions. Based on these responses, she guided students to think about their individual strengths and unique qualities they could bring to a workplace. She stressed the importance of having a clear idea of the field or sector they would like to work in, but also being receptive to different opportunities. Ms. Rahman advised students on how to initiate a job search, build professional networks, and navigate the application process. This segment concluded with a curated list of job search resources that students could explore.



The latter half of the workshop shifted to interview skills. Students were once again encouraged to reflect on any previous interview experiences they had, focusing on what techniques worked, and what could have been improved. Ms. Rahman highlighted the importance of understanding the purpose of an interview and preparing for it accordingly. She shared helpful strategies on how to prepare for an interview and to make a strong impression during the interview itself. Common interview mistakes were also discussed, along with advice on how to avoid them.

The session concluded with a brief Q/A segment.



Report by Marifa Khan (211013012)



Writing Statements of Purpose

On April 24, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB hosted a student workshop titled “Writing Statements of Purpose”, aimed at students in ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, as well as MA students. The session was led by DEH alumna Ms. Jainab Tabassum Banu, PhD Candidate (ABD) in Rhetoric, Theory and Culture, and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of English at North Dakota State University.

Ms. Banu began the session by sharing a detailed checklist of what an international applicant may need before applying to any graduate program. She, then, emphasized the importance of researching the target university, its admission procedure, and the desired graduate program in order to tailor the personal statement accordingly. Before beginning the writing process, Ms. Banu encouraged students to brainstorm and list the key information they would need to include. She pointed out that the first draft will almost always fall short of expectations, but stressed the importance of embracing the drafting process and seeking feedback from different audiences.

She, then, provided detailed advice on how to write each section of the statement of purpose, namely the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion. She stressed the significance of drawing the reader’s attention, making the statement unique to oneself, and not hesitating to incorporate field-specific jargon. An engaging activity followed, where students were presented with a sample paragraph from a personal statement and asked to identify its strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Banu concluded her segment by sharing additional important tips.

The session ended with an enthusiastic Q/A segment.

Report by Marifa Khan (211013012)



So, What’s Next?

On April 24, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop targeted towards students enrolled in ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299. The workshop “So, What’s Next?” was aimed at guiding the graduating students through the processes and prospects of exploring higher education and career opportunities. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department, who explored postgraduate options

abroad as well as ULAB’s own English MA programs.

Ms. Rahman began the session by encouraging students to consider further studies and highlighted the essentials for applying to graduate schools. She explained that applications for programs abroad involve extensive preparation such as preparing updated CVs and Statements of Purpose (SOPs), gathering academic transcripts and certificates, collecting recommendation letters, and so on. As the entire process can take up to a year, she urged students to begin their application processes immediately.

Ms. Rahman also discussed the opportunities available at ULAB for continuing education and provided detailed insights into ULAB’s MA program. Ms. Rahman elaborated on the importance of making productive use of the time after graduation by enrolling in postgraduate studies, whether students decide to stay at ULAB or travel abroad. The workshop was brought to an end by Ms. Rahman reminding students that higher education significantly enhances career prospects and professional development to make graduates competitive in the job market.

Report by Fatema Aftab Miah (211013016)

Event 8: Seminar on “Researching the Unconventional”



On April 9, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh hosted an engaging seminar titled “Researching the Unconventional.” The speaker was Dr. Towhidul Islam Khan, Teaching Fellow in Creative and Media Enterprise at the Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies (CCMPS), University of Warwick, UK. Dr. Khan

is also a former Senior Lecturer of DEH.

Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, warmly welcomed the speaker along with the attending faculty members and students, and introduced Dr. Khan by sharing his academic and professional background.

Dr. Khan opened his talk by reflecting on his academic journey, beginning with his studies in English Literature at the University of Dhaka. He described how his academic path gradually shifted to explore the relationship between arts and development, highlighting the deep interconnection between culture and development. Dr. Khan recounted how his research journey was shaped by both academic exploration and personal experiences. He emphasized the importance of



stepping beyond disciplinary boundaries, encouraging students to engage with different areas of studies.

Dr. Khan stressed that good research often begins with identifying traditional approaches, only to move beyond them by embracing curiosity and exploring unique perspectives. He encouraged students to remain observant and open to everyday experiences as potential sources of meaningful research topics. Dr. Khan reflected on how his unusual outlook helped him discover his research interest in Happiness Studies and Cultural Policy Studies.



Following the talk, a lively question-and-answer session took place. The interactive discussion added a dynamic and enjoyable close to the speaker's session. The seminar concluded with a closing speech by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor (BoT), ULAB, who also shared insights from his own academic journey and advised students to remain flexible in their academic pursuits and to orient themselves with diverse disciplines and areas of knowledge.



As a gesture of appreciation, Dr. Shamsad Mortuza presented a gift to the guest speaker. The event ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, bringing the seminar to a thoughtful and inspiring close.





Report by Tuni Nigar (223013042)

Event 9: Creative Writing Certificate Course 2025 on Translation

Department of English and Humanities
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

Creative Writing Certificate Course on Translation
April 11 - May 17, 2025

Facilitators

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prof. Kaiser Haq Asst. Dean, School of Arts & Humanities, and Director, Dhaka Translation Centre, ULAB | Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam Author, Academic, and Professor, Kinnaird, University of Dhaka | Prof. Fakrul Alam Academic, Translator, and Editor, BOST WEST University |
| Prof. Azfar Hussain Writer, Poet, Translator, and Associate Professor, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA | Prof. Shamsad Mortuza Columnist, Poet, Translator, and Professor of English, DU and ULAB | Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman Translator, Editor, and Assistant of English, ULAB |
| Dr. Sohana Mentez Fiction Writer and Translator | Ms. Jahannara Tariq Writer, Editor, and Lecturer, Department of English, ULAB | |



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh commenced its 2025 Creative Writing Certificate Course on April 11, 2025. This six-week course, which concluded on May 24, brought together 14 enthusiastic participants interested in the focus of this iteration of the course, Translation. The course explored different aspects of translation each week along with practical facilitated sessions. Participants included professionals and students, most unversed in translation but highly interested in the craft, creating a diverse and collaborative learning space. Within the intimacy of a small group, the sessions allowed free-flowing discussions, close interaction with facilitators, and a nurturing space to explore the creative and philosophical questions that arise in the act of translation.

The inaugural session was held on April 11, 2025, and facilitated by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, poet, translator, columnist, and professor of English at the University of Dhaka

and ULAB. Marking a thoughtful and inspiring start to the course, this session was focused on the basic ideas of what translation is. Some of the common theoretical underpinnings were also introduced.



On April 18, 2025, Professor Kaiser Haq, poet, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, and Director, Dhaka Translation Center, ULAB, focused on translation both as a profession and a creative pursuit. Students were engaged in translating excerpts from literary texts followed by a discussion on the output.



The April 25, 2025 session was facilitated virtually by Dr. Sohana Manzoor, fiction writer and translator, currently completing her MFA at the University of British Columbia, Canada. This session focused on various problems that arise during the process of translation including challenges of grammar, nuances

of languages, and so on.

On May 2, 2025, participants heard from Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, author, academic and Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka. The session was focused on “Self Translation” with Professor Islam discussing the ways in which to translate one’s own work, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of such a process.



The May 3, 2025 session focused on the editing process translations or any other creative work. This session was conducted by translator, editor, and Head of the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. Ms. Rahman also chose to introduce participants to professional translation opportunities, which enhanced the scope of the course.



Professor Fakrul Alam, academic, translator and advisor, East West University, facilitated the session held on May 9, 2025. As an academician with a focus on teaching translation studies, Professor Alam focused on his own journey as a translator, sharing his insights and advice on some of the process and the pitfalls.



Dr. Azfar Hussain, writer, poet, translator, and Associate Professor, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA, was the facilitator of the May 10, 2025 session. Dr. Hussain spoke about the philosophy and politics of translation that held the participants rapt. The session was followed by an interactive question and answer session.



Every alternate class day, a practical session was held where the participants had the opportunity to get hands-on experience of translating as well as receive peer and instructor feedback on a piece of translation they worked on as an output of the course. The participants chose a short text towards the beginning of the course that they worked on translating through the duration of the course. The facilitator for these sessions was Ms. Jahanara Tariq, writer, editor, and Lecturer at the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB. Ms. Tariq guided the participants with useful advice regarding how to translate, and provided critical reflections and feedback on the participants' translated pieces.



The course culminated in a Certificate Giving and Closing Ceremony held on May 24, 2025. The event was conducted by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, and attended by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees as well as other faculty, students, and guests. The highlight of the ceremony were the readings of the translations prepared by the participants during the course. Professor Shamsad Mortuza offered his congratulations in a concluding speech where he also commended the choice of texts and the brilliance of some of the translations. He emphasized the importance of translation and the need for professional translators in Bangladesh. He noted that the skills of this group of enthusiasts should be harnessed for future growth in this area. The program conclude with the handing over of certificates and a group photograph.















Report by Tuni Nigar (223013042) and Rudaiba Mahbub (243055042)

Event 10: Eid Reunion Program



On April 18, 2025, ULAB's Department of English and Humanities hosted an Eid Reunion program at the permanent campus. The event began with the Head of the Department and Associate Professor, Arifa Ghani Rahman, officially welcoming the faculty, alumni and current students. Alumni from Batch 013 to the most recent 243 graduates attended the event with great enthusiasm.

Following Ms. Rahman's welcome speech, the cultural program ensued with a performance by alumni Vincent Dip Gomes and Mustafa Zahir as vocalists and guitarists, and Gazi Md Mostafa Al Wakil on the Cajon. They sang a range of songs from "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" to "Nitol Paye" and others.



Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor (BOT), ULAB, addressed the crowd and then recited one of his original poems, "A Bungee Jump in Reverse," a poem inspired from the video of the recent debilitating explosion in Gaza.



After Prof. Mortuza’s recitation, alumnus Ashura Akter Sinthi danced to “Bagichay Bulbuli” with her son. The performance was met with stunning cheer and fanfare for the dance duo. This was followed by Senior Lecturer, DEH, Al Mahmud Rumman’s recitation of an original, “Kobitar Kotha.” A karaoke performance by alumna Farhat Alam Brishty followed. She sang “Ke Bashi Bajay Re” and “Pasoori.” Alumna

Dolon Paul rendered the classic “Purano Shei Diner Kotha” accompanied by a slideshow of bygone days which truly set the mood of the reunion.



The event grew more exciting as Khondoker Haniful Islam Shishir took the stage to sing a solo, followed by a duet by Jahanara Tariq and Neha Ghose, lecturers at DEH, singing “Tomar Jonno”. After being met with loud applause and demands for a second performance, the duo sang another song.



The liveliness and cheer became more spirited with an impromptu and improvised beatboxing and singing session by three alumni, Akib Mostafa, Shishir, and celebrity singer Nadedza Sultana Earnick, which later led to the entire audience joining them for the song “Tomar Ghore Boshot Kore.”



The final performance of the day was by the Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, where he recited an original poem “Eid Mubarak.” After the recitation, he gave an inspiring speech, encouraging the crowd to retain the unity of ULAB, thanking the alumni for attending, and upholding the spirit of connection.



At the end of the cultural segment, a raffle draw was held. Three prizes were awarded to Akib, Habib, and Ononto. Shortly afterwards, the reunion concluded with an exhilarating DJ session conducted by alumnus Wafiur Rahman, where faculty, alumni, and students shared the floor. The whole program was emceed by alumni Vincent Dip Gomes, assisted by Sanzida Alam Lisa.

The Eid Reunion brought DEHians, past and present, together with incredible enthusiasm, with everyone clamoring for a repeat of the event very soon.









Report by Madiha Abdullah (232013021)

Event 11: Curriculum Integration Showcase



On April 24, 2025, the 11th Curriculum Integration Program was concluded by the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh with a showcase of nominated student projects and an exhibition. This term's theme was "Edible Narratives: The Interplay of Food, Culture, and Identity". The goal of the event was to showcase

nominated projects before a panel of judges, which reflected the students' understanding of the theme in terms of their respective courses.

The showcase took place at the main campus where faculty members and students gathered to view all the projects submitted by the students. The panel of judges included Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, Golam Kader Zilany, Senior Lecturer, DEH, and Jahanara Tariq, Lecturer, DEH.



Professor Mortuza began the event with a humorous introduction of this year's theme. Shortly after, eight teams presented their video and live presentation and performance projects. The judges then visited the showcased paintings, posters, magazines, and poems. They conversed with the students about their projects to get a better idea on their perspectives.



Before declaring the winner, Ms. Tariq and Mr. Zilany both congratulated the students and appreciated the hard work they put into each submission. During his concluding remarks, Professor Haq appreciated the creativity that had gone into all the projects, calling it admirable. He further suggested that new categories be introduced with different criteria based on the project types to make the judgement procedure more relevant. After careful consideration, the judges announced the three winners.



Professor Haq announced the winners of the 11th CI Program, Team 8 whose presentation, “A Tale of Three Courses”, combined *Bartleby*, *Doctor Faustus*, and *Animal Farm*. The winning team members were Aiman Swaad Ahmad, Raisa Anan, and Azeema Anhar of Batch 232.



The first runner-up was Team 7, who showcased a comical short film on Bangladeshi foods. Their representation of the effects of language on food underscored the Semantics and Pragmatic course seamlessly. The team members were Afiat Hossain Sakura (Batch 222), Ramisha Nujhat Raisa, Raisa Sadia, Rayana Rahman Khan Ifty, Humaira Tasnim, and Aysha Binte Mustafa from Batch 232.



The second runner-up Team 12's entry was a re-imagining of Leonardo Da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper." The new painting was titled "Feast of the Forsaken". The team's painting represented the Ancient Greek Literature course, focusing on the text *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles. The team members were Ansa Tasfiha Suhi and Yusuf Abdullah Tokee from Batch 232, Mst. Suraiya Alam (Batch 231), and Shrabonti Sarkar (Batch 223).



All the winners received cash prizes and the event concluded with a group photo session. The event was emceed by Fatema Aftab Miah of Batch 211.

The 11th CI Program Spring 2025 was planned and organized by Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, and Irtifa Hasan, Lecturer, DEH.







Report by Tarannum Ahmed (231013042)

Event 12: Seminar on “Translators’ Choices: Comparing Translations of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*”



On April 30, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a seminar titled “Translators’ Choices: Comparing Translations of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*” to celebrate the birth anniversary of William Shakespeare. The speaker was Nusrat Tajkia, Lecturer, DEH, who gave an engaging and insightful presentation on the cultural and interpretive significance of translating Shakespeare.

Opening the session with a lighthearted joke, Ms. Tajkia set a friendly tone and introduced the topic by emphasizing the enduring relevance of Shakespeare and the role of translation in reimagining his works. A YouTube video skit was shown featuring various performances of the iconic line, “To be or not to be,” showcasing how intonation and delivery shape interpretation. Participants were then asked to translate the line, which were later exchanged to reflect on differing linguistic and cultural choices.

Ms. Tajkia highlighted how Shakespeare’s works have transcended literature to become entertainment media, appearing in films, anime, and even music. She also touched on Shakespeare’s historical role as both a literary icon and a symbol of colonial authority.

Using Alexander Burak’s framework for cultural appropriation in translation, she examined four versions of *Hamlet* translated into Bangla: a prose version, a classroom-friendly adaptation, a poem, and a trimmed theatrical script. Through these, she illustrated how translators’ choices reflect both fidelity to the source and cultural negotiation.



In conclusion, she discussed the future of translation, acknowledging the growing reliability of machine translation while emphasizing the continued value of human interpretation. By

comparing multiple translations, she argued, we gain deeper insight into cultural nuances and diverse readerships.





Reported by Yusuf Abdullah Tokee (232013023)

Event 13: Celebrating Shakespeare: Scrabble Challenge



To celebrate the birth anniversary of William Shakespeare and to wind down the semester in a fun and relaxing manner, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a “Scrabble Challenge” where faculty and students were invited to challenge the Head of the English Department and test out their vocabulary. The event took place at the DEH Lobby on

April 30, 2025.

Two boards were set up. The first targeted less experienced players who could play to win by finishing all their tiles. The other board was to Play by Points where scores were kept for the players by MA TA Rudaiba Mahbub.

The Head of the Department of English and Humanities, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, was stationed at the table to play with anyone interested. The first challenger was Ms. Mehek Chowdhury, Lecturer, DEH, who ended up winning the game. Groups of students then played against the HoD while students also challenged each other at the game.

Keeping in mind that Shakespeare is an icon of literature known to have invented innumerable words for the English language, this was a fitting way to celebrate his birthday. As it was also the last day of classes for the Spring 2025 semester, faculty and students had an opportunity to enjoy themselves before the final examinations. The event was highly appreciated by everyone.







Event 14: BA and MA Theses Defense and Commencement Spring 2025



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB held its Spring 2025 Thesis Defense and Commencement Ceremony on May 10, 2025, celebrating the academic achievements of its graduating BA and MA students. The Commencement theme, “Where the Wildflowers Grow,” eloquently captured the essence of each student’s journey—highlighting their resilience, uniqueness, and the graceful manner in which they have each flourished in their own way. The guest speaker for the event was ULAB alumnus and Associate Manager, Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing Division, City Bank, Mr.

Mahdi Sayeed Rishad.

The event began with a welcome by the Head of Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman who set the tone with an encouraging speech that highlighted the graduates’ potential to embark on new beginnings. She extended heartfelt congratulations while urging them to carry forward the curiosity, discipline, and creativity they had nurtured during their time at DEH. Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, ULAB, Professor Shamsad Mortuza, offered his perspective on the theme by comparing graduates to wildflowers who can flourish in any situation.

The guest speaker, Mr. Rishad, was then invited on stage to address the graduating students. He shared his journey from being a BBA student to becoming an MA in English graduate, highlighting the interdisciplinary strength of the program. He emphasized how mastering communication contributed to his corporate success and inspired students by showcasing how an English degree can lead to diverse professional opportunities. He further encouraged students to explore the world that exists beyond their comfort zone and make the most out of their acquired knowledge. Surprising everyone at the end of his speech, Mr. Rishad announced that he is currently a Master in Communications student at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism, ULAB.



Mr. Rishad was then handed a token of appreciation by Professor Mortuza and Ms. Rahman.



Adjunct Faculty and former BELTA president, Mr. Harunur Rashid Khan, also spoke on the occasion. He praised the students' growth and urged them to embrace lifelong learning and clarity in expression on their journey forward.

Shortly after, a game of Word Association was hosted by the emcee Azeema Anhar (Batch 232) and cohost Aiman Swaad Ahmad (Batch 232), engaging both graduates and faculty in a lively and humorous exchange of spontaneous responses, creating a memorable interlude in the program. Graduating students were then invited to share personal memories and reflections, highlighting academic challenges, lasting friendships, and how DEH fostered growth, belonging, and helped them discover their voice and confidence.



The ceremony continued with the recognition of exceptional students from the Scholars Program, as certificates were awarded to Marium Mardia (Batch 221), Nafisa Tasnim (Batch 212), Marifa Khan, and Fatema Aftab Miah both from Batch 211. Scholars Program Advisor Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan, along with committee members Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. Sheikh Nahiyen, Lecturer, was invited to present the graduates with their certificates.





The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks from the BA Coordinator and Lecturer, Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, who extended her sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the program.

The event concluded with a group photo session.











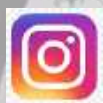




Report by Mysha Rashid (232013074)

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS BANGLADESH

688 Beribadh Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207



[/ulab.english/](#)



[/company/department-of-english-and-humanites-ulab](#)



[/ulabdeh](#)

deh.ulab.edu.bd

Compiled and Edited by:

Arifa Ghani Rahman

Head and Associate Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB