



Department of English and Humanities

**UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH**

Publications and Events Report

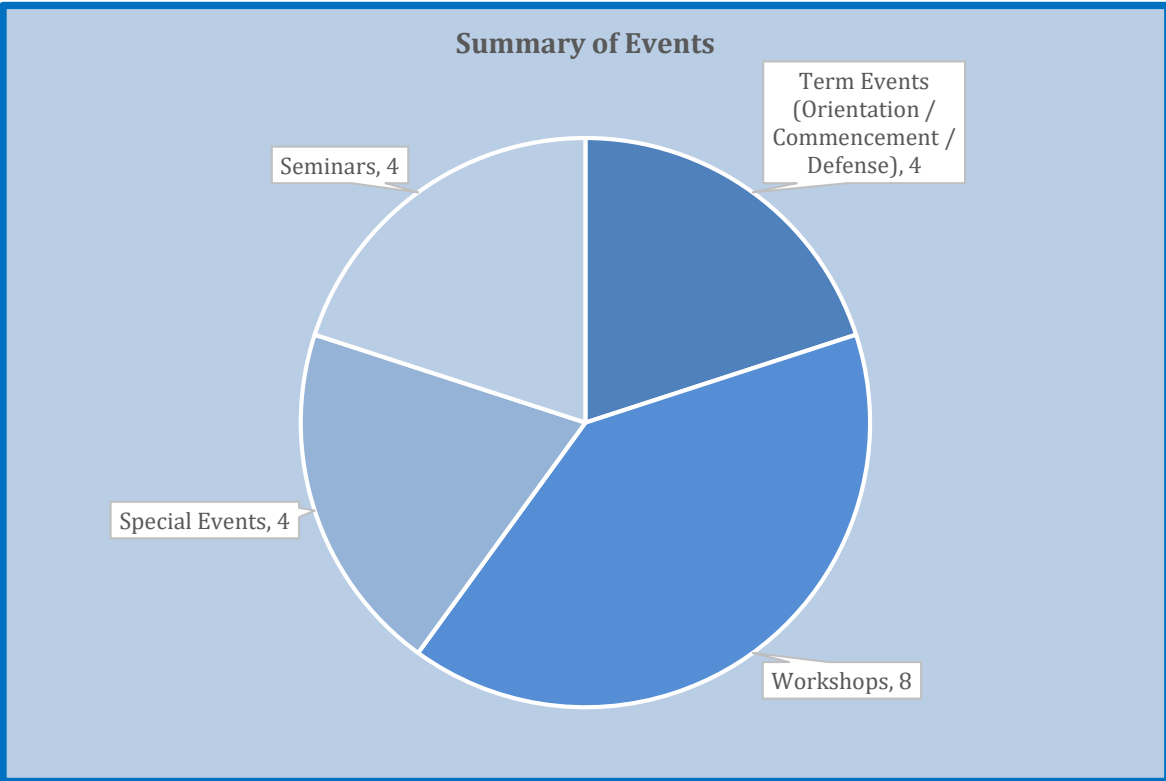
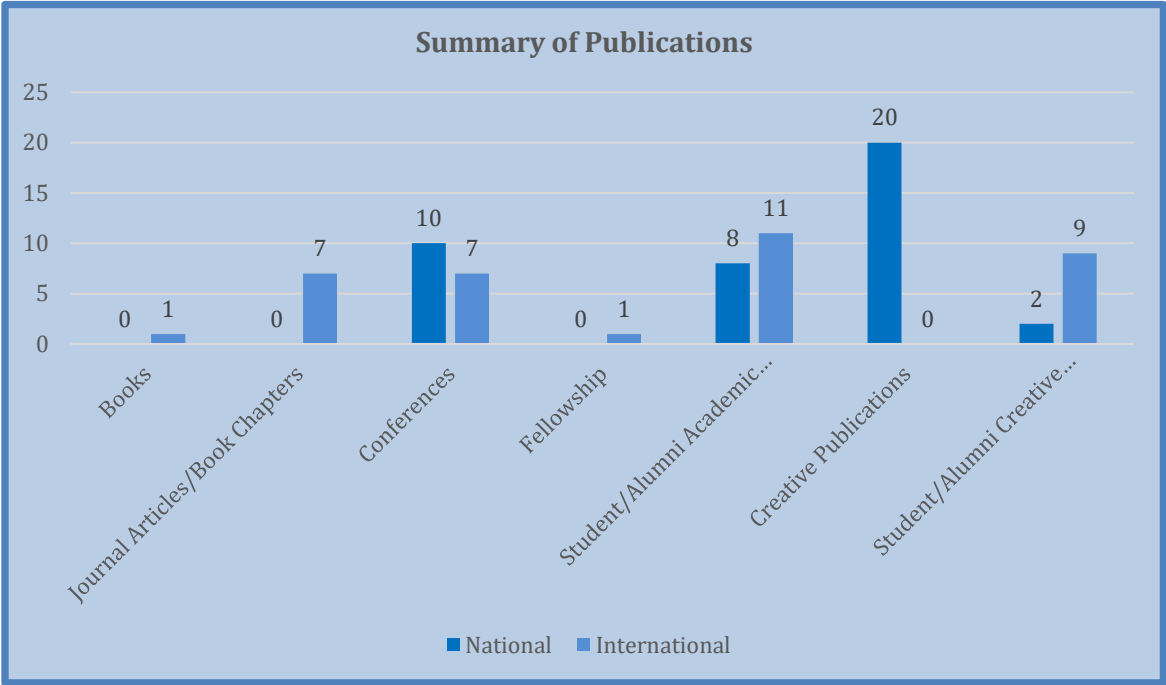
Summer 2025

(May 23 - September 18, 2025)

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Publications and Events Summary



Publications

Book

Christine Coombe, Luciana C. de Oliveira, and **Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi**, editors.
Professional Learning and Development in Global Language Education, published
by Routledge, 2025.

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

International

- A. Rahman & **Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan**. "From Crisis to Confidence: How Covid-19 Teaching Experiences Transformed Teachers in Cambridge and Edexcel Schools in Dhaka." *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, vol. 13, no. 3, 2025, pp. 1181-1195. <https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v13i3.13906c>
- Z. A. Munna, M. A. Nayeem, N. A. Nitu, S. M. R. Hassan, & **Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan**. "Romanticism and Primitivism: Literary Roots of Modern Ecocriticism." *International Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Scope*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2025, pp. 358-370. <https://doi.org/10.47857/irjms.2025.v06i03.05144> [SCOPUS indexed - Q4]
- S. Alam, & **Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan**. "The Role of Teaching Practicum and Classroom Management Training in Preparing Early-career Educators in Bangladesh: A Reflective Qualitative Study." *English Education: Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2025, pp. 11-28. <https://doi.org/10.24042/btdgdh96>
- Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi. "Bogged Down ELT, Bailed-out CLT?: Translanguaging Steps in a Context-sensitive Response to Bangladesh's ELT Crisis." *English Today*. Cambridge University Press, 2025, pp. 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266078425000148>. [SCOPUS indexed - Q1]
- Mohammad Mosiur Rahman**, & G. Hu. "Reproduction of Neoliberal Ideologies through the Medium of Instruction: A Critical Discourse Analysis." *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, 2025, pp. 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681366.2025.2563834> [SCOPUS indexed]
- Mohammad Mosiur Rahman**, & G. Hu. "EMI Policy and Practice Divides in China, Japan, Malaysia and Nepal: Policymakers' Neoliberal Ideologies and Multilingual Classroom Realities in Higher Education." *English Today*. Cambridge University Press, 2025, pp. 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266078425000136> [SCOPUS indexed - Q1]
- Mohammad Mosiur Rahman**, & G. Hu. "Translanguaging and Trans-semiotizing in English-medium Classrooms: Upholding University's Policies or Constructing Knowledge?" *Linguistics and Education*, vol. 87, Article 101424, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.linged.2025.101424> [SCOPUS indexed]

Conferences

International

Kaiser Haq. **Keynote Speaker.** "Literature and Crises." *5th International Conference.* Independent University Bangladesh. June 26-27, 2025.

Arifa Ghani Rahman. **Panelist.** "Translation as Creative Writing." Panel on "Thinking Creative Writing Today." *5th International Conference.* Independent University Bangladesh. June 26-27, 2025.

Jahanara Tariq. **Panelist.** Panel on "Thinking Creative Writing Today." *5th International Conference.* Independent University Bangladesh. June 26-27, 2025.

Al Mahmud Rumman, & Kaniz Fatema. Presenter. "Crisis with Curriculum: A Critical Lens towards Secondary ELT at Langadu." *5th International Conference.* Independent University Bangladesh. June 26-27, 2025.

Mehk Chowdhury. **Presenter.** "Investigating Obstacles that Prevent ESL Students from Utilizing ChatGPT for Personalized Learning in Bangladesh." *The 23rd AsiaTEFL International Conference: Care, Innovation, and Sustainability in ELT.* The Education University of Hong Kong. July 10-13, 2025.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi. **Invited Panelist.** ARC-funded *Starting Young Project*, 25th International AFMLTA Conference, Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA), Australia. July 11-13, 2025.

Al Mahmud Rumman. **Presenter.** "Critical Analysis of NCTB Curriculum Change and Its Impact on Secondary English Language Teachers and Students of Bangladesh". *33rd MELTA International Conference.* Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. September 13-14, 2025.

National

Kaiser Haq. **Keynote Speaker.** "English Studies in the New Era: Challenges and Dimensions." *National Conference.* Department of English of Jashore University of Science and Technology, June 27, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. **Keynote Speaker.** "English Studies in the New Era: Challenges and Dimensions." *National Conference.* Department of English of Jashore University of Science and Technology, June 27, 2025.

Azfar Hussain. **Keynote Speaker.** "Personal Encounters with Ngũgĩ: Emancipatory Theory, Creative Imagination, and Conversations That Transformed Me." National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). July 31, 2025.

Mahmud Hasan Khan. **Plenary Speaker.** “‘Language’ and ‘Being’: The Relevance of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Heidegger in Ethnomethodology.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). July 31, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. **Panelist.** “Ngũgĩ and the Global South: The Politics of Literary Continuance.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). July 31, 2025.

Abdullah Al Mahmud. **Panel Moderator.** “On Ngũgĩ: Language, Liberation, and the New Linguistics World.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). July 31, 2025.

Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi. **Panelist.** “On Ngũgĩ: Language, Liberation and the New Linguistics World.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). July 31, 2025.

Nusrat Tajkia. **Presenter.** “The Gun, the Bible, and the Coin: A Comparative Analysis of the Coloniser’s Holy Trinity in *Petals of Blood* (1977) and *Sinners* (2025).” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Irtifa Hasan. **Presenter.** “The Language Cannot Hold: How English Masks and Unmasks Empire in *Weep Not, Child*.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Tina Nandi. **Presenter.** “Who Survives, Who Dies: Necropolitics and Labor in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Ngũgĩ wa Mirii’ *I Will Marry When I Want*.” National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Fellowship

Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi. **Groningen Faculty of Arts Research Fellowship.** Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen, Netherlands. 2025.

Student/Alumni Academic Achievements

International

Nishat Tabassum. **Academic International Merit Award.** University of Essex. September 16, 2025.

Akbar Fida Ononto. **Global Undergraduate Award 2025** for Highly Commended Paper (Linguistics category). "Graffiti as Resistance: A Pragmatic Analysis of Graffiti in the July Uprising 2024 in Bangladesh."
https://undergraduateawards.com/2025_highlycommended/.

Rebeka Sultana. **Presenter.** "Transforming the Anthropocene World through New Humanities: Culture, Identity, Sustainability and Law." *1st International Conference.* IEM – University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata. September 6-7, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Reading Blake through Burke's Screens: Dramatism in Songs of Innocence and Experience." Conference Proceedings. *32nd Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*, 2025, pp. 50-58.
<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/1c805541-8841-4d61-8e2c-a3a1452196af/downloads/60c74d64-5b55-4e2e-a713-cf6d0f61d4d3/NPCEBL%202025.pdf?ver=1750880763902>.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Cloud Through my Poetic Eyes." *Sonder: Through Our Eyes.* University of Minnesota, Duluth, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "This Land of Windchill and Snowstorms is not Mine." *Tales of Migration.* University of Minnesota, Duluth, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Merging Identity and Literacy: Designing a Personal Narrative Assignment for Multilingual and Multidialectal Students." *The 2025 Salt Lake MLA Summer Institute of Reading and Writing: A Virtual Symposium.* June 27, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Bridges and Barriers: Centering International Graduate Students in Conversations on Equity and Belonging." *The TYCA West Virtual Regional Conference.* June 12-13, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Whose Voice is This? Agency, AI and Burkean Writer-Self." *The 12th Triennial Conference of the Kenneth Burke Society 2025: Kenneth Burke, the Humanities, the Agency in the Era of AI: A Virtual Conference and Film Festival.* May 23-25, 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. **Award.** 2024-2025 TYCA Teaching Seminar on Teaching Writing in Two-Year Colleges, TYCA. June 2025.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. **Award.** The 2025 Outstanding Graduate Research Award, Department of English, NDSU. May 2025.

National

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Digital Literacy: A Question of Capacity and Safety in the Post-Pandemic Networked World." *East West University Journal of English*, Special Issue, vols. 9-12, 2025, pp. 21-32. <https://doi.org/10.70527/ewjh.vi.143>.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. "Reclaiming a Feminist Rhetorical Agency by Resisting Ovid's Narrative of Medusa and Reinterpreting Her-Story from Cixous's Perspective." *Journal of Nazrul University*, vol. 10, no. 1-2, 2025, pp. 125-138. <https://jkkniu.edu.bd/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/07-Jainab-Tabassum-Banu.pdf>.

Jainab Tabassum Banu. **Speaker.** "Writing Statement of Purpose for Graduate Admission." Webinar. Department of English. Green University of Bangladesh. June 17, 2025.

Hasan Abdul Basit. **Presenter.** "Decolonizing Desire: Palestinian Queer Literature Resisting the Settler Narrative." National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Kazi Bushra Orpy. **Presenter.** "Echoes of the mother tongue: Rethinking TESOL through Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o." National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Rebeka Sultana. **Presenter.** "Decolonizing the Tongue: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's Translingual Vision and Homi Bhaba's Third Space of Hybridity in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*." National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Mousumi Chowdhury. **Presenter.** "When Rivers Remember and Forests Mourn: Ecocriticism and Indigenous Memory in African Literature." National Symposium *La Luta Literária: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. July 31, 2025.

Maria Akter Bithi. **Presenter.** "Humor and Hierarchy: A Foucauldian Analysis of Gender Discourse in Bengali Hashir Golpo." *4th National Research Project Contest-2025*. BUP Research Society. June 28, 2025.

Non-Academic and Creative Publications

National

Shamsad Mortuza. "[In Search of a Vice Chancellor.](#)" *The Daily Star*. May 24, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[Rising Crime, Institutional Failure, and the Bystander Effect.](#)" *The Daily Star*. May 31, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[When Leisure Turns Lethal.](#)" *The Daily Star*. June 14, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[Understanding the University Ranking Mismatch.](#)" *The Daily Star*. June 21, 2025.

Kaiser Haq. "Summing Up." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Anika Shah. "Paterson Poems." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Jahanara Tariq. "Days by the Sea." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Nadia Rahman. "Waiting." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Arifa Ghani Rahman. "The Rebirth of Mrs. Chowdhury" (Mrs. Chowdhury's Punorjonmo by Shaheen Akhtar). *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Kaiser Haq. "[Shards of Beauty: Poems of a Lifetime.](#)" *The Daily Star*. July 3, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[We Cannot Let Violence Silence Our Daughters.](#)" *The Daily Star*. July 5, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[Time to Rethink Media Transformation.](#)" *The Daily Star*. July 12, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[Who Will Own Up to the SSC Debacle?](#)" *The Daily Star*. July 19, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[It's Time We Turned to Inclusive, Trauma-informed Pedagogy.](#)" *The Daily Star*. July 26, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[The Struggle Continues.](#)" *The Daily Star*. August 2, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[The Cracks in Bangladesh's Education System.](#)" *The Daily Star*. August 9, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[DUCSU Polls 2025: Democracy's Dress Rehearsal?](#)" *The Daily Star*. August 16, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[The Anatomy of a Suicide Note.](#)" *The Daily Star*. August 23, 2025.

Shamsad Mortuza. "[Why are BSc and Diploma Engineers at War?](#)" *The Daily Star*. August 30, 2025

Shamsad Mortuza. "[When campus politics takes the centre stage.](#)" *The Daily Star*. September 12, 2025.

Student/Alumni Creative Writing Contributions

International

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Undeserving Muse.](#)" *Chewers by Masticadores*. June 12, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Love Letter from Mrs. Prufrock.](#)" *Chewers by Masticadores*. June 12, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "Feeding Monsters." *Lit eZine* (Special issue on The Inner Workings of the Mind), Vol. 8. June 23, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "A Text from the Attic" *Serotonin Press*. June 26, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Paper Cuts.](#)" *Corporeal*. August 5, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Women Who Forget their Lunar Light.](#)" *Corporeal*. August 5, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Raspberries.](#)" *Chewers by Masticadores*. August 6, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[Mrs. Frankenstein on Plastic Surgery.](#)" *Chewers by Masticadores*. August 6, 2025.

Mortuza, Arshi. "[A Haunted Healing.](#)" *Chewers by Masticadores*. August 6, 2025.

National

Kashfia Nahreen. "The Problem of Death." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Kashfia Nahreen. "Scream." *Chaos: IUB Studies on Language, Literature and Creative Writing*. Spring 2025. June 26, 2025.

Event Reports

Event 1: Summer 2025 Orientation



On June 21, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) organized the Orientation program for the Summer 2025 term to welcome the newly admitted students in the BA and MA programs. The theme of the event was “Monsoon Beginnings” signifying the buoyant spirit of this tender season. The guest speaker in this session was Radia Al Rashid, a gold medalist and DEH alumna, currently working as an English Language lecturer at Newham College, UK.

The event commenced with a lively speech by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. She welcomed the newcomers and urged them to make the most of their journey by grabbing the diverse opportunities offered by ULAB. Afterwards, a short video was screened introducing the comfortable environment, adequate facilities, and vast growth opportunities that students can access. Following that, Ms. Rahman invited the faculty members of the department to introduce themselves, while also taking the opportunity to introduce other valued members of the department.



Next, Professor Kaiser Haq took the floor and welcomed the freshers. He encouraged them to explore the world, take up more challenges and opportunities, and maintain an energetic and cheerful attitude throughout their academic journey at ULAB. He advised them to actively seek assistance from faculty members and the teaching assistants. Finally, he shared different success stories of ULAB alumni, encouraging the freshers to pursue higher studies abroad.

As Professor Shamsad Mortuza was abroad, his welcome address was virtually screened. Starting with reminiscing about the monsoon in Bangladesh, Professor Mortuza spoke about the enrichment of faculty resources and departmental programs over time. Then he commemorated the 2024 July Uprising in hopes of igniting a similar spirit and passion in students, while also calling attention to the significance of literature and language in personal, social, and political spheres.



The Orientation Speaker Ms. Radia Al Rashid’s speech followed, where she covered multiple aspects of her university experience, which fundamentally shaped her personal and intellectual development. She highlighted how the academic environment fostered her critical thinking abilities and enhanced her public speaking skills. Ms. Rashid also discussed the challenges English graduates face in securing employment, offering valuable insights into

overcoming professional obstacles.

Afterwards, two freshers, Tabeen Siddiki from the MA program and Arwin Shams Siddiquee from the BA program, expressed their enthusiasm about joining the university. Reflecting on their experiences so far, they concluded their speeches with hopeful expectations of a brilliant journey ahead.

Alternating with the speeches, students performed songs and dances to welcome the freshers. Kaisarul Islam, from Batch 242, performed his original song “Bhabonar Mor”. Then Maria Hossain Israt (Batch 251) and Tahsin Zaman Faiza (Batch 251) performed a beautiful duet dance to the songs “Dheem Tana” and “Ayy Brishty Jhepe”. Mony Akter (Batch 242) also danced to a beautiful Tagore song, “Pagla Hawar Badol Din E”.

Towards the end, Neha Ghose, the Advisor to the English Zone, spoke about the various facilities it offers, encouraging students to make the most of the services available. This was followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Md. Mahadi Hasan. He expressed his gratitude to all the essential members of the department who contributed to the success of the program. The program concluded with a group photograph session.





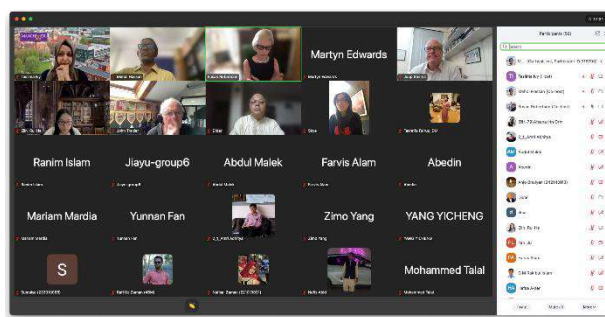
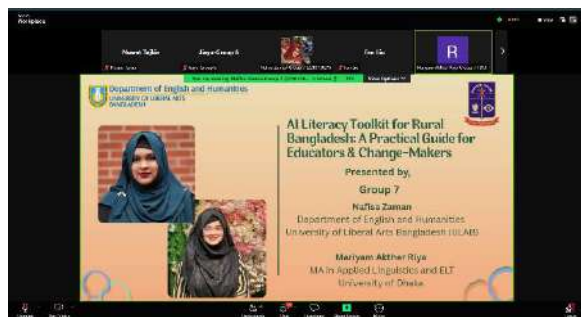


Report by Juairia Khan (233013138)

Event 2: AI in Education: Seminar Series and AI Literacy Hackathon



The *AI in Education* seminar series was a collaborative initiative organized by the University of Manchester (UoM) in partnership with three Bangladeshi universities: the University of Dhaka (DU), Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU), and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Students from the three universities participated in the program with their faculty members as guides. The series ran from February 5, 2025 to May 14, 2025 and concluded with an “AI Literacy Hackathon” on June 27, 2025. Conducted entirely online, the series aimed to promote critical engagement with the role of Artificial Intelligence in education, address ethical concerns, and encourage the creation of culturally relevant AI literacy materials for the Bangladeshi context. Through seven seminars led by international experts, participants explored AI’s possibilities, risks, and socio-cultural implications, culminating in a hackathon that promoted hands-on application of learned concepts. The initiative was supported by the Government of Bangladesh’s Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme and sought to produce practical, accessible, and critical AI literacy resources for national-level awareness.



The first seminar, “Introducing AI into the Educational Landscape: Possibilities, Problems, Solutions and Tools,” was conducted by John Traxler and Reza Mosavian. It introduced participants to AI tools such as ChatGPT and large language models, discussing opportunities in education alongside challenges like plagiarism, bias, hallucinations, and inequity. A demonstration of TeacherMatic showcased AI-assisted teaching tools, followed by discussions on ethical use, workload management, and alignment with local educational values.

The second seminar, “Colonial Pyramid Scams: How and Why AI and Education Are at the Cutting Edge of Con Artistry,” was led by Dr. Eleanor Dare. She examined AI’s colonial roots, militaristic trajectory, and extractive practices, framing them within cycles of investment and corporate hype. Drawing on projects like “AI Forensics,” she discussed AI’s role in

reinforcing inequalities and contributing to the climate crisis, while referencing critical thinkers such as Ruha Benjamin and Abeba Birhane.

The third seminar, “AI and Assessment: Developing Robust Assessment Methods in Response to AI,” featured Dr. Andrew Whitworth, who explored how AI challenges traditional assessment models. He discussed “ergative assessment,” which evaluates both process and product, and examined data from a case study to suggest strategies for AI-resilient assessments.

The fourth seminar, “Digital Personalised Learning in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Key Concepts, Challenges, and Design Recommendations,” was presented by Dr. Louis Major. He critically examined Digital Personalised Learning (DPL), addressing its long-standing promises and uncertain real-world impact, and emphasized careful design, research, and context-sensitive implementation, especially in resource-constrained settings.

The fifth seminar, “AI Literacies and Global Justice,” was delivered by Helen Beetham. It considered AI’s risks to human rights and global justice, explored UNESCO’s AI literacy frameworks, and discussed the potential for grounded, critical AI literacy practices that serve local contexts rather than corporate interests.

The sixth seminar, “Towards an Inclusive and Ethical Use of Generative AI in Higher Education” by Skye Zhao, focused on ethical and inclusive approaches to using generative AI in higher education, emphasizing equitable access, responsible integration, and diverse perspectives in AI governance.

The seventh seminar, “The Sustainability of AI: Towards a More Discerning Approach to AI Adoption in Education,” was presented by Mandi Banks Gatenby, Alex Dunedin, and Susan Brown. This session addressed the environmental and socio-cultural costs of AI adoption, advocating for a cautious, sustainability-driven approach that prioritizes ecological thinking and re-humanizing education over rapid technological integration.

The AI Literacy Hackathon saw the culmination of the seminar series. The Hackathon brought together student participants from UoM, DU, NSTU, and ULAB to co-create accessible, culturally relevant AI literacy materials for the Bangladeshi context. Led by University of Manchester faculty Dr. Taslima Ivy and Dr. Susan Robertson, with mentors Skye Zhao, Martyn Edwards, Liz Birchinall, and Karen Kilkenny, the event tasked participants with designing impactful resources such as toolkits, short videos, or podcasts aimed at audiences like students, teachers, or the general public.

From ULAB’s Department of English and Humanities, eight students from the BA and MA in English programs participated. They were Syeda Kamrunnahr Eti (233055003), Md. Nazmul Hasan (243055023), Kashfia Israt (241055016), Marifa Khan (211013012), Akbar Fida Ononto (211013035), Fatema Aftab Miah (211013016), Nafisa Zaman (221013031), and Mariam Mardia (221013059). They were mentored by Ms. Nusrat Tajkia, Lecturer, DEH. Among them, Kashfia Israt and Mariam Mardia were part of winning teams. Kashfia’s team presented on “An AI Zine for Modern Educators” and won the “Best Critical Material,” while Mardia’s team presented on “Invisible Voices: AI and Language Marginalization in Education” and won the “Most Context-Aligned Design.”

Reflecting on their experience, Mariam Mardia stated: “Participating in the initiative was an eye-opening experience. Before this, I had little idea about AI literacy, and I remember telling my friends how important it is to learn to use AI tools. The seminars were well structured, and the interactive Padlet questions kept us engaged. My team was enthusiastic and supportive. With our mentor’s help, we developed our final project based on an idea I proposed. Despite time zone challenges, we worked hard late into the night and truly enjoyed the process. Winning the Hackathon felt like a just reward for our effort and dedication.”

Similarly, Kashfia Israt shared: “This project about AI was an eye-opening experience for me. It has changed my view. I now think that instead of avoiding AI, we should use it carefully and critically.”

The seminar series and Hackathon provided students with both theoretical understanding and practical experience in engaging critically with AI technologies. Through international collaboration, participants developed nuanced perspectives on AI’s opportunities, risks, and socio-cultural impacts. For Bangladeshi students in particular, the initiative fostered skills in teamwork, cross-cultural communication, and ethical technology design. By producing AI literacy materials tailored to local needs, participants contributed to a sustainable and context-aware approach to AI integration in education. This impact will resonate beyond the duration of the project.

Report by Nafisa Zaman (221013031)

Event 3: Graduate Student Seminar



On June 30, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB hosted the Summer 2025 Graduate Student Seminar. Every term, students from the MA Program are nominated by their course faculties to present research papers they have produced as part of their coursework in the previous semester. This semester, 12 MA students presented their research papers across two of the DEH tracks: Literature and Cultural Studies, and Applied Linguistics and TESOL.

Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor of DEH and Coordinator of the MA Program started proceedings for

the seminar by warmly welcoming all the faculty members present, the presenters, and also the students attending the seminar.

The presentations began with Zebun Nesa (Batch 251) presenting her paper titled “Gender, Madness and Patriarchal Repression in Virginia Woolf’s *To The Lighthouse*”, which focused

on the intersection of gender roles, the psychological distress and the oppressive effects of patriarchal society on women.

The next presenter, Muhammad Ibne Anis (Batch 242) presented his paper titled “Unexplored Testing and Assessment Literacy: A Focus on the Bangladeshi Context”, in which he talked about the gaps in testing and assessment literacy among teachers, from a Bangladeshi perspective.

Up next, Afreena Rahman (Batch 242) presented her paper titled “Hyperreality of Luxury Branding: Addressing the Issues of Contemporary Brand Landscape” focusing on how luxury brands construct a hyperreal image that blurs the line between reality and make-believe, and its issues and consequences in the contemporary brand landscape.



Shaira Ali Konok (Batch 241) presented her paper “Exploring Diverse Approaches to Discourse Analysis: From Corpus to Critical Perspectives”, which focused on the empirical and interpretive methods to discourse analysis, and highlighted how corpus-based discourse analysis offers qualitative insights while critical perspectives offer an interpretive tool for examining language in society.

Rebeka Sultana (Batch 251) presented her paper titled “*Barbie* and the Evolution of Female Representation: A James Carey Perspective”, which explored how Barbie evolved as a symbol of female representation in media through the lens of James Carey’s communication theory, and highlighted how media shapes and constructs gender narratives over time.

Saima Zarin (Batch 243) followed soon after with her paper titled “A Thematic Review of the Effects of Speaking Anxiety-Reducing Interventions on L2 Speech Producing Efficiency in Tertiary Level”, exploring how anxiety-inducing interventions differ in effectiveness between high-anxiety and low-anxiety L2 learners.



Up next, Rudaiba Mahbub (243055042) presented her paper titled “Understanding Masculinity Crisis: Patriarchal Hegemony and Entitlement in *The Vegetarian*”, which explored the theme of masculinity by analysing the male characters of the South-Korean novel.

Ramisha Fariha (251055013) presented her paper titled “Beyond Rote and Results: Rethinking English Language Teaching in a Rural Secondary School”, which explored the limitations of traditional English Language Teaching methods in rural secondary schools, particularly rote learning and standardised testing.

Tasnuva Tanjum Tanha (243055005) presented her paper titled “Ecocriticism in Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island* and Abdulrazak Gurnah’s *Gravel Heart*”, exploring how the concept of ecocriticism operates through both the respective novels.



The next presenter, Khadija Tul Kubra (243055004) presented her paper titled “Lavinia: Shakespeare’s Silent Heroine”, exploring William Shakespeare’s *Titus Andronicus*, noted for its early Roman influences, through the lens of the Character of Lavinia.

Md. Fazley Rabbi (243055026) presented his paper titled “Weaponizing ‘Joy Bangla’: Language, Power, and Digital Resistance in Bangladesh”, which explored how language can be weaponised to resist hegemonic discourse in the digital age.

Finally, Mirza Ahmad Nuhash (251055008) presented his paper titled “Carol Ann Duffy’s Poetic Insight and Relevance”, which focused on how Carol Ann Duffy’s poetry bridges the gap between personal insight and awareness, using her poetry as a way to witness and respond to real-world crises facing the natural world.



Following the end of the presentations, Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, shared his insights on the seminar.

Finally, Professor Kaiser Haq, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of DEH, and Ms. Nadia Rahman, MA Coordinator, handed the certificates to the presenters. With a group photograph, the Graduate Student Seminar officially drew to a close.

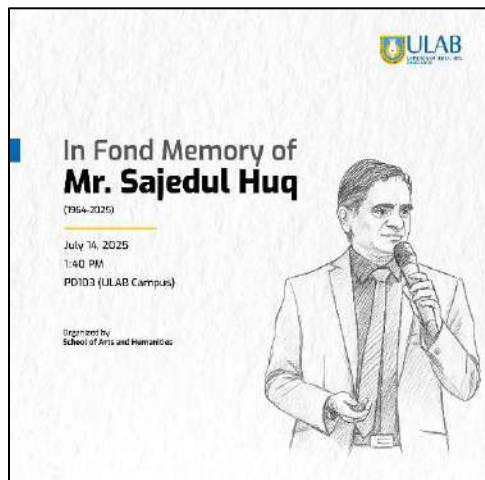






Report by Aiman Swaad Ahmad (232013065)

Event 4: In Memory of Mr. A.T.M. Sajedul Huq (1966-2025)



On July 14, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) and the Center for Language Studies (CLS) at ULAB held a memorial in honour of the late Mr. A.T.M. Sajedul Huq, former Assistant Professor and the founding Director of the CLS. Born in 1966, Mr. Huq had an illustrious career in English language teaching across Bangladesh and Thailand, most notably in BRAC, Chiang Mai University, and ULAB. He is remembered as one of the most eccentric, passionate, and inspiring figures in the field.

The event was hosted by Senior Lecturer Rajia Sultana, who began the program with a reading from Jibanananda Das and a personal reflection on Mr. Huq's brutal honesty and unwavering faith in his colleagues. She then welcomed Vice

Chancellor Professor Imran Rahman, who fondly recalled Mr. Huq's leadership in establishing CLS and initiating the MoU with Chiang Mai University-internationalizing ULAB's academic presence. He also reminisced about Mr. Huq's adventurous spirit, cruising the streets of Thailand on his moped.

A moment of silence was observed, followed by a tribute video. Assistant Professor Shaheen Ara, his life partner, delivered an emotional address, reciting from Sufia Kamal, “তাহারেই পড়ে মনে” and recalling his confident yet unorthodox teaching, warmth, and wit. Emotionally recalling his final days, she bid him a heartfelt farewell.

Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, DEH professor and Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, reflected on their shared past since the early 2000s at AIUB, describing the deceased as a proud, restless soul with a magnetic presence and a cult of personality. The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Jude William Genilo also shared his respect for Mr. Huq. As the former head of the department of MSJ, Professor Jude regretted limited personal interactions with Mr. Huq during his tenure, yet admired his influence across departments.

The Dean of School of Arts and Humanities, Professor Kaiser Haq, offered a poetic tribute to his former student by reciting Thomas Moore’s “Oft, in the Stilly Night.”

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, the current CLS Director, emotionally addressed their 24 year long friendship and countless discussions. He also recalled Mr. Huq’s appreciation for classic rock- especially Bon Jovi’s “It’s My Life”, which he embraced as his life motto.

Towards the end, Dr. Shaila Sultana, who first met Mr. Huq at the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka- shared her memories of the departed as a supportive figure. Senior Lecturer Amiya Sadnam Chowdhury recalled him as a comic enthusiast, and a “larger than life” figure.

The event concluded with heartfelt tributes from current and former CLS faculties, students and alumni; remembering him as a bold, stylish mentor who taught beyond the classroom. In closing, a bouquet was offered by a student to Ms. Shaheen Ara, the life partner of the deceased.









Report by Hasan Abdul Basit (252055019)

Event 5: Seminar on “Engaging in Scholarly Writing for Research and Publication”

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

SEMINAR

ENGAGING IN SCHOLARLY WRITING FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

SPEAKER
Mohammad Mosiur Rahman
Doctoral Candidate, Department of English and Communication, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and, Senior Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB

Thursday, July 17, 2025 11 AM PD309



On July 17, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted a seminar titled “Engaging in Scholarly Writing for Research and Publication.” The speaker was Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, a doctoral candidate at the Department of English and Communication at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong. Mr. Rahman is also a Senior Lecturer of DEH, currently on study leave.

Rudaiba Mahbub (Batch 243), Graduate Teaching Assistant, DEH, commenced the program by welcoming the students and faculty members present in the audience, and introduced Mr. Rahman by sharing his academic and professional background.



Mr. Rahman began his talk by discussing the importance of research thesis publications in reputable journals, which can allow students to gain scholarships in universities abroad. A key factor that Mr. Rahman mentioned was the need to attend conferences to gain knowledge and ideas on researchable topics, along with building connections and networks with capable, experienced and knowledgeable researchers. Afterwards, he instructed the students to participate in a session where they submitted a research topic into a database that Mr. Rahman had prepared. After checking the students' responses, he highlighted the importance of specificity in terms of selecting a research topic.

Mr. Rahman explained the proper method of establishing research topics that are detailed, specific, and focus on areas of interest and relevance. He reflected that topics that have not been studied very much and have deficiencies and gaps are the best ones to choose for writing a research paper on. He also indicated the importance of relevancy in selecting a research topic which can have the potential to reach larger audiences.

Mr. Rahman then engaged in a brief question-and-answer session with the students. He then continued by explaining a number of steps and strategies for writing proper and impactful research papers, which can also gain the potential for publication in international journals. He began by discussing the title and abstract, followed through with the problem statement, methodology, theoretical framework, and conceptual framework.



Afterwards, another short question-and-answer session took place where Mr. Rahman addressed the queries of some students and engaged in a valuable discussion about research paper publications in both local and international journals.

Finally, Mr. Rahman discussed a few important reasons why research papers receive rejections from international journals and how students can tackle these obstacles and get their research papers published.

The insightful and engaging seminar was concluded by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, who delivered a vote of thanks and gratitude to Mr. Rahman and encouraged the students to write and publish their own research papers. The seminar ended with a group photo session.

Report by Mirza Ahmad Nuhash (251055008)

Event 6: “Inns of Molten Blue”: Film Screening



On July 19, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB organized a screening of *Inns of Molten Blue*, a film by Quazi Farhina Hassan (MA Batch 243). Farhina is an alumna of DEH, having completed both her undergraduate and graduate studies here. Her film was created as part of her graduate dissertation under the supervision of Professor Shamsad Mortuza. The film served as a visual and creative representation of the key themes explored in her research.

The event commenced with the screening of the film, followed by a speech from Farhina. She began by expressing her gratitude to the actors and everyone involved in the making of the film, with special thanks to her supervisor Professor Mortuza. She further elaborated on the themes of her film, which centered on lucid dreaming and astral projection. Her research explored how these concepts have been interpreted



across science, religion and shamanic traditions. The film also had an allegorical layer, drawing parallels between its narratives and contemporary political contexts such as the Palestinian occupation and the July revolution of Bangladesh.



Following Farhina’s speech, Professor Mortuza spoke, commending her for successfully completing the dissertation project within the short duration of the term. He reflected on the concept of Shamanism, which caught his attention the most, describing it as something that exists between pseudo-science and pseudo-religion. Concluding his speech, Professor Mortuza expressed pride not only in Farhina's accomplishments but also in the

Following Farhina’s speech, Professor Mortuza spoke, commending her for successfully completing the dissertation project within the short duration of the term. He reflected on the concept of Shamanism, which caught his attention the most, describing it as something that exists between pseudo-science and pseudo-religion. Concluding his speech, Professor Mortuza expressed pride not only in Farhina's accomplishments but also in the



growing political consciousness of her generation.

This was followed by an open discussion during which Professor Kaiser Haq and Ms. Nadia Rahman joined Professor Mortuza in offering both compliments and constructive criticism on the film. The event ended with a group photograph featuring the professors, Farhina and all the audience members.



Report by Rudaiba Mahbub (243055042)

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.

Student Workshop I: Writing CVs and Cover Letters



On July 24, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a workshop titled “Writing CVs and Cover Letters.” The session was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and was designed for final-semester undergraduate students enrolled in ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, as well as MA students.

The purpose of the workshop was to help students understand how to structure and present their CVs professionally and effectively. Ms. Rahman explained that a CV should mention key aspects such as academic qualifications, skills, interests, voluntary work, and

other relevant experiences. She emphasized that clarity and honesty are more important than excessive creativity, encouraging students to focus on self-assessment and proper organization.

One crucial point of discussion was the difference between a CV and a resume. Ms. Rahman clarified that while both documents serve similar purposes, a CV tends to be more detailed and comprehensive. In contrast, a resume is typically shorter and more focused on recent or role-specific achievements. She also outlined the essential components of a well-written CV, such as updated contact information, education history, work or internship experience, achievements, and skills.



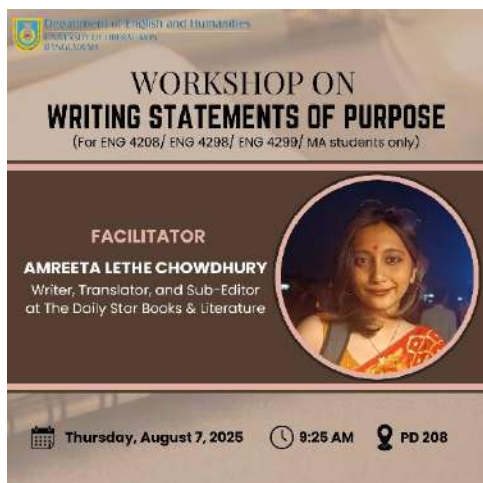
Lastly, to help students describe their experiences more effectively, she introduced the use of action verbs and suggested thinking about whether their roles involved working with people, data, or objects. Ms. Rahman briefly noted that cover letters should be short, job-specific, and reflect the applicant’s potential contribution to the organization.

Overall, the workshop provided students with structured guidance and practical strategies for presenting their academic and professional profiles effectively, thereby enhancing their preparedness for entering the job market.



Report by Nafisa Zaman (221013031)

Student Workshop II: Writing Statements of Purpose



On August 7, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted a student workshop titled “Writing Statements of Purpose” for the students of ENG 4208, ENG 4298, ENG 4299 as well as MA students. The session was facilitated by DEH alumna Ms. Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury, Writer, Translator, and Sub-Editor at *The Daily Star Books & Literature*.

Ms. Chowdhury started the workshop by addressing the important documents students may require when applying for graduate programs. She then explained the role of a Statement of Purpose (SoP) and how different elements contribute to its overall characteristics.

According to Ms. Chowdhury, it is important to avoid simple, generic, and non-specific reasons when writing an SoP for applying to graduate programs. She stated that universities look for academic objectives within a student’s SoP which determines acceptance or rejection.



Ms. Chowdhury then instructed students on how an SoP should be written and what details it should or should not include. She highlighted the importance of including the following points: clarification about why one wishes to apply to a specific university; how one would fit with the program being offered; which faculty to work with and how there is a relation in research topics or areas of interest along with what academic or career path one wishes to follow. Ms. Chowdhury also emphasized that it

is not viable to use the same SoP for applying to multiple universities without altering it according to specific requirements.

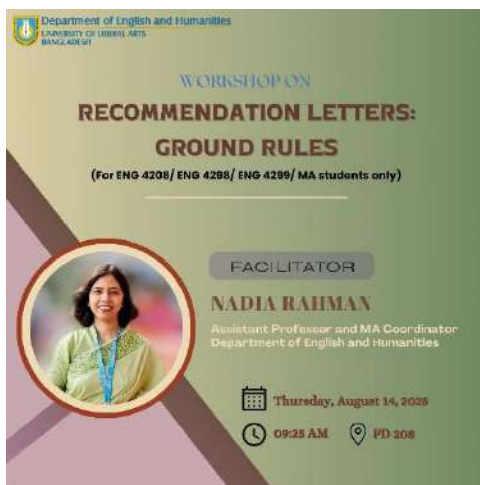
Finally, Ms. Chowdhury provided detailed information on writing and formatting an SoP. She mentioned that including extra academia-related professions, skills, or participation such as attending or presenting in seminars or conferences, being a teaching assistant or an instructor can all positively benefit the overall quality of the SoP.

The workshop ended with a Q/A segment where Ms. Chowdhury addressed the queries of some students. Ms. Nadia Rahman concluded the workshop with a vote of thanks to Ms. Chowdhury.



Report by Mirza Ahmad Nuhash (251055008)

Student Workshop III: Recommendation Letters - Ground Rules



On August 14, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized a workshop titled “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules,” aimed at offering valuable guidance on how to request effective recommendation letters. The workshop supports final year undergraduate students enrolled in ENG 4208, ENG 4298, and ENG 4299, as well as graduate students, and was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor at DEH, who explained both the technical and practical aspects of recommendation letters for academic and professional purposes.

Ms. Rahman began by providing a definition of a recommendation letter and clarifying its importance as a formal document that conveys an applicant's achievements, skills, and character. She emphasized that generic letters carry little value, as they fail to highlight specific qualities that set the applicant apart. Instead, students should ensure that each letter is tailored to the intended purpose, whether for academic admission, scholarship, higher studies, internship, or employment, by providing the recommender with transparent, relevant, and verifiable information.



A significant portion of the discussion focused on the student's role in the process. Participants were advised to identify suitable referees who are well-acquainted with their work and accomplishments, supply necessary details and evidence such as transcripts, CVs, certificates, appointment letters (if they have any), or project summaries, and make requests via polite and concise emails. The importance of approaching the recommender well in advance was reiterated to allow sufficient time for a well-crafted letter.

Ms. Rahman also outlined the key “dos and don'ts” in requesting recommendation letters. Dos included being specific about the purpose of the letter, providing the deadline, mentioning particular things that you need to have highlighted, maintaining professional etiquette, and ensuring accuracy and honesty in the information provided. Don'ts include sending last-minute requests, irrelevant details, forging signatures, and using vague or exaggerated claims.

The session concluded with Ms. Rahman presenting examples of both well-crafted and poorly written emails requesting recommendation letters. She highlighted common issues found in ineffective emails, such as vague requests, lack of professionalism, and informal language, emphasizing how these mistakes can hinder the chances of receiving a well-built and timely letter.



Report by Nafisa Zaman (221013031)

Student Workshop IV: Job Hunting and Interview Skills



A workshop on “Job Hunting and Interview Skills” was held on August 21, 2025, by the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB. The session, conducted by Assistant Professor Nadia Rahman, aimed to equip graduating students with practical strategies for navigating the job market, developing professional networks, and performing effectively in interviews.

Ms. Nadia Rahman began by focusing on job hunting, emphasizing the importance of being proactive and professional in every stage of the process. She advised students to create professional email IDs, build a polished LinkedIn profile, and update it regularly with their achievements, skills, and participation in different

activities. She reminded students that generic job applications or recommendation requests lack value, and researching the institution or company before applying is crucial. This helps candidates align their applications with the mission, values, and requirements of the organization. The session then turned to networking, which Ms. Rahman described as one of the most effective ways of accessing opportunities. She emphasized that networking should go beyond casual connections, encouraging students to maintain professional interactions both online and offline. Staying active, volunteering, and engaging meaningfully with peers and mentors were highlighted as ways to expand networks and create long-term professional relationships. She reminded students that networking is not only about finding jobs but also about learning, sharing knowledge, and growing within a professional community.

Finally, Ms. Rahman elaborated on interview skills and explained the importance of confidence, preparation, and self-awareness. She encouraged students to believe in themselves, recognize their strengths and values, and present these in ways that directly connect to the role they are applying for. She pointed out that interviewees should always research the job description and the institution, dress appropriately, and use professional language and body language. She also offered practical advice on how to handle unexpected questions by breaking them down, staying calm, and answering honestly without over-talking. She reminded students that interviews are not just about showcasing achievements but also about demonstrating alignment between one’s goals and the organization’s needs.



The session concluded with a summary of dos and don’ts for job hunting and interviews. Ms. Rahman emphasized the need for authenticity, preparation, and professionalism, while cautioning against vague applications, lack of confidence, and unprofessional communication.



Report by Nafisa Zaman (221013031)

Student Workshop V: Presentation Skills and What's Next?

Department of English and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH

**WORKSHOP ON
PRESENTATION SKILLS &
WHAT'S NEXT?**

NADIA RAHMAN
Assistant Professor and MA Coordinator
Department of English and Humanities

ARIFA GHANI RAHMAN
Associate Professor and Head
Department of English and Humanities

(For ENG 4208/ ENG 4288/ ENG 4298/ MA students only)

Thursday, August 28, 2025 9:25 AM PD 208

The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a workshop titled “Presentation Skills and What’s Next” on August 28, 2025. The session was conducted by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and Head of the Department. This workshop was designed for undergraduate students in their final semester to help them refine their presentation techniques and prepare for academic or professional opportunities after graduation.

In the first half of the workshop, Ms. Nadia Rahman focused on presentation skills, beginning with the qualities that make a presenter effective: confidence, strong subject knowledge, audience engagement, and clarity of delivery. She emphasized that presentations are not only about conveying information but also about creating a connection with the audience. Time management was highlighted as an essential skill, as students often risk exceeding the allocated time and losing the audience’s attention. She also stressed the importance of demonstration skills, how a presenter communicates with gestures, voice, and visuals. To make the process more accessible, Ms. Rahman introduced the “Four P’s” of presentations: Plan, Prepare, Practice, and Perform. According to her, these four steps allow students to structure their ideas systematically, rehearse effectively, and build confidence for the final delivery. She also drew attention to the role of appropriate visuals in slides. Using clear images that complement the spoken content makes the message more impactful, while overcrowded or irrelevant visuals can distract the audience. Ms. Rahman reminded students that presentation success relies equally on design, delivery, and the ability to engage the audience throughout.



The second half of the workshop, “What’s Next,” was facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, who addressed the students about their future goals after completing their undergraduate studies. She began by asking about students’ immediate plans, whether they were considering graduate studies abroad, continuing into professional careers, or exploring other options. Most students indicated an interest in pursuing studies abroad, which led to a discussion about both the opportunities and challenges of this path. She explained why graduate studies can be valuable: they allow students to gain more profound, more specialized knowledge in their fields, strengthen research skills, and improve career prospects. At the same time, she emphasized the need for careful preparation, including researching suitable programs, understanding financial requirements, and evaluating personal readiness for studying in a new cultural and academic environment. She reminded students that while the idea of studying abroad may appear attractive, the reality is often more complex, requiring adaptability, resilience, and advanced planning.

Contributing to this discussion, Ms. Nadia Rahman encouraged students to remain practical in their decision-making. She advised them to weigh their ambitions against real-world factors such as career opportunities, financial feasibility, and personal well-being. Both facilitators emphasized that thoughtful planning and realistic expectations are key to making informed choices about graduate studies or professional pathways.

The workshop ended with a lively interactive discussion, where students shared their aspirations and concerns, followed by group photographs. The session successfully combined practical training on presentation skills with meaningful reflections on life after graduation, leaving the participants with valuable strategies and inspiration for their future journeys.



Report by Nafisa Zaman (221013031)

Event 8: Meditation Workshop



On July 24, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted a workshop titled “The De-Stress Express: A Meditation Workshop”. The session was conducted by Ms. Raina Haq, who is a student at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. The goal of the workshop was to enhance students’ mental and

physical wellbeing through the practice of meditation.

The session began with a minute of silence to mourn the victims of the Milestone School and College tragedy. Following the period of silence, the workshop proceeded with a casual and warm interaction between the speaker and the audience.

Ms. Haq introduced the concept of meditation by explaining its history and importance while emphasizing its benefits for managing stress and finding inner balance. She then conducted a guided practice session which included three types of meditation — breathing exercises, focusing on pulses, and affirmation meditation.



Her goal was to help the participants feel relaxed and calm, offering them a break from their routine-bound lives. To encourage individuals' freedom in practice, Ms. Haq discussed how meditation can be done not only while sitting silently but also during activities like eating, walking, drawing, dancing, or embroidery. She also explained how it nurtures a deeper connection between the mind, body, and inner self.



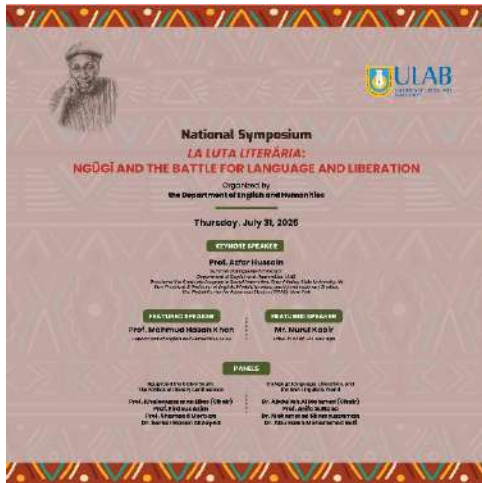
This was followed by a question and answer session, with thoughtful questions from Professor Kaiser Haq, the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of English and Humanities. Several audience members also shared their personal experiences. Some reflected on how meditation supported them during the COVID-19 quarantine, while others described feelings of nostalgia by recalling past meditation sessions. Ms. Haq shared her own journey with meditation and its impact on her life.

The workshop concluded with a token of appreciation presented to Ms. Haq. Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman also expressed her gratitude to Ms. Raina Haq for her time and effort in conducting the workshop.



Report by Zumur Nath (243013011)

Event 9: National Symposium on Ngũgĩ’s Legacy in Language, Liberation, and Literary Decolonization



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) hosted a national symposium titled “*La Luta Literaria: Ngũgĩ and the Battle for Language and Liberation*” on Thursday, July 31, 2025. The event was organised by the department of English and Humanities (DEH) and brought together over a hundred acclaimed academics, writers, and public intellectuals to engage with the literary and political contributions of Kenyan writer

and scholar Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, with a focus on the themes of language, identity, and liberation in postcolonial contexts.

The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. Imran Rahman, Vice Chancellor of ULAB, alongside opening addresses from Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, ULAB, and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to ULAB’s Board of Trustees. They focused on the urgency of revisiting Ngũgĩ’s insights on decolonising the mind in today’s global South. Prof. Mortuza also noted, “Ngũgĩ is a reminder that liberal arts is essential to the shaping of a free and self-aware society”.

The keynote speech, “Personal Encounters with Ngũgĩ: Emancipatory Theory, Creative Imagination, and Conversations That Transformed Me,” was delivered by Prof. Azfar Hussain, Summer Distinguished Professor at ULAB and Director, Graduate Program in Social Innovation, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA. Prof. Hussain reflected on the transformative influence of Ngũgĩ’s work on his own intellectual journey. He gave an insight on his personal connection with Ngũgĩ and he also mentioned, “one cannot read Ngũgĩ’s work in totality, adequately and meaningfully, without paying attention to the foresights such as labour, land, language, and the body”, pointing out the varied nature of Ngũgĩ’s vision. His session was chaired by Prof. Kaiser Haq.



In the first featured talk, “The Colonial Politics of Language, Education, and Historiography: Ngũgĩ’s Thoughts and Decolonizing the ‘Postcolonial’ Countries,” Mr. Nurul Kabir, Chief Editor of *New*

Age, critiqued the subtle colonial structures in the education and political systems of Bangladesh. “Colonialism is not only in language, historiography, and education. It is in the whole political thought,” he stated, as he drew attention to the independence, culture, and the political situation in Bangladesh. The session was chaired by Ms. Tina Nandi, Independent Researcher and part-time faculty, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.

The first panel, “On Ngũgĩ: Language, Liberation, and the New Linguistics World,” chaired by Dr. Abdullah Al Mahmud, featured scholarly insights from Prof. Asifa Sultana from BRAC University, Dr. Mohammad Shamsuzzaman from North South University, and Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi from ULAB. Discussions focused on the ideological and pedagogical implications of Ngũgĩ’s call to write in indigenous languages.

The second featured session by Prof. Mahmud Hasan Khan of ULAB was titled “‘Language’ and ‘Being’: The Relevance of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Heidegger in Ethnomethodology.” Chaired by Dr. Asifa Sultana, the presentation brought together philosophy and postcolonial theory to interrogate language as both a political and existential tool. Reflecting on linguistic justice, he remarked, “If we want to accommodate mother tongues in the name of translanguaging, that research has to expand their language base, exactly the way it was imagined by Ngũgĩ in the context of Africa.”



The day concluded with a panel discussion on “Ngũgĩ and the Global South: The Politics of Literary Continuance,” chaired by Prof. Khaliqzaman Elias, formerly of Jahangirnagar University and North South University. Prof. Elias stated that, “To bring out creativity, to have an educated human soul, mother tongue is essential”. The panel also included Prof. Firdous Azim, Chair, Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, who offered a feminist take on Ngũgĩ’s work; Prof. Shamsad Mortuza of Dhaka University, and Dr. Sarker Hasan Al Zayed, Associate Professor, IUB, who explored Ngũgĩ’s enduring significance to resistance literature and cultural survival in the Global South.

The recordings of the speeches have been uploaded to the department’s [YouTube channel](#).









Event 10: Scholars Program Workshop: Methods and Methodology in Interdisciplinary Studies



On August 8, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized a workshop titled “Methods and Methodology in Interdisciplinary Studies” exclusively for the Scholars Program students. This workshop was conducted by Prof. Mahmud Hasan Khan, PhD, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB.

Prof. Hasan began the workshop by explaining what a “discipline” is– he defined it as a field of studies, with the term “interdisciplinary studies” being used when one needs to use a discipline to talk about another. He later explained the “parallax view,” which refers to inherent differences in perspectives being utilized when examining a subject from multiple disciplines.



The next item on Dr. Hasan's agenda was differentiating between methods and methodologies – methodology is a broader term under which we chip in our methods. While methods are specific, a methodology is abstract.

One must know a discipline's origin, as well as its most updated version. Dr. Hasan also pointed out a simple pattern – discipline→ sub-discipline→ methodology→ methods. When preparing the methodology, one must choose a type: qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. It is also important to explain the reason for choosing that specific methodology to the readers.

Dr. Hasan explained methods with a simple analogy – methods are like a recipe, with specific measurements. These measurements must be followed correctly, in order to get the dish to come out perfectly. For instance, when collecting data for a research, one must collect it from the affected or minority groups. One must also not push their own agenda on to the paper, instead, let the evidence speak for itself.

When it comes to the participants in the study, Dr. Hasan mentioned that the researcher must understand how those participants read the papers. This can be done by simply analyzing the pages that they find appealing.

Lastly, he introduced the students to NLA (natural language analysis), which is used to study emotions from larger data.

Scholars Program Advisor Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan, Assistant Professor, Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, and Ms. Irtifa Hasan, Lecturer, DEH, were present at the workshop. The workshop concluded with a question and answer session with the students and a group photo.

Report by Tarannum Ahmed (231013042)

Event 11: Career Workshop: “From Literature to Corporate Communications - The Journey of Shifting Stories”



On August 14, 2025, ULAB’s Department of English and Humanities (DEH) hosted a career workshop titled “From Literature to Corporate Communications – The Journey of Shifting Stories.” The session was facilitated by Ms. Tasfia Ahmed, Communications Architect at Renata PLC, and DEH alumna from batch 191. Carefully designed around Ms. Ahmed’s professional journey and insights, the one-hour workshop offered aspiring students valuable lessons on navigating the transition from academia to the corporate world.

Opening with the quote, “We are all stories in the end,” Ms. Ahmed shared her path from being a science student passionate about literature to becoming a literature graduate and eventually a corporate professional. She recalled her formative years at ULAB, particularly her experience in the course “Introduction to Literary Genres” with Ms. Nadia Rahman, where she developed a deeper appreciation for literature. Her poems, five of which were published in *Six Seasons Review*, and her participation in seminars and extracurricular activities further shaped her confidence and creativity. She emphasized that literature teaches one to “unlearn and learn again,” fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. She urged students to step outside rigid boundaries, explore diverse opportunities, and embrace both successes and failures as valuable lessons.



Reflecting on her corporate journey, Ms. Ahmed described her entry into Fintech despite lacking prior financial expertise. She adapted by leveraging her literature background to craft compelling narratives tailored to the industry, especially for international clients. Rigorous training and immersion in industry-specific jargon enabled her to succeed. At Renata PLC, she advanced as a Communications Architect, pioneering corporate podcasts in the pharmaceutical sector. She highlighted the importance of developing irreplaceable skills and adopting a balanced approach to communication that considers diverse audiences.

Ms. Ahmed advised students to strengthen their portfolios, attend workshops, and engage in academic and professional writing. She emphasized the importance of researching industries, companies, and HR leadership before interviews to project confidence and

credibility. An updated LinkedIn profile, she noted, is essential for building networks. She further encouraged mastering industry language, recognizing personal strengths and weaknesses, and identifying role models. Her discussion also touched on workplace hierarchies, etiquette, and appropriate forms of address based on designation, underscoring professionalism as a cornerstone of career growth.



She explored the idea of “turning literature into communication superpowers,” drawing parallels between storytelling and branding, persuasive writing and marketing, and audience analysis and market research. Such cross-disciplinary connections, she argued, open creative and effective pathways for communication in professional settings.



In her concluding remarks, Ms. Ahmed emphasized the importance of staying relevant by reading widely, attending workshops and webinars, networking consistently, and experimenting with formats. She described careers as stories in which one’s degree serves as a toolkit for adaptability and resilience. Her own trajectory from literature to corporate communications stands as proof that literature graduates can thrive in diverse professional fields,

equipped with transferable skills and lifelong learning. Ending with the words, “After all, we are all stories waiting to be told,” she left the audience inspired.

The workshop concluded with Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor of DEH, presenting a token of appreciation to Ms. Ahmed, followed by a group photograph.



Report by Mahdi Tanisha Mahmud (243013040)

Event 12: Seminar on “Blended Learning”



The seminar on “Blended Learning: Design It, Teach It, Make It Work” was held on August 20, 2025, and organized by the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB. The speaker, Ms. Sadia Shaheed, was introduced by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman. With a background in Anthropology and Instructional Design, Ms. Shaheed highlighted her experiences in designing foreign language learning courses, scenario-based training, and strategic management courses. She emphasized motivation, challenges, and context as key drivers of

effective learning design.



Central to her talk was the importance of instructional design in making blended learning impactful. She explained that investment in blended learning yields real results by building, fostering, and empowering both teachers and learners. The session introduced the concept of blended learning, relevant for both faculty and students, with interactive questions from the audience. Key benefits included cost-effectiveness, higher engagement, digital literacy, and future

readiness. Sadia elaborated on models such as the flipped classroom, Hyflex learning, and frameworks like Bloom’s Taxonomy and the SMART model, aligning objectives with measurable outcomes.



She further discussed content chunking for clarity, backward design (Wiggins & McTighe, 2005), and the Pre-In-Post framework. Practical strategies included in-class active learning (discussions, problem-solving), post-class reflection, and low-tech but high-impact

engagement. Another highlight was pair teaching, involving planning, design, implementation, review, and improvement. She also shared the KISS process (Keep, Improve, Stop, Start) as a reflective tool for teaching practices. The seminar concluded with strategies to integrate design thinking into blended learning, connecting both the successes and frustrations of students to foster meaningful engagement.



Report by Usama Zyma (231012028)

Event 13: Scholars Program Showcase: “Breaking Boundaries”



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an engaging showcase titled “Breaking Boundaries: Scholars Showcase Advanced Learning” on August 21, 2025. It was organized by the Scholars Program committee of the department.

The session began with a warm welcome from Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan, Advisor to the Scholars Program, who addressed the presenters, students, and faculty members in attendance. His remarks set a thoughtful tone for the morning, emphasizing the value of advanced learning and collaborative intellectual pursuit.

Nine students presented their research and reflections drawn from advanced coursework, each offering a unique perspective on literature, linguistics, pedagogy, and cultural studies.

Nafisa Zaman (auditing course ENG576: Teacher Development and Education) opened with a compelling argument that assessments are not neutral but deeply political. Drawing on examples from the Bangladeshi context, she explained how language policies and institutional choices privilege certain groups while marginalizing others, ultimately reinforcing ideologies and shaping student identities.

Following this, Husnul Jannath (auditing course ENG546: Teaching Practicum and Classroom Management) delivered a practical discussion on lesson planning. She outlined the steps of setting clear objectives, designing activities, and using appropriate materials to ensure effective teaching and meaningful learning outcomes.

Mahjabin Maria (auditing course ENG576: Teacher Development and Education) examined the role of artificial intelligence in teacher development and education. While acknowledging AI’s potential in lesson planning, personalized learning, and assessment, she also reflected on the structural challenges in Bangladesh such as technological inequality, lack of training for teachers, and the absence of policy frameworks.



The theoretical dimension of the showcase began with Yusuf Abdullah Tokee, (auditing course ENG502: Advanced Literary Theory) who presented an introduction to structuralism. He traced its roots in Saussure’s linguistic theory, highlighted its extension into literary studies, and concluded with his own reflections on its enduring relevance.

Raisa Anan (auditing course ENG502: Advanced Literary Theory) turned to feminist literary criticism through her discussion of *The Madwoman in the Attic*. She explained how women writers historically confronted patriarchal labels of madness, strategically reclaiming them as a form of resistance and self-expression. Her presentation underscored the feminist strategy of transforming imposed identities into sites of empowerment.

Fatema Tuz Jannat (auditing course ENG568: Language, Power and Gender) addressed the complex relationship between language and gender. Through the deficit, dominance, and difference models, she showed how linguistic practices not only reflect but also construct gender roles. Her reflections emphasized the importance of changing language use to challenge entrenched inequalities.



Tuni Nigar’s presentation (auditing course ENG502: Advanced Literary Theory), “The Conditions of Meaning: Authorship, Ideology, and Culture,” drew together poststructuralist critiques of authorship by Barthes and Foucault, Marxist and post-Marxist understandings of ideology, and Raymond Williams’ expanded notion of culture as “a whole way of life.” She posed the central question of who produces meaning and under what social and cultural conditions.



Ansa Tasfia Suhi (auditing course ENG503: The Cultural Construction of Shakespeare) discussed the cultural construction of Shakespeare. She highlighted how Shakespeare's plays both shaped and were shaped by cultural contexts, and how his works continue to invite reinterpretation across different times and spaces.

Finally, Rafia Sultana (auditing course ENG504: Literature and Media) explored the interrelation between literature and media. Her reflections connected theoretical concepts to texts and real-world practices, demonstrating how literature extends beyond its traditional boundaries into contemporary media landscapes.

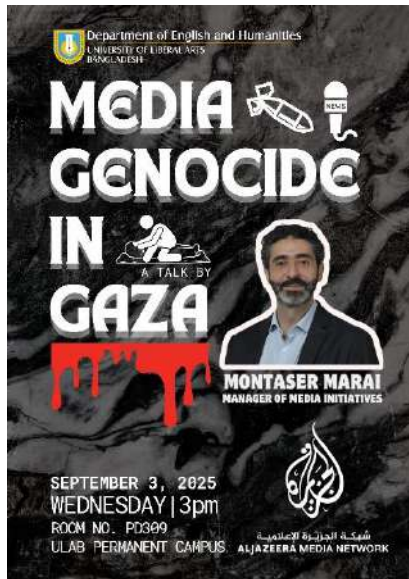


The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan, who congratulated the presenters for their insightful contributions. Scholars Program Advisory Committee members Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, and Ms. Irtifa Hasan Lecturer, DEH, were also present at the program. A photo session followed, capturing the spirit of intellectual engagement and community that defined the morning.



The Scholars Program Showcase successfully brought together diverse strands of inquiry, from pedagogical practice to critical theory, and affirmed the department's commitment to nurturing advanced study.

Event 14: Seminar: Media Genocide in Gaza



The Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB held a seminar on “Media Genocide in Gaza” on September 3, 2025, featuring Palestinian-Jordanian journalist Montaser Marai, Manager of Media Initiatives at Al Jazeera. Mr. Marai explored the optics of global media and social platforms, and the representation of the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Mr. Marai also

criticized the mainstream Western journalistic integrity and the apparent distortion of facts and information regarding the Gaza genocide.

Mr. Marai started the discussion by addressing the number of journalist casualties in Gaza. Commenting on the mainstream media’s complicity in presenting this number as simple statistics, he criticized the corporate capitalism and ever growing political alliance of the global media. Mr. Marai also argued that the media's failure to act as democracy’s “fourth estate” has allowed the non-conventional “new media” to become the alternative means of journalism.



The speaker then highlighted the shift from traditional to digital journalism through the “new media,” noting how social media and smartphones enable anyone to broadcast relevant events live. He also commented on the challenges that come with the progress, as universal access also undermines credibility and creates the risk of spreading distorted information.

He further discussed the problems created by the algorithms, coded by social networking sites that determine which contents are getting exposure and thus focused upon. According to him, algorithms of major social networking sites and news outlets are often designed to favor the narratives of the oppressing

side. As a result, authentic voices that are raised in Gaza about the brutal genocide gets

sidelined. This chain of events lead to dramatic misinformation and often disinformation spread by certain agencies.

Mr. Marai highlighted the situation faced by audiences too. As social media and different websites overwhelm users with information, people struggle to decide which source to trust. This confusion, he argued, makes it very easy for certain organizations to spread their false narratives as a result of which digital slavery is born, where individual users unknowingly consume and circulate the types of content that reinforce the narratives of the oppressor.

The informative session concluded with a reflection on the need for responsible journalism from the audience members and future generations of journalists. Mr. Marai stressed that journalists and audiences have to play vital roles against this digital aggression on journalism. As a result of such aggression, the genocide in Gaza is taking place without the expected level of opposition throughout the globe. The brutal reality of this genocide, he emphasized, has not been fully depicted in any form of media. Mr. Marai reminded the audience that this genocide is not only a humanitarian crisis but also a test of the core value of journalism: ensuring justice and becoming the voice of the voiceless.



Hosted by Oliur Rahman Sun, Lecturer, DEH, the event was attended by an incredibly large and diverse audience comprising faculty members and students from all departments, as well as Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Prof. Sumon Rahman, Dean of the School of Social Sciences.

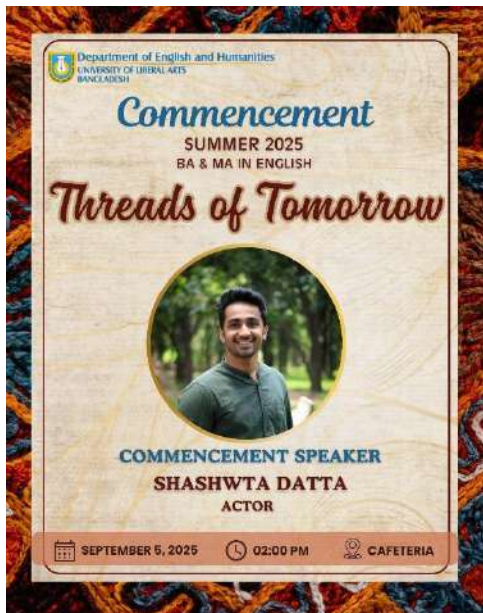


A short question and answer session followed the talk, during which Mr. Marai addressed and appreciated the support of Bangladeshis, especially the well-informed youth, for the Palestinian cause. Prof. Kaiser Haq made his comments in the same vein and handed over a token of appreciation to Mr. Marai after which the seminar concluded with a group photo.



Report by Nibras Wahid (243013062) and Rudaiba Mahbub (243055042)

Event 15: Commencement Summer 2025



On Friday, September 5, 2025, the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) at ULAB held its Commencement Ceremony for the graduating BA and MA students of Summer 2025. The commencement's theme "Threads of Tomorrow" emphasized on the threaded, never-ending, opportunity-filled, and unexpected journeys for the students as they venture out to become a part of the fabric of life. The guest speaker for this event was Shashwta Datta, Actor and ULAB alumnus (BA Batch 121 and MA Batch 161).

Tuni Nigar and Adrita Chowdhury (Batch 223) began the event by conveying warm greetings to all the students and faculty members. Then, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, DEH, was requested to deliver the welcome address for the event.



Ms. Rahman began her speech by warmly addressing Mr. Shashwta Datta as well as the rest of the students. She continued by advising the students to look forward to their future endeavors with enthusiasm and dedication while highlighting the significance of success and responsibility which each student has to themselves, their families, and the world. She ended her speech by congratulating the graduating students on their hard work and achievements.

Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, delivered an encouraging and motivating speech about how the graduating students should plan properly before making decisions moving forward. He highlighted the need to explore and understand the global educational landscape for preparation of higher studies.



Mr. Shashwta Datta was then duly introduced and invited to take the podium. Mr. Datta, who has an MA in English (Applied Linguistics and TESOL) from ULAB, an MA in Japanese Studies, and an MA in International Relations, the latter two from University of Dhaka, began his talk by reflecting on the shifts in his undergraduate programs. He mentioned how, as a student of science, he started his academic journey with admission into BBA, then he moved to CSE, before finding his place in the BA in English program at ULAB. He stated that studying English Literature changed his outlook on many aspects of his life while also allowing him to gain relevant and transferable skills which he incorporated into his career as an actor. He ended his talk by encouraging the students to always embrace the uncertainties in life and go beyond the horizon. Mr. Datta was then handed a token of appreciation by Professor Haq.

In the cultural segment, Farhana Islam (Batch 221) began the session with a magnificent Bengali song. Then, Adrita Chowdhury (Batch 223) initiated a game of “Word Association” which generated a humorous and engaging atmosphere in the event. Tanzim Rahman (Batch 221) and Sanjida Aktar Lopa (Batch 221) rounded up the segment with an exquisite dance performance.

The certificate giving ceremony for the Scholars Program was then conducted with Nafisa Zaman (Batch 221) receiving the certificate for completing the program with her excellent performance and achievement. The certificate was awarded by the Dean with the Scholars

Program Advisor Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hasan, and committee members, Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman and Ms. Irtifa Hasan.

Ms. Nadia Rahman invited students from the graduating batch to share their experiences and messages with their faculty and fellow graduates, resulting in an emotional and heartfelt few minutes.

Ms. Mehek Chowdhury brought the event to a close with her vote of thanks and expression of gratitude to all those who contributed to making the event a memorable experience.

The commencement ceremony concluded with a group photo session.







Report by Mirza Ahmad Nuhash (251055008)

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