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UPDATES

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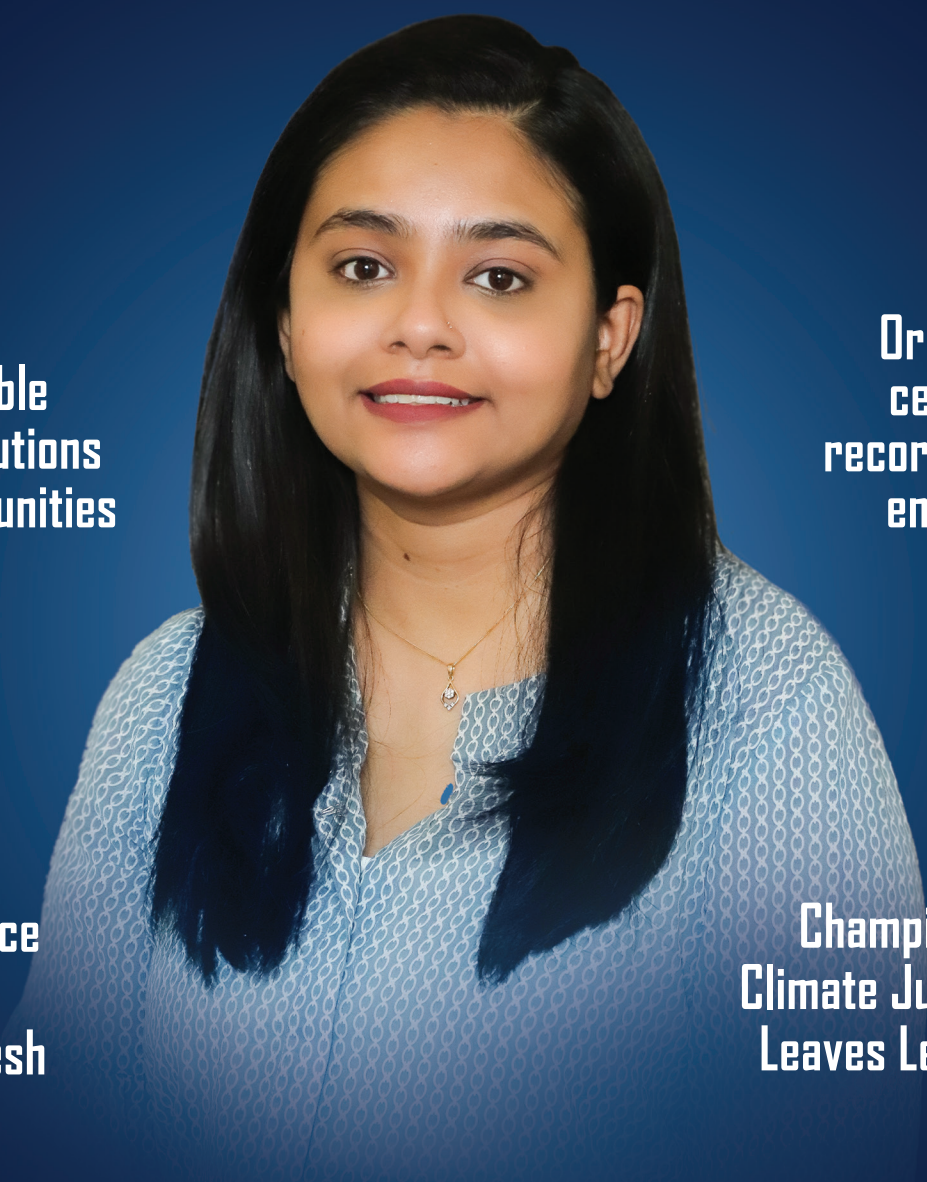

Turning viable climate solutions into opportunities

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COVER STORY

How will finds the way

Go Green, IUB!



Let's not pollute the air inside the campus for everyone.



Let's use reusable water bottles.



Stop using straws every time we buy a soda.



Stop littering, especially in the elevators and the stairs.



Let's pick up any trash we see and put it in a bin.



Let's buy only as much as we can eat and not waste food.



Let's walk two flights from ground floor to 2nd floor instead of using the lift.



Let's spread awareness.

Editorial

As we unveil the latest edition of "Updates," we continue our tradition of showcasing the wide range of student achievements across various fields including sports, robotics, and cultural activities.

Our cover story this time is particularly compelling. It features an IUB alumna who has overcome daunting odds to establish herself as an independent entrepreneur. Her story is not just one of personal success, but also of immense inspiration for her successors.

Additionally, this edition covers several significant events that have recently taken place at IUB. These events are important because they provide our students with the opportunity to interact with and learn from notable personalities across various disciplines. Such interactions are invaluable in broadening their perspectives and enhancing their learning experience.

A special feature in this issue is our extensive coverage of the Live In Field Experience (LFE), IUB's distinctive educational initiative. For the first time, we delve deep into this program, highlighting how it transcends traditional learning. LFE encourages students to engage directly with communities, offering them practical insights and a chance to apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

Overall, this edition of "Updates" focuses on the wide array of achievements and interactions that make up the IUB experience. It's about showcasing how our students are not only excelling academically but also evolving into socially responsible individuals. As you read through these pages, we hope you find these stories as informative and inspiring as they are meant to be. •

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

Advancing Research Excellence



Tanweer Hasan, PhD

As yet another eventful year at IUB draws to a close, it's with great enthusiasm that I reflect on IUB's recent research accomplishments. In 2022-23, IUB demonstrated its commitment to research by granting research awards amounting to BDT 70 million. Over the last three years, we successfully secured over BDT 327 million in research grants from various local and global organizations to advance research in critical areas such as climate change, renewable energy, blue economy, disease control, and epidemiology.

Our academic output has been remarkable, with 788 publications over three years, spanning journals, conference proceedings, book chapters, and books. This active engagement of IUB scholars in contributing valuable insights to global academic discourse has been further enhanced by the recruitment of a total of 67 PhD holders as new full-time faculty members over the last three years, taking the total number of PhD holders to 99 at IUB.

During the same period, IUB organized several international conferences including *Bangladesh in 2041: Notions and Narratives of Diversification and Transformation; Bay of Bengal as Connectivity Hub in Indo-Pacific Oceans; The Gobeshona Global Conference; 10th Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum; International Colloquium on the Implications of Climate Change on Human Rights; International Conference on Drug Discovery and Development; Preserve Planet Earth International Climate Change Conference;* and so on.

Since 2021, many renowned international scholars have visited IUB. The list includes Linguist Dr. David A. Peterson, Anthropologist Dr. Kazuyo Minamide, Indo-China Relations expert Prof. Kanti Prasad Bajpai, Public Health expert Prof. Amal K. Mitra, Health Economist Prof. Koustav Dalal, and Astrophysicist Dr. Lamiya Mowla.

Our research prowess has received due recognition. In the QS Asia rankings for 2022, IUB ranked first among universities in Bangladesh for citations per paper. In the AD Scientific Index 2023, we secured the top spot among private universities in Bangladesh for Google Scholar Citations.

The diversity of our research aligns with both global challenges and local needs. The School of Engineering Technology and Sciences is making strides in STEMM, artificial intelligence, and robotics. The School of Environment and Life Sciences leads in climate change, conservation and environmental sustainability, while the School of Pharmacy and Public Health is advancing pharmaceutical sciences and mental health research. The School of Business and Entrepreneurship focuses on human capital, corporate finance, and sustainability, whereas the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences delves into sociocultural dynamics, national identity, and endangered languages.

In addition, IUB's International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) spearheads the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), a research alliance of 10 universities from South Asia and Africa. In 2022, IUB was inducted into the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, a global network of over 100 universities that pledged to work to prevent and reverse nature loss by restoring ecosystems.

The Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence, one of our most active research centers, is focusing on documenting endangered languages in Bangladesh, analyzing their linguistic and socio-cultural features, and preserving cultural diversity through interdisciplinary research in linguistics, anthropology, and culture and media studies. Meanwhile, the Center for Computational and Data Sciences focuses on advanced multidisciplinary computational excellence and data-driven methods to drive societal growth and enhance human experiences, emphasizing human-centric technological empowerment and ethical considerations in navigating the fourth industrial revolution.

The above stands as a testament to IUB's priority to creating a conducive environment for excellence in research. As we continue on this path, let's celebrate our achievements and eagerly anticipate further breakthroughs in the years to come. •

How will finds the way

Overcoming adversity with unyielding determination, IUB alumna Lazina Mona transformed her trials into triumph. From near tragedy to entrepreneurial success, her journey inspires a new beginning.



Lazina Mona

Nestled in the heart of a serene lakeside landscape at the edge of a bustling uptown neighborhood in Gulshan, Dhaka, there is a quaint little cafe that offers good food, good music and a cozy ambience – pretty much everything one looks for in a cafe. But there is more to this cafe than what catches the eye. If you spend a little time there, besides enjoying the homeliness of the people and the aesthetics of the interior, you will also come across a woman moving around in a wheelchair and running the show.

Meet Lazina Mona, 31, a graduate of the 23rd Convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). It took her nearly 10 years to complete her undergraduate studies in Marketing and Human Resources Management – not because she was a bad student, but simply because life kept on throwing her one curveball after another and like a gladiator, she kept on overcoming them one at a time with unthinkable courage, will and determination.

Lazina grew up in Dhaka in a tight knit family as the only child of her parents, who are both educators by profession – her father is a university professor and her mother a schoolteacher. After completing her A-levels from Scholastica in 2011, she set forth to St. Mary's University, Halifax, Canada to study Human Resource Management and Marketing in 2013.

> **"Most people would have given up after everything that had happened to her. But she wasn't that kind of a person.**

On her second summer holiday back home, being the spirited soul she is, she joined an internship program at one of the top corporate organizations in Bangladesh. There came one of the first turning points when she met the love of her life. She decided to stay back, get married and start a family here. To complete her remaining studies, she transferred her credits to IUB in 2016.

"In 2018, I decided to take a break from studies at IUB and have our first child. I always had the confidence that I would be able to catch up with my studies. Like every couple, we were super excited to welcome our first child, our son Shifran. But life had other plans for me," said Lazina.

Soon after Shifran was born, Lazina suffered a severe brain hemorrhage. Fortunately, a prompt brain surgery saved her life, although upon coming to, she found herself bedridden and paralyzed. She had to undergo intense medical and physical rehabilitation for the next two years to be stabilized.

"I don't have very clear memories from those two years. Most of it is blurry. Whatever I am telling you is a recount of what I have heard from my

family and friends, who stood by me in the most difficult times of my life, especially my husband Shish Swapnik. I am the luckiest person in the world to have a life partner like him. I can't even seem to imagine what would have happened if he wasn't by my side at all times, literally," said Lazina.

Lazina eventually won that battle and got back to her feet, both figuratively and literally. Although she can stand up now, she can't walk. The journey was fiercely trying, but as soon as she was capable of getting up from the bed, she got in touch with IUB to resume her studies. She returned to IUB towards the end of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022.

"I can't thank IUB enough for all the love and support I got. Everyone at IUB came together behind me to help me beat the odds. The faculty members, the office of the Registrar, the support staff – everyone was determined to make sure that I got what I needed to carry on. There was specialized guidance, tutoring, and virtual assistance. The authorities made arrangements so I could visit the campus physically only if absolutely necessary," said Lazina.

"Most people would have given up after everything that had happened to her. But she wasn't that kind of a person.," said Shish Swapnik, Lazina's husband.



Lazina at work in Cero

"It was a constant struggle for her. One side of her body is still paralyzed. She lost partial vision of her left eye after that hemorrhage. But she never gave up. I'm a first-hand witness to all the effort she put in to make a comeback. For me, she is the strongest person in the world," said Shish, who himself gave up a rewarding corporate career to be alongside his wife.

Lazina graduated from IUB in 2023. Both she and her husband are gourmands. They love cooking and ordering food, eating out and hosting. So, soon after her graduation, they started their own cafe, Cero, a Spanish word meaning zero, with Lazina's school friends Tanjeem Khan and Sami Bin Hamid as partners.

"For us our cafe is ground zero, from where we were starting our life's journey afresh. That's why we named it Cero. For us, Cero doesn't mean 'nothing'. For us it means a new beginning; a place from where you can only move forward," said Lazina.

And forward they are moving. The three of them – Lazina, Swapnik and Shifran – now have a stable life and more importantly, they can now think about the future positively. Lazina is a full-blown entrepreneur now and has plans to turn Cero into a nationwide chain.

Finishing her studies at IUB was important for her not because she needed a degree to become an entrepreneur. But it instilled in her the self-belief that life does not have to end if going gets tough. Because no matter what, there's always a way and the IUB family is proud to have played a part in her journey towards finding a new beginning. •



[From left] Lazina, Shifran and Shish at home

Champion of Climate Justice Leaves Legacy



Late Professor Dr. Saleemul Huq OBE

Professor Dr. Saleemul Huq OBE, the leading global figure in climate change research and policy, passed away in the early hours of October 29, 2023 in Dhaka at the age of 71. He was widely recognized for his expertise in climate change, environment, and development, particularly in formulating adaptation strategies for the most vulnerable developing nations.

Dr. Huq was the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and a Professor of Environmental Science and Management at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Beyond these roles, he was an Associate of the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) in the UK. He was also chairing the Expert Advisory Group for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and served as a Senior Adviser on Locally Led Adaptation at the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) in the Netherlands.

> **"The world has lost a stalwart in Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq, a cornerstone of global climate science and advocacy.**

His contributions include his role as a lead author for the third, fourth, and fifth assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC panel, of which Dr. Huq was a part, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. His advisory roles extended to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Moreover, his 2021 affiliation with the UN Food System Summit as co-chair of Action Track 5 focused on resilience-building

against vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress.

With a career that spanned several decades, Dr. Huq has left a mark with hundreds of scientific and popular publications. In 2019, his contributions were acknowledged when he was named as one of the top twenty influencers on global climate change policy. Moreover, he stood out as a leading scientist from Bangladesh in the field of climate change.

His achievements were not limited to research and policy influence. He received the Burtoni Award in 2006 and the National Environment Award from the Bangladesh government in 2020. In 2022, he was conferred the title of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by the UK government for his worldwide efforts to combat climate change. In 2023, Dr. Huq was appointed an Advisor to the Scientific Advisory Board for Independent Advice on Breakthroughs in Science and Technology by the United Nations (UN).



In 2020, Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq won the National Environment Award.



In April 2022, IUB organized a special program to celebrate the life and work of Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq.

Born in 1952, Dr. Huq's early education traces back to Germany, Indonesia, and Kenya. He later pursued higher studies, obtaining his B.Sc, DIC, and PhD in Botany from the Imperial College at London University. Among his unique achievements, Prof. Huq holds the distinction of being the only Bangladeshi to attend all the UN Climate Change COPs, reinforcing his dedication to the field.

Nature, a leading international science journal, acknowledged his contributions in 2022 by naming him among the top ten scientists of that year. His other affiliations included an honorary degree from Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK, for his relentless fight against climate change.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kashana Huq, son Mr. Saqib Huq, Assistant Director at ICCCAD, and daughter Ms. Sadaf Huq.

Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB, said, "Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq's demise marks the end of an era in the battle against climate change studies. As a guiding light, his insights and dedication enriched not just IUB, but the global community."

"The IUB Board of Trustees deeply mourns this irreplaceable loss. His influence extends beyond research, shaping policy, and impacting real-world change. As we remember him, we recognize the path he has charted for us as a beacon for future endeavors," he added.

Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, stated, "The world has lost a stalwart in Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq, a cornerstone of global climate science and advocacy. For IUB, the void is profound and deeply felt. His relentless dedication and pivotal contributions not only made a mark on IUB but also shaped international dialogues."

"It has been a distinct privilege and honor to have Prof. Huq as a colleague at IUB. While we mourn, we also pledge to uphold and continue his legacy as part of our commitment to his indomitable spirit and vision," he added. •

PRESERVE PLANET EARTH INT'L CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Turning viable climate solutions into investment and employment opportunities



A montage showcasing distinguished speakers at the Preserve Planet Earth Climate Change Conference, held at the IUB Auditorium on September 23, 2023

For nearly half a century, scientists globally have recognized that a substantial chunk, reaching up to 79%, of worldwide carbon emissions stems from electricity production through fossil fuel combustion. However, it wasn't until roughly five to seven years ago that cost-effective alternatives emerged. Renewable sources like solar and wind energy, which boast negligible carbon emissions, have now become financially competitive.

In a heartening turn of events, the business sector has swiftly responded to the carbon emission and global warming issues, mirroring the rapid development seen with pandemic vaccines. They have committed to a substantial global investment of USD 35 trillion in renewable energy over the next 15 years. This effort aims to avert the potential catastrophe of a 1.5-degree temperature rise, which could elevate sea levels to the extent that many countries face inundation.

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, the 'Preserve Planet Earth' International Climate Conference in Dhaka brought together a diverse group of policymakers, experts, scientists, renewable energy specialists, diplomats, educators, and activists.

They convened to explore how to transform emerging actionable solutions into investment and employment prospects, while concurrently addressing escalating global temperatures and minimizing fossil fuel consumption.

Mr. A Quaiyum Khan, Founder Trustee of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Chittagong Independent University (CIU), spearheaded the conference, which took place at the IUB Auditorium located in Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area. This event marks the beginning of a series spanning cities from Dhaka to Manila, Dallas, Santiago, Santos-Brazil, Paris, and Kampala. Among its aims are fostering international collaboration for innovative solutions and resource sharing, as well as empowering investors, particularly those at a smaller scale, to navigate mature markets and ensure they attain their deserved returns.

This initiative was made possible with the backing of entities like Help

Services Foundation; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); IUB's International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBoBS); Rotary Club of Shyamoli-Dhaka; Project Arodhya; and Envolead.

> **"The narrative around climate change has shifted from forecasting a future issue to confronting an ongoing crisis.**

Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq OBE, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at IUB, highlighted the importance of finding solutions fast. He said that while the pace of the solutions to combat climate change lags behind the problem's progression, Bangladesh emerges as a pioneering hub where innovative responses are being conceived and implemented. The battle against climate change has two primary fronts: mitigation, transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables, and adaptation, addressing the now inevitable impacts and subsequent damages. The narrative around climate change has shifted from forecasting a future issue to confronting an ongoing crisis.

Prof. Huq added that Bangladesh, despite being a hotspot for multiple climate adversities, can be seen as a testing ground for finding multifaceted solutions, given its diverse ecosystems and location-specific challenges. For the youth, there's an emphasis on the crucial blend of practical implementation and continual learning. By mastering the solutions to these challenges, Bangladesh not only addresses its internal concerns but also positions itself as a global leader. The expertise developed here will be sought after globally, presenting potential profitable ventures for young entrepreneurs.

Prof. Saifur Rahman, President & CEO of IEEE, presented on 'Climate Change and Net-Zero Transition' focusing on industrializing countries. He said the challenge is decarbonization, especially for developing nations. While the West discusses transitioning from coal to cleaner energy sources, countries like Bangladesh argue they have little to transition from. Solutions to tackle climate change include energy efficiency, use of low-carbon fossil fuel power plants, hydrogen and other energy storage techs, promotion of renewables, limited acceptance of nuclear energy, and cross-border power transfer. He urged policymakers to recognize Bangladesh's potential as a leader in climate solutions.

IUB Trustee A Quaiyum Khan said, 'Preserve Planet Earth' is a Rotary initiative that began in 1990, preceding the formation of the UNFCCC in 1992. The initiative faced resistance from the business community, stalling its progress due to a lack of tangible solutions for global warming. Today, with the emergence of viable economic solutions, it's been revitalized with global Rotary support. The program is now a series of conferences offering free online participation, with events in six cities tailored to accommodate all time zones. This endeavor upholds the Rotary principle of worldwide inclusivity and collaboration.

In a video message, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Bangladesh Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Climate Change, said: "We are now at the onset of a planetary emergency. So, prep-time is over and impactful action is of paramount importance. Aiming to turn challenges into opportunities, we need to amplify our climactic sustainability game with strategic resource management and impactful investment on preservative measures."

In another video message, Ayesha Waseqa Khan, MP, Vice Chairperson of Climate Parliament Bangladesh, said there are 30 renewable energy projects under active progress of which 24 power plants are funded by the private sector and 65 more projects are being considered.

Speakers also included IUB Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker and Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD; Dr. Sebastian Groh, the Founder Managing Director of Solshare (BD) Ltd.; IUB alumnus Mr. Wahidul Hasan, a PhD Candidate at the South Dakota School of Mines, USA, who distinguished himself by securing a coveted NASA grant for space battery development; renowned scientist Dr. Mubarak Ahmad

> **"It's a series of conferences offering online participation, with events in 6 cities tailored to accommodate all time zones.**

Khan, the mind behind the globally recognized "Sonali Bag" crafted from jute polymer; and Ambassador Tariq Karim, the Director of IUB's Center for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBoBS).

Among the distinguished attendees were the High Commissioners from Brunei, Sri Lanka, and Maldives, along with Ambassadors from Bhutan, Nepal and France in Dhaka. Representatives from the Australian, Canadian and Indian Embassies in Dhaka, the European Union, and a range of UN entities also attended the event. •

IUB hosts delightful musical evening to celebrate Rabindra-Nazarul Jayanti



Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB, presenting a floral bouquet to renowned singer Ms. Adity Mohsin at the Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti 1430 program held at the IUB Auditorium on July 27, 2023.

A musical evening was organized at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) campus in Dhaka's Bashundhara Residential Area on Thursday, July 27, 2023 to mark the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Renowned singers Adity Mohsin and Bijon Chandra Mistry performed Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geeti respectively. IUB's Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research Center (KNIAARC) and the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences jointly organized the event.

The event started with a group performance by the IUB Music Club, who sang the national anthem of Bangladesh "Amar Sonar Bangla" by Rabindranath Tagore, the war song "Chal Chal Chal" by Kazi Nazrul Islam and the IUB anthem "Alma Mater".

Ashikur Rahman, a student of Global Studies and Governance at IUB, played one of Kazi Nazrul Islam's favorite ragas "Nilambari" in Sarode. Dr. Kudrate Khoda, Associate Professor of Social Science and Humanities at IUB, accompanied him in tabla.

IUB Board of Trustees (BoT) Chairman Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker said, "I thank the organizers for organizing this event. Through this event, students of IUB got the valuable opportunity to listen to and be inspired by two of the country's leading singers."

IUB BoT Member Mr. Towhid Samad said, "Kazi Nazrul Islam was a multifaceted genius. He pioneered news styles in Bangla literary writing by introducing folk terms in Bangla literature and attempted to free Bangla Literature, particularly poetry, from its rather stultifying medieval form."

Vice Chancellor Professor Tanveer Hasan, PhD, said, "It is difficult for students to develop human qualities if they do not not develop an affinity with Liberal Arts and Humanities and a liking for painting, literature, music, and films. So, we always try to maintain a cultural atmosphere in the university premises."

Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, Ph.D., gave a vote of thanks. Professor of English and Modern Languages and Director of KNIAARC Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman moderated the program. •



Ashikur Rahman, student of Global Studies and Governance, plays one of Kazi Nazrul Islam's favorite ragas "Nilambari" in Sarode.

Highlights of Academic Achievements and Global Partnerships



IUB welcomed South Korean faculty members Dr. Myungsoo Kim and Ms. Youngmi Im in September 2023.

The latter half of 2023 has been a dynamic period for IUB, marked by significant academic achievements and strategic global collaborations.

In the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, IUB welcomed two esteemed faculty members from South Korea: Dr. Myungsoo Kim joined the Department of Media and Communication, and Ms. Youngmi Im became part of the King Sejong Institute. Their arrival signifies IUB's continued expansion of its global faculty base.

In July and August, Professor Hafiz T. A. Khan from the University of West London enriched the IUB community with his expertise in public health through a series of lectures and sessions.

In October, the School of Pharmacy signed an MOU with University of Ulster, UK This partnership, spearheaded by Dean Prof. J.M.A Hannan and Professor Peter Flatt, aims to foster joint research and academic exchange in Pharmacy and related disciplines. Tanweer Hasan, PhD, Vice Chancellor of IUB, and Professor Liam Maguire, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research of the University of Ulster, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions.

One notable event at IUB was the National Rounds of the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law, held in October 2023. Jointly organized by the ICRC and IUB, the competition brought together the brightest legal minds from across the country.

Late Prof. Dr. Saleemul Huq - who was appointed to a UN Scientific Advisory Board in August 2023 earlier - received an honorary doctorate from Newcastle University.

Four undergraduate students of IUB joined the University of Maribor in Slovenia for a semester under the prestigious Erasmus+ 2023 Mobility Program starting October 2023. Based in Slovenia in Central Europe, the University of Maribor has been named among "The Best Universities in New Europe in 2018" by the Times Higher Education Magazine. It's also among the top 10 research-intensive universities from the new European Union (EU) member states.

The four IUB students are Tanfia Khan Disha, from the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology; Imtiaz Uddin, from Anthropology; Umme Tasfia, from Accounting; and Nayeem Ahmed, from Finance. Tanfia and Imtiaz have received Full Grant Scholarships, covering tuition fees, accommodation, and monthly stipends, while Tasfia and Nayeem have secured tuition fee waivers. Out of the six campus locations of University of Maribor, this group is based in Maribor and Kranj cities. •



Four undergraduate students joined the University of Maribor in Slovenia for a semester under the prestigious Erasmus+ 2023 Mobility Program starting October 2023.

IUB's Sports Prowess: Recent Achievements and Highlights



The IUB Badminton Team

IUB students carved some formidable success in inter-university sports competitions in recent months, showcasing exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship across a range of disciplines. Here are the highlights from some recent sports achievements:

Badminton Triumph

The NSU Sports Carnival 2023 served as a grand stage for IUB's badminton team to shine. In an epic final showdown, they emerged as champions in the Badminton segment, outperforming both North South University (NSU) in Men's Doubles and Daffodil International University (DIU) in Mixed Doubles. The championship featured five categories, including men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The IUB team reached the finals in four out of five categories putting up a formidable display of skill and determination. In the semi-finals of the Mixed Doubles, IUB exhibited their exceptional control of the court, outperforming North South University with an impressive score of 21-8, 21-6. Tushar and Tasnim dominated every corner, securing their place in the final. Additionally, in the Men's Doubles, IUB secured a significant victory by defeating the Canadian University of Bangladesh with a final score of 23-21, 13-21, 11-21. Tipu and Ashfak displayed exceptional resilience, ultimately clinching victory after a challenging first set.

Chess Success

The IUB Chess Team clinched the runners-up title in the Inter-University Team Chess Tournament jointly organized by the Bangladesh Chess Federation and Sports Bangla amidst stiff competition. In the tournament, held from September 14 to 17, 2023, the Dhaka University Knights Mares emerged as champions, but not before they defeated the IUB team in a thrilling tie-break. At the end of the final round, both Dhaka University Knights Mares and IUB were tied with 11 points from seven games each. However, the Mares clinched the title with 18.5 game points, leaving IUB with the runners-up spot and 17 game points. The Dhaka University Castle Crushers secured the third position with 10 points. The brilliant minds of IUB, including team members Amit Bikram Roy (member of the IUB ARROWS program), Kazi Zarin Tasnim, Justin Mathias Baroi, Muntasir Shakil, Aiman Saad Hamid, and Baniyamin Robin Rahman, showcased their strategic brilliance, making their university proud. In 2022, Amit won silver in Men's chess in the Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Championship.



The IUB Chess Team

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Basketball Glory

In basketball, the IUB team embarked on a remarkable journey in the NSU Sports Carnival 2023, securing the runners-up position in Men's Basketball. The competition was fierce, with universities from across the country showcasing their skills, teamwork, and determination. The journey to the finals began with victories in the group stage, leading them to secure the title of group champions. Their dominance continued in the quarter-finals, where they defeated East West University with a convincing score of 64-24. The semifinals posed a formidable challenge against North South University, the home team and event organizers. In a closely contested match, IUB emerged victorious with a score of 40-36, securing their place in the final.

This achievement adds to the accolades of the IUB Basketball Team, which had previously secured the third-place in the Bangabandhu Inter University Sport Championship. This time, they proudly claimed the runner-up position, solidifying their status as a formidable force in university basketball.



The IUB Men's Basketball Team

Football Excellence

The IUB Football team's journey in the NSU Inter-University Sports Carnival 2023 was nothing short of exceptional. The team displayed their mettle and secured the runners-up position in Men's Football after a closely contested final against Brac University, with a solitary goal making the difference. Saif Mannan Ratul, a student of Human Resource Management, emerged as the standout performer of the tournament, scoring a total of eight goals. Ratul's back-to-back hat-tricks in the group stage matches showcased his scoring prowess and contributed significantly to IUB's success. In the group stage, IUB displayed dominance by defeating Sher E Bangla Agricultural University 4-0, with Ratul scoring his first hat-trick in this match. Intishar Chowdhury added another goal to the tally. The team continued their impressive form in the next match, defeating Green University with a 5-2 victory, with Ratul scoring yet another hat-trick, and Intishar contributing with another goal. The quarterfinal presented a nail-biting encounter against Daffodil International University (DIU), with IUB emerging victorious with a 2-1 scoreline. Ratul and Intishar once again showcased their scoring prowess. In the semi-finals, IUB overcame a strong challenge from the Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTex) with a solitary goal, with Ratul once again being the hero. The IUB team's success can also be attributed to the guidance of their coach, Mahbub Manik, a former national-level football player, who played a pivotal role in their performance. •



The IUB Men's Football Team



Valedictorian and Chancellor's Gold Medal winner Ms. Saraf Saiyara receiving the award from Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, during the 24th Convocation Ceremony of IUB held at the Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Purbachal on November 8, 2023.



Convocation Speaker Ms. Selina Hossain delivering her speech.



The IUB Choir performing the National Anthem.



Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB, delivering his speech.



Mrs. Nilufer Zafarullah, Chairman, ESTCDT, delivering her speech.



Respected members of the IUB Board of Trustees attended the convocation ceremony.



Respected members of the IUB Board of Trustees attended the convocation ceremony.



Professor Dr Biswajit Chanda, Member, UGC, delivering his speech.



Tanweer Hasan, PhD, Vice Chancellor, IUB, delivering his speech.



Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Ph.D, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IUB, delivering his speech.



Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider, Treasurer, IUB, introducing the Convocation Speaker.







Glimpses of the cultural event that followed the 24th Convocation Ceremony.

IUB Students Triumph in Engineering and Tech Events Nationwide



IUB Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) students Rahat Hasan Shihab and Ramisa Nawar won the Branch Fest 2023 held at BUP.

Engineering and tech students of IUB have been showcasing their prowess at multiple events, garnering acclaim for their innovative solutions and remarkable talent.

At the "Branch Fest 2023" organized by the IEEE Student Branch of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), IUB secured multiple victories. The standout achievement was from Team Hyperbot, with students Rahat Hasan Shihab and Ramisa Nawar, who won with their multi-functional modular robot designed for hazard response and surveillance. The project, initially developed as an academic requirement, turned into an award-winning invention under the guidance of Associate Professor Dr. Saadia Binte Alam and adjunct faculty Md Hasibur Rahman.

The fest also witnessed IUB's Team "Kryptonians" winning in the Ethical Case Solving segment, with the IUB Music Club claiming second runner-up in the cultural competition.

But the accolades don't stop there. At the DUET RoboCup Championship in Gazipur, IUB's "Fabbers AFK Hoonigan" clinched victory, impressing with a combat-like soccer robot.

The team's innovation was evident as they demonstrated the bot's strategic moves to maximize goal points, with potential for industrial applications like remote-controlled cargo lifts. The DUET RoboCup, an event rich in challenges, saw another commendable debut from IUB's "Nuclear Hell" team, reaching the first qualifier.

Lastly, the Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) students of IUB marked their excellence at the Falling Walls Lab Bangladesh 2023. Students presented videos highlighting specific problems and their ingenious solutions. Among them, Bushra Rahman, with her project on revolutionizing traditional drying, and Rifat Bin Sultan, focusing on harvesting solar energy, reached the regional finals. Sultan's groundbreaking idea earned him the first runner-up position in a competition that saw 11 talented finalists.

These victories are a testament to IUB's commitment to fostering innovation and practical application in their curriculum, cementing its reputation as a leading institution in engineering and technology. The university's consistent performance across different platforms underscores the potential and promise of its students in pushing technological boundaries. •

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
IUB UPDATES

SCMLE Hosts pioneering Summer School in Linguistics



The inaugural session of the historic Sasheen Summer School in Linguistics was held at the IUB Digital Classroom in September 2023.

IUB recently achieved a significant milestone with the successful completion of the inaugural Sasheen Summer School in Linguistics (SSS), hosted by the Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence (SCMLE). The three-week program, held from September 3 to 21, 2023, was a collaborative effort between SCMLE, the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (SLASS), and the International Programs and Relations (IPR) at IUB. The event marked an important step in documenting endangered languages and promoting cultural exchange.

Distinguished linguist Professor David A. Peterson from Dartmouth College, USA, led the program, providing 19 participants with theoretical and practical skills in linguistics and language documentation. The program uniquely included advanced training in linguistic research techniques for native consultants, empowering them to actively contribute to language preservation in their communities.

Participants included 12 student researchers from IUB and seven native-speaking consultants from diverse linguistic backgrounds, representing languages such as Pangkhua, Khumi, Mro, Bawm, Khyang, Chak, and Mandi. These consultants enriched the learning experience, bringing valuable perspectives and insights.

The first week at IUB focused on various linguistic aspects, including Phonetics and Phonology, Morphosyntax, Semantics & Pragmatics, Sociolinguistics, and Conversation Analysis. During the second week, Professor Peterson introduced participants to recording devices and linguistic software like Flex, Praat, and Elan for data collection and analysis. The final week involved field placements in the Bandarban Hill District.

A highlight of the Summer School was the extensive data collection. Twelve folk stories were recorded from six native consultants in the second week. Field research in the Bandarban Hill District led to 50 minutes of video recordings of conversations in endangered languages and 61.58 minutes of video footage from interactions in three ethnic villages. These recordings are invaluable resources for understanding and preserving these languages and cultures.

The training sessions were facilitated by linguists from IUB, North South University, Dhaka University, and Dhaka International University, alongside Professor Peterson. This network of experts created a collaborative learning and research environment, aiming to document endangered languages and ensure the sustainability of preservation practices.

The program concluded with a Closing Ceremony at the IUB campus, where the Vice-Chancellor lauded the success of the summer school and extended best wishes for future endeavors. The success of the Summer School was attributed to the support and guidance from various departments at IUB, including Finance and Accounts, the Registrar's Office, Purchase and Procurement, Admission, CITS, and Media and Public Relations.

The Sasheen Summer School in Linguistics represents a significant achievement in cultural exchange and language preservation. It showcases the potential for bridging gaps between communities for a more inclusive understanding of language and culture. The program sets a new standard for collaborative language documentation efforts, with its impact expected to resonate for years to come. •



Student researchers collecting data during the field trip to Bandarban in September 2023.

IUB wins ERASMUS Grant to advance climate education and green skills

A pioneering multi-country consortium comprising Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and the University of Heidelberg in Germany, has been awarded the prestigious ERASMUS grant for capacity building in higher education for "Adapting Climate Change Education, Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions" - ACCESS4ALL. The project officially commenced on November 1, 2023, and is set to unfold over a two-year period. The initiative aims to co-design and co-develop innovative, practice-based short courses on climate change education and green skills in order to advance contextualized knowledge and locally-led solutions.

K Ayaz Rabbani, Ph.D, Head of IUB's Department of Environmental Science and Management and the university's point of contact for the project, said: "ACCESS4ALL seeks to address climate change education and sustainability in Bangladesh to prevent vulnerability to the impacts of climate change due to the country's deltaic nature. The project takes a unique approach by tapping into indigenous knowledge and proven techniques from local communities."

The key activities include on-the-ground research to identify green skills, organizing field events to engage stakeholders, and creating a portal for knowledge dissemination. To engage with local communities and raise awareness about climate change, the project plans to conduct roundtable discussions and conferences, building on initial discussions held at a pre-project conference at ULAB. The main action is set to begin in the field, where real data will be extracted and processed. •

Music Club Shines at BUP Cultural Competition



Members of the IUB Music Club

In a remarkable display of talent, the IUB Music Club secured the 2nd Runner-up position in the "Inter-Student Branch Cultural Competition" organized by the IEE Student Branch of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) on July 18, 2023. Their cover of "Jadur Shohor," a hit number by the Bangladeshi fusion rock band Chirkut, captivated the audience and judges alike.

The six-member team, including Safwan Maleek on drums, Mohona Mirza on vocals, Ricardo Samuel on bass, Sirajam Monir and Zawad Hossain Zayedi on guitars, showcased their musical prowess. The competition, judged by renowned singer Rituraj, saw a range of talented performances, but the IUB Music Club's rendition stood out, earning them a prestigious spot in the competition. Their achievement is a testament to the club's dedication and skill in the arts. •

Prof. Niaz Zaman honored for literary excellence



Independent University, Bangladesh, paid tribute to Prof. Niaz Zaman's outstanding literary achievements on October 19, 2023. Celebrated for her contributions in translating Bengali literature, Prof. Zaman's work has significantly enriched the literary world. The event, attended by notable academics and family, highlighted her mentorship, scholarly pursuits, and creative endeavors. Prof. Zaman's extensive accolades and influence in the field of literature were lauded, affirming her legacy in the academic and literary communities. •

Short Course on Climate Adaptation

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), in collaboration with the Outreach, Extension and Continuing Education unit of the Pro-Vice Chancellor's Office and the Department of Environmental Science and Management, hosted an innovative short course from June 22-25, 2023. Titled "Locally Led Adaptation and Local Loss and Damage: A Nexus Approach," this first-of-its-kind program aimed to educate a diverse group of 23 participants from countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, the Netherlands, and Bangladesh.

This four-day course featured six intensive knowledge sessions, covering topics such as climate change science, the evolution of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), and the integration of LLA into national policies. Participants also engaged in a field visit to the CCDB Climate Centre. •

Master's Programs Open Day Attracts Students, Professionals



The Master's Program Open Day was held on August 19, 2023.

IUB's Open Day on August 19, 2023, showcased its diverse range of 16 Master's programs, attracting prospective students and industry professionals. The event highlighted the integration of academic and industry demands, with a strong focus on research and leadership. Dean presentations and personalized guidance provided insights into the benefits of pursuing a Master's degree at IUB. The high rate of spot admissions reflected the programs' appeal. Professor Dr. Yusuf Mahbubul Islam's inauguration speech emphasized the importance of soft skills and the synergy between academia and industry for future career success. •

Environment Club Welcomes Dr. Senjuti Saha



Renowned scietist Dr. Senjuti Saha spoke at an event organized by the IUB Environment Club in August 2023.

The IUB Environment Club organized "Nature's Route to Health - Bridging the Divide," on August 22, 2023, with a focus on the connection between environment and health. Sponsored by Caarmate and Project "Arodhya," the event featured Dr. Senjuti Saha as the keynote speaker, alongside distinguished guests like Ashraful Haque Nobel and Dr. K. Ayaz Rabbani. The program, hosted by Jannatul Ferdous Mohona and attended by students and faculty, concluded with a thematic performance by the IUB Music Club. This successful event underscored the IUB Environment Club's commitment to exploring the link between environmental and health issues. •

CGP&AR, Midland Bank promote youth entrepreneurship

Midland Bank Limited and IUB's CGP&AR collaborated to organize a fair on August 23, 2023, promoting entrepreneurship and financial inclusion among students. The event introduced innovative start-up loan campaigns and student banking services, aligning with Bangladesh Bank's CMSE Financing Facility for Start-up Business initiative. The bank showcased its start-up loan programs and student savings accounts with dual currency options, receiving positive feedback from students. This collaboration reflects Midland Bank's commitment to supporting young entrepreneurs and IUB's dedication to fostering student innovation and economic growth. •



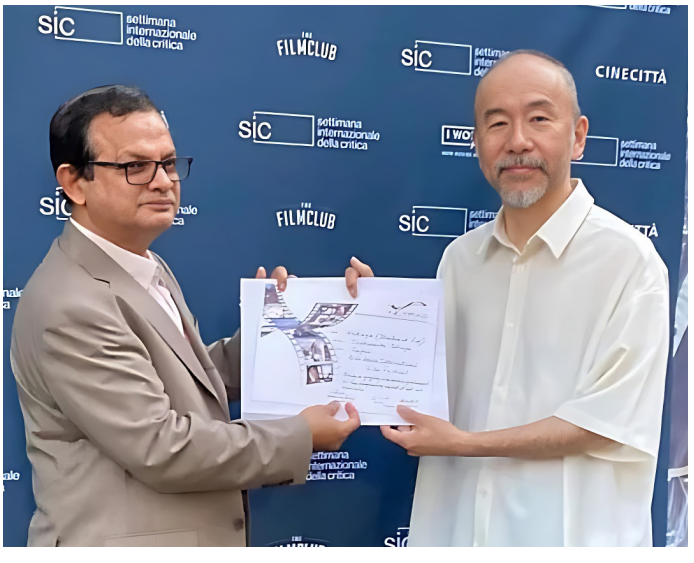
IUB Theatre staged the folk musical play "Dewana Madina" at the IUB Auditorium on November 28, 2023 as part of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's nationwide campaign to organize stage shows of classic folk tales.



The IUB Esports Club, in collaboration with Bangladesh Youth Development & Electronic Sports Association (BYDESA), organized the Collegiate Esports Championship in July and August 2023.



Ms. Farheen Khan, Director, International Programs and Relations, visited Chandigarh University during her India tour in July and August 2023.



Prof. Zakir Hossain Raju, PhD, presented the Best Asian Film Award to renowned Japanese filmmaker Shinya Tsukamoto at the 80th Venice International Film Festival.



The IUB Library organized a special program to commemorate the 60th birthday of Sheikh Russel on October 18, 2023.



Two teams from IUB emerged 1st and 2nd Runners-up in different segments of the IUT ESONANCE 2023 competition held at the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur near Dhaka on November 3, 2023.



Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, hading over the trophy to a winning team at the "Desi Ballers' 5-Year Legacy Hoopfest Powered by IUB" held on September 29 and 30, 2023 at the IUB Sports Complex.



IUB debaters won the Sustainability Day 2023 Debate Championship.



The Department of Environmental Science and Management organized a study trip to the CCDB Climate Technology Park in Gazipur on August 1, 2023.

Five faculties Awarded UK Grant for Climate Finance Research

Five faculty members from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) have been awarded a grant from the Center for Sustainable Finance at SOAS University of London. This grant supports two case studies on climate finance adaptation and integration into master's course curriculums. The team includes Prof. Dr. Meherun Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Mizan R Khan, Dr. Taslim Uddin, Md. Ekhtekharul Islam, and Zaima Ahmed. Their research will focus on flood resilience in Bangladesh and the effectiveness of climate budgeting and allocation, contributing significantly to understanding and addressing climate change impacts in vulnerable regions like Bangladesh. •

Dengue Awareness Campaign in Bashundhara



IUB brought out a rally in the Bashundhara Residential Area as part of the Dengue Awareness Campaign in August 2023.

The School of Pharmacy and Public Health at took proactive steps to combat Dengue fever by organizing an awareness campaign in the Bashundhara Residential Area on August 13, 2023. The initiative included fogging operations, distribution of informative leaflets, and direct community engagement. Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Ph.D., and Treasurer Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider took part in the procession. As part of the campaign, IUB student vollunteers, divided into small groups, distributed leaflets and delivered awareness messages to local residents. •

IUB observes National Mourning Day



An IUB-delegation, led by Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, paid homage at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on August 15, 2023.

IUB observed the National Mourning Day 2023, honoring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of August 15, 1975. The commemoration included floral tributes, a doa mahfil, a blood donation drive, and a lunch program for underprivileged children. Vice-Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, led the tribute at Dhanmondi, along with senior faculty and staff.

An insightful discussion, featuring chief guest Prof. Md. Abu Taher and speaker Poet Muhammad Nurul Huda, culminated in a prize distribution for an essay competition organized by the IUB Library. •

IUB@CSE event fosters innovation and entrepreneurship

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IUB showcased the entrepreneurial spirit of students during the Startup IUB@CSE event on September 4, 2023. Focused on bridging academics and business, the event presented 27 innovative projects in fields like AI and IoT. Industry leaders like Sonia Bashir Kabir and Sami Ahmed attended, offering insights and support. Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Bin Ibne Reaz and other faculty members underlined the event's role in nurturing startups, highlighting IUB's commitment to fostering technological innovation and job creation in Bangladesh. •

Shuddha goes to United Nations University as the first Bangladeshi woman



Shuddha Srimoyee Das

Shuddha Srimoyee Das, a graduate of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), has made history by being accepted into The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) as the first Bangladeshi woman. commencing her Masters in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP) in the 2023-2024 academic cohort, her focus is on Risk and Vulnerability, an esteemed program offered in partnership with UNU-EHS.

The United Nations University (UNU), located in the Netherlands, is the academic and think tank arm of the UN and enjoys a special status as a UN institution. Shuddha's admittance into this elite body not only makes her one of the few Bangladeshis in the global UNU diaspora but also the second Bangladeshi to attend the MPP Program.

Shuddha completed her Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) in Sociology with a minor in Global Studies and Governance at IUB under a full scholarship. At the 24th Convocation of IUB, Shuddha won the prestigious All-Rounder Award for academic and extracurricular activities. •

EEE Dept. Secures UK Aid Grant

The Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEE) won a grant from UK Aid for capacity building in the area of renewable energy. The £16,700 grant, equivalent to about BDT 23 lac, has been allocated through the Transforming Energy Access through Learning Partnership (TEA-LP) project, spearheaded by the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The TEA-LP is a global research and innovation platform focusing on developing partnerships with universities in Africa, South Asia, and the Indo-Pacific regions. Its objective is to train graduates capable of leading the transition to sustainable energy. It's part of the larger Transforming Energy Access platform, funded by UK Aid, which supports 8 such projects aimed at revolutionizing energy access through innovation, business models, and skill development. •

Nusrat starts year-long research exchange program in Japan



Nushrat Afroz Roza at the University of Hyogo, Japan.

Nushrat Afroz Roza, a talented undergraduate from IUB's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, has commenced a year-long research exchange in Japan, supported by a Japanese government scholarship.

This opportunity, under a partnership between IUB's SETS and the University of Hyogo, allows Nushrat to delve into medical image processing and AI-based diagnostics. Arriving in Japan on September 2, 2023, she is already immersed in her research, showcasing her academic excellence and dedication to cross-cultural learning. This exchange program symbolizes the growing academic collaboration between IUB and global institutions. •

Techfest Summer 2023: A Showcase of Innovation

Techfest Summer 2023 at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) marked a stellar showcase of student innovation in both the EEE and CSE departments.

The EEE Department's Project Showcase and Poster Presentation, held on August 17, saw "Renewable Rabbles" and "Team Waste to Energy" among the top achievers, with Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, and Trustee A Quaiyum Khan gracing the event.

Meanwhile, the CSE Department's Intra TechFest (August 16-17) provided a dynamic platform for students to demonstrate their technical skills, with Rabiul Islam Raihan excelling in the Intra-IUB Programming Contest. •

Autumn Orientation celebrates record female enrollment



The Orientation Program for the Autumn 2023 Semester was held on September 21, 2023.

IUB marked a historic moment at its Autumn 2023 orientation, celebrating the largest cohort in its history with a remarkable 49% female enrollment. The event, held at the Auditorium, highlighted IUB's commitment to empowering women in academia. Vice-Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, proudly acknowledged this significant increase in female student participation, reflecting the university's efforts towards gender equality in education. The orientation, graced by former Walton CEO Mr. Golam Murshed and hosted by Ms. Lima Chowdhury, also featured cultural performances by the IUB Music Club, showcasing the university's vibrant and diverse student community. •

30 universities participate in Law Moot Court competition



Prof. Borhan Uddin Khan, Ph.D. Advisor, Department of Law, speaking at the closing ceremony of the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on Humanitarian Law held at IUB during October 5-7, 2023.

The 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law commenced at Independent University, Bangladesh, with 30 university teams participating. The event, from October 5-7, 2023, was organized by the ICRC in collaboration with IUB. Students demonstrated their legal prowess in moot court scenarios, judged by a panel of esteemed legal professionals. The winner will represent Bangladesh in the Asia-Pacific Rounds in Hong Kong. Speakers like Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam and Heike Kemper from the ICRC emphasized the importance of IHL in upholding human dignity during conflict, highlighting the event's role in nurturing future legal experts. •

11 students chosen for Millennium Fellowship Program

Eleven students from Independent University, Bangladesh have been selected for the esteemed Millennium Fellowship, a collaboration between the United Nations Academic Impact and the Millennium Campus Network. Chosen from a pool of 44,000 applicants worldwide, these students will focus on projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The program, a platform for global networking and project development, will culminate in a virtual graduation ceremony. The selected students, including Campus Directors Mostofa Fahim Hasan and Tanfia Khan Disha, represent IUB's commitment to fostering leaders who address critical educational and environmental challenges. •

Over 900 IUB students experience rural Bangladesh with the LFE Program



IUB students collecting data from a villager during the Summer 2023 Live-in-Field Experience (LFE) program.

More than 900 students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) embarked on an enlightening journey through the Live in Field Experience (LFE) program from September 7-17, 2023. The initiative, a signature course of IUB, is designed to bridge the knowledge gap urban-centered students often have about the rural intricacies of Bangladesh.

The 10-day immersive course is not just an educational endeavor but a mission to foster empathy, understanding, and appreciation for the myriad lifestyles and customs that are woven into the fabric of the nation. This Summer's excursion saw students dispersed across 10 locations in 9 districts: Bogura, Joypurhaat, Jashore, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Barisal, Tangail, and Mymensingh.

The LFE course, mandatory for IUB students, boasts an impressive mix: male and female students from both English and Bangla medium backgrounds. During the experience, small groups of 5-10 students each were chaperoned by one of the 38 faculty members to ensure a structured, meaningful, and safe field journey.

Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD joined the students at the dormitory of Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF) in Jashore. He spent some quality time with the students, taking part in myriad activities including sports, cultural activities, and so on.

Students engaged in a series of activities designed to acquaint them with various aspects of rural life. The key highlights of the field activities included:

Village Mapping: Understanding the geographical, social, and cultural landscape of the village.

Social Change: Observing the dynamics of change in rural communities, influenced by modernization, migration, and more.

Economy and Rural Production Cycle: An in-depth analysis of the economic activities, resources, and production cycles that fuel the rural economy.

Health and Environment: A study of local health practices, challenges, and the environment's role in shaping the lives of villagers.

Rural Market Analysis: Assessing the functioning of rural markets, their impact, and significance in the daily lives of the residents.

LFE is unique in Bangladesh, taking inspiration from the profound insights of the region's leading social thinkers. The initiative amplifies the idea that for urban students, understanding their rural counterparts is not just a matter of knowledge but also of kinship.

Many students and faculty alike describe the LFE as a transformative experience, breaking down stereotypes, and sowing the seeds for more cohesive national unity. As IUB continues its mission, it sets an example for educational institutions nationwide to integrate experiential learning into curricula and push students beyond the confines of classrooms. •



Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, joined a group of students during their LFE fieldwork in Jashore in September 2023.

Art Club brings creativity to underprivileged children



Members of the IUB Art Club with participants during their Chalanta Canvas event in October 2023.

The IUB Art Club concluded its annual flagship event, "Chalanta Canvas- Tour for a Cause," a mission to promote the "Healing Power of Art" and expand the horizons of creativity among underprivileged children in Bangladesh in October 2023.

The event featured two segments. The first, the "Art Camp with Underprivileged Children," saw the IUB Art Club team visiting a primary school in Tangail to understand underprivileged students' mental condition. Initially, children were provided with paper and colors to express themselves through art, often depicting what they learned in school or scenes from their surroundings.

A subsequent session encouraged creative thinking and art exploration, with the highlight being a 5x5 feet canvas for unrestricted self-expression. The second segment involved club members exploring history and culture, drawing inspiration from ancient architectural wonders at a historical location.

The first episode of the event took place on October 22, 2022, in Panam City, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. The second episode unfolded on October 6, 2023, in Nagarpur, Tangail. The IUB Art Club has ambitious plans to extend this initiative to as many of the 64 districts of Bangladesh as possible in the upcoming episodes.

The primary objective of "Chalanta Canvas - Tour for a Cause" is to harness the "Healing Power of Art" to enrich the lives of underprivileged children. These children, coming from financially challenged backgrounds, often have limited exposure to colorful environments and face restrictions on their creative thinking.

Through the healing power of art, the campaign aims to provide them an escape from their challenging environments and expand their creative horizons. According to a survey conducted after the art camp, an impressive 85% of participants continued to draw and explore different subjects, demonstrating their newfound passion for art.

This impactful initiative was conceived by the former president of the IUB Art Club, S.M. Shahariar Kabir. The club is committed to continuing this initiative and completing the journey to reach all 64 districts of Bangladesh. •



School students busy painting during IUB Art Club's Chalanta Canvas campaign in October 2023.

IUB
Independent University, Bangladesh

Universities Accepting IUB MOI certificates for Graduate studies

University for the Creative Arts

University of South Wales

RICE UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

University of Lethbridge

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

University of Regina

University of Essex

University of Suffolk

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International Programs and Relations
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Why IUB?

- #1 private university in Bangladesh in AD Scientific Index 2023
- State-of-the-art labs for life, environmental and social sciences, and engineering
- 4-storied central library with 30,000 printed books, 250,000 e-books, 25,000 online journals
- Globally renowned research centers
- Environment-friendly 3-acre campus with 95 multimedia classrooms
- Up to 100% merit and need-based scholarships
- Secured need-based accommodation for female students
- Career advising, psychosocial counseling, medical center
- Academic Success Center
- Opportunities to learn French, Mandarin, Korean from native speakers
- Support for study abroad
- First ever financial trading lab at university level in Bangladesh
- Separate gym for men and women, Yoga studio, self-defense
- Spacious Sports Complex for basketball, futsal, badminton
- Student clubs focusing on sports, performing arts, social work, entrepreneurship, innovation and conservation

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