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UPDATES

Issue: 191 | October 2024



COVER STORY

When Hearts and Hands Unite



DOS & DON'TS OF

DENGUE

1



Drain water from coolers and other small **containers** every three days.

2



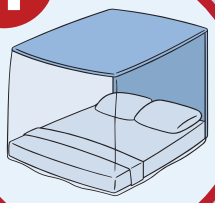
Use **mosquito repellent aerosols** during the daytime to prevent mosquito bites.

3



Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.

4



Use **mosquito nets** or **mosquito repellents** while sleeping during the daytime.

Department of Public Health
School of Pharmacy & Public Health
Independent University, Bangladesh

Editorial

Bangladesh has never witnessed a summer quite like 2024. In the face of daunting challenges, our students have demonstrated remarkable leadership and resilience. First came a powerful student-led mass movement that echoed across the nation, bringing in change and progress. Then, as the country was hit by catastrophic floods, the same students swiftly mobilized to offer critical aid to those in need, showing their adaptability and compassion in a time of crisis.

This edition of the Updates is dedicated to the young changemakers. They are not only the future of this nation but also the present, actively shaping a better Bangladesh. Their courage, determination, and unity during both the mass movement and the flood relief efforts have been nothing short of inspiring. They have proven that the future is indeed in good hands.

One of the most commendable efforts was the emergency relief operation led by IUB students, providing essential support to over 19,000 flood-affected people across seven districts. Their actions exemplified the very best of humanity – selflessness, empathy, and commitment to making a difference. We are proud to share their stories and celebrate their incredible contributions. •

Editor
Rajib Bhowmick

Assistant Editors
Md. Wahiduzzaman
Rabiba Rahman Chowdhury

Design and Layout
Md. Omar Faruque
Md. Nazmul Hasan

Editorial Assistant
MD Istiak (4th Semester, Law)

Circulation
Md. Habibur Rahman

Published by
Media and Public Relations Department

Message from the Vice Chancellor (Acting)

Rising to Challenges



Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our student community for their dedication and commitment during these challenging times. The recent floods stand among the most devastating that Bangladesh has ever witnessed. Millions of people were stranded, and the local administration struggled to cope with the overwhelming severity of the disaster. In the face of this unprecedented crisis, our students' prompt and coordinated response played a vital role in providing much-needed relief and hope to the affected communities.

The participation of students, not just from IUB but also from across the country, was instrumental in bridging the gap between available resources and on-ground demand. IUB students, in particular, raised around BDT 31 lac and extended relief to over 19,000 people in 30 upazilas across 7 districts. This is no small achievement, especially considering that many of them were participating in disaster response for the first time. Their dedication, resilience, and ability to act in the face of such adversity are truly commendable.

Additionally, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our student community for the student-led mass movement in July and August. They have created history, and in doing so, they have given us hope for a future where Bangladesh truly prospers. The leadership, courage, compassion, and patriotism they have displayed offer a strong foundation for the leaders of tomorrow, and it gives us great confidence in the path ahead.

A special thanks goes out to the IUB faculty and staff, whose support has been invaluable all throughout. Together, we have shown the true strength of the IUB family. •





A student from EEE department, with help from local residents, delivers relief items to a partially submerged household in Noakhali on August 26, 2024

When hearts and hands unite

In a swift and decisive response to the unprecedented flash floods that hit southeastern Bangladesh in August 2024, students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) joined hands to launch emergency relief efforts to reach over 19,000 people in the hardest-hit, isolated communities.

With local authorities overwhelmed and the affected areas unaccustomed to such widespread flooding, the students' initiative proved critical in delivering timely aid to those caught off guard by the disaster. Their efforts brought not only essential supplies but also much-needed hope to families devastated by the floods.

Several hundred IUB students quickly mobilized over BDT 31 lakh to provide relief to those affected. They traveled to more than one hundred inundated remote villages in nearly 30 upazilas across seven districts – Noakhali, Feni, Cumilla, Laxmipur, Brahmanbaria, Khagrachari, and Chandpur – where the rapid rise of water destroyed homes and livelihoods, leaving thousands without food, shelter, or access to clean water.

United by Purpose

At least five student-led teams, including Bashundhara Youth Circle (BYC), affiliated with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Team IUB 1 (comprising



Members of Team IUB 2 distribute oral saline among flood affected people in Laxmipur on August 26, 2024

30 student clubs at IUB); Team IUB 2; IEEE IUB Student Branch; and IUB Sociology Club participated in the relief efforts. Funds were sourced from personal donations by IUB faculty, staff, and students, as well as organizational support and community fundraisers.

For many students, this was their first experience with humanitarian work on such a large scale. As they ventured into the affected areas, they quickly realized that their mission was about more than just providing physical relief; it was about extending compassion to people facing a disaster for which they were unprepared.



Members of Team IUB 1 travel on a boat to a remote village in Khila, Cumilla to deliver relief items to flood affected people on August 24, 2024

Braving Difficult Terrains

The relief operation was challenging from the outset. The flash floodwaters, which did not recede as quickly as they came, caused prolonged waterlogging with strong current, exacerbating the suffering of the affected communities.

Transportation wasn't the only hurdle. Shortages of resources, including trucks and boats, limited the teams' capacity to move large quantities of aid. Despite these challenges, they distributed essential relief items, including dry food, drinking water, medicines, clothing, and cash.

Md. Mosiur Rahman Shadhin, who represented the EEE Department and the IEEE IUB Student Branch, recounted, "We realized that many flood-affected areas were not receiving adequate aid, particularly those far from the main highways. While relief efforts primarily targeted easily accessible regions, inland communities remained largely underserved."

Marketing major Afifa Anjum Auntoma, who represented Team IUB 2, reflected on the urgency they felt. "The people in these



EEE students pack relief items on the IUB campus ahead of their flood relief operations



Team IUB 2 conducted a medical camp in Burichang, Cumilla on August 26, 2024

areas had never dealt with such a flood before. It came so fast, and they were left helpless. We needed to reach them quickly and let them know they weren't forgotten," she said.

Stories of Resilience

Biochemistry and Biotechnology major and BYC representative Md. Muktadir Billah is a volunteer for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and has taken part in numerous disaster relief efforts in the past.

He recalled, "When we went to provide relief at a home in Sonagazi, Feni, we found that the family had been starving for three days. The two children there were living in extreme hardship. When we finally gave them food, the joy on their faces was unforgettable."

Md. Sidul Amin Sifat, who represented Team IUB, said, "Seeing how these communities held on despite losing everything was a powerful lesson in resilience. Even though their homes were underwater and they had very little left, they showed incredible strength and hope. It made us realize that our efforts were more than just providing aid – they were about standing with people who were determined to rebuild their lives."

Lessons in Humanity

For the students, the relief effort was more than just a mission – it was a lesson in community resilience and the need for long-term disaster preparedness. Many areas had no natural or man-made drainage systems to help floodwaters recede quickly, which worsened the situation.



A member of Team IUB 1 unloads relief items from a truck at Sharasti, Chandpur on August 30, 2024

Law major MD Istiak, who represented Team IUB, shared, "As we were distributing aid in the village of Bairi in the Rajganj Union of Begumganj Upazila of Noakhali, none of us – six or seven team members – had the chance to eat lunch. Just before the Maghrib prayers, when we were about to leave after providing aid, a woman called out to us and asked, 'Have you eaten anything? You came all this way and worked so hard for us; please, take these two guavas and some hog plums.' The love and hospitality of these people moved us deeply and inspired us to do even more."

The effort also reinforced the importance of solidarity. "What stood out to me was how everyone came together – students, faculty, and people outside the university," said Afifa of Team IUB 2. "We all had one goal: to help. It showed me how much we can achieve when we work together."

A Continuing Effort

Pranti Tripura from the IUB Sociology Club expressed concern for the long-term impact on flood victims. "Many of them are worried about the future because their farmlands were destroyed. They are looking at a shortage of rice for at least a year," she observed from the frontline.



Members of Team IUB 1 carry relief supplies on their shoulders paddling knee-high water in Senbagh, Noakhali, on August 29, 2024

While the immediate relief efforts have ended, many of the student groups are planning to continue working with other organizations to assist in the long-term recovery of the affected communities. Their focus will now shift to helping rebuild homes and ensuring that families can restore their livelihoods.



Members of BYC carry relief supplies on their shoulders paddling knee-high water

As an organization, IUB made a donation of BDT 14 lakh to the Chief Advisor's Relief Fund, aiding flood-affected communities. This substantial contribution was raised through the collective effort of IUB's faculty and staff, who each donated the equivalent of one day's salary toward this humanitarian cause.

As Bangladesh continues to face the challenges posed by climate change and unpredictable weather, initiatives like these demonstrate how grassroots action, especially those led by the youth, can make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected.•



ABDUL TAWSIF ROHAN

2nd Semester, Computer Science and Engineering

On July 18, we gathered in front of Jamuna Future Park in the morning. Soon, we heard that students were being attacked in Badda, so we rushed to help. The area turned into a battlefield with bullets, tear gas canisters, and sound grenades flying in all directions. A tear gas canister and a sound grenade exploded right in front of me at the same time and I thought I was dead. But a friend slapped me in the face and said I wasn't. He and others carried me to a nearby alley, sprinkled water on my face, and I regained composure. Local women gave us water and crackers. I remember several of them reciting Ayatul Kursi and puffing on me and saying, "Go, my child, you are the ones who can save Bangladesh." It was as if my own mother was there with me. Though I wasn't born in 1971, I felt like a Freedom Fighter. I could almost hear patriotic songs in my ears. I got back on my feet and rejoined the protest. Despite the bullets, we stood our ground for what was right.



AFIFA ANJUM AUNTOMA

9th Semester, Marketing

On August 3, students gathered in the Bashundhara Residential Area, joined by teachers, parents, and local residents. The unity was palpable. A retired police officer gave a speech, and we sang patriotic songs together. By August 4, we heard about the Long March to Dhaka, rescheduled for the next day. As the Chhatra League rallied and tension rose, we formed a human chain. The boys created a protective circle around us. At that moment, I was moved by our unity's strength. I felt a deep sense of solidarity, knowing that if we stayed united, we could win.



SHAHRUKH BIN HANNAN

12th Semester, Human Resources Management

Despite coming from a lineage of Freedom Fighters and being a private university student, I couldn't stand by and watch the brutality against students who were merely demanding fairness based on merit. I don't need the quota system, and even if I did, my family's Freedom Fighter background would have opened many doors. But I couldn't accept privileges earned through bloodshed, especially by our own government. I had participated in the Road Safety Movement in 2018 and noticed the lack of basic supplies like water, dry food, and first aid during protests. Considering the heat, I decided to help ensure the protesters had the essentials to keep going.



SHAMSUN NAHAR SHATABDY

9th Semester, Computer Science and Engineering

Having actively participated in the July-August Revolution, I now want to see a Bangladesh free of all discrimination, whether based on gender, quota, or anything else. We must ensure future generations don't experience the discrimination we have faced. Only then will the sacrifices made by countless young people be truly worthwhile. However, we know it won't be easy. Many people benefited from the unjust systems and will fight to keep their privileges. But the unity we fought with gives me hope. Our generation has what it takes to build the Bangladesh we aspire to.

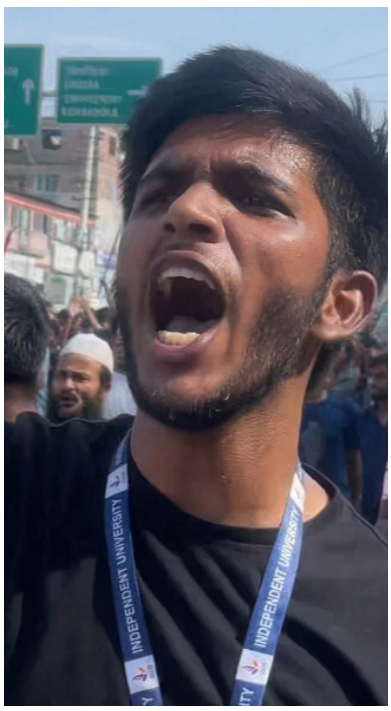


ASHFAQUL ISLAM TASHEEK

3rd Semester, Marketing

I joined the movement because witnessing the injustice of students being killed for a simple demand stirred something deep within me. Personally, I don't need the quota, but I couldn't remain selfishly safe while others suffered. No government has the right to treat its own people in this way – such actions undermine its legitimacy. Today, it's the quota reform movement; tomorrow, it could be an issue even more directly affecting me. At that moment, would I expect others to stand by and do nothing? Of course not. That's why I chose to protest, and together, we made history. My hope is for a future where the government of Bangladesh does not instill fear and insecurity among its people.









MD KHALED SAIFULLAH, PHD

Assistant Professor and Head
Department of Economics

As an educator, I have always believed in standing by my students. However, witnessing the brutal attacks on university students, particularly female students, compelled me to act. Though they weren't my direct students, I felt morally obligated to join them. It wasn't just about supporting their cause; it was about ensuring a safer future for all students, including my own, so they wouldn't face the same injustice. The 2024 protests made me realize that educators must speak out to prevent further oppression. I envision a Bangladesh where fairness prevails, merit is honored, and every institution is held accountable.



NAUREEN RAHNUMA, PHD

Assistant Professor and Head
Department of English and Modern Languages

As professors, our duty extends beyond the classroom, guiding students in academics, critical thinking, and moral courage. Those who chose to join the student protest only responded to our call of duty because sleeplessness and anxiety plagued our minds when we saw students being silenced for peaceful demonstrations, and standing by in silence felt like complicity. Our conscience and role as an educator compelled us to stand in solidarity for justice and integrity. What deeply impacted me was seeing students from different schools, colleges and universities, some of whom I had taught, standing shoulder to shoulder with their friends, teachers and parents, chanting for justice and reform. It was surreal to witness such unity, solidarity and courage to stand up for what is right, demanding justice for the fallen heroes.



PROF. ASSADUZZAMAN KHAN, PHD

Proctor (Acting) and Professor
Department of Law

The turning point for me was witnessing the overwhelming force used to silence students. Watching the authorities brutally attack those who simply wanted their voices heard made it impossible for me to remain passive. As an educator, I believe our duty extends beyond the classroom. When I saw students risking their lives, I couldn't stay away. I helped take wounded protesters to the hospital. The blood on my hands was a stark reminder of the stakes. As a father, my fear of danger was outweighed by the need for a future Bangladesh that values justice and integrity.



AFNAN YUSUF

Lecturer
Department of General Management

The realization that innocent lives were being lost during peaceful protests deeply troubled me. Seeing our courageous students standing firm, even when their lives were at risk, compelled me to join them, as I couldn't ignore such injustice. On the first day I joined the protest as a guardian, after hours of marching, we urged the students to return to their institutions due to reports of political groups positioning themselves. But with unshakeable resolve, they responded, "We didn't come here to leave. We'll only leave when our demands are met." Their courage in the face of danger moved me deeply. As educators and intellectuals, we must uphold integrity and guide others in distinguishing right from wrong, laying the foundation for lasting positive change.



TANVIR AHMED HAROON

LFE Coordinator and Senior Lecturer
Department of Environmental Science and Management

Being a faculty member, it's impossible to stay idle while our students, regardless of their institution, face danger. At first, we passively supported them, but soon we decided to stand with them and face whatever consequences followed. The deaths of several students at the start of the movement solidified our resolve. We must ensure that rights and freedom are properly conveyed to our students, and they are fighting for just causes. It's also crucial to protect them from being manipulated into causes that aren't their own.



Rebuild Bangladesh initiative transforms Dhaka neighbourhoods



Students working on a street painting as part of the Rebuild Bangladesh initiative, on August 9, 2024

Students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) played a pivotal role in the Rebuild Bangladesh initiative held on August 8-9, 2024, in Khilgaon, Banasree, and Bashundhara. Led by IUB student Zubair Shafin and other young leaders, the initiative focused on environmental beautification and community safety. Supported by Bangladeshi expatriates and local organizations, volunteers planted trees, cleaned graffiti, and replaced offensive designs with positive murals. Additionally, volunteers managed traffic and enhanced night-time safety due to the lack of police presence. This collective effort significantly improved the quality of life in these neighborhoods. •

Students plant trees in and around campus to promote sustainability



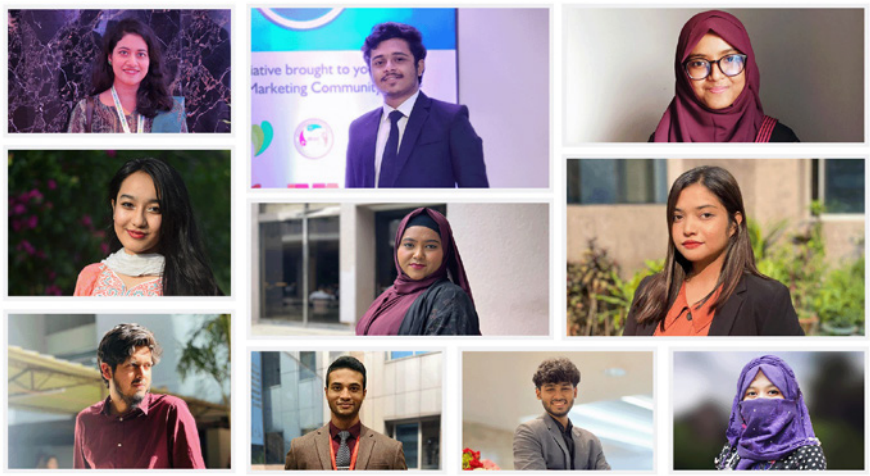
An IUB student planting a tree outside the campus as part of the 100 Trees Planted initiative on August 31, 2024

On August 31, 2024, students from the Department of Environmental Science and Management at IUB planted 100 trees around the campus and Sports Complex. Led by students including Sakura Takahashi and Abrar Rahman, the initiative aimed to enhance environmental sustainability on campus. Supported by faculty and aligned with the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, the project emphasized long-term care for the trees, ensuring their survival by placing them near easily accessible locations. This initiative contributes to cleaner air, cooler temperatures, and new wildlife habitats, showcasing the department's commitment to ecological stewardship. •

IUB delegation visits Martyr Asif Iqbal's family

On September 3, 2024, a delegation from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) visited the family of Asif Iqbal, a former student who tragically died during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. Led by university officials, the delegation conveyed heartfelt condolences and presented BDT 7 lakh to his parents as a gesture of support. Asif Iqbal's family fondly remembered his active involvement in campus life, highlighting his dedication to sports and social causes. The visit underscored IUB's solidarity with the family during this difficult time. •

10 students selected for Millennium Fellowship



Ten students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) have been selected for the prestigious Millennium Fellowship, a global leadership program organized by the United Nations Academic Impact and the Millennium Campus Network (MCN). This year, over 52,000 students from 6,000+ campuses across 170 countries applied, but only 4,000 were selected, representing the top 5% of applicants. The IUB students will engage in projects focused on public health, environmental sustainability, social enterprise, and youth development over the next four months. The program includes fellowship sessions, webinars, and a final impact report. Fellows will also participate in networking, leadership training, and present their projects on an international platform. The program culminates in a virtual graduation ceremony in November 2024. The Millennium Fellowship equips young leaders with the skills and global connections needed to address complex global challenges and create meaningful, sustainable change in their communities and beyond. •



IUB-PwC partnership to drive automation

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has signed a landmark agreement with PricewaterhouseCoopers Bangladesh (PwC) to implement a comprehensive university management system aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and automating business processes. The contract, signed on July 10, 2024, signifies a major step toward digital transformation at IUB, improving services for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. PwC, part of the globally renowned PwC network, brings extensive experience in audit, assurance, tax, and consulting, serving sectors such as government and financial services. Additionally, IUB partnered with IT consultancy Fair Pattern Limited, which will manage the project and oversee performance evaluations. Fair Pattern, a New York-based technology firm with offices in Dhaka and Dubai, specializes in advanced IT solutions such as AI, machine learning, and cloud services. This partnership aims to elevate IUB's technological infrastructure and operational capabilities, positioning the university as a leader in digital innovation. •

EEE students win silver in UK design challenge



Celestine Gomes, Sayed Alam, and Sabrine Islam – all students of EEE at IUB, won silver in the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge 2024

A team of students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) won the Silver Award in the 2023-24 Efficiency for Access Design Challenge, UK, for their innovative solar-powered gear pump. Announced on June 18, 2024, the project, titled "Design and Construction of Solar-powered Gear Pump," improves water flow and reduces energy consumption, offering a sustainable solution for irrigation in remote areas. The team, composed of Celestine Gomes, Sayed Alam, and Sabrine Islam, competed virtually alongside students from global universities.

This win follows two consecutive Gold Award victories by IUB teams in previous years. The team, along with two others, received grants totaling USD 4,350 from UK Aid and the IKEA Foundation to develop prototypes. All projects, including a Solar-Powered Oil Extractor and Solar-based Air Conditioner, were developed at IUB's Green Energy Research Center. Prof. Khosru Mohammad Salim, PhD the center's Director, praised the students' efforts in advancing sustainable energy solutions. •



IUB receives BDT 4.2 million USAID grant for solar micro grid project

IUB has been awarded a BDT 4.2 million grant from USAID's Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy (BADGE) project, managed by Tetra Tech ES, Inc. The grant will support IUB's Green Energy Research Center (GERC) and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) in implementing a 15kW Grid Interactive Solar Micro Grid for integrated farming in rural Bangladesh.

Running from May 2024 to October 2025, the project aims to boost agricultural productivity while promoting sustainable energy solutions in rural areas. Former Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, highlighted the importance of this initiative in addressing Bangladesh's energy needs through innovative technology. Prof. Khosru Mohammad Salim, PhD, Director of GERC, emphasized the project's alignment with the nation's agricultural and environmental priorities. This partnership reflects IUB's commitment to advancing green technology and contributing to the country's sustainable development efforts. •

Workshop promotes biodiversity & conservation in Cox's Bazar



School students take part in an activity during a workshop on biodiversity and conservation in Cox's Bazar on June 6, 2024

IUB's Department of Environmental Science and Management and the Outreach, Extension, and Continuing Education (OECE) unit of the Pro Vice Chancellor's Office hosted a workshop on biodiversity and conservation for underprivileged youth in Cox's Bazar on June 6, 2024. The event educated 45 students from Cox's Bazar International School on the local ecosystem, diverse wildlife and eco-tourism. The workshop included interactive sessions on sustainable tourism and biodiversity. Students actively participated in identifying local species and discussing conservation challenges. The event aimed to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices among the younger generation in Bangladesh's major aquaculture region. •

First undergraduate Law students research conference held at IUB



The inaugural "IUB Undergraduate Law Students Research Conference 2024," held on May 24-25, brought together 40 law students from 15 universities. Organized by IUB's Department of Law, the event focused on themes such as AI, consumer rights, cybercrime, and international refugee law. The two-day event featured keynote speeches by prominent legal scholars and saw participants present research on various contemporary legal issues. Six students received awards for their outstanding presentations. •

Pioneering Financial Trading Lab inaugurated

IUB officially opened Bangladesh's first Financial Trading Lab on June 10, 2024, in partnership with LankaBangla Securities Limited. The lab provides students with hands-on experience in stock market operations, allowing them to analyze market trends and execute real-time transactions under expert supervision. The lab will enhance students' skills in finance, data science, and artificial intelligence, preparing them to navigate the complexities of the financial market with industry-standard tools and real-time simulations. •

Innovation and Startup Showcase looks to bridge industry-academia gap



Students demonstrate the functioning of a prototype during the Innovation and Startup Showcase program on June 26, 2024

On June 26, 2024, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organized the "Innovation and Startup Showcase" under the Industry Immersion Program (IIP) to highlight student-led projects and entrepreneurial ideas. The event featured innovative work from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), with industry leaders and members of IUB's Industry Advisory Panel evaluating the projects. Top-performing teams were recognized with awards. The IIP aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by fostering entrepreneurship and preparing students for IUB's upcoming Student Co-op Program. IUB plans to extend the showcase to other departments, promoting a holistic approach to innovation. •

IUB and ICMAB sign MoU to enhance academic collaboration



Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on June 25, 2024, promoting collaboration between the institutions. The agreement offers IUB students course exemptions and scholarships for the CMA program, along with future joint initiatives.

This collaboration strengthens opportunities for students in accounting and finance, ensuring they are well-prepared for professional advancements in these fields. Faculty from IUB and representatives from ICMAB attended the signing ceremony. •

SBE Fest highlights private universities' role in development

IUB's School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE) held a discussion on the role of private universities in achieving sustainable development during SBE Fest 2024, emphasizing the need for smart citizens and education. Industry and academic leaders, including Vice Chancellors from different universities, discussed the evolving role of private universities in shaping future job markets and addressing the skills gap in Bangladesh. The event featured competitions and a photography exhibition, with an interdepartmental debate competition highlighting sustainability vs. profitability in business. The two-day fest concluded with the signing of an MoU between IUB and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB). •

School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and School of Law welcome new faculty members

School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



Nagesh Rao, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of English and Modern Languages



Muhammad Zakaria, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of English and Modern Languages



Xingkui Wang, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of English and Modern Languages



Kanij Fatema
Lecturer B
Department of English and Modern Languages



Zoha Rahman, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Media and Communication



Md. Mohiul Islam, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Media and Communication



Imran Firdaus, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Media and Communication



Dilshad Hossain Dodul
Lecturer A
Department of Media and Communication

School of Law



Mohammad Nazmuzzaman Bhuian, PhD
Professor and Dean
School of Law



Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, PhD
Professor and Head
Department of Law



Md. Monjur Hasan, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Law



Md. Toriqul Islam, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Law



Sharin Shajahan, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Law



Rehnuma Binte Mamun
Lecturer A
Department of Law



Maimuna Syed Ahmed
Lecturer B
Department of Law



Prof. Md Mamun Habib launches research on labor and sustainable growth

Prof. Md. Mamun Habib, PhD, Head of the Department of General Management, unveiled a research report titled "Development of Labor Conditions in Bangladesh for Sustainable Growth." Sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham), the study highlights labor conditions, aligning them with international standards.

It explores challenges such as wage discrepancies, union complexities, and government roles. Recommendations include labor reform, wage adjustments, and establishing a Ministry of Human Resource Development. Presented at AmCham's May Luncheon, the report emphasizes the need for labor alignment with global standards to ensure sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh. •



Obydullah Al Marjuk's study highlights low legal recourse in cybercrime cases

A study led by Obydullah Al Marjuk, Senior Lecturer of Social Sciences and Humanities at IUB, reveals that only 12% of cybercrime victims in Bangladesh seek legal action, while 88% remain silent. Presented at the Cyber Crime Awareness Foundation (CCAF) event, the report titled "Cybercrime Trends in Bangladesh 2024" shows that 87.50% of victims who report to law enforcement do not see a positive outcome.

Most victims are aged 18-30, with 59% being women. The report urges increased public awareness and recommends policy updates, technological innovations, and government investment to address the rising trend of cybercrime. •



Prof. Md Abdul Awal Khan wins emerging Scholar Award in France

Md Abdul Awal Khan, PhD, Professor of Law and Director of IUB's Institutional Quality Assurance Cell, received the prestigious Emerging Scholar Award at the 16th International Conference on Climate Change in Pau, France. His paper, "Ensuring Justice in Climate Legacy of Bangladesh — an Evaluation," earned recognition for its outstanding contribution to climate justice research.

Prof. Khan chaired several sessions and engaged in dialogues with global experts on climate impacts. He highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate change, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to global climate solutions through his research. •

Career and Networking Day 2024 attracts over 100 companies



IUB Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. Didar A Husain speaks with the representatives of a company at a stall during the Career and Networking Day 2024 on June 12, 2024

IUB hosted its annual Career and Networking Day on June 12, 2024, organized by the Career Guidance Placement and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR) office. More than 100 companies, including top conglomerates, financial institutions, tech firms, NGOs, media outlets, and startups, participated. The theme, "Friendraising," emphasized networking between students and potential employers. Students engaged with company representatives, submitted resumes, and explored industry opportunities. During the opening ceremony, the IUB Board of Trustees Chairman highlighted the importance of aligning career choices with passion and fostering employability through skills beyond academics. The event aimed to bridge the gap between academic training and professional readiness, offering students vital networking opportunities and insights into industry dynamics. IUB alumni and industry leaders encouraged students to build their value as human capital and emphasized the significance of networking in career development.•

IUB collaborates with DU for DSIC 2024



IUB partnered with Dhaka University's Department of Development Studies for the inaugural "1st Development Studies International Conference, Dhaka (DSIC 2024)" held on May 6, 2024. Themed "Navigating Development Pathways in Evolving Global Order," the event brought together prominent academics and experts. IUB sponsored the session "Pathways to Resilient Future," chaired by Dr. Imtiaz Hussain from IUB, which focused on development challenges and resilience. IUB faculty presented groundbreaking research, including studies on Dhaka's urban resilience, gendered violence in the garment sector, and public transport sustainability. The session encouraged interactive discussions and received valuable feedback from academic and professional participants, enhancing the research outcomes. The collaboration underscored the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue in addressing global development challenges and highlighted the impact of academia-industry partnerships in shaping sustainable futures. •

IUB community engages in global academic and research exchanges



Rownak Hasan Tamim

The IUB community has been actively engaging in international collaborations, student exchange programs, and faculty participation in global academic events throughout 2024.

Student exchange programs and research

Rownak Hasan Tamim, a Marketing major at IUB, will join the Erasmus+ Student Exchange Program at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, from October 2024 to February 2025. He will study Human Resource Management, Marketing Research, and other business courses. While covering his personal expenses, his tuition fees will be waived.

Similarly, Siam Tahsin Bhuiyan, a Computer Science & Engineering student, is participating in a year-long research exchange at the University of Hyogo, Japan, beginning in September 2024. Siam's research, supported by the HUMAP Scholarship, will focus on AI-driven medical image analysis, aiming to improve fracture detection in pelvic X-rays, potentially benefiting healthcare innovation globally.

Madoka Sasada, an International Politics student from Aoyama



Siam Tahsin Bhuiyan



Madoka Sasada

Gakuin University, Japan, began a research internship at IUB in March 2024. She is studying "Community Insurance for Handicrafts" under IUB's Department of Global Studies and Governance, collaborating with an NGO in Rajshahi. Madoka's work bridges academic research with local community development efforts.

Faculty engagement and international recognition

Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain, Associate Professor of the Department of Global Studies and Governance at IUB, went to the USA to participate in



Md. Shanawez Hossain, PhD

the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). Running from September 21 to October 12, 2024, the program brings together global leaders in Washington, D.C., to discuss U.S. foreign policy, climate change, and economic development. Dr. Hossain will represent IUB as the only participant from a private university in Bangladesh, showcasing IUB's growing recognition on the global academic stage.

In July 2024, Prof. Md. Abdur Razzak, PhD, Director of IUB's Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), participated in the 8th International Faculty Development Program (IFDP) hosted by Chandigarh University, India. His presentation on rubrics development for engineering projects contributed to discussions with over 110 experts from around the world, further strengthening IUB's presence in global academic discourse.

Further expanding IUB's global connections, Professor Md. Abdul Awal Khan, PhD, Professor of Law and Additional Director of IQAC, visited the National University of Singapore in June 2024 to discuss academic partnerships, reflecting IUB's efforts to establish a strong global network for academic excellence.

Workshops and Seminars on Global Issues

IUB faculty and staff have also participated in events addressing critical global challenges. Hla Thoaiching Marma, Administrative Officer at IUB's Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence, represented the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) perspective at a climate security workshop in Indonesia. Held from May 5-10, 2024, and sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and East-West Center, the workshop was



Dr. Bimal Regmi



Prof. Md. Abdur Razzak, PhD

hosted by the Forest and Society Research Group at Hasanuddin University, Indonesia.

In July 2024, the Department of Environmental Science and Management at IUB organized a seminar titled "Mountains and Beyond: Changing Climate and Finding Solutions." The event featured Dr. Bimal Regmi from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), focusing on climate change's impact on mountainous regions and possible mitigation strategies.

Additionally, IUB's Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the University of Calgary and Academics Without Borders, hosted a seven-day workshop in June 2024 on "Building Capacity for Knowledge Synthesis," led by Dr. Tanvir Turin Chowdhury. This workshop enhanced the capacity of participants in synthesizing knowledge across various disciplines, contributing to IUB's role in addressing global challenges. •

Enan triumphs in Toastmasters Table Topic contest



Enan Israq, a Management Information Systems (MIS) student at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), emerged victorious in the District 124 Table Topic Speech Contest 2024 hosted by Toastmasters International.

Competing in the Division B round, Enan secured the top spot, showcasing his adeptness in impromptu speaking. His win qualifies him for the District 124 finals, scheduled for May 2024 in Kolkata, India.

Enan, also a member of IUB's ARROWS Program, has an impressive track record of achievements, including victories in the Humorous Speech Contest and recognition as the Outstanding Delegate at the House of Youth Dialogue Online Model United Nations Nepal. His leadership roles at IUB, such as President of the BNMPC Business Club and Vice President of the International Affairs Forum (IAF), further highlight his drive for personal growth.

The IUB Toastmasters Club, known for nurturing communication and leadership skills, has been instrumental in Enan's success, supporting his journey through practice sessions and peer mentorship. •

IUB team secures 1st runner-up at national idea competition



Team "Three Body Problem" from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) claimed the 1st Runner-up position at the "Creaventure 3.0 National Idea Pitching" competition, hosted by Dhaka University Entrepreneurship Development Club (DUEDC) in May 2024. The team, comprising Nahian Islam Asif, Sapnil Sarker Pollob, and Zubair Ahmed Khan from IUB's Department of Finance, presented their start-up "I Eco," which aims to reduce plastic pollution using Jute Biopolymer, an innovation by renowned scientist Dr. Mubarak Ahmed Khan.

Competing against 150 teams, "Three Body Problem" advanced through multiple rounds, impressing judges with their eco-friendly solution. The competition, which concluded at Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Gulshan, provided valuable industry insights and networking opportunities.

Led by Nahian, the team credited their success to the guidance of IUB faculty and collaboration with Dr. Mubarak. Their performance underscored the innovative spirit nurtured within IUB's entrepreneurial community. •

IUB graduates secure fully funded PhDs in the USA



Rifat Bin Sultan

Three IUB graduates have recently earned fully funded PhD scholarships at prestigious universities in the United States, marking significant milestones in their academic journeys, and highlighting the strength of IUB's academic programs in preparing students for global opportunities.

Rifat Bin Sultan, a B.Sc. graduate in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), began his PhD at the University of California, Davis in Fall 2024. It is uncommon for B.Sc. graduates to secure direct funding for PhD programs, making this achievement particularly notable. Rifat will conduct research on photoconductors and optical communications with the Integrated Nanodevices and Nanosystems Research Group. His passion for physics and engineering, along with his work at IUB's Photonic Simulation Laboratory (IUBPSL), laid the foundation for this opportunity. Rifat's involvement in research projects during his undergraduate studies at IUB played a crucial role in his selection for this competitive PhD program, further cementing his academic credentials.

Mohammad Tarequl Islam, an Economics B.Sc. graduate of IUB, also started his PhD at Texas Tech University this Fall, focusing on the impact of economic hardship on parenting practices. Like Rifat, Tarequl's direct transition from a B.Sc. to a fully funded PhD is rare. His research aims to highlight how early childhood development investment can generate long-term economic benefits. Tarequl, who completed his B.Sc. in 2022, had previously demonstrated



Mohammad Tarequl Islam



Mustafa Mohammad Shaky

strong academic potential during his undergraduate studies. He had published several papers on microeconomic issues, making him a standout candidate for the program.

Mustafa Mohammad Shaky, an EEE M.Sc. graduate, is set to start his PhD at the University of Florida, focusing on the cybersecurity of connected and autonomous vehicle applications. His master's thesis at IUBPSL, which explored enhancing the efficiency of solar cells through nanostructures, earned him recognition in the international academic community. His work has been presented at international conferences, and he is keen on developing innovative cybersecurity solutions for emerging transportation technologies. •

CGP&AR hosts alumni networking event



The Office of Career Guidance, Placement and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR) at IUB organized a vibrant alumni networking event on May 17, 2024, at Six Seasons Hotel in Dhaka. Over 200 senior alumni and recent graduates participated, fostering new connections and rekindling old ones. Sharmeen Islam, Head of CGP&AR, welcomed the attendees, expressing appreciation for the alumni's continued support. Professor Mohammed Anwer, PhD, shared nostalgic stories from IUB's early days, while Muhammad Hossam Haider Chowdhury, the university Librarian, updated the alumni on the advanced library facilities. Special guests included Muntasir Hossain and Tanveer Hussain Probal, both from the 1993 batch, who reminisced about their student days. The event featured a cultural program, gifts for registered participants, and concluded with dinner. Alumni ID cards were also distributed, encouraging further engagement with the university community. •

Physics major James completes CERN internship

IUB physics major James Peter Gomes participated in the CERN Summer Student Program 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

He was the only Bangladeshi selected from 10,500 global applicants for the fully funded, eight-week internship at CERN, the world-renowned particle physics research center.

During his time, James worked with the LHCb Detector Group, focusing on CP violation in particle physics, and contributed to enhancing simulation frameworks. The program covered all expenses, including travel, health insurance, and a stipend, and provided access to cutting-edge facilities.



James credited his prior experience with specialized tools like ROOT and GEANT4, as well as mentorship from his IUB supervisor, Arshad Momen, PhD, for this opportunity. •

Squash players dominate national and inter-university tournaments



IUB has made notable strides in squash, achieving success in national and inter-university competitions in 2024. At the 4th Bangladesh National Squash Championship 2024, held in Dhaka from April 23-27, IUB's Md. Raihan and Marjan Akter Monika secured the Champion and Runner-up titles in the Male Open (University) and Female Open categories, respectively.

Raihan, a first-semester Management Information Systems student from Khulna, won the male category with a 3-0 victory against Rafi Chowdhury from Chittagong University, overcoming players from the Bangladesh Army and other universities. Marjan, originally from Cumilla and ranked second nationally, earned the runner-up spot after a strong performance in the female category.

The championship, featuring 190 players from 26 clubs, concluded with a prize-giving ceremony attended by prominent officials, including the Ministers for Civil Aviation and Tourism and Youth and Sports. Scholarships and sports equipment were also distributed to female players and underprivileged participants.

Following this achievement, IUB players excelled again at the "1st Inter University Squash Tournament 2024," held in Dhaka on May 10-11. Marjan clinched the female category title, while her teammate, Joti Rani Roy, secured the runner-up spot. In the male category, Raihan finished as runner-up. IUB's Anika Tabassum Kotha from the Pharmacy department also performed well, finishing 5th. The event, organized by the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation, emphasized the growing talent in university squash.

IUB's commitment to squash is evident through the inauguration of an international-standard squash court in January 2024, the only one at a Bangladeshi university. The institution has awarded full sports scholarships to professional players, preparing them for future competitions, including the 2028 Olympic Games. The university has hosted and excelled in multiple national squash tournaments in 2024, further solidifying its role in advancing squash in Bangladesh. •



IUB teams shine in sports tournaments



The team of students and alumni who won the runners-up title in the Manchester City Corporate Cup 2024 in May-June 2024

IUB students have recently celebrated a series of impressive sports achievements across various disciplines.

Badminton

The IUB Badminton Team triumphed in the Men's Doubles category at the Arfa Karim Memorial Badminton Tournament held on May 24-25, 2024, at the Dhali Fitness Center in Dhaka. The tournament, organized by the Bangladesh Badminton Federation and the Pakistan High Commission, featured 32 teams from organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN bodies, and educational institutions. Tanin Rahman Tushar, a student majoring in International Business, and Tipu Sultan, a Human Resource Management major, represented IUB, securing the championship title. The event culminated in a prize-giving ceremony attended by Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen.

Football

IUB students and alumni showcased their football skills in the prestigious Manchester City Corporate Cup 2024, held at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, UK, from May 30 to June 1, 2024. Representing Bando Design Limited, a team consisting of Intishar Mostafa Chowdhury, a Media and Communication master's student, and alumni Foyez Ahmed Peash and Rakibul Jony, the IUB contingent secured a runners-up finish in the five-a-side tournament. Intishar played a key role as a forward,



Members of the IUB badminton team that triumphed in the Arfa Karim Memorial Badminton Tournament in May 2024



Esports Club organized the CSE Futsal Fiesta in September 2024

scoring four goals and assisting in seven, while Foyez and Rakibul also delivered impressive performances. The Manchester City Corporate Cup attracted 32 corporate teams from various industries worldwide, making it a highly competitive event.

Kickboxing

In combat sports, IUB's Wasim Rayhan Bin Amzad, a Marketing student, clinched the championship title at an amateur kickboxing tournament organized by Kings Combat on June 7, 2024, in Dhaka. Competing in only his second national tournament, Wasim won the final match with a second-round technical knockout. His win is particularly significant given the limited number of pure kickboxing tournaments in Bangladesh. Wasim's growing recognition in the combat sports community has earned him an opportunity to train and compete in Thailand. With rigorous training at IUB and support from the local combat sports community, Wasim's future in the sport looks promising.

Basketball

IUB's basketball teams also made their mark at the 1st Dhaka North Mayor All Age Basketball Cup 2024, held from June 29 to July 5, 2024. Both the men's and women's teams secured runners-up positions in their respective categories. The men's team, featuring a talented group of players including Taifur Uddin, Ahasan Ameer Khan, and others, progressed through the tournament with victories over prominent teams such as the BKSP Alumni and Gulshan Youth Club Basketball Team, before narrowly losing the final to the Gregorian Aces. The women's team, playing in a 3x3 format, also delivered a commendable performance, winning their quarterfinals and semifinals before losing in overtime to the Beamers in the final. The tournament concluded with the Mayor of Dhaka North, Mr. Md. Atiqul Islam, awarding prizes to the winners.

These achievements highlight IUB's growing presence in national and international sports, showcasing the university's commitment to nurturing student talent across diverse disciplines. •



Wasim Rayhan Bin Amzad



Member of the IUB male and female basketball teams pose for a photograph at the Dhaka North Mayor All Age Basketball Cup 2024, held in June-July, 2024

Amit makes massive strides in the national chess circuit



Amit Bikram Roy, a Computer Science and Engineering student at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and a member of the IUB ARROWS Program, has made remarkable progress in the chess arena.

Amit secured 3rd place in the National Preliminary Chess Championship 2024, qualifying him for the National B Championship. His performance has elevated his classical chess rating to over 2,050, placing him among Bangladesh's top 30 players.

In the National B Chess Championship, where he competed against some of the country's finest emerging chess players, Amit finished 11th despite a challenging start. His resilience in defeating several experienced players qualified him for the prestigious National A Championship.

In the National A Championship, he competed against the country's top grandmasters. A top-six finish in National A would have enabled him to represent Bangladesh at the Chess Olympiad in Hungary later in the year – a chance he missed by a whisker.

Amit, who also serves as the President of the IUB Chess Club, has steadily improved his ranking, increasing his rating by 283 points in seven months. He attributes his success to hard work, guidance from Grandmaster Niaz Murshed, and support from IUB's Division of Student Activities and fellow Chess Club members.



He has previously earned recognition in several tournaments, including the Chess Track Standard Chess Tournament 2024 and the Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Championship. Reflecting on his performance, Amit acknowledged his need for more experience in top-level competitions and expressed his goal of representing Bangladesh at international events.

Alongside his individual success, Amit has contributed to the triumphs of IUB's chess team, IUB Mittens. The team secured 3rd place in the Collegiate Chess League Spring 2024, competing against over 280 universities globally. IUB's chess players have earned victories against universities such as Brown and Yale. In August 2024, Amit, along with teammate Justin Matthias, won the Summer Season Collegiate League, defeating Masaryk University in the final.

With the mentorship of Grandmaster Niaz Murshed, Amit continues to make strides toward international recognition, setting his sights on competing in the Chess Olympiad. His recent accomplishments have positioned him as a rising talent in Bangladesh's chess community. •

TechFest Spring 2024 showcases innovation



IUB's Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) held its TechFest Spring 2024 on April 17, showcasing 226 student-led projects. Innovations in robotics, machine learning, AI, IoT, and cloud computing were displayed by 1,690 participants. Industry leaders, including Chaldal.com's COO and BRAC IT's advisor, praised the projects. The event highlighted collaboration between academia and industry for project commercialization. •

Panoramic lift and lecture gallery inaugurated

On July 1, 2024, the new panoramic lift and a modern Lecture Gallery on the 8th floor of the DMK Building were inaugurated. The 24-passenger lift enhances accessibility for students, faculty, and visitors. The 2,690 square-foot Lecture Gallery accommodates 144 people and features cutting-edge technology, including an 18-foot LED display. IUB Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. Didar A Husain and other senior officials attended the event, with a presentation by Hatch Ltd. on the state-of-the-art facilities. •

Three students appointed Walton DigiTech Ambassadors



IUB students Anika Tabasum, S M Golam Rabbi, and Syeda Manzila Hossain were selected as Campus Ambassadors for Walton DigiTech.

Over a three-month period, they will strengthen ties between Walton DigiTech and IUB through workshops and collaborative meetings. Anika, a Computer Science student, along with Rabbi from Marketing and Manzila from Environmental Science, will lead these efforts. The competitive selection process included interviews, written exams, and a business case presentation. •



IUB bids farewell to Librarian Dr. M. Hossam Haider Chowdhury

IUB honored Dr. M. Hossam Haider Chowdhury, who retired after a distinguished 31-year tenure as the university's Librarian, during a farewell program on June 27, 2024. Dr. Chowdhury began his journey as the IUB Librarian on July 3, 1993 as one of the university's first employees. His last working day at IUB was June 30, 2024.

The farewell event was held at the Faculty and Management Lounge on the campus. Former Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD; former Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD; Treasurer Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider; and a number of faculty members, staff and employees shared their experience of working with Dr. Chowdhury. •

Prof. Dr. Raju appointed member of the newly formed Bangladesh Film Certification Board



Prof. Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, Head of the Department of Media and Communication at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), has been appointed as a member of the newly formed Bangladesh Film Certification Board.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a gazette notification on September 22, 2024 revealing the new 15-member certification board committee under the Bangladesh Film Certification Act 2023. This, in effect, abolished the previous film censor board.

Dr. Raju, an independent filmmaker and renowned film researcher, is one of the eight expert members on the 15-member board. The other expert members are Kazi Hayat, Khijir Hayat Khan, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Tasmiah Afrin Mou, Rafiqul Anowar Russell, Zahid Hossain, and Iqbal Ehsanul Kabir. Six out of the other seven members of the board are government officials serving in ex-officio capacities.

The newly formed certification board is tasked with evaluating films (produced at home and imported from abroad) for different audiences, certifying them with appropriate ratings (using symbols such as U, G, PG, M, 18+, etc.). It ensures artistic integrity by certifying films without altering their content, while guiding cinema screening times accordingly.

Dr. Raju, who is also the Director of the King Sejong Institute at IUB, is the author of the widely acclaimed Routledge publication Bangladesh Cinema and National Identity, the first ever research-based monograph on the Bangladeshi film industry. In 2004, he became the first Bangladeshi to earn a PhD in film studies.

He previously chaired the Netpac jury for the Asian Film Competition at the 80th Venice International Film Festival in 2023, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2015 and 2020. He is the current Vice President of International Film Initiative of Bangladesh and a former president of the Bangladesh Short Film Forum. •

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.

Your Concerns Matter!

The well-being of IUB students, faculty and staff is our top priority.

We are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and disciplined environment.

To address your concerns and complaints, the following committees are in place:

1



Proctorial Committee

We maintain discipline within our university community and promptly address any behavioral issues that arise.

Email: proctor@iub.edu.bd

2



Gender & Sexual Harassment Committee

We handle gender-based & sexual harassment complaints & ensure a safe, supportive environment for all.

Email: safeplace@iub.edu.bd

Do not hesitate to contact the appropriate committee if you need support or assistance