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Research for a Greener Future



DOS & DON'TS OF DENGUE

1



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

2



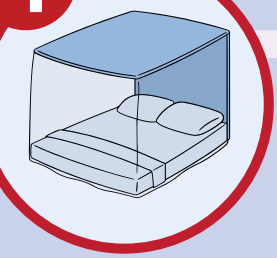
Use **mosquito repellent aerosols** during daytime to prevent mosquito bites.

3



Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.

4



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

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

Editorial

As we step into 2025, Independent University, Bangladesh continues to push the boundaries of research, innovation, and academic excellence. This edition of "Updates" captures some of the remarkable strides our faculty, students, and alumni have made in recent months.

With sustainability at the heart of global discourse, our cover story, *Research for a Greener Future*, highlights IUB's efforts in addressing environmental challenges through scientific inquiry. Our researchers are working tirelessly to create a sustainable future through renewable energy solutions and other forward-thinking initiatives. The university's contributions to astronomy, showcased in IUB's Cosmic Quest, further demonstrate our commitment to expanding knowledge beyond conventional frontiers, encouraging curiosity, and inspiring the next generation of space scientists.

This issue also celebrates achievements within the IUB community. Prof. Niaz Zaman's recognition with the Ekushey Padak 2025 is a moment of pride for us all, reflecting her contributions to literature and academia. Meanwhile, our alumni continue to make strides in global research and innovation, bringing groundbreaking ideas to international platforms, and our students are excelling in national and international competitions, proving their abilities in diverse fields.

In a rapidly evolving world, closing the gap between industry and academia has never been more critical. Bridging the Gap examines how IUB builds meaningful collaborations to prepare students for the future workforce, ensuring that our graduates possess both theoretical knowledge and practical skills that meet industry demands.

We hope this edition informs and engages, reinforcing the university's role as a center of learning, discovery, and change. •

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

Progress Through Inspired Learning



Prof. M. Tamim

It is a privilege to share my thoughts with you in this edition of Updates. Since joining IUB in December 2024, I have been deeply impressed by the institution's vibrant spirit and commitment to excellence. The sense of community, driven by the dedicated faculty, enthusiastic students, and supportive staff, has made a lasting impression on me.

What stands out most is the palpable energy on campus – an eagerness to learn, create, and contribute. I have seen students passionately engaging in activities that go beyond academics, whether it's participating in national competitions, organizing community outreach programs, or simply exploring new ideas with curiosity and determination.

I recently learned about a group of engineering students who developed an innovative project on renewable energy solutions. Hearing about their enthusiasm and vision for a greener future reminded me why universities like ours are essential for societal progress. Their commitment to creating practical, sustainable solutions embodies the spirit of innovation that defines IUB.

This spirit of innovation and social responsibility is what makes IUB special. It reflects a deep-rooted culture that balances academic excellence with a genuine concern for the world around us. I am particularly moved by the students' proactive approach to addressing real-world challenges, from environmental initiatives to technological innovations.

As I continue to get to know the university better, I look forward to being part of this dynamic environment. My hope is to nurture this spirit further by encouraging open dialogue, supporting creative endeavors, and celebrating the achievements of our community. I am eager to attend upcoming student events, meet more of you in person, and listen to your stories and ideas.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. I am excited about the journey ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to make IUB a cornerstone of learning and positive impact. •



Research for a Greener Future



From left, A.F.M. Afnan Uzzaman Sheikh, Sajid Ahmed Chowdhury and Abyaz Karim

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning-based simulations developed by three undergraduate students of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) suggest that solar panel efficiency could be increased significantly compared to the existing 15%.

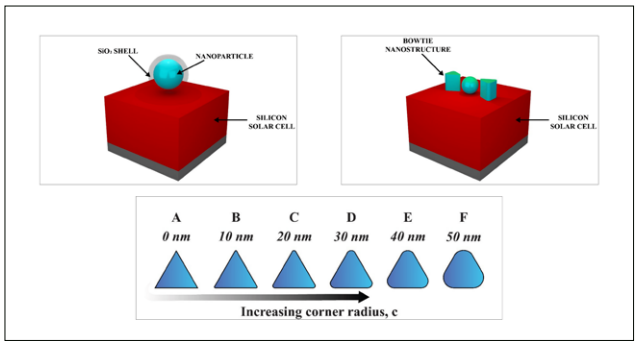
Silicon-based thin-film solar cells, widely used globally, convert only about 15% of sunlight into electricity because silicon reflects approximately 30% of incoming light. The IUB student researchers – all third-year students – demonstrated in their simulations that metal nanoparticles, such as silver, aluminum, and titanium, under the proper conditions can absorb more solar energy than silicon if arranged in specific clusters and protected from oxidation. The team consists of Abyaz Karim, A.F.M. Afnan Uzzaman Sheikh, and Sajid Ahmed Chowdhury. They are supervised by Dr. Mustafa Habib Chowdhury, Head of IUB's EEE Department and Director of the IUB Photonics Simulation Laboratory (IUBPSL), where the simulations and algorithms were developed using the state-of-the-art ANSYS-Lumerical software suite.

In 2024, the students published their research in two peer-reviewed conferences sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Their research papers are currently indexed in SCOPUS and the IEEE Xplore digital library.

> **"It's remarkable that they not only made such significant progress in 3rd year, more than a year ahead of schedule, but also published their findings in SCOPUS-indexed publications.**

"In simple terms, we are exploring ways to improve light absorption and current generation in solar cells. Currently, Bangladesh has about six million solar home panels, but they are highly inefficient, converting only 15% of sunlight into electricity. If we can increase this amount appreciably, it would significantly boost our national power generation capacity," said Abyaz Karim, a member of the team.

Compared to silicon nanoparticles, which lack free electrons, metal nanoparticles exhibit stronger plasmonic resonance due to their free electrons. These electrons collectively oscillate in response to electromagnetic waves (such as light), thus creating the conditions for increased light absorption into solar cells and thereby increased electrical current generation by the solar cells when excited by light. However, exposure to the atmosphere causes oxidation, forming an insulating oxide layer on the metal nanoparticles that reduces free electron mobility and inhibits current generation.



Different clusters and shapes of metal nanoparticles

"Our simulations show that coating metal nanoparticles with a thin glass layer prevents oxidation by blocking atmospheric elements. This allows us to design thin-film solar cell structures using plasmonic metal core-dielectric shell nanoparticles that are significantly more efficient than silicon-based films," said Sajid Ahmed Chowdhury, second member of the team.

The students further demonstrated through high-end simulations on the ANSYS-Lumerical software suite that the current generation capacity increases when metal nanoparticles with specific shapes are arranged in clusters. They explored the effectiveness of a "bow tie" formation, using two triangular nanoparticles and a circular one in the middle.

"Our second study shows that the sharpness of metal nanoparticle edges plays a crucial role in enhancing solar cell efficiency. By fine-tuning their shape, we found that rounded edges improve light absorption, boosting current generation by over 50% – a promising step toward more efficient and cost-effective thin-film solar cells," said A.F.M. Afnan Uzzaman Sheikh, the third member of the team. The team is now developing an AI and machine-learning-based algorithm to analyze a significantly larger dataset – including a wide range of nanoparticle dimensions – to identify the most efficient configurations.

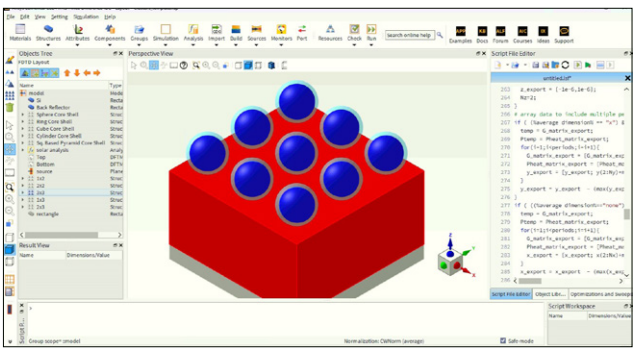
"This project was originally intended as a final-year design project, a key requirement of IEB-BAETE-accredited B.Sc. in EEE program. It's remarkable that these students not only made such significant progress in their third year – more than a year ahead of schedule – but also published their findings in SCOPUS-indexed publications," said Dr. Mustafa Habib Chowdhury, their supervisor.

"At the IUB Photonics Simulation Laboratory [IUBPSL], we invested in the advanced ANSYS-Lumerical software suite to build a research group focused on designing high-efficiency solar cells that are engineered at the nanoscale level using metal nanoparticles and other novel nanostructures and nanomaterials. This research demonstrates the impact of that investment, and we hope the global renewable energy industry embraces these innovations by our students," Dr. Chowdhury added.

Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim, a leading energy expert, said, "Solar energy is the most abundant renewable resource, and improving its efficiency is critical in the fight against global warming. This research by IUB students demonstrates how innovative solutions can emerge when young minds are given the right environment to explore. At IUB, we emphasize research-driven learning, and it is encouraging to see students engaging with real-world challenges so early in their academic journey."

IUB's B.Sc. in EEE is the only such program in Bangladesh to have received a five-year accreditation from the Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE) of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) under the latest BAETE Manual version 2.1.

With this accreditation, the program aligns with the Washington Accord, enhancing global recognition and enabling graduates to pursue international career opportunities and professional registration without additional qualifications. •



A screenshot of the ANSYS-Lumerical software suite

Mohammad Zakaria Khan elected ESTCDT Chair, Dr. Husne Ara Ali Vice Chair



Mohammad Zakaria Khan



Dr. Husne Ara Ali

IUB Trustee Mohammad Zakaria Khan has been elected as the Chairman of the Education Science Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) for a period of two years starting January 2025. Trustee Dr. Husne Ara Ali has been elected as the Vice Chairman of the trust for the same two-year period.

Mr. Khan replaces Trustee Nilufer Zafarullah, while Dr. Husne Ara Ali replaces Trustee Salma Karim. The election for the positions were held in the last week of December 2024 during which they were elected unanimously. ESTCDT was established in 1992 as a philanthropic body with a strong commitment to take Bangladesh's higher education to global standards. Under ESTCDT, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) was founded in 1993 in Dhaka and the Chittagong Independent University (CIU) in 1999.

Mohammad Zakaria Khan, born in 1950, graduated from the Department of English at the University of Dhaka in 1974. While at university, he joined his father Late Fazlur Rahman Khan's business. He now serves as Chairman and Managing Director of Commander Soap Co. Ltd. (COSCO), Goldhill Chemical Complex Ltd., Tiger Wire Products Ltd., Haque Plastic Ltd., and Sikander Industries Ltd.

Mr. Khan is also the Founder Director of NRBC Bank Ltd. and Federal Insurance Co. Ltd. He was also the founder Managing Director of Channel 9 and served for 19 years as the publisher and editor of the now-defunct national daily Bangla Bazar Patrika. His late wife, Dr. Benajir Durdana, was a Professor of English at the University of Dhaka and a Foundation Donor of IUB.

Dr. Husne Ara Ali is an accomplished academic and researcher. She is the daughter of Late National Professor Dr. Md Innas Ali, the first Rector of IUB. She holds PhD and MPhil degrees in Pharmacy from the University of Dhaka. She has been serving as a member trustee of IUB since 2008, the founding trustee of the National Professor Dr. M. Innas Ali Memorial Trust of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Founding Trustee of Rowshan Innas Ali Welfare Trust Fund, Dhaka University, and Primary Member of the Committee of Action for Research, Extension and Services (CARES), Dhaka.

Dr. Ali is an active researcher with published work in international journals and a philanthropist. An amateur artist and writer, she has held numerous art exhibitions and published 20 short pieces. Her husband Late Mr. A. H. M. Ershad Ali was a civil engineer who graduated from BUET in 1963 batch and retired as the Chief Engineer of BADC. She is also a mother of two medical specialists, Dr. Maleka Ali and Dr. Md. Asif Ali. •

Prof. M. Tamim joins Independent University, Bangladesh as Vice Chancellor



Prof. M. Tamim, distinguished professor of petroleum and mineral resources engineering, joined Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) as the Vice Chancellor on December 23, 2024.

According to a circular from the Ministry of Education dated December 17, 2024, the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor of Universities appointed Prof. Tamim as the Vice Chancellor of IUB for a four-year term.

Before joining IUB, he served as a Professor of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Prof. Tamim earned his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from BUET, completed his master's degree at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras), and obtained his Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Prof. Tamim's research interests span reservoir engineering, energy economics, regulation and planning, development and application of numerical and analytical computer models, and reservoir management.

He has also worked extensively on greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, energy efficiency improvements, and energy-related environmental solutions.

Over his career, he has supervised numerous M.Sc. students and published extensively in national and international journals.

Since 1995, Prof. Tamim has held a number of different positions related to energy policy formulation, planning, and regulation under successive governments.

He took a one-year leave from academia to manage the Power and Energy Ministry during the tenure of the caretaker government in 2008.

He also briefly served as the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University from 2019 to 2020.

Prof. Tamim is a member and the founding Chairperson of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Bangladesh Section, and a Life Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB). •

Reducing inequality requires empathy

An Interview with Mr. Didar A Husain, Chairman of the IUB Board of Trustees

32 years ago, IUB was founded with a vision. How much of that vision has been achieved?

Our founder Dr. A Majeed Khan envisioned a private university that fosters knowledge, critical thinking, and prepares students for the future. His motto for IUB – Teacheth man that which he knew not, derived from the Holy Qur'an – embodies this commitment. From the start, trustees decided that no one would profit from the university. Education should not be a business. Every financial resource is reinvested into the university to enhance academic excellence. In a world increasingly driven by technology, we must ensure that our students are prepared to compete globally. We are emphasizing fields like Data Science to help bridge that gap.

Many private universities struggle with quality. How does IUB maintain standards?

It starts with our commitment to hiring and retaining outstanding faculty members. A strong faculty leads to well-prepared graduates. We always prioritize quality over quantity, and that focus remains unwavering. Additionally, every revenue generated is reinvested into improving educational quality, rather than personal profits for the trustees.



Private universities are criticized for high tuition fees. What is IUB doing to address this?

Private universities worldwide tend to have higher costs due to the absence of government funding. However, IUB offers tuition waivers and scholarships for deserving students, especially those from outside Dhaka. Our residential facility Saima Hall provides free accommodation and education to female students from disadvantaged backgrounds. One such student recently graduated as the top achiever at the 25th Convocation.

Is IUB ready to offer PhD programs?

We welcome this move. But to make it meaningful, research must be of international quality. Without global recognition, PhD degrees will hold little value. That is why we are significantly increasing research funding, reallocating resources where necessary, and committing to a long-term strategy for strengthening our research ecosystem.

What can be done to mitigate the Industry-academia gap?

Historically, business and education have operated separately in our society. This must change. I saw in Korea how universities analyze global trends, develop solutions, and collaborate with industries. Faculty members benefit financially, industries gain valuable research, and universities establish themselves as key players in innovation.

What does the future hold for IUB?

Our dream is a campus that rivals those in the West – complete with residential halls for students and faculty, sports facilities, and green spaces. We have already acquired almost 100 bighas of land in Purbachal and plan to expand further to 150 bighas. In 5-7 years, we hope to initiate the work for establishing a modern, fully-equipped campus that will serve as a model for higher education in Bangladesh.

Any final thoughts?

Society thrives when everyone has an opportunity. We must support those who are less fortunate. That is why, during the recent 25th Convocation, we handed the graduates an envelope containing a token amount for themselves and an equal amount as empathy for an underprivileged person of his or her choice. The idea, simply said, is compassion and fellow-feeling. •

Prof. Niaz Zaman wins Ekushey Padak 2025



Professor Niaz Zaman, a distinguished educationist, author, and translator, and the Advisor to the Department of English and Modern Languages at IUB, has won the Ekushey Padak 2025 for her outstanding contributions to the field of education and literary studies.

Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor to the Government of Bangladesh, presented the Ekushey Padak 2025 to Prof. Zaman on February 20, 2025, in Dhaka.

Prof. Zaman completed her M.A. in English from University of Dhaka in 1963, followed by a 2nd M.A. from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a Ph.D. from the George Washington University in 1987. She began her teaching career at Viqarunnisa Noon School, Holy Cross College, and University of Chittagong. In 1972, she joined the Department of English at the University of Dhaka, where she taught until retirement in 2013. She joined IUB's Department of English and Modern Languages in 2006.

She has published 3 novels, 3 short story collections, and 7 children's books. Her academic contributions include *A Divided Legacy: The Partition in Selected Novels of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh*, which received multiple awards.

She also explored the textile heritage through works like *The Art of Kantha Embroidery* and *Textiles from Bengal: A Shared Legacy.*

Unfettered, her translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's Bandhon Hara, brought Bengali literature to wider audiences. Prof. Zaman edited significant anthologies, such as *1971 and After: Selected Stories* and *The Demoness: Best Bangladeshi Stories 1971–2021.*

Her achievements have been recognized with Bangla Academy Award for Translation (2016), Anannya Sahitya Puroshkar (2013), and American Alumni Association Award for Education (2017). •

Times Higher Education Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

IUB joint top private university in Bangladesh

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) achieved the joint top spot among private universities in Bangladesh in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025. IUB was placed in the 401-500 bracket globally and ranked fifth among all public and private universities in the country.

The rankings, released by THE, assess universities' contributions to interdisciplinary science across three key pillars: inputs (funding), processes (institutional support), and outputs (research quality and reputation). The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA topped the global list, followed by Stanford University, USA and the National University of Singapore.

THE's methodology incorporates 11 performance indicators, analyzing data from 157 million citations, 18 million research publications, and survey responses from over 20,000 scholars worldwide. This comprehensive approach provides a detailed understanding of universities' capabilities in fostering interdisciplinary research.

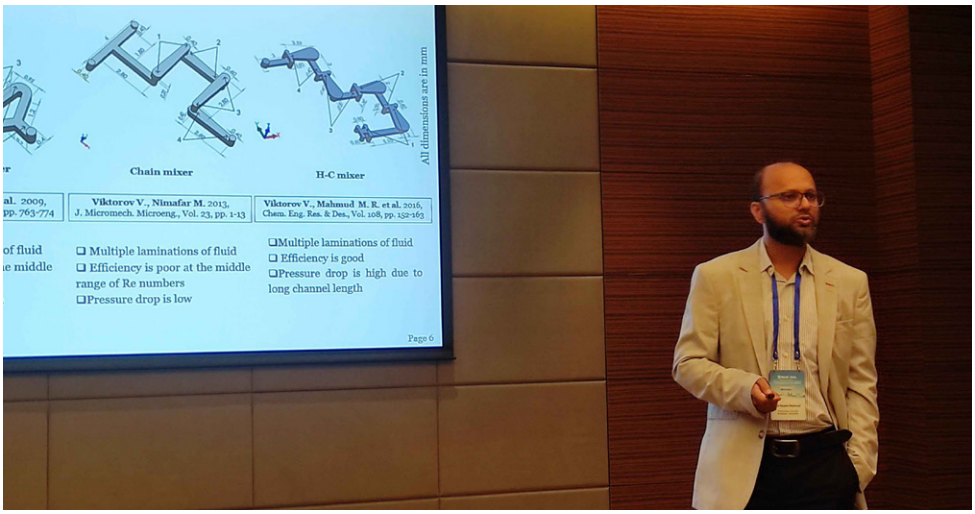
Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider, former Vice Chancellor (Acting) of IUB, expressed his pride in the university's achievement, saying, "This recognition underscores IUB's commitment to interdisciplinary research and academic excellence. It reflects the hard work of our faculty, researchers, and students in contributing to cutting-edge knowledge that addresses real-world challenges."

IUB's placement reflects its growing focus on academic excellence and interdisciplinary research, aligning with international standards. The university continues to strengthen its position as a leader in higher education in Bangladesh. •

For further details, scan the QR code:

Breakthroughs Across Disciplines

Independent University, Bangladesh continues to make significant strides in research across diverse fields, from solar energy innovations to climate change education and academic publishing. Here's a detailed overview of the latest research activities.



Dr. Md Readul Mahmud presented his research on micromixer technology at the 10th Asia Conference on Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering in China in October 2024

EEE Graduates Publish in Heliyon

Four recent graduates from IUB's Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) have published an original research paper in Heliyon, a high-impact, Scopus-indexed, Q1-ranked international journal.

The paper, titled "Particle Swarm Optimization for Performance Enhancement of Cadmium Telluride Thin-Film Solar Cells by Embedded Nano-Grating Structures with a Plasmonic Metal Coating Layer", was published on October 15, 2024. The research addresses the challenges of low light absorption and efficiency in cadmium telluride (CdTe) thin-film solar cells. By embedding nano-grating structures with a plasmonic metal coating, the team demonstrated improved opto-electronic performance.

The authors – Rifat Bin Sultan (currently pursuing a PhD at UC Davis, USA), Asif Al Suny (Adjunct Faculty, IUB), and Md. Hasibul Hossain and Tazrian Noor (Research Assistants at the IUB Photonics Simulation Laboratory) – completed this work as part of their Final Year Design Project (FYDP). Supervised by Dr. Mustafa Habib Chowdhury, Head of the EEE Department, the project was supported by IUB's funding for ANSYS-Lumerical software.

Micromixer Innovation

Dr. Md Readul Mahmud, Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Sciences at IUB, presented his research on micromixer technology at the 10th Asia Conference on Mechanical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering (MEAE 2024) in Taicang, China, from October 18-20, 2024.

His paper, "Design and Numerical Analysis of a Split-and-Recombined '(Y-H)' Micromixer", introduces an innovative design for efficient fluid mixing in microfluidic systems, critical for chemical and biomedical applications. MEAE 2024, hosted by Northwestern Polytechnical University, facilitated global knowledge exchange through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive sessions.

ACCESS4ALL

On January 8, 2025, IUB co-hosted a Progress Sharing and Platform Introduction event for the ACCESS4ALL (Adapting Climate Change Education Skills and Sustainability for Advancing Locally-Led Solutions) initiative. ACCESS4ALL, funded by Erasmus+ CBHE, focuses on developing locally-led climate education solutions through collaborative research.

During the event, researchers presented their findings on innovative approaches to climate change education. The project emphasizes co-creating short-course curricula, building capacity for Bangladeshi universities, and integrating climate challenges into higher education. The shared research highlighted strategies to equip communities with skills for local climate adaptation, including community engagement and policy integration.

IUB researchers contributed insights into the development of South-led curricula and shared case studies on effective educational interventions. Collaborative publications with Maastricht and Heidelberg universities were also announced, underscoring the global reach of the initiative.



The ACCESS4ALL project shared research progress with stakeholders during an event held on January 8, 2025 in Dhaka

Prof Dr. Mamun Habib Appointed CRC Press Editor

Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management at IUB, was been appointed Book Series Editor by CRC Press, a leading academic publisher under the Taylor & Francis Group. His series, Sustainable Industry-Focused Supply Chain Management, will publish two books annually, exploring topics like green logistics, low-carbon logistics, and the circular economy.

Prof. Habib, with over 250 research publications and 80 international keynote addresses, aims to advance sustainable practices aligned with the UN's SDGs. He emphasized the importance of contributing to industry and academia through innovative supply chain research.

Academic Publishing Insights

The Department of Accounting at IUB's School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE) organized a workshop titled "The Road to Publications: Things We Need to Know" on November 14, 2024.

Dr. Shahzad Uddin, Professor at Essex Business School and Director of the Centre for Accountability and Global Development, led the session. He provided strategies for successful journal submissions, responding to peer reviews, and identifying high-impact journals. The event drew faculty from SBE and SLASS, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on research publication challenges and opportunities.

Research Methodology Workshop

The Independent Economic Society of IUB organized a research methodology workshop on December 4, 2024. Prof. Dr. Raisul Awal Mahmood, Dean (Acting) of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship, conducted the session, focusing on equipping students with tools for reliable research.

Prof. Mahmood covered research approaches, sampling techniques, literature reviews, and ethical considerations. He demonstrated modern data analysis tools and emphasized the importance of using credible sources while avoiding unreliable information. The session provided practical insights into conducting structured, unbiased research.

These recent achievements reflect IUB's growing commitment to impactful, cross-disciplinary research with global relevance. •

Bridging the Gap

CSE on-campus recruitment

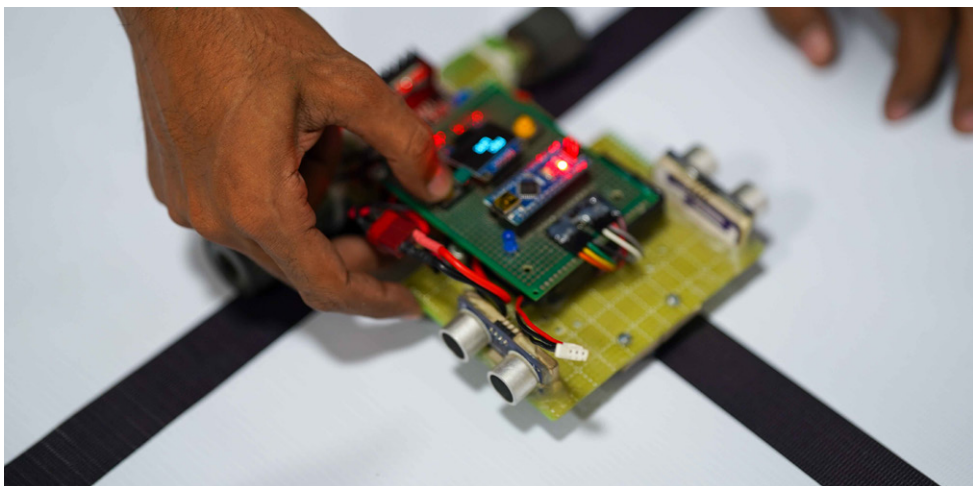
The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at IUB, along with its club JUKTI and the External Outreach Office, organized two On-Campus Internship Recruitment Programs. The first, held from September 23 to 26, 2024, connected 51 students with nine top IT companies. The second, from January 13 to 16, 2025, involved 117 final-year students and 11 leading firms. Participants underwent rigorous training in technical and soft skills before presenting themselves for roles like game, web, mobile app developers, and data analysts. Employers praised the students' preparedness, while many participants secured valuable internship opportunities with prospects for full-time employment.



Recruiters interview a student during the CSE's On-Campus Internship Recruitment Program in September 2024

EEE Innovation Fest 2024

On October 16, 2024, the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) hosted the EEE Innovation Fest 2024, bringing together professionals, students, and academics from across IUB. Organized by various IEEE student chapters, the event showcased cutting-edge projects and research in electrical and electronic engineering. More than ten departments from five schools at IUB participated in the event, which featured project exhibitions, competitions, and interactive sessions with industry experts. Grameenphone Ltd.'s ESG Director, Farhana Islam Teresa, attended as the Chief Guest, alongside IUB's leadership and alumni. The fest highlighted the importance of collaborative innovation in addressing real-world technical challenges.



An innovative device displayed at the EEE Innovation Fest 2024 on October 16, 2024

Career Seminar on Healthcare Tech

The Office of Career Guidance, Placement, and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR) partnered with the Independent HR Society (IHRS) to host a seminar titled "Hiring Hacks: Your Path to Augmedix" on November 25, 2024.

The event attracted 253 students and alumni interested in healthcare technology. Representatives from Augmedix Bangladesh discussed AI-driven

solutions for healthcare workflows and shared recruitment insights. Students engaged in interactive Q&A sessions and participated in a recruitment exam, with 98 individuals taking the test. The seminar underscored IUB's commitment to aligning educational outcomes with industry requirements.

Seminar on Management Accounting Education

To emphasize the relevance of professional management accounting education, the Department of Accounting and the Independent Accounting Association (IAA) hosted a seminar on December 12, 2024.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB). Distinguished guests from ICMAB shared insights on the role of management accounting in corporate decision-making. The event followed an MoU between IUB and ICMAB, showcasing the university's proactive approach to industry engagement in business education.

Training on Tally.ERP

On December 19, 2024, the Department of Accounting and IAA organized training sessions on Tally.ERP software, a widely-used accounting application. The sessions, which covered ledger management, transaction recording, and report generation, was led by Syed Ariful Huda, DGM and Head of Finance and Accounts at System Engineering Ltd. Faculty members and industry professionals attended the event, emphasizing the importance of practical skills for accounting graduates. Participants learned to navigate the software's interface, create company profiles, and generate financial reports. The interactive format allowed attendees to apply the knowledge in real-time scenarios and receive feedback from the trainer.

TEDxIUB

On December 19, 2024, IUB hosted its first-ever TEDx event in collaboration with the Department of General Management and IMEC. The event brought together leaders from diverse industries to share innovative ideas with the IUB community. Speakers included professionals from Airwork AI, CholPori, Mastercard Bangladesh, and Aroggya, along with academics and creative entrepreneurs.



On December 19, 2024, IUB hosted its first-ever TEDx event in collaboration with the Department of General Management and IMEC

The event fostered a culture of interdisciplinary learning, highlighting the importance of intellectual dialogue in driving societal progress. Performances by a magician and a musical band added variety to the event, making it both educational and entertaining. Attendees had the opportunity to network with speakers and learn about potential career paths.

Strategies for Graduate Readiness

The Office of Career Guidance, Placement, and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR) organized a roundtable on industry-academia collaboration on 17 October 2024. The event, held at the Faculty and Management Lounge, brought together representatives from seven leading companies, along with faculty members from IUB's School of Engineering, Technology, and Sciences (SETS). Students from two clubs – the IEEE IUB Student Branch and JUKTI – Club of CSE – also participated in the discussion, facilitating a dynamic exchange of ideas between students, industry professionals, and academia. •

Faculty members lead in international collaborations



Professor Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman of the Department of English and Modern Languages delivered a keynote lecture titled "The Third Gender: From Mythological Boon to Dystopian Bane of the Hijra Community" at an international conference titled "Third Gender: Voices and Challenges," organized on December 16, 2024, by Memari College, the University of Burdwan, in West Bengal, India.

On November 7, 2024, Prof. Ahsanuzzaman presented a paper titled "The Shakespeare Bangladesh Owns" at a three-day international conference held at the University of Birmingham, UK, from November 7 to 9, 2024. The conference, conducted in a hybrid mode and themed "Translating Shakespeare between the East and the West," was organized by the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham.



On December 9, 2024, **Prof. Dr. Md Mamun Habib,** Head of the Department of General Management, attended the 3rd Qatar Conference on Supply Chain Management (SCMC) as a distinguished speaker. He delivered a lecture on "Technology-Driven Agile Supply Chain Management: A Global Perspective."

In November 2024, five PhD scholars graduated at the 23rd Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), Malaysia under the supervision of Prof. Habib. The event took place on November 30, 2024, at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Nabila Kamal Promy, Lecturer in the Department of Human Resource Management, attended the Academic Symposium on Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Education from December 2-4, 2024, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Organized by the Center for Evaluation of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association and the Consortium of Institutions on M&E Education in the Asia Pacific, the three-day symposium focused on advancing M&E education across the region. Nabila, who co-authored a book chapter on evaluation practices in Bangladesh, was



invited to participate in the symposium due to her contributions to the field.

The **Department of Public Health** organized a workshop titled "Knowledge Synthesis: A Workshop on Executing Systematic Reviews" on November 29, 2024. It featured Dr. Tanvir Turin Chowdhury, Associate Professor and CPD Director at the Cumming School of Medicine, University



of Calgary, Canada, as the keynote speaker.

He delivered an engaging session, blending theoretical insights with hands-on strategies for executing systematic reviews.

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) conducted a peer exchange visit with Swedish universities from October 14 to October 19, 2024, as part of the CAP-RES project



funded by the Swedish Embassy. This initiative, led by CAP-RES Principal Investigator **Professor Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman,** Head of IUB's Department of Environmental Science and Management and the focal for ICCCAD, focused on enhancing partnerships for climate adaptation and resilience between ICCCAD, IUB, and Swedish institutions.

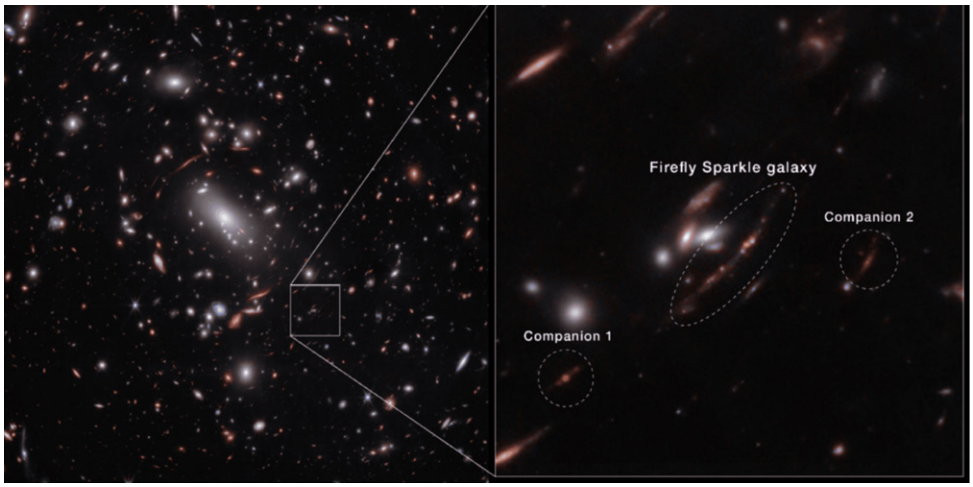
IUB launched an online certificate course, "Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP without Going to COP", from November 11-22, 2024, during COP29. Organized by OECE, ICCCAD, and DESM, with support from the Swedish Embassy, the course attracted 50+ participants from 15 countries. It covered key climate issues like Loss and Damage, Climate Finance, and Adaptation through self-paced modules and six expert-led sessions. Facilitators discussed climate resilience, misinformation strategies, and the cryosphere's impact. Participants will join follow-up webinars in 2025, culminating in a certificate upon submitting a reflective essay. •

CORRECTION

In a photo caption on page 13 of the 191st issue of Updates, a member of the Green Planet Club was mistakenly identified as a member of the Environmental Trailblazers. We sincerely apologize for this oversight.

IUB's Cosmic Quest: Milestones in Astronomy Research

IUB made significant strides in the field of astronomy through its proposed Center for Astronomy, Space Science, and Astrophysics (CASSA). From publishing groundbreaking research in *Nature* to hosting engaging public outreach exhibitions and research seminars, IUB has emerged as a hub for astrophysical exploration in Bangladesh. Here is a chronological overview of the university's key astronomy-related activities.



The distant galaxy Firefly Sparkle (approx. 30 billion light years) is gravitationally lensed by a cluster of galaxies in the foreground (approx. 20 billion light years), as seen by JWST. Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI, Chris Willott (National Research Council Canada), Lamiya Mowla (Wellesley College), Kartheik Iyer (Columbia University)

Durbin Exhibition

On October 31, 2024, IUB hosted the inaugural Durbin Exhibition as part of Astronomy Night 8. The event showcased 37 images of celestial objects, arranged according to their distance from the Earth. The photographs, captured by national volunteers over 18 months, ranged from nearby planets to galaxies 60 million light-years away.

The event featured two Equinox Unistellar telescopes – advanced smart telescopes suitable for astronomy education and outreach – gifted to IUB by the Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Toronto. The top prize for the best image went to Md Shahadat Hossain Shahal, a Computer Science and Engineering major pursuing a minor in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

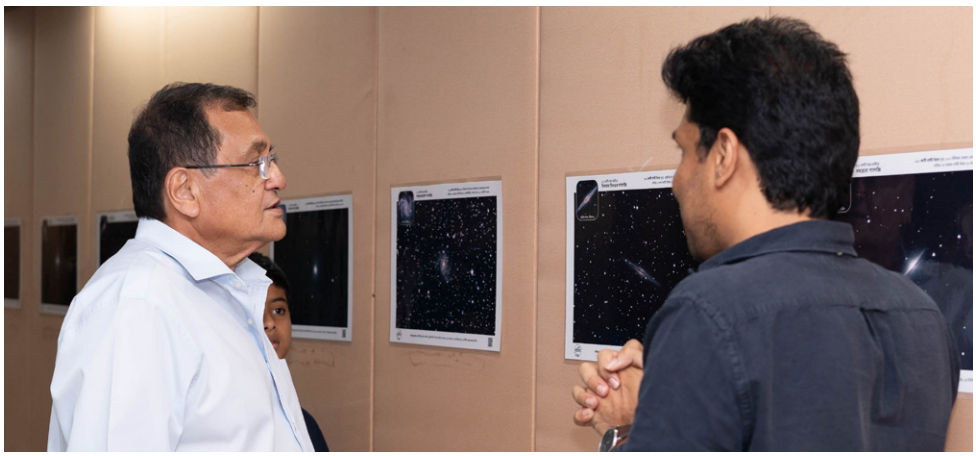
Special Astronomy Night for Trustees

On November 3, 2024, Durbin IUB organized an exclusive Astronomy Night for the Trustees and their families. The event included a presentation by Dr. Asad on IUB's astronomy initiatives, followed by stargazing using smart telescopes.

Despite partial cloud cover, attendees observed celestial objects like the Ring Nebula and the Pleiades cluster. Trustees commended the astronomy team's dedication, while Acting Dean of SETS, Dr. Habib Bin Muzaffar, pledged continued support for the program's growth.

Lamiya Mowla publishes in *Nature*

On December 13, 2024, *Nature* published a research paper co-authored by Dr. Lamiya Mowla, an Assistant Professor at Wellesley College, USA, and an associate member of IUB's proposed CASSA. The paper details the discovery of "Firefly Sparkle," a galaxy that formed approximately 600 million



Durbin IUB hosted a special Astronomy Night for the members of the IUB Board of Trustees and their families on November 3, 2024

years after the Big Bang – when the universe was less than 5% of its current age.

Dr. Mowla and her international team utilized data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and gravitational lensing to identify the galaxy and its companion galaxies, "Firefly-Best Friend" and "Firefly-New Best Friend." The magnification of light by up to 26 times revealed 10 compact star clusters within "Firefly Sparkle."

"Light from 'Firefly Sparkle' took 13.2 billion years to reach us," said Dr. Mowla. "If we could observe it as it is today, it would likely resemble the Milky Way."

Dr. Khan Muhammad Bin Asad, Assistant Professor of Physical Sciences at IUB, who is currently leading the CASSA project, emphasized the importance of the discovery: "This research highlights our ambition to position IUB as a pioneer in astronomy research in Bangladesh."

Lecture on Early Galaxy Formation

Following the *Nature* publication, Dr. Mowla visited IUB on December 19, 2024, to deliver a lecture during the 2nd Colloquium of the proposed CASSA. The event attracted nearly 100 participants, including university students and even a high school student.

Dr. Mowla used the Cosmic Calendar to contextualize cosmic history and explained how JWST's high-resolution imaging revealed the structure of ancient galaxies like "Firefly Sparkle." She highlighted findings from her research, including the detection of young star clusters with low metallicity, indicating their primordial nature.



Astronomer Dr. Lamiya Ashraf Mowla captivated an audience at IUB on December 19, 2024, during her talk on the groundbreaking discovery of a 13.2-billion-year-old galaxy

The presentation also covered the implications of the Initial Mass Function (IMF) findings, which suggest variations from established models. The colloquium marked the first instance of a CASSA-affiliated researcher's work being featured in a high-impact scientific journal.

Lecture on Hubble Tension

On January 5, 2025, the proposed CASSA hosted its 3rd Colloquium, featuring a lecture by Syed Ashraf Uddin from the University of South Carolina, USA. His presentation focused on the Hubble Constant and the unresolved "Hubble Tension," which arises from discrepancies in measurements of the universe's expansion rate.

Uddin discussed the cosmic distance ladder, dark matter, dark energy, and the "dark ages" of cosmic history. He also shared insights from the Carnegie Supernova Project, which achieved a 1.5% precision in calculating the Hubble Constant. His lecture highlighted the use of AI in future cosmological studies.

Following the talk, Uddin met IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim, and expressed his appreciation for IUB's unique role in advancing astronomy education in Bangladesh.

Building the first Array Radio Telescope (ART) of Bangladesh

The first Array Radio Telescope (ART) of Bangladesh is being built by CASSA in collaboration with the Department of Physical Sciences (DPS) and Fab Lab IUB. Most of the funds has been provided by DPS, and Fab Lab IUB is building the array structure underlying the telescope. The concept of the telescope and its receiver electronics have been designed by a group in the University of Otago, New Zealand, an active collaborator of CASSA. IUB purchased the antennas and receiver electronics from them which arrived at IUB in January.

The premises of CASSA is currently under construction and set to be finished within the next month. The ART that we are calling the Small Transient Array Radio Telescope (START) will be installed on an open area in front of the office of CASSA. Unlike the aforementioned smart outreach telescopes, START can be used for astronomy research, teaching and outreach alike.

Looking Ahead

With the establishment of the proposed CASSA, IUB is steadily building its capacity for astronomy education, research, and outreach. Through international collaborations, student engagement, and cutting-edge research, the university aims to contribute to global scientific efforts while fostering a community of aspiring astronomers in Bangladesh. •

The 25th Convocation

















The 25th Convocation









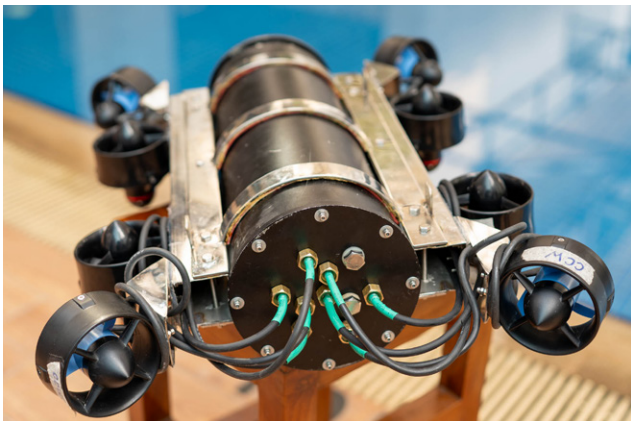








Underwater vehicle shows promise for industrial applications



The innovative autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) developed by team IUB BongoMarine

A team of computer science and engineering students from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has developed an innovative autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) with significant potential for industrial applications in fisheries, maritime ecology and security.

The device, created by IUB BongoMarine, has already earned recognition on the global stage, securing a spot at the prestigious Singapore Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Challenge (SAUVC) 2025.

The AUV, designed to navigate and perform complex tasks in challenging underwater environments, demonstrates versatility in applications such as fish population monitoring, underwater habitat mapping, marine debris management, maritime accident rescue operations, and naval security.

These capabilities position the project as a valuable innovation for addressing critical challenges in fisheries, ecological preservation, and maritime safety. Scaling up the prototype for broader industrial use could unlock even more opportunities in these sectors.

"This device was developed after countless hours of research, prototyping, and testing," said Noor-E Sadman, Team director of IUB BongoMarine. "It combines advanced navigation systems, machine learning algorithms, and precise mechanical engineering to operate effectively in extreme underwater conditions. We would be proud to see if this technology can be applied in industries that are vital to our economy. If scaled up, its impact could extend even further."

The team comprises Tahfizul Hasan Zihan (Strategic and Hardware Lead), Rahat Hasan Shihab (Technical and Mechanical Lead), Md. Hana Sultan Chowdhury (System Integration Lead), Mukut Protim Memo (Fabrication Lead) and Md. Abdun Fattah Lam (Fabrication Co-Lead).

Their efforts were supported by IUB's Center for Industrial Automation, Robotics and Internet of Things (RIoT Research Center), which provided technical guidance.

The AUV was designed and prototyped at Fab Lab IUB, a premier engineering fabrication facility that fosters innovation through cutting-edge technology and hands-on experimentation.

IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim lauded the team's efforts. "This project exemplifies the innovative spirit of our students and highlights how academic institutions can contribute to solving real-world challenges. The AUV has the potential to make a significant impact in industries such as fisheries management, and maritime ecology and safety. I am proud to see IUB leading this effort. Scaling up this prototype could further enhance its industrial relevance."

"It is a clear demonstration of how technical knowledge can be applied to create practical solutions," said Dr. Saadia Binte Alam, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IUB. "Our students have combined theoretical understanding with engineering skills to tackle complex underwater challenges, showcasing their potential to contribute to advanced technological development both locally and globally."

Dr. Mohammad Faisal Uddin, Director of the RIoT Research Center, praised the team's achievement and underscored the potential applications of the project.

"The AUV developed by BongoMarine showcases the cutting-edge research and innovation happening at IUB. It has immense potential for industrial applications, especially in critical areas like underwater habitat mapping and rescue operations," he said.

Dr. Mahady Hasan, Director of Fab Lab IUB, emphasized the lab's commitment to nurturing future innovators, "At Fab Lab IUB, we empower students to turn their ideas into reality through cutting-edge prototyping and engineering solutions."

He also said, "The success of this AUV project stands for the talent and dedication of our students, and we are excited to see its potential impact on industry and research." •



Team IUB BongoMarine

IUB athletes excel in national and international competitions



IUB became unbeaten Champion in the Bright Vision International College Presents 1st 3X3 International University Basketball Championship in Nepal on February 9, 2025

IUB students secured multiple titles in recent national and international tournaments, excelling in basketball, football, squash, badminton, chess, and table tennis. With strong performances across multiple disciplines, IUB's athletes showcased their dedication and competitive spirit, bringing home significant victories and accolades.

Basketball

IUB's basketball team claimed the Bright Vision International College Presents 1st 3X3 International University Basketball Championship title in Nepal on February 9, 2025, maintaining an unbeaten streak throughout the competition. The tournament featured six teams from Bangladesh and Nepal, with Taifur Uddin from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering earning the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award for his outstanding performance. The team later participated in the NeBA Men's Open Level 3X3 Tournament in Nepal, an open-category competition, where they were eliminated in the Round of 16.

In domestic competitions, IUB secured the Teachers Memorial Basketball Tournament 2024 championship, held from December 12-21 at St. Gregory High School, Dhaka. Competing against over 30 teams, including seasoned players from the national circuit, IUB triumphed in the final against Azad Boys, winning 85-73. The university also hosted the Sevens Basketball Fiesta 2024, a three-day event from October 24-26, featuring teams in U19 Boys 3x3, Women's 3x3, Men's 3x3, and Men's 5v5 categories. The Josephites won the Men's 5v5 championship, with Tarek (Josephites) named MVP, while teams like GYC White, Changas, and Aeros emerged victorious in other categories.

Football

IUB Football Club finished as runners-up



The IUB badminton team excelled at the SMC+ East West Winter Smash Badminton Competition, held from December 22-26, 2024 at East West University

in the Bijoy Futsal Cup 2024, held on December 28 at Shake the Ground, Khilkhet, Dhaka. The tournament, organized by the Safih Ahmed Memorial Council, aimed to support the community by using entry fees to purchase and distribute winter clothing to those in need. The competition featured 12 teams, with IUB showcasing strong coordination and resilience. Sheikh Shariar Saif from the Department of General Management was named MVP for his exceptional performance throughout the tournament.

Badminton

IUB's badminton team excelled at the SMC+ East West Winter Smash Badminton Competition, held from December 22-26 at East West University, Dhaka. Tipu Sultan (Human Resource Management) and Ashfak Bin Ferdous (English and Modern Languages) won the Men's Doubles title, defeating Hazi Misir Ali College in the final with a 2-0 victory. Tasnim Noor (Accounting) and Kazi Kayanat Soha (General Management) clinched the Women's Doubles title, securing a commanding 2-0 win over East West University Team 3.

In the Men's Singles category, Ashfak Bin Ferdous reached the final but finished as runner-up after a hard-fought match against Daffodil International University. In Mixed Doubles, Tipu Sultan and Tasnim Noor finished second after falling to Daffodil International University in the final. The event, which featured over 40 universities, was supported by IUB's Division of Student Activities (DoSA), with Nur Mohammad Farhad and Tanin Rahman Tushar managing the team.

Chess

IUB Mittens won the Collegiate Chess League (CCL) Fall 2024, competing against 370 teams from 180 institutions worldwide. The team, led by Amit Bikram Roy (Computer Science and Engineering) and mentored by Grandmaster Niaz Murshed, demonstrated strategic prowess to defeat Washington University in St. Louis (USA) in the final. Along the way, they faced and overcame strong competitors from National University of Singapore, Asia Pacific University (Malaysia), University of Bath (UK), and Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada).

Squash

IUB Assistant Coach Marjan Akhter Monika had a successful run in squash tournaments, winning the Aqua Paints & Elite Steel 3rd Victory Day Squash Tournament 2024 on December 28 and the 2nd Al-Arafah Islami Bank Squash Tournament on Novembner 7. She also secured second place in the Ispahani 4th Bangladesh Squash Championship PSA Tournament on October 5, competing against international players from Kuwait, Iran, Malaysia, India, Egypt, and Sri Lanka. Additionally,



Norwegian squash pro Chloe Kalvø conducted a clinic at the IUB Squash Court for 35 female athletes on November 15, 2025

Monika finished as runner-up in the 3rd NSRA Inter-Club Squash International Team Championship in Nepal, held from September 11-14, leading Team Bangla Ladies to three consecutive victories before falling in the final to Team NSRA National (Nepal).

On November 15, Norwegian professional Chloe Kalvø conducted a squash clinic at IUB's newly inaugurated squash court, training 35 female athletes, including IUB's Riyajul Zannat Urdho (CSE), Joti Rani Roy (Accounting), and Anika Tabassum Kotha (Pharmacy). Kalvø provided personalized coaching and awarded professional-grade squash rackets and sportswear to promising participants.

Table Tennis

The Intra-IUB Table Tennis Tournament Autumn 2024 took place on November 21, with 67 students participating across four categories. Md. Rifat Mahmud Sabbir (Media and Communication) won the Men's Singles (Seeded) title, while Mohammad Zubair Khan Pritom (International Business) finished as runner-up.

In the Women's Singles (Seeded) event, Sharmin Islam Shroddha (CSE) took first place, followed by Sadia Tabassum Shawon (Microbiology) in second.

In the Unseeded Men's Singles, Md. Abdur Nur Tushar (Finance) defeated Zishan Ansari (Marketing) to secure victory. In the Unseeded Women's Singles, Jebun Nahar Simi (Environmental Science) emerged as champion after defeating Zannatun Saba Smrity (Environmental Science) in the final. •



The Intra-IUB Table Tennis Tournament Autumn 2024 took place on November 21, with 67 students participating across four categories

IQAC advances quality assurance in higher education

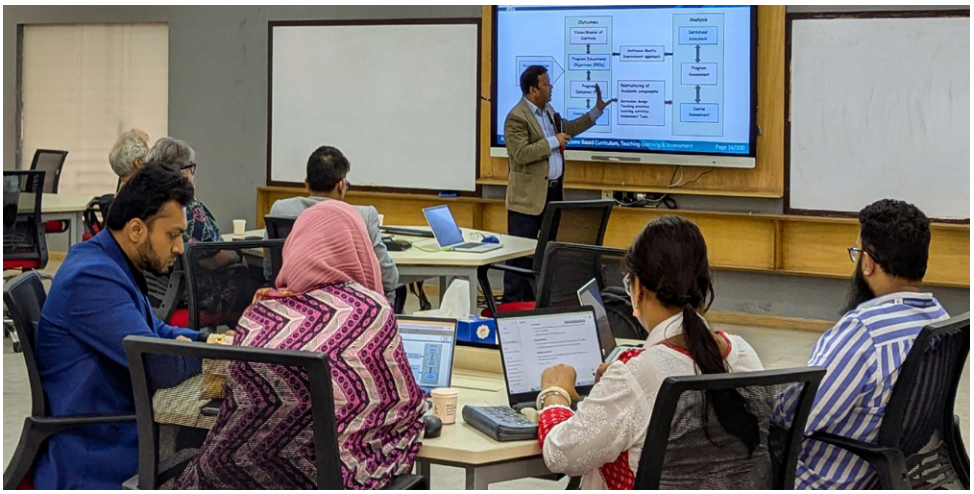


An IQAC delegation, comprising Prof. Dr. Md Abdur Razak and Prof. Dr. Md Abdul Awal Khan, met with Prof. Lock Kai Sang, Chair the Washington Accord Executive Committee, at the Singapore Institute of Technology on January 24, 2025

The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has undertaken numerous initiatives to enhance the quality of education through workshops, collaborative meetings, and accreditation-focused activities. These initiatives are aimed at improving outcome-based teaching, learning, and assessment methodologies while strengthening institutional accreditation efforts at the national and international levels.

In recent months, IQAC organized multiple workshops focused on outcome-based teaching, learning, and assessment. These workshops were tailored for various schools within the university, including the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (SLASS), the School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE), the School of Environmental and Life Sciences (SELS), the School of Engineering, Technology, and Sciences (SETS), the School of Pharmacy and Public Health (SPPH), and the Law program. Each session aimed to enhance faculty capacity in designing curriculum and assessment strategies aligned with program learning outcomes.

To ensure continuous improvement, IQAC conducted workshops on preparing Self-Assessment Reports (SAR) for Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) and



IQAC organized a workshop on "Outcome-Based Teaching-Learning and Assessment" for the undergraduate programs under the School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences on December 5, 2024



IQAC participated in two collaborative meetings with the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology and the Global Relations Office of the National University of Singapore on January 23, 2025

Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE) accreditation. These sessions provided faculty members with the necessary skills to evaluate and document institutional strengths and areas for development.

It is worthwhile to mention that the B.Sc. in EEE Program of IUB received accreditation from BAETE which is recognized by the Washington Accord of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and all eight programs of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE) have received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools Programs (ACBSP), an US-based accreditation organization.

In addition, external workshops were conducted at other institutions, such as Chandigarh University, India; BDU; Chittagong Independent University (CIU); Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST); and Bangladesh Army University of Science and Technology (BAUST), emphasizing best practices in assessment and curriculum review for engineering programs.

IQAC also engaged in high-level discussions with international and national organizations to support accreditation and quality assurance frameworks. A key meeting with the National University of Singapore (NUS) facilitated knowledge exchange on instructional technology and teaching methodologies. Additionally, the IQAC delegation met with Professor Kai Sang Lock, Chair of the Washington Accord, to discuss global accreditation standards for engineering programs.

> **“By promoting outcome-based education and engaging in national and international accreditation discussions, the university is reinforcing its position as a leader in educational excellence.**

At the national level, IQAC actively participated in the Bangladesh Accreditation Council’s (BAC) workshop on the Bangladesh National Qualification Framework (BNQF) and a University Grants Commission (UGC) consultation on faculty training modules. These engagements reflect the university’s commitment to aligning with national quality assurance policies.

Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak, Director, IQAC and Professor of Electrical and Electrical Engineering at IUB, said, “So far, IQAC has extended its support to more than 20 public and private universities in Bangladesh and five universities abroad. Through its extensive workshops, collaborative meetings, and accreditation efforts, IQAC has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing quality assurance in higher education.”
He also said, “By fostering outcome-based education and engaging in national and international accreditation discussions, the university is reinforcing its position as a leader in educational excellence.” •

IUB Faculty engage in Academia, Research, and Community Service



Prof. Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, Head of the Department of Media and Communication at Independent University, Bangladesh, was appointed a member of the Expert Committee of the Bangladesh Film Archive.

His appointment for a two-year term was announced in a circular of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on November 5, 2024.

The expert committee functions under the Bangladesh Film Archive Governance and Management Policy 2010 and is tasked with providing support, suggestions and recommendations to BFA.

Professor Dr. Arshad Momen, from the Department of Physical Sciences



and the Director of Research and Graduate Studies, was appointed a member of the Executive Council of Bangla Academy, serving from October 16, 2024, to October 14, 2027.

A leading theoretical physicist and author, Dr. Momen is expected to contribute to the promotion of Bengali language and literature. Established in 1955, Bangla Academy is the key institution for developing Bengali language, literature, and culture, nurturing talent and conducting research on Bengali heritage.

Professor Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman, from the Department of English and Modern Languages, was appointed an academic auditor by the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) in February 2024. His appointment followed a comprehensive selection process. BAC, established by parliamentary



mandate, is responsible for providing Certificates of Accreditation to eligible higher education institutions (HEIs) and academic programs that meet rigorous quality standards. His appointment was made official by a BAC memo dated February 1, 2024.

Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB),



delivered a keynote address at the seminar "Mastering Compliance: Insights and Strategies for Sourcing and Sales Leaders in Responsible Textiles," held on January 15, 2025, at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka. Prof. Habib presented on "9 Steps to Boost the Right Sourcing Strategy," highlighting the importance of sustainable sourcing and supply chain management in addressing procurement challenges, disruptions, and compliance requirements.

Earlier, on November 5, 2024, Prof. Habib

spoke at a seminar titled "Strengthening IPR Frameworks: Challenges and Way Forward," was held at The Westin Dhaka, organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham). He emphasized the need for greater intellectual property rights awareness within academia and industry.

Professor Dr. Shahriar Kabir, from the Department of Economics at IUB, is collaborating on a research project titled



"Bangladesh Innovation Policy Paper" with Dr. Carmello Ferlito, lead researcher of the project and CEO of Centre for Market Education (CME), Malaysia; and Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS).

The project, commencing in February 2025 and continuing for five to eight months, is funded by CME. The research aims to identify and analyze Bangladesh's potential sectors and provide policy guidelines for their development.



Professor Dr. Md Hafizur Rahman, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Management, delivered the keynote speech at the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Alumni Association workshop titled "Advancement in Earth, Environment, Biodiversity, and Agricultural Sciences in Bangladesh."

Organized by the Alumni Association of German Universities in Bangladesh, the event took place from November 1 to 3, 2024, at the BRAC CDM Rajendrapur in Gazipur. Dr. Rahman's address focused on sustainable energy, highlighting key challenges and solutions for solar energy systems in Bangladesh's coastal regions.

Dr. Marufa Akter, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Studies & Governance, participated as an expert speaker at the Hanoi Dialogue on Regional Challenges, held from October 10-12, 2024, in Hanoi, Vietnam. Organized by the FES Asia Strategic Foresight Network, the event brought together experts and leaders from Bangladesh, India, South Korea, Japan, Mongolia,



and Vietnam to address shared challenges in geopolitics, geoeconomics, and sustainable development in a rapidly changing world.

Dr. Akter delivered a talk focusing on cooperation, building trust among nations, and developing innovative solutions to manage shifting geopolitical dynamics. Her insights emphasized the importance of collaborative regional efforts to address complex challenges.



Dr. Imran Firdaus, Assistant Professor of Media and Communication, was appointed to the Bangladesh National Film Grant Subcommittee. The announcement was made through a circular from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on October 7, 2024. The 7-member subcommittee supports the 10-member National Film Grant Committee in overseeing government-funded film projects for the fiscal year 2024-25. The subcommittee's duties include assessing the quality of incomplete films and recommending release of installments.

In October 2024, an article by Dr. Imran Firdaus,was featured in the limited edition Blu-ray release of Kim Ki-duk's 2000 film, The Isle. This special edition Blu-ray is distributed by Umbrella Entertainment, an independent Australian enterprise known for local and international films. Dr.

Firdaus analyzes how Schiele's artistic vision informs Kim Ki-duk's approach to crafting a story that explores isolation, obsession, and the complexities of human relationships.

Dr. Md. Toriqul Islam, Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, published his first sole-authored book, Regulatory Challenges of AI Governance in the Era of ChatGPT, on December 11, 2024. It was released by Wolters Kluwer International,



Netherlands, a globally recognized publisher. The book examines the historical evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) with a focus on large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT. It explores the transformative potential of these technologies across various industries while addressing socio-ethical concerns, legal challenges, and misconceptions surrounding AI. The book also provides actionable recommendations for policymakers, legal experts, academics, and technologists to guide responsible AI governance.



Dr. Zoha Rahman, Assistant Professor of Media and Communication, conducted a series of training sessions for Bangladesh Tourist Police in January 2025 at Police Headquarters, Dhaka. The sessions covered emerging technologies, AI, and big data analysis. The first session on January 2 focused on future trends in tourism. On January 9, she discussed AI applications for national security, including biometric techniques. The final session, held on January 25-26, introduced big data analytics to inspectors and sub-inspectors.

In December, she addressed an Academic Symposium marking 50 years of Marketing Education Practices in Bangladesh as the keynote speaker at University of Dhaka. She discussed the role of technology in marketing, focusing on the use of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in marketing strategies and solutions. Based on her experience as a Big Data Scientist, she explained the need to include AI and ML applications in academic curriculums to prepare students for changes in marketing. She concluded with a discussion on Big Data analysis and its role in marketing practices.

Afnan Yusuf, Lecturer in the Department of Management at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), received an esteemed international research grant under the 2024-2025 Going Global Partnerships – Gender Equality Funding Grant in November 2024. The project, titled "Bridging the Gender Gap in Healthcare:



Addressing Disparities in Career Progression and Aspirations Among Women in Healthcare Professions in Bangladesh," is a collaboration with Kenisha Linton-Williams, Associate Professor at the University of Greenwich, UK. Funded by the British Council with a grant of £25,000, the research aims to address challenges faced by women in the healthcare sector, particularly in career progression and specialisation.

Israt Taslim, Lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages, conducted a workshop titled "Performance in the City and Autoethnographic



Research" at BRAC University on September 12, 2024. The workshop explored research possibilities in autoethnography within urban environments, focusing particularly on Dhaka and other post-industrial cities around the world. Taslim discussed key themes, including the experience economy, urban design, public movement, resistance – both collective and individual – artistic performances, and the historical transformation of public spaces. Practice-based research also formed a crucial part of the discussions. •

IUB alumni make strides in global research and innovation

Four IUB alumni have recently began fully-funded PhD and postdoctoral programs at renowned institutions.



Dr. Jannatul Ferdous Rumky, an M.Sc. graduate in Environmental Management from IUB, began her postdoctoral research at Cornell University, USA, in October 2024.

Her project, titled "Sustainable Remediation: Upgrading Hydrothermally Carbonized Hydrochar into Activated Carbons for Semiconductor Industries Wastewater Treatment and Carbon Capture," addresses critical environmental challenges in high-water-use industries. Dr. Jannatul, who completed her PhD at Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology (LUT), Finland, in 2022, credits her success to her mentors, particularly at IUB.

She encourages aspiring researchers to leverage networking opportunities and remain committed to their academic pursuits.

Rashid Ahmed Rifat, a B.Sc. graduate in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from IUB,



commenced his fully-funded PhD at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium, in Spring 2024.

His research, funded by the EU's Horizon Europe projects, focuses on improving Lithium-ion battery systems at the Battery Innovation Centre within the MOBI Electromobility Research Centre.

Rashid, a recipient of multiple academic honors at IUB, previously secured the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Joint International Master's Scholarship, allowing him to study across Europe. He emphasizes that his early research experiences at IUB played a key role in securing international opportunities.

Joyeeta Tahseen Khan, a graduate of IUB's Department of Pharmacy, joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, USA, in August 2024 for a fully-funded PhD.

Working under Dr. Amit Tiwari, her research focuses on cancer drug discovery, development, and immunotherapy for progressive cancers. Joyeeta's research journey



began at IUB, where she worked on diabetes treatment and medicinal plant studies. She later published in high-impact journals and won international recognition. She aims to contribute to global pharmaceutical research, inspired by a personal experience with inadequate medication availability.

Md. Iftadul Islam Sakib, a former part-time lecturer



and graduate of IUB's EEE Department, started his fully-funded PhD at VUB's MOBI Research Centre in May 2024.

His research focuses on developing advanced prognostics for power electronics in electric vehicles.

Sakib, who earned his M.Sc. in EEE from IUB in 2020, previously worked at IUB's Green Energy Research Center.

He attributes his success to the strong research foundation he built at IUB, encouraging students to focus on innovation despite resource limitations. •



The 1st Bangladesh National Round of the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition 2024-25 took place from January 23 to January 25, 2025, at IUB



Innovation and creativity took center stage at 6th RIoT National Creative Challenge, held at IUB in January 2025



1,456 students were recognized for their academic achievements during the Academic Awards 2024 held on December 23, 2024



Students of the Department of English and Modern Languages staged Anton Chekhov's one-act play A Marriage Proposal on December 10, 2024 at the DMK Lecture Gallery



The School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences launched a book titled "Living with Refugees" on November 28, 2024



IUB Art Club organized the 5th On Spot Art Competition themed "36th JULY" on October 21, 2024



The Global Studies & Governance Department and the Global Gatekeepers Club observed the United Nations Day on October 24, 2024 with the theme "Leaving No One Behind"



IUB Theatre staged two shows of "Narok Gulzar" on November 20 and 23, 2024, at IUB and Daffodil International University



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award at IUB (DEA IUB) in association with the Division of Student Activities conducted a winter clothes distribution program in several unions of Kurigram district on January 3, 2025



Independent International Business Forum (IIBF) held its Autumn 2024 Orientation, IIBF Expo and launched its inaugural bulletin, Globetrotters, on Thursday, November 7, 2024



Mrs. Monisha Huq and Mr. Mahmudul Huq met with the recipients of the Monisha and Mahmudul Huq Endowment Trust Fellowship at IUB on February 11, 2025



IUB CSE student Tanvir Mahmud and his team named secured the 1st Runner Up position at the NASA Space Apps Challenge in 2024

Jami judges at LSE, Oxford, Cambridge

IUB Debate Club member Ahmad Tousif Jami, final semester student of Global Studies and Governance at IUB, participated as adjudicator in "LoxBridge" debate competitions at the London School of Economics (LSE), University of Oxford and University of Cambridge from November 2-17, 2024.

The LSE events were held from November 2-3, Oxford from November 9-10 and Cambridge November 16-17. These events, conducted in-person in the United Kingdom, brought together debaters and adjudicators from leading global institutions to engage in competitive debates across various categories. •

EEE celebrates prestigious IEB-BAETE Accreditation



The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) celebrated its B.Sc. in EEE program receiving a prestigious 5-year accreditation from IEB-BAETE on December 4, 2024. The event, held at the IUB Auditorium, gathered students, faculty, alumni, and university officials. It was hosted in collaboration with the IEEE IUB Student Branch and supported by the IUB Dance Club. The Chairman of IUB's Board of Trustees, Didar A. Husain, attended as Chief Guest, while Acting Vice Chancellor Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider was the Patron. Key speakers, including Dr. Mustafa Habib Chowdhury and Prof. Dr. Abdur Razzak, highlighted the accreditation's significance in aligning the program with global standards.

The event concluded with an alumni dinner, where faculty and staff were recognized for their contributions. The achievement underscores IUB's commitment to academic excellence and leadership in engineering education in Bangladesh. •

App to connect blood donors & recipients



Team BloodBridge

K.M. Ferdous Hasan Foysal, Maisha Reza, and Ive Sithi, Biochemistry and Biotechnology students at IUB, showcased their project BloodBridge at the University Innovation Hub Program (UIHP) Orientation held at United International University on November 15, 2024. BloodBridge is a web app designed to connect blood donors and recipients by location, with plans to expand into a mobile app, streamlining the blood donation process and improving efficiency in donor-recipient matching. The event marked the beginning of a four-month mentorship and support program backed by the World Bank, the government's ICT Division, and UIHP, aimed at facilitating innovative student projects. •

Enan wins Gold Award in Blockchain Olympiad

Enan Israq, a student of Management Information Systems at IUB, won the prestigious Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury Championship Award at the Blockchain Olympiad Bangladesh 2024, held online from June 7 to September 10, 2024. Enan and his teammates from IUB, United International University (Bangladesh), and University of Putra Malaysia developed a blockchain-based decentralized e-commerce platform. He participated as the business expert of his team "Chain Reaction," which comprised students from several universities. They competed against more than 200 teams from 120 universities, showcasing innovation in blockchain technology. •

IUB emerges 1st Runner-up in Cisco IoT Hackathon



Team Sohayok from IUB emerged as the 1st Runners-up in the "Cisco IoT Hackathon 2024," held at AIUB on November 2, 2024. This national hackathon brought together 125 teams from institutions across Bangladesh, with 20 teams advancing to the final round. Team Sohayok's project, "A Cost-Efficient Device for Individuals with Cerebral Palsy Utilizing IoT," addresses the communication needs of individuals with cerebral palsy, incorporating Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) support to enhance accessibility. The team comprised Md Rayhan Hossain, Samiul Haque, Jotirmoy Mollick, and Md Rahat Al Mamun from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and Sujoy Mahmud from the Department of Life Sciences. They were mentored by Dr. Md Kafiul Islam, Associate Professor of EEE at IUB. •

DESM, ICCCAD hold policy dialogue in Khulna

The Department of Environmental Science and Management and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) hosted a policy dialogue on climate change adaptation in Khulna on November 7, 2024. The event, a part of the Norway Higher Education (NORHED) project titled "Co-creating knowledge for local adaptation to climate change in the LDCs" (COLOCAL), aimed to engage researchers, government officials, and community representatives in discussions on sustainable adaptation strategies for climate-vulnerable regions in Bangladesh. It featured research presentations by IUB graduates Shahadat Hossain and Ishrat Jahan, who are COLOCAL fellows from IUB's MSc in Climate Change and Development program. Supported by full scholarships under the COLOCAL project, their research focused on addressing the vulnerabilities faced by communities in Khulna and the Tala upazila of Satkhira. Md. Asraful Alam, Executive Engineer of the Bangladesh Water Development Board in Khulna, also presented findings on the challenges faced by polder communities in the region. The policy dialogue drew participants from various government departments, including environment, agriculture, social services, women's affairs, and youth development, alongside representatives from NGOs like Rupantar, DALIT, Parittran, and CARITAS. Members of the Dalit and Munda communities actively engaged in the discussions, raising concerns about fresh water shortages, child marriage, plastic pollution, and other socio-environmental challenges impacting their communities. •

Macroeconomic challenges discussed at 5th Economics Lecture Series

The Department of Economics organized the 5th Economics Lecture Series on December 5, 2024. The lecture, titled "Bangladesh in Transition – Macroeconomic Challenges and Imperatives," featured Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), as the distinguished guest speaker. Dr. Kabir's presentation explored critical aspects of Bangladesh's socio-economic developments, focusing on increased domestic production and remittance inflows while addressing challenges such as global economic pressures, trade wars, inflation, and rising food prices. Dr. Md. Khaled Saifullah, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, delivered the closing remarks •

DESM organizes roundtable on locally led adaptation

The Department of Environmental Science and Management hosted a roundtable on November 30, 2024 to explore the integration of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles into the MSc in Climate Change and Development program. The event, organized by the COLOCAL project, brought together experts, faculty, and students to design innovative academic modules focusing on Community-based Adaptation (CBA) and LLA. The discussion was led by COLOCAL project coordinator, Dr. K Ayaz Rabbani and Project Officer Fahmid Mohtasin. They were joined by LLA specialists from the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), including Savio Rousseau Rozario and Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon, alongside CCD M.Sc. students. •

Session on early childhood development

The Global Gatekeepers Club, in collaboration with the Department of Global Studies and Governance, organized a session on Early Childhood Development on November 21, 2024 at the DMK Lecture Gallery. The event brought together students, faculty, and professionals to discuss the role of early childhood in shaping a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Md Ohidujjaman, Lecturer in the GSG Department, opened the program and discussed the significance of young adults and students learning about early childhood development. The session featured Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Head of Early Childhood Development Programme at BRAC International, who gave a presentation on the significance of early childhood education. •

IUB hosts 15th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition



Md. Asaduzzaman, the Attorney General of Bangladesh, attended the opening ceremony of the Bangladesh National Rounds of the 15th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition at IUB on November 9, 2024

The Bangladesh National Rounds of the 15th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition concluded at IUB after two days of intense legal debates held on November 8-9, 2024. Organized jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and IUB, the event brought together law students from 16 universities across the country, who demonstrated their expertise in International Humanitarian Law (IHL). University of Dhaka clinched the championship and will represent Bangladesh in the Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds in Hong Kong in 2025. Eastern University secured the Runners-up position, while Rezoan Asraf from Dhaka University was awarded Best Advocate. American International University of Bangladesh won the Best Memorial award. The opening ceremony was presided over by Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider, the then Vice Chancellor (Acting) of IUB. Chief Guest Md. Asaduzzaman, Attorney General of Bangladesh, emphasized the relevance of International Humanitarian Law amidst global conflicts. •

IIBF-bKash organize session on corporate professionalism

The Independent International Business Forum (IIBF), in collaboration with bKash, hosted a session on corporate professionalism on November 24, 2024, at IUB. The event aimed to equip students with key professional skills for workplace success. Key speakers included bKash executives and IUB alumni, who discussed personal branding, communication, time management, and ethical professionalism. The session also introduced the bNext internship program and the "Easy Life with bKash" campaign. Faculty members and students engaged in interactive discussions on interview strategies and workplace etiquette. The session concluded with reflections on bridging academic learning with real-world experiences. •

18th BELTA-IUB-THT Teacher Development Conference 2024 held at IUB



IUB hosted the 18th BELTA-IUB-THT Teacher Development Conference 2024 on November 1-2, 2024

IUB hosted the 18th BELTA-IUB-THT Teacher Development Conference 2024 on November 1-2, in collaboration with BELTA and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT). The event focused on advancing English language education through research-based workshops. The virtual opening on November 1 featured speakers from Japan, the U.S., and Bangladesh, engaging 112 participants in discussions on team-based learning, metalinguistic awareness, and creative self-efficacy. On November 2, 52 educators attended in-person sessions at IUB, with workshops on classroom strategies and cultural understanding. The conference concluded with a plenary session moderated by Dr. Patrick Dougherty, emphasizing collaboration in teacher development. The event reinforced IUB's commitment to enhancing English language education in Bangladesh. •

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



F11 - SEE SHARP SEASON II

A NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

DATE : 08 APR 2025 - 10 APR 2025 | IUB CAMPUS

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