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COVER STORY

From Barriers to Breakthroughs

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IUB — TEACHETH MAN THAT WHICH HE KNEW NOT — INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

ICEBTM 2025

International Conference on Economics, Business and Technology Management

The Westin Dhaka, 14 & 15 November 2025

Theme: Sustainability Focused Industry Trends in Global Research

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School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Editorial

March-June 2025 has been one of the busiest periods in recent history, packed with academic, research, and cultural activities. This energy is reflected in our biggest-ever edition of "Updates".

The cover features Saima Hall, IUB's female dormitory that offers meritorious students free accommodation and tuition. This initiative, rare among private universities, is transforming lives and setting a benchmark for access and inclusivity in higher education.

This issue also brings stories of student-led research and innovation – ideas developed in classrooms and labs are addressing real-world problems.

We also look outward to IUB's expanding international footprint. Faculty members and students are increasingly participating in exchange programmes, collaborative research, and joint initiatives with institutions worldwide, strengthening our role as a globally engaged university.

Alongside these major features, you will find our regular updates on campus events, achievements, and initiatives that continue to define life at IUB. •

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

Efforts that represent collective progress



Prof. M. Tamim

It has been an eventful few months at IUB, and I am pleased to share some key developments that I believe reflect the direction we are heading – future-ready, forward-looking, student-focused, and inclusive.

We have recently completed a major upgrade to our digital infrastructure with the launch of the campus-wide Wi-Fi 7.0 network. This means faster, more stable internet access across classrooms, labs, and open spaces, making everyday learning and collaboration smoother for all of us.

International partnerships are expanding. We recently signed agreements with INTI International University in Malaysia and Far Western University in Nepal. Both MoUs create new opportunities for student and faculty exchange, collaborative research, and academic mobility. One of our students began her exchange semester at INTI this August.

Another proud milestone: IUB was awarded a UNESCO Chair in Language Ecology under the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme. The Chair, initiated by the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, focuses on endangered languages, multilingual digital inclusion, and international collaboration in language preservation and advocacy.

On the academic front, we have introduced a new plagiarism policy and every academic department now has its own Departmental Academic Committee, ensuring more inclusive and transparent academic decision-making at the department level.

We have revisited our financial aid policies to better support our students. For undergraduates, the minimum CGPA required to retain aid has been relaxed to allow more flexibility, especially for students who may need additional support during difficult academic periods. For graduate students, particularly those who are working professionals, financial aid policies have been adjusted to reflect their unique needs.

At our new campus site in Ulukhola, construction has begun for a large football field – 344 by 220 feet – meeting FIFA standards and also suitable for cricket. Additional facilities like a gallery, access road, parking, and a shed are underway and expected to be completed in 5-6 months.

We have taken steps to reduce the use of single-use plastic on campus. This initiative is part of a larger commitment to environmental responsibility, and I encourage everyone to participate actively. Together, these efforts represent our collective progress. Let's continue building a campus that is smarter, fairer, and more connected – both to each other and to the world beyond. •

From Barriers to Breakthroughs

IUB's Saima Hall stands as proof that removing barriers changes lives. For over a decade, it has opened the doors of higher education to young women who now study, graduate, and lead without limits.



Saima Hall is a space where young women learn, grow, and support each other

The first time Nupur Sultana stepped into Saima Hall, she carried little more than a small suitcase and the hope that her life was about to change. She had never lived away from her family and never imagined that a private university could be a place for someone from her background. Soon, she was shown to a fully furnished room, introduced to other young women with similar journeys, and was told that here, she would live, eat, and study free of cost.

"It felt like someone had lifted a huge weight off my shoulders," recalls Nupur, who is from Faridpur and graduated with a 3.62 CGPA in Law. "For the first time, I could think about my studies without worrying about how to survive in the city."

Since 2015, Saima Hall has offered the same opportunity to dozens of talented young women, who face financial hardships. Supported by the Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust, the hall occupies the top five floors of a nine-storey building in Baridhara, Dhaka. The building is owned by the family of IUB Trustee Mr. A Matin Chowdhury.

Two more floors below are now being prepared to serve as an international student dormitory.

Requests for accommodation at Saima Hall are received by the designated committee comprising Mr. Ashraful Amin, Director of Council Affairs; Ms. Mona Rahman, Additional Registrar; Ms. Priyanka Dey, Assistant Director in the Admissions, Financial Aid & International Relations and Ms. Khaleda Akhter, also from the Admissions Office. Both new and returning students can apply. Alongside a detailed application, proof of identity, educational certificates, and proof of income of the family's main earner are mandatory. For families without formal professions, a written statement from a local government representative (such as a union parishad chairman) is required.

Applications are reviewed by the designated committee. The process is supervised by Trustee Salma Karim, and in some cases, the committee



Since inception, 63 Saima Hall residents have graduated, many going into banking, IT, and education, while others have pursued advanced degrees abroad



The committee overseeing Saima Hall visits the facility once every semester to speak directly with residents

interviews parents to better understand a student's circumstances.

Trustee Salma Karim emphasises the practical mission: "We want them to focus on their education and not worry about the basics. And when they leave Saima Hall, they do so as confident and capable women ready to take on the world."

Once selected, residents enter an environment designed to remove the pressures of cost and safety so they can focus entirely on academics and personal growth. Fully furnished rooms provide stability, daily nutritious meals support health and concentration, and 24-hour security with CCTV coverage ensures safety. Superintendent Thasina Zaman manages daily operations while also serving as a mentor and guide, ensuring that the hall is both well-run and welcoming.

Every Friday, the residents enjoy a feast – a tradition that has become a weekly highlight. Residents organize cultural programmes to celebrate occasions such as Boshonto, Noboborsho, and birthdays.

The committee overseeing Saima Hall visits the facility once every semester to speak directly with residents. This regular feedback loop helps maintain standards and ensures that the students' voices are part of the hall's ongoing development.

For Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust, Saima Hall is more than just a place to stay; it is a starting point, a place where young women could prepare themselves with confidence and then step into the world ready to do anything they choose. It is meant to give them the foundation to dream freely, to choose their own path, and to know that no field is beyond their reach.

The results are undeniable. Since inception, 63 students have graduated from IUB through the Saima Hall programme, many going on to careers in banking, IT, and education, while others have pursued advanced degrees abroad. Today, 30 residents are enrolled in higher education, with four studying overseas.

Mr. Didar A Husain, Chairman of the IUB Board of Trustees, said, "Saima Hall was set up by Trustee A Matin Chowdhury – an altruistic person with a vision – in loving memory of his mother, to help the underprivileged girl students from rural background to pursue their dreams and shine in academic fields. Today Saima hall stands tall in fulfilling that dream, a small step towards a better tomorrow."

Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim said, "Saima Hall is a shining example of what happens when education is truly accessible. It is about giving young women the stability and confidence to aim higher, to dream bigger, and to know that they belong in this world."

In the everyday rhythm of Saima Hall, the mission is visible – the academic and personal guidance, the quiet concentration before exams, the shared laughter during festivals, the camaraderie over a Friday feast. It is a space where young women learn, grow, and support each other, carrying the confidence they build here into their careers and communities. •



Residents organized a colorful Bashanta Utshab in 2024

The girl who outran her doubts

When Atika Humayra left her home in Dinajpur — one of Bangladesh's northernmost and most economically challenged regions — she carried more questions than answers. A shy and soft-spoken young woman from a modest, middle-class family, she wondered if her dreams were simply too far out of reach.

Could she ever study Computer Science and Engineering, the subject that fascinated her most? Could she afford to live in Dhaka? And even if she could, would she manage in an unfamiliar city, far from her family? Those questions followed her to the capital. She came to Dhaka with hopes and explored various options and finally what she found at IUB changed everything.

Saima Hall — an initiative of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Utam Trust — was the turning point. Designed exclusively for meritorious female students from underprivileged backgrounds, this fully funded residential facility removes financial barriers by covering full tuition, accommodation, and food costs, while also providing continuous academic supervision and confidence-building support.



Atika Humayra receiving her crest as the Top Performer in the School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences at IUB's 25th Convocation on February 8, 2025

"Before coming here, I was worried about how I would manage to stay in Dhaka and focus on my studies," Atika recalls. "Saima Hall gave me the stability I needed to excel." That stability freed her from the constant weight of financial worry and allowed her to devote herself entirely to her academic journey.

Four years later, in February 2025, Atika walked across the stage at IUB's 25th Convocation, graduating summa cum laude and receiving her crest as the Top Performer in the School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences.

It's a title she earned by competing with the brightest students across Computer Science, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Physical Sciences. "Emerging as the best among such brilliant minds has been both overwhelming and humbling," she says.

Saima Hall's impact on her life extended far beyond academics. The secure environment and supportive community encouraged her to participate in extracurricular activities and immerse herself in research. Today, she is already working as an Adjunct Faculty member in IUB's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, contributing to the academic growth of new students while preparing to apply for her master's degree abroad.

"I am deeply grateful to the university authorities, trustees, and everyone behind Saima Hall," Atika says. "This opportunity not only shaped my future but has also empowered many other students to dream without limits."

For Atika, and for many like her, Saima Hall is not just a place to live. It is a proof that when financial barriers are removed, talents can rise, dreams can take shape, and futures can be rewritten. •

IUB Founder Trustee Mr. S M Al-Husainy passes away



Mr. S M Al-Husainy, Founder Trustee of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), passed away on May 28, 2025. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun. He was 94 years old. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute, Mirpur, Dhaka.

Born in 1930, Mr. Al-Husainy served as Chairman of IUB's former Governing Council and later as a member of the Board of Trustees. As a key member of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), he played an instrumental role in the establishment of IUB. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Chittagong Independent University (CIU).

In his distinguished career in public service, Mr. Al-Husainy served as Secretary to the Government in several ministries, as a Member of the Planning Commission, and as Chairman of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission.

He held leadership roles in numerous national organizations, including Chairman of Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS), Chairman of Swanirvar Bangladesh, and Director of Micro Industries Finance Ltd. He was Chairman of the Bangladesh Chapter of the Society for International Development (SID), Vice President of the National Heart Foundation, and a Member of the Executive Committee of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Mr. Al-Husainy was also a Fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and a former President of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), where he served for three years.

The IUB community – including members of the Board of Trustees, ESTCDT, faculty, administration, students, and alumni – expresses deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prays for the salvation of his departed soul. •



IUB Founder Trustee Mrs. Yasmeen Murshed passes away

Mrs. Yasmeen Murshed, Founder Trustee of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), passed away on July 31, 2025. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun. She was 80 years old.

Born on May 19, 1945, in Calcutta, India, she had her early education at the Viqarunnisa Noon School in Dhaka and earned her bachelor's degree in English and master's in Economics in 1969 at the University of the Punjab.

She founded the school Scholastica in 1977. She played a key role in founding Independent University, Bangladesh in 1993 as a member of the Education Science Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) – the founding trust of the university.

Mrs. Murshed was in charge of several ministries in 2006-07 as an Advisor to the former caretaker government. In 2007, she was made the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan. She was married to Late Syed Tanweer Murshed and is survived by a daughter and a son.

The IUB community – including members of the Board of Trustees, ESTCDT, faculty, administration, students and alumni – expresses deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prays for the salvation of her departed soul. •



Prof. Daniel W. Lund joins IUB as Pro Vice Chancellor

Distinguished Canadian academic and international business education leader Professor Daniel W. Lund joined Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) as the Pro Vice Chancellor on April 13, 2025. Before joining IUB, he served as the Founding Dean of Graduate Programs and Executive Education at British Management University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Over his career, he has held several senior academic leadership positions across universities in Asia, the Middle East, and the South Pacific.

He is currently completing an EdD from Johns Hopkins University with a focus on Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education. He holds a PhD from Griffith University, Australia, specializing in Higher Education Organizational Effectiveness and the Management of Diversity; an MBA from York University's Schulich School of Business, Canada; and a BA in Philosophy and English Literature from the University of Victoria, Canada. He also completed specialized teaching and leadership training with Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, Harvard Business School, and MIT's Sloan School of Management. Dr. Lund's research interests span leadership in higher education, cross-cultural management, expatriate adjustment, and strategic human resource management. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, authored book chapters, and delivered keynote speeches at international conferences. He is also an International Faculty Fellow with the MIT Sloan School of Management and a member of the Academy of Management. •

IUB launches future-ready Wi-Fi 7.0 network in major digital leap

IUB has launched a new high-speed Wi-Fi infrastructure, transitioning from Wi-Fi 5.0 to the state-of-the-art Wi-Fi 7.0, to support faster, low-latency, secure and more reliable internet access across its campus.

The upgraded system was officially launched at a programme held on June 29, 2025, at the DMK Lecture Gallery in the presence of several members of the Board of Trustees and senior management. The event also coincided with the 100th meeting of the IUB Board of Trustees.

The new system includes a significantly larger number of access points and backbone connection, allowing more than 25,000 devices to connect simultaneously – a substantial upgrade from the previous infrastructure, which could support only a few hundred. The upgrade is part of IUB's broader push to build a future-ready campus – one that is equipped to integrate major technological advancements as they emerge.

"It is designed to support the growing demand from students, faculty, and IoT devices, while enabling zero-trust security, smart learning environments, seamless BYOD [Bring Your Own Device] access, and future scalability," said Dr. Mahady Hasan, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Director of Automation at IUB.

Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim said, "This was a long-standing demand of our students. I am happy to see that we have finally delivered on it. Better connectivity is fundamental to academic excellence in today's world."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Didar A Husain said, "We understand the expectations of our students and faculty. I would request everyone to have patience and trust in the Board and the management to give students everything they need in due course."



Hon'ble Trustees and Members of the senior management officially launched the Wifi 7.0 framework on June 29, 2025

The BDT 3.6 crore project was implemented over several months by the university's Central Information and Technology Services in collaboration with technology partner Ensure Support Services (ESS) Limited. The infrastructure is expected to enable seamless online classes, improved hybrid learning, and better support for research requiring stable high-speed internet. It will also allow classrooms to be equipped with more advanced digital tools and interactive platforms.

BOT member Mr. Towhid Samad also spoke at the event. Trustees Mr. Rashed Chowdhury, Mr. Ashrafuddin Ahmed, Mr. Altamash Kabir, and Mrs. Husne Ara Ali; Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel W. Lund and Treasurer Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider were also present. •

Prof. Bokhtiar appointed UNESCO Chair



Prof. Bokhtiar Ahmed, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, has been appointed UNESCO Chair in Language Ecology, making IUB the third Bangladeshi university to house this prestigious chair. In this role, Prof. Ahmed will lead a 4-year research initiative at IUB's Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence.

The appointment follows a formal agreement between IUB and UNESCO to promote international collaboration and knowledge-sharing between institutions. With the establishment of this Chair, IUB joins a distinguished global network of UNESCO Chairs and the University Twinning and Networking Program.

The project under Prof. Ahmed's leadership will integrate research, teaching, training, and community engagement. Focus will be on promoting the preservation of endangered languages and cultures, developing digital literacy tools and multilingual educational materials, and enhancing access to educational and employment opportunities – particularly for communities that speak endangered languages.

The establishment of the UNESCO Chair is a well-deserved recognition of SCMLE's accomplishments and continued impact. •

Trustees inaugurate newly decorated Student Activity Area designed by students



The newly decorated Student Activity Area was officially inaugurated on May 8, 2025, by the members of the Board of Trustees in a formal ceremony. The Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Treasurer, and other senior university officials also attended the inauguration.

Located on the ground floor of the Academic Building, the 7,000 square-foot space has been decorated for the first time under the supervision of the Division of Student Activities (DoSA) and the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) department. The current decoration includes wooden panels on the ceiling, complemented by hanging creepers and spotlights. Several wooden benches have been installed – four around each column – and the columns have been adorned with paintings featuring various motifs.

The decoration concept was selected through an internal design competition organized by DoSA in 2024. The competition was open to all IUB students and encouraged submissions that would improve the aesthetics and functionality of the space. Entries were evaluated by a panel comprising faculty members, DoSA personnel, and representatives from the IUB Art Club. The winning design was chosen for its creativity, feasibility, and alignment with student needs.

The final design idea came from two former students, Roshni Pravin and Sarita Khandaker, both of whom were active members of the IUB Art Club. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Art Club and incorporated feedback on aesthetics and functional use of the space, which is usually used for student activities such as exhibitions, fairs, club recruitment, indoor sports, events, and so on. •

IUB honours Prof. Niaz Zaman for Ekushey Padak 2025

IUB hosted a reception on February 26, 2025 to honour Prof. Niaz Zaman, recipient of the prestigious Ekushey Padak 2025 in recognition of her contributions to academia. The event, held at the IUB Auditorium, brought together faculty members, students, and renowned literary figures.

Speakers highlighted Prof. Zaman's impact on literary studies, education, and creative writing. Javed Hosein, member of the IUB Board of Trustees, praised her role in mentoring students and academics. Prof. Razia Sultana Khan, Advisor to the Department of English and Modern Languages, reflected on her influence in literature and intellectual growth.

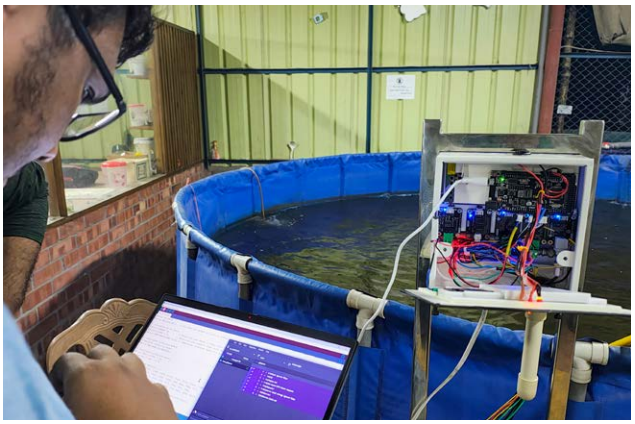


Prof. Ahmed Mostofa Kamal, author and faculty member of IUB's Department of Physical Sciences, described her recognition as long overdue. Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim acknowledged her legacy as a scholar, writer, translator, and educator.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Bokhtiar Ahmed, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, reaffirming IUB's dedication to excellence.

Professor Niaz Zaman, a distinguished educationist, author, and translator, and the Advisor to the Department of English and Modern Languages at IUB, received the prestigious Ekushey Padak 2025, the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh, on February 20, 2025. •

Fab Lab IUB and Sher-e-Bangla Agri Uni develop innovative device to monitor water quality in fish farming



The Fab Lab of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has partnered with Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) to develop an Automation and Monitoring Device for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) to address some long-standing challenges in water quality monitoring for fish farming. On January 29, 2025, the device was officially installed in one of the aquaculture research facilities on the SAU campus in Dhaka.

The project was jointly supervised by Dr. Mahady Hasan, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and Director of Fab Lab IUB; and Prof. Dr. A. M. Shahabuddin, Chairman of the Department of Aquaculture at SAU. The team members were Tahfizul Hasan Zihan and Hana Sultan Chowdhury, both students of CSE at IUB; Shirazim Munir Deap, Adjunct Faculty of CSE; and Md Rubayed Mehedi, Research and Development Officer at IUB's Department of CSE. They designed and refined the commercial prototype over several months before the official installation.

The device measures seven critical water parameters in real-time to ensure optimal fish health. It provides instant warnings when water quality deviates from ideal levels. It is Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled, storing collected data on a dedicated server for remote access and real-time updates. Farmers and researchers can log into a website or mobile app to view trends, download historical data, and receive customized notifications. Access to data is secured, allowing only authorized users to retrieve and modify information.

Prof. Shahabuddin said, "We introduced Asian seabass [locally known as Koral] in the freshwater Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) using a specially prepared formulated feed. The device now allows researchers to observe and track how environmental conditions affect fish growth and survivability during the experiment."

He also said, "We are excited to explore how changing water parameters influence the growth and well-being of fish over time. This device will help us gather essential data, giving us insights to optimize feed and environmental factors for better aquaculture practices."

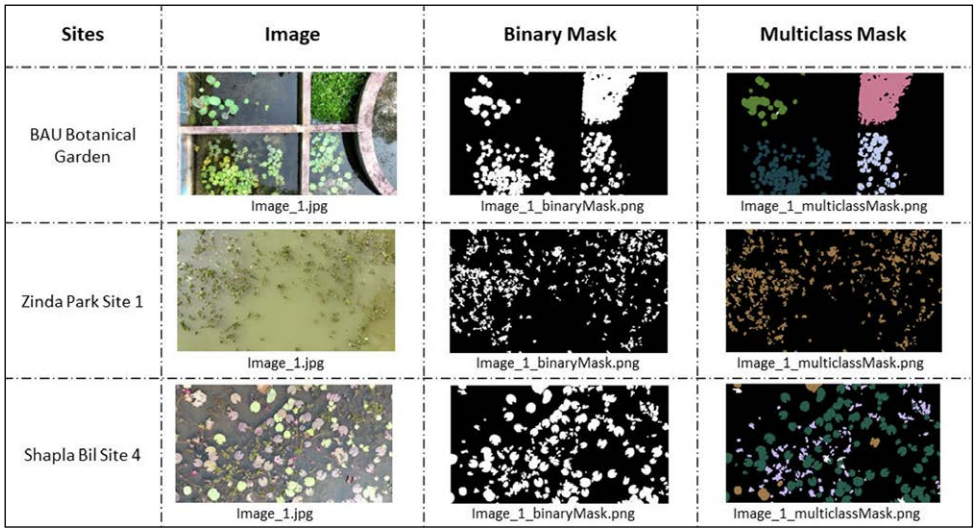
This collaboration integrates agricultural science with engineering and IoT technologies to enhance aquaculture efficiency. Fab Lab IUB is exploring further applications of the device in other aquaculture systems and refining its features based on collected data. The initiative aligns with Bangladesh's focus on sustainable agriculture and efficient food production.

Emphasizing the importance of such partnerships, Dr. Mahady Hasan said, "We believe that integrating engineering with aquaculture systems can unlock transformative solutions for food security."

The Fab Lab IUB is one of only a handful of advanced engineering fabrication facilities in the country that supports innovation, prototyping, and research in various fields, particularly within engineering, technology and sciences. The lab is equipped with cutting-edge tools and technologies that allow students and researchers to design, build, and test prototypes across diverse domains, including robotics, automation, and IoT. •



RIoT Research Center publishes datasets on water quality and aquatic plants in Q1 journal Nature Scientific Data



The RIoT Research Center at IUB has published two significant environmental datasets, providing valuable resources for global researchers. These datasets offer critical insights into biodiversity monitoring and water quality trends, aiding studies on climate change, ecosystem conservation, and sustainable resource management.

The datasets were published in Nature Scientific Data, a Q1-ranked journal recognized for its rigorous peer review and high-impact research. The journal has a five-year impact factor of 8.9 and a CiteScore of 12.2, reflecting its influence and credibility in the scientific community.

The AqUavplant dataset, published on December 20, 2024, contains 197 high-resolution drone images of 31 aquatic plant species from nine locations in Bangladesh. Designed for machine learning applications, the dataset includes segmentation masks to aid in species identification and biodiversity mapping. It can benefit environmental researchers, conservation agencies, and organizations focused on aquatic ecosystem management and national biodiversity programs.

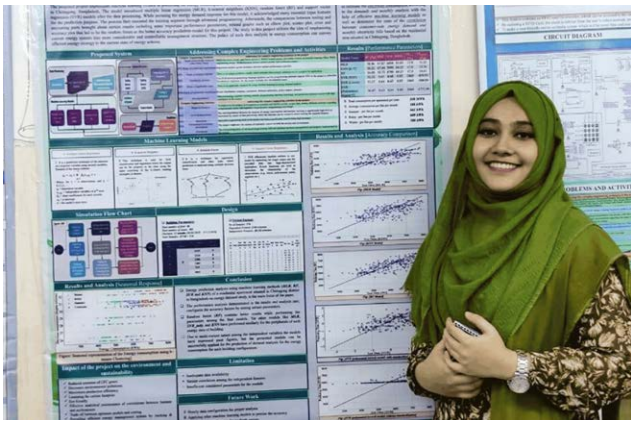
The Global Surface Water Quality Dataset, published on March 6, 2025, compiles 2.82 million water quality measurements collected between 1940 and 2023 from the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, and China. The dataset provides a resource for studying long-term water quality trends and supporting research on climate change and water security. It can aid policymakers, environmental scientists and organizations, and national water resource management authorities in developing sustainable water management strategies.

The interdisciplinary research teams behind these datasets consist of faculty members Prof. Dr. M. M. Mahbubul Sayeed, Dr. Razib Hayat Khan, Dr. Md. Shakhawat Hossain, Dr. Mohammad Faisal Uddin, and Kaniz Fatema, along with research assistants Md. Abrar Istiak, Jahid Hasan Rony, Md. Rajaul Karim, and Ashifur Rahman from the RIoT Research Center. The teams also include Prof. Dr. M. Ashafuzzaman from the Department of Crop Botany, Bangladesh Agricultural University, and Dr. K. Ayaz Rabbani, Dean, Environmental Science and Management.

"These datasets exemplify the power of interdisciplinary research in addressing global environmental challenges," said Dr. Mohammad Faisal Uddin, Director of the RIoT Research Center. "By combining expertise in computer science, environmental science, and artificial intelligence, we have developed resources that can drive innovation in biodiversity conservation and water quality management. These publications highlight IUB's commitment to collaborative, data-driven research with real-world impact."

Founded in 2022, the RIoT Research Center, short form of the Center for Industrial Automation, Robotics and Internet of Things, specializes in cybersecurity, computer vision, robotics, IoT, and microprocessor design. It is collaborating with IUB's FabLab to expand research facilities in industrial automation, cybersecurity, and environmental monitoring. The center is now working to strengthen partnerships with national and international institutions to enhance its research capabilities and drive innovation in automation and environmental science. •

EEE student develops AI model to improve Dhaka's electricity distribution and reduce load shedding



An artificial intelligence-driven model developed by Halima Haque, graduate student at Independent University, Bangladesh, can help authorities predict power consumption trends in Dhaka, optimize electricity distribution – particularly during peak summer demand – and reduce load shedding.

Halima, a graduate student at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at IUB, came up with the machine learning (ML) model after an extensive study on energy demand forecasting for Dhaka City.

The research, supervised by Professor Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak from IUB's Department of EEE, leverages over 6.5 million real-world electricity consumption data points collected from Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) between 2020 and 2023. It examines electricity usage patterns across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, incorporating factors such as weather conditions, tariff categories, and consumption trends.

"With Dhaka facing rising energy challenges due to rapid urbanization and industrial expansion, accurate demand forecasting is crucial for ensuring stable power distribution, minimizing shortages, and integrating renewable energy into the national grid," said Halima.

The study tested five machine learning models – Multiple Linear Regression (MLR), K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) Regression, Random Forest (RF), Light Gradient Boosting Model (Light-GBM), and Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost). The KNN model delivered the highest prediction accuracy, achieving an R^2 value of 72% with the lowest Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of 222 kWh. Light-GBM and RF also showed strong performance, making them viable alternatives for energy forecasting.

"The ability to predict energy demand with high accuracy can significantly improve power distribution strategies and support renewable energy integration," said Halima Haque. "By utilizing AI-driven forecasting, we can help policymakers and utility companies make informed decisions that ensure a stable and sustainable power supply."

The findings, presented at IEEE conferences in the Maldives and Thailand and published in the Q1-ranked IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications, highlight the potential of AI-driven forecasting to optimize power distribution, enhance grid management, and support smart grid technology.

"This research is an important step toward modernizing Bangladesh's energy infrastructure," said Professor Razzak. "Machine learning models can help us better understand consumption trends and develop more efficient policies for energy management, reducing shortages and making way for smarter, more sustainable urban planning."

The research provides actionable insights for policymakers and energy utility companies to improve energy planning, reduce shortages, and enhance sustainability. By applying machine learning to energy forecasting, Haque's work offers a scalable solution for addressing Bangladesh's growing power demands.

The study underscores the role of data-driven decision-making in ensuring a sustainable and efficient energy infrastructure for the country's urban and industrial sectors. •



Amb. Tariq Karim's book features regional cooperation in South Asia

Ambassador Tariq A. Karim's book, The Tortuous Evolution of South Asian Regional Cooperation: Bangladesh's Travails for Sub-Regional Cooperation, was launched at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on February 11, 2025. The event was organized by the Department of Global Studies and Governance and the Center for Bay of Bengal Studies, the Association of Former Ambassadors; and University Press Limited. Diplomats, scholars, and policymakers gathered to discuss the book's insights into South Asia's regional dynamics and Bangladesh's subregional cooperation efforts. •

IUB and Kobe College Japan engage with farming communities in Rajshahi and Manikganj



IUB and Kobe College, Japan, conducted the KC-IUB Winter Research Camp 2025 from February 7-13, 2025, in Manikganj and Rajshahi

IUB and Kobe College, Japan, conducted the KC-IUB Winter Research Camp 2025 from February 7 to 13, 2025, in culturally diverse farming communities in Manikganj and Rajshahi. The camp focused on field research on food and agricultural practices, engaging students and faculty members from both IUB and KC. Participants applied socio-scientific methods to collect and analyze data, examining the role of food and agriculture in the social and cultural context. The initiative provided practical research experience and facilitated cross-cultural academic exchange between the two institutions. The camp concluded with a presentation of findings, where students shared research outcomes through reports and exhibitions. The initiative established a framework for future collaborations in academic research and field-based studies. The winter camp is the first of a series of academic collaborations planned under the Memorandum of Understanding between IUB and Kobe College, Japan. •

Three faculties receive SOAS fund for climate adaptation study



From left: Dr. Md. Taslim Uddin, Dr. Md. Khaled Saifullah and Md. Ekhtekharul Islam

Three faculty members have been awarded an international grant worth over USD 36,780 (over BDT 44 lac) for an interdisciplinary research under the Resilience and Adaptation Mainstreaming Program (RAMP) by SOAS University of London, UK. The project, titled "Leveraging 'Climate Technologies' for Transformative Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities in Bangladesh," will examine how digital tools enhance climate adaptation in vulnerable communities. Dr. Md. Khaled Saifullah, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Economics, is implementing the research. The other team members are Dr. Md. Taslim Uddin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Finance, and Md. Ekhtekharul Islam, Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Science and Management. •

24 universities participate in 2nd IUB Undergrad Law Students' Research Conference

The School of Law organized the 2nd IUB Undergraduate Law Students' Research Conference on April 17-18, 2025, where undergraduate law students presented research on contemporary legal issues. A total of 40 students from 24 universities participated by submitting individual research papers that addressed various issues including discrimination, cyber law, artificial intelligence, refugee crises, wildlife protection, quota reforms, and Indigenous rights. Ten participants received special recognition for outstanding papers; they were awarded crests and cash prizes. •

CSE Annual Research Day 2025 recognizes students' contribution



A student describes the elements of his poster during the 2nd CSE Annual Research Day 2025 on June 19, 2025

Computer Science and Engineering organized the 2nd CSE Annual Research Day on June 19, 2025 to promote academic research engagement among students through competitions, keynote speeches, and recognition of research excellence. Afzal Hossain Alif received the Best Project Showcasing award in both Hardware and Software categories, while Nabarun Halder won in the Research Track category. Tasnuba Badrul won the 3MT Competition. Mohammad Arshad Hossain Ratul received the Best Undergraduate Senior Project award. Md. Shahduzzaman was awarded Best Undergraduate Research in CSE, and Nabarun Halder received Best Graduate Research in CSE. In cross-department categories, Mobarak Hossen Mollah Emon from EEE was named Best Student Researcher in Engineering and Physical Sciences; Mst. Jannatul Mawa from Law was recognized in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Professional Studies; and Md. Harun Or Rashid from Public Health was honored in Life and Health Sciences. •

Public Health symposium focuses on research ethics

The Department of Public Health organized a symposium on "Ethics in Public Health Research and Practice" on April 26, 2025. Chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim, the event examined ethical issues in health research and practice through structured dialogue among professionals from the academia, government, and the development sector. Prof. Dr. Sayeba Akhter, Chairman of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council, attended as Chief Guest. Participants included representatives from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), medical colleges, public health institutes, universities, NGOs, and UN organizations. Two keynote speakers jointly presented two parts of a paper under the symposium's title. Dr. Kamran ul Baset, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Public Health, and Dr. Abu Sadat Mohammad Nurunnabi, Research Fellow in Bioethics, University of Toronto, Canada, delivered the keynote presentation. •

Five IUB students receive CAP-RES 2025 grant

Five students have received the CAP-RES 2025 Research Grant for research on climate change and social resilience under the "Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience" project, implemented by IUB's International Centre for Climate Change and Development with funding from the Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka. Each student receives BDT 50,000 in two installments. The grantees are Md. Abu Asif Shamsuddin Naveed (Climate Change and Development), Sheba Rita Sreya Palma (Environmental Science and Management), Ruhiyat Tasnim (Economics), Md. Ashrafuzzaman Khan (Climate Change and Development), and Sujoy Mahmud (Biochemistry and Biotechnology). •

IUB-ICCCAD delegation attends COLOCAL annual meeting in Uganda



An IUB delegation joined the annual meeting of the COLOCAL Project in Kiboga, Uganda on April 28, 2025

A delegation from Independent University, Bangladesh attended the annual meeting of the COLOCAL Project in Kiboga, Uganda on April 28, 2025. The delegation comprised Dr. K Ayaz Rabbani, Dean of the School of Environment and Life Sciences; and Fahmid Mohtasin, Project Officer. The three-day event, hosted by Makerere University from April 28 to April 30, 2025, brought together partner institutions from Bangladesh, Nepal, Uganda, Mozambique, and Norway to review project progress, coordinate on local climate adaptation strategies, and plan future activities under the project's performance assessment framework. On April 30, 2025, participants visited the Kiboga District, where Makerere University supports local farmer groups under the COLOCAL framework. •

School of Business and Entrepreneurship prepares for reaffirmation of prestigious 10-year ACBSP accreditation



Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib participated in the ACBSP Conference 2025 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, in June 2025

The School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has initiated preparations for the reaffirmation of its prestigious 10-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The current accreditation, awarded in 2017, is valid until 2027.

As part of the reaffirmation process, SBE is currently working on its Quality Assurance (QA) report, which is due in September 2026. The QA report is a critical requirement in the ACBSP accreditation cycle and evaluates an institution's commitment to continuous improvement, teaching excellence, and measurable learning outcomes. Based on this report, a peer-reviewed reaffirmation decision is expected in 2027.
To strengthen its accreditation readiness, Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management at IUB, participated in the ACBSP Conference 2025 held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from June 19 to 22, 2025.

He represented IUB in sessions and regional meetings that focused on academic quality, curriculum updates, and institutional effectiveness. Dr. Habib also engaged with ACBSP leadership including President and CEO Jeffrey Alderman, Past Chair Dr. Kristina Collins, New Chair Dennis Brode, and Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steven Parscale.

Ahead of the main conference, Prof. Habib completed evaluator training at the ACBSP Pre-Conference, held from June 18 to 22, and was subsequently appointed as an ACBSP Evaluator. His role will involve peer-reviewing other institutions' accreditation applications, enhancing IUB's capacity in international quality assurance practices.

"My participation in the conference and appointment as an ACBSP Evaluator have deepened my understanding of global accreditation standards and peer-review processes. These engagements directly contribute to our preparation and strengthen IUB's standing in the international academic community."

Dr. Habib currently serves as the ACBSP Principal Contact Person and Co-Champion for IUB. The reaffirmation effort is being led by Prof. Dr. Raisul Awal Mahmood, Dean of SBE, who serves as the ACBSP Champion, with support from Co-Champion Dr. Safayet Rahman, Head of the Department of International Business.

"The ACBSP accreditation has helped us align with global benchmarks, improve academic delivery, and demonstrate our commitment to quality. The reaffirmation will be a continuation of that journey and a recognition of our progress over the past eight years," said Prof. Mahmood.

ACBSP, based in the United States, accredits business education programs at the associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels worldwide, focusing on teaching excellence and student outcomes. •



Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib completed a training ahead of the ACBSP Conference and got appointed as an ACBSP Evaluator in June 2025

IUB sports teams deliver standout performances across disciplines

Squash

Squash players from Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) have secured two Championship and three Runner-up titles in the recently concluded 2nd Inter-University Squash Tournament 2025. Organized by the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation (BSRF) and sponsored by Mark's, the tournament was held on July 4, 2025, at the Army Squash Court in Dhaka.



IUB squash players won 2 Championship and three Runner-up titles in the 2nd Inter-University Squash Tournament 2025 on July 4

Marjan Akter Monika, Squash Coach at IUB, won the Championship title in the Female Plate Group and received a coaching certificate for preparing the IUB team within 12 days. In the Female Elite Group, Riazul Zannat Urdho from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering became Champion, and Joti Rani Roy from the Department of Accounting emerged as the Runner-up. In the Men's Elite Group, Md. Raihan from the Department of Management Information Systems secured the Runner-up position. In the Men's Plate Group, Md. Mahmud Mubin from the Department of General Management also became Runner-up.

IUB was represented by a total of 12 players including nine male and three female players. The finals of all the four male and female categories featured at least one IUB player. This was IUB's second appearance in the tournament and its highest overall medal tally to date, with five total recognitions. Winners received medals and certificates.

In May, DoSA organized a 10-day "IUB Squash Camp" at the IUB Squash Court. The camp targeted those who trained throughout Spring 2025 and concluded with a closing tournament designed to assess performance. It was led by Coach Marjan Akter Monika, who conducted structured sessions focused on technique, fitness, and match strategy. Md. Raihan (MIS) defeated Mubin (General Management) to lift the trophy in the concluding tournament.

Table Tennis

Rifat Mahmud Sabbir, a student of Media and Communication at IUB, became Runner-Up in the Men's Singles segment of the Acme Cup Open Table Tennis Tournament 2025, held from February 21-23 at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium, Dhaka. On his way to the top, Sabbir won seven matches in the tournament, which featured some of the top players from across the country and was organized by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation. Ramhimlian Bawm from the Department of Global Studies and Governance won five matches to finish in the quarterfinals. Mohammad Zubair Khan Pritom from the Department of International Business competed in the first round. Empa Khatun from the Department of Sociology advanced to the second round. Sharmin Islam Shroddha from the Department of Computer Science also reached the second round, winning one match. Sadia Tabassum Shawon from the Department of Microbiology played in the first round.

In May, DoSA and the IUB Table Tennis Club jointly organized the "Table Tennis Classic: Officials' Singles



Rifat Mahmud Sabbir (second from right) became Runner-Up in the Acme Cup Open Table Tennis Tournament 2025, held from February 21-23Tournament 2025 on July 4

Showdown", in which faculty members and management staff participated. In Women's Singles, Marjan Akter Monika (Squash Coach) won the title, while Runa Akter (Faculty, Department of Pharmacy) became runner-up. In Men's Singles, Dr. Md Mahmodul Hasan Sohel (Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences) emerged as the Champion, with Kazi Din Muhammed (Deputy Director and Head, Planning and Development) finishing as runner-up.

Chess

IUB clinched the team championship at the 9th National Chess Carnival, held from April 17-19, 2025, at Notre Dame College in Dhaka. The victorious IUB Mittens team featured Amit Bikram Roy (Computer Science and Engineering), Justin Mathias Baroi (International Relations), and guest players FM Sakline Mostafa of Rajarbagh Police Line School and Shatadru Shovan Dey. Amit won five accolades – he secured first place in the Team Chess and Chess Puzzle events, finished runner-up in Solo Chess, and earned third-place honors in both Chess960 and Puzzle Relay. Two other teams from IUB also competed in the tournament.

In May, Amit became unbeaten champion in the 30th FIDE Blitz Rating Chess Tournament 2025. The 7-round Swiss-system tournament, held at the Elegant International Chess Academy in Uttara, Dhaka, featured 24 players. It was organized by the EICA under the leadership of International Organiser WCM Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury. Amit won six games and drew one in the blitz-format competition, which followed official FIDE time control rules of three minutes with a two-second increment per move.

Cricket

The IUB Cricket Team secured the Second Runner-up position in the 15th ULAB Fair Play Cup 2025, held from April 16 to May 8, 2025, at the ULAB Cricket Ground in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. IUB DIU by 12 runs, with Ridoy Dev (Accounting) named Player of the Match for scoring 55 runs and taking 3 wickets. This was followed by a 5-wicket win over UIU; Shafayat Islam (CSE) earned the Player of the Match title for bagging 3 wickets and scoring 16 runs. In the 3rd match, IUB beat IUBAT by 10 runs, with Shafayat Islam named Player of the Match again for taking 3 wickets. IUB then lost to International Standard University and tournament hosts ULAB in the next two matches. In the 3rd place decider, IUB beat BUBT by 35 runs. Nasik Faiyaz Niher (Marketing) became Player of the Match for taking 3 wickets.

Futsal

The IEEE IUB Student Branch, in collaboration with the EEE Department organized the EEE Futsal Fest 2025 on April 23, 2025, at the IUB Sports Complex. Six teams, composed mostly of EEE students, participated in the daylong tournament. Team High Voltage won the tournament and Electronic Eagles secured the runners-up position. Matches were competitive and drew participation from current students, alumni, faculty, and guests. The event was coordinated by Amir Hamza, a final year student, with support from Md. Arifur Rahman, third year, both of EEE, IUB.

Badminton

The Intra-IUB Badminton Championship 2025 concluded on February 11, 2025 at the IUB Sports Complex after four days of intense competition, which was organized by DoSA and the IUB Badminton Club. Jawad Hafiz (Accounting) won the Men's Singles title, with Ashfak Bin Ferdous (English) emerging as the Runner-up.

Tashfia Tashnim Tuba (Accounting) secured the Women's Singles title, with Kazi Soha (Management) finishing as the Runner-up. In Men's Doubles, Tipu Sultan (HRM) and MK Abir (Finance) clinched victory, while Jawad Hafiz and Fardin Hossain (Marketing) finished second. Tashfia Tashnim Tuba and Tiva Tasha (Sociology) won the Women's Doubles championship, followed by Mantasha Hassan and Sumaiya Islam Promi (HRM & Environmental Science) as the Runners-up. In Mixed Doubles, Tanin Rahman Tushar (International Business) and Lubaba Tasnim (Finance) secured the title, with Tipu Sultan and Afrin Othey (HRM) finishing as the Runners-up. •

IUB's industry collaborations in action

IUB-ACCA Bangladesh MoU

IUB signed a landmark MoU with ACCA Bangladesh on May 18, 2025 to facilitate course waiver opportunities for IUB's Accounting students pursuing the ACCA qualification. During the signing ceremony, IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim and ACCA Bangladesh Country Manager Prawma Tapashi Khan, FCCA, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. This agreement follows prior MoUs signed with ICAB in 2019 and ICMAB in 2024. With the inclusion of ACCA, IUB now holds formal agreements with all major professional accounting bodies in the country.

iFarmer roadshow

The Independent HR Society (IHRS) hosted the "iFarmer Graduate Trainee Program – Roots to Rise Roadshow" on February 17, 2025. The session introduced students to career opportunities in the People and Culture domain and provided insights into professional growth, including potential relocation opportunities. Faculty members and students from various disciplines attended the event, engaging with industry professionals.

The event featured several representatives from iFarmer, who outlined the structure, selection process, and career prospects of the graduate trainee program. The discussion covered industry trends, workplace expectations, and career development strategies. Students actively participated in the Q&A session, inquiring about job roles, relocation opportunities, and long-term career paths.



IUB and ACCA Bangladesh signed an MoU in May 2025

EEE workshop on solar PV microgrid

The EEE Department and Cornerstone of Rural Electrification Initiative of the Alliance for Rural Electrification hosted a three-day professional training workshop on Solar PV Microgrid Design for Agricultural Irrigation Systems. The training took place on February 25-27, 2025, at IUB and attracted a diverse group of participants, including students, faculty members, and professionals from the renewable energy and rural electrification sectors. It focused on equipping participants with the technical skills necessary for designing solar-powered microgrids for irrigation systems in rural areas. The initiative aligns with IUB's commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions, particularly for rural communities. The sessions included in-depth training on Solar PV system design, grid integration, and the use of HOMER-Pro simulation software to optimize microgrid systems.

Management dept's skill mapping exercise

In March, the Department of General Management organized a "Skill Mapping Exercise and Adaptation Planning" session to address industry expectations and academic preparedness. The event brought together industry leaders, faculty members, and students for discussions on essential competencies required in the evolving job market. Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management, presided over the session. Prof. Dr. Raisul Awal Mahmood, Acting Dean of IUB's School of Business and Entrepreneurship, opened the event with a welcome address. The session covered academic qualifications, technical expertise, and soft skills, with industry professionals sharing insights on workplace readiness.

CSE's skill mapping session

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering hosted an online event titled "Alumni-Industry Skill Mapping Meetup" on March 19, 2025. The event, organized by the CSE External Outreach Office, aimed to help students plan their academic journey in alignment with current industry requirements. Dr. Saadia Binte Alam, Head of the CSE department; and Dr. Mahady Hasan, Associate Professor of CSE, spoke at the session. Participants included former IUB students now working in software development, systems architecture, IT consultancy, and tech entrepreneurship, as well as faculty members with industry affiliations.

CSE-ADN DigiNet collaboration under IUB360

The CSE External Outreach Office organized a strategic meeting with ADN DigiNet Ltd. on April 16, 2025, to discuss student-industry collaboration under the IUB360 – Innovation and Incubation Centre initiative. Dr. Mahady Hasan, Associate Professor of CSE; Rezwana Zafar, Lead of International & Strategic Business Department at ADN DigiNet

Ltd.; Nahean Hasan Khan, Head of SBU ROBOKET; and Fakhar Uddin Arnob, Senior Solutions Architect, took part in the discussion. Student attendees included Anika Tabassum and Masuda Alam Moutushi. Both parties discussed the development of a formal MoU focused on facilitating mentorship, industry training, and project development.

IHRS seminar on evolving HR landscape

The Independent HR Society (IHRS) organized a session titled "HRIS and HR Analytics in the Evolving HR Landscape of Bangladesh" on April 26, 2025. The event aimed to prepare students for the application of digital technologies and data-driven decision-making in human resource management. M M Ajmain Faique, HR Systems and Operations Specialist at Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, was the guest speaker. He explained the structure and functionality of Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) and introduced SAP SuccessFactors (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing SuccessFactors), covering modules such as Recruiting, Onboarding and Offboarding, Succession Planning, Performance and Goal Management, and Career Development Planning.

CGP&AR's 'Campus to Corporate' seminar

The Career Guidance, Placement and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR) Office and Global Pathway Experts Limited organized a career grooming seminar titled "Campus to Corporate" on June 30, 2025. The seminar aimed to prepare graduating students for professional environments through structured sessions on career planning, recruitment preparedness, and corporate communication. It was conducted by Irfan Mizan Khan, Director of Operations at Global Pathway Experts Limited and Chairman & CEO of Orbit IT Limited. Mahib Sadman, Business Development Executive at the organization, served as supporting speaker and host. Key discussion topics included evaluating career readiness, CV structuring and keyword strategies, internship-seeking approaches, LinkedIn optimization, and adapting to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. Additional segments focused on corporate culture expectations, professional email communication, and interview techniques. The session concluded with an open Q&A and on-site mentorship sign-up.

CGP&AR-Finance Dept's workshop featuring Midland Bank PLC

CGP&AR Office and the Department of Finance hosted a student engagement program featuring Midland bank PLC on June 24-25, 2025. The two-part program – comprising a financial literacy workshop and an open booth on campus – aimed to raise awareness and provide students with guidance for pursuing careers in the banking sector. The booth, set up at the Student Activity Area, facilitated direct interaction between bank representatives and students, focusing on account registration and orientation to digital banking services. Over 200 students engaged with the booth across the two days, and more than 20 submitted completed account applications. The workshop, held on June 26, was led by Md. Rashed Akter, Head of Retail Distribution Division and Chief Bancassurance Officer; and Mohammad Faruq Ur Rahman, Manager, Financial Literacy Wing, RDD, Midland Bank PLC. It covered fundamental aspects of financial literacy along with career insights for students considering the banking profession.

Information session on Teach For Bangladesh Fellowship

CGP&AR organized an information session on the Teach For Bangladesh (TFB) Fellowship Program from March 9 to 11, 2025. The session introduced students to the two-year full-time fellowship, which allows graduates to teach in underserved communities while pursuing a fully funded M.Ed/PGD under BRAC University. Around 450 to 500 students registered through a link provided by Teach For Bangladesh and participated in the event. Mohammad Rafat Alam, Associate, Fellowship Recruitment & Selection at Teach For Bangladesh, discussed the fellowship's role in addressing educational inequity and developing leadership. IUB students shared their interest in the program and its purpose-driven approach. The session targeted graduates, final-year students, and current students of IUB.

TFB representatives outlined the application process, eligibility requirements, and selection criteria. Students who registered through the provided link will receive further updates on the next steps. Representatives also engaged with attendees, answering questions about the program's structure and long-term impact. •



CGP&AR organized an information session on the Teach For Bangladesh (TFB) Fellowship Program from March 9 to 11, 2025

International conference on 'Literature, Language, Culture and Crises' explores contemporary discourses

The Department of English and Modern Languages (DEML) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organized the 5th International Conference on "Language, Literature, Culture, and Crises" from June 26-27, 2025. The event examined representations of academic, technological, linguistic, and cultural disruptions through expressive discourse. It was conducted through keynote lectures, plenary sessions, panel discussions, and paper presentations, engaging over 200 participants from Bangladesh and abroad.

Keynote speakers included Professor Niaz Zaman, PhD, Advisor, DEML, IUB; Professor Rob Waring, PhD, Emeritus Professor, Notre Dame Seishin University, Japan; and Professor Kaiser Haq, PhD, Dean, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

Plenary lectures were delivered by Dr. David A. Peterson, Associate Professor, Dartmouth College, USA; Dr. Nimanthi Rajasingham, Associate Professor, Colgate University; Dr. Nagesh Rao, Associate Professor, DEML, IUB; Dr. Kittitouch Soontornwipast, Assistant Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand; and Professor Md. Mahmudul Hasan, PhD, International Islamic University, Malaysia.

The chief guest at the inauguration was Prof. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, PhD, Chairman, Bangladesh Accreditation Council.

Attendees included Mr. Didar A Husain, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB; Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor, IUB; Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro-Vice Chancellor; Mr. Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider, Treasurer; Prof. Dr. Bokhtiar Ahmed, Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Dr. Naureen Rahnuma, Head, DEML; and conference convenors Dr. Sarker Hasan Al Zayed and Dr. Shaiful Islam.

Sessions addressed themes including gender, power, patriarchy, cultural memory, class, ecology, technology, social media discourse, and representations of utopia, dystopia, and urbanity in literature. Discussions on language focused on pedagogy in the context of artificial intelligence, local-global educational tensions, identity, inequality, the politics of medium of instruction, and the role of indigenous and minority languages in social change.

A session titled "The Afterlife of Numair Atif Choudhury" explored the literary legacy of the late author and former DEML faculty member. Prof. Dr. Fakrul Alam, Advisor, Department of English, East West University, analyzed Choudhury's novel Babu Bangladesh. Dr. Sarker Hasan Al Zayed provided commentary on its narrative structure and themes; and Andaleeb Choudhury, Lecturer, DEML, IUB, shared reflections on the author's creative contributions and continued recognition. •

CBoBS, GSG partner with UNESCO IOC for World Environment Day 2025 Lecture on Ocean Literacy

The Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies, Department of Global Studies and Governance, and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, organized a public lecture titled "Challenging the Bay of Bengal for Economic Opportunities" on June 29, 2025. Held in observance of World Environment Day 2025, the event aimed to promote ocean literacy and examine sustainable economic prospects in the Bay of Bengal.

Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim delivered the welcome remarks. Rear Admiral Md Khurshed Alam (Retd), Director of CBoBS and Former Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the keynote address. Rear Admiral Dr. Khandakar Akhter Hossain, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Maritime University; H.E. Marie Masdupuy, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh; and Mr. Didar A Husain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, IUB, also addressed the audience.

Ambassador Tariq A. Karim, Advisor to CBoBS, introduced the academic session by discussing the long-term environmental implications of daily actions and the urgency of preserving ocean systems The session included academic presentations on the seven core principles of ocean literacy. Dr. Emadul Islam, Senior Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation (Japan), discussed plastic pollution and marine conservation. Prof. Dr. Wahidul Alam, University of Chittagong, spoke on biodiversity and human-ocean interdependence. Dr. K.M. Azam Chowdhury, University of Dhaka, addressed the ocean's role in weather and climate. Cdre Sheikh Shahid Ahmed from the Bangladesh Maritime University, examined the role of oceanic features in shaping the Earth. Zubaida Mannan, Deputy Secretary General, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, emphasized the integration of ocean literacy into school curricula.

Pro VC Prof. Lund said: "A few years ago, I had the opportunity to observe a young family on a beach south of the Bay of Bengal. The mother and father were introducing their children to the abundant, vibrant life in the sands and shallows of the receded tide. The parents pointed to a starfish and the children's eyes lit up with curiosity and wonder. As the family walked along the beach observing the rich life in the sand, they each had a garbage bag and were excitedly picking up bits of trash along the way. This was truly ocean literacy in action. Even though the problem seems enormous, we can each start with little actions that lead to broader cooperation and solutions that benefit all of our lives and the oceans that surround us." •



Finding home half a world away

Fabliha Ahmed
Department of Global Studies and Governance

When I first heard about the new exchange program between IUB and Kobe College in Japan, it felt like a distant possibility – exciting, but not something I pictured myself doing. But the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to step out of my comfort zone. I applied, and months later, I was packing for a semester abroad as the very first student from IUB to take part in this program.

I arrived in Japan on March 31, 2025, and moved into a dormitory in the Kobe College International Exchange Centre with a warm, close-knit community. Every Wednesday evening, residents gathered to share thoughts and stories, something I quickly came to treasure.

At first, the dorm rules felt strict, but they soon became part of my routine, giving structure to my days and teaching me discipline in a way that felt natural.

My semester began in mid-April with six courses – International Relations, Gender Studies, Japanese Language, Japanese Culture, and Asian Studies. Learning Hiragana and Katakana, the main Japanese syllabaries, was challenging at first, but I slowly began to recognise them on shop signs and station boards, which felt like little victories.

I wanted to immerse myself beyond the classroom, so I applied for a work permit and was thrilled to be approved. I spent part of my week in the "English Zone," speaking with Japanese students eager to practice English, and worked at the World Expo 2025 Kansai's Grand Food Court, meeting people from across the globe. These experiences gave me a deeper sense of connection to the country and its people.

Outside of study and work, life was full of new experiences. I learned to ride a bicycle, something I had never needed in Bangladesh, and it became my main way of getting around.

I joined friends to celebrate Tanabata, Japan's Star Festival, in a traditional kimono under bamboo branches hung with handwritten wishes. I explored quiet neighbourhoods, lively markets, and cultural landmarks like the National Museum of Ethnology. I cooked for myself often, but I also enjoyed trying dishes that were completely unfamiliar to me.

The most meaningful part of my time in Japan was the friendships I built – late-night conversations in the dorm, cultural exchanges, and shared laughter that bridged every difference.

Living in Japan taught me independence, patience, and how to feel at home in a place that once seemed so far away. The support and opportunities provided by IUB made the semester a meaningful period of learning, connection, and personal growth, and I will carry it with me always. •



An Unforgettable Semester at Maribor, Slovenia



From navigating visa hurdles in New Delhi to crossing borders on €16 flights, IUB student Punno Bikash Aaone shares how an Erasmus+ semester in Slovenia turned into a journey of cultural immersion, personal growth, and unforgettable travel.

Punno Bikash Aaone

In 2024, I had the opportunity to study as an exchange student at the University of Maribor in Slovenia through the Erasmus+ programme. What began with a routine email from my university turned into a semester that broadened my perspective on life, culture, and the art of problem-solving.

How it began

My first encounter with Erasmus+ was a Facebook post about two fellow students receiving the grant. It stayed in the back of my mind until an official email arrived in 2023, inviting applications for a semester at the University of Maribor. I filled in the Google form and was fortunate to be selected.

The visa journey

Slovenia has no mission in Bangladesh, so I travelled to New Delhi, India for my visa application. The Office of Admissions, Financial Aid and International Relations of IUB guided me through the extensive paperwork: an offer letter from Maribor, proof of accommodation, travel insurance, bank statements, and police clearance. This support proved invaluable in navigating the process.



Getting there

There are no direct flights from Dhaka to Maribor. The usual route is via Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, followed by a bus ride. Unable to find a suitable flight, I opted to fly to Budapest, Hungary, and take a FlixBus to Maribor. Tickets were easily booked online, and the journey was my first taste of travelling alone in Europe.

Settling in

I stayed in the university dormitory – a choice I highly recommend. The dorm had a gym, laundry, games room, and printing station, and it offered the chance to meet students from around the world.

Adjusting to the lightly spiced local cuisine was a challenge, so I often cooked simple meals like rice with eggs and mashed potatoes from the local supermarkets. The Student Coupon Meal system provided 21 subsidised meals a month at participating restaurants, but it required a local phone number and a bus card. I got the phone number from Hoffer's supermarket and the bus card from the public transport office.



Free Wi-Fi in the dorm and across the city made communication simple, and the Erasmus community helped ease the transition.

Life in Maribor

Maribor is Slovenia's second-largest city, known for its greenery, riverside charm, and landmarks such as the Piramida Hill and Public Park. The country's transport system is efficient, with punctual buses and trains for both local and intercity travel. A monthly bus card offers unlimited rides, and FlixBus and FlixTrain are affordable ways to reach other European cities. Budget airlines like Ryanair also make exploring Europe remarkably cheap – I once flew to Paris for just 16 Euros!

Travels across Europe

My time in Slovenia opened the door to visiting several countries. In Milan, I was introduced to Italian elegance, with the grand Duomo di Milano and stylish streets lined with high-end stores. The food and vibrant culture made it unforgettable. Turin is famous for Baroque architecture and historic cafés, but for me it was about reconnecting with a senior schoolmate, sharing stories far from home.

Zagreb (Croatia) was a colourful city blending old and modern Europe, with lively squares and unique local dishes. Prague (Czech Republic) was like walking through a storybook, with the Charles Bridge, Astronomical Clock, and the medieval Old Town leaving me spellbound. In Germany, I got the chance to reunite with a close friend, seeing the city through local eyes and making new memories together.

Paris (France) was a long-time dream fulfilled – the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and strolling along the Seine felt magical, even with a few unexpected experiences. Vienna (Austria) was a city of imperial grandeur and music. The highlight was climbing St. Stephen's Cathedral tower for a panoramic view of the city.

> **"I returned home with memories of train rides through scenic landscapes, meals shared with new friends, and moments of quiet awe in places I had only read about.**

Lessons learned

Studying abroad wasn't just about academics – it was a crash course in adaptability. From finding airport terminals to navigating city transport, I learned to solve problems independently. I experienced different cultural norms, discovered that greetings and social customs vary widely, and learned to remain calm in the face of occasional prejudice based on accent, skin colour, or background. Travel also taught me to embrace both the joys and challenges of unfamiliar places. There were moments of confusion, missed connections, and strange encounters, but they became part of the adventure.

Looking back

My semester in Maribor was more than an academic exchange – it was a transformative chapter of my life. I returned home with memories of train rides through scenic landscapes, meals shared with new friends, and moments of quiet awe in places I had only read about. Most importantly, I came back with a deeper understanding of myself and the world. Life is full of bittersweet experiences, but with the right mindset, even the unexpected turns can lead to remarkable destinations. This Erasmus+ journey will remain one of the most cherished experiences of my life. •

From Kathmandu to Columbia: IUB steps up global engagements

IUB signed an MoU with Far Western University (FWU) in Nepal, aiming to strengthen academic cooperation and facilitate joint initiatives in research, education, and student engagement. The 5-year MoU was signed on June 23, 2025, at Kathmandu, Nepal. IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim and FWU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hem Raj Pant signed the MoU on behalf of their respective universities. Representing IUB at the signing along with the Vice Chancellor were Dr. Kamran ul Baset, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Public Health; and Prof. Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Management. The agreement outlines a broad framework for collaboration, including student mobility programmes such as semester abroad, articulation and internships, as well as faculty and staff exchanges. It also opens up opportunities for joint supervision of postgraduate research, co-hosting academic events, and co-publication of scholarly work.



IUB signed an MoU with Far Western University (FWU) on June 23, 2025, at Kathmandu, Nepal

IUB signs MoU with INTI Malaysia

IUB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Student Exchange Agreement with INTI International University & Colleges (INTI), Malaysia on April 20, 2025, with a validity of five years. The agreements were formalized by Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor of IUB, and Professor Joseph Lee, PhD, Vice Chancellor of INTI International University. This partnership aims to promote student and faculty exchange, collaborative research, and broader academic mobility across disciplines. Under the agreement, Sirajum Muneera Preenon, Biochemistry and Biotechnology, has been nominated to participate in the student exchange program in August 2025.

Dr. Laura Kuhl Leads Climate Adaptation Talks at IUB

Dr. Laura Kuhl, Associate Professor at Northeastern University, USA, conducted a series of sessions at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in February 2025, engaging students, researchers, and professionals on climate adaptation and justice. On February 14, she led a seminar titled "Climate Finance for Resilience and Equity: Understanding How Funding Decisions Shape Adaptation on the Ground," highlighting how financing choices impact vulnerable communities and introducing the concept of "Triple Injustice." On February 23, she delivered the opening session of a short course on "Climate Change and Locally-Led Adaptation," organized under the COLOCAL Project, covering climate risks, emissions, and locally-led responses. On February 24, in a seminar titled "The Transformational Potential of Nature-based Solutions," Dr. Kuhl discussed equitable approaches to adaptation through green infrastructure, mangrove restoration, and other NbS strategies.



Dr. Laura Kuhl conducted a series of sessions at IUB in February 2025

Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi talks at seminar on green investment

Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi, a senior associate at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Temporary Technical Director at IUB's International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), delivered the keynote address at a seminar titled "Leveraging Private Sector Financing: Green Investment Opportunities for Advancing the Climate Change Agenda" on March 1, 2025. It was organized by the Department of Environmental Science and Management. Prof. Dr. Md Hafizur Rahman, Head of the Department, opened the session and moderated the discussions, including the Q&A segment. Dr. Regmi discussed how

Nepal has integrated climate resilience into national development planning. He highlighted Nepal's National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) as a model for embedding climate finance into development strategies.

Prof. Dr. Razzak delivers keynote at ICSEEIS 2025

Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak from the Department of EEE, delivered the keynote address at the International Conference on Sustainable Energy, Electronics, and Intelligent Systems (ICSEEIS 2025) held from March 10-11, 2025, in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India. The event, organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering (SVCE), brought together experts in sustainable energy, electronics, and intelligent systems.

In his presentation titled "Mitigating The Challenges of the 5th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development Goals via Robotics, IoT, and Machine Learning," Dr. Razzak focused on the shift from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0. He outlined how emerging technologies such as collaborative robotics (Cobots), artificial intelligence, and human-centered automation could drive sustainability while enhancing human well-being. He shared several innovative applications and models, including AI-driven smart energy management systems, IoT-based substation monitoring, machine learning models for energy demand prediction, and IoT-enabled healthcare solutions. His talk also covered AI-powered systems for security, such as autonomous bomb-defusal robots and smart waste management technologies, emphasizing their role in addressing global challenges.

Prof. Dr. Ahsanuzzaman delivers lectures at Oslo, Istanbul and Pokhara

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman from the Department of English and Modern Languages delivered a special lecture titled "Ibsen's 'Absence' from the Contemporary Bangladeshi Stage" at the Centre for Ibsen Studies, University of Oslo (UiO), Norway on May 28, 2025. He presented findings from his ongoing research, drawing from responses collected through questionnaires and interviews with Bangladeshi theatre practitioners, academics, activists, students, and representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka. In June, he delivered another lecture at Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkiye, during a four-day international conference titled "Adaptation, Recreation and Reproduction", organised by the Association of Adaptation Studies (AAS) from June 1-4, 2025. His talk focused on the reproduction of Putul Khela by Mitra's daughter, Shaoli Mitra. In March, he delivered the keynote address at the international conference on Travel and Tour Literature in Pokhara, Nepal which focussed on the teachings of the Buddha, the Katha Upanishads, the Psalms, and the hadith – traditions from Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) – to highlight how travel fosters experience and knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib chairs global talk at ExpertGate

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management, chaired a virtual international panel discussion titled "Global Table Discussion: AI Research & Innovation (Session-1)" on May 28, 2025. He served as Program Chair and moderator of the session, which focused on topics including AI access equity, interdisciplinary approaches, and cross-sector policy alignment. In his closing remarks, Prof. Habib stated that future discussions would aim to enhance inclusive research ecosystems and increase international alignment on AI policy frameworks. In June, Prof. Habib delivered a lecture on technology-driven supply chain management during his academic visit to Lawrence Technological University (LTU) in Detroit, Michigan, USA. He also visited the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) Society International Headquarters at LTU to discuss future collaboration between IEOM and IUB, including initiatives involving the IEOM IUB Student Chapter.

Prof. Dr. Md Abdul Awal Khan presents paper at Columbia

Prof. Dr. Md Abdul Awal Khan from the Department of Law presented a research paper titled "Revisiting Law and Policy Framework Addressing Climate Mobilities in Bangladesh" at an international conference in Columbia University, USA. Held on June 16-18, 2025, the conference was titled "MR2025: Mobility, Adaptation, and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate". His presentation focused on evaluating Bangladesh's legal and policy preparedness to address climate-induced mobility, particularly internal displacement and planned relocation. It identified the lack of legal safeguards for climate-displaced populations and the need for stronger alignment between international climate commitments and national strategies. •



Prof. Dr. Md Abdul Awal Khan presented a research paper in Columbia University, USA, in June 2025

Intersections of inquiry: faculty members contribute to critical conversations



Prof. Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, from the Department of Media and Communication and Director of King Sejong Institute, presented a research paper on the Bangladeshi diaspora at an international conference held in Paris, France, during May 13-16, 2025. The conference, titled "Narrative Matters 2025: Disparate Narrative Worlds – Crisis, Conflict, and the Possibility of Hope", was jointly organized by The American University of Paris and Université Paris Cité. Prof. Raju's paper was titled "Narrativisation and Construction of 'Bangladesh' in Pacific Diasporas of Japan and Australia". It explored how national identity and cultural memory are constructed within Bangladeshi diasporic communities in Japan and Australia. His analysis addressed transnational representations and narrative frameworks among migrant populations.

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman from the Department of English and Modern Languages has edited the first-ever Bangla translation of A Memoir of Vincent van Gogh, originally written in English in 1913 by Johanna van Gogh-Bonger. The memoir, translated by Subah Binte Ahsan and published by Journeyman Books in February 2025, introduces



Bangladeshi readers to the life and struggles of Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890), the Dutch Post-Impressionist painter whose works have inspired generations of artists worldwide. The Bangla edition includes reproductions of some of Van Gogh's most renowned paintings, including Sunflowers, The Reaper, The Potato Eaters, Starry Night Over the Rhône, and Almond Blossom.

Prof. Dr. Shahriar Khan, from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, received the "Best Paper - Reviewers Choice Award" at the International IoT, Electronics and Mechatronics Conference (IEMTRONICS) held from April 3 to April 5, 2025 at the Imperial College London, United Kingdom. He presented a paper titled "AI-Generated Personalities with Audio and Video for Companionship, and 'Interaction' with the Deceased." Prof. Khan served as the Session



Chair in three sessions on "Information Technology," "Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning" and "IOT & Data Science," respectively. He was also the supervising author for two student-led research papers presented at the conference.

Prof. Dr. Md. Mamun Habib, Head of the Department of General Management, attended an AmCham Dialogue on February 24, 2025, at The Sheraton Banani,



Dhaka. The event, titled "Enhancing Trade and Investment Landscape," convened policymakers, business leaders, and trade experts to discuss strategies for strengthening Bangladesh's trade and investment sector. The event focused on policy reforms, investment incentives, and US-Bangladesh trade relations. Participants discussed strategies to create a business-friendly environment and emphasized the role of sustainable trade practices in economic growth and long-term investment opportunities. In March,

Prof. Habib participated in the Business Reporter UK's Supply Chain Talk. The episode, "Navigating ESG and Supply Chain Risks by Building Resilient and Responsible Networks," aired on March 5, 2025. The conversation addressed Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations, which investors use to assess risks and opportunities beyond traditional financial metrics. ESG factors are not always included in required financial reporting but are increasingly disclosed through sustainability reports and frameworks like those from the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).



Prof. Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Management, attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), held in Bonn, Germany, from March 27 to 30, 2025. The event gathered over 100 participants representing 60 countries. Prof. Rahman was one of two representatives selected from Bangladesh. Following the Bonn event, Prof. Rahman joined a research meeting hosted by the Technical University Berlin. The session engaged researchers and institutional heads in dialogue on environmental sustainability, climate policy, and education frameworks.



Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Awal Khan from the Department of Law attended the 9th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW), organized by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), in Seoul, South Korea, from March 14 to 15, 2025. The event was titled "Building Bridges for Korean Reunification: Establishing Legal and Practical Frameworks for Peace." HWPL funded Professor Khan's participation. During the visit, Professor Khan held meetings with HWPL's Regional Branch Manager and Global 3 Branch Manager. He discussed international law, human rights, sustainability, and global peace initiatives and presented a revised draft of an MoU from IUB, which HWPL accepted without amendment. He also gave interviews to South Korean media outlets, where he outlined ongoing collaboration between HWPL and IUB and discussed future prospects for joint peace-related initiatives.

Dr. Imran Firdaus, Head of the Department of Media and Communication, has been awarded the Charles Wallace Bangladesh Trust Fellowship at SOAS South Asian Institute (SSAI), University of London, for the Spring 2025 term (March to May). The fellowship includes financial support for travel, pre-departure expenses, and a monthly stipend. He will



conduct a research titled "Faith, Fear, and the Force of Nature: Cinematic Representations of Natural Disasters in Bangladeshi Screenwriting." His study will examine how Bangladeshi screenwriters depict natural disasters through themes of faith and fear, exploring their cultural and socio-political dimensions. At SSAI, he will work with scholars, access archival resources, and present his research in the SOAS South Asia Institute seminar series. He will also publish an overview of his study on the institute's website and submit a final report on his findings.

Dr. Xingkui Wang, Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages, conducted a workshop on Hegel's philosophy at the University of Maribor, Slovenia, in April 2025 as part of a staff training



program supported by the European Union's Erasmus+ Program. The training, which took place from March 31 to April 4, 2025, was designed to facilitate international mobility between partner institutions and encourage exchanges between different cultural and educational perspectives through lectures, discussions, and informal conversations among faculty and students. Dr. Wang's workshop, given in collaboration with Prof. Boris Vezjak from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Maribor, focused on Hegel's Philosophy of Right. While in Slovenia, Dr. Wang also introduced discussions on the Rohingya situation in Bangladesh, engaging Maribor students on geopolitical issues beyond the workshop's primary focus. Students actively participated in the discussions and expressed strong motivation for learning, highlighting the broader cultural exchange fostered by the program. •

Career and Networking Day 2025 attracts 60 top companies

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its annual Career and Networking Day on May 6, 2025, drawing participation from nearly 60 organizations spanning a wide range of industries. The event, organized by the university's Office of Career Guidance, Placement and Alumni Relations (CGP&AR), brought together employers and students for a full day of networking, resume collection, training sessions, and on-campus interviews.

The opening ceremony was held at the IUB Multipurpose Hall and was attended by Mr. Didar A Husain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor; and Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro Vice Chancellor. Also present were several Trustees, senior faculty members, and industry representatives, including Mosfiqur Rahman Pavel, CEO of Munshi HR Solutions Limited, and IUB alum Qazi Yamin Kabir Tushar, Chief Marketing Officer at Eduko Pathways Bangladesh.

To the students, Mr. Didar A Husain said, "Go where your heart takes you. Do what you want to do, what you like – not necessarily for monetary benefits. You need to create your own space, know where you're going, look at the opportunity, and the people who are here to help you. Think deeply, and decide what you want to do."

Prof. M. Tamim said, "Career placement is a core responsibility of any university. At IUB, we view



CGP&AR office organized the Career and Networking Day 2025 on May 6, 2025

Career and Networking Day as a key opportunity to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry. Our goal is to align education with evolving market needs, so that our graduates are equipped with the skills required by today's employers. Events like this are critical in creating that bridge."

To the students, Prof. Daniel W. Lund said, "Make that connection. Don't just walk around and look – talk to people in the booths. Even if you're shy, take that step. They'll say, 'Hi, can I help you?' That's how it starts. And don't skip booths you find uninteresting – you never know where a connection might lead."

Mosfiqur Rahman Pavel said, "Students must reflect on what drives them – what they enjoy, what they're passionate about. Career paths are rarely linear. I started in computer science and found my calling in HR through exploration and experience. That's why networking and self-awareness are essential to building a meaningful professional journey."

Qazi Yamin Kabir Tushar said, "Today's job market demands versatility. It's no longer enough to be just an engineer or a coder—you have to wear multiple hats. I encourage students to visit every booth, talk to people, and learn how different organizations work. These interactions can shape their understanding and open unexpected doors."

Participating companies this year represented sectors including banking and financial services, FMCG, consulting, ICT, pharmaceuticals, NGOs, and readymade garments. Several organizations conducted walk-in interviews and skill development sessions throughout the day.

From the banking and financial institutions, BRAC Bank PLC, City Bank PLC, bKash Limited, Bengal Commercial Bank PLC, IFIC Bank PLC, Mutual Trust Bank PLC, Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, and IPDC Finance PLC set up stalls and interacted with the students. Participating companies from the FMCG sector included Square Food & Beverage Ltd, ACI PLC and M. M. Ispahani Limited.

Other major sectors were represented among others by Chevron Bangladesh, The ACME Laboratories Ltd, Square Toiletries Limited, IFAD Group, Esquire Electronics Ltd, Associated Builders Corporation Limited, HS Enterprise (Honda Power Products Bangladesh), Summit Communications Limited, Super Star Group, Teach For Bangladesh, Fakir Apparels Ltd, Ha-Meem Group, Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Limited, BSRM, Apex Footwear Ltd, Augmedix Bangladesh, Genex Infosys PLC, ATN News and Panjeree Publications Ltd.

According to CGP&AR, the annual event reflects IUB's ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations. "It is a valuable platform for students to engage with top organizations, where each conversation and resume shared brings them closer to their professional goals. We thank the employers for their continued belief in the potential of IUB graduates," said Sharmeen Islam, Deputy Director and Head of CGP&AR.

ATN News, The Business Standard and Bonik Barta were the media partners of the event. The inaugural session was moderated by Al-Zawad Islam Shadman, a student from the Department of Management Information Systems. •

IUB welcomes more than 1,000 new undergraduate students for Summer 2025



IUB welcome over 1,000 new undergraduate students during the Summer 2025 Orientation program on May 22, 2025

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) more than 1,000 new undergraduate students during the Summer 2025 Orientation program on May 22, 2025. Organized by the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid and International Relations, the event was held at the IUB Auditorium and attended by parents, guardians, university senior management, faculty and administrative staff.

Of the newly enrolled students, 57% are male, 43% female. While 68% of the students come from Dhaka, the remaining 32% represent various districts across the country.

Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro Vice Chancellor; Prof. Dr. Raisul Awal Mahmood, Dean (Acting) of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship; Prof. Dr. Shah M. Faruque, Dean of the School of Environment and Life Sciences; Prof. Dr. J. M. A. Hannan, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Public Health; and Dr. Habib Bin Muzaffar, Dean (Acting) of the School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences; and Mona Rahman, Additional Registrar, spoke in the inaugural session.

Dr. Naureen Rahnuma, Head of the Department of English and Modern Languages, spoke on behalf of the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Lima Choudhury, Director of Admissions, Financial Aid and International Relations, delivered the welcome remarks. The inaugural session ended with the recognition of merit scholars, who scored top marks in the admission test.

In the second session, there were separate presentations on clubs and extracurricular activities - delivered by Atif M. Safi, Head of the Division of Student Activities; and general and academic support services – delivered by Mona Rahman.

Priyanka Dey, Assistant Director in the admissions office, moderated the event, which ended with lively performances by IUB Music Club and IUB Dance Club. •

IUB celebrates Nazrul's 126th birth anniversary with music and poetry

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) celebrated the 126th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the national poet of Bangladesh, with a cultural event and lecture held at the university's DMK Lecture Gallery on May 25, 2025. The event was jointly organized by the Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research and Study Center (KNIAARSC) and the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Ekushey Padak-winning writer and Nazrul-researcher Prof. Niaz Zaman delivered a special lecture, reflecting on Nazrul's life, literary contributions, and his continuing relevance. Ekushey Padak-winning singer Fatema Tuz Zohra performed several Nazrul songs, showcasing the poet's musical diversity influenced by Hawaiian, Spanish, South Indian, and Bengali folk traditions.

Md. Yousuf Ahmed Khan, a former IUB student and emerging singer, performed a set of popular Nazrul songs. In addition to anchoring the event, Marium Binte Hassan Farin, a student of Environmental Science and Management at IUB, recited Nazrul's iconic poems Bidrohi (The Rebel) and Manush (Human). Members of the IUB Music Club also performed selected Nazrul songs.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of



Ekushey Padak-winning artist Fatema Tuz Zohra performed at the Nazrul Jayanti event on May 25, 2025

renowned Ekushey Padak-winning musicologist Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, who passed away recently. He was one of the key figures behind the establishment of KNIAARSC over a decade ago.

Speakers at the event included IUB Trustee Towhid Samad and Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman, Director of KNIAARSC, delivered the welcome and closing remarks. Trustee Dr. Husne Ara Ali, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel W. Lund, and Treasurer Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider also enjoyed the program among others. •

IQAC Sets the Benchmark for Academic Excellence



IQAC Director Prof. Razzak conducted a workshop at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in May 2025

The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of IUB continues to play a pivotal role in embedding a robust culture of quality in higher education, both within the university and across the country. In 2025, IQAC intensified its engagement with faculty, staff, and academic leaders through a series of targeted workshops, strategic meetings, and external collaborations focused on Outcome-Based Education (OBE), Self-Assessment Report (SAR) preparation, teaching-learning & assessment, and accreditation readiness. These initiatives not only strengthened IUB's internal academic practices but also positioned IQAC as a national leader in quality assurance.

Internal Engagements and Quality Assurance Initiatives at IUB

IQAC's internal activities throughout the year reflected a comprehensive approach to institutional improvement, starting with a strategic forum on February 27, 2025, which gathered deans of six schools and heads of 20 departments to address issues in curriculum, teaching-learning, and assessment. Chaired by IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. M. Tamim, the session focused on aligning academic practices with national and international accreditation standards. Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Razzak, Director of IQAC, presented key discussion points including workload policies, class size, grievance mechanisms, academic guidance, alumni engagement, and performance metrics meeting the benchmark of ACBSP (business related programs), Washington Accord (engineering programs) and Bangladesh Accreditation Council (all programs). The forum concluded with a collective commitment to implement Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF) and structured policies to support continuous academic enhancement towards program accreditation.

On the same day, IQAC also conducted a New Faculty Orientation Program, welcoming newly appointed faculty members into the university's academic and administrative framework. Prof. Razzak emphasized the role of faculty in maintaining academic standards and supporting IUB's mission. Sessions moderated by Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Awal Khan, Additional Director of IQAC, included presentations by heads of non-academic units on curriculum policies, mentorship, grading systems, IT and library support, and accreditation processes.

A notable internal milestone was the workshop titled "A Roadmap to BAC Accreditation" held on June 26, 2025, which brought together 60 members from Program Self-Assessment Committees (PSAC) across 20 undergraduate programs. The workshop featured Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC), as Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. M. Tamim opened the session, underlining the strategic importance of accreditation. Prof. Razzak provided technical insights into course learning outcomes and course file management, while Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Daniel W. Lund shared international best practices in teaching-learning, assessment, and accreditation.

IQAC's department-level interventions also gained traction. On March 6, 2025, it conducted a half-day workshop on "Outcome-Based Teaching-Learning and Assessment" for the Department of Environmental Science and Management. Faculty explored curriculum design, assessment strategies, Bloom's Taxonomy, and the role of constructive alignment in improving academic quality. Participants collaborated on lesson plans and developed assessment rubrics to measure course and program outcomes.

Similarly, on April 17, 2025, IQAC held a workshop titled "Preparing Self-Assessment Report (SAR) for BAETE Accreditation" for the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE). Prof. Razzak provided guidance on mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) to Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), stakeholder engagement, and documenting academic performance in alignment with the



IQAC organized a workshop in June 2025 that featured Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Accreditation Council

Board of Accreditation for Engineering and Technical Education (BAETE) criteria.

On May 7, 2025, a half-day SAR workshop was conducted for the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), targeting BAC accreditation. Discussions covered SAR structure, data collection, stakeholder feedback, and evidence compilation. A working group was formed to manage SAR-related tasks, and a follow-up session was proposed to track progress.

Another key initiative was the workshop titled "Attainment of Learning Outcomes (CLO, PLO, and PEO) for SBE Programs" held on June 19, 2025, at the SETS Faculty Lounge. Attended by 24 faculty members from the School of Business and Entrepreneurship (SBE), the session, led by Prof. Razzak, focused on mapping course content to learning outcomes, using assessment rubrics, and setting benchmarks for performance. Participants engaged in exercises to clarify the distinctions between CLOs, PLOs, and PEOs and explored curriculum enhancement through continuous monitoring and data analysis.

National Engagements and Capacity Building

Beyond campus, IUB's IQAC extended its expertise across multiple institutions in Bangladesh, reinforcing its leadership in OBE and accreditation. On January 31, 2025, Prof. Razzak conducted a workshop titled "Addressing Outcome-Based Curriculum, Teaching-Learning and Assessment Towards Accreditation" at the Department of EEE, Bangladesh Army University of Science and Technology (BAUST), Saidpur. Inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Brig. Gen. A B M Humayun Kabir, the session focused on preparing faculty for BAETE and Washington Accord standards. Case studies, hands-on activities, and group discussions helped participants integrate OBE principles into their course design. On March 1, 2025, Prof. Razzak facilitated a workshop titled "Evaluation and Analysis of Learning Outcomes Attainment" at Bangladesh Digital University (BDU), Gazipur. BDU Vice Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Abu Yusuf opened the session, highlighting the importance of outcome evaluation. Faculty members engaged in interactive exercises involving assessment tools like rubrics and performance data analysis, and discussed challenges in outcome alignment. The workshop ended with a presentation of a crest to Prof. Razzak in recognition of his contributions.

Chittagong Independent University (CIU) hosted two major workshops led by IQAC IUB. The first, titled "Master Plan on BAC and BAETE Accreditation", was held on March 15, 2025, and organized by CIU's School of Science and Engineering. Prof. Razzak guided faculty on stakeholder feedback strategies, course file preparation, and calculating learning outcome attainment. The session was attended by CIU's Dean of SSE and Additional Director of IQAC. The second CIU workshop, titled "OBE File Management & Roadmap Towards BAC Accreditation", took place on May 8, 2025, and was organized by CIU's IQAC. It focused on documentation practices, strategic planning, and compliance with BAC standards. Registrar Anjuman Banu Lima welcomed the participants, and Prof. Dr. Emon Kalyan Chowdhury, Director of IQAC at CIU, moderated the sessions.

At Daffodil International University (DIU), Prof. Razzak conducted a workshop on May 10, 2025, titled "Designing for Outcomes: Effective Practices of OBE in Higher Education." Inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. M. Lutfar Rahman, the event was attended by over 80 faculty members. Prof. Razzak covered curriculum alignment, CQI processes, and accreditation models, using real-life examples to illustrate best practices.

The final external engagement was held at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU), Mymensingh, on May 29, 2025. Titled "Designing and Implementation of Outcome-Based Curriculum for the Law and Social Sciences Programs", the workshop was organized in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC). More than 40 faculty members from departments including Law, Sociology, Political Science, and Economics participated in sessions on curriculum design, implementation strategies, and national qualification frameworks. Participants drafted departmental curriculum frameworks based on OBE principles and identified priorities for follow-up training. •

Three renowned groups perform at IUB Theatre's Baishakhi Drama Festival



IUB Theatre hosted the Baishakhi Drama Festival 2025 on April 13-14, 2025

IUB Theatre hosted the Baishakhi Drama Festival 2025 on April 13-14, 2025 as part of the university-wide celebrations welcoming the Bangla New Year 1432. Three renowned theatre groups – Jahangirnagar Theatre, Teerondaz Repertory and BotTala – and IUB Theatre staged four productions at the IUB Auditorium during the two-day festival.

The festival opened in the morning of April 13 Sunday with IUB Theatre's 23rd production of Rabindranath Tagore's Taasher Desh. It was directed by Shamim Sagar. Earlier, the festival was inaugurated by Didar A Husain, Chairman of IUB's Board of Trustees; Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro Vice Chancellor; Prof. Bokhtiar Ahmed, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; and Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, Head of the Department of Media and Communication. The ceremony was hosted by Momtaz Parvin, Lecturer, Department of Media and Communication and Club Coordinator of IUB Theatre.

Taasher Desh featured student performers Md. Basitullah Khan, Sowhardra Paul, Md. Touhidul Islam Ankur, Abdullah Al Mahin Siam, Jeba Tahsin, Anika Bushra Shoshee, Anika Fyruse, Samia Reza Maisha, Nuzhat Tabassum, Mosha. Sadia Afrin Orna, S. M. Shakil Amin, Sadia Islam Mou, Sami Binte Khair Nuhin, Kiran Sarkar Jui, and Sukanya Salsabil Khan. Music was directed by Rishad Hasan Promit. Production was managed by Md. Ashraful Karim Chowdhury, Sowhardra Paul, Md. Basitullah Khan, and Md. Touhidul Islam Ankur.

In the afternoon of April 13, Jahangirnagar Theatre staged its 113th production, Ditiyo Mrittur Agey, which was written and directed by Mahfuzul Islam Megh. On April 14, Teerondaz Repertory staged Konthonalite Shurjo, which was authored by Mohit Chattopadhyay and directed by Deepak Suman. Later in the afternoon, BotTala staged Khona, written by Dr. Samina Luthfa Nitra and directed by Mohammad Ali Haider.

On April 19 evening, IUB Theatre staged a second show of Taasher Desh at the main auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. •

IPC organizes 2nd season of 'F11 See Sharp'

The Independent Photograph Club (IPC) organized the second edition of their flagship national photography exhibition "F11 See Sharp Season II" in April 2025. The inauguration was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at IUB, featuring works by emerging photographers from across the country.

The three-day (April 8-10) exhibition at the IUB campus was the first phase of the multi-venue programme. Nearly 7,500 photographs were submitted by 1,138 participants in two categories – single photograph and photo stories. From these, 48 single images and seven photo stories have been selected for display. The exhibition was judged by Sarker Protick and Saiful Huq Omi, and curated by Abhijit Shuvo. On the opening day, event was inaugurated by IUB Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim. Also present were Prof. Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, from the Department of Media and Communication; Refat Ara Jerin, Lecturer and Coordinator of the Independent Photography Club; and Atif M. Safi, Head of the Division of Student Activities.
The second phase was organized at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 11-12, 2025. H.E. Achim Tröster, the Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh,



IPC organized the second edition of their flagship national photography exhibition "F11 See Sharp Season II" in April 2025

inaugurated the show as the Chief Guest. Mr. Mostafa Zaman, Director, Department of Fine Arts, Shilpakala Academy, was the Special Guest. The third phase took place at Hotel InterContinental Dhaka on April 18. All segments were open to the public.

The closing ceremony took place at IUB on April 20. It was titled "Airtel Adda Presents F11 See Season II by IPC", featuring a prize pool worth BDT 55,000 BDT. The event also had live performances by popular bands Nemesis, Blue Jeans, Shibu, and FretLess. •

IEOM IUB Student Chapter's first international seminar



IEOM IUB Student Chapter organized its first international seminar in April 2025

The Industrial Engineering and Operations Management (IEOM) IUB Student Chapter, under the Department of General Management, organized its first international seminar in collaboration with IEOM Society International, USA, on April 17, 2025, at the IUB campus. The seminar focused on "Six Sigma: A Breakthrough Improvement in Quality and Productivity Performance," marking the chapter's formal entry into international academic engagement. Presentations were delivered by Dr. Abul Bashar, Associate Professor of General Management at IUB, and Khondaker Mostakim Ahmed Fahim, Head of Supply Chain and Procurement at Dabur Bangladesh Private Limited. The sessions linked academic principles with operational strategies used in real-world business settings. The IEOM IUB Student Chapter was launched in December 2024 by the Department of General Management to strengthen connections between academic study and industry practice in industrial engineering and operations management. The event proceedings were conducted by IEOM IUB Student Chapter President Tamim Forhad Shuvo and Executive Member Jannatul Ferdoush Oishy. Faculty advisors and Senior Lecturers Seeratus Sabah and Farzana Chowdhury supported the students in planning and execution. The seminar signals the beginning of cross-border academic activity led by IUB's student body in the field of industrial operations. •

IEEE PES Student Branch host energy decarbonization seminar

The IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) Student Branch Chapter at IUB, in association with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized a seminar titled "Engineering Net-Zero through Decarbonized Energy, Materials, and Supply Chain" on April 28, 2025, at the SLASS Faculty Lounge. The seminar examined engineering approaches to achieving net-zero emissions through changes in energy systems, material use, and supply chain operations. The session was led by Prof. Dr. Tania Urmee, Deputy Dean of Engineering and Energy, at Murdoch University, Australia. Dr. Urmee presented an overview of global trends in renewable energy adoption and discussed the technological innovations required to displace fossil fuel dependence. She outlined the role of solar photovoltaics, wind energy, and smart grid technologies in enabling carbon neutrality. The seminar was attended by 45 students and five faculty members. A question-answer session followed, during which Dr. Urmee responded to questions on policy constraints, energy justice, and professional roles in sustainable engineering. •

IIBF organizes business case competition

The Independent International Business Forum (IIBF), in collaboration with the BRAC Business Club – BIZ BEE, hosted the Intra-IUB Round of the HSBC Business Case Competition 2025 by HSBC & Brac Business School from January 28 to February 10. The Intra-IUB Round was held online on February 5, 2025, with over 30 teams competing. The top three teams from IUB, announced on February 10, 2025, qualified for the national round. They will compete against more than 60 university teams in the national round. Team Strategy Squad comprises Sabikun Nahar Arbi (Finance), Zarisa Hossain (General Management), Sumiya Akter (Computer Science and Engineering), and Shahla Sarmin Raisha (Computer Science & Engineering). Team IRAS comprises Nahian Islam Asif, Sapnil Sarker Pollob, Nabeel Rahman, and Abdullah Wakil, all from Finance. Team Ghorar Dim features Md Mahmudul Islam and Nayeem Ahmed (Marketing), Tanfia Khan Disha (Biochemistry & Biotechnology), and Mahmudul Islam Raiyan (Finance). This is the second time IIBF has organized the competition, providing students with an opportunity to analyze real-world business challenges and present strategic solutions. •

IUB hosts Droidcon 2025



CSE Department and IEEE Computer Society IUB Student Branch Chapter co-hosted Droidcon Bangladesh 2025 in June 2025

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the IEEE Computer Society IUB Student Branch Chapter co-hosted the Droidcon Bangladesh 2025 on June 20-21, 2025. The event brought together over 500 developers, students, engineers, and professionals from Bangladesh and abroad to engage in technical discussions, knowledge exchange, and career networking focused on Android, Kotlin, and Flutter technologies. Droidcon Bangladesh 2025 was part of the internationally recognized droidcon conference series, supported by Google, JetBrains, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook, and Samsung. This edition featured more than 28 expert sessions addressing mobile development trends, cross-platform architecture, user interface and experience design, app security, and artificial intelligence. Speakers included Pamela Hill, Kotlin Developer at JetBrains; Omar Al Zabir, CTO and Co-founder of ServerDrivenUI and former CTO of Pathao; Simon Vergauwen, Developer Advocate at JetBrains; Mohsen Mirhoseini, Software Engineer at Wolt; and Abdullah Al Hasan, former Software Engineer at Brain Station 23. •

The Power of 'Why': A Guide to Lifelong Learning

In an exclusive interview, IUB Finance alum Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, Chairman, DBH Finance PLC, reflects on resilience, adaptability, and a passion for continuous learning



When you look back at your time at IUB, what still influences you today?

The good old golden days at IUB have shaped my life both professionally and personally. Among many, one thing that still influences me is the IUB motto "teacheth man that which he knew not". It instilled in me the habit of inquisitiveness. It taught me to never lose the hunger for learning and keep asking the question "why"?

Which skills matter most in the financial sector?

The world is changing at lightning speed. When I was a student, having a good GPA was our only goal. We were too focused on analytical ability, knack of number crunching, communication, etc. While those are still important, in today's world, adaptability with the evolution of technology and ethical judgment are very key traits that work in this sector. Today, technology is your biggest ally with which you can outperform competition.

What is your take on work-life balance? Is it a realistic goal or just a corporate myth?

As I grew more grey hairs, I realized that prioritizing the need regardless of personal or professional life, will derive the optimum satisfaction. Many may say that it should be Life-Work balance not Work-Life balance! While both may be correct, my philosophy has always been to set clear boundaries between personal and professional lives. However, it is easier said than done.

Do you think AI and automation will replace finance jobs, or create new ones?

Although there are already cases where AI is replacing humans in certain jobs, I personally believe that it is still early to comment. It is beyond doubt, though, that technology is transforming the finance sector. But human connection is still very relevant and important in making qualitative decisionmaking and judgment calls. While many jobs have become obsolete, new jobs have emerged and this will continue to happen.

Do you unplug after work, or is your phone always buzzing?

While I aim to disconnect after work hours, the nature of and involvement with the profession often requires me to remain accessible. However, as I have mentioned, it is all about how you prioritize things and strike a balance. No matter what, I religiously try to maximize "me-time", which I use for self-development and personal gratitude. This helps me to recharge and rejuvenate. While doing that even if I don't attend calls, I may be using my devices to educate/entertain/energize.

If you visited IUB today, what would you tell a room full of final-year students?

If I were to speak to final-year students, I would emphasize on getting exposure to real life challenges, getting involved in understanding the hardships of life, nurturing the surrounding ecosystem, valuing the importance of family and friends. I will stress the importance of continuous learning, networking, and extracurricular activities, keeping oneself up to date with global contemporary issues and market trends as well as staying adaptable in a rapidly evolving job market. Above all, be confident as each of you are global citizens – the whole world is open for you! •

EEE alum Nayeem receives Folsom Distinguished Master's Thesis Award in the USA

S M Nayeem Arefin, an alumnus of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), has received the 2024-2025 Folsom Distinguished Master's Thesis Award from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), USA. He received the recognition on April 23, 2025, for his National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research on lead halide perovskites conducted during his Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE).

The award, granted to only two students from across more than one hundred departments and nine colleges at UNL, recognized his thesis, which was supervised by Dr. Laura Wang, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UNL, specializing in optoelectronic materials.

Arefin's thesis, titled "Patterning Synthesis of Lead Halide Perovskites Toward Photonic Application," addressed the challenges of traditional lithographic techniques that degrade the fragile crystal structures of perovskites. By developing a new synthesis method combining soft lithography and self-assembly with asymmetric wettability templates, Arefin achieved the first controlled synthesis of $CsPb_2Br_5$ crystals, without compromising their structural integrity. This breakthrough has significant potential for future photonic devices, including perovskite-based LEDs, lasers, and photodetectors.

His research was supported by the NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). During his time at UNL, Arefin was awarded the Holling Fellowship and served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, contributing to undergraduate education. He also served as a peer reviewer for scientific journals under the Elsevier publishing group.

Arefin is currently pursuing his PhD in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME) at UNL, where he conducts research under the guidance of Dr. Jeffrey Shield, focusing on the synthesis and characterization of size-controlled metallic nanoparticles, including alloy and core-shell systems, using inert gas condensation (IGC) techniques.

His research also involves advanced structural and chemical characterization, employing techniques such as high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM), high-angle annular dark-field imaging (HAADF), Raman spectroscopy, energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS), and optical and magnetic analysis.



Arefin's academic journey began at IUB, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) in 2021, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He consistently appeared on the Dean's and Vice-Chancellor's Honor Lists from 2017 to 2020.

While at IUB, he was a member of the IUB Photonics Simulation Lab (IUBPSL), a research group in the EEE Department directed by Dr. Mustafa Habib Chowdhury, Associate Professor and current Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. At IUBPSL, Arefin focused on improving thin-film solar cells' efficiency by integrating plasmonic nanoparticles. His research involved the comprehensive morphological analysis of various core-shell nanoparticle systems and their impact on device performance, supported by simulation tools such as the ANSYS-Lumerical software suite.

Dr. Chowdhury said, "This recognition highlights the strong academic foundation and research excellence cultivated at IUB, particularly within the EEE Department. His achievement exemplifies the high level of talent nurtured at IUB and underscores the university's commitment to contributing meaningfully to cutting-edge global research." •

Public Health department observes World Health Day 2025



Department of Public Health observed World Health Day 2025 on April 9, 2025

The Department of Public Health observed World Health Day 2025 on April 9, 2025 with the theme "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures". The event, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Khairul Islam, Regional Director of WaterAid for South Asia, focused on building awareness around foundational health systems and early interventions. Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim addressed the audience, noting the university's ongoing role in advancing public health discourse and training. He emphasized the value of such observances in connecting academic learning with real-world health challenges. The session was attended by students, faculty, and stakeholders from health and development sectors. The event concluded with an interactive discussion moderated by faculty from the Department of Public Health. •

DESM seminar examines industrial chemical pollution management

The Department of Physical Sciences hosted the "Physics Olympiad 2025 Dhaka North Regional Round" with a closing ceremony and prize distribution event on February 14, 2025 at the university auditorium. Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Tamim attended the event as the chief guest. Special guests included Prof. Dr. Naureen Ahsan and Prof. Dr. Khandker Saadat Hossain from the Department of Physics at University of Dhaka. Also present were Dr. Habib Bin Muzaffar, Dean of IUB's School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences; Dr. Farhad Alam, Head of the Department of Physical Sciences; along with invited guests and faculty members. More than 1,000 students from over 300 schools and colleges participated in the competition. Around 350 participants across four categories were selected to advance to the national-level competition. •

DESM seminar examines industrial chemical pollution management

The Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM) organized a seminar titled "Environmental Compliance, Remediation, Restoration, and Sustainable Management of Hazardous Chemical Pollution from Industries" on April 10, 2025. The session examined compliance mechanisms and sustainable strategies for managing hazardous chemical pollution in industries. It was moderated by Prof. Dr. Md Hafizur Rahman, Head of DESM. Keynote speaker Dr. Ahad Chowdhury, former official at the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection and a University of Southampton alumnus, shared insights from his nearly three decades of experience in chemical pollution control and site remediation in the United States. He highlighted challenges related to hazardous chemical waste in industrial operations and discussed the regulatory frameworks underpinning environmental compliance, focusing on the US federal law Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Faculty, students, and professionals participated in the discussion, raising questions on policy enforcement, monitoring systems, and regional applicability. The event aligned with DESM's focus on applied research and professional engagement in environmental risk management. •

IUB-HWPL discuss peace education

The Outreach, Extension, and Continuing Education unit of the Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh hosted a peace seminar in collaboration with Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL). The event, titled "Bangladesh's Pledge for Peace: A Future We Build Together," was held on March 9, 2025. The seminar focused on Bangladesh's role in global peace efforts, emphasizing civic engagement, community-driven initiatives, and peace education. It was organized as part of HWPL's 9th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW). Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor of IUB, delivered the opening address. Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Awal Khan discussed Bangladesh's historical resilience and the importance of civic engagement. The seminar included a Q&A session, an HWPL membership presentation, and a peace survey, where participants affirmed their commitment to peace education and community-driven efforts. •

Nayeem and Raisa win business case competition

Marketing students Nayeem Ahmed and Raisa Nawar won the business case competition "Battle of Stage 2.0", organized by the Barishal University Business Club. The final round was held on February 26, 2025, where teams from universities across the country competed. The competition focused on providing innovative business solutions for real-world challenges. Participants were tasked with developing strategies for Bio-Xin Cosmeceuticals, a brand entering a new market in Barishal, with the challenge of building brand awareness while targeting price-sensitive customers. Their approach set them apart, particularly their proposed tagline in the local dialect, "Surokkhito Skin Logey Moger Bio-Xin", resonated with the judges as it incorporated a local and rhyming touch. One of the judges, Jannatul Ferdous, Deputy Manager at Bio-Xin, was so impressed that she decided to use the tagline for future promotions. •

BloodBridge secures govt. pre-seed funding



BloodBridge organized a two-day blood donation and awareness campaign at IUB in February 2025

BloodBridge, a student-led initiative at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) founded by Biochemistry and Biotechnology student K.M. Ferdous Hasan Foysal, secured BDT 40,000 in pre-seed funding on March 15, 2025, at the final pitch session of the University Innovation Hub Program, run by the ICT Division and partners. The funding will support development of its mobile app to connect donors and recipients in real time. Earlier, on February 23–24, BloodBridge organized "Connect for Life," a two-day blood donation and awareness campaign at IUB, promoting voluntary donation and offering free blood grouping tests. •

IUB Alum Samiul secures 50% master's funding at Linköping University

IUB alum Samiul Islam has been accepted into the Master's in Strategic and International Management program at Linköping University, Sweden. He has also been awarded a 50% scholarship. Samiul completed his BBA in Finance at IUB and later worked at a leading investment bank in Bangladesh, contributing to corporate strategy and fundraising initiatives. •

Business students become 2nd Runner-up in NatEcon 2.0

IUB's Team 'frfr' (for real, for real) secured the 2nd Runners-up position in the Econovision segment of the "Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC Presents NatEcon 2.0", organized by East West University, on April 24, 2025. Mubashwara Mehzabeen from the Department of Economics, and Marjan Ferdous Tasbih and Mahmudul Islam Raiyan from the Department of Finance, participated in this nationwide competition focused on strategic problem-solving in real-world economic scenarios. The IUB team's proposed model, "MOVE Dhaka," outlined six strategic interventions grounded in economic theory, which were supported by international case studies; structured implementation plans; and detailed cost-benefit analyses. •

Marketing major Pranto tops photography contest

Marketing major S.M. Pranto won the top prize in the intra-IUB photography contest "Health in Frame: A Photographic Tale of Bangladesh", organized jointly by the Department of Public Health and Independent Photography Club on April 20, 2025. Ismail Hossen Raju, also a Marketing major, emerged as the first runner-up while Mohammad Rabbi, majoring in Computer Science and Engineering, was the second runner-up. The top three received prize money, crests, and certificates; top 20 received certificates, crests and gifts; top 50 entries received certificates. The day-long exhibition and the contest, which aimed to raise awareness of public health in Bangladesh through student-submitted visual documentation, took place in the newly facelifted Student Activity Area on the ground floor of the Academic Building. The organizers received more than 500 photographs, from which 50 were shortlisted and exhibited. •



The IUB Library organized a rally on February 5, 2025, in observance of the National Library Day



DoSA organized a colorful Boshonto Utshab on February 13, 2025



The Department of Social Sciences and Humanities organized a colorful "Choitali Utshob" on April 10, 2025



Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel W. Lund visited the stalls set up on campus as part of the Bangla New Year celebrations in April 2025



The Office of Admissions, Financial Aid, and International Relations organized "Bridges Beyond Borders" in June 2025 that brought together the international students community



The Department of Environmental Science and Management hosted the final Green Day Training session of the National Earth Olympiad 2025 on July 1, 2025



The IUB Law Alumni Association (IUB-LAA) was launched on March 22, 2025



The Department of Accounting launched the Accounting Alumni Association on May 18, 2025



The Department of Physical Sciences and Symmetry: Club of Physical Sciences organized Open Day 2025 on February 27, 2025 to welcome new students and bid farewell to graduates



The Department of Physical Sciences organized Faculty Retreat 2025 in Cox's Bazar from January 30-31, 2025



The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and IEEE IUB Student Branch hosted the EEE Freshers' Day Spring 2025 on February 19, 2025



IUB and NSU faculty members and students staged a demonstration on March 9, 2025 condemning violence against women

GERC secures 2nd place in Renewable Energy Fest 2025 at BUET



GERC secured 2nd place in the Renewable Energy Fest 2025 in BUET in April 2025

A team from the Green Energy Research Center (GERC) secured the 2nd place in the "Future Energy Technology Award" category at the Renewable Energy Fest 2025 held on April 23–24, 2025, at BUET. GERC also was selected among the top three exhibitors and invited to the Power Pitch segment designed to connect renewable energy innovators with potential investors. Md Imtiaz Abedin, research assistant at GERC, presented on behalf of the GERC team. The team also won a cash prize of BDT 75,000 for the center. First and third places went to Ezygo Start-up and Mati Agrovoltaic Program, respectively. The fest, jointly organized by BUET, ActionAid Bangladesh and the Just Energy Transition Network Bangladesh (JETnet-BD), showcased renewable energy innovations, hosted policy discussions, and aimed to advance youth participation in sustainable energy solutions. GERC exhibited electric vehicles and bikes, solar-powered grinders, organic waste shredders, oil extractors, and solar power electronics such as MPPT charge controllers and a solar-compatible variable frequency drive. •

CSE major Moin finishes as a top performer in Eco Olympiad 2025

Mohammad Moin Uddin, a first-year student of Computer Science and Engineering, has finished among the top performers in the National Round of the Eco Olympiad 2025, held earlier this year across the country. Organized by non-governmental organization GrowUp Bangladesh, the Olympiad aims to promote environmental awareness and analytical thinking among university students across the country. This year, over one thousand university students from eight divisions participated in the divisional round. After advancing as a Divisional Round Winner from an MCQ-based preliminary stage, Moin secured a score of 74.25 out of 100 in the national round, which tested participants through both multiple-choice and written assessments on climate change, pollution, biodiversity, and policy frameworks.

Two SBE teams become champions in Business Olympiad 2025

Two student teams from the School of Business and Entrepreneurship became Champions in the 3rd International Business Olympiad Bangladesh 2025. The competition, held on May 31, 2025, at Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology in Dhaka, was organized by Business Genius Bangladesh (BGB) to evaluate student skills in business planning, strategy, and innovation through competitive rounds. The two IUB teams are: Team Genesis – comprising fourth-year students Tamim Forhad Shuvo and Siratun Nobi Rajon from the Department of Finance and Jannatul Ferdoush Oishy from the Department of International Business; and Team Thinkfluencers – comprising Towfiq Mahmud from the Department of International Business and Sahil Yasin from the Department of Finance. Team Genesis' proposal, titled "Barisheba," was a one-stop digital platform to hire trusted, background-verified service workers via app, web, or hotline – either in real time or through scheduled bookings. Team Thinkfluencers' project, NextFame, proposed a marketing agency model supporting personal brand development online through planning, production, and promotion services. •

DESM seminar examines industrial chemical pollution management

The School of Environment and Life Sciences conducted a short course on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) under the COLOCAL project on June 24, 2025. The course aimed to enhance participants' knowledge and awareness of climate change adaptation, organized through collaborative facilitation by IUB and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). It included interactive quizzes, foundational discussions on LLA, a simulation game on climate-smart decision-making, and a session focused on youth-led climate action. Facilitators included Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon and Samiha Saleha from ICCCAD; Savio Rousseau Rozario, LLA Programme Coordinator at ICCCAD; Fahmid Mohtasin, Project Officer for COLOCAL; and Sumaiya Binte Selim, Program Coordinator of the ICCCAD Youth team. •

7th Economic Lecture Series sheds light on data-driven policy



The Department of Economics organized the 7th Economics Lecture Series on April 17, 2025 featuring Mr. Maksudul Hannan from Palladium International LLC

The Department of Economics organized the 7th Economics Lecture Series on April 17, 2025. The event featured a lecture titled "The Importance of Data in Daily Life", delivered by Muhammad Maksudul Hannan, Director - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning at Palladium International LLC. Using case studies, Mr. Hannan explained how data supports decisions in healthcare, agriculture, employment, and digital platforms. He cited local examples such as Nagad and Krishi Kontho, and global platforms like Google Maps and Netflix, to explain the use of data in personalized services and operations. He also discussed the role of data analytics in policymaking and highlighted specific examples, including Bangladesh's smartcard rollout, EV charger placements in the US, and India's LPG subsidy reforms. •

KNIAARSC hosts talk on Nazrul's incarceration and writings

The Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research & Study Centre (KNIAARSC) and the Literature Club organized a lecture titled "Kazi Nazrul Islam's Life in Prison" on June 23, 2025. The event explored how Nazrul's incarceration shaped his literary and political expression. The lecture was delivered by Shah Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Production Officer at the Human Resource Development Subdivision (Legal Affairs), Bangla Academy. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain, Director of the Library Division, Bangla Academy, discussed Nazrul's literary style and emotional intensity, focusing on works published during and around his prison years, including Dhumketu, Bhangar Gaan, and Dolonchapa. Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro-Vice Chancellor of IUB, spoke as the Chief Guest. The event was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman, Director of KNIAARSC. •

DESM symposium assesses students' understanding of key environmental issues

The Department of Environmental Science and Management organized the "Environmental Science and Management Symposium 2025" on April 24, 2025. It assessed students' understanding of key environmental issues through an exhibition of posters presented by students from 19 sections of the course ENV 101: Introduction to Environmental Science. Poster topics included water, air, and soil pollution; climate change; renewable and non-renewable energy sources; and environmental management strategies. The posters were displayed in the Student Activity Area throughout the day and evaluated by a panel of judges based on content, creativity, clarity, and scientific accuracy.

The group with the highest score – Abid Binta Alauddin, Joy Karmarker, Md Shanjed Hasan, and Sakibul Hasan – was declared the winner. They received certificates and BDT 15,000 book grant for their poster titled "Under Pressure: The Rising Demand for Natural Resources". •

DESM and OECE host MSc orientation and COP29 course closing

The Outreach, Extension and Continuing Education (OECE) unit under the Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor and the Department of Environmental Science and Management organized an orientation for the MSc in Environment Management and MSc in Climate Change and Development on May 30, 2025. The event marked the conclusion of a multi-month international short course on climate diplomacy and included the certificate awarding ceremony for the short course "Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP without Going to COP". Dr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Professor and Head of DESM and Focal at IUB-ICCCAD, delivered the welcome address. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Daniel W. Lund; Dr. K. Ayaz Rabbani, Dean of the School of Environment and Life Sciences; and DESM adjunct faculties Prof. Dr. Zainal Abedin and Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed also addressed the participants. •

Sasheen Center participates in UNESCO consultation

A team from IUB's Sasheen Center for Multilingual Excellence participated in the International Indigenous Language Decade Conference 2025, held from February 24-27, 2025, at the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Dhaka. Organized by UNESCO in collaboration with IMLI, Jabarang, and the Maleya Foundation, the four-day event focused on identifying strategic activities to strengthen the implementation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) in Bangladesh.

The conference brought together academics, researchers, policymakers, and indigenous leaders to discuss language preservation, education, and culture. Hla Thoaiching Marma, Administrative Officer at SCMLE, and Ive Sithi Chambugong, a student trained in linguistics at the Sasheen Summer School, participated in sessions on technology in language preservation, indigenous language education, and policy development. •

German envoy opens 'Ambassador Talk'



H.E. Achim Tröster, Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural episode of the "Ambassador Talk" series on May 29, 2025

H.E. Achim Tröster, Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh, delivered the keynote address at the inaugural episode of the "Ambassador Talk" series on May 29, 2025. Jointly organized by IUB's Department of Global Studies and Governance (GSG) and the Center for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBoBS), the event was titled "BEYOND BORDERS: What Bangladesh Can Learn from Germany's Regional Vision." In his speech, the German envoy shared insights on internal dynamics and policy shifts within the European Union (EU), emphasizing its continued commitment to multilateralism and post-conflict peacebuilding. Prof. Daniel W. Lund, Pro Vice Chancellor of IUB, and Ambassador (Retd.) Tariq A. Karim, Advisor to CBoBS, also spoke. The event concluded with a cultural performance by the IUB Music Club. •

SLASS colloquium explores social dimensions of banditry

The School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences organized a colloquium titled "The Bandits of Badaban: Understanding Banditry as a Social Category" on February 26, 2025. The event featured journalist Mohsin Ul Hakim, known for his extensive work on the Sundarbans, where banditry has been a major social issue. Hakim discussed the historical, economic, and cultural factors that shape banditry in the Sundarbans, offering an in-depth analysis of the social dynamics involved.

The event also included two former bandits from the region, Mostofa Sheikh and Alam Sarder, who shared their personal stories. These individuals, now reintegrated into society, provided firsthand accounts of their lives before and after their involvement in banditry, discussing the socio-political and economic conditions that led them into criminal activity. •

Fire Service conducts fire drill at IUB

A fire drill was conducted at IUB on April 17, 2025 in coordination with the Fire Service and Civil Defence Station, Baridhara. The event was conducted under the leadership of Sayed Manirul Islam, PFM, Senior Station Officer, Fire Service and Civil Defence Station, Baridhara, Dhaka, and supported by a 32-member team with three fire service vehicles. The drill began with the activation of fire alarms followed by a controlled smoke simulation.

Faculty, students, staff, and visitors were guided to assemble at a central location. Fire Service personnel demonstrated the use of extinguishers and executed mock rescue and evacuation operations, including the use of mounted equipment for lifting injured individuals. IUB's emergency response units – Fire, Rescue, and First Aid – were activated as part of the drill.

All actions were taken under the direction of the Fire Service team. The drill was coordinated by the Office of the Director of Administration of IUB. •

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9 - 10 April 2026

Submission To: **conference.cmn@iub.edu.bd**

(Please submit a 250-word abstract with a 100-word short bio)

Submission Deadline: **January 31, 2026**

Organised By

Department of Media and Communication
School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, SLASS
Independent University, Bangladesh

COLOCAL
Co-creating knowledge
for local adaptation to climate change in LDCs

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND CHANGING CLIMATE
GLOBAL STRATEGIES AND LOCAL ACTIONS

As global environmental challenges intensify, the urgency to align strategic climate governance with context-specific adaptation becomes increasingly evident. The Environment and Changing Climate: Global Strategies and Local Actions conference at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) brings together researchers, policymakers, community leaders, and innovators to explore multidisciplinary approaches to climate resilience. Through thematic sessions and collaborative dialogue, the conference aims to foster actionable insights that advance environmental resilience and sustainable development, highlighting solutions that are adaptive, inclusive, and responsive to environmental challenges.

Independent University, Bangladesh | **20th and 21st November, 2025**

THEMES

including but not limited to

- Locally Led & Community-Based Adaptation
- Indigenous Knowledge and Nature-Based Solutions
- Biodiversity-Driven Ecosystem Adaptation and Pollution Control
- Climate Governance & Environmental Policy
- Sustainable urban planning and Governance
- Climate Finance & Green Investment Models
- Public-Private Partnerships & Role of Local Governments
- Net-Zero, Renewable Energy, Waste Management and Decarbonization
- Climate Justice and Equity
- Youth Engagement & Grassroots Leadership
- Climate Education, Media and Public Awareness

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract acceptance notification
September 15, 2025

Full paper Submission
October 15, 2025

Conference date
November 20–22, 2025

REGISTRATION FEE		FOR ANY QUERY :	FOR SUBMISSION
Students	500 BDT	shahadatw6@gmail.com	Scan to submit
Non-Students	1,000 BDT	fahmid.mohtasin@icccad.org	
IUB students	Free		