IUB ARROWS

IUB launches first ever undergraduate program promoting inclusive development

As part of the commitment to drive the 4th Industrial Revolution and fulfilling the national pledge of sustainable inclusive development, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has launched IUB ARROWS, the first ever undergraduate program in Bangladesh promoting inclusive development.

Under the ARROWS program, IUB will handpick a cohort of 50 students every year and offer them fully-sponsored personalized training, mentorship, internship, job placement and study resources. What sets ARROWS apart is that academic results will not be the only criteria for selection; rather, the 50 students will be picked from among fresh applicants on the basis of their talents, strength of character and leadership potential irrespective of gender, socioeconomic background and geographical location.

The program was launched at an event titled “Inclusive Development and IUB” at the university auditorium on December 18, 2021. Dr. Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, Chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), attended the program as the chief guest. He said, “Human beings live in multidimensional spaces, which means they have many needs like food, housing, transportation, etc. IUB ARROWS program is looking to address those needs, which is very crucial.”

In his keynote presentation, IUB VC Tanweer Hasan, PhD, said, “Through the IUB ARROWS program, we will place our future leaders into relevant industries, fulfilling one of our signature pledges, which also matches Bangladesh’s Sustainable Development Goals, that no exceptional student should suffer hardship and loss of opportunities, just because of their financial circumstances.”

Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Chair of the IUB Board of Trustees, said, “It is not going to be possible for teachers alone to run a program like IUB ARROWS. We need to find out ways to make it sustainable. Corporate sector can come forward to help make this noble initiative sustainable.”

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Observer; Anisul Hoque, prominent writer and Associate Editor of Prothom Alo, and Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD, Pro-VC of IUB, also spoke at the program.
**Industrialist Abdul Hai Sarker elected new chair of IUB Board of Trustees**

Prominent industrialist Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker has been elected the new chair of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). He replaces Mr. A Matin Chowdhury and will remain in this role for two years. He was elected the new chair of the IUB BoT unanimously on December 6, 2021.

Born in Sirajganj in 1946, Mr. Sarker is involved with various philanthropic activities including running a free clinic for children below five years of age and several schools and colleges in different parts of the country. In addition, he is a two-time former chair of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), of which IUB is a ward.

Mr. Sarker did his post graduation in management from Dhaka University in 1970. He started his career in international trade and went on to establish Purbani Group, one of the oldest and largest textile conglomerates in Bangladesh with business spreading over agro-processing and seafood. He is also the founder and current Chairman of Dhaka Bank Limited, one of the leading commercial banks in Bangladesh.

Recipient of Commercially Important Person (CIP) status several times, Mr. Sarker has held the positions of director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, and associate director of the International Cotton Association.

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**IUB receives BDT 38 million donation from Bangladeshi industrialist couple**

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has received BDT 38 million as donation from a Bangladeshi couple. The money came for the “Monisha and Mahmudul Huq Endowment Trust Fellowship”. Mahmudul Huq and Monisha Anwar Huq are well-known philanthropists and industrialists.

The foundation has been created to support community organizations. IUB Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, hosted a small get together and lunch in honour of the donors and their family at the university campus on December 4, 2021.

According to an MoU signed between the donors and IUB, the money will be mainly used to sponsor selected participants of the IUB ARROWS program, the first ever undergraduate program in Bangladesh promoting inclusive development. Every year two full scholarships will be given to sponsor two students, one female and one male student, who will be called the "Monisha and Mahmudul Huq Endowment Trust Fellows".

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*Mahmudul Huq along with his family pose for a photograph with the IUB VC and Pro-VC*
“Everyday investors are knocking on our doors with billion-dollar investment opportunities. Where are they getting the trust and confidence to invest here? It is because we have achieved the unthinkable by ensuring 100% electricity for all,” he added.

Mr. A Matin Chowdhury, former Chair of the IUB Board of Trustees, who attended the program as special guest, said, “As far as we are all concerned, 50 years is a landmark. Many countries don't live that long. So, we really have a big mission in front of us. This is also the centenary of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It's a wonderful time for us to move forward."

Tanweer Hasan, PhD, Vice-Chancellor of IUB, who presided over the program, said, “Quality education is a hallmark of the IUB tradition. In this age of the 4th Industrial Revolution, the world is becoming increasingly dependent on data and computer information systems. Technology will take over many jobs and many jobs will get increasingly technology inclined. I believe that urgent action is also required to invest in and develop our human resources.”

In 2021, the academic awards were given to five different groups from the Spring, Summer and Autumn semesters of 2020 in two categories: the Vice-Chancellor's Honor List and the Dean's Honor List. The first group received BDT 10,000 each while the second group received BDT 5,000 each.

Bangladesh is now seeing a massive surge in investor interest in the power and energy sector, which now has a portfolio worth nearly 25 billion US dollars, said Nasrul Hamid, MP, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. He made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at the Academic Awards Ceremony 2021 of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on November 27, 2021, at the university auditorium in Dhaka.
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, speaks at a conference organized by CBoBS at the IUB Auditorium

Bay of Bengal resources will be tapped in environment-friendly way

-Md. Shahriar Alam

He made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at a conference titled "Inspired by Bangabandhu’s Vision of Regional and Global Peace: Envisaging Regional Peace and Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal". The conference was organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies (CBoBS) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on November 30, 2021 at the IUB Auditorium.

In a video message, Prime Minister’s advisor Gowher Rizvi said, "Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s dream to build ‘Sonar Bangla’ was predicated on ensuring a regional and global environment of peace. Towards this end, he articulated in his foreign policy the cardinal principle of ‘friendship to all, malice towards none’.”

IUB Vice-Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, said, "IUB has embraced the government’s agenda of inclusion of all in education irrespective of gender, socio-economic and religious background. We are a campus that promotes diversity and that is how we believe we are helping realize the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who fought for peace, harmony and equal rights for all people."

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environment of peace.

Empowered by the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, Bangladesh is looking to benefit from the resources of Bay of Bengal in an environment-friendly manner, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, has said.

The hybrid event, with actual and web-based participation, was a curtain-raiser for the World Peace Conference being convened by the Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka on December 4-6, 2021 to highlight and carry forward Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s vision of world peace.
Bangladesh well on track to complete current spate of transformation in 2041 - Planning Minister

Bangladesh is well on track to reach the logical and sequential conclusion of the current spate of transformation for the nation to be at equal terms with the rest of the world, Minister for Planning M. A. Mannan, MP, has said.

The planning minister made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at a day-long conference organized by the Department of Social Science and Humanities of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in Dhaka on November 13, 2021. The conference was titled: “Bangladesh in 2041: Notions and Narratives of Diversification and Transformation.”

Renowned economist and policy expert Dr. Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), delivered the keynote speech. Johannes Van der Klaauw, UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Charles Whiteley, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, former governor of Bangladesh Prof. Atiur Rahman, and Mr. A Matin Chowdhury, former chair, Board of Trustees, IUB, also spoke at the program.

In his keynote presentation styled “Bangladesh’s transformation and challenges, the pathway from national liberation to 2041”, Prof Rehman Sobhan laid emphasis on what he termed as the remarkable liberation of entrepreneurial talents, which he said was unleashed five decades ago by the liberation of Bangladesh.

IUB VC Tanweer Hasan, PhD, said: “Bangladesh is a nation built on the resilience and tenacity of its people. It is no stranger to challenges. As we strive to develop our country, urgent action is required to invest in developing human resources. I call upon all educational institutions in the country to revamp their curriculum so the graduates can become tech savvy and can keep up with the ever changing global market.”

“As we strive to develop our country, urgent action is required to invest in developing human resources.

Conference papers covered topics such as the Rohingya issue, informal economy, environment and climate change, digital responsibility among youth, public health, governance and inclusive development, foreign policy, 4th Industrial Revolution, and emerging cultural discourses in Bangladesh. IUB’s last two international conferences were held in 2014 and 2019.
IUB holds 21st and 22nd Convocations

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its 21st and 22nd Convocations on October 26, 2021. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, presided over the program and conferred the degrees upon the graduates on behalf of the Honorable President of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of the university.

Stressing the importance of soft skills, Dr. Dipu Moni said, “Our graduates need to improve their problem-solving, leadership, and most importantly, communication skills so that they can truly express themselves.”

Convocation Speaker Syed Manzur Elahi, former advisor to the caretaker government, said, “We now live in the information age. Students need to improve their ability to think critically so that they can keep up with the fast moving world.”

In his special guest’s speech, Professor Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, expressed hopes that the IUB graduates would be able to use their newly-earned qualifications to become independent thinkers, and above all good and caring human beings.

Mr. A Matin Chowdhury, former chair of the IUB Board of Trustees, said the graduates were fortunate that they were graduating at a time when the nation was celebrating the 50th anniversary of independence and the centennial birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Nilufer Zafarullah, Chair of the Education Science Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), said, “I am confident that wherever you [graduates] go or whichever profession you choose, you will all make us proud by keeping your commitment to achieving excellence.”

IUB Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, said, “If you [students] have managed to finish your degree amidst a raging and devastating pandemic, there surely cannot be many things which you cannot do if you set your mind to it.”

“Students need to improve their ability to think critically so that they can keep up with the fast moving world.”

A total of 2,143 graduates of bachelor and masters programs and disciplines received degrees under the five schools. In the 21st Convocation, out of the 1,279 graduates, 899 were from the undergraduate programs and 380 were from the masters programs. In the 22nd Convocation, out of the 864 graduates, 670 were from the undergraduate programs and 194 from masters.
IUB Debaters win National Debate Championship

Debaters of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) have won the National Inter-varsity Debate Championship 2021 organized online by the IUB Debating Club (IUBDC) in November 2021. In the Grand Open Finale, the IUB team defeated the team from Bangladesh University of Professionals. Ahmed Tousif Jami from IUB became the best speaker in the grand finale. The participating universities included Jahangirnagar University, North South University, University of Chittagong, Institute of Business Administration (University of Dhaka), East West University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, BRAC University, and Rajshahi University.

123 faculty members get laptop computers

The Office of the Vice Chancellor handed over free laptops to a total 123 faculty members on October 3, 2021 at the university auditorium. This was the first tranche of laptops for the faculty members sponsored by the Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust. Members of the IUB’s Board of Trustees and the Vice Chancellor handed over the laptops to the faculty members. The Shaheed Khalek and Major Salek Bir Uttam Trust gave the laptops as a gift. Mr. A Matin Chowdhury, founder of the Trust, is also a former chairman of the IUB Board of Trustees.

IUB distributes winter clothes in Dinajpur

On January 7-8, 2022, DoSA distributed winter clothes in the northern district of Dinajpur. Blankets, shawls, hats, sweaters and petroleum jelly were given to a total of 1,500 families from the Sadar upazila. Members of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award at IUB played a key role in facilitating the event. Mr. Murtuza Al-Muedd, UNO of Dinajpur Sadar, inaugurated the program. Dhaka Bank Ltd., MTB Foundation and Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury sponsored the donation. BRAC Learning Center Dinajpur supported the event as the Distribution Partner.

IUB participates in UGC’s int’l conference on 4IR

On December 11, 2021, IUB organized a sponsored seminar as part of The International Conference on 4th Industrial Revolution and Beyond, organized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Academics from IUB, Bangladesh Agricultural University and Chittagong Independent University, and industry experts from ACI, Chaldal.com and Dhaka Tribune spoke at the seminar. IUB also set up a booth at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, the event venue. About 600 people visited the IUB booth including Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, State Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak and UGC Chairman Kazi Shahidullah.

IUB and MCCI sign MoU to strengthen industry-academia collaboration

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen industry-academia collaboration in the areas of research, innovation and skills development. MCCI President Nihad Kabir and IUB Vice Chancellor Tanweer Hasan, PhD, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations on December 8, 2021, at the IUB Trustee Lounge. According to the MoU, an internship program will be established under which MCCI will take in a cohort of at least 10 IUB students every year to do internships at various organizations through the MCCI.

IEEE President Elect speaks on smart buildings and IoT at IUB

Prof. Salfur Rahman of Virginia Tech University, USA, was honoured at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on December 15, 2021 for becoming the first Bangladeshi to become the President Elect for 2022 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Prof. Rahman gave a talk on the potential of smart buildings and IoT both globally and locally. He stressed the need for concentrating effort in energy-saving technologies in Bangladesh to mitigate economic and environmental impacts. By utilising advanced building designs and automation, he said that Bangladesh can save on expensive fuel imports at nominal cost.
Professor Saleemul Huq awarded Order of the British Empire honour

The UK has awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) honour to Professor Dr. Saleemul Huq for his work to combat climate change and build climate expertise around the globe, said a press release from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the UK government on January 1, 2022.

Professor Huq said: “It is a great honour and pleasure for me to receive the OBE. As a dual Bangladeshi and British citizen, I have been working for two decades to enhance collaboration between the universities and researchers in both countries to tackle the twin global challenges of poverty eradication and dealing with climate change.”

“He also symbolises the very strong intellectual and people-to-people links between the UK and Bangladesh.”

Robert Chatterton Dickson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, said: “With his passion, eloquence, and commitment to an all-of-society approach, Professor Huq has deservedly become one of the most trusted and respected global commentators on the climate crisis. He also symbolises the very strong intellectual and people-to-people links between the UK and Bangladesh.”

Judith Herbertson, Development Director, British High Commission Dhaka, said: “There is overwhelming evidence that if global temperatures exceed the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris, climate change will bring dangerous and irreversible impacts with the poorest and most vulnerable people suffering the most, including millions in Bangladesh. Professor Huq has been a stalwart partner over the last many years, always encouraging greater ambition, more attention to evidence and research, and a focus on locally-led adaptation.”

The United Kingdom’s honours lists are published at New Year and on the Queen’s official birthday in June. The Overseas and International Honours List recognises people who have given exceptional service to the UK abroad and internationally.