



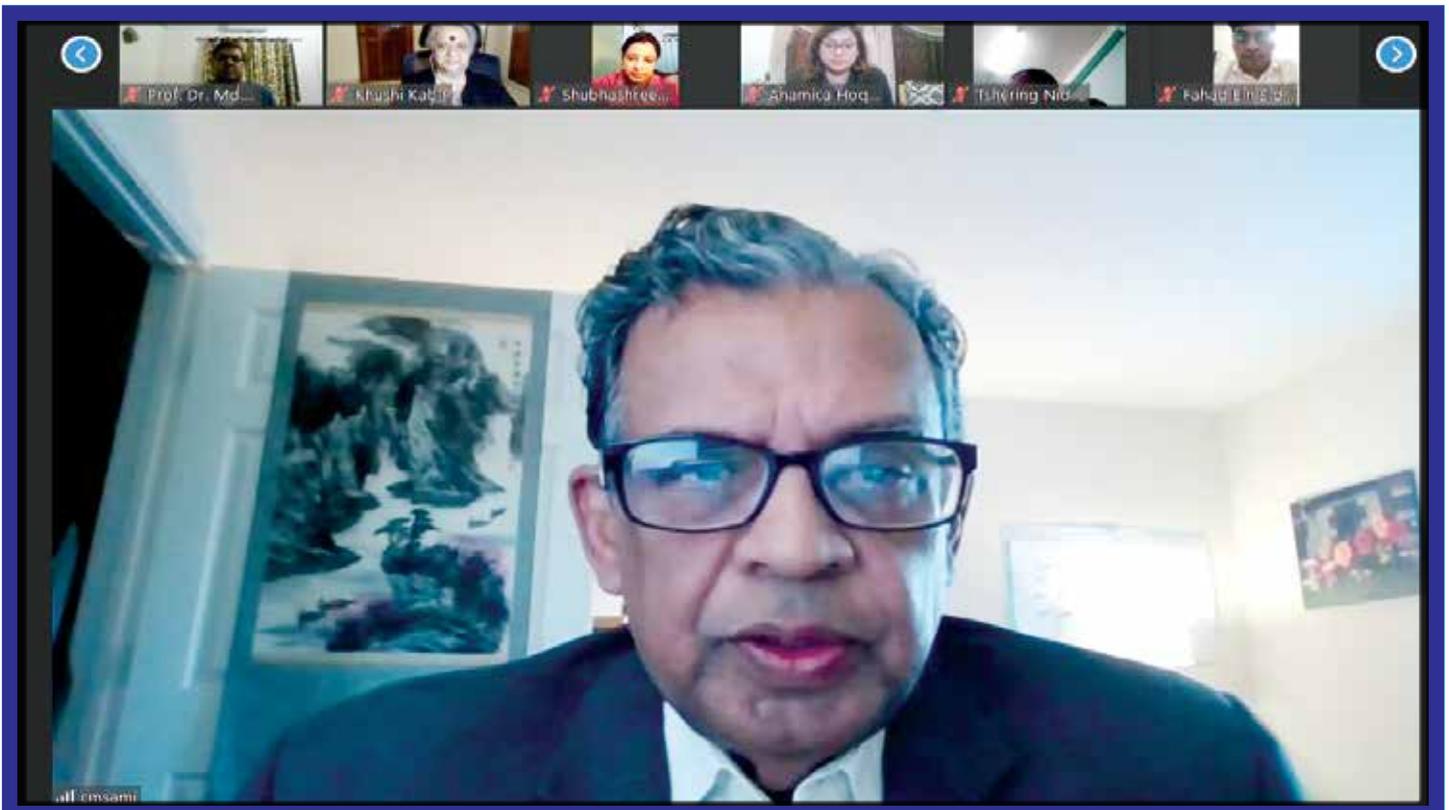
Virtual Freshers' Reception of UMSAILS LLM Program held at UAP

The virtual freshers' reception and orientation program for the 2nd batch of the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (UMSAILS) LLM program was held on 2nd January 2021. Thirty students from different public and private universities from the South Asian region were admitted in the LLM Program with fully funded scholarships provided by Madanjeet Singh Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud, Acting Vice Chancellor, UAP chaired the session. He warmly welcomed the newly admitted students of the LLM Program from India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Eminent Jurist and Senior Advocate of

Bangladesh Supreme Court, Dr. Kamal Hossain and also the Chair of UMSAILS delivered his speech as the chief guest. He called upon the newly enrolled students to make the best use of this opportunity. Mr. C. M. Shafi Sami, former adviser of the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and Chairman, Board of Trustees, UAP addressed the function as the special guest. In his remarks, he promised complete cooperation from the BOT.

The event was also addressed by Mrs. France Marquet, Principal Trustee of South Asia Foundation (SAF), Mr. Farooq Sobhan, Chairman, and Mrs. Khushi Kabir, Vice-Chairperson, SAF-Bangladesh Chapter. Mr. Qayum Reza Chowdhury, Former Chairman and Member, BOT, Air Cdre Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury (Retd.), Treasurer, UAP, and faculty members also attended the



programme. Three graduates from the 1st batch shared their feelings and thoughts with the newly enrolled students.

They hoped that students from home and abroad would get a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere at UAP and they would make the most of the opportunity they are getting.. The programme was moderated by Dr. Chowdhury Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, LLM Program while the vote of thanks was given by Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Law & Human Rights, UAP.

UAP Professor Tanveer Saeed develops Low-Cost Energy Production

Microbial fuel cell constructed wetlands could provide simultaneous wastewater treatment and electricity production; a few specialized groups of the world are now working on this cutting-edge research. The research team led by Prof. Dr. Tanveer Ferdous Saeed of Civil Engineering Department, University of Asia Pacific recently developed low-cost, energy producing microbial fuel cell constructed wetlands that treated municipal wastewater and produced green energy.

Different types of organic (biochar, coal, jute fiber), waste (slag), construction materials (concrete, brick) and local plants Phragmites, and Vetiver were used for wastewater treatment and electricity generation. Particularly, construction materials were used for the first time in the world to produce electricity which will formulate a new research direction in electricity production.

Department of Civil Engineering, UAP organized a “Stakeholders Workshop” in association with University of Leeds, UK

The Department of Civil Engineering, UAP orga-

nized a Stakeholders Workshop on 24th January 2021 from 2:00 pm -5:45 pm. This workshop was part of the research “Modelling the exposure risk trade-off between public transit and private para-transit for transport decision making in the era of COVID19”. The project aims to help policy makers and transport stakeholders make evidence-based decisions during the pandemic. The research project is funded by UK’s Global Challenges Research Fund.

The project partners are University of Leeds, UK, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria, Makerere University, Uganda along with the University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh. Dr. Farzana Rahman, Professor and Head, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Asia Pacific is the co- investigator in this research project, and was the organizer of the workshop. Dr. Zia Wadud, Associate Professor, Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds is the Principal Investigator of the project.

Stakeholders from Governments agencies ‘Roads and Highways Department (RHD)’, ‘Ministry of Health’, ‘Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)’, ‘Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)’, ‘Dhaka South City Corporation’, academics from ‘Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)’, international consulting agencies ‘SJ-SMEC’, NGO ‘Institute of Wellbeing’, ridesharing company ‘Pathao’, ‘Shohoz’ and transport union ‘Bus Malik Samity’ participated in this workshop.

The opening session comprised of welcome remarks by Dr. Farzana Rahman (Co-I, Bangladesh). The official opening was done by Dr. M. R. Kabir (Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering; Dean, School of Engineering, University of Asia Pacific), followed by an introduction of the research project by Dr. Zia Wadud. Two breakout sessions were held for two hours to share the

stakeholders' insights about six research questions.

Dr. M. R. Kabir and Ms. Mansura Sharmin (Assistant Professor, Dept. of CE, UAP) led the two discussion groups as facilitators where Ms. Nandita Saha (Lecturer, Dept. of CE, UAP), Ms. Mahfuza Tabassum (Lecturer, Dept. of CE, UAP), Mr. Abdullah Al Farabi (Lecturer, Dept. of CE, UAP), and Md. Mohaimanul Islam (RA, Dept. of CE, UAP) were present with the facilitators to summarize the stakeholders insights.

At the closing session the stakeholders' insights were summarized by the facilitators. Dr. Farzana Rahman shared the overview of the whole workshop and expressed her gratitude towards the stakeholders. She, then, ended the program with a vote of thanks to the UAP team (from Department of Civil Engineering, UAP).

DSW facilitated a Focused Group Discussion in association with the Centre for Genocide Studies, DU

On 13 January, 2021, The Directorate of Students' Welfare, UAP facilitated an Online Focused Group Discussion under a research proposal titled "Research Proposal on Identification of Vulnerable Groups to Radicalization Leading to Violent Extremism" in association with the Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka. Eminent Professor Amena Mohsin, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka who is leading this research project.

The aim is to basically find out: The psychological domain of the radicalized; the trigger points between being radicalized and being a violent extremist; the physical domain of the radicalized; the grievance factors; and the performativity factor. Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Director, DSW welcomed Professor Amena Mohsin, and two of her research associates- Mr.

F. M. Arafat and Mr. Raian Hossain. He encouraged the students to talk freely as the FGD's aim was to facilitate a free and frank discussion on what turns an ordinary youth of Bangladesh to a violent extremist.

The discussion was non-attributable, therefore, no one would be held responsible for his/her opinion and no one would be quoted in person. During the 1.5 hrs. FGD, 21 students from different departments joined and shared their points of view on various questions asked by the researchers' panel of CGS. Professor Amena Mohsin expressed her gratitude to DSW, UAP and appreciated the efforts of students who gave their invaluable insights to enrich the research. Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury ended the programme with a vote of thanks. Mr. Md. Tarek Khan, AD, DSW and Mst. Farjana Yasmin, Socio Counselor, DSW were also present.

Law student receives "Outstanding Junior Author Award" by the New Nation

Mr. Shahriar Islam Shovon, a student of third year second semester, Department of Law and Human Rights (L&HR), University of Asia Pacific (UAP) has received the Outstanding Junior Author Award. New Nation, a Dhaka based English Daily awarded Mr. Shovon for regularly publishing write-ups in this daily. Mr. Shovon has published at least ten write-ups in different newspapers and online portals on contemporary issues over the last six months.

UAP's Asst. Prof. Ms. Ismat Zarin receives Honorary Doctorate Degree

Ms. Ismat Zarin, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Asia Pacific, received an Honorary Doctorate Degree on 31st January, 2021 from the International Diplomatic Organiza-

tion for Development and Peace, registered under the United Nations (UN). The Honorary Doctorate was conferred on Ms. Zarin for her contribution to Peace and Development in knowledge, science and humanitarian issues.

Orientation Programme for Fall 2020 held

An online orientation program for newly admitted students of the departments of Architecture, BA, CSE, EEE and English for 'Fall 2020' was held on 6th February, 2021. Mr. C. M. Shafi Sami, Chairperson, BOT addressed the program as chief guest while Prof. Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud, Acting Vice Chancellor, UAP chaired the event. The event was also addressed by Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Treasurer, UAP and Director, DSW. Mr. Abdullah Al Masud, Registrar, Mr. Ziaul Islam, Proctor, UAP, and a good number of faculty members, guardians and students were also present at the programme.

University of Asia Pacific ranks 9th among private universities

UAP has ranked 9th among all private universities and 28th among all public and private universities in Bangladesh in 2021, according to a report published by a Madrid-based university ranking website. The website has recently published its ranking on the basis of the web presence of 31,000 educational institutions of the world. Among the private universities in Bangladesh, UAP was positioned 10th in 2020 and 9th in 2021.

UAP students participated in the AUAP-Ubaya Online Summer Program 2021

Five students of UAP participated in the AUAP – Ubaya online summer program titled “Dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic: Best Practices

from Indonesia” from 1st -5th February, 2021. The Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) in cooperation with Surabaya University, Indonesia organized the event. The objective of the event was to raise awareness among the Asian students about COVID 19 Vaccine and immunity.

Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury Memorial Debate held at UAP

On 4 February 2021, an online Parliamentary debate, dedicated to late Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Former Vice Chancellor of UAP, was organized by the Debating and Public Speaking Club (DPSC). The event was attended by Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Director, DSW. Adviser of the club, faculty members and students also attended the program.



Focus Group Discussion on “rescheduling financial loans” held at Sylhet

On 18th February 2021, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) entitled “Rescheduling Industrial Loans and Abusing Legal Process to Avoid Bank Loan Repayment: Analyzing the Banking Laws of Bangladesh” was organized as part of a research on finance laws under the supervision of the Department of Law and Human Rights at the Alpine Convention Hall in the holy city of Sylhet. The research was funded by IEERD, UAP.

University of Asia Pacific celebrates silver jubilee

UAP arranged a virtual discussion program on 25th February 2021 celebrating its '25th founding anniversary.' With the motto of "celebrating 25th glorious years of UAP", the virtual meeting was addressed by Mr. C. M. Shafi Sami, Chairperson, Board of Trustees (BOT) as the chief guest. The event was also addressed by Mr. A.K.M. Kama-luddin Choudhury, former Chairperson, BOT, Mr. Qayum Reza Chowdhury, former Chairperson, BOT, Mr. Alamzeb Farjad Ahmed, Treasurer, BOT, and Prof. Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud, Acting Vice Chancellor, UAP, Prof. Emeritus Dr. Abdul Matin Patwari, Former Vice Chancellor,

Prof. Dr. M. R. Kabir, former Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Dr. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed, Dean, School of Environmental Sciences and Design, and Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Treasurer, UAP also spoke on this occasion while three alumni also shared their thoughts as well.



UAP holds virtual discussion program marking golden jubilee of independence

On 26th March 2021, UAP arranged a virtual discussion program marking 50 years of the

independence of Bangladesh. Mr. C. M. Shafi Sami, Chairperson, Board of Trustees (BOT) welcomed the Guests of Honor Freedom Fighter, Mr. Shamsul Alam Bir Uttam along with other participants. Freedom Fighter, Group Captain Shamsul Alam Bir Uttam was the guest speaker.

The event was also addressed by freedom fighter Engr. M. Abu Taher, member, BOT, Alhaj Abdul Malek Mollah, member, BOT and Air Cdre Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Director, Directorate of Students' Welfare, UAP. Later, a Question & Answer session was facilitated. Among others, the program was also attended by Heads of Departments, Directors, faculty members and officials of UAP. The program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Dr. Md. Sultan Mahmud, Acting Vice Chancellor, UAP.

IQAC workshop on "Are your online students engaged" for the faculty members at UAP

On 14th, 16th and 18th of March, 2021 IQAC organized a 3 day workshop on 'Are Your Online Students Engaged?' which was powered and supported by the Institute for the Development of Online Learning (IDOL). Twenty five (25) faculty members from nine (9) departments of UAP participated in this workshop. This workshop was conducted to fulfil the requirement of a similar workshop conducted from 29-30th November and 1st December, 2020, organized and sponsored by UGC for the IQAC & CELT Directors



and Additional directors of 60 private universities with the goal that IQACs would replicate this workshop in their respective universities.

There were certificates for the participants upon successful completion of the workshop. Based on the performance during the workshop, the participants were categorized as gold, silver and bronze participants.

Handover charge of Director of IQAC to Professor. Dr. Alope Kumar Saha

On 31st March, 2021, the last day of the two-year tenure of G. R. Ahmed Jamal, Director, IQAC, a meeting was organized by IQAC with the program self-assessment committee (PSAC) members of nine departments at UAP. Director, IQAC delivered his concluding message to PSAC members and also provided guidelines for future activities including ongoing transformation towards OBE curriculum as per the format of UGC and BAC and follow up of Post Self-assessment Improvement Plan (PSAIP) based on EPRT reports under HEQEP.

At the end of the meeting he also introduced the new Director of IQAC Professor Dr. Alope Kumar Saha (Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UAP) to PSAC members.

Seminar Series (Webinar) on “Defaulted Loans & Abusing Legal Process to Avoid Bank Loan Repayment: Analyzing the Banking Laws of Bangladesh”

The Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP, arranged a seminar on 31 March 2021. This seminar is was a part of the Department's Law Research Seminar Series. Md. Saleh Akram, Assistant Professor and Sheikh Noman Parvez, Research Assistant, Department of Law & Human Rights, UAP, presented a paper on “De-

faulted Loans & Abusing Legal Process to Avoid Bank Loan Repayment: Analyzing the Banking Laws of Bangladesh”. Barrister M. Naser Alam, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Head of Chambers at MNA Barristers & Advocates, was present as a key discussant.

Seminar Series (Webinar) on “Secularism in Bangladesh and its contested Meaning: Can Bangabandhu’s Speeches Guide Us?”

The Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP, arranged a seminar on 25 March 2021. This seminar was a part of the Department's Law Research Seminar Series. Muhammad Rezaur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Law & Human Rights, UAP, presented a paper on “Secularism in Bangladesh and its contested Meaning: Can Bangabandhu’s Speeches Guide Us?”. Dr. S. M. Masum Billah, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Jagannath University was present as the key discussant.

Seminar Series (Webinar) on “Comparative analysis on green building regulations in south Asia.”

The Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP, arranged a seminar on 28 January 2021. This seminar is was a part of the Department's Law Research Seminar Series. Ms. Farzana Akther, Lecturer, Department of Law & Human Rights, UAP, presented a paper on “Comparative analysis on green building regulations in South Asia.”

The paper presented a comparative analysis of existing green building rating systems and building energy codes in south Asian countries with recommendations to develop building energy code which are adaptable in Bangladesh by assessing the current scenario and other relevant factors. Professor Dr. Abu Sayeed Mostaque

Ahmed (Professor, Department of Architecture, UAP and Dr. Md. Nawrose Fatemi, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Architecture, UAP, were present as the key discussants.

Seminar Series (Webinar) on “Weapons of Modern Warfare: A Possible Regulatory Mechanism for the Autonomous Weapons System”

The Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP, arranged a seminar on 14 January 2021. This seminar is was a part of the Department's Law Research Seminar Series. Ms. Alida Binte Saqi, Lecturer, Department of Law & Human Rights, UAP, presented a paper on “Weapons of Modern Warfare: A Possible Regulatory Mechanism for the Autonomous Weapons System.” Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Department of Law, University of Dhaka, was present as the key discussant.

UAP-UMSAILS student became best runner up presenter in the 6th Prof. N R Madhava Menon South Asian Law Students Conference in India

S.M. Amanullah Aman, a 2nd batch LLM student of UNESCO Madanjeet Singh South Asian Institute of Legal Studies (UMSAILS) became the Best Presenter (Runner Up) in the 6th Prof. N R Madhava Menon South Asian Law Students Conference 2020-21 held in India from 19th-21st March 2021.

The topic for his research title was: “COVID-19 Pandemic: Ethical, Social and Legal Issues”. In the competition, a large number of teams participated from South Asian countries among which five teams were from Bangladesh. Mr. Amanullah Aman is was the only contestant from Bangladesh who has won the a prize in the competition.

The UAP Law Department secured 8th position at the Vertex Chambers LCLS South National Moot Court Competition 2021

The Vertex Chambers – LCLS South organized a National Moot Court Competition 2021 from 2-5 March 2021 (Online) on tort law. Protyasha Ahmed Mim, Arefin Akash, and Nazmul Hossain Sefat represented the Department of Law and Human Rights, UAP, in this competition. The team secured 8th position among 17 participating teams.

The Team UAP Law participated in the K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot Court, 2021

The 17th K.K. Luthra Memorial Moot Court, 2021 was held online from 12-15 January, 2021 on criminal law. The competition was organized by the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, India. A team consisting of Khadiza Akter Sukhi, Fahim Ahmed, and Saaif Rasul from the Department of Law and Human Rights, University of Asia Pacific (UAP), participated in the competition. This team qualified as one of the top 59 teams from in the memorial round. Later, the team participated in the global rounds.

Webinar on Designing for Empowerment with Rural Women in Bangladesh

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, IEEE UAP SB, WIE AG hosted a webinar on March 08,



2021, with Sharifa Sultana, a PhD candidate of Cornell University. Sharifa Sultana is working and researching with women in rural parts of Bangladesh to improve life qualities. She has been working with women in rural and rustic areas of Jashore district in Bangladesh for the last 4 years. 40 students and several faculty members participated in the event.

Webinar on Professional Communication

This event, held on March 6, 2021, was primarily focused on the precise practice of professional communication, so as to build rapport and a positive impression in the workplace. The session was conducted by A. R. M. Abdullah, who is currently working as a solution architect at bKash Ltd and as a secretary at Dhaka Metro Round Table.

He has also served as chairperson of IEEE Young Professionals Bangladesh Section for the term 2018-2019. With the participation of more than 50, the event was very well-received.

Webinar on Higher Studies Abroad: US Chapter

With a view to clear away confusions regarding the application process for higher studies in the USA, IEEE UAP



SB hosted this webinar on February 13, 2021 with Md Faizul Bari, a former lecturer of UAP EEE, as the speaker. At present, he is a Ph.D student at Purdue University. Forty five students and two faculty members participated in the webinar.

Webinar on A Glimpse on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

Offering a peek into the elementary knowledge of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, this session was an exciting one for students with genuine interest in this field. The event, held on January 31, 2021, was helmed by Mr. Mehedi Imam Shafi, software engineer of Progoti Systems Ltd., SureCash and a former R&D engineer at Code Marshall. The Department Head of EEE and 3 faculty members participated along with 50 students.

Webinar on Exploring the Career Prospects of EEE

The very first event of 2021 was held on January 23, 2021. This webinar shed light on the wide and diverse scopes of careers for students of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE). Conducted by Md. Sazzadur Rahman, Branch Counselor of IEEE UAP SB and Assistant Professor of UAP EEE, more than 70 students of the Department of EEE attended this session.

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