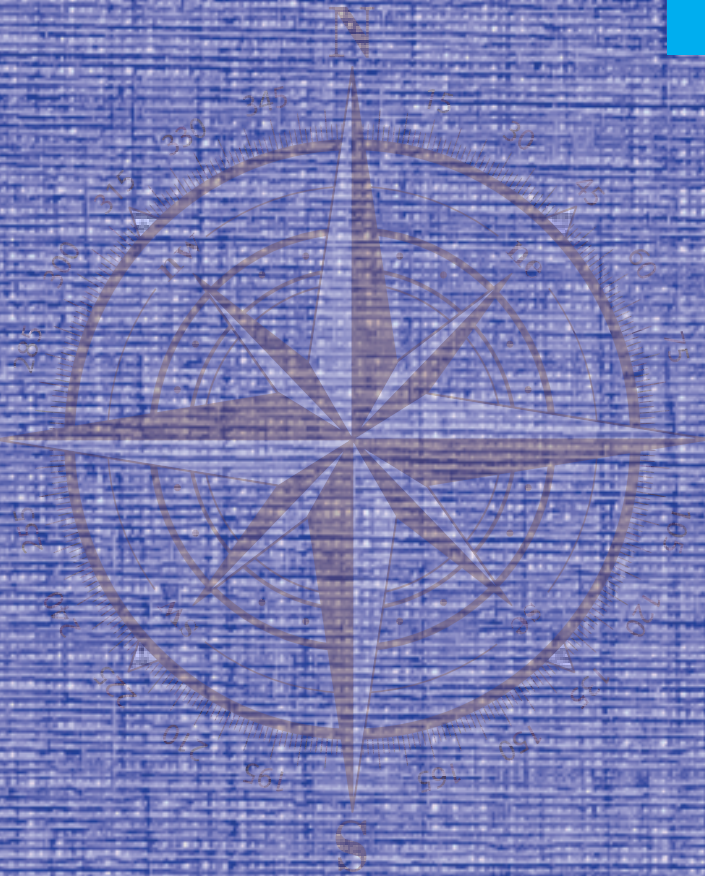




NSU NEWS

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Center of Excellence in Higher Education

NSU News

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Editorial

This August, the NSU community came together to observe National Mourning Day with solemn reverence. The national flag was hoisted at half-mast on campus, while floral wreaths were laid at the Bangabandhu Memorial in Dhanmondi early morning. A virtual discussion and Dua Mahfil was also organized with the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, as the Chief Guest. The pandemic will not slow NSU's invariable commitment to our nation.

As we enter the second half of the year 2021, we sincerely hope that everyone is giving their best to remain healthy, courageous, and motivated during these challenging times. The pandemic has made classes, seminars, research activities, orientations, convocations, and national events virtual, but in the process, the efforts taken, the knowledge gained, and the achievements accomplished are very real. With the adoption of Canvas along with the initiation of hybrid classes, this community has not only settled into a new normal but is now very adept and, when the time comes, will be ready to lead the way for a post-pandemic education throughout the country.

NSU students, whose lives may have been disoriented by the pandemic, can still claim that their academic progression has not been disrupted. The university continues to uphold academic excellence in education and hopes that each student is making good progress in the online learning arena.

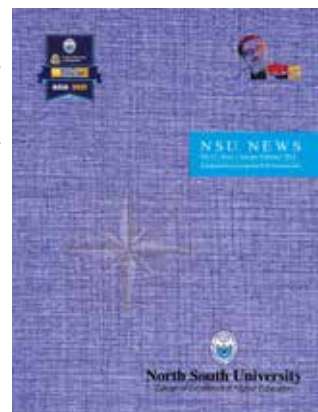
In this July-August edition, we would like to congratulate our new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, an eminent industrialist and philanthropist with achievements in many fields. We wish him continued success as he takes the university to new heights with his experience and insight.

In these past months, numerous international conferences, seminars, and webinars were successfully held. The university continued to collaborate with renowned institutions in India to organize the Regional Conference on Marketing and International Business. An MOU was signed between NSU, The University of Miyazaki, Japan, and the Bangladesh Computer Council to expand the career opportunities in Japan for NSU ICT engineers. The webinars on the Taliban and Afghanistan and the Rohingya genocide held during the same month also demonstrate that we do not shy away from complex topics and remain dedicated to promoting scholarly discussions.

These, along with many other events that engaged the community, have also been included in this issue, and we will continue to provide you with news from our physical and "virtual" campuses.

We wish you all good health.

-Editor



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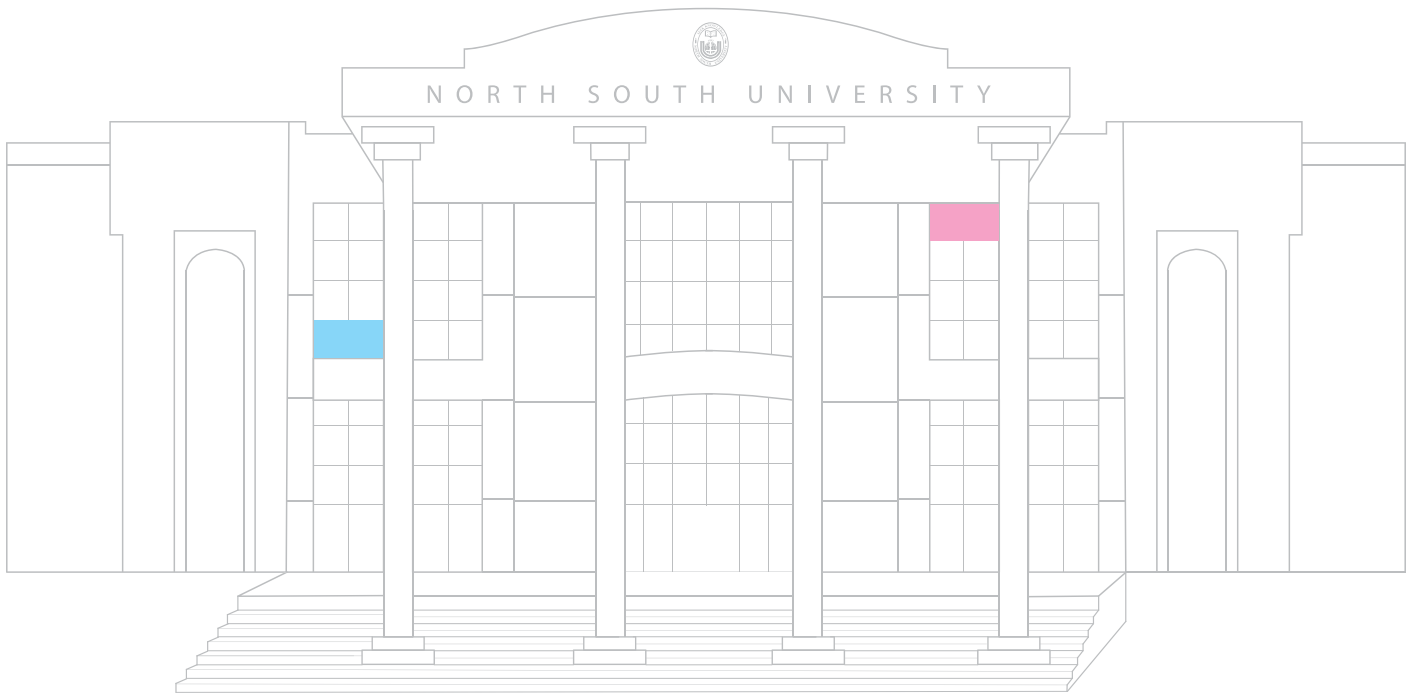


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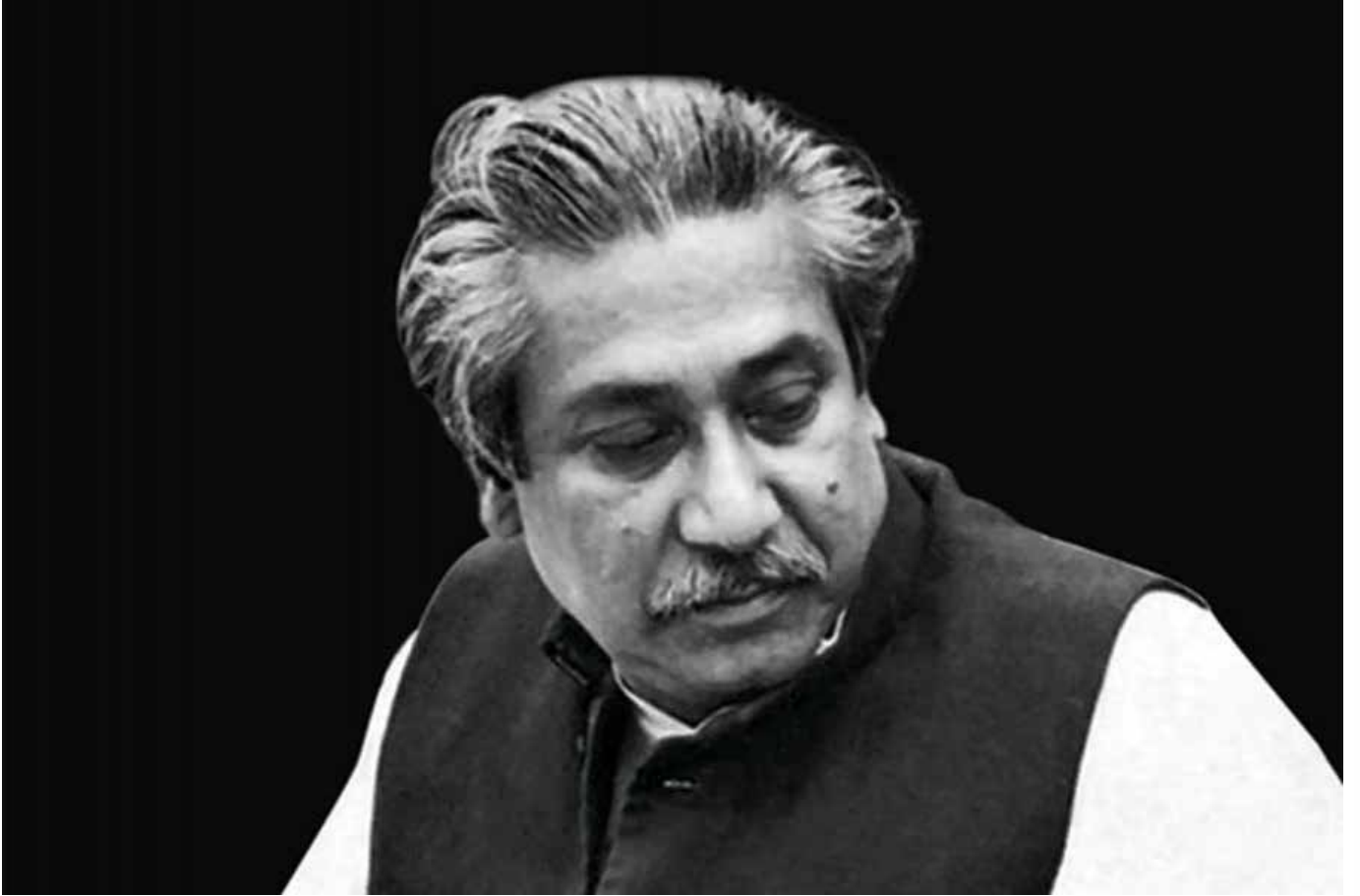
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NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

শোকাবহ
আগস্ট



North South University
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

NSU Observes the 46th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021



Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Honorable Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Mr. M. A. Kashem, Mr. Mohammed Shajahan and Ms. Rehana Rahman, Members of the Board of Trustees, NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor ABM Rashedul Hassan, Treasurer, Deans and other dignitaries along with students observe the National Mourning Day 2021 at NSU.

NSU, the first and number one private university in Bangladesh observes the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021 on August 15 with due respect and solemnity maintaining social distancing due to Covid-19 pandemic.

To pay homage to the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other martyrs of 15th August, NSU kept the national flag hoisted at half-mast and paid the homage by placing floral wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhanmondi in the morning.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Mr. M. A. Kashem, Mr. Mohammed Shajahan & Ms. Rehana Rahman, Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees, NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor,

Professor M. Ismail Hossain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor ABM Rashedul Hassan, Treasurer, Professor Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean of the School of Business and Economics, Professor Dr. Javed Bari, Dean, School of Engineering & Physical Sciences, Professor Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, Department Chairs, Directors, teachers, students, officers and staff of the University were present in the program. After paying their respect, everyone including Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Board of Trustees took part in prayers for the souls of the martyrs who were killed on 15th August, 1975.

It is worth mentioning that, NSU also organized a virtual discussion seminar and dua mahfil program on August 18, 2021 to mark the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Father

of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021. Mr. A. K. M Mozammel Huq, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will be present as the Chief Guest and Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North South University will be present as the special Guest. President of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will be present as Keynote Speaker. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University will preside over the program.

It is worth noting, on the occasion of National Mourning Day and the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a dropdown banner has been used at the main gate of North South University building since 1st August.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed Becomes the New Chairman of the Board of Trustees, North South University Trust

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, an eminent industrialist, renowned patron of education, distinguished philanthropist, active social worker, and one of the promoters and Founder Life Members of North South University (NSU) Trust, recently took office as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NSU Trust. This will be Mr. Ahmed's fourth term as the Chairman of the university.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed was born on June 30, 1940, to a prestigious Muslim family in the Feni district of Bangladesh. His father was the late Alhaj Siraj Uddin Ahmed, and his mother, the late Fatema Khanam. His father was a teacher, social worker, and philanthropist and was the rare kind of committed human being who loved to work for the less fortunate.

Mr. Azim graduated from the University of Dhaka; he entered the business arena in 1962 at a very early age while he was a student. He is one of the few Bengalis to be established as a prominent businessman in pre-liberated Bangladesh and prospered further after liberation.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed is now the Chairman of Mutual Group of Companies. He is the Sponsor Director and former Chairman of Southeast Bank Limited, a leading private bank in the country. He is a successful businessperson who has since headed nine different companies.

Furthermore, Mr. Ahmed is a founding member of the renowned

social club of the country, the Gulshan Club, and served as its President for two terms. As a social worker, he created a wonderful neighborhood in the Baridhara Diplomatic Zone and served as the President of the Baridhara Society for eight years. Mr. Ahmed is also the Founder of Azimia Islamia Senior Madrasa, Bathania Duluma Azim High School, and Fatema Farzana Kindergarten School in his village.



Honorable Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed.

He received the Royal Diploma from Denmark for his contributions to the Bangladeshi economy and received the President's Trophy for Export for two consecutive years. Mr. Ahmed is a Life Member of the Red Crescent Society, the Children's Hospital, the Diabetic Society, and the Diabetic Association, along with many other philanthropic organizations. On his own initiative, he established all

the companies of the Mutual Group and has created many employment opportunities for Bangladeshis throughout his career. He is the Chairman of Arla Foods Bangladesh, a joint venture of Denmark and Bangladesh, and a pioneer in developing the Bangladeshi food processing industry in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline, which is considered a milestone in foreign participation in this sector.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed is associated with a number of trade bodies and associations devoted to social work. He is the President of the Bangladesh Consumer Products Manufacturers and Marketers Association, the Founder President of the Bangladesh Indenting Agents Association, and a past President of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North, and Area Governor of the Rotary District. He served in different capacities for the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Mr. Ahmed has represented his ventures both at home and abroad successfully throughout his career. He visited the Soviet Union, Romania, the Czech Republic, East and West Germany, and England as a part of the first Business Delegation of Bangladesh in 1973, in which he presented a restructured business organogram. Mr. Ahmed was also

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NSU Organizes a Virtual Discussion and Dua Mahfil to Mark the 46th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021



Mr. A.K.M. Mozammel Huq, M.P., Honorable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. M.A. Kashem, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Ms. Rehana Rahman and Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, Members, Board of Trustees, along with other dignitaries attending the virtual discussion and Dua Mahfil to mark the National Mourning Day, 2021.

The first private university of Bangladesh and also the number one in ranking among private universities in Bangladesh, North South University (NSU) organized a virtual discussion and dua mahfil to mark the 46th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021 on Wednesday, 18 August, 2021.

Mr. A. K. M Mozammel Huq, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, People’s Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North South University was present as the Special Guest. Mr. M. A. Kashem, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Ms. Rehana

Rahman and Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, Members, Board of Trustees, North South University were present as Guests of Honor. President of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique was present as the Keynote Speaker. Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU chaired the program.

At the beginning of the program, everyone took part in prayers for the forgiveness of the soul of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs who were killed on 15th August, 1975. The dua mahfil was conducted by Md. Ahsanul Hadi, Associate Professor, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Dhaka.

Chief Guest, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Mr. A. K. M Mozammel Huq, M.P. said, Bangabandhu used to think of the wellbeing of mass people from his student life.

We were the victim of discrimination and exploitation in all cases, in order to avoid this, Bangabandhu gave 6 points movement in 1966 as a certificate of the liberation of Bengalis. Bangabandhu said, the world today is divided into two parts - exploitative on one side and exploited on the other side, I am in favor of exploited people.

He urged the leaders around the world to use the money to fight against poverty, spending on education and health sector instead of spending on weapon

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NSU in Collaboration with BML Munjal University, India and Jagdish Sheth School of Management, India, Organize the Regional Conference on Marketing and International Business (RCMIB) 2021



Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Honorable Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU, Vice-Chancellor of NSU Professor Atiqul Islam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Dr. M. Ismail Hossain and the Dean, SBE, Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury with Dr. Atish Chattopadhyay, Director at Jagdish Sheth School of Management, Bangalore, India and plenary speaker Dr. Vishal Talwar, Director at the Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad, India attending the Regional Conference on Marketing and International Business 2021.

The Department of Marketing and International Business (MIB) under the School of Business and Economics (SBE), North South University (NSU) had a day long Regional Conference-RCMIB 2021 on 20th August, 2021, in collaboration with BML Munjal University, India and Jagdish Sheth School of Management, India, which was sponsored by Social Islami Bank Limited.

The theme of the conference was 'Rethinking the contemporary complexities in the world of Marketing and International Business'. This was the first international conference organised by the Department of MIB that took place virtually due to the pandemic situation.

The conference was attended by faculty members of NSU, the partner institutions and globally renowned academics in the field of Marketing and International business from various institutions, representing several countries like Bangladesh, India, UK, Pakistan, Morocco, China, Finland. The conference had more than 500 participants from various parts of the world.

The opening session was chaired by the Head of Marketing and International Business department Dr Mohammad Tayeenu Hoque where the Chairman of NSU Board of Trustees, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Dr.

M. Ismail Hossain and the Dean of the School of Business and Economics at NSU, Professor Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury took part in the deliberations. Among the distinguished speakers, there were Dr. Atish Chattopadhyay, Director at Jagdish Sheth School of Management, Bangalore, India and plenary speaker Dr. Vishal Talwar, Director at the Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad, India.

They discussed the effects of the pandemic and the way academics in the field of marketing and international business can actively contribute towards mitigating the emerging complexities in the world of business, through their research

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Re-emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021: Implications for South Asia



Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh and Dr. M. Mustafa Mastoor, Special Representative and Senior Advisor, High Council for National Reconciliation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Ph.D., (retd), Senior Fellow of SIPG at NSU at the virtual discussion on Re-emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021.

“We are holding several meetings with Taliban to understand which one of the existing Islamic models they want to implement but they are adamant to implement their own model to run Afghanistan and that’s a major issue of the present conflict,” said Dr. M. Mustafa Mastoor, Special Representative and Senior Advisor, High Council for National Reconciliation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, on 9 August, 2021 while speaking at a webinar as the Guest of Honour joining live from Kabul. He also added that the recent diplomatic efforts of Bangladesh on Afghanistan issues are not as strong as they were before and hopes it will improve in the future.

The Webinar titled “Current Afghan Situation and Bangladesh” was organized by the South Asian

Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of North South University (NSU) to understand the current situation from academic and geopolitical lenses as the emerging unrest and power shifting in Afghanistan will have consequences in the entire South Asia region.

“We welcome the ongoing peace talks in Afghanistan and ask the UN to step up its efforts. We do not want to see our fellow South Asian and SAARC member state Afghanistan suffering anymore”, said Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, who honoured the event as the Chief Guest. He also stated that Bangladesh welcomes Afghan people’s own right to build a democratic, pluralistic, and inclusive society through recent peace talks. Bangladesh insists on

becoming a development partner and assists Afghanistan in all bilateral cooperation for mutual benefits. And as soon as the situation becomes conducive, Bangladesh will reopen the embassy in Kabul.

Keynote Speaker of the webinar Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Ph.D., (retd.), Senior Fellow of SIPG at NSU discussed the geopolitics and consequences of the current Afghan Crisis in the South Asian region and Bangladesh. He stated that a continuation of the Afghan internal conflicts will have a spillover effect in the region as seen in the past which may jeopardize the external and internal security of this region. He also opined that Bangladesh, having historical ties with Afghanistan should consider improving ties with Central Asia including Afghanistan.

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Kick-off Symposium of Bangladesh-Japan ICT Engineers Training Program held between North South University and Miyazaki University of Japan

Bangladesh Japan ICT engineering Training program (B-JET) is a Professional Training program funded by JICA (Japan Government) and facilitated with the technical support of IT Engineers in Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed among Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), North South University (NSU), and The University of Miyazaki (UoM), Japan, to expand the career opportunity in Japan for Bangladeshi ICT engineers. On 24th February 2021, this MoU was signed at the ICT Tower, Agargaon, and Dhaka. As the successor to B-JET, the program will be a joint venture between North South University (NSU), the University of Miyazaki (UoM), B&M, BJIT Group, and SHINKOSHUPPANSHA KEIRINKAN.

To mark the launching of the program, a kick-off symposium was held on the last 31st July. On Bangladesh time at 11:00 a.m., the program was telecasted live on YouTube. Eight months-long training program will be facilitated to 80 BD engineers each year. The first five months will take place in Bangladesh out of those nine months, and the engineers will receive the remaining advanced three months of training in Japan.

Aiming to share and spread the future prospects to expand the network and robust the base of friendship and the

peoples of Bangladesh and Japan was the utmost priority of this symposium. The program was started with the opening address of the President of the University of Miyazaki, Dr. Tsuyomu Ikenoue, MD. He has welcomed North South University to be the partner of this program. He has hoped for an incredibly successful journey through

stated that during the first five months of the training, the module would be held at NSU, and the second three-month module will be held in Japan. He added that it is the responsibility of NSU to make sure that the participants of this project get all the support they need to make our country proud. As a representative of one of the

stakeholders, he expressed that it will be the privilege of NSU to take this forward by ensuring a proper environment for the ICT engineers.

Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister, the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Japan, has highlighted the gravity of Bangladesh-Japan friendship through his words. Mr. Parthapratim Deb, Executive Director, Bangladesh Computer Council and Additional Secretary, Government of Bangladesh, has congratulated both universities and assured his support with helping from the government. In the last part of this symposium,



Professor Mohammad Khasro Miah, Ph.D., Director, Career and Placement Center of North South University, Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister, the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Representative Executive Director, Shinkoshuppansha Keirinkan CO. LTD, on Bangladesh-Japan ICT Engineers Training Program.

this program. Ms. Kayoko Kitagawa, Representative Executive Director, SHINKOSHUPPANSHA KEIRINKAN CO. LTD, greeted everyone with her speech. Professor Mohammad Khasro Miah, Ph.D., Director, Career and Placement Center of North South University, presented his views and vision regarding this program. Dr. Miah

Professor Shinnosuke Tasaka, Program Specific Professor (B-JET), University of Miyazaki, has presented an overview of the details of this program model and the operational structure as B-JET has a plan to start their new module with the collaboration of North South University and Miyazaki University, Japan. He mentioned that the main

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Four International Law Webinars Held



From top left, Ms. Kathleen Claussen, Associate Professor at the University of Miami, School of Law. Bottom left, Ms. Sonia Elise Rolland, Professor, Northeastern University School of Law. Top right, Mr. Gregory Shaffer, Professor, University of California Irvine School of Law, and bottom right, Mr. David Fidler James Louis Calamaras, Emeritus Professor of Law, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, spoke at the international law webinars.

The Department of Law of North South University organized four international webinars on July 12, August 5, August 17, and August 19, 2021, respectively. On July 12, 2021, Kathleen Claussen who is currently serving as an Associate Professor at the University of Miami, School of Law spoke on the topic 'Intersection Between Trade and Labour Law.' On August 5, 2021, Professor Sonia Elise Rolland from Northeastern University School of Law spoke on the topic 'Emerging Powers in The International Economic

Order'. Then, Professor Gregory Shaffer from the University of California Irvine School of Law, and President-elect, The American Society of International Law, spoke on August 17, 2021 on the topic 'Emerging Powers and the World Trading System: The Past and Future of International Economic Law'. In the fourth webinar, Professor David Fidler James Louis Calamaras Emeritus Professor of Law, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University and Senior Fellow for Global Health and Cybersecurity

at the Council on Foreign Relations spoke on August 19, 2021 on the topic 'The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Future of International Law and Global Health'. All the talks began with the introductory remarks by the Chair of the Department of Law, Professor Md. Rizwanul Islam, PhD. Mr. Saquib Rahman, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law moderated the webinars. The attendees included students, alumni, faculty members of North South University, and other Bangladeshi universities.

Kick-off Symposium of Bangladesh-Japan Cont'd...

objective of this training program is to develop Bangladeshi ICT engineers with skillset such as the Japanese language, IT skills, and Japanese business manner so that they can work with the Japanese companies in Japan or Bangladesh. If you can successfully complete this training, you may have the opportunity to get selected for your desired job in Japan.

In addition, this Kick-off Symposium has been explained about

the forthcoming training program, which Training duration of 20 weeks and days Sunday to Thursday of every week Time: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. The orientation program of the forthcoming B-JET training program will be held on 24th September 2021, and the class will start on 3rd October 2021 and the class will end on 17th February 2022. The symposium was moderated by Kenichi Ito, Ph.D., Associate Professor, and Vice

president of Center for International Relations, Miyazaki University.

This initiative is expected to result in another long-term project that will run for years to come. It will contribute greatly to enhancing the quality of the job sector of both countries through the exchange of IT Engineers. By successfully commencing and conducting this project, both Japan and Bangladesh will benefit greatly.

Inauguration of Certificate Course on the Rohingya Crisis at North South University



H.E. Mr. Espen Rikter-Svendsen, Ambassador of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Dhaka, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, North South University, Professor John Paul Jones III, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Arizona, former Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow of SIPG, NSU, along with distinguished academicians, trainers, and experts from various fields around the world spoke at the inauguration.

In June 2021, a 12-week long virtual Certificate Course on the Rohingya Crisis was inaugurated. The course has been jointly organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU) and the Human Rights Practice Program at the University of Arizona, USA.

A total of 38 participants with diverse backgrounds joined in this certificate course from 8 countries including Bangladesh. Among the

22 resource persons, Ambassador Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, and Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar in 2017 also give lecture in the course. The resource persons include ambassadors, academicians, trainers, and experts from various fields around the world will be presented their lecture in this course.

In the inauguration, the Vice-Chancellor of North South University Professor Atiqul Islam, Ambassador Espen Rikter-Svendsen

of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Dhaka, High Commissioner Sufiur Rahman of Bangladesh High Commission to Australia, Professor John Paul Jones III, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Arizona, and Professor Sk. Tawfique Haque, Director, SIPG and CPS of NSU and former Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow of SIPG at NSU joined the event.

The Inauguration program came to a name after a fruitful discussion.

NSU and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh Jointly Organize a Webinar on “Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Area: Challenges and Options for Bangladesh”



Professor Tanaka Akihiko, Professor Atiqul Islam, Professorial Fellow Shahidul Haque and other respected personnel attend the online webinar on Connectivity on the Bay of Bengal Area.

A Lecture Program by Professor Tanaka Akihiko on “Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Area: Challenges and Options for Bangladesh”, was jointly organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) of NSU and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh on 28 August 2021.

In his lecture, Professor Tanaka Akihiko, President, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) elaborated on the economic resurgence of the Indo-Pacific region and emphasized the importance of the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). He said that the Bay of Bengal has a potential to be a connectivity hub in the region through infrastructure projects, in particular, Matarbari deep seaport, under the initiative of “Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)”.

Professor Tanaka also emphasized the significance of the preservation of peace in the Indo-Pacific for its prosperity. He said that in dealing

with China’s growing power and its assertiveness, liberal democracies should avoid misunderstanding on their intentions, establish and maintain effective mechanisms of emergency communication, and explore areas of cooperation along with competition.

Ambassador ITO Naoki, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh graced the program as the guest of honor. He stated that almost 50 years ago, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman emphasized the importance of freedom and peace in the Indian Ocean which has some relevance today. He mentioned that it is important for Bangladesh to ensure the infrastructure projects are economically efficient and meet the country’s requirements with its developmental stage, in line with debt sustainability.

Ambassador Ito also said that the twin celebrations this year demonstrated the enhanced stature of Bangladesh in the region, and

Dhaka was the center of the regional diplomacy as a result of its political stability as well as economic growth. He strongly hoped that Japan will continue its cooperation so that Bangladesh play a prominent role in the region, particularly as a partner of pursuing a FOIP.

Concerning the Bay of Bengal connectivity, Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow, SIPG, NSU & Former Foreign Secretary, GoB said that Bangladesh, being a politically neutral country - in terms of geopolitics - faces difficult strategic choices. He further added that it will be interesting to observe how Bangladesh responds to this choice, balances its foreign policies to facilitate regional connectivity as well as protect its geopolitical and economic interests. He also expressed fear that Asia’s great power rivalry could prevent the entire region from reaping the benefits surrounding the Bay of Bengal.

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NSU Webinar on Remembering the Rohingya Genocide



Former Ambassador Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow of SIPG, NSU, Dr. Raymond Kwun-sun Lau, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU, Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Professor and Director of Confucius Institute, NSU, along with distinguished experts speaking at the webinar.

"We (Rohingya) are being played in the hands of regional geopolitics and what we feel now is hopelessness" Ms. Zainab Arkani, Founder, Rohingya Language School, Canada, says this while speaking in a webinar.

The webinar, titled 'Remembering the Rohingya Genocide of 2017: Waiting for Justice', was organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU) on 25 August 2021 to observe the Rohingya genocide day that led to the mass exodus of the Rohingya in 2017. The panelists focused on the present condition of the Rohingya in terms of their livelihood, solution to the crisis, and how to ensure justice for the Rohingya.

Ms. Zainab laid emphasis on repatriating the internally displaced people (IDP) stranded in Myanmar along with the Rohingya taking shelter in Bangladeshi camps to return to their original place of dwelling with full citizenship. She emphasized that the Rohingya diaspora perceived it as the only way to achieve a sustainable solution to the crisis. She further stated that the international community needs to invite the Rohingya diaspora to

work together for the Rohingya repatriation.

While discussing the challenges of safe repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland, former Foreign Secretary of the Bangladesh government Ambassador Shahidul Haque, now a Professorial Fellow of SIPG at NSU said that the exodus of the Rohingya is not new, it's a recurring phenomenon. "The international community is losing its interest in the Rohingya issue and that's pathetic. The idea of a dignified return of the Rohingya to Myanmar has become an illusion," he added. He went on to say that as long as the military stays in power, there would be no solution to the problem.

Dr. Raymond Kwun-sun Lau, Assistant Professor, Department of Dept of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), NSU, pointed towards placing more emphasis on the timing of the interventions by the international judicial bodies to ensure justice of the Rohingya. He also discussed the Rohingya genocide referring to the mass atrocities that happened in Darfur, Sudan, and Northern Uganda. He stated that the UNSC should play more active roles in resolving the

Rohingya crisis.

Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, and Coordinator of CPS, NSU, discussed the livelihood challenges of the Rohingya and shared her experiences from her recent visit to Rohingya Camps. She said, "When a displaced community lives in a place for few years, the place turns into a village, the same thing happened with the Rohingya as they have developed some mechanism to manage their livelihood inside and outside the camps." Though they are supported with the basic needs of food and shelter by the Bangladesh government, it is human nature to seek livelihood opportunities. And thus, it is very tough for Bangladeshi authority to prevent 1.1 million Rohingya from entering the local job market.

Her recent visit was to attend an art program with the Rohingya and host community children jointly organized by CPS and Artolution. This program was positively accepted by both the communities. She emphasized the importance of art to create social cohesion and eliminate misconceptions about each other. And she finally urged that the repatriation and resettlement process of the Rohingya should be

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NSU in Collaboration with BML Munjal University, India and Jagdish Sheth School of Management, India, Organize the Regional Conference on Marketing and International Business - RCMIB 2021 Cont'd...

and teaching.

During this conference, twenty-five research papers and working papers were presented by authors from diverse backgrounds and nationalities under five tracks:

Contemporary Topics in Business, Consumer Behavior, Contemporary Issues on Tourism, International Business and Marketing in Emerging Countries, and Digital and Services Marketing.

The tracks were chaired by an eminent panelist of track chairs from various leading universities from UK, Finland, Morocco, China and Pakistan. Two separate parallel workshops were also organised by the faculty members of the Department of MIB and the partner institutions on Data Analytics for Banking Practitioners.

The closing session was graced by the speech of the Pro Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Prof. Dr. M.

Ismail Hossain as the special guest and Mr. Benajir Ahmed, member of the Board of Trustees, NSU as the chief guest.

The keynote speakers of the closing session were Professor Dr. Jeremy Clegg, Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration and International Business Management, at the Leeds University Business School, Dr. Mohammad Faisal Ahammad, Associate Professor of International Business at Leeds University Business School and Dr. Surender Munjal, Associate Professor of International Business and Director of James E. Lynch India and South-Asia Business Centre at Leeds University Business School.

During the closing session, papers were awarded. The paper titled, "Contract governance in supply chain resilience: An empirical study of Chinese manufacturing companies in the context of

COVID-19" by Yu Han and Anna Yumiao Tian, got the Outstanding Paper award.

Four papers got best paper awards: "Impact of international and procedural fairness on microfinance customers' relationship commitment: PLS-SEM Analysis" by Shaikh Rafiqul Islam; "Does the Covid 19 protocol enhance customer satisfaction in the hotel industry?"

"Evidence from India", by Mafruz Sultana, Asit k Barma and Ruma Agnes; "Social Innovation in Skills Development: A Case Study on BRAC Institute of Skills Development (BRAC-ISD) in Bangladesh" by Mohammad Rabiul Kabir; K M Hassan and Mohammad Ahsan Kabir Rubel and "Modelling Service Value, Customer Satisfaction and Patronage Behavior for Quick Service Restaurants in India" by Rik Paul and Rubal Rathi.

NSU and the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh Jointly Organize a Webinar on "Connectivity in the Bay of Bengal Area: Challenges and Options for Bangladesh" Cont'd...

Rear Admiral (Retd) Md Khurshed Alam, Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GoB stated the Bay of Bengal as the third neighbor of Bangladesh and laid emphasis on the Rule-based maritime order in the Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific region for a peaceful and prosperous future. He also stated the importance of the Blue economy for the development of Bangladesh and urged Japan to be an important partner in exploiting the deep-sea resources, Portland development, and more connectivity in the region.

Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) opined that the Bay of Bengal is not only the third neighbor but it is a part

of Bangladesh. He also stated that Bangladesh should negotiate with RCEP for strengthening trade ties with its member countries.

Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, SIPG & Chair, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU stated the importance of the Bay of Bengal for the economic development of Bangladesh in his welcome speech. He also emphasized on the geostrategic importance of the Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh to become a regional hub of connectivity in the Indo-Pacific Ocean region.

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University, chaired the webinar. He highlighted the interests that big powers are showing in the Bay

of Bengal and expressed hope that Bangladesh will successfully be able to balance its tactics in this regard.

Dr. M Jashim Uddin, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU moderated this virtual event. He noted that to be a developed country Bangladesh needs technological and economic assistance from the development partners. In this regard, he opined that Japan, as the largest development partner and a trusted friend, can help Bangladesh in unleashing its enormous economic potential from the Bay of Bengal.

Academics, Excellences, marine economy experts, diplomats, Japanese delegates, journalists, and students were present among the participants.

DEML Hosts Series of Webinars on Ideological Becoming and Risk and Language.



Dr. Prem Phyak, Ms. Tania Rahman and Dr. Chris Tang, speakers of the discourse series webinar at the Department of English and Modern Languages, NSU.

On Saturday, 31 July 2021, Dr. Chris Tang and Ms. Tania Rahman presented at a webinar on "Religiosity, risk and language: a corpus analysis of Bangladeshi YouTube discourse about COVID-19". Dr. Chris Tang is a lecturer in international education, language acquisition and applied linguistics at the Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of King's College, London. He is also co-founder and coordinator of the Corpus Research in Linguistics and Beyond seminar series. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Tang has over 15 years of experience teaching English as a foreign language, completing the Department's MA in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching in 2009. Chris currently teaches on programmes such as BA English Language and Linguistics, MA ELT & Applied Linguistics, MA TESOL and MA International Education. Chris' research focuses on the intersection between language, culture and community in how ethnic minority groups access, interpret and share information about health and disaster risk. His projects integrate different linguistic methodologies - e.g. corpus linguistics - with a qualitative approach (interviews, focus groups) in examining the manifold ways in which language frames cultural experiences of risk.

Ms. Tania Rahman is a senior lecturer at the Department of English & Modern Languages (DEML) of North South University in Dhaka. She received her MA in Applied Linguistics degree from the National Institute of Education (NIE) of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore in 2010. Ms. Rahman research interests include outcome based education, English for Academic Purposes, language maintenance and shift, language policy, and corpus linguistics.

The Chair of DEML Dr. AQMA Rahman Bhuiyan introduced the speakers and discussed the importance of research in language and literature. He also discussed the importance of collaborative efforts between scholars in various regions of the world joining forces to overcome the challenges in language studies posed by the modern world.

At the webinar, the speakers shared that postmodern theorists of risk consider health risks to be socially constructed and closely connected with life choices. Linguistic perspectives, and in particular corpus linguistic perspectives have identified a central role for language in how particular risks and these choices are "understood lived, embodied and negotiated". This chapter builds on a sociocultural theory of risk by reporting on a corpus linguistic

analysis of Bangladeshi social media discourse (e.g. Facebook, Instagram) about social distancing in relation to COVID-19, a crucial protective measure against the risk of communicable disease.

Drawing upon the quantitative tools offered by corpus linguistics, the presenters identified the most prominent types of language used on social media to refer to COVID-19 and social distancing in Bangladesh as well as the different linguistic resources that are drawn upon (e.g. Bengali and English). By using qualitative techniques such as concordancing, the presenters also shed light on how this language is being used and, thus, the discourses that contest and negotiate central concepts in public health messages, such as physical or social distance, vulnerability and the nature of COVID-19 as a risk object. The speakers examined the connections between patterns of language use and the sociocultural context and the implications for the Bangladeshi public's understanding of the risk scenario and the potential choices they might make within it.

On Saturday, 10 July 2021, the Department of English and Modern Languages organized a webinar titled "'Ideological Becoming': Critical Pedagogy in Language Teacher Education." Dr. Prem Phyak, the

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DEML Hosts Series of Webinars on Ideological Becoming and Risk and Language Cont'd...

speaker, discussed the activities, processes, and possibilities of integrating critical pedagogy into English language teacher education. Dr. Phyak teaches at the Department of English at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He completed his MA TESOL from the UCL Institute of Education (UK) and PhD in Second Language Studies from the University of Hawaii (USA). Building on 'critically engaged dialogue', Dr. Phyak first

focused on how pre-service teachers can be engaged in the project of building critical consciousness through a collaborative semiotic landscape project. In this project, pre-service teachers in Nepal were engaged in the 'ways of seeing' cities critically by engaging them in exploring and analysing the linguistic and non-linguistic signs (graffiti, signages etc.) in public spaces. By presenting the procedure of the project, Dr.

Phyak argued that the engagement in critical pedagogy provides pre-service English language teachers with opportunities to engage in 'ideological becoming' giving more agency to develop materials that address local sociopolitical issues. The talk was followed by an engaging discussion with the speaker.

NSU and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) Jointly Open the BNCC-Army Wing Platoon at NSU



NSU Students with other members of the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC).

The first private university and number one ranked private university in Bangladesh, North South University and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) jointly opened the BNCC-Army Wing Platoon at North South University. This is a proud moment for the NSU community. Bangladesh National Cadet Corps is a Tri-Military and Para-Military force of Bangladesh that is always prepared to be deployed during peace and war. The military staff and personnel train students throughout their cadetship. BNCC cadets work together with Army, Navy, Air Force, and Civil Defense authorities in situations of national integrity and emergencies.

NSU team worked tirelessly to

establish a BNCC Platoon on the NSU campus especially the Director of Career & Placement Center (CPC), NSU, Professor Dr. Mohammad Khasro Miah coordinating this whole initiative. Mr. Maxim Gorky Samya, a student of Economics at NSU, cordially helped to take permission from the Ministry of Defence and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps Headquarters. North South University and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps jointly opened this platoon for the benefit of the NSU students.

Mr. Md. Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, Department of English & Modern Languages, NSU, has been appointed as the Platoon Commander and Mr. Maxim Gorky Samya has been

appointed as the Platoon Adjutant and Cadet In-Charge of North South University BNCC Platoon.

NSU BNCC Platoon will take command from the Vice-Chancellor of North South University. Ambassador Major General Azmal Kabir (Retd.), Director, Administration, NSU, will supervise the NSU BNCC Platoon.

North South University is also delighted to launch its first-ever recruitment. Interested students of NSU are encouraged to apply for the cadetship at NSU BNCC Platoon. For further information, one can visit the official Facebook page of NSU BNCC Platoon: www.facebook.com/nsubncc.

“The Bangladesh Miracle Webinar Series: Partnership between NSU Department of Economics and Innovision Consulting Ltd.”

The Department of Economics, School of Business and Economics (SBE), North South University (NSU), has entered into a partnership with Innovision Consulting Ltd. to design and produce an integrated development dialogue campaign titled “The Bangladesh Miracle - Celebrating 50 years of Development Progress of Bangladesh”; the campaign is composed of two webinar series and op-ed articles, book chapters as well as policy briefs based on each episode of the two webinar series. The partnership with Innovision Consulting, a well-established international consultancy firm will provide both national and international exposure to NSU. The Financial Express, one of the leading news agencies of Bangladesh, being the media partner of the event will be publishing op-eds related to the webinars which will provide significant national exposure to NSU. The Young Economists Forum, NSU, is one of the technical partners of the event which will allow the students of NSU to obtain valuable extra-curricular experience.

The Bangladesh Miracle, a two part webinar series, aims to promote the development success of Bangladesh and its underlying foundations to global policy makers, investors, development partners, and academia. The first webinar series, which took place between 16 June and 26 August of 2021, was divided into seven episodes: Education, Health, Rohingya Crisis, Start-Up, Nutrition, ICT4D, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), and Extreme Poverty Reduction. The speakers at these webinars were all distinguished and experienced academics, development practitioners, founders, and leaders of various NGOs.

The first episode, “Building on our Success for Equitable Education in Bangladesh”, focused on the successes, challenges, and policy

recommendations vis-à-vis the education system of Bangladesh. This particular episode was moderated by Masrura Oishi, Manager, Innovation Ecosystem and Partnerships, BRAC. Dr. Nazlee Siddiquee, Associate Professor, Department of Management, SBE, NSU; Md. Aminul Islam Khan, Secretary, Technical and Madrasah Education Division, Ministry of Education; Prof. Dr. Syed Md. Golam Faruk, Director General, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Education; Professor Dr. Asadul Islam, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability (CDES) and Professor,



Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University; Dr. Ananya Raihan, Chief Executive Officer, iSocial; Shahidul Islam, Former Education Advisor, Bangladesh & Afghanistan, USAID; and Adam Sharpe, Director of Online Learning, Metafutureschool.org, were the speakers in this episode. The speakers highlighted - the effectiveness of the recent national stipend programs in improving the net enrollment rate, bridging the gap between madrasah and mainstream education, and investment in girls' education - as the main successes of Bangladesh in the education sector. Challenges facing this sector include: poor emphasis on early childhood education, COVID-19 induced disruption, and digital divide exacerbated during the pandemic period. Investment in foundational

skills, enhancing collaboration among stake holders, innovations to bridge the digital divide, bridging the gender gap, and making digital devices available were the policy recommendations that emerged in the first of episode.

The healthcare sector of Bangladesh was the main focus in the second episode titled “Is Bangladesh on Track to achieving the SDG targets for health? A Health Systems Perspective”. Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director, Innovision Consulting Ltd, was the moderator of this episode. Md. Asad-Ur-Rahman Nile, Country Director, Bangladesh, Simprints Technology Ltd; Dr. Taufique Joardar, Vice Chairman, Public Health Foundation, Bangladesh; Dr. Rumana Huque, Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka (DU), Executive Director, ARK Foundation; Dr. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Professor, Department of Economics, SBE, NSU; Dr. Senjuti Saha, Scientist & Director, Child Health Research Foundation, Bangladesh; Dr. Hasan

Mahmud Reza, Professor & Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, NSU; and Dr. Firdausi Qadri, Emeritus Scientist, Infectious Diseases Division, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDRDB) were the speakers in this episode. The following were highlighted as the key success areas of the health sector of Bangladesh: decline in under-five and neonatal mortality rate, successful family planning, world class immunization coverage, ensuring the affordability of medicine for all, improved healthcare services for females, improved quality of life for children, and higher life expectancy rate. According to the speakers, the challenges facing this sector include lack of healthcare facilities and manpower, lack of appropriate regulations and implementation

of policies, lack of proper budget allocation for the healthcare, slow-paced digitalization, high maternal mortality rate, rise in deaths from non-communicable diseases, and antimicrobial resistance. The panelists and speakers called for automation, strong monitoring, a bigger budget and its proper implementation, evidence and incentive based decision-making, effective public-private partnership,

President Humanitarian Affairs, CARE USA; Abdur Rob, Practice Area Lead for Livelihood, Climate Change and Disaster Response, Innovision Consulting; Ipshita Sengupta, Consultant, Act for Peace were the speakers. Bangladesh's success in promoting regional stability through hosting the displaced Rohingya community was highlighted by the speaker. According to them, the challenges facing this crisis

"Unleashing the potential of the Bangladeshi Startup Ecosystem", was Bangladesh's startup ecosystem. Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director & Lead Consultant, Innovision Consulting, was the moderator of this episode. The speakers were Rahat Ahmed, Founding Partner & CEO, Anchorless Bangladesh, and Senior Advisor, NSU Startups Next; Professor Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean, SBE, NSU;



enhancing research and development, and a precise post-covid roadmap.

The third episode of the first webinar series, "The Solutions to Large, Complex and Protracted Crisis, Lessons from the Rohingya Refugee Response", focused on the Rohingya refugee crisis. This episode was moderated by Munia Islam Mozumder, Education Specialist, Rohingya Response. Shakeb Nabi, Country Representative, ICCO Bangladesh; Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow, NSU; Marsha Michel, Advisor for the Rohingya Refugee Response, USAID Bangladesh; Johannes Van der Klaauw, Representative, UNHCR Representation in Bangladesh; Kojiro Nakai, Deputy Emergency Coordinator, WFP Bangladesh; Dr. Deepmala Mahla, Vice

include a lack of commitment from UN, geopolitical games and interests overshadowing rights and interests of the Rohingya refugees, growing antipathy of the host community towards the refugees, and coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders. The panelists advocated coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders in order to identify pragmatic alternatives to protect the rights of the Rohingya community and ensure their dignified return, vocational training for work, immediate addressing of the growing antipathy towards the Rohingya community, and establishing rights of education and work for the Rohingya refugees.

The theme of the fourth episode,

Fahim Ahmed, President, Pathao; Shamma Raghib, SaaS Transformation leader, Collibra Inc.; Bijon Islam, Chief Executive Officer, LightCastle Partners; Sadrudin Imran Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Innovision Consulting; and Laviva Mazhar, Investment Associate, Luge Capital. The untapped potential of the startup ecosystem to contribute towards the economic growth of Bangladesh was highlighted, by the speakers, as a major challenge. They argued although the Bangladesh government has initiated a number of platforms for funding and incubating startups, many challenges related to the startup ecosystem are yet to be addressed. According to the speakers, challenges facing the startup ecosystem includes lower funding per

capita as compared to other similar economies, attracting world-class CEOs and/or founders, problems related to traffic and agricultural supply chain, a lack of leadership training, and a lack of promotion of the entrepreneurial mindset in academic institutions. The speakers recommended government policy support, arrangement of corporate venture capital, enhanced industry-academia collaboration,

Bangladesh; Mr. Penjani Mkambula, Global Cluster Lead, Large Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) and Biofortification Global Alliance For Improved Nutrition (GAIN), UK; Dr. Md. Abdul Alim, Member, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), Ministry of Food Technology and Rural Industries, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh; Akhil Ranjan Tarafder,

South University; and Eddie Bearnot, Managing Director, Care Nutrition Ltd were the speakers. The following challenges, in relation to food and nutrition security, were identified during the webinar: deficiency of vital nutrients among 6 to 59 months old children and among NPNL (non-pregnant non-lactating) women aged 15-49 years, the pandemic affecting nutritional health of poorer



updating university curricula, making the ecosystem attractive to international venture capital, promotion and branding of Bangladesh’s startup ecosystem, emulating successful competitors, and utilizing globally acclaimed Bangladeshis and non-resident Bangladeshis for networking.

The fifth episode - “Food Security to Nutrition Security: How Should Bangladesh Embrace the Future?” - explored the successes, challenges, and future roadmap of Bangladesh’s nutrition security. The episode was moderated by Mandira Guha Neogi, Senior Policy Associate, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Bangladesh. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director, Global Alliance For Improved Nutrition (GAIN),

General Manager, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC); Dr. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman, Line Director, National Nutrition Services (NNS), Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Rezaul Karim, Head of Programme, World Food Programme (WFP), Bangladesh; Dr. Anika Tahsin Khan, Team Lead, Adolescent Project. Innovation Consulting Private Ltd; Zaki Haider, Director of Innovation, mPower Social Enterprises Ltd; Dr. Sheikh Shahed Rahman, Chief of Party, Suchana | Child Poverty Sector, Save the Children, Bangladesh Secretary, Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition (CSA for SUN); Dr. Ahmed Hossain, Professor, Public Health Director, Global Health Institute, North

households, climate change is also resulting in a reduction of nutrient security. Although Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency is still high. A multi-sectorial integrated approach to strengthen health security in the country, improved and balanced diet as well as food fortification are to ensure the required nutrition for the population were advocated by the speakers of the webinar.

The sixth episode of the first webinar series, “Road towards Bangladesh 2030: Readiness and Priorities for Digital Transformation”, focused on information and communications technology for development (ICT4D). Shahid Uddin Akbar, CEO, BIID Foundation, was the moderator of

this episode. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Chairman, BTRC; Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, a2i; Mahboob Zaman, CEO, DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Ltd.; Susanta Kumar Saha, Former Additional Secretary, GoB; Parveen Mahmud, FCA, Chairman, UCEP; Farhana Rahman, Senior Vice President, BASIS; Dr. Laffa Jamal, Professor, Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering, University of Dhaka (DU); Dr. Jude Genilo, Professor & Head of the Media Studies and Journalism Department, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB); Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director, Innovision Consulting Ltd; Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Assistant Professor & Chair, Department of Economics, NSU; and Dr. Mahbulul Alam, Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, were the speakers at this episode. The speakers highlighted - significant rise in the internet penetration rate and number of digital government services which led to significant reductions in service processing time and costs - as the successes of this sector. However, it was noted that Bangladesh is lacking in research and development, and internet access among secondary and primary school students. The distinguished speakers urged the government to provide high-speed internet at affordable costs across the country to ensure people's access to available digital services, to bring down the prices of digital devices by adjusting tax rates, and promoting local manufacturers. The speakers also advocated for sector-specific skilled human resources for digital transformation of Bangladesh, enhancing industry-academia linkage for quality research at universities, and reducing the digital divide especially among students.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) was the theme of the seventh webinar titled "50 years of WASH in Bangladesh". This episode was moderated by Syeda Saima Ahmed, Elected Local Government Representative, London Borough of Redbridge, UK. The speakers were: Dr. Md. Khairul Islam, Regional Director - South Asia, WaterAid; Nazmun Nahar,

PhD.

P.Eng,FIEB,Member(SDSN),Director, IQAC, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, NSU; Dr. Md. Mafizur Rahman, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Director, Center for Environmental and Resource Management (CERM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET); Saqif Nayeem Khan, Project Manager - SanMarkS II, funded by UNICEF & SDC, implemented by iDE Bangladesh; Rumat Ashraf Regional Director, Middle East & Latin America, HappyTap Co; Minhaj Chowdhury, CEO, drinkwell; Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director and Lead Consultant, Innovision Consulting Ltd; Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC. The speakers acknowledged the successes of Bangladesh in the area of WASH which includes expanded hygiene coverage by 17 percentage in the last five years and effectiveness of NGOs in conceptualizing and piloting some of the WASH projects in Bangladesh. Challenges facing this sector includes low piped supply of water and implementing a Policy and Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) model over the long-term period. The panelists at the webinar made the following recommendations for the future of WASH in Bangladesh: public investment and multi-stakeholder engagement need to be increased to increase accessibility of water, sanitation, and hygiene; evidence-based, pro-poor, and innovative approaches; database to track budgetary allocation for evidence-based policies; transparency and accountability of the implementation processes; faecal sludge management in the respective areas; and women and disabled friendly toilets in urban areas.

The last episode of the first webinar series, "Eradicating Extreme Poverty: Emerging lessons & approaches", on extreme poverty reduction was held on 26 August, 2021. Syeda Saima Ahmed Elected Local Government Representative, London Borough of Redbridge, UK, moderated this episode. Ramesh Singh, Country Director, CARE Bangladesh; Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director, Innovision

Consulting Ltd.; Dr. Mehrul Islam, Senior Director - Program Evidence, Advocacy, Research and Learning (PEARL) Unit, CARE Bangladesh; Md. Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka; Masing Newar, Programme and Policy Officer (Safety net Reform), Social Safety net Policies and Programmes Unit, WFP Bangladesh Country Office; Dr. A K M Atiqur Rahman, Professor, Department of Economics, School of Business and Economics, NSU; Humaira Aziz, Director -Women and Girls Empowerment Program, CARE Bangladesh; Anowarul Haq, Social Development Adviser, British High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dr. M. A. Baqui Khalily, Department of Business Administration, University of Asia Pacific; Fatima Jahan Seema, Social Research Coordinator, Program Evidence, Advocacy, Research and Learning (PEARL) Unit, CARE Bangladesh. Increasing poverty rate due to the pandemic, weaker shock-absorption capacity of the urban poor, and price volatility are the major challenges that Bangladesh currently faces, pointed out the speakers. They advocated the adoption of a shock-responsive social-safety-net programme precisely targeting the extreme poor, proper integration of the government and non-government initiatives, and protection of indigenous communities or minority groups.

A significant number of NSU faculty members have already contributed opened articles and book chapters related to the different themes of the webinars. If any other faculty member of NSU is interested to write articles and book chapters related to the themes of the webinars, they are requested to contact Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Assistant Professor & Chair, Department of Economics, SBE, NSU. Separate policy briefs on each of the episode will also be published by Innovision Consulting Ltd. in association with the Department of Economics, NSU. The policy briefs and articles that have been published so far are available at the official Facebook page of the event: <https://www.facebook.com/InnovisionpresentsBangladeshMiracle>.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed Becomes the New Chairman of the Board of Trustees, North South University Trust Cont'd...

the leader and member of several business delegations that visited the USA, Canada, the UK, Denmark, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Greece, Spain, Russia, several Eastern European Countries, India, Pakistan,

Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, China, and Japan. He has been part of several international business conferences where he represented Bangladesh.

We welcome Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed as our Honorable Chairman

of the Board of Trustees, NSU and confidently look forward to the upcoming progress of NSU under his guidance. The NSU community will benefit from his wealth of experience as a visionary and a leader of industries.

NSU Webinar on Remembering the Rohingya Genocide Cont'd...

expedited in parallel to resolve this worst humanitarian crisis.

Ambassador Sufur Rahman, High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, stated that in Myanmar, majoritarianism is taking on a new shape. If the NUG, Myanmar's ethnic parties, and the international community continue to remain engaged on this issue, it is possible to subjugate the military and thus a solution is likely to

emerge. Conversely Brig. Gen. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Ph.D., (ret'd), Senior Fellow of SIPG, NSU opined that it is very hard to overpower the Myanmar Military and thus the quick solution to this crisis is very bleak now.

Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, Associate Professor and Director of Confucius Institute, NSU, moderated the webinar. He highlighted the importance of observing this Rohingya genocide remembrance

day and hopes that the Rohingya will get back all of their rights and peacefully repatriate to Myanmar. Rohingya diaspora, diplomats, academics, lawyers, journalists, and students were present among the participants. The webinar ended with observing one-minute silence in remembrance of the Rohingya who were the victims of the genocide and atrocity in 2017.

Re-emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2021: Implications for South Asia Cont'd...

Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Professor of International Relations at the University of Dhaka pointed towards placing importance on both hard and soft power objectives. She stated that we need to analyze the long-term impacts of the fact that the Taliban is trying to win the hearts of the mass public by lowering the oil price and the amount of Mahr (money paid by the groom at the time of Islamic marriage).

Mr. Faruque Ahmed, Former Executive Director of BRAC International who worked in the humanitarian and development sector in Afghanistan stated that security is a big challenge there along with weak governance and the high cost of doing business. He also opined that security should be ensured first for peacebuilding and development in Afghanistan.

Former Foreign Secretary of the Bangladesh Government

Ambassador Shahidul Haque, now a Professorial Fellow of SIPG at NSU, said although Pakistan, India, Iran all are in the race for influence in Afghanistan, China has the most important role to play to fill the void left by the withdrawal of NATO and US forces. He also said that the National Afghan government has shown its interest to become a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and it will be interesting to see how it turns out as both India and Pakistan are SCO members. "In order to bring peace and security in Afghanistan, the governance of Afghanistan should be done by the people of this country without any interference of outsiders." Ambassador Shahidul added.

Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of North South University Chaired the Session. In his concluding remarks, he said that although the re-emergence

of the Taliban may represent initial strategic gain for Pakistan, Pakistan is also at high risk of much chaos, civil war, and the influx of refugees from Afghanistan if another civil war starts there. He also said that India has good reasons to be nervous as China will be keeping a sharp eye on Afghanistan as well. China has already met with the Taliban leaders as they don't want their interference in Xinjiang and BRI projects.

The event ended with the playing of an Afghan folk song as a tribute to the fellow Afghans wishing peace and prosperity in their lives. Diplomats, academics from various universities including NSU and Dhaka University, journalists, and students from the USA, Norway, New Zealand, Bangkok, Italy, UK, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh were present among the participants.

NSU Organizes a Virtual Discussion and Dua Mahfil to Mark the 46th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Mourning Day 2021 Cont'd...

and war. I think, the murder of August 15, 1975 were not only the murder of any individual, or a family, they wanted to kill the spirit of the liberation war and the independence of Bangladesh.

But Bangabandhu has now become much stronger than the living Bangabandhu for his ideals and philosophy, not only for Bangladesh but all the oppressed and exploited people of the world will implement Bangabandhu's philosophy as an inspiration to achieve freedom. In the meantime time, urged the new generation to know about Bangabandhu and to take the country forward by embracing the ideals of Bangabandhu.

Special Guest, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North South University, Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed said, Bangabandhu dreamt of a society free from hunger and poverty without discrimination. Bangabandhu dreamt of liberation of the people of Bangladesh, his worthy daughter has been established our country as a developing and dignified nation in the world by overcoming hunger and poverty under her strong leadership.

Bangladesh is a role model of development in the world today. If Bangabandhu had not been born, Bangladesh would not have been born. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has given all the directions to run a country. We all have to work together shoulder to implement the government's dream of building 'Digital Bangladesh' keeping the ideals of Bangabandhu in our heart. At this time, he mentioned, North South University believes in the spirit of the liberation war.

To honor the proud children of freedom fighters of, North South

University has so far provided the opportunity to more than 1300 children of freedom fighters studying at NSU without any cost. NSU also published a book on Birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

Keynote Speaker, President of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique said, Bangabandhu has laid the foundation of Bangladesh on which our country stands today. Even if they killed Bangabandhu, they couldn't kill his ideals which are still alive among us. He said, there could be no better investment than investing on education sector, he nationalized primary education and he gave top priority to education. His goal was to provide non-discriminatory education to all people of the country. All the countries around world who made financial progress, they also made progress in education.

Bangabandhu said that, my journey is from darkness to light but the assassins pushed him towards darkness. I advised to the new generation, you have to learn about Bangabandhu and read books which were written by Bangabandhu. I hope the new generation will learn about Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu wanted to build 'Sonar Bangla', I am hopeful that the new generation will play a role in building 'Sonar Bangla' by embracing the ideals of Bangabandhu.

Members, Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. M. A. Kashem said, August is the month of mourning for the Bengali nation and this month the anti-independence forces have snatched Greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from us. He has given us all the directions we need to run our country. If he had not been born,

this independent country called Bangladesh would not have been born today. In the meantime, he said, Under the strong leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in all fields including education, industry and medicine. We at NSU are working to run the university following the ideals of Bangabandhu.

Members, Board of Trustees, NSU, Mr. Benajir Ahmed said, If Bangabandhu had not been born, this country would not have been born. It is under his strong leadership that we have received the gift of this independent country today. Today, under the strong leadership of his worthy daughter, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we have been able to stand tall in the Hall of world audience and become a developed country by 2041.

Chair of the program, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam said, North South University is inspired by the spirit of the liberation war and respecting the freedom fighters, the best children of the nation, the children of the freedom fighters are given the opportunity to study at North South University without any pay. We have made every effort to inform the new generation about Bangabandhu and the freedom fighters of Bangladesh.

Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. ABM Rashedul Hassan, Treasurer, Dean of Different Schools, Heads of Departments, teachers-students, officers and staff of the University were present in the program. A large number of parents and students were also connected through live broadcasts on the official Facebook page of North South University.



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