



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

Welcome to this special issue of The Bridge which gives special recognition to the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh in several articles.

Happy Birthday, Bangladesh!



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NGO Talk Show Episode 5

The fifth episode of 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on November 2, 2021 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - 'Tauri Foundation'. The Topic of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and Tauri Foundation'. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Ashfaque-UL-Kabir, Executive Director, Tauri Foundation. From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.



Throughout the event, Mr. Ashfaque-UL-Kabir shared the objectives and inspiration behind founding the 'Tauri Foundation' as well as his experiences and insights from engagement in the development sector for a long time. Mr. Ashfaque's initial working sector was not development, rather he started his career in the marketing sector. Later in life, he felt the necessity of awareness regarding the upbringing and rights of children with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) which drove him to initiate the 'Tauri Foundation' for their betterment. The initial objective of his initiative was to help parents of these children by giving them the right direction about proper upbringing and legitimate rights. The activities of the 'Tauri Foundation' include providing special education, rehabilitation support and vocational support to children with NDD. They also arrange home-based physiotherapy for rural and poor disabled children. Additionally, the 'Tauri Foundation' has recently availed several digital facilities like a specialized app, YouTube, etc. for the education of disabled children.



As Mr. Ashfaque-UL-Kabir has been associated with the development sector closely for a while, he shared some valuable insights about the contribution of NGOs in the integrated growth and progress of Bangladesh. He especially mentioned the role of NGOs in proper and fruitful utilization of foreign funds for development. Currently, a number of NGOs are working actively on their own or collaborating with the government in different sectors with a common goal of integrated development. In fact, the advancement of the development sector of our country is internationally recognized for tremendous effort, contribution and success in poverty reduction, problem identification, needs assessment and feasible solution invention and implementation.

According to our guest, another major contribution of the NGOs is in research and policy design through information collection. For this he emphasized both indoor analysis and external field work equally. In this context, he expressed his earnest interest to collaborate with NSU and to join resources for conducting effective research projects in relevant sectors.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/306379991061420>

Information Session with SUNY New Paltz, USA

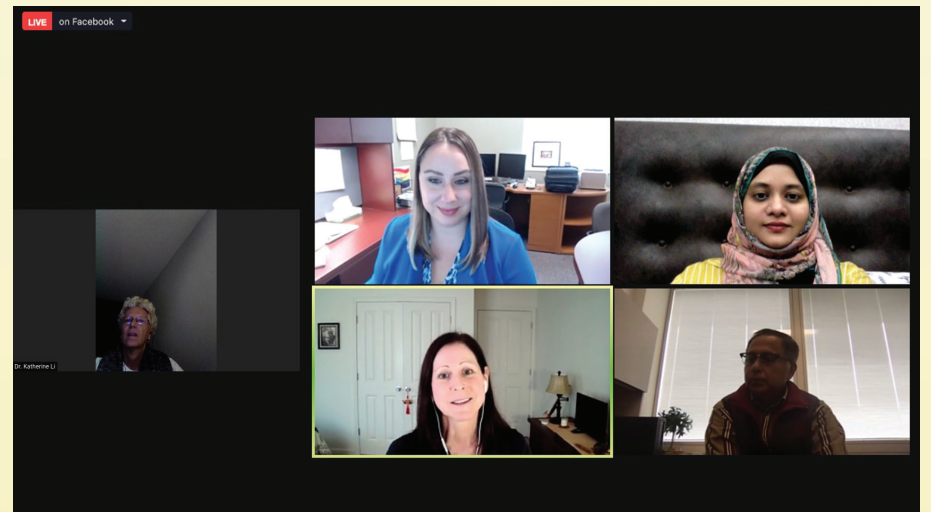


North South University's Office of External Affairs hosted an online information session with SUNY New Paltz, USA on November 2, 2021. As the guests and speakers of the event, we had Ms. Amanda Stevens, Manager of Recruitment, Marketing and Admission, Center for International Program, Dr. Shafiqul Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, Director, Environmental Geochemical Science Program, and Ms. Judy



Bishop, the International Admission Advisor for Undergraduate program from SUNY New Paltz, USA. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of the guests followed by an informative slide presentation about SUNY New Paltz, USA from Ms. Stevens. Through the presentation, she presented an overview of the university including its foundation, location, academic structure and facilities. She mentioned that SUNY New Paltz, USA is a public university which was founded in 1828. It is one of the most well reputed and highly ranked universities of the region. The university has been ranked the 6th best public university in the Northern region of the USA and the 3rd best SUNY School among several other SUNY institutes. Ms. Stevens also mentioned that the Business School and Fine Art Programs of the university are highly reputed for quality of education among both national and international students.



SUNY New Paltz offers a variety of programs and courses both for undergraduate and graduate students. The university has nearly 100+ undergraduate and 50+ graduate programs organized under several departments and schools. Alongside academic diversity, the university offers great opportunities to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities for the students through several student run clubs. Furthermore, SUNY New Paltz avails different internship and career development related facilities for the students. One such internship opportunity is the semester business internship program. Their career resources include arrangement of job fairs, counselors, mentors, career planning workshops and special career development oriented facilities for international students.

As the event proceeded, Ms. Bishop and Ms. Stevens informed the audience more about their undergraduate and graduate programs. In this regard, they mentioned the admission requirements, application procedure, timeline, English proficiency requirements, SAT/GRE related requirements for enrolling into the graduate or undergraduate programs. The speakers also explained the tuition fees for different programs and details regarding scholarships, financial aid and funding opportunities that SUNY New Paltz offers especially to international students.

Afterwards, the floor was passed over to Dr. Shafiul Chowdhury who informed the audience about his timely and unique research projects. He mentioned that, currently he is concentrating on an interdisciplinary environmental science program that focuses on sustainable water resource exploitation and contamination prevention. Dr. Chowdhury is aiming to conduct joint externally funded research programs based on the aforementioned topics. Hence, he invited interested faculties or students from NSU to contact him for such research collaboration and partnership.

The event ended with a very interactive Q&A session where the speakers invited questions from the audience and answered them instantly. The representatives of SUNY New Paltz provided their contact details at the end of the event for further communication if needed.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/563718574717045>

NSU Attends a Virtual Meeting with Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Malaysia

North South University Office of External Affairs attended a virtual meeting with Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Malaysia (TAR UC) on November 3, 2021. The meeting was initiated and arranged by TAR UC, Malaysia through the university's global outreach program. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li,



Director, Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri, Coordination Officer, OEA from North South University. On the other hand, Assoc. Prof. Dr Chin Mui Yin, Deputy Dean TAR UC, Assoc. Prof. Say Sok Kwan, Vice President, Office of the president and Sherry Lundry, Development Director, TAR UC were present during the meeting on behalf of Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Malaysia.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss research collaboration opportunities between NSU and TAR UC, Malaysia. As both universities are currently focused on research projects, several research interest areas of the faculties from the two universities were found to be similar. The representatives of both universities expressed enthusiasm and interest about joint research. A memorandum of understanding between the two universities was also proposed based on research and other collaboration areas discussed during the meeting and the attendees agreed on further discussion and exploration about more partnership opportunities between NSU and TAR UC.

Team OEA Meets NSU Startups Next

The incubation initiative of North South University, 'NSU Startups Next' (NSUSN) invited the Office of External Affairs for a courtesy meeting on November 8, 2021. The meeting was attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer and Mr. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer.



On behalf of NSUSN, Dr. Shazzad Hosain, Director, NSU Startups Next, Mr. Mohammed Abdul Mumin Evan, Coordinator and Mr. Samuel Mursalin, Coordinator attended the meeting.

The meeting started with a brief introduction from the representatives of NSUSN about the objectives, activities and plans of NSU

Startup Next. The main agenda of the discussion session was to explore the opportunities of sharing resources among OEA and NSUSN for further expansion and networking. As OEA has an extensive exposure to a good number of local and international universities, embassies, non-governmental organization and the alumni pool of NSU, NSUSN proposed sharing these connections and networks with them by introducing them to ambassadors, donor agencies, entrepreneurs and alumni who are already entrepreneurs or looking for entrepreneurship opportunities. The representatives of OEA responded positively to the proposal and promised to forward any relevant opportunities for networking or collaboration with NSUSN. Moreover, the attendees discussed reaching out to and actively looking for collaboration opportunities with such incubation programs of other universities.



The Second Follow-up Meeting with ABALAMBAN

The 2nd Follow-up Meeting between ABALAMBAN (a national NGO) and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on November 08, 2021 via Zoom. The attendees of the event included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Mr. Sadequul Islam, Chairperson, ABALAMBAN, NGO, Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chairman, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, Director, SIPG & the Research Coordinator, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, NSU, Dr. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology & the Director, Confucius Institute, NSU, Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, External Affairs (OEA), NSU.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of ABALAMBAN for the development of Bangladesh and a possible collaboration between NSU and ABALAMBAN in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. The event started with Mr. Sadequul Islam describing the diverse working areas of ABALAMBAN. He especially mentioned that since 2013 the organization has been focusing on certain target groups like ethnic minorities on the plain lands of Bangladesh who are cobblers, sweepers, etc. They have been working to establish human rights, dignity, accessibility in mainstream social structures for their targeted underprivileged population. The organization is working for livelihood improvement through employable skill development, education support for children, relief and rehabilitation, etc. On a broader scale, ABALAMBAN is also working on peacebuilding, youth volunteerism, leadership development, and conflict resolution between majorities and minorities, etc.



Prof. Haque particularly mentioned NSU's recent initiative known as the 'China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies' which is a partnership between universities of China and South Asia for joint research in the anthropological field. He mentioned "stocktaking about the current situation of the ethnic groups" as a common area for joint collaboration between NSU and ABALAMBAN. Dr. Siddiqi added that BRAC has already surveyed almost 150 listed and non-listed ethnic minority groups of Bangladesh, but there is a huge scope for research regarding the anthropological, sociological and cultural perspectives of these populations.

In this context, Mr. Islam mentioned that they have already been working to revitalize the cultural heritage of ethnic groups of our country. He also shared some of their experience in conducting action and commissioned research in relevant areas. Dr. Siddiqi suggested sharing research findings in order to establish joint research and publication projects. Afterwards, Dr.

Sultana expressed interest to know about ABALAMBAN's initiatives for education and other facilities for minority children as they have limited access to mainstream services. Mr. Islam mentioned that for the ethnic population, his organization aids in developing their own language school as well as helps to avail mainstream education to them. On the other hand, for the other neglected population class, ABALAMBAN organizes sensitization events and awareness programs with school management and teachers for raising awareness and reducing discriminative behaviors.

The concluding remark of the event was delivered by Dr. Li. She mentioned that NSU is initiating steps to build a curriculum for peace education and conflict resolution. Moreover, she proposed organizing training programs and availing internship opportunities especially for the students of the Political Science Department in relevant areas collaborating with ABALAMBAN. She ended her remarks with the expectation to keep cultivating relationships like this one with ABALAMBAN.



Information Session with High Commission of Canada



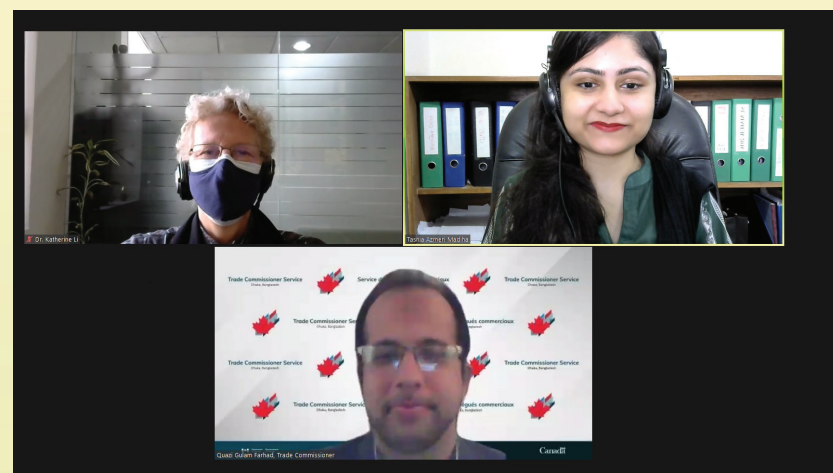
North South University Office of External Affairs arranged an information session with the High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh on November 9, 2021. As the guest and speaker of the event, we had Mr. Quazi Gulam Farhad, Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission at Dhaka with us. From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA hosted the live information session.

The session mainly focused on informing the audience about the education and career development opportunities for international students in Canada. The entire session was conducted through an interactive slide presentation by Mr. Farhad. During the presentation, Mr. Farhad informed the audience about the Canadian education system, available student scholarships from the Canadian Government and job placement opportunities in Canada. Canada is one of the strongest economies of the world and has been ranked the 10th most entrepreneurial. It is also one of the least corrupt countries in the world. The country cultivates cultural diversity, in fact it is the only country to recognize multiculturalism as official policy. The residents of Canada are very socially tolerant, inclusive and welcoming. The country has become one of the top preferences for migration over the years for being socially and economically safe and stable.

Canada has been a hub of educational excellence and professional development and it has developed a reputation for providing consistent high quality education in recent years. The integrated education system of Canada currently offers over 1,500 undergraduate and graduate programs at nearly 100 high ranked universities. Moreover, more than 1,000 distinct programs are being offered by several community colleges of Canada. The offered programs include advanced and current subjects like Data Analysis, Fin-Tech, Artificial Intelligence, etc. Alongside the education quality and opportunities, Canada is also well reputed for offering excellent career foundation and development opportunities. The education system being industry related and placement oriented, the employability rate among the graduates is very high in Canada. Moreover, both the academic and industrial structure of the country promote and encourage extensive research activities and publication.

Overall, Canada is a very technologically advanced, innovation oriented and citizen friendly country. Education and living in Canada is cost effective and affordable. The Canadian government is accommodating about study permits, work permits, immigration and other formal processes and documentation for international citizens. The government also operates several scholarship programs for international students. In the last part of the session, Mr. Farhad explained the process of acquiring study permits, visas, scholarships, student exchange programs, etc. from application to actualization in detail. He also shared the contact details of his office with the audience for further communication upon need.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/991650061380511/>



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 57



The fifty-seventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on November 9, 2021. The episode showcased Mohammad Rafiqul Quader, a distinguished alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 1995. Mr. Quader completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 1999. He took a long pause of 8 years from academia and invested himself completely in industry before receiving his MBA degree from NSU again in 2009. In his professional life, Mr. Quader was associated with Nielsen for 8 years and with Novartis for 10 years. Currently, he is working with Union Technical Consultants as the Director of Marketing & Operations.

The show started with a discussion about the roles, lessons, achievements and experiences of Mr. Quader's professional journey so far. He might not have the experience of working with that many organizations in his career, but he sure has the opportunity of suiting himself in diverse roles. He has been actively associated with different managerial and executive roles in organizational departments such as sales, training, digital, customer relationship management, vendor management, etc. Mr. Quader mentioned that after exploring such diversified working units and areas, what he found common and most amazing is the spread of digitalization in all these sectors over the past years.

The guest's career portfolio suggests his association with the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare sector for a significant portion of his professional journey. As an experienced associate of this prominent industry, he shared his observations about the effect of the pandemic on it. He mentioned that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic not only has affected the healthcare industry largely, but also has molded the industry into a rather improvised and improved version of it. The sector has experienced a massive digitalization, as there was no way it could halt even for a while during the disaster or could keep functioning in the conventional way, thus it had to adapt to this technological revolution.

Later in the show, Mr. Quader shared some precious suggestions for young marketers based on his observations and practical experience. He strongly emphasized patience, honesty, integrity and discipline to succeed in any sector, task or role in life. He also stressed hard work, communication skills and drive of constant improvement for better performance, skill sets and achievements. He also mentioned the merits of pursuing an MBA with some extent of practical and industry experiences referring to his real life experience and examples.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3123883094601160>



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 58

The fifty-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on November 15, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. Minhaz Remo, a distinguished alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2013. He graduated from NSU in 2018. Despite being a student of Business Administration with majors in Marketing and Human Resources Management, he chose not to join the conventional corporate sector immediately after graduation, rather he decided to build a career pursuing his unique point of interest which is fitness and martial arts. Mr. Minhaz has the experience of working with Bangladesh International Taekwon-Do Association and famous fitness chain franchises like Tapout Fitness. He has his own fitness platforms named Functional Performance and Titans Academy. Furthermore, he is the founder of Momium, a nutritional food service platform.



The drastic shift of Mr. Minhaz's choice of career from his academic background is one of the most interesting and noteworthy events of his life. While discussing his extraordinary professional choice during the show, Mr. Minhaz mentioned that he himself had been invested in fitness and self defense since his undergraduate life. However, some unfortunate and lugubrious incidents occurred in Dhaka in 2015 that once again made him realize the importance of self defence and inspired him to spread the knowledge of martial arts to others. His main motivation behind founding martial arts academies was to contribute to society with whatever skills he had mastered so far.

As the discussion about the guest's professional life furthered, he shared the flow and evolution of his career journey with the audience. Mr. Minhaz joined 'Tapout' as head coach and from there gradually developed his interest and knowledge about nutrition. Later on, combining fitness and self defense together, he initiated his startups. Being associated with the fitness sector, he realized that there is a huge deficiency of awareness about health and fitness among the masses. According to his experience, people have started to become more and more informed about fitness and martial arts over time, but there still are misconceptions among people about these matters and thus, there remains a lot of room for improvement.

Alongside his professional life, Mr. Minhaz shared the journey of his student life during the event as well. As to the reason for choosing NSU for undergraduate studies, he mentioned that it being one of the best available options made the decision easy for him. He also mentioned that his NSU life was eventful and filled with pleasant memories with cooperative and friendly classmates, friends and faculties. Besides the academic knowledge, NSU prepared him well for his upcoming career journey by teaching presentability, communication and organizational skills. As a sincere alumnus of NSU, he advised his fellow graduates to focus on investing in themselves and evolve to be knowledgeable however they can.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/644285866570212>

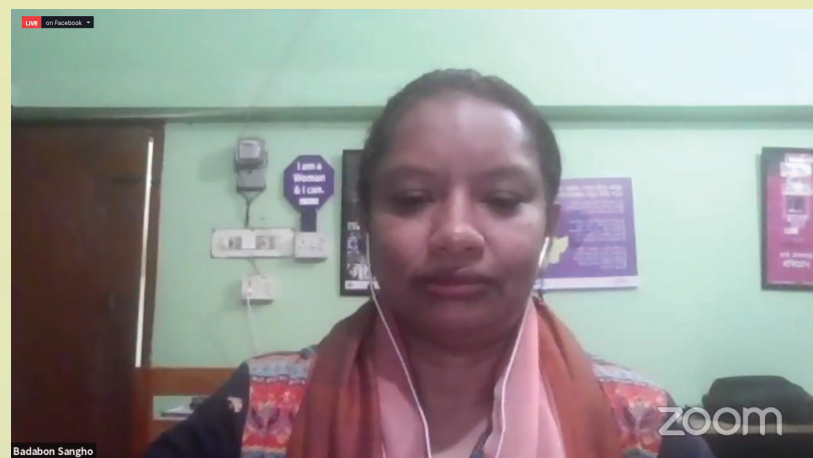
NGO Talk Show Episode 6

The sixth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on November 16, 2021 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - 'Badabon Sangho'. The agenda of the event was to discuss 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and Badabon Sangho'. As the keynote speaker, we had with us Ms. Lipi Rahman, Co-founder and Executive Director, Badabon Sangho. From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.



বাদাবন সংঘ
Badabon Sangho
(A Women's Rights Organisation)

At the beginning of the event, Ms. Lipi Rahman shared the thoughts and objectives behind the foundation of 'Badabon Sangho'. Ms. Rahman herself is a land and human rights activist and already had field experience working in the development sector for nearly 16 years before founding 'Badabon Sangho'. Based on her prior experience and observations, she, along with a few other enthusiasts, decided to initiate their own development organization with the intention to contribute to the integrated development of civil society of Bangladesh. After necessary formal duties and registration activities, 'Badabon Sangho' finally started operating at the field level from 2016.



As the discussion furthered, Ms. Rahman shared the working arenas and activities of 'Badabon Sangho' with the audience. She explained that the organization mostly focuses on five sectors broadly which are - land rights, women's rights, violence against women, economic rights and migration. It addresses the issues regarding the aforementioned fields and works to provide feasible solutions for those. They identify problems like domestic violence, child marriage, climate change, cyber bullying, etc. and contributes to mitigate these through legal support, training arrangements, employment opportunities, etc. Ms. Rahman especially mentioned that the organization has also contributed to raise awareness, reach out to the general population, and distribute relief materials to deserving recipients during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As Ms. Rahman has the experience of working in the development sector of Bangladesh for quite some time, she shared her perception about the contribution of NGOs to the overall development of our country. According to her, non-governmental organizations have highly contributed to creating awareness among rural people about crucial issues like women's empowerment, micro-credit system development, human rights, etc. She mentioned that achieving the acceptance and trust of people was quite a challenge; nevertheless, that challenge has been mitigated over the years and currently the involvement and support of general people has become a great strength for the NGOs in conducting and extending their development activities.



As the strategies and actions of the development sector are highly data collection and research driven, Ms. Rahman has been actively involved with action research conduction for some time now. Based on her experiences, she stated that both action and commissioned research are important and effective for distinct sectors of development activities. From the perspective of NGOs, research production bears huge significance regarding raw data collection and massive participation. As the common point of interest between 'Badabon Sangha' and NSU is research, the representatives of both the institutes discussed the possibilities of collaborative research and publication, joint funding, etc. Alongside research collaborations, establishment of internship opportunities for NSUers at 'Badabon Sangho' was discussed thoroughly during the event. The attendees agreed upon further discussion about the scope of collaboration between the two institutes in order to explore opportunities that may benefit both of them equally.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3101148733475934>

NSU Signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSID



After thorough discussion and comprehensive evaluation of common interests and objectives, North South University (NSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) on November 21, 2021.

The MoU focuses on the scope of joint research and training activities through academic collaboration between NSU and CSID. According to the MoU, the research activities, grant proposal writing, internship offerings and workshops will be organized regarding common and collaborative objectives in order to develop innovative learning platforms, educational programs and beneficial research projects. The MoU also features agreements on sharing of resources between NSU and CSID. It will remain effective for five years and shall automatically be renewed at the end of five years unless one or both of the institutes propose otherwise.

The formalized MoU was reviewed by Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences. The agreement was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID). The points of contact for this MoU are Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Health, NSU and Mr. Md. Akram Hossain, Senior Program Manager, Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID).

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 59

The fifty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on November 21, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. Ahmed Ameya Prapan, a distinguished alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2007. Mr. Prapan completed his undergraduate studies from NSU in 2011 and received his 'Masters' and PhD degrees from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He has been involved in academia from the very beginning of his professional career. He was associated with BRAC University and Southeast University for a while, in the beginning of his teaching career; afterwards, he joined NSU and continued there as a lecturer for nearly seven years. Currently, Mr. Prapan is working as a lecturer at Alliance Manchester Business School, UK.

As Mr. Prapan has a lot of experience in academia and teaching, he shared his experiences and perception about the perks and challenges of the teaching profession with the audience during the event. Inspired by his faculties, he developed a keen interest in teaching early in his student life and decided to join academia right after his postgraduate studies. Since then he has been involved with several renowned universities both as part-time and full-time faculties and as he mentioned, enjoyed teaching at every one of these universities. The thing about teaching that attracts Mr. Prapan the most is the opportunity to guide students and affect the shaping of their thoughts, mentality and life. As a teacher, he has experienced severe challenges regarding interaction during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, he appreciated the innovative methods of teaching that were implemented throughout 2020-2021 and expects to adopt more such convenient digitalization in the education sector.

Alongside teaching, Mr. Prapan is intensely involved with research as well. In broad scale, his research area is 'Behavioral Corporate Finance' and his specialization is in decision outcomes of mergers and acquisitions, corporate cash holds and similar sectors. Recently, he has been focusing on global geopolitical risks on mergers and acquisitions as well as marginal value of cash for his research work.

As someone closely involved with the international financial industry, his suggestions for young finance majors is to achieve expertise in MS Excel, concentrate on self-growth through self-learning and to stay updated with the current fast-growing and ever-evolving industry. Having the rare experience of studying and teaching at both national and international universities, Mr. Prapan drew a critical comparison between NSU and international universities. According to him, the syllabus and curriculum of NSU is standard as it is aligned with the North American curriculum and fairly upgraded with the current market or industry. He also mentioned the highly qualified faculty members and dedicated, helpful teaching methods of teachers as a major upper hand of NSU.

Afterwards, Mr. Prapan reflected on his student life. He said that, 'joining NSU for undergrad was the best decision I had ever made.' He mentioned that he had experienced the most friendly and welcoming environment at NSU, both from the students and faculties during his student years. According to Mr. Prapan, NSU has made the greatest contribution to his professional journey as the university paved his path towards being a good teacher.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/272937601462990>



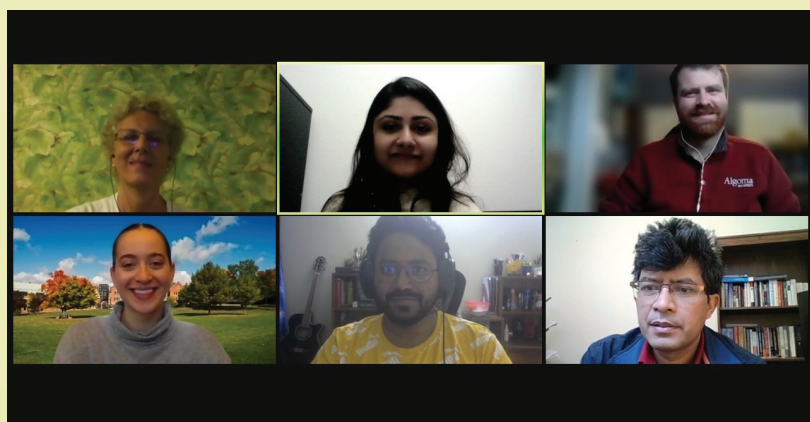


Information Session with Algoma University, Canada

North South University Office of External Affairs held an information session with Algoma University, Canada on November 23, 2021. The attendees of the meeting included Mr. Brad Lloyd, Manager of International Recruitment, Ms. Jaden Cerasuolo, International Enrollment Specialist, Kazi Faisal Atahar, Administrative Officer from Algoma University, Canada and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Cooperation Officer, OEA and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs from North South University. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of the guests and speakers. Afterwards, Ms. Cerasuolo shared an interactive presentation about the foundation, objectives, location, academic structure and facilities of Algoma University, Canada. The University has three campuses which are located in three separate and prime locations inside Ontario. Algoma University represents a very student-centric academic environment. It has a communicative and experiential education system. The University maintains diverse student bodies through cherishing diversity and providing cross-cultural learning between aboriginal communities and other communities. It avails opportunities like generous credit transfers, flexible class schedules, etc. for the convenience of its students.

During her presentation, Ms. Cerasuolo briefly explained the semester structure, offered sessions and programs both for the undergraduate and graduate level. The University offers nearly 100 programs and courses including a number of cross-disciplinary programs under different departments authorized under six schools. Later on, she especially focused on their School of Business Administration and briefed about the programs and courses offered by this specific department in detail. Alongside discussing the offered programs, Ms. Cerasuolo also explained the requirements, prerequisites, tuition fees and costs, etc. and other necessary information about different academic programs at Algoma University. She also mentioned the application procedure and timeline for enrollment in the aforementioned programs and semesters.



Besides academic excellence and support, Algoma University provides several other facilities and opportunities for students. Being a student-centric institute, the university provides various academic/career support facilities to the students such as student advisors, an open door policy, student success workshops, career services, research opportunities, etc. It also arranges safe and stable residential facilities for both national and international students. Alongside on-campus residences, the university has accommodated another kind of safe residence opportunity called the homestay program. During the event, Ms. Cerasuolo described these facilities including the cost structure of each in brief. Another very important offering, especially for international students, is different scholarship schemes offered by Algoma University, Canada. The university offers the Ultimate Entrance Scholarship in four categories which are - the Chancellor's Award, the President's Award, the Dean's Award and the Award of Excellence.

In the latter part of the event the floor was passed to Mr. Kazi Faisal Atahar to share his experience. As an alumnus of both NSU and Algoma University, he shared some important insights about the similarities and differences between these two institutes. Furthermore, he described the department he is working for and added further details about the offered programs at Algoma University, Canada.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4425047494291741>

What's Your Story? Episode 6

The OEA continues to carry on with its new initiative as an extension of outreach to Bangladesh Educators Abroad in the form of a talk show hosted by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA. The name of it is, "What's Your Story?" The expected benefit to NSU students is to let them hear from successful Bangladeshis considered to be role models for young people as they consider their future possibilities. It is also an opportunity to create potential collaborative relationships with notable universities around the world where these honorable faculty members work. The fourth episode of the event was held on November 28, 2021 and for this episode we had Dr. Saiful I. Khondaker as our guest.

Dr. Saiful Khondaker is a professor of nanoscience, physics, and electrical engineering and an office of research faculty fellow at the University of Central Florida (UCF). He is also the director for PREM Center for Ultrafast Dynamics and Catalysis in Emerging Materials at UCF. UCF is the largest university in the USA by enrollment with a student population of ~72,000. Dr. Khondaker received his BS and MS degrees in physics from the University of Dhaka in 1990 and 1992, respectively, where he secured first position in both the exams and was awarded the prestigious Raja Kali Narayan Scholarship. After spending a year at the Professor Salam's International Center for Theoretical Physics (Italy) to earn a diploma in condensed matter physics (92-93), Khondaker went to the University of Cambridge where he earned his Ph.D. degree in 1999 from the Cavendish Laboratory. He then worked as Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of Dhaka during 1999-2001. In 2001, he left for the University of Texas at Austin to work as a postdoctoral fellow (01-03) and then as an assistant director at the center for nano and molecular science and technology (03-05). He joined the University Central Florida in 2005 as a tenure track assistant professor, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2010 and full professor in 2017. He was appointed as an office of research faculty fellow in 2019, where his primary responsibility is mentoring of junior faculty for their grant





success. Dr. Khondaker's research is in the fabrication and electron transport investigation of nanoscale electronic devices. He published over 100 peer reviewed journal articles in high impact factor journals with over 9,500 citations and a H index of 38, delivered more than 60 invited talks at national and international conferences and prestigious institutions. He is a recipient of prestigious UK Commonwealth Scholarship (1994), National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award (2008), multiple UCF research awards (2010, 2015), UCF teaching award (2017), JSPS invitation fellowship (2016), and US Airforce Summer Fellowship (2016-18).

Throughout the show, Dr. Khondaker shared the inspiring story of his academic and professional journey along with practical insights based on his experiences and observations so far. He has always been in academia from the beginning of his professional journey and as for the reason behind his career choice, he mentioned the inspiration that he received during his undergraduate studies at Dhaka University. He said that he was highly inspired by his professors at that time.

From his experience of pursuing a PhD at Cambridge, he learned to be upfront and avoid excuses in any situation. The hardship of pursuing a PhD also built his confidence and helped a lot for him to reach his current position. Currently, Dr. Khondaker's career is mostly research oriented and he aims to continue his research activities in advancement oriented fields relevant to his area of expertise. During the conversation, he emphasized R&D based activities in the overall progress of a community and the influence of federal investment behind it. He mentioned that although Bangladesh is lagging behind in this matter, he is hopeful for improvement soon as the young specialists of Bangladesh are really enthusiastic and concerned about the matter.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/600830244559223>

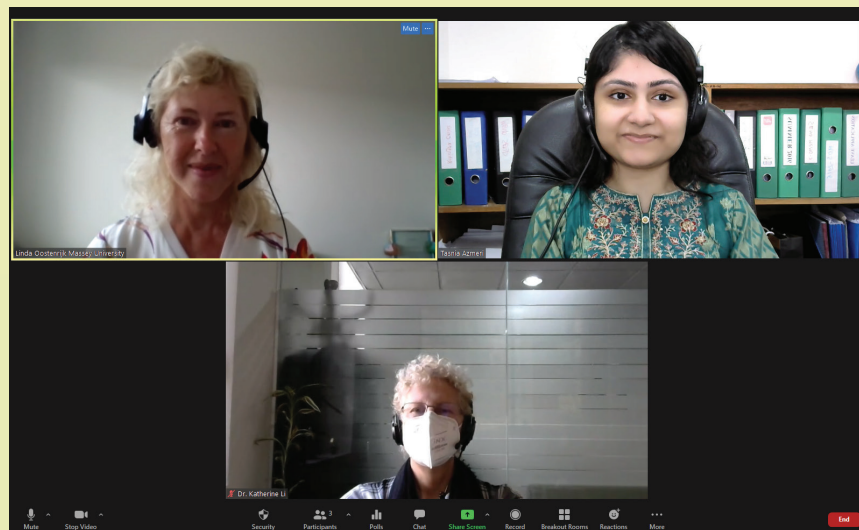
Information Session with Massey University, New Zealand

North South University Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with Massey University, New Zealand on November 29, 2021. Ms. Linda Oostenrijk, International Recruitment Regional Manager, South Asia and Subcontinent from Massey University conducted the event as the speaker and representative of the university. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

The event started with an informative presentation by Ms. Oostenrijk giving a basic overview about life in New Zealand and some information about Massey University such as its location, academic structure, student dynamics, scholarship opportunities and other offered facilities. During the presentation, she mentioned that New Zealand has recently been ranked as the least corrupt country and 4th in terms of gender equality. It has proved its excellence in teaching and academia over the years as all the universities of the country have been ranked within the top 3% universities of the world. New Zealand also has a very international student friendly infrastructure as it allows three years of post-study work visa after completion of the Bachelors for international residents and offers ample opportunities for internship and work experience.



During the event, Ms. Oostenrijk introduced and described the academic system, administrative infrastructure, and programs offered by Massey University. She mentioned that the university is listed among the top three hundred universities of the world. It has two campuses, both situated in separate prime locations of the country. The university has a student body of 34,000 students among which, around 5,000 are international students. The programs offered by Massey University start from a very primary level of English language qualifications and go up to PhD level education. During the session, Ms. Oostenrijk discussed the offered programs and course maps of the university in detail with the audience. She also mentioned that the university follows a highly practical and applied approach towards academics. Furthermore, the faculties and academics of the university are very supportive, dedicated and experienced in their own field of work. Alongside excellent academic programs, the university also offers student-oriented facilities like creative spaces, varied sports opportunities, specialized labs and workshops, safe and affordable on-campus accommodation, etc.

Ms. Oostenrijk discussed the application procedure, entry requirements, language proficiency requirements, tuition fees structure, programs' duration, scholarship opportunities, etc. for the students interested to pursue higher education at Massey University. She provided the contact details of her office for the students to contact whenever needed.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/296319152389789>

Second Follow-up Meeting with CWCS



The second follow-up meeting between the Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on November 29, 2021 via Zoom. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Professor Ishrat Shamim, President, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS), Dr. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology & the Director, Confucius Institute of NSU, Ms. Nasmin Jabir Noor, Senior Lecturer & Former Acting Chairman, Department of Law, NSU and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, External Affairs (OEA), NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the present work of the Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) towards the integrated development of Bangladesh and the possible collaboration between NSU and CWCS in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities. In the beginning of the session, Professor Shamim explained the operations,



research activities and future plans of her organization with the attendees of the meeting. She proposed a follow-up study on survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking to be one of the most desired research collaboration interests of CWCS. She even suggested one of their project areas in Shatkhira as the initial starting point for research collaboration between CWCS and NSU. She mentioned that the project works to avail shelter, job placement and income generating opportunities, psycho-social counseling, health-medical support, etc. for victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, child marriage, etc.

Next, the floor was passed to Dr. Siddiqi to share his thoughts about the discussed collaboration opportunities. He expressed his earnest interest for collaboration on the proposed subject areas and projects involving the interested faculty members and students of relevant departments. Dr. Siddiqi even suggested some additional topics that might be the subject of consideration for research collaboration, such as disaster management, climate change, media influence on social issues, etc. He also vouched for collaborative papers and publications, development oriented journals involving teams of specialists, analysts and students and other resources that his department already has. Dr. Siddiqi expressed interest in monitoring and evaluating the program as well as knowledge based further research using available resources of both sides. He proposed the initial start of the collaboration process with data sharing as it is less dependent on funding. He also mentioned some practical and logistical issues for research collaboration that need to be solved through further discussion.

Another faculty member from the Department of Law, Ms. Noor also shared her thoughts and suggestions regarding the discussions and suggestions of the meeting. A very timely concept for which she advocated during the meeting was the establishment of a 'law clinic' which was greatly applauded by all the other attendees and has been kept under consideration for execution.

Dr. Li conveyed her thanks to the participants and mentioned that she always looks forward to outreach opportunities as she believes connectivity and collective effort can do wonders regarding development of the civil society.

The meeting ended on a positive note with all the attendees agreeing to develop an MoU between the two concerned organizations – NSU and CWCS and to start the procedure at the earliest convenience of all.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 60



The sixtieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on November 30, 2021. The episode showcased Mr. Nasir Uddin, a remarkable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2009. After graduating from NSU, Mr. Uddin initially joined the corporate world but soon switched to entrepreneurship and established his own venture called 'Woodpecker' in partnership with one of his closest friends Mr. Abidur Rahman. Currently, he is working as the Founder and Managing Partner of 'Woodpecker'. He has the experience of working in contract with substantial organizations like British American Tobacco, S S Group of Companies, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police, etc.

Mr. Uddin's career track had a significant shift when he switched from the corporate sector to entrepreneurship. During the show, he shared the stories about the foundation, progress and future plans of his venture 'Woodpecker'. The inspiration behind founding 'Woodpecker' was mainly Mr. Uddin's utmost interest and possible through his experiences in design and graphics. He, along with his partner, started the company on a small scale using virtual platforms in 2013 during their student life. They continued operating it alongside their corporate jobs even after graduation. In 2014, the company went full swing as he decided to prioritize the business over corporate jobs and fully concentrated on establishing and expanding it. Mr. Uddin mentioned that 'Woodpecker' has already reached international platforms to some extent and plans for further internationalization.

Besides sharing the journey and evolution of 'Woodpecker', Mr. Uddin also shared the story of his growth and evolution as an entrepreneur. In this context, he talked about the challenges and obstacles that he faced while setting up and operating the startup. Furthermore, as a successful entrepreneur, Mr. Uddin shared some valuable insights based on his experience and observations with the audience. He emphasized taking calculated risks, building and utilizing connections and networks when needed for establishing startups.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Uddin shared his experiences and memories of his NSU campus life. He was deeply involved with extracurricular activities during his undergraduate studies as he is the former president of the NSU Debate Club (2013-2014). According to him, the most precious lesson that he learned from his experiences at NSU is constructive and responsible decision making. He also mentioned the impact of the practical knowledge, lessons and skill sets that he gained from both academic and extracurricular activities at NSU on his professional and life journey.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/933049234290312>

NSU Attends a Discussion Session with OBAT Helpers Inc.



North South University attended a virtual meeting with OBAT Helpers Inc., a USA-based multinational non-governmental organization functioning in Bangladesh on December 02, 2021. The meeting was organized as a result of the outreach effort by Dr. Ahmed Hossain, Director, Global Health Institute, NSU. Dr. Hossain reached out to Mr. Masum Mahbub, the Director of Policy & Partner Engagement of OBAT Helpers and initiated

this discussion session to explore the possible collaboration opportunities between the two institutes. Besides Dr. Hossain and Mr. Mahbub, the attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA on behalf of NSU and Mr. Anwar Khan, President & Founder of OBAT Helpers Inc., Ms. Arisha Khan, the Executive Director and Saima Hassan, Director - Development and Major Gifts from the side of OBAT Helpers Inc.

The main objective of the meeting was to explore the research collaboration opportunities between OBAT Helpers Inc. and the Global Health Institute, NSU. During the meeting the attendees found several common points of interest. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding was proposed in the meeting and the attendees agreed upon the formalization of partnership between NSU and OBAT Helpers Inc.

NSU Applies for Research-Practice Partnership Grant Request

North South University (NSU) and Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding joint research, funding, training and internship opportunities. Immediately after authorizing the formal partnership and agreement, NSU and CSID initiated a joint research program about 'Challenges and Opportunities for Implementing Inclusive Education in the Mainstream Primary Schools of Bangladesh'. In this regard, a research-practice partnership grant request was submitted on December 6, 2021 to the Spencer Foundation, USA that works to support research in education.

As mentioned before, the administering organizations of the project and proposal are North South University (NSU) and Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID). Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Health, NSU has been assigned as the Principal Investigator of the program along with three other Co-Principal Investigators - Dr. Nadira Kakoly, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, NSU, Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Professor and Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, NSU and Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Center for Services and Information on Disability (CSID). The estimated starting date of the project is March 1, 2022 and the ending date is February 28, 2025. Hence, the estimated duration of the project being 36 months, the requested amount of grant for this project is USD 398,640.



NSU Signs an MoU with OBAT Helpers Inc.



As an outcome of the prior meeting, North South University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with OBAT Helpers Inc. on December 7, 2021.

The agreement mainly focuses on joint research projects and publications which includes joint international fund arrangements and resource sharing between the NSU Global Health Institute, the Department of Public Health and OBAT Helpers Inc. The MoU also includes joint training programs, student internship opportunities, etc. and features an agreement regarding the development of a joint website titled 'OBAT Helpers Inc. USA and NSU Joint Research Center' which will contain joint research protocol, reports, videos and research activities. The agreement will remain effective for five years and shall automatically be renewed at the end of five years unless one or both of the institutes propose otherwise.

The MoU was reviewed and recommended by Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences. The agreement was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, North South University and Mr. Masum Mahbub, Director of Policy & Partner Engagement, OBAT Helpers Inc.

Information Session with Yunnan University, China

North South University Office of External Affairs attended an information session with Yunnan University, China on December 8, 2021. The event was approached, organized and hosted by Yunnan University. The meeting was basically organized for introductory purposes. The representatives of both NSU and Yunnan University got the opportunity to be familiar with one another. Moreover, exploring the probable sectors of collaboration and partnership was another agenda of the session.





NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 61



The sixty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on December 8, 2021. The episode showcased Mr. Faisal Deen Arif, a notable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Economics, Batch 1999. After completing his undergraduate studies from NSU, he pursued further higher studies at the University of York, England and the University of Guelph, Canada. Furthermore, he received his PhD from the University of Ottawa, Canada. In his professional journey, he worked with several administrative units of Canada, including the Competition Bureau Canada, Innovation, Science & Economic Development, Canada, Treasury Board of Canada. Currently, Mr. Arif is working as the Acting Manager at Employment & Social Development, Canada.

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Arif's career journey and professional experiences of working in the administrative sector so far. In this context, he talked about the roles and responsibilities in his current position at Employment & Social Development Canada. Mr. Arif mentioned that Employment & Social Development Canada is a ministry of the federal government of Canada that works on policy framework and program structure design. The unit's main responsibility is to handle the government involvement in employment and social development, such as social identification numbers, student loans, employment insurances, etc. Among the vast areas of operations of the department, M. Arif specializes and looks after the student loan related operations and activities.

As our guest has remarkable experience in the administrative and policy building sector, he shared his perspective about the necessary qualities and understanding required for effective and efficient policy making. According to him, the most important perception that one must have in order to establish systematic strategic planning and policies is a clear understanding of the objective and context, addressing needs, ensuring proper communication and finally intending achievement.

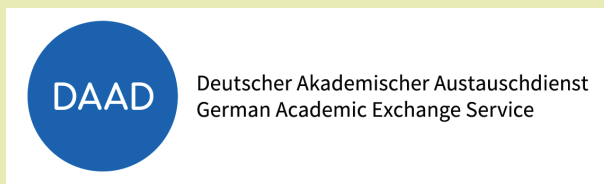
Mr. Arif has a very enriched educational background with a Bachelors, double Masters and a PhD which reflects his knowledge and academic expertise. During the show, he shared the lessons and realizations from his exciting and diverse academic journey. He started by reminiscing about his NSU life while sharing his treasured memories and interesting stories about classmates, faculties, extracurricular activities, courses, etc. of that time. He highly praised the academic integrity, curriculum, administration, faculty qualifications, teaching methods, etc. of NSU and mentioned these to be excellent and of international standard. In his opinion, the purpose of higher education is achieving self actualization and the ability to contribute to research progress. In this context, he also said, 'the PhD is a process of turning a student into a researcher'.

As a senior alumnus of North South University, he suggested that the current students and recent graduates of the university should find their passion and focus on it. He especially stressed being disciplined, hardworking and knowledgeable, both theoretically and practically. He also advised carrying a positive mentality and working with the intention to bring a positive impact.

To know more about the event, visit

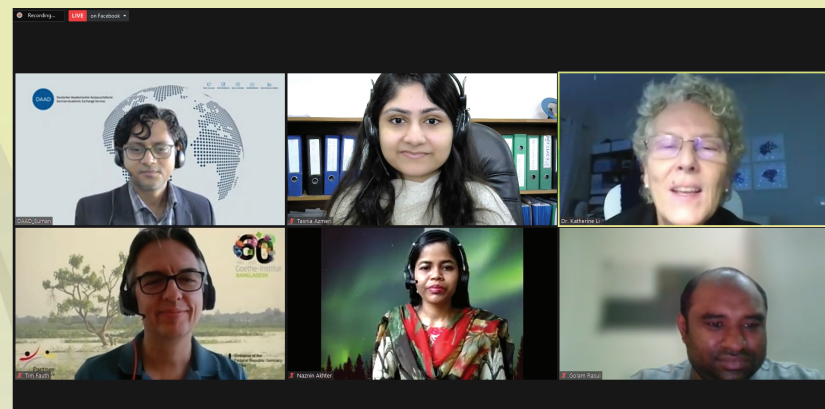
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/418797586593671>

Information Session on Higher Study Opportunities in Germany with DAAD Representatives



North South University Office of External Affairs hosted a virtual information session with DAAD Bangladesh on December 9, 2021. As the guests and speakers of the session, we had with us Mr. Tim Fauth, Head of Language Department, German Culture Center, Goethe Institute Bangladesh, Mr. Golam Rasul, Representative of Language Courses and Examination and Ms. Nazneen Akter, Officer, Language Courses and Examination. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The main purpose of the event was to introduce the DAAD Scholarship Program and discuss the application requirements and criteria for studying in Germany under the DAAD scholarships program. The event was conducted through interactive slide presentations by the representatives of DAAD. The first speaker introduced DAAD as a self-governing organization of German Universities for providing academic exchange service and scholarship opportunities in German universities. DAAD mostly works to guide and help international students for reaching the best opportunities to attain scholarships in different German universities. The institute has 6 offices worldwide and has the reach to more than 2,000 International degree programs in over 400 universities of Germany. In this context, the speakers informed that German Universities are now offering courses of masters' programs in several subjects areas in English, which broadens the possibility and convenience for international students to apply and obtain scholarships in Germany. The German education ministry also permits job facilities for international students like part time jobs while studying, one and a half year of post study work permit after Bachelors.



During the event, the speakers explained various cost covering structures and spans of the scholarship programs offered and arranged by DAAD. They emphasized on calculated and timely decision making about the timeline of preparation and application for desired scholarship programs. The last portion of the event was for inviting questions from audiences that the guests answered instantly. Lastly, the speakers invited Interested students to contact DAAD or NSU Office of External Affairs through the contact details provided during the event for further clearance and knowledge of the aforementioned programs and opportunities.

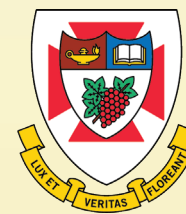
To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1064501650983000>



NSU Attends a Meeting with the University of Winnipeg, Canada

North South University Office of External Affairs attended a virtual meeting with the University of Winnipeg, Canada on December 09, 2021. On the recommendation of both the Bangladesh Embassy in Canada and the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh, the University of Winnipeg reached out to NSU and initiated a discussion about a possible collaboration and partnership opportunities. The meeting was attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA on behalf of North South University and Mr. Manish Pandey, Acting Associate Vice-President, from the University of Winnipeg, Canada.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



Although NSU and the University of Winnipeg are not yet connected formally, still many students from NSU transfer there regularly for postgraduate studies. Noticing this trend and interest of NSUers to choose the University of Winnipeg, the university proposed the formalization of their relationship. During the meeting, the attendees discussed and explored the collaboration possibilities between the two universities regarding students, faculties and researcher exchange programs, joint research, and publication, credit transfer opportunities, etc. The representatives from both universities present in the meeting expressed interest to finalize a general partnership agreement through an MoU and agreed on further discussion.

NGO Talk Show Episode 7



The seventh episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' aired on December 09, 2021 with one of the government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh – Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS). The agenda of the event was to discuss 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS)'. As the keynote speaker, we had with us Ms. Sajeda Mohiuddin, Executive Director, Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS). From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.

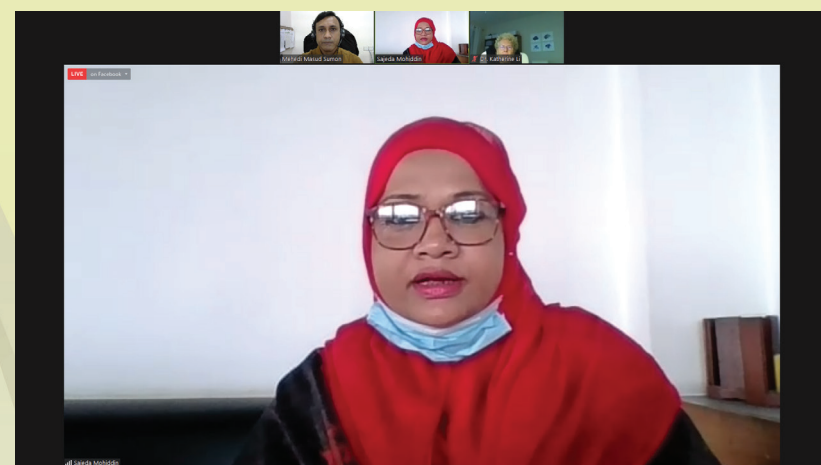
The event started with a brief introduction of Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS) from Ms. Mohiuddin including the activities and achievements of the NGO. As the discussion furthered, the guest shared more about the foundation, objectives and future plans of the organization with the audience. Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS) was founded in 1995. Its foundation was totally inspired by the founder, Ms. Mohiuddin's first-hand experiences of struggles. The organization started its journey by identifying and helping with two major issues of our society - early marriage and domestic violence. Their initial programs included arrangement of meetings and training activities for deprived women of rural Bangladesh. The organization has expanded their working areas in diverse directions and currently is working for improvement in sectors like gender-based violence, right to education, training and awareness on social issues, etc.

As Ms. Mohiuddin has been working in the development sector of Bangladesh for over 25 years, she had some valuable insights to share with the audience about the contribution of non-governmental organizations in the overall development of Bangladesh. In this context, she emphasized the reach of NGOs at the grassroots level which enables them to spread awareness to the general rural population. The sectors where NGOs have been contributing hugely to include poverty alleviation, microcredit, women's empowerment and entrepreneurship, education, health, sanitation, disaster management, environmental development, nutrition, agriculture, etc.

During the event, the research activities and interests of Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS) were also discussed in detail. Ms. Mohiuddin said that the organization mainly conducts people-centric and social research programs based on the randomized controlled trial (RCT) method. They mainly prefer action research, as their main objective is to understand the social impact of different events. Their research process basically focuses on issue identification, primary data collection from the grassroots level and evaluation of the collected data.

In the last part of the event, the collaboration opportunities between North South University and Bihango Mohila Sangstha (BMS) were discussed. As BMS is interested in action research, the guest proposed initiation of joint research programs based on common interest areas and collaborative grant fund seeking for actualization of research projects. Besides, other collaboration opportunities like internship and training, joint publication, etc. were discussed during the meeting as well. To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/638860417251054>





Information Session on Oxford Summer Camp '22

North South University Office of External Affairs hosted an information session with the Oxford Summer Camp Program 2022 on December 12, 2021. The session was conducted by Ms. Mona Masud, the Country Coordinator of Bangladesh for the Oxford Institute. The main purpose of this session was to notify the students of NSU about the study tour programs arranged by the University of Oxford, UK for external students and inform them about the process of applying to such programs.



The event started with an introduction of the University of Oxford, England, followed by an interactive presentation about the objective and activities of the Oxford Summer Camp Program and the role of Ms. Masud as the Country Coordinator of the program. The Oxford Summer Camp Program is a two-week long educational camp for students from the high school level to the undergraduate level (age range 12 to 25) from all around the world offered by the University of Oxford. The program is arranged twice a year - once in July and once in August. The session offered in July is named Oxford-London as it provides one week in Oxford and another week at the London School of Economics. The session offered in August is named Oxford which provides the entire two weeks of the program at the University of Oxford, England. Both programs offer the same curriculum, just slight differences in recreational activities.

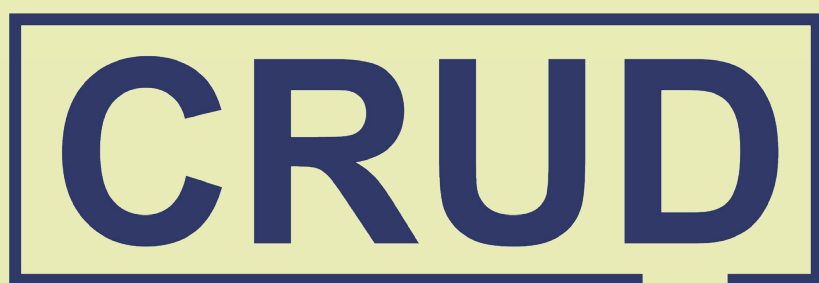


The Oxford Institution, Bangladesh helps interested students with the whole process of applying to these educational camps. The registration process for the program is held online. After registration, the interested students have to appear for an interview through which they will be selected or rejected for the Educational Camp Program. The selected students will get the opportunity to choose 2 subjects of study for this short educational tour among over 20 subjects offered by the program. Previous academic background of students does not limit their choice of subjects for the educational tours. The selected students for the tours receive an offer letter within two weeks of the interview.

While describing the program, Ms. Masud clarified the cost and expenses required for participating in the Summer Camp Program. She also mentioned the facilities that the program will cover such as accommodation, travel costs, study material costs, meals, etc. She mentioned the contact details of her office and requested students to reach her out regarding any further information about the program.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/955782635364480>

NGO Talk Show Episode 8



The eighth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on December 13, 2021 with one of the oldest government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh - Committee for Rural & Urban Development (CRUD). The agenda of the event was to discuss 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and Committee for Rural & Urban Development (CRUD)'. As the keynote speaker of the episode, we had with us, Dr. Md. Akhter Uddin Murad, Chief Executive Officer, Committee for Rural & Urban Development (CRUD). From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.

The event started with an introduction of both the guest and the Committee for Rural & Urban Development (CRUD). CRUD was founded in 1982 by Dr. Murad's father, later, the responsibility of the organization was handed over to him. The prime working area of CRUD is in Hobiganj. The initial activity of the institute was to provide free treatment and medication to deprived and needy people of rural Bangladesh. The organization has come a long way from where it started, but its core activity and objective is still availing primary health care for underprivileged people. The organization runs several awareness, training and support programs alongside providing basic and critical healthcare facilities. Moreover, they run a special program on 'midwifery training' for ensuring proper care and safe childbirth of pregnant women in the village areas. The organization also has made significant contributions regarding the healthcare provision for the Rohingya people.

As someone who has been associated with the development sector of Bangladesh for a long time, Dr. Murad shared his observations about the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the overall improvement of Bangladesh with us. He mentioned that NGOs have been playing a significant role in poverty alleviation in our country. Concepts like microcredit, women's empowerment and employment, formal and informal education, and children's rights have been introduced to our rural society through different awareness programmes initiated and operated by different NGOs over the years. Severe issues like health care, superstitions, sanitation, etc. are also identified and worked on by several NGOs. According to Dr. Murad, the NGOs of Bangladesh have been working in collaboration with the government smoothly for the past 50 years, ever since our liberation and have made a huge impact on the overall development of Bangladesh.

As the discussion furthered, the research interests and activities of CRUD came up. The organization runs a research center for directing and conducting research about topics relevant to its



working area. According to Dr. Murad, relatability of research topics with reality is a must for successful research output. He said both action and commissioned research can be effective depending on the research topic and agenda. Nevertheless, he emphasized action-based research for the areas CRUD is currently interested in. He enthusiastically agreed to explore the scope of joint research opportunities with NSU considering proper match in research topic, objective and convenience. He also appreciated the proposal to offer internship opportunities to students of NSU and ensured that on the execution of any such program, students will get ample opportunities to explore real time data by working directly in the field.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/245610781008251>

Delegation from Algoma University, Canada Visits NSU



A delegation from Algoma University, Canada paid a courtesy visit to North South University on December 14, 2021. The delegates of the university included Mr. Craig Fowler, Vice President Growth, Innovation & External Relations and Mr. Brent Krmpotich, Director of Enrollment Management and International Operations. First, the guests had a short tour around the NSU campus along with officers of the Office of External Affairs, NSU. They highly praised the student-friendly facilities and establishment of North South University while visiting the campus.



Afterwards, the delegates attended a meeting with the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Ismail Hossain and discussed the formalization of the partnership between NSU and Algoma University, Canada. The attendees of the meeting emphasized broadening exchange opportunities for students, faculty members and researchers between the two universities. In this context, the delegates of Algoma University proposed a thorough academic mapping of the curriculum of NSU and Algoma University to align the courses, programs and timeline in order to smoothen the exchange procedure. Another important topic that was discussed thoroughly during the meeting was joint research and publication programs. The representatives of both

universities agreed to further discuss the aforementioned topics and initiate a Memorandum of Understanding between NSU and Algoma University.

NSU Attends a Meeting with Chandigarh University, India



North South University Office of External Affairs hosted a virtual meeting with Chandigarh University, India on December 15, 2021. The session was initiated by the International Affairs Office of Chandigarh University to discuss the possible collaboration opportunities with NSU. Prof. Dr. Rajan Sharma, Joint Register/Director - International Affairs represented Chandigarh University during the meeting. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, Office of External Affairs were present in the meeting on behalf of NSU.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration and partnership opportunities regarding joint research programs, exchange programs, joint publication, etc. between NSU and Chandigarh University, India. The attendees of the meeting emphasized exchange programs including student, faculty and researcher exchange during the discussion and proposed curriculum mapping, course mapping, academic calendar and timeline matching in order to streamline the exchange process. Representatives of both the institutes hoped to formalize the relationship between NSU and Chandigarh University by further evaluation of common interests and partnership possibilities.



NSU Attends Introductory Meeting with RUSTIC

An introductory meeting between 'Rural Unfortunates Safety Talisman Illumination Cottage (RUSTIC)' and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on December 21, 2021 via Zoom. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Mr. Moral Noor Mohammad, Chief Executive, RUSTIC, Mr. Sheikh Aboul Hossain, Director, Program, RUSTIC, Mr. Sheikh Mohammad bin Hossain, Principle Coordinator, RUSTIC and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, External Affairs (OEA), NSU.

As the meeting focused on discussing possible research collaboration, joint publication, training, internship opportunities between the two attendee organizations, current working areas and common interests were explored and discussed during the meeting. At the outset of the meeting, Director, External Affairs (OEA) of NSU explained that the OEA works as a bridge between the concerned departments of NSU and foreign and locally reputed universities, institutions/organizations and NGOs for research and collaboration through MOUs. On the other hand, Mr. Moral shared the core and strategic objectives of his organization RUSTIC with the attendees which include institutionalizing grass-roots level people of Bangladesh, education, human resource development, sustainable solid waste management and environment protection.





As the discussion furthered, Dr. Li proposed lining up connections to actualize research collaborations from both parties. For this, she mentioned the Center for Infrastructure Research and Services (CIRS) of NSU, because CIRS undertakes research, testing and consultation work in the field of engineering, construction management and environmental issues as required by private, government or autonomous bodies. She also mentioned the Research Coordinator of the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (SEPS) and the expert faculty members of NSU in this area which could possibly help the two research groups for successful collaboration on research projects. After a detailed discussion, the representatives of both institutes accepted the above-mentioned suggestions and agreed upon the fact that before any successful collaboration and research projects between RUSTIC and NSU another virtual meeting would be needed with the aforementioned experts of NSU.



NSU Attends an Introductory Meeting with the University of Adelaide, Australia



As the result of international outreach efforts made by North South University Office of External Affairs, an introductory meeting took place between NSU and the University of Adelaide, Australia on December 22, 2021 with the representatives of both the universities. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA from North South University and Mr. Daniel Tackage, Business Development Manager, International Business Development on behalf of the University of Adelaide.

The meeting was arranged with an intention of introducing the administrative structure, curriculum, facilities and other features of both the universities to the attendees of the meeting. Hence, the session started with an interactive and detailed presentation about the University of Adelaide by Mr. Tackage. The main objective of the meeting was to explore the common points of interest between the two universities and to discuss the possible collaboration opportunities. The University of Adelaide being very well reputed and a member university of the 'Group of Eight', NSU showed high interest in building a long-term partnership with them. Similarly, considering the reputation, education quality and upgraded curriculum of NSU, Mr. Tackage also expressed enthusiasm about establishing a formal partnership with NSU. To facilitate the collaboration procedure, NSU has already shared informative and relevant documents like research booklets, course maps, etc. to the appropriate authorities of the University of Adelaide. Upon thorough discussion, the attendees of the meeting consented to further discuss the partnership opportunities between the two institutes.



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 62



The sixty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on December 23, 2021. For this episode, we had Dr. Tarnima Warda Andalib, an accomplished alumna of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Batch 2001. Dr. Tarnima completed her undergraduate studies from NSU in 2005 and received an MBA degree from the University of Development Alternative, Bangladesh. In her professional life, she has had the experience of working with renowned national-multinational corporations like Grameenphone, DataEdge Solutions, Institute of Microfinance, etc. Dr. Andalib completed her PhD from the University of Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia in 2018. Afterwards, she shifted her career path from the corporate sector to academia. Currently, she is working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at BRAC University.

The dynamic academic and career track of Dr. Andalib naturally reflects her energetic and optimistic personality. According to our guest, strong willpower and determination are the main driving forces behind such a progressive career. During the show, Dr. Andalib shared the story of her professional journey from the corporate sector to academia. She mentioned that her interest in academia mainly developed from her family as many of her close family members are in academia. Additionally, her interest in research also drove her towards academia. In this context, Dr. Andalib shared some of the interesting experiences about her PhD life. Alongside working on her PhD, she worked as a lab assistant and lecturer at the University of Malaysia Pahang at the same time. Dr. Andalib said that the process of acquiring a PhD helped her with self-development, cross-cultural adjustment and taught her patience.

Dr. Andalib also has a great passion for non-academic writing and has had some of her books published as well. About her interest in writing, she said that she had been passionate about writing since her student life, but couldn't concentrate much on it for long because of professional engagements. Nevertheless, she plans to invest time and concentration in this passion of hers again soon.



During the show, Dr. Andalib shared experiences and memories not only about her PhD study life, but also about her undergraduate life at NSU. Her intense interest and determination to study computer science and her intention to go abroad for higher studies made her choose NSU for undergraduate studies, as the CSE department of NSU is well reputed for education quality and academic excellence. During her undergraduate life, Dr. Andalib was involved in different extracurricular and co-curricular activities through several student clubs. She cherished some good memories regarding close friends, classmates, seniors, juniors, faculties that she got to know and built bonds with while at NSU. She especially appreciated the communicative and practical skills-oriented teaching methods of the faculties at NSU and the exposure to the corporate world that NSU provides for its students. She mentioned that these skills and connections which she acquired from NSU helped her a lot both in higher studies and her corporate career.

As an alumna of NSU, Dr. Andalib shared some valuable insights and suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. She advised them to stay updated on current affairs, concepts and technologies and to grab every opportunity to explore and try to be open and flexible towards change. She also suggested to have patience, to follow one's passion and to never give up on dreams.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/298742158704832>

NSU Conducts a Meeting about Joint Master's Program with University of Kent, UK



An internal meeting was held with the officers of different administrative units and departments of NSU regarding the Joint Master's program and exchange program with the University of Kent. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. M Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean, School of Business and Economics, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen, Register, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA.

The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the groundwork and preparations from NSU's side for actualization of the Joint Master's program with University of Kent. During the meeting, the involvement of units like controller, registrar, IT, finance, etc. regarding the successful execution of the Joint Master's and exchange program was discussed thoroughly.

One of the most highlighted topics was the logistics of the exchange students from the University of Kent. A detailed process mapping between NSU and University of Kent was also proposed by the attendees for adjusting the program timeline. Other than these, the field visits with Bangladeshi NGOs accommodation facilities, transportation management, etc. of the guest students was taken in consideration and discussed during the meeting.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 63

The sixty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on December 29, 2021. For this episode, we had with us Ms. Tamanna Maqsood Porna, an alumna of North South University from the Department of English and Modern Languages, Batch 2002. After completing her undergraduate studies from NSU, Ms. Porna received her postgraduate degree from McGill University, Canada. From the beginning of her career, our guest became associated with academia, mainly teaching. She has the experience of teaching as a lecturer at BRAC University for five years. Moreover, she is the CEO & Co-founder of her own venture, 'English Spire'. Besides running the institute, Ms. Porna is also working as an Adjunct University Faculty & Trainer of English Language & Communication Skills as well as an IELTS instructor at Educational Researcher & Teacher Trainer.



The event started with a brief introduction of our guest. Amongst all the activities and roles she is associated with, Ms. Porna prefers to introduce herself as a teacher the most. To tell more about herself, she mentioned that she loves poems and has a keen interest in travelling. Ms. Porna believes her interest for teaching developed from a very early age as her mother was in academia, hence she grew up in an academically oriented environment. Later, after graduation, receiving the first opportunity to join academia, she grabbed the opportunity without any hesitation.

As Ms. Porna has had experience teaching IELTS preparation courses for a long time, she shared some expert suggestions with the audience about properly preparing and scoring high in IELTS. She suggested following particular strategies for preparing for IELTS. She also emphasized regular exercise and systematic practice for acquiring good scores in all four segments of the exam.

As a student of linguistics and an instructor of the same field, Ms. Porna has always felt the importance of proper knowledge about the use of any language for communication. During the discussion, she mentioned that she had always noticed that language is barely taught to serve its prime purpose - improving communication skills. Hence, with the intention of providing education regarding communicative English, Ms. Porna along with her partner started their academy 'English Spire'. While introducing the venture and talking about the objective and future plan of it, the guest mentioned that they are launching two new programs regarding women's leadership and language and entrepreneurship related communication skills in the near future.



As the discussion furthered, the topic drifted from Ms. Porna's professional life to her student life. Reminiscing about the memories of her NSU life, she said that she enjoyed studying at NSU. Although she started her undergraduate education with an Economics major, she later transferred to English and Modern Languages where she discovered her passion and interest for the subject, topics and faculties. In fact, the excellent teaching methods and sincerity of her faculties at NSU inspired her greatly to choose teaching as a profession in her later life.

Besides academic activities, Ms. Porna was also associated with different co-curricular activities and student clubs of NSU. One of her greatest achievements as an NSUer was to represent Bangladesh as well as NSU in the International Visitor Leadership Program arranged and sponsored by USA Embassy. She was also involved in other communicative activities like stage performances, Model United Nations, etc. During the show, she appreciated the development of her presentation skills and communication skills through both academic and extracurricular activities that she participated in at NSU. As a senior alumna of NSU, she suggested current students and recent graduates to follow their dreams and passion, to turn passion into profession, to seek out knowledge as much as possible and to participate in extracurricular activities as per their interest.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3065811163662103>

Bangladesh-Bhutan Friendship Scholarship Announcement Ceremony

North South University has announced the commencement of a scholarship program for 10 Bhutanese students. This announcement comes as a part of a gesture of celebrating 50 years of friendship between Bangladesh and Bhutan. The Ambassador of Bhutan inaugurated the program during a visit to NSU campus this morning.



The Bhutanese Ambassador's visit along with his delegation team, Former Chairman and Member of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam and other senior officials from both sides were present. A lively discussion took place during the Bangladesh-Bhutan Friendship Scholarship Announcement Ceremony.



Mr. Ahmed mentioned the friendship between Bangladesh and Bhutan on this occasion. He said, Bhutan was the first country to recognize Bangladesh as an independent state, and has been supporting our country ever since. Both the countries have been working towards developing the financial and social infrastructure for the people of this region. Bangladesh always considers Bhutan as a dear friend and one that offers support during rainy days. It is sincerely hoped that this friendship will stay strong and that the mutual support will continue.

North South University has been working with Bhutan regarding this scholarship for a long time. This program will finally be able to see the light of the day from the beginning of 2022. It should also be mentioned that, the same kind of scholarship facilities were provided to Bhutanese students back in 2015 by NSU. This scholarship will continue as the second phase of the initial arrangement.

Bhutan is associated very closely to Bangladesh in the education sector. A significant number of Bhutanese students come to Bangladesh every year to receive education from both public and private universities, especially in Medical Education.

Special Freedom Fighter Feature

Prof. Hassan Mahmud has more than 13 years of working experience on solid/hazardous waste management in Canada and in Bangladesh with the special expertise on providing technical support in design and setting up municipal solid waste collection, transportation, separation and waste treatment using anaerobic digestion process to produce energy and compost via aerobic composting.

More than 26 years of extensive research, teaching and working experience in water, wastewater and effluent treatment with University of Ottawa; Institute for Chemical Process and Environmental Technology (ICPET), National Research Council of Canada (NRC), Ottawa, ON, Canada; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; GPEC International Ltd, Ottawa, ON, Canada; and North South University, Bangladesh.

More than 16 years of project management experience in Canada, Singapore and Bangladesh from techno-economic pre-feasibility studies to post-implementation evaluations.

More than 14 years of teaching experience in Canada, Singapore and Bangladesh covering environmental science, pollution control covering wastewater and effluent treatment technologies, water supply and sanitation, environmental health, solid/hazardous waste management, project management, chemical engineering and environmental engineering courses.



EDUCATION

*Ph. D., Chemical Engineering (Specialization: Environmental Engineering), 10/2001, Avg. Grade in courses: A
University of Ottawa, ON, Canada*

Thesis topic: Removal of Organics from Water/Wastewater by Membrane Air-Stripping.

*Master of Applied Sc., Civil Engineering (Specialization: Environmental Engineering), 03/1996, Avg. Grade in courses:
A-*

University of Ottawa, ON, Canada

Thesis topic: Development of Pervaporation Membrane for Volatile Organic Chemical Removal.

French Second Language (01/1992 -04/1993)

Centre d'Orientation et de Formation des Immigrants du Parc and Georges-Vanier, Montreal, PQ, Canada

*Chemical Engineer (Specialization: Oil and Gas Technology) (corresponding to the M. Sc. (Chem.) of English Universi-
ties), 02/1980, Very good (85.5%)*

The Higher Institute of Chemical Technology (Renamed as "Bourgas Prof. Assen Zlatarov University"), Bourgas, Bulgaria

*Thesis topic: Determination of Optimal Technological Parameters of a Half-industrial Installation for Production of
Pseudokumul (1, 2, 4 - Trimethylbenzene).*

*Certificate of completion of "Preparatory Course in Engineering", The Institute for Foreign Students, Sofia, Bulgaria,
08/1975, Excellent (97%)*

HSC Exam (1972): Dhaka College, Dhaka, 1st. Division.

SSC Exam (1970): Rajshahi Collegiate School, Rajshahi, 1st. Division



Interviewer: Please tell us about your experience as a freedom fighter in 1971.

Myself and 1971 War of Liberation

by

Prof. Hassan Mahmud, ESM, NSU

I have written a book on my participation in the 1971 War of Liberation named "My Liberation War Memoirs", published by Amaravati Publishers, Dhaka, Bangladesh, March 2021. Here I am providing a very brief chronology of my participation in the 1971 War of Liberation. I was an active member of East Pakistan Students' League and was elected Information Secretary, Dhaka College Students' League on January 10, 1971. I was elected as Executive Committee Member, Students' Council, Dhaka College, Dhaka, on February 20th, 1971. I was invited to attend a meeting at Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) on March 1st 1971. After the meeting we were about to leave Dhaka University at about 1.00 PM, when the news postponed the 1st Parliamentary Meeting to delay the power transition to victorious Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by Gen. Yahya Khan. Immediately led by Nur-E- Alam Siddiqui, late Abdul Quddus Makhon and other leaders we went to Hotel Purbany, Motijeel, Dhaka where Bongubondhu was holding a meeting. He told us to arrange a meeting immediately in Poltan Mawdhan, which is now Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium.

A huge crowd was watching cricket game at Dhaka Stadium that day. As the news spread, people started coming out of the stadium and joined the demonstration already started and were moving towards Palton Moydhan, where a stage was being built at in anticipation that Bangubhandhu would address the mass. However, after receiving the news, Bangubhandhu informed us that he would not address the mass that day and we should inform the mass that he would declare the program later. Bengali nation know what happened after that. I actively participated in organizing all those movements. The field was full instantly as people became agree and protest demonstrations were all over Dhaka city.

Students started champagning. The student leaders held a meeting on March 3rd, 1971 at Mudur Canteen, Dhaka University. In that meeting, a 37 member Central Student's Action Committee was formed headed by Nor-e-Alam Siddiqui, Shajahan Siraj, ASM Abdur Rob and Abdul Quaddus Makhon who were the president and general secretary, East Pakistan Students' League and VP and GS of DUCSU, respectively. I was elected as a member of that 37-member Committee.

On 7th of March, 1971, I was given the responsibility to be in the front area of the stage and manage the crowd at Racecourse Ground (now called the Suhrawardy Udyan).

Most of the student's movement was guided from Zuhurul Hoq Hall (ZHH) of DU. On March 25th, 1971, I left ZHH at about 10 PM. The situation was very heavy. I was in my residence at Arambagh, when Pak army cracked down on us. From March 26th, 1971 till my departure, I was either fully or partially past my time in hiding as Pak army was looking for me. I was waiting for arms, however, I did not get any. I was hiding at the residence of T&T School headmaster, who had left for his village. A group of my friends including Iqbal from Arambagh, Karim from Fakirapool Bazar were with me at this place. We were trying to organize us to fight; however, we had nothing to start with. I had established a very weak communication with some of the student leaders in Agartala, such as Abdul Quaddus Makhon. They informed me that youths were getting training in India to prepare themselves to fight Pak army. Based on the information, I was planning to go to Agartala and join the Muktibahini. I was actively looking for a partner. At last, one of my friends Dulal from Bashabu, Dhaka agreed to accompany me.



My family members were completely in dark regarding where and what I was doing during that period. My departure from Dhaka towards India was also unknown to them. We left Dhaka to join Freedom Fighters in Agartala, India in the early morning of April 12, 1971 from Bashabu. We could not travel by road as to the best of my knowledge, my photo was already circulated within Pak army. Therefore, we had to walk through paddy fields. As it was month of April (Chotro mash), soil was dry and it was very painful to walk barefooted on the soil. Moreover, I have rarely walked on bare feet. We carefully crossed Dhaka-Norshingdi road. We ate crispy rice on the way. We crossed Arai-hajar and reach the river bank at Madobdi in the evening. It was long walk and my feet were swollen. We washed ourselves in the river, had some food and as advised by local people went on the 1st floor of the local mosque and felt asleep. Wake up in the early morning. Took breakfast and started our journey again. We had to cross the river. There was no regular arrangement for that. One kind boatman helped us to cross the river to reach at Bancharampur, Comilla.

We continued to walk without any break. It was about noon, we were very hungry. There was no shop or restaurant to eat something. A kind man stopped us to enquire about our journey. He offered us to have lunch at his place. We had our lunch, thanked him and Allah and continued our journey. It was late afternoon when we reached Nabinagar. The school field was about 5 to 6 feet from the paddy field we were walking on. I was so tired that I did not have enough energy to climb the 5/6 feet with my feet. I climbed that height by crawling and when reached the plain, almost fainted. I kept lying for some time. When I got my sense back, I heard a known voice. Looked at the source of that voice and found some people were sitting at the centre of the field and talking. Slowly I got on my feet and walked to them. It was Khurshed Ahmed, a 2nd year student of Dhaka College. He looked at me and as I was their student leader, he immediately recognized me. With his eyes, he signaled me to wait. I went back a little. He dispersed his friends and when all left, he took us to his house which was just after the bridge of Nabinagar Bajar. We took a bath, washed our feet with warm water, ate and immediately went to sleep. Two boys gave us a good massage. We woke up fresh next morning, quickly had our breakfast and left for Bidghor.

We reached Bidghar Bazar at about 9.00 AM. We drank yogurt in water (matha) and then started our journey again. At the exit of the Bazar, we meet Abdul Aziz, a well known student leader and my very close associate, who became the commander of Dhaka Student's unit of FF. He was coming from his grandfather's house to the Bazar. He immediately asked us to go with him to his grandfather's house and wait for the appropriate time to cross the border. Waiting at their house helped us to overcome the exhaustion we were suffering from our journey. However, we were eagerly waiting for that moment, when we would get the call to cross the border. Pak army was putting their camps at Kuthi. Aziz Bhai told me to go and send him a message about what he should do. The person responsible for taking us to cross the border came to us at noon of April 16th, 1971 and asked us to quickly get ready and follow him. We followed him and crossed the Cosba border at about 5 .00 PM on April 16th, 1971. We were stopped or you can say arrested by BISF for questioning. I had requested the Indian authority to contact the Bangladesh Office in Agortola and inform me that I was there. They kindly contacted the Bangladesh Office. The Bangladesh Office had requested them to provide us shelter and informed them that someone would come the next day to pick me.

The next day, on April 17th, 1971, Mrs. Momtazara Begum, the then MP from Cosba, came to pick me. We handed over some rare negatives of the pictures taken after March 25th, 1971 of different points of Dhaka City to Mrs. Momtazara Begum. (We had never heard about those negatives any more). I meet late Abdul Quddus Makhon, M. A. Rashid and others in Agortola. On that day, Indian authority provided the accommodation at College Tila, Agartala with the ration for 17 persons for the youths. We walked to College Tilla at about 11.00 PM from the Bangladesh Mission in Agartola. For the first day, we all enjoyed good and sufficient food. As days past, more and more people joined us including Khoka, younger brother of Muhiuddin of Munshijang, however, the ration did not increase. Before I left, we were 64 persons and shared the food for 17 persons only. We both were smokers. One noon, we were very thirsty for cigarettes. However, we had only 10 Indian paisa with us. We discussed between ourselves what to do. We could buy cigarettes, however, in the afternoon, when we would be very hungry, we would not be able to buy rice crispy or some light food to meet our hunger. We decided to keep that 10 paisa for the afternoon. After four or five days, Dulal decided to go back to Dhaka. On the way he took my invitation for Aziz Bhai to join us in Agartola. Getting my message, Aziz Bhai and Dr. Md. Zuhurul Amin, his mama joined us after some days. I was given identity card No. 791 on April 25th, 1971 by Shadin Bangladesh Government as shown in Figure 1.

It was very early days of our liberation war, when there was no organized action. Our leaders at College Tila came to know that the training camps and the front line had very few or no personnel or workforce to provide medical assistance. So, I offered myself as a volunteer to work there and took ten days of intense training at V.M. / G. B. Hospital, Agartala, Tripura, India under Dr. H. S. Roy Choudhury.

I was sent from Agartala by Central Student's Action Committee as a medical assistant to Dr. Md. Zahirul Amin on May 1st, 1971 for Khathalia Training Camp. with some medicines (Figure -2). We did not have any money to pay for our transport fare. Central Student's Action Committee requested the transport owners not to take any fair from us (Figure-3). We showed this letter to all the transports we used on our way from Agartola to Khathalia. All the owners kindly waved our fares. When we reached Khathalia Camp, Indian authority gave us a tent to be used as Medical centre. We found that many trainees were suffering from diarrhea. The main reason was that there was only one river. People used the hill tops as toilets and took bathes, washed clothes downstream of that river. We tried our best to provide medical help to the freedom fighters at the Khathalia Camp. Capt. Hayder was training a special commando group of 17 persons including Bachu of Comilla on one of the hills.

Due to the severe shortage of healthcare personnel, I was asked to join Sector 2 Head Quarter at Motinagar leaving Dr. Md. Zuhurul Amin alone at Khathalia Camp. I travelled from Khathalia to Motinagar on 5th of May 1971 and reached there at night. I was asked to sleep in a tent on some hay. Next morning, I found myself surrounded by completely wet hay as there was heavy rain in the night. After some time, I reported to Dr. Nazim Uddin Ahmed of Tongi, who used to serve as Medical

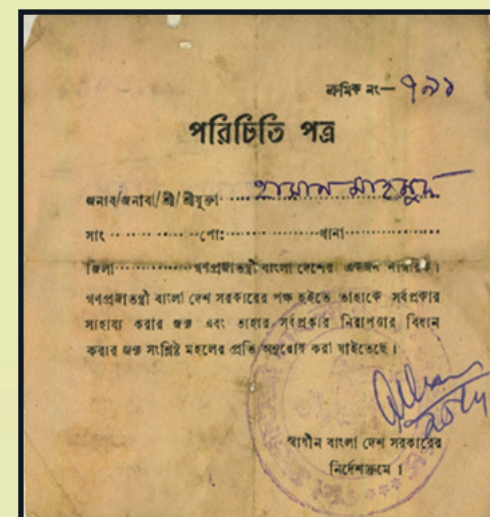


Figure 1. ID Issued on April 25th, 1971 at Agartala, Tripura, India.



Officer. We had only one army ambulance and its driver who had some medical knowledge (my apology to him for forgetting his name). Maj. M. A. Matin (retired as Brig. General) was the B.M. of Motinagar Camp. I met late Abdul Aziz, Students' Commander, and others there. My first responsibility was to vaccinate all at Motinager. At noon, when I went for lunch, I was given a big leaf and on that I was given some boiled rice and highly diluted dal. It was very difficult to hold dal on the leaf. There were almost no spices and very little salt in the dal. When I asked for salt, they showed me stone salt. There was no way you could get some from it.

On 9th of May, 1971, from dawn, we were hearing sound of heavy bombardment. Pakistan army had attacked our forces at Bibirbazar. Many of our young fighters, who had just completed their training from Khathalia and joined the front one day before, were killed and injured. We all were trying to address the needs of the injured persons; however, it was too much for four of us to handle such huge number of wounded people. Moreover, we had no facility where we could provide necessary medical help. We performed operation or dressing of the wound in the only ambulance we had and put them on the ground. I ran to Tripura Govt. Hospital at Shonamora with a request to admit all of the injured soldiers. They accepted only a few and could not provide with required medical support for other injured fighters.

There was a forest guest house at Shonamora. We requested the caretaker of the guest house to allow us to use it as temporary hospital. They allowed us to do so. However, we were advised to take permission from the Ministry of Health and Forest Ministry, Tripura to operate the venue as a temporary hospital. Dr. Nazim Uddin Ahmed went the next day or so to get these permissions and we got the permission to set up temporary hospital and named it as Mokti Jodha Hospital (present Gonoshasthaya Kendra). Dr. Nazim Uddin Ahmed and a village doctor Dr. Keramoth Ali looked after this hospital and I went back to Motinager to provide healthcare support to the troops. Dr. Zaforullah, who seems presently claimed as the founder of this hospital was not there at all. I am not sure if he was in India/Tripura on May the 9th, 1971, when this facility started. He joined at a later date and contributed in its operation and development specially establishing it at Savar.

As Sector-2 Headquarter moved from Motinagar to Melaghar, the hospital also moved to Dhorga Tila, Melaghar. However, I was asked to remain in Motinagar under Sub-sector commander Capt. Didarul Alam (retired as Lt. Col.) and provided medical support to the camp and the field troops. I participated in all the battles that took place under this Sub-sector and also the battle of Shalda Nodi as a part of Sector-2 combined force, which defeated the Pakistani army very badly. In some of the face to face battles I had to lead the troops. In such a battle, I was instructing the fighters using a wireless device in South Jambari, Comilla. My right leg was hit by an MMG bullet during a front battle at South Jambari, Comilla, however, I was lucky that the wounds were not so bad. I had also served freedom fighters at Vakshunager border camp before being called on December 4th to join the Sector-2 troops headed for Dhaka under Capt. M. A. Malek (retired as Brig. General and recently passed away) as his assistant and also to provide healthcare. We stopped at Araihasar, where we attacked Pakistan army positions on Dhaka-Norshindi Road. The Pak Army was defeated and we also captured one injured Pakistani soldier. After clearing the road, we advanced toward Dhaka and camped at Nasirabad near Balu River, Dhaka. We finally entered Dhaka City through Bashabo in the morning of December 17th, 1971 and were stationed at Ramna Police Station.

I provided many emergency and regular medical support to our troops from May to December 1971. I had to rescue wounded fighters from the battle zone, perform emergency first aid as well as small operations and stitching. I also provided medical help to our troops in all the camps I served.

I asked to be released from my duty to return to my student life.

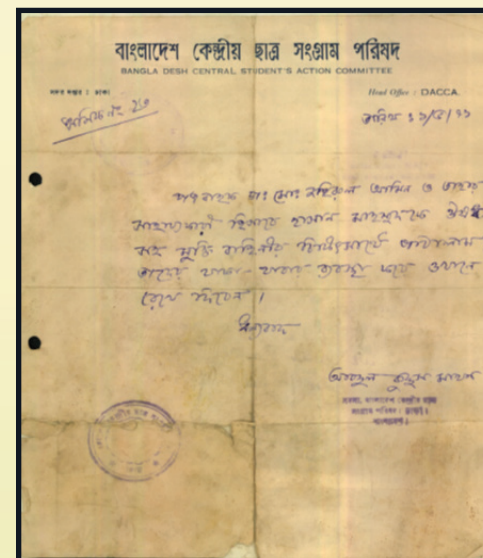


Figure 2. Letter from Central Student's Action Committee to Training Camp Authority

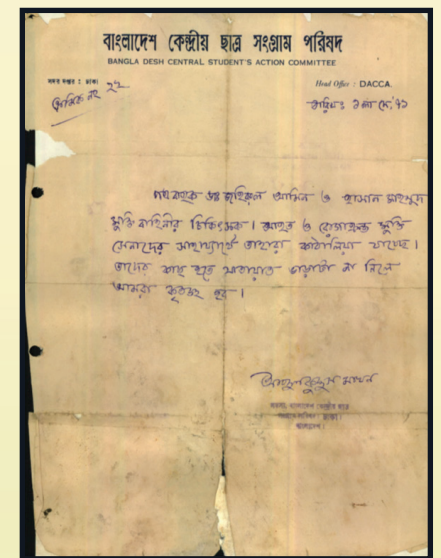


Figure 3. Letter from Central Student's Action Committee to Transport Authority

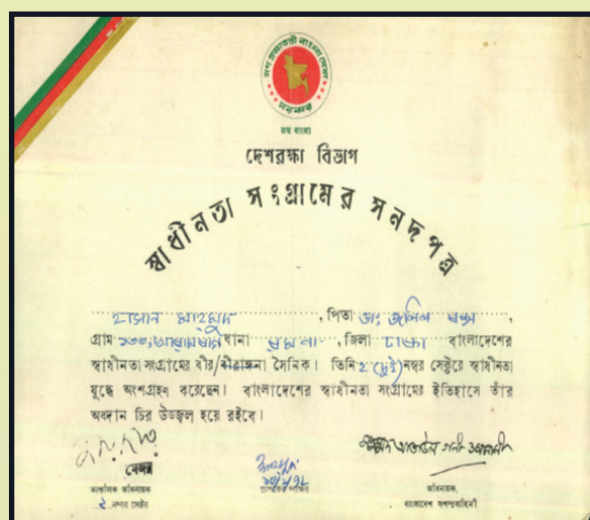


Figure 4. Muktijoddha Certificate Given on February 13th, 1972

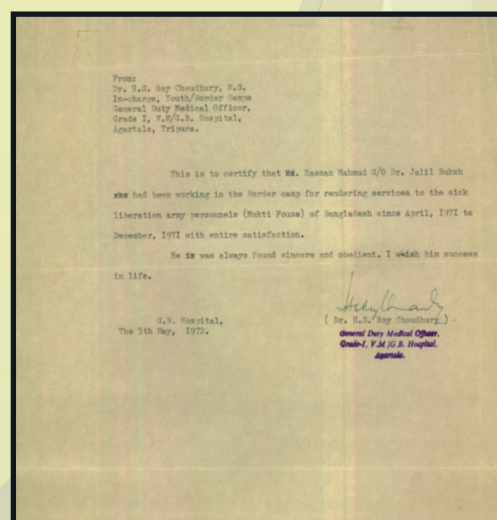


Figure 5. Certificate Given by Dr. H. S. Roy Choudhury, n-charge, Youth/Border Camps, V.M. / G. B. Hospital, Agartala, Tripura, India on May 5th, 1972

Capt. Malek gave me the Muktijoddha Certificate on February 13th, 1972 at Dhaka University Gymnasium (Figure 4).

I also traveled to Agartala, Tripura, India on May 4th, 1972 and met Dr. H. S. Roy Choudhury, In-charge, Youth/Border Camps on May 5th, 1972 and received the certificate for my services from April 1971 to December 1971 (Figure 5).

Interviewer: What is your feeling about the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh as an independent country? Does the development of Bangladesh match the hopes that you had for it back in 1971? Please elaborate.

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: In 1971, Bangladesh became an independent nation or country after more than 1,000 years of foreign domination. History shows

that this country was ruled by Pakistan for 27 years, by the British Empire for about 247 years, by the Mughal Empire for about 500 years, etc. Thus, it was the greatest achievement for this country.



Bangladesh gained independence on December 16th, 1971 after a long struggle with the Pakistani regime and nine months of armed struggle against the military and the surrender of the 93,000 Pakistani Army. The identity and image of Bangladesh in the post-independence world has changed in many ways. As the good image of Bangladesh has been created in the fifties of independence in various fields, the negative image of Bangladesh is still visible all over the world in terms of political and democratic questions.

The country that gained independence through the struggle was first called or initially called the bottomless basket in the world. In the 70s, independent Bangladesh was recognized worldwide as a country plagued by food shortages, famines, and natural disasters. Almost all the bridges were destroyed, banks were empty, food was not in stock, no oil in the reservoirs, and even all the money of the state banks (the current Bangladesh Bank) was destroyed or stolen. On December 17, 1971, shortly after we started operating at Ramna Police Station, news came that the money of the State Bank in Motijheel was being taken away by the people. My troop commander Capt. Malek (retired as Major General and was the advisor of Bangladesh Caretaker Government) told me to go there and try to stop it. Using a pickup van guarded by two armed soldiers, I went there and found that all the monies were put together in the center of the bank by the Pak army and were put on fire to destroy them. However, not all the money was burnt. These monies were being filled in bags by a large number of local people and were being taken away. As stopping it was impossible for me, I returned to Ramna P.S. and arranged to send a platoon of army to stop it. This event proved how the Pak army tried to destroy all resources. During the war our economic situation worsened; at that time people did not have shoes on their feet; clothes to wear and couldn't eat properly.

Yet both positive and negative aspects are at the forefront of negotiations with Bangladesh. Recently, Bangladesh has celebrated 50 years of its independence. Over the past 50 years, the image of Bangladesh has changed in various ways. In most indicators Bangladesh has exceeded Pakistan and even India. We find many reasons for relief. At least in these 50 years, our success or achievement is not small. Maybe the achievement or success would be more. However, what happened is not so small, in one word, outstanding. Bangladesh now stands as a nation and a respected country in the international arena. In some cases, though, we need to pay more attention to many other matters in the future.

In order to analyze the economic development of Bangladesh from 1971 to 2021, in these 50 years, a comparative gathering and analysis of all the data of micro and macroeconomics is required. There may not be all the data of the overall analysis here. At present, only four comparative data are used without using various complex criteria as examples. A comparative discussion of GDP, per capita income, national budget and life expectancy. In the pre-independence period of 1970, the GDP of Bangladesh was only 8.75 billion US dollars. In 2020, it stood at 324.24 billion dollars. In 49 years that increase is almost 37 times. The average per capita income was \$134 in 1971, increased to \$ 1909 in 2018-2019, \$ 2064 in 2020 and \$2554 in FY 2020-21.

The size of Bangladesh's national budget for 1972-1973 was Tk.6 crore, 4 lakh 64 thousand, Tk. 573 crore in 2018-2019, Tk. 5 lakh 64 thousand crore for 2019-2020 and Tk. 5 lakh 8 thousand crore for 2020-2021. The size of the budget has increased almost 622 times as compared to 1972-1973. The size of the development budget for 1982-1973 was Tk. 501 crore, which increased to Tk. 1 lakh 83 thousand crore in 2018-2019, which is 345 times more. These factors are reflected in the areas of electrification, congestion of rural roads, industrial construction, housing, urbanization, expansion of trade and commerce, poverty eradication, etc. Our 50 years of progress in community or social development is also comforting. Progress can be made in general education, health care such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, life expectancy, EPI, women's empowerment, birth control and mortality reduction. Although, these successes in the economy increased the gap between poor and the rich, which was not the goal of a freedom fighter.

Despite the high growth rate of the country due to large structures such as Padma Bridge, Rooppur Nuclear Plant, Bangabandhu Tunnel, Bangabandhu Satellite, Flyover, etc., our position in the indications of industrial development, trade and commerce, good governance, human rights and dignified democracy. High growth is commendable despite the lack of good governance. But high growth does not replace good governance. Growth and good governance must go hand in hand. This link will speed up and keep both, due to the interest in sustainable development in the future will be the most important here.

The great sadness as a freedom fighter is that still a large number of people of this country are trying to shift money out of this country. Lack of patriotism is visible. There are people who still want to undermine our freedom. The conspiracy belongs to some Pakistani people with a progressive mindset. When people protest, it is recognized that the tendency to vandalize property should not be a concept of an independent state. Today a large part of the population is preoccupied with their own interests, their own development, the interests of the ruling class and various self-centered competitions. The feeling of patriotism and our anticipated attitude (after the liberation struggle) are far from the heart of everyone today. There is no national agenda. Each party has its own agenda.

In the end I hope that the future generation will love this country and work for it.

Interviewer: What are your earliest memories of going to school and what was the attitude towards education from those around you (family, neighbors, etc.)?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: I was admitted as well as accepted into the class 1 at Arambagh Primary School, Dhaka in 1960, when I was 4 years old. However, I became sick and stopped going to school as advised by my doctor. I was readmitted to an English Medium School called Don's Kindergarten School run by European teachers in Segunbagicha, Dhaka in KG II in 1962. My father was a medical doctor in Calcutta, India. Younger brother of my grandfather was awarded a gold medal at the M.Sc. in Chemistry during British time from Calcutta and was a professor. So, my family always had and had a positive attitude about education.



Interviewer: What made you decide to become an academic and why did you choose your particular field of study? Was there any link to having fought for the independence of your country?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: After completion of my PhD degree, I realized that the best career or profession for me would be to become an academic.

Interviewer: What value did studying/living/working abroad add to your life both personally and professionally?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: Traveling, studying, living and working abroad help me to get acquainted with various cultures and behavior of people. Studying in Europe and Canada gave me a much better education compared to what I would have achieved if I had studied in Bangladesh as the level of education is very high in Canada. I had to work at least 18 hours a day to get good grades.

Interviewer: How would you evaluate the situation in Bangladesh regarding Environmental Science Management?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: History shows that throughout the world at the beginning of each country's development, environmental degradation occurred and was ignored. However, after improving economic conditions, individuals and governments focused on reducing pollution and improving living standards as they recognized the importance of a healthy environment in achieving a healthy environment for the betterment of human beings. Over the past few decades, Bangladesh has been busy developing economies, however, ignoring environmental degradation in all aspects.

I hope that people will realize the impact of their actions in degradation of the environment and its impact on everybody's health. At that time the demand for the environmental graduates will increase. In 2014, as part of the drafting committee of the national education policy, I insisted on adding environmental education in the curriculum of schools. When this policy is implemented, the demand will increase. Moreover, GoB is planning to create an Environmental officer position in Upazila units, this will increase demand.

Interviewer: In your view, what can the rest of the world learn from Bangladesh about Climate Change Mitigation?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: Bangladesh does not do any activity for climate change mitigation. Bangladesh is working for adaptation and the world has a lot to learn about this from Bangladesh.

Interviewer: What made you decide to join North South University?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: When I decided to return to Bangladesh, I analyzed the situation of the private universities in Bangladesh. I found out about the quality of education and the freedom of the intellectual members, NSU was at the forefront. Some universities offered me higher positions and higher salaries. However, I chose NSU even though I taught MPH541 Environment and Health course, at the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.

Interviewer: What advice would you give to the youth about how to plan for their future?

Prof. Hassan Mahmud: As Bangladesh develops its economy at a sustainable rate of more than 6%, and GoB places 100 economic zones in different parts of Bangladesh, young people should educate themselves properly on the right courses to reap the benefits of this progress and reduce Bangladesh professional dependence on foreign experts.

Valiant Sons

Md. Abdul Hamid was born on 25th July 1953 in Chandpur, Chapai Nawabgonj, Rajshahi, to late Lokman Mandal and Mehennagar Begum. He was raised in his home village of Chandpur and studied in that village school and college. After completing his Intermediate, he joined BDR (now BGB) as Lance Nayek. By profession, he was Lance Nayek in BDR but he always had an interest in politics. Dhaka Pilkhana was his last workplace in the Defense Forces. He retired in 2012 and then he returned to his hometown and was involved in business there for some time but later he was appointed as the freedom fighter commander of Shibganj Upazila.



Md. Abdul Hamid with his 3 sons.



Abdul Hamid's Contribution to the Liberation War of 1971:

The War of Liberation began on 26 March 1971 with the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu. Md. Abdul Hamid was an intermediate final year candidate in 1971. He was involved in student politics. He understood the stage at which Bangabandhu's declaration of independence was going. When the Pak aggressors started killing Bengali intellectuals, killing Bengali people in big cities, burning houses, and burning students indiscriminately, the fire of hatred and revenge against the Pak aggressors started burning in their minds day by day. When the Pak aggressors started killing Bengalis indiscriminately, he saw innocent simple-minded young-old women leaving their homes and coming out of the city in helpless groups, seeing the faces of hungry people, seeing the misery of other homeless people, seeing the helplessness of small children. At that time, he decided to stand by the suffering people of the country, to stand against the Pak aggressors. Probably at the end of May 1971, 10 to 12 students of the same age in the neighborhood decided to participate in the war of liberation. He ran away from home for the liberation war training camp at Gaurbagan in the Malda district of India. Admitted as a freedom fighter.

He was made a platoon commander of the first 50 men because of his agile physique, intelligence, and educational qualifications. After a month of physical training there, he went to the Siliguri training camp in India for weapons and ammunition.

He went there and after training in the front line, he was first sent to Sector 8, Sadar Tarangpur (India) as a platoon of 50 trained freedom fighters. From there the same platoon was sent to sub-sector 8/3 (India) with the responsibility. The 3rd Sub-Sector Commander was Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir (later Bir Shrestha). From there it was sent to the Boalia area inside Bangladesh under Lieutenant Rafiq. He was assigned to the area called Boalia (Bholahat) to resist a hundred defenses of the Pak aggressor forces. With such a short period of training, he had doubts about the success of the hundreds of defenses of the Boalia Pak aggressors. However, he fought successfully with indomitable courage and high morale for revenge. The location of his platoon was next to Boalia High School. His platoon was often fired upon by the Pak army from Boalia Defense but they could not remove him. Abdul Hamid's platoon also responded with fire on them.

A memorable incident of his day: On the orders of the headquarters, 15 people with the war of liberation went out on a Reiki patrol towards Boalia at midnight. Around one o'clock in the night, he heard the sound of gunfire on his defense. He quickly changed his way back to his defense and found out that two freedom fighters of Captain Mohiuddin's Tiger Party misled the way between the lake and near his defense. A freedom fighter named Nazim of Hamid's platoon shot them as enemies while on duty. Immediately one died there and the other escaped. In the morning, when Captain Jahangir, Lieutenant Rafiq, Lieutenant Qayyum, and Engineer Nazrul came to his defense and tried to forcefully take away the freedom fighter Nazim, Abdul Hamid started a verbal fight with Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir. At last, he told Captain Jahangir, "I will not let Nazim go until I have a drop of blood on my body." In the end, they could not take Nazim away because Captain Jahangir knew his adventure.

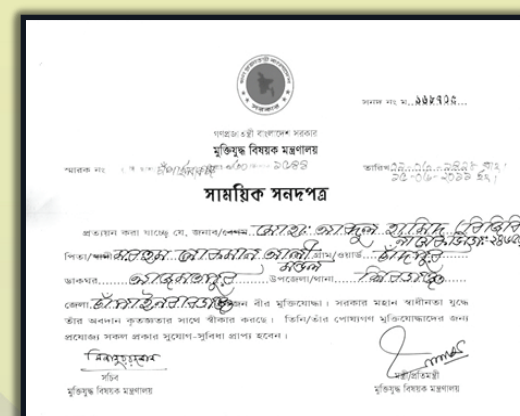
During the war, his platoon had to attack one of the enemy's toughest defensive shots. Especially Sahapur, Brahmanbaria, Mushribhuja, Boalia, Chaudala, Bangabari, etc.

Hamid's platoon was later assigned to prevent the Rangpur enemy from entering. From there to Nachol, and then to Ammura and from Ammura he had to leave for Tanore police station (Rajshahi) in charge of a company. Near Tanore police station, there was a Pak army defense at the police station. Upon hearing the news of their arrival, the Pak army opened fire on Hamid's company. They kept moving towards them as their company fires. When moonlight woke them up near the police station, Nazrul Islam, a freedom fighter of his company, stood in front and started firing. Abdul Hamid told Nazrul, "Nazrul, you go to the 'Li ling position' and fire." But he did not listen to him. Soon after, a brush fire of the LMG of the Pak army came and pierced Nazrul's chest. Nazrul immediately fell to the ground and was martyred. They captured Tanore but in the last battle, he lost one of his freedom fighters. Even today Nazim is remembered by him. His company attacked Tanore at dawn on 13 December and the Pak army fled in the dark of night on 14 December. From there the liberation war of his company ended.

He left Tanore on 18 December and went to Latif Hall in Rajshahi with the company. From there he joined the Chapai Nawabganj militia camp on 20 December with the company. Bangabandhu said that the nation of Bengali heroes, by defeating the military superpowers of the world, the freedom fighters could bring a red and green flag and free the chains of subjugation and bring freedom. When the country was liberated from the enemy, it is impossible to express in words the joy, excitement, and emotion that arose in their minds. Even though we have driven the Pak aggressors out of the country and liberated them from the enemy, we still have some enemies inside us.

Abdul Hamid said to current generation, "You are the future of the country, the country is now in your hands"

He still remembers the grief of his comrades and friends who were martyred during the war of liberation and comforts himself by thinking that their blood did not fail, we got this freedom in exchange for their blood.



One of the official documents from the government.

Alumni Feature



Hello Good People! This is *Adibuzzaman Chowdhury!* I am currently working at Robi Axiata Limited's Brand team as a Specialist for the last 2 years. I look after the ATL, BTL and Digital Communication of Customer Loyalty Management (CLM) and Value Added Services (VAS) portfolio. Before joining Robi, I was a BBA student of North South University. I started my journey at NSU from January, 2016 aiming to major in Marketing. At first it was difficult for me to get good results at NSU as I used to belong to a Science background and BBA subjects were completely new to me. But after 2 semesters, things became easier when I figured out how to study tactically. Then 4 years passed and I completed my BBA degree in December, 2019 with Magna Cum Laude Distinction and finally majored in both Marketing and HR. As the son of a proud Freedom Fighter, I got many benefits from NSU from time to time. Throughout that 4 years of my NSU journey, I was part of extra-curricular activities as well. I joined The Marketing Club (TMC) back in 2017 and served the club for 2 years. Then I became the Founding Treasurer of The Marketing and International Business Club (MIBC). It was a great experience to establish a new club from the root level. Throughout my 3 years of club career, I worked in organizing many events and competitions which helped me to enrich myself with countless skills which later on helped me to get a good job. I have completed my HSC from Dhaka College and SSC from Motijheel Govt. Boys' High School and secured GPA 5.00 in both of them. Besides that, my hometown is at Fariapur but I have been staying at Dhaka since 2005.

Interviewer: You have studied under the Freedom Fighter allowance, and achieved a terrific result with Magna Cum Laude distinction! How helpful was this allowance in your education? Do you think the students are benefitting from this venture?

Adibuzzaman Chowdhury: I think students like me are actually getting benefitted with this Freedom Fighter Allowance. I belong to a middle-class family and getting myself admitted to the most prestigious private university of Bangladesh was a very tough decision to make. Yet I got the courage to study at NSU without any tuition fee stress/pressure due to this allowance. This is one of the promoters of my good result and success. A stress-free mind is a must for success in student life and NSU ensured that with the Freedom Fighter Allowance.

Interviewer: This month we are celebrating the Victory and 50 years of Bangladesh. What ways do you think we can honor the freedom fighters of Bangladesh; the heroes who have made so many sacrifices for this country?

Adibuzzaman Chowdhury: Yes, we are celebrating 50 years of victory, and this Victory only came because of the brave sacrifice of the Freedom Fighters. We exist only because of them and their sacrifice. There is nothing special we can do to honor them! Nothing can repay what they did for us! The best honor for them will be to enjoy our freedom to the fullest and keep remembering them inside our mind, giving them a special place inside our heart, and praying to Almighty that they get a peaceful after-life.

Interviewer: As a freedom fighter's son, how do you want to see Bangladesh in its future? What are your dreams and hopes for this country?

Adibuzzaman Chowdhury: I feel privileged and honored to be addressed as a freedom fighter's son. My Father, Late Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, fought for freedom. Making Bangladesh independent was his dream and that's why he stood and fought against injustice. He along with other Freedom Fighters secured our freedom, but it is also true that it is harder to conserve freedom than to conquer it. So, over the past 50 years, many things have changed. But ensuring healthy law and prioritizing certain things can actually make a huge difference.

However, I hope that my beloved country will have an ideal democracy. There should be equity, justice, safety and security of the community and most importantly there should always be freedom of expression. I firmly believe that all these can lead us to great prosperity in future.

Interviewer: What is your advice for your fellow NSUers?

Adibuzzaman Chowdhury: Giving advice to someone is always a very difficult task to do. Because everyone's life is different, tactics are different, way of thinking is different. But if I sum up my life long experience, I can definitely share some valuable insights with you all. Firstly, there is no alternative to studying hard. I would recommend you to study tactically. Don't try to memorize, just try to understand and learn the root of any topic.

Also, never try to skip any reports/projects, try to do it by yourself, this will help you to think critically and make you good at problem solving. 2ndly, I would definitely recommend everyone to experience the Clubbing opportunities that NSU provides to its students. Clubbing will enrich you with countless skills which will help you to get good jobs in the future.

Lastly, try to be a good man. People will have a good impression if you try to help and respect others.



International Student Feature

*I am **Zheng Zhiwei** from China. I was fortunate enough to go to one of the prestigious universities in Bangladesh, that is North South University, to gain my Master's degree in MBA, learning management skills and company operating skills. I graduated from Guizhou Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Biopharmaceuticals in 2018. After that, I came to Dhaka to start a business with my uncle. Besides work, an improved degree is the best way to improve self-ability.*

I have been studying in the MBA program at NSU since Spring 2020. There are many festivals like Mother Language Day which is a kind of celebration of the national victory. I can feel this emotion at NSU.

My hobby is to travel and play PC games. I always play basketball with my friends in my free time. I can feel the culture in Bangladeshi people. I learned some Bangla language to talk with farmers and small shopkeepers of tea shops. It's the best way to integrate into the local environment. I feel Bangladesh is better than other countries. Not only the environment, rich or not, the people there have full hope for the future. And I think Bangladesh will be more and more beautiful, more orderly, and more powerful within 5 years. I want to see it with my own eyes.

Interviewer: What inspired you to choose North South University for your postgraduate studies among all other universities of Bangladesh?

Zheng Zhiwei: There are some reasons that made me choose NSU from many institutions of higher education.

Competitive teacher resources that all core faculty members have degrees from reputed international institutes, quiet and comfortable learning environment, comfortable library with access security measures, and many outstanding alumni.

The most important reason is that there is a strict teaching system and learning atmosphere which is the best quality education in Bangladesh.

Interviewer: From your bio, we know that you have received an undergraduate degree in Biopharmaceuticals and are pursuing postgraduate studies in Business Administration. What were the factors that influenced this switch in the field of study?

Zheng Zhiwei: In fact, the main reason is because of my job that I chose to be a graduate student in business administration.

The first time I came to Bangladesh was in 2018. The company encountered a lot of difficulties during its start-up, especially in a country with a very different culture and environment from China.

After running the company for a year, considering that there are still many management skills and business knowledge that need to be more localized, I chose to study business administration as a graduate student.

This is very helpful for long-term development in Bangladesh.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for your career once you complete postgraduate studies?

Zheng Zhiwei: NSU is a relatively large platform. For all students, I plan to expand the current business model and use a more localized approach and an international perspective to broaden and stabilize business partners.

The MBA course will make me better at work. The current economic development of Bangladesh is very strong. In the future, I will have a great interest in Bangladesh's infrastructure and to carry out substantive cooperation with various transnational projects.

Interviewer: What is your opinion about the academic structure, education quality and campus culture of North South University?

Zheng Zhiwei: Since my undergraduate degree came from a mainstream educational institution in China, I found that the teaching methods in the two countries are quite different.

For example, the teaching plan in China is usually arranged by the school officials, directly giving students what lessons in what time period.

There will be detailed arrangements for the study plan for the first year, the study plan for the second year, and so on.

NSU is free for students to choose courses, and everyone can choose different courses according to their own learning situation.





Such a free and autonomous learning method can develop more autonomously for outstanding students.

There are campus celebrations with different themes every semester. In the environment of NSU, it feels very strong. We can relax outside the intense study.

Interviewer: What do you think about the virtual academic continuation of NSU to cope with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic? Please share your experience of online and hybrid classes with us.

Zheng Zhiwei: During the Covid-19 pandemic, NSU, one of the top universities in Bangladesh, played a leading role.

Offline teaching was quickly stopped to reduce the risk of infection among students.

20% tuition fee reduction to help student families suffer financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prompt arrangement of suitable COVID-19 vaccines for all teachers and students to strengthen immunity.

It fully shows that NSU is a responsible top university in the world.

However, online courses have a lot of difficulties for me, especially the stability of the network, whether I can keep up with the courses mentioned by the teacher and complete group assignments with my classmates.

Interviewer: You have been staying in Bangladesh for a while now. Kindly share your opinion and observations about the people, language and culture of Bangladesh? How do you like it here?

Zheng Zhiwei: I have been to many countries. In comparison, the people of Bangladesh are the friendliest.

Whether I go to the countryside alone or in an unknown market, I can always get help from around. Bangladesh is the safest country in South Asia.

During the years here, I learned a lot of Bengali, for example: Kenmon acho, Tumi namu ki, Ki lagebe, Kothai Japen, Kotho kung lagebi, etc.

I think Bengali is a simpler language for listening and speaking, through short-term practice.

A foreigner can master the Bengali language he needs in life.

Very difficult to read and write.


When I only speak English, there are still many difficulties in life here. Because people in the market don't often speak English.


After learning basic Bengali life phrases, I began to feel very comfortable in Dhaka or in other cities, and I can face it calmly.

Interviewer: Anything you want to share with or suggest to the future applicant of NSU?


Zheng Zhiwei: If you want to make a big difference in business in Bangladesh, NSU is your best choice for further studies. The teaching resources and commercial resources here will make you successful. And you can also help the classmates here, show your advantages, and fully believe in yourself. NSU will let you return with a full load.




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