

Echoes

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Advisory panel

Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna
Vice Chancellor

Dr. Charles C Villanueva
Dean, Arts & Social Sciences

Dr. Tajul Islam
Associate Dean, Arts & Social Sciences

Editorial panel

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed
M. Hamidul Haque
Dr. Silverine de Silva
Md. Firoz Al-Mamun Khan

*Let others lead small lives,
but not you.
Let others argue over small
things, but not you.
Let others cry over small
hurts, but not you.
Let others leave their future
in someone else's hands,
but not you.*

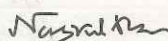
Jim Ron

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<http://orp.aiub.edu>

Goodwill messages from Academics & Intellectuals

I extend my heartiest wishes to the Department of English, AIUB, for their efforts to come up with this unique venture — a regular newsletter named *Echoes*. English is now a means of international communication, and the newsletter can also help disseminate the rich diverse culture of Bangladesh.

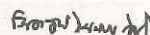
I believe *Echoes* will establish a meaningful linkage not only among the students of AIUB, but also among the students of English Language and Literature of other public and private universities of Bangladesh.



Professor Nazrul Islam
Chairman
University Grants Commission
Bangladesh

I do hope and believe that *Echoes* will reflect the activities of the Department of English at AIUB, draw the students and teachers of the department closer, introduce them to the academic audience outside and help to establish a creative relationship between those inside and outside. What is important is, of course, creativity; and an academic institution is known by the culture of creativity it can sustain.

I wish the English department at AIUB every success in its creative endeavors, of which I consider *Echoes* to be a part.

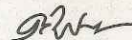


Sirajul Islam Chowdhury
Professor Emeritus
Department of English
University of Dhaka

*O*n behalf of BELTA, I extend my warm felicitations to AIUB Department of English on the occasion of the publication of its Newsletter, *Echoes*.

With the English language clearly being accepted as a modern-day asset, there has been an incremental investment in English teaching and learning within the state and the private education sector. Individuals, institutions and forums need to raise voices of concern in order that English teaching may move in an appropriate direction in terms of teacher development, curriculum renewal, materials development and testing reform. Moreover, with their common goals, there is a need for public and private undertakings to collaborate and coordinate in order to strengthen efforts in quality educational practice.

I congratulate AIUB for playing a positive role in its commitment to language and communication development among its student community. I wish the very best to the teachers of English Department and to the students who will benefit from the publication of *Echoes*.



Prof. Dr. Arifa Rahman
President
Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA)

From the Vice Chancellor

I am extremely happy to note that the English Department has come to life and doing its best to promote English Language and Literature. This attempt to publish a regular newsletter *Echoes* is welcome initiative of the faculty members, students and the Dean.

Keep up the good work and kudos to all!



Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna
Vice Chancellor

Editorial

See, English departments across the globe aren't just 'departments' which teach literary theories by dealing with countless classic texts or where everybody dreams and speaks in English. An English department, admittedly, is a haven of intellectual spirit, psychological fortitude and cultural identity—both for students and teachers. And eventually, everything leads to the rediscovery of the self. It is my sweet belief that *Echoes* will be a gateway to that haven.

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed

While it is a fact that every nook of our society has its own dialect or mother tongue, English becomes a unifying element in a broader perspective and in a global landscape. The fast advancing technology makes it expeditious to transmit one's intentions to another. The technology plus the English language can truly make the difference.

From the Dean's desk...



The convenience of interacting with the peoples of the world can be easily facilitated with the ability to express ideas and emotions through English language. So widely and popularly spoken, English has become not only a medium of official and business communication in public and private organizations and institutions; but it is used as a medium of instruction so that it can easily be inculcated in and practiced by the students. Considered as a second language in non English speaking societies, English has

emerged as a convenient tool in reaching common goals, aspiration and unity amongst the people of the world. While it is a fact that every nook of our society has its own dialect or mother tongue, English becomes a unifying element in a broader perspective and in a global landscape. The fast advancing technology makes it expeditious to transmit one's intentions to another. The technology plus the English language can truly make the difference. This is what happening in the world.

The American International University-Bangladesh has enunciated the policy of using English as a medium of instruction. Time and again, the Vice Chancellor is emphatic in reminding the faculty about the policy. This policy is consistent with the mission of the university to produce world class students and make them ready to face the competitive world of business, service

and employment. The feedback that a number of students can hardly express themselves in English both in oral and written is a disappointing reality which the English department of this university should reckon with. The establishment of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) with program offering such as BA in English, BA in Mass Communication and Media Arts, BA in Advertising require substantive knowledge, understanding and application of English. The initiative of the English department to produce this simple publication dubbed as Echoes, is a vehicle to stimulate the interest of the students in English and professional development of the faculty. Congratulations to the faculty and students who made this piece of document valuable and laudable undertaking.

Dr. Charles C Villanueva
Dean, FASS

English in Action: A Literary Competition

ANOTHER first! And what better platform than the American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB)! They came together in spirit of competition, more so for the launching of a brand new product in any English Department. 'English in Action: A Literary Competition', a brainchild of the Dr Charles Villanueva, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), reached its climax last week on July 24, after a very short two weeks of preparation, where students and faculty members worked in unison to reach a climax in the form of the finals of the English in Action competition. After a two-week elimination round among two hundred students of first and second semester from Arts & Social Sciences, Business, Science, and Engineering departments contested in five different creative categories titled *Oration*, *Impromptu Speaking*, *Manuscript Reading*, *Dramatic Monologue* and *Choral Recitation*, the best 5 contestants in the first 4 categories and best 3 groups in the last category fought with their hearts in the Grand Finals in front of distinguished judges.

In fact, the panel of judges starred several stalwarts like, Mr Aly Zaker (famous theatre-TV personality), Mr Alex Lamadrid (Consul General of Philippines Embassy), Prof. Shaheen Kabir (eminent faculty of English, Jahangirnagar University), Mr Shahnoor Wahid (Assistant Editor of The Daily Star) and Ms Shenin Ziauddin (popular English news presenter of BTv). Master of the Ceremony Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English department, welcomed the judges, guests, the competitors, faculty members and all present, describing the purpose of such innovative event. Dr. Charles Villanueva, the Dean of FASS, expressed the dream of hosting it soon at the national level for the benefit of the greater student community.

Under all 5 categories fresher and second semester students competed in professional spirit. The competition was not only for the students. Awards were also lined up for the course instructors who trained the

competitors. After the first round of elimination, selected students prepared themselves to deliver their models with much authenticity perceived in each competing individual. As the judges were calculating and battling with their minds selecting the winners, a faculty member of English, Mr. Debasish Biswas enthralled the audience with Lalon's 'Jaat gelo jaat gelo' while Dr. Charles mesmerized all with a hit Dianna Ross number 'If we hold on together' backed by Dr Faheem on the keyboard.



The winners were as follows: Syeda Noore Aynin (Oration), Fahmim Ferdous (Impromptu Speaking), Ahmed Shakib (Manuscript Reading), Rehnuna Mannan (Dramatic Monologue) and 'Shining Star' group (Choral Recitation). The judges said that they were very pleased to be a part of this kind of competition, which was the first of its kind in any university. They stated that AIUB had taken a bold step forward in promoting English within the campus. AIUB's Vice Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna congratulated all participants and their course instructors as well all those involved in making the program a success. She hoped that all would continue to give their support to encourage the spread of English in Bangladesh. She then gave away certificates to all the finalists and their instructors, and crests to the winners and crests of recognition to the respective instructors.

English, and the World: Issues and Counter Issues' An interactive colloquium

AIUB's teachers and students of Arts & Social Sciences took part in an exciting colloquium on 'English, and the World: Issues and Counter Issues' organized by the Department of English on 27 July, Sunday. Presided by Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed. Head of English department, the colloquium had Dr. Azfar Hussain, visiting faculty of Oklahoma State University, USA, as the speaker who is widely known for his radical views on Linguistic Imperialism.

In his one-hour speech, Dr. Hussain highlighted a basic fact that in order to ensure the status of English rightfully in our society, we need to redefine our attitude towards the world we are living in right now. This implies that we need to be aware of the 'English late-colonialism' that has been an inextricable product of global imperialism, and get free from the people-alienated 'Golden Rule' that has been imposed on the third world by the English-speaking native countries.

Dr. Hussain also maintained that the reason why we do not still have a pro-people education policy is simple: imperialism would hardly allow us to stand on our feet. It's time we asked ourselves, shouldn't we define our space called English so that we achieve our own-ness?

But the task is not that easy, as he said, due to the fact that the 'English' that has overcast our psycho-educational domain is backed by the 'power of elites' that is often anti-people. Our canon-licking accent-crazy 'deshi shahebs' have lot to do in this regard, he emphatically uttered.

After an equally vibrated question-answer session, Dr. Hussain emotionally performed his self-composed English poem 'Cash! Cash! Cash! Cash!'—along with the dramatic choral participation of audience. Finally he was awarded with goodwill gift pack by Dr. Bijoy Bhushon Das on behalf of AIUB.

Guest column

The World of Books

Shahnoor Wahid

Books are meant to be read, not to be kept in a bookshelf at the farthest corner of a room. Inside those dust-ridden, aging covers you will find treasures worth the total wealth of hundred kings. These treasure troves lie unloved, in our homes, but we hardly pick one up to go deep inside to dig out the wealth. If we did, we would be richer today. By rich I do not mean getting materially rich, but richness of the intellect. We would have been perhaps better humans today, if we had read some of those books.

By talking to many university level students of the present generation I come to learn that they have not read a single book that belongs to the genre of classics. Many had no idea about the worldwide most read story of Tarzan or the marvellous adventures of the heroes of Jules Verne! They have not read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle so they know not the dialogue of Sherlock Holmes, "It's elementary my dear Watson." There is something wrong at the elementary level indeed.

The writer is an Assistant Editor of 'The Daily Star' and Editor of 'Star Campus'

Read, read, and read!!

Arif Ashraf Nayan

Let me be straight. Reading is the mother of all communicative skills. It is the best way to educate yourselves; the best source of your inspiration.

A famous novelist John Gardner once remarked that however a person writes is usually an expression or a consequence of what that person has learned from reading. Therefore, reading is in fact discovering. Exploring. Self-updating. Whether you are reading literary pieces or scientific essays or even fashion magazines, you are enriching your creative abilities; you are paying tribute to your progress toward betterment.

Extensive reading will also help you face your job lives hundred times better. Being brought up in a realm of books, I have maintained this knack of buying books of all genres. Now as an executive of a top-ranking company, I feel the benefit of my reading habit. I still read before going to bed, let me add. Therefore my dear younger brothers and sisters, please just don't be grade-hunting students and techno-crazy robots. Find some time to feel the joy of reading. Just do it!

AIUB alumnus from 2003-07; former GS of both AIUB Oratory Club & AIUB Drama Club. Currently Global Management Trainee at BAT, Bangladesh.

Just keep shining.....

Rumana Islam

Faculty, English department

It must be some divine intervention! At the point of time when I was planning to write for my dear FASS, we experienced the sparkle of 'English in Action' — a promising literary competition which unleashed the potentiality of the students of English.

The strength of FASS, is no doubt our aesthetic, enthusiastic, and ever creative students. The students of FASS have some significant role and responsibilities, outside the classroom as well. They need to educate and enlighten themselves by an 'inside out' self educative and self development process. Dear students, never forget that we all live under the same sky, but not under the same horizon. And if you wish to achieve your own horizon and make a mark on this earth, it's for you.

To achieve your purpose there is no substitute for books — reading **good books**, from classic to epic, from non-fiction to autobiography, from travelogue to Reader's Digest. Only books will lift you higher and higher to reach your goal. So start reading right away. The FASS students should also be the ones to plan and execute literary, cultural, extracurricular and other events. They must organize and participate in all these kinds of programs. Their role is vital here indeed.

Good movies? Yeah! You should watch all the good movies you can catch and fetch. Movies will help you to develop your knowledge and idea. It will help you focus properly on issues around you.

Good adda? You hear it right; you must go to good *addas*. There is hardly any 'big' human being who became big without going to good *addas*. So spend your free time in hands-on-minds-on good *addas*.

I believe FASS students should never stop dreaming. Shoot for the moon, at least you will end up getting some stars. I believe that, we must experience the exuberant lives and give back to our community.

The Rebel and a Painting

Borendra Lal Tripura

A painting is a venture and joyful bliss
that embodies the passion of an Artist.
A painting is a rapture of creativity
that an artist creates with skillful sketch.
It's the expression of life—
joy and sorrows, love and separation,
beauty and darkness as He intends...
depicted with the touch of color and brush.

I've seen the painting on a rainbow,
I've seen the rainbow looking at the Earth.
The human races are the brush of the great Artist,
and the diversity of languages, cultures and dresses
that display the feeling and consciousness
of the Artist
His passion, imagination and concept of beauty
being the color of the painting.
The whole world is a rainbow, a great painting
of the greatest Artist.

Do you want to wipe out a color from the painting?
Which color you want to be faded out?
Do you want to destroy the design?
Or hinder the flow of His emotion?
Are you a greater artist than Him, or
a rebel of creation?

The writer is a Lecturer at the Department of English. He is also a poet, novelist and social researcher on Tribal education & culture. This poem has been taken from his book 'The Rebel and a Painting' published in 2008 at the Ekushe Book Fair.

STUDENT PROFILE

Suleiman Safina Abdulkadir

Nigeria



Safina, who has been in Bangladesh for the last 6 months, is studying Mass Communication in AIUB. She says that she has chosen this subject according to her parents' desire. Nevertheless, she is enjoying every bit of it

She is a fan of the shopping malls in Dhaka and likes to buy clothes which are far cheaper than in Nigeria. Jewelry is her all-time passion as well! But she dislikes both the traffic jams and hot weather.

Shefin is already quite comfortable with her social environment. 'My classmates and friends are very helpful. I am slowly getting the hang of Bangla. I can understand it somewhat when the person speaking enunciates slowly', she says. Other than English, she speaks Hausa, a Nigerian language, and French.

She has plans to join the Nigerian Diplomatic Corps and come back someday as an Ambassador of Nigeria to Bangladesh. We wish her all the great luck.

The English Department

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (Coordinator)
 Dr. Bijoy Bhushan Das
 Mr. M. Hamidul Haque
 Mr. Borendra Lal Tripura
 Dr. Silverine De Silva
 Mr. Azad Ruhul Amin
 Ms. Sakiba Ferdousy
 Ms. Rumana Islam
 Ms. Rizwana Mahbub Liana
 Mr. Md. Firoz Al-Mamun Khan
 Ms. Syeda Sanjida Islam
 Mr. Debasish Biswas
 Ms. Syeda Farzana Sultana Hafsa
 Ms. Fahrma Rinku
 Mr. Quamrul Hassan Chowdhury



In an informal-yet-vibrant mood of festivity, the English department of AIUB launched the English Speaking Club (ESC) and the English Writing Club (EWC) on 16 September at the Campous-1 auditorium. Much to the enthusiasm of the full house audience which comprised students of all disciplines and faculty members of English department, Dean of Arts & Social Sciences Dr. Charles Villanueva and the Star Campus editor Mr. Shahnoor Wahid Guest of Honor, Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (Head of the English department) eloquently narrated the need for quality speaking and writing in students' lives regardless of boundaries of disciplines, and explained the actual purposes behind the clubs. Both clubs will be run and maintained by the English department under the guidance of faculty moderators: Ms. Rumana Islam & Ms. Fahrma Rinku (for ESC) and Ms. Syeda Farzana Sultana Hafsa & Mr. Quamrul Hassan Chowdhury (for EWC).

In his immaculately captivating encouraging speech, Dr. Charles Villanueva explained why and how the power of speaking and writing would make Bangladeshi students 'truly internationalist workforce'. He appreciated the efforts of the English department in dragging students into creative pursuits one after another through numerous innovative activities.

Mr. Shahnoor Wahid in his speech stressed the importance of reading classics and quality discourses in fostering critical thinking. Narrating his personal experience of extensive reading since childhood, he explained the joy of critical thinking in student life.

In the end, the Dr. Charles Villanueva and Dr. Bijoy Bhushon Das jointly handed over AIUB gift packs to the Guest of Honor.



English is funny!

Facing grammar problems in your English classes? Feeling bad about it? Well, you'll feel better when you read

In a Tokyo Hotel:

Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not person to do such thing is please not to read notis.

In a Leipzig elevator:

Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.

In a Belgrade hotel elevator:

To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a Paris hotel elevator:

Please leave your values at the front desk.

In a Japanese hotel:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand:

Would you like to ride on your own ass?

In a Hong Kong supermarket:

For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.

In a Rhodes tailor shop:

Order your summers suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.

Similarly, from the Soviet Weekly:

There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years.

In an East African newspaper:

A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.

In an advertisement by a Hong Kong dentist:

Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists.

A translated sentence from a Russian chess book:

A lot of water has been passed under the bridge since this variation has been played.

In a Rome laundry:

Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge:

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

In the office of a Roman doctor:

Specialist in women and other diseases.

In an Acapulco hotel:

The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In the window of a Swedish furrier:

Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Fun quotes

*Money is not everything.
 There's MasterCard
 & Visa.*

Practice makes a man perfect. But nobody's perfect, so why practice?

*One should love animals.
 They are so tasty!*

Work fascinates me. I can look at it for hours!

God made relatives; thank God we can choose our friends.

'Your future depends on your dreams.' So go to sleep.