

NOTICE BOARD

Humanitarian architecture proponent Yasmeen Lari inspires BRAC University students

The Department of Architecture at BRAC University recently hosted a lecture by Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan's first female architect and an internationally celebrated humanitarian, at the university's Merul Badda campus.

The event marked the 150th edition of the department's "Angan Lecture Series", a vibrant platform for leading thinkers and practitioners in architecture and design to share innovative ideas and inspire the next generation of architects.

Lari delivered a compelling talk titled "Save the Planet, Save Humanity: Decarbonize, Decolonize, Democratize Architecture", emphasising the transformative role that architecture can play in addressing climate change, fostering equity, and building resilience in vulnerable communities.

"Architecture is not just about building structures; it's about creating solutions that heal the planet, empower communities, and foster equity," said Lari. "By decarbonising, decolonising, and democratising architecture, we can design a future where sustainability and humanity go hand in hand."

Afterward, the audience comprising

students, faculty members, and architects from across Bangladesh engaged in a discussion moderated by BRACU's architecture department's Chairperson Zainab Faruqui Ali.

The discussion shed light on her work encompassing fashionable brutalist villas, mirrored office towers, heritage restoration projects, and essential humanitarian relief for the poorest of the poor and their relevance to architectural practices in Bangladesh and beyond.

Yasmeen Lari also conducted a week-long winter school where architecture students built a zero-carbon bamboo building, a prefabricated structure which can be used as a disaster rehab building. A multi-disciplinary session was also held with architect Lari as the main panelist.

For over two decades, Lari has championed disaster-resilient, zero-carbon housing solutions and empowered marginalised communities through her "Barefoot Social Architecture" philosophy. Her efforts brought her accolades, such as the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2023 and the Jane Drew Prize in 2020.

Angan Lecture Series 150
BRAC University
Dhaka, 23 December 2024



UIU Social Services Club distributes winter clothes

The UIU Social Services Club (UIUSSC), an initiative under the Directorate of Career Counseling and Student Affairs (DCCSA) at United International University (UIU) recently organised a distribution of winter clothes to support distressed families in the cold-stricken Koyra Upazila in Khulna.

The cold-stricken community of the northern region of Bangladesh have been severely suffering due to excessive cold waves during this winter season. Many of them do not have any warm clothes to protect themselves against the unbearable cold.

The young members of UIUSSC collected over 2000 old but usable clothes by setting up a booth at the UIU campus. They also raised funds from faculty members, administrative staff, and students of UIU for the winter clothing programme. Additionally, faculty members and officers of UIU willingly donated a good amount of money to purchase blankets for the programme.

A team from UIUSSC marched to the remote cold-stricken area of Koyra Upazila and collected data by going door-to-door. They sorted and selected the individuals who were in genuine need of warm clothes. After collecting data, they properly distributed 400 blankets, over 2000 warm clothes, and 600 units of petroleum jelly. These donations facilitated more than 750 families in Koyra Upazila.

The UIU Social Services Club is committed to serving the community. Prof. Dr Md Abul Kashem Mia, Vice-Chancellor of UIU, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the faculty members, administrative officers, and students of UIU for standing beside the cold-stricken people.