

NOTICE BOARD

BRAC University launches programmes to commemorate the July-August Mass Uprising

On July 16, BRAC University inaugurated a series of programmes at its Merul Badda campus in Dhaka to commemorate the mass uprising that took place in Bangladesh the previous year.

The events included an exhibition of photographs, artworks, and videos; the publication of an exhibition catalogue; musical performances; discussions reflecting on the memories of the uprising; a prayer for the martyrs; and engaging social media posts and videos. Additionally, the student club organised a graffiti project in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The commemoration began with members of the student club Monon performing the national anthem at the Exhibition Gallery. A prayer led by Professor Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir, Director of the Learning and Teaching Innovation Center, sought salvation for the souls of those who sacrificed their lives during the uprising.

The exhibition, titled "Red July", was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar and opened at the Exhibition Gallery. It showcased over 100 photographs highlighting the contributions of BRAC University students, faculty members, and staff during the uprising, along with student artworks inspired by the spirit of the July-August events.

Videos were screened, featuring footage captured in July of the previous year, which depicted students taking to the streets and staging demonstrations in front of the campus. This exhibition will remain open until August 5.

Members of the BRAC University Cultural Club performed patriotic songs, accompanied by faculty and staff, marking this significant event. Following the performance, a discussion was held, focusing on the spirit of the July-August mass uprising and honouring the contributions of the BRAC University community. Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar interacted with students who were seriously injured during the uprising.

In a video message, Registrar Dr David Dowland, currently on an official visit to China, emphasised the importance of leadership in today's society. He remarked, "There has been much discussion about youth leadership, and your generation must step up to lead. Leadership



involves making thoughtful, sustained contributions to society, grounded in humanity, compassion, and the desire to uplift others."

Addressing the audience as the Chief Guest, Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar urged, "We must rise above all challenges and love our country. Upholding the ethos of BRAC University, we need to work together to serve humanity. Many sacrificed their lives during the July uprising so that we could carry forward their dreams. It would be an injustice to those martyred if we do not fulfil that vision."

The discussion also included contributions from Treasurer Ariful Islam; Director of Communications Khairul Basher; Acting Dean of the School of Pharmacy Professor Yusuf Haider; Proctor Rubana Ahmed; Acting Registrar Farhan Haq; Director of Operations Sajedul Karim; deans and department heads, administrative staff, teachers, and students, including two who lost vision in one eye due to

shotgun pellets. Tahsina Rahman, Joint Director of Student Life, moderated the discussion.

A compilation of the exhibition's photos and artworks will be published online in a catalogue. Hard copies will be distributed to relevant individuals and organisations and archived for future reference.

Throughout the month, BRAC University will share posts and videos provided by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Education on its official Facebook page. Additionally, two faculty members will be interviewed by leading newspapers to discuss the uprising and the students' contributions, with these interviews featured on BRAC University's social media platforms.

On July 24, members of the BRAC University Art and Photography Society will participate in a graffiti and artwork competition along the road connecting the Teacher-Student Center to Doyel Chattar at Dhaka University.

NSU holds talk on "The Security Code for This Century: Priorities for a New Era"

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) at North South University (NSU) organised a talk on "The Security Code for This Century: Priorities for a New Era" on July 17.

The session was held at the NSU Syndicate Hall as part of the NSU SHSS Distinguished Lecture Series. The keynote speaker was Major General A N M Muniruzzaman (Retd), President of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS). The session was chaired by Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, and the concluding observations were provided by the moderator, Professor Abdur Rob Khan, the Treasurer and Pro-Vice Chancellor (In-charge) at NSU.

Professor Md Rizwanul Islam, Dean of the SHSS at NSU, commenced the discussion with the opening remarks, where he expressed gratitude to the distinguished guest for gracing the occasion with his presence. Additionally, he pointed out the critical importance of understanding and adapting to the dynamic concept of security with a holistic approach in the 21st century.

Major General A N M Muniruzzaman (Retd) began by stating that a new security code for the 21st century requires a fundamental shift in how we conceive of and address threats. He urged that moving beyond traditional



state-centric, military-focused approaches to a more comprehensive, interconnected, and adaptive framework is essential. This involves a fusion of technology and warfighting, emphasising proactive prevention through predictive models and continuous learning. Key aspects include software-defined open architectures for rapid upgrades, and interoperability through civilian-military fusion and global collaboration, leading to an information overload of misinformation, bringing us to new heights of vulnerability. He further emphasised human-centric security to abide by ethical use of technology, fostering public trust.

During the Q&A session, faculty members engaged with the guest speaker on the role of advanced technologies like AI/ML, robotics, and quantum computing in modern defense, how emerging modern systems are enabling new forms of warfare, the rise of paradigms such as multi-domain, hybrid, and cognitive warfare, and the necessity of network-centric warfare (JADC2) and advanced defense systems. They also criticised the complexities and lack of cyberspace investments and implementation in the context of Bangladesh.

Professor Abdur Rob Khan observed that the exchange of ideas encouraged a better understanding of the complex interplay between technology, strategy, and human factors in shaping the future of security. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury concluded the session by highlighting the imperative for academic institutions to contribute to the discourse on national and international security, commending the timely and insightful discussion. He further added that there are gaps in the integration of AI in medical systems, defence, and educational institutions in Bangladesh, raising national security concerns. The memorable event concluded with a Crest Handover Ceremony, honouring the esteemed guest with a token of appreciation.