

VC NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE VC



So far, 2026 has been a year of achievements, growing recognition, and strengthening partnerships for our university. It is quite encouraging to see that spirit reflected in the meaningful progress and developments that have taken shape across our institution in recent times.

We are pleased to share that our faculty members have been making great strides in academic research. They have not only attracted substantial funding from external sources this quarter, but several of them have also received the Publication Award in recognition of their work being published in recognised Q1 journals. This achievement affirms the high academic standards that define our university. We look forward to seeing even greater scholarly contributions in the near future.

Five of our departments - Economics, English, Business Administration, Law, and Computer Science & Engineering – have begun organising international conferences to be held later on this year. These events will open new avenues for dialogue and collaboration that will further enrich our academic community by bringing together scholars, researchers, and professionals from around the world.

Equally encouraging is the growing visibility of our university beyond academic circles and in the public domain. The University was recently featured in The Daily Star, marking a meaningful step in strengthening our reputation and deepening our connection with the broader community and prospective students.

Furthermore, two new Memorandums of Understanding have been signed this quarter - one with Marshall University in the United States, and another with Beximco Pharmaceuticals PLC - reflecting our commitment to building lasting partnerships with both academic institutions and industry partners. We remain actively focused on expanding this network, creating pathways for joint research, student internships, and meaningful knowledge exchange with institutions worldwide.

I deeply appreciate the collective efforts that make our university a place of excellence and inspiration.



Professor Dr. Shams Rahman
Vice Chancellor
East West University

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Professor Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin, Founder Vice Chancellor and Chairperson, Board of Trustees, East West University was interviewed for a special feature article titled “East West University: An Inclusive, Affordable Campus Prioritizing Student Well-Being.” The article was published in *The Daily Star* on 9th April 2026. The feature is attached below:

East West University: An inclusive, affordable campus, prioritising student well-being



East West University's (EWU) name conveys an aspiration that extends beyond geography to philosophy. The institution was founded in 1996 to balance two intellectual traditions: the rigour of the West and the rootedness of the East. The Chairperson of the EWU Board of Trustees, Prof. Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, did not consider the name to be decorative. It was a statement of intent to create an environment where local customs and international academic standards could coexist peacefully.

After returning from a 13-year stint at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Dr Farashuddin and a small group of like-minded educationists set out to provide access to high-quality education rather than rhetoric, to pay back what he refers to as a "tremendous debt" to society.

Although there were only 20 students in the first cohort, the concept was ambitious from the start. This was intended to be a purposeful intervention into the disparities that shaped access to education in Bangladesh, rather than another exclusive private school. According to Dr Farashuddin: “I felt it was critical to provide standard, quality education to the children of middle- and low-income families. We are very proud of that vision, and we have pursued it without interruption.”

This idea would later define the institution's course. The founding philosophy of the university, which was designed to both support and challenge the hierarchies ingrained in higher education, persisted over time as the campus expanded—physically, institutionally, and in terms of reputation.

EWU's operational logic has always been anchored in accessibility. Students from middle-income and lower-income families, who frequently find themselves priced out of private higher education, were the target for the institution's initial design. This was a deliberate structural decision. Highlighting the university's long-standing dedication to reducing inequality, Dr Farashuddin states, “I think that the middle class are the backbone of democracy, growth, and prosperity, and we are determined to minimise the disparity that exists.”

The university's financial ethos, which operates with an almost austere discipline, is where this commitment is most evident. According to Dr Farashuddin, the framework that enables the organisation to operate as a truly non-profit organisation is “no wastage, no leakage, and, most importantly, preventing any corruption”. EWU uses its financial prudence to keep tuition costs relatively low.

This strategy is ideological rather than just administrative. In 2000, the university made a bold resolution that any operational surplus would be fully reinvested in the school, either through direct student support or infrastructure development. By doing this, the university set itself apart from the profit-driven inclinations that sometimes characterise private education. As a result, the

campus continues to grow in size and amenities while paying attention to the financial needs of its students.

The consistent expansion from 20 students in 1996 to over 16,000 today is often cited as proof of the institution's success. Beneath that growth, however, is a more subdued accomplishment: the establishment of an environment in which educational opportunities are not solely determined by financial status. In this way, EWU's affordability is a long-term practice that continues to influence who is able to enter, stay, and eventually prosper within its walls.

Relatively low tuition, coupled with a comprehensive scholarship framework impacts a substantial segment of its student population. Keeping costs low is the first step toward inclusion. The second step is actively redistributing institutional resources to people who might not be able to stay in the system otherwise. Financial aid is at the heart of how the university sees its role.

Since the beginning, merit has been one of the main ways to get support. Students who get the top positions on the admission test get full scholarships, and students with great grades, like a "Golden GPA-5", get a 100 percent tuition waiver when they are accepted. Some people who did well, but not quite as well, are given partial waivers. But Dr Farashuddin is careful to point out that merit alone does not determine eligibility. A parallel system of need-based assistance makes sure that capable students don't get pushed to the edges because they can't afford it. People who keep a certain level of academic achievement and meet certain income requirements can get ongoing help, which is often renewed in cycles so that help is not suddenly taken away.

The result is a layered model of inclusion that takes into account both achievement and circumstance. This is a very big commitment. Almost one in five students gets some kind of financial help, and the university spends a large part of its annual income—about 12 to 13 percent—on scholarships and other forms of aid.

Dr Farashuddin doesn't like the word "expenditure" here; instead, he calls it a long-term investment in people's potential. The difference is important because it changes the story from cost to consequence and from accounting to impact.

Additionally, this system incorporates locally sensitive gestures. For example, district scholarships provide selected students from each of Bangladesh's 64

districts with complete financial support, which includes living expenses, study materials, and tuition. These programmes increase the university's reach and attract students from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic locations.

In actuality, this support network changes the makeup of the campus itself in addition to relieving financial strain. A gradual but significant diversification is indicated by the growing number of female students, many of whom receive scholarships by their own merit, and the involvement of students from a variety of religious and geographic backgrounds. The university's second commitment is not just to admit students but to keep them, which takes form in this interaction between presence and policy.

Beyond questions of cost and access, EWU has, over time, cultivated a reputation for "care". The university's emphasis on student well-being is woven into both its infrastructure and its everyday ethos, extending from medical facilities and emergency support to a dedicated socio-psychological counselling centre where students can seek confidential guidance. For Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, this is a responsibility. "We consider our students as our own children," he says, a sentiment reflected in moments of crisis when the campus has functioned as a place of refuge—offering shelter, treatment, and reassurance.

The same philosophy manifests in smaller interventions: counselling for those navigating family pressures, an environment deliberately kept free from partisan tensions, and a broader commitment to ensuring that students feel, above all, safe and supported. It is an approach that recognises education as an experience affected by emotional and psychological conditions.

The narrative of EWU ultimately boils down to its name: striking a balance between aspirations and access, ideals and realities. What started out as an attempt to unite two intellectual traditions has developed into something more grounded but no less ambitious: a university that aims to balance growth with integrity, ambition with care, and quality with affordability. Its growth from a small group of 20 students to a large academic community can be interpreted as an indication of the institution's success.

RESEARCH GRANT

Professor Dr. Dilara Begum, Chairperson, Department of Information Studies and Md. Hasinul Elahi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Information Studies, received 10 Lakh BDT. funds from Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) for their research proposal “Proposing a comprehensive strategy to enhance insurance literacy in Bangladesh.” They also received 9 Lakh BDT. funds from UNESCO Dhaka Office to conduct research on “Assessing Nationwide MIL Competency of Bangladeshi Youth.”



Dr. Raihan Ul Islam, Associate Professor, Dr. Mohammad Rifat Ahmmad Rashid, Associate Professor, M. Saddam Hossain Khan, Senior Lecturer and Rashedul Amin Tuhin, Senior Lecturer from the Department of CSE have received a research grant of 11 Lakh BDT. from the East West University Center for Research and Training (EWUCRT) for the project titled “Transforming Campus Sustainability: Leveraging Smart IoT Devices for Energy-Efficient Green Ecosystem 2026.” The project focuses on exploring the transformative potential of smart IoT technologies to develop energy-efficient and sustainable campus environments, aiming to promote greener practices and optimize resource utilization within the university ecosystem.

Helal Uddin, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, has been awarded a research grant of 6 Lakh 30 Thousand BDT. as Co-Principal Investigator from the Conference Travel & Research Grant (CTRG) at North South University, Bangladesh. The project is being conducted in collaboration with researchers from North South University and Dalhousie University, Canada. The title of the project is: “The Impacts of Work–Family and Family–Work Conflicts on Physical and Mental Health among Working Mothers in Dhaka City: The Moderating Effects of Job Demand–Resources and Family-Level Social Support.”



Ali Mashraf, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, received a grant amount of £500.00. from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government of the United Kingdom, for the project on “Developing an Online Guide on Family Law and Related Provisions in Bangladesh” for assisting British nationals in understanding their options and making informed decisions when dealing with family or child-related legal matters in Bangladesh.

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

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CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

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Digonto, I. J. (2026), "From Rhetoric to Practice: An Ecolinguistic Analysis of University Sustainability Statements and Pedagogical Uptake in Bangladesh," paper presented at *Planet LangLit 2026 – International Conference on Language, Literature & Cultural Studies*, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 15-16 January.

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Raisa, J.T. (2026), "Standardizing a Global South English Accent for Future ELT," paper presented at *30th NELTA International Conference on ELT for NextGen: Teaching for People, Planet, and Peace*, Kathmandu, Nepal, 29 - 30 January.

Siddique, F.R. (2026), "Cybersecurity Regulation in a Globalized Digital Era: A Study of Bangladesh's Cyber Security Ordinance 2025," paper presented at the *Second International Conference on Emerging Trends and Advances in Management, Law, Humanities and Social Sciences (Global Nexus 2.0)*, organized by Eudoxia Research University and Eudoxia Research Centre, India, 28 February.

SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP

Khan, A. R. (2026), “Community Enquiry Framework: Rural System, Rural Institutions and Rural Livelihood,” lecture delivered at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Savar, Dhaka, for 79th BCS Foundation Training Course Participants, 5 March.



Hossain, M.P. (2026), “Getting Started in Legal Research: Topics and Research Questions,” lecture delivered at 1st NILS Legal Research School 2026, The Network for International Law Students in Bangladesh, 6 March.

Mashraf, A. (2026), “Referencing & Citation in Legal Research,” lecture delivered at 1st NILS Legal Research School 2026, Network for International Law Students, Bangladesh Chapter, Dhaka, 15 March.

Mashraf, A. (2026), “Oral Advocacy and the Art of Answering Questions in Mooting”, 11th Workshop on Mooting and Advocacy Skills, Department of Law, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 6 February.

Khan, M. M. H. (2026) “Data Management: A Key Area in Public Health,” Seminar on Public Health Data Management, Department of Social Relations, East West University, Bangladesh, 18 January.

Sultana, M. Z. (2026) “Colorectal Cancer: A Growing Public Health Concern in Bangladesh,” seminar on Colorectal Cancer in Bangladesh, Department of Social Relations, East West University, Bangladesh, 29 January.

Kabir, R. (2026), “Social Etiquette,” Seminar presentation, Department of Social Relations, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29 January.

Khan, M. M. H., Sultana, M. Z. (2026), “Health Promotion in East West University: Prospects and Challenges” Research Seminar, Department of Social Relations, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26 February.

Mannan, F. (2025), “Feminist Research Methods,” workshop conducted at Liberation War Museum, Sher-E-Banglanagar, Dhaka for Fourth Research Methods Training Course, 22 November.

Jahan, A. (2026), “Professional Development Training” under HEAT Project, UGC, Bangladesh Open University (BOU), Gazipur, 15 January.

Ullah A.B (2026), “Predictive Cyber Threat Intelligence for Modern Digital Ecosystems,” Brownbag Seminar Series, East West University, Bangladesh, 18 January.

Parvez Karim Abbasi, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics spoke as a special designated expert discussant in the “Global Trends 2026” Roundtable organized by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) on evolving geopolitical and geoeconomic trends on 27 January.

Mr. Abbasi also spoke as a panelist in National Roundtable Policy Dialogue organized by Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at the CIRDAP on the following topics:

1. “Political Parties, Human Rights, and Freedom of Expression” on 10 January.
2. “Independence of the Judiciary and Rule of Law” on 19 January.
3. “Transparency, Accountability, and Governance Mechanisms” on 24 January.
4. “Foreign Policy for a new Bangladesh” on 28 January.

East West University was featured in an article titled “Hands-on leadership: How EWU prepares students for the real world.” The article was published in *The Daily Star* on 22nd January 2026. The feature is attached below:

Hands-on leadership: How EWU prepares students for the real world



In today’s fast-paced world, relying solely on academic knowledge gained in the classroom can be limiting and even counterproductive, as it does not foster the leadership skills that are increasingly in demand for today’s competitive job market. Recognising this crucial reality, East West University (EWU) emphasises the development of dynamic leadership among its students. The university facilitates this through a range of club activities and active faculty-student collaboration. Such on-campus opportunities are essential for preparing students to become capable leaders in an era of rapid technological advancement.

One of the most accessible ways for students to develop leadership skills on campus is by joining a club. East West University currently hosts twenty-three clubs, including the Business Club, Debating Club, Science Club, Sports Club, Economics Club, and many others. These clubs, guided by faculty members, provide platforms for students to explore interests beyond the classroom, engage in extra-curricular activities, and develop interpersonal and communication skills.

Reflecting on his transformative journey, G M Rabby, the current President of the East West University Business Club (EWUBC), shares, “I began my journey at the Business Club as a shy probationary member, eager to learn. Gradually, through small tasks and organising workshops, competitions, and seminars, I developed leadership, initiative, and confidence. Over time, I earned the trust of my seniors and accepted the responsibility to guide newcomers, oversee projects, and represent the club on larger stages. Now, as President, I apply these skills both within the club and in my career in the corporate world. I feel proud that I chose to join EWUBC – it has undeniably helped me advance faster toward my goals.”

Similarly, Nabila Shahabazee, President of the East West University Debating Club, emphasises the personal development she gained through club activities. She says, “Working for the club and presiding as its President, I have attained a plethora of soft skills, from conflict negotiation to event management. I have become a better listener, and I consider others’ perspectives when making decisions and act with emotional intelligence. Organising events has required me to manage logistics, resolve conflicts, and coordinate diverse teams. All these experiences have solidified my leadership qualities.”

Leadership development at EWU, however, is not limited to club activities. Students can also cultivate these skills through academic pursuits. Sadia Adnin, from the Department of Pharmacy, recounts how encouragement from faculty members enabled her to undertake a cross-departmental research project. She explains, “Collaborating with faculty members from both the Department of Pharmacy and the Department of Mathematics and Physical Sciences allowed me to explore advanced nanoparticle research beyond my major. The freedom my supervisors gave me to think independently and lead each stage of the project greatly boosted my confidence. This supportive academic environment helped me grow as a young researcher, strengthened my leadership skills, and motivated me as we prepared our work for publication.”

Sourav Sarker, from the Department of Civil Engineering, similarly highlights how academic collaboration shaped his leadership development. He states, “Working with my faculty mentor and EWUCRT—The Center for Research and Training, East West University—turned my interest in environmental sustainability into meaningful, hands-on research. I gained exposure to everything, from fieldwork to data analysis and manuscript preparation. Through their guidance, I developed confidence in my own academic voice, strengthened my technical and critical-thinking abilities, and learned to take ownership of complex tasks. This collaboration helped me grow into a more capable and accountable leader, enhancing my decision-making, communication, and teamwork skills.”

These student experiences illustrate how an engaging campus life and active faculty member involvement foster confidence, promote critical thinking, and nurture leadership qualities. Emphasising this institutional commitment, Professor Dr Shams Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of East West University, stated, “Our goal is to provide a transformative education that balances academic excellence with real-world leadership. By empowering students to take ownership of their learning journeys, we ensure they graduate not merely as degree holders, but as visionary leaders prepared to contribute meaningfully to society.”

Whether through club participation or academic collaboration, East West University remains firmly committed to the holistic development of its students.

Ms. Afrin Sultana, Senior Assistant Librarian wrote an article titled “তরুণ পাঠক, গ্রন্থাগার ও জাতীয় গ্রন্থাগার দিবস, in *The Daily Desh Shamachar* on 29 January 2026.

Ms. Shaharima Parvin, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Md Arshad Shahriar, Lecturer, Department of English, have written an Op-Ed “Flipped classroom: beyond the lecture” published in the *New Age* on March 12, 2026.

Dr. Anisur Rahman Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology has written an Op-Ed titled “বৈশ্বিক প্রেক্ষাপটে বাংলাদেশের নতুন সরকার ভূ-রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং উত্তরণের পথ” published in the দৈনিক বাংলাদেশের আলো on 30 March 2026.

Mr. Ishtiaq Mohammad Fakhruddin, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology has written a piece titled “When contracts protect profits but not workers,” published in the *People’s World* (A US-based News Platform) on February 27, 2026.

Mr. Fakhruddin has written another piece titled “Charity or entitlement? Why Bangladesh needs rights-based welfare schemes,” published in the *Dhaka Stream* on March 29, 2026.

Mr. Shaikh Mirazur Rahman, Lecturer, Department of Law has published an article titled, “Reframing the debate on polygamy laws” in the *Daily Star’s* Law and Our Rights Section on 30 January 2026.

Mr. Parvez Karim Abbasi, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics received significant international media coverage during Bangladesh’s 2026 election period through interviews, quotations,

and expert analysis featured in major global news outlets. He was interviewed and quoted in the Reuters Special Election Coverage report, “Bangladesh votes in world’s first Gen Z-inspired election,” published on February 9, 2026. He was also quoted in the Firstpost FP Explainers report, “Can Bangladesh’s Islamists lead the nation?” published on February 11, 2026. On February 12, 2026, he was interviewed by Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (SRF), the public broadcasting service for German-speaking Switzerland, for its special programme, “Following the Fall of Sheikh Hasina: Bangladesh Elects a New Parliament”(Nach Fall von Sheikh Hasina: Bangladesch wählt neues Parlament). On the same date, Parvez Karim Abbasi was interviewed and extensively quoted in Le Monde’s special election coverage report, “In Bangladesh, Generation Z Goes to the Polls”(Au Bangladesh, la génération Z aux urnes). Mr. Abbasi wrote long form special article on the New Age, titled “Gen Z revolution in retrospect” published on January 28, 2026. He also wrote a special article in কালের কণ্ঠ (kalerkantho) on the global and regional impact of the Middle East War titled “বৈশ্বিক জ্বালানিসংকট ১৯৭৩ সালের চেয়েও ভয়াবহ হতে পারে” published on March 29, 2026. Mr. Abbasi was invited as a special expert analyst during the Live 24 hour Special Election Coverage in Channel I and several multiple appearances on talk shows in ATN News, ATN Bangla, Channel 9, Desh TV, Channel 24, NTV, RTV, Face the People, DBC News, BanglaVision, notably the two of the largest Talk shows programs in Bangladesh, Tiritiyo Matra and Ajker Sangbadpatra from the period of January –March 2026. He was also interviewed multiple times on Foreign Policy, International Relations and Geopolitics related issues by Ekattor TV News, Desh TV News, Channel 24, Channel i News.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

PUBLICATION REWARD



Dr. Mohammad Salah Uddin, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, has received the Publication Reward for his article titled “Analyzing and Predicting Student Performance in Discrete Mathematics Using Supervised Learning Algorithms,” published in Q1 Journal: *Computer Applications in Engineering Education*, ISSN:1061-3773 volume 33, issue 6. The article was published on 24 Nov. 2025.



Dr. Anisur Rahman Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, has received the Publication Reward for his article titled “Social factors associated with rural male suicide in Bangladesh,” published in Q1 journal *Mortality*, ISSN 1357-6275. The article was published on 9 Dec. 2025.



Dr. Mohammad Manzurul Islam, Assistant Professor Department of Computer Science and Engineering, has received the Publication Reward for his article titled “A two-stage model for enhanced mango leaf disease detection using an innovative handcrafted spatial feature extraction method and knowledge distillation process,” published in Q1 Journal *Ecological Informatics*, volume 91, ISSN:1574-9541, The article was published on 16 Aug. 2025.



Dr. Md. Sanaul Haque Mondal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Relations, has received the Publication Reward for his article titled “Socioeconomic determinants of acid attacks against women in Bangladesh,” published in Q1 journal *Burns*, volume 51, issue 9, ISSN 03054179, The article was published on 30 Oct. 2025.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Md. Hasinul Elahi, Senior Lecturer, Mr. Abdur Rahaman Sumon, Senior Lecturer, Ms. Rumana Rahman, Senior Lecturer and Mr. Ashik Rayhan, Lecturer, Department of Information Studies (DIS) have been awarded the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Faculty Fellowship Award-2026, recognizing their commitment to advancing media and information literacy education and practice. The MIL Faculty Fellowship Award-2026 is funded by the UNESCO Dhaka Office under the UN Ballot Project. This achievement highlights the growing role of DIS faculty members in promoting MIL and empowering students to become informed, critical, and responsible users of information in the digital age.



Ms. Nishat Tasnim, Lecturer, Department of CSE has been honored with the Dean's Merit Award from Jahangirnagar University for her outstanding academic performance in the B.Sc. Honors Examination of 2021. The award was formally presented on 2nd February 2026 at a ceremony held at the Zahir Raihan Auditorium, where the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan, attended as the chief guest and conferred the awards to the meritorious recipients. The recognition was part of a broader event in which 73 top-performing students from various departments and institutes were acknowledged for their academic excellence, marking a significant milestone in her academic journey.



Mr. Imran Jahan Digonto, Lecturer, Department of English, was awarded the Academic Excellence Award in the Graduate Program - Top Achievers Award at the 26th Convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh, in recognition of attaining a perfect CGPA of 4.00 out of 4.00 in the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching (ELT) program.



A recent publication of Ms. Nabila Farhin and Ms. Nadia Rahaman, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law titled “Silent Stitches: Addressing GBV in RMG Industries of Bangladesh and India” featured as part of the edited volume “Gender-Based Violence and Religion: Reinforcing Rights and Clarifying the International Framework” has been made available on Taylor & Francis and has also been indexed in the United Nations Library & Archives Geneva, reflecting its scholarly and global relevance.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Md. Pizuar Hossain, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Law, was awarded a Travel Bursary as one of seven recipients to attend the 4th Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences (HASS) & Indigenous Research Data Commons Summer School 2026. The event was held at Federation University's SMB Campus, Ballarat (Melbourne, Australia) from 3–4 February 2026.



RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Professor Dr. Dilara Begum, Chairperson of the Department of Information Studies has been formally invited to serve as an Editorial Board member of the COLLNET Journal of Scientometrics and Information Management (CJSIM). The journal is published by TARU Publications and chief forum of COLLNET, a global interdisciplinary research network focused on 'Collaboration in Science and Technology'. She has also been formally invited to serve as an Editorial Board member of the LPF Global Journal of Social Sciences and Management. In addition Dr. Begum has been nominated as an Expert Trainer to provide training to university faculty members on Media and Information Literacy (MIL). The nomination follows her active role in facilitating a two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program on MIL. The ToT program brought together 29 faculty members from 15 leading public and private universities across the country. Professor Dr. Dilara covered key themes such as information sources, verification of information sources, MIL competencies, misinformation, ethical online behavior, and responsible use of social media.

Dr. Zubaer Ibna Mannan, Assistant Professor of the Department of CSE, has joined as a foreign collaborator in a National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) project (2026–2029) titled "Deep Learning-based Highly Precise Detection of Weeds and Development of Robust and Precision Weeding Technologies." In this project, he will work on developing deep neural network models for precision agriculture, aiming to enable accurate weed detection, minimize herbicide usage, and enhance overall crop productivity.

Mr. Riad Mahmud, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law, has joined the International Think Tank Poliscopes as an Editor overseeing research on International Laws on International Organisation. Additionally, he has been appointed as the Director of Finance at the Bangladesh Centre for Refugee Law (BCRLS) to foster research on International Law on Refugees and Migrants.



Mr. Mahmud, also judged at the Dhaka University Inter Year Moot Court Competition, assessing oral submissions in preliminary and quarterfinals, focusing on legal reasoning, sources, and advocacy. In February, he judged the inaugural Intra-Year Moot Court Competition 2026, organized by the Dhaka University Moot Court Society and Faculty of Law.

Ms. Nadia Rahaman, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law has been appointed as the Regional Expert for Bangladesh at the Global Advisory Council of Constitution Watchdog, marking a significant recognition of her expertise in constitutional law and governance. In this role, she will contribute to regional and global dialogues on constitutional developments, rule of law, and democratic accountability, bringing valuable insights from the Bangladeshi legal context.

Ms. Rahaman, also served as an adjudicator at the inter-year competition organized by the Dhaka University Moot Court Society on 3 January 2026.

Ms. Rahaman acted as a judge in several international friendly and national rounds involving teams from Russia (4 February 2026), Nigeria (30–31 January 2026), the Caribbean (17 February 2026), and Latin America (19 February 2026). These rounds replicated competitive mooted environments and fostered cross-jurisdictional academic exchange. Her role included assessing advocacy techniques, comparative legal reasoning, and argumentation strategies, while delivering feedback responsive to diverse legal traditions and educational backgrounds.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

(CONTINUED)

Ms. Nabila Farhin, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law has been appointed as the Director of Programs at the Bangladesh Center for Refugee Law (BCRLS). Moreover, she has also been appointed as the Office Secretary of the Chittagong University LLM Association for 2026.

Mr. Ali Mashraf, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law judged the memorials (written submission) and the oral rounds of the 14th Dhaka University Moot Court Society Annual Moot Court Competition 2026. The competition case focused on state liability under constitutional and tort laws for accidents in construction sites. Mr. Mashraf served as a Reviewer for *Frontiers in Political Science: A SCOPUS-indexed Q1 journal* (March 2026), *Asian Journal of Law and Policy* (March 2026), and *North South University Law Review* (January 2026).

Mr. Riad Mahmud, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, judged at the Dhaka University Inter Year Moot Court Competition, assessing oral submissions in preliminary and quarterfinals, focusing on legal reasoning, sources, and advocacy. In February, he judged the inaugural Intra-Year Moot Court Competition 2026, organized by the Dhaka University Moot Court Society and Faculty of Law.

Ms. Proma Chowdhury, Lecturer, Department of CSE has contributed to the national artificial intelligence community by serving as a judge at the National AI Build-A-Thon 2026 organized by MillionX Bangladesh and as a problem setter for the Bangladesh AI Olympiad 2026. Through these roles, she has been actively involved in evaluating innovative AI solutions, designing competitive problem statements, and supporting the growth of AI talent across the country, reflecting her commitment to advancing AI education and fostering innovation among emerging learners.

Ms. Puja Chakraborty, Senior Lecturer in the Department of CSE has joined the Erasmus Mundus Association – Bangladesh (Erasmus Mundus Association – Bangladesh) as the Deputy Coordinator of Outreach and Public Relationships. In this role, she is responsible for strengthening the organization's external engagement and visibility by contributing to the development of strategic partnerships, coordinating communication initiatives, and promoting EMA-BD's activities among students, alumni, and relevant stakeholders. She also actively supports the planning and execution of outreach programs aimed at increasing awareness of Erasmus Mundus opportunities and fostering a well-connected academic and professional community.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

East West University team “Virtual Vigilantes,” advanced to the Semi-Finals of the 3rd NILS Bangladesh National Legal Debate Championship (NNLDC) 2026 consisting of Mahamudul Hasan Maruf, Jerin Tasnim, and Jannatul Ferdous Othoi, students of LLB 3rd Semester. Another EWU team, “Verdict Vault,” also reached the Semi-Finals. Team members consisted of Md. Salmun Alam, Abdur Rahman Jobair, and Shagufta Chowdhury Adrita. The competition was held on January 30, 2026, and brought together law students from across Bangladesh.



Shagufta Chowdhury Adrita, a 9th Semester Student at the Department of Law, EWU, won the Best Speaker Award at the 3rd NILS Bangladesh National Legal Debate Championship (NNLDC) 2026.



The team from the Department of Law successfully advanced to the Semi-Finals, securing a position among the top four teams in the 2nd Bangladesh Qualifying Rounds of the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition 2025–2026 held on February 5–7, 2026, at the Independent University Bangladesh co-organized by Independent University and Hearth Bangladesh. The team

comprised Saima Haque (First Oralist), Israt Jahan Sadia (Second Oralist), and Mahidul Hasan (Researcher).

Students from the Department of Law, East West University have been featured in the 'Law and Our Rights' page of *The Daily Star* on (Monday, 24 February 2026). The students organised a series of sessions with street children under the “Street Law” programme conducted through the East West University Law Clinic.



Anosua Islam Aurthy, an alumnus of the Department of Information Studies, East West University has joined as an Adjunct Faculty at East West University. Ms. Aurthy completed her undergraduate degree from the Department of Information Studies, East West University and her Post-graduate degree from the Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka. Prior to this, she worked as a Volunteer at the UNESCO Dhaka Office and Assistant Program Coordinator for “Building a Strong Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Network” at UNESCO Dhaka Office. Her journey from being a student of the department to a faculty member is inspiring for the current students.

Team MATIPLUS from East West University championed the Hult Prize Qualifier hosted by Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, with an innovative sludge-based fertilizer, outperforming 100 teams to reach the national round. Led by Md. Sadik Jamal Kowshik, CEO of MATIPLUS from the Civil Engineering Department, and Raisa Jahan Binti, CFO from the

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

(CONTINUED)

Business Administration Department, their solution advances SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by improving soil health and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through waste-to-value engineering. Furthermore, the project supports SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by tackling industrial waste management. This victory positions the team for a chance at \$1 million in global seed funding, proving that student-led innovation can effectively transform environmental hazards into sustainable economic resources.



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