

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

## SDG Activity Report 2023

### SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is dedicated to fostering transparent, inclusive, and accountable governance in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16. AIUB actively collaborates with various stakeholders, ensuring that their voices are heard and integrated into the university's strategic planning.

AIUB adheres to robust anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies, ensuring transparency and fairness in all operations. The university practices academic freedom which includes the freedom of teaching, research, and public discourse for both senior and junior academics.

In terms of public service, AIUB provides expert advice to local, regional, and national governments, offering policy guidance, conducting collaborative research, and engaging in initiatives that address societal challenges such as migration, climate change, and economic development. Moreover, AIUB creates neutral platforms where diverse political stakeholders can come together to discuss pressing issues, fostering dialogue and cooperation. Through these initiatives, AIUB is contributing to building peaceful, and inclusive institutions that support the broader goals of SDG-16.

#AIUB #SDG16 #PeaceAndJustice #GoodGovernance #AcademicFreedom #Transparency

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# University Activities towards SDG 16

## AIUB at the 11th Justice P.N. Bhagwati International Moot Court Competition 2023

The American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) Moot Court Team proudly participated in the 11th Justice P.N. Bhagwati International Moot Court Competition on Human Rights, held from March 25th to 26th, 2023. This prestigious event brought together 14 national teams from India and 16 international teams from around the world, including our distinguished representatives from AIUB. The competition was graciously organized by Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) New Law College, Pune.

AIUB's Moot Court Team consisted of three students from the Department of Law, namely- Khan MD. Lamim Ebny Habib, Debashis, and Shehrin Kamal. Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer in Law at the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) guided and coached the team. At the conclusion of this remarkable competition on March 26, 2023, the AIUB team was honoured to receive a certificate of appreciation and a participation award during the grand award-giving ceremony.

The competition was inaugurated with the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Guest. The event was graced by the honourable presence of Prof. Dr. Shivajirao Kadam, Chairperson & Chancellor of Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune, and Dr. Ujwala Bendale, Dean & In-Charge Principal of BVDU New Law College, Pune, on March 25, 2023. During the Valedictory Ceremony, the distinguished presence of Justice C.T. Ravikumar, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chief Guest, added further prestige to the occasion. The Guests of Honour included Hon'ble Ms. Justice Mary Joseph, Judge of the Kerala High Court, Hon'ble Dr. Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain of the Delhi High Court, Hon'ble Dr. Justice Neela Kedar Gokhale, Judge of the Bombay High Court, and Hon'ble Dr. Vishwajeet Kadam, Secretary of Bharati Vidyapeeth & Pro Vice-Chancellor.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-at-the-11th-justice-pn-bhagwati-international-moot-court-competition-2023-1>



## Law Students Visited District and Sessions Judge Court, Narsingdi

The AIUB Department of Law organized a court visit to the Narsingdi District and Sessions Judge Court on February 23, 2023, so that the students can learn more about the real-life practices of “Trial Procedure of Civil & Criminal Courts”. A group of 50 AIUB law students and faculty members departed from the university at 7:30 am in the morning and arrived at the Narsingdi Judge Court at approximately 9:30 am.

On behalf of the Narsingdi Judgeship, Ms. Nusrat Jahan, Assistant Judge, Narsingdi, greeted the AIUB law students. The conference room of the Narsingdi Judge Court served as the location for the briefing. The students were welcomed and briefly introduced to the Narsingdi Judgeship by Mr. Mostaque Ahmed, Honorable District and Sessions Judge, Narsingdi. He emphasized the need to understand the nation's procedural laws. Following the briefing, Mr. Mahmudul Hasan Khan, Senior Judicial Magistrate, and Ms. Nusrat Jahan, Assistant Judges in Narsingdi, provided lectures on the jurisdiction of the criminal courts and the organization of the civil courts, respectively. The Honorable District and Session Judge responded to students’ academic, legal, and practical inquiries. Judge Meherun Nessa of the Nari O Sishu Nirjatan Daman Tribunal, Chief Judicial Magistrate Mollah Saiful Alam, Shamima Parvin, Judge of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court 1, Effat Mubina Yusuf, Judge of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court 2, and A N M Ilias Judge of the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court 3, were also in the meeting. Students were afterward divided into 10 groups and brought to various civil and criminal courtrooms. Students had the chance to watch and learn about case filing, trial proceedings, witness cross-examination, commission, and other topics in a real-world setting.

After the courtroom experience, there was a QA session for the students. A N M Ilias, Additional District and Sessions Judge (Court-03) headed this session. The visit concluded with a group photo with the honorable judges of the Narsingdi District and Sessions Judge Court. Overall, the study tour was incredibly relevant, instructive, helpful, and beneficial for AIUB Law students.

<https://www.aiub.edu/law-students-visited-district-and-sessions-judge-court-narsingdi>



## Fresher's Reception and Cultural Program Organized by the Department of Law

The Department of Law of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has organized a fresher's reception and cultural program for the fall semester on 18 October 2023 at the Multipurpose Hall, D Building. The event was divided into two segments. The fresher's reception was followed by the cultural program.

The event was inaugurated by the honorable Adviser of the Department of Law, Dr. Taslima Monsoor. Afterwards, the honorable Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dr. Tazul Islam delivered the welcome speech. Both of them congratulated the freshers on their getting selected for the law department and also encouraged them to work hard in their upcoming academic journey. Thereafter, the students of both the LLB and LLM programs were received with flowers. Ms. Ferdousi Begum, Mr. Quazi Omar Foysal and Mr. Sadman Rizwan Apurbo from the Department of Law coordinated the event. The vote of thanks was delivered by the esteemed Head of the Department of Law, Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerin.

The second segment of the event was a vibrant display of cultural performances by the students. The performances included music, dance and poem recitation. The cultural program offered the students a break from the usual monotony of academic activities and presented an opportunity to showcase their talents in music and arts.

<https://www.aiub.edu/freshers-reception-and-cultural-program-organized-by-the-department-of-law>





## Court Visit of LLB Students

The AIUB Department of Law organized a court visit to the Narsingdi District and Sessions Judge Court on March 22, 2023, so that the students can learn more about the real-life practices of “Trial Procedure of Civil & Criminal Courts”. A group of 50 AIUB law students from 2nd semester along with faculty members (Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerin, Dr. Mohammad Abu Taher and Mr. Quazi Omar Foysal) departed from the university at 8:30 am in the morning and arrived at the Narsingdi Judge Court at approximately 10:30 am.

On behalf of the Narsingdi Judgeship, Ms. Sharmin Akter Pinky, Mr. Mahedi Hasan, Senior Judicial Magistrates, and Mr. Md. Raqibul Huq, Judicial Magistrate greeted the AIUB law students. The students were welcomed and briefly introduced to other judges of Narsingdi Judgeship. They emphasized the need to understand the nation's procedural laws. Following the briefing, Mr. Mahedi Hasan Senior Judicial Magistrate provided lectures on the jurisdiction of the criminal courts as well as the organization of the civil courts. Students were afterward divided into various groups and brought to various civil and criminal courtrooms. Students had the chance to watch and learn about case filing, trial proceedings, witness cross-examination, commission, and other topics in a real-world setting.

In the afternoon, after the courtroom experience, students had the opportunity to observe the disposal of the drugs where Judicial Magistrate Mr. Md. Raqibul Huq was present. There was a Q&A session for the students. Mr. Md. Raqibul Huq has tried to reply to students' queries. The court visit concluded with a group photo with the honorable judges of the Narsingdi District and Sessions Judge Court. Overall, the study tour was extremely relevant, instructive, and beneficial for AIUB Law students.

<https://www.aiub.edu/court-visit-of-llb-students>



## Court Visit of LLB Students (Summer 2022-2023)

The AIUB Department of Law organized a court visit to the Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge Court on July 30, 2023, so that the students can learn more about the real-life practices of “Trial Procedure of Civil & Criminal Courts”. A group of 24 AIUB law students from the 12th semester and a faculty member (Dr. Mohammad Abu Taher) departed from the university at 8:30 am in the morning and arrived at the Narayanganj Judge Court at approximately 10:45 am.

On behalf of the Narayanganj Judgeship, Mr. Md. Imran Molla, Ms. Monalisa Sony, and Mr. Shamsur Rahman Insan, Senior Judicial Magistrates greeted the AIUB law students. The students were welcomed and briefly introduced to other judges of Narayanganj Judgeship. They emphasized the need to understand the nation's procedural laws. Following the briefing, Mr. Md. Imran Molla, Senior Judicial Magistrate, provided lectures on the jurisdiction of the criminal courts as well as the organization of the civil courts. Students were afterward divided into various groups and brought to various civil and criminal courtrooms. Students had the chance to observe and learn about case filing, trial proceedings, witness cross-examination, commission, and other topics in a real-world setting.

In the afternoon, after the courtroom experience, students had the opportunity to visit the record room and the police custody room. Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman, Court Police Inspector of G.R. branch welcomed the students and briefed the students regarding police custody, record room, and so on. Then, students got the opportunity to observe the disposal of the court's old and obsolete records/documents as well as the disposal of drugs where Senior Judicial Magistrates Mr. Md. Kawser Alam, Mr. Md. Imran Molla, and Mr. Shamsur Insan were present. Subsequently, students met with the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Mr. Md. Badiuzzaman in his chamber and there was a Q&A session for the students. Mr. Zaman replied to the student's queries and provided them with guidelines and motivations regarding their career in the law field. The court visit concluded with a group photo with the honorable judges of the Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge Court. Overall, the court visit was extremely relevant, instructive, and beneficial for AIUB Law students.

<https://www.aiub.edu/court-visit-of-llb-students-summer-2022-2023>





## Meet and Greet with Law Students

The Department of Law, AIUB organized an interactive session entitled 'Meet and Greet,' to welcome the first batch of LLM Freshman Students of the Spring 2022-2023 Semester on Tuesday, 21 March 2023, held at the AIUB Multi-purpose Hall, Annex 7. The program was attended by the LLM Freshman students, LLB (Hons) students, faculty members, Prof. Dr. Taslima Monsoor, Adviser, Law Department, and Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The program was coordinated and facilitated by Dr. Sayeda Afroza Zerin, Dr. Mohammad Abu Taher, and Mr. Quazi Omar Foysal. Mr. Riasat Azmi, the faculty member of the Law Department anchored the program.

The session commenced with the welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Taslima Monsoor, Advisor, Dept. of Law, followed by speech as Chief Guest by Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences .

Mr. Adiul Islam, the first AIUB alumnus received a token of appreciation from Professor Dr. Taslima Monsoor for being enrolled as an Advocate in the Bangladesh Bar Council.

The session was further carried out by Mr. Ahsan Habib, who distributed the certificates to the award winner and members of moot court society. The session then ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerin, Associate Professor of the Dept. of Law.

<https://www.aiub.edu/meet-and-greet-with-law-students>



## Webinar on Bar Council Enrolment Organized by the Department of Law

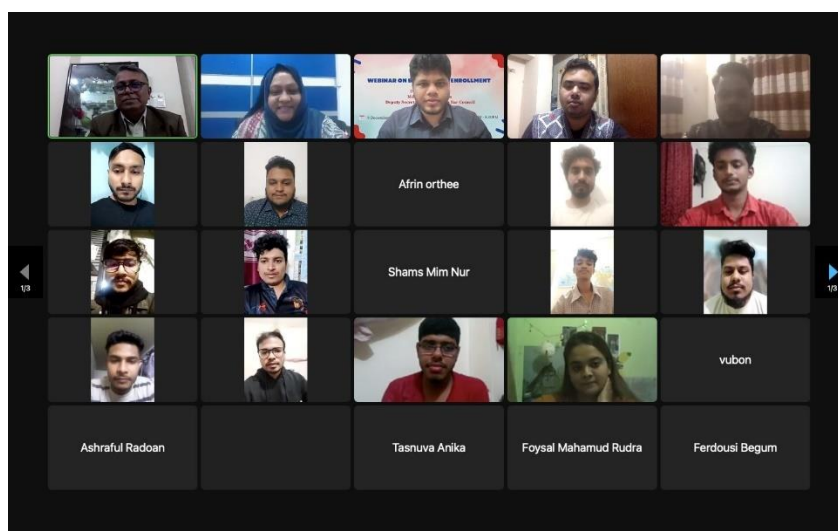
The Department of Law, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has organized an event entitled 'Webinar on Bar Council Enrollment' on Saturday, 9th December, at 6:30 pm in zoom platform. The chief guest of the event was the Honorable Pro-Vice - Chancellor of AIUB, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman. Additionally, Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, the Honorable Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Prof. Dr. Taslima Monsoor, Adviser, Department of Law was designated as special guests.

The chief guest Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman emphasised the importance of arranging such type of event for the law students. He further mentioned that the expertise and experience of the speaker will immensely help our students in understanding the enrollment process of the Bar Council. The special guest, Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam started his speech by giving thanks to the Department of Law for taking such initiative and expressed his desire to see more such programs in the future.

The distinguished speaker of the webinar was Mr. Md. Afzal Ur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Bangladesh Bar Council. In his speech, he focused on the process of the bar council enrollment and eloquently explained the different aspect of the advocateship exam. The speech was followed by a question answer session in which the students took an active part and made the event vibrant and successful. At the end of the program, Dr. Syeda Afroza zerin, Head of the Department of Law delivered the vote of thanks.

The webinar was anchored by Sadman Rizwan Apurbo, Lecturer, Department of Law. Moreover, the webinar was organized by Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerine, Quazi Omar Foysal and Ahasan Habib, the faculty members of the Department of Law.

<https://www.aiub.edu/webinar-on-bar-council-enrolment-organized-by-the-department-of-law>



## 4th Jessup Workshop, 2023

The 4th Jessup Workshop titled “May it please the Court: Unveiling the art of Jessup Mooting”, was held on September 28-29, 2023, at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. This workshop was organized by Jessup Bangladesh in collaboration with Hearth Bangladesh, International Law Students Association (ILSA), and University of Dhaka. The workshop welcomed participants from 36 public and private universities across Bangladesh and aimed to provide valuable insights into the art of mootng, particularly for those interested in participating in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

A team of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has participated in this event. The AIUB team included Sanjida Sohana, Khan Md Lamim Ebny Habib, Animesh Sutradhar, Shams Mim Nur and Maliha Gulrukh Muzib Rimjhim, along with their respected Coach, Sadman Rizwan Apurbo. The workshop commenced with opening remarks from distinguished guest including Md. Al Ifran Hossain Mollah, National Administrator, Jessup Bangladesh; Porob Naser Siddique, Executive Director, Hearth Bangladesh; Prof. Nazmuzzaman Bhuian, PhD, Moderator, Dhaka University Moot Court Society; Garth Backe, Resident Legal Advisor, US Embassy, Dhaka and Prof. Md. Nazrul Islam, PhD, Chairman, Department of Law, University of Dhaka. Additionally, the workshop was graced by the virtual presence of the 2023 Global Memorial Award Winner from Harvard Law School and the Champion from Amsterdam Law School.

The 4th Jessup Workshop was a two-day intensive training program for law students interested in participating in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. This workshop aims to raise the bar of the Bangladesh Qualifying Round and envisions to elevate the performance of the representing teams in the International Round of the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Competition, 2024, and in general targets to hone the advocacy skills of the participating students. The Closing Ceremony of the event was graced by the presence of Justice Borhanuddin, Honorable Judge, Appellate Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Justice Zafar Ahmed, Honorable Judge, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh. They were joined by Prof. Shima Zaman PhD, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka; A B M Hamidul Mishbah, Managing Partner, OLD BAILEY Chambers; Kazi Zahin Hasan, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Bangladesh IP Forum; Nuran Choudhury, National Coordinator, ILSA Chapters, Bangladesh and Washik Md. Istiaq Ezaz, National Administrator, Jessup Bangladesh. <https://www.aiub.edu/4th-jessup-workshop-2023>



## 4th Intra-Department Moot Court Competition 2023 by AIUB Moot Court Club

AIUB Moot Court Club, American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) recently organized the 4th Intra-Department Moot Court Competition 2023, held from 2nd to 5th August 2023. Each moot court team consisted of 3 members (2 mooters and 1 researcher) and a total of 19 teams from the Department registered and participated in this year's competition. 35 students from 2nd and 3rd semester were also assigned to the teams as intern researchers. The competition was coordinated and facilitated by Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer, Department of Law as a part of the student development initiative for law students. The competition began on 2nd August through an Opening Ceremony where Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), AIUB inaugurated the competition and Dr. A. B. M. Rahmatullah, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), AIUB gave his welcome speech. Afterwards, Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer and Moderator of AIUB Moot Court Club discussed various aspects and significance of moot competition for the law students and the Ceremony ended with the Vote of Thanks of Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerine, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Law, AIUB. On 3rd August, law academicians, practitioners and faculty members from various universities contributed as the Moot Court Judges of the preliminary, quarter-final and semi-final rounds. The Final Round of the Competition took place on 5th August 2023 and the judges of the final round were Mr. Justice Zafar Ahmed, Honourable Justice, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mohammad Sayed Ahmed (Raza), Senior Advocate and Member, Bangladesh Bar Council and Dr. Jamila A Chowdhury, Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka.

In the Valedictory Ceremony, Justice Zafar Ahmed, as the chief guest of the competition, shed light on the importance of moot competition in court practice and appreciated the efforts of the competitors and encouraged them to gain more knowledge for making their arguments more persuasive. The Ceremony started with the opening remarks of Professor Dr. Taslima Monsoor, Adviser, Department of Law, AIUB where Mr. Sadman Rizwan Apurbo, Lecturer, Department of Law anchored the ceremony. At the end, Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Professor and Pro-Vice Chancellor of American International University – Bangladesh gave vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to the judges of the final rounds for taking their time and visiting the university. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers, judges of the competition, guests, and the AIUB Moot Court Club for making the competition successful and concluded the event with a promise to host an Inter-University Moot Court Competition in the future. After two days of intense mooting, the team comprising Khan Md Lamim Ebny Habib, Tasnuva Tabassum Eshara and Sheikh Naser emerged as champion and Animesh Sutradhar, Debashis and Atia Afrin Epty as a team became runner-up of the prestigious event. A team comprising of Md. Hossain Ahamed, Nurnahar Akter Sathi and Sanjida Binte Shamsuddin got the 'Best Memorial' award for submitting the best written submission of the competition. For excelling in the researchers' test held on 5th August 2023, Nurnahar Akter Sathi earned the badge of the 'Best Researcher' where two mooters namely S. M. Salman and Farhan Kabir bagged the 'Best Mooter Award' for their excellent performance throughout the competition.

<https://www.aiub.edu/4th-intra-department-moot-court-competition-2023-by-aiub-moot-court-club>



## AIUB at the 7th Bangladesh Qualifying Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2023

The American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) Moot Court Team clinched the 9th position in the 7th Bangladesh Qualifying Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2023. This year, Bangladesh hosted the 3rd largest national round in the world with the participation of 32 universities competing directly and eight universities attending with observer status. The 7th Bangladesh National Round 2023 was organized by Jessup Bangladesh in Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) on 9-11th February 2023, in association with the International Law Students Association (ILSA), Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training under the US Department of Justice.

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the largest, most prestigious, and one of the oldest moot court competitions in the world, with participation from around 700 universities from over 100 countries. The competitors have to argue on fictitious legal disputes existing between the countries before the International Court of Justice. The tournament helps aspiring lawyers develop their oral, research, and presentation skills, which are instrumental for their overall advocacy skills.

For the National Round, AIUB Team was comprised of three students from the Department of Law, AIUB, namely – Sanjida Sohana, Shamsu Tanvi Sonet Zim and Animesh Sutradhar. After two days of intense mooting, the team won three (3) out of four (4) preliminary rounds and was ranked 9th in the overall team ranking out of 32 participating teams from different public and private universities around the country. Further, first oralist Sanjida Sohana ranked 8th and second oralist Shamsu Tanvi Sonet Zim ranked 24th out of 64 Oralists in the Final Oralists Ranking of the competition.

In the inaugural ceremony of the event, Mr. Anisul Huq MP, Hon'ble Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, graced as the Chief Guest, and His Excellency Mr. Peter D Haas, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, was present as the Guest of Honor.

Justice Naima Haider, Honorable Justice, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, was present as the Chief Guest in the closing ceremony of the competition and highly appreciated the Jessup Bangladesh for organizing moot court competitions like Jessup. Honorable Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and the Attorney General for Bangladesh, Senior Advocate AM Amin Uddin, graced the closing event as special guests.

Furthermore, Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer in Law, American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) has worked as Coordinator in this year's National Qualifying Round of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2023.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-at-the-7th-bangladesh-qualifying-rounds-of-the-philip-c-jessup-international-law-moot-court-competition-2023>



## Shadhinotar Joygan 3.0

On the occasion of 53 glorious years of Sovereignty of Bangladesh, the AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) celebrated the Independence Day with a concert, 'Shadhinotar Joygan 3.0' at the AIUB Amphitheatre on 21st March 2023.

The concert started around 3 PM with AIUB Performing Arts Club performing a handful of songs that played a vital role in the motivation of the freedom fighters during the War of Independence. The crowd was extremely energetic and enthusiastic throughout the entire concert.

The concert was dedicated to the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. In memory of their bravery, determination, and unwavering spirit that inspired us to become an independent nation. All the eternal songs that inspired the courageous freedom fighters during the Liberation War were sung as a dedication to their unimaginable sacrifices towards our country.

<https://www.aiub.edu/shadhinotar-joygan-30>





## A Talk on ‘Legal Awareness for the Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh’ organized by the Department of Law

For entrepreneurs, legal awareness sessions are crucial since they impart knowledge on the duties and regulations of operating businesses efficiently. Furthermore, entrepreneurs must attend such sessions in order to comprehend their legal responsibilities, safeguard their company interests, foster trust, and make wise judgments. By investing in legal awareness, entrepreneurs can position their businesses for long-term success. Realizing the urgency and necessity of the matter, the Department of Law organized a talk for the business students on ‘Legal Awareness for the Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh’ on February 25, 2023, at the Media Studio of AIUB Campus. Barrister Mahdin Choudhury was the keynote speaker at this event. Mr. Md. Khalid Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, AIUB, was given the organizational responsibility by the law department to make this event successful.

Barrister Mahdin Choudhury is an Advocate of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and a member of the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association for the years 2022–2023. He has worked at Eden Chambers since 2008 and continues doing so today. From August 2008 until September 2017, he served as a Senior Associate at Sultan, Fida & Reza. He was a Lecturer at the British School of Law and worked at Mitre Court Chamber as Mini Pupilage in 2007. (September 2009- June 2011). He has earned commendable experience in drafting various types of agreements, including shareholders agreements, pari passu agreements, facility agreements, lease agreements, implementation of agreements, investment agreements, due diligence, financial structure, etc. He is well known for his frequent opinions to multinational companies, banks, and other financial institutions on behalf of the Chambers.

Dr. Md. Tamzidul Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management, FBA, AIUB, started the session with a welcome remark. Dr. Tamzid stressed in his address the need of applying ethical principles to company operations in addition to knowing the law. Subsequently, Mr. Mahdin spoke about his legal expertise in various business categories. He then discussed the potential legal challenges an entrepreneur would encounter in the real world. Also, the Q&A session was quite enlightening. The students asked the expert about relevant legal remedies.

Soumendra Sankar Das, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, FBA, AIUB, gave a vote of thanks and gave the guest speaker a token of appreciation for his precious time and knowledge sharing.

<https://www.aiub.edu/a-talk-on-legal-awareness-for-the-entrepreneurs-in-bangladesh-organized-by-the-department-of-law>

## Law Students Participated in “Criminal Trial Advocacy Program”

A team of 7 students of the Department of Law, American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) has recently participated in the “Criminal Trial Advocacy Program” held in 2nd, 5th and 6th March, 2023. The Department of Law, Canadian University of Bangladesh (CUB) has organized the 3-day event for the students of 8 top public and private universities in Bangladesh. The program was hosted by the US Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (DOJ-OPDAT), US Embassy, Dhaka in partnership with Hearth Bangladesh.

The welcome speech of the event was given by Professor Nazmuzzaman Bhuiyan, Advisor, Department of Law, CUB. Chris Howard, Resident Legal Advisor, U.S. Embassy Dhaka graced the event as Chief Guest of the event where Washik Muhammod Istiaq Ezaz, Executive Director, Hearth Bangladesh was the Special Guest. The opening Session was chaired by Md. Sunzad Sheikh, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Law, Canadian University of Bangladesh.

AIUB team was comprised of seven students from the department of law, AIUB namely, Mohammad Shahriyar Fahim, Majisha Adrina, Animesh Sutradhar, Sumaiya Akter Sharna, Md Nahid Hossain, Jannatul Ferdaush and Faysal Mahmud Rudra. Participation of students was arranged as a student development initiative for law students by Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer, Department of Law, AIUB.

<https://www.aiub.edu/law-students-participated-in-criminal-trial-advocacy-program>



## Law Students at Quarter-finals of BUP Moot Court Competition

A Moot Court Team of American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) qualified for the Quarter Final (top 8) Rounds of the first BUP National Moot Court Competition 2022, held from 26th – 29th May 2022.

This was the country's first post-pandemic physical moot court competition, organized by BUP Law and Moot Court Club and hosted by Bangladesh University of Professionals. Mr. Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh, graced the closing ceremony of the competition as the Chief Guest and distributed prizes among the participants. BUP Pro-VC Professor Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain was present as a special guest on the program while Brigadier General Emran Ahmed Chowdhury, ndc, psc (Dean, Faculty of Security and Strategic Studies, BUP) was also present at the closing ceremony.

This moot court competition focused on Constitutional Law of Bangladesh where the competitors have to argue on fictitious writ petition existing between a trust and the government, before a competent bench of the High Court Division, the Supreme Court. The tournament helps aspiring lawyers to develop their oral, research, and presentation skills, which are instrumental for their overall advocacy skills. The competition also enabled the students to forge connections with other law students from across the country.

AIUB team was comprised of three students from the Department of Law, AIUB namely, Sanjida Sohana, Khan Md Lamim Ebny Habib and Animesh Sutradhar. The 1st oralist Khan Md Lamim Ebny Habib placed 9th and the 2nd oralist Sanjida Sohana placed 12th among the 24 oralists from Preliminary Rounds. The team was coached and trained by Mr. Ahasan Habib, Lecturer, Department of Law, American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB).

<https://www.aiub.edu/law-students-at-quarter-finals-of-bup-moot-court-competition>



## AIUB at the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court National round 2023

The American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) Moot Court Team participated in the 14th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition, Bangladesh National Rounds 2023, held from October 5 to 7, 2023. This prestigious event was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in partnership with the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB). The AIUB Moot Court Team, consisting of Sanjida Sohana, Khan MD Lamim Ebny Habib, and Nurnahar Akter Sathi, achieved the remarkable feat of securing the 5th position among 30 public and private universities across the country, thereby qualifying for the Quarter Final Round. As quarterfinalist, the team was mentioned in the list of honors and received their gratuity from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The competition spanned three days and entailed evaluating students' understanding of and proficiency in applying International Humanitarian Law (IHL) within a fictitious legal scenario. This exercise afforded participants a unique perspective on how the international legal framework can be employed to safeguard the rights and well-being of individuals affected by armed conflicts.

The opening ceremony was graced by Rear Admiral (Retd) Md Khurshed Alam, BN, Secretary of the Maritime Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who served as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the significance of the competition, stating that it was not merely a gathering of legal talents but a testament to the collective commitment to international law. Heike Kemper, Deputy Head of Delegation of ICRC in Bangladesh, served as the special guest. She highlighted the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, emphasizing its universal humanitarian spirit, which upholds human dignity even in times of conflict. Furthermore, Prof Dr. Borhan Uddin Khan, an advisor from the Department of Law at IUB stressed the advantages of competition participation, focusing on enhancing advocacy skills, fostering teamwork, and expanding professional networks for the students. Over the years, the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition has provided law students in the nation with a unique platform to interact with legal scholars and practitioners. This experience has deepened their understanding of international humanitarian law and allowed them to enhance their advocacy skills through friendly competition. The winning team will have the honor of representing Bangladesh in the upcoming Asia-Pacific rounds scheduled to take place in Hong Kong next year.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-at-the-14th-henry-dunant-memorial-moot-court-national-round-2023>



# Faculty Research and Publication

## International Handbook of Disaster Research

QUAZI OMAR FOYSAL et al.

International Disaster Law (IDL) does not provide a uniform legal framework contained in a single instrument. Instead, it comprises various treaties, customary international law, general principles of law, and soft law instruments. In order to forge a uniform instrument for regulating disaster relief and disaster risk reduction, the International Law Commission (ILC), upon the recommendation of the UN General Assembly, incorporated “Protection of persons in the event of disasters” into its program of work in 2007. ILC appointed Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (Colombia) as the Special Rapporteur for the topic. Finally, ILC adopted the Draft Articles on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (DAPPED) in 2016 and recommended the UN General Assembly consider the possibility of developing a Convention based on it in the same year. Now, DAPPED is under the consideration of the Sixth Committee of UNGA. DAPPED added a novel discourse to IDL. The present chapter will, following introductory words, highlight the drafting history of DAPPED. Then, it will provide an overview of the contents of DAPPED and its normative framework, respectively. The final section of this chapter will deal with the possibility of convening a Convention based on DAPPED and its prospects as other sources of international law.

## The Constitutional Law of Bangladesh: Progression and Transformation at its 50th Anniversary

QUAZI OMAR FOYSAL et al.

The inclusion of fundamental rights and their enforcement are one of the basic features of the Bangladesh Constitution, subject to certain lawful restrictions. In addition to the rights-specific grounds, articles 47(3) and 47A of the Constitution provide an additional ground for restricting certain fundamental rights. This exception centres around the trial of ‘genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes and other crimes under international law’ that may be called the ‘international crimes’ exception to fundamental rights. This chapter addresses the questions surrounding the scope of this exception primarily from constitutional law perspective. Its introduction delineates the background, followed by (a) an account of the justifications for incorporating such exception; (b) the construction of the ‘international crimes’ exception from the constitutional and international law perspectives; and (c) a critical analysis of the consequences of the ‘international crimes’ exception on fundamental rights. It concludes with recommendations for a progressive and contextual understanding of such exceptions. Particularly, it argues that the ‘international crimes’ exception along with the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunals Act 1973, though reflected existing international law at the time of its adoption, demands a reappraisal in the light of the development of the obligations to criminalise, prosecute, and punish the perpetrators of international crimes after 1973.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-99-2579-7>

## 16th Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars

QUAZI OMAR FOYSAL et al.

On the eve of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, President Putin apparently justified Russian military action on the plea of preventing alleged genocide committed by Ukraine against its own people. Eventually, Ukraine, relying on Article IX of the Genocide Convention 1948, instituted proceedings against Russia before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and sought *inter alia* whether Russia can lawfully use force against Ukraine for preventing an alleged genocide under the Genocide Convention. Subsequently, the ICJ, in its Order Indicating Provisional Measures, held that “it is doubtful that the [Genocide] Convention... authorizes a Contracting Party’s unilateral use of force in the territory of another State for the purpose of preventing or punishing an alleged genocide.” While the case is pending the Preliminary Objections hearings, it already attracted declarations of third-party interventions by 26 States. Most of these declarations of intervention relate to Article 63 of the ICJ Statute which permits any State Party to a multilateral treaty to intervene in respect of its construction. Against this backdrop, this article will argue that the proposed third-party interventions of those 26 States will be instrumental in resolving the long-debated issue of the possibility of intervention to prevent genocide without a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution. In doing so, it will first explore the current regime of the R2P and elaborate on the debate on the requirement of a UNSC resolution. It will then critically examine the proposed intervention declarations and their possible impact on future proceedings. Then, it will determine the legal status of those proposed interventions in general international law and the ICJ Statute. Finally, it will explore the possible impact of those interventions on the R2P regime. As this article is related to genocide, it will consider the R2P regime related to genocide only.

<https://www.iags2023.com/>

## U.S. and Taiwan Partnership Amidst Geopolitical Competition

DR. MOHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM KHAN et al.

Managing the status quo in cross-strait relationships remains one of the most vexing issues in the Asia-Pacific region with global implications. Many scholars and professionals hold that Beijing is poised to adopt a strategy of forcefully integrating Taiwan with the mainland - as early as next year or by 2027. Such prediction rides on the evidence, among others - Chinese Communist Party (CCP) documents calling for the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation”. It is no secret that Beijing sees Taiwan as an existential issue and unification with Taiwan as necessary to fulfil the “China Dream”. Despite such strong and passionate views, the status quo continues a cross-strait relationship. The heightened tension after the August 2 visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the resultant military maneuvers by the PLA, amidst the Russia-Ukraine war have not spilled over into open hostility. However, the ongoing conflict in Europe and the Middle East calls for a renewed assessment of the US-Taiwan partnership and the way forward to ensure continued peace and



stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This paper first focuses on the theory underpinning the current state of affairs and offers a few insights.

<https://indopacificresearchers.org/international-conference-2023/>

## Forced Displacement, Violence against Women, and Conflicy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh: A Scoping Review

DR. ARIFATUL KIBRIA et el.

**Background:** The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has witnessed over two and a half decades of an armed insurgency, beginning in the mid-1970s and formally ending on 2 December 1997, with the signing of an accord, popularly known as the CHT Accord between the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and the Parbattya Chattogram Jana Shonghoti Samity (PCJSS), the political body which had carried on the movement for autonomy of the CHT within the state of Bangladesh. Although a peace accord was signed, peace remains elusive in the region. **Methodology:** Using the scoping review based on York methodology, a comprehensive search of published academic articles, conference proceedings, and grey literature was carried out through PubMed, Google, and Google scholar, limited to English-written papers. Secondary data sources include newspapers, textbooks, public documents, and reports of various human rights organizations and NGOs. **Results:** This review reported that although the government of Bangladesh insists the military presence in CHT is for promoting conflict settlement, many claim that it has instead worsened the conflicts. Military personnel are often the alleged offenders and has primarily enjoyed total impunity. There has been recorded large displacement of indigenous people, violent acts against women, profound land-grabbing by the Bengali settlers, and significant neglect of the human rights of the CHT people as a result of decades of conflict. **Conclusion:** More than twenty-five years have passed since the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord, but the majority of its provisions remain unimplemented or partially implemented, especially the principal issues, including settlement of land disputes, demilitarization and the devolution of authority to local institutions and violence against women and the community at large. The Government of Bangladesh should take necessary and effective steps against these decades-old issues to resolve them as a national problem. Indigenous groups are part of the nation, and their overall development is impossible without their participation.

## Effect of stabilizer content in different solvents on the synthesis of ZnO nanoparticles using the chemical precipitation method.

MST. UMMAY SUMAYA et el.

Zinc Oxide (ZnO) nanoparticles (NPs) have been synthesized by a simple chemical precipitation method. The effect of monoethanolamine (MEA) content in different solvents on ZnO NPs synthesis and their structural properties has been investigated. The NPs synthesized by using isopropanol (IPA) with 15 ml MEA as a stabilizer under the most favorable conditions (deposition time,  $t_d = 120$  min, temperature = 60 °C) showed good structural properties. Synthesized NPs exhibited beneficial

structural properties after annealing. The hexagonal wurtzite crystal structure of ZnO NPs was verified by XRD. Different models were used to calculate structural parameters such as crystallite size, strain, stress, and energy density for all the reflection peaks of XRD corresponding to ZnO lying in the range  $2\theta = 15^{\circ}$ – $80^{\circ}$ . The crystallite size of the ZnO nanoparticles was found to be 50–60 nm. FTIR and EDX confirmed the presence of ZnO NPs in the samples. SEM micrograph of all the samples revealed that the grain sizes decrease gradually with the increase of the amount of MEA. UV–Visible diffuse reflectance spectroscopy results provide evidence that the ZnO NPs possess broader absorption bands, together with high band gap energy. The ZnO NPs synthesized with IPA solvent have the highest transmittance and band gap energy of 3.3eV. According to DLS data, various content of MEA stabilizer in solvent affects the hydrodynamic size of ZnO NPs.

## Machine Learning in Cyberbullying Detection from Social-Media Image or Screenshot with Optical Character Recognition

TOFAYET SULTAN et al.

Along with the growth of the Internet, social media usage has drastically expanded. As people share their opinions and ideas more frequently on the Internet and through various social media platforms, there has been a notable rise in the number of consumer phrases that contain sentiment data. According to reports, cyberbullying frequently leads to severe emotional and physical suffering, especially in women and young children. In certain instances, it has even been reported that sufferers attempt suicide. The bully may occasionally attempt to destroy any proof they believe to be on their side. Even if the victim gets the evidence, it will still be a long time before they get justice at that point. This work used OCR, NLP, and machine learning to detect cyberbullying in photos in order to design and execute a practical method to recognize cyberbullying from images. Eight classifier techniques are used to compare the accuracy of these algorithms against the BoW Model and the TF-IDF, two key features. These classifiers are used to understand and recognize bullying behaviors. Based on testing the suggested method on the cyberbullying dataset, it was shown that linear SVC after OCR and logistic regression perform better and achieve the best accuracy of 96 percent. This study aid in providing a good outline that shapes the methods for detecting online bullying from a screenshot with design and implementation details.