

SIU English Voices

Issue III, July 2026

A Regular News Bulletin Published by the Department of English
Sylhet International University



SIU Creative Writing Fest-2026, “আমার ভাষা, আমার গল্প” (My Words, My Story) Season Two - brought together talented young writers from different institutions in a vibrant celebration of imagination, language, and storytelling. The festival provided a meaningful platform for participants to showcase their creative potential while fostering originality, critical thinking, and a love for literature. Through initiatives like this, the Department of English remains committed to fostering creative expression and nurturing the next generation of writers by creating opportunities for learning, sharing, and literary engagement.



The successful completion of *Beyond the Classroom: Expert Insights - Season Ten* marked another significant academic moment for the Department of English. Tim Janda's (English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State) insightful lecture offered fresh perspectives on engaging learners and reimagining English language teaching in today's changing educational landscape. The session created a vibrant space for learning, reflection, and academic exchange.

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

B.A. (Hon's) in English
M.A. in English (Final)
M.A. in English (Preli. & Final)

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Join us & Explore
your future

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Dean's Voice

It gives me immense pleasure to share my thoughts in this edition of SIU English Voices. In a rapidly changing world driven by technology and global interconnectedness, the study of English Literature and Language holds a unique and powerful position.

Pursuing English is far more than an academic pursuit—it is a transformative process. Beyond the study of classics texts and linguistic structures, our curriculum positions English as a cornerstone of career versatility, opening doors across academia, corporate communication, public service, media, and digital innovation. It equips our students not just with language proficiency, but with the critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and persuasive communication necessary to succeed in any professional landscape.

That's why, we encourage our students to look beyond textbook boundaries and engage them deeply with different extracurricular activities.

I greatly appreciate the Department of English for its dedication to academic excellence and vibrant intellectual culture. May this bulletin continue to reflect the creativity, insight, and ambition of our faculty and students alike.

I wish the Department of English and all its students every success in their future undertakings.

Professor Md. Shafiqul Alam
Dean, School of Humanities

Our Newsletter Journey





A Decision That Changed My Life

A new campus, unfamiliar faces, and countless new experiences marked the beginning of my university life. Like every other fresher, I stepped onto the campus with excitement, curiosity, and a heart full of dreams. However, that excitement did not last long. The constant questions—"What will you do with an English degree?" and "Why didn't you choose CSE?"—slowly made me question my own decision, and I even decided to change my department.

Eventually, I went to the Head of the Department with an application to change my department. Instead of approving my application, the Head of the Department simply said, "Attend classes for one week, then come back and decide." I followed his advice, and that one week changed everything.

Now, as a third-year student, I look back with gratitude. From my very first year, I have tried to be part of every departmental programme, the Language Forum, the Reading Forum, and every opportunity the department has offered. I never wanted to miss a single moment because each experience helped me learn and grow.

This department has given me the opportunity to discover myself, explore my abilities, and understand my true potential. Through different academic activities and experiences, I have gradually developed confidence and found a new perspective towards my future. The person I am today is a result of the experiences, challenges, and opportunities this department has given me. What once felt like a difficult choice turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life, and I will always cherish this journey.

Ijmatul Riza

Student, 3rd Year, 1st Semester

Interaction with M.A. Students



The **M.A. in English** at Sylhet International University is known for its convenient weekend class schedule, affordable tuition fees, and career-oriented syllabus, offering students a flexible and rewarding pathway for academic and professional growth.

II



"There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune" - William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar. Every academic journey begins with such a moment—a tide that carries hope, purpose, and the promise of discovery. The **Fall 2026** Orientation Programme of the Department of English was held on July 19th, welcoming our newest students as they embark upon a significant chapter of their intellectual and personal lives.

English Reading Forum



The **Reading Forum** is an initiative of the Department of English, that brings together students and faculty to cultivate a habit of reading, critical thinking, and meaningful discussion. It is open to all students who are interested in literature, language, and ideas. The forum organizes regular sessions throughout the semester, where participants read selected texts, share their interpretations, and engage in interactive discussions. Through book reviews, recitations, and collaborative activities, the Reading Forum encourages intellectual growth, communication skills, and a lifelong appreciation for reading. It aims to create a vibrant learning community beyond the classroom and inspire a culture of thoughtful engagement with literature.

II



As part of its ongoing commitment to academic excellence, the Department of English, organized a professional development training session titled "The Art and Ethics of University Teaching: Cultivating Professionalism, Integrity, and Academic Excellence" on July 12. Designed for newly appointed faculty members, the session focused on strengthening ethical teaching practices, professionalism, and academic integrity in higher education.



The Department of English
Not Just a Department
a Hub of Arts & Academics

MENTOR TALK
SEASON TWELVE

SPEAKER



DILIP KUMAR BASU
Former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University
Chairman, Bangladesh Open University
Shakespeare Beyond the Ages:
Engineering His Enduring Legacy

April 24, 2024
10:00 AM (IST Time)

DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
Sylhet International University

PRESENTS

MENTOR TALK
SEASON ELEVEN



Evora Hilo-Dioneza
Assistant Professor
Sulthan Husein Saad University
Indonesia

Global English, Local Voices: Celebrating Cultural Identity at the Heart of International Communication Success

ENGL 101
DECEMBER 12, 2023
RECORDING: 10:00 AM (IST TIME)
PUBLISHED: 2024

Mentor Talk is a regular online lecture series organised by the Department of English, featuring distinguished scholars from home and abroad. The series provides students with opportunities to engage with diverse perspectives, gain valuable academic insights, and connect with leading voices in the field.

LitVerse is a Whatsapp-Based platform where students from the Department of English engage in literary discussion, critical thinking, and collaborative learning weekly. Students participate with full enthusiasm in weekly discussions by responding to thought-provoking literary questions given by the advisor. They share meaningful ideas and interpretations with each other. LitVerse has introduced a monthly recognition for the best insightful answer and consistent collaborator for further encouragement. This friendly competition aims to motivate students to interpret their favorite texts and respond to the answers while maintaining active encouragement throughout the month. **LitVerse** will continue to organize weekly discussions, introduce thematic activities promoting vibrant literary community within the Department of English.

The Language Forum of the Department of English continues to foster a vibrant environment where students from all batches strengthen their English communication skills through interactive activities and student-led sessions. By encouraging learners programs independent-cultivates public speak-work, and confidence, success on the global the department's vision The forum recently ed members through a ceremony, recogniz-commitment, initia-ensured the success-forum activities semester. With Department of English looks forward to organizing more engaging sessions, innovative workshops, and collaborative initiatives that will empower students to become confident communicators and future leaders.



to plan and conduct the forum ing, leadership, team-qualities essential for stage and central of holistic education, celebrated its dedicat-certificate-giving ing students whose tive, and leadership full continuation of throughout the previous renewed enthusiasm, the



Research Forum is an academic platform of the Department of English, established to foster students' research skills and scholarly engagement in English language and literature. The forum organizes monthly workshops and seminars conducted by internal faculty members and invited scholars, focusing on different components of academic research and publication.

Reading Forum: My Experience

The Reading Forum of the English Department at Sylhet International University is one of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences of my university life.

During my childhood, my mother used to read various stories, autobiographies, and books aloud to me. Back then, mobile phones and the internet did not dominate our lives. Listening to those stories would transport me into a world of imagination. However, as I grew older, my reading gradually became confined to textbooks. Through school and college up to HSC, I hardly got the chance to read anything outside my syllabus.

Later, I got admitted to the Department of English at Sylhet International University. Alongside regular academics, I had the opportunity to participate in various co-curricular activities, which led to my introduction to the Reading Forum. Here, we read novels, short stories, poems, and various other books, engage in discussions, write reviews, and share our perspectives. Every gathering, discussion, and conversation about books in this forum has taught me to think in new ways.

Since childhood, I have loved reading adventurous novels like *Chander Pahar*. However, joining the Reading Forum has broadened my reading horizons. Now, along with novels, I read short stories and poetry with great enthusiasm. Many members of our forum write extraordinary poems and creative pieces. Reading their work inspires me.

The Reading Forum has not only made me a better reader but has also given me the courage to express my thoughts. Initially, I hesitated to speak in front of everyone. But regularly writing book reviews, taking part in discussions, and expressing my views significantly boosted my confidence. At the same time, my English writing skills, vocabulary, and critical thinking ability have improved considerably.

I believe that activities like the Reading Forum are crucial for a student alongside regular academic classes. In class, we learn the theoretical aspects of literature and language, while the Reading Forum offers the platform to apply that knowledge in practice. It introduces us to the world beyond textbooks, encourages us to read new books, and helps us grow into conscious readers, skilled writers, and confident speakers.

Sometimes I think that if I hadn't joined the Reading Forum, I would have missed out on reading so many wonderful books, exploring beautiful ideas, and learning from amazing people. Therefore, I am deeply grateful to this platform. It inspires me to dream new dreams, think in new ways, and strive to become a better person every single day.

Tania Akhtar
Student, 3rd Year, 1st Semester

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The **Student Excellence Award Ceremony** is a regular semester-based initiative of the Department of English, dedicated to recognizing and celebrating students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and active engagement beyond the classroom. The Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Student Excellence Award Ceremony continued this tradition to celebrate excellence and inspire the students. The event reflected the enduring commitment of the Department to nurture academic excellence, leadership, and holistic development while encouraging students to pursue their fullest potential.

Professor Nitai Chandra Chanda, Honorable Treasurer of SIU is speaking at the Freshers Reception Ceremony, Spring 2026



Professor Dr. Md. Ashraful Alam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SIU is speaking at the Students Excellence Award Ceremony, Spring 2026



Professor Md. Shafiqul Alam, Honorable Dean School of Humanities is speaking at the Shakespeare's Day Celebration 2026.



The Department of English believes that education goes beyond the classroom. Alongside academic excellence, we place equal emphasis on the physical, mental, and social well-being of our students. To encourage teamwork, discipline, leadership, and a healthy sense of competition, the Department regularly organises a variety of sports and co-curricular activities every semester. Here are some glimpses from the Spring 2026 Football Match, where our students came together to compete, connect, and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship.



SIU English Voices is a news bulletin published on July 2026 by the Department of English, Sylhet International University. It is a platform that captures the vibrant academic, cultural, and creative life of the Department of English. This bulletin highlights key events, achievements, and initiatives, reflecting the dynamic spirit and intellectual engagement of our students and faculty. We warmly invite you to read and reflect on this issue. Your valuable thoughts are greatly appreciated. Happy reading.