

Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association

BELTA Newsletter

Issue 35 & 36 (July 2024 -June 2025)

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Message from BELTA President



Dear BELTA Members

Season's Greetings!

We are delighted to bring out the BELTA Newsletter after a little pause. This is a combined Issue 35 and 36, which brings you the highlights of the events and activities organized by BELTA and its EC members from July 2024 to June 2025.

This issue presents two big events in addition to the regular activities of BELTA; the first one being the BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference 2024. It was the 18th BELTA-THT conference held on 01-04 November 2024. This is a flagship teacher development programme of BELTA, organized in collaboration with THT (Teachers Helping Teachers), a SIG (Special Interest Group) of JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers). BELTA is happy to partner with Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and the University of Barishal to organize the conference in Dhaka and Barishal.

BELTA regularly organizes its international conference biannually. The 11th International Conference was the biggest event that BELTA organized in partnership with North South University on 6-7 December 2024. The Keynote Speaker was Dr Martin Lamb from the University of Leeds, UK. The conference featured nearly 200 presentations, including plenary, featured talks, panel discussions,

BELTA signature event and student poster presentations, and it was attended by nearly 500 participants. This was so far the largest English language education conference in the country, organized by BELTA. Our major sponsors included the US Embassy Dhaka, the British Council, and the City Bank.

This issue presents reports on BELTA Webinar Series, a regular monthly event, and other seminars and workshops for teachers. One such event is the secondary school English teacher training programme funded by the US Embassy Dhaka that BELTA is organising across the country in partnership with the Language Proficiency Centre (LPC). The issue also showcases a brief list of BELTA EC members' recent professional development activities, including research publications and participation in seminars and conferences at home and abroad, and their personal and professional achievements.

I sincerely thank the office bearers and executive committee members of BELTA for their contribution and support. My heartfelt thanks are to all our partners, sponsors, facilitators of webinars, training programmes and workshops, and all members of BELTA for their love and

support for BELTA. Thanks are due to the newsletter team for their efforts to put this issue together.

I must acknowledge, this issue is not a comprehensive list of activities; neither is the Newsletter meant for showcasing the Executive Committee members only. It is rather a platform for all BELTA members where you can share your academic achievements and reports of presentations at conferences and seminars, workshops, and brief write-ups about your experiences and any matters related to education. Therefore, I request you all to submit your write-ups to BELTA Newsletter at any time of the year.

BELTA is committed to working relentlessly to help teachers and students across all levels and contribute to the overall development of English education in the country and beyond. I invite you to read the newsletter and look forward to your continued support and contributions to BELTA in achieving its goals.

Thank you.

Ahmed Bashir
President, BELTA
&
Professor, Department of English
University of Dhaka

2. Annual General Meeting 2024



The BELTA AGM 2024 took place on Friday, 6th September 2024 at 3.30 pm at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Room 7010, Main Building, Bashundhara R/A. Professor Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA, delivered the welcome address. The Annual Report was presented by the BELTA General Secretary, Dr. Mohib Ullah, and the Financial Report for the year 2023 was presented by Ms. Zakia Sultana, Treasurer of BELTA. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Professor Tazin Aziz Chowdhury, Vice-President, BELTA. The AGM was attended by 57 members of BELTA.

3. 18th BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference 2024



BELTA-IUB-THT 18th Teacher Development Conference 2024 (1st phase)

BELTA-IUB-THT 18th Teacher Development Conference 2024 was held at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on 2 November 2024. The conference began with its Virtual Version on Friday, 1 November 2024. The speakers were Prof. Brent Jones, Professor, and currently the Director of Language Programs, at Konan University, Hirao School of Management; Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President of BELTA and Professor, Department of English of the University of Dhaka, Dr. Patrick Dougherty, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Akita International University; Dr. Erin Mikulec, Professor of Secondary Education and the Interim Director of the School of Teaching and Learning at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, USA; Sarah Lee-sensei, Lecturer in the Department of English at Tokyo Woman's Christian University.

On its second day on Saturday, 2 November 2024, the conference flipped to an onsite version hosted by IUB. The conference was attended by 52 teachers coming from across Bangladesh from all levels of education. The guests were warmly greeted by Professor Bokhtiar

Ahmed, Dean, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (SLASS), IUB. Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Convener of the Conference and Assistant Professor at the Department of English and Modern Languages of IUB, offered the welcome address followed by another address of welcome by Professor Ahmed Bashir, President of BELTA. Dr. Patrick Dougherty, THT Team Leader, also warmly welcomed the participants. Four teacher educators including Dr. Patrick Dougherty, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of International Liberal Arts, Akita International University; Dr. Anne McLellan Howard, Professor at Miyazaki International University; Dr. Josh Norman, Associate Professor in Shokei University, Japan; Dr. Cecilia Silva, Professor at Tohoku University of Japan. They conducted workshops on interesting and essential topics, such as “Useful Icebreakers for Large Classes”; “Mediation in foreign language teaching: activities based on a classic concept and a new mode”; “Strategies for the Multilevel Classroom”; “Student Heritage Projects for the EFL Classroom”; “Helping Students to Develop in Qualitative Research”; “A Model of Cultural Understanding for Collaborative Reading”; “Useful Listening and Speaking Activities for your Classes”. After all these sessions, there was a plenary session which was attended by Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Dr Naureen Rahnuma, Dr Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, Dr. Cecilia Silva, Dr. Anne McLellan Howard, and Dr. Josh Norman. The plenary was moderated by Dr. Patrick Dougherty.

The conference ended with the closing remarks by Dr. Patrick Dougherty, Dr Naureen Rahnuma, and Professor Ahmed Bashir.

BELTA-BU-THT 18th Teacher Development Conference 2024 (2nd phase)



The second phase of the BELTA-THT Teacher Development Conference was held in Barishal. The host was the Department of English, University of Barishal.

4. BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



Dhaka witnessed a remarkable confluence of global and local expertise as the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and North South University (NSU) co-hosted the 11th BELTA International Conference on December 6–7, 2024. Themed “Re/Envisioning Paradigms in English Language Education,” the conference attracted over 500 educators, scholars, and practitioners, fostering transformative

dialogue on reshaping English language education to meet the challenges of an evolving global context.

The two-day conference, held at NSU’s state-of-the-art campus, featured an impressive lineup of academic activities, including 120 paper presentations, 15 poster presentation sessions, and four engaging panel discussions. These sessions explored critical themes such as language policy, technology-enhanced learning, curriculum design, and culturally responsive pedagogy.

A signature highlight was the BELTA Signature Event, which epitomized BELTA’s commitment to interactive and intellectually stimulating exchanges. The event left participants inspired, emphasizing collaborative approaches to addressing contemporary educational challenges.

Dr. Nazia Manzoor, Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages (DEML) at NSU, inaugurated the conference with a compelling speech on the urgency of redefining traditional, colonized models of English language education. She emphasized the need for inclusivity and adaptability to contemporary educational demands.

Professor Ahmed Bashir, BELTA President and renowned academic from the University of Dhaka, echoed this sentiment, urging educators to embrace culturally responsive teaching methods and break away from rigid pedagogical practices.

North South University Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury highlighted the pivotal role of English language education in a globalized world. He acknowledged the contributions of English teachers in shaping future leaders and fostering cross-cultural communication.

The conference was graced by Chief Guest Professor Dr. Mohammad Anwar Hossen, an Honorable Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh. He lauded BELTA and NSU for organizing the event, underscoring the significance of such initiatives in

advancing educational development in Bangladesh.

Dr. Martin Lamb from the University of Leeds delivered a thought-provoking keynote, challenging educators to rethink traditional paradigms and harness innovation in English language teaching. His address highlighted the need for critical thinking and inclusivity in modern education.

The plenary speakers were Prof. Dr. David D. Perrodin, Mahidol University, Thailand; Prof. Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Dhaka University, and Prof. Dr. Shaila Sultana, Director of the BRAC Institute of Languages and Professor (on leave) IML, Dhaka University.

The overseas featured speakers of the conference were Dr. David Teh, from Malaysia, Dr. Ikhsanudin, from Indonesia, Dr. Dhani Ram Sharma from Nepal. From Bangladesh the featured speakers were Prof A. M. M. Hamidur Rahman, Prof Ranjit Podder, Prof Mohammad Moninoor Roshid, Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Dr. Sukanto Roy and Dr. Samira Aziz.

Other notable speakers included Roger Cohen, Regional English Language Officer (RELO) in Kathmandu, Nepal, and David Knox, Director of Programs at the British Council in Bangladesh. Their sessions emphasized global trends in language education and the importance of cultural sensitivity in teaching.

Dr. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary of BELTA, concluded the conference with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the organizing committee, presenters, speakers, NSU authorities, and the dedicated student volunteers who ensured the event's success.

The BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024 was more than an academic gathering; it was a platform for envisioning the future of English language education. With its strong emphasis on inclusivity, innovation, and critical thinking,

the conference inspired participants to adopt forward-looking practices that will redefine the teaching and learning of English for generations to come.

As the curtains closed on this transformative event, the echoes of its discussions and ideas promised to leave a lasting impact on educators and learners worldwide, reaffirming the relevance of English in fostering global communication and understanding.

BELTA Signature Event



Speakers at the BELTA Signature Event

The title of the signature event was “Perspectives on the Future of English in the Global South”. The panelists were Prof. Shaila Sultana, Prof. Hamidur Rahman, Mr Asif Mahmood, Ms Kuri Chisim. The Panel was moderated by Prof Arifa Rahman, Advisor to BELTA.

Panel Discussion



Speakers at the Panel Discussion

The title of the Panel Discussion was “Pathways for Promoting Sustainable Partnerships: Strengthening Language Teacher Association Ties.” The panelists were the representatives from partner teachers' association: Dr. David The from MELTA, Dr Ikhsanudin from TEFLIN Indonesia, Dr. Dhani Ram Sharma from NELTA, and Prof Ahmed Bashir from BELTA. The moderator was Prof Rubina Khan, Immediate Past President, BELTA.

5. BELTA Webinar Series

BELTA Webinar 35



Webinar Series 35

Being a teacher with disabilities: Perspectives, practices and opportunities

In this online presentation, Imran is going to share the findings of a recent British Council research titled “Being a teacher with disabilities: Perspectives, practices and opportunities”. This research, done in partnership with the University of Cambridge, delved into the challenges teachers with disabilities encounter, as well as the strengths and opportunities they bring to the profession.



Imran Saifur
Senior Academic Manager (South Asia)
British Council

Imran works on development projects across South Asia that aim to improve English language teaching-learning and training systems in public education, and empower disadvantaged people through non-formal education.



8 February 2025
6.30pm to 7.30pm (Dhaka time) ONLINE



<https://bdren.zoom.us/j/6688717171>
pwd=SnRFb2c0K2NGZlpTRm05RE9LMVFLUT09
Meeting ID: 6688717171
Passcode: 616161

The 35th BELTA Webinar titled “Being a Teacher with Disabilities: Perspectives, Practices and Opportunities” was held on February 8, 2025, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Dhaka time) via the online platform ZOOM. The session was presented by Imran Saifur, Senior Academic Manager (South Asia), British Council.

BELTA Webinar 36

BELTA
WEBINAR SERIES 36

**MORE THAN WORDS:
THE POWER OF VISUALS IN
CONSTRUCTING GENDER IN
ELT MATERIALS**

Facilitator
Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana
Associate Professor, Department of English,
University of Asia Pacific

Abstract
This study examines how visual images in English language textbooks influence young learners' perceptions of gender roles. Focusing on Bangladeshi primary textbooks, it reveals gender bias in illustrations that reinforce stereotypes. Using the Feminist Discourse Analysis framework, the study also explores teachers' perceptions, highlighting the need for more gender-equitable visuals to foster inclusive and empowering learning environments.

Short Bio
Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, University of Asia Pacific. She obtained her PhD degree from the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka. She completed her B.A. (Hons) and M.A. from the Department of English, University of Dhaka. Her research focuses on gender in textbooks, materials evaluation, and technology in education.

Date: 19 April, Saturday
Time: 7:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m
Session ID: 9102997132
Session Password: 8182

The 36th BELTA Webinar on "More than words: The power of visuals in constructing gender in ELT materials" was held on April 19, 2025 at 7.00 p.m. utilizing the virtual platform ZOOM. The webinar was facilitated by Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Asia Pacific.

BELTA Webinar 37

BELTA
WEBINAR SERIES 37

**WHAT DO DIS/EMPOWERING MOMENTS OF
ENGLISH TEACHERS TELL US ABOUT
TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?**

Speaker
Laxman Gnawali
Professor, Kathmandu
University School of Education

Abstract
This talk explores dis/empowering moments English language teachers in Nepal experience and their impact on professional development. It examines how such experiences shape motivation, teaching practices, and engagement with professional learning. It also argues that to support meaningful and sustainable professional growth, teacher development initiatives must recognise these workplace dis/empowering factors and their critical role in shaping teachers' professional journeys.

Speaker's Bio
Dr. Laxman Gnawali, Professor at Kathmandu University and President of NELTA, leads language teacher education programmes in Nepal. Alongside teaching and supervising research, he contributes to national and international educational initiatives. His areas of interest include inclusive language pedagogy, teacher education and professional development, ICT in classrooms, among others.

DATE: SATURDAY, 17TH MAY, 2025

TIME: BDT 7:00 PM

JOIN US ON ZOOM
Meeting ID: 668 871 7171
Password: 616161

WWW.BELTA-ED.ORG

The 37th BELTA Webinar titled "What Do Dis/Empowering Moments of English Teachers Tell Us About Teacher Professional Development?" was held on May 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. BDT via the virtual platform ZOOM. The session was facilitated by Dr. Laxman Gnawali, Professor at Kathmandu University School of Education.

BELTA Webinar 38

Fit for Purpose: Advancing Teacher Development Through Action Research in Demanding Work Contexts

SPEAKER
DR. AMINATH SHAFIYA ADAM
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR & DEAN OF RESEARCH, THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALDIVES

ABSTRACT
This talk highlights action research as a 'fit for purpose' tool for teacher development, promoting reflection, inquiry, and improved practice. It presents a framework for integrating research into busy teaching schedules, addressing key challenges and time management. Insights aim to inform policy and support professional learning in both school and higher education contexts.

SPEAKER'S BIO
Dr. Aminath Shafiya Adam earned her PhD in 2015 from the University of Waikato, New Zealand. She is Assistant Professor and Dean of Research at the Islamic University of Maldives. Her research spans digital education, teacher development, and policy studies. She leads interdisciplinary projects, contributes to national initiatives, and actively engages in reviewing and publishing in local and international peer-reviewed journals.

SATURDAY
21 JUNE 2025
7:30 PM BDT

JOIN US ON ZOOM

The 38th BELTA Webinar titled “Fit for Purpose: Advancing Teacher Development Through Action Research in Demanding Work Contexts” was held on June 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. BDT via the virtual platform ZOOM. The session was facilitated by Dr. Aminath Shafiya Adam, Assistant Professor and Dean of Research at the Islamic University of Maldives.

6. U.S. Embassy–LPC–BELTA Teacher Training Workshop 2025

U.S. Embassy–LPC–BELTA Teacher Training Workshop, Khulna

LPC - BELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER TRAINING 2025

PROF. AHMED BASHIR
President, BELTA & Professor, Department of English, Dhaka University

MD. SHAHREAR TALUKDAR
Associate Professor & Chair, Department of English, Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology

May 30-31, 2025
(Friday and Saturday)
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Khulna Govt. Model School and College, Boyra, Khulna

Implemented by: Language Proficiency Center (LPC) and Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA)

U.S. Embassy–LPC–BELTA Teacher Training Workshop 2025 was held at Khulna Model School and College on May 30-31, 2025, conducted by Professor Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA and Md. Shahriar Talukdar, EC Members, BELTA.

U.S. Embassy–LPC–BELTA Teacher Training Workshop, Barishal



U.S. Embassy–LPC–BELTA Teacher Training Workshop 2025 was held at Trust University, Barishal on June 27-28, 2025 conducted Dr. Kh. Atikur Rahman, Joint Secretary, BELTA and Takad Ahmed Chowdhury EC Members, BELTA.

7. Participation in National and International Platforms by BELTA EC Members

China Assembly 2024, July

Prof Ahmed Bashir, President BELTA, presented as a Featured Speaker at the 7th Global English Education China Assembly held in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, China on July 25-28, 2024. The title of his talk was “Translanguaging Pedagogy at the Tertiary Level: Students’ and Teachers’ Perspectives.” The conference titled Transforming English Language Teaching in the AI Era, was jointly organized by China Daily and Shanghai International Studies University, is one of the most influential comprehensive language education events in Asia.

Prof. Dr. Rubnina Khan, Immediate past President, BELTA, Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA, and Dr. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, BELTA, and Dr Akhter Jahan also joined the conference.



With the then IATEFL President, Alexandra Popovski; Rubina Khan, Immediate Past President, BELTA; Sakiba Ferdousy, BELTA life member at the conference

MELTA Conference 2024

Prof Ahmed Bashir was a Featured Presenter at the 32nd MELTA International Conference 2024 on From Promise to Practice: Delivering Quality English Language Education, held at Brickfields Asia College, Kuala Lumpur from 21 to 22 September, 2024. The title of his paper was “Assessment Reforms at the Secondary Schools in Bangladesh: English Teachers’ Perceptions and Practices”. The conference was organized by Malaysian English Language Teachers’ Association (MELTA).



With MELTA President, Professor Sivabala Naidu

AILA 2024 (Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée [International Association of Applied Linguistics])



Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and Executive Committee Member, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) presented his paper entitled “**Investigating Pre-service Teachers’ Perceptions of Critical Language Teacher Education in Bangladesh**” in the 21st AILA World Congress 2024 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 11-16 August 2024. The theme of the Congress was “Linguistic Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Sustainability”.

70th TEFLIN-17th CONAPLIN International Conference 2024



As an INVITED SPEAKER to represent BELTA, Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and Executive Committee Member, (BELTA) participated in the **70th TEFLIN-17th CONAPLIN International Conference 2024** themed as "Diverse Voices: Navigating World Englishes in Language Pedagogy and Language Policy" held in Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, West Java, Indonesia during 23-25 October 2024. He spoke on "Which English to Use in Bangladesh: A Search for an Appropriate English Language Profile".

Asia TEFL 2024



Dr Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and Executive Committee Member, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) presented his paper entitled "Evaluating Multimodal Texts in the National English Textbook through Critical Reading and Critical Literacy Approaches" in the 22nd AsiaTEFL International Conference 2024 held in Chiang Rai, Thailand during 15-17 November 2024. The theme of the Congress was "Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity in ELT".

The 18th International and 54th Annual Conference of ELTAI



Dr. Prodhon Mahbub Ibna Seraj, an associate professor, department of English, AIUB and EC member, BELTA, joined as a Distinguished Speaker from ELTAI (English Language Teachers Association of India) at the 8th International and 54th Annual Conference on “Exploring Languages and Literatures for Evolving Pedagogical Practices” for a round-table discussion on “AI and Emerging Technologies: Catalysts or Disruptors?” scheduled on October 26, 2024, and conducting a 90-minute workshop on October 25, 2024 will be held at Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam, India.

Professor Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA also presented at the following conferences and seminars as an invited speaker.

Panel Discussant and Plenary Session Chair at the 3rd international conference on Innovation and Transformation for Development with the theme, “The World at a Crossroads: Issues in Arts and Social Sciences”, organized by Green University of Bangladesh on 9-10 November 2024.



With the Keynote, Plenary speakers and other delegates at the conference

Panel Discussant at the international conference titled “The Trans-Phenomenon in Language, Literature, and Culture,” organized by the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on 15-16 November 2024. The title of his panel discussion was “Glocalizing Professional Learning: Insights from the Margins.”



With the fellow panelists at the conference

Session Chair at the 2nd international conference on Psychometrics held at Teacher and Student Centre (TSC), University of Dhaka, on 15-16 November 2024. The conference titled Justice and Fairness in Testing: Bridging Science and Reality, was organized by the Bangladesh Psychometric Society.



With the Chief Guest and other delegates on stage

Speaker at a colloquium at the international conference on “Metamorphosis of Language and Language Education: Social Justice and Equity”, organised by BRAC Institute of Languages, BRAC University, Bangladesh held on 28-30 November 2024. The title of the colloquium was “Transforming English Language Education in Bangladesh: Future Directions” and he spoke on the methodology of English Language Education and highlighted the need for rethinking and decolonializing English language teaching methodology in Bangladesh context.

Professor Ahmed Bashir was invited as a Plenary Speaker at the First GASD National Conference on “Enriching English Language Teaching Strategies in Multilingual Classrooms” held on 11 January 2025 at the Cox’s Bazar International University, Cox’s Bazar. The title of Professor Bashir’s plenary talk was Rethinking Social Emotional Learning and Teacher Wellbeing in English Language Teaching. The conference was organized by Global Aid for Sustainable Development (GASD) in partnership with the US Embassy Dhaka.



With the Chief Guest, Keynote Speaker and other delegates at the GASD conference



With the fellow discussants of the colloquium at the conference

8. BELTA Community Services

BELTA supports the marginalized community



On December 28, 2024, Ferdoushi Rahman, Joint Treasurer, BELTA EC and Nasrin Chowdhury, member, BELTA visited the Mohila Madrasa for the marginalized community in Mirpur. The Madrasa hosted its annual academic results and prize distribution program, celebrating the achievements of its dedicated students.

During the visit, as a part of BELTA community service, they provided color pencils, storybooks, and pencil bags. Additionally, they also distributed blankets to the needy guardians, which was a touching moment for everyone involved. Continuing to work under the BELTA

banner, Ferdousie and Nasrin facilitated a storytelling workshop for female madrasah teachers to inspire creativity and promote a love for reading.

BELTA Distributes Winter Clothes to Students in North Bengal to Combat Harsh Cold Dinajpur, North Bengal



In a compassionate response to the severe winter conditions gripping North Bengal, the Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) distributed warm winter clothing to students of KB Sarkar Institute, a non-government primary school in Hasarpara, Nawabganj, Dinajpur.

Local residents and parents expressed profound gratitude, noting that the initiative has reignited hope in the community. BELTA's efforts underscore the critical role of collective action in addressing socioeconomic barriers to education. By bridging the gap between necessity and access, the initiative not only shields students from the cold but also reinforces their right to learn in comfort.

Such programs highlight the transformative power of empathy-driven interventions, particularly in regions where seasonal adversities threaten to derail academic progress. As North Bengal continues to endure the winter chill, the warmth of this initiative serves as a beacon of resilience and community solidarity.

9. BELTA Member as an ACCESS Community coach

Nawsheen Ahsan, an ACCESS Teacher, has completed her 6-month tenure as an ACCESS Community coach. She is involved in the English ACCESS Micro scholarship program. As a community coach, she served as an ACCESS welcome committee member.

During her tenure as a community coach, she had supported the new community members worldwide to join the ACCESS Community of Practice (COP) platform and shared her thoughts about various themes and topics related to the ACCESS Program.

In addition to that, she had participated in onboarding training, participated in live events, and had also contributed to discussions with ACCESS educators globally, which enhanced her professional development activities.

She had engaged in discussions with fellow ACCESS Teachers worldwide and collaborated with them. She acted as a community moderator and guided the ACCESS teachers.

Through her contributions to the ACCESS program and as a community coach, she aims to bring about positive change in global education, continuing to contribute to society.

10. Personal Experiences and Stories

BELTA-NSU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024



Experiences of Md. Sajid Hossain, a student participant

Conferences are indulgent festivals of intellect, where minds meet to knit new connections, a platform for many to showcase the harvest of year-long intellectual labor, and an opportunity to absorb the wisdom imparted by intellectual mammoths. As winter's serene grasp settled in and the year prepared to fold its furred wings and transform into the next, BELTA in collaboration with North South University hosted a two-day international conference, BELTA-NSU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024, on the theme Re/Envisioning Paradigms in English Language Education, on December 6 and 7, bringing together scholarly exchange, innovative ideas, and global perspectives for a kaleidoscopic rendition of intellectual growth and discovery.

Keynote speeches, sessions, workshops, and paper and poster presentations covered the whole gamut of challenges and opportunities that surround English Language Education today. The conference's keynote speaker, plenary, and featured speakers gave a holistic perspective on the past, present, and future of ELE, emphasizing interconnectedness: pedagogy with technology, culture, and global needs.

The conference explored the possibilities and problems associated with multilingual pedagogies in linguistically diverse classrooms, focusing on multilingual integration within the Bangladesh national setting. Discussion focused also on educators' motivations driving a response for change in students and student outcomes, coupled with teacher development as essential to prospering within contemporary contexts.

It highlighted that in reimagining the teaching of the English language, leadership with change in changing power structures had to be inclusive and adopt global perspectives in recruiting teachers toward achieving equitable and sustainable education systems.

Sessions paid tribute to the memory of Michael West in English language teaching and discussed how curricula need to align with the requirements of the global workforce, particularly BELF. Other raised points included the interplay of the local and global contexts in language learning, the revolution in AI to writing pedagogy, and the use of Saunders' Lincoln in the Bardo for deeper insights on language, culture, and human experience with regard to empathy and historical consciousness.

The presentations have emphasized how English functions both as a bridge and a barrier for professional shaping of skills, creative thinking, and nurturing learner autonomy. In the poster presentations and paper presentations, the transformative potential of tools like AI systems was a recurring theme, showing twofold functions: detrimental and enhancing. Presentations also touched on the change in specialty areas of English language teaching itself, from myths and indigenous narratives to an ecological perspective in the reframing of language learning.

Ultimately, the conference was a vibrant confluence of ideas, addressing not just the mechanics of English language learning but also the ethical, cultural, and technological imperatives shaping its future. My superlative experience at this conference as a paper presenter and poster presenter has motivated me to take an active part in future BELTA events.

**(Sajid Hossain is a student of the third year, first semester, studying in the Department of English at the University of Asia Pacific).*

ENGLISH ADDA: AN UNCONVENTIONAL WAY OF TEACHING ENGLISH

By Prashanta Das, a member of Mr. Amin Rahman's English Adda (Mr. Amin Rahman is a freelance linguist based in Melbourne, Australia).

We all know that English is an international language. In addition, we all want to become fluent in speaking English. But as a Bangladeshi, I know that most people, especially educated individuals, are not good at speaking English, even though they have higher degrees in English and have completed their undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the subject.

Today, I want to talk about English Adda. As I already mentioned in the title, it is an unconventional way of teaching English. The fact is that, as a Bangladeshi student, I know that in our country, we strongly depend on coaching centers or other platforms to improve our English-speaking skills. However, in English Adda, all participants (referred to as "addabazz") are supposed to talk for 10 to 15 minutes on any topic of their choice, and the entire session takes place over a Zoom meeting. So, there are no issues with time management as long as you have a smartphone and a strong internet connection.

Now, you might be wondering who conducts this adda. Our main mentor is Amin Rahman, who runs the sessions and gives us the opportunity to develop our English skills. If you are curious about his qualifications, here is something to consider: in our country, we have a common problem of focusing more on a teacher's designation rather than the quality of their teaching. As a result, I want to introduce you to the fantastic Amin Rahman Sir. Firstly, he completed his graduation from BUET and later became a lecturer in the Statistics Department of Dhaka University.

He has worked in more than eight countries and traveled to over 80 countries. Now, he is a freelance linguist based in Melbourne, Australia. He has also worked on the pronunciation of non-native English speakers, especially Bangladeshis, and his published book for Bengali English speakers is outstanding.

Now, I want to share how I first heard about English Adda and how I joined it. We have a library named Swapnashray Granthagar, located in Raban, Palash, Narsingdi, Dhaka. A group of our seniors started Swapnashray Granthagar in 2011 to enlighten the people in our village, especially the young generation, who are often prone to drug addiction or excessive video gaming. Since then, Swapnashray Granthagar has organized numerous social and cultural programs. As a result, Amin Rahman Sir learned about our library and started his journey with us. As a member of Swapnashray Granthagar, I came to know about Amin Rahman Sir and English Adda. Amin Rahman Sir is a lifetime member of Swapnashray Granthagar and serves as our active advisor, constantly guiding us on how to take our library forward and how to improve our society through our work.

As I mentioned earlier, I learned about Amin Rahman Sir through Swapnashray Granthagar. I had seen the adda on Facebook, but I joined last year. When I first joined, I couldn't speak in English at all. Even speaking for one minute felt like an hour for me. I was very nervous when speaking in English. Now, I can confidently say that English Adda is completely different from other platforms for learning English effectively.

The first and foremost reason is that in English Adda, there is no fixed topic. You just join the adda and speak about whatever you want in English. This is very effective when learning a language because practical learning is essential.

The second reason is our wonderful mentor, Amin Rahman Sir, who always inspires us to engage in

activities that help improve our English skills. Sometimes, he corrects our mistakes, but he gives us complete freedom to speak without interruption. This is crucial in the early stages of improving English fluency.

The third reason is the assignments and activities given to us, which help develop our English skills, such as watching English movies, reading English books, listening to podcasts and English news, and then writing a movie review or a summary of the book we have read.

Fourth, pronunciation practice is an essential part of English Adda, helping us improve both our recitation skills and pronunciation.

Last but not least, Amin Rahman Sir provides us with the opportunity to talk with some fantastic mentors from different parts of the world. We are incredibly privileged to have such supportive mentors who are always kind and encouraging during our conversations.

Now, I would like to mention all the mentors who have helped us improve our English.

1. S.M. Kamal Sir (England) – A wonderful mentor. Whenever I talk to him, I don't feel nervous because of the variety of topics he brings into the conversation. He discusses a wide range of subjects like politics, sports, humanity, and also asks about my studies, plans, and goals. Even though S.M. Kamal Sir is above 80 years old, his ability to stay updated with various topics is truly remarkable.
2. Najma Islam Madam – One of our most favorite mentors. She often joins our adda and listens to us attentively with a smile. Sometimes, she gives us important suggestions. Whenever someone calls her for a mentor talk, she responds with absolute love and care. Her positive energy and encouragement give us the confidence to continue improving our English.

3. Kazi Mahbubul Haque Sir – A fantastic mentor who takes mentor talks very seriously. Whenever someone talks with him, they must have a pen and paper in front of them. During the conversation, if he uses new words or phrases, he asks whether we are familiar with them. If not, he explains, and we write them down.
4. Fatema Farid Madam – A former member of English Adda, now working in England. She is a very kind person. Whenever I talk to her, she always tells me: “Keep practicing whatever Amin Rahman Sir suggests. One day, you will find yourself transformed.” She also encourages us to write as much as possible, as the habit of writing greatly improves English skills.
5. Masudur Rahman Sir – The first mentor I ever spoke to. I still remember that our conversation was about my village and Swapnashray Granthagar. He was previously a member of English Adda and now helps us improve our English.
6. Sayed Saheen Sir – Another mentor who sometimes joins English Adda. He is also a former member of the group.

We are incredibly privileged to have such mentors who help us improve our English. I would like to thank all the mentors for their invaluable support and time. I don't think this unique pathway of learning English would be possible without Amin Rahman Sir and our fantastic mentors.

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11. Publications by EC Members

1. **Ahmad, Z.**, Prattay, S. R., Kaiser, W., Rahim, S. & Shoshi, S. J. (2024). Role of AI on Creativity of Aspiring Writers in Bangladesh. *Rupkatha Journal* 16:3. <https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v16n3.03>
2. **Rahman, K. A.** (2024). Language Barriers, Miscommunication and Maritime Accidents. *Bangladesh Maritime Journal (BMJ)*, 8(1), 145–152.
3. Hafiz, K. D., Rukanuddin, **M.**, **Rahman, K. A.**, & **Ibna Seraj, P. M.** (2024). Rethinking the Acculturation Model: Implications for Theory and Research. *BELTA Journal*, 7(1), 1–13. Dewi, A. C.,
4. Mohamed, S., **Rahman, K. A.**, & Cardoso, L. (2024). Impact of Performance-Based Assessment on Academic Writing Instruction. *Inspiring: English Education Journal*, 7(1), 186–200.
5. **Suchana, A.A.** (2025) . Visual Representation of Gender in English Language Textbooks of Bangladesh and Teachers' Voices. *Asian Women*, 41(1), 167-197. [10.14431/aw.2025.3.41.1.167](https://doi.org/10.14431/aw.2025.3.41.1.167).
6. **Suchana, A.A.** (2024). Discourse of patriarchy through gendered language: A study of EFL textbooks in Bangladesh. *Heliyon*, 10(20), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2024.e39362>
7. Tarannum, T., Ahmed, R., & **Ibna Seraj, P. M.**, (2025). ELT Teachers' perception and usage of ChatGPT as a teaching tool in the Bangladeshi EFL context. *Education and Information Technologies*, 0123456789. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10639-025-13515-7>

8. **Ibna Seraj, P. M.,** & Klimova, B. (2025). Smartphone Apps -based Teaching Method to Develop Oral English Communication Skills at the Tertiary Level in an EFL Context. *World Journal of English Language*, 15(2), 250–262. <https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v15n2p250>
9. **Ibna Seraj, P. M.** (2024). Green Technology in Language Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Environment: A Review Study. *BIO Web of Conferences*, 04006. <https://doi.org/10.1051/bioconf/20241440406> (Scopus Indexed)
10. Muthmainnah, M., Yakin, A. Al, **Ibna Seraj, P. M.,** Darmawati, B., Elngar, A. A., & Obaid, A. J. (2024). Integrating Robot-Based Resources to Foster Computational Thinking and Communication Skills in EFL Education: A Path Towards Sustainable Development. *Sustainable Development through Machine Learning, AI, and IoT*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-71729-1_7
11. **Ibna Seraj, P. M.** (2024). May Falgun (Spring) spark higher education. *Bangladesh Today*, 1–8. <https://thebangladeshtoday.com/?p=25137>
12. **Ibna Seraj, P. M.,** Klimova, B., & Khan, R. (2024). Visualizing Research Trends in English Language Teaching (ELT) From 2013 to 2022: A Bibliometric Analysis. *SAGE Open*, 14(2), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440241251998>
13. **Ibna Seraj, P. M.,** Klimova, B., & Muthmainnah, M. (2024). A Systematic Review on the Factors Related to Cyberbullying for Learners' Wellbeing. *European Journal of Educational Research*, 13(4), 1877–1899. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.12973/eu-jer.13.4.1877>
14. Kamal, M. A., **Ibna Seraj, P. M.,** & Begum, F. (2024). Teachers ' Perceptions on Corrective Feedback in Task-based Language Teaching (TBLT) and Content and Language Integrated Resumen. *MEXTESOL Journal*, 48(1), 0–2.
15. **Chowdhury, T. A.,** Hossain, M. S., & Rahman, S. (2025). Challenges of Effective English Writing for Bangladeshi Tertiary-level Students. (2025). *TESOL Bangladesh Journal (TBJ)*, 2(1), 125-147. <https://doi.org/10.69907/tbj.v2i1.89>
16. **Ahmad, Z.** (202). Understanding Challenges Faced by EFL Students for Sustainable Online Education. *Mother Language: A Bi-Annual Research Journal on Language and Related Issues*, 7(2), 73–86. ISSN: 2617-9903

12. BELTA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Khustia Chapter



Sylhet Chapter



Chittagong Chapter

Teacher Training on **Empowering Educators: Implementing AI-Enhanced Inquiry-Based Approaches in English Language Education in Bangladesh**

A project of BLP Inquest Award 2024

Day 2: AI for Lesson Planning, Writing Pedagogy, Feedback and Assessment

26 October 2021
Saturday
08:30 am

Premier University
GEC Circle,
Chattogram

Facilitator:
Mr. Sadat Zaman Khan
Associate Professor & Chair
DELL, Premier University, Chattogram
Alumni, International Visitor
Leadership Program (AUI)

Facilitator:
Mr. Md. Abdul Malik
Manager, Strategic Pedagogics &
Resource Organization, BRAC
Alumni, International Visitor
Leadership Program (AUI)

Implemented by: **BELTA Chittagong South**
Global AHI for Sustainable Development (GASD)

Sylhet Chapter

BELTA **BRITISH COUNCIL IELTS**

BELTA SYLHET CHAPTER PRESENTS

WEBINAR ON

Familiarisation of
IELTS on Computer Test

SESSION CHAIR **SPEAKER** **MODERATOR**

Pranab kanti Deb **MD Doza** **Sultan Ahmed**

COORDINATOR **ACCOUNT MANAGER** **SECRETARY**
BELTA SYLHET CHAPTER EXAMS, BRITISH COUNCIL BELTA SYLHET CHAPTER
BANGLADESH

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/beltasylhet>

Friday | 7:30 PM | 4th JULY

13. BELTA in Photos

BELTA AGM 2024



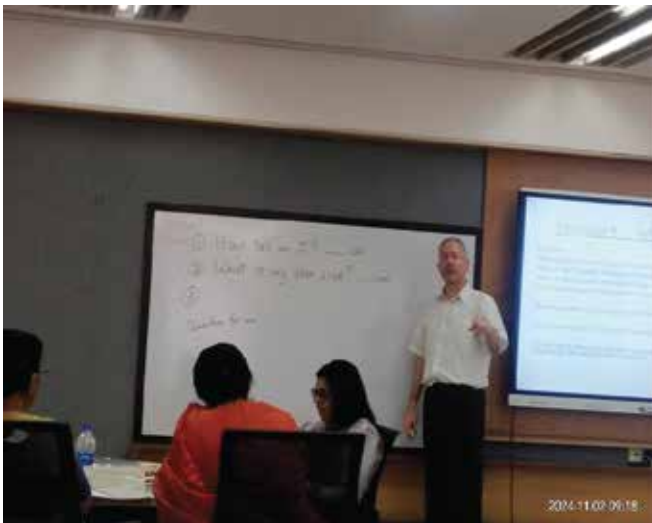
BELTA AGM 2024



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at IUB



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at IUB



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at Barishal University



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at Barishal University



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at Barishal University



BELTA-THT Conference 2024 at Barishal University



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



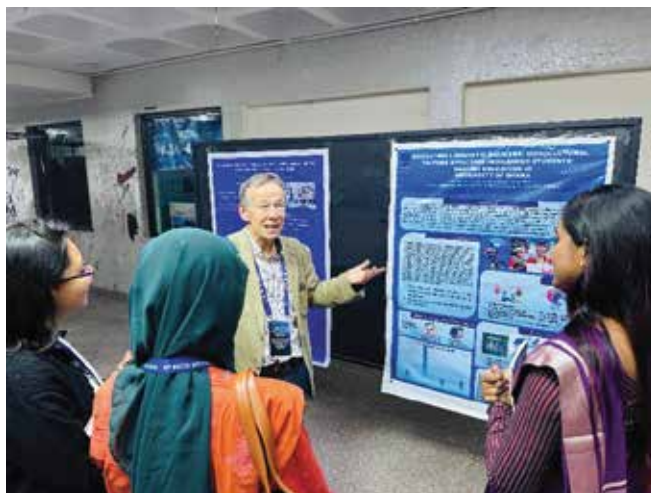
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BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



BELTA-NSU International Conference 2024



Keynote speaker at the Department of English, DU



EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Zakia Ahmad
Prof. Ahmed Bashir
Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah
Dr Prodhan Mahbub Ibna Seraj

GENERAL INFORMATION

BELTA newsletter primarily aims at all the members of BELTA. It is not a refereed journal but rather a newsletter that contains various news items, including brief reports on events organized by BELTA and its chapters, and seminars and conferences attended by its members. It also contains short write-ups on any topics related to ELT, Applied Linguistics, and Education in general. Besides, the newsletter welcomes any write-ups about your teaching and learning experiences or any tips on teaching and learning. Please send your contributions to BELTA Newsletter as a Word file in 350-500 words. We accept contributions throughout the year.

WHERE TO SEND

Send your write-ups to
belta.newsletter@gmail.com
Cc to
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BELTA website www.belta-bd.org