

## **Activities of the Society for Critical Legal Studies (SCLS) (December 2016 - December 2017)**

During December 2016- December 2017, the Society for Critical Legal Studies (SCLS) has been round clock busy in organizing different types of events and activities aimed at fostering intellectual enrichment of the students of law.

**Monthly Seminars:** As part of the sequel, SCLS has already arranged eight monthly seminars since December 2016.

- 1) **First Monthly Seminar** was held on December 19, 2016. Featuring Barrister Hasan M.S. Azim as the Guest Speaker, Dean Professor A. B. M. Abu Noman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Held on 19th December 2016, the title of the Seminar was "Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court: In Search of a Policy"
- 2) **Second Monthly Seminar** featuring Advocate Manzill Murshid as the Guest Speaker, the 21 January 2017 Seminar focused the 16th Amendment verdict. Advocate Manzill Murshid being the lead lawyer of the case, offered a vibrant explanation of the ins and outs of the case to the students of CU. Guest of Honor of the occasion Associate Professor Nirmal Kumar Saha greeted the Guest Speaker to the Faculty.
- 3) **Third Monthly Seminar** - Barrister Moyeen Firozee and Advocate Sabrina Samad Firozee held the 80 participants spell bound for two and a half hours on February 18, 2017. The presence 10 participants from Premier, BGC, Port City, Southern and International Islamic University Chittagong made the occasion full.
- 4) **Fourth Monthly Seminar** - Advocate Amit Das Gupta conducted a breath taking three-and-a-half-hour marathon on CPC on March 11, 2017. 29 participants from CU, 21 participants from Port City International, 18 from Premier and 3 each from BGC and Southern University agreed strongly that they have had the best possible orientation with the norms and principles of CPC at that day.
- 5) **Fifth Monthly Seminar** - 5th Monthly Seminar of SCLS featuring Dr Qazi Zahed Iqbal as the Guest Speaker on April 4, 2017 was an all-out success. It also marked the Valedictory Session of 'English Station 1: Break Your Fears'. 64 participants from Premier, BGC, IIUC, Southern, Port City and Chittagong Independent University along with 60 students from Chittagong University constituted an exceptionally curious audience.
- 6) **Sixth Monthly Seminar** - 6th Monthly Seminar was dedicated to the memory of Late Mr M Anwarul Azim, philanthropist and father of Barrister Hassan M S Azim of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Honorable Judge of the High Court Division Mr Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif delivered the lecture before 130 students of different law schools. Held on May 20, 2017, the lecture was attended by Mr Md Helal Chowdhury, District and Sessions Judge of Chittagong, Mr MD Shahenoor, Metropolitan Sessions Judge of Chittagong, Advocate Ratan Kumar Roy, President of Chittagong District Bar Association and Advocate Sanowar Ahmed Lavlu, PP, Anti-Corruption Commission, Chittagong.
- 7) **Seventh Monthly Seminar** - The Ramadan Special Seminar of SCLS on Food Safety Laws marked a three hour long academic marathon between a Food Court Magistrate Mr Mahboob Sobhani, a leading food producer of Chittagong Mr MA Sabur and a learned Islamic Scholar of Chittagong University Professor Dr Mohammad Zafar Ullah. The three-hour long seminar held in East Delta University Auditorium on June 11, 2017 (Sunday) was followed by certificate awarding to the graduates of English Station 2: Rise in Confidence and SCLS Iftar Party sponsored by Fulkoli Food Products Limited. 58 students of Chittagong

University along with 64 students from Comilla University, Premier University, BGC Trust University, International Islamic University, Southern University, Port City International University and Chittagong Independent University participated the Seminar.

- 8) **Eighth Monthly Seminar** - SCLS's 8th Monthly Seminar on "Law of Evidence: As Understood and Practiced in Our Courts" was successfully executed on October 10, 2017. Around 100 students from 6 law schools of Chittagong and Comilla region constituted a bunch of compact and cool audience. Mr Advocate Amit Das Gupta, with his usual excellence in public speaking, has made the three and half an hour-long session a once-in-a-life-time experience. SCLS remains grateful to Mr Johanjeb Tareq, Head of the Department of Law, Southern University Bangladesh for facilitating the wonderful auditorium for SCLS.

**SCLS Legal Essay Competition:** After the food safety seminar, SCLS Executive Committee called for a legal essay competition on Legal Responsibilities of Different Stakeholders Regarding Food Safety: A Bangladesh Perspective. Top three essays of the competition were recognized and awarded. Thereafter, SCLS Research Team and Editorial Board continued their work with the authors - Arafat 'Ibnul' Bashar (CU, 1st Prize Winner), Suparna Roy Piu (CU, Second Prize Winner) and Farhat Islam (Premier University, Third Prize Winner). The essays were updated as per the recommendation of the judge Mr Mahboob Sobhani, Magistrate of the Food Court, Dhaka South City Corporation. After further inputs and editing from the SCLS Editorial Board, the essays are now ready for publication in the SCLS Website: <http://sclsbd.org/category/legal-essay-competition-2017/>

**English Language Program:** SCLS has successfully completed three episodes of its English Spoken Program named 'English Station'.

- 1) **English Station 1: Break Your Fears** – English Station 1 was a Twice a Week Practice Session organized by SCLS. It aimed at enhancing the oral excellence in English among the law students. February 01 -March 31, 2017 program was a test exercise on SCLS's part. Broader goal of the initiative was to prepare the students for possible adoption of English as the sole medium of legal instruction. 50 registered students participated the program.
- 2) **English Station 2: Rise in Confidence** – Inspired by the huge success of the Fear Breaker round of "English Station 1", SCLS undertook the Confidence Riser episode of "English Station 2". ES 2, comprising 60 registered participants, which continued during April 1- May 31, 2017.
- 3) **English Station 3: Strive for Excellence** - Followed by the successful completion of "English Station 1: Break Your Fears" and "English Station 2: Rise In Confidence", the "English Station 3: Strive For Excellence " comprising 35 participants continued during the 13 July - 31 August, 2017 .

Expert public speakers, teachers, judges, phonologists, debaters, English Language trainers, MUNers (mock ambassadors of the Model United Nations) and debaters conducted the classes on theoretical and empirical basis. Afterwards Alumnus of the English Stations started working as research assistant, co-editor, fluent public speaker etc. in different sphere of law and other disciplines.

**Workshops and Training Programs:** SCLS has already organized three workshops

- 1) SCLS conducted a two day long **Legal Reasoning and Argumentative Skill Workshop** on March 17-18, 2017. 74 registered participants from 7 different universities were trained by 7 renowned Mooters of the country coming from 4

different universities. Mr Shyikh Mahdi, Masrur Bin Ansari, Omar Faruque Fahim and Jubaer Ahmed conducted the first day. Resource persons for the day 2 were Mr Sattar Mullah, Mr Shariful Hoque and Ms. Saida Talukder Rahi, all ex-CU Mooters. SCLS remain especially thankful to Mr Mokarramus Shaklan for his contribution from behind the scene in this initiative.

- 2) **Workshop on Career with Bangladesh Judicial Service-** From April 7 to April 8, 2017, Workshop on Career with Bangladesh Judicial Service was held where students from Chittagong University participated. 12 Judicial Officers from the Judicial Service of Bangladesh imparted practical instructions to the participants for two consecutive days. The judicial officers who were the resource persons of this workshop are - Mr Mohammad Saiful Elahi (Joint District & Sessions Judge, Sirajgonj), Mr Shuvodeep Paul (Recommended in 10th Judicial Service), G.M. Farhan Isteaq Symoom (Assistant Judge, District and Session Judges' Court, Feni), Mr. Ismail Hossain Amin (Additional District and Sessions Judge Dhaka), Mr Jewel Deb (Assistant Judge, Chittagong), Mr. Shahriar Mahmud Adnan (Joint District Judge and Judge, Land Survey Tribunal, Pirojpur), Ms. Hamimun Tanzin (10th Judiciary recommended), Mr. Zia Uddin Ahmed (Recommended in 10th Judicial Service), Mr Rajesh Chowdhury (Senior Judicial Magistrate Feni), Mr. Md Abdur Rahman (Joint District and Sessions Judge, Chittagong), Ms. Masuma Jannat (Assistant Judge, Chittagong), Mr. Mahmudul Hoque Sany, (Recommended in 10th Judicial Service Examination). All these judicial officers are CU Alumnus.
- 3) **Workshop on Article, Thesis, Field Work and Externship Report Writing -** SCLS has conducted a two-day Workshop on Legal Research Methodology during the July 21-22, 2017. Resource Persons of the first day included Mr Md Aftab Uddin Jewel (Assistant Professor, Department of Management, University of Chittagong and a PhD scholar at the Wuhan University of Technology, China), Mr Soyeab Haider (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Chittagong) and Mr M Jashim Ali Chowdhury (Assistant Professor, Department of Law, University of Chittagong). Three of SCLS researchers Mr Jahedul Islam Jahed, Mr Aqib Tahmid and Mr Mohammed Sakhawat Sejan played the role of aptitude builders by sharing their experience with the writing process of their recent publications. Day two of the workshop was conducted by Mr Shakawat Shamim (Freelance Writer Prothom Alo and a Commonwealth Scholar for the Academic Year 2017-18), Mr Md Abdur Razzak (Lecturer, Department of Law, Jagannath University), Mr Meftahul Hasan Sun (Lecturer, Department of Law, Jagannath University) and Mr Suprobhat Paul (Assistant Professor, Department of Law and Justice, Jahangirnagar University).
- 4) **Workshop on ins & Outs of British Parliamentary Debate -** Asif Mehedi Adi (North South University) and Adel Mostaque Ahmed (IBA, University of Dhaka) quenched the debate thirst of around 50 SCLS debaters to their heart's content 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. It was the first ever workshop organised by SCLS Debate Wing. Mr Mohammad Azizul Quader, Director, Grey Goose curtsied the venue for SCLS.

#### **Professor Dr Khabir Uddin Ahmed Memorial Moot Court Competition 2017:**

Professor Dr Khabir Uddin Ahmed Memorial Moot Court Competition 2017 was held during June 3-4, 2017. Eight teams from eight different universities of Chittagong participated in the competition. While the University of Chittagong became champion, the Northern University Bangladesh bagged the Runners Up Trophy. With Prof Md Nurul Mostafa, Vice Chancellor, Southern University Bangladesh as the Chief Guest of the

Competition, Professor Md Mohiuddin Khaled presided over the closing and prize giving ceremony.

**Annual General Meeting and Election of new Moderator:** The Annual General Meeting of SCLS 2017 was held at Chittagong University premises on July 15, 2017. Distinguished Guests of the occasion were Mr Naeem Morshed (Additional District and Sessions Judge, Noakhali and an Alumni from the 1st Batch CU Law), Mr Badrul Huda Mamun (Advocate Supreme Court of Bangladesh and an Alumni from the 3rd Batch, CU Law), Mr Mohammad Hossen (Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and an Alumni from 5th Batch, CU Law), Mr Saiful Abedin (Promising Banker and an Alumni from 8th Batch, CU Law), Mr Shawkat Awal Chowdhury (Advocate and Ex Library Secretary, Chittagong District Bar Association and an Alumni from 9th Batch, CU Law), Mr Arif Mondol (Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and an Alumni from 11th Batch, CU Law), Mr Easin Arfat Sazzad (Advocate and an Alumni from 14th Batch, CU Law) and Mr Md Junaid (Advocate and an Alumni from 16th Batch, CU Law). The 31-Member Body of the Full Members of SCLS went for a secret ballot election of the new Executive Committee (2017-2018). The newly elected Executive Committee was then given Oath by Mr Naeem Morshed. Participants then went for its first meeting and unanimously elected Mr Nirmal Kumar Saha (Associate Professor and Ex-Chairman, Department of Law, CU) as the new Moderator of SCLS. As per the decision of the Executive Committee, the Founding Moderator Mr M Jashim Ali Chowdhury, would continue to support SCLS in an Ambassadorial role.

**Harijon Community Research and Round Table:** The research methodology workshop of July 21-22, 2017 was followed by a community research based on the Harijon Community of Chittagong region. Funded by the Al Arafah Islami Bank Limited the SCLS Roundtable on the Harijon Community was held on September 24, 2017 at the Conference Room of the Daily Azadi. Professor Dr Anupam Sen, Vice Chancellor of Premier University and Professor Dr Mahfujul Hoque Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the Chittagong Independent University, were the distinguished guests of the occasion. The team SCLS comprising the participants of SCLS's July 21-22 Workshop on Legal Research, presented their two week long intensive field research on Harijon Community. Sponsored by the Al Arafah Islami Bank Limited, the SCLS Research Team presented an astonishingly resourceful paper before 73 students from 9 Law Schools and two eminent intellectuals of the country. Distinguished Guests Mr Mohammad Salamat Ullah and Mr Sanjoy Biswas also spoke in the occasion.

**SCLS Law Olympiad 2017:** SCLS has organized the first ever Law Olympiad in the history of Bangladesh on 29-30 August 2017. With Mr Justice Mahmudul Hoque as the Chief Guest of the occasion, 30 teams from 15 law schools of Bangladesh participated the colorful and resourceful event. While BRAC University bagged the Champion Trophy, Chittagong University stood the Runners Up of the event. With Mr Justice Mahmudul Hoque, honorable Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest and Professor Sekandar Khan, Vice Chancellor of EDU, as the Guest of Honour, the Second Day of the first ever Law Olympiad saw the triumph of excellence in legal knowledge and reasoning. BRAC University (Team Aquinas) bagged the Champion Trophy. Team Aquinas also secured the top position in Critical Eye Round as well. Team Objection of Chittagong University became Runners Up of the 32 teams event. Arafat 'Ibnul' Bashar of Chittagong University (Team Mandela) and Anik Howladar of Premier University (Team Reflection) achieved the individual award. Team Objections from Chittagong University secured top position in the Preliminary Argumentative Round. Premier University Chittagong (with one individual award) and

Britannia University made through the Semi-Final along with two Teams from IIUC. SCLS paid special gratitude to Mr Shah Ahmed Ripon, one of the ardent supporters of SCLS for making the beautiful East Delta University open for SCLS as the venue of the law Olympiad. Gratitude to Mr Houssain Al-Ashkari for single handedly sponsoring the event - in personal capacity as well as official capacity with Four H Group.

**SCLS Students Tribunal on Genocide in Myanmar:** SCLS Students' Tribunal on Genocide in Myanmar was held in the District Bar Association Auditorium of Chittagong on 11 November 2017. With Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam as the Chairman, the Tribunal also comprised Professor Dr. S. M. Masum Billah, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Jagannath University and Dr Badrul Hasan Kachi, Editor of LawyersClubBangladesh.com. Chief Discussant of the Plenary Discussion Session was Professor Dr Rahman Nasir Uddin of Department of Anthropology, University of Chittagong. President of Chittagong District Bar Association Advocate Ratan Kumar Roy, TechVen Properties Chairman Commodore S.M. Monir, Advocate Abu Tayab Kiron of the Supreme Court and Ms Masooma Zaman Sharmin, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Law were present as discussants. 30 Participants from 15 Law Schools of Bangladesh participated in the simulated trial of Myanmar government for genocide committed against the Rohingya Community.

**SCLS's Collaboration with other institutions and entities:** SCLS has collaborated with International Islamic University and Port City International University in two occasions:

- 1) **SCLS-IIUC Law Club Workshop:** Invited by the IIUC Law Club, a group of seven public speaking trainers from SCLS conducted a two-day long workshop with 220 students of IIUC Law on August 5-6, 2017. With Professor Morshed Mahmud Khan, Department of Law, CU and other faculties from IIUC gracing the inaugural session, the two-day long workshop was its first program with another organization in SCLS's history.
- 2) **SCLS-Port City University Law Department Workshop:** On November 18, 2017 team SCLS was invited by the Department of Law, Port City International University to train and interact with the law students there. Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr Md Nurul Anwar Sir graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Heartfelt thanks to the faculty and students of Port City International University for opening the possibility of greater interaction in the days to come.

**Opening of SCLS Website:** SCLS launched its official website – [www.sclsbdo.org](http://www.sclsbdo.org) on August 01, 2017. SCLS acknowledges the generous sponsorship of Mr Easin Arfat Sazzad, a 14th Batch Alumni of CU for the website. Basic ingredients of the Website are the Blog and Journal of SCLS.

**Dr Mohiuddin Farooque Memorial Intra-SCLS Moot Court Competition 2017 –** SCLS organized the first ever Intra-SCLS Environmental Law Moot Court Competition on December 9, 2017 aiming at better training the SCLS Mooters for the national and international level. Named after the legendary environmental law expert Advocate Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, the competition comprised six teams of 18 SCLS Volunteers. Teams were judged by six distinguished judicial officers and legal practitioners and alumnis from CU Law, namely Mr Rajesh Chowdhury, Jewel Deb, Istiaq Symoom, Shamsur Rahman Insan, Shariful Hoque and AHM Junaid. Team comprising Tanjina Tanjina Rahman Priti, Shahinoor Khanam and Nasrin Sultana Priya became the Champion and Team comprising Jahedul Islam Jahed, Adiba Tahsin Raha and Tanvir Haider became the Runners Up. Winners of Individual Awards were - Shahinoor Khanam (Best Advocate) and Nasrin Sultana Priya (Best Researcher). The Runners Up team also bagged the Best Memorial Award.