

Half-yearly **NEWSLETTER** **2026**



January to June Edition

Board of Trustees Meetings

January to June 2026

Between February and June 2026, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) held its 58th, 59th and 60th meetings, keeping the organization's strategic priorities under regular review.

The 59th Meeting, held on May 07, 2026, at the meeting room of the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, was a key milestone. It was the first Board Meeting chaired by BdREN Chairperson Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed after he assumed office.

The Board reviewed contemporary operational issues of BdREN and explored strategic directions for the road ahead. The focus was on strengthening BdREN's role as a key national institution supporting the country's education, research and innovation initiatives.

The meeting also brought new voices to the table. Three newly appointed Trustee Members joined the Board, and Vice-Chairperson Prof. Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman welcomed the new UGC Chairman and BdREN Chairperson, Prof. Dr. Mamun Ahmed.

Strategy in Focus

From operational challenges to long-term direction, the Board looked at how BdREN can do more for the country.

PHOTO GALLERY



58th BOT Meeting, February 2026



59th BOT Meeting, May 2026



60th BOT Meeting, June 2026



From Classroom to Data Center: KUET Students Visit BdREN

PART 1

Inside the Visit

A group of students from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), accompanied by two faculty members, visited the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) Data Center as part of an academic exposure program designed to connect classroom learning with real-world infrastructure.

The visit opened with a welcome address from BdREN's Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), who spoke about the organization's role in strengthening the digital and research infrastructure of academic and research institutions across Bangladesh. In closing remarks, the CMO encouraged the students to explore future opportunities in advanced networking, data center tech-

nologies, and research-oriented IT services. He also talked about essential life-skills for the students.

Mr. Jamilur Rahman and Mr. Md. Ariful Islam Arman then led the group through an overview of BdREN's core operations, covering the organization's nationwide research and education network, its data center facilities, internet bandwidth services, and cloud service offerings. They also detailed how BdREN's infrastructure supports teaching, learning, and research activities at universities and research organizations throughout the country.

The presentation also covered BdREN's mission of connecting universities nationwide through a unified, high-speed network enabling collaborative research, remote learning, and shared computing access.

PART 2

What Students Took Away

Throughout the session, students engaged actively with the material, asking detailed questions about how networking and data center operations function in practice. For BdREN, this kind of engagement reflects exactly why such visits matter: they help close the gap between academic theory and the practical, operational realities of the field.

*Curiosity met infrastructure —
and the questions kept coming.*



BdREN remains committed to supporting academic institutions through knowledge-sharing and hands-on learning opportunities, giving students meaningful insight into the modern ICT infrastructure and national research networks that underpin higher education across Bangladesh.

Built in Bangladesh: BdREN's Digital Services Shine at SARCHE 2026 Innovative In-House



The Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) showcased its portfolio of innovative, homegrown digital services at the South Asian Regional Conference on the State of Higher Education and Future Pathway (SARCHE 2026), held in Dhaka from 13 to 15 January 2026. The three-day international conference was organized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh under the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project.

The then Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus opened the conference on 13 January, urging academics from across the region to reshape education systems around the expectations of young people rather than narrow, job-focused training, and to cultivate creativity, entrepreneurship and social leadership. Drawing on the events surrounding Bangladesh's 2024 student-led uprising, he framed the moment as an opportunity to reconsider what

higher education should really deliver for a new generation. He also renewed his call for reviving the platforms whose decline had weakened opportunities for intellectual exchange.

The gathering drew roughly 30 international representatives, including delegates from the United Kingdom,

the Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, alongside senior government and World Bank officials. The then Education Adviser Professor Dr. CR Abrar and previous UGC Chairman Professor Dr. SMA Faiz also addressed the opening session.

At its dedicated exhibition space,

BdREN highlighted a range of locally developed, AI-enabled digital tools and infrastructure services designed to support the higher education and research community. Key demonstrations included AI Mail Wizard, MindSpear, AI Stack, FileSender and the Event Management System, reflecting BdREN's focus on building sustainable, secure and smart digital solutions tailored to academic institutions.

The BdREN stall drew strong interest from teachers, researchers and SAARC delegations, who engaged with the live demonstrations and praised BdREN's homegrown, innovation-driven services.

The conference closed on 15 January with the adoption of the "Dhaka Declaration," encompassing eight strategic commitments to build a stable, inclusive higher education system across South Asia. BdREN reaffirmed its commitment to AI-driven academic environments and robust digital infrastructure.





La Meridian Dhaka

BdREN hosts APAN61 Successfully at Dhaka

For five days, Le Méridien Dhaka became a meeting point for the Asia-Pacific research and education community. The 61st Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN61) Meeting, jointly hosted by the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) and the HEAT Project, welcomed researchers, academicians and ICT professionals from around the world to advance collaboration in research and education networking.

The spotlight fell on the Grand Ballroom on 27 January 2026, when the formal inauguration ceremony opened the event. Prof. Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Ex Member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and Ex Vice-Chairperson of BdREN, chaired the session. Mr.

Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Executive Officer of BdREN, delivered the opening address, while Prof. Shinji Shimojo, Chairman of the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, Ex Member of the UGC, delivered the closing remarks.

Two keynote addresses set the tone for the days ahead. Ms. Karin Wessel of SURF, Netherlands, shared her insights on global research and education collaboration, and Dr. Azreen Karim, Senior Research Fellow at BIDS, presented economic perspectives on the Asia-Pacific region.

The programme that followed was rich and varied. Delegates joined Working Group sessions, Special Interest

Groups (SIGs), Birds of a Feather (BoF) meetings, training programs and technical discussions. These focused on advanced networking, cybersecurity, data sharing, emerging technologies and regional cooperation. Cultural programs highlighting Bangladesh's heritage gave guests a warm taste of local hospitality.

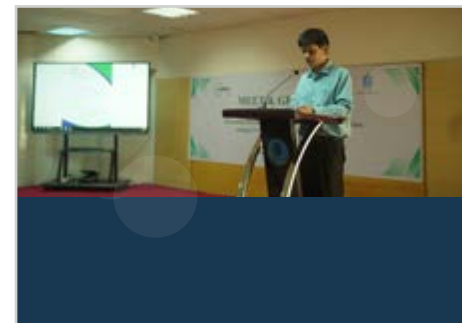
The scale of participation speaks for itself. APAN61 recorded 355 participants from 20 countries, attending both onsite and online. A total of 101 speakers, 35 organizers and 17 sponsors contributed to the success of the event. As the national research and education network of Bangladesh, BdREN was honored to host APAN61, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening global partnerships and advancing digital

connectivity for research and education.

Passing the Torch

APAN61 officially closed with a formal handover ceremony, reaffirming a shared commitment to regional collaboration in research and digital infrastructure. With the torch now passed on, the APAN community looks ahead to its next gathering.

BdREN Hosts “Meet & Greet 2026” to Strengthen University Collaboration



The Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) opened the second quarter of 2026 with one of its most ambitious outreach efforts yet, hosting "Meet & Greet 2026" at the UGC Auditorium in Dhaka on 23 April.

A total of 85 representatives from 41 private universities across Dhaka and the surrounding region attended, a number organizers were quick to point to as evidence that private institutions are increasingly eager to plug into a more connected, collaborative academic ecosystem rather than operate in isolation on digital infrastructure and research access. For an organization whose core mission is national connectivity, a room of that size, drawn from that many distinct institutions, represented a meaningful vote of confidence.

The event was chaired by BdREN's Chief Executive Officer, Mohammad

Tawrit, who has overseen much of the private university space over the past two years.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Anwar Hossen, Ex Member of the UGC, attended as the Chief Guest and used his address to underline the role BdREN's services play in keeping Bangladeshi higher education competitive on the global stage — a competitiveness, he suggested, that increasingly depends less on physical campus infrastructure and more on the quality and speed of an institution's digital backbone. Special Guest Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, Ex Director of the Private University Management Division, went a step further, describing digital infrastructure not as a convenience layered on top of an institution's core work but as a foundation underneath it — something private universities, in his view, could no longer treat as optional if they wanted to remain competitive in research output and

student outcomes.

Prof. Dr. Mostafa Mahmud Hasan, Dean of the Faculty of Business at Khwaja Yunus Ali University, spoke about the day-to-day friction of trying to secure affordable access to research databases without the negotiating leverage of a national network behind an institution. Prof. Khawza Iftekhar Uddin, Pro-VC of Green University of Bangladesh, echoed similar concerns around cost and access. Dr. Md. Zahid Hossain Shueb, Librarian at North South University, brought a librarian's ground-level view of what easier eResource access would actually mean for researchers and students on his campus. All three expressed clear interest in deeper, longer-term collaboration with BdREN going forward, rather than a one-off engagement.

In his closing remarks, CEO Mohammad Tawrit reaffirmed BdREN's commitment to expanding its services across all

universities, public and private alike — describing a shared vision built around innovation, research excellence, and institutional collaboration nationwide.

For BdREN, "Meet & Greet 2026" serves as a template going forward:

a low-friction, high-turnout format for building the kind of institutional trust that, over time, tends to translate into the formal MoUs and service agreements that make up the rest of the organization's 2026 calendar.

BdREN Brings Hands-On Generative AI to KYAU

A week after its Dhaka outreach event, BdREN turned its attention to a more technical audience, holding a workshop titled “Enhancement of Collaboration and Use of Generative AI” at Khwaja Yunus Ali University (KYAU) on 30 April 2026. Where “Meet & Greet 2026” had been about building relationships at the institutional level, this workshop was designed to get hands-on: to move faculty, officials, and administrative staff from simply hearing about generative AI to actually using it in their own institutional contexts.

The event formed part of BdREN's ongoing effort to strengthen collaboration among academic institutions and promote the effective use of emerging technologies in higher education. That effort has taken many forms over the past year — MoUs, eResource access, network infrastructure — but AI literacy has increasingly become a thread running through nearly all of them, and KYAU represented one of the more concentrated single-day efforts to build that literacy directly among a partner institution's personnel.

The program opened with registration and a welcome address from the Director of IQAC, followed by remarks from BdREN's CEO highlighting the organization's broader commitment to advancing digital transformation across Bangladesh's education and research network. Institutional backing for the day ran unusually high: the Honorable Vice Chancellor of KYAU attended as Chief Guest, while the Principal of KYAMC (Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College) joined as Special Guest. That level of senior attendance at what was, on paper, a technical training workshop, was itself a signal — host institutions in 2026 are beginning to treat AI literacy as core academic infrastructure rather than an optional professional-development add-on.



With 144 attendees registered, the day's technical sessions were led by BdREN's own experts, who walked participants through the organization's service landscape, its AI-driven tools, network security solutions, and its eResource portfolio.

A dedicated segment on AI-powered survey tools demonstrated practical applications that institutions could adopt immediately to sharpen administrative efficiency and support more data-driven decision-making across departments — the kind of low-friction, high-impact use case that tends to win over skeptical staff faster than abstract discussions of AI's potential. Perhaps the most substantive part of the day was an interactive discussion session on enhancing collaboration, where participants exchanged ideas and explored future partnerships built around what

BdREN describes as its three layers of connectivity: physical, logical, and human.

That framing — infrastructure, systems, and people working in concert, rather than any one of the three in isolation — appeared to resonate strongly with attendees who were looking for

AI Literacy, Made Practical

From AI-powered survey tools to network security and eResources, 144 attendees saw how emerging technology can be used on campus right away. For BdREN, it is one more step from network operator to catalyst for innovation.

something more durable than a one-off training session: an actual institutional partnership.

The workshop concluded with a networking lunch that gave participants an informal setting to continue conversations that had started in the more structured sessions. For BdREN, events like this reaffirm a role the organization has been steadily building toward across 2026: not simply a network operator supplying bandwidth, but a genuine catalyst for innovation, collaboration, and technology adoption across Bangladesh's higher education ecosystem — one campus workshop at a time.

BdREN

PARTNERSHIP

BdREN and Dhaka University Join Hands to Widen Access to eResources

On 10 May 2026, the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Dhaka (DU) — arguably the most symbolically significant partnership on BdREN's calendar this year, given DU's standing as the country's oldest and largest public university. The agreement is designed to strengthen collaboration in research and digital resource sharing, and was signed on behalf of BdREN by Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Tawrit and on behalf of DU by Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Treasurer of the University of Dhaka.

The substance of the MoU is squarely about access. Under its terms, BdREN will facilitate access to a wide range of eResources for the University of Dhaka, including e-books, e-journals, research databases, software applications, DOI services, and hosting solutions. For a university of the size of DU, accessing these resources through a national network — rather than department by department — represents a meaningful shift in how the institution approaches its digital resourcing.

Bangladesh's oldest university, now backed by its widest reach of research resources with the help of BdREN.

The real beneficiaries are the people who use these resources every day. The collaboration aims to give DU's researchers, teachers and students enhanced access to global academic and research content at significantly reduced costs, reaching internationally reputed journals, databases and scholarly services through the collective strength of a national network.

The partnership also reflects the shared commitment of both institutions to advancing research, innovation and higher education in Bangladesh. By pairing BdREN's national research and education network infrastructure and digital resource platform with DU's academic community, the agreement opens the door for the university to expand its reach well beyond what it could achieve alone.

The MoU will remain effective for an initial period of five years and will support future cooperation in the procurement, subscription and management of electronic resources and research services. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both organizations, with CMO Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed and Professor Dr. Kazi Mostak Gausul Hoq present as witnesses to the agreement.



PARTNERSHIP

BdREN Brings JSTOR's Scholarly Library to UITS



Nine days after the Dhaka University signing, BdREN closed a second and structurally agreement — this time with the University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) — signed on 19 May 2026 to strengthen academic research and facilitate access to e-journal resources for students, faculty members, and researchers at the university. Where the DU agreement was broad in scope, the UITS partnership is more targeted: its immediate goal is securing reliable, properly licensed access to JSTOR, one of the most widely used and cited digital libraries in the humanities and social sciences worldwide.

The agreement establishes a collaborative framework through which BdREN will support UITS in accessing renowned digital libraries, including JSTOR, by coordinating subscription processes, licensing negotiations, and technical facilitation. In practice, UITS does not need to build out its own procurement relationship with JSTOR — BdREN, acting on behalf of its member network, takes on that negotiation and technical setup.

That division of labor is, in many respects, the whole value proposition of a national research and education network: it lets a single university tap into infrastructure and negotiating power built for the entire network, rather than replicating that groundwork independently. Under the MoU, BdREN will act as a facilitator in enabling access to electronic scholarly resources, while UITS will ensure proper utilization and compliance with the underlying licensing agreements.

The initiative's stated aim is to enhance research capabilities and promote knowledge dissemination across the university, and the signing ceremony reflected the level of institutional buy-in behind that goal. On behalf of UITS, Vice Chancellor Professor Md. Abu Hasan Bhuiyan, Treasurer Professor Dr. Siraj Uddin Ahmed, and Registrar Mohammad Kamrul Hasan were all present, while BdREN was represented by Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Tawrit, Chief Marketing Officer Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed, and Assistant Manager (Knowledge & Research) Ahmed Al Hossain.

UITS will ensure proper utilization and compliance — BdREN handles the rest.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing higher education and research standards in Bangladesh, and it fits a pattern increasingly clear across BdREN's 2026 activity: rather than treating each university partnership as a bespoke negotiation, the organization is building a repeatable model that can be extended to institutions of varying size with relatively low marginal effort per partner.

Taken together with the Dhaka University MoU signed just over a week earlier, the UITS agreement marks another step in BdREN's broader mission: connecting educational and research institutions across the country with world-class digital resources and infrastructure, one university at a time.

BdREN Trains UGC Staff to Put Generative AI at Work

Having spent April and May building out AI literacy at partner universities, BdREN turned the lens inward in June — or rather, upward, toward the very body that oversees Bangladesh's higher education system. Beginning 10 June 2026, the organization held a two-day GenAI Training Workshop at the offices of the University Grants Commission (UGC), a deliberate choice of venue that reflects a broader strategy: strengthening digital competency not just at the university level, but at the regulatory and administrative body that sets policy for the entire sector.

Day-1 of the workshop focused on building foundational knowledge of Generative AI, on the assumption that many participants were coming to the technology with limited or no prior hands-on exposure. Participants were introduced to core concepts and prompt engineering techniques — the basic vocabulary and mental models needed to use AI tools effectively, rather than merely being aware that they exist. From there, the day moved into practical applications in daily office tasks such as drafting official communications, content creation, and improving administrative efficiency through AI tools, grounding the abstract concepts in tasks that UGC staff actually perform on a regular basis.

Day-2 shifted toward more advanced and hands-on territory. Sessions covered AI-assisted writing tools like Grammarly, spreadsheet (XLSX) data analysis, presentation development, translation, and real-life use cases tailored to



different departments within the commission — an acknowledgment that a finance officer, a communications staffer, and a policy analyst within the same organization will each use AI tools differently.

The sessions were conducted entirely by BdREN's own in-house experts, who kept the format interactive and application-oriented rather than theoretical throughout both days. That choice of format — hands-on exercises over lecture-style presentation — is consistent with the approach BdREN has taken at nearly every AI-focused event this year, from KYAU in April to the UGC sessions in

June, suggesting the organization has settled on a training model it considers effective and is now simply repeating it across different institutional audiences.

The choice of venue was, as noted, deliberate. By training UGC staff directly rather than only university-level personnel, BdREN aimed to strengthen digital competencies at the very body that oversees Bangladesh's higher education system — the reasoning being that policy and administrative decisions made with genuine, hands-on familiarity with AI tools are likely to be better calibrated than decisions made from a purely theoretical understanding of the technology.

BdREN reaffirmed its commitment to driving innovation and capacity building across Bangladesh's higher education sector at the close of the workshop — a theme that, by this point in the year, has run through nearly every event on its 2026 calendar, from the university-level MoUs signed in May to this hands-on classroom-style training with the sector's own regulator. If there is a throughline connecting “Meet & Greet 2026,” the KYAU workshop, the Dhaka University and UITS MoUs, and this UGC training, it is this: BdREN is positioning itself not merely as a bandwidth provider, but as the connective tissue for digital capability across Bangladesh's entire higher education system, from individual faculty members up to the national regulator itself.

OUTREACH

BdREN Takes Its Digital Services on the Road to PECCII 2026



A week after the UGC training concluded, BdREN took its outreach outside Dhaka entirely, traveling to Pabna to participate as a sponsor of the International Conference on Power, Electronics, Communications, Computing, and Intelligent Infrastructure (PECCII 2026), held on 17–18 June 2026 at Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST). Unlike the organization's university-partnership events, which tend to be BdREN-led and BdREN-branded, PECCII represented a different kind of engagement: showing up as one participant among many at a conference organized around a broader engineering and technology agenda.

The conference itself brought together researchers, academicians, scientists, industry experts, and students from home and abroad to exchange knowledge and discuss emerging trends in engineering, computing, communications, and intelligent infrastructure — a wide-ranging agenda that touches on several of the technical domains BdREN itself operates in, from network infrastructure to cybersecurity to cloud computing. That overlap made

PECCII a natural fit for the kind of visibility-building sponsorship BdREN pursues at technical conferences throughout the year.

As part of its sponsorship, BdREN established an exhibition stall at the conference venue to showcase its state-of-the-art digital services: research and education network infrastructure, cloud solutions, cybersecurity services, eduroam connectivity, software and application services, and other technology-driven initiatives designed to support higher education and research institutions across Bangladesh. Unlike a university MoU signing, where the audience is largely predetermined, a conference stall depends on organic foot traffic and genuine curiosity — and by BdREN's own account, that curiosity showed up in force.

Throughout the two-day event, the BdREN stall attracted significant interest from students, researchers, faculty members, scholars, and technology professionals. Visitors engaged with BdREN representatives to learn more about the organization's role in strengthening research collaboration,

enabling high-speed connectivity, and facilitating digital transformation within universities and research institutions — conversations that, for many attendees, likely represented their first direct exposure to what BdREN actually does, beyond whatever awareness they might have picked up secondhand through their own institutions.

BdREN's participation in PECCII 2026 reflects its continued commitment to empowering Bangladesh's research and education ecosystem by connecting institutions, researchers, and learners through world-class digital infrastructure and services. Through active engagement in national and international academic events like this one, BdREN remains dedicated to fostering innovation, collaboration, and technological advancement across the country's higher education and research sectors — a commitment that, over the course of 2026, has taken the organization from Dhaka boardrooms to a university campus in Pabna and, as the rest of this year's calendar shows, to student competitions and educator workshops well beyond the capital.



STARTUP & INNOVATION

From Idea to Incubation: BdREN Sponsors ITBI Pitch Fest at CUET

Just two days after PECCII wrapped up in Pabna, BdREN's outreach calendar moved to Chittagong, where the organization took on the role of Gold Sponsor at the ITBI Student Startup Pitch Fest 2026 on 20 June 2026. Themed "From Idea to Incubation," the event was organized by the IT Business Incubator (ITBI) of Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET) in association with the Aspire Start-Up Program, and represented a notably different kind of audience for BdREN than its usual mix of university administrators and faculty: aspiring student entrepreneurs.

The flagship one-day event brought together university students, aspiring entrepreneurs, faculty members, and industry professionals with a single shared purpose: to identify and nurture innovative startup ideas from young talent across Chittagong and beyond. For the students on stage, it was a chance to test their ideas in front of mentors and peers. For the audience, it offered a look at the next wave of home-grown innovation.

For an organization whose core business is national research and education infrastructure, sponsoring a startup pitch competition might seem an adjacent bet rather than a core one. BdREN saw it differently. The same digital infrastructure that supports research also underpins the earliest stages of student entrepreneurship, from prototyping to pitching, and a student building a product depends on reliable connectivity, computing resources, and access to knowledge just as a researcher does.

BdREN's Chief Marketing Officer, Mr. Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed, attended as a Special Guest and spent the day engaging directly with participants rather than making a brief ceremonial appearance. His presence underscored BdREN's commitment to supporting innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital capacity-building within the academic community. It is a natural extension of the organization's broader work connecting universities to research and digital infrastructure, even when the end product is a student startup rather than a peer-reviewed paper.

As part of its participation, BdREN set up a dedicated exhibition stall at the venue, showcasing its full range of services for universities and research institutions. These included high-speed internet connectivity, cloud and virtual machine (VM) solutions, academic eResources, and digital tools designed for academic use. Students and faculty stopped by throughout the day to learn how these services could support their own projects.

The Pitch Fest was the first of two student-focused sponsorships for BdREN in June, followed a week later by the DUET CSE Carnival. Together, they reflect a clear effort to meet the next generation of innovators early, and to show them that a national research and education network can be a partner from the very first idea.



TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

BdREN Equips SAU Educators with Digital Skills Under the HEAT Project

Two days after the CUET startup fest, BdREN returned to its more familiar territory of faculty training, playing a central role in a day-long “Workshop on Empowering Educators through Digital Knowledge Enhancement” held at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) on 22 June 2026. Organized under the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project, the workshop ran from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM — a genuinely full day — and drew faculty members eager to sharpen their digital, research, and cybersecurity skills across a single, intensive session.

While the programme was organized principally by the HEAT Project, BdREN's contribution shaped the day from start to finish — from the registration desk to the core training modules. As the country's only National Research and Education Network, BdREN supplied much of the technical expertise that gave the workshop its substance, effectively serving as the delivery mechanism for a program whose funding

and institutional backing came from elsewhere but whose actual content depended heavily on BdREN's in-house capability.

The programme was chaired by Professor Md. Asaduzzaman and graced by a senior SAU delegation, including Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Latif, Vice-Chancellor, as the Chief Guest, with Professor Md. Abul Bashar, Professor Dr. Md. Belal Hossain, and Professor Dr. Jamilur Rahman attending as Special Guests. In his address, the Chief Guest highlighted the growing importance of digital literacy and research integrity in higher education, commending both the HEAT Project and BdREN for equipping educators with tools fit for a modern academic environment, while the Special Guests called for sustained investment in faculty capacity and secure digital practices.

Registration ran through Orbit, BdREN's own event management platform, before BdREN CEO Mohammad Tawrit opened the technical sessions with a module on the HEAT Project's scope, followed

by Khandakar Rashedul Arefin's two-part module on BdREN's services and the practical use of Generative AI. After lunch, Professor Dr. Mohammed Shafiul Alam Khan led a session on cybersecurity, Ahmed Al Hossain covered e-journals and plagiarism, and the day closed with a session on AI applications from Abu Naser Md. Nafew, followed by Q&A and closing remarks — participants praised the practical orientation of the sessions and the rare chance to engage directly with BdREN's own experts.

The workshop reaffirmed BdREN's growing role as a trusted partner in Bangladesh's higher education sector, not just as a network provider but as a hands-on capacity-building partner. With similar sessions now delivered at KYAU, UGC, and SAU, BdREN's digital and AI training has quickly become a signature offering — one that continues to strengthen faculty readiness across partner universities nationwide.

Outreach



June 20, 2026

BdREN Backs the Next Generation of Tech Talent at DUET CSE Carnival

BdREN closed out an unusually busy June with one more sponsorship, participating as a Gold Sponsor in the two-day “DUET CSE Carnival 2026,” organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), Gazipur, held on 26–27 June 2026. Coming just days after the SAU workshop and the CUET startup fest, the carnival marked BdREN's third major campus event of the month — and, fittingly, one aimed squarely at students rather than faculty or administrators.

The carnival brought together students, faculty members, and technology enthusiasts from universities and institutions across the country for a vibrant celebration of competition and innovation. Unlike a conference or a training workshop, a carnival format is built around competitive energy, and DUET's organizers leaned into that: the programme featured four flagship segments — the ICT Olympiad, the Inter University Programming Contest (IUPC), the AI Hackathon, and Project Showcasing — each designed to inspire creativity, foster collaboration, and highlight the future of technology among Bangladesh's next generation of engineers.

As part of its sponsorship, BdREN set up a dedicated exhibition stall through

out the two-day event. Visitors to the stall were provided with BdREN leaflets, the service catalogue, and the Annual Report, while a digital display ran promotional videos showcasing BdREN's portfolio of services — a more polished, self-contained presentation format than the conversational stall setups at some of the organization's earlier 2026 events, reflecting perhaps a growing confidence in how BdREN presents itself to a general student audience rather than a specialist academic one.

BdREN representatives engaged directly with participants, faculty members, and students throughout the carnival, familiarizing them with the network's offerings — including high-speed internet connectivity, cloud, HPC and GPU infrastructure, digital library resources, and a wide range of other research- and education-focused services. For a crowd heavily populated by computer science and engineering students, offerings like GPU infrastructure and high-performance computing likely landed with more immediate relevance than they might have at a general-audience event, given how central compute resources are to hackathon-style AI projects.

On the concluding day, the Chief Executive Officer of BdREN, Mr. Mohammad Tawrit, attended the prize-

giving ceremony as a Special-Guest. He congratulated the winners and all participants for their enthusiasm and talent, and praised DUET's CSE Department for organizing such a meaningful platform for the nation's young innovators — remarks that, taken alongside his appearances at SAU and elsewhere throughout June, reflect a CEO who has made a point of showing up in person across a wide range of institutional and student-facing events rather than delegating that visibility entirely to marketing personnel.

BdREN's participation in the DUET CSE Carnival 2026 reaffirms its continued commitment to standing alongside the academic and research community of Bangladesh, and to nurturing the next generation of technology leaders through active engagement with the country's universities. Closing out June with a student-facing carnival, after a month that also included an AI workshop at KYAU-adjacent UGC, a five-year MoU with Dhaka University, a JSTOR partnership with UITS, a regional conference in Pabna, a startup fest in Chittagong, and a full-day educator workshop at SAU, the carnival rounds out what has been, by any measure, one of the more active single months in BdREN's recent institutional history.



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