



# ANNUAL REPORT



**BRAC UNIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2013**





# 20 ANNUAL REPORT 13



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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BRAC UNIVERSITY

## Message from the Chairperson Board of Trustees, BRAC University



In 2013, the total number of students at BRAC University was 7,247, comprising 5,640 undergraduates and 1,607 postgraduates. The demand for admission to BRACU remains high, which is a testament to the quality of education we provide. BRACU is now widely recognised as one of the best private universities in the country.

Despite our successes, we continue to strive to reach our goal of global excellence as an institution of higher learning. Given the deep connection with BRAC and our commitment to eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring development equity, BRAC University is ideally placed to achieve credibility as one of the world's finest development-focused universities.

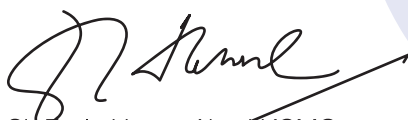
### Highlights of 2013:

- A total of 742 students from undergraduate and postgraduate programs graduated at the University's 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Eight graduates were honoured with the Chancellor's Gold Medal and nineteen with the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal.
- BRACU's scholarship program, which supports meritorious, poor/disadvantaged applicants, is a manifestation of the institution's dedication to establishing an inclusive society free from discrimination. This year, 725 students received scholarships with a total value of Taka 5.18 crore.
- BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) was established as an autonomous institution within BRACU in June 2013. BIGH comprises the James P Grant School of Public Health (founded in 2004) and the newly-launched Department of Nursing and Midwifery. The following month saw the appointment of the Institute's new Executive Director, Dr. Sadia Chowdhury, and new Dean, Professor Sabina Rashid. BIGH has been able to attract adequate scholarships and research funds from donors.
- BRAC Development Institute launched a new Centre for Resettlement Studies in April 2013.
- With a view to transforming the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) into a regional centre of research on governance and development issues and strengthening the institution, IGS has been merged with BRAC Development Institute to form the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, former Director General of Asian Development Bank, South Asia, joined BIGD as Executive Director in June 2013.
- Researchers, illustrators and graphic designers from BRACU's Institute of Educational Development (IED) supported the National Curriculum and Textbook Board with the refinement of the primary education curriculum.
- The tragic collapse of the nine-storey Rana Plaza building in Savar on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 claimed the lives of 1,134 workers and left many hundreds seriously wounded. BRACU's entire Counselling Unit was mobilised from 25<sup>th</sup> April onwards to support traumatised survivors.
- 2013 saw a fledgling 'English Campaign' advocating more widespread use of English across the BRACU campus by students, faculty and staff gain serious momentum. I am particularly pleased to note that an effective English course for frontline staff, including drivers and office assistants, has been launched by BIL as part of this campaign.

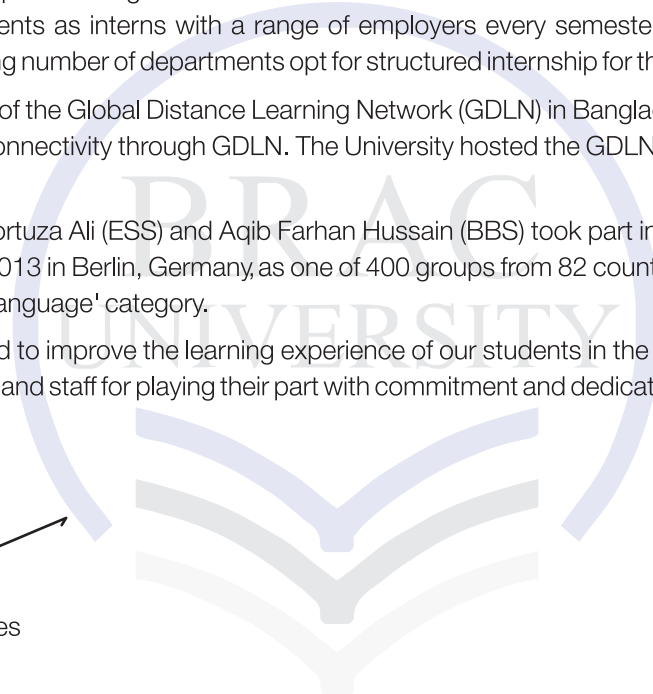


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- BRACU has expanded its Office of Student Affairs with the aim of making advisory and learning support available to all students. The First-Year Advising Team provides individualised advice to all new students to monitor academic progress and assess learning needs, while the Teaching & Learning Centre and Counselling Unit organise academic and counselling workshops to enhance the quality of learning and academic performance during the first year and beyond.
  - The Career Services Office (CSO) has been restructured and strengthened to provide a comprehensive range of advisory and support services to our graduating students. This has involved a complete upgradation of the Professional Skills Development Programme and the roll-out of individual advisory services. The CSO currently places 150 students as interns with a range of employers every semester; this figure will go up significantly as an increasing number of departments opt for structured internship for their students.
  - BRACU is the sole affiliate of the Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN) in Bangladesh and is committed to augmenting its global connectivity through GDLN. The University hosted the GDLN (Asia Pacific) Regional Meeting in January 2013.
  - BRACU students Ratib Mortuza Ali (ESS) and Aqib Farhan Hussain (BBS) took part in the World Universities Debating Championship 2013 in Berlin, Germany, as one of 400 groups from 82 countries, winning the title in the 'English as a Second Language' category.

BRAC University is determined to improve the learning experience of our students in the coming years. I should like to thank all BRACU faculty and staff for playing their part with commitment and dedication in this endeavour.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
BRAC University



## Message from the Vice Chancellor BRAC University



In 2013, BRAC University completed its twelfth year.

Within this relatively short span of time it has made an indelible mark in the field of higher education and has established itself as the leading Private University in the country. The name and fame of BRACU goes far beyond the national boundary. Since its humble beginning in 2001 with only 3 departments and about 70 students, the University had, by the end of 2013, 8 departments, 4 Schools, 4 Institutes and 5 Centers with 7247 students and an array of highly qualified faculty members. The growth was perceptible not only in terms of numbers, but also in respect of academic facilities, teaching pedagogy and co-curricular activities. One constant factor throughout all these years was BRACU's emphasis on producing ethical citizens who are driven by the spirit of service to the community.

The year 2013 marked a number of achievements for BRAC University. We had our 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation on February 17, 2013 in BICC. Professor Alauddin Ahmed, Advisor to the Prime Minister presided over the ceremony while Social activist and Indian film star Mr. Rahul Bose gave an inspiring speech as the convocation speaker. A total of 742 students received undergraduate and post-graduate degrees.

While the academic departments produced top-class graduates who continued to excel in their own professions, the research institutes such as BRAC Development Institute (BDI), Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and Institute of Educational Development (IED) carried out cutting-edge research on wide-ranging issues. Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) embarked on a number of ground-breaking research projects and publications highlighting the country's challenges and possible responses in the field of climate change and environmental degradation. JPGSPH, besides running its world-class course in Masters in Public Health (MPH), carried out research on issues related to health, nutrition, gender and sexuality. A number of books, journals and monographs were published from BRAC University Press. All these achievements have put BRAC University in the forefront of academic research in the country.

While merit continues to dominate the University's scholarship program, a total of 51,842,324 BDT was disbursed as Scholarship in 2012-2013. BRAC University offers scholarships to its students every semester on the basis of their academic results. It also provides financial assistance to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled, who obtain excellent academic result, but face genuine financial constraints. This ensures that financial need is not a barrier for bright and needy students. The scholarship and financial aid process is transparent and credible and provided in an effective, timely, fair and impartial manner to all students who qualify.

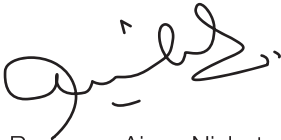
BRACU students are doing very well in the academic and professional world. Our students won prestigious scholarships and international competitions, enabling them to pursue higher studies overseas and bring honor and recognition for BRAC University. Two of them in particular, Ratib Mortuza Ali and Aaqib Farhan Hossain, triumphed at World Universities Debating Championship 2013 in Berlin, Germany. They competed in the "English as a Second Language (ESL)" category against a total of 400 groups of participants from 82 countries in this event. Another two students, Mohammed Tanjim Ferdous and Sharif Tousif Mustafa, attended the largest model United Nation of UAE called the "Emirates International Model United Nations" aka EMINUN, which was held in ENGECON building of Dubai Knowledge Village. Within the country, BRACU graduates are highly valued by employers. As business executives, bankers, architects, teachers, engineering or legal professionals, our students continue to make their mark nationally and internationally. We are proud of their achievements. Their successes encourage us to work harder for the future.



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I hope you will find our accomplishments inspiring as you read through the report. It is the cumulative effort of the entire BRAC University family that has made these successes possible and I congratulate and thank each and every member.

My deepest gratitude goes to the Members of the Board of Trustees, Syndicate, and Academic Council for their continuous advice, guidance and support. We are particularly indebted to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, for his dynamic leadership, keen interest and far-reaching vision that have constantly guided us on the road to progress.



Professor Ainun Nishat  
Vice Chancellor







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## GOVERNANCE

Board of Trustees  
Syndicate  
Academic Council



## Governance

*Chancellor*

**Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid**

Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh

*Vice Chancellor*

**Professor Ainun Nishat**

*Pro-Vice Chancellor*

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**

*Treasurer & Registrar (a.i)*

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (BoT) is the highest policy making body of BRAC University. It is responsible for ensuring the highest level of educational and administrative standards. The current BoT consists of the following eminent personalities of Bangladesh:

*Chairperson*



**Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG**

Founder & Chairperson, BRAC

*Members*



**Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury**

Chairman  
BRACNet Ltd



**Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury**

Executive Director  
Campaign for Popular Education  
(CAMPE)



**Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**

Vice Chairperson  
BRAC



**Professor Salma Khan**

Chairperson  
NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA



**Professor Anisuzzaman**

Professor Emeritus  
Dhaka University



**Advocate Sultana Kamal**

Executive Director  
Ain o Salish Kendro (ASK)



**Professor Dilara Chowdhury**

Former Professor  
Department of Government & Politics  
Jahangirnagar University



**Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed**

Senior Director, Enterprises  
BRAC



**Mr. Faruq A. Choudhury**

Chairman  
Delta BRAC Housing



*Member (ex-officio)*

**Professor Ainun Nishat**

Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University



**Dr. Mahabub Hossain**

Executive Director  
BRAC



*Secretary*

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**

Treasurer & Registrar (a.i)  
BRAC University

### MEETINGS

The three meetings of the Board of Trustees took place on February 13, June 26 and December 8, 2013.

## Syndicate

Syndicate is the highest executive body that exercises administrative and supervisory control on academic, administrative and management activities of the BRAC University.

### *Chairperson*

**Professor Ainun Nishat**  
Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

### *Members*

**Professor Anisuzzaman**

Professor Emeritus  
Dhaka University

**Mr. Faruq A. Choudhury**

Chairman  
Delta BRAC Housing

**Professor Firdous Azim**

Chairperson, ENH  
BRAC University

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**

Pro-Vice Chancellor  
Chairperson  
Architecture Department  
BRAC University

**Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**

Head, Undergraduate Program  
School of Law, BRAC University

**Mr. Mofizul Islam**

Additional Secretary (College)  
Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh Secretariat

**Professor Sayeed Salam**

Chairperson, EEE  
BRAC University

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**

Treasurer  
BRAC University

**Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed**

Senior Director  
Enterprises  
BRAC

Member Secretary  
Registrar  
BRAC University

### MEETINGS

The three meetings of the BRACU Syndicate took place on February 7, June 20 and December 6, 2013.

## Academic Council

The Academic Council recommends the educational policies of the university and determines the curricula and courses that can help achieve high educational standards. The council is currently composed of the following academics and professionals:

### *Chairperson*

#### **Professor Ainun Nishat**

Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

### *Members*

#### **Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury**

Executive Director, CAMPE

#### **Ms. Salma Khan**

Chair, NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA

#### **Professor Iqbal Mahmud**

Former Vice Chancellor, BUET

#### **Dr. Perween Hasan**

Vice Chancellor  
Central Women's University

#### **Dr. Faustina Pereira**

Director, Human Rights &  
Legal Services, BRAC

#### **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**

Pro-Vice Chancellor  
Chairperson, Department of Architecture  
BRAC University

#### **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**

Executive Director  
BRAC Institute of Global Health  
BRAC University

#### **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**

Executive Director  
BRAC Institute of Governance & Development  
BRAC University

#### **Professor Golam Mohammad**

Dean, BRAC Business School  
BRAC University

#### **Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad**

Chairperson, Department of Mathematics &  
Natural Sciences, BRAC University

#### **Professor Firdous Azim**

Chairperson  
Department of English & Humanities  
BRAC University

#### **Professor Sayeed Salam**

Chairperson, Department of Electrical & Electronic  
Engineering, BRAC University

#### **Professor Syed M Hashemi**

Chairperson, Department of Economics  
and Social Sciences, BRAC University

#### **Professor Mohammad Zahidur Rahman**

Chairperson (Acting)  
Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering  
BRAC University

#### **Dr. Mohammad Shawkat Ali**

Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy  
BRAC University

#### **Professor Riaz Khan**

Dean, Student Affairs, BRAC University

#### **Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**

Head, Undergraduate Program  
School of Law, BRAC University

#### **Dr. Rizwan Khair**

Director, Institute for Governance Studies  
BRAC University

#### **Dr. Erum Mariam**

Director, Institute of Educational Development  
BRAC University

#### **Dr. Shahdeen Malik**

Director, School of Law  
BRAC University

#### **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**

Director, BRAC Institute of Languages  
BRAC University

#### **Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**

Department of Mathematics & Natural  
Sciences, BRAC University

#### **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**

Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences  
BRAC University

### *Member Secretary*

Registrar  
BRAC University

### **MEETINGS**

The three meetings of the Academic Council took place on January 31, May 26 and December 6, 2013.







## **Profile of BRAC University**

Introduction  
Partners in Education  
BRACU Anthem



## Introduction

### Background

BRAC University (BRACU) was established in 2001. It follows a liberal arts approach to education which nurtures fresh ideas and gives new impetus in the field of tertiary education. It ensures a high quality of education and aims to meet the demands of contemporary times. Building on BRAC's experience of seeking solutions to challenges posed by extreme poverty, BRACU hopes to instill in its students a commitment to working towards national development and progress. BRACU is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

### Mission

The mission of BRAC University is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs and able to develop creative leaders and actively contribute to learning and creation of knowledge.

### Goal

The goal of the university is to provide an excellent broad-based education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for leading the country in its quest for development. Along with this, the university provides an environment for faculty development to ensure a dynamic teaching. Faculty are provided with an environment in which they can further their teaching-learning skills and contribute to the creation of new knowledge by developing and using their research skills.

### Schools

- BRAC Business School (BBS)
- School of Law (SoL)
- School of Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)

### Academic Department

- Department of Architecture (ARC)
- Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

- Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)
- Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
- Department of English and Humanities (ENH)
- Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)
- Department of Pharmacy (PHAR)

### Institutes

- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)
- BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH)
- BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)
- Institute of Educational Development (IED)

### Centres and Initiatives

- Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER)
- Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED)
- Control & Applications Research Centre (CARC)
- Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC)
- Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST)
- Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage
- Centre for Health Systems (CHS)
- Centre for Gender Sexuality and HIV/AIDS
- Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI)

### BRAC University offers the following programs:

#### Undergraduate Programs

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts in English
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- LLB (Hon's)
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics & Electronics
- Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electronic & Communication Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hon's)
- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Bachelor of Social Science in Anthropology
- Bachelor of Social Science in Economics

### **Postgraduate Programs**

- Executive MBA
- Master in Computer Applications
- Master in Early Childhood Development
- Master in Education Leadership, Planning and Management
- Master in Procurement and Supply Management
- Master of Arts in English
- Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Development Studies
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Science in Biotechnology
- Master of Science in Computer Science & Engineering
- Masters in Development Management and Practice
- Masters in Disaster Management
- Master of Arts in Governance and Development
- MSc./ M.Engg. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering

### **Certificate & Diploma Courses**

- Certificate and Short Languages Courses in Spanish, French, Bengali, Arabic, Chinese and Korean
- Certificate Course on Construction Management
- Certificate Course on Microfinance
- Certificate in English Proficiency & Development Course
- Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Certificate Short Course on Applied Social and Marketing Communication
- Diploma in Midwifery
- Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Postgraduate Certificate Course on Broadcast and Cross Media Journalism
- Postgraduate Certificate in Disaster Management
- Postgraduate Certificate in Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement & Rehabilitation
- Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Development
- Postgraduate Diploma in Macroeconomic Analysis

## Partners in Education

Over the years, BRAC University has partnered with the following reputed academic and research institutions around the world to enhance its own educational experience by learning from others.

### **BRAC Business School**

- Asian Institute of Management, Manila
- Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, USA
- University of South Australia

### **School of Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)**

#### *Department of Computer Science & Engineering*

- Cisco Networking Academy
- Oracle Academy
- Microsoft DreamSpark and Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA)
- Eucalyptus Systems, Inc.
- DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Limited

#### *Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering*

- Electrical Engineering Department, Frederick University, Cyprus
- School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan
- School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal
- School of Engineering, Bangkok University, Thailand
- Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Malaya, Malaysia
- Department of Electronic and Information, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany
- Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
- College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan
- School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, City University, London
- Politechnika Wroclawska, Poland
- Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, Institute Technology Bandung, Indonesia
- Department of Electronic Engineering, Southeast University, China

### **Department of Architecture**

- BRAC
- BRAC International
- UNDP
- IUCN
- University of Manchester, UK
- Loughborough University, UK
- Hoge School Van Amsterdam NL
- Art University of Linz Austria
- European Universities under EMMA, EU
- University of Illinois, Chicago, USA

#### *Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management*

- Northumbria University, UK
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Bindura University, Zimbabwe
- Kathmandu University, Nepal
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)

### **Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences**

- Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- BIRDEM, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- BRACARDC, Gazipur, Bangladesh
- CNRS, CEA, Grenoble, France
- icddr,b, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- BCSIR, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **Department of English & Humanities**

- Tufts University, USA

### **BRAC Development Institute**

- Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) and Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, UK
- Colgate University, USA
- Columbia University, USA
- Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, USA
- Hohai University, China
- Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, UK

- London School of Economics (LSE), University of London, UK
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Ottawa University, Canada
- Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda
- Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
- University of Delhi, India
- University of Ghana, Ghana

#### **BRAC Institute of Global Health**

- African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya
- Department of Clinical Medicine, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
- INDEPTH Network, Ghana
- School of Medical Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
- The Good Shepherd Hospital/ Lubombo Regional Health Department, Swaziland
- Beijing National and Guangxi Provincial Centres for Diseases Control, China
- Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action, India
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Kerala, India
- Association for Social Development Islamabad, Pakistan
- The Health Research and Social Development Forum, Nepal
- Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam
- International Health Policy Program, Thailand
- Nagasaki University, Japan
- Peking University Health Science Center, China
- Public Health Foundation of India, India
- Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Berlin School of Public Health - Charité, Germany
- Karolinska Institute, Sweden
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK (Infectious Disease Research Network)
- University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Engender Health, USA
- The Guttmacher Institute, USA
- Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA
- George Washington University, USA

- Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA
- Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA
- University of Illinois at Springfield, USA
- Johns Hopkins University, USA
- University of Ottawa, Canada
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Fogarty International Center, USA
- Stanford University, USA

#### **BRAC Institute of Languages**

- Ministry of Cultural Affairs, The People's Republic of China.

#### **Institute of Educational Development**

- Aga Khan Foundation Canada
- Bank Street College of Education, USA
- Columbia University in the City of New York, USA
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka
- Nuffic, The Netherlands
- Population Council, New York
- Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs, UCEP-Bangladesh
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA
- World Bank, Bangladesh

#### **Institute of Governance Studies**

- Basel Institute of Governance, Basel University, Switzerland
- VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- George Mason University, USA
- Griffith University, Australia
- International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University, the Netherlands
- Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, Korea
- Monash University, Australia
- Natural Resource Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada

#### **JATRI**

- US State Department
- USAID
- The Asia Foundation
- World Learning - USA
- CTFK - USA
- Concern Worldwide/WRA
- CARE Bangladesh

## BRACU Anthem

জীবনের সিঁড়ি বেয়ে  
উজ্জ্বল আগামীর পথে  
আমরা এগিয়ে যাই  
দেশ ও মানুষের জন্য ॥

হৃদয়ের মাঝে বয়ে চলা সুর  
ছুঁয়ে যায় আমার অনুভব  
আমার প্রিয় এ প্রাঙ্গণের  
মিলিত প্রাণের স্পন্দনে ॥

অবারিত নীলিমায়  
ডানা মেলে উড়ে যায়  
হাজারো স্বপ্ন, প্রত্যাশা  
এক হয়ে মিশে যাক  
সৃষ্টিতে, চির তারুণ্যে ॥

কথা : আমির ইবনে শরীফ, স্নাতক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬  
সুর : শামস্ মনসুর গনি, প্রভাষক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬

### Interpretation of Design of BRAC University Logo

The arc of circle suggests the wish to reach education to an international standard and milieu.

The symbolic presentation of three books towards the bottom of the design suggests different stages, levels and subjects of education. An all round broad based education has been emphasized here. The suggestive drawing of open books stresses a disciplined and dynamic development of education.

The three colors used in the design - blue, silver and black; the size and shape of the letters that spell BRAC University, and the balanced presentation of the three books and the circle suggest that BRAC University is a strong and dynamic institution of international standard, dedicated to achieving the aims of education, peace, equality and discipline.

*BRACU Logo Designed by renowned artist Mr. Hashem Khan. 2001.*









## SCHOOLS

BRAC Business School (BBS)

School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS)

School of Law (SoL)



## BRAC Business School

### Overview

Commencing with around 30 students back in 2001, the Department of Management and Business at BRAC University evolved into one of the finest business schools in the country over the years. By the year 2007, the department earned the status of a school and was titled “BRAC Business School” (BBS). The school's mission is to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of business and management.

BBS strives to improve effectiveness and efficiency of managing business and non-business organizations through excellence in business education, training, research and advisory services. Pursuant to its mission, the school offers an undergraduate program (BBA, Bachelor of Business Administration) and two graduate programs (MBA, Master of Business Administration and EMBA, Executive Masters in Business Administration). Owing to the very high quality of the programs and the school's commitment to business education in Bangladesh, a rising number of applicants have been consistently attracted to BBS programs. At present BBS has around 2600 students enrolled.

The areas of specialization of the school are Accounting, Finance, Human Resources Management, Marketing, Computer Information Management, E-Business, Entrepreneurship, Banking and Insurance and Operations Management. The school plans to enrich its list of offerings by adding more areas of specialization such as International Business and Strategy and Management Information Systems.

Under the guidance and supervision of Professor Golam Mohammad (Dean, BBS), some of the finest

faculty members in business education are working at the school, and their endeavors are supplemented by high class practitioners such as Professor Emeritus Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi (former VC, North South University, and former Director, IBA, Dhaka University), Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed (Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank), Dr. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan (former advisers to the interim Caretaker Government of Bangladesh).

The year 2013 had been an illustrious year for BBS packed with various achievements, events, programs, research and so forth. As part of an exchange program by BRAC Business School's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) in partnership with Oklahoma University's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication and funded by the US State Department, two teams of young US entrepreneurs and US media professionals toured Bangladesh in January '13 and May-June '13 respectively. Also as a continuation of the program, a team of Bangladeshi media professionals, led by BBS team, visited USA in November '13. During June '13, a two-member delegation team from BRAC Business School (BBS) visited Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS) and established the terms and conditions for joint collaborations in offering postgraduate diploma and professional development programs in Bangladesh.

BBS students were also active in extracurricular activities throughout 2013. During January-February '13, a team of BBS students participated in a model United Nation conference titled “Emirates International Model United Nations” aka EMINUN at UAE. In the month of June '13, a group of BBS students secured the runner-up position in a Social



Business Plan Competition for “Social Business Forum 2013” jointly organized by the Professional Society for Social Business (PSSB) and North South University. This is just a glimpse of the activities of the BRAC Business School in 2013.

## PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

### US Young Entrepreneurs tour Bangladesh

Between January 4 to 14, 2013, a team of young US entrepreneurs toured Bangladesh in an exchange program. Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC Business School (BBS), jointly administered the program with the support of the U.S. Department of State.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BRAC Business School and Marie Stopes Bangladesh

On February 14, 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by BRAC Business School (BBS) and Marie Stopes Bangladesh at BRAC University Campus. According to the MoU, the resources (students and faculty members) of BBS will study the existing marketing strategy of Marie Stopes Bangladesh and will recommend an inclusive and sustainable strategy which will fit the local market requirements of Marie Stopes. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and Anil Prabhakar Tambay, Country Management Consultant, Marie Stopes, and Dr. Kazi Golam Rasul, Senior Director, Program Development, Marie Stopes, were present at the signing event.

### Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd. Presents Business Week 2013

During March 10 to 13, 2013, BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) organized an event titled “Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd. Presents Business Week 2013”. The program included a job fair, an ad-making workshop and the launch of the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of “VISION”, the premier magazine of BIZ BEE. Nasir A. Choudhury, Managing Director & CEO, Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd., inaugurated the event. The chief guest of the event was Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. On March 13, 2013, the renowned film and ad maker, Mr.

Amitabh Reza (Director, Half Stop Down) was the chief guest of the session on ad making. He shared his valuable insights on ad making. Finally, the event concluded with the launching ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of the exclusive business magazine “VISION”.

### Japanese Marketing Strategy

Japanese companies are recognized as world class marketers. Yet, sources of information in the English language about the development of Japanese marketing and marketing management decisions, strategies, and operations are relatively sparse. BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA) and BRAC Business School jointly organized a seminar about “Japanese Marketing Strategy” on Tuesday, July 23, 2013. As a keynote speaker, Ken-Ichiro Miyama, Professor of Rikkyo University and former Senior Vice-President of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Japan, was present at the seminar. He discussed several aspects of diverse Japanese marketing strategies. Rashed Ahmad Ali, President of Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) also gave a speech regarding the business relationship between Bangladesh and Japan. As the session chair, Dr. Golam Mohammad, Dean of BRAC Business School, was present. The rapid and effective manner in which Japanese companies have incorporated marketing as a way of business life is a commendable phenomenon. In a short span of about 30 years, they have embraced and modified the concept of marketing and adapted it to their culture. This has allowed the Japanese to gain recognition as world class marketers. With the example of the global brand “Sony”, Professor Ken-Ichiro Miyama illustrated how Japanese products have gained worldwide acceptance and Japanese brands have become global household names. Moreover, according to him, 30 years ago, Japan was in the same economic



condition in terms of GDP and population growth as Bangladesh is at present. He stated that if the current rate of economic growth is maintained, Bangladesh can soon attain a robust economy like Japan.

### **Executive MBA's Residential Week 2013**

During March 22 to 23, 2013, the Executive MBA Program Office of BBS organized a Residential Week Program for its students at BRAC CDM, Savar. About 140 Executive MBA students participated in the program. The capstone feature of the Residential Week was the lecture series based on contemporary and latest issues of the industry and the academia delivered by eminent speakers. On the first day of the session, a round of talks was delivered by noted speakers namely Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Managing Editor, the Daily Star, Mr. Abu Daud, Managing Director, Enroute Bangladesh, and Mr. Iftekarul Islam, Former Chief Executive Officer, Sanofi Aventis. The second day witnessed another round of talks, delivered by Mr. Fayaz Taher, a Private Sector Expert, Mr. Samad Miraly, Executive Director, Olympic Industries Ltd., and Ms. Sakeba Zeba, Senior Lecturer, Economics Department, North South University.

### **BBS team visits Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS)**

On June 21, 2013, a two-member delegation team from BRAC Business School (BBS) visited Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS). The team comprised of Dr. Mohammed Tareque Aziz and Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professors, BBS, who explored the opportunity for BBS and IIMS to jointly launch post graduate, diploma and professional development programs in Bangladesh, as well as in India. The BBS delegates gave IIMS management a keen insight on academic, operational and future opportunities for IIMS engagement with BBS. The delegates from BBS stayed at Shillong till June 22, 2013 and met Professor Amitabha De, Director, IIMS, Basav Roychoudhury, Associate Professor, IIMS, Dr. P. Saravanan, Associate Professor, IIMS, Dr. Rohit Joshi, Assistant Professor, IIMS, and Dr. Keya Sengupta, Professor, IIMS, in order to fulfill the purpose of the visit. The visit at IIMS was successful as the terms and conditions for joint collaborations were agreed. This visit by BBS delegates to IIMS was a historic step towards

establishing academic collaboration between these two premiere institutions from two neighboring countries. Once the collaborative programs are launched, both BBS and IIMS will have opportunities to facilitate increased access and insight into future relationships and engagements.

### **US Media Professionals visit Bangladesh**

A team of US Media professionals visited Bangladesh from May 24 to June 3 on an exchange program. It was a jointly managed program by Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC University. The program was a U.S. Department of State supported exchange program under their Professional Fellows program.



*US Media Professionals Team visits Bangladesh*

### **Professional Development Activity: Preparing a Business Plan for a New Venture**

On June 25, 2013, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) organized a two-day long professional development activity for BRAC University students on "Preparing a Business Plan for a New Venture". This program was jointly organized with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Business Edge of the World Bank Group and its franchisee Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL). Thirty-nine BRAC University students from different disciplines attended the course. Mr. Reazuddin Mosharaf, Country Manager & CEO, Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL) facilitated the training session.

### **CED Signs Agreement to Run IFC-Business Edge Courses**

In September 2013, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) entered into an agreement with Windmill Education Services Limited (WESL) to jointly promote and run training and certificate courses at



BRAC University. The proposed training programs are distinctive in being fully researched and synthesized by International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.

This highly credited program is offered by IFC through private partners across 30 nations. Professor Golam Mohammad, Dean, BBS, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRAC University, Mr. Rezaur Razzak, Director, CED, Mr. Alfred Arsalan, IFC country representative, Mr. Reazuddin Mosharaf, Managing Director, WESL, Ms. Afshana Choudhury, Program Manager, CED, Mr. Shamim Ehsanul Haque, Senior Lecture, BBS, attended the event.

## SEMINARS

### Seminar on “Career Prospects in Supply Chain Management”

On March 30, 2013, BRAC Business School (BBS) hosted a seminar on “Career Prospects in Supply Chain Management” at the Auditorium of the BRAC University. The seminar was supported by Bangladesh Supply Chain Council (BSCC) and organized by BRAC University Entrepreneurship Development Forum. Speakers at the event included Mr. M. Nayeem Hossain, President, BSCC, Mr. S. M. Khaled, Supply Chain Director, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Mr. Raquibul Alam, Supply Chain Director, Coats Bangladesh, Mr. Aminur Rahman, Supply Chain Director, Unilever Bangladesh and Mr. Vivek Sood, CEO, Grameenphone Ltd.

### Entrepreneur Speaks: Session 6

On June 17, 2013, BRAC University Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) in collaboration with BRAC Business School and Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), and with the support of Dhaka Bank Ltd. organized the sixth session of “Entrepreneur Speaks.” In this session, Mr. Iftekharul Islam, Advisor to Sanofi, South Asia, graced the

occasion as the guest of honor. The seminar started with a welcome speech delivered by Dr. Md. Fazley Elahi Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, BBS. Followed by the guest of honor, Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, who shared his vital insights on how an entrepreneur can change the lives of many. Next, Mr. Iftekharul Islam shared his views and opinions about the 'Challenges and Prospects for the Entrepreneurs in the Pharmaceutical Industry of Bangladesh.' The speech delivered by him enriched the knowledge of the potential entrepreneurs. The question and answer session followed his speech. Lastly, Mr. Rezaur Razzak, Director in-charge, BBS, in his concluding remarks said, “program of this stature would inspire this generation of entrepreneurs to set their own startup which would go a long way to create new employment opportunities in Bangladesh” and appreciated the efforts of everyone involved for making this program a successful one.

### BBS Master Class: Session VI - Globalization and Economic Growth with Special Focus on Bangladesh

On June 27, 2013, BRAC Business School (BBS) hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the BBS Master Class centering on “Globalization and Economic Growth with Special Focus on Bangladesh.” The distinguished speaker of the session was Dr. A.B. Mirza Azizul Islam, Visiting Professor, BBS, and Former Finance Adviser (Cabinet Minister), Caretaker Government. Dr. Aziz talked about the different aspects of globalization, economic growth and their interrelationships. He also talked about the evolution of Bangladesh as a player in the global economy.

### Motivational Session on “E2K-2013”

On July 31, 2013, BRAC University and DCCI jointly organized a seminar titled “Motivational Session on E2K-2013,” relating to entrepreneurship development, at BRAC University Auditorium. Professor Golam Mohammad, Dean, BBS, inaugurated the session with his welcome speech. After that, Mr. Nessar M. Khan, Acting President, DCCI, introduced “E2K”. Followed by him, Mr. Sukamal Sinha Choudhury, GM-SME, Bangladesh Bank, provided his valuable speech explaining the initiatives of Bangladesh Bank on the practice of motivating the young and women entrepreneurs inside Dhaka and also at a district and village level to



Mr. Iftekharul Islam with the Director in-charge, BBS, & Registrar, BRACU

start with SME. He also emphasized on how SME can help the entrepreneurs to find their field of interest.

### **Seminar on “Effective Leadership”**

On September 25, 2013, BRAC Business School in cooperation with BRAC University MBA Forum successfully arranged a seminar on “Effective Leadership”. Mr. Kuntal Baveja, Managing Director & Country President, Novartis Bangladesh Sandoz, was the key speaker of the session.

## **CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIUMS**

### **BBS Faculty members and students attended Inertia Marketing Conference**

BRAC Business School (BBS) sent a contingent comprising BBS faculty members and students to Inertia Marketing Conference. The conference, hosted by St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, was a two day event held on April 12 and 13, 2013. Ms. Maisha Mofiz and Ms. Sadia Kamal were the two freshman BBS students who made up the team that entered the student case competition arranged for the participating students at Inertia. The BBS team won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place after intensely competing with 6 other teams representing business and commerce students from Indian, Bhutanese and Malaysian institutes. Mr. Showvonick Datta, Lecturer, BBS, and Mr. Shamim E. Haque, Senior Lecturer, BBS, attended the conference to mentor the BBS team.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **BBS Student's at “Emirates International Model United Nations” (EMIMUN)**

Students of BRAC Business School, Mr. Mohammed Tanjim Ferdous and Mr. Sharif Tousif Mustafa, attended the largest model United Nation of UAE called the “Emirates International Model United Nations” aka EMIMUN. The conference was held at ENGECON building of Dubai Knowledge Village from January 30 to February 2, 2013.

### **EDF's Field Trip to 'Satchari National Park'**

On February 8, 2013, Entrepreneurship Development Forum of BBS arranged a field trip to 'Satchari National Park, located in the district of Syhlet. Several students of many different departments attended the trip, accompanied by the advisors of the club. They also took the opportunity to visit a nearby tea garden. Such field trips are always refreshing for the students.

### **VC's and Dean's List Certificate Awarding Ceremony**

On April 5, 2013, BRAC Business School (BBS), for the first time, organized the VC's and Dean's List certificate awarding ceremony. In Fall 2012, 52 students of BRAC Business School were placed in the VC's List, while 63 students were placed in the Dean's List.

### **MBA Fresher's Orientation Program-Summer 2013**

On May 16, 2013 the MBA Orientation program-Summer-2013 was held at BRAC Inn Auditorium, BRAC Center. It was a great platform for the students to familiarize themselves with campus life, study mode, rules and regulations of the university. The special guest, Mr. Kazi Monirul Islam, Country Consultant (Bangladesh) at Google, shared his wonderful experience with the audience and the audience was very much enchanted to hear the words from the speaker.

### **BBS students secure 2<sup>nd</sup> position in Social Business Competition**

BBS students, Mohsin Uddin Taksin, Asif Chowdhury, Maisha Mofiz Esha, Nuren Durdana and Sukanya Fuad participated in the social business plan competition for “Social Business Forum 2013” jointly organized by the Professional Society for Social Business (PSSB) and North South University held on June 29, 2013 at North South University campus. Their project mainly revolved around opening up a service company called “Chau-nies Infinity Services Limited”, whose main objective is to raise employment in the economy, address the needs of poor and ultimately, reduce poverty and inequality.



*BBS students, Taskin, Asif & Maisha receiving crest from Professor Yunus*

### Industry visit to British American Tobacco Bangladesh

On June 29, 2013, BRAC Business School arranged an Industry visit to the factory of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) for a number of its undergraduate students. The objective of the visit was to foster a holistic learning environment through properly bridging the gap between classroom learning and the real business environment. Initiated by Md. Tamzidul Islam, Senior Lecturer, BBS, well supported by Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Director in-charge, BBS, and facilitated by number of employees from BATB, this endeavor was expected to be continued in the future for the students of various functional areas offered by BBS.

### BBS alumni to Reunite, Rejuvenate and Rebuild at “BBS rewind”

On July 26, 2013, BRAC Business School, at BRAC University Auditorium, hosted a program titled “BBS Rewind”- a discussion session on the formation of an alumni community of BRAC Business School (BBS). With over two-hundred alumni members having registered, the BRAC University auditorium teemed with ex-students, who were ecstatic to be back to the place where they had spent the four most important years of their lives.

### Papers Presented

On June 20, 2013, Ms. Faria Rashid, Lecturer, BBS, attended a symposium themed “Gender and Responsible Business,” hosted by Nottingham Business School, United Kingdom. Ms. Rashid presented a paper titled “Effect of CSR Advertisements and Programs on the Bangladeshi Female Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) Consumers: Exploring the Gender Impacts of Altruistic CSR.” The event was attended by professionals and academics from organizations like Ernst & Young, International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), La Trobe University (Australia), University of Essex (UK), Swansea University (UK) and University of Virginia (USA). The gender issues that are critical to the CSR initiatives of businesses and how businesses engage with CSR and gender issues were the key areas which were focused.

### Papers Published

A.B.Mirza Md. Azizul Islam, Professor, BBS

- “Aspiration Vs Achievement: A Reality Check”, The Daily Star, March 19, 2013.

- “Creating a middle income country”, The Daily Star, April 06, 2013.
- “Bangladesh Economy at Cross-road: Policy Directions for the Future”, AmCham, Journal of the American Chamber of Commerce, Volume 6 No. 2, April 2013.
- “Budget 2013-14 (FY 14): A dispassionate disaggregation” The Daily Star, June 15, 2013.
- “Asthir Rajniti Biniyog Badhagrashtha korche”, Banik Barta, June 23, 2013.
- “Mudraniti Biniyog Paristhitike Khub Ekta Provabito Korte Parbena”, Artha Jagat, August 20, 2013
- “Agricultural Development: a macro prospective”, The Daily Star, November 23, 2013.
- “Banking Sector Je Abostha Biraj Korche Ta Karo Kamyana”, Artha Jagat, November 20, 2013.
- “Conflictive politics: a severe blow to the economy”, The Daily Star, December 15, 2013.

Md. Tamzidul Islam, Senior Lecturer, BBS, “A comparative study and mother brand influence on determining the consumer perception of Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi: a UK market perspective”, International Journal of Marketing and Technology, Vol. 3, Issue 1, 2013

Md. Tamzidul Islam, Senior Lecturer, BBS, “Hypothesis test to evaluate possible impact on customer perception due to acquisition: the case study on acquisition of Summerfield by Cooperative Group in UK Market”. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Academy, Vol: 3, No: 1, 2013

Md. Jabir Al Mursalin, Senior Lecturer, BBS, “Human Resource Information System: Current practice in Bangladesh”, Accepted to be published in: International Journal of Asian Business and Information Management.(2014)

Dr. Md. Fazley Elahi Chowdhury, Assistant Professor and Md. Saif Hossain, Lecturer, BBS, “A Theory-Based Model for Explaining Consumer Shopping Acceptance of the E-Stores in Bangladesh”, International Journal of Economics & Social Science Vol. 1 (2013), Mustang Journals Inc. University of Central Oklahoma, PP. 101-111

Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor, BBS, “Microfinance as a Tool to Empower Women Slum Dwellers”, Management Development, Vol.28, January-June 2013, PP.15-26, ISSN 0378-7832



## School of Engineering and Computer Science

The School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) embodies BRAC University's tradition of excellence as a leader in engineering education and research. The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) operate together under this school. In 2013, the CSE Department launched three graduate programs: Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Computer Science and Engineering, Master of Engineering (M.Engg.) in Computer Science and Engineering, and Master of Computer Applications. Besides academic programs, the School of Engineering and Computer Science highly encourages undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research activities.

In 2013, the School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRAC University, continued its drive for excellence both within the university and the nation at large. Several seminars were organized by the department, which helped forge useful linkages both with industry and other renowned universities. The faculty members also attended major conferences at home and abroad and formed useful associations with some of the leading organizations in engineering. Some teachers were selected for conducting training at prestigious organizations like the Bangladesh Computer Council. Some faculty members of CSE also played a role in designing a curriculum for IT training services in Bangladesh.

The Control and Applications Research Group (CARG) collaborated with BeevaTech in the development of Solar-powered Battery Charging Station. CARG also obtained approval of IEEE SIGHT, the Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology. Finally, this year CARG was officially approved as a Research Center.

This year, a substantial number of SECS graduates were recruited as teachers in their respective departments. It is hoped that these individuals will provide their best effort in serving their Alma Mater. Many faculty members have also left for higher education all around the globe.

As always, faculty members have been working on their research, and there have been a good number of

publications. In particular, CARG and the Robotics club have published several of their works in leading conferences.

Student activity has been a major part of the department's endeavors in 2013. The IEEE Student Branch attended the IEEE day and organized several competitive events for the students. The Robotics Club organized an extensive outreach program in multiple schools. They also organized multiple events within the university, and are now one of the most active and high-profile clubs at BRAC University.

Students of the CSE Department continued their active participation in several programming contests, including the ACM-ICPC Regional Event. Some students and faculty members also attended several workshops on Theoretical Computer Science at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

### CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

#### **Seminar on Integrated Optical and Radio Access Network by Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali**

The Control and Applications Research Group (CARG) organized a seminar in May 2013 by Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali. Dr. Mohammed Zamshed Ali is an active researcher and contributor in Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications. He is involved with the telecom industry, implementation and teaching, with a focus on current market trends and upcoming demands for new technologies. Dr. Ali is also an Adjunct Faculty at the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Dallas. He focused on the research scopes of modern telecom, on the best possible solution with integrated Optical and Wireless Radio Access Networks to fulfill consumers' increasing demand on bandwidth and mobility.

Dr. Ali has also been recently approved by the School of Engineering and Computer Science to supervise thesis students of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department. He would be supervising them from the University of Texas.

### **CARG Director, Professor AKM Azad attends the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC), Silicon Valley, California, USA**

Dr. AKM Abdul Malek Azad attended the GHTC 2013 this October where he presented the latest research results on the “Low Cost Cylindrical Lumen Testing Procedure” project. Dr. Azad was presented with a certificate by the IEEE GHTC 2013 Chair, Keith Moore following which he had a meeting with the Chair about the future prospects of participation in the HTC from Bangladesh. CARG has been a participant of the GHTC since 2011, when GHTC was first launched and as an official reviewer of the GHTC, has reviewed over 20 papers for the conference.

### **CSE Department Faculty and Student attend UGC HEQEP WNC at BUET**

On Saturday, March 16, a daylong workshop on Wireless Networks and Communications (WNC) 2013 was held at BUET. Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III, CSE, SECS and Amit Kumar Dey, Senior Student, CSE attended the day long workshop.

Dr. ASM Latiful Hoque introduced three distinguished experts in the field for invited talks. The program chair, Dr. M Mahfuzul Islam emphasized on the challenges and demands of wireless networks. HEQEP subproject manager, Dr. Md Saidur Rahman pointed out that development of qualified academicians is as important as improvement of infrastructure. Organizing chair Dr. Mahmuda Naznin highlighted that the participants can make the workshop a success by utilizing valuable resources from this workshop in their professional activities. Dr. M Kaykobad expressed that the country needs to take up national level projects to build more teachers and researchers.

Invited speaker Dr. Arshad M Chowdhury discussed the next generation convergence of optical and wireless access networks. A R Azimul Hoque, National ICT consultant, SPO Project, Bangladesh Parliament, discussed cost effectiveness, technologies, and examples of wireless access network deployments in different countries. Dr. Md Mostofa Akbar discussed multidimensional multiple-choice knapsack problem applied to solve problems in wireless communication systems.

The chief guest, Professor Md Shamsul Alam from MIST emphasized that for a developing country like

ours, research is the way towards a sustainable future. The workshop concluded with two best poster paper awards to Dr. A B M Alim Al Islam and his students.

### **CSE faculty member offers training at BCC**

CSE department faculty member M. Abdur Rahman conducted a government training course at Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). The 4 day long training session focused on Wordpress. The trainees had diverse backgrounds and represented different organizations including Information Commission, Bangladesh Navy, NIMC, BNM, and Dhaka University.

### **Participation in WECS 2013**

CSE students Amit Kumar Dey and Md. Ismail Kiron accompanied by faculty member Annajiat Alim Rasel of CSE Department participated in a Workshop on Design and Implementation of Emerging Computing Systems (WECS) 2013. Sadat Sakif Ahmed and Radin Ahmed Ehsan, students of CSE department presented their paper "Parallel Computing using GPU". The keynote paper, "Taking a leap into the next generation with available technologies" was presented by Kamal Quadir from CellBazaar, bKash. The closing note, "Computerization in Bangladesh requires a paradigm shift" was given by Dr. M. Kaykobad.

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Signing of MOU between CARG and BEEVATECH LTD**

The Control and Applications Research Group (CARG) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with BEEVATECH LTD, in concern with the project that CARG has undertaken of designing a solar powered battery charging station for electrically assisted power rickshaws. BEEVATECH LTD, established in 2001, is the first professional electrically assisted rickshaw manufacturer in Bangladesh.

### **CARG project in collaboration with BEEVATECH LTD**

The Solar Battery Charging Station (SBCS) designed by CARG has been approved by BRAC University. The project is designed in collaboration with BEEVATECH LTD. The designed SBCS would be completely independent of the national grid. The pilot project features implementing a 1kW solar powered

station. The project not only takes a significant load of the national grid but opens up a way for CARG to build an industrial link with BEEVATECH LTD. Reports of this pilot project will be presented to the Ministry of Industries in an effort to gain the approval for launching the rickshaws throughout the whole country.

### **Approval of CARG SIGHT (Bangladesh)**

CARG SIGHT (Bangladesh) has been approved by IEEE SIGHT. The group is now officially recognized and has been given permission to proceed under IEEE SIGHT supervision.



Mr. Peter Steaker, IEEE president, handed over the SIGHT Fellowship award to Dr. Azad. The fellowship was awarded as an appreciation for the contribution of CARG towards the GHTC. Dr. Azad also met with the Steering Committee about the future projects planned for CARG SIGHT Bangladesh.

In recent years, IEEE has placed great emphasis on Humanitarian Technology Activities, instituting the Humanitarian Ad Hoc Committee (HAHC) in 2011. As part of a strategic effort toward member engagement, HAHC has instituted a program called Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT).

### **Recognition of the Control & Applications Research Group as a Research Centre**

In 2013 the Control and Applications Research Group (CARG) was officially announced as a research center by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ainun Nishat. CARG is now the Control and Applications Research Centre (CARC). Dr. AKM Abdul Malek Azad, Professor, Department of EEE has been re-appointed as the Director of the research center heading the research team of Rafiur Rahman Surjo (Project Engineer), Sabbir Ahmed Khan (Research Assistant) and graduate research students.

CARC primarily focused on research on renewable and sustainable energy and bio-medical technology. Creating University-Industry relationship through joint research is its second objective and CARC has already made significant progress by creating relations with organizations like Energypac, Beevatech LTD, DPDC, IDCOL and Prokausholi Sangsad LTD.

### **CSE Department Faculty becomes Master Trainer for ITEE**

CSE Department faculty member, Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III, has become a master trainer for Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) through a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-BCC, MoICT training project. So far, a total of 21 people have received this opportunity. Other master trainers are from BUET, Dhaka University, University of Rajshahi, BCC, MoICT, NAEM, Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS), Bangladesh Bank, Sonali Bank, and CTO of several IT companies.

### **CSE department takes part in National Curriculum Design for Training Services for IT/ITES**

Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park authority, under Support to Development of Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park Project, requested contribution from CSE faculty members from different Universities, representatives from different Information Technology (IT) / IT Enabled Services (ITES) associations, Government organizations, and professionals to provide feedback on development of Course Curriculum for IT/ITES Sector. The developed curriculum is expected to be used in training courses to be offered in future at BCC and at Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park.

From BRAC University, Chairperson and Professor Mohammad Zahidur Rahman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman and Annajiat Alim Rasel (Lecturer III) contributed to the syllabus. Their contribution focused on improvement of the syllabus for Call Center Agent Training, Search Engine Optimization, and iPhone Application Development respectively. Representatives from Bangladesh Association of Call Center and Outsourcing (BACCO), BCC, and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) were present during the session. Md. Nazrul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Information, and Communication Technology (MoICT) personally followed the event from beginning to end.



### **CSE Department Faculty conducts national training for ITEE FE Exam**

In September 2013 a training program took place to inform about ITEE and Fundamental IT Engineer (FE) exam. Annaiyat Alim Rasel, a Master Trainer for ITEE and Lecturer III at the CSE department, successfully conducted a total of 4 sessions in the training. About 150 persons including students, faculty members, and professionals from different educational, public, and private organizations attended the program.

### **Arrivals, Departures and Promotions**

Md. Risul Karim joined as a Lecturer in the Computer Science and Engineering Department from January 2013. Karim completed his B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from BRAC University.

Anamul Hoque, Ahmed Hosne Zenan and Sanjana Ahmed joined as Lecturers in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department from January 2013. All three completed their B.Sc. from BRAC University.

Seefath Nayeem joined the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering as Lecturer in September 2013. She completed her B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at BRAC University.

Aniqua Nusrat Zareen joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering as Lecturer in September 2013. She completed her B.Sc. in Computer Science and Engineering at BRAC University.

Pratik Al Islam joined the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering as Lecturer in September 2013. He completed his B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at BRAC University.

Md. Khaledur Rahman joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering as Lecturer in May 2013. He is a graduate of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Shohel has joined the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering as Lecturer on September 2013. He completed his B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in February 2013 and is currently pursuing his M.Sc. there.

Syed Shakib Sarwar was promoted to Lecturer II in May 2013.

Aysa Siddique Shanta was promoted to Lecturer II in June 2013.

### **Publications**

Ahmed, S. S., Hussain, S. M. A. and Salam, M. Sayeed., "A Novel Substitute for the Meter Readers in a Resource Constrained Electricity Utility", IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, Sept. 2013, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 1615-1616.

Ahmed, S. S., Iqbal, A., Sarwar, R. and Salam, M. Sayeed, "Modelling the energy consumption of a lift", Accepted for publication in Energy and Buildings, 2013.

Md. Risul Karim, Syed Shaiyan Kamran Waliullah, Badruddin Kamal, Insan Arafat Jamil, Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Mumit Khan, "Automatic will Enabled System of Multi-Modal Operation", International Conference on Electronics, Informatics & Vision 2013 (ICIEV-13).

Rubel Biswas, Arif Khan, Md. Zahangir Alom, Mumit Khan, "Night Mode Prohibitory Traffic Signs Detection", ICIEV-13.

AKM Azad and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, "Social Impact of Solar Home System in rural Bangladesh: A Case Study of Rural Zone", IAFOR (The International Academic Forum) Journal of Sustainability, Energy and the Environment, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2013.

AKM Azad and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, "Low Cost Cylindrical Lumen Testing Procedure in Bangladesh Perspective", IEEE GHTC (Global Humanitarian Technology Conference) 2013, Silicon Valley, California.

AKM Azad and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, "Hybridization of Solar Energy with National Grid to Power Classroom DC Loads", IEEE GHTC (Global Humanitarian Technology Conference) 2013, Silicon Valley, California.

AKM Azad and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, "Effect of Components on Solar Home System Output Power in Bangladesh Perspective", IEEE TENCON Spring 2013 conference, Sydney, Australia.

AKM Azad and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, "Implementation of Hardware and Software of Solar Panel Testing Parameters", IEEE TENCON Spring 2013 conference, Sydney, Australia.

Mosaddequr Rahman, Hernandez, Jonathan and S. Chowdhury, "An Improved Analytical Method to Design CMUTs with Square Diaphragms", IEEE Trans. on Ultrason., Ferroelectr. Freq. Control, vol. 60, no. 4, 2013, pp. 834-845.

Ahmed Hosne Zenan, Sanjana Ahmed, Md. Khalilur Rhaman and Mosaddequr Rahman, "A Multilevel

Solar Panel System for Urban Areas", 39<sup>th</sup> IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conf. (39<sup>th</sup> IEEE PVSC), June 16–21, 2013 Tampa, Florida, USA.

Sanjana Ahmed, Ahmed Hosne Zenan, Nisat Tasneem and Mosaddequr Rahman, "Design of a Solar Powered LED Street Light: Effect of Panel's Mounting Angle and Traffic Sensing", 2013 IEEE Conf. on Sust. Utilization and Develop. in Eng. and Tech. - Photonics and Electro-Optics (2013 IEEE CSUDET), May 30 - June 1, 2013 Selangor, Malaysia.

Tarem Ahmed, X. Wei, S. Ahmed, and A.-S. K. Pathan, "Efficient and effective automated surveillance agents using kernel tricks," in SIMULATION: Trans. of The Society for Modeling and Simulation Int., vol. 89, issue 5, May 2013, pp. 562–577.

X. Wei, J. Fan, M. Chen, Tarem Ahmed, and A.-S. K. Pathan, "SMART: A subspace based malicious peers detection algorithm for P2P systems," in Int. J. of Communication Networks and Information Security, vol. 5, no. 1, April 2013, pp. 1–9.

Tarem Ahmed, S. Ahmed, and A.-S. K. Pathan, "Automated surveillance in distributed visual networks: A comparative study," in Proc. Int. Workshop on Mobile and Wireless (WMobile-Wireless), Jeju, Republic of Korea, December 2013.

Tarem Ahmed and A.-S. K. Pathan, "Automated surveillance approaches," abstract, poster and presentation, in International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Postgraduate Students Colloquium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2013.

Tarem Ahmed, X. Wei, S. Ahmed, and A.-S. K. Pathan, "Automated visual surveillance using kernel tricks," poster, in ENS/INRIA Computer Vision and Machine Learning Summer School (CVML), École Normale Supérieure (ENS), Paris, France, July 2013.

Syed Shakib Sarwar, and Syed Nazmus Saqueb. "Memristor-Based Nonvolatile Random Access Memory: Hybrid Architecture for Low Power Compact Memory Design." Access, IEEE, vol.1, no.1, pp.29–34, May 2013 Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2013.2259891

Alom, Md. Zahangir, Syed Shakib Sarwar, Rubel Biswas, Moin Mostakim and Hyo Jong Lee. "Real Time Object Detection System Based on Color and Spatial Information". International Journal of Computer and Information Technology (IJCIT) 2.2 (2013): 8-18. (ISSN: 2279–0764), January 2013

Seefath Nayem and Pratik Al Islam, "Optimization of photonic crystal waveguide based optical filter", accepted for publication at the IEEE Region 10 Technical Symposium (Tensymp), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2014.

S. O. Olatunji and Hossain Arif, "Identification of Erythematous-Squamous Skin Diseases Using Extreme Learning Machine and Artificial Neural Network", ICTACT Journal on Soft Computing, October 2013.

Tanvir Roushan, Dipankar Chaki, Onishim Hasdak, Md. Syeed Chowdhury, Annajiat Alim Rasel, M. Abdur Rahman, and Hossain Arif, "University Course Advising: Overcoming the challenges using decision support system", 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT), December 2013.

Md. Khaledur Rahman, "The 2-approximation algorithm of sorting by prefix transposition revisited", accepted in ICIEV 2013.

Marifa Farzin Reza, Rizwana Matin, "Application of Data Mining For Identifying Topics at the Document Level", ICIEV-13.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES (Department Organized)**

### **IEEE Day 2013**

The IEEE day 2013 celebrated the anniversary of the first time engineers gathered to share their technical ideas in 1884. As part of the worldwide celebration, the IEEE Bangladesh section organized a day long festival on October 4, 2013, at the East West University Campus. The executive body and some student members represented IEEE BRAC University chapter in the festival. After the short ceremony, the day's events comprised of a few presentations and speeches by renowned personalities from various technical sectors.

### **Circuit Building Competition**

On December 28, 2013 IEEE BRAC University Student Branch organized a Circuit Building Competition. There were 11 participants in total, mostly from the EEE Department. General members of IEEE BRAC University Student Branch Sadita Ahmed, Tanveer Md. Faisal Alam, Md Naveed Ahmed and Treasurer of IEEE BRAC University Student Branch Imran Bin Jafar were in the Organizing

Committee of the event. Participants were required to implement the assigned circuit on a breadboard correctly as fast as possible, and were also required to find the necessary parameters given on the question. Pratik Al Islam, Lecturer of EEE Department, BRAC University was in the Judging Panel, and helped decide the victors of the event.

The winners of the competition were:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Maisun Ibn Monowar, EEE

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Ahmed Akter, EEE

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Najiba Ahmadullah, ECE

### School visits and outreach programs

Children today are very interested about robots. Even school children know a lot about the NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition. In an effort to answer some of their queries, the BRAC University Robotics club visited four different educational institutes of Bangladesh, namely Nur Muhammad Rifles Public School and College, The New School Dhaka (NSD), Munshi Abdur Rouf Public College and Teknaf Pilot School. Chondrobot 3 and a few more robots made by BRAC University students were taken along for demonstration. The students were given a presentation on Chondrobot 3 by the team leader Risul Karim, and shown a video of the work behind developing Chondrobot 3. Students who answered some questions successfully were given the chance to operate the robot.

Seven members from BRACU Chondrobot 3 team conducted the programs. Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Associate Professor of CSE Department, BRAC University and the advisor of Chondrobot 3 team was present in the program.



### CNSER Engineering Project Exhibition (CEPE)

Four Robotics student projects were displayed in CNSER Engineering Project Exhibition (CEPE), conducted by Engineering Students Association of Bangladesh (ESAB) on the occasion of ICIEV'13. BRACU Robotics Club helped the BRACU teams to make the event successful. The projects were: Chondrobot-2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Car security System, Body Controllable Surrogate Robot, IMV012.

### Four students nominated for training at InfoSys

Four CSE senior year students and some alumni members received primary nomination for a training course in India as a part of a project of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, MoICT. The training program is jointly sponsored by InfoSys and the Bangladesh Government. Hi-Tech Park Authority will take multiple interviews and finally select 95 trainees and 4 faculty members from all of Bangladesh for a 12-week long training program. Nominated students and alumni members are Dipankar Chaki Joy, Tanvir Roushan, Mohammad Zubair Alam, and Sadia Binta Kabir.

### Participation in AB Bank IUT 5<sup>th</sup> National ICT FEST 2013

Eight teams consisting of twenty-four students from Department of CSE applied for participation at the programming contest, a key part of AB Bank IUT 5<sup>th</sup> National ICT FEST 2013. Due to massive national response, organizers had to limit number of teams that can participate from each university. Finally, four teams could be accommodated by the organizers. The team BRACU EAGLES consisted of members Raduanul Islam, Sk. Wasif Ahmed, and Md. Ahsanul Karim and team BRACU Thunderbolt consisted of members, Dipankar Chaki, Onishim Hasdak, and Tanvir Roushan. Coach of both of the teams was Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III, CSE Department. The third team BRACU Prime consisted of the members, Javed Nayeem, Amit Kumar Dey, and Zafor Iqbal, and coach, Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Lecturer II. Finally, team BRACU Supercalifragi had Abul Ahsan Mahmud, Adib Mosharrof, and Yeasir Hossain Leon as members and Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali, Lecturer III as the coach.



### **Participation in 5<sup>th</sup> Brainstorming Session on Theoretical Computer Science**

A day-long workshop was held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on Theoretical Computer Science and Engineering (TCSE). Among participants from different universities and organizations, there were Abu Wasif, Assistant Professor, CSE BUET, Nova Ahmed, Assistant Professor, CSE, NSU, and Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III, CSE Department, BRAC University. Prof Dr. M. Kaykobad of CSE, BUET urged the importance of coming up with more innovative ideas and building projects which grab the interest of more researchers and experts. Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman began his session with how to write thesis and research papers. At the end of the session, he shared his interest on Graph Drawing and Graph Partitioning.

All participants were then divided into groups for brainstorming on the topics. Through group-work, teams came up with remarkable results for the problems. Each group presented their presentation before Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman. All the participants were thoroughly inspired and motivated by Prof Dr. M. Kaykobad and Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman who assisted the participants to come up with the solutions. The workshop took place as part of University Grants Commission's (UGC) HEQEP sub-project.

### **ACM-ICPC Preliminary Mock: Flavor of Programming**

ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC) is an annual multi-tiered programming competition at the university level. In preparation for this event, the CSE Department organized a Preliminary Contest on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the university premises. There were about 12 teams and 3 members in each team. The event started at 10am. Moin Mostakim, faculty member of CSE department, prepared the problems for the contests.

Amit Kumar Dey, President of Computer Club along with Zafor Iqbal, Director of Marketing monitored the whole event. Soon after the contest ended, Moin Mostakim explained how to solve the problems and evaluated all the participants.

### **CloudCamp BD Innovation Forum Launch**

CSE department in collaboration with BUCC teamed up with CloudCamp Bangladesh to organize the "CloudCamp BD Innovation Forum". The event aims to initiate the target of building "Million App Developers" in Bangladesh. With 110 million mobile users and 65% of the 160 million population under 25, Bangladesh is believed to be the perfect breeding ground for next generation apps. After initial inspiration from CSE Department Chairperson, Prof. M Zahidur Rahman, the event was planned through multiple meetings and discussions throughout the month of October. CSE department faculty members, Annajiat Alim Rasel, Lecturer III and Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Lecturer II will assist students in organizing the event. Amit Kumar Dey, senior student of CSE department will be coordinating with countrywide sites, volunteers, students and prospective participants.

### **Registration for Preliminary Contest of ACM ICPC 2013 Dhaka**

Like every year, the CSE department registered for the ACM ICPC 2013 Dhaka Site. This year there were 568 teams from 66 different institutes registered for the contest. CSE department of BRAC University formed a significant portion of the attendees. Twenty teams had registered for the online preliminary round contest. This year, the Dhaka Site event comprised two different rounds - an online preliminary contest followed by the onsite main event. In order to qualify for the final onsite event, students were required to participate and perform commendably in the online round. The online preliminary took place on November 16, 2013 from 3 to 8pm. Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Lecturer II assisted other faculty members and the students with the registration of most of the teams. The registration was coordinated by Annajiat Alim Rasel. Both of them had been acting as coaches themselves and have their own teams at the contest. Other faculty members serving as coaches included Dipan Lal Shaw, Nabila Naushin, Amitabha Chakrabarty, Lubaba Tasneem, Farzana Rashid, Md. Khaledur Rahman, Moin Mostakim, Hossain Arif, Masudur Rahman, Risul Karim, Muhammad Abdur Rahman, Tahsina Hashem, Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali, Rubel Biswas, Suraiya Tairin, Matin Saad Abdullah, Tahrina Hashem, and Aniqua Nusrat Zereen.

## The School of Law

Founded in 2004, the School of Law (SoL) at BRAC University is a gateway through which students are prepared for careers in law, in administrative services, the judiciary and in the development sector. The four-year undergraduate program at the School of Law culminates into a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree for successful students.

Although the primary emphasis of the program is on law and the legal profession, given that Law is also intertwined with economics, development, business and sociology, it also prepares students who are inclined to seek professions in other disciplines. Recognizing BRAC's background and the goals and commitments of BRAC University, the School of Law endeavors to impart legal education to seek legal solutions that respect social, cultural and aesthetic needs of the people. To meet this goal, it strives to impart to its students not only the tenets of the law, but also legal philosophy, rights-based issues and a broader awareness of the society they live in.

In 2004, the School of Law started its journey with six students. By December 2013, the numbers had increased to 408 students. Many of the students come from outside Dhaka, and this is an encouraging sign. It is hoped that after graduating and becoming lawyers, they will be able to serve their own communities and encourage others to pursue legal studies.

Graduates from the School of Law are now pursuing careers as lawyers, corporate legal officers, development workers, academics and have also joined the Judiciary. They have found employment at BRAC, in the Human Rights and Legal Resources department and at the BRAC Development Institute. Graduates of the School of Law set up the SoL Alumni Association in 2011. They are very active on Facebook and have, to date, organized two Alumni Association dinners. Faculty members are invited to the dinners to catch up with former students and give advice when it is sought. The main aim of the Association is to maintain contacts and strong ties among the members, who have chosen diverse professional fields, especially among those who now belong to the legal fraternity.

The School of Law is noteworthy in the fact that it has both a Law Club and a Moot Court Society, where students are constantly engaged in preparing for moot court competitions, writing research papers and articles for the Law Club newsletter 'Acumen' and planning lecture programs and social awareness activities. In 2013, senior members of the Law Club went on a field trip to Nepal and visited the Supreme Court, the Kathmandu School of Law and the Nepal Bar Association. The mooters have been successful in several national and regional competitions in 2013.

In order to graduate with an LL.B (Hons.) degree in Law, a student must complete 135 credits. The School of Law offers 22 major Law courses and the students can select 9-10 Elective Minor in Law courses, which includes courses such as 'Banking and Security Laws', 'Human Rights', Labor Laws', 'Taxation Laws', 'Cyber Law', etc. The number of students in a class can vary from a minimum of five (in Law Elective courses) to 45 (in major courses).

In order to complete 135 credits, courses outside the major courses are taken, as per the University policy. The School of Law encourages its students to take courses such as Sociology, Anthropology, Humanities, Development Studies, Economics and Business Studies as courses outside their major field. These are all related to the study of Law. Some students also opt to do a minor in Sociology or Business Studies.

The faculty of the School of Law are appointed for their academic excellence and individual expertise. They bring with them teaching-learning experiences from Universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, the United States of America and Bangladesh. The faculty has individual expertise in the areas of child rights, criminal law, consumer laws, gender studies, business laws, economics, international laws and human rights; all which are shared with the students in course work and in workshops and lecture programs organized by the School.

There are a total of seven full time faculty members and one part time faculty member at the School of Law. There are also two course-contract (visiting) faculty members – one of whom is an advocate of the



Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and one who is in the Bangladesh Civil Service.

Several members of the faculty are active in attending regional, international and national conferences and seminars, where they also present papers. Three faculty members have published books, while several have published chapters in refereed journals. The faculty members also have individual, independent experience in legal research work and social work.

The following paragraphs give a brief description of the activities of the faculty members and the students of the School of Law, BRAC University, for 2013.

### **1. Conference / Seminar / Talk / Workshop (Chaired or paper presented) :**

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan

- 'Terrorism and the Death Penalty: The Law in Bangladesh' as part of a panel presentation on 'The Death Penalty and Terrorism', at the World Congress against the Death Penalty, held in Madrid from June 12-15, 2013.
- 'The Socio-Legal Consequences of Child Marriage in Bangladesh: another act of Violence or an Economic Necessity?' at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Law Institute (ASLI) conference hosted by the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India from May 23-24, 2013.

Dr. Rizwanul Islam

- Originality in Legal Research, Common Errors in Writing Research Papers, and the Issues of Ethics and Plagiarism, Invited lecture at the Legal Research Workshop for LLM Students, Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, September 3, 2013

Ms. Mahua Zahur

- 'Asian Legislative Trends for the Protection of Geographical Indications: A Road to TRIPs' was presented in ICLJ (International Conference on Law and Justice) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 24-25, 2013
- 'Hindu Marriage System in Bangladesh: Addressing the Issues of Discrimination' was presented in 10<sup>th</sup> ASLI conference held in Bangalore, India, May 23-24, 2013.
- 'An analysis of draft Geographical Indications Act of Bangladesh' was presented in a seminar

organized by Law club of School of Law of BRAC University, January 19, 2013.

Ms. Atia Naznin

- 'The Paradox of Prospect for Non-governmental Organizations: Space for Greater Institutional Avenue in International Human Rights Avenue' in the International Conference on Law and Justice in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 24-25, 2013.
- 'Roads to MDGs: Climate Change Induced Human Displacement in Bangladesh' in the Global Classroom, Venice, Italy, May 2, 2013, organized by the European Inter University Center and European Union.
- Participated in the first Global Classroom on Human Rights and MDGs organized by the European Union and European Inter-University Center in Venice, Italy from April 27 - May 4, 2013.

### **2. Research and Publications**

Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood

- Preparing for publication a book entitled Legal Environment of Business in Bangladesh.

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan

- The Need to Criminalise Torture in Bangladesh, Human Rights and Governance in Bangladesh: A Study of Corruption, Torture and Extrajudicial Killing. Md. Shariful Islam (Ed). Asian Legal Resource Center, Hong Kong, September 2013. ISBN: 978-962-8161-13-3 (Print Edition)/ISBN: 978-962-8161-14-0 (Online Edition)
- 'Bangladesh' in Torture in Asia: The Law and Practice. Redress Trust and Asian Human Rights Commission. Contributing country expert and chapter editor, Bangladesh chapter. July 2013.

Dr. Rizwanul Islam

- 'Bangladesh' in International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Intellectual Property, edited by Hendrik Vanhees, Alphen aan den Rijn, NL: Kluwer Law International, 2013, pp 114.(Monograph)
- 'Barriers to Trade in Goods and Services' in Indira Karr, Shawkat Alam and Md. Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan (eds), International Trade Law and the WTO, (Sydney: Federation Press, 2013) 147-165 (Book Chapter with Shawkat Alam)

- The Australia India Proposed Free Trade Agreement and Trade in Agriculture: Opportunities and Challenges, (2013) 14(1) Journal of World Investment and Trade, 167-197 (with Shawkat Alam and Pundarik Mukhopadhyaya)
- Review of The WTO and Trade in Services edited by Bernard Hoekman (2013) 3(2) Asian Journal of International Law, 426-427.
- Review of Blame It on the WTO?: A Human Rights Critique by Sarah Joseph (2013) 47(4) Journal of World Trade, 951-956

### 3. Activities of Department Clubs

#### A. Activities of the BU Law Club

The BU Law Club was founded in Fall 2009. Its adviser is Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Associate Professor, School of Law. The BU Law Club was founded on the basis that everyone should be aware of the law and their rights and that students of Law should also be social activists. BU Law Club members have volunteered in human rights organizations, taken part in awareness-raising initiatives and carry out research for short reports in the awareness-raising newsletter 'Acumen', which is published every month and distributed throughout the University. Activities such as school visits on the issue of 'rights' and 'child rights', lecture programs and local level informal discussions not only fulfill the objectives of the BU Law Club, but also encourages the members to learn how to utilize their knowledge of law; expand their knowledge base and hone their oratory, organization and research skills.

- In January 2013, the Law Club collaborated with Bangla Craft to host a seminar on the passing of a law on Geographical Indication in Bangladesh. Over 100 participants, including designers, artisans, government officials, faculty members



*The Registrar makes a presentation at the seminar on geographical indication*

and journalists attended the seminar, which was held in the BU indoor games room. Ms. Mahua Zahur, Lecturer and course instructor of Intellectual Property Law presented a paper at the seminar.

- As part of its regular programs, the Law Club arranges court visits for senior students who have completed the courses Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence and Civil Procedure. The group visit and not proceedings in first a District Court and then the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. In the past, the Law Club has organized study tours to Gazipur, Munshiganj and Comilla District Courts. In May 2013, the Law Club took the senior students to visit Dhaka District Court and then the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The purpose of such court visits is for students to note the practical aspects of Law, mapping out the courtrooms and discussing the findings among themselves. There are some differences between the study and the practice of Law and these visits and observations are a useful firsthand experience for potential legal practitioners.



*Listening to the Registrar of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh*



*Outside the Dhaka District Court, with Alimul Islam, a former student. Now a lawyer.*

- In August 2013, members of the BULC and other senior students went to Nepal to visit the Supreme Court Visit and the Kathmandu Law School. Accompanying them was Lecturer, Ms. Tanjina Sharmin. While visiting the Nepal Supreme Court the Court authority facilitated the team with five court officials of the Chief Justice's office who helped them to understand the court proceedings. They also arranged a presentation of the Nepal Judicial System. At the Kathmandu Law School they were introduced to a different teaching style. The Kathmandu Law School has also, unofficially, expressed their willingness to work with the School of Law in joint research, competitions and other activities.



*At the Supreme Court of Nepal*

- In December, as part of its awareness-building programme, the BULC visited the TNT Primary School of Mohakhali to give a talk on citizens rights under the Constitution to students of class 9 and 10. The BULC arranges such school visit programmes every year and has a constant slot every December at Sir John Wilson School, where members of the BULC talk to students of classes 9 – 12 about constitutional rights and fundamental freedoms in Bangladesh. School visits are made accompanied by BULC Advisor Dr. Saira Rahman Khan.



*Introducing the BULC team and the purpose for the discussion to the students of TNT School*



## **B. Activities of Moot Court Society**

- The year 2013 has been quite successful for the Moot Court Society - BRAC University with regard to development and breeding a new generation of mooters, and in terms of performance in various national and international tournaments. The year started with the training and selection of new mooters for the KLRCA-NAMCO Moot Court Competition 2013 which was to be held in Malaysia. However, due to some unfortunate lack of funding the team had to pull out of it in the last moment.
- Then, in the summer the Moot Court Society won the LCLS Moot Court Competition 2013. The winning team consisted of Farhaan Uddin Ahmed and Nauriin Ahmed; they beat the hosts in the finals to win the competition. Farhaan was also adjudged to be the Best Speaker of the Final. A second team consisting of Irin Zaman and Pizuar Hossain from the Society also performed well.
- During the Fall, the Society began preparing for the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2013-14. The memorial was written and submitted by mid-October and in December the team consisting of Nauriin Ahmed, Shaoli Das Gupta, Pizuar Hossain and Irin Zaman flew to New Delhi to represent BRAC University at the South Asia Regional Rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2013-14 held at National Law University, New Delhi. The team performed consistently by becoming the highest ranked team from Bangladesh and the two mooters were also ranked among the top speakers from the country. All in all it was great learning experience for the members and it created a foothold for Bangladesh in the regional mooting circuit.





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## DEPARTMENTS

Department of Architecture (ARC)

Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management

Department of English and Humanities (ENH)

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)

Department of Mathematics and Natural Science (MNS)

Department of Pharmacy (PHAR)





## Department of Architecture

The Department of Architecture, BRAC University celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. It started its journey in Spring 2002 with 15 students and 3 members of the faculty. However, over the years, it has grown and now has 290 students and 17 full-time well-qualified members of the faculty. The department offers a 203 credit undergraduate degree in architecture, and by now it has produced 83 graduates through its 5-year degree program.

The objective of the department is to ensure high quality education. The size of the student intake is limited to 25-30 only. The admission process is based on competition. Within a short span of time, the department has earned a reputation for high quality architectural education with the help of teachers of exceptional academic and professional backgrounds. The design studios, the vital part of the curriculum are taught by 2 to 3 teachers. Thus an excellent 1:10 teacher-student ratio is maintained. The external faculty members who are highly qualified and renowned in their respective fields teach design studios and courses on various architecture related subjects, such as painting, photography, sculpture and music appreciation.

The academic atmosphere is characterized by rich co-curricular activities and a lively cultural life. It includes the Angan lecture series, Arch.KIDS and the student cultural forum "Moitree". The Angan lecture is a regular lecture series which invites different scholars to conduct lectures on their fields of interest. These types of lectures help students meet with intellectuals and encourage widening their knowledge. "Arch.KIDS" is an outreach program for children. The idea originated with letting our future generation know about our environment and the architecture that occupies this environment. The objective is to explore their levels of creativity through designing spaces.

The department also organizes exhibitions of the students' work and design charrettes. These develop inter-university communication and further the interest of the students to strive for excellence. Practical training is a part of the curriculum. Students are required to complete a semester of professional

training in architectural offices. The training is transboundary in nature. Besides Bangladesh, the students undergo this training in India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the U.S.A. The department enjoys the privilege of student and staff exchange with several European Universities under EMMA (Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia). It has a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago, for student/staff exchanges.

The department arranged several study tours at different places in Bangladesh relevant to different course curricula. These tours help the students to understand, experience the subject and appreciate their field of study more. The students are encouraged by the department to participate in different community-led projects, and workshops.

Very recently, Department of Architecture introduced a new certificate program in Construction Management. 13 students have successfully completed the program in the first batch.

The department undertakes research programs in different areas. It has done so in association with the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC, the British Council, the University of Manchester, Loughborough University, Hoger School Van Amsterdam etc. The students are encouraged to work on research projects to get them acquainted with the real world. The department also offers consulting services for various organizations. Prototype design of cyclone shelter for BRAC, interior design of university facilities, disaster resilient housing at Noakhali for IUCN and post disaster housing reconstruction in the Sidr affected areas are some examples.

### **Street painting to celebrate 21<sup>st</sup> February and International Mother Language Day**

31 BRACU first year architecture students transform a street into a walking gallery celebrating the alphabets of the various languages of the world. For three days, an entire street was handed over to 31 students of the 1st year of the Department of Architecture. The 370 feet long street in front of BRACU building 3, 4 and 5 was transformed using nothing but vivid colours and constructive imagination.

Under the guidance of Shams Mansoor Ghani, Dr. Tariq Mahbub Khan and Tanzil Idmam Shafique, the studio instructors, the students were each allotted a plot measuring 10 feet by 15 feet on the road, upon which they painted an abstract composition inspired by a word, in Bangla and its translation in one of the major languages of the world. The project completion evening was inaugurated by the Pro-VC of BRACU, Dr. Fuad H Mallick. As he wrote his name in Bangla, students, teachers and local people poured on to write theirs on to a bed of red paint allotted for this purpose.

### **David Adjaye OBE visited the department of Architecture**



British architect David Adjaye OBE visited the department of Architecture on February 24, 2013. He is the principal architect of Adjaye Associates, an architectural consulting firm based in London and visiting professor at Princeton University School of Architecture, New Jersey, United States. He received the title of OBE from the British Queen in 2007 for services to British architecture, RIBA – Bronze Medal (1993), Design Miami/ The Designer of the Year Award (2011), Power list: Britain's Most Influential Black Person (2012) etc. His impressive project profile includes Moscow school of Management (2010), Moscow, Smithsonian NMAAHC, Washington DC and many more.

### **Professor Fuad H Mallick attended the 2013 Humanitarian Policy Forum for Asia and the Pacific**

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Pro Vc and Chairperson of the Department of Architecture attended the 2013 Humanitarian Policy Forum for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand on May 27 & 28, 2013. The event was organized by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Various stakeholders from Asia and the Pacific also attended the forum which discussed the future of humanitarian responses in the likelihood of disasters and conflicts.

### **Faculty attended a conference in China**

Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture and Shajjad Hossain,

Lecturer of Department of Architecture attended an international conference in Beijing, China. The conference titled "Beijing Forum" was held from November 1 to 3, 2013. In 2013, the forum celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rubaiya and Shajjad jointly submitted the paper. The paper is a part of their ongoing research "Green Street: A Potential Response to the Environmental Aspect of Urbanization of Dhaka city, Bangladesh"

### **Faculty attended a Workshop of Community Architects Network (CAN) in the Philippines**

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Senior Lecturer, Mahmuda Alam, a student and Risal Ahmed former student of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting and Workshop of Community Architects Network (CAN) in the Philippines from May 19 to 29, 2013. In the meeting they shared the community-led housing activities in Bangladesh done by BRAC University. Around 80 community architects from different countries shared their experiences. As part of the workshop the participants were divided into seven different groups and stayed in seven different urban-poor communities for three days and helped to do community mapping with the people to identify weaknesses, strengths and possible solutions. At the end of the workshop people of the community presented the solutions to the city authority who took the responsibility to solve the problems. The main



*Workshop of Community Architects Network (CAN) in the Philippines*



philosophy of this process is, "Let people be the solution".

### **Knowledge sharing workshop with the community in Cox's Bazar**

A three day long workshop was held in Cox's Bazar from May 11 to 13, 2013. This knowledge sharing workshop was done as a part of "Climate Resilient Homestead and Settlement for Communities in Ecological Critical Areas of Teknaf Peninsula & Sonadia Island" under Community Based Adaptation in the Ecologically Critical Areas through Biodiversity Conservation and Social Protection Project, a research for IUCN. Among the participants there were house owners, local builders, carpenters, craftsmen and female members of households to share their opinions and skills. This workshop encouraged horizontal learning from each other. Information on different techniques of building stronger disaster resilient houses was shared amongst them. They were asked to draw their dream house considering their individual locality, environment and how to strengthen a house in lower cost. In later phase, they made house models to express their ideas. Officials from Department of Environment, Bangladesh Government and NACOM (Nature Conservation Management) were present in the workshop. This workshop was conducted by Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Yasmin Ara, Tahmina Rahman and Suhailey Farzana from the Department of Architecture.



*Workshop with community people in Cox's Bazar*

### **Dissemination Workshops held on Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh**

Four workshops were held as follow up to disseminate the findings and recommendations on "Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh" a study research jointly done by BDI and the Department of

Architecture. The research was funded by the World Bank. The Department of Architecture was involved in the component "Physical Inspection of Disaster (Cyclone) Shelters throughout the Country and Recommendations for Measures for Women/ Girl-Friendly Renovations". Among these the first one was held in Cox's Bazar on June 2, 2013 where Yasmin Ara, M. Aminur Rahman and Tahmina Rahman from the department took part and shared their study. The other two were held at Shatkhira on June 7 and at Bagerhat on June 8, 2013 where Tahmina Rahman represented the team. The final workshop was held in Dhaka on June 13. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Yasmin Ara, M. Aminur Rahman and Tahmina Rahman took part there. It was attended by personnel from the World Bank, NGOs and INGOs, representatives from local government, academics and volunteers.

### **Faculty visited Disaster (Cyclone) Shelters in Bagerhat**

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Yasmin Ara and Tahmina Rahman visited Bagerhat from April 19 to 22, 2013 to evaluate the physical conditions of some of the cyclone shelters there as part of the research project "Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh - Physical Inspection of Disaster (Cyclone) Shelters throughout the Country and Recommendations for Measures for Women/ Girl-friendly Renovations". They visited shelters by SDC, Fael Khair, Caritas, LGED and BRAC among others. Some of these were newly constructed and had not been used as shelters yet, and some had been used during Sidr and Aila. Location, condition of the shelter, access, road network, condition of toilet, and water supply, men-women space allocation during use were evaluated. Focus group discussion, key informant interview of the shelter users, and shelter management committee considering gender friendly condition were held. Besides, they visited some Asrayan Prokolpo (rehabilitation projects) in the area. This project is jointly done with BRAC Development Institute. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Yasmin Ara, Mohammad Aminur Rahman and Tahmina Rahman are in the research team from the Department of Architecture.

### **Faculty visited Shillong, India**

Some faculty of the Department of Architecture visited Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya from May 1 to 5, 2013. Its natural beauty and hilly topography provides

for a special experience. Shillong shows how the development of a city responds to its location and topography. Faculty also visited Mawlynnong village, known as the cleanest village of Asia. The collective effort of the community of the village gives it a unique character and makes it a very attractive tourist spot of India. That village can be an inspiration for every nation in the world.

### **Faculty awarded Scholarship**

Mr. Imon Chowdhoree, Senior Lecturer of Department of Architecture has been awarded the Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2014 for a Ph.D. program in Australia. With that scholarship he is going to start his Ph.D. work from next February at the Department of Built Environment and Civil Engineering of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. The title of his Ph.D. research is 'Policy and Practices for Developing Climate-Change Resilient River-side Urban Poor Settlements in Bangladesh'.

### **New faculty joining**

Ar. Saiqa Iqbal Meghna joined the Department of Architecture on April 15, 2013 as full time faculty. She graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 2008 with a professional bachelor's degree in Architecture; and started her own architectural consultancy firm. She received a Master's degree in Advance Architecture from Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia, Barcelona in 2011 and also completed a four months post graduate research program in Advanced Fabrication from the same Institute. Her graduation topic was Digital Fabrication. She has been engaged in a research based practice where she tries to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Many of her papers are published in international conferences of architecture organized by reputed universities around the world which includes university of Bath, UK, University of Porto, Portugal, Edgehill University, UK, National College of Arts, Pakistan, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. She also presented a paper at the CAA 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Conference, Bangladesh. She has participated in many National and International Architecture competition and won several prizes; some of the notable prizes are 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Liberation War Museum Bangladesh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Gulshan Club, 1<sup>st</sup> prize Holcim

Green Built Bangladesh etc. She won Travel Grant Award as a student of architecture to study the in-between thresholds of old and new cities in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Dr. Nandini Awal joined the Department of Architecture on May 5, 2013 as an Assistant Professor. She completed her B. Arch degree from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and technology) in January 2006. She gained her Master's degree at the Department of Architecture, University of Tokyo in September 2009. Later, she has successfully completed her Ph.D. under the same department of the University of Tokyo in September 2012. Her major was Design and Planning in Architecture and her research topic was identifying the spatio-cultural settings in a self-organized living environment of slum in Bangladesh. During her studies, she also worked as a Teacher's Assistant and Global COE (Global Center of Excellence for sustainable Urban Regeneration) fellow and Program Assistant in University of Tokyo.

Dr. Mohammad Habib Reza joined the Department of Architecture on September 23, 2013 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Reza is an architect and architectural historian; he completed his B. Arch degree from Khulna University in 2001 and Ph.D. in architectural history and theory from Nottingham Trent University, UK in 2013. Later he joined as a research fellow in Nottingham Trent University and was involved in research projects funded by Nottingham Trent University and the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of Oman, for the documentation of traditional oasis settlements in Central Oman towards the delivery of culturally and technically informed Heritage Management Plans. He is also a founder member of the Centre for the study of Architecture and Cultural Heritage in India, Arabia and the Maghreb (ArCHIAM), based at Nottingham Trent University aims to provide an interdisciplinary research platform for historical and contemporary cultural developments across three interconnected global regions. His interest focuses on the geometric and morphological development of architecture plus settlements and their connection with cultural, social and religious processes.

Dr. Mohammad Faruk joined the Department of Architecture on October 24, 2013 as an Assistant Professor. Mohammad Faruk graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology

(BUET) with a Bachelor of Architecture (B. Arch.) degree in 1996. He completed Master of Science in Urban Planning (M.Sc.) from the University of Hong Kong in 2002 with an ADB-Japan scholarship. In the year 2013, Faruk completed his Ph.D. from the College of Built Environment, Salford University, UK. Funded by a research studentship from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) of UK, the Ph.D. explored environmental support required for an ageing population in the outdoor built environment from user perspective. Since his graduation Dr. Mohammad Faruk has worked as an architect, CAD trainer, academic and a researcher in Bangladesh, Hong Kong and the UK and published extensively. As recognition of his design excellence, Faruk has been awarded the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) design award with CAD Ltd in 2002. He is currently exploring inclusively designed built environment in Bangladesh with particular focus on the ageing population and related disability.

#### **Students visited “Rail Bhaban”, Dhaka**

Students of studio VII, Department of Architecture, met Additional Director General (Infrastructure) Md. Amzad Hossain of Bangladesh Railway at Rail Bhaban, Dhaka. They came to know important facts about Bangladesh Railway and Dhaka, through a discussion. The discussion was arranged as a part of the study of urban design issues, with a title "City and the Rail: Understanding the dialogue between Rail and Dhaka city", conducting in the design studio ARC: 401. Md. Quamrul Ahsan Director Engineering, Bangladesh Railway and studio teachers A.K.M. Sirajuddin, K.H. Kabir and F.H. Khan were also present in the discussion.

#### **Travel Bursary Awarded to BracU Architecture students**

The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary (RATB) for students of architecture of BRAC University is awarded by



*Winner of RATB 2012*

eminent architect Md. Rafiq Azam, principal of Shatotto - Architecture for Green Living. The bursary aspires to enhance student's active learning process of local culture, heritage, climate, context and materials through travelling across Bangladesh and also overseas. The purpose is to inspire and motivate students for a deeper understanding of architecture. The bursary is awarded in the form of travel costs and subsistence allowance.

The presentations of the short-listed students for the next round of RATB and certificate giving ceremony of the previous winner was held on September 9, 2013 at the conference room of BRAC University. The winner of RATB 2012, Safa Binte Safiullah visited India and in particular Nalanda University at Nalanda, Bihar. Turjoy Chowdhury, a 4<sup>th</sup> year student of BRACU, has been selected as the winner of RATB 2013 and will visit Istanbul, Turkey. The selection panel consisted of Dr. Ainun Nishat, VC of BRACU, Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallick, Pro VC and Chairperson of Architecture Department, BRACU, architect Md. Rafiq Azam, principal of Shatotto, Dr. Afroza Akhter, coordinator of RATB at Shatotto, architect Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana and architect Saiqa Iqbal Meghna, coordinator of RATB at BRACU.

#### **Study Tour at Tanore, Rajshahi**

Department of Architecture arranged a study tour at Tanore, Rajshahi on January 28 to 31, 2013 under the course ARC 402: design studio VIII. 22 students participated in this event. The objective of the tour was to study rural spatial arrangement and house pattern. It was carried out through participatory learning-understanding the rural living style, study the rural construction system and material use. After coming back, students documented the rural housing pattern and presented their findings at the class. Faculty members Tahmina Rahman and Sajid Bin Doza accompanied with the students.

#### **Field study at Sylhet Metropolitan Area**

Students from department of Architecture studio 401 visited Sylhet City from February 4 to 10, 2013. A field study was organized in Sylhet city as part of their design exercise on 'Urbanism and Urbanization of Secondary Cities and Small Towns in Bangladesh'. The field study was jointly operated with a group of twenty other students from the Department of Geography, Department of Anthropology and



Department of Architecture of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) as an interdisciplinary approach for the study of urbanism. During the five day visit, students studied the spatial arrangement, culture and tradition, socio-economical features, as well as the climatic and environmental issues through rigorous field studies. Presentations and Discussions were arranged with Professor Dr. Sharif Sharafuddin (Head, Geography), Assistant Professor Avik Sobhan (Arch) and other faculties of respective departments, regarding the issues of the city's history, present status and future development. Learners have documented the city through mapping and analyzing the findings. Consequently they prepared strategic designs for Sylhet City for the present and future. Studio teachers A.K.M. Sirajuddin, K.H. Kabir, F.H. Khan guided the field study.

### **Jury and Exhibition of Design Studio 101**

The final jury and exhibition of design studio 101, Spring 2013 was conducted on April 12, 2013 at 3 p.m. The exhibition was not only confined to the studio room but also the corridor and the stair way were also part of their display. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Pro Vice Chancellor and Chairperson, Department of Architecture headed the critic committee at the jury. Other senior teachers also



*The final jury and exhibition of design studio 101, Spring 2013*

graced the jury with their presence. The final project was about capturing emotions. The students were told to choose a single emotion and express it through their design- 31 students, 31 different emotions and 31 different designs. All had to do it within the space of 1'x1'x3' volume. There were emotions like love and liveliness to cruelty and frustration, from lively to petrified, from respect to guilt. The entire place had turned into a gallery of emotions as they not only displayed their designs but also played with lights and shadows. The jury was open for all. Many others, both inter and intra-departmental students joined in and everyone managed to connect with the captured emotions in their own way.

### **Final Year Thesis Project Critique**

The students of the final design studio presented their graduating projects on August 21 and 22, 2013. There were twenty projects. The projects included Child rehabilitation center, Gazipur; In the Shadow: a study for utilization of space under flyover in Dhaka; Practical and Theoretical research centre for Universal Philosophy; Puthia : Proposal for master Planning, for the sake of Tourism; Eco- resort at Sundarban; Cox's Bazar International Airport; Rhythm of soil & Soul (Santal Cultural Complex); National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam Complex; Barapukuria coal mine Village: Model for a culturally sustainable Community; International trade Fair Complex At Purbachal: An event Platform for branding a new city Artery; Children's creativity Museum, a place for Imagination and Innovation; Oceanographic Research Institute and Aquarium; War peace Centre; Art Museum, Finding Opportunity by bridging the bank of Buriganga; A centre for promotion of local Technology and local Resources of rural areas of Bangladesh. Bashirul Haq, Mohammed Foyez Ullah, Naim Ahmed Kibria, Atiquer Rahman, Tanzim Hasan Salim, Marina Tabassum were present as guest critics. Members of the faculty and students of all design studios were present at the critique.

### **Lecture session for internee students**

Senior assistant director Ms. Asma Banu conducted a lecture session on April 30, 2013 for the students of department of Architecture who are going to do their internship in Summer 2013 under the course ARC 300: Practical Training. In summer 2013, 42 students did practical training in different architectural firms both in Bangladesh and abroad.

## Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management

BRAC University is one of the very few academic institutions around the world and the first in the region to offer formal academic programs in disaster management. The Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) started in Fall 2005 with a view to create qualified professionals in this nationally and internationally significant field. This is a modular program (diploma and master's degree) with a progressively higher level of academic aptitude. So far around 70 students have been awarded the Master in Disaster Management degree while more than a hundred students completed the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma courses.

The participants in the certificate program are mostly government and NGO officials involved in disaster management related activities while students pursuing Master degrees include other professionals and fresh graduates as well. Graduates from PPDM are well-placed in various national and international development organizations where, in many instances, they have secured their placements before their graduation.

Besides the academic programs, PPDM is working to build a resource center within itself where disaster related books/documents and services would be made available. So far PPDM has provided research services to organizations such as IUCN Bangladesh, BRAC and DIPECHO Partners in Bangladesh (DPB). These services include: improved design and construction of rural houses (IUCN), design of cyclone shelters (BRAC), design of strong houses in cyclone affected areas (BRAC), design and construction of disaster resilient habitat in Satkhira (UNDP and BRAC) and research on flood shelters in Bangladesh (DPB) in collaboration with IWFM, BUET. Recently, PPDM has completed working with RMIT University, Melbourne and two other Vietnamese organizations in a climate change research project which was commissioned by the Asia Pacific Network (APN). PPDM is also a partner of the British Council endorsed Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DeIPHE) programme with Northumbria University in the UK and Bindura University in Zimbabwe. In 2013, PPDM, in collaboration with the IWFM of BUET, worked on a research project commissioned by Swisscontact-Bangladesh which looked into the impacts of

disasters on agricultural market system in Char areas in Bangladesh. Other institutions that PPDM has collaborated with include the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Thailand, Kathmandu University in Nepal and Kyoto University in Japan.

BRAC University is a member of the Asian University Network for Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM) which has 21 member universities from all over Asia. Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Director, PPDM, is the Vice President of the Education wing of AUEDM.

In the beginning, the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management was supported by OXFAM-GB, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP). Currently PPDM is being supported by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS) and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)**

On February 19, 2013, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among BRAC University, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS). The Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Ainun Nishat, the Secretary General of BDRCS Captain (Retd.) Abu Bakar and the Head of Delegation of IFRCS Mr. Tsehayou Seyoum signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. Through this MoU, IFRCS and BDRCS have come forward to



collaborate with BRAC University's Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) in order to build skilled human resources in the field of disaster management. IFRCS and BDRCS have agreed to partially fund the students who enroll for the disaster management programs at BRAC University and also offer support of skilled and experienced disaster management and humanitarian experts who would be available for teaching and sharing their expertise with the students. The signing ceremony was held at BDRCS National Headquarters. Professor Dr. M. S. Akbar MP, Chairman of the BDRCS and Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director, PPDM were, among others, present in the signing ceremony.

### **PPDM faculties presented a paper in an international conference in Zimbabwe**

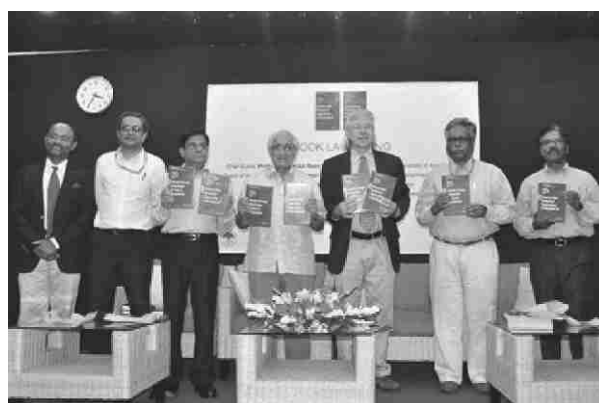
M Aminur Rahman, Senior Lecturer in the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management and Shams Mansoor Ghani, Lecturer in the Department of Architecture jointly presented a paper at the International Conference on Disaster Education and Community Resilience held on March 26-27, 2013 in Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe. This conference was a part of the British Council funded Development Partnership in Higher Education (DePHE) Project of which the PPDM was a partner along with Northumbria University in the UK and the Bindura University in Zimbabwe. The theme of this project was Disaster Education and Community Resilience in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh and it aimed to enhance knowledge on community resilience to disasters. The paper presented on behalf of the disaster management programs at BRAC University was titled "Cyclone shelters and alternatives for more resilient communities in Bangladesh". A total of 14 papers were presented at the conference.

Participants from UK, Japan, South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh discussed various issues with regards to community resilience and disaster education.

### **Launching of two books on disaster management and climate change adaptation in Bangladesh; held at BRAC University**

On July 25, 2013, BRAC University in collaboration with the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University and the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh organized the official launch of two new books at the BRAC University Auditorium. The books published by Springer, entitled Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches in Bangladesh and Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Bangladesh. Both the books have been edited by Dr. Rajib Shaw (Associate Professor, Kyoto University), Professor Fuad H Mallick (Director, Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management and Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University) and Dr. Aminul Islam (UNDP, Bangladesh). Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, Asia Pacific University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Mr. Neil Walker, UN Resident Coordinator and Mr. Shafiqur Rahman Patwari, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry attended the program as the Special Guest and the Guest of Honor respectively. The launching program was chaired by Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University.

The first book outlines Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches and the second book is about the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) actions in Bangladesh. Both the books draw examples and lessons from the national and community level programs, projects and relevant experiences of the

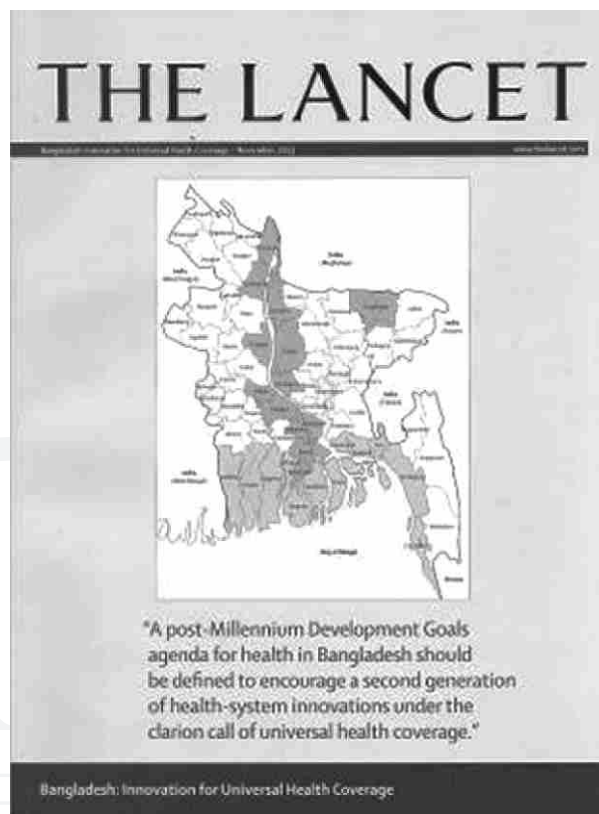




country. The authors of different chapters of the books are experts in their respective fields with national and international repute. The contents of the books are based on a selection of available documents, a consultative workshop with academicians from different universities and the editors' own knowledge and experience in the fields. The primary target groups for these books are students and researchers in the fields of environment, disaster risk reduction and climate change studies while practitioners and policy makers are expected to be able to apply the collective knowledge in the policy and decision making processes.

**Professor Fuad H Mallick and M Aminur Rahman co-authored an article published in the Lancet Bangladesh Series**

On November 21, 2013, The Lancet, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, published a special series titled Bangladesh: Innovation for Universal Health Coverage. This special series consists of five articles on different aspects of Bangladesh's success in health services, and four commentaries on the articles. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director PPDM and M Aminur Rahman, Assistant Professor, PPDM co-authored the article titled Reducing the health effect of natural hazards in Bangladesh along with Dr. Richard Cash, Dr. Shantana R Halder, Dr. Mushtuq Husain, Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Maria A May and Dr. Mahmudur Rahman.



On the same day, the launching ceremony of this special Lancet Series was held in Dhaka which was jointly organized by icddr,b, BRAC and The Lancet. The Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

## The Department of English and Humanities



The Department of English and Humanities is the liberal arts core of the University. The Department fosters the imaginative, observational, analytical and communicative skills of its students through its three major streams: Literature, Linguistics & ELT and Media & Cultural Studies. The Department also offers a Minor program in History, which helps the students to contextualize their learning.

### 2013 for ENH at a Glance

2013 has been an eventful year for ENH. While a number of conferences, workshops, seminars and student performances kept the department busy, the faculty members and even a few students went beyond the department's boundaries to present their works to local and international audiences.

### Conferences at ENH

#### Poetry at Play

In May 2013, ENH organized an event titled "Poetry at Play" in the University Auditorium. This bilingual event featured poetry recitations from eminent poets like Asad Chowdhury, Asad Mannan, Tokan Thakur, Shamim Reza, Afroza Shoma, Kamal Chowdhury and Kaiser Haq. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam chaired the sessions. William Hanna, Ambassador, and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh attended the event and recited selected poems by his favorite poets; Yeats and Heaney, followed by recitations of Bengali poems and their English translations by students.

### Remembering Seamus Heaney

ENH honored the legacy and celebrated the work of Irish poet, Seamus Justin Heaney, under the banner: "Remembering Seamus Heaney" in October. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor, University of Dhaka and visiting faculty at ENH, presented the keynote on Heaney's poetic lineage. William Hanna, the Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, shared his fond memories of meeting the poet as a student. Kathryn Kelly, English Language Advisor of the British Council, discussed the essence of being Irish with the students.

### Workshops by ENH

The year started off for ENH in January, with a workshop titled, "Designing an MA in Gender, Culture and Development: Teaching, Research and Activism", in collaboration with the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute (BDI). The Forum for Asian Studies at the University of Stockholm, and a group of scholars in the field of transnational feminism from Malaysia, Taiwan, India and Bangladesh participated in these discussions around the planning of this new and innovative MA in Gender, Culture and Development, proposed for BRAC University. This three-day-long workshop ended with a panel discussion titled "New Directions in Asian Feminism(s)".

In July, Fatima Tuz Zahra, Lecturer, ENH and Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, conducted a workshop



titled "Writing Research Proposals" with the MA students of Applied Linguistics and ELT, along with some students from other departments.

### Student Performance at ENH

The students of ENG 114: Introduction to English Drama, staged an abridged version of Shakespeare's play, *The Merchant of Venice* in March at the department premises under the supervision of their course teacher, Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, ENH.



### Study Tours

The students of HST301: Studying History: Methodology, Scope and Relevance, paid a visit to Bangladesh National Archives in October, along with Professor Iftekhar Iqbal, as part of their coursework. Students of ENG102: Composition 1 and ENG115: Introduction to English Prose, were taken to a bookshop visit to "Words & Pages" and "Friends Book Corner", as part of their orientation to studying English literature in Dhaka.

### ENH Lecture Series

The ENH lecture series resumed in March, with the guest lecture titled "Gendered Encounters in the Australian Desert: Aboriginal Women's Stories about South Asian Camel Drivers, 1860-1930" by Dr. Samia Khatun, University of Sydney. Professor Paul Greenough from the University of Iowa delivered a lecture entitled, "Rethinking the 1943-44 Bengal Famine after 70 years" in March. A lecture titled "Stalin's Shadow, Fear and the Carnival: A Bakhtinian Reading of Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*", arranged in June, was delivered by Asif Iqbal, Lecturer, East West University. Another talk

titled, "The Envelope of Global Trade: The Political Economy and Intellectual History of Jute in the Bengal Delta, 1850-1930" by Dr. Tariq Omar Ali, Assistant Professor at the Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, was delivered in June. The final lecture for June was delivered by Abu Sayeed Mohammad Noman, Senior Lecturer, ENH and Ph.D. candidate at the Department of African American Studies, Temple University, USA at ENH. "Post-colonial Dislocation and Amnesia: An Afrocentric Reading of V. S. Naipaul" was the title of his paper.

### Postgraduate Certificate Course on Broadcast and Cross Media Journalism

The Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, in collaboration with Pathshala South Asian Media Institute started a certificate course on Broadcast and Cross-Media Journalism in January. Erasmus University, Rotterdam of Netherlands is an active participant in this curriculum.

### Student Participation in International Conference

ENH students- Sinchal Pal Joy, Nashra Hussein, Naushin Nazifa Islam and Sharjah Ibrahim represented Bangladeshi youth at an international conference titled, "International Human Rights: The Asian Youth Speaks", organized by the Asian Youth Forum; held at Cebu, Philippines in December.



### Faculty Participation in Conferences

Mahmuda Akhter, Lecturer, ENH and Hamim Al Ahsan, Officer-in-Charge, BRACU Media Lab, presented a joint paper titled "Flipped Classroom: Where the Screen becomes the Teacher" at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA), titled "The

Multiple Realities of English: ELT and Beyond" in January. Bargee Chakma, ENH alumnus, along with Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer, ENH, presented a joint paper titled "An Evaluation of Teaching Techniques of EFL classrooms in Rangamati" in the same conference.

Sharlene Nisha Alam, Lecturer, ENH presented her paper titled "The Admired and the Abhorred in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness" at the conference hosted by the Itihas Academy of Dhaka University in February.

Professor Firdous Azim was part of a panel on "Women, NGOs and Empowerment in South Asia" held at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Asian Studies (AAAS), San Diego, USA in March. She was one of the discussants at a discussion on Unfettered, the English translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's Bandhonhara, organized by The Reading Circle (TRC), at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Center in February. In July, she chaired the plenary titled "Chua Beng Huat on Power, Politics and Pop Culture" at the "Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference 2013: Beyond the Culture Industry" at the National University of Singapore, Singapore.

Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer, ENH presented her paper titled "Redefining Culture: Case Studies from Indigenous Chakma Community of Bangladesh" at the same conference.

Mushira Habib, Lecturer, ENH attended a workshop titled "In Conversation with Ashis Nandy: The Future of South-Asian Cultural Studies", organized by

Institution of Advanced Communication, Education and Research (IACER) at Kathmandu, Nepal in April.

In November, the Hay Literary Festival Dhaka 2013 took place at the Bangla Academy premises, organized by the British Council. Professor Azim was involved in many a sessions of the festival including interview sessions with Rosie Boycott and Aamer Hussein; also a discussant in the Commonwealth Writers' Panel on taboos titled, "The Untold Story". Dr. Shuchi Karim, researcher at BIED and visiting faculty at ENH was also a member of this panel. Syed Manzoorul Islam, visiting faculty, ENH was part of sessions like "Beyond Modernism" and "Small is Beautiful". His collection of short stories, The Merman's Prayer and Other Stories got published by Daily Star Books and launched during this festival.

### **International Fellowship**

Professor Firdous Azim was awarded a one-week fellowship by the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, USA in March, where she delivered a lecture titled "Women Writing in Early Twentieth Century Bengal: Contesting the Formation of a New National Identity."

### **International Publication**

ENH Lecturer Sabreena Ahmed's paper titled "The Use of Response Papers in Composition Class" was published in the refereed proceedings of Applied Linguistics Association of Australia National Conference.

## Department of Economics and Social Sciences

BRAC University's Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) was established in 2003. Since then it has expanded to include 17 full time faculty and about 300 students. Presently the Department offers two majors and three minors.

More than half the faculty members hold Ph.Ds from reputed universities from all over the world and have strong research and teaching experience. The Department also has many young teachers dedicated to professional academic careers. The faculty is committed to close engagements with students to develop their intellectual curiosity and motivation for learning. Students are encouraged to ask questions and challenge conventional ideas, both within and outside the classroom settings. ESS seeks to make students understand the broad economic and social realities they live in, both in Bangladesh and in the global community, and to develop critical insights and analysis to help them determine solutions. Students are prepared both for the job market and for graduate studies, but their growth as all-rounded individuals with strong ethical values is strongly emphasized.

### Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Economics

ESS offers its students a broad, comprehensive, demanding and innovative BSS degree in Economics. It is designed to introduce them to the basic concepts and issues in economic theory and discourse, offer them challenging upper level courses that sharpen and focus their understanding and engagement with the discipline, and teach them to apply the concepts learnt in the classroom to real life. The major in Economics:

- provides a firm grounding in modern economic theory
- develops capacity for quantitative research
- advances knowledge about the world economy
- fosters independent, analytical thinking on economic problems and policies

The core courses of the Economics major will create a strong theoretical base for any further study in Economics. Along with the elective courses the major also effectively prepares students for the employment market in government, the private sector and in development agencies.

### Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Anthropology

ESS has been offering a major in Anthropology since the Spring of 2013. The program is committed to rigorous teaching, writing and analytical skill-building on issues such as development, modernity, nationalism, sovereignty and culture. The Anthropology faculty includes well known specialists who have successfully made ESS an important convening platform that articulates a better historicized, culturally contextualized Southern perspective as well as offering a new South Asian narrative. Small student-teacher ratio and close mentoring of students, both in the class room as well as in the field, ensure high-quality social science training, with prospects for advanced degrees and interesting careers in the development sectors and elsewhere. The Anthropology program, thus, offers the following:

- intensive course work covering theoretical advances and practical experiences



- extensive field work
- research with faculty members
- internship with research organizations and NGOs
- participation in workshops and conferences
- career planning advice for graduate studies and for employment opportunities

### **Minors in Economics, Anthropology and Sociology**

ESS offers a Minor in Economics for students of other disciplines to gain a strong foundation in theoretical and applied micro and macroeconomics along with a basic understanding of the techniques of economic data analysis. The Minors in Anthropology and Sociology help students integrate the theoretical knowledge gained in other undergraduate majors with a deeper understanding of the greater social and development contexts as well as develop analytical and writing skills. Minors in Anthropology and Sociology provide a better liberal arts grounding for students that give them a competitive edge in the job market.

### **EVENTS AT ESS**

#### **Seminar: The Immutable Islamists**

*January 7, 2013*

Professor Ali Riaz from the Department of State and Politics at Illinois State University, U.S.A, presented a seminar on "The Immutable Islamists" where he offered an analysis of Islamiist politics in South Asia within the context of the global Islamist trends. The seminar was organized by the Anthropology Collective.

#### **Panel Discussion: New Directions in Asian Feminism(s)**

*January 13, 2013*

ESS along with the Department of English and Humanities and the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation of BRAC Development Institute (BDI) organized this panel discussion. Key discussants included Dr. Rashila Ramli, Director and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) at University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Professor Naifei Ding, member of the Centre for the Study of Sexualities and faculty at the Department of English at National Central University, Taiwan; Dr. Vineeta Sinha, Assistant Professor at the Department

of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NSU), and Deputy Head, Department of Sociology and Head, Department of South Asian Studies, NSU.

#### **Presentation: WTO and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Concerns, Interests and Strategies**

*March 22, 2013*

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD, delivered a lecture on "WTO and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations Concerns, Interests and Strategies from the Bangladesh Perspective". Professor Mustafiz spoke on the evolution of the Multilateral Trading System particularly WTO, Doha development agenda, and issues and concerns of the LDCs in the on-going negotiations.

#### **Workshop: Quantitative Analysis**

*May 10-14, September 11-15, 2013*

ESS organized two five-day workshops in Econometrics using STATA. Twenty two advanced level Economics students participated in the workshop. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud from the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

#### **Seminar: Welfare Impacts of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Reforms: A CGE Analysis**

*May 30, 2013*

Dr. Shamim Shakur, Visiting Professor at ESS presented a paper on "Welfare Impacts of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Reforms: Results from CGE Analysis". By using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to quantify the impacts of plausible trade liberalization scenarios, his research shows that Bangladesh is one of the few countries that would lose from the current WTO multilateral trade initiative. To the contrary, Bangladesh has a lot to gain from regional trade liberalization, especially from India. India's expected boom in the coming years offer enormous potential for trading opportunities for Bangladesh.

#### **Live Telecast: ATN NEWS Budget Program 2013-14**

*June 6, 2013*

The students of ESS participated in a budgetary discussion program titled "Jodi Hotam Ortho Montri", live telecasted on private TV channel ATN NEWS.





*Budget Program with ATN News*

Tanvir Sobhan, Lecturer of the department, was also a participant. Mohammed Farashuddin, former Governor of Bangladesh Bank, was the main discussant. Students initially provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on what they thought should be the ideal budget. After that there was a lively discussion on various topics such as the ADP allocation, revenue generation, and spending in health, education and defense sectors. Students participated in this dialogue were Adity Das Gupta, Shirleen Manzur, Zeeshan Ashraf, Afra Anika, Md. Rahmatullah Khan and Ishrat Zarin Alam. Prior to this program, students were mentored by Dr. Wasique Rahman Khan and Mr. Tanvir Sobhan.

### **Workshop: Conducting Randomized Control Trials**

*June 17, 2013*

BRAC University, in collaboration with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), and BRAC, hosted a workshop on Randomized Control Trial (RCT) at BRAC Inn, Dhaka. The main objective of this three-day workshop was to provide a thorough understanding of randomized evaluations.

While the program was centered around the why, how and when of randomized evaluations, evidence from recent research based on RCT was also shared and discussed. This workshop also focused on the benefits and methods of randomization, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of the experiment.

### **Roundtable: Fatwa's, Community and Courts in Bangladesh: The Problematic of Public Reasoning in a (post) Secular Polity.**

*June 19, 2013*

The roundtable, organized by the Anthropology Collective, focused on the high court verdict that placed fatwas in the jurisdiction of the courts, discussing the effects of this ruling on communities, religious authority, justice and religion. The

conversation examined the validity of secularism's claims of a public/private distinction by reflecting on what happens when the state is employed to circumscribe the private/public binary. With brief pointers on the history of fatwas in Bangladesh, the sharia, and processes of secularization in Bangladesh and elsewhere, the roundtable generated a lively discussion on the current predicament and future directions of the state-community-religion-justice nexus. The key discussants of this session were Professor David Burrell, Hesburgh Chair of Theology & Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, Professor Patrick D Gaffney, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, Dr. Faustina Pereira, Director, Human Rights and Legal Aid Services, BRAC; and Professor Dina Siddiqi and Samia Huq, ESS.

### **International Workshop: Nationalisms Unbound: Identity, Difference & Citizenship in South Asia**

*July 19, 2013*

The workshop was convened in light of the recent violent identity politics and religious nationalisms resurgent across South Asia. A major goal was to think through contemporary political and cultural impasses in ways that both cut across and connect specific national contexts. Speakers addressed the following questions, among others: in an ostensibly borderless world, what are the circuits - institutional, cultural and geo-political - through which discourses of difference gain currency and enable violence in the name of community preservation? How do we understand the current quandaries of citizenship and minority rights in postcolonial South Asia? What are the historical reasons for the eclipse of left politics in South Asian polities? What is the place of Left/progressive politics in the current neo-liberal imaginary? Can we work toward producing post/counter-nationalist narratives that move away from the politics of identity to a politics of justice and redistribution without erasing difference?

Among others, Professors Shapan Adnan and Anu Muhammad, as well as members of the faculty of the Anthropology program at ESS presented papers. Foreign participants included speakers from King's College, London, Rice University, New York University and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, the

University of North Texas and Sri Lanka's Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies. The Bengal Foundation hosted an Iftar/reception for conference participants at the Bengal Art Lounge.

### **Seminar: Blind Spots and New Beginnings in Bangladesh Studies**

*June 20, 2013*

Willem Van Schendel spoke on the current state of Bangladesh studies, which he argued was marked by a certain Bangladeshi exceptionalism with inadequate analytical import by way of an engagement with social science concepts or cross cultural comparison. The speaker, a historical anthropologist of Bangladesh for over three decades, did not believe that such a status of Bangladesh studies would contribute greatly towards putting the country and the academic pursuits on it on the global academic map. He urged scholars to go beyond the usual topics such as poverty, and development (successes or failures) to take up issues such as the urban population, the middle classes and new elite as well as trans locality and transnationalism, so that Bangladesh studies is able to come out of its exceptionalism and take its place in the world.

### **Presentation: World Trade Organization: Guiding Principles, Decision Making Process and Bangladesh's Concerns and Interests in the Context of Ongoing Negotiations**

*December 14, 2013*

Professor Mustafizur Rahman from Center for Policy Dialogue delivered another lecture on "World Trade Organization: Guiding Principles, Decision making Process and Bangladesh's Concerns and Interests in the Context of Ongoing Negotiations". In his lecture Professor Mustafiz discussed the evolution of the Multilateral Trading System, Doha development agenda, issues and concerns of the LDCs in on-going negotiations, and Bangladesh's trade interest in the WTO after Bali MC-9.



*Prof. Mustafizur Rahman and Dr. Farzana Munshi with students*

### **International Conference: Globalization and Trade; Prospects and Challenges for South Asia**

*December 20, 2013*

ESS organized a day-long conference on "Globalization and Trade: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia" on Friday, December 20, 2013. The conference brought together some of the active researchers in the field from universities, think-tank institutes, and policy makers to brainstorm trade policy issues and challenges from globalization to regional economies. Shamim Shakur from Massey University in New Zealand, currently Visiting Professor of Economics, and Farzana Munshi, Associate Professor, organized the conference along with the ESS Economics faculty.

Professor Syed M Hashemi, Head of the ESS Department at BRAC University welcomed delegates in the morning. A total of 14 research papers were presented in four thematic sessions, namely: (1) Globalization and Trade in South Asia, (2) Globalization and Income Inequality, (3) Financial Aspects of Globalization and Trade and (4) Trade Policy in Bangladesh. The sessions were chaired, respectively, by Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, (CPD), Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin, (BIDS), Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, (BIDS) and Professor Fahad Khalil (University of Washington, USA). Papers were presented by economics researchers from Bangladesh, India, Sikkim, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In his keynote presentation delivered in the afternoon, renowned economist and former adviser to the caretaker government Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud emphasized cooperation among South Asian countries towards making a global trade agreement.

The conference ended with a lively panel discussion session on the conference theme, chaired by Dr. Mustafa K Mujeri, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. Other members of



*Panel Discussion on Globalization and Trade*

the distinguished panel included Dr. Mozibur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer at Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute and Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University was among 60+ enthusiastic attendees at the conference.

### Faculty Publications

Syed M Hashemi

"Access to Microfinance for the Elderly", Research Report (co-authored) January 2013.

"Financial Education and Consumer Protection", Research Report (co-authored) November 2013.

"The Bangladesh Microfinance Review 2013", Research Monograph (coauthored) December 2013.

Dina Siddiqi

"Left Behind by the Nation: 'stranded' Pakistanis in Bangladesh", In Sites: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies. 10: 2.

Shamim Shakur

"Impact of Doha Round and India's Trade Reforms on Bangladesh", Research Report December, 2013.

"Impact of Multilateral and Unilateral Trade Reforms: Focus on Sri Lanka", Research Report December 2013.

Farzana Munshi

"Globalization and Inter-occupational Inequality: Empirical Evidence from OECD Countries", (co authored), The World Economy, Vol 37, Issue 3, 2014

Samia Huq

"Religious Learning Circles and Da'wa: the Modalities of Educated Bangladeshi Women Preaching Islam", in Juliana Finucane and R. Michael Feener (eds) "Proselytizing and the Limits of Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Asia". Springer, Singapore Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London, 2013

"Defining Self and Other: Bangladesh's Secular aspirations and its Writing of Islam", in Economic and Political Weekly (EPW), vol XL VIII No. 50, December 14, 2013

Seuty Sabur

"Post Card from Shahabag", International Sociological Association's e-symposium (Sage Publications), March 7, 2013.

Lutfun Nahar Lata

"Cultural Capital, Social Class and Higher Education: How Institutional Cultural Capital Shapes Educational Choice in Bangladesh", Research Report September 2013.

"Cultural Capital and Higher Education in Bangladesh", Research report 2013.

Tanvir Sobhan

"The Bangladesh Microfinance Review 2013", Research Monograph (coauthored) December 2013.

"Can Asset and Skill Transfer Improve the Economic Lives of the Ultra Poor Youth? Evidence from BRAC TUP program in Bangladesh", Research Report December 2013.

### Faculty Presentations

Syed M Hashemi

"Qualitative Research Methodologies for Financial Services Assessment" at the DFID-World Bank organized conference on Impact Evaluation for Financial Inclusion, London. January 10 and 11, 2013.

"Integrating a Graduation Strategy in Social Protection Policies in South-East Asia", Seminar at the Asian Development Bank, Manila. April 15, 2013.

"Graduation Program for Urban Refugees: Concept and Strategy", Seminar organized by UNHCR, Cairo. June 10-12, 2013

"Financial Services for the Poorest", Week long training at the Boulder Microfinance Training Program in Turin, Italy. July 29-August 2, 2013.

"Towards an Integrated Social Protection Policy in Ethiopia", Workshop for policy makers organized by DFID and World Bank, Ethiopia at Addis Ababa. August 5, 2013

"Testing the Graduation Model in South Africa: Theory and Practice", Planning meeting organized by SPII in Johannesburg. August 26-27.

"Building Climate Resilience in Urban Poor Communities: Lesson from the DSK-Shiree Project", Paper presented at the conference on Living in Low-income Urban Settlements in an Era of Climate Change: Processes, Practices, Policies and Politics, organized by the University of Manchester. September 9-12, 2013.

"Integrating a Graduation Strategy in Social Protection Programs for the Poorest", Presentation to the Country Managers of PLAN International, Southampton, UK. September 25-26.



"Going the Extra Mile: From Safety Nets to Pathways out of Poverty", Session Moderator at the Microcredit Summit in Manila. October 8-10.

"Graduation Programs: Creating Ladders out of Extreme Poverty", Panelist at the Microcredit Summit in Manila. October 8-10.

"Graduation Program for Urban Refugees: Concept and Strategy", Seminar organized by UNHCR, Costa Rica. October 21-26.

"Towards an Integrated Social Protection Policy", Paper presented at the Conference of Latin American Policy Makers, organized by the World Bank, Ford Foundation and Fundacion Capital in Rio de Janeiro. December 5-7, 2013.

Shamim Shakur

"Welfare Impacts of Bangladesh-India Bilateral Trade Reforms: Results from CGE Analysis", at BRAC University. May 30, 2013.

"Problems and Prospects of TICFA: The Case of Bangladesh", Seminar jointly organized by School of Business and Department of Economics of Presidency University. June 24, 2013.

"New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement: A Numerical Analysis", presented at World Business and Social Science Conference, Bangkok, Thailand. October 24-25, 2013.

"Modeling Impacts of Trade Liberalizations by Computable General Equilibrium Models- an Application to South Asian Trade", presented at Conference on Globalization and Trade: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia, BRAC Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. December 20, 2013.

Piash Karim

"Bangladesh Economy: In Search of an Equilibrium", conference jointly organized by American Security Project and Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies held in Washington D.C. October 1, 2013.

Farzana Munshi

"Trade Liberalization and Wage Gap: Evidence from Bangladesh Cotton Textile Industry 1970-2010", at 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Business Research Conference held in Singapore. September 30-October 1, 2013.

Samia Huq

"Defining Self and Other" and "Bangladesh's Secular Aspirations and its writing of Islam", at the one day

workshop titled "Nationalisms Unbound: Identity, Difference and Citizenship in Contemporary South Asia" on July 18, 2013.

"Muslim Aspirations in Bangladesh: Looking Back and Redrawing Boundaries", at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on South Asia at Madison Wisconsin.

Seuty Sabur

"Classed Bodies and Flexibilities: Queer Narratives in Contemporary Bangla Fictions" in the conference "South Asian Cultural Studies: In Conversation with Professor Ashish Nandy" Organized by Institute of Advanced Communication, Education, and Research (IACER), Kathmandu, Nepal. April, 2013.

"Secular Congregations: Class-Gender-Religion-Ethnicity Question" in the workshop "Nationalisms Unbound: Identity, Difference and Citizenship in Contemporary South Asia".

"The Family Extended: Friends, Social Network and Power of the Middle Class" in the conference "Contested Past, Competing Futures: Bangladesh Four Decades" organized by South Asia Institute, the University of Texas at Austin.

"Shahabag, Trance and the Magic of Nation" in the conference "Forty Two years of Bangladesh: Identity, Culture, Economy and Politics: 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia" organized by American Institute of Bangladesh Studies and 'Center for South Asia' at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. October, 2013.

"Shahbagh, the Secular Congregation: Women-Religion-Class Question" and "1971, Shahbagh and the Open Veins of History: Bangladesh at Cross Roads", in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia in October, organized by 'Center for South Asia' at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tanvir Sobhan

"Impact of Trade Liberalization on Tariff Revenue: Evidence from Bangladesh" at an international conference titled "Globalization and Trade: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia". December 20, 2013.

### **Participation in Conferences and Workshops by ESS Faculty**

Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Professor at ESS attended an international conference on "The Challenge of Developing Countries from the Bottom-up" that took

place at McGill University, Montreal, Canada from March 21 to 23, 2013. The conference aimed at exploring the interface between development policies focused at the community level and the achievement of sustainable national development based on innovative public-private sector partnerships that improve the quality of life for national populations as a whole. He was the key panelist in a session on "Balancing the State and the Market: The Roles of Public Policy and the Private Sector". In addition, he contributed in a concluding meeting of a select group of invitees from the researchers in South America and Africa, UN-DESA, University of Toronto, the World Bank, IFPRI, ISID and McGill University.

Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor of Economics has presented Findings of the Second Annual Outcome Survey for the UN World Food Program Funded project "Food Security for Ultra-Poor" (FSUP) in March 2013. This was an impact evaluation exercise housed at BRAC Development Institute (BDI). In the same month of 2013, he has participated in the "Frugal Innovation Forum 2013" organized by BRAC Social Innovation Lab. The Forum hosted a large number of participants from leading Social Innovators of South Asia.

On April 24, 2013, Dina Siddiqi presented a plenary paper titled "Beyond Shahbagh: Islam, Nation and the Many Faces of Gendered Modernity". at South Asia Symposium, Lund University, Sweden.

Dina Siddiqi attended a five days (July 29- Aug 3) workshop in Nepal organized by SANAM, a South Asia research and advocacy network working on links between genders based violence and masculinities. She was also voted in as a member of SANAM's steering committee.

Dina Siddiqi presented at workshop on Nationalisms Unbound: Identity, Citizenship and Difference in

Contemporary South Asia. The Nation's Many Pasts: 'stranded' Pakistanis in Bangladesh organized at BRAC University on July 19, 2013. She was also the convener of the workshop.

Samia Huq attended Musawah's capacity building workshop on Islam and family laws in Port Dickson, Malaysia from August 24-30, 2013. She was selected as one of Musawah's regional/global instructors to teach any of the short courses offered by the organization in Asia and the Mena region.

On August 24, 2013, Dina Siddiqi presented a paper on "Incorporating Feminist and Anthropological Insights into Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks" at workshop on Rethinking Monitoring & Evaluation, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Dhaka.

Dina Siddiqi participated in a two day closed door workshop on "The Ready Made Garment Industry in Bangladesh Workplace Safety" at the Center for Business and Human Rights, Stern School of Business, New York University from September 9-11, 2013.

Dina Siddiqi attended "Contested Pasts, Competing Futures: A Workshop on Bangladesh's History, Culture and Politics" University of Texas, Austin on October 13, 2013. She was one of the discussant of that workshop.

Dina Siddiqi presented at panel on Gender, History, Region: Some Feminist Interventions at Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her paper titled "Gendering Neo-Liberal Citizenship Empowered Muslims and Laboring Subjects in Bangladesh". She was also a discussant. The conference took place from Oct 18-20, 2013.

Dr. Rubana Ahmed attended the conference and research workshop on Transfer Modality organized by WFP-IFPRI on December 3, 2013.



On December 4-6, 2013, Dina Siddiqi participated in an International Strategy Meeting on Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Justice in the Face of Religious Fundamentalisms at Association for Women in Development (AWID) at Istanbul.

In December 2013, Dr. Wahid Abdallah participated as a discussant for one of the presented papers at the conference Globalization and Trade: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia organized by Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University.

### Faculty Transitions

Dr. Sajjad Zohir has joined ESS as a Professor in Economics. He has done his Ph.D. in Economics from University of Toronto. Most of Dr. Zohir's career had been spent in economic and policy research - largely at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies- until he resigned to establish with others a not-for-profit research institute called the Economic Research Group (ERG). He has worked as adviser/consultant in several countries in Asia and collaborated with researchers at IFPRI (Washington, DC), IDS (Sussex), LEI (the Netherlands), etc.

Dr. Zohir taught advanced microeconomics in his early years, but spent much of recent past in developing and offering short courses from ERG in collaboration with universities and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. He has joined the Department with a view to promote alternative methods of classroom learning. He intends to remove dependence on single textbooks and make classroom learning more interactive. He will be engaging mostly with freshers in ESS.

Dina M Siddiqi joined ESS as a Visiting Professor. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She obtained her B.A. degree from Wellesley College, Massachusetts, where she double majored in Anthropology and Economics.

Dr. Siddiqi's extensive publications in international peer reviewed journals cover a broad spectrum: Islam and transnational feminism; gender justice and non-state dispute resolution systems; nationalism; human rights; and women in the garment industry. A specialist on feminist and gender studies in South Asia, she serves on the editorial board of Routledge's Women in Asia Publication Series. She is a referee for Modern Asian Studies, Feminist Economics, the

Journal of Refugee Studies and South Asia, among other journals. Dr. Siddiqi is currently completing a book length manuscript entitled Women in Question: Gender, Nation and Islam in Bangladesh.

Dr. Siddiqi brings with her considerable teaching experience. She has taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Pennsylvania, the New School for Social Research and Bryn Mawr College. She coordinated the MA program on Gender and Feminist Studies at the New School. She has a long association with Columbia University, where she has co-taught courses with renowned anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod and the historian Janaki Bakhle. She has taught at Columbia's Institute for Research on Woman and Gender, the South Asia Institute and the School for International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Dr. Shamim Shakur, a faculty member in the School of Economics and Finance at Massey University in New Zealand, worked as a Visiting Professor in our Department from January 2013 to December 2013. A Fulbright scholar, Professor Shakur holds Ph.D. and MA degrees in economics from Boston College, USA and a BSS degree from the University of Dhaka. Prior to his appointment at Massey University, Professor Shakur taught at Okanagan University, Brock University and the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. Research articles written by Prof Shakur have been published in numerous peer-reviewed international journals.

During his stay at ESS he along with Dr. Farzana Munshi organized an international conference on "Globalization and Trade; Prospects and Challenges for South Asia". At ESS, he taught upper level undergraduate courses, mentored junior faculty members to raise research profile, and advised on economics curriculum development.

Samia Huq has been promoted to the position of Associate Professor.

Lutfun Nahar Lata has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer.

Rubana Ahmed joined the Department of Economics and Social Science at BRAC University as an Assistant Professor. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas, USA, in Public Policy & Political Economy. Her areas of interest include social policy related to poverty alleviation and the role of the



non-profit sector, credit accessibility for the poor, poverty alleviation through collaborative efforts of the public and the private sector and the community, disability studies and financial inclusion.

Nilufa Yasmin joined the ESS Department as a Lecturer in September 2013. She has completed her B.Sc. in Economics from North South University and M.Sc. in Finance and Economics from Queen Mary University of London.

A. M. Tanvir Hussain an Assistant Professor in our Department joined the Faculty of Sustainability, Leuphana University of Luneburg (Germany), as a post-doctoral researcher. He will be employed for a period of two years and three months and will be on study leave from BRAC University.

Kamrul Hasan, Senior Lecturer at BRAC University has left for Sydney to pursue a Ph.D. in Health, Sexuality and Culture at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia. He received an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) from UNSW.

Ms. Wakia Faruque, Lecturer of ESS left the Department of Economics and Social Sciences in May, 2013.

### ESS Faculty and Student Achievements

Dr. Farzana Munshi serves as adhoc referee for Applied Economics published by Taylor & Francis. She is affiliated with the Department of Economics at University of Gothenburg, Sweden as a Research Associate.

Samia Huq was selected to be qualitative lead researcher in an Ausaid funded research on secondary education and gender norms. Project started December 2013. Research partners are University of Kent and University of Reading.

Seuty Sabur became reviewer for Asian Journal for Social Science (BRILL) and Inter-Asia Cultural Studies (Tylor & Francis) this year.

Bangladesh World Champion in Debate: Success story of BRACU Students

Ratib Mortuza Ali, student of ESS along with Aaqib Farhan Hossain from BBS represented BRAC University in the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Universities Debating Championship, held in Berlin in January, and won the 2013 title in the English as a Second Language (ESL). There were a total of 400 groups of participants from 82 countries who participated in this event.

On February 24, BRAC Chairman Sir Fazle Hasan Abed met with World Champion debaters Mr. Ratib Mortuza Ali, from ESS and Mr. Aaqib Farhan Hossain from BBS at BRAC Center to celebrate their triumph at World Universities Debating Championship 2013 in Berlin, Germany. Sir Abed congratulated the world champions and the university for such accomplishment. He also shared some of his experiences with them. Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Registrar Mr. Ishfaq Choudhury and Chairman of Economics and Social Sciences Professor Syed M. Hashemi were also present in the event.



Chairman Dr. Fazle Abed with World Champion debaters Ratib Mortuza Ali and Aaqib Farhan Hossain

## Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

### Introduction

The essential role of science and technology in modern times, be it in the realms of physical sciences, biological sciences, medical sciences, social sciences, engineering, agriculture, finance, commerce, business and management cannot be overemphasized. So, to meet this growing need of educating our students in science and technology, the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) was established as one of the key departments of BRAC University in 2001. MNS Department has been providing quality education in basic and applied sciences to the students of different disciplines of BRACU including its own.

### Academic Programs and Achievements

Apart from offering courses in physical and life sciences like physics, chemistry, biology, biotechnology, microbiology and also in mathematics, statistics, economic geography, environmental sciences, MNS Department also has its own undergraduate degree programs in physics, applied physics and electronics, microbiology, biotechnology and mathematics. It also offers a Master's program namely, MS in Biotechnology. Some faculty members of the Department are also teaching courses in mathematics and statistics at the postgraduate levels at BRACU.

MNS Department also envisages widening its range of academic programs both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. At the postgraduate level,

proposals for M.Phil. in Physics and MS. in Nuclear Science and Engineering have been sent to UGC for approval. New proposals for MS. in Physics and MS. in Microbiology have been approved by the higher authorities and will be sent to UGC soon. The Department is presently considering programs of MS. in Applied Physics and Electronics, B.Sc. / MS. in Applied Statistics, Post Graduate Diploma / MS. in Medical Physics, PG Diploma in Microbiology, B. Sc. in Bioinformatics, B.Sc / MS. in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and M.Phil. in Microbiology in the foreseeable future. Moreover, the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has an ambitious plan to start Ph.D in Physics and biotechnology once the UGC grants approval to the private universities to take up Ph.D programs.

In terms of the number of faculty members, the MNS Department is the second largest department at BRACU with over fifty teachers. The faculty is a blend of teachers with Ph.D or Master's degrees from abroad, having years of teaching and research experience at prestigious academic and R&D institutions both at home and abroad; and young and brilliant teachers who have chosen teaching and research as their vocation.

The total number of students pursuing various undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the department during the year of 2013 was around 300. In 2013, three students completed their BS degrees in Physics and ten students completed the MS. degree in Biotechnology.



## Research Activities

- The research project titled "Plasma and space science" with financial assistance from the Ministry of Education, GOB in its third year of implementation is making good progress. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed is the Principal Investigator of the project. He has set up a small 'Plasma and Astrophysics Lab'. Theoretical research on plasma around black holes, pulsars and neutron stars is being carried out.
- The BAS-USDA PALS Agricultural Project titled "Production of tomato tolerant to environmental stress like salinity" is in its third year of execution. The project is a collaborative venture between BRACU & the University of Dhaka. Dr. Aparna Islam of MNS Department, BRACU and Professor Zeba I. Siraj of the University of Dhaka have embarked on this joint collaborative research venture.
- Dr. Mahboob Hossain is working on the projects on "Production of ethanol from molasses and kitchen waste using yeast isolated from natural sources" and "Study of microbiological status of different types of street foods".

## Research Linkages and MOU's with Academic and R&D Organizations

The Mathematics and Natural Sciences Department has collaborative research linkages with BIRDEM, University of Dhaka, BCSIR and CNRS, Grenoble, France. MOU's are also in place with BAEC, BRAC ARDC and icddr,b.

## MS Thesis Presentation

Manzur-E-Mohsina, Md. Azizul Hoque, Md. Ariful Islam, Abu Kayes, Md. Sera Jum Monir and Yakut Bint-e-Sadek of MS in Biotechnology Program defended their theses on January 14, 2013. On July 20 2013, Zubaida Marufee Islam defended her MS thesis. Upama Sarker, Aditi Mondal and Shafkat Shamim Rahman defended their theses on November 8, 2013 at the MNS Department. The examinations were chaired by Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad, Chairperson of the MNS Dept. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology Programs,

Dr. Mahboob Hossain and Dr. Aparna Islam along with the external supervisors were also present in these thesis defense events.

## Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Eighth Convocation

Sunitra Hawlader received the Vice Chancellor's gold medal for her results at the BS. in Physics in the Eighth Convocation of the university held in February 2013. Sanjoy Chandra Bhattacharjee received High Distinction and Vice Chancellor's gold medal for his results in MS. in Biotechnology.



## Annual Picnic, Degree Awarding Ceremony and Freshers' Reception

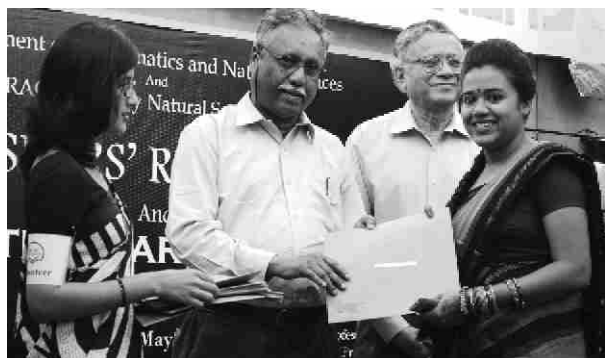
The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences organized the first ever departmental annual picnic on February 8, 2013 at the Fantasy Kingdom in Ashulia. More than 140 participants including faculty members, staff and students belonging to the MNS Department enjoyed the activities throughout the day.



MNS Department and BRAC University Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) arranged the Certificate Awarding Ceremony for the students in the VC's list and Dean's list for Spring 2013 semester and Summer 2013 semester on May 25, 2013 and



October 3, 2013 respectively. Fresher's Reception was also arranged to welcome the new students for Summer 2013 and Fall 2013 on the same days.



### New Appointments

Eight new faculty members have joined the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Dr. Md. Firoze H. Haque has joined the MNS Dept. as Assistant Professor, while Mr. Asif Rahman, Mr. Mohammad Mostak Al Amin, Mr. Md. Shohel Rana, Mr. Nikhil Chandra Sarkar, Mr. Aubhishek Zaman, Ms. Mandira Samadder and Ms. Chitra Das as Lecturers.

### CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/SYMPOSIUMS/MEETINGS/LECTURES ETC.

#### Annual Botanical Conference, Dhaka, January 5, 2013

Three students of MS in Biotechnology program, Ms. Shahana Chowdhury, Ms. Kashmery Khan and Mr. Rabab Mahdi attended a day-long Annual Botanical Conference on January 5, 2013 held at the University of Chittagong. Theme of this year's conference was "Plant to face climate change". In the light of this theme Ms. Shahana Chowdhury presented a paper on micropropagation of oil seed crop, peanut which also can play an important role in nitrogen fixation in the coastal area. The paper was entitled "Determination of an efficient regeneration protocol for peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)". The research study is being carried out by Ms. Shahana Chowdhury, Ms.

Kashmery Khan and Dr. Aparna Islam. The paper was highly appreciated by the audience.

#### Annual BSBMB Conference, Dhaka, January 12-13, 2013

Mr. Samsad Razzaque, Research Associate under the BAS-USDA PALS project in the MNS Department attended a two-day long Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BSBMB) Conference 2013, organized at the University of Chittagong on January 12-13, 2013. He presented a paper titled "Cloning of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{H}^+$  antiporter gene and establishment of in vitro regeneration protocol of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon*) to develop salinity stress tolerant variety. The research is of great importance in the light of nutritional security in the era of climate change challenge in Bangladesh. The work is funded by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and United States Agricultural Development (BAS-USDA) Endowment Fund for Priority Agricultural and Life Sciences Fields and jointly supervised by Professor Zeba Islam Seraj, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, DU and Dr. Aparna Islam, MNS Department BRACU.

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bangladesh Physics Olympiad, Dhaka, January 24, 2013

The Final Competition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bangladesh Physics Olympiad was held at the Eastern University, Dhaka on January 24, 2013. It was sponsored by Dutch-Bangla Bank. The participants were categorized in three groups, age wise. The first twenty in each group were awarded certificates at the Prize Giving and Certificate Awarding Ceremony where the Minister for Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid M.P. was the Chief Guest. Professor A.A.Z Ahmad along with Professor M. Ali Asgar, Professor Md. Zafar Iqbal, Professor Ahmad Shafee, Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Professor M. Kaykobad and a few others spoke at the occasion as Special Guests.

#### The 4<sup>th</sup> National Graduate Math Olympiad, Sylhet, January 24, 2013

A team of twelve consisting of nine students of different disciplines of BRACU, two faculty members and the DCO of the MNS Department of BRACU attended the 4<sup>th</sup> National Graduate Math Olympiad organized jointly by the Bangladesh Mathematical Society and the Mathematics Department of SUST

held at Shahajalal University of Science and Technology on January 26, 2013. It was a very useful experience for the students for sharing different ideas and concepts on mathematics.



### **Ninth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications, Dhaka, February 7, 2013**

The Inaugural Ceremony of the above-mentioned course organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) was held at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka on February 7, 2013. Architect Yafesh Osman, State Minister for Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the ceremony presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Vice-chairman, NOAMI gave the welcome address. The Chief Guest Architect Yafesh Osman addressed the audience and inaugurated the training course of about three months duration. After the presidential address by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and a vote of thanks by the General Secretary of NOAMI, Dr. Abdur Rahim the function ended. The audience included the trainees, resource persons, NOAMI members and others including scientists and engineers of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

### **Workshop on Microbiology, Dhaka, February 16, 2013**

American Society for Microbiology (ASM) organized a workshop, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. It was held on February 16, 2013 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, Dhaka. The theme of the workshop was "Promoting Scientific Research in Biomedical Science". Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was the Chief Guest at the workshop. Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain acted as the Chair of one scientific session. The ASM Country Ambassador, Dr. Firdausi Qadri, Senior Scientist, ICDDR coordinated the Scientific Writing Session. Dr. Sorowar Hossain

presented a paper entitled 'Nuts and Bolts of Scientific Writing'. Dr. Mohammed Mahboob Hossain and Mr. Fazle Rabbi and some senior microbiology students including Mr. Asif Afsar, Ms. Trina Hasan, Ms. Monisha Datta Trisha and Ms. Nowshin Shyara Sharar of the Microbiology Program were among the participants at the workshop.

### **Workshop on Medical Biotechnology, Dhaka, February 23, 2013**

A workshop on the policy and importance of medical biotechnology was held at the Institute of Public Health on February 23, 2013 at the Auditorium of Management Information System and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dhaka. Three MNS faculty members, Mr. Fazle Rabbi, Ms. Fahareen-Binta-Mosharraf and Mr. Aubhishek Zaman attended the workshop. This workshop offered a comprehensive view on "Medical Biotechnology" and its applications in Bangladesh. In the light of this theme noted researchers from different fields shared their views with informative presentation. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury presented a paper on Biotechnology for Human Welfare. Dr. Firdausi Qadri and Professor Md. Imdadul Huq gave talks on diverse aspects of biotechnology. The workshop was highly appreciated by the attendees.

### **Workshop on Medical Biotechnology for Medical Teachers, Dhaka, April 3-4, 2013**

Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the above-mentioned workshop held in the Health System Strengthening and Global Health (HSS&GH) Cell Conference Room, IPH Bhavan, Mohakhali, organized by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) & Center for Medical Biotechnology (CMBT). Professor Choudhury presented a paper on medical profession in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He mentioned that a Commission on the Education of Health Professionals for the 21<sup>st</sup> century—a global independent initiative—was launched in the USA in January 2010 to landscape the field of professional health education, identify gaps and opportunities, and make recommendations for a new generation of reforms a century after the landmark Flexner Report of 1910. This independent Commission of twenty academic leaders from around the world recommended comprehensive reform in the training of healthcare professionals, in a major report

published in The Lancet on December 4, 2010. Professor Choudhury pointed out that the Commission proposed a series of instructional and institutional reforms to produce professionals to face the health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some of the instructional reforms suggested by the Commission included competency-driven, Inter professional and trans-professional education, IT-empowered educational resource, new professionalism etc. Institutional reforms suggested by the Commission included joint planning, academic systems, global networks and culture of critical inquiry. A good number of faculties from both public and private medical colleges participated in the workshop.

### **The Daily Star Round Table titled “Nuclear Power in Bangladesh: Prospects and Concerns”, Dhaka, April 20, 2013**

A Round Table on the above-mentioned theme was held at 10.30 am on April 20, 2013 at the Daily Star Office, Dhaka. Dr. Abdul Matin, former Chief Engineer of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) gave a power point presentation on the theme of the meeting and stressed on the prospects and concerns specifically in the context of the proposed nuclear power plant at Rooppur (RNPP), Pabna. Dr. Mohammad Shawkat Akbar, Project Director of RNPP gave the other presentation. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury gave their comments and suggestions regarding the importance of ensuring safety and development of skilled human resources. State Minister for Science and Technology, GoB, Architect Yeafesh Osman was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by Professor Nooruddin Ahmed, former Vice-Chancellor of BUET. Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher of the Daily Star and Mr. A.S.M. Firoz, Chairman of BAEC also spoke at the function attended by scientists, engineers and academicians from BAEC and University of Dhaka.

### **World Intellectual Property Day Seminar on “Creativity-the Next Generation”, Dhaka, April 26, 2013**

On the occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day, the Department of Patents, Design and Trade Marks (DPDT), Ministry of Industries, GoB organized a one-day seminar on “Creativity-The Next Generation” at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel on April 26, 2013. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was invited to present the

keynote paper on the occasion. Mr. Dilip Barua, Honourable Minister for Industries, GoB was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Honourable Minister for Cultural Affairs, GoB and Mr. Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, President, FBCCI were present as Special Guests. In his keynote paper Professor Choudhury outlined the important aspects of intellectual properties emphasizing patents, trademarks and copy rights, advantages and disadvantages of IPR particularly the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in relation to the developing countries. The fast moving economy from the resource base to technology base and finally to innovation base has thrown new challenges to the developing countries in research, development in terms of creativity and innovation. The key to success in the K-economy, he said was very much dependent on human capital or knowledge worker, a paradigm shift in R&D approach and a strong support for innovation and entrepreneurship. A large number of participants from the academic and research organizations, business community, IPR legal experts, NGO representatives and officials of different ministries attended the seminar and took part in discussion.

### **International Seminar on Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-Political Development, Dhaka, May 29-30, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in a two-day seminar entitled “International Seminar on Nuclear Power: A Chance of Successful Economic and Socio-Political Development” jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB and the State Atomic Energy Corporation of the Russian Federation and held at the Rupashi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka on May 29-30, 2013. Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest and HE Mr. Alexander A Nikolaev, Ambassador of Russian Federation was the Special Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony presided over by Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honourable State Minister for Science & Technology, GoB. In the technical sessions a number of papers covering the socio-economic aspects of nuclear power, environment protection and safety aspects of nuclear power plants, public perception, nuclear power infrastructure and human resource development were presented by the Russian



experts. Professor Choudhury along with the scientists and engineers from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and eminent experts in nuclear power, safety aspects etc. including Dr. A. Martin, Dr. Jasimuddin Ahmed and Mr. M. A. Quaiyyum took active part in the discussion. A large number of scientists and engineers from different academic and R&D organizations in the public and private sectors, policy makers and representatives of the electronic and print media also participated.

### **Seminar on Medical Biotechnology, MNS Department, May 30, 2013**

On May 30, 2013, a seminar titled 'Medical Biotechnology: Through the Lens of Genomics' was held in Room (UB21511) of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS). The speaker of the session was Mr. Aubhishek Zaman, a lecturer of the Department of MNS. The seminar focused on applications of genomics in diverse fields ranging from obesity, type-2 diabetes, neuroscience, developmental biology, metagenomics etc. Mr. Zaman also spoke about his study titled- 'Kaposi's sarcoma: a computational approach through protein-protein interaction and gene regulatory networks analysis' that was presented in the Annual Human Genome Meeting held in Singapore during April 13-18, 2013. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of the MNS Department.

### **Observation of World Environment Day, Dhaka, June 5, 2013**

On the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2013, BRAC University Natural Sciences Club

(BUNSC) and BRAC University Earth and Environment Forum jointly organized a human chain in order to raise public awareness about world environment. The human chain was formed beside the road near BRACU Mohakhali Campus premises between 12.00-12.30 pm. The main theme of the World Environment Day, 2013 was "Think-Eat-Save". Focusing on this main theme the human chain was participated by teachers, students, officials and staff members of BRACU. They all participated in this event with lots of enthusiasm. It was expected that public awareness regarding wastage of food and optimal utilization of resources and conservation of biodiversity would be enhanced with holding up such activities.

### **Consultative Workshop on Formulation of Draft Legislation on Medical Biotechnology, IPH Bhaban Mohakhali, Dhaka, June 13, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the above-mentioned workshop as a resource person for the formulation of legislations on medical biotechnology. The draft prepared by a legal consulting firm was discussed in detail in the workshop. Professor Choudhury suggested a number of modifications to the draft particularly on aspects of promotion of medical biotechnology and regulations. He emphasized that since the goal of the technical committee on medical biotechnology was promotion of biotechnology, the detailed regulatory aspects might be formulated separately to avoid conflict of interests. He cited the examples of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission which was mostly concerned with the applications of nuclear technology and a separate independent body called



Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Division, which is a regulatory body to ensure safe use of nuclear radiation. The workshop recommended revision of the draft in the light of discussions held in the workshop. Selected experts from public and private universities, R&D organizations including icddr, pharmaceutical companies, and relevant government organizations actively participated in the workshop.

**Fifth Executive Board Meeting of ideSHI (Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiative), Conference Room of the Center for Medical Biotechnology, IPH Bhavan, Dhaka, June 17, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the above-mentioned meeting as Member, Executive Board of ideSHI. Presided over by National Professor M.R. Khan, the meeting was attended by Professor Abul Kalam Azad, ADG, Health, and Mr. Abdul Muktadir, Managing Director, INCEPTA Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Dr. Tahmina Shirin, Member EB, Mr. Syed Ashfaq Qadri, Member EB by Skype from London and Executive Director, ideSHI, Professor Firdausi Qadri, Dr. John Clemens, Executive Director, ICDDR, and Professor Ann-Mari Svennerholm, Gothenburg University, Sweden were present as invited guests. The update from the fourth EB meeting of ideSHI was discussed with the members and the invitees with a power point presentation by Professor Qadri. Funding situation was discussed and progress so far made was elaborated upon. A proposal on capacity building had been submitted to WHO TDR in May 2013 to facilitate capacity building of medical personnel in the area of biomedical sciences. Professor Choudhury elaborated on the importance of ideSHI in the context of Bangladesh and the need for capacity building and on measures for expediting its activities. Professor Abul Kalam Azad assured all cooperation from the government in organizing different programmes and activities of the ideSHI.

**Dissemination Meeting on National Guidelines of Gastric Cancer Management, Dhaka, June 18, 2013**

Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain attended the meeting on 'National Guidelines of Gastric Cancer Management' held on June 18, 2013 in the MIS Conference Room, DG Health Office, Mohakhali,



Dhaka. This program was supported by Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) unit, Director General of Health Services. Prominent health experts from various disciplines were present in the meeting. Although there is no comprehensive epidemiological study on the status of cancer incidence in Bangladesh, gastric or stomach cancer is one of the most common types of cancer affecting Bangladeshis. Most stomach cancer is caused by bacterial infection (*Helicobacter pylori*). A stark reality is that, in Bangladesh, the overall cancer care and management including diagnosis, treatment and palliative care services are far behind the international standard. There are no national guidelines for cancer care management in Bangladesh. The first ever such effort has been taken to devise national guidelines for the management of gastric cancer. The objectives of the draft guidelines were to reduce wide variations of treatment among doctors and to ensure that all gastric cancer patients should be offered the best chance of cure and palliation irrespective of places where they were treated. Experts in the meeting provided feedback to improve the proposed guidelines for gastric cancer management.

**National Seminar on Tissue Banking: A Frontier of Medicine, Dhaka, June 19, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was invited as the Guest of Honour in the above-mentioned seminar organized by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC). The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Professor Shahana Afroz, Member, Bioscience, BAEC. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State Minister, Ministry of Science & Technology, GoB was the Chief Guest and Mr. ASM Firoz, Chairman, BAEC and Professor Dr. Kh. Abdul Awal Rizvi, Director, National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation and President, Bangladesh Tissue Banking Association were special guests. Professor



Choudhury in his address highlighted the history of tissue banking research and applications at BAEC and its collaboration with hospitals and clinics for supply of radiation sterilized amniotic membranes and tissue grafts. He appreciated the role of medical professionals particularly the paediatric and orthopaedic surgeons in translating the research efforts of tissue banking into practical applications. Medical professionals from different clinics, hospitals, nuclear medicine centres and senior scientists of BAEC participated in the seminar.

**Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of NOAMI's "Ninth Training Course in Oceanography: Principles of Applications", Dhaka, June 29, 2013**

The above-mentioned ceremony was organized by National Oceanographic & Maritime Institute (NOAMI) at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka on June 29, 2013. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was the Chief Guest. After the welcome address by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Vice-Chairman, NOAMI, the Chief Guest gave away the course completion certificates to the participants in the Ninth Course on Oceanography. Dr. Md. Sajidur Rahman of the Centre for Climate Change & Environmental Research (C3ER), BRACU spoke on behalf of the participants. Professor Ainun Nishat then delivered his speech. He lauded the efforts of NOAMI in promoting the study of oceanography in the country. The Chairperson of NOAMI, Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad then addressed the audience and congratulated the participants in the course for their achievement and thanked the Chief Guest and others for their presence in the function. Dr. Abdur Rahim, General Secretary, NOAMI conveyed the formal vote of thanks on behalf of NOAMI. The function was also attended by NOAMI members, resource persons of the training course and other distinguished guests including the representatives of the news media.

**Popular Science Lecture Organized by the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST), Dhaka, June 30, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury delivered a popular science lecture on "Science and Technology for Development: Bangladesh Perspectives" at the NMST Auditorium. Organized by the NMST this was a part of a series of lectures for the public including

students from different colleges and universities for creating awareness among the people about the importance of science and technology for national development. Professor Choudhury highlighted the development of science since the ancient times and how science has shaped the society. He elaborated modern development in different branches of science and technology and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in utilizing science for addressing the socio-economic issues. Though science by no means can give solution to all problems, but it is of vital importance to address various problems in different walks of life. Bangladesh has made significant progress in research, development and applications in different branches of science, specifically in agriculture and medical sectors. GoB initiatives for promoting science and technology were appreciable, he said. National Science and Technology Policy had been adopted and the Action Plan had been outlined. National Biotechnology Policy, National ICT Policy etc. were all necessary conditions for proper development of science and technology to address different social, economic and environmental problems. A large number of participants from different organizations including schools, colleges, universities, NGOs and news media attended the lecture.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM) of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), Dhaka, July 6, 2013**

The AGM of NOAMI was held on July 6, 2013 in the office of NOAMI at 10/8 Eastern Plaza, Dhaka. The AGM was presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI. After presentation of the Secretary and Treasurers' reports there was a lively discussion on the proposed budget for 2013-2014 and other issues. How NOAMI could be strengthened further was also discussed. Rear Admiral M. H. Khan, Founder-Chairman, NOAMI and also its Chief Adviser addressed the audience. The AGM was followed by a dinner held at a local restaurant.

**Workshop on Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), Dhaka, July 25, 2013**

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad attended the above-mentioned workshop organized by the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) at its auditorium in its office at Agargaon, Dhaka on July 25, 2013. The

workshop was attended by the vice-chancellors and registrars of different public and private universities. Ms. Kaniz Fatema, Project Director of HEMIS gave the welcome address. Then there was a powerpoint presentation by the consultants who elucidated the different indicators. Professor A. K. Azad Chowdhury, Chairman UGC was the Chief Guest and Professor Muhibur Rahman, Member, UGC was the Special Guest at the function presided over by Professor Akhter Hossain, Member, UGC. Later, participants in the workshop were divided into five consultation groups. They later presented their comments and views on the draft report.

**Seminar on “Feasibility Studies on LIMPET (Land Installed Marine Power Energy Transformer) for Use in Coastal Belt at Cox's Bazar under the Wave Climatic Conditions of the Bay-of-Bengal”, Dhaka, August 3, 2013**

The above-mentioned seminar was held at the office of NOAMI at 10/8 Eastern Plaza (9<sup>th</sup> floor) Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh on August 3, 2013. The key note speakers in the session were Mr. Abdul Matin Mondal, Former Director of BIWTA and Dr. Kamrul Alam Khan, Professor of Physics at Jaganath University. Rear Admiral (Retd) M. H. Khan, Founder Chairman of NOAMI was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by Professor A. A. Z Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Vice-Chairman, NOAMI gave the welcome address. Then Mr. Mondal and Professor Kamrul Alam Khan made a power-point presentation of their talk. The project has been financed by the Ministry of Science & Technology, GoB. The speakers talked about the prospect of harnessing wave energy for generation of electricity in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The seminar was attended by NOAMI members and other guests.

**Seminar on Randomness and Computability, MNS Department, August 19, 2013**

On August 19, 2013, a seminar titled 'Randomness and Computability' was held in Room UB21511 of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS). The speaker of the session was Mr. Mushfeq Khan, a PhD student in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. The speaker while introducing his lecture said that in 1936, within months of each other, Alonzo Church and Alan Turing

provided the first known descriptions of problems that were probably 'incomputable': Church with his proof of the undecidability of the lambda calculus, and Turing with his formulation of the Halting Problem. Church and Turing had provided a formalism for what it meant for something to be computable, or more crucially, what it meant for something to be incomputable, thereby giving birth to the field of 'computability theory', the branch of mathematical logic that concerns itself with analyzing the varying degrees of incomputability that can arise in mathematics. By that time, mathematicians such as Richard von Mises had already begun to think deeply about what it meant for an infinite sequence of 0s and 1s to be random, or for one sequence to be more random than another. Von Mises suggested that for a sequence to count as random, all 'reasonable' subsequences should satisfy the law of large numbers (i.e., have the same proportion of 0s and 1s in the limit). It was Church again who filled in the missing formalism. He posited that a 'reasonable' subsequence should be obtained by a computable selection rule, making the first explicit connection between randomness and computability, and setting off a long and fruitful investigation into the interplay between the two fields, one that continues to this day. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of the MNS Department.

**Video-Seminar on Astrophysics of White Dwarf Pulsar & Black Hole, BRACU, Dhaka, August 29, 2013**

BRACU conducted a video-seminar on “Astrophysics of White Dwarf Pulsar & Black Hole” on Thursday, August 29, 2013. It was organized in collaboration with the Department of MNS and BRACU-GDLN Centre along with University of Indonesia, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (NREN VC Center) and Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), Japan.

The video-seminar was presented by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, an eminent plasma astrophysicist. He has been working on plasmas around pulsars, neutron stars and black holes for over 25 years.

Ms. Fahima Khanam, Assistant Director, ITSO, BRACU acted as the moderator.

Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BRACU was present along with a good number of faculty members and students

of BRACU. The discussion was focused on space, birth of stars, formation and evolution of astrophysical compact objects like white dwarfs, pulsars, black holes and super-massive black holes etc. The basic principles of modern cosmology, expansion of the universe and different astrophysical observations were also highlighted and supported by some video pictures.

Professor Mofizuddin Ahmed dedicated his speech to the reputed mathematical physicist, cosmologist and educationist, Professor Emeritus Jamal Nazrul Islam who recently passed away. He began his talk with the famous Einstein-Tagore discussion in 1926 at Einstein's house in Berlin where they exchanged their own ideas about universe and harmony of nature. He continued, "A star is born from a proto-star and then evolves to a red giant. And from a red giant two ways of evolution occur, the black dwarf and the black hole, which depend on the initial mass of the star. This limiting mass is known as Chandrasekhar Limit which is of the order of 1.4 times the solar mass. If the mass is below this limit, it becomes a black dwarf and if it is higher, it becomes either a neutron star or a black hole." He showed a video on Crab-pulsar formation during the delivery and mentioned about his work on gravitational waves related to pulsars. He also mentioned about a modest scale laboratory of glow discharge plasma set up at the MNS Department. A lively discussion followed participated by not only BRACU faculty members and students but also enthusiasts from Indonesia and Nepal.

### **South Asia Biosafety Conference and Workshops, New Delhi, India, September 18-20, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the South Asia Biosafety Conference held on September 18-19, 2013 and then attended two Workshops on i. Understanding Test Protocols: Design, Reporting and Data Interpretation and ii. The Scientist as a Public Communicator held for selected participants on September 20, 2013 at Taj Ambassador Hotel in New Delhi, India. The Conference and the Workshops were co-organized by the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, Washington, USA and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) under the aegis of South Asia Biosafety Program. The purposes of the two-day Conference on September 18-19, 2013 and one-day workshop

on September 20 were to share current scientific knowledge on biosafety issues related to GE crops. Leading international experts from regulatory agencies in the USA, Australia, Canada, Europe, Brazil etc. and from industry and public sector research institutions presented papers in the Conference and shared their experiences. The topics of the Plenary Sessions in the Conference included Challenges to the Development and Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in South Asia, Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in the Context of Biodiversity, Phytosanitary and Food/Feed Safety Laws, Post-Approval Considerations for the Commercial Release of Genetically Engineered Plants and New Plant Breeding Techniques and Biosafety Risk Assessment. Professor Choudhury chaired the Plenary Session II held on September 19, 2013 on Regulation of Genetically Engineered Plants in the Context of Biodiversity, Phytosanitary and Food/Feed Safety Laws. Leading experts from Australia, France, New Zealand and UNEP presented papers in that session. Professor Choudhury is a member of the Biosafety Core Committee formed by the National Biosafety Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, GoB.

### **Second Summit of the South Asian Academies of Sciences, New Delhi, India, September 24-27, 2013**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Second Summit of Science Academies of South Asia held during September 24-27, 2013 at INSA, New Delhi, India. On day one, i.e. September 24, 2013, a Workshop on "Women in Science, Education and Research" was organized jointly with the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA). Dr. Manju Sharma, Former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India delivered a special lecture in the workshop on Scientific and Technological Empowerment of Women-Role, Relevance and Application. The Summit was inaugurated by Dr. T. Ramasamy, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Science Academies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as Science Academies from Africa, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius and Turkey participated in the workshop and the Summit. Different issues discussed in the Summit included ICT



Tools in Enhancing Quality of Higher Education, Agricultural Productivity, Food and Nutrition, Sustainable Development: Post 2015 Scenario; and Role of S&T and Innovation. Professor Choudhury presented a paper in the Summit on Science and Technology for Development: Bangladesh Perspective. It may be mentioned that the First Summit was organized by The Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, India on September 6-9, 2012 at its premises. Presidents and top representatives of nine Academies of the region participated in the Summit. A declaration, “Delhi Declarations”, was released at the end of the Summit after detailed discussions and deliberation focused on major societal issues: Energy Options, Health Care and Infectious Diseases, Science Education, Science and Society, Women in Science, Urbanization, Climate Change and Inclusive Innovation. It was resolved to take necessary action for creating a Network of the South Asian Academies of Science and to organize the Summit annually.

### Study Tours & Visits

The students of the MNS Department were taken to different R&D organizations and institutions of the country. The teams were led by MNS faculty members. These visits offered the students an opportunity to gain practical experience. The visits include the following:

#### BCSIR Visit by Students, June 20, 2013

Thirty six students of both MS and undergraduate programs of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRAC University alongwith

Professor Naiyyum Chaudhury, Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain and Mr. Fazle Rabbi visited various laboratories of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) on June 20, 2013. They visited different sections such as Tissue Culture, Spirulina Cultivation Plant, Food Safety Laboratory, Instrument Divisions etc. They were informed about the various activities of each division and introduced with very sophisticated instruments such as MS spectrophotometer, gas chromatograph, high pressure liquid chromatograph, NMR analyzer with low and high resolutions etc. The working principles of these instruments were also explained. They were shown how food safety was monitored, the process of determination of the composition of food and solid materials, the process of freeze drying and its importance. They were also shown the different levels of a biosafety laboratory and use of the equipment. The whole study tour was very much enjoyable and students had a very good practical experience.

#### Visit to the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant, November 26, 2013

Efficient supply of drinking water is one of the big challenges for Bangladesh. Fast growing urban and rural population and uncontrolled intensifying industry add to the degradation of the water quality for drinking purpose. Extensive pollution of rivers and water bodies as well as declining ground water tables make drinking water supply an increasingly challenging task. To meet this problem an advanced water treatment plant was installed in Dhaka city in 2002. Twenty two students alongwith three teachers namely Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Dr. Mohamad Sorowar Hossain and Mr. Fazle Rabbi of the MNS Department, BRACU went for a study tour of the water treatment plant in Saidabad, Dhaka on November 26, 2013 to have a practical experience of how raw water was being treated and then supplied to the whole city of Dhaka for drinking purpose. The plant treats the water from Sitalakhya river. The plant is able to supply



450,000 cubic metres of water every day which accounts for 32% of the total drinking water supplied in the city. The team spent a quality time at the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant acquiring knowledge about the process of treating raw water supplying safe drinking water to meet the thirst of millions of people throughout the Dhaka City.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Obituary Reference to Professor Padma Kant Shukla (1950-2013), February 14, 2013

A talk entitled, "Remembering Professor Padma Kant Shukla (1950-2013)" was delivered by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, on February 14, 2013 at Room UB 21511 of the MNS Department. It was attended by teachers, students, and staff members of BRACU. As a mark of respect to the departed soul one minute silence while standing was observed by the participants. Professor Padma Kant Shukla, a renowned plasma physicist died from a heart attack in New Delhi, India on January 26, 2013.

Professor. Shukla had travelled to India to receive the prestigious Hind Rattan Award from the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for his outstanding contributions to his research area. Professor Padma Kant Shukla was born in Tulapur, India in 1950. He moved to Europe when he was 21 years old. He had worked at the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy at the Ruhr-Universität, Germany. With great commitment and outstanding enthusiasm he researched at the interface of astrophysics and plasma physics. He published his results in high ranking scientific journals and contributed to more than 1,400 publications. During the past years, he received numerous awards. He was the elected member of the Physics Division of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. As a member of the Academy he advised the Nobel Prize Committee. Professor Padma Kant Shukla was the mentor, colleague and friend of plasma physicists in Bangladesh. He had a keen interest to visit Bangladesh to develop plasma science in the country.

### Iftar Party, MNS Department, Dhaka, July 27, 2013

An Iftar party was organized on July 27, 2013 at the MNS Department. Around 45 members of faculty and staff were present on the occasion.

## Publications

The faculty members of the MNS Department have published a number of papers in their fields of expertise in reputed journals both at home and abroad.

### A. Papers Published in Journals

1. U. A. Mofiz and M. R. Amin (2013): Langmuir dark solitons in dense ultra relativistic electron-positron gravito-plasma in pulsar magnetosphere: *Astrophys. Space Sci.* Vol, 345, pp 119-124.
2. U. A. Mofiz (2013): On terahertz laser pulse propagation in negative index metamaterials: *BRAC University Journal*, Vol. X, No. 1 & 2, pp 1-17.
3. Mohammad Mastak Al Amin (2013): Acculturation Preferences and Major Adverse Factors that Bangladeshi and Finnish Migrants Faced to Acclimatize in Sweden: *Journal of Information Technology (JIT)*, Vol-II, Jahangirnagar University.
4. Nikhil Candra Sarkar, Anowarul Islam and Sujit Kumar Debsarma (2013): A Numerical Simulation of Severe Cyclone Sidr-2007: *GANIT J. Bangladesh Math. Soc. (ISSN 1606-3694)* Vol. 32, pp 43-54.
5. Chitra Das, Jahanara Begum, Tahmina Begum and Shamima Choudhury (2013): Effects of Thickness on the Optical Properties of GaAs Thin Films: *Journal of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp 83-91.
6. N.K.Azam, T.A.Jahan and M.N. Hasan (2013): A Randomized Survey of Medicinal Plants to Treat Snake Bite used by Folk Medicinal Practitioners in Twelve Districts and Three Tribal Communities of Bangladesh: *Journal EJFA*.
7. Hasibun Naher, Farah Aini Abdullah, and M. A. Akbar (2013): Generalized and Improved (G'/G) – expansion method for (3+1)-dimensional modified KdV-Zakharov-Kuznetsev equation: *Plos One*, 8(5): e64618. Doi:10.1371/Journal.Pone.0064618.
8. Hasibun Naher, and Farah Aini Abdullah (2013): New Approach of - expansion method and new approach of generalized -expansion method for nonlinear evolution equation: *AIP Advances*, 3, 032116; doi: 10.1063/1.4794947.



9. Hasibun Naher, Farah Aini Abdulla and Sayed Tauseef Mohyud-Din (2013): Extended generalized Riccati equation mapping method for the fifth-order Sawada-Kotera equation: AIP Advances, 3, 052104, doi: 10.1063/1.4804433.
10. Hasibun Naher, and Farah Aini Abdullah (2013): The improved - expansion method to the (3+1)-dimensional Kadomstev-Petviashvili equation: American Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Vol. 1 (4), 64-70.
11. Hasibun Naher, Abdullah, F. A., Akbar, M. A. and Yildirim, A. (2013): The extended generalized Riccati equation mapping method for the (1+1)-dimensional modified KdV equation: World Applied Sciences Journal, 25 (4), 543-553.
12. Hasibun Naher, and Farah Aini Abdullah (2013): New generalized and improved - expansion method for nonlinear evolution equations in mathematical physics: Journal of Egyptian Mathematical Society, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.joems.2013.11.008>.
13. Yakut-Binte-Sadek, Mohammad Shahriar, Waheeda Nasreen, Mahboob Hossain, Mohiuddin Ahmed Bhuiyan (2013): Effect of SDS on Plasmid Isolation and Antimicrobial Resistance Pattern of Clinical Isolates of Staphylococcus aureus: European Journal of Scientific Research, Vol. 102 No. 1, pp.30-35.
14. F. Haque, E. del Barco, R. S. Fishman, and J. S. Miller (2013): Low Temperature Hysteretic Behavior of the Interpenetrating 3-D Network Structured  $[\text{Ru}_2(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})_4]_3[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$  Magnet: Polyhedron 64.
15. Yoshimitsu Otomo, Farzana Hossain, Fazle Rabbi, Yuki Yakuwa, Chowdhury Rafiqul Ahsan (2013): Pre-Enrichment of Estuarine and Fresh Water Environmental Samples with Sodium

Chloride Yields in Better Recovery of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*: Advances in Microbiology, 3(1): 21-25.

## **B. Conference Proceedings / Invited Talks / Abstracts**

1. U. A. Mofiz, Astrophysical dark solitons and pulsar curvature radiation (Invited Talk). Abstracts: International Bose Conference-The Legacy of S. N. Bose, Dhaka, February 4, 2013.
2. U. A. Mofiz, Negative index materials: New frontiers in optics and laser pulse propagation, Proceeding of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet, The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Dhaka, December 6-7, 2013.
3. U. A. Mofiz. Optical solitons in negative index metamaterials, Proceedings of the International Conference on Advances of Electrical Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 19 - 21, 2013.
4. U. A. Mofiz, Reductive perturbation method in nonlinear dynamics, Proceedings of the Eighteenth International Mathematics Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh, December 20 -22, 2013.

## **C. Books/Book Chapters**

1. U. A. Mofiz, Physics in the Higher Secondary Certificate / A Level, Quality Publication, Dhaka, 2013.

## **D. Articles Published in Newspapers**

1. U. A. Mofiz, BRACU holds video-seminar on astrophysics, The Daily Sun, Dhaka, Sunday, September 1, 2013.
2. U. A. Mofiz, Video Seminar at BRAC University, The Daily Star, Dhaka, Thursday, September 5, 2013.
3. U. A. Mofiz, Astronomy for Development, The Independent, Dhaka, December 2, 2013.

## Department of Pharmacy

### Aim and Objectives

Pharmacy education provides opportunity for the students to know the basic concepts of medicines originated from natural sources. Moreover, they are provided with the knowledge of physiology (to know the function of the organs in the body where drugs act) and pharmacology (fate of the drug inside the body). So our main objective is to produce quality pharmacists who will produce quality medicine for better health care with highest efficacy and least side effects.

### Appointment of New Faculty

Mr. Tanbir Ahammad and Ms. Rezwana Nasrin Chowdhury joined as Lecturer in Department of Pharmacy on January 15, 2013 and Mr. Jayanta Kishor Chakrabarty and Mr. Ashis Kumar Podder joined as Lecturer on July 28 and August 1, 2013 in Pharmacy Department respectively.

On October 6, 2013 Pritesh Ranjan Dash joined as a Teaching Assistant (TA).

### Faculty on leave

Ms. Saki Sultana and Mr. Avijit Dey left BRAC University to pursue their Ph.D studies at Dalhousie University, Canada and Virginia Commonwealth University, USA respectively.

### Annual picnic 2013

On February 28, BRAC University Pharma Society (BUPS) organized annual picnic at Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) Savar, Dhaka. Around 200 students, all faculty members and staff participated in this picnic. After lunch, a splendid cultural program was arranged by students and faculty members. Honorable Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat was present as the chief



guest in the picnic and attended the cultural program. Professor Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali, Chairperson, Pharmacy Department gave his concluding speech, thanking the Vice Chancellor and acknowledging ever person who made the picnic fruitful and enjoyable.

### Award giving ceremony

More than thirty students were selected for VC and Dean's award for Spring semester 2013. On November 21, 2013, the Department of Pharmacy arranged this award giving ceremony. Professor Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali, Chair, Pharmacy Department was the chief guest and handed out the certificate. Jayanta Kishor Chakrabarty, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy facilitated this program in presence of all the faculty members. On behalf of all the students, Wasif Bin Ahmed, a senior student delivered his speech after receiving certificate. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the chairperson.



### Visit at different pharmaceutical companies

The Department of Pharmacy usually arranges at least one industrial visit to different reputed pharmaceutical companies for the students each semester. On September 26, 2013, a total of 30 students had the opportunity to get acquainted with state-of-art technologies at SK&F Pharmaceutical Company,



Tongi, Gazipur. The visit started with a welcome speech from the production manager. Then students successively visited the production department, quality control department, packaging section and sterile section. After a daylong visit to every section of the factory, the visiting team was seen off by the factory personnel and they exchanged warm greetings. Similar type of visit was also arranged at Incepta Pharmaceutical Company Ltd at the end of November 2013.

### Attending seminar/conference

- On January 26, 2013, Tareq Ibn Morshed participated in the Samson H Chowdhury Memorial Conference 2013 on “Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry and Current Issues” at hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka along with two senior students. The conference was inaugurated by Mrs. Anita Chowdhury, Chairperson, Anita Samson Foundation. The conference was divided into four sessions. Faculty members and Students of different public and private universities were also present at this conference where they participated in open discussion after completing every session. The conference ended with a vote of thanks from Tapan Chowdhury, MD, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited.



- Professor Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali, Chairperson, Pharmacy Department, BRAC University attended 2<sup>nd</sup> Ayuns International Ayurvedic Conference on “Modality of Ayurvedic and Traditional Medicine” in January 26, 2013 at Senate Bhavan, University of Dhaka. The conference was organized by Ayurveda and Naturapatho Association of Bangladesh.

### Journal Publications

- Farhana Alam Ripa and Afroza Habib, “Anti-inflammatory and Anti-diarrheal Effects of Methanolic Extracts of Seeds and Peel of Nepheliumlongan fruits in Rats”, Iranian Journal of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, 2013, 12(2):58-61.
- Sharifa Sultana, Tanbir Ahammad, Ashraful Islam and A.S.S. Rouf, “RP-HPLC Method Development and Validation for Nitazoxanide in Powder for Suspension Dosage Form”, International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research(IJPSR), India; Vol. 4, Issue 1, January 2013; 301-305
- Avijit Dey, S. M. Abdur Rahman, Rezwana Nasrin Chowdhury, Md. Hamiduzzaman and Mohammad Razi-UI-Hasan Alvi, “In-vitro pharmacological investigations of the plant Boerhaviarepens”, Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2013, Page: 36-38, International Research Journal of Pharmacy
- Milon Chandra Mohanta, Avijit Dey, S. M. Abdur Rahman and Rezwana Nasrin Chowdhury, “Evaluation of anti-oxidant, cyto-toxic and anti-microbial properties of Drynariaquercifolia”, Vol. 4, Issue 7, July 2013, Page: 46-48, International Research Journal of Pharmacy
- Farhana Alam Ripa, Mahmud Tareq Ibn Morshed, Afsana-Al-Sharmin, Shahed Bulbul Papon, Md. Rafiqul Islam and Zara Sheikh, “CNS depressant, analgesic and antidiarrheal effects of different solvent extracts of seeds of Dimocarpus Longan Lour in Rats”, Tropical Journal of pharmaceutical Research (Accepted).

### Book Publication

- Pritesh Ranjan Dash, Sheikh Zahir Raihan and Mohammad Shawkat Ali Ethnopharmacological investigation of the spice Kaempferiagalanga. LAMBERT Academic Publishing, GmbH & Co. KG, Germany. ISSN: 978-3-659-42670-4
- Mahmuda Nasrin, Sheikh Zahir Raihan, Mohammad Shawkat Ali Ethnopharmacological investigation of the spice Grewiapaniculata. LAMBERT Academic Publishing, GmbH & Co. KG, Germany. ISSN: 978-3-659-43453-2



BRAC  
UNIVERSITY

## **INSTITUTES, CENTRES AND INITIATIVES**

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)  
BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH)  
BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)  
Institute of Educational Development (IED)  
Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER)  
Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Centre  
Teaching Learning Centre (TLC)  
Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI)





## BRAC Institute of Governance and Development

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) was established in 2005 to promote and support effective, transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly government in Bangladesh and South Asia. On the other hand, BRAC Development Institute (BDI) at BRAC University was established in 2008 as a resource centre that promotes research, provides graduate training and builds knowledge to address the challenges of poverty, inequity and social injustice in the global south. The two Institutes merged in June 2013 renamed as BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) to make a better and unified Institute as Governance and Development are interrelated.

### RESEARCH

An important facet of the Institute's core mission is to conduct research on governance and development and to disseminate the findings among the law and policy makers of the country. Since 2006, the Institute has been publishing its annual The State of Governance in Bangladesh and The State of Cities reports since 2012.

### The State of Governance (SoG) in Bangladesh Report

In 2013, The Institute launched the sixth report titled - The State of Governance in Bangladesh (SoG) 2012: Regions, Representation, Disparity. The report assessed power concentration, parliamentary representation, health and education governance at the district level through a quantitative approach. The formal launching ceremony of the publication was

held in December 2013 at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

### The State of Cities (SoC)

In 2013, BIGD also released another annual research report titled 'State of Cities (SoC): Re-thinking Urban Governance in Narayanganj in October, 2013. The report takes a holistic approach to understand the existing process of urban governance and service delivery in Narayanganj City Corporation.

BIGD hosts a number multidisciplinary research clusters. They are organised into five themes:

1. Economic Growth and Development
2. Gender Studies
3. Politics, Democracy and Governance
4. Regional Studies
5. Urbanisation, Environment and Climate Change

### Ongoing Research Projects at BIGD

#### 1. Pro-poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP)

This project aims at implementing secure housing options for the urban poor in order to improve their quality of life and overall living conditions, where people of communities are in the centre of the process and where the process of housing would be considered as an effective tool for community development.

#### 2. Impact Evaluation of the DFID Programme to Accelerate Improved Nutrition for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh, Phase II

The programme will assess whether the combination of direct and indirect nutrition interventions accelerate



Launching of the State of Cities (SoC) and the State of Governance (SoG) 2012 Reports

reduction of under nutrition in children under two in the core beneficiary households of the three programmes, compared with non-beneficiary households in programme areas.

### **3. Building Capacities and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-Sector Initiative in Urban Slums of Bangladesh**

The overall objective of this holistic action research is to design and implement interventions in five treatment sites, carry out qualitative and quantitative assessments of the interventions and develop sustainable models to replicate and scale up.

### **4. Strengthening Social Protection for Informal Workers: Supporting Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion across Stable and Fragile Contexts**

The overall objective of this project is to inform and strengthen social protection policy to contribute to reduced poverty and increased social inclusion among marginalised workers and the vulnerable in the informal economy.

### **5. Evaluation of Integrated Livelihood Support Programme (ILSP) for the Ultra Poor in Pakistan, (TUP Pakistan)**

The ILSP programme is designed to address the multiple and intersecting constraints that trap households in extreme poverty. The asset transfer element addresses the inability of poor people to access the lump sums necessary to invest in productive assets. Training is intended not only to develop entrepreneurial skills but also to develop entrepreneurial mind sets. The emphasis on intensive 'mentoring' recognises that for poor women, in particular, building self-confidence and agency is critical for entrepreneurial success. The programme started in 2013. Prior to starting the programme, BIGD conducted an RCT-based baseline data collection for the project. A follow-up panel survey will take place in 2014.

### **6. Empowerment and Participation: Linking Local Realities to Global Action (Unpaid Care Work)**

IDS, SMERU (Indonesia) and the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BDI are collaborating on developing policy 'asks' and generating knowledge on unpaid care and building partnerships to promote these policy demands. In

2013, BIGD produced a review of existing research and policy on unpaid care in Bangladesh and held a national dissemination workshop. BIGD is collaborating with ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB) using time diary tools to collect data on gender division of labor in extreme poor households.

### **7. South Asia Regional Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians**

The South Asian Regional Secretariat of Women Parliamentarians (SARSWP) was established in July 2012 to serve as a regional coordination centre for the Network of South Asian Women parliamentarians. In 2013, SARSWP hosted the first annual conference of the network in Colombo and hosted learning exchanges on caucus creation, women in conflict and legal reforms related to violence against women. It has also published four technical briefs on women's political participation and regional collaboration.

### **8. Paving the Path to improved Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Bangladesh**

This research aims to identify the supply and demand-side determinants of access, provision and utilization of health services of 15-19 year old adolescent girls in slum communities of urban Dhaka. Using secondary data sources, primary qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis it will explore the gendered social norms that influence fertility and family formation, and how these norms affect married and unmarried 15-19 year old adolescent girls' demand for sexual and reproductive health services.

### **9. Masculinity and Gender Equality Study in South Asia: Masculinity, Economic Opportunity and Migration in Bangladesh**

The proposed study on "Masculinity, Gender and Development in South Asia" is part of a wider series of initiatives by the World Bank to expand research on male gender roles, in order to gain a more nuanced understanding of gender relations and how they impact constructions of both 'masculinity' and 'femininity' in diverse cultural and socio-economic contexts. At present BIGD is conducting life histories and interviews with selected target groups.

### **10. The Social Impact of Micro Finance on Gender Norms and Behavior**

This research attempts to study the spread, nature and wider impact of MFI's on gender norms and behavior. It is our assertion that in matters of change in

gender norms and behaviors, these characteristics of the community and the interaction with programmes are important both to grasp the true nature of impact and to understand the underlying characteristics that make them work.

### **11. Women's Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh**

The objective of this project study is to clarify the individual and community-level mechanisms by which a woman's empowerment is associated with her risk of experiencing IPV in rural Bangladesh. The research is going to strengthen the understanding of the correlation between various aspects of women's empowerment, the social dimensions and the risk of women's experiencing IPV.

### **12. Improving the Quality of Social Provisioning within Competitive Clientelist Context: A Comparison between Bangladesh and Ghana**

A two-year comparative research with Ghana exploring the politics of education reform, the project examined the make-up of the political actors behind education reform, and how bargaining between different social groups over reform shaped the quantity and quality of educational provisions. In 2013, BIGD completed document analysis and is conducting interviews with key informants.

### **13. Gender and Political Settlement: Comparative Analysis**

A two-year multi-country research project being implemented during 2013-2015, will focus on the quality of women's inclusion and participation in formal political institutions, informal processes and women's movements, and their ability to negotiate gender equity concerns in legislative reform and policy formulation in the following areas: education and violence against women. BIGD is coordinating the multi-country research project in Bangladesh, Ghana, Uganda and Rwanda. The inception workshop for this research was held in September in Manchester, UK.

### **14. A Study to Identify Effective Advocacy and Social Communication Practices**

The objective of this study is to identify the most effective models, practices and tools of advocacy and social communication in Bangladesh. Three policy advocacy areas- gender, environment, and anti-corruption have been selected for study.

### **15. Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) of Bangladesh**

The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) aims to create a comprehensive diagnostic tool that covers five main areas for policy intervention: legal and institutional framework; land use planning, management and taxation; management of public land; Public provision of land information; and dispute resolution and conflict management.

#### **Completed Projects at BIGD**

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

The Institute has established the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR). The aim of ANSA-SAR is to build capacity of CSOs through training and skills-building on social accountability. In 2013, ANSA SAR organized several training programmes including technical training workshop for the mobile-based application on Citizen Feedback, Community Score Card (CSC), Mobile Phone based Skill Training in Urban and Rural Level, workshop on the Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration.

#### **Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP)**

The Institute, in partnership with C3ER (Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research), BRAC University, has facilitated the Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP). The project was implemented by Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and technical support was provided by German Government through GLZ. The BIGD/C3ER team was assigned to facilitate one of the components of the project titled 'Strengthening Governance in Wetland and Water Bodies Management Policies'. As per assignment BIGD organised various policy dialogues and roundtable discussions at village, district, national and regional levels in 2013. A concise policy note was developed from the entire reforming process.

#### **Follow-up to Dhaka Declaration: Women's Access to Justice**

"Follow up to the Dhaka Resolution" is a UN Women funded research on the impact on access to justice among the beneficiaries of Promotion of Legal and Social Empowerment of Women intervention



(PLSEW, Phase II) undertaken by German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) between 2008-2011. This research assessed the impact of the PLSEW to contribute to strengthening local governance and government services to respond effectively to reduce violence against women. A dissemination workshop on the findings of the study was organized on December 8, 2013, at Bangladesh Shishu Academy. A review of laws on violence against women has been completed and a position paper prepared for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Furthermore, a video documentary was also made and shared within the participants of the workshop.

### **Preliminary Overview of the Home Based Component of the Garment Sector in Bangladesh**

Although factory-based garment sector employment has featured prominently in academic research and activist arenas, not much is known about the situation of home-based workers in this sector. The purpose of this study was exploratory in nature, to undertake a situation analysis of home-based workers in the export garment sector.

### **Community and Institutional Responses to the Challenges Facing Poor Urban People in Bangladesh in an Era of Global Warming**

The project is a collaborative initiative between Manchester University and BRAC University. The research seeks to create policy relevant knowledge about how climate change impacts on the livelihoods and living conditions of poor urban people and communities in Bangladesh. Six low-income settlements in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna were studied in previous two years. Moreover, a household survey was conducted in 95 settlements of Dhaka to compare or support evidence found in these six settlements and to assess the quality of the findings at the national level and several publications have been produced.

### **Engendering Disaster Management in Bangladesh**

BIGD started a research programme named "Engendering Disaster Management" to provide assistance to Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MWCA) of the Government of Bangladesh with

objective of improving governance in disaster management by designing, administering and advocating gender responsive disaster management practices. The research areas were Satkhira, Bagerhat, Barguna, Patuakhali, Sunamgonj covering a total of 24 unions. A Two-day Training Module was developed in collaboration with PRIP Trust.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES**

At the core of BIGD's work are several academic courses, which include both classroom teaching and fieldwork experience:



*MAGD 5<sup>th</sup> Batch Students with BIGD Academic Coordinator and Research Coordinator*

### **Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD)**

The Institute offers a Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD), a residential programme exclusively for the civil servants of Bangladesh. The 5<sup>th</sup> Batch of the MA in Governance and Development program started on May 5, 2013 at BCDM, Savar with 25 different public sector officials.

### **Master of Development Studies (MDS)**

MDS is an innovative, cross-disciplinary programme that provides an in-depth understanding of development concepts and issues in the context of globalisation, economic transformation, and social, cultural and political changes. The MDS programme currently has a total of 114 students.

### **Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP)**

MDMP programme seeks to create a cadre of professionals who are trained in contemporary development theory and practice; the natural and social sciences; and management. Supported by the MacArthur Foundation, it is part of the Global Network of MDP programmes based at Columbia University's Earth Institute and includes hands-on field experience and internship opportunities at various leading



national and international development agencies. Currently 12 students are enrolled in the programme.

### **Postgraduate Certificate Course on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)**

BIGD offers A three-month postgraduate certificate course to government officials, private sector land developers, development practitioners to design, implement and develop resettlement and rehabilitation strategies based on global best practices. BIGD also offers a two-day workshop, a five-day training course and a sixteen-week distance-learning course. Sixty one participants from Bangladesh and abroad have completed the post-graduate certificate course so far. Over 280 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Congo (DRC), Uganda and Zambia have participated in the short course.

### **Environmental Management and Governance (EMG)**

Besides, BIGD also offers a number of short courses. The Fifth Certificate Course on Environmental Management and Governance (EMG) started in March 2013. The three-month long course started with 11 participants from private and civil society organizations. The students of the 5<sup>th</sup> batch were awarded certificates in June 2013.

### **Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS)**

The Institute has been registered by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS), UK as their first approved study centre in South Asia to provide technical courses to procurement professionals and is offering CIPS Foundation and Advanced Diploma courses on Purchasing and Supply to the public sector officials of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning of the GoB, under Public Procurement Reform Project-II. In 2013, BIGD also started its Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) with Summer Semester 2013. The Fall and the Spring semester classes also started in 2013.

### **Microfinance: An Introductory Course**

This two-week introductory course on financial services for the poor is targeted primarily to an

international audience. Taught by a team of senior academics and professionals across various fields, the course includes extensive field visits. To date over 150 participants from Japan, Italy, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Swaziland, Botswana, and Uganda have participated in the course.

### **Applied Social and Marketing Communication: A Short Course**

This three-week course is designed primarily for the professionals of profit and non-profit sector. The course focuses on the use communication in development, providing specific tools and techniques to analyse consumer behaviour, manage a brand and create marketing strategies for social media. Forty three professionals have participated in the course since it started in 2012.

### **Student Exchange Programme**

#### **University of Ottawa and BRAC University**

The School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) at the University of Ottawa and BIGD established an undergraduate and graduate student exchange programme in 2010.

### **Technical Support**

BIGD is presently providing technical support to Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of Bangladesh Government under the Public Procurement Reform Project Phase-II to assist the Public Private Stakeholders Committee in devising a Third-Party Monitoring mechanism on procurement. The seventh and the eighth meeting of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) were held in 2013 at the NEC Conference Room of Planning Commission Campus, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.



*Participants and the Planning Minister at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Public-Private Stakeholders Committee*

### **Conferences, Workshops, Seminars & Launching Ceremonies**

BIGD also organized number of Roundtable Discussions throughout the year titled: 'Alternative

Path to Good Governance: Insights for Bangladesh', 'Banking Sector Governance: Reforms and Impacts', 'Political Economy of Urban Space in Dhaka City', 'Politics of Urban Local Governance: A Case of Dhaka City', 'Health Sector Governance: Policy, Influence, Ownership', 'Strengthening Governance in Wetland And Water Bodies Management Policies', 'Strengthening Governance and Management of Wetlands in Bangladesh', 'China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints', Women's Access to Justice: Follow-up to the Dhaka Declaration and Ministerial Meeting on Beijing Plus Fifteen. Some of the Seminars organised by BIGD in 2013 included, New Directions in Asian Feminism(s), Consultation between Women Parliamentarians and Civil Society on Implementation of the Sri Lankan Women Parliamentarians National Action Plan, Panel Discussion on Implementation of Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) Bangladesh, and The First Meeting of the South Asian Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians.



*A glimpse of the Seminars and Launching Programs organized by BIGD in 2013*

Besides, BIGD also organised several workshops and trainings on 'How to Engage Citizens in Public Procurement', 'Procurement Principles and Management', 'Income Tax and VAT, Procurement Principles and Management', 'Strategic Procurement', 'Best Procurement Practices', 'Preparing Request for Proposal', 'Effective Supply Management', Designing an MA in Gender, Culture

and Development: Teaching, Research & Activism, Workshop on Unpaid Care Work: Situating it in Research and Policy Context in Bangladesh, Research Design Workshop on Gender and Political Settlement for ESID at University of Manchester, Regional MLARR Learning Workshop in Sri Lanka, visit to Kathmandu University (KU) of Nepal for Consultation Workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR). Moreover, BIGD organised the launching of Centre for Resettlement Studies (CRS), facilitated Documentary Film-Making for the World Bank-EDMB Project, Public Lecture by Dr. Sohela Nazneen on South Asian Feminisms: Paradoxes and Possibilities.



*International Conference in progress at the University of Chittagong*

BIGD, in collaboration with the Department of Public Administration, University of Chittagong and the Governance Innovation Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, organized a three-day International Conference titled Four Decades of Public Administration and Governance in Bangladesh at the Chittagong University (CU) campus from January 11-13, 2013. Moreover, Dr. Mirza Hassan attended a conference on Political Economy of Taxation in Developing Countries organised by the German Development Institute and participated at the Master

of Development Practice (MDP) Summit 2013; Dr. Sohela Nazneen attended the Politics of Evidence Conference at IDS, UK.

### Organisational Transformation

As part of transformation of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) as a regional centre of research on governance and development issues and strengthening of the institution, IGS has been merged with BRAC Development Institute (BDI) into BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).



*Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD*

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the former Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB), South Asia has been appointed as the Executive Director of BIGD and he joined on June 24, 2013.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

1. Azim, Firdous. (Eds.). (2013). *Islam, Culture and Women in Asia: Complex Terrains*, London: Routledge.
2. Nazneen, Sohela & Sultan, Maheen. (Eds.). (2013). *Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*, London: Zed Books.

### Book Chapters

1. Huq, Samia. (2013). Piety, Music and Gender Transformation: Reconfiguring Women as Culture Bearing Markers of Modernity and Nationalism in Bangladesh. In F. Azim (Eds.) *Islam, Culture and Women*, London: Routledge.
2. Nazneen, Sohela. (2013). Men Aboard? Movement for a Uniform Family Code in Bangladesh. In M. Al-Sharmani (Eds.) *Feminist*

*Activism, Women's Rights and Legal Reform*, London: Zed Books.

### Publications in national and international Peer reviewed journal

Azim, F & Hasan, P. (2013). Language, literature, education and community: the Muslim Bengali Woman in the Early Twentieth Century, Special issue, *Researching Women's Empowerment, Women' Studies International Forum journal*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2013.10.013>, published online: December 23, 2013.

1. Jahan, Ferdous & Shahan, A.M. (2013). Power and Influence of Islam-Based Political Parties in Bangladesh: Perception versus Reality, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, <http://jas.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/06/26/0021909613488350>, published online: June 26, 2013.
2. Jahan, Ferdous, Roy, Manoj & Hulme, David. (2013). Contrasting Adaptation Responses by Squatters and Low-Income Tenants in Khulna, Bangladesh, *Environment and Urbanization*, April, 25, pp. 157-17.
3. Kabeer, Naila, Huq, Lopita & Mahmud, Simeen. (2013). Diverging Stories of Missing Women in South Asia: Is Son Preference Weakening in Bangladesh?, *Feminist Economics*, pp. 1-26 | DOI: 10.1080/13545701.2013.857423, published online: November 19, 2013.
4. Nazneen, Sohela & Sultan, Maheen. (2013). Positionality and Transformative Knowledge: Conducting 'Feminist' Research on Empowerment in Bangladesh, *Women' Studies International Forum Journal*, special issue on *Researching Women's Empowerment*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2013.11.008>, published online: December 19, 2013.
5. Jahan, Ferdous, Osman, F.A. & Shahan, A. (2013). Managing Natural Disasters in Bangladesh: Activating the Network Approach, *Public Organisation Review*, Springer, USA and Germany.
6. Schuler, S., Lenzi, R., Nazneen, Sohela & Bates, L. (2013). A Perceived Decline in Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh: Qualitative Evidence, *Studies in Family Planning*, Vol 44, No 3, pp. 243-257.



### Working Papers, Research Reports

1. IGS Working Paper Series No. 05/2013: Geo-politics, Democratisation and External Influence: The Bangladesh Case: Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury, Research Associate, IGS.
2. IGS Working Paper Series No.06/2013 : Promoting & Embedding Voice Mechanisms for Accountable Governance Concepts, Tools and Practices: Dr. GopakumarThampi, Fellow, IGS
3. IGS Working Paper Series No. 07/2013: Democratic Transition in Bangladesh: Challenges Towards Consolidated Democracy: Md. Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate, IGS.
4. IGS Working Paper Series No. 08/2013: Access to Water in Urban Poor Settlements: Addressing Crisis through Good Governance, Jannatul Fardosh, Research Assistant, IGS
5. IGS Working Paper Series No. 09/2013: Domestic Violence against Women in Bangladesh: Discovering Two Sides of A Coin, Jannatul Fardosh, Research Assistant, IGS.
6. IGS Working Paper Series No. 10/2013: Access to Urban Basic Services and Determinants of Satisfaction: A Comparison by Non-slum and Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City, M. Shahidul Islam & Mohammad Nasir Uddin Khan.
7. IGS Working Paper Series No. 11/2013:, Improving Tax Compliance in Bangladesh: A Study of Value-Added Tax (VAT), Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, June 2013
8. IGS Working Paper Series No. 12/2013: Who trusts others? Community and Individual Determinants of social capital in Bangladesh, M. Niaz Asadullah, July 2013.
9. IGS Working Paper Series No. 13/2013: Decentralized Local Governance Policy Framework for Bangladesh, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, July 2013.
10. IGS Working Series No. 14/2013: Inclusive Governance at the Local Level in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges, Akhter Hussain, Ph.D, M. Mafizur Rahman & Farhana Razzaque, July 2013.
11. IGS Working Series No. 15/2013: Institutional Approach to Anti-corruption: An Evaluation of the Anti Corruption Commission in Bangladesh, Md. Harun Or Rashid, July 2013.
12. IGS Working Series No. 16/2013: Democratic Consolidation in Bangladesh: A Reality Check, Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, July 2013.
13. IGS Working Series No. 17/2013: Civil Society Organisations in Climate Change Adaptation: Paani Committee's Movement for Tidal River Management in South-west Bangladesh, Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury & Rigan Chakma, July 2013.
14. IGS Working Series No. 18/2013: Primary Education in Bangladesh: Policy Transfer, External Influence and National Ownership, Mohammad Sirajul Islam & Jannatul Fardosh, July 2013
15. ESID Working Paper 23: Hassan, Mirza. (2013), Political Settlement Dynamics in a Limited Access Order: The Case of Bangladesh, University of Manchester, UK.
16. ICTD working paper 14, Hassan, Mirza & Pritchard, Wilson. (2013). Negotiating the Politics of Tax Reform in Bangladesh, IDS, University of Sussex, UK.
17. BDI Working paper, issue 7, Huq, Lopita. Kabeer, Naila & Mahmud, Simeen. (2013). Diverging Stories of Son Preference in South Asia: A Comparison of India and Bangladesh. BRAC Development Institute.

### Research Briefs and Other Publications in Peer Reviewed Periodicals

1. Afroze, Rahnuma. (2013). Women Parliamentary Caucus. SARSWP Technical Brief, issue 2. Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST).
2. Afroze, Rahnuma. (2013). Regional Mechanism for Women's Political Participation in South Asia: Problem and Perspective. SARSWP Technical Brief, issue 3. Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST).
3. Akter, Marufa. (2013). Women in Politics in South Asia. SARSWP Technical Brief, issue 1. Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST).
4. Akter, Marufa. (2013). UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its Implication. SARSWP



Technical Brief, issue 4. Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST).

### **Policy Notes/Articles & Op-Eds**

In 2013, BIGD produced four policy notes under Public Procurement Reform Project II. These are “Improving Transparency in Public Procurement in Bangladesh: Interplay between PPA and RTI Act”, “Role of Mass Media in Facilitating Citizen Participation in Bangladesh Public Procurement”,

“Issues and Challenges in Public Procurement Bidding: Bangladesh's Experience”, and “Increasing Transparency and Accountability in Municipal Public Procurement through Citizen Engagement”

In 2013, BIGD researchers have published fourteen working papers which are available at <http://igs-bracu.ac.bd/research/working-paperbackground-paper> and published 36 newspaper articles and Op-Eds which are available at this link: <http://igs-bracu.ac.bd/research/articles>.



## BRAC Institute of Global Health

### OVERVIEW

BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) was established as an autonomous institution within the university in June 2013. BIGH - encompassing the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) and the Department of Midwifery - aims to become a world leader in interdisciplinary global health education through advocacy and evidence sharing to influence both national and global policy. Indeed, this has been a year of transitions; setting up of new institutions and consolidation of existing ones.

The Institute was delighted to welcome its first Executive Director, Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury, who was the institutional lead at the World Bank on reproductive/maternal and child health prior to joining this position. Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid was appointed Dean of JPGSPH after Professor Timothy G Evans moved to the World Bank as Director of Health and Nutrition Programme.

The Department of Midwifery was founded in July 2013 to oversee the pioneering three-year Community-based Midwifery Diploma Programme (CMDP) which is now being implemented through six partner organisations across Bangladesh.

JPGSPH's flagship MPH programme saw 54 students graduate this year, 30 of whom were international students. The Continuing Education Programme (CEP) organised 15 comprehensive short courses for over 320 health professionals, covering an array of issues such as oncology, TB, mental health, malaria, urban health and governance. Moreover, BIGH and its Centres organised 18 high-profile workshops and seminars this year.

Faculty and researchers also contributed to public health debates outside the classroom through 15 high-quality publications in different international journals.

Overall, 2013 has been an exciting and productive year in the field of public health education and research at BRAC University, signalling transformations and continued excellence.

### BRAC Institute of Global Health

BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) was established as an autonomous institute following a

BRAC University Board of Trustees (BOT) decision on June 26, 2013. It incorporates the prestigious James P Grant School of Public Health, founded in August 2004, and the Department of Midwifery, founded in July 2013. Later in the year, the BOT also approved the soon-to-be-launched Department of Nursing under BIGH.

BIGH's vision is: 'Transformation in health through innovations.' As an independent institution under BRAC University, BIGH focuses on multidisciplinary and innovative approaches to education, research and advocacy. The Institute strives to transform health systems by delivering high-quality education and research to put knowledge in the service of society and train the next generation of national and global health leaders.

BRAC Institute of Global Health aims to become a worldwide leader in interdisciplinary global health education. The Institute promotes public health, midwifery and nursing education and training to harness knowledge and know-how in pursuit of health equity. At the same time, BIGH endeavours to catalyse and conduct innovative research grounded in country realities and responses to changing global burden of diseases as well as influence both national and global policy through advocacy and evidence sharing.

### EDUCATION

#### James P Grant School of Public Health at BIGH

The James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BIGH is an internationally renowned educational and research institution focusing on the integral areas of teaching, research and advocacy. The School has institutional partnerships with BRAC and icddr,b and under its wing it has: the Master of Public Health programme, Continuing Education Programme and three Centres of Excellence on research and advocacy in key areas of universal health coverage, urban equity and health, and gender, reproductive and sexual health rights.

The flagship MPH programme has been running successfully since 2005, and allows post-graduate students to gain competency in a range of public health concepts. Thus far, over 300 students have



*Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Graduate Forum ceremony*

graduated from 26 different countries. The first trimester of the curriculum covers basic concepts of public health including culture and human values, anthropological approaches, training in community diagnosis and management of public health such as health systems and health economics. The second trimester covers topics in public health practice including epidemiology of infectious diseases, environment health and climate change, sexual and reproductive health/maternal health and rights, nutrition, and public health communication, monitoring and evaluation. The year wraps up with an independent research thesis.

The MPH programme has been featured in the Bulletin of the World Health Organisation as a leading School of Public Health promoting and practicing innovative higher public health education (<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/12/07-011207/en/index.html>).

Some highlights of the School's activities in 2013 are as follows:

- Orientation of the 9<sup>th</sup> batch MPH was held from January 26 to 30, 2013. Amongst the total 54 students, 30 were international students from Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Nepal, UK, USA and South Sudan.
- Mirak Raj Angdembe from Nepal, a student of the MPH 8<sup>th</sup> batch, received the Chancellor's Gold Medal during the BRAC University Convocation. He also received the Nepal Bidhya Bhusan award – a state honour for academic excellence – in September 2013.
- The students of the 9<sup>th</sup> MPH batch had 13 field visits to different parts of the country as an integral

element of curriculum which helps students to develop a practical understanding of the course material.

- JPGSPH hosted 10 students from Nagasaki University along with two faculty members for three weeks as part of its international internship programme. The School also received 10 interns from George Washington University who worked closely with faculty and other colleagues on research, training and teaching.
- Students participated in learning from BRAC, the largest NGO in the world, by sending students to review and learn from programmes in Mymensingh, Rangpur, Sylhet and Srimangol.
- Under the Next Generation of Public Health Experts Project (NGPHEP), the School offered 30 scholarships with full and partial tuition waivers for local MPH students. The School also supports three women enrolled in PhD programmes in Australia, Germany and Thailand. This grant also provided research fellowships, internship placements countrywide for MPH graduates; thereby developing capacity of the next generation of public health leaders.

### **Continuing Education Programme at JPGSPH, BIGH**

The public health sector is dynamic and ever-changing, and health professionals must be up-to-date in their knowledge to effectively tackle challenges. Therefore, the School, in collaboration with icddr,b Technical Training Unit and many other partners, acts as a national and international training hub through its Continuing Education Programme

(CEP). The overarching goals of CEP are to provide relevant and timely education for practicing public health professionals in the country and in the region. The courses provide knowledge about conceptual framework, possibilities and challenges of current public health issues as well as assessing strengths and weaknesses of different mechanisms in theory and application across countries. These training courses are suitable for relevant officials in governmental and non-governmental institutions, research institutions and professionals interested in this field. Different development partners including GFATM, GIZ, USAID, UNICEF, DFID, WHO, Rockefeller, BRAC, JICA, IDRC, AUSAID, EU, Netherlands Embassy and the Government of Bangladesh have been supportive and working closely with CEP to take forward critical courses needed to develop health professionals in the country and in the region.

The Continuing Education Programme has hosted a wide range of innovative short courses for health professionals, some in conjunction with its partner icddr,b. Since its inception, over 4,800 health professionals have received training. In 2013, CEP organised 15 short courses and trained 324 participants in various issues, including oncology, TB, mental health, malaria, urban health and governance.

### Department of Midwifery

The Department of Midwifery launched its Community-based Midwifery Diploma Programme

(CMDP) on January 28, 2013. The three-year diploma programme, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, is funded by DFID and run in partnership with six implementing partner organisations (IPO). The CMDP has also established technical partnerships with the International Confederation of Midwives, Jhpiego, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council and BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme.

A curriculum-sharing workshop was held on July 5, 2012 at the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council Auditorium. The objective of the meeting was to share the BRAC University Diploma in Midwifery curriculum with stakeholders from the government as well as development partners for their valuable input. Welcome addresses were delivered by Ms Shuriya Begum, Registrar, Bangladesh Nursing Council, and Dr. SAJ Musa, Director, PHC and Line Director (MNCAH), DGHS.

A five-week faculty development training session took place with technical assistance from LSTM from September 3 to October 17, 2012. Total 32 faculty members from the implementing partner organisations participated in this training for preparing a new generation of educated midwives through the three-year diploma programme.

The first annual Midwifery Open School 2013 was celebrated across the region on September 21, 2013. The event was attended by over 900 participants



*Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG interacting with first year midwifery students in Sylhet*



across the IPO sites - Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh and Sylhet.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of November was a memorable day for the 60 students enrolled in the Community-based Midwifery Diploma Programme in Sylhet, as Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, BRAC founder and Chair, visited the programme. The high-profile visit offered an opportunity for the students to directly interact with Sir Abed and senior executives of BRAC including Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson of BRAC, Mr Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director of BRAC International Programmes, and Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Director of BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme.

## RESEARCH AT BIGH

### Centres of Excellence

The School at BIGH has three Centres of Excellence, two of which are jointly led by JPGSPH faculty and icddr,b staff. The Centres play a leadership role in the production of knowledge, application and capacity development to effectively confront complex health challenges. Each Centre focuses on specific public health areas and aims to bring training and research into the mainstream. Accordingly, the Centres invest in research, knowledge sharing and building capacity amongst key stakeholders locally, regionally and globally. For instance, the Centres organised 18 seminars, symposiums and international workshops in 2013. The Centres are:

1. Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR)
2. Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC) - jointly led by JPGSPH and icddr,b
3. Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) - jointly led by JPGSPH and icddr,b

The BRAC Institute of Global Health has a proven capacity to undertake research and advocacy activities on an array of development issues. The Institute is greatly aided in its research endeavours by partnerships with over 70 national and international institutions/organisations, including BRAC University, BRAC and icddr,b. In terms of ongoing research, the BIGH team has been conducting 24 research studies, including research on health systems, equity, gender,

service delivery and human rights (i.e. MOVE-IT, REACHOUT, Go4Health, JALI, PMNCH, TB Research, Health Workforce, MATS, Rural Retention, Nutrition, Urban Slum Settlements etc). In addition, BIGH has been taking the lead in the European Commission-funded national study Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP). In December, FSNSP published its latest bulletin on the findings of Round 10 (February-April 2013). The FSNSP team also organised a roundtable discussion on monitoring to scale-up nutrition on October 8, 2013 and completed data collection for Round 12 in November 2013. The key recommendations of the roundtable were on standardisation of indicators and ensuring quality of data.

A team working at the Centre for Urban Equity and Health attended an international social science conference held in Singapore from December 13 to 16, 2013. The team won a prize for their poster on mobilising demand for primary health care among the urban poor in Bangladesh. The Health Systems in Asia Reform conference was held as part of IDRC's activity of disseminating research locally as well as globally. The poster won the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up prize. CUEH co-hosted a pioneering two-day symposium - Urban Health Symposium: Taking Action for Healthy Cities in Bangladesh - at the PKSf Auditorium in Dhaka on November 22 and 23, 2013. This was held in partnership with icddr,b, GIZ, Bangladesh Urban Health Network, Eminence, UNDP, DFAT and the University of Dhaka.

The CGSRHR has been awarded a four-year Nuffic grant of approximately EUR 350,000 to undertake sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) research and curriculum development with local partners RHSTEP and Niport, regional partner CREA and Dutch institutions University of Radboud, Rutgers and MDF. The project's focus is to build and strengthen national capacity in technical and vocational education and training and higher education on gender and SRHR, to create recognition and a holistic understanding of SRHR, thereby empowering women in Bangladesh.

The CoE-UHC signed a five-year agreement with US-based Abt Associates as a sub-grantee worth over USD 115,000 for Health Financing and Governance Project. 'Tanahashi Rounds' - a joint platform co-organised by the Centre of Excellence for Universal

Health Coverage and UNICEF Bangladesh - aims to foster reflection and discussion amongst key stakeholders on how to identify and overcome critical barriers to universal coverage of essential interventions for health in Bangladesh. In 2013 there were six successful Tanahashi Rounds on a variety of pertinent topics including public health education, eye care, and ICT in health care delivery. Furthermore, the CoE-UHC and UNICEF Bangladesh signed an agreement on August 5, 2013 to establish a long-term collaboration.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria TB research project team completed data collection in four districts for the TBDM-Comorbidity study on October 10, 2013.

A pilot launching ceremony of the MOVE-IT project was held on August 25, 2013 at the BRAC Learning Centre, Rangpur. The project aims to register all pregnant mothers and their children in Bangladesh in a unified electronic information system by leveraging a multi-stakeholder collaborative framework. Representatives from all key stakeholders, including DGHS, mPOWER and BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, were present at the ceremony.

In conclusion, 2013 has been an exciting year for the BRAC Institute of Global Health; a year in which the Institute has embarked on its journey towards 'transformation in health through innovations'.

### Transitions

- Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury joined the BRAC Institute of Global Health as Executive Director in August 2013. Prior to joining BIGH, Dr. Chowdhury was the institutional lead at the World Bank on reproductive/maternal and child health. Prior to that, she was also Director of HNP at BRAC from 1992 to 1998.
- Dr. Sabina F Rashid was appointed Dean of JPGSPH in July 2013. Previously, she was Associate Dean at the School. She joined the School in 2004.
- Professor Malabika Sarker became Director of Research at JPGSPH in early 2013.
- Professor Syed Masud Ahmed joined as Director of the Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage at JPGSPH, BIGH in July 2013. Before this, he was Senior Research Co-ordinator at the Research and Evaluation Division of BRAC in Bangladesh.
- Ms Monwara Begum joined BIGH in October of 2013 as Director, Finance and Administration. She retired from the government service as Additional Secretary in 2011.
- Dr. Zeba Mahmud joined BIGH as Director, Nutrition in December 2013. Prior to joining BIGH, she was country director of the Micronutrient Initiative, Bangladesh.
- Ms Ismat Bhuiya became Director of the Department of Midwifery when it was established in July 2013.
- Professor Timothy G Evans, former Dean, moved to the World Bank as Director HNP; Dr. Arkan Hossain, former Programme Manager of FSNP Project, moved to Afghanistan as Surveillance Medical Officer of World Health Organisation.

### Selected Publications

1. Adams, A.M., Rabbani, A., Ahmed, S., Mahmood, S.S., Al-Sabir A., Rashid S.F. and Evans, T.G. (2013). Explaining equity gains in child survival in Bangladesh: scale, speed, and selectivity in health and development. *The Lancet*, 382(9909), 2027-2037.
2. Ahmed, S.M., Evans, T.G., Standing, H. and Mahmud, S. (2013). Harnessing pluralism for better health in Bangladesh. *The Lancet*, 382(9906), 1746-1755.
3. Biswas, S. and Rahman, T. (2013). The Effect of Working Place on Worker's Health in a Tannery in Bangladesh. *Advances in Anthropology*, 3(1), 46-53.
4. Chowdhury, A.H., Bhuiya, I. and Shah, R. (2013). Report on secondary data findings regarding early marriage and early childbearing - TRAction study on understanding the role of community in preventing early marriage and early childbearing: an exploratory study. Dhaka, Bangladesh: icddr, b and BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University.
5. Habib, E., Khan, T.U.H., Sarker, M., Islam, S., Islam, A., Husain, A. and Rashid, S.F. (2013).

- Exploring the Roles, Practices and Service Delivery Mechanism of Health Service Providers Regarding TB in Two Urban Slums of Dhaka. *Current Urban Studies*, 1(4), 139-147.
6. Htike, W., Islam, M.A., Hasan, M.T., Ferdous, S. and Rifat, M. (2013). Factors associated with treatment delay among tuberculosis patients referred from a tertiary hospital in Dhaka City: a cross-sectional study. *Public Health Action*, 3(4), 317-322.
  7. Joarder T., Uddin A. and Islam, A. (2013). Achieving Universal Health Coverage: State of Community Empowerment in Bangladesh. *Global Health Governance*, VI(2) (Summer 2013).
  8. Joarder, T. (2013). New perspective on IAH. Newsletter: International Health Policies.
  9. Khan, J.A.M. and Ahmed, S. (2013). Impact of educational intervention on willingness-to-pay for health insurance: A study of informal sector workers in urban Bangladesh. *Health Economics Review*, 2013, 3:12.
  10. Levay, A.V., Mumtaz, Z., Rashid, S.F. and Willows, N. (2013). Influence of gender roles and rising food prices on poor, pregnant women's eating and food provisioning practices in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Reproductive Health*, 2013, 10:53.
  11. Rashid, S.F., Gani, M.S., and Sarker, M. (2013). Urban Poverty, Climate Change and Health Risks for Slum Dwellers in Bangladesh. In Shaw R., Mallick F., Islam A. (Eds.). *Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Bangladesh* (51-70). Tokyo: Springer Japan.
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## BRAC Institute of Languages

### BIL overview

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) of BRAC University is working with the goal to assist students in developing the language skills they need to become successful in graduate schools and in their professional lives. BIL focuses on implementing student-centered and creative language teaching techniques by developing modules based on students' proficiency levels. This not only eliminates the possibility of having mixed ability classes, but also ensures small classes with excellent interaction between teachers and learners. BIL believes in innovation; the faculty members always put their best efforts to make creative plans for teaching materials and methods by bringing together modern teaching techniques and the needs of the students. The objectives of BIL faculty members are to inspire students to learn and to enhance the language skills they have.

### MA in TESOL launched at BRACU by BIL

After successfully finishing two certificate courses in TESOL during 2012, while it was waiting to get permission to become an Institute, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) started the first course for MA in TESOL, with 21 students.

### Paper Publication

A paper titled "The Negative Backwash Effect in Testing of Reading of the Intermediate Learners in Bangladesh" written by Ashik Sarwar, lecturer of BIL, was published in March, 2013 in the BPDM Journal of Research, Issue 1, Volume 1.

### Paper Presentation

Sefat Irine Mou, lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages, BIL presented a paper titled "Searching the Soul in Solitude" at the Seminar Series of English Department, East West University on February 2013. This paper was a review of the book "Letter to a child Never Born" by Oriana Fallaci.

### 2013 TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo

Roxana Ahmed Chowdhury, lecturer of BIL, attended the 2013 TESOL International Convention and English

Language Expo held from March 20-23, in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas Convention Hall.

### BIL Workshops

In order to create a common platform for language practitioners and to expand the perception of contemporary techniques and approaches of language teaching, BRAC Institute of Languages conducts different workshops on language teaching throughout the year.

#### *Workshop on Learning, Pedagogy & Innovation*

This workshop was conducted by Golam Jamil, Senior Lecturer of BIL on June 15, 2013. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree at the University of Southampton, UK.

#### *The BIL Workshop Series: 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop*

The second workshop of the BIL Workshop Series was successfully conducted on January 26, 2013. This presentation was conducted by Nazua Idris, one of the participants from the first workshop that was held on December 23, 2012. The topic of this workshop was "Using Screen Adaptations to Improve Critical Reading". The session was successfully completed with very enthusiastic participation from all the members present. It is to be noted that Nazua Idris is a lecturer in the Department of English at Stamford University, Dhaka.





### *The BIL Workshop Series: 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop*

On March 9, 2013, BIL hosted the third workshop of the BIL Workshop Series which was conducted by Elizabeth Platt, a US Visiting Scholar who shared her specializations in second language learning and curriculum development in developing countries, along with Kaspia Sultana, Assistant Professor of School of Arts & Social Science of American International University Bangladesh (AIUB), on “Working Backwards through Green Packaging”.

### *The 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop of the BIL Workshop Series*

On June 15, 2013, the 4<sup>th</sup> BIL workshop of the BIL Workshop Series was conducted by two BIL faculty members, Liza Reshmin, Senior Lecturer (Academic Coordinator) and Ashik Sarwar, Lecturer. The workshop was on Critical Thinking which is an increasingly emphasized word in ELT (English Language Teaching) around the world today.

### *5<sup>th</sup> Session of BIL Workshop Series*

On September 28, 2013, the fifth session of BIL Workshop Series, an event organized by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University was on Task-Based Learning (TBL), and was conducted by Beth Trudell, an English Language Consultant. Beth has been working with BIL since 2006.

### **BIL Faculty Members participate in a Two-Day Workshop**

The BIL faculty members participated in a two-day workshop on July 12 and 13, 2013, titled “Teaching across Proficiency Levels and Assessment, Evaluation, and Testing”, conducted by Dr. Sharmin Khan. Dr. Khan also facilitated a workshop titled “Assessment and Rubric” where she assisted the participants to modify the existing rubric.

### **Workshops by Beth Trudell for the BIL faculty members**

Beth Trudell conducted a series of three workshops. A group of BIL faculty members, along with participants from the departments of ENH and IED, BRAC University, attended the workshops. The three workshops from September 1 to 3, 2013 were respectively on Facilitation Skills, Responding to Students' Writing and Critical Thinking. Beth is an English Language consultant and has been associated with BIL for the past seven years.

### **BIL faculty member attended training session**

Pankaj Paul, Lecturer, BIL, attended a training session on Analytical Thinking Skills organized by LogicMills, Singapore from July 29 to August 2, 2013. After coming back, he shared his learning and experience of the session in the presence of Lady Abed, Director, BIL and faculty members of BIL.

### **BIL Faculty visited Hornby Regional School in Kathmandu, Nepal**

Mohammad Rejaul Karim, Lecturer, BIL attended a week-long workshop in Nepal from November 26-30, 2013 on Low Resource Classroom. The workshop focuses on using minimum resources in the classroom, handling correction of students' written work in large classes, dealing with weaker students, etc.

### **Faculty on Leave for Ph.D**

Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, Senior Lecturer of BIL, has received Graduate Assistantship to pursue her Ph.D at the State University of New York, Albany. For her Ph.D, she will work closely to minimize the reading difficulties, which is now believed to be the root cause of writing and speaking difficulties for struggling students.



### **BIL Faculty receives an ELT Teacher Trainer certificate from the British Council**

Mohammad Rejaul Karim, Lecturer, BIL has been certified from the British Council as an ELT teacher trainer.



### **DevPro-31 Certificate Giving Ceremony**

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) successfully completed Development Professional (DevPro) course for the 31<sup>st</sup> batch and distributed certificates to



the deserving candidates. The course started on March 18, 2013 and 16 participants of BRAC Education Program (BEP) attended the course.

### Orientation Course (RAI Foundation Scholarship)

An orientation course was designed and conducted for the recipients of the RAI Foundation Scholarship at Dev-Pro Centre, by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL). The course focused on skills needed to study in foreign universities. In Bangladesh, RAI Foundation works in collaboration with BRAC and for the last 5 years, underprivileged meritorious female students went to study in RAI Foundation University in India. This year, ten students have received scholarships to study in Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Fashion Designing.



*Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed with RAI Foundation Scholarship-2013 recipients*

### Listening and Reading Lab Inaugurated

The honourable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University,

Professor Ainun Nishat, inaugurated the BIL Listening and Reading Lab amid the presence of BIL Director, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Chairperson of English & Humanities Department Professor Firdous Azim, a visiting team from British Council and other members of staff of the university.

### Launching of General English Proficiency Development Course for Service Staff

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has launched a General English Proficiency Development Course (GEPDC) for all the service staff of both Savar and Mohakhali campuses of BRAC University, which includes the lift operators, the café staff, the drivers and all the office assistants.

### ToT for the 'English Course for BRACU Service Staff'

A day-long Training of Trainers (ToT) for the tutors of 'English for BRACU Service Staff' course was organized at the Dev-Pro (Development Professional) Centre by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL).

### BIL's Pride

We are proud to mention that three former students of BRAC Medhabikash Program, Md. Abdullah Al Mamun, Umme Sharmin Kabir and Rebeka Sultana Doly, have joined BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) and BUIED. Mamun has joined as a Teaching



Assistant at BIL, while Sharmin and Rebeka have started working as material developers at BUIED. Simultaneously, they are pursuing MA in TESOL at BIL.

### **A trip to the Savar campus by the students of MA in TESOL**

The students of MA in TESOL took a weekend trip to the BRAC Savar campus where they attended their regular classes and participated in some entertaining activities. The occasion became special with a visit from Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, honourable Chairperson of BRACU Board of Trustees and Lady

Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director of BRAC Institute of Languages. Sir Abed's inspirational words motivated and encouraged the students. The Academic Coordinator of MA in TESOL program, Dr. Sayeedur Rahman, and faculty members, Ms. Neelima Akter and Mr. Zohur Ahmed, accompanied the students during this trip.

### **BIL celebrates Pohela Boishakh**

BIL celebrated the Bangla New Year by organizing a get together of all its faculty members. The purpose of this festive occasion was to strengthen the team spirit among the teachers.



*BRACU MA in TESOL students with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, honourable Chair of BRACU at Savar*



## Institute of Educational Development

The Institute of Educational Development (IED) works through capacity development, research and advocacy to develop education in Bangladesh from multiple angles. In particular IED focuses on: supporting the public sector through capacity development and textbook support; developing school models for quality education and large-scale educational research; as well as advocating in the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD), emotional wellbeing and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) through training and research.

Whilst there is on-going work to constantly improve its various educational and training courses, IED's major activities of 2013 place a large emphasis on incorporating innovative paths of wellbeing and quality into its new programmes. This is achieved through fostering creative and alternative educational methods and models in Bangladesh that regard the holistic wellbeing of a learner, and not simply the delivery of content. From diverse groups, much of the recent research is now extending its breadth to include mental health to its findings.

IED partners with various other organisations, the Government and its national curriculum board, and has most recently increased its private-sector engagement. The Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) is IED's largest donor partner.

### SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC SECTOR

#### M.Ed in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management

IED's popularly established and nationally recognised Masters of Education in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management provides government officials and private individuals with the opportunity to explore educational theory and practice within the context of Bangladesh.

2013 saw the 4<sup>th</sup> batch of government officials conclude the 1-year full-time programme. In 2012, the course expanded to include an evening session for professionals and private individuals. This session in 2013 saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch also successfully begin their programme.

#### Short Courses

IED is also involved in the capacity development of government officials and teachers through its



An MEd student presents his thesis



Art camp at the BRAC Nobodhara School mela



provision of short courses and trainings. Performed in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), over 500 head teachers and government officials have completed these short courses.

In 2013, this partnership encountered new training opportunities with the World Bank-funded Reach-Out-of School-Children (ROSC) Project-II. This subsequently allowed IED to train Resource Persons and Training Coordinators. For this project IED is also working with the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, to train the selected participants.

### **Textbook Development**

IED further engages in supporting the public sector through working in collaboration with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB). Having had previous successful engagements with the NCTB on the design and layout of primary and secondary textbooks, IED is continuing to work with them on refining textbooks for Grades 1-5. This latest project opened collaboration with CfBT (Centre for British Teachers), Education Trust in a project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

## **LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH**

As a research institute, large-scale educational research initiatives are an inherent component of IED. Important studies include research on virtual exclusion with the University of Sussex and 3 Education Watch studies. Working in collaboration with the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), IED conducted an Education Watch study through a nationwide household survey of 23,610 young people (aged 10-24 years) that explores their access to, and participation in, skills development activities, employment and apprenticeships, as well as their expectations and needs with regards to skills development. This report was finalised and published in 2013.

With a new 2013 angle on understanding deeper aspects of overall adolescent wellbeing, IED is heading and designing a needs assessment study with Population Council that brings in elements of physical and emotional wellbeing to complement the IED's intervention designs. It explores a more delicate route of research that will allow for academic and non-academic skill development programmes used for

building positive youth development. One of Bangladesh's greatest educational weaknesses is the high rate of student dropout cases. These interventions thus also aim to provide adolescents with the skills required for them to retain in school through a path of healthy development and heightened sense of self worth.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

### **Diploma/MSc in Early Childhood Development**

The Masters of Science in Early Childhood Development (ECD) offered by IED, is the first Masters of its kind in Bangladesh. It offers options to end the programme with a Certificate, Diploma or Masters thesis. Developed in conjunction with Columbia University, USA, the programme looks to create a greater number of professionals in the ECD field in Bangladesh. 2013 saw the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of students completing the course.

In 2013 IED began designing a new course on "Positive and Effective Parenting" for this Programme, in consultation with course experts from Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA. The course consolidates previous research findings and training workshops that highlight the significance of parenting for healthy child development, and hopes to launch as a 3-credit course in the next academic year.

### **ECD Research**

This past year, IED has been exploring emerging areas in ECD through its research. This includes developing a Comprehensive Child Development Package and the Global Rating of Environments (GROE) for Bangladesh. In 2013, IED began piloting GROE by receiving training; conducting expert opinion sessions; and carrying out fieldwork at the pre-primary programme of the DPE, the SBK and preschool programmes of Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children and BRAC, and also the childcare centres of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Phulki. Factor analysis of the data was started in December 2013.

The latest research has now delved into new realms of psychosocial wellbeing, including research into 'Maternal Mental Health and Infant Stimulation' and the 'Emotional Wellbeing of Children' (funded by the Aga Khan Foundation). Both these projects emphasise cognitive and psychological factors in

education and parenting, either that of the students' reactions to various teaching styles, or children's reactions to the various mothers' state of mind during pregnancy. Furthermore 'ECD in Emergencies' has become a topic of growing importance, with research stretching into 'Issues with Families and Children in Disasters'.

### SCHOOL MODEL DESIGN

Expanding its scope into new areas of work, IED is engaged in the designing and piloting of new school models that study dynamic and alternative educational methods. They aim to serve the communities and students in the areas the schools are set up. The broader purpose of these interventions is: to develop a model that is sustainable and replicable; to conduct research for evidence and theme-based advocacy; and to influence national and global policies.

### SSCOPE

The first of these school designs, entitled SSCOPE (Schooling, SRHR, Gender and Counselling for the Children of Post-Primary Education), is a low-cost secondary education school model that explores how general education can be provided to underprivileged adolescents. The programme initially began to address the student dropout cases, and provide a medium for them to have a second chance at education.

Launched in 2013, the spotlight of these schools became their unique integration of the Shomaj Shongee (Community Psychosocial Support) Programme. Here, community Para-Counsellors are appointed to provide support solely focusing on the emotional wellbeing of the children and issues of SRHR and gender. They work alongside the regular curriculum teachers and parents, and provide interactive classes that give tools to these vulnerable children for increasing their mental strength, awareness, knowledge on gender and abuse rights, as well as extended family support. During the week, they give six classes to the children outside the regular curriculum, where five classes pertain to psychological topics and one for SRHR and gender.

In 2013, IED successfully expanded SSCOPE, where the latest figures include: 33 new centres opened in Dhaka; 25 new Para-Counsellors, with training; 95 trained teachers from different urban areas of Dhaka;

and a total of 1,215 students who were admitted in these centres in Grade 6.



*Students at SSCOPE*

### BRAC Nobodhara School

The second school model IED is piloting is a fee-paying quality education model called the BRAC Nobodhara School. Being developed at the request of BRAC, the model has high aims and expectations to increase the quality of mainstream education through emphasising student-centred learning and the holistic development of learners in a way that is sustainable, replicable, and scalable. The model includes Pre-Primary, Primary, and Secondary Education along with Early Learning and Childcare centres, and was launched in January 2014.

Throughout 2013, a group of dedicated researchers set out to design an innovative curriculum that would incorporate international elements of a healthy pedagogy. This required revamping and redesigning the national curriculum textbooks to include substantial amounts of interactive learning sessions and co-curricular activities with several complementing learning materials. After months of vast research on quality, material development, school designing, and teacher training invested in this school, the BRAC Nobodhara School has finally reached its stage of a soft launch.

### EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND SRHR

Emotional wellbeing and SRHR are rising areas that IED has been advocating and developing for adolescents and workers in the private sector. IED extended its services to provide counselling support to victims, families and carers in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza disaster, and has since been exploring provisions of emotional wellbeing for garments workers, as well as how to better prepare for trauma and disaster management and psychological first aid. Additionally, in a project with Nuffic, Netherlands, IED has begun work on developing short courses regarding SRHR and emotional wellbeing.

## Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

Since its initiation, BRAC University has conducted research on climate change and disaster management in direct collaboration with BRAC. The Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) helps building synergy between BRACU and BRAC in the field of climate change and other environmental issues.

The Centre promotes a vision to ensure partnerships with further national and international organizations as appropriate. Resources and expertise offered by the departments, schools and institutes of the university have been mobilized in the fields pertinent to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Particular attention is given to research in the area of adverse impact of climate change on health, food security, poverty and livelihood, displacement and migration, loss and damage assessment, renewable energy, negotiation process, technology transfer, education and awareness. In addition to this, C3ER has already arranged a number of training sessions and public lectures on climate change and disaster management in association with other departments of BRAC University.

### Vision

C3ER believes in delivering better solutions for building a climate resilient society, and takes pride in reaffirming our commitment to the most vulnerable communities at the proletarian level. Its vision is to be the spearhead of research and academic inquiry on environmental and climate change, providing the highest quality education and training for both the youth and professionals. C3ER wants to see a future where communities are capacitated and strengthened, and lives and livelihoods are free from the risk of climate change.

### What we do

The environment and possible future environmental changes have widespread repercussions on different sectors including human health, wellbeing, and the economy. C3ER engages a holistic approach to climate change and environmental research, focusing on physical science, adaptation, and mitigation measures. It coordinates by correlating different organizations and institutions together, thereby establishing a progressive connection between BRAC and BRAC University.

### Research

Through its activities and research projects, C3ER aims to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of the affected people of Bangladesh at the local level, by enhancing their sensitivity and strengthening their adaptive ability. Enhanced appropriate knowledge research design and implementation, effective dissemination, through policy mainstreaming are the focal points. C3ER works to bring researchers and policy makers together, in order to progress protection, adaptation, and mitigation programs. Additionally, the Centre works for developing institutional capacity to address environmental and climate issues.

### C3ER Team

In order to understand the dynamic nature of climate change and environmental degradation, C3ER has built up a multidisciplinary team with engineers, environmental scientists, policy analysts, and social scientists. C3ER is functioning as a hub and brings various organizations together to collaborate on research projects. A dynamic team persevering to reach new heights, C3ER explores the issues and





possibilities interrelated to climate change and the environment with a holistic and integrated approach.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Advisor of C3ER is the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University since July 2010. Previously he was the Country Representative, Bangladesh followed by Senior Advisor Climate Change, Asia Region to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He started his career as Assistant Engineer at the Water Development Board and later joined BUET as a lecturer in 1972 in the Civil Engineering Department and became a Professor in 1985. He retired from BUET in 1998 to join IUCN.

Nandan Mukherjee is working as Director in the C3ER of BRACU. He is serving C3ER since August, 2011. Professionally, Mr. Mukherjee is a Civil Engineer with ten years of experience in the sector of climate change and water management. He graduated in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh Institute of Engineering and Technology, Khulna in 2001. He completed his M.Sc. on Water Resources Engineering in 2004 from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology with particular emphasis on Participatory Water Resources Management. Mr. Mukherjee completed his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in 2010 from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) under the University of Dhaka.

Dr. Md. Sajidur Rahman has been working as Assistant Professor in the C3ER of BRACU since October 2012. Professionally, Mr. Rahman obtained his Ph.D in environment monitoring using remote sensing and GIS. He graduated in Applied Physics & Electronics from Rajshahi University. He started his career in Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) as Research Fellow. Mr. Rahman joined Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in May 2005 and rendered his services in the Remote Sensing Division.

A S Moniruzzaman Khan has been working as Assistant Professor at the C3ER of BRACU since March 2013. Mr. Khan recently earned his M.S. in Geography and Environmental Resources from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), USA. Mr. Khan also earned MSc in Natural Resources Management from Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand and another MSc in Geography from the University of Dhaka. Mr. Khan was involved in

teaching, research and development work in the country and abroad.

Roufa Khanum has been working as Coordinator-Operation in the C3ER of BRACU since July 2012. Ms. Khanum obtained her MSc and BSc in Geography from the National University. Ms. Khanum has joined Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in February 2006 and rendered his service under the Business Development Division & Climate Study Division as Business Development Officer/GIS Specialist till August 2011.

Sharmin Nahar Nipa is a Lecturer and Research Associate for C3ER since January 2013. She has a Masters of Science in Geography and Environment at Jahangirnagar University. She is continuing a Masters on Disaster Management at the University of Dhaka.

Minhaz Farid Ahmed has been working as a Lecturer in the C3ER of BRACU. He has completed Masters in Resource and Environmental Management from North South University, Dhaka.

Md. Asif Rahman is a Lecturer of Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Research Associate at C3ER. He has been working with C3ER since July 2013. He has completed his Masters degree in the field of Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management from University of Manchester UK and Central European University, Budapest.

Imon Rahman Lecturer of Department of Pharmacy and Research Associate at C3ER, BRACU has been working since July 2012. He completed his Masters from Sweden in Biomedicine program in Skovde University.

Azmeary Ferdoush is working as a Lecturer in C3ER. He completed his Honors and Master in Sociology from the University of Dhaka. He joined C3ER to enrich the interdisciplinary milieu of the Centre. His specialization is in social research methodology.

Taslima Akter has been working as a Lecturer in C3ER of BRACU since December 2013. She completed her Bachelor in Urban and Regional Planning (BURP) from Bangladesh.

Nusrat Jahan Tania has been working as a Lecturer in C3ER of BRACU since December 2013. Ms. Tania is an economics graduate with three years of experience in the sector of Development Economics, Macroeconomics, Economic Growth and Economic Theory.





Nushrat Jahan is a Lecturer in C3ER, BRACU. She has completed her Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (BURP) degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2012. Currently she is continuing Master of Development studies at the University of Dhaka.

Md. Reaz Uddin Khan is working as a Lecturer in C3ER of BRACU. He also earned his M.Sc. in Water Resources Development from IWFM, BUET and B.Sc. in Environmental Science from Khulna University.

Farzana Rahman has been serving C3ER as a Lecturer from January, 2014. She brings over two years of development experience from both research organization and development organization. She received her Bachelor degree from the Institute of Business Administration, Jahangirnagar University.

Ali Mohammad Rezaie has taken up the post of Lecturer in C3ER at BRACU on January 2014. He received his undergraduate degree from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Water Resources Engineering and currently pursuing his Masters degree in Water Resources Development at the Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM).

Kashmia Ferdousee joined C3ER, BRACU, as a Research Assistant, in October 2013. She received her Masters degree in History from the Jahangirnagar University in 2010, and a Bachelor degree in History from Jahangirnagar University in 2009.

Mohammad Hafizul Hossain has been serving C3ER from February 2014 as a Departmental Coordination Officer. He has received his Bachelor degree in Business from United International University.

## Our Focus

**Physical Science:** Physical Science will form the backbone for research in all five other major topic areas. C3ER will focus on data collection and analysis, with an emphasis on modeling to predict future changes. This includes modeling sea level rise and storm surge, bio-physical modeling, meteorological data analysis, hydrological modeling, and vulnerability and exposure modeling.

**Adaptation:** C3ER works in helping communities understand and deal with environmental hazards along with possible future changes, using adaptation planning in health, safety, and livelihoods sectors, and thereby increasing community resilience. C3ER is also making efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning, and finding ways to ensure that environmental planning is also sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, children, and the poor.

**Mitigation:** C3ER works to ensure that Bangladesh follows a low carbon growth path, lowers gas emissions, and increases carbon sequestration. C3ER also researches on renewable and alternative energy options and increasing energy efficiency.

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** C3ER works in improving and creating disaster forecasting and early warning systems with local communities in mind, as well as making infrastructure changes that will be useful both now and in the future. C3ER also works to identify the gaps in current practices, and uses modeling to predict future disaster patterns.

**Biodiversity and Ecological Protection:** C3ER recognizes the importance of the local ecology. C3ER works on protecting and restoring Bangladesh's local ecology and resources from damage and pollution, including the wetlands of Bangladesh and its carbon dense forests.

**Policy:** C3ER reviews and revises government policies to ensure that they take climate change and environmental degradation into account. C3ER also analyzes what the stated duties of the Government of Bangladesh are towards its people and towards the environment.



by analyzing the constitution, studying government policies, and analyzing the roles of various institutions.

In addition, C3ER looks at the projections of future changes due to climate change, and how current policies may or may not address future needs.

**Governance:** Without institutional support, it would be impossible to fully implement adaptation and mitigation measures. Through policy support and institutional strengthening, C3ER works on increasing governmental capacity with regards to climate change and environmental protection. C3ER assesses the current level of duties the government has actually been implementing, and identifies gaps that need to be addressed.

#### Completed Projects of C3ER

- A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events for ICCAD
- Moving Towards “Climate Smart” BRAC; Funded by DECC, BRAC
- Climate-Smart Livelihood Options for Ultra Poor women; Funded by DECC, BRAC
- A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in Bangladesh; Funded by ICCAD
- The Role of Governance against Climate Change Induced Migration; Funded by ANSA, IGS – BRAC University
- Strengthening Governance in Wetland Management Policies; Funded by GIZ and IGS – BRAC University

#### Ongoing Projects

- Moving Towards Climate Smart BRAC: Strategies and Action Plans in District Level; Funded by DECC, BRAC
- Access to Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh; Funded by BRAC
- Multi Hazard Risk Atlas for 10 selected upazilas in Bangladesh; Funded by CDMP
- Community Based Clay Mining in Lafarge Cement Site: Obstacle and Solution; Funded by Lafarge Surma Cement
- Monitoring the Soil Salinity in the South-western Region of Bangladesh; Funded by BRAC University
- Pro-Poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP) Environmental Assessment Framework; Funded by National Housing Authority

## Global Development Learning Network Centre

BRAC University is the one and only affiliate of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) (<http://www.gdln.org>) in Bangladesh and has been operating since 2006. The Center is equipped with air conditioned, soundproofed Video Conferencing and multimedia rooms to facilitate a comfortable learning environment. Around 40 people can participate at a time, the center which is open from Sunday to Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) is a partnership of over 120 recognized global institutions (Affiliates) in over 80 countries that collaborate in the design of customized learning solutions for individuals and organizations working in education and development. Affiliates are as diverse as the Asian Institute of Management, the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the Islamic Development Bank, and Pontificia Universidad Católica of Peru.

### Mission

To bring the world together to facilitate learning and to contribute to local and global development.

Services provided by GDLN are:

- Video Conferencing courses, dialogues, meetings
- Video Conferencing facilities for computer based online training, workshops, meetings, interviews and consultations
- Teleconferences

### GDLN AP Regional Meeting on January 8-11, 2013 hosted by BRAC University, Bangladesh

BRACU-GDLN, BRAC University, hosted the GDLN Asia Pacific (GDLN AP) Regional meeting held on

January 8-11, 2013. The delegates of GDLN Centers in the Asia Pacific Region and the World Bank representatives gathered to discuss how to further augment GDLN's effectiveness as a global learning and knowledge exchange platform. In the inaugural session, Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman (State Minister), of UGC Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director Bangladesh & Nepal, The World Bank, was present as the Special Guest. Prof. Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University chaired the session.

During the inaugural session, BRAC University formally joined Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) launched by UGC.

This is the first time BRAC University organized this type of regional meeting with the collaboration of World Bank. 33 participants from 11 countries participated in this regional meeting.

### Video-seminar on Astrophysics of White Dwarf, Pulsar & Black Hole at BRAC University

BRAC University successfully conducted a video-seminar on "Astrophysics of White Dwarf, Pulsar & Black Hole" on Thursday, August 29, 2013, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am (Bangladesh time, GMT+6). It was organized in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and BRACU-GDLN Center along with University of Indonesia, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (NREN VC Center) and Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), Japan.

The key presentation was given by the eminent plasma astrophysicist Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed (Professor at the Department of Mathematics and







Natural Sciences, BRAC University). He has been working on plasmas around pulsars, neutron stars and black holes since 1985 with major publications on Physical Reviews, Physics of Plasmas, Astrophysics and Space Science. He is honored with UGC Awards in 2003 and 2007 for his contributions in this field.

Fahima Khanam, (Assistant Director, ITSO, BRAC University) acted as the moderator of the entire session. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman (Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BRAC University) was present along with a good number of in-house participants, students and faculty.

### **GDLN Regional Meeting in Korea**

GDLN Asia Pacific holds two regional meetings per year. Regional meetings offer an opportunity for members and partners to assemble and discuss innovative programs, network and technology developments, and to hold capacity development sessions. Global Development Learning Network Asia Pacific (GDLN AP) organized its second annual general Meeting in Seoul, Korea.

About 40 participants from 16 countries in the Asia Pacific region gathered to share their GDLN programs and to discuss the future direction of GDLN. Ms. Fahima Khanam, Manager BRACU-GDLN and Ishfaq Ilahi, Registrar, BRAC University attended the meeting.



### **Series Video conference of Policies and Practices of Natural Resources Management**

Natural resource management issues have been at the centre of policy debates as well environmental justice movements. Development requires not only better global economic conditions but also a cleaner environment, with sustainable use of natural resources such as energy, land, water, soil and minerals and their security at both the global and national level including availability, affordability and accessibility to all. To foster the knowledge of this sector TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) had organized a course jointly with TDLC. BRAC University GDLN Center was the local service provider of this course. Ten participants from different organization (both public and private) took part in this Series Video conference. The course was successfully completed and certificates were distributed among the participants. This Video conference continued from March to May, 2013.



### **Blended Learning Program on 'Science and Policy of Climate Change'**

The twelve-week, blended learning program, on 'Science and Policy of Climate Change' has been jointly developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in collaboration with the Tokyo Development Learning Centre (TDLC).

The program followed an interdisciplinary approach and was enriched by audio, video, and interactive web-based content. The objective of this course was to build capacities of individuals and organizations for a better understanding of climate change dynamics, evolve an interdisciplinary approach towards understanding the various challenges posed by climate change, and provide participants an opportunity to demonstrate functional knowledge of the core issues of climate change through analysis and diagnosis of real-world problems. BRACU GDLN center successfully conducted the series session. The session started from September 13, 2013 and



ended on December 13, 2013. Participants from different organizations took part on this session.

### **6<sup>th</sup> South Asian Quality Assurance System (SAQS) Accreditation Awarding Committee meeting of AMDISA**

A meeting session was held on January 11, 2013 between Indian School of Business Hyderabad and Professor Rob, Member of the Committee and the Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Bangladesh. The two-hour meeting session was successfully conducted by BRACU GDLN Center.

### **APO e-Learning Courses**

Asian Productivity Organization (APO) has introduced VC-based courses using GDLN platform each year. In 2013, 5 different courses were delivered to 20 countries (who are members of APO), the courses were:

- a) Knowledge Management Concept for the Public Sector
- b) Information Security Management System (ISMS) based on ISO27000 Series
- c) GlobalGap Standard for Greater Market Access
- d) APO e-Learning on Environmental Labels and Declarations Course
- e) Export Promotion and Market Access for Agriculture and Food Products from Asia

### **Online course on Microfinance Training of Trainers (MFTOT)**

The Microfinance Training of Trainers (MFTOT) Course was jointly sponsored by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC). The interactive microfinance distance learning course (MFDL) developed by UNCDF is the core learning material for study. This course received high rating from participants and is popular in many countries. A total of 893 in 55 countries were accredited to become a fully certified trainer of the UNCDF MFDL course.

BRACU-GDLN also participated in the ninth delivery of the Microfinance Training of Trainers course (MFTOT9) from July to November 2013. The MFTOT9 continued to pursue its goal of strengthening the institutional capacity of microfinance by making high-quality microfinance training accessible to more decision-makers, professionals and practitioners in the field of microfinance as well as increasing the number and country coverage of accredited microfinance trainers around the world with a focus in the Asia Pacific region.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Partners**

"United Nation Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology" (UNAPICT), organized its Second Partners Meeting of the "Primer Series on ICTD for Youth".

Professors and administrators from institutions of higher education across Asia and the Pacific region aimed at enhancing training in information and communication technologies for development (ICTD) for young people in the region attended the event.



Ms. Fahima Khanam, Manager, BRACU-GDLN, participated in this meeting to present a case study on "Open and Distance Learning Initiative in Bangladesh as APCICT is revamping its distance learning site and launching a Community of Practice, a digital platform for discussion and exchange of best practices for knowledge sharing.

## Teaching & Learning Centre

BRAC University has always been committed to ensuring a quality for effective teaching & learning. In order to enhance such practice, Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC) was established in 2006.

The mission of this interdisciplinary initiative is to influence measurable effectiveness in teaching, foster scholarly activities and promote innovation in teaching and learning.

The core values of TLC are:

- Concern for the students
- Quality education
- Lifelong learning
- Innovation and inclusiveness in teaching

To take forward the core values, TLC has engaged in the following activities throughout the year of 2013:

### TLC WORKSHOPS

**9<sup>th</sup> TLC Workshop on 'Teaching and Learning for Teachers (TLT), preparing well Grounded Educators'** was held during January 7-10, 2013 at BRACU. The Major focus of this workshop was to strengthen the art of effective teaching through creating an effective learning environment in the classroom. A total of fifteen faculty members participated in that workshop. The workshop was concluded with the Cob-web method, where each had the chance to share personal reflections about the whole workshop. The fourth day of workshop was concluded by giving certificates to the participants.



**10<sup>th</sup> TLC Workshop on 'Teaching and Learning for Teachers (TLT): Preparing well Grounded Educators'** was scheduled during May 6-9, 2013 at BRAC University. But due to political instability, some changes in the workshop schedule and venue were

made. The workshop was held at BRACU Mohakhali campus. The workshop focused on different relevant issues both academic and pedagogical, as well as on BRACU rules, codes of conduct, HR and accounts policies, library and ICT information and support at BRACU etc.

**11<sup>th</sup> Faculty Orientation Workshop: Steps to Success at BRAC University-** TLC successfully completed the "11<sup>th</sup> Faculty Orientation Workshop: Steps to Success at BRAC University", held at its campus from September 2-4, 2013. Nineteen faculty members of different departments who were newly recruited in BRACU attended this workshop.



### Other Workshops

TLC organized three-day program during March 20-21 and 23, 2013 on Cultivating Critical Thinking and Experiential Learning in Teaching at BRAC University. The facilitators were Dr. Mark Nowacki and Ms. Eunice Nowacki from Singapore Logic Mills School. Discussions took place on i) the strategy on how to integrate critical thinking and experiential learning in university teaching and ii) what would be the capacity building of teachers and students. Students, Faculty members and Department Heads of BRAC University participated separately in these workshops.



**Second Case writing workshop with BRACU and BRAC Faculty members** was held on February 14, 2013 at BRAC Business School. Fourteen case writers attended the workshop. The first session was on Case Teaching in Business School, facilitated by Ms. Maria May, Program Manager of BRAC's Social Innovation Lab. The following discussions were on Case Writing facilitated by Professor Syed Ferhat Anwar.

### **TLC Workshop for Admin and Management Staff**

Day-long workshop on "Organizational Behavior: Strengthening the positive impact of 5C's" on March 7, 2013 took place for the admin and management staff (batch-II) of BRAC University. A total of nineteen people participated in the workshop. Several sessions were facilitated on - Communication: Interpersonal & Organizational, Commitment: The Role of Individual Motivation and Level of Confidence, The Role of 3C's- Cooperation, Collaboration & Coordination. A number of group activities and discussions were held during the workshop. A special session on Managing Stress at the workplace was conducted by the Counseling Unit of BRAC University.

### **TLC Follow-up Workshops**

TLC Follow-up workshop on "Personal Development: Habits of Highly Effective Teachers" was held on February 7, 2013. It was organized for the faculty members, who participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> TLT workshop, held during January 7-10, 2013. A total of nine faculty members participated in this follow-up workshop.

TLC Follow-Up Workshop was held on July 4, 2013 in VC's conference room. This follow up workshop was designed for the faculty members who participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> TLC workshop on TLT: Preparing well-grounded Educators, held during May 6-11, 2013. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice chancellor and Professor Riaz Partha Khan, Dean of Students' Affairs were also

present in the workshop and gave guidelines for the new faculty members on effective teaching practices.

TLC follow up workshop was held at BBS Conference room, BRAC University on October 31, 2013 as "Faculty Conversation" which was facilitated by Beth Trudell, an English Language and Faculty Development Consultant. This follow up workshop was designed for the faculty members who participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> TLC Faculty Orientation workshop: Steps to success in BRAC University during September 2 to 4, 2013.

### **TLC Short Sessions**

#### **Short Session for Faculty**

TLC short Session on "Facilitating Interactive Learning Session through Lecture and Beyond Lecture" was held on March 19, 2013. Nine faculty members from different departments attended the session. The session was conducted by Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC.

#### **Short Sessions for Students of Pharmacy Department**

TLC organized and facilitated a session on 'Effective Presentation: Ways and Means' for the students of BRACU department of Pharmacy on April 25, 2013. The focus of the session was- how the students could make their classroom presentations more effective and organized. The session was facilitated by Ms. Sabrina Syed and Mr. Muhammad Foyzal Mubarak, Lecturer, TLC. A total of 54 participants attended this session.

A short session on Moving beyond the PowerPoint: How to present PPT effectively was held on May 22, 2013 at UB# 30803. The session was designed in such a way that the students were able to demonstrate basic skills of Presentation & PowerPoint Presentation as well as being able to avoid the common mistakes while presenting any presentation/PPT presentation. Fifteen students of Pharmacy department participated in the session.





The session was conducted by Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer of TLC.

The session on Team Building: A path towards the Win-Win Situation was held on June 20, 2013. The focus of the session was to learn the importance of effective team building and to have better understanding on how a team forms. Eighteen students from Pharmacy department of BRACU attended this session. The session was designed and facilitated by Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer, TLC.

A session on Effective Interpersonal Communication skills was held on June 24, 2013. This session was designed with a view to enabling the students to use interpersonal communication skills effectively in the classroom context. The session was held at UB#30601 which was designed and facilitated by Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer, TLC.

Introduction to Research was one of the short sessions held on June 30, 2013 at UB# 10203. The session was designed so students gain some basic knowledge on research and prepare a concept note for research. Thirteen students of Pharmacy department participated in the session. The session was conducted and designed by Ms. Sabrina Syed, Lecturer of TLC and Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly, Research Supervisor, JPGSPH.

A session was organized on 'Research Tools' on July 4, 2013 which was conducted by Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC and Mr. Imon Rahman, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy. In this session different kinds of research tools were discussed so that the students can have basic idea of using tools for data collection.

The next session was held on July 11, 2013. The topic of that session was 'How we learn?' which was conducted by Ms. Sabrina Syed, Lecturer, TLC. The objective of the session was that the learners would be able to realize the effective learning processes.

'Motivation for Learning: Are we self-motivated?' was another session which was facilitated by Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer, TLC on July 25, 2013. The session was designed with an object to enabling the students to find out some ways to be self-motivated so that they can increase their academic engagement.

### **Need Assessment Session with SoL**

TLC conducted a need assessment session with a group of students of School of Law (SoL). The session was facilitated by Ms. Sabrina Syed, and Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer, TLC. Considering the findings of the assessment TLC is going to organize sessions on different learning topics for the students of SoL.

### **TLC supports in Facilitating PSDP**

TLC supported in facilitating PSDP (Professional skills Development Program) sessions in Summer and Fall 2013. Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Ms. Sabrina Syed and Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, faculty members of TLC facilitated these sessions in collaboration with CSO.

### **First Year Advising Team (FYAT) Program**

TLC is currently working with first year advisers extensively under the First Year Advising Team (FYAT) Program regarding advising methods/techniques; developing advising tools; preparing adviser's training modules and other materials.

### **Research**

TLC has conducted research on "Group Work" to gauge students perception of group work/project/assignment and to support BBS to improve the effectiveness of group work. The recent ongoing research is on the reasons of high failure rate in mathematics & physics, factors leading students to probation, impact of teaching load on teaching etc.

### **TLC Faculty members attended conference/training/workshop & other events**

TLC faculty members attended an International Conference on "Inclusive Education: Meeting the Challenges of Inclusive Education", organized by: Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE), Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was held during February 15-17, 2013 and the venue was LGED Building, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was enriched by the involvement of around 300 participants including 30 international delegates. From TLC Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Sabrina Syed and Samina Anzum attended the conference.



TLC Faculty member attended the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual International IATEFL Conference, UK- Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC attended the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) Conference and Exhibition at Arena Convention Center (ACC), Liverpool, United Kingdom.

TLC Faculty members attended in the Dnet's Anniversary Programme- Ms. Sabrina Syed and Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, faculty members of TLC attended the 12 year's celebration event of Dnet on April 15, 2013 at Drik Gallery.

An informal training program on May 31, 2013 was held at British Council, Dhaka. Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC, facilitated a session on 'CPD: An integrated Approach'. Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer, Ms. Sabrina Syed, Lecturer and Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer, attended several sessions in this training program.

Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, TLC, attended a training session organized by British Council, Dhaka, on July 26, 2013.

A day long workshop on "Addressing the Values of Inclusive Education in the Proposed Draft Education Act 2013" was held on August 24, 2013, at the auditorium of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer, TLC participated in it.

Workshop on Interactive Teaching and Learning at the Tertiary Level: Steps Towards Quality and Excellence at Green University was attended by Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, Lecturer on November 15-16, 2013.

### **Publications**

TLC faculty member's wide span of knowledge and interest in their area of work makes them active in publications also. Various articles written by Sabrina Syed were published on Dhaka Tribune- 'Teaching versus learning' on October 21, 2013, 'HSC passed- What to do next?' on September 1, 2013, 'Winning

Against Exam Phobia' on August 25, 2013, 'Adopting Teaching Styles to Reduce Math Anxiety' on August 5, 2013. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak has also submitted a research paper to BRACU journal on "A Study on English Teachers' Feedback Practice in Bangladesh".



### **Introducing New Logo of TLC**

To consolidate the spirit of TLC goals and contributions a new logo was introduced to its domain which was designed by Ms Suhailey Farzana, Architectural Assistant from department of Architecture with the idea taken from Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallick, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University.

### **New Faces of TLC**

Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak joined as a Lecturer in the Teaching & Learning Centre in March 2013. Mr. Mubarak did both his B.Ed (Hons.), M.Ed in Education and pursuing MPhil from Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka.

Tasnova Rahman has joined TLC as an Assistant Admin Officer from August 1, 2013. She completed her B.A. (Hons) in English from East West University and is now currently pursuing Masters in Development Studies at BRAC University.

### **TLC faculty member on leave**

Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer, TLC has taken study leave and gone to Flinders University, Australia to pursue Masters on 'Cognitive Psychology & Educational Practice' which is going to be her second Masters in Education.

### **Left from TLC**

Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Director, TLC and Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University left in May 2013 and joined Green University of Bangladesh as Vice Chancellor.

## Journalism Training & Research Initiative

The Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) was launched by IGS - BRAC University in the year 2009 to strengthen and enhance the skills of existing and aspiring journalists, by providing training and support to accomplish their roles of communicators and facilitators of public discourse.

JATRI promotes the use of best international practice and professional standards and accordingly plans, develops and implements activities on a regular basis focusing on the following four components:

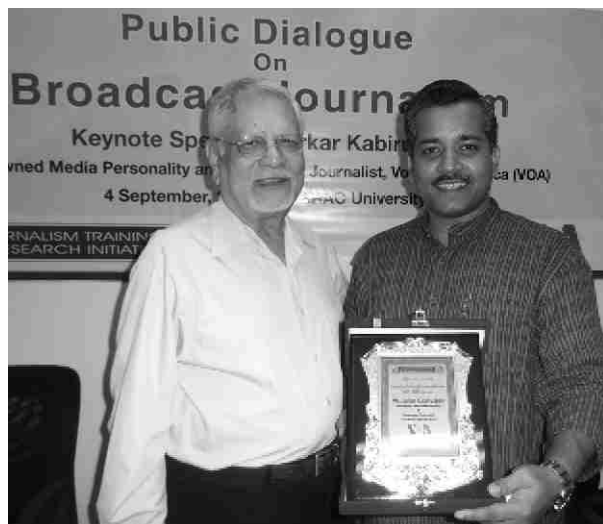
- Training & Capacity building: Professional skills development for the journalists
- Research: Extensive research on journalism
- Fellowship: For professional journalists
- Public dialogue: Needs based Workshops, Round tables and Public dialogues

### ACTIVITIES

#### a) Public Dialogue

##### *Colloquium with Media Leaders*

JATRI organized Colloquium with Media Leaders, a workshop where Media leaders/gate keepers, chief reporters, news editors, planning editors, assignment editors attended. Sarkar Kabiruddin, Renowned Media Personality and Broadcast Journalist of Voice of America (VOA) facilitated this workshop. Participants discussed the role of media to publicize parliamentary policy reform agenda and how



to build relationships between media and parliament among others.

#### *Public Dialogue with Important Stakeholders*

JATRI organized a public dialogue with important media stakeholders. The objective of this event was to share the research report on “Media Research on Parliament Affairs: Practice and Pattern”. This dialogue stimulated public discussion on challenges of parliamentary democracy, effectiveness of parliament and participation of MP's in parliament and standing committee meetings. This workshop was attended by different stakeholders including representatives of parliament secretariat, journalists and media professionals from a number of print & electronic media, NGO's and civil society.

#### *Workshop on Understanding Social Cost of Violence Against Women: Role of Media:*

JATRI and CARE Bangladesh jointly organized a workshop on “Understanding Social Cost of Violence Against Women: Role of Media”.



Violence at the domestic level can inflict social costs, intangible physical and mental health costs, time costs and finally monetary costs. These costs can be incurred at the individual level, family level, community level, greater community level and at the state level. Journalists from different media attended this workshop. This workshop was facilitated by renowned journalist Mr. Muzamail Hossain Monju & CARE Consultant Dr. Kaniz Siddique.

#### *Media Dialogue*

JATRI facilitated a dialogue on “Role of community radio in English language teaching”. This Event was



jointly organized by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio Communication Center (BNNRC), US Embassy & JATRI. Representative of community Radio, Government, Civil Society & Print /Electronic Media attended this dialogue.

### **b) Training & Capacity Building**

JATRI has already gained a reputation for quality training programs. World class training content and professional and experienced trainers are employed to lead these courses. JATRI is teaming up with international experts and local specialists to design and deliver course curricula. Locally known and respected editors and academics are also invited as guest lecturers. Training programs include:

- Basic Journalism
- Radio Journalism
- News & Program Presentation
- Ethics & Standards
- Investigative Journalism
- Interviewing and Source Development
- Photo Journalism
- Broadcast Journalism

### **c) Fellowship**

Annual fellowship awards to enterprising journalists and media professionals with innovative investigative

research proposals, including follow-on placement in mainstream print, electronic and online media houses. Fellowships covered so far:

- Salma Sobhan Fellowship – BRAC, CPD & Dr. Amartya Sen Foundation;
- Parliamentary Reporting – The Asia Foundation/USAID;
- Anti Tobacco Fellowship – Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids – CTFK/USA;
- Legislative Fellowship Program – World Learning/US State Department;
- Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity – PROGATI Fellowship/USAID
- Fellowship on Social Accountability – ANSA/The World Bank
- Fellowship on Child Rights Governance – Save the Children
- Women & Safe motherhood – Concern Worldwide/White Ribbon Alliance (WRA)
- Fellowship on WaSH Reporting – Water Aid Bangladesh
- Fellowship on Human Rights – Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative/CHRI

### **JATRI Facilities and Services**

JATRI provides following facilities and services that develop current and future journalists for the demands of a fast-changing multimedia industry:

- State-of-the-art equipment
- Course Curriculum of international standard
- Training conducted by national and international renowned senior journalists & media professionals
- A fully functional web portal







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## OTHERS

Ayesha Abed Library  
The Office of Student Affairs (OSA)  
Relationship Management Office (RMO)  
Career Services Office (CSO)  
Counseling Unit  
Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA)  
Human Resources Department (HRD)  
Office of the Registrar  
Residential Semester  
Finance and Accounts Department  
Management and Administration  
Auditor's Report



## Ayesha Abed Library

In 2013 the Ayesha Abed Library continued to develop its services and has made significant progress in becoming more user-centered and a model of a 21<sup>st</sup> century library in Bangladesh. It has been a significant year for the library.

The Library has continued to collaborate with faculty to build a collection responsive to the University's education and research directions. In 2013, 1373 books were added to the main collection through purchasing. The library was able to extend the range and depth of collection through subscriptions to thousands of e-journals and databases.

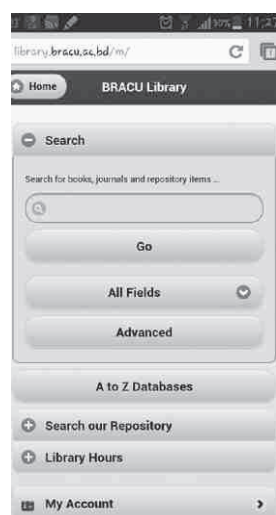
In 2013, the total number of documents (Theses, Dissertations, Internship Reports, Annual Reports etc) uploaded into Dspace were 464 (<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd>)

The library conducted 95 Information literacy classes for students and faculty. The main purpose of the sessions was to acquaint students and faculty with the information sources, resources and techniques to retrieve resources as per their needs.

Library staff attended training and workshops in order to improve their professional and technical skills. The library also conducted training programs and assisted other institutes to implement Drupal, Koha, MARC 21, and DSpace.

### New Services in 2013

#### BRACU Library's Mobile Interface



BRACU Library's Mobile Interface  
(<http://library.bracu.ac.bd/m>)

In 2013, BRACU library successfully completed a mobile library website project (<http://library.bracu.ac.bd/m>) which includes information such as library hours, new events and news archive, links to My Account and MyAthens login, library's catalogue, repository items, and links to important features of the library site.

BRACU library team is constantly evaluating the

mobile resources and adding new features continuously to the platform on a regular basis.

### Training/Workshop conducted in 2013

1. Training on Koha, Dspace, Drupal and MARC 21 at BRACU Library for Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) library from July to November 2013



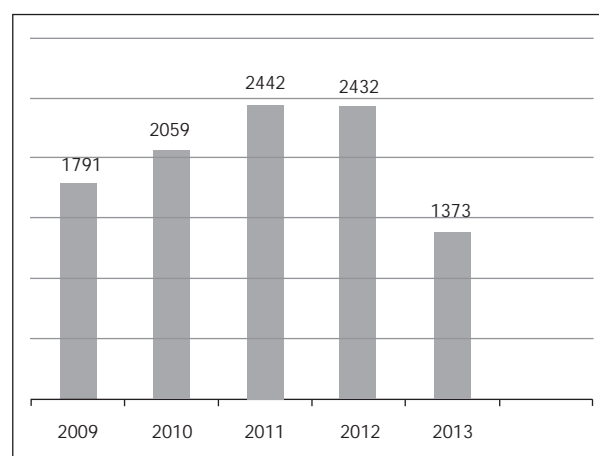
Launching Ceremony of MIST Library Automation

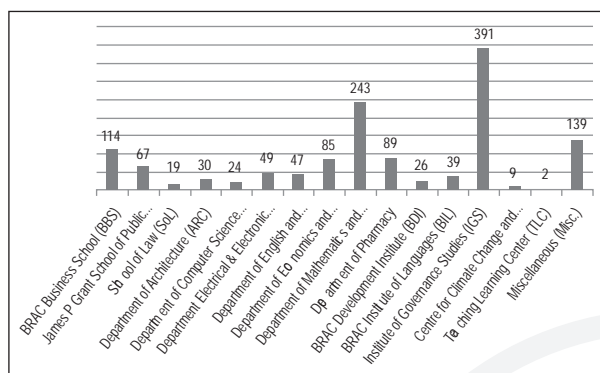
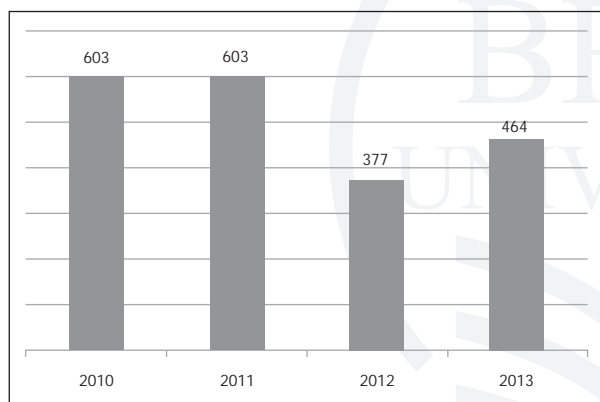
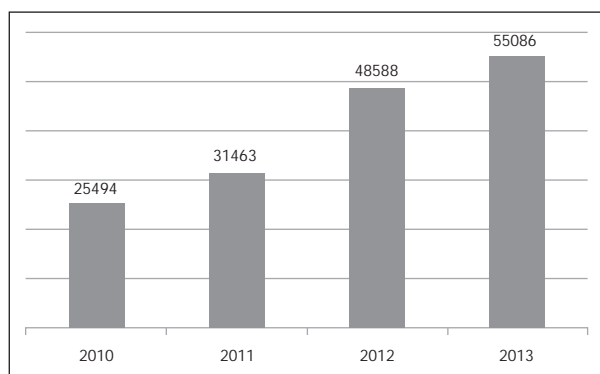
2. Training on Koha and MARC 21 for Centre for Rehabilitation and Paralyzed (CRP) Library from December 30, 2012 to January 10, 2013



### Statistical Summary

#### Book Purchased 2009-2013



**Book Purchased 2013 (Department wise)****Number of Items uploaded into Dspace (2010-2013) (<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd>)****Online Journal Article Downloads (2010-2013)****Loans and Borrowing Activity 2011-2013**

	2011	2012	2013
Total Loans	5962	9204	10320
Total Renewals	19368	38736	51640
<b>Total Holds</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>917</b>

**Information Literacy (2010-2012)**

(Training in using library and information resources)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sessions	51	71	91	95
Participants	1255	1500	2400	2565

**Staff Training, Development, and Conference Participation**

Training is critical for excellent staff performance. Staff of Aysha Abed Library participated in the following workshops, seminars and conferences during the year 2013:

- Ms. Hasina Afroz, Librarian attended the International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL), November 27-29, 2013 organized by TERI, New Delhi, India and received best paper award for 'Moving towards the next generation library: BRAC University experience' presented in the conference.



- Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin, Deputy Librarian participated on EMMA West 2 Staff Mobility Scholarship Program at LUCIAN BLAGA University of Sibiu, Romania from February 26, 2013 to March 26, 2013.



- Mr. Kh. Ali Murtoza, Senior Assistant Librarian participated in the training on Procurement Principles and Management from April 5-6, 2013 organized by Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University
- Mr. A. N. M. Sabbir and Md. Shahajada Masud Anowarul Haque, Assistant Librarian participated in the seminar on "Open source software for building digital libraries in south Asian Countries", July 6, 2013.



## The Office of Student Affairs

Established in July 2013, the Office of Student Affairs houses a wide array of academic services and campus resources that are designed to provide assistance and support in the common areas of university education, campus activities and student life that concern all undergraduate students at the university. Under the guidance of the Dean of Student Affairs, its central mission is to develop a student-centered approach to monitoring the progress of undergraduate students in order to ensure their academic success and personal development at BRAC University.

The Office of Student Affairs brings together several support programs that previously existed separately. These include the first year advising programs, orientation programs, career and internship services, co-curricular and club activities, personal and social counseling and teaching and learning support. Taken together, these services are dedicated to providing an integrated program of support and guidance in all areas of general academic and co-curricular activities. The component units of Student Affairs are briefly described below:

### Relationship Management Office (RMO)

As an integral part of the Office of Registrar and the Office of Student Affairs, RMO plays a central role in organizing communication, marketing, admissions and orientation programs and services at BRAC University. It is also responsible for recruiting and managing student volunteers for all major events on campus. RMO works closely with the Office of

Student Affairs in planning and organizing the Freshman Orientation Programs at the beginning of each academic semester. RMO has also taken a leading role in the implementation of the recently launched First Year Advising Program for entering students since Fall Semester 2013. The close collaboration between the two offices has contributed to the development of exciting programs and events to facilitate the smooth transition of new students to campus life from their first day at BRAC University.

### First Year Advising Teams (FYAT)

Based on a pilot program conducted in Fall 2013, the Office of Student Affairs is proud to announce the full-scale launching of a new and exciting program of First Year Advising Teams (FYAT) for all new students in Spring 2014 semester. The FYAT Program is an integral component of the university's student-centered approach to informing, assessing and mentoring all undergraduate students throughout their first year. As a part of BRACU's general commitment to student development, each new student is assigned to a Faculty Adviser and Peer Student Mentor who facilitate their transition to university life and education, and provide individualized and group advising during their first three semesters at BRAC University. By bringing together faculty and students (new and returning) from different departments within each freshman group, the FYAT program also seeks to enhance faculty-student interactions and develop a sense of community and belonging across the university.





### Career Services Office (CSO)

The Career Service Office educates, advises and supports BRAC University students through all stages of their career planning and development process. Its capstone program is the Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) that includes an integrated course of classroom activities, skills workshops and individual advising sessions designed to prepare the graduating class to pursue post-graduate employment and academic opportunities. CSO also conducts a variety of open houses, job networks, mock interview sessions, and meetings with potential employers in order to connect students with post-graduate employment and internship opportunities. At present, CSO is planning to hold a national career fair in April 2014 in order to bring together employers and students from diverse sectors of academia and industry.



### Counseling and Psychosocial Services

The Counseling Unit at BRAC University dedicated to supporting and enhancing the personal wellbeing and social adjustment of students and staff at BRAC University. With a staff of ten trained psychologists and counselors, the Counseling Unit conducts individual counseling sessions, group activities and seminars, as well as seminars on health and wellbeing related issues. Recognizing that emotional wellbeing

is integral to academic and professional success of students, BRACU Counselors deploy a wide range of therapeutic methods and approaches to enhance the personal and social wellbeing of all members of the university. The Counselors maintain strict confidentiality in their interactions and efforts to assist students in dealing with the academic and non-academic pressures of their undergraduate experience at BRAC University.

### Office of Co-Curricular Activities

The Office of Co-Curricular Activities manages clubs and forums that further the development of students in organizational and interactive spheres. It emphasizes the vision of BRAC University to prepare students who can face practical challenges by making them take part in competitions and activities to complement their educational experience. This is mostly done by offering opportunities relevant to club activities, managing club membership and maintaining rapport between student representatives and club advisors. At present, the office manages and advises nearly forty student-run clubs at BRAC University.



### Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)

The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) is dedicated to providing constructive and effective support to faculty members to develop and refine their teaching skills, instructional efficiency and academic achievements. It arranges programs and workshops for the betterment of teachers. Feedback reports for professional development of teachers are provided and researches on teaching-learning factors are also conducted under this interdisciplinary to identify and approach education-related issues within BRAC University.

## The Relationship Management Office

The Relationship Management Office (RMO) is part of the Registrar's Office that stands as a pivot around which all university related information revolves. It is a link between the stakeholders, parents, students, faculty, staff and alumni as well. It remains the primary source of all university related information that starts with admission information and ends up in updating and maintaining rapport with the BRACU alumni.

### **RMO broadly functions in three areas:**

#### ***Creative Services***

Creative services include print and design of several brochures, website advertisements/contents designing, supporting audio and video production and maintaining the University's visual and virtual identity.

RMO organizes three 'Freshman Orientation' programs for each semester throughout the year.

In Fall - 2013 'The Student Affairs Office' of BRACU in collaboration with RMO introduced two new agenda items in 'Orientation Day', A) Session for Parents where they were informed about the Academic/Non-academic and value-added services that are offered by BRACU including 'Residential Semester', B) 'First Year Advising Team' where freshmen at BRACU are individually assigned to a 'First Year Advisor Team'. The advising team comprises one faculty member and two student mentors. First Year Advisors facilitate each fresher's successful entry and transition to BRACU. Advisors are responsible for each student's academic advising needs, and are available for counseling in all areas of university life.

First Year Advisors help students schedule classes, improve the quality of their academic performance, improve interpersonal relationships, and manage co-curricular activities. First Year Advisors also work with students to create long-term academic and career plans.

RMO is also responsible for planning, archiving and announcing of 'Scholarship/Financial Assistance' that are offered to BRACU students in several categories. RMO plays a vital role in collecting the data and analyzing with the help of Management Software, based on which students get scholarships.

BRAC University offers scholarships to students every semester on the basis of their academic results. It also provides financial assistance to undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at the University who are obtaining excellent academic results, but facing genuine financial constraints. This ensures that financial need is not a barrier for bright and needy students. The scholarship and financial aid process is transparent, credible and provided in an effective, timely, fair and impartial manner to all students who qualify. Students apply for tuition fee waiver in a prescribed form. The financial need for each applicant is assessed by the Scholarship Committee.

The members of the Committee:

1. Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar, Treasurer, BRACU-Chairperson
2. Dr. Fuad Hasan Mallick, Pro-VC, BRACU
3. Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Joint-Registrar, BRACU



**BRACU Volunteers Night (2013)**

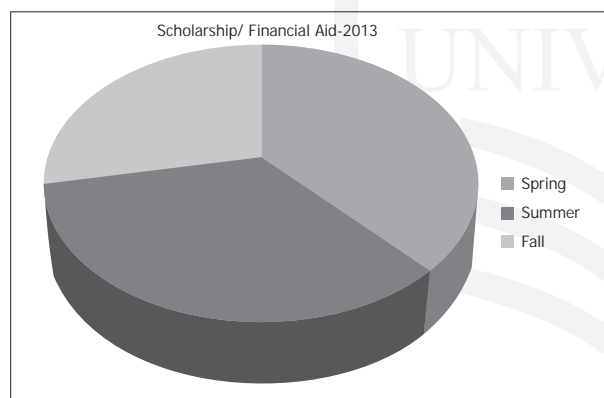


4. Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, ACA, Head of Accounts, BRACU
5. Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head of RMO, BRACU- Member Secretary

#### Details of Scholarship Disbursed in 2012-2013

Description	Amount in Taka
Full Tuition Fee Waiver	18,099,891
Partial Tuition Fee Waiver	29,716,072
Full Tuition Fee Waiver with Living Allowance (BRAC – Ford Scholarship Endowment Fund)	4,026,361
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,842,324</b>

#### Disbursement of Scholarship/Financial Aid in Spring '13, Summer '13 and Fall '13



#### Communications

RMO processes internal (staff/student) and external communications through a range of print and online mails. As part of the role the office works closely with registrar, accounts and VC's offices.



Freshman Orientation Program (Summer 2013)

RMO is responsible for promoting the University's strategic vision and working with others to develop that message for different audiences.

RMO produces the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Prospectus for each year and has the responsibility to oversee and support all print and online communications produced throughout the University as well as the University's corporate branding.

BRACU offers accommodation to female students who come to study from distant locations on a need basis. RMO provides all logistic support to the residing students and ensures smooth functioning of the BRACU Hostel through the Hostel Superintendents.

#### Enquiries Management

RMO ensures that institutional culture is developed and maintained in line with the mission of the university. The RMO organizes visits to various reputed schools and colleges across the country to encourage bright and talented students to enroll in BRAC University.

RMO ensures that all events in the university are properly organized, communicated, implemented and registered. It encourages collective integrity and inculcates responsibility and accountability in the students in all their activities. It also recognizes and promotes creative talent among students.

It is pertinent to state the 'open door policy' of RMO. Instilling an inclusive institutional culture, the department strives hard to foster relationships through an interactive program with students and guardians. RMO therefore is a mirror of all that BRACU offers and makes it outstanding.



Students' Program at Savar Campus



## BRAC University Scholarship/Financial Assistance

Following are the several categories of scholarships that can be availed by BRACU students:

SI #	Scholarship/ Financial Aid Category	Eligibility	Minimum GPA/ CGPA	(%) of Tuition Fee Waiver
<b>Scholarship</b>				
1.	Performance Based scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student taking 12 credits and above. Student from Pharmacy Department will have to take at least 18 credits.</li> <li>Completion of 30 credits.</li> </ul>	3.70	10%-100%
2.	Merit Based scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who obtained GPA of 5.0 (without 4<sup>th</sup> subject) in SSC and HSC from Science, Arts &amp; Commerce groups.</li> <li>Have 7 'A's in 'O' Level (in one sitting) &amp; 3 'A's in 'A' Level.</li> </ul>	3.50	Up to 100%
<b>Financial Aid</b>				
3.	BRACU Regular Staff and Faculty Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any permanent faculty or staff member of BRAC University can apply for up to 50% staff fee waiver. For further details please contact BRACU HRD.</li> </ul>	3.25	50%
4.	Children of BRACU Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular employee &amp; faculty member can apply for tuition fee waiver for their two dependent children.</li> </ul>	3.25	50%-75%
5.	Siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Second child irrespective of Gender.</li> </ul>	3.00	50%
6.	BRAC-FORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economically disadvantaged and orphans whose families have less than 0.3 acres of cultivable land and live with their relatives.</li> <li>Scoring a GPA of 4.5 (without 4<sup>th</sup> subject) in SSC and HSC from Science, a GPA of 4.00 (without 4<sup>th</sup> subject) from Arts &amp; Commerce Group.</li> </ul>	3.00	100%
7.	Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents' monthly income not more than Tk. 20,000.00</li> <li>Completion of 30 credits.</li> </ul>	3.25	Up to 100%
8.	Physically Challenged Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physically challenged students will receive special fee waiver at various rates to be determined by the scholarship Committee on case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>	3.00	Up to 100%
9.	Children of Freedom Fighter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children of Freedom Fighters will be eligible for tuition fee waiver as per the instruction from UGC.</li> </ul>	3.25	Up to 100%
10.	Spouse, Father-son/daughter, Mother-son/daughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any one of the mentioned member will get tuition Fee waiver.</li> </ul>	3.25	50%

## The Career Services Office

Having begun its operations in 2004 the Career Services Office (CSO) is poised to consolidate and expand its range of services for students, to ensure their optimal preparedness for the world of work.

The core programs of the CSO consists of **a.** Career Counseling, **b.** CV writing, **c.** Interview skills, **d.** Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), **e.** Mock interview sessions, **f.** Career Clinics, **g.** Individual Advising, **h.** Internships, **i.** Workshops and seminars, and **j.** On-campus recruitment events.

All of CSO's essential services are continuously reviewed, with a view to creating a sharp and updated focus on developing the precise skills set that are important for students to excel in the job market. Furthermore, through the workshop and seminar sessions which are organized as an integral part of the CSO 'offer', students are given a strategic understanding of the employment market and key issues that impact on it.

The proposed consolidation and expansion of the CSO will propel the career services function of BRAC University to national prominence. Through intensive preparatory work on all aspects of resume writing, presentation and interview skills, coupled with one to one advising sessions (for every graduating student) and a range of other support services and career events, this office is determined to develop the top functioning CSO in the country and one which compares favorably with the best CSOs globally.

The CSO prioritizes its links with employers who take on BRACU students as interns every semester and often recruit from among them. CSO intends to formalize the relationship with employers and employer/employee networks to ensure a standardized approach to internships and employment, so that the rights of students as interns/employees are formally agreed alongside their duties and responsibilities.

Apart from dealing with the core issues above (students' development and the PSDP, Internship and other placement opportunities, Employment opportunities, and enhancing the Alumni Association), the CSO is deeply engaged in a range of related strategic activities, which are important for graduating students and the University as a whole. These include-

a) The Career Fair 2014 in conjunction with Prothom-alojobs

- b) Redesign of the BRACU website
- c) Improving academia-industry collaboration
- d) Promotion of 'English across BRAC University'
- e) Extending aspects of the Savar curriculum to the Mohakhali campus
- f) Coordinating international sponsorship opportunities for graduating students

The CSO office now has a dedicated Director, four full-time and several part-time staff and a consultant. These numbers may increase in line with the department's proposed expansion in the future.



*CSO and Prothom-alojobs launches the Career Fair 2014 with a press conference on May 15, 2013.*



*One of the lead-in events to the Career Fair 2014 was: "Seminar on RMG Sector" on July 4 at Prothom Alo Auditorium, Karwan Bazar*



*CSO organized a Roundtable with Prothom-alojobs on "Tackling Graduate Unemployment: The Need for University-Industry Cooperation" on November 16, 2013 at The Daily Star*

## The Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP)

The Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) is a unique, intensive course dedicated to preparing final year students for the world of work. In order to cater better to individual needs, the PSDP underwent a major restructuring, in terms of both its curriculum content and teaching methodology. The PSDP is now divided into Business and non-Business sections and in the future will be further sub-divided according to subject majors and/or economic sectors to help students get a deeper understanding of current job trends in their chosen field and evaluate whether their qualifications as well as interests match the requirements of the job they want to pursue in the real world.

The curriculum of the new PSDP goes beyond CV writing skills, job search skills and interview skills, to provide essential advice and guidance to students on issues like self assessment, career exploration, the job search process, further education and graduate school programs. All of these are strengthened through systematic individual advising and holding career clinics.

Under the supervision of Mr. Khan A.N. Murshid, Director, CSO and Professor Riaz P. Khan, Dean of Student Affairs; the current facilitators who are conducting classes are Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, Career Service Executive, Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin, Career Service Executive and Ms. Rakshinda Huq, Career Service Officer. The students enrolling for the PSDP are offered guaranteed internships often leading to jobs through the mock interview process which is the final component of the PSDP. The 'Mock Interview Session' is held every semester and provides a real-life experience of actual interview boards staffed by key employer organizations looking



for interns and employees. The 'Mock Interview' process encourages and fosters academia-corporate relationships which the CSO has been actively developing with a view to constructing partnerships between the University and major employers across the economic sectors.

### Individual Advising

In order to provide students with maximum assistance regarding career choice, job search and academic counseling (to name a few), for the first time the CSO has introduced an individual advising program officially effective from the Summer 2013 semester. This advising is not restricted to career services and academic help only but also goes beyond that to help students explore their strengths, interests, weaknesses and transferable skills and competences.

In addition to this, students can seek help for personal issues too, especially if these, as often is the case, impact on their academic grades. The advisors will guide students to understand themselves and rationalize their choices and pursue suitable career paths. The advisors will always be open to aid students, as well as to encourage and motivate them in all that they pursue professionally and even personally if required.

At present, the advisors are Mr. Khan A.N. Murshid, Director, CSO, Prof. Riaz P. Khan, Dean of Student Affairs, Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, Career Service Executive, Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin, Career Service Executive and Ms. Rakshinda Huq, Career Service Officer.

### Alumni Network

With the aim of keeping all previous graduates connected to the university, the CSO and Alumni Association of BRACU have collaborated together to



track all graduate students. By maintaining ties with students who graduated as far back as the University's inception, the CSO ensures their skills and knowledge benefit more than just their companies; by creating a conduit to fully engage the alumni with the objectives of the CSO and the priorities of BRAC University.

BRACU alumni possess a wealth of experience and hold important roles across many sectors of the economy. It will not be difficult to find role models whose achievements could encourage students to match and if possible, surpass their senior colleagues across the economic sectors.

The task, moving on is to facilitate the reconfiguration of the BRAC University Alumni Association as a democratic, inclusive and effective champion of the graduating students in particular and at the same time foster BRAC University's broader aspirations of achieving global excellence.

### BRAC University English Campaign

BRAC University English Campaign is an initiative by Career Services Office (CSO) & BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) in response to the greater need for English proficiency in an increasingly globalized world.

True to its growing reputation as a reputable English Institution, BRAC University has designed the 'English Campaign' to improve the use and standard of spoken English at both its Savar and Mohakhali campuses.

As a university-wide campaign, it embraces every part of BRAC University. From students and staff, to faculty and non-academic departments, the Campaign is designed to be as enjoyable as it is productive.

Film screenings, academia-industry debates, poetry recitals, English dramas and song performances, a campaign documentary, online voting for students to determine semester long English initiatives, writing competitions and remedial classes for aspiring students are just some of the activities currently being offered. An ongoing English course for service staff of BRAC University is being successfully conducted by BIL and has improved the language capacity of 100 staff among which are 67 office assistants, 23 drivers, 6 waiters and 4 liftmen. 50 of them have completed the beginner level course and the remaining 50 staff attended elementary level course. Two further English

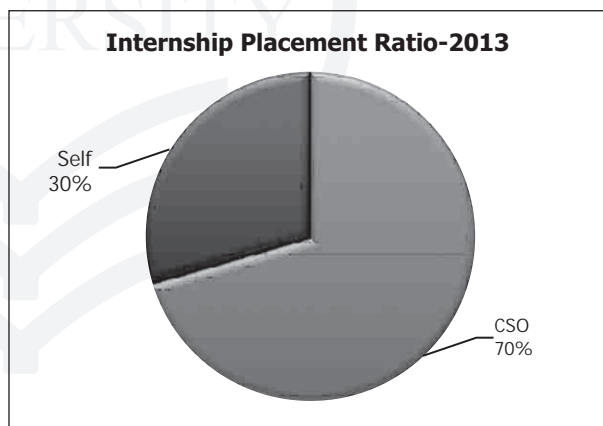
Language courses for faculty and administrative staff are in the pipeline and will be introduced in the coming year.

The English Committee, responsible for steering the Campaign, is currently building relationships with a variety of external stakeholders to ensure that the success of the Campaign is extended into the real economy.

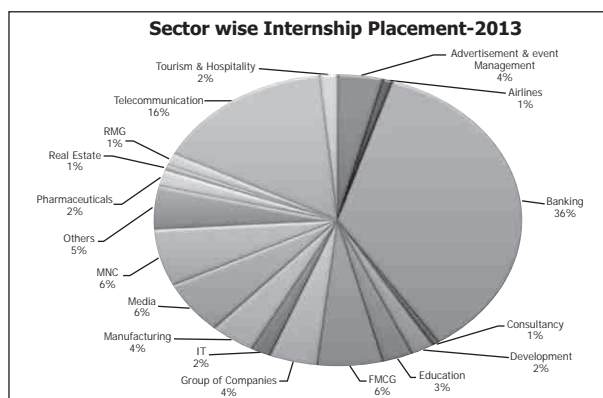
### Internship 2013

In the year 2013, CSO has arranged internships for more than 300 Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and 150 Master of Business Administration (MBA) students, 15 Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), 20 English and Humanities (ENH) and 10 Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) students in a variety of organizations according to their preferred choice of industry.

70% of the students were placed by CSO and 30% of the students arranged internship by themselves in the year 2013, as illustrated in the following chart-



In the year 2013, the number of graduating students sent for internships are as follows: among a cohort of





495 students 36% were placed in banking sector, 16% in telecommunications. The rest of the students were placed in multinationals, advertising & event management, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, RMG, hospitality, education, development and real estate sectors as can be seen in the following chart-

Typically Internships are for 10 to 12 weeks and are usually offered to students and graduates in their final

semester. Internships are usually focused on learning almost as much as working. This is a proven way to gain relevant knowledge, skills, and experience while establishing important connections in a given field. Internships are also a way to get students' 'feet wet' and to find out if a specific field or profession is something they see themselves doing as a full-time job or to pursue as a career.



## Counseling Unit

*"Knowing others is Wisdom, knowing yourself is Enlightenment" – Lao Tzu*



World Health Organization (WHO) defines Health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". So, mental health is also as important as physical health. BRAC University is very much concerned with the mental health of students, faculty members and staff. As part of this concern, in 2005, Counseling Unit of BRAC University formally started its journey.

The Counseling Unit of BRAC University provides counseling for problems resulting from fast-paced lifestyle through offering a listening ear, good therapeutic procedure, and incorporating mind, emotion, physical, and spiritual aspects in a holistic way. This Unit deals with a variety of today's mental health stressors, including depression, anxiety, grief and loss, self-esteem, anger management, self-control, life transition, parenting, family-of-origin and family relationship issues.

It achieves excellence through advanced mental health practices implemented by trained professionals. Seven efficient professional counselors are working at the institution to provide greater quality of service to students, faculty members and staff. Two of them are appointed at Savar Residential Campus.

### Mission and Core Values

Mission of Counseling Unit is to offer nonbiased counseling service and support to assist in overcoming life's challenges and moving towards positive change.

Counseling Unit is to support an environment that fosters personal growth, development, and psychological wellbeing of students, faculty members and staffs through direct counseling service, education, and prevention. The Counseling Unit is committed to:

- Maintain Confidentiality
- Human Rights and Equality
- Promoting Respect for individual and cultural differences
- Following ethical guideline
- Provide empathy and support
- Access and equity

### Philosophy

It stems from the premise that every individual has strengths and capabilities that can be developed to help them sustain a healthy lifestyle. Everyone who comes through the door is treated with courtesy, consideration, respect and with the recognition of every person's dignity, individuality and the right to privacy.

### Objectives

- Ensuring proper integration of body, mind, heart and soul
- Promoting wellbeing and personal growth through self-empowerment
- Enhancing personal ability to reduce/remove stress

- Supporting individuals to increase self-confidence and achieve self-autonomy
- Providing support to develop skills to adapt with the changing world

### Activities

Our focus is to encourage, support and foster positive changes in students, faculty members and staff. The major activities of the unit are as follows:

- Providing Counseling Services
- Organizing seminars, training courses and workshops
- Working on awareness campaign about mental health issues
- Taking regular classes on course titled "Introduction to Psychology"
- Cooperating with other units of BRACU on need basis
- Providing extended support

### Counseling Services

Counseling services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each client presenting with mental health issues. Participants will attend individual/group/parent/pair counseling to assist in working towards positive change. Each client works in partnership with a counselor to attain the desired outcome and successfully complete treatment after identifying treatment goals.

1. Academic Failure
2. Social Phobia
3. Exam Phobia
4. Obsessive Thoughts
5. Negative Automatic Thought
6. Paranoid Personality Pattern
7. Victim of Sexual Abuse
8. Victim of Bullying and Teasing
9. Psychological Trauma
10. Psychosexual Issues
11. Trouble in Time Management/Procrastination
12. Indecisiveness
13. Perfectionism
14. Difficulty in Managing Disruptive Behavior
15. Drug Abuse/Smoking
16. Sleep Disturbance
17. Suicidal Ideation/Symptoms/Thoughts
18. Feeling of Insecurity and Loneliness

19. Feeling of Stress/Anxiety
20. Frustration
21. Anger towards Self
22. Difficulty in Managing Anger
23. Low Self Confidence
24. Lack of Motivation
25. Lack of Communication Skills/Assertiveness
26. Stammering
27. Break Up of Relationship
28. Family Issues/Conflict
29. Marital Distress
30. Difficulty in Adjustment
31. Situational Crisis
32. Job Stress
33. Psychosocial and Environmental Problems
34. Attention Seeking Behavior

In counseling sessions, counselors offer an open, supportive and confidential environment to help individuals to understand themselves more accurately to recognize and better manage or reconcile troublesome differences and distress. The Counseling Unit offers:

- Individual Counseling
- Pair Counseling
- Parent Counseling
- Group Counseling

**Individual Counseling:** Individual counseling is intended to assist a willing client with a wide variety of concerns. Professional Counselors provide clients with a safe and nonjudgmental environment to discuss their concerns, to discover new ways to resolve these concerns and to improve personal, academic and social functioning. In this year, most of the clients are self-referred and some clients are also being referred by faculty members/staff/authorities.



**Pair Counseling:** Here, counselors assist couple/pair to gain insight into each other, to learn new and effective ways of communication, and to maintain sound interpersonal relationship.

**Parent Counseling:** Counselor acts as bridge between parents and children to help them to strengthen their relationship with each other and to promote positive parenting style.

**Group Counseling:** Group therapy is a powerful tool for growth. On need basis Counseling Unit also provides group counseling where counselor acts as a facilitator. The power in group therapy lies in the unique opportunity to receive multiple perspectives, support, encouragement and feedback from other individuals in a safe and confidential environment. These interpersonal interactions can provide group members an opportunity to deepen their level of self-awareness and to learn how they relate to others.

Types of Counseling		No.
Individual Counseling	Client	468
	Session	1459
Pair Counseling		07
Parent Counseling		14
Group Counseling		06

#### Workshops/Training

Workshop is a helpful way to provide people with psychological education. Counseling Unit arranges workshops on different motivational topics to motivate students/ faculty members and staff to develop positive mental health outlook. In such types of workshops, participants generate conversations allowing them to actively participate in the sharing of powerful information. This type of learning process can be very effective to eradicate any stigma related to mental health.

Summary of Workshops/Trainings		
Sl. No.	Title	No.
1.	Anger Management	4
2.	Stress Management	5
3.	Understanding Depression	3
4.	Self Confidence	3
5.	Team Building	2
6.	Meditation	1

The main objectives of the workshops are to:

- Raise level of awareness and enhance insight
- Enhance wellbeing, personal growth and development of individuals.
- Increase and deepen understanding of challenges faced by people experiencing mental health difficulties
- Help individuals to enhance reflective insights into ways in which positive mental health practice can be embedded
- Make a shift to a positive mental health outlook

In 2013, Counseling Unit arranged different workshops/training on psychosocial issues. Some of the topics covered were:

**Anger Management:** Anger is a normal, healthy human emotion. There are and always will be things in the world that make us angry. It is normal! What may not be so normal is how we choose to react when angry. To help students to express and manage anger in a constructive manner, four workshops on “Anger Management” were held at both Mohakhali and RS (Savar) campuses.



**Stress Management:** Modern life is full of hassles, deadlines, frustrations, and demands. Anything that poses a challenge or a threat to our well-being is a stress. Sometimes stress speeds up and motivate us to reach specific goal and it is better for us. However, when the stresses undermine both our mental and physical health they are bad. To help students to learn positive coping skills to deal with stress effectively, Counseling Unit organized five workshops on “Stress Management” in 2013.



**Understanding Depression:** The normal difficulties of life mean that everyone feels sad or has “the blues” from time to time. However, if emptiness and despair have taken hold of one's life, he/she may have depression. Depression makes it tough to function and enjoy life like the way one once did. Therefore, to help students to deal with depression and to make





positive changes in their lives, three workshops on “Understanding Depression” were conducted both at Mohakhali and RS campuses.

**Self Confidence:** Our self-esteem is instilled in us during our youth. However, being constantly criticized by family, friends, and society, we start feeling less confident about self and this low sense of self-worth leads us to develop poor decision-making skills. Improving self-confidence may lead to the first step towards finding happiness and a better life. In order to aid students to build and enhance self-confidence—“an attitude which allows individuals to have positive yet realistic views of themselves and their situations”, Counseling Unit organized three workshops on “Building Self Confidence” this year.



**Team Building:** “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success”. Based on this assumption, Counseling Unit conducted a workshop on Team Building and then one follow up group counseling on that particular issue in order to assist faculty members and staff to develop a sense of team unity.

**Meditation:** To help students to connect to their inner world of thoughts, feelings and ideas to the outer world of actions and relationships, a workshop on “Meditation for Academic Success” was held in 2013.



### Seminar

One of the biggest challenges facing the Mental Health Movement is the lack of awareness within the community. This is critical, not only to raise awareness in the community about services and treatment facilities available for mental health issues—but also to reduce the misconceptions, stigma regarding this concept of mental health and counseling. The promotion of mental well-being is equally important in this case also. To make the community aware about such issues, Counseling Unit organizes seminars on different psychosocial issues where the focus is on prevention rather than cure, through the promotion of positive mental health concepts.



This year Counseling Unit organized two seminars on different psychosocial issues to create community awareness. Seminar on “Parenting” was held on April, 2013. It was an interactive seminar where professional counselors and parents of students discussed about challenges faced by parents and positive parenting style.

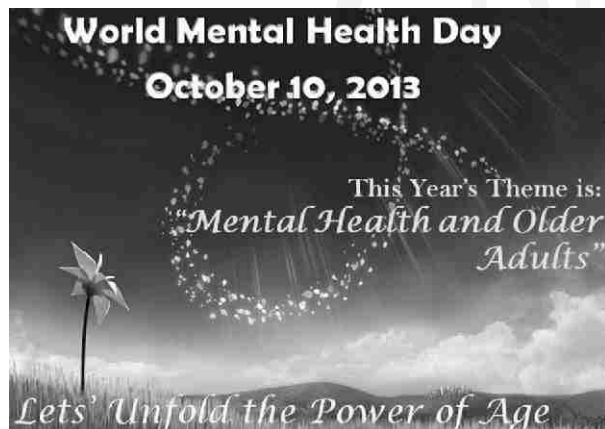
Another seminar was held to observe “World Mental Health Day” and this year's theme was “Mental Health and Older Adults”. Counseling Unit and Institute of Educational Development (IED) of BRAC University have jointly organized this seminar on October 2, 2013. The main objective of the seminar was to make people aware about mental health, its importance and



support services. The seminar covered contents like: developmental crisis of childhood, adolescent period, old age etc. The discussion also covered facilities for older citizens in Bangladesh, mental health and gender.

### Other Activities inside BRACU

Beside main activities, Counseling Unit also cooperates with other units of BRACU as required. In the workshop of TLC titled “Teaching and Learning for Teachers”, Counseling Unit held a session named “How Students Learn and How Teachers Teach”. In 2013, two such sessions were conducted in January and May. In addition, Counseling Unit assists and participates on various activities of Residential Semester, such as BRAC visit, Social Learning Lab, Parents meeting and Public Health Orientation sessions. In addition, Counseling Unit works with First Year Advising Team (FYAT).



Counseling offers people a mirror to see their problems in concrete and explicit ways. This often provides a sense of hope and support for the changes that will improve life situations. To promote such awareness about the concept of mental health inside the university, Counseling Unit provides brochures, posters, and flyers to different units of the institution. Counseling Unit goes for regular class visit and class observation to update and enlighten students about counseling activity and to remove any stigma related to it.

During World Mental Health Day, Counseling Unit generates a whole ‘institutional atmosphere’ with inspirational posters and flyers to make people aware about such issues.



### Extended Support

**Counseling Session for Rai foundation scholarship recipients and MedhaBikash Students :** For last three years Counseling Unit of BRAC University has been conducting motivational session for the under-privileged students in MedhaBikash and Rai Foundation (scholarship recipients). Counselors provide lecture on different psychosocial issues like: self-confidence, stress management, anxiety management and also counseling service.



**Counseling Support to Survivors of Savar Rana Plaza Tragedy:** In collaboration with BRAC, Ain O Salish Kendro and the Department of Educational & Counseling Psychology of University of Dhaka, Counseling Unit of BRACU worked with survivors of savar rana plaza tragedy. Counselors provided support on two phases (psychological first aid and follow up) to the survivors and caregivers in different places like Savar CMH, Enam Medical Hospital, New Deep Clinic, Dhaka Pongu Hospital and Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.



### Extensive Training and Supervision for Professional Growth

Members of Counseling Unit take regular and thorough supervision from expert supervisors. They also take extensive training and attend conference on



psychosocial issues worldwide to enhance personal and professional growth and development.

### Upcoming Events

In addition to regular activities, for 2014, Counseling Unit has planned to organize and celebrate following events:

- Arrange workshops/trainings on new and motivating topics e.g. workshop on Positive Parenting
- Organize Seminar on Drug Abuse and Mental Health & Counseling
- Observe “World Mental Health Day”
- Train Psychosocial Helpers in collaboration with IED of BRACU for underprivileged children

BRAC  
UNIVERSITY



## Office of Co-curricular Activities

BRAC University's mission is to achieve excellence in all-rounded education. The components of all-rounded education, i.e., learning, development and identity formation are interactive and add to each other. The students can experience all of these through participating in co-curricular activities along with regular studies. University's Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA) provides full support in this respect by supervising activities of student clubs and forums.

### Clubs and Forums

The co-curricular arena of the university is quite vibrant and student-oriented. The composition of each club or forum includes teacher/staff advisors and student representatives. Enrolment of members is done during the club fair held each semester. The Director of the Office of Co-curricular Activities supervises the activities with the help of an assistant director and student affairs officers. Auditorium, cafeteria and a planted semi-outdoor space with technical support are used for seminars, workshops, exhibitions, indoor games, competitions, fairs and cultural activities.

A yearly award system has been introduced for the students with major contribution as well as for the most active clubs. Annual assessment of the co-curricular activities has been conducted since 2006. University rules have been introduced for participating in the activities without hindering academic performance.

The Office of Co-curricular Activities emphasizes on the wholeness of university experience through synchronized development of body, mind and spirit. The main objectives of Office of Co-curricular Activities are to create an environment for spontaneous participation of students in co-curricular activities, create leaders for future, and provide opportunities for community service activities. Furthermore, OCA enforces to enhance the teacher-student relationship, liaise with other universities, organizations and student bodies at national and international level.

There are 39 student clubs and forums in different categories of:

- Culture/Film
- Debate/Moot
- Business/Economics
- Heritage/Arts
- Social welfare/Community services
- International
- Entrepreneurial
- Subject related
- Sports
- Science
- Adventure/Environment

These clubs and forums provide opportunities for developing leadership, confidence, goal setting, and sense of ownership, time management, collaboration and teamwork.

### Major activities of clubs and forums include:

- Club Fair
- Debate Competition
- Film Show
- Cricket, Football and Indoor Games
- Job Fair
- Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign
- Community Volunteer Work
- Art, Photography and Hobby Exhibition
- Seminar and workshop
- Competitions in Art, Music, Photography, Filmmaking
- Celebration of National and International events such as Pohela Boishakh, International Mother Language day, Independence day, Victory day etc.
- Computer programming & scientific competitions
- Business plan and Business case competitions
- Newsletter/ Magazine publishing
- National and Regional Festivals
- Study Tour
- Annual Drama
- Archives
- Annual Cultural Program
- Concert
- Help Group/Help Sessions



## ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

**Sl. Clubs / Forums Activity**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Adventure Club</p> <p>2. Angan Forum</p> <p>3. Art Society</p> <p>4. BIZ BEE</p> <p>5. BRAC University Club with BRAC</p> <p>6. BRAC University Marketing Association</p> <p>7. Book Club</p> <p>8. Business &amp; Economics Forum</p> <p>9. Communication &amp; Language Club</p> | <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Study Tour<br/>b) Club Fair<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Cycling &amp; Hiking<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>d) Seminar<br/>e) Magazine publishing</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Orientation</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Puppet Show<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Art Competition<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>c) Mehedi Utshob<br/>d) Study Tour</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Face 2 Face<br/>b) Club Fair<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Wall Magazine Publication<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>d) Job Fair<br/>e) Magazine Publishing</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Art competition<br/>b) Children Right<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Orientation</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Seminar<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Case Competition<br/>c) Marketing session</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Meet the Author<br/>b) Orientation<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Meet the Author</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Study Tour<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Corporate Environment Responsibilities</p> <p><b>Fall</b><br/>a) Talk show<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>b) Debate competition</p> | <p>10. Community Service Club</p> <p>11. Computer Club</p> <p>12. Cultural Club</p> <p>13. Cricket Club</p> <p>14. Debating Club</p> <p>15. Drama &amp; Theater Forum</p> <p>16. Entrepreneurship Development Forum</p> <p>17. Earth &amp; Environment Forum</p> | <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Study Tour<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Winter cloth distribution</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Workshop<br/>b) Seminar on Android<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Java Festival<br/>d) Road Show<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>e) Programming Contest<br/>f) Microsoft Imaginary cup</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Annual Cultural competition<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Rhythm Revive<br/>c) Music Grunge<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>d) Jolsha<br/>e) Musicon</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) BUPL<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>b) Cricket Tournament<br/>c) ULAB Fair Play Registration</p> <p><b>Fall</b><br/>a) Debate Tournament<br/>b) World Debate Championship<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>c) China British Parliament Debate</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Induction<br/>b) Dramatic<br/><b>Fall</b><br/>c) Adda<br/>d) Study Tour<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>e) Rongomoncho</p> <p><b>Summer</b><br/>a) Case competition<br/>b) Prelude<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>c) Orientation<br/>d) Study Tour</p> <p><b>Fall</b><br/>a) Workshop<br/><b>Spring</b><br/>b) Campus cleaning</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

- |                                   |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 18. EMBA Forum                    | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Residential weekend<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) Cultural Program<br><b>Spring</b><br>c) Study Tour  | 25. International Association Business & Communicators | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Short Tour<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) IABC Insight<br><b>Spring</b><br>c) One million rising<br>d) BUGMUN           |
| 19. Electrical & Electronics Club | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Seminar<br>b) Robotic exhibition<br><b>Spring</b><br>c) Short tour<br>d) Workshop  | 26. Law Club   | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Short tour<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) Published Newsletter<br>c) Lecture program<br><b>Spring</b><br>d) Court visit |
| 20. Film Club                     | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Movie Show<br>b) Da Circle<br>c) Film Festival<br>d) Orientation<br><b>Fall</b><br>e) Intro view<br>f) Ananta Jalil<br>g) Kothopokothon<br>h) Film Making<br><b>Spring</b><br>i) Study Tour<br>j) US democracy | 27. Media & Journalism Forum                           | <b>Spring</b><br>a) Journal workshop<br>b) Study tour   |
| 21. Football Club                 | <b>Fall</b><br>a) Inter University Football Tournament<br><b>Spring</b><br>b) Intra University Football Tournament   | 28. Monon  | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Comedy Show<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) Program at Autism School   |
| 22. Global Affairs Forum          | <b>Fall</b><br>a) Winter cloths distribution<br>b) Orientation<br>c) Teacher's Day   | 29. MBA Forum  | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Seminar   |
| 23. Heritage Forum                | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Experience sharing<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) Club Fair<br>c) National Victory Day<br><b>Spring</b><br>d) Pitha utshob<br>e) International Mother Language Day<br>f) National Independence Day                       | 30. Moot Court Society                                 | <b>Spring</b><br>a) Moot court competition  |
| 24. Indoor Games Club             | <b>Summer</b><br>a) Chess tournament<br><b>Fall</b><br>b) Annual Carom Tournament<br>c) Basketball Tournament<br><b>Spring</b><br>d) Badminton Tournament<br>e) Shawrashwati puja  | 31. Natural Science Club                               | <b>Fall</b><br>a) Fresher Orientation<br><b>Spring</b><br>b) Moon sighting session  |
|                                   |  | 32. Pharma Society                                     | <b>Fall</b><br>a) Orientation   |
|                                   |  | 33. Photography Club                                   | <b>Fall</b><br>a) Photography exhibition<br><b>Spring</b><br>b) Photography Exhibition  |
|                                   |  | 34. Robotics Club                                      | <b>Fall</b><br>a) RAM ROBORACE<br>b) Project Management<br>c) Orientation<br><b>Spring</b><br>d) EALT APP MARATHON                |

#### SOME ACTIVITIES OF CLUBS/FORUMS



Study Tour by Heritage Forum



*BRAC University becomes World University Debate Champion*



*BRAC University secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position in National Model United Nations*



*Field trip by BIZBEE club members*



*BRAC University Football League*

## The Human Resources Department



The Human Resources Department (HRD) of BRAC University is committed to attracting, encouraging, developing and retaining a high quality workforce to support the University's mission of excellence. It shares the University's dedication to building a culture that respects all of its members, celebrates their diversity and contributions as well as valuing their integrity, creativity, and accomplishments.

BRACU Human Resources Department is practicing core HR functions towards the goal of human resources development. Like other organizations, BRACU HRD covers the general HR functions: a) Recruitment and Selection b) Training and Development c) Compensation and Benefits d) Performance Appraisal.

HRD at BRAC University follows University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines to shape its recruitment policy with the objective to recruit talented faculty members and administrative staff.

As an Academic institution, the training and development function is different from the usual process identified with the corporate world. BRAC University has a center dedicated to staff and faculty for their training and development.

BRAC University has a salary structure approved by



the Board of Trustees (BoT). HRD makes an arrangement of disbursing salary on time every month with a sophisticated payroll management system. Other benefits are also tailored by HRD according to BRACU policy.

Yearly performance evaluation at BRACU is fair and the process is monitored by HRD. This is considered a communication tool between a particular staff member and his/her supervisor. Supervisors evaluate employees according to criteria set by the university authority and the exercise of their professional judgement.

In 2013, the pool of staff working at BRAC University was 265 full time faculty members and 243 regular admin staff. A good number of teaching staff were also working on a course contract basis. 123 new employees joined BRACU in the year 2013.

There are separate personnel procedures for academic and non-academic staff. These procedures include all the issues pertinent to human resource management at BRAC University. Every employee has access to this through the official website of the university. A code of conduct on sexual harassment is in place and followed by all employees working at BRAC University.



## Office of the Registrar

The Registrar's Office supports the academic mission of the University by providing guidance to the academic community. This is achieved in accordance with academic policies and procedures established by the Board of Trustees (BoT), in conjunction with rules and regulations established by the University Grants Commission, the Ministry of Education and national law. The Registrar's Office participates and plays a key role in the review, development and enforcement of goals and objectives of the BoT.

The Office serves as a repository of faculty information and schedules, course enrollments, course offerings, student records, grades and degrees conferred. Such records are maintained using information systems and Web-services designed to enable students, academic advisers, staff, departments and programs to conduct their professional duties in a decentralized environment. 2013 was a crucial year for BRACU; it introduced new software, USIS; through which students get their grades, do course registration online and receive updated class/exam schedules of a semester.

The Registrar's office offers a wide range of academic and administrative services associated with records, registration, advising, graduation services, academic space management and scheduling for students, faculty, and staff.

It is also responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations, policies and the Student Code of Conduct. This is the administrative hub of the university.

The Office is divided into three operating Units:

1. The Admission Unit
2. The Program and Registration Unit
3. The Examination Unit

### Admission Unit

At the outset of BRAC University in 2001, The Admission Office started its activities for student enrollment under the Registrar's office. This Unit plays the important role of managing the admission process efficiently. This section fulfills all requirements of students, guardians and visitors regarding admissions. The admission office launched its online

admission process from the semester of Summer 2012.

A good number of students have been enrolled last year as shown below in Table 1. Total enrollment of undergraduate and postgraduate program in 2013 has increased to 26%.

**Table 1: Freshman Application Data, 2013**

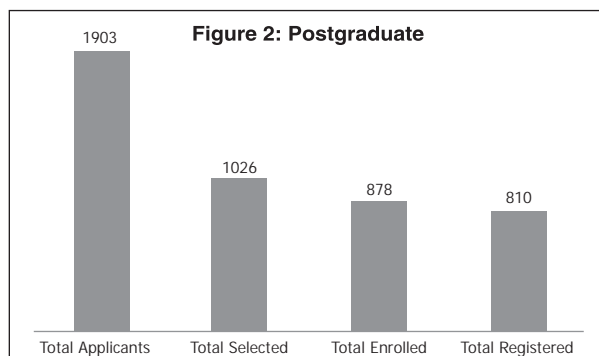
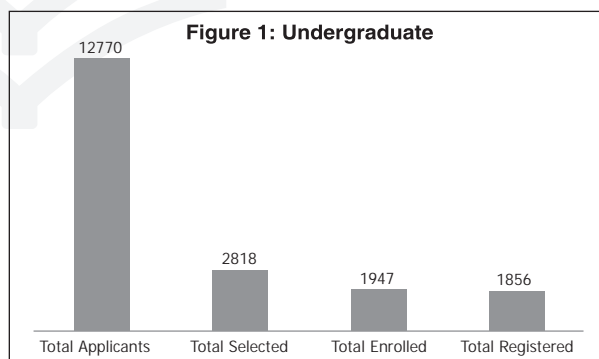
#### Undergraduate

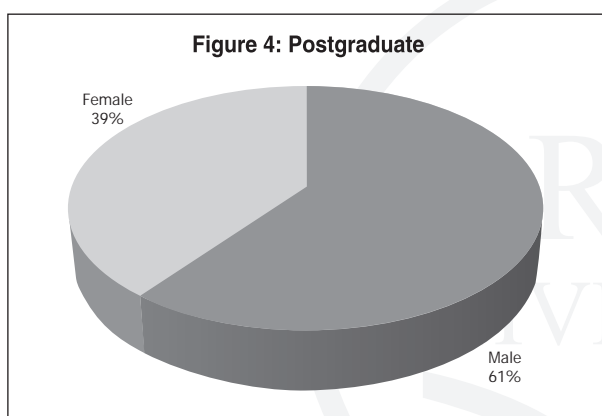
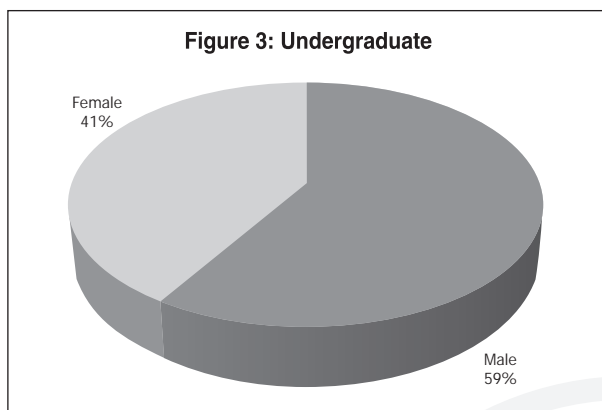
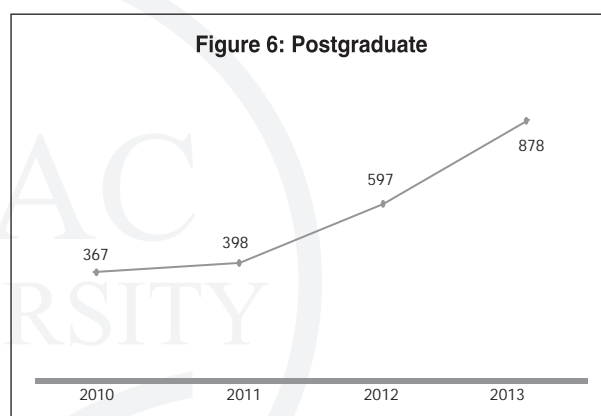
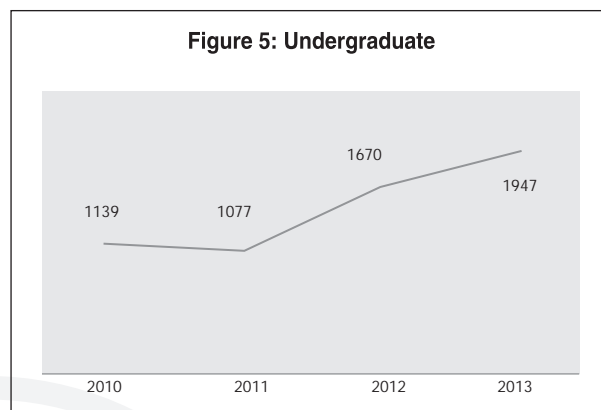
Total Applicants		Total Selected		Total Enrolled		Total Registered	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
8243	4527	1636	1182	1148	799	1098	758
12770		2818		1947		1856	

#### Postgraduate

Total Applicants		Total Selected		Total Enrolled		Total Registered	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1187	716	612	414	532	346	496	314
1903		1026		878		810	

**Enrollment Chart: 2013**



**Enrollment by Gender: 2013****Graphical Representation:****BRAC University - Total Enrollment Overview**

The academic profile of BRACU's enrollment has significantly improved over the years. The table below shows a detail for the year 2010 to 2013.

**Table 2: Freshman Comparison Data**

Program	2010		2011	
	Total Applicants	Total Enrolled	Total Applicants	Total Enrolled
Undergraduate	7017	1139	6875	1077
Postgraduate	907	367	1255	398
TOTAL	7924	1506	8130	1475

Program	2012		2013	
	Total Applicants	Total Enrolled	Total Applicants	Total Enrolled
Undergraduate	9244	1640	12770	1947
Postgraduate	1398	597	1903	878
TOTAL	10642	2237	14673	2825

**Program and Registration Unit**

The Program and Registration is an important unit of the Registrar's office and dedicated primarily to the service of faculty and students through scheduling, registration planning the academic calendar, reporting as well as assisting the deans, chairpersons, directors and other administrative offices as required.

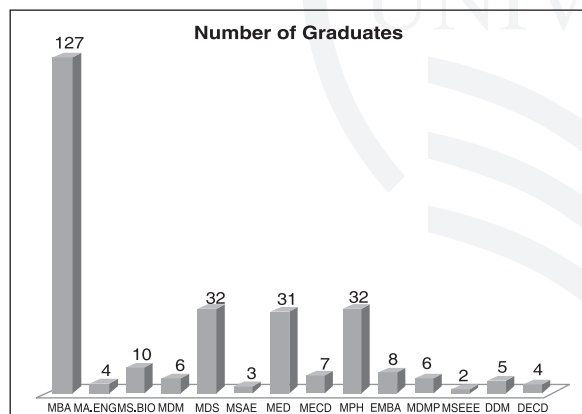
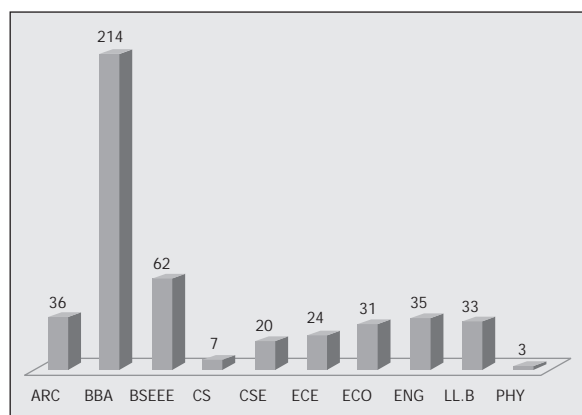
The major tasks of this office are as follows: the publication of semester course offerings class and final examination scheduling and invigilation classroom allocation for courses and admission tests ad hoc reporting to the management and fulfilling requests for students' information. These unit also coordinates university-wide course enrollment and registration process using University Student Information System (USIS).

In 2013, a total of 1213 students attended the Residential Semester (RS), among those, 681 were boys and 542 were girls. The Residential Semester registration process was primed through this unit. Moreover, support was provided to more than six

thousand students for their registration into courses every semester through this unit.

### Examination Unit

The Examination Unit is responsible for managing and maintaining academic records, managing and ensuring the integrity of examinations and generating course transcripts and certificates. The unit also verifies students' academic records and issues various certificates and letters pertaining to students' record and academic information.



Examinations are conducted every semester during the period indicated in the academic calendar. The examination time-table is displayed on notice boards and the BRAC University website. The University views academic malpractice seriously and does not condone plagiarism or cheating in examinations. A breach of any rule will render a student liable to disciplinary action which may result in the student's expulsion from the University.

The University has in place standard operating procedures to ensure that examinations are conducted professionally and with integrity. Various security measures and levels of checks are in place for

the handling of examination results before they are released to students. The results and award lists are also presented to the Academic Council for approval.

One of the biggest events organized by the Examination Unit is the Convocation. In 2013 the 8<sup>th</sup> Convocation was held in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. A total of 742 students in both undergraduate and post graduate level were awarded degrees on the occasion.

### Emergency Medical Centre

BRAC University Emergency Medical Centre is committed to provide general medical services to students, faculty and staff. The Medical Centre also creates awareness of different seasonal and common diseases among the University population. The centre is well equipped to provide necessary medical advice and services to the university community.

Another wing of the Emergency Medical Centre is located in the Residential Campus at Savar where professionally qualified doctors and nurses attend.

The year 2013 has been a busy year for the medical units; a few major contributions are listed below:

- Providing medical emergency care to around 260 patients
- Prescribing medicine to students, faculty and staff; around 2396 in Mohakhali Campus and 2178 in Savar Campus. The prescribed cases were general diseases such as viral fever, RTI, traumatic injury, skin diseases etc.
- Referral of serious patients to Aysha Memorial Hospital and Enam Medical College Hospital
- Preparing health profiles of about 823 freshers
- Providing general health check up for about 1973 newly admitted students and students attending the residential semester
- The medical centres ensure an acceptable standard of Public Health and Sanitation all over the University. Every month the medical centre collects drinking water samples from every building and sends it to icddr,b for microbiological test.
- The Centre has started offering a free prescription service for local people in the neighboring area of BRAC University Mohakhali Campus since in September 2013.

## The Residential Semester

The Residential Semester (RS) of BRAC University is a distinctive feature of university education in Bangladesh. It is mandatory for all students of BRAC University. Students usually go to Savar in the second semester after completing their first semester at Mohakhali, which is the main campus.

During their stay at Savar, students live in a community consisting of fellow students, faculty members, dorm supervisors of respective dormitories and other members of staff of the university. In this way they learn to take responsibility and help each other. The rigorous learning of how to live in a community and being supportive to the members starts from here. Leadership qualities also flourish while living at Savar through the learning of taking responsibilities. These qualities get reinforced in academia through interactive classes and planned activities. Students develop the skills to collaborate with others in order to have more effective results in every sphere of life.

The curriculum for this semester possesses uniqueness as it was designed by a group of educational experts. The subjects that are taught in this semester include English, Bangladesh Studies, and Ethics and Culture. These multiple dimensions of the curriculum help the students to be proud of Bangladesh by knowing the history of it, to nourish the ethical attributes needed for their lives and to become a global citizen and compete with the world outside by enhancing their English language skills.

Therefore, the following are the major learning objectives for the RS students:

- Develop English language skills
- Expand leadership skills and discover the ethical guiding principle and responsibilities of a leader
- Experience community living and develop the skills to care for others and to respect diversity in a community
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their own country
- Figure out the social responsibilities of a good citizen of their country and community

### Course Integration

Promoting integration between academic and experiential learning activities is one of the major focuses of Residential Semester. The courses are integrated properly as materials of English language classes are chosen based on Bangladesh Studies and ethical values. Students get involved in debate on various issues in order to enhance the skills of posing an argument as debate. It is also an experiential learning activity done outside the class. Moreover, students discuss the positive leadership qualities they need while they are staying at Savar and then compare these qualities with the attributes needed for employment. They also learn how to become an effective leader for a community and a country.

The goal of these courses and activities is to help the students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills that they can use in the real world. For example, they can use these skills when dealing with problems with roommates, classmates and friends. Studies



BRAC University, Savar Campus



show that students who develop these skills and make their own decisions while in university become better decision makers as adults, and these skills are just as important as the students' academic learning.

The teachers reinforce this integration by reviewing the course readings and lesson plans of the English, Bangladesh Studies and Ethics and Culture courses. They do cross class visits to learn more about the content and the students' activities in these classes. The teachers also attend reflection meetings for the courses they are teaching and for all the integrated courses.

### Semester Orientation

The purpose of the day-long orientation program is to introduce the teachers and staff, explain the purpose of the RS and outline the curriculum. The most important part of the orientation is the discussion of the expectations of the students and the outcomes of the RS experience. In small groups, the students develop the norms or ground rules for the semester. These norms include topics such as classroom behaviour and how they will respect their peers, teachers and staff. By developing these norms themselves, the students become more apt to practice and enforce them during their time in the RS.

### Student Mix of 2012 (Spring, Summer and Fall semester)

Since 2003, a total of 7117 students have completed RS and in 2013, 1307 students attended the RS semester:

Semester	Male	Female	Total
Spring	228	163	391
Summer	282	169	451
Fall	263	202	465
Total	773	534	1307

### Experiential Learning Activities (ELA)

The ELA is designed for the students, with the guidance and support of the instructors. Through ELA, the students take part in group work, presentations, and simulations and discover their hidden talents. Here students learn by doing. The most successful activity of ELA is Social Learning Lab when the students take over the responsibilities of each staff of the campus for a day. They have the roles

of not only the administrative staff but also the people who do the everyday tasks. This experience brings forth a moral lesson that jobs may look simple but are difficult and complex. Students learn to respect every single person of the community and they realize that everyone is important to ensure an effective community living.

To encourage students to broaden their interests and learn different skills, the RS organizes a variety of extracurricular activities, and each student must sign up for at least one activity. At the end of the semester, the students present the outcome or product of their activity through an exhibition.

In 2013, the following Experiential Learning Activities were done successfully:

- Debate
- Spelling Bee
- Creative Writing
- Reading Competition
- Project Based Presentation
- Drawing and Sketching
- Poetry Recitation
- Dance
- Community Service (old home visit)
- Community Awareness (School based)
- Recycling
- Social Learning Lab
- Lalbagh Fort and Liberation War Museum visit
- BRAC Program visit
- Hydroponic Vegetable Cultivation
- Gardening

### RESIDENTIAL SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

#### Know the Country & Culture

Students learn about a country and its people in terms of their culture and geography. The outcome of this activity is insights on and understanding of different people and places.

#### Debate

The major goal of debate activity is to develop one's ability to persuade others about the positive points of their position and the negative points of their opponents' position. The outcome of this activity is to create a logical argument and to evaluate the argument from different perspectives.

**Quiz**

Quizzes are created on different national and international issues, and the students compete to get the highest score. Through this activity students develop an awareness of the world and an ability to evaluate news sources.

**Spelling Bee**

This activity is organized in the same way as the international spelling bee competitions are. This activity helps students enhance vocabulary of the English language and develop the ability to use this vocabulary.

**Wall Magazine**

Wall magazine is a creative learning for the students because they choose the topics, research and write about the topics, and then do the design and graphics for the wall magazines. Students develop their collaborative writing skills and the talent to design a background to present those writing.

**Recycling**

The activity focuses on innovative ways in which the students can recycle. Through research and decision making on the methods and application of recycling on campus, the students gain an awareness of how to create a green society.

**Creative Writing**

Creative writing helps students to convey their thoughts and feelings in prose or poetry. Students write short stories, poetry, autobiography and essays. At the end, a book is published with all the creative writing of the students.

**Chinese Language**

Learning a new language is always an added value for a student as they can become a global citizen and in the future, compete in the global job market. Moreover, by getting exposed to different learning strategies used in a foreign language, students can improve their thought process.

**Community Service (old home visit)**

The objective of the activity is to develop a sense of empathy and appreciation for the senior citizens of our country.

**Drawing and Sketching**

The objective of this activity is to encourage students to be creative and portray diverse ideas through drawing and sketching.

**Music**

The students get to know different Bengali songs and poetry, as well as learn about the evolution of these arts in Bangladesh. They also discover how these art forms link to the Liberation War, Independence and national life.

**Critical Thinking**

By this activity students discover a pressing issue, think about it, do research, find out a solution and then present their research. Although critical thinking is integrated into all the courses, this program helps students to transfer these skills to the real world and their daily life.

**Project Based Presentation**

This activity will focus on finding out the major problems around the society. It emphasizes on environmental pollution and industrialization.

**Gardening**

The program is meant to encourage the students to participate in creating something out of Mother Nature and get in to the habit of eating fresh vegetables and fruits for a healthy life.

**Community awareness (School Based)**

In this activity students of RS visit rural schools and teach the students how to build awareness on some major issues like- importance of education, healthy life, ethics, etc. The main objective of this activity is to build awareness among the students regarding some issues which are related to their daily life.

**Seminars and Workshops**

There are a number of seminars and workshops organized that are mandatory for all students. Experts in their fields conduct the seminars and workshops. This allows students to listen to and converse with the people who have the knowledge the students need.

**Seminar on Drug Abuse**

The object of the seminar is to inform the students on the dangers of drug use and to have the students reflect on their attitudes and feelings about drugs and drug users in the society.

**Story of BRAC**

Each semester, a seminar titled "The Story of BRAC" is conducted at Savar. The session starts with the history of BRAC, its growth and the role of its visionary leader.

### Grooming and Etiquette

The session focuses on simple etiquette techniques that are often overlooked by young people. This session helps to prepare students for the appropriate behavior they will need in employment or graduate school environments.

### Social Emotional Evening: An Evening with a Freedom Fighter

The session is a part of the experiential learning activity of the Bangladesh Studies Course. The purpose of this session is to give students an understanding of this important time in history.

### Five Decades of Development

As part of the Bangladesh Studies course, a combined session was arranged on the development of Bangladesh since Independence. The purpose of this session is to inform students about the achievements of Bangladesh since 1971, and to inspire them to think of the progress of the country.

### Meet the Employers

The top HR people of Bangladesh attend this session, and they inform the students on the preparation they need to make to be ready for employment. There are usually three or four guests from varied organizations, such as the IT sector, telecommunication companies, banks, NGOs and some small businesses.



*Meet the Employers*

### Public Health Seminar

The program is designed so that students can learn about health and nutrition, as well as some basic instruction on sexual and reproductive health.

**In addition to the above-mentioned seminars and workshops, the following on and off campus events are arranged for all RS students.**

### Social Learning Lab

About ninety students take on the responsibilities of the people who work in all areas of the campus, including administrative, laundry, kitchen, security,



*Social Learning Lab*

cleaning, and dining staff. Each lab is followed by the students reflecting on the experience and presenting their feelings, what they learned and their ethical development. The experience helps them gain respect for a diverse group of people and professions.

### English Week

The week-long program called "English Week" is observed to reinforce English Practice on the campus. To improve English language use, every day various language games take place such as storytelling and "Read if You Can". In addition, students participate in various competitions such as poster campaigns, spelling bees, public speaking, art and writing contests and a talent show.

### Moral Day Celebration

This special program recognizes students' good deeds and behavior. The day includes displaying virtue cards on a tree-shaped board, exhibition of ethics related pictures and cartoons, an ethical talk show and documentaries on moral issues. The day is also referred to as a Key Virtue Day and No Lie Day. The day ends with a play titled "Digonto Surjo" performed by a BRAC popular theatre group from Bogra. The topics of the play are good governance and citizenship and moral values. The Moral Day is an experiential learning activity of the Ethics and Culture course, which seeks to promote values through information on leading a good life.

### Museum Visit

As part of Bangladesh Studies, students visit Bangladesh Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum). Students visit different galleries of the museum and take part in a quiz competition organized by the museum, and are awarded prizes. Bangladesh Studies instructors and other staffs accompany the students.

### BRAC Visit

In BRAC Visit program, students are divided into seven groups, and each group is assigned a BRAC



program to review and report on. The programs are Micro-Credit, Health, Education, Legal and Human Rights, Enterprise, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Program and Social Development. Students are taken to a village and have the opportunity to explore rural life and interact with the people. They see the struggle of poor people, and they learn how the BRAC programs support them in becoming independent and informed workers. Students recognize the importance of rural people for national development and the negative impact of class structure. As BRAC University believes in creating its students as future leaders for Bangladesh and assists them to be ethically sound, globally competent and proud Bangladeshis, BRAC Program visits are designed to make students aware about their responsibilities towards their own people and their country. Students get inspired seeing different development activities BRAC does, and they get encouraged to get themselves prepared as future leaders for Bangladesh.



*BRAC program visit*

### **Book Reading Competition**

“Reading is a great passion and also a great hobby” – this is the slogan of the competition that is sponsored by the British Council. Throughout the semester, students read four to five books and watch a movie in class. At the end of the semester, students take part in an exam, and the most successful reader gets a prize.

In addition to reading, students watch movies and do post-movie discussions on weekend evenings. This activity is mandatory for all students.

### **Parents' Day**

Parents' Day is observed in all semesters. Parents come to visit the campus and spend time with their children. All the staff and faculty members remain present and meet the parents, and the Vice Chancellor visits and talks with the parents. The parents gain

an in-depth idea about the experiences of their children and how every student is taken care of.



*Parents' day in Savar Campus*

### **RS Drama**

Drishwapat Theater Group staged “Socrateser Jobanbondi” for the students. Teachers of Ethics and Culture course discussed the message of the play and the relation of the topic to the ethics course. At the end of the drama, the course teacher invites students to share their interpretation of and reflections on the drama.

### **Ekushey February**

Students observe Amar Ekushey (Language Movement) and International Mother Language Day with proper spirit and solemnity. Students and staff take part in Probhat Ferry (Morning Procession) and place floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, which is in the Residential Campus at Savar. The teachers facilitate a discussion with the students on the importance and meaning of the day.

### **Drama on the History of Bangladesh**

For the first time, the students staged a drama on the History of Bangladesh. The drama was based on part one of the Bangladesh Studies course and reflected the students' learning on the history of Bangladesh since prehistoric times. They covered the historical points from the roots and origin of the ancient people all the way to the Liberation War. The students made history come to life in this drama.

### **Meet the Cultural Personality**

The purpose of this session is to introduce students to the evolution of Bangla music as part of their experiential learning for the Bangladesh Studies course. The prominent singer Azizur Rahman Tuhin, from the Music Department of Dhaka University, facilitated the session. He discussed the evolution of Bangla music, and he performed songs from various times in history. Lutfunnahar Panna, a music teacher, performed songs of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and some contemporary songs.



## Finance and Accounts Department

BRACU Finance and Accounts Department operates under the supervision of the Treasurer who is directly appointed by the Chancellor (President, Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh). The Finance and Accounts Department receives tuition fees, admission and other fees from the students and research grants from donors. The Department makes all types of payments and prepares various reports for the management. These include the Weekly fund position report, Monthly central budget variance report, Annual Financial Statement, Scholarship reports, Provident fund financial statements, Donor reports as well as reports related to taxation activities

in respect of the University and its Faculty and Staff. The Finance and Accounts Department maintains the accounts and finance related activities of more than 25 Donor projects and also maintain other financial activities such as; Students enrollment and registration, Faculty and Staff Payroll, Fixed Assets Management, Cash and Cheque Management, Budget preparation and Budgetary Control. The Finance and Accounts department provides information and various types of analyses and reports to the management and assist in the policy and decision making process of BRAC University.



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 Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, *Pro-Vice Chancellor*  
 Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar, *Treasurer and Registrar (a.i)*

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 Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam, *Secretary to the Vice Chancellor*

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 Mr. Md. Arifuzzaman, *Assistant Registrar*  
 Ms. Nazmus Sabeka, *Assistant Director, Exams*  
 Ms. Shadia Alam, *Assistant Registrar (Examination & Transcript)*  
 Mr. Mohammad Shamim Azad, *Assistant Registrar*  
 Mr. Md Mahi Uddin, *Admin Officer*  
 Ms. Tamanna Chowdhury, *Exam & Transcript Officer*  
 Ms. Fakrun Nahar Muniya, *Regist. & Program Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Maksudur Rahman, *IT Officer*  
 Mr. Sk. Sadman Sakib, *Jr. Admission & Registration Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Ashikur Rahman, *Junior Documentation Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Mazedul Islam, *Administrative Assistant*

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 Mr. Azharul Islam Bhuiyan, *Manager*  
 Mr. Md. Amdadul Islam, *Deputy Manager*  
 Mr. Md. Nazmul Hasan, *Deputy Manager*  
 Mr. Sumon Chandra Das, *Sr. Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Golam Kibria, *Sr. Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Humayun Bashir, *Sr. Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Mohammad Khorshed Alam, *Sr. Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Sk. Mahamudur Rahman, *Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Mahabub-Bin-Zaman (Suzan), *Accounts Officer*  
 Mr. Subrota Samadder, *Assistant Accounts Officer*  
 Ms. Nusrat Zahan, *Assistant Accounts Officer*  
 Ms. Senjuti Mandal (On study leave), *Assistant Accounts Officer*

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 Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, *Manager*  
 Ms. Momena Begum, *HR Officer*  
 Ms. Farhana Ferdausi, *HR Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahman, *HR Officer*

Ms. Sizia Farhana, *Assistant HR Officer*  
 Ms. Tanvia Ifrat, *Jr. HR Officer*  
 Mr. Shuva Shaha, *Jr. HR Officer*

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 Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, *Career Services Executive*  
 Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin, *Career Services Officer*  
 Ms. Rakshinda Huq, *Career Services Officer*  
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 Mr. Mohammad Rezaul Islam, *System Administrator*  
 Mr. Md. Sadat Mursalin Chowdhury, *System Administrator*  
 Mr. Aurongojeb, *System Administrator*  
 Mr. Md. Al-Mahmud, *System Administrator, BIGH*  
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 Mr. Md. Shariful Alam, *IT Officer*  
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 Ms. Mahmuda Yasmin Lota, *Hostel Super*  
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 Ms. Silvia Hossain, *Nurse*

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 Ms. Sanjida Pias, *Assistant Admin Officer*

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 Mr. Md. Shazzad Hossain, *Student Affairs Officer*  
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 Mr. Saiduzzaman Shikder, *Admin Officer*  
 Mr. Kazi Arif Mahmudul Alam, *Admin Officer*

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 Ms. Sabrina Syed, *Lecturer*  
 Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Tasnova Rahman, *Asst. Admin Officer*

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 Mr. Shami Suhrid, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Sumaiya Anwar, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Anjuman Ara, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Mr. Saleh Siddique, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Safina Binte Enayet, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Tasnuva Huque, *Psycho Social Counselor (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Monzia Mushtaq, *Teaching Assistant*

**Ayesha Abed Library**

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 Ms. Syeda Nasima Begum, *Senior Asst. Librarian*  
 Mr. Kh. Ali Murtoza, *Senior Asst. Librarian*  
 Mr. Ahmad Parvez, *Senior Asst. Librarian*  
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 Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, *Junior Asst. Librarian*  
 Mr. Auninda Rummy Saleque, *Assistant System Programmer*  
 Ms. Urmi Hira, *Assistant System Programmer*  
 Mr. Belal Ahmed, *Library Assistant*

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 Mr. Md. Aminul Islam, *Sr. Campus Management Officer*  
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 Ms. Ismat Ara, *House Tutor*  
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 Mr. Md. Mosharof Hossain, *House Tutor*  
 Ms. Dilruba Amir, *House Tutor*  
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 Ms. Sreyoshi Ahmed, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Sohana Wadud Ahmad, *Lecturer*  
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 Nawshaba Ahmed, *Lecturer*  
 Mushira Habib, *Lecturer*  
 Mahmuda Akhter, *Lecturer*  
 Asifa Sultana, *Lecturer*  
 Abu Sayeed Mohammad Noman, *Lecturer*  
 Mahruba Tasneem Mowtushi, *Lecturer*  
 Nausheen Naz Eusuf, *Lecturer*  
 Fatima Tuz Zahra, *Lecturer*  
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 Imtiaz Ahmed, *TA*  
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Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, *Executive Director*

### **BRAC Development Institute (BDI)**

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 Dr. Ferdous Jahan, *Academic Coordinator*  
 Ms. Maheen Sultan, *Lead Researcher & Deputy-Coordinator, CGST*  
 Dr. Mirza M. Hassan, *Lead Researcher*  
 Dr. Sohela Nazneen, *Lead Researcher*  
 Dr. Rashed Uz Zaman, *Part Time Faculty*  
 Mr. Alamgir Kabir, *Deputy Academic Coordinator*  
 Ms. Lopita Huq, *Research Fellow*  
 Ms. Marufa Akter, *Program Officer*  
 Mr. Mohammad Kamruzzaman, *Finance Manager*  
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 Mr. Omar Faruque Siddiki, *Senior Research Associate*  
 Mr. Bayazid Hasan, *Senior Research Associate*  
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 Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, *Research Associate*  
 Mr. Iqbal Ehsan, *Research Associate*  
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 Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque, *Senior Research Associate*  
 Mr. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, *Senior Programme Manager*  
 Ms. Nuzhat Jabin, *Programme Manager, ANSA SAR*  
 Mr. Salahuddin Mahmud, *Senior Manager (Finance, Admin & HR)*  
 Mr. Nahid Waliul, *Manager (Admin & Logistics)*  
 Mr. Mridha Fuhad Ahmed, *Manager (Training)*  
 Mr. Ekram Hossain, *Project Manager (Communications)*  
 Mr. Chandan Bikash Nath, *Senior IT Officer*  
 Mr. Nurul Hyder Bhuiyan, *Senior Finance Officer*  
 Mr. Narayan Chandra Das, *Finance Officer*  
 Mr. Musthafizur Rahman Khan, *Project Officer, ANSA SAR*  
 Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, *Research Associate*  
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 Ms. Jannatul Fardosh, *Research Associate*  
 Ms. Saika Nudrat Chowdhury, *Research Associate*  
 Mr. Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, *Research Associate*  
 Ms. Rubayet Hamid, *Research Assistant*  
 Ms. Nabila Zaman, *Research Assistant*  
 Ms. Afrina Islam, *Research Assistant*  
 Mr. Kazi Niaz Ahmed, *Research Assistant*  
 Mr. Rigan Chakma, *Research Assistant*  
 Ms. Farhana Rahman Khan, *Publications Associate*  
 Ms. Tanzina Mizan, *Programme Associate*  
 Mr. Md. Zahirul Islam, *Programme Assistant*  
 Ms. Sameeah Zahangir, *Communications Assistant*  
 Ms. Fariha Afrin, *Project Assistant, ANSA SAR*  
 Mr. Mahmudul Alam Talukdar, *Project Assistant, ANSA SAR*  
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 Mr. Khorshed Alom, *Assistant Administration Officer (Training)*  
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 Ms. Sunjida Afrin Khan, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Hasna Khanom, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Syeda Farzana, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Subarna Sarkar, *Lecturer*  
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 Mr. Md. Golam Mohiuddin, *Lecturer*  
 Mr. Raisul Islam Chowdhury, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury, *Lecturer*  
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 Mr. Md. Mahbubul Islam, *Lecturer*  
 Mr. Md. Julhas Uddin, *Lecturer*

Ms. Farina Haque, *Lecturer*  
 Ms. Shammee Akter, *Part Time Lecturer*  
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 Ms. Zhu Lili, *Volunteer Lecturer, Chinese Language*  
 Ms. Rifat Farzana Sumi, *Part Time Lecturer, Korean Language*  
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 Mr. Probal Dutta, *Part Time Lecturer, French Language*  
 Mr. Mohammed Aatur Rahman, *Part Time Faculty French Language*  
 Mr. Sultan Ahmed, *Associate Professor Part Time Faculty, Arabic Language*  
 Mr. Rafique-Um-Munir Chowdhury, *Associate Professor Part Time Faculty, Spanish Language*  
 Mr. S.M. Rubyat, *Part Time Lecturer, Chinese Language*  
 Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam, *Part Time Lecturer, Spanish Language*  
 Ms. Nurunnesa Sabera, *Senior Department Coordination Officer*  
 Ms. Mst. Rokeya Begum, *Admin Officer*

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 Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed, *Professor*  
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 Dr. Kaosar Afsana, *Professor*  
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 Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khan, *Logistics Officer*  
 Mr. Kazi Mohammad Abu Yusuf, *Administrative Officer*  
 Mr. Tapan Biswas, *Sr. Program Officer, IT*  
 Mr. Abdur Rouf Sarker, *Program Officer, IT*  
 Mr. Md. Al-Mahmud, *System Administrator*  
 Mst. Nazmun Farzana, *Accounts Officer*  
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 Mr. Md. Koushik Ahmed, *Senior Academic Support Coordinator*  
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 Mst. Shabnam Mostari, *Sr. Research Associate*  
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 Mr. M. Showkat Gani, *Sr. Statistician*  
 Mr. Bulbul Ashraf Siddique, *Researcher/Mid-Level Faculty*  
 Mr. Yamin Tauseef Jahangir, *Sr. Research Associate*  
 Mr. Md. Salauddin Biswas, *Sr. Research Associate*  
 Dr. Nadira Sultana, *Research Coordinator*  
 Mr. Md. Akteruzzaman, *Research Associate*  
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 Mr. K.M. Zahiduzzaman, *Program Coordination Manager*



Mr. Asiful Haider Chowdhury, *Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist*  
 Ms. Maliha Bassam, *Advocacy & Communications Specialist*  
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 Mr. Sayed Auranghajeb, *Sr. Data Management Officer*  
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 Mr. Md. Munirul Islam, *Project Officer -Resource Management*  
 Ms. Nayna Ahmmed, *Training Officer*  
 Ms. Rowson Jahan, *Data Management Officer*  
 Ms. Salma Binte Ashraf, *Data Management Officer*

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 Dr. Erum Mariam, *Director*  
 Dr. Mary Monica Gomes, *Professor & Coordinator - Master of Education (MEd) and Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management*  
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 Professor Md. Shamsul Hoque, *Senior English Teaching Specialist, Professional Development*  
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 Ms. Trishna Sagar, *Senior Research Fellow, MSc, ECD*  
 Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain, *Research Fellow, Research and Development*  
 Ms. Basabi Maksud, *Assistant General Manager, Administration*  
 Mr. Md. Abul Kalam, *Research Fellow, Research and Development*  
 Ms. Nashida Ahmed, *Research Fellow, Research and Development*

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 Ms. Sakila Yesmin, *Research Associate III, MSc, ECD*  
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 Ms. Jannatun Naim, *Training Specialist, Professional Development*  
 Ms. Ferdousi Khanom, *Lecturer III, MSc, ECD*  
 Ms. Syeda Fareha Shaheeda Islam, *Lecturer III, MSc, ECD*  
 Ms. Shaheen Akter, *Research Fellow I, MEd*  
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 Mr. Rino Wiseman Adhikary, *Lecturer II, MEd*  
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 Ms. Nafisa Anwar, *Lecturer II, MEd*  
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 Mr. Shakil Ahmed, *Staff Researcher, BRAC Nobodhara School*  
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 Ms. Puja Gloria Rodrigues, *Psycho Social Counselor, Research and Development*

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 Ms. Roufa Khanam, *Research Associate (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Sharmin Nahar Nipa, *Research Associate (Lecturer)*  
 Ms. Farzeen Auboni Khundkar, *Research Assistant*  
 Ms. Kasmia Ferdousi, *Research Assistant*  
 Mr. Imon Rahman, *Lecturer (Part time)*  
 Mr. Md. Asif Rahman, *Lecturer (Part time)*  
 Mr. Minhaz Farid Ahmed, *Research Assistant*  
 Mr. Shakil Naheyan, *Admin Officer*  
 Mr. Md. Azmeary Ferdoush, *Research Assistant*  
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 Ms. Taslima Akter, *Research Assistant*

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 Mr. Shamim Ehsanul Haque, *Senior Researcher*

### Control & Application Research Centre (CARC)

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 Mr. Rafiur Rahman Surjo, *Project Engineer*  
 Mr. Md. Sabbir Ahmed Khan, *Research Assistant*

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Ms. Shamim Akhter Chowdhury, *Lab Officer, MNS*  
 Ms. Aditi Mondal, *Lab Officer, MNS*  
 Mr. Md. Anawarul Islam, *Lab Officer, Pharmacy*  
 Mr. Md. Moniul Islam, *Lab Officer, Pharmacy*  
 Mr. Hameem Al Ahsan Media, *Lab Officer, CSE*  
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 Ms. Shazia Afrin Chowdhury, *LTO, EEE*

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 Mr. Rakesh Sarker, *LTO, CSE*  
 Ms. Alima Hossain, *LTO, CSE*  
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 Mr. Md. Sanzidul Islam Sani, *LTO, EEE*  
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 Mr. Farzad Islam Bonny, *LTO, CSE*  
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 Mr. Taseen Muhtadi, *LTO, CSE*  
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 Mr. Md. Kamruzzaman Sumon, *LTO, CSE*  
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 Mr. Md. Abdus Shafi, *LTO, CSE*  
 Mr. Mohammad Zubair Alam, *LTO, CSE*  
 Mr. Md. Shohag, *LTO (Savar)*  
 Mr. Md. Azharul Islam, *LTO (Savar)*

## Auditor's Report

**S F AHMED & CO.**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
 ...Since 1958

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 Road 9, Block F,  
 Banani, Dhaka 1213  
 Bangladesh

■ Telephone: (88-02)9894346, 9870957,  
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 E-mail: [sface@dhaka.net](mailto:sface@dhaka.net)  
[sfali@connectbd.com](mailto:sfali@connectbd.com)  
[sfacoali@btcl.net.bd](mailto:sfacoali@btcl.net.bd)

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

#### To the Board of Trustees of BRAC University

#### On the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of BRAC University as of June 30, 2013, and the income & expenditure statement and the cash flow statement for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies summarized in Note 2 of the financial statement and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as adopted in Bangladesh. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluation the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of BRAC University as of June 30, 2013, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with the accounting policies summarized in Note 2 of the Financial Statements.

Dated, Dhaka  
 09 December 2013


*S. F. Ahmed*  
**S. F. Ahmed & Co.**  
 Chartered Accountants

**BRAC University**  
**Income & Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2013**

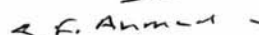
Particulars	Notes No.	30 June 2013 BDT	30 June 2012 BDT
<b>A) Income - Academic</b>			
Admission income	14	15,179,086	9,163,670
Academic income	15	874,091,812	668,978,129
Total income (Academic)		<b>889,270,898</b>	<b>678,141,799</b>
<b>B) Expenditure -Academic</b>			
Academic expenses	16	643,239,662	489,162,546
Admission expenses	17	15,419,500	10,743,116
Academic research expenses	18	2,759,619	1,833,204
Publications expenses	19	2,186,467	1,405,746
Total expenses (Academic)		<b>663,605,248</b>	<b>503,144,612</b>
<b>C) Excess of income over expenses –Academic(A-B)</b>		<b>225,665,650</b>	<b>174,997,187</b>
<b>D) Income -Non academic</b>			
Non-academic income	20	411,000,500	266,364,125
<b>E) Total operating income (C+D)</b>		<b>636,666,150</b>	<b>441,361,312</b>
<b>F) Expenditure –Non academic</b>			
Non academic expenses	21	121,602,693	89,514,349
Non academic research expenses	22	406,457,875	256,181,771
Total non academic expenses		<b>528,060,568</b>	<b>345,696,120</b>
<b>G) Excess of income over expenses (E-F)</b>		<b>108,605,582</b>	<b>95,665,192</b>
<b>H) Financial income-interest income/ profit from investment</b>	23	71,847,169	63,780,164
Less: Financial expenses	24	848,255	245,455
Excess of financial income over expenses		<b>70,998,914</b>	<b>63,534,709</b>
<b>I) Net Excess of income over expenses (G+H)</b>		<b>179,604,496</b>	<b>159,199,901</b>

  
Treasurer

  
Member of Board of Trustees

  
Chairperson of Board of Trustees

Dated, Dhaka  
09 December 2013

  
**S.F. Ahmed & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants




**BRAC University**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 30 June 2013**

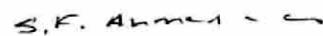
Particulars	Notes No.	30 June 2013	30 June 2012
		BDT	BDT
<b>Assets</b>			
Fixed assets	4	653,792,051	404,584,281
Long term investment	5	50,000,000	50,000,000
Current assets	6	923,682,117	805,583,113
Current liabilities	7	448,915,633	379,292,770
Net current assets		474,766,484	426,290,343
		<b>Fund employed</b>	<b>880,874,624</b>
		<b>1,178,558,535</b>	
<b>Financed by</b>			
Reserve fund	8	50,000,000	50,000,000
General fund	9	55,309,908	45,705,412
Special fund	10	792,367,224	561,515,402
Accumulated depreciation fund	11	220,290,418	176,546,771
<b>Total fund</b>		1,117,967,550	833,767,585
Long term liabilities	12	45,957,582	36,286,256
Deferred liabilities	13	14,633,403	10,820,783
<b>Total liabilities</b>		60,590,985	47,107,039
		<b>Financed by</b>	<b>880,874,624</b>
		<b>1,178,558,535</b>	

  
Treasurer

  
Member of Board of Trustees

  
Chairperson of Board of Trustees

Dated, Dhaka  
09 December 2013

  
**S.F. Ahmed & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants



## **BRAC University**

66, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Bangladesh

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