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Conferences

International Conference on Political Economy, Accountability and Governance held



(From Left) Dr. Syed Saad Andalib; Dr. Masihur Rahman; Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman; H.E. Brian Allemekinders and Ms. Julia Brunt, seen at the inauguration ceremony

A three-day International Conference on Political Economy, Accountability and Governance was held at Dhaka from 11th-13th December, 2014. The event was organised by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, in partnership with Think Tank Initiative (TTI) of International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Growth Centre (IGC) of London School of Economics (LSE) and Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) of the University of Manchester.

Dr. Masihur Rahman, Honourable Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, inaugurated the conference while H.E. Brian Allemekinders, Charge d'affaires, Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, attended as the Special Guest of the ceremony.

While inaugurating Dr. Masihur said, the concepts of governance and political economy are very inclusive and diverse in nature, and that the scope of their studies has expanded immensely over the years. He emphasised on technical and methodological rigor of research before any policy recommendation is made. He agreed that the concept of governance has replaced that of government. While government is more concrete, governance is more inclusive. He urged those who participate in the debate and discourse on policy to show a certain sense of responsibility and to engage in constructive criticism of the government.

H.E. Brian Allemekinders said democracy is much more than mere elections; it requires an independent judiciary and election commission and space for mass media. There cannot be true good governance without true representation, and true development is not possible without good governance, he explained.

"For Bangladesh to move forward, confrontational politics must diminish. The trend of politicising institutions must decrease. For this to happen, citizens will have to ask for it and demand it and hold your government and political parties accountable," he added.

Earlier, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD; Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and Ms. Julia Brunt, ESID welcomed the distinguished guests and the participants at the inauguration of the international conference.



In the inaugural panel titled, 'Whither Governance in South Asia?', Prof. Kunal Sen, ESID and Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Member of the former Caretaker Government presented two separate papers titled, 'Governance and Development Outcomes in Asia' and 'Bangladesh: The Limits of a Developmental Welfare State under Governance Dysfunction' respectively. Prof. Mushtaq Khan of School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of University of London; Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director of Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, and Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman were the panelists, and Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) chaired the session.



Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Kunal Sen, Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Professor Rehman Sobhan, and Prof. Mushtaq Khan as seen at the inaugural session

Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud said, Bangladesh has the image of a developmental welfare state, as reflected in the country's Constitution and in numerous other official documents, but the country has to contend with a serious problem of dysfunctional governance. According to Prof. Mahmud, although there was a transition from an authoritarian rule to parliamentary democracy in 1991, the political culture is one that does not allow democratic practices to flourish or one that can hardly deliver accountable and transparent governance.

Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud in his paper tried to explain the paradox in terms of nature of development interventions and the underlying political incentives and accountability mechanism.

"The core government system is characterised by a dysfunctional parliament, highly confrontational politics, absence of democratic practices within the major parties, polarisation of the state institutions and a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy," said Prof. Mahmud. Consequences of this extremely weak governance structure and non-existent accountability mechanism are most acute in the spheres of public provisioning of services, he added.

Prof. Mushtaq Khan, from SOAS argued that democracy is not essential to increase the economic growth, but is crucial for political stability of a country. He also argued that a country could grow economically despite widespread corruption. In this connection he gave example of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Commenting on findings of the speakers, participant Prof. Ataur Rahman, President of Bangladesh Political Scientists Association said, there were syndromes that Bangladesh has turned into a one party state in the absence proper function by the election commission and anti-corruption commission.

Noted economist Professor M.M. Akash of Dhaka University said, while the wealthy people mostly spend their money either on 'wasteful' luxury or siphon it out of the country instead of investing in the domestic economy, the contributions of the poorer sections are driving growth. He added, despite bad governance and the acts of the rich, Bangladesh's economy is growing for farmers, expatriate wage earners, garment workers, and small and medium entrepreneurs.

Former Minister M.K. Anwar pointed out lack of serious civic rights under the present government.



Professor Rehman Sobhan delivered the concluding remarks at the end of the session.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG among the attendees at the inaugural ceremony

Among others, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder and Chairman of BRAC; Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director, UNDP; Mr. Abu Naser Khan, Chairman, Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) Bangladesh; Mr. Olof Sandkull, First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden; Ms. Kathie Croake, Deputy Chief of Party, Democracy International; Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, Executive Director, Caritas; Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, UPL; Dr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS; Mr. Shamsur Rahman, Senior Economist, ADB; Mr. Zakir Hossain, CEO, Nagorik Uddog; Professor M Salimullah Khan, Jahangirnagar University; Mr. Amanullah Khan, Chairman, UNB; Mr. Jorg Nadoll, Senior Public Sector Specialist; Mr. Richard Butterworth, Team Leader, Governance Team, DFID; Mr. Faruq Hasan, Political Adviser, Norwegian Embassy; Brig. General (Retd.) M Shakhawat Hossain, former Election Commissioner and security analyst; Mr. Minhaj Alam, Democracy Watch, Mr. Habibullah N Karim, CEO, Technohaven and many more participated in the inaugural ceremony as well as the inaugural session.

In the three-day conference, 29 papers were presented in a total of nine sessions titled, Whither Governance in South Asia?; State Institutions and Policy Choices; the Political Dynamics of Economic Growth; Institutional Performance and Growth; Political and Institutional Reforms; Institutions for Sustainable Development; Social Provisioning, Education and Health; Political Economy of Incentives; and Corruption and Institutions.

44 economists, social and political scientists from USA, UK, Japan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh participated in the conference. Emeritus Prof. T N Srinivasan, Yale University; Prof. Gautam Gupta, Jadavpur University; Dr. Sandip Mitra, Indian Statistical Institute; Dr. Prakash Nishith, University of Connecticut; Prof. Syed M. Ahsan, Concordia University; Dr. Wendy Kay Olsen, Manchester University; Prof. Fahad Khalil, University of Washington; Prof. Kunal Sen, Dr. Pablo Yanguas, Ms. Julia Brunt, of ESID; Prof. Jonathan Leape, Executive Director of IGC, LSE; Dr. Shankar P. Sharma, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal; Dr. Sandip Mitra, ISI, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director of CSDS, Delhi; Dr. Adnan Khan, IGC, LSE; Ms. Joanne Lai, IGC; Dr. Sabyasachi Kar, University of Delhi; Prof. Geof Wood, Emeritus Professor, University of Bath; Ms. Menghan Shen, University of Tokyo; Ms. Parul Agarwal, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR); Dr. Abu S. Shonchoy, IDE-JETRO; Dr. Niaz Asadullah, University of Malaya; Prof. M A Taslim, Dr. Selim Raihan, Dr. Atonu Rabbani of University of Dhaka; Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Adviser to the former Caretaker Government; Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Prof. Rounaq Jahan, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya from CPD; Mr. Atiq Rahman, BCAS; Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Dr. Mirza M Hassan, Dr. Sohela Nazneen attended the conference. Prof. Yasuyuki Sawada, University of Tokyo and Dr. Lakshmi Iyer, Harvard University joined the conference through Skype sessions.

At the concluding day, the participants agreed that good governance is not a requisite for development. However, smart implementation of policies and programmes, enhanced infrastructural development and effective functioning of democratic institutions must be taken care of in order to achieve higher economic growth. Moreover, electoral and political reforms, avoiding confrontational politics, free and fair justice delivery system, strengthening institutions are needed to boost economic growth, which will help to establish a working democracy.

The Speakers analysed the relation among economic growth and inequality, political institutions and accountability, politics of recognition, social provisioning and inclusive governance, decentralisation and local governance, sustainable urban growth,

poverty alleviation and democratic governance in their papers in the conference. The conference comprised presentations of empirical research, especially evidence based.

In the concluding session, BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman said, 'Bangladesh should turn the large human capital into skilled, experience-based

knowledge capital and engage them to accelerate the economic growth to the next level.' He thanked the participants saying, 'Knowledge should be nurtured collectively and that's why the conference has been organised.' He acknowledged the support of BIGD's partners - ESID, Univ. of Manchester, IGC and TTI under IDRC - in organising the conference.

Public Lecture by Chinese Academicians

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised Public Lectures on China's experience in Development by Professor Zuo Ting, Vice Dean, College of Humanities and Development, China Agricultural University, Beijing China and Role of women in development: China experience by Professor Wang Libin, Head of the International Students Department, College of Humanities and Development, China Agricultural University, Beijing China on Monday, 27th October 2014, at 10.00 AM at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, BRAC Centre, Dhaka.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD chaired the event, attended by dozens of academicians, civil society members, foreign delegates, journalists and students. The objective of the lectures was building awareness on Chinese experience in poverty reduction and women development. Reformation in rural and agriculture sectors, an export-oriented production strategy and special focus on poverty reduction were the key components enabling the development of the Chinese economy, revealed two Chinese academicians at the lecture.



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman delivering his speech at the public lecture on China's Experience Development

Prof Zuo Ting said, around 46 percent of the populations of 1,360 million live in rural areas of China. The government's priority on health, education, infrastructure and agriculture has played a significant role in rural development, he said while delivering a public lecture on 'China's Experiences in Rural Development.'

Another lecture was provided by Prof Wang Libin, head of the College's International Students Department. In her lecture 'Gender Mainstreaming in Poverty Reduction Programme-Experience of China,' Prof Wang Libin talked about women and gender issues of China.

Workshops:

Cabinet Division and BIGD, BRAC University Workshop on Designing and Implementing Government Performance Management Systems held

A workshop titled 'Designing and Implementing Government Performance Management Systems' was held from 12th-15th November, 2014 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, jointly organised by the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Government and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, with the financial support from the World Bank, Dhaka office.

The workshop was arranged in two phases. The first phase was held on 12th November and 13th November, and the second phase was held on 15th November, 2014. The First phase was attended by the Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary of different Ministries/Division, and the second phase was designed for all the Secretaries.

Mr. M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Cabinet Secretary, Bangladesh government inaugurated the first phase of the workshop as the Chief Guest, while the former Secretary to the Performance Management Division (PMD) of the Government of India, Dr. Prajapati Trivedi; Senior Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, and Senior Researcher and Head of Politics, Democracy & Governance cluster of BIGD Dr. Tofail Ahmed were present as the Special Guests in the inaugural session, presided over by Md. Nazrul Islam, Secretary-in-charge (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division of Bangladesh. A Team of eight Experts, led by Dr. Trivedi facilitated the workshop. The workshop was expected to contribute to the skills development of the officers on the government performance management system which will help them, through learning, exercise and experience sharing, to prepare Results-Framework Document (RFD) efficiently.



Mr. M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan released a book titled 'The Proceedings of the Global Roundtable on Government Performance Management,' which is the outcome of a 'Global Roundtable on Government Performance Management' organised by the

Performance Management Division (PMD), Cabinet Secretariat.

Government of India in collaboration with Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) in December 2013. The publication summarises the best global practices in Government Performance Management (GPM) by comparing and contrasting practices from several countries with the Indian system.

Introducing the publication, Dr. Prajapati Trivedi said that the Roundtable was a dialogue among experts and decision makers from across the world. It was designed to draw lessons for improving government performance management and practices in India.

The second phase of the Workshop was inaugurated by the Advisor to Prime Minister (International Affairs) Professor Dr Gowher Rizvi on 15th November. As the Chief Guest, he highlighted the importance of the performance management system and termed it an effective tool for ensuring accountability and measuring success of the government offices. The event was chaired by cabinet secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, the workshop was also addressed, among others, by Dr Prajapati Trivedi, former Secretary of the Government of India's Performance Management Division (PMD), Md Nazrul Islam, Secretary-in-Charge (coordination and Reforms), cabinet division and Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) as special guests.

Both the phases of the workshop were attended by more than a hundred senior officials from different Ministries, Divisions, Organisations and the World Bank, as well as BIGD, BRAC University representatives.

Workshop on Executing Procurement Plan

BIGD, BRAC University organised a workshop on Executing Procurement Plan on 15th October, 2014 at BRAC Centre Inn. 64 participants of BRAC attended the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to cover processes of developing procurement requirement resulting to preparation of procurement plan so that programme/ departments receive the goods and services in time and quality. At the workshop there were demonstration and discussion in details on executing procurement plan, discussions on detailed processes of developing procurement requirement resulting to preparation of procurement plan, discussions about the standard process and the workshop was also enriched by case studies, toolbox exercise, small group discussion & presentation.



Workshop on Executing Procurement Plan at BRAC Centre Inn on 15th October

Seminars:

Seminar on Increasing Tax Compliance through Social Recognition held in Bangladesh

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and International Growth Centre (IGC) jointly organised a dissemination Seminar on 'Increasing Tax Compliance through Social Recognition in Bangladesh' by Mushfiq Mobarak, Associate Professor of Yale School of Management, on 5th November 2014, at Dhaka.



(From Left) Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Mr. M A Mannan, MP and Md. Ghulam Hussain at the seminar

The study rigorously evaluates the impact of these programmes on tax payments. In neighbourhoods, where some firms are complaint, the promise of exposing information about all firms' tax payment

behavior led to a positive response and an increase in tax compliance, especially among firms who had not paid the previous year. In high compliance clusters, firms receiving the peer information treatment were not only more likely to pay, but conditional on paying, paid more than firms not receiving this treatment. Combining these two effects, firms receiving the peer information treatment paid 17% more on average during the study period than other firms.

The results suggest that social incentives and recognition may be an effective way to improve tax compliance and has led to quantitatively meaningful increase in total revenues. The treatments tested consist of interventions that governments could implement on a large scale which in turn may lead to significant improvement in tax compliance and revenue collection.

Mr. M A Mannan, MP, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Planning attended as the Guest of Honor and Mr. Md. Ghulam Hussain, Chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) attended as Special Guest. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University and Country Director, IGC Bangladesh chaired the event.

IGC, BIGD & GIZ co-organised a Seminar on Gender Equality

International Growth Centre (IGC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, organised a seminar on Gender Equality and Productivity in the Bangladeshi Garment Industry Evidence for Action by Professor Chris Woodruff and Professor Rocco Macchiavello, Warwick University, on 19th November 2014 at 09.30 am at the Ikebana Hall, Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan 2, Dhaka.

Ms. Roswitha Amels, First Secretary, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Tariq-ul-Islam,



(From Left) Prof. Chris Woodruff, Prof. Rocco Macchiavello, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Mr. Tariq-ul-Islam at the seminar

Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Mr. Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce attended the seminar as the Special Guests. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Country Director, IGC Bangladesh, and Executive Director, BIGD, chaired the event. Mr. Magnus Schmid, Program Coordinator, PSES, GIZ, gave opening remarks at the seminar.

The event focused on productivity issues and gender biases inside the garment industry. While the RMG sector was the first industry to provide large scale employment opportunities to women, few of the jobs have been at the management level. As today, around 85 percent of machine operators in the sector are female, while managers are overwhelmingly male.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Director of IGC Bangladesh Programme and Executive Director at BIGD, highlighted the importance and the complexity of such a research project, the first on the garment industry to be so data rich and detailed in the design. Dr. Rahman also commented the crucial role of IGC in funding, supporting and connecting policy oriented economic research, such as this project, to influential policy makers.

Seminar at BIGD on 'Clientelism and politics and economic development in Bangladesh'

BIGD, BRAC University arranged a seminar titled 'Clientelism and politics and economic development in Bangladesh' by Professor Mushtaq Khan of SOAS, London University at the BIGD Conference Room at 3 pm on 24th December, 2014.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University Chaired the events. The seminar was a closed door program of BIGD. The Head of Research clusters, researchers, communications staff of BIGD also attended the seminar.



Professor Mushtaq Khan delivering his speech at the Seminar



Launching:

BIGD launched Human Development Report in South Asia 2014: Urbanization: Challenges and Opportunities

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University launched Human Development Report in South Asia 2014 titled Urbanization: Challenges and Opportunities, published by Pakistan-based organisation Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre on 17th November, 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali Dhaka.

Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, former Advisor to the Caretaker Government and Executive Chairperson of PPRC was the Chief Guest of the event. Prof. ATM Nurul Amin, of Department of Environmental Science and Management, NSU attended as the Special Guest, while Prof. Ishrat Islam, Department of URP, BUET discussed on the report. BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman chaired the programme.

Academics, Researchers, Experts, Politicians, Representatives from Think Tanks, NGOs, INGOs and Donor organisations and civil society members also attended the programme. The event addressed important issues relating to urbanisation and growth in the context of making cities in South Asia more livable.

The Report addresses the impact of urbanisation on human development in South Asia. The Report analyses the numerous challenges and opportunities stemming from urbanisation from the perspective of economic growth, access to infrastructure and key services, and the environment and governance arrangements.



Guests and participants at the Launching of Mahbub ul Haq Centre's Annual Report

BIGD Launched

The State of Governance Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics Report

The annual flagship research report of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, titled 'The State of Governance Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics,' was launched on 20th December 2014, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Mohakhali, Dhaka, in a huge gathering of journalists, academicians and researchers, policy-makers, civil society members, politicians and concerned others.

Renowned jurist with international reputation and one of the composers of the Bangladesh Constitution Dr. Kamal Hossain, was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Advocate Suranjit Sengupta MP, senior leader of ruling Bangladesh Awami League and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs; Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Advisory Council Member of Awami League; Mr. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Advisor to the Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and former Minister; attended the event as Guest Speakers. Dr. Binayak Sen, Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka, were the designated discussants on the report. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD presided over the programme.

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research of the Institute, shed lights on the key findings of the report, which shows that the progress in achieving three key elements — state building, democratic accountability and the rule of law — are constrained in Bangladesh by the overwhelming influence wielded by the two dominant political parties who have ruled the country for much of their existence, over state and non-state institutions.

'Such near-complete dominance over the various state and non-state institutions by the political parties has led to a political system which may be described as partyarchy,' the report added. The report said political violence increased at a constant rate of 4 per cent compared to the previous years. 'The ruling parties' endemic propensity to engage in political violence surpasses that of the opposition parties,' he added. Quoting a report of Maplecroft, the study said Bangladesh was ranked 21st high risk country for political violence in the Conflict and Political Violence Index 2013. The report also said rudimentary democratic practices were absent at the grassroots level of the two main parties, which further diminished the prospects of democratic consolidation.

The report concluded that the norms and practices of the two dominant political parties had severely constrained the establishment of a modern and constitutional democracy, and their political conduct posed major risks to reversal of the gains achieved through the democratic process.

The report also stressed the need for an enlightened social contract or national compact in which narrow party interests would be subordinated to national interests for consolidating democracy and suggested an enlightened national dialogue on the future political directions.

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed said, the spectre of liberal fascism is haunting the country, and what exists here is electoral authoritarianism. He highlighted how bad governance sometimes becomes profitable pushing good governance to the back seat. "I do not think any political party alone will be able to do that. It is the structures that need to evolve to make good governance profitable," he added.



Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Mr. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Dr. Binayak Sen and Dr. Minhaj Mahmud seen at the launching of SoG 2013

Dr. Binayak Sen said, ineffective democracy could not march with the economic development. "If there is lack of good governance, development cannot take place. Since the country is developing, it can be said that good governance is prevailing." He humbly made 3 requests. These are: to the government to initiate a dialogue, BNP to leave Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat to leave its leaders accused of 1971 war crimes.

Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun said, if there is to be any dialogue, the BNP has to come up with issues of national interests, not with any conditions.

Mr. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said a representative government was a must for any country along with a multi-party democracy. "But a representative government is absent in the country. Space is required for democracy to sustain, but due to state-sponsored terrorism, no space was given to any party", he added.

Dr. Kamal Hossain said dialogue should not only be held between the Awami League and the BNP but also among all the parties and concerned others. Accepting the basic principles of the Constitution, all should sit for talks. He further added, democracy must be brought out of the 'partyarchy' to make it 'effective,' and urged the political parties to sit together to work out a solution to the end.

Asserting that the country was passing through an abnormal time, speakers at the launching said election

was not the last word for upholding democracy. Dialogue was a must to overcome any political crisis. However, as a prerequisite to that, effective democratic institutions should be set up, they opined.

The programme participants also said economic and political development should march together and political parties must do away with the culture of blame-game.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, in his concluding remarks, said despite economic progress, Bangladesh's democratic development has been hampered. It is a matter of serious frustration for the public. He also added, though the democratic development is in crisis globally, but it doesn't mean Bangladesh has any scope for complacency, as "such underdevelopment," poses serious risks for the future.

Experts of relevant field, eminent professionals and representatives from various academic and research institutions, government, NGOs, donor agencies, international organisations; civil society members, politicians and senior journalists attended the programme. There were huge interests of participating in the open discussion session of the event. At least ten participants made their comments, remarks and suggestions on issues of the report.

BIGD Staff in National and Global programmes

BIGD Research Associate provides Lecture on the 'Health Governance'

Sayed Salina Aziz, the Research Associate of BIGD, BRAC University provided a lecture on 'Health Governance' at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BIGH, BRAC on 28th October 2014 organised jointly by James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) in partnership with BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) at BRAC University, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) and policy think tank: Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

The course aims to sensitise mid and senior level decision-makers about alarming trends impacting urban health, their implications for national and human development, and the urgency for multi-sectoral action that addresses complex root causes, and functional systems of governance for health. The lecture was given to the mid and senior level decision makers.

BIGD's Academic Coordinator presented paper at 3rd ICADA Conference at NIDA, Thailand

Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam, the Academic Coordinator of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, presented his paper titled 'Measurement of Motivating and De-Motivating Factors of Civil Servant: A Study on Selected District Administration, Bangladesh' at the Third International Conference on Advancement of Development Administration 2014 -Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (The 3rd ICADA 2014-SSIS)



Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam taking certificate at the 3rd ICADA Conference at NIDA, Thailand

held at National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand on 9th-11th October, 2014.

The main objectives of this study were to identify the factors which influence the motivational level of the district level civil servants. Some important factors identified by the study results are inadequate salary, lack of standardised promotion system, lack of standardised posting criteria, inadequate effective career planning, inadequate scope for innovation and lack of political commitment.

The theme of the 3rd ICADA 2014 is 'ASEAN and Globalization: Integration, Diversity, and Prosperity' including academically related issues. The aims of this conference were (1) to bring together international academics, professionals, and undergraduate/ graduate students with the general public by providing a stage for the latest research in social sciences and interdisciplinary studies to be presented and discussed and (2) to provide a forum for professionals with practical experience of the social and economic development of developing countries to exchange their views and share their knowledge with leading countries.

Dr Tofail Ahmed attended the 'Ulaanbaatar Transparency Forum 2014' conference

Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Head of Politics, Democracy and Governance cluster of BIGD attended the conference titled 'Ulaanbaatar Transparency Forum 2014' from 6th-7th, October at Mongolia organised by the City Government of Ulaanbaatar with the sponsorship of International Republican Institute (IRI), National Endowment for Democracy, Voice Vietnam, Stanford University, Taiwan foundation for Democracy and Asia Democratic Network.

More than two hundred guests from multi discipline sectors such as government, civil society, business community and academia of 16 countries attended the two-day conference. Among the dignitaries, the President of Mongolia and the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar also attended the event.



Dr. Tofail Ahmed at the 'Ulaanbaatar Transparency Forum 2014' conference

Dr. Tofail Ahmed Attended the UN Day 2014 Programme

Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Head of Politics, Democracy and Governance cluster of BIGD attended the celebration programme of the UN Day 2014 organised by the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) on 28 October at Khulna. The Chief Guest Mr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Mayor of the Khulna City Corporation inaugurated the programme.

The Assistant Country Director of UN Bangladesh; Mr. A K M Morshed, the District Commissioner of Khulna; Mr. Anis Mahmud, Chairperson of Citizen Forum; Mr. Shekh Abdul Kaium, Councilor of KCC; different volunteer organisation's leaders and civil society members were also present at the ceremony.



Dr. Tofail Ahmed delivering his speech at the UN Day programme at Khulna

BIGD Research Fellow presented paper at the CIIS International Conference

Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the International Conference titled 'Crisis Management and Maritime Cooperation in the Asia Pacific,' organised by the Center for Maritime Security and Cooperation of China Institute of International Studies Beijing (CIIS), China, held on November 24th-25th. More than 60 experts from 12

countries attended the conference. Mr. Islam presented his paper on Ocean Economy Development and Maritime Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal: Bangladesh Perspectives. Mr. M. Shahidul Islam (Center), at the Conference.

The topics discussed at the conference are strategic change and maritime situation development in the region, the role of international law and confidence building measures (CBMs), the practice and proposals on maritime crisis management, and ways to regional maritime cooperation.

Yi Xianliang, Deputy Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs under China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and Tan Qingsheng, Director of MFA's Department of Asian Affairs, delivered keynote speeches respectively on China's maritime policy and China-ASEAN maritime cooperation.



BIGD Research Fellow attended the BCIM Seminar

Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow of BIGD, BRAC University attended the 2-day International Seminar on 'BCIM: Sub-Regional Cooperation for Development of Peripheral Areas,' organised by ICSSR -NERC with support from Ministry of Home Affairs, China started off at the ICSSR-NERC campus here on 27th-28th November 2014 at the ICSSR North Eastern Regional Centre, ICSSR North Eastern Regional Centre NEHU Campus.

Mr. Shahid presented a paper on 'Institutional Framework for BCIM EC: Guiding Principles for Sub-Regional Cooperation' at the seminar. Scholars from Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar (BCIM) converged to develop a strategy for regional and sub-regional cooperation between the four countries.

On the first day, papers were presented by academics and experts from India, China and Myanmar who have engaged with the BCIM issue for a fairly long period. Other paper presenters pointed at the poor connectivity between India's North East and South East Asia while others lamented the dominance of Chinese trade and proliferation of Chinese goods in the BCIM countries which they said cannot result in a win-win situation. Essentially the overarching goals of the BCIM is economic and social development and poverty alleviation and the co-operation would have four components namely physical connectivity through roads, power and telecommunication linkages, trade in goods and services, environmentally sustainable development and people to people contact, informed Ambassador Bhatia.

BIGD's Head of Operations Presented a paper at the International Conference on 'Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan'

Mr. Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury, the Head of Operations of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University presented a paper titled 'Piracy and Trafficking: Maritime and Security Policy Challenges' at the international conference on 'Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan' organised by The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), together with the Germany's Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Islamabad on 18th-19th November 2014 at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad.

'Whoever controls the Indian Ocean dominates Asia. This ocean is the key to the seven seas in the twenty-first century, the destiny of the world will be decided in these waters.' The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) having 36 states around its littoral belt with additional eleven hinterland states, which though landlocked, make it important as they are all involved in one way or the other in its politics and trade. In this backdrop, the IPRI together with the HSF organised this two-day international conference.

Six scholars from US, China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Iran and India were invited in this conference to present their

papers in various sessions. Another six prominent scholars, professionals and intellectuals from within Pakistan also spoke at the conference. The proceedings of the conference will be published in the form of a book by IPRI.

Admiral (R) Muhammad Asif Sandila NI (M), Former Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Pakistan Navy, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. He said that there was a need of creating awareness in the developing countries regarding naval strategies at the two day International conference on 'Major Powers' Interests in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Options for Pakistan' jointly organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Admiral Sandila said that greater cooperation was required among Indian Ocean navies for development and economic prosperity of the region. He also highlighted the dangerous challenge of piracy being faced by the seafarers of the Indian Ocean which had become an organised crime in the recent times.

BIGD Researchers attended the OD-ID Workshop

BIGD, BRAC University researchers attended a 4-day Workshop titled Organizational Development-Institutional Development (OD-ID) Workshop from 15th-18th November, 2014 at BPATC, Savar organised by Management for Development Foundation (MDF).



Mr. Mohammad Siraj Uddin, presenting at the OD-ID workshop

The objective of the workshop was to consolidate and complete the two weeks ID-OD-MC Module. The purpose of the workshop is to support the team of Workshop participants to further develop a curriculum on this topic, including trainers' notes on the basis of a first successful workshop held from March 1st to 4th, 2014. The content of this second workshop was to continue working on and to ultimately help institutionalising OD, ID and MC for civil servants in Bangladesh. This assignment is the second three curriculum design workshops on the themes of Organisational Development, Institutional Development and Managing Change (OD, ID and MC). Mr. Md. Zohurul Islam, Academic Coordinator, Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate and Ms. Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development attended the workshop.

BIGD Executive Director attended the Book Launching event of SANEM

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development attended the book launching event of SANEM on 10th December, 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Dhaka. SANEM, in collaboration with Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID), organised the launching event of the book titled 'The Dynamics of Economic Growth: A Visual Handbook of Growth Rates, Regimes, Transitions and Volatility.' The book is written by Sabyasachi Kar, Lant Pritchett, Selim Raihan and Kunal Sen, and published by the University of Manchester, UK. Prof. Selim Raihan (Executive Director, SANEM) delivered a welcome speech and inaugurated the event.

Dr. Raihan's introductory speech was followed by the official launching of the book where honorable panelists and the Chief Guest un-wrapped the books and launched it officially in front of the distinguished audience.

Prof. Shamsul Alam (Member, GED, Planning Commission), Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman (Executive Director, BIGD), Prof. Bazlul Haque Khondker (Chairman, SANEM), Dr. Ahsan Mansur (Executive Director, PRI) and Dr. Edgard Rodriguez (Sr. Program Specialist, IDRC, Canada) adorned the event with their special remarks and valuable comments on the book. Prof. Kunal Sen (Joint Research Director, ESID, University of Manchester) provided a brief introduction on the book that generated further discussions among panelists and audience. The Chief Guest, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud provided his opinions regarding different issues highlighted in the book. Researchers from the leading think tanks of Bangladesh, faculties from different universities, government officials and postgraduate students from the Department of Economics, Dhaka University attended the event.



Dr. Sultan Hafeez along with other guests at the launching event

BIGD Executive Director attended a Symposium as Panelist

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University attended as a Panelist of a keynote paper in a Symposium titled 'LOOK EAST: Asia's Economic Integration & Bangladesh Perspectives' on Monday, 1st December 2014 at CARNIVAL, Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) at Agargaon, Dhaka, which was organised by JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), Govt. of Japan, in collaboration with BIDS, PRI & FBCCI. Chief Economist Mr. Fukunari KIMURA from ERIA (Economic Research Institute for

ASEAN and East Asia), a prominent Jakarta based EAST ASIA Policy Institute (contributing significantly in ASEAN region economic connectivity & Developing policy for member states of ASEAN), presented the Keynote paper at the event. Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce attended the event as Chief Guest, while Mr. A. H. M. Mustafa Kamal, Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Hon'ble Adviser for Economic Affairs to Prime Minister attended the event as Special Guests.

BIGD Visiting Research Fellow attended a BRAC University Roundtable

Ms. Tamina Mahmud Chowdhury, Visiting Research Fellow of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development attended a Roundtable discussion on 'Who Do Historians Write For? Reflections on Guldi and Armitage's History Manifesto' which was held on Sunday, 7th December 2014, at GDLN Room, 18th floor, Building 2, BRAC University, Mohakhali, Dhaka organised by the Department Of English and Humanities of BRAC University. The discussion was led by Dr. Jon Wilson, Senior Lecturer in British Imperial and South

Asian History and a fellow of the Royal Historical society and visiting research fellow at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at King's College London. The panel of discussants includes Prof. Sirajul Islam, Department of History, Dhaka University, Prof. Perween Hasan, Vice-chancellor, Central Women's University and Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, Associate Professor, Department of History, Dhaka University. The event was moderated by Thomas Newbold, visiting faculty and researcher, ENH.

Field Visits:

Field visits of BIGD Researchers at Khulna

Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Head of Politics, Democracy and Governance cluster, along with Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid and Ms. Farhana Razzaque, Research Associates of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, visited Khulna District on 25th October – 29th October, 2014 for collecting data of the research under Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE-III project. The Local Governance Programme of SHARIQUE contributes to the empowerment of local citizens to

make and implement inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through more democratic, transparent, inclusive and effective local government systems. The rationale is that good local governance leads to equitable local development for all members of society as they are encouraged to participate in decision-making processes.

Field Visits at Chittagong, Nilfamari and Sunamganj

Mr. Omar Faruque and, Mahan-ul-Haque, Mistee Rani Saha, Mahbub Hasan, Mushfiqa Khanum, S.M Rofiquzzamn, Sanjida Hossain; Senior Research Associate and Research Assistants of BIGD, BRAC University respectively visited Chittagong, Nilfamari and Sunamganj on 25th October 2014- 04th November 2014 for collecting the research data of the 'Impact Evaluation of the DFID Program to Accelerate Improved Nutrition for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh, Phase-2 project. Under this project, the researchers take a

regular follow up on field works in the three Districts of the Country. The follow up field work just started in October and will be completed by November. The objective of this follow up field visit was to find out any seasonal change in economic situation; health status of the respondent and also any short time incident which had impact on nutrition and health situation. The other objective for this field visit was to design about what and how to follow up from next time. Researcher used mixed method to find out the realities.

Academics: CIPS Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, BRAC University has visited the participants of cohort # 3 & 4 of MCIPS Qualification of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply (CIPS), UK at BRAC University on 27th October, 2014. These two cohorts of CIPS contain 47 participants in total. Academic Coordinator of BIGD, BRAC University, Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam and Training Manager Mr. Mridha Fuahd Ahmed were also present at the programme. 47 participants of

CIPS Cohort# 3 and 4 have organised a get-together and a formal meeting with Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, DG, CPTU and Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Secretary (in Charge), IMED on 29th October, 2014. The program was held at BRAC University auditorium. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, BPATC and ex- director of BIGD; Academic Coordinator, Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam and BIGD Training Manager, Mridha Fuahd Ahmed also attended the program.

CIPS Exam on November 2014

CIPS Series exam on November was held at BIGD, BRAC University from November 17th to November 21st. 47 participants from different government organisations have participated in the exam. Including that, 25 internal

participants of BIGD, BRACU and 39 external participants have attended the exam. As the only exam center of CIPS at Bangladesh, BIGD, BRAC University has conducted this five days long exam.



MPSM Students Took part at BRACU Convocation

The 9th Convocation of BRAC University took place on 20th November, 2014 at the Army Stadium, Dhaka Cantonment. Md. Abdul Hamid, President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRAC University, presided over the convocation ceremony. A total of 1495 students from various academic disciplines joined the ranks of BRAC University graduates 37

students from Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) participated in the program and received the degree certificate. The President congratulated the fresh graduates and appreciated BRAC University's aim of preparing future leaders by combining their knowledge with social engagement for sustainable development in his speech.



CIPS Cohort 5 Selection Test & Induction Day

The selection test of MCIPS qualification was held on 31st October 2014. Total 126 participants from different government organisations took part on this test. The result of this selection test for cohort # 5 was published on 5th November and 25 participants were selected from this test.

An induction day was organised for these participants on 22nd November at BRAC University. Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam, Academic Coordinator of BIGD, Tanzina Mizan Program Associate, and Mr. Zahirul Islam Program Assistant from BIGD, BRAC University was present at this program. Lead Procurement Specialist, Dr. Zafrul Islam and Sr. Procurement Specialist Mr. Marghoob Bin Hussain from World Bank, Mr. Fareque Hussain, DG,



Photo: CIPS Cohort # 5 Induction Day programme

Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), and Mr. Wahidunnabi, Director, CPTU were also present at this program.

Field visit at Agricultural University by MDMP students

The students of MDP 620: Sustainable Agricultural Practices went for a day-long field trip to the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh on November 15th, 2014 under the supervision and guidance of Professor Dr. A.T.M. Ziauddin as a part of the academic

programmes. Starting with the exotic species displayed in the first ever Fish Museum of Bangladesh, to the operations of a hatchery followed by a long walk along the alleys of Germplasm Center, the students had a lot to explore.



Admission Test of MPSM Spring 2015

Admission test of batch# 8 of Masters in Procurement and supply Management (MPSM), Spring 2015 semester was held on 19th December 2014 at BRAC University. 23

participants are selected for this semester of the program. Their classes will be started from January 2015.

Thesis Submission of Batch 7 of MPSM

47 participants of different government officials have completed their top up masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) program by submitting their dissertation (only 6 credits) at BRAC University after completing MCIPS qualification of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK from

BIGD, BRAC University, under the PPRP-II, sponsored by CPTU and funded by World Bank. These 47 participants are considered as the 7th batch of MPSM program. Now these 47 government officials will be back to their office by the end of the December, 2014.

BIGD Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, BIGD Executive Director held several meetings in November 2014 with number of distinguished personalities such as Advisor to PM, prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration, capacity building in communications and other relevant issues of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Among others, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, Chairperson of BRAC, Mr. Samar Verma of IDRC, Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Dr. Prajapati Trivedi, Former Secretary to Government of India, Ms. Paula Steele, Global Public Sector Manager of CIPS, UK, Jonathan Cheng of Crawford School of Public Policy Mr. Anup Roy, Associate Director of Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai discussion on Research, Dr. Zafrul Islam of WB, Munir M. Merali, AKDN Resident Representative to the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University. Dr. Rahman had also

meeting with Ms Jasmin Beverwijk, Coordinator of AMID; Professor M Anam of York University; Dr. Sameer of Global research and Lt. Cor. Dider Hossain Bir Protik of Ottawa University on Academic Masters Program Collaboration; Prof. Tofail Ahmed and Mohammad Yunus, Senior Research Fellow(BIDS) regarding Munciple finance research Review; Prof Geof Wood; Prof. Nipa Banerjee; Mr. Shahidullah Khan the Managing editor of New Age and Dr. Sandip Mitra. He also attended the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Rahim Textile Mills Ltd. Dr. Rahman provided a Lecture on Resettlement and Rehabilitation (Development induced) to MLAAR Students.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman also provided a Lecture on 'Recent Fiscal and Labor Market Adjustment Experiences in Europe: Lessons for the Low-Income Countries on CPD Anniversary 2014' at the La Vita Hall, Lakeshore Hotel, Dhaka held on 18th November 2014.

Publications By BIGD Staff

OpEds:

- Financial Express: Maritime Silk Road and Economic Belt: Emerging opportunities for Bangladesh by M. Shahidul Islam, 1st October 2014
- Daily Star: Maritime Silk Road and Economic Belt: Emerging opportunities for Bangladesh by M. Shahidul Islam, 1st October 2014
- Financial Express: Maritime Silk Road and Economic Belt: Emerging opportunities for Bangladesh by M. Shahidul Islam, 1st October 2014
- New Age: 'UKs devolution quandary by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury, 17th October 2014
- Daily Star: Parliament and judiciary: Striking a balance written by Mr. Sadiat Mannan, 20th October, 2014.
- Dhaka Tribune , The unbeatable Modi wave, by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury November 2nd, 2014
- New Age, India: the saffron consolidates by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury November 9th, 2014
- The Daily Star, Two Faces of India, by Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury November 30th, 2014

Journals Published By BIGD Staff

'Evaluation of land suitability for urban land-use planning: Case study Dhaka city,' **Transactions in GIS**, forthcoming [Impact factor 1.0; ISI Journal Citation Reports © Ranking: 2013: 41/76 (Geography)] by Kazi Masel Ullah, Research Associate of BIGD.

'Explaining low rates of sustained use of Siphon water filter: Evidence from follow-up of a randomized controlled trial in Bangladesh' (with N Najnin, S Arman, J Abedin, L Unicomb, D Levine, K Leder, F Yeasmin, J Luoto, J Albert, and S Luby), **Tropical Medicine and International Health**, forthcoming [Impact factor 2.3; ISI Journal Citation Reports © Ranking: 2013: 5/22 (Tropical Medicine)] by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, the Head of Research, BIGD.



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