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## Message from the Executive Dean

Dear Students,

Welcome to Summer 2021 semester! We have a new intake of 171 students, a remarkable enrollment! This is GSM's third semester of operations, and we are pleased to note that since GSM started the total number of students in both the EMBA and MBA rose from 661 to 831. Increases in numbers allows for greater diversity and opportunity to learn from one's fellow students. We are very pleased with the recognition we are receiving from the local population, but also we are admitting an increasing number of international students.

While the number of student rises, we are happily increasing our full-time faculty. This newsletter and the previous ones showed a few more faces with varying credentials from internationally ranked universities such as University of Adelaide in Australia and University of Louisville in the US. We have several more hires pending for faculty who may join in 2021 and 2022.

Notably last semester one EMBA student team won first prize for a pitch while studying in our entrepreneurship course. They competed with 26 teams from four continents. I note this because in addition to hiring internationally we are also aiming to become recognized internationally.

Additionally, we are hoping to roll out a revised MBA and EMBA within a year, allowing a number of changes in available electives. As you may know all universities are highly regulated, but let us hope you can benefit from these changes before you graduate.

Please note students are always our first order of concern, and we welcome conversations. I can be reached at [eileen.peacock@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:eileen.peacock@bracu.ac.bd) however our program staff are very pleased to hear from you anytime.

Good Luck to all during the coming semester and please stay safe!

Kind Regards,

Dr Eileen Peacock Ph.D.

Executive Dean, Graduate School of Management

## Faculty Publications

### Professor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed

জীবন ও জীবিকার সম্মুখ। প্রকাশক: কালের কণ্ঠ। তারিখঃ ০১ মে, ২০২১

[বিস্তারিত](#)

দেশ থেকে টাকা পাচার বন্ধ করতে হবে। প্রকাশক: দৈনিক যুগান্তর। তারিখঃ ০৪ মে, ২০২১

[বিস্তারিত](#)

### Professor Dr. Akbar Ali Khan

বাংলাদেশে বাজেট: অর্থনীতি ও রাজনীতি। লেখক: আকবর আলি খান। প্রকাশক: প্রথমা প্রকাশন-বইমেলা ২০২১ পরার্থপরতার অর্থনীতি, আজব ও জবাব আজব অর্থনীতি এবং দারিদ্রের অর্থনীতি: অতীত, বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যৎ সম্পর্কে তিনটি জনপ্রিয় বই লিখেছেন অর্থনীতিবিদ আকবর আলি খান।

[বিস্তারিত](#)

### Golden Bengal Hypothesis: Facts and Fiction

History of Bangladesh: Sultanate and Mughal Periods (C. 1200 to 1800 CE), Vol-2: Society, Economy, Culture. Editor: Abdul Momin Cowdury. Publisher: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (January 1, 2020)

### The Spread of Islam in Bengal: Historical Issues Revisited

History of Bangladesh: Sultanate and Mughal Periods (C. 1200 to 1800 CE), Vol-2: Society, Economy, Culture. Editor: Abdul Momin Cowdury. Publisher: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (January 1, 2020).

### Professor Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam

GSM Professor Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam was interviewed by one of the leading TV channels in Bangladesh "Channel 9" last April on the topic "Challenges for the Upcoming Budget". His other interviews on various events were also published in several leading daily newspaper and other print media during the month of April and May. The issues discussed include South Asian connectivity, rise in trade deficit, fall in deposit rate in the banking system, usefulness of medium-term budget framework for fiscal management and remittance by migrant workers. He also talked on shortfall in revenue collections, ADP implementation, excessive government borrowing from saving instrument (Sanchay Patra), legalizing black money and use of foreign exchange reserve by the government.

### Assistant Professor Dr. Ekramul Islam

GSM Assistant Professor Dr. Ekramul Islam has been accepted to present a paper "Crisis can show where the real priority lies: what the policy of keeping the RMG industry in the nationwide locked down reveals." At the 5th Conference on Human Rights: Human Rights & Human Security in Asia during the COVID-19 Pandemic, co-hosted by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney and Centre for Human Rights, Multiculturalism and Migration (CHRM2) at the University of Jember, Indonesia.

## GSM Welcomes New Faculty



**Dr. Ekramul Islam** graduated from the Doctoral program in 2020 from the University of Louisville. His dissertation was on City Branding and its use in the governance of emotions. His current research interests involve City Branding, Financial Inclusion, Governance of Emotion, and Artificial Intelligence. Prior to the doctoral program, he completed two Master degrees: MS in Resource and Environmental Management and MBA from IBA, University of Dhaka.

Dr. Ekramul also has more than seven years of professional experience in financial sector development, especially in the emerging areas of climate finance, energy finance, affordable housing, gender, and digital financial services in South Asia.

When not working, Ekramul rides motorcycles and learns data science.



**Dr Minhajul Islam Ukil** joins the Graduate School of Management (GSM), Brac University on 2 May 2021. He holds a PhD from The University of Adelaide, Australia. In his doctoral thesis, Dr Minhaj develops a framework of the fear of failure with regard to entrepreneurial intention. Dr Minhaj started a teaching role at The University of Adelaide during his PhD back in early 2018 and continued to serve as an academic tutor, teaching and research assistant till December 2020.

Dr Minhaj is currently working on a number of qualitative and quantitative research projects. His research interest includes (social) entrepreneurship and organisational behaviour with particular focus on emotions, entrepreneurial intentions, employee engagement and retentions. Outside the academia, Dr Minhaj is strongly connected with community development activities. He is fond of sports and actively engaged in organising a variety of sports events.

## Faculty Achievements

### GSM Associate Professor Dr. Sebastian Groh elected into the Board of Directors of BGCCI

Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI) held its 18th & 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Executive Board Election 2021-23 on Saturday. The AGM and the election for 2021-23 were actively participated by a large number of members of BGCCI on a virtual platform. The newly elected President of BGCCI Mr. Thomas Hoffmann in his speech mentioned and praised the Government for setting up a high-level 22-member committee to prepare the country to face the LDC graduation challenges. Dr Sebastian Groh, Associate Professor of Graduate School of Management (GSM) & managing director of ME Solshare, has been elected as one of the honorable Directors of the board.

### GSM Faculty awarded to attend the '2021 Global Scholars Academy' convened by the Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy

Dr Minhajul Islam Ukil, an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Management (GSM) has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the '2021 Global Scholars Academy' in Geneva (Switzerland).

The Global Scholars Academy is an intensive residential experience designed to enable young researchers to engage in sustained and peer-to-peer collaboration under the close mentorship of research faculty drawn from the world's top universities. The Academy is convened by the Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) in collaboration with The Graduate Institute, Geneva.

Considering the reality of the global health crisis, part of the academy program will be held remotely from August 16, 2021. The participants will then join the Academy for an in-person experience in Geneva in the early January 2022.

### Dr. Groh from GSM leading an international research team to investigate pricesignaling in peer-to-peer solar microgrids in Bangladesh with the support of a research fund by BRAC University

An international team consisting of researchers from the University of Tokyo, Japan, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, BRAC University's GSM as well as representative from SOLshare, an energy-tech company co-founded by Dr. Groh, have started to investigate active price variations in several solar microgrids. Solar microgrids enabling peer-to-peer energy exchange among off-grid households are poised to contribute to electrifying rural areas in the Global South. This novel approach provides underserved communities with affordable, green, and reliable energy access, capable of powering higher-tier consumer as well as productive-use appliances. To ensure these microgrids can be run sustainably, this research seeks to provide some initial answers on how to improve on the prevailing static pricing approach. The research is supported by a research fund from BRAC University. The research paper is set to be published in peer-reviewed journal *Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy*.

Notably, SOLshare's innovative renewable energy program has recently caught massive international attention when featured on Earthrise, Al Jazeera's award-winning environmental show exploring the most significant threats to our planet by highlighting eco-friendly solutions from around the world. This feature has a potential reach of 1.4bn as per latest Al Jazeera's impact numbers across its various digital platforms.

Find details [here](#).

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