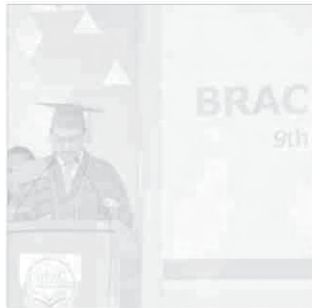
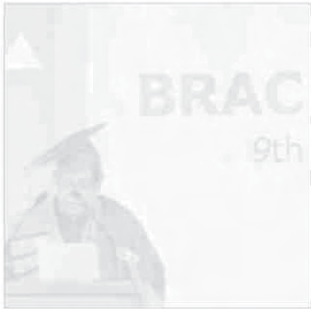


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ANNUAL REPORT

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BRAC UNIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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BRAC UNIVERSITY



Inspiring Excellence



Message from the Chairperson Board of Trustees



This year marks the fourteenth year since the founding of BRAC University. Over the last decade and more, the University has earned a reputation both for quality education and for creating and advancing new knowledge. More than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students have attended the University and received such a quality education since 2001.

Possibilities for expanding the University's scope and academic offerings have been limited over recent times by space constraints. I am happy to be able to report that land has now been procured for a new University campus and a suitable design developed by WOHA, a world-famous firm of architects based in Singapore. Construction will commence imminently and we hope to complete the project within the next three years. The new campus will have sufficient space to accommodate 12,000-15,000 students.

During 2014, on completing his 4-year tenure as Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ainun Nishat was made Professor Emeritus and Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University, was appointed as the new leader of the University. We believe he will bring a new energy and initiatives to make BRAC University a centre of excellence in the region.

The primary task of a university is to train the leaders of tomorrow. Achieving this goal requires the transfer of existing knowledge as well as the creation of new knowledge. I hope that faculty and staff will work in concert in teaching and research to ensure that the University will ultimately become a powerhouse for innovation and creativity in our society.

We are fortunate to have a committed and highly competent Board of Trustees. I should like to thank all Members for their support and guidance over the last year, which has assisted me to carry out my responsibilities as Chairperson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fazle Hasan Abed', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

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Message from the Vice Chancellor



BRAC University was established in 2001 as a crucial extension of BRAC's work, providing relevant and high-quality education and equipping students with the acumen to address both local and global challenges. Within this short span of time the University has achieved remarkable success and realized many short and long term goals in terms of education, employment, personal growth, global participation and social impact. The BRAC University community subscribes to the fundamental conviction that education is a catalyst for positive change and the cornerstone for building strong, resilient and enduring communities.

Today, under the leadership of our chairperson, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, the BRAC community is at the forefront of a campaign to create sustainable and lasting change in Bangladesh and throughout the rest of the developing world. In accord, three *fundamental initiatives* that will drive this change at BRAC University are rooted in my belief that *collaborative endeavors* will drive synergies, leading to new and *innovative* ideas that, ultimately, will have deep *social impact*. BRAC University is committed to incorporate all three facets – collaboration, innovation, and social impact – in its major endeavors to remain a front-running institution in Bangladesh, in the region and beyond.

As Vice Chancellor, I am committed to attracting a body of faculty and students committed to academic excellence. In this endeavor and to advance our mission to contribute to national development in Bangladesh, we are striving to reach greater heights as a center of excellence in higher education that is able to develop creative leaders, generate knowledge that is responsive to society and contribute to societal value creation. We strive to provide high quality teaching and an excellent broad-based education, yet focusing on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead various sectors of the country in its quest for development. The University is also taking steps to strengthen faculty development efforts to ensure a dynamic and futuristic environment for both teaching and research.

I am pleased to report that BRAC University faculty, staff and students had an eventful year in 2014. Among the many important highlights of the year, the convocation was held on November 20. A total of 1495 graduates attended the event: two were awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal and twenty-nine the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal. I congratulate all of our graduates and wish them great success as change agents as they engage fully in their new roles.

In 2014, a total of 1456 undergraduate and 690 postgraduate students gained admission to BRAC University in various departments. The Scholarship Committee of BRAC University granted full/partial tuition waivers to 576 entrants from both the programs.

To assess our research endeavors, an exercise was initiated to determine faculty research contributions. To my deep satisfaction, the study revealed that 1730 scholarly items in various categories were published by the faculty over the past five years. This figure has already grown more recently. I applaud the efforts of the faculty but urge them not to become complacent and continue to seek new knowledge for social impact.

The James P. Grant School of Public Health started a Diploma on Midwifery in partnership with several non-governmental partner organizations. This educational initiative is one of a kind in the private higher education sector of Bangladesh and is designed to recruit students from remote areas of Bangladesh with high maternal and neonatal needs, build their capacity through the diploma program, and deploy them upon graduation to their local areas to serve their own communities. The JPGSPH is also the frontrunner in research at BRAC University.

The BRAC Institute of Governance and Development published its annual flagship report entitled “The State of Governance, Bangladesh 2013: Democracy & Party Politics”. The report, one of a kind, analyzed the concept of patriarchy and political underdevelopment within political parties; scruples and practices; political violence in Bangladesh; district level evidence of performance for 2008-13 of politicians in the parliament; inclusive democracy; political party finances; and norms and practices. Such reports provide much needed and valuable guidance to our communities.

The Institute of Educational Development (IED) opened two schools in Banasree and Uttara for grades 1, 2, 3 and 6 along with the pre-primary, early learning and childcare centers. Furthermore, after intensive research on quality, material development, school designing and teacher training, the BRAC Nobodhara School was finally launched this year.

BRAC University also hosted the Global Model United Nations in 2014 in its Savar campus where participants from all over the world joined the case competition. In order to develop the English language skills of the service staff in both Mohakhali and Savar campuses, BRAC Institute of Language (BIL) introduced an English language course.

Student representatives of the ROBOTICS Club went to Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan, to participate in the 2nd UNISEC-Global Meeting and to present a conceptual model of a nano-satellite that can be built in Bangladesh. Also, a group of five students from the Business School presented their social enterprise concept in the 5th Annual Hult Prize Finals in Shanghai, China.

The University strongly believes that parents play a huge role in influencing a student's career choices in life. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) arranges interactive sessions between students and their guardians to make good choices and foster positive outcomes in their Freshman Orientation Program. OSA has also established the First Year Advising Teams (FYAT) to reach out to students who are facing academic challenges and to assist them in their academic planning.

The Office of Career Services & Alumni Relations (OCSAR) successfully placed 481 students in the following sectors: banking, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, advertising, event management, and education. OCSAR also introduced a Community Services Internship Program to encourage students' civic and wider social responsibilities while pursuing an internship.

I am also delighted to report that significant progress has been made towards building our new campus. We expect to move steadily in this much anticipated project with our partners in Singapore.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we are building a global network of partner institutions from Turkey and Europe to several in North American and Australia. We are also working with the Diaspora to develop key programs. Collaborative endeavors are going to drive many of our global engagement activities.

With our many stellar achievements, I am confident of continuing to bring a sense of dynamism and positive change within the university. I sincerely thank the Board of Trustees, the Syndicate, the Academic Council, faculty, staff, students and other stakeholders for playing a crucial and helpful role in all our endeavors.



Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor



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GOVERNANCE

Board of Trustees
Syndicate
Academic Council



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GOVERNANCE

Chancellor

Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid

Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Vice Chancellor

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Pro-Vice Chancellor

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.

Treasurer

Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar

Registrar

Mr. Muhammad Sahool Afzal

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (BoT) is the highest policy making body of BRACU. It is responsible for ensuring that the highest level of educational and administrative standards are set and maintained at BRACU. 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

Chairperson
BRACNet Ltd



Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury

Executive Director
Campaign for Popular Education
(CAMPE)



Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury

Vice Chairperson & Interim Executive Director
BRAC



Professor Salma Khan

Chairperson
NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA



Professor Anisuzzaman, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus
Dhaka University



Advocate Sultana Kamal

Executive Director
Ain o Salish Kendro (ASK)



Professor Dilara Chowdhury, Ph.D.

Former Professor
Department of Government and Politics
Jahangirnagar University



Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed

Senior Director, Enterprises
BRAC



Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury

Chairman
Delta BRAC Housing



Member (ex-officio)

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor
BRAC University



Dr. Mahabub Hossain

Advisor to Interim Executive Director
BRAC



Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Sahool Afzal

Registrar
BRAC University

MEETINGS

Four meetings of the Board of Trustees took place on March 24, June 30, October 28 and December 28, 2014.

Syndicate

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

Chairperson

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

Members

Professor Anisuzzaman, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus
Dhaka University

Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury

Chairman
Delta BRAC Housing

Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed

Senior Director, Enterprises
BRAC

Professor Shafique uz Zaman, Ph.D.

Department of Economics
Dhaka University

Mr. Mofizul Islam

Additional Secretary
Ministry of Local Government
Rural Development and Cooperative
Bangladesh Secretariat

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.

Pro-Vice Chancellor and Chairperson
Department of Architecture
BRAC University

Professor Sayeed Salam, Ph.D.

Chairperson
Department of Electrical and
Electronic Engineering
BRAC University

Professor Firdous Azim, Ph.D.

Chairperson
Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University

Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood

Head, Undergraduate Program
School of Law
BRAC University

Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar

Treasurer
BRAC University

Member Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Sahool Afzal

Registrar
BRAC University

MEETINGS

Five Meetings of the Syndicate took place on March 20, June 26, October 27, November 17 and December 18, 2014.

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 Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

Members

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.
Pro-Vice Chancellor and
Chairperson, Department of Architecture
BRAC University

Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury
Executive Director
Campaign for Popular Education
(CAMPE)

Professor Salma Khan
Chairperson, NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA

Professor Iqbal Mahmud, Ph.D.
Former Vice Chancellor, BUET

Professor Perween Hasan, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor
Central Women's University
Dhaka

Dr. Faustina Pereira
Director, Human Rights &
Legal Services, BRAC

Dr. John D Clemens
Executive Director
ICDDR,B

Professor Sabina F. Rashid, Ph.D.
Dean
James P Grant School of Public Health
BRAC University

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman
Executive Director
BRAC Institute of Governance and Development,
BRAC University

Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Dept. of Mathematics and Natural
Sciences
BRAC University

Professor Firdous Azim, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Dept. of English and Humanities
BRAC University

Professor Md. Sayeed Salam, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Dept. of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
BRAC University

Professor Md. Haider Ali, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
BRAC University

Professor Md. Shawkat Ali, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy
BRAC University

Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed
Director, BRAC Institute of Languages
BRAC University

Dr. Shahdeen Malik
Director, School of Law
BRAC University

Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Dept. of Economics and Social Sciences
BRAC University

Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood
Head, Undergraduate Program
School of Law
BRAC University

Dr. Erum Mariam
Director, BRAC Institute of Educational Development
BRAC University

Professor Riaz P. Khan, Ph.D.
Dean, Student Affairs
BRAC University

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Ph.D.
Dept. of Mathematics & Natural Sciences
BRAC University

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Ph.D.
Dept. of Mathematics & Natural Sciences
BRAC University

Member Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Sahool Afzal
Registrar
BRAC University

MEETINGS

Five meetings of Academic Council took place on March 12, June 23, September 11, November 13 and December 15, 2014.

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, প্রভাষক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬

সুর : শামস্ মনসুর গনি, প্রভাষক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬

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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.

The BRACU logo was designed by renowned artist Mr. Hashem Khan in 2001.





Inspiring Excellence

Profile of BRAC University



Inspiring Excellence



Profile of BRAC University

BACKGROUND

BRAC University (BRACU) was established in 2001. It follows 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 the contemporary times. Building on BRAC's experience of seeking solution 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 contributes 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 environment. Faculties 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)
- James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH)
- School of Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)
- School of Law (SoL)

Academic Departments

- 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 Educational Development (BIED)
- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)
- BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)

Centres

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

Undergraduate Programs

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts in English
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics and Electronics
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science in Physics

- Bachelor of Social Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
- Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
- Bachelor of Science in Anthropology

Graduate Programs

- Master of Arts in English
- Master of Arts in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
- Master of Science in Applied Economics
- Master of Science in Biotechnology
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Bank Management
- Executive MBA
- M.Sc./M.Engg. in Computer Science and Engineering
- Master in Computer Application
- M.Sc./M.Engg. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Development Studies
- Master of Arts in Governance and Development

- Master in Education
- Master of Science in Early Childhood Development
- Master in Disaster Management
- Masters in Development Management & Practice
- Masters in Procurement and Supply Management

Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate Programs

- Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership & School Improvement
- Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Development
- Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- Postgraduate Certificate in Disaster Management
- Certificate in Early Childhood Development
- Postgraduate Diploma in Macroeconomic Analysis
- Certificate Course in Construction Management
- Certificate Course in Bengali, English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Korean and Arabic Language

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SCHOOLS

BRAC Business School (BBS)
James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH)
School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS)
School of Law (SoL)



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BRAC Business School



BRAC Business School (BBS) combines the rich history and heritage of BRAC University, with a progressive, dynamic approach to business education and research. The school strives to reach excellence in all its endeavors through providing a world class business education. BBS aims to achieve its objective through training programmes and workshops for Faculty and students, conducting academic and non-academic research and providing advisory services for various corporate entities. In line with its mission of creating and disseminating knowledge, the school offers an undergraduate programme, Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), and three graduate programs: Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA), and Masters in Bank Management (MBM). The areas of specialization in the school include accounting, finance, banking and insurance, human resource management, marketing, computer information management, E-business, entrepreneurship, and operations management.

The 4-year BBA Program aims at enabling students to learn and harness state-of-the-art business and management knowledge and skills. The programme prepares students for entry-level managerial positions. BBS's MBA is one of the most innovative and results-oriented programme in the country. It is a carefully blended combination of

practical and theoretical business education programme. This 2-year programme is basically designed for high-achieving university graduates who are poised to leverage their learning in business organization. The EMBA programme is a part-time skill based programme requiring 45 credits (15 courses). Students are expected to complete the coursework within two years. The programme is delivered through an interactive learning process; case based teaching, weekend classes, and a small class size, to make it more manageable for its students. The students are mainly business executives, civil servants, social entrepreneurs, NGO executives, military officials and other professionals. The Master of Bank Management programme is a part-time interactive skill-based programme requiring 60 credits (20 courses) to be completed within two years. The programme is designed for individuals serving or planning to start professional careers in the private sector, NGOs as well as government and semi-government sectors dealing with financial activities especially in the banking sector. The curriculum is based on real-world cases, hands-on practice and on-the-job experience and training to use information-communication technology in bank operation and management. This provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills and abilities necessary to lead and manage banks, within a focused and structured environment.



BBS's highly dedicated, skilled and innovative team of faculty with rich academic backgrounds and corporate experience helps to create a supportive and stimulating academic environment. Classes which need hands-on experience and require updated corporate skills and prowess are taught by a pool of adjunct faculty developed through the university's unique network of collaborative partnerships with various institutions and corporate-organizations. The team is mentored by eminent leaders and well-known practitioners in their respective fields such as Professor Emeritus Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi (former VC of North South University and former Director of IBA, Dhaka University), Dr. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam and Dr. Akbar Ali Khan (former advisers to the interim Caretaker Government of Bangladesh), and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed (former Governor of the Bangladesh Bank).

The relevance and the rigorous methodology of BBS research work are maintained by developing cohorts composed of faculty and practitioners focusing on specific business areas. Various research training and workshops are initiated to keep the work updated and pertinent to the current trends in today's demanding business world.

BBS actively offers various types of activities such as conducting business plan competitions, arranging workshops and seminars on related business fields by experts from home and abroad, organizing study tours in factories and industries and so on are organized by BBS students clubs – the BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE), the BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA), the Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF), and the MBA Forum. The aim is to instill leadership qualities among the students, making them more independent, self-reliant and competitive to deal with challenges in the real business world.



BRAC Business School's latest major initiative, the Center for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), was envisioned for championing the entrepreneurs of Bangladesh and promoting entrepreneurship *by means of* capacity development, positive interventions and entrepreneurial education. The centre has been quite successful in staging several events and programs that bolster the position of local entrepreneurs, especially SMEs and businesses that are considered to be initiatives of micro-entrepreneurs.

Highlights

BBS has traveled a long way since it began its journey in tandem with the university as the Department of Management. The increasing number of bright students that animate the classrooms of the school, its dedicated faculty members and their growing number of research projects, the many faceted initiatives of its clubs and centres, stand as testimony to the momentous year of 2014. The highlights of some of the major activities are as follows:

Seminars and Events

BBS Marketing Club organized a seminar on '**Brand Management: Branding a Path Way to Consumers**' on April 6, 2014. Guest Speakers of the programme were Mr. Solaiman Shukhon from SHUKH-ON and Mr. Pratik Sengupta from Interspeed Marketing Solutions. Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Assistant Professor of BRAC Business School, BRAC University was the Keynote Speaker and Professor Golam Mohammad, Dean, BRAC Business School, BRAC University was a Session Chair.



On 19 August, 2014 Professor Tarun Khanna, Director of the Harvard South Asia Institute and Jorge Lemann Professor of Harvard Business School, delivered a talk headlined "**Developing an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Emerging Economies**". The talk was given at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, to an audience of renowned Bangladeshi entrepreneurs, academics and corporate managers. The program was also attended by BRAC officials and stakeholders allied to the promotion of entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. This seminar was organized by Center for Entrepreneurship Development of BBS.



Dr. Rodrigo Cubero, the IMF Mission Chief visiting Bangladesh gave a seminar on: "**Role of IMF and Recent Macroeconomic situation in Bangladesh**" in September 2014. Mr. Cubero was accompanied by Ms. Stella Kaendra, Resident Representative of the IMF in Bangladesh and Ms. Dilara Begum, an Official of the IMF, Dhaka. The seminar was presided by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed of the BRAC Business School. Mr. Cubero discussed about the effects of government in implementing some useful processes in the fiscal and monetary sectors in Bangladesh. The seminar was an interactive one. The participants raised many issues such as roles of the regulatory bodies, reforms of VAT and income tax, fiscal policy reforms and so on. The seminar highlighted practical ideas on economic policies and investment environment potential of Bangladesh.

A seminar on E-Business, "**A Shop at Every Door**" was organized in October 2014. In this seminar, Yummy Yummy, a great name in confectionery in Dhaka launched their Online Services. Keynote Speaker of the programme was Mr. Syed Mahmudur Rahman, Lecturer of BRAC Business



School at BRAC University. The Guest Speaker was Mr. Abdul Mujib Chowdhury, Managing Director, Yummy Yummy. Associate Professor, BRAC Business School and Director of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, BRAC University was a Session Chair.

A seminar on **“Innovative Strategies in a rapidly Changing Environment”** was organized on November 24, 2014 at BRAC University Auditorium. It was a seminar on how the surrounding environment of the corporate world is changing rapidly and how we can come up with innovative ideas to adapt to those changes. Keynote Speaker was Ms. Rubaba Dowla, Chief Service Officer, Airtel Bangladesh Limited. Session Chair was Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. The Special Guest of the seminar was Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Associate Professor, BBS, BRAC University.

BBS and the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA), UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 9th December, 2014. Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, and CIMA Regional Director Bradley Emerson

signed the agreement which will enable accounting graduates of the business school to be globally certified. Under this MoU BBS Accounting major students will get 1st year exemption from CIMA.



Corporate Roadshows

In order to develop and increase network with the corporate world several road shows were organized over the year of 2014. On February 6, 2014 a roadshow of **'LaunchPad Bangladesh'** was organized. This was followed by a campus roadshow of **'Agro Entrepreneurship Competition'** on March 26. Around the end of the year on September 24, 2014 BBS club Biz Bee and OCSAR (Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations) put up a Road show on **'Telenor Youth Summit 2014'**.

Workshops and Competitions

BBS organized a workshop on Case Method of teaching on March 30, 2014. Ms. Nathalie Laidler, Research Associate, Harvard Business School is currently writing a case on BRAC. She was invited to conduct a presentation/discussion session on **"What is a Case and How to Write Cases"** Along with that of BBS; faculty members from Departments of Economics & Social Sciences and Computer Science & Engineering attended the presentation and participated in the discussion.



In order to create more awareness about critical need of Social Business and how to start it; EDF organized a workshop and Business plan competition named **"SBYN comes to BRAC"** on March 31, 2014. Few consultants of Yunus Centre came and shared their views about social business. The speakers at the program were Mr. Labib Tarfader, Program Officer at Yunus Centre and Mr. Amir Khasru, CFO & Social Business coordinator of Yunus Centre and General Manager of Grameen Health Care Trust. Among the other high profile guests Mr. Shazeeb M Khairul Islam, CEO of Social Business Youth Network along with the head of social business youth network Mr. Shah Islam Foysal was to be noted.

The quarterfinal round of the **Hult Prize 2015 hosted by the Hult Foundation in partnership with Clinton Global Initiative** was organized on December 6, 2014. This year the topic of focus is Early Childhood Education (ECE) in urban slums and how a social business model can be used to provide education to 10 million children around the world. The keynote speaker of the event was Mr Quazi Ahmed, CEO, Future Leaders. The judges for the completion were Mr. Michael McGrath, Country Director, Save the Children, Mr. Rashed Maqsood, Country Officer, Citibank Bangladesh, Mr. Tony Michael Gomes, Director – Communication & PR, Plan International, Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Chairman, Nitol Niloy

Group and Mr. Sonia Bashir, Country Manager, Microsoft Bangladesh. The winning team from the quarterfinal is to be fast-tracked to the Regional Final round in one of their 5 global locations: Shanghai, Dubai, London, Boston and San Francisco.

Celebrations and Study Tours

The year 2014 was also marked with a number of playful events of celebration and study tours which were mainly organized by the clubs.

- Winter Clothes Distribution on 16 January, 2014
- Celebration of International Mother Language Day on the 21st February, 2014
- Participation in BRACU Club Cricket League Competition in 2014
- Study tour to Partex Beverage Ltd and Chuti resort in Gazipur on 20 June, 2014
- Recreational Visit to Srimangal in September 2014
- Iftar Mahfil for the club members on 16 July 2014

Activities of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) in Year 2014

In year 2014 BRAC Business School's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) secured two major contracts and initiated the country's first business incubation centre dedicated to university students.



Pursuant to negotiations that were held earlier, Unilever Bangladesh Limited awarded a contract to CED for conducting a series of business and professional training sessions for young beauticians who were operating beauty salons in disadvantaged communities, rural, or urban localities where low income people live. The training programme was designed to assist beauticians representing a vulnerable section of young adults who could benefit from the widening scopes of income generation. Starting in July 2014 CED trained 300 such beauticians. The programme concluded in December 2014 after 6 separate day-long training sessions.

The readymade garment (RMG) sector of Bangladesh is a remarkable entrepreneurial success story on a global scale. CED, as a think-tank, is obliged to address some of the major critical issues that beset this industry, and affect its trajectory of success. To this end, C & A Foundation, one of the key global players in this sector, has signed an agreement with CED, enabling it to carry out research that will generate knowledge aimed at understanding the nature of critical supply chain issues. This international research deal was sealed in December 2014 and its expected rollout schedule spans the first two quarters of 2015.

A project proposal submitted in early 2014 to Bangladesh University Grants Commission's (UGC) Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), resulted in the successful initiation of the nation's first business incubation centre under the auspices of a university, and dedicated to the university students. This World Bank funded project is already underway and space allocation for the incubation centre is complete.



CED has been partnering with the University of Oklahoma (OU) for the last four (4) years, running exchange programs for young Bangladeshi entrepreneurs. In 2014, in its fourth year of collaboration, CED has implemented an exchange wherein ten (10) Bangladeshi entrepreneurs have visited the US. The entrepreneurs underwent professional training and placement stints (in their respective realms of trade) in the US state of Oklahoma, and Washington D.C.

In August 2014 CED entered into an agreement with the University of Southern Queensland's (USQ) Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development (ACSBD) for the professional training of five (5) Bangladeshi entrepreneurs (preferably women) whose businesses particularly address the empowerment of women. The selection process for participation of a Bangladeshi contingent will take place in early 2015 and CED is assigned for the programme's implementation of the Bangladesh phase.

Publications

Akhter, R. (2014) "Socio-cultural factors influencing entrepreneurial activities: A study on Bangladesh". *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, 16(9), 1-10

Akhter, R. (2014). "Measuring customer demand for the marketing research firms: A study on Bangladesh". *World Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(2), 134-148.

Akter, T. (in press). "Challenges of Bangladeshi fashion branding in world market. *BUFT Journal*.

Akter, T. (2014). "Stress stimulators for the employees of service industry in Dhaka and its vicinity." *IISTE Journal of Developing*, 4(12), 133-140.

Aziz, M. T. (2014). "Role of termination cost in measuring relationship quality in retail industry: A relationship marketing approach". *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Retail Management*, 1(1).

Haque, S. (2014) "Environmental consideration in bank's lending decision: A case study of Bangladesh". *World Review of Business Research*, 4(1), 162- 175.

Jafar A. M., Islam T. M., & Khan R. A. (in press), "Factors motivating customers moving to online

shops in Bangladesh". *Bangladesh Journal of Management Information Systems*.

Mamoon-Al-Bashir, M., Choudhury, T. T., Khan, T. R., & Adnan, A. M. (2014). "Domestic and international trade liberalization of the Indian economy: Domestic firms & MNCs response". *International Affairs and Global Strategy*, 20, 1-5.

Islam, M. R., Khan, T. R., Choudhury, T. T., & Adnan, A. M. (2014). "How earning per share (EPS) effects on share price and firm value". *European Journal of Business and Management*, 6(17), 97-108.

Mohiuddin, M. F., & Paphavatana. P. (2014). Organizational evolution and HRM: Evidence from Sweden". *European Journal of Business and Management*, 5.

Mursalin, J. A. (2014). "Managing products return: An examination of the practices of online retailers". *Journal of Systems and Management Sciences*, 4(2), 54-70.

Rahman, A., & Arifuzzaman, S. M. (2014). "Testing the trade off and pecking order models of capital structure". *IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance*, 5(6), 8-14.

Siddiqui, S. S. (in press). "The association between Corporate Governance and Firm Performance: A meta-analysis". *International Journal of Accounting and Information Management*, 23(3).

Ummul., W. A. & Raina. K. (2014). "Consumer credit scheme of private commercial banks: Consumers' preference and feedback". *International Journal of Management Studies*, 1(1).

All in all 2014 was a very fulfilling year for BBS marked with major developments in designing strategic actionable plans, creating a research hub, signing agreements with world-class programmes and successfully arranging various programmes to increase its corporate reach to make platform for its future leaders.



James P. Grant School of Public Health



The James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) is an internationally renowned educational and research institution focusing on the integral areas of teaching, research and advocacy. The school is a joint product of BRAC and the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b). JPGSPH offers the Master of Public Health (MPH) programme, the Continuing Education Program (CEP), and three Centers of Excellence for research and advocacy in key areas of

- universal health coverage,
- urban equity and health and gender, and
- reproductive and sexual health rights.

By delivering high quality education and research to develop knowledge, JPGSPH aims to train the next generation of national and global health leaders and strives to improve the existing health systems. Through its partnerships with over 70 national and international institutions and organizations, the school promotes public health, midwifery, and nursing education and training to harness knowledge and encourages the pursuit of health equity. JPGSPH also endeavors to catalyze and conduct innovative research grounded in the local environment and encourages the learning of responses to the changing global burden of diseases as well as influence both national and global policy through advocacy and evidence sharing.

Education

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The Master of Public Health Program at JPGSPH continues to thrive as a global classroom comprised of students from diverse academic backgrounds and professional experience currently in its 10th batch.

Like previous batches, the 10th batch was comprised of fifty six (56) students with global representation from eight different countries, representing South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Africa, North east Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, and West Africa, in addition to the local students. In 2014, the MPH Program also paved new ways of learning about, teaching, and researching public health. The BRAC Exposure Initiative 2014 established how BRAC programmes could be incorporated effectively into the MPH curriculum to ensure reciprocal learning and understanding on BRAC programmes and public health. Case-based teaching in the MPH Program opened new windows of opportunities for better learning and teaching. Finally, the Summative Learning Project (SLP) was useful and effective in providing a new graduate research framework, replacing the traditional thesis as the partial requirement of the MPH Degree. The MPH Program also offers a Post-Graduate Research Fellowship Award in collaboration with University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

The programme has received global recognition and was featured in the World Health Organization (WHO) bulletin in 2007 as one of the best six public health schools in the region. The MPH Program to date has offered their curriculum to 300 graduates from 26 countries.

Continuing Education Program (CEP)

The Continuing Education Program (CEP) at James P. Grant School of Public Health has been instrumental in contributing to the health sector, through reinforcement of new and innovative skills and knowledge. Since its establishment in 2007, about 5,000 health professionals from government and non-governmental organizations have received training through CEP where they gained experience in sustainable learning and skills. The CEP offers around 12-15 short-courses per year covering research, priority health development issues, leadership and management training and so forth.

The CEP serves as a national and international training hub for professionals, researchers and advanced students by giving them the opportunity to exchange and share their experiences and knowledge on relevant topics to develop innovative solutions across the globe. Teaching at CEP is modeled on a problem-based approach and is designed to rely less on lectures and more on self-learning and sharing experiences. CEP organized 16 short courses on 13 different issues in 2014. Several courses were supported by external donors while others were organized in collaboration with different centres of icddr,b and JPGSPH.

Diploma in Midwifery Program

In January 2013, BRAC University designed an innovative 'hub and spokes' model to support midwifery education in multiple hard-to-reach underserved areas of Bangladesh. The University serves as the "Hub" and the areas between the NGOs in hard-to-reach areas form the "Spokes". The Diploma in Midwifery programme is being implemented by BRACU at seven academic sites: two in Sylhet, and one in Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh, and Dhaka. The Diploma in Midwifery is a full time, three-year 155 credit residential programme that follows a competency-based curriculum based on the standards of the International Confederation of Midwives and the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC). The teaching staff have been trained by

the midwifery experts from the Jhpiego (a Johns Hopkins affiliated organization) and the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB). Students are recruited locally from hard-to-reach underserved areas through a competitive BRAC University admission process and are subject to university and global admission standards for midwifery education.

Research

Research is a key component of JPGSPH. Without innovative and groundbreaking research, there cannot be progress in solving key public and global health issues.

Research at JPGSPH is categorized into four areas:

- health systems,
- intervention,
- impact and process evaluation, and
- clinical.

JPGSPH ensures that research conducted will make an impact on health and development both directly or through policy interventions nationally and internationally.

Currently, JPGSPH is working on a number of research projects in partnership with other leading institutions. REACHOUT is a five-year consortium study led by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, funded by the European Union, and coordinated by the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands. REACHOUT aims to maximize the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of Close-to-Community services in rural and urban slum areas of six countries: Indonesia, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi.

International Research Consortium on Dengue Risk Asses (IDAMS) took an initiative for reducing this knowledge gap by developing a robust case definition and identifying virological and serological correlates of severe dengue in six countries. Bangladesh is joining this initiative by the collaboration of three organisations, James P. Grant School of Public Health, icddr,b, and Shaheed Suhrawardy medical College Hospital. JPGSPH is responsible for community mobilization, clinical data, sample collection for laboratory investigation.

Among the three Centers of Excellence under JPGSPH, two are jointly led by faculty and staff from icddr,b, play a leadership role in the production of knowledge, application, and

capacity development to effectively confront complex health challenges. Accordingly, the centers invest in research, knowledge sharing, and building capacity among key stakeholders locally, regionally, and globally. The centers 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

Advocacy

JPGSPH is committed to advocacy and works closely with key stakeholders and partners in many of its activities. The following are some recent highlights.

- The Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR), is a pioneering resource centre on issues of sexual and reproductive health rights and sexuality in Bangladesh. The Centre plays a leading role in building consensus in Bangladesh towards a comprehensive understanding of, and response to, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). As the Centre is part of BRAC University, and connected to BRAC, the largest NGO in the world, it is able to connect academia with community based outreach in a unique way.
- The Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH), with several partner organizations, held a two day urban health symposium bringing over 800 people, including 75 national and international leaders to set the agenda for priority action areas on urban health and strategies to tackle these emerging urban issues.
- The 'Tanahashi Rounds' co-organized by the Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage at JPGSPH and UNICEF Bangladesh, foster reflection and discussion among key stakeholders on how to identify and overcome critical barriers to universal coverage of essential interventions for health in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) is an influential civil society initiative established in 2006. It was formed with the objective of monitoring Bangladesh's progress towards achievement of the goal of good health for all its

citizens. Bangladesh Health Watch provides the platform for citizens group to take an active interest in understanding and sharing the challenges and choices, policy and programme options of the country's health sector. The Watch publishes a report on the state of health in Bangladesh on a yearly basis.

Highlights

JPGSPH celebrates MPH 10th Batch Graduates Forum

The James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University celebrated its MPH 10th Batch Graduates Forum at the Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b. The graduates forum was graced by Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chair of BRAC & Advisor of JPGSPH and the Midwifery Program as the Chair of the occasion; Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, honorable Vice Chancellor, BRAC University as Chief Guest; Dr. K. M Sultanul Aziz, Secretary, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences as the Keynote Speaker; Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Deputy Executive Director of icddr,b and Professor of JPGSPH as Special Guest and Yvette N. Malcion, Family Welfare Team Leader, USAID in Bangladesh as the Special Guests of the event. Professor Malabika Sarker was the host of the Graduates Forum.

The Forum also awarded students with outstanding performances in different categories. Nepalese student Rasmita Paudel won The Allan Rosenfeld Award for best academic performance. Bangladeshi student Md. Rajibul Islam was awarded The Sir Fazle Hasan Abed Award for Leadership. Indian student Manish Kumar Namdeo was awarded W.B. Greenough III Award for best individual High Level Outline of the Summative Learning Project 2014. The group of students who won the Richard Cash Award for best SLP group poster were Anindya Das, Bijaya Devkota, Md. Imtiaz Alam Tanim, Mohammad Nazir, Nameerah Khan, Roksana Hoque and Subhasish Das.



In addition to recognizing the achievements of students, the Forum celebrated excellence in teaching. Dr. Steve Luby was awarded the “Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award” and Gladys Leterme won “Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award” for her contribution as a Teaching Fellow.

PhD scholarships provided in 2014

With support from the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) grant, three Bangladeshi students (1 from JPGSPH, 1 from BRAC Research and Evaluation Division and 1 from Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program-RHSTEP) were awarded funds for a sandwich PhD at University at Radboud Nijmegen to develop their research in areas of gender, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health rights.

Activities of Department of Midwifery and Nursing

- On June 4, 2014 the Government created 3000 positions for professional midwives.
- The proposal for approval and accreditation of Diploma in Midwifery was prepared and submitted to MoHFW and BNMC on 23 October 2014.
- The approval and accreditation team has already visited five out of seven academic sites for approval and accreditation of the Diploma in Midwifery.
- BRACU received letters of support from the Government in 10 Medical Colleges and Hospitals for clinical practices by the midwifery students on 25 May 2014.

Grants received at CGSRHR

NICHE BGD 157: CGSRHR has been awarded a NUFFIC grant for four years to undertake Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) research and curriculum development with local partners RHSTEP and Niport, regional partner CREA (Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action) and Dutch institutions' University of Radboud, Rutgers and MDF. The project aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of various educational and non-profit organizations to work towards a better understanding of SRHR in Bangladesh and increase collaboration and advocacy to empower professionals in academia, health care, population and education for the ultimate benefit of men and women in Bangladesh.

Share-Net Bangladesh: CGSRHR received a grant for three years to build an online knowledge hub to coordinate organizations working on SRHR issues and support dissemination of key issues and findings in SRHR in the country context. In partnership with a leading social communications agency, Red Orange Communications, the project aims to establish the first-ever comprehensive practitioners' knowledge network, Share-Net Bangladesh. This network, part of Share-Net International, will bring practitioners together to converge on issues around sexual reproductive health and rights.

The CoE-UHC in 2014

The year 2014 was a quite busy one for the Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC). It focused more on policy and advocacy related works for increased engagement of the centre with academia, civil society organizations, and policy makers in the public sector. Throughout



the year, the Centre organized various policy dialogues, short courses (introductory course on UHC, healthcare financing and scientific writing), and advocacy activities (eight Tanahashi rounds 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, observing the first ever UHC day and arrange a roundtable dialogue with The Daily Star) beside actively participating in seminars, conferences and workshops at home and abroad. Old partnerships and networks built were nurtured and new ones initiated. During the year, research activities include a USAID funded study on 'Understanding client preferences to guide the prioritization of interventions for increasing demand at Smiling Sun clinics, three policy briefs on financing issues related to UHC (these are web-posted at <http://www.coe-uhc.org>).

Flagship short course 'Gender and SRHR'

The Centre, in partnership with Institute of Gender Studies at Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands and CREA, India, designed its first ever flagship short course 'Gender and SRHR' and had successful first round pilot from November 1st to 6th. The short course helped to practitioners, researchers, academics and policy makers attain a comprehensive understanding of SRHR, and stimulated critical thinking and reflection on sexuality, gender and rights in SRHR. The participants included representatives from the government and non-governmental organizations, including NIPORT (National Institute of Population Research and Training), BLAST (Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust), HASAB (HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance, Bangladesh), Action-Aid, FPAB (Family Planning Association of Bangladesh), and various branches of BRAC.

JPGSPH Co-hosts Urban Health Symposium

The Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) at JPGSPH co-hosted a two-day symposium titled 'Urban Health Symposium: Taking Action for Healthy Cities in Bangladesh' at the PKSF Auditorium in Dhaka on 22 and 23 November, 2014. The consensus of the Symposium was that healthy, inclusive cities in Bangladesh require multidisciplinary action and committed collaboration. Lessons from other nations grappling with urbanization, as well as from Bangladesh can help support strategies to improve urban health. Bangladesh is moving forward with a healthy cities agenda, especially with a positive policy environment with the return to relative political stability, already occurring innovations that can be implemented, and recognition of negative implications of unplanned urbanization.



Urban health short course

A four day short course on Urban Health and Governance was held from the 28th to 31st of October, 2014 at JPGSPH, BRAC University. The course aims to inform mid and senior level decision-makers about alarming trends impacting urban health, their implications for national and human development, the urgency for multi-sectoral action that addresses complex root causes, and functional systems of governance for health. The course had a wide range of teaching methodology including lectures, group exercises and discussions, art, fieldwork, and presentations.

State of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh 2012 report launched

The National Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) of JPGSPH at BRAC University in collaboration with



Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Helen Keller International launched a report on the "State of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh: 2012" at the grand ballroom of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka on Wednesday, 12 March, 2014. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Honorable Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh launched the report as the chief guest. FSNSP is the only source of seasonal, nationally representative estimates of food security and nutrition in Bangladesh.

School of Engineering and Computer Science

The School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) embodies BRAC University's tradition of excellence and leadership 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. The EEE Department offers two undergraduate programmes, namely the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (B.Sc.EEE) and the Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering (B.Sc.ECE). They also offer two graduate programmes, the Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Sc.EEE), and the Master of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M. Engg.EEE). The CSE Department offers two undergraduate programmes, the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS), and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering (BSCSE). The

department has also recently started offering three graduate programmes, the Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering (M.Sc. in CSE), the Master of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering (M.Engg. in CSE), and a novel programme called the Master of Computer Applications (MCA), targeted towards undergraduates from disciplines other than Computer Science or Information Technology.

In 2014, both the CSE and EEE departments have begun placing a renewed emphasis on ensuring consistent, high-quality research produced by faculty members and senior students. The Control and Applications Research Center and The Robotics Lab have been founded as formal research groups since last year, and a lot of other faculty members are working on their own research areas, supervising senior students on challenging topics, many of which are being published in conferences at home and abroad.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Introduction

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) operates under the School of Engineering and Computer Science, an entity that symbolizes BRAC University's commitment to excellence in higher education and research endeavors. The CSE Department has the distinction of being one of the first departments to be launched in Spring 2001, when BRAC University officially began its journey. Today, the CSE Department offers two undergraduate programmes and three graduate programmes. The undergraduate programmes, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, are two of the most sought after programmes among candidates in the admission exams. Since 2013, the department has also been offering three graduate programmes, namely Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering, Master of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering, and Master of Computer Applications. Besides these academic programmes, the department houses the Robotics Lab, and other initiatives to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research. Other prominent research areas include Image Processing, Computer

Graphics, Bioinformatics, Machine Learning, and Natural Language Processing.

The CSE Department takes a lot of pride in upholding BRAC University's values in providing the best quality teaching and mentoring services. All full-time faculty members hold regular office hours to provide necessary consultation to the students, and all Freshman level courses provide tutorial sessions that students can attend to get a better understanding of the subject material. Furthermore, high-performing students in their Junior and Senior years are employed as Teaching Assistants, which provides the freshman students with additional resources, and enhances their academic profile.

All undergraduate students are paired with faculty advisors from the very first semester. These advisors are supposed to monitor the students' performance and progress, consult with them in the event of unsatisfactory results, help them find appropriate resources in order to address any problems they might be facing and do better in their academic lives. In this purpose, faculty members are assisted by external units like Student Affairs and the Counseling Unit.

The CSE Department provides seminars, workshops and tutorial sessions beyond the curriculum for students who are interested in learning advanced material like App Development, graphics and animation, and competitive programming. Tutorials are held on evenings and weekends, where leading names in the relevant fields lecture on these topics. Some of the faculty members also provide additional classes for interested students, where they cover a variety of programming languages and other useful materials.

For the Junior and Senior students, the department encourages involvement in the diverse ongoing research projects. The Robotics Lab is one of the leading entities in getting students involved in multiple projects, a significant number of which lead to undergraduate and graduate thesis projects. Several other faculty members are also working on research problems in Image Processing, Natural Language Processing, Data Mining and Cloud Computing, to name a few. The research culture within the department is on a steady rise and promises great dividends in the near future. Faculty members are also serving in advisory capacities in prestigious organizations like Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), and Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN).

Highlights

In the past year or so, faculty members and students have attended several conferences and workshops, including the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) project workshops organized by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Faculty member Mr. M. Abdur Rahman was invited to conduct a government training course at BCC. Another faculty member, Annajiat Alim Rasel, had the distinction of becoming a Master Trainer for Information Technology Engineers Examination



Figure Annajiat Alim Rasel attends ITEE workshop

under the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). He is one of only twenty-one Bangladeshis to have earned this qualification. Mr. Annajiat Alim, along with Dr. Zahidur Rahman and Dr. Khalilur Rhaman, also contributed to the National Curriculum for Information Technology/ Information Technology Enabled Services Training Programmes. In addition to these involvements, faculty members have also published in national and international conferences and journals throughout 2013-14.

Dr. Khalilur Rhaman helped launch a school outreach project, where the Robotics Lab visited several schools within and outside Dhaka, to talk about their work and demonstrate their projects, in an effort to get students interested in Computer Science and Engineering as well as inform them about BRAC University.



The department also recognizes the importance of making significant contributions through the research being conducted here. With this end in mind, in the last few years we have collaborated with several external entities to enable our faculty members and students to avail more opportunities to immerse themselves in research. In May 2014, BRAC University signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Kyushu Institute of Technology to enable joint research, exchange of academic and research resources, as well as faculty and student exchange for coursework and research opportunities. The agreement is currently valid for five years, with an option for renewal if desired. Currently, the two partner universities are working together on a satellite launching project. On August 2014, we also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Pi Labs Bangladesh Limited, a leading research organization working on research and development of hardware and software

systems. This agreement also allows for Pi Labs to give BRAC University graduates priority when recruiting personnel for their research and development positions.



In addition to these two major collaborations, BRAC University also collaborated with the Government of Bangladesh to help conduct Information Technology Engineers Examination

(ITEE) National Training, and Ethics Advanced Technology Limited (EATL) Apps Training 2014.

The students of the CSE department have also been very active. Several students have participated in national events like Programming Contests, Brainstorming sessions and ICT Festivals all around the country. Some students were selected for training with InfoSys India, and also helped organize multiple workshops on Cloud Computing at BRAC University.

Two teams from BRAC University secured prizes in the National Hackathon 2014 in the non-communicable disease category. Another team won the runner-up position with their project Cyclone Center Management. The champion team was led by Nahid Kamal, with the other members being Sayed Erfan Arefin, Tasnia Ashrafi Heya, Shanewas Ahmed and Koushik Dipto Das Jay. The runner-up team consisted of Safat Islam, Md. Burhan Uddin, Sadaf Noor, Imam Ush Shaheed, and was led by Sadia Sabrin Nodi.

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) operates under the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS). The Department had been running successfully with around 1200 students. Our objective is to produce well-informed and well-balanced graduates who can use electronic, telecommunication and power system engineering tools to solve real world problems, and to train students in research methodology, so that they can contribute to the creation of new knowledge. Our curriculum also exposes students to courses which follow the requirements of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) as well as the curricula of North American and European universities and institutes.

The academic programmes offered by the EEE Department include the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (B.Sc.EEE), Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering (B.Sc.ECE), Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Sc.EEE) and Master of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Engg.EEE).

Accomplishments of the EEE Department in 2014

- 109 students were awarded BSc in EEE Degree and 28 students were awarded BSc in ECE Degree in the November 2014 convocation.
- Organized a number of seminars.



Student Achievements

- Sanjana Ahmed and Ahmed Hosne Zenan, after graduating from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, with CGPA 3.95 and 3.99 respectively, joined the

department as faculty members. Within less than a year, they had secured the 100% Developing Solutions Scholarship at the University of Nottingham in UK, for MSc in Electrical Engineering for Sustainable and Renewable Energy. At the end of the one year Masters Programme, Sanjana and Zenan passed with Distinction (both gaining a high average of 83%) securing the 1st and 2nd places respectively in their course in 2014. Both have since commenced their PhD programme in the same university in December 2014, with their research focus dedicated towards renewable energy conversion and storage suitable for usage in Bangladesh. The PhD programme is fully funded by the University of Nottingham through the Dean of Engineering Research Scholarship for International Excellence.



- Four faculty members have taken leave for further study abroad. Syed Shakib Sarwar left to pursue a PhD at Purdue University in USA. Nameeza Sultan has enrolled in a Masters programme which will lead into a PhD programme at the University of Illinois-Chicago, USA. Pratik Al Islam left for Masters at Texas A&M University, USA and Md. Anamul Hoque left to pursue a Masters degree in EMM-NANO (Erasmus Mundus Master of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology) in Belgium and Sweden.
- BRAC University and Kyushu Institute of Technology (KIT) of Japan signed a MOU in May 2014 on teacher student exchange and research collaboration. As a part of this collaboration, Abdullahil Kafi and Maisun Ibn Monwer from EEE department have been selected as special audit students by KIT. They went to Japan in October 2014 for six months.

- BRAC University would consider their research in KIT as an 6 credits thesis. They were involved with the research on HORYO-4 satellite. KIT is planning to send this satellite to space by 2015. LaSEINE lab at KIT is pleased with their work and has already offered to enroll them into their Masters programme. They have offered PNST-2015 scholarship to one student and are arranging funding for the other student.

Research Activities by Faculty Members

- Control & Applications Research Centre (CARC) received approximately Tk. 2,40,000/= from BRAC University research fund for R&D.
- CARC SIGHT (Bangladesh) project received approximately USD6000 in collaboration with IEEE SIGHT USA and Beevatech Ltd, a local manufacturing company in Bangladesh. The project focuses on modification of the battery operated tri-wheelers' system design so as to make them completely independent of the national grid.
- CARC SIGHT (Bangladesh) was named one of the Notable SIGHT Groups of 2014 by the IEEE SIGHT USA



- Professor Dr. Md. Mosaddequr Rahman received a research grant of Tk. 1,16,000 for the project titled "A solar powered light weight clean car for Dhaka city dwellers".
- The department also became a partner of a project titled "It's Time for Collaboration Towards Close Cooperation (INTACT)". This INTACT project is has received funding of 2.97 Million Euro from Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, under "Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Erasmus Mundus Partnerships Call for Proposals EACEA/38/12".

List of Publications in 2014

The following 13 research papers were published by EEE Faculty members:

Ahmed, S. S., Iqbal, A., Sarwar, R. & Salam, M. S. (2014), "Modelling the energy consumption of a lift". *Energy and Buildings*, 71, 61-67.

Ahmed, S., Zenan, A. & Mosaddequr, R. (2014, May). "A two-seater light-weight solar powered clean car: preliminary design and economic analysis". Paper presented at the 3rd International Conference on Developments in Renewable Energy Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Ahmed, T., Ahmed, S., & Pathan, A.-S. K. (2014, March). "Automated surveillance in distributed, visual networks: An empirical comparison of recent algorithms". *International Journal of Control and Automation*, 7(3), 389–400.

Ahmed, T., Pathan, A.-S. K., & Ahmed, S. (2014, September). "Adaptive algorithms for automated intruder detection in surveillance networks". Paper presented at the International Conference on Advances in Computing, Communications and Informatics, Delhi, India.

Islam, S., Azad, S. B., Fakir, H., Rahman, R. & Azad, A. (2014, August). "Development of electric stove for the smart use of solar photovoltaic energy". Paper presented at the IEEE Humanitarian Technology Conference, Tamil Nadu, India.

Lutful Kabir, S. M., Chowdhury, A., Mosaddequr, H. R., & Jahangir, A. (2014, December). "Inclusion of slack bus in Newton Raphson load flow study". Paper presented at the 8th International Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Moniruzzaman, H. M., Patwary, M. & Mosaddequr, R. (2014, May). "Three level solar panel system with an automated solar tracker". Paper presented at the 3rd International Conference on Developments in Renewable Energy Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Pathan, A.-S. K. & Ahmed, T. (2014, January). "An innovative approach of blending security features in energy-efficient routing for a crowded network of wireless sensors". In A.-S. K. Pathan (Ed.), *The state of the art in intrusion prevention and detection* (pp. 449-472). USA: Auerbach Publications.

Rahman, R. & Azad, A. (2014, October). "Power conservation for electrically assisted rickshaws with PV support in Bangladesh". Paper presented at IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference, Silicon Valley, California, USA.

Saha, A. K., Saha, G., & Harun-ur Rashid, A. B. M. (2014, December). "Effect of Stone-Wales defects and edge roughness on the switching and frequency performance of graphene nanoribbon-FET". Paper presented at 8th International Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Saha, G., Saha, A. K., & Harun-ur Rashid A. B. M. (2014, December). "Low power dissipation logic inverter design using atomic-level width controlled GNR-FETs". Paper presented at 8th International Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Shakil, S. R., Zohra, F. T., Pramanik, P. Tushar, R. I., Saha, A. K., & Bhuiyan, M. B. H. (2014, December). "Humidity sensor using surface adsorbed channel modulated graphene nanoribbon: NEGF approach". Paper presented at 8th International Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Highlights

EEE Department, BRAC University, became a partner of a project titled "It's Time for Collaboration Towards Close Cooperation (INTACT)". This INTACT project is funded 2.97 Million Euro by Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, under "Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Erasmus Mundus Partnerships Call for Proposals EACEA/38/12".

List of INTACT Project Partners:

1. Electrical Engineering Department, Frederick University, Cyprus
2. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, BRAC University, Bangladesh
3. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, United International University, Bangladesh
4. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh
5. School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan
6. School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal
7. School of Engineering, Bangkok University, Thailand
8. Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Malaya, Malaysia
9. Department of Electronic and Information, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
10. Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany
11. Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
12. College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan
13. School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, City University London
14. Politechnika Wrocławska, Poland

15. Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
16. Department of Electronic Engineering, Southeast University, China

List of abbreviations and acronyms

School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS)

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)

Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (B.Sc.EEE)

Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering (B.Sc.ECE)

Masters of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Sc.EEE)

Masters of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Engg.EEE)

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE)

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

Control & Applications Research Centre (CARC)

It's Time for Collaboration TowARDS Close Cooperation (INTACT)

EMM-NANO (Erasmus Mundus Master of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology)

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)

Inspiring Excellence

The School of Law

Founded in 2004, the School of Law 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 programme undertaken by students at the School of Law culminates in a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree. Although the primary emphasis of the programme is on law and the legal profession, given that Law is also intertwined with economics, development, business and sociology, the programme also aims to prepare students who are inclined to seek professions in other disciplines.

The faculty of the School of Law is handpicked for their academic excellence and bring with them teaching-learning experiences from universities in the United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, the United States of America and Bangladesh. They have individual expertise in the areas of criminal law, international trade law, consumer laws, gender studies, business laws, economics, international laws and human rights, all of which are shared with the students through course work, in workshops and lecture programmes organised by the School.



The School of Law is also noteworthy in 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' alongside planning seminars and social awareness activities. With the assistance and logistic support of the Law Club, the School of Law has played host to noteworthy and eminent speakers such as the President of the International Criminal Court Judge Sung-Huan Song, Pierre Berthelot, who is the President of the World Organisation against

Torture, Abbas Faiz, senior researcher for Amnesty International, former Chairman of the Information Commission Mohammad Zamir, and Justice Naima Haider, Honourable Judge the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The mooters have had notable success in several national and international competitions, including the prestigious ICRC Henry Dunant Moot Court Competitions.

Recognising BRAC's background and the goals and commitments of BRAC University, the School of Law endeavours to impart legal education which promotes the pursuit of legal solutions that respect social, cultural and aesthetic needs of the people. To meet this goal, it strives to instruct its students not only on the tenets of the law, but also on legal philosophy and rights-based issues, fostering a broader awareness of the society they live in.

In 2004, the School of Law started its journey with six students. Today, there are over 300 students studying Law at BRAC University. One of our graduates, Shubhroto Ghosh, attained the highest marks in the Judicial Services Examination. Another graduate, of the class of 2004, is a successful Additional District and Sessions Judge. Others are pursuing careers as advocates, social workers, corporate legal officers, academics and human rights activists.

Highlights

Department Programmes

On 9th December 2014, Women in Justice, a programme initiated by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), with support from USAid, organised its fourth university experience-sharing session at the School of Law, BRAC University.



The session was aimed at female Law students to expand their knowledge on about the realities of practice and to encourage them to develop their careers as legal professionals. Speakers included Dr. Saira Rahman Khan from the School of Law and Ms. Mahbuba Akter Jui, a Staff Lawyer, Advocacy and Outreach Officer Ms. Meher Niger; and Ms. Anika Tahsin Jahan, an intern, from the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust. Approximately 30 female law students of BRAC University as well as a few male students were present at the discussion. It must be mentioned here that Meher Nigar and Anika Tahsin Jahan are BRAC University School of Law alumni.



Faculty members of the School of Law have been representing BRAC University at the annual Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference since 2007. The Institute is situated in the School of Law in National University of Singapore and annual conferences are hosted by the Asian universities who are members of ASLI. Every year, more than 2000 abstracts are submitted to the ASLI Conference Secretariat, from which 100 to 150 are selected as potential papers to be presented at the annual Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference which is held in May. The BRAC University School of Law is proud to state that since 2007, every member of faculty who has attended the conference, has done so as a presenter. In May 2014, Ms. Mahua Zahur and Ms. Tanjina Sharmin attended the 11th ASLI Conference, hosted at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

Publications

Rahman Khan, S. (2014). Vested interest: The 'human rights' practices of political parties in Bangladesh. Article 2, 13(2, 3). Hong Kong: Asian Legal Resource Centre.

Islam, M. (2014). Promoting Intra-regional Trade in South Asia through Trade Facilitation Measures

under the Auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. In Regional cooperation and Free Trade Agreements in Asia. Boston: Martinus Nijhoff.

Zahur, M. (2014). The Hindu Marriage System in Bangladesh: Addressing Discrimination. Commonwealth Law Bulletin, 30(4).

Research Initiatives

Assistant Professor Md. Rizwanul Islam successfully bid for a grant of US\$ 23,722 from the Justice Sector Facility Project (JSF) of the United Nations Development Programme for a project on 'Mapping of Knowledge on Projects Undertaken on Justice Sector Facility Development and Human Rights in Bangladesh'. Implemented by the Law and Justice Division of the Bangladesh Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the project commenced on October 2014.

Ms Tanjina Sharmin is working as the Focal Person and Research Fellow of the "Violence against Women (VAW)" Project undertaken by the School of Law, to facilitate the financing of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh by the UNDP Bangladesh.

Ms. Atia Naznin is also working on the Violence against Women Project as a Research Fellow. The project commenced in October 2014.

Conference Papers

Ms. Mahua Zahur presented a paper titled "The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 2013: New Aspiration for Bangladesh for the Protection of Traditional Goods with Special Reference to 'Jamdani'" at the 11th Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference held from 29-30 May of 2014 in University of Malaya, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ms. Tanjina Sharmin also presented a paper at the ASLI Conference titled "Approach of Bangladesh Judiciary in Developing Public Interest Litigation: A Focus on the Expansion of Subject Matters from Human Rights to Political Issues".

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan presented a paper titled 'Challenges to Strengthening Protection Platforms for Human Rights Defenders in Bangladesh' at the Sixth Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum, hosted by Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development in Manila, Philippines, from 3 – 5 December 2014.

Students' Activities and Achievements



On 19th March, 2014, the BRACU Law Club organised an awareness-raising discussion programme titled 'Stop Violence against Women'. Speakers at the programme included Barrister Sara Hossain, Professor Firdous Azim and Professor Mahin Sultan. Four students of the Law Club demonstrated their presentation skills by presenting four case studies showcasing various forms of violence against women. A documentary on dowry-violence and acid-violence, produced by Al Jazeera, was also shown.



On 14th September 2014, the members of the Law Club hosted a workshop on "Changing Trends in International Criminal Law", presented by Mr. Jens Henning Fischer, Head of Legal Training at the Model International Criminal Court, based in Poland. Twenty five students from the School of Law attended the programme. Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Adviser of the Law Club, was also present. Mr. Fischer discussed the evolution of international criminal justice, the work of the International Criminal Court and the global human rights environment. The Model International Criminal Court is an organisation that houses international students for a fixed period of time during which, through classes and workshops, introduces them to international criminal

procedures and how to argue cases in the International Criminal Court. It is hoped that, some day soon, students of the School of Law, will be able to participate in the programme.

As part of its regular activities, the Law Club members accompanied senior Law students to Gazipur District Court, in October 2014, to observe court proceedings in civil and criminal matters. The Law Club has been organising court observation visits since 2011 and this is its second visit to Gazipur District and Sessions Court. Visits to the District and Sessions Courts are usually followed by a visit to the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, scheduled in January 2015.



The Moot Court Society participated in the National Rounds of the 10th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition, 2014 organised by the 'International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)', which was held in Dhaka University, Bangladesh. The team was ranked among the top 4 teams and has qualified to represent Bangladesh at the Asia Pacific Rounds of the competition, to be held in Hong Kong in 2015.



The Moot Court Society also participated in the South Asia rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2014, organised by the University of Oxford and held at National Law University in New Delhi, India. They were adjudged the best national team and ranked second in South Asia.



Inspiring Excellence





Inspiring Excellence

DEPARTMENTS

Department of Architecture (ARC)

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)

Department of English and Humanities (ENH)

Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

Department of Pharmacy (PHAR)



Inspiring Excellence



Department of Architecture

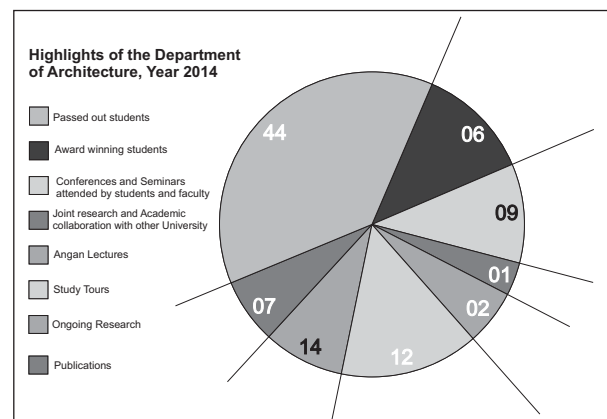


The Department of Architecture started its journey in the semester of Spring 2002 with 15 students and 3 members of the faculty. However, over the years, it has grown and currently has 230 students and 16 full-time qualified members of the faculty. The department offers a 201 credits undergraduate degree in architecture. A total of 180 students have graduated through its five-year degree programme to date.

The aim of the department is to ensure high quality education. The size of the student intake is limited to 25-30 per semester. The admission process is competitive. 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 background. The design studios, a vital part of the curriculum are taught by two to three teachers. Thus, 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” outreach programme for children and the student cultural forum “Moitree”. Two prestigious awards ‘Noman Award’ and ‘Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary

(RATB)’ have been introduced to acknowledge the students’ best performance in the design studio. The department also organizes exhibition of the students’ work and design charrettes’. The above 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 also undergo this training in India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and United States of America. The department enjoys the privilege of students and staff exchange with several European Universities under EMMAsia (Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia) and with the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago.



The department undertakes research programmes in different areas, in association with the Research and Education division of BRAC, the British Council, the University of Manchester, Loughborough University, Hoge 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 *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (IUCN) and post disaster housing reconstruction in the Sidr-affected areas and ongoing renovation of the girls' hostel of BRAC University are some examples.

The mission of the department is to prepare young learners to take the challenges of a technologically developing world and to make them responsible for the society through quality education. It has been observed that the graduates have already started contributing at the national and international level.

Award received in 2014



First Cycle of the Noman Award for Excellence in Design

The Department of Architecture celebrated 'The Noman Award for Excellence in Design' on 20 February 2014. Through this event, for the very first time the department celebrated the best design from the graduating batch of 2013. The Award Giving Ceremony was followed by an *Angan* Lecture by Architect Khaled Noman and an exhibition of the shortlisted projects.

Khaled Noman AIA (American Institute of Architects) is an architect of Bangladeshi origin, living and practicing in Chicago, USA. He has generously provided an endowment to be used to recognize excellence in design for the students of architecture at BRAC University. The award is named after him and will be given once every year to the student with the best graduating design



project. The award aspires to enhance student's active participation in the architecture design process by acknowledging outstanding studio projects. Final year projects are short-listed by the respective Studio Teachers and a Jury Panel containing external critics review and select the winning project from the nominated projects.

Six projects were selected from two final year studios completed in 2013. Nominated students were Emil Theodore Halder, Cyrus Sohrab Khan, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Rafid Reasat Hai, Ummea Tasmin, and Rubaiya Nasrin. Then a jury panel of highly experienced professional architects have reviewed and selected the winning project by Rafid Reasat Hai and they also selected another project as jury commendation by Emil Theodore Halder. Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Architect Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad and Architect Md. Emran Hossain were the members of the Jury Panel.

Winners of the Muzharul Islam Foundation Competition



Two students of the department of Architecture have won the competition announced by Muzharul Islam Foundation on 29 June 2014. The theme of the competition was "Interpretation of the works of Architect Muzharul Islam" aiming an open ended interpretation on Architect Muzharul Islam's work on his second death anniversary. Two entries were made by the Department of Architecture, securing both second and third position. The second

position was secured by Mahjabin Islam and the third position by Yasna Rahman Jain. Mahjabin Islam's project was "Extension for Fine Arts Institute" and Yasna Rahman Jain's project was a study on "Environmental Responsiveness of Architect Muzharul Islam." The award distribution ceremony was held at Bangla Academy Auditorium on 15 July, 2014 in the presence of respected Architects and jurors.

Department of Architecture achieves the Honourable Mention Award by "City to City Barcelona FAD Award 2014"

The Department of Architecture, BRAC University, achieved the Honorable Mention Award at the "City to City Barcelona Fostering Arts and Design (FAD) Award 2014" for its educational linkages and activities with low-income urban communities of Bangladesh. The citation for the award during the prize giving ceremony in Barcelona on 8 July 2014 was:



"Bangladesh is home to a large number of citizens who have become isolated in the marginal districts, the slums. BRAC University, through urban development plans, designs their integration into the city through educational, recreational and self-sufficiency projects. The slum community's participation in the decision-taking on these plans is crucial and allows the clans that make up the neighbourhood to come together and thus improve their relations"



The mission statement of the Department of Architecture is aligned with the missions and goals of BRAC regarding the development of the country. This is reflected through offering a few new courses and contextualizing the conventional courses. These courses along with extra-curricular activities, prepare the students to think critically about her/his role in the society.

BRACU Student -Selected as a Finalist of "STHANIK" and second prize winner at International Competition called "Junk Morphia"

Ofelia Mahjabin, BRACU student has been selected as a finalist of the "Sthanik Student Design Competition". VITTI Sthapati Brindo Ltd. has organized 'STHANIK', a competition for students of architecture. She will be working as an intern for the project starting from November 2014 to January 2015.

Yasna Rahman Jain, a student of the Department of Architecture was awarded second position at an international competition called "Junk Morphia" under the shelter design category. The competition was announced in partnership with Sharda University, Ministry of Environment and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and was open to undergraduate students of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations of all fields. The total submission was 380, in two different categories of shelter design and product design.

Travel Bursary Awarded to BRACU Architecture Students

The Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary (RATB) for students of architecture of BRAC University is awarded by the 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. An event for celebrating RATB titled “Learning through Travelling” was held on 20 September 2014 at the BRAC University Auditorium. The aim of the programme was to share the experiences of RATB winners from BRACU and Australia. In this ceremony RATB winner 2013 received his certificate too. Previous winners RATB Mahjabin Khan (2011), Safa Binte Safiullah (2012) and Turjoy Chowdhury (2013) shared their *travelling experiences* of Bhutan, India and Turkey respectively, while Australian students Patrick Jacob Bullen and Falix Saw shared their travelling experiences of Bangladesh. Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Chairperson of the Department of Architecture, and architect Md. Rafiq Azam conducted a short discussion at the end of the programme.

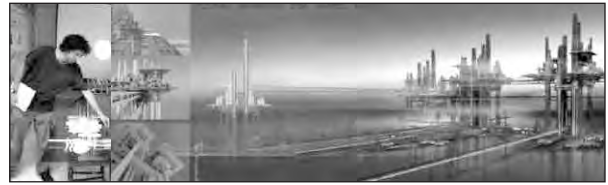
Design Projects of BRACU Student selected as favourites in “Archiprix”



The final project of Rafid Reasat Hai, Center for Human Rights titled “21st Century Cyrus Cylinder” has been selected as participants' favourites in Archiprix. Archiprix is an international Competition of the best graduation projects of Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape architecture around the world, held every two years.

The project has three parts - space for human rights organizations, museum and institutional center, the last of which holds various workshops related to

human rights victims who can share their experiences and thoughts with people and media. An Archiprix book will be published in 2015 compiling all the projects along with Rafid's project.



It should be mentioned that another final year project was also selected as participants' favourites in Archiprix 2011. “Global Warming Sea Level Rise 2100+” was Shakil Ahmed Shimul's Graduating thesis project, which was selected from the Department of Architecture BRAC University, to participate in Archiprix 2011, Cambridge MIT. His project was the first of its kind from BRACU and one of three projects from Bangladesh. The project was an architectural exercise visioning and designing the future Dhaka city considering a 10 metre sea level rise. A book has been published in 2013 compiling all the projects along with the above mentioned project. The two students, Shakil and Reasat, are serving as Teaching Assistant in the Department of Architecture.

Conferences and presentation

Professor Fuad H Mallick attended the South Asian Cities Conference

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Chairperson Department of Architecture, attended and spoke at the South Asian Cities Conference held in Karachi from 9-12 January 2014. Professor Mallick spoke about the situation of Dhaka as a south Asian city, its history, current situation, problems and possible solutions. The three-day conference had thousands of attendees, and speakers included experts in the field of urban issues.

Participation in the conference at Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, USA

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, participated in the conference titled, “Acting, Locally, Understanding Globally”, at Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, USA from 19-21 November, 2014. The main focus of the conference was to build an international community of practice for neighbourhood data collection and analysis. This may lead to the ultimate objective of creating a collaborative process, facilitated by technology, that at once

tackles pressing local problems of human development in urban communities around the world – act locally – and, at the same time, build knowledge about the general nature of such problems and how to solve them more effectively in practice and in theory – understanding globally. Kabir was invited in the conference to share the process of “Planning and Building with Community Involvement”. He focused on the topic by sharing BRAC University's experience in the context of Bangladesh and in Haiti. The conference ended with the consensus that interested institutions/organizations would be in touch and work together to (re)develop objectives and effective ways forward to practice and theories. The participants of the conference, who were from around the world represented the perspectives of the urban poor, local governments, international agencies, open-source software groups, researchers and foundations to discuss how efforts of data collection at the local level worldwide can lead to productive hands-on collaborations and knowledge accumulation globally.

Seminar: Identifying Socio-Cultural & Spatial Settings in a Self-Organized Living Environment



of Slum in Bangladesh

The Department of Architecture, has resumed their “Working Paper Seminar Series”. On 12 November 2014 they organized a seminar titled “Identifying Socio-cultural & Spatial Settings in a Self-organized Living Environment of Slum in Bangladesh”. Dr. Nandini Awal, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture, was the speaker and delivered her presentation on the slum dwellers' life-style and affordability and how they play a key role in the improvement of their own living conditions. Dr. Mohammad Habib Reza, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture, was the facilitator of the seminar. Professor Fuad Mallik and all faculty members were present at the seminar, which ended with a discussion session.

Students present their projects at K V Design Forum



The K V Design Forum (Kurula Varkey Design Forum) is an event hosted by the students of the Department of Architecture, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT) University in which projects of students from various schools of architecture were presented and discussed. It is a forum for students to interact directly with a panel comprising of members of the architecture and design community. This year, three students from BRAC University had been selected to present their thesis projects in the forum. The selected students are Abbasi Khanm Prinia, Rubaiya Nasrin and Ummea Tasmin.



The forum is not a jury or a competition. It is a platform to understand and identify, through dialogue, the diverse directions emerging in the architectural profession, and to reflect upon the varied streams of thought emerging amongst the student community. The panelists were William J. R. Curtis, France; Carin Smuts, South Africa; Osamu Ishiyama, Japan; Rafiq Azam, Bangladesh; Bijoy Ramachandran, India; Shirish Beri, India; Emre Arolat, Turkey and Charles Correa. The selected students went to Ahmedabad, India to present their thesis projects. The level of presentation was very high and the criticism and appreciation were valuable for the students. The projects from Bangladesh were highly appreciated among other projects.

Academic Collaboration with University of New South Wales: Exploring Academic collaboration between University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia and Department of Architecture, BRACU



Dr. Mohammad Faruk, Assistant Professor of the Department of Architecture, has recently visited the School of Built Environment at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia. He was nominated by BRAC University to represent its Department of Architecture at the meeting held between the School of Built Environment UNSW and leading Bangladeshi universities. The UNSW delegation was headed by Professor Alec Tzannes, Dean of the School of Built Environment. Among others, delegates of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) and Bangladeshi Architects in Australia (BaA) were present at the meeting.

The meeting explored opportunities between UNSW and Bangladeshi universities to discuss possible joint academic programmes, research, student and faculty exchange between the universities working in the broader field of Architecture and Built Environment. Dr. Faruk presented on BRAC University, the Department of Architecture, and its academic curriculum & research strengths. The UNSW delegation has taken a keen interest in the diversified types of courses offered by the Department of Architecture of BRACU and its people-centered research relevant to the development of the country in relation to global issues in architecture. A follow up meeting will be held in Dhaka in early 2015 when delegates of UNSW will visit key officials of BRAC University to take this endeavour further.

Angan Lecture

The Department of Architecture has re-launched the regular “Angan Lecture in June, 2014. This time the department celebrated their ex-student's and their fellow mate's professional works which have



been nationally and internationally awarded by the architecture community. In this session, architect Shareq Rauf Chowdhury, architect Ishita Alam Abonee and architect Muhammad Iftekhar-UI-Haque presented their two works. One is a slum upgrading project in Dinajpur, which involves the construction of 10 houses with the people; Jogen Babur Maath, Dinajpur, designed by architect Shareq Rauf Chowdhury, architect Ishita Alam Abonee, architect Mahmuda Alam, John Arnold, Ajit Roy, Meriane Keating and Samuel Stephens. This project is the Winner of “Berger Excellence in Architecture Award 2013” in “Other Category” organized by Institute of Architects of Bangladesh (IAB) and Berger Paint Bangladesh Ltd. The second project is Rishipara Mandir Paathshaala - Bagmusa, Shonargaon, Narayanganj designed by architect Shareq Rauf Chowdhury, architect Nur-e-Dipha Shamima Muttaqi and architect Muhammad Iftekhar-UI-Haque. This project is the Winner of 'FutuArc Green Leadership Award 2014' in Social Inclusive Development category in BCI ASIA Awards 2014 which was held in Singapore and “Berger Young Architects Award 2013” organized by IAB and Berger Paint Bangladesh Ltd. Pro Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the department, Professor Fuad H. Mallick was present at the event together with all other faculty members and students of the department.

Lecture on “Trended Structures” by Architect Niklaus Graber from Switzerland



Architect Niklaus Graber conducted a lecture on “Trended Structures” in November 2014. Niklaus Graber is the founder member of Niklaus Graber & Christoph Steiger Architects ETH/BSA/SIA, Lucerne/Switzerland. Their works include public and institutional buildings as well as private houses. They have been awarded in several competitions. Niklaus Graber is currently teaching at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Students and faculty of the department of architecture were present at that event.

Projects:

Amader Bari Amader Moto (Our Home Our Way)

'Pro-poor Slum Integration Project' (PPSIP) is a joint effort by BRAC University, the World Bank, National Housing Authority (NHA) of Bangladesh, Knowledge Management Consultants Ltd (KMC), JA Architects and Manchester University. The objective of this project is to develop city-wide housing processes for the low-income communities.



Five towns were initially shortlisted for the pilot projects through an inception workshop in September, 2013. A team consisting of representatives from the major stakeholders made extensive visits to the shortlisted towns. During the visits, the team met all the relevant city authorities like the Mayor, District Commissioner, the Town Manager from the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) project and community leaders to assess the willingness of the city authorities and



the networking between the communities around the city. Based on the findings, Comilla was selected as the first city for the pilot programme.

In the second phase, the consultant team from BRAC University is currently visiting existing communities intensively to select five communities to implement one of each interventions of in-situ upgrading, re-blocking, land-sharing and voluntary resettlement. Grounding on the suggestions from the existing community network in the city, the team has already visited around 130 communities and made a prioritized list of 10 communities to initiate a city-wide network of communities that are relatively readier for the interventions. This city-wide network will consist of four other sub-networks centering on the contextual needs of specific areas of Comilla City. Besides visiting the communities and meeting with community leaders,



the team is also sharing their work process simultaneously with the city authorities and other partner organizations through workshops and meetings. In the third phase, the social survey team and environment team will carry out detailed census in all of the 10 communities before the team of Community Architects finally starts working with the first five of the prioritized list of communities for the pilot project.

Study Tour

Visit to Ramna Park



As a part of the Landscape Design (ARC 412) course, students and teachers went to Ramna Park on 27 June, 2014. Renowned botanist Professor Dwijen Sharma was present with the students. The main aim of the tour was the identification and introduction of trees under the guidance of Professor Dwijen Sharma. Course teachers, Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, Md. Shajjad Hossain and Md. Shakil Ahmed Shimul, guided the study visit.

Visit to House Building Research Institute (HBRI)

The students of ARC 343: Technology and Construction visited House Building Research Institute (HBRI) in Mirpur on 25 June 2014 to explore the innovative use and techniques of local material like mud, bamboo, wood and ferrocement. HBRI, a government research institution, conducts research and consulting projects countrywide. The students have experienced demonstration of precast column and ferrocement roofing, Earth-bag construction (invented by Architect Nader Khalili), Floating house, Cavity wall, Wattle and Daub construction with bamboo and mortar, rammed earth construction, etc. and rainwater harvesting techniques in those projects. Course



teachers Shajjad Hossain and Nandini Awal, along with Nafisur Rahman, principal architect of HBRI, facilitated the excursion to that institution.

Sangsad Bhaban Visit



Fifty students of the Department of Architecture have visited National Parliament Building of Bangladesh on 11 November, 2014. The building is the one of the best pieces of work of the world renowned Architect Luis I Kahn. The tour was conducted by the faculty members Dr. Mohammad Faruk, Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, Dr. Habib Reza, and Farasha Zaman.

Visit to Architect Bashirul Haq's Buildings

Students from the studio course ARC201 visited two contemporary buildings designed by eminent and one of the pioneer architects, Architect Bashirul Haq. The first building is of East West University and the other one is the architect's own residence. The students were accompanied by the architect himself. He shared his ideas and design strategies with the students while visiting these two projects. Studio instructors Sheikh Rubaiya



Sultana, Dr. Habib Reza, Md. Shajjad Hossain and Farsha Zaman were also with the team. The students were required to design a residence in light of the experience and understanding gathered through the visit.

The first year students (ARC112: Graphic Communication) of the department of Architecture travelled to Manikganj in the last week of November 2014 to visit an architectural project design by Architect Bashirul Haq. The project was Shabuj Shona Center for *PRISM* Bangladesh. The students photographed and measured the building and after coming back to the classroom, produced detailed drawings which were part of the final graphic communication project of the course. Studio teachers A.K.M. Sirajuddin, Dr. Habib Reza, Md. Shajjad Hossain and Farasha Zaman conducted the tour.



Critiques of the Design Studios

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the Final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen to final year were held this semester from 10 to 14 August, 2014. Architect Bashirul Haq, architect Jalal Ahmed, architect Foyez Ullah and architect Naim Ahmed Kibria were present as guest critics in different critique sessions. Professor Fuad H. Mallick and all members of the faculty as well as the students of the department attended the jury as well.

Final Year Thesis Project Critique



The students of the final design studio presented their graduating projects on 16 and 17 August 2014. The projects included Folklore Academy, Mymensingh, Bangladesh; Museum of Sound, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Purbachal Cultural Centre; Inclusive Education Centre, Bangladesh; Agricultural Training Institute, Agargaon, Dhaka; Music College; Redesigning Commercial Complex at Shapla Chottor, Motijheel, Dhaka; Green Museum and Conservation Centre; Pathshala; South Asian Media Institute; Community-Run Visitor's Facilities; National Centre for Folk Arts, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Nazrul Institute; Vision for Developing Transitional Space, Farmgate, Dhaka; Film City of Impress Telefilm Ltd.; Gulshan Lake Waterfront Development; Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh; School of Enlightenment; River Halda Awakening- a Research Training and Awareness Centre; Visual and Interactive Art Station; An Institute for the Specially Able Minds, Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Shishu Academy, KhagraChori, Chittagong; and Redesigning Dhaka National Zoo. Architect Foyez Ullah, architect Naushad Ehsanul Haque, architect Ehsan Khan, architect Naim Ahmed Kibria, members of the faculty and students of all design studios were present at the critique.

Faculty Returns from Portugal under Staff Mobility Program of EMMAsia



Md. Shajjad Hossain and Saiqa Iqbal Meghna, two faculty members of the Department of Architecture, visited Evora, Portugal, under Erasmus Mundus mobility programme, 2013 (EMMAAsia). Both of them got full support to spend one month in one of the EU partner universities for improving their personal skills and knowledge in the related field. This month-long visit created scope for exchanging views and experiences between BRAC University and the University of Evora.

Publications:

- 1) Mallick, F & Islam, A (2014), "Chapter 13. PostAila Community Recovery Innovations and Planning", in Disaster Recovery: Used or Misused Development Opportunity, Rajib Shaw (ed). Springer: Japan.
- 2) Mallick, F (2014), Sustainable design and construction, Article published in the Daily Star, Dhaka Bangladesh, on 13.11.14.
- 3) Sheikh R S & Nahiduzzaman (2014), "*Chapter 6. Disease: Social Business for Malaria Free World (Grameen BASF Social Business Ltd.)*" in Social Business: Theory, Practice and Critical Perspectives <http://socialbusiness.csuci.edu/about/research.htm>
- 4) Nahiduzzaman & Sheikh R S (2014), "Chapter 8. Information Technology: Marriage between IT and Social Business (Grameen Intel Social Business "Social Business: Theory, Practice and Critical Perspectives <http://socialbusiness.csuci.edu/about/research.htm>
- 5) Ara Y. & Rahman M (2014), '(Re)structuring Dhaka through Water Urbanism: 5 Visions, 5 Concepts' in: Rahman, Mahbubur (eds) Dhaka: an Urban Reader, University Press Limited, Dhaka
- 6) McEvoy, D., Ahmed, I., Trundle, A., Sang, L. T., Diem, N. N., Suu, L. T., Mallick, F.H., Rahman, R., Rahman, M.A., Mukherjee, N. & Nishat A. (2014). In support of urban adaptation: A participatory assessment process for secondary cities in Vietnam and Bangladesh, Climate and Development, Taylor & Francis
- 7) Emergence of a Third Form_ Contextual Intervention of Contemporary Design Thinking, accepted conference paper presented in the International Conference held in Barcelona, Spain in June 2014. By Saiqa Iqbal Meghna

Ongoing research:

- 1) Documentation of student's works and departmental activities of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University. Key personnel: Shams Mansoor Ghani
- 2) Research going on "*Adaptable and Resilient Urban Built Environments for a Changing Climate in Bangladesh (ARUBE)*" under

International Strategic Partnerships in Research & Education (INSPIRE) of British Council; funded by British Council. Key investigator: Professor Fuad H. Mallick & Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana

- 3) Research going on "*Green Street: A Study on Potential Response to the Environmental Aspect of Urbanization*" funded by BRAC University. Key investigator: Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana & Md Shajjad Hossain
- 4) A research project is active on the Dhaka City initiated by Dr. Adnan Z Morshed (Catholic University of America, USA). Publication is due by Fall 2015. Key investigator: Nesfun Nahar
- 5) A study on Community, Heritage & Social capital: Informal heritage Management in Old Dhaka is in progress. Key investigator: Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed
- 6) A study of *Urban sustainability in the area of food, water & waste* is in progress. Key investigator: Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed
- 7) A research project lead by BRAC University and supported by World Bank & National Housing Authority (NHA) of Bangladesh is ongoing titled *Pro-Poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP)*. Key investigator: Khondaker Hasibul Kabir & Yasmin Ara
- 8) A study on the Ecological landscaping & preparation of aesthetics of everyday landscape & planting design is in progress. Key investigator: Khondaker Hasibul Kabir
- 9) A research title "*Living Social Landscape through Cartography*" was done at University De Evora, Portugal in September - October 2014 funded by Erasmus Mundus Grant for research. Key investigator: Md Shajjad Hossain
- 10) Work on progress of a monograph of *History of Bengal architecture* is going on, expected completion is December 2015. Key investigator: Dr. Mohammad Habib Reza
- 11) Cultural appropriateness of the assisted incremental core shelters in the Sidr affected coastal Bangladesh: A Case of Sarankhola. Ongoing Thesis for Masters of Disaster Management, BRAC University. Key investigator: Shams Mansoor Ghani

Department of Economics and Social Sciences

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) was started in 2003. Since then it has expanded to include 18 full time faculty members and 326 students. More than half the faculty members hold Ph.D.s from reputed universities in North America and Europe and have strong research and teaching experience. We also have many young teachers dedicated to professional academic careers. We are all committed to close engagements with students to develop their intellectual curiosity and motivations for learning. We encourage students to ask questions and challenge conventional ideas. We seek to help students understand the broader economic and social realities they live in, both in Bangladesh and in the global arena so as to develop critical insights and analysis, which can guide them to solutions. We prepare students for the job market and for graduate studies as well to emphasize their growth as all-rounded individuals with strong ethical values. The Department offers two majors and three minors.

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

Bachelor of Social Sciences 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 and offers a new South Asian narrative. The small student-teacher ratio and close mentoring of students, both in the classroom as well as in the field, ensures high-quality social science training with prospects for advanced degrees and interesting careers in the development sector 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 organisations and NGOs
- participation in workshops and conferences
- career planning advice for graduate studies and for employment opportunities

Minor 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. It also helps develop their analytical and writing skills. Minors in Anthropology and Sociology provide a better liberal arts grounding for students and gives them a competitive edge in the job market.

Highlights

Training: BRAC International Young Professionals

February and April, 2014

ESS, in collaboration with the Center for Entrepreneurship Development at the BRAC Business School, launched an eight-week training



program for BRAC International Young Professionals from several countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The training program was intended to provide them with a broad overview of development issues, management skills, conceptual clarity and the communications competency necessary to address the complex problem solving challenges of BRAC International.

Training: Microfinance for Senior Staff of the Central Bank of Nigeria

June 2014

Professor Syed M. Hashemi, along with Indrajith Wijesiriwardana, conducted a two-week training program on Microfinance Products, Financial Analysis, Business Planning, Regulation and Supervision for CEOs and senior staff of microfinance banks in Nigeria. The course was organized by the Central Bank of Nigeria, BRAC Bangladesh and the Institute for Research on Africa in Kano, Nigeria. The training included topics on Risk, Vulnerability and Financial Lives of the Poor, Microfinance Products, Financial Analysis, Business Planning, Regulation and Supervision among other areas of business planning and regulation.

ESS invites Dr. Hamid Rashid

June 23, 2014

Dr. Hamid Rashid, Senior Economic Adviser at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in New York, joined ESS students and faculty on to share his recent work on "Sources of growth in Bangladesh and the difficulties of turning into a Middle Income Country soon".

Discussion on Workers Rights in RMG Sector

June 25, 2014

ESS held an informal discussion on the prospects for justice and accountability in Bangladesh's garment industry in the wake of the Rana Plaza collapse. Mr. Earl Brown, the Labor & Employment Law Counsel for the Washington DC based AFL-CIO affiliated Solidarity Center, was invited to share his views at the event.

Seminar on the History of the Left Movement in East Bengal

July 10, 2014

The Anthropology Collective of ESS successfully arranged a seminar entitled "Ideological Struggles, Splits and Counter Splits, and the Collapse of the Left in Eastern Bengal: The Communist Movement from 1948 until 1971". Professor Piash Karim was the keynote presenter. Professors Syed M Hashemi and Sajjad Zohir joined him as discussants and Professor Karim presented a brief overview of the history of the communist movement in East Bengal.



Rahman, S. (2014). Brain Drain To Brain Gain. *Asian Profile*. August 2014.

Farzana Munshi

Munshi, F. Globalisation and Inter-occupational Inequality: Empirical Evidence from OECD Countries, (co-authored with A. Bigsten). *The World Economy*, Wiley Blackwell, 37 no. 3: 501-510. 2014.

Seuty Sabur

Sabur, S. Marital Mobility in the Bangladeshi Middle Class: Matchmaking Strategies and Transnational Networks in South Asia. *Journal of South Asian Studies*, December 2014, Taylor & Francis.

"Manobota, Charity, ar Reality TV: Rana Plaza Dhowsherakti case" (Humanity, Charity and reality TV: A Case of Rana Plaza" in Taslima Akhter, Zulhasnain Babu, Deepak Roy, Mahbub Iran eds. 24 April: Hajar Praner Chitkar (24th April: Outcries of A thousand Soul), Dhaka: Shamhati Prokashana, December 2014.

Syed M Hashemi, Wahid Abdallah and A M Tanvir Hussain

Hashemi, S. M., (2014). Global Perspectives on Graduation and Promotion", (co-authored with A. Montesquiou). Chapter in "Social Protection in Bangladesh: Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders out of Poverty. 2014(pp. 85-99).The University Press Limited: Dhaka.

Hashemi, S. M., W. Abdallah & T. Hussain. (2014) Research report on the impact evaluation of the Food Security of Ultra Poor (FSUP) project, a UN World Food Programme initiative, was published by UN WFP in July 2014.

ESS Faculty Participation in Conferences, Meetings, Seminars and Workshops

Professor Dina Siddiqi participated in a panel discussion titled "Labor Rights and Workers Rights in Today's Global Economy" at a conference on The International Labour Organization (ILO), "Economic Security, Political Freedom and Labor Rights in the 21st Century" held at the University of Pennsylvania on May 10, 2014.

Assistant Professor Rubana Ahmed attended a dialogue on "Analysis of the National Budget FY2014-15" organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on June 14. The session was chaired by Professor Rehman Sobhan, the

Chairman of CPD. Research Director of CPD Dr Fahmida Khatun, delivered the keynote presentation.

Adnan M. S. Fakir, Lecturer at ESS, was invited as a judge and guest speaker, alongside Syed Badrul Ahsan, Executive Editor of The Daily Star, by North South University in their inter-university poetry competition "Pursuit of Poetry," held on 21st and 22nd June. The winning poems were discussed and the winners, along with their prize money, were distributed along with Adnan Fakir's latest poetry compilation, "Canvas".

Professor Dina Siddiqi participated in a two-day conference: 'Sexual Violence and Impunity in the Conflict Zones of South Asia', from 29th to 30th June 2014, organized by Zubaan, an independent feminist publishing house based in Delhi, India and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). Professor Siddiqi was the discussant on Faustina Pereira's paper.

Professor Dina Siddiqi participated in an Expert Meeting: 'Use of Character Evidence in Rape Prosecutions in Bangladesh' on 6th July, 2014. The event was organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Professor Dina Siddiqi participated in a conversation hosted by the Bengal Foundation titled "*Prakriti o Purush*: Representations of Women and Men in SM Sultan's Art" held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct on 12th July, 2014. Dr. Siddiqi began by noting Sultan's indifference to notions of social respectability or fame, and the ways his art reflected his political ideology. She argued that, unlike his peers, Sultan represented women's not merely as aesthetic or sexual beings but as laboring subjects. The session also included artist and Professor Dhali Al Mamoon, from University of Chittagong and Professor Salimullah Khan of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

Professor Syed M. Hashemi conducted a training course on "New Pathways for the Poorest" at the Boulder Microfinance Training Program held at Turin from July 14th to 18th, 2014. The Boulder MFT Program has been running for 20 years and is considered globally to be the best microfinance training program. Leading experts and professionals come together at the event, which is held every summer. Professor Hashemi was recognised as a Senior Faculty of the program for over a decade of contributions.

The Bayaan Collective at ESS

August 12, 2014

The Bayaan Collective, in partnership with University Press Limited, organized a series of talks around the theme of “Nations and Notions: Partition Week” to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the 1947 partition of British India.

Professor Dina Siddiqi presented her paper at the event, entitled “Haunted by History? 1947, 1971 and Stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh”.



Brown Bag Seminars

- May 29, 2014: Jarrod Paul Vassallo presented his research on “Analysis of Microfinance Branch Location Decisions and their Performance Implications” at ESS’s brown bag seminar on microfinance.
- 12 June, 2014: Kamrul Hasan, Senior Lecturer (on study leave) at the Department and a PhD Candidate at the University of New South Wales, presented a paper on “How to Make A ‘Real’ Man?”.
- June 2014: Adnan M. S. Fakir, Lecturer at ESS, presented his working paper on malnutrition in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- June 19, 2014: Dr. Sadek Hamid presented his work on the history of migration, subsequent patterns of migration, settlement and community formation, titled: “Overview of the Bangladeshi population in UK”. He outlined some prominent demographic characteristics and distinct socio-cultural challenges facing second and third-generation British Bengalis.
- June 26, 2014: Ahmed Saber Mahmud, Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University, shared his work on Economics of Networks. He spoke on incentives for manufacturing firms to agglomerate and gave an overview of the previous models of urban agglomeration, which is commonly associated with various externalities existing in the cities.
- August 4, 2014: ESS hosted a brown bag seminar where Professor Elora Shehabuddin presented her paper: “Feminism and Nationalism in Cold War Pakistan”. The paper highlighted the existence of the ubiquitous narrative about women, gender, and development in the Bangladeshi context. This paper seeks to analyze the “pre-history” of this familiar narrative by focusing on efforts to help rural women in the 1960’s. Elora Shehabuddin is Associate Professor of Humanities and Political Science at Rice University.
- September 11, 2014: Dr. Masahoko Tagawa, Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Hiroshima University in Japan, presented his paper, “Local Society and Fieldworker: Fakir Lalon Shah and Postcolonial Predicaments in Bengal” at ESS. He has written several books and papers on religion and society in India and Bangladesh. He is the author of *An Abode of the Goddess: Kingship, Castle and Sacrificial Organization in a Bengal Village* (New Delhi: Monohar Publication, 2006), and a co-editor with Abul Barakat of *Minorities and the State: Changing Social and Political Landscape of Bengal* (New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2011).
- September 20, 2014: Naeem Mohaiemen presented his paper “A Looking Glass War”. Naeem is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Anthropology in Columbia University. At the presentation he explained that national identity, as framed by war, is transmitted through schizophrenic signals, including those refracted through popular and pulp culture.
- September 25, 2014: Shehzad M. Arefeen, Lecturer at ESS, presented his on-going master’s thesis, “A Behavioral Approach to Political Selection and the Quality of Government”. His dissertation work is a first attempt at building a formal, game theoretic model of the political selection process on behavioral foundations.

Faculty Publications:

Dr. Shahidur Rahman.

Rahman, S. (2014). *Broken Promises Of Globalization: The Case Of Bangladesh Garments Industry*. New York: Lexington

Professor Dina Siddiqi was a panelist in a seminar titled: 'Bangladesh's Engagement with the UN Special Procedures' on 15th July, 2014. The event was arranged by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). Dr. Siddiqi presented a critical analysis of the report on Bangladesh submitted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences. She was joined by Professor Mizanur Rahman, Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and Ms Syeda Muna Tasneem, Director General of UN and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign affairs (MoFA).

Professor Dina Siddiqi organized a session at the inaugural ceremony at The Association for Asian Studies (AAS)-in-Asia conference titled "Prescribed Modernities and Proscribed Pasts? Debates on Islam, Community, and Gender in Bangladesh" held in Singapore on between 17th and 19th July, 2014. Dr. Siddiqi's paper drew on the figure of the stranded Pakistani or 'Bihari' to suggest the incongruity of East Bengal's active embrace of the Pakistan experiment. The panel discussion suggested that neither heritage nor transformations within today's transnational Bangladesh can be understood without engaging the historical and ongoing production of Islam and community as shaped by pre-histories of Bangladesh.

Professor Hashemi attended the first meeting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Livelihoods Advisory Board on the 22nd and 23rd of July, 2014. The Board is a high level consultative group created to provide guidance to UNHCR on building the self-reliance of displaced people. The Board is made up of members from development NGOs, research institutions, donors and other UN agencies. The Board members analyzed the opportunities and challenges of livelihoods programming and generated ideas for improving UNHCR's capacity to support refugees in meeting their economic needs with sustainable livelihoods.

Professor Piash Karim was a panelist in a seminar titled "Indian Election, 2014: Implications for Bangladesh and the Region", organized by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies. Professor Karim discussed the historical variables that have been shaping Indian foreign policy. The recent election in India was discussed in relation to larger global and regional contexts.

Professor Dina Siddiqi of ESS was a panelist at a roundtable discussion, "The Current State of the Garment Industry and Recommendations for

Moving Forward", organized on 16th August, 2014, by Nijera Kori. Other panelists included the president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and anthropologist Saydia Gulrukh.

Professor Hashemi spoke at a workshop titled "Social Assistance and Sustainable Livelihoods", organized by the Office of the Vice President of the Government of Indonesia on 19th August, 2014. The Indonesian National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction at the Office of the Vice President organized the one day workshop. The event was held primarily to have Professor Hashemi present his global work on building sustainable livelihoods for the poorest to enable them to graduate out of extreme poverty. Policymakers, government workers, academics and researchers attended the workshop. The Indonesian government is reviewing its social protection program and is interested in adding a "graduation" component based on the BRAC model that Professor Hashemi has been advocating for the last several years.

Professor Hashemi participated in the BRAC Targeting the Ultra Poor Program (TUP) Immersion Program Briefing organized by BRAC, BRAC International and BRAC USA, in August 2014. The TUP "Immersion Program" is for practitioners and volunteers who are intent on understanding BRAC's TUP. The TUP Program has received wide recognition as a successful model to graduate the poorest out of extreme poverty. Three teams from Tanzania, the Philippines and from Concern Worldwide spent a few days in the field with BRAC staff. Professor Hashemi briefed high-level Tanzanian government officials and Concern Worldwide practitioners on different facets of the TUP model and the possibilities of its implementation in other countries.

Professor Hashemi moderated a workshop on "Client Protection Principles in Microfinance", organized by BRAC and the Smart Campaign in August, 2014. The Smart Campaign is a global effort to unite microfinance leaders around a common goal—ensuring protection of microfinance clients from aggressive lending practices. The campaign focuses on preventing over-indebtedness, ensuring that clients receive respectful treatment, that pricing and interest rates are set responsibly, and that clients have clear and transparent information on loan contracts. All leading microfinance institutions in Bangladesh, including BRAC, Grameen Bank, Association for Social Advancement (ASA), Basic Unit for

Resources and Opportunities (BURO) Bangladesh etc. as well as Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and the Microcredit Regulatory Agency were present. Professor Syed M. Hashemi moderated the discussion on achievements in Bangladesh on financial education, client protection and on future steps to ensure greater client financial empowerment.

Professor S. M. Shamsul Alam presented his paper entitled "Governmentality and Nationalism in Bangladesh" at a conference on "Identity in the Globalized World: Dimensions, Transformations and Challenges". The conference was held at Independent University, Bangladesh between 23rd and 25th August 2014.

Professor Siddiqi was a keynote speaker at the symposium '1946 August 16 Killings' organized by the Indian origin Urdu Speaking Minority Council in Bangladesh at the Reporters' Unity Lounge on 24th August 2014. She also gave an in-house lecture to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) staff on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The lecture focused on the relevance of UN institutions in promoting women's rights in Bangladesh.

Meheri Tamanna, Lecturer at ESS, presented a paper titled as "Neoliberal restructuring and the urban poor: Do urban poor do better than their rural counterparts" at an international conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The conference was organized by the Australian Academy of Business and Social Sciences and held at Kuala Lumpur on 25th and 26th August 2014.

Professor Syed M. Hashemi attended the Microcredit Summit in Mexico from 3rd to 5th September 2014. The Microcredit Summit is an annual global event that draws in leading practitioners, policy makers and researchers to discuss current issues in the microfinance sector. Held in different countries each year, this year the event was hosted in Merida, Mexico. Professor Hashemi made presentations on building ladders for the poorest to escape extreme poverty. He also participated in a special session with African policy makers and the MasterCard Foundation on how programs for the poorest can be implemented in their countries.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Seuty Sabur presented her paper "Women's Agency within Left Political Parties and the Birth of Feminist Organizations in Bangladesh" in the panel 'Gender and Activism in Cold War Era East Pakistan' in the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia. The

conference was hosted by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from 15th to 19th October 2014.

Samia Huq presented her work entitled "A Nation's Secular Goals and Muslim Ethos: Muslim, Bengali Women's Agency in East Pakistan" in the South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin, Madison. The paper argues that women's participation in the cultural sphere during 60's and 70's, which laid the foundations of the emerging nation, did so by creating a "modern-folk," straddling the religious and secular while pushing the limits of expected gender norms. The paper highlights the nexus between women-nation-and-cultural-production by placing another nexus, that of the religious-secular, at its center. An understanding of the dynamics for 1960's East Pakistan when East Bengalis were striving for sovereignty will allow a wrestling with the trajectory of the concepts of nation, religion, secularism, and highlight women's role in creating them, especially as they remain highly contested in contemporary Bangladesh.

The briefing session of the prestigious Hult Prize competition at BRAC University event took place on the 22nd of October 2014 at the BRAC University Auditorium. It was organized with support from the BRAC Business School and the Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University. Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Associate Professor of the Economics and Social Sciences department was invited to share his thoughts on the integration of welfare programmes into business at the event.

Professor Prashanta K. Tripura presented his work entitled "Politics of Language Planning" as part of the ESS brown bag seminar series on 23rd October. Language has been at the core of the mainstream nationalism that led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation state. Yet, seven decades since the language movement of 1952, Bangla is yet to be established as the main medium of communication in various spheres of state and society.

Adnan M. S. Fakir was invited to attend and present at the first 'Shape South Asia' summit being organized by Global Shapers Community of the World Economic Forum at Ahmadabad, India. The theme of the summit centered on Gandhian philosophy, commemorating his 145th birth anniversary.

Fakir's talk at the TEDx event on his upcoming documentary film, "Finding Bangladesh 2,"—which focuses on the histories, mythologies

and legends of Bangladesh, and is catered mainly for viewers of younger generations—has been published on Youtube and can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONvyJ1RYSfI>. TEDx provides progressive thinkers and proactive doers an international platform to share their ideas in order to enhance local communities.

Assistant Professor Wahid Abdallah attended a conference on "Reflections on 'Doing while learning': A retrospective look at how social innovations scaled across South Asia", organized by BRAC Social Innovation Lab held in Bellagio, Italy between 4th and 8th November 2014. He has talked about "How can we Support Organizational Learning" in the conference, which initiated an exciting discussion on effective learning processes in organizational setting.

Assistant Professor Seuty Sabur was invited to Asian University of Women on November 13, 2014. She attended a seminar at AUW titled "Shahbag, the Secular Congregation: Gender, Class, Religion and Ethnicity Question". Later in the day she presented a TALE talk titled "Dislocation, Discontentment, Disillusion: In Constant Search for Allies/Comrades".

Professor Syed M. Hashemi and Adnan Fakir attended the Livelihood Asia Summit, in New Delhi. The Livelihoods Asia Summit is a pan-Asia platform to facilitate a South-South dialogue on livelihoods enhancement. It aims to build regional consensus on critical issues and challenges faced by the poor, share best practices, and inform and influence policy. Professor Hashemi gave a speech at the opening plenary session of the Summit. With participation of over 600 delegates, the Summit was a unique learning and sharing experience on a diverse array of themes discussed in over 14 sessions across two days. The Summit sessions explored scalable solutions that involved skills development, inclusive business models, inclusive



value chains, policy innovations, infrastructure development, private sector partnerships and approaches that offer a pathway out of poverty. The Livelihoods Asia Summit 2014 was held on 10th and 11th December 2014 in New Delhi.

Assistant Professor Wahid Abdallah, presented his paper "The Economics of System Loss" at two international conferences: the 7th Australasian Public Choice Conference which was held on 5th and 6th December 2014 at Monash University in Melbourne, and at the International Conference on Political Economy, Accountability and Governance 2014 at BRAC Centre Inn in Dhaka, between 11th and 13th December. The paper discusses the effect of stronger legal institutions and electricity prices on electricity theft in India.

Faculty transitions:

Memorial for Late Professor Piash Karim

A commemoration was held in the BRACU auditorium on 16th October 16, 2014 to celebrate and remember the life of Professor Piash Karim who passed away suddenly in the early hours of October 11th. Arranged by ESS, which had been the



workplace of Professor Karim since 2007, the memorial was attended by his many students, colleagues and well-wishers from BRACU and beyond. Speakers at the event included past and recent students of Professor Karim, shared personal memories and recalled with great fondness the various mutual experiences with him, which left lasting impressions on their lives. A selection of Professor Karim's favourite Rabindra Sangeet were performed by ESS student Shemonty Monjary. Professor Shamsul Alam of ESS recited Dylan Thomas's "Do not go gentle into that good night", and an excerpt from Hermann Hesse's *Siddharta* was read by ESS students Nafisa Kazi Iqbal and Elma Arifeen. The event concluded with prayers for the departed soul.

Shahidur Rahman, joined ESS as an Associate Professor on August 3, 2014 after a yearlong leave. During his leave Shahidur worked at Monash University in Melbourne as a Sessional Teacher for two semesters and taught two courses: Youth Culture and Social Change, and Introduction to Sociology.

ESS Faculty and Student Achievements

- ESS students, under the supervision of Professor Sajjad Zohir, were engaged in research with ERG (Economic Research Group) to capture perceptions on 'abusing women' and the 'bad aspects of living in Dhaka city' and presented their findings at an ESS seminar. They intend to publish the findings in the local dailies.
- ESS students Zerin, Zeeshan, Afra and Rahmatullah, participated in a live program on the national budget, telecast by ATN NEWS on 2nd June 2014.
- Professor Syed M Hashemi chaired a post budget discussion organized by the students of the BRAC University Economics Club (BUEC) at the university campus on 17th June, 2014. The panel included eminent economists including Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya (Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue), Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam (visiting Professor at BRAC University as well as former holder of several government posts) and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed (former Governor of the Bangladesh Bank).



- Four ESS students shared their experiences in undertaking fieldwork in between spring and summer semesters for an ERG study on "Poverty Perception Survey: Public Opinion on the Dimensions of Poverty" at the ESS brown bag seminar on 19th June, 2014.

Narrative featuring special events of ESS

Speakers' Forum: - Globalization, Religion and the Secular

November 22-23, 2014

ESS, in collaboration with Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, World Faiths Development Dialogue, organized a daylong workshop on "Secularism and Faith-Inspired Development: Understanding Contestation and Collaboration". The event is a part of BRAC University and Georgetown University's Speakers' Forum on Faith and Development in Bangladesh, a multi-year exploration of the role of faith-inspired actors in development.

The workshop started with a welcome address by Syed M. Hashemi, Chair of the Department and an introduction to the Georgetown-BRAC University collaboration by Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. The Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, chaired the presentations of the day. The papers presented at the event included:

- 'Approaches to Secularism' by Professor Jose Casanova of the Department of Sociology at Georgetown University;
- 'Indian Secularism: Promises and Challenges' by Professor Rajeev Bhargava from the Center for Studies of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi;
- 'Secular Aspirations in Bangladesh' by Samia Huq, Associate Professor from the Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University.

Designated discussants included Riaz Khan, Professor of the Department of English and Humanities, and the Founder and Chair of Power Participation Research Center Hossain Zillur Rahman.

The workshop also included two panel discussions. The first on "Faith-Inspired Development Practitioners in a Secular State" was chaired Katherine Marshall. Panelists included Joyanta Adhikari, Executive Director of CCDB, Muhammad Mezbah-ul-Islam, Executive President of Haqqani Mission, Bangladesh, and Swami Shriratmanada of Ram Krishna Mission. The second session on "A Secular Development Approach in Practice" was chaired by Professor

Syed M. Hashemi. Panelists included Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha, Faustina Pereira, the Director of Human Rights and Legal Aid Service at BRAC, and Binayak Sen, Research Director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).



Training: Introducing Bangladesh: A Two-Day Training Program for Expats in Bangladesh

November 24 and 30, 2014

Professor Syed Hashemi conducted a two day training program for the UK High Commission to introduce its staff to the history, economy and culture of Bangladesh. Participants included staff from Department for International Development (DFID), the British Council, the Consular Section,

the Legal Section and other departments. Nine modules were presented. These included:

- A Brief History of Bangladesh: Struggles for Democratic Rights and Economic Freedom
- The Economic Development of Bangladesh and the Advances on the MDGs
- Politics in Bangladesh: The Culture of Conflict and the Care Taker Governments
- Secularism and Fundamentalism in Bangladesh: The Quest for Identity
- The Indigenous People of Bangladesh: A Political History
- The Structure of Government and the Governance Challenges in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh in the Global Context: The Making of Foreign Policy
- NGOs, Civil Society and the State: Confrontation, Collaboration and Coexistence
- Climate Change and Vulnerability in Bangladesh

Speakers included Professors Ainun Nishat, Syed Hashemi, Riaz Khan, Samia Huq from BRAC University and others.



Department of English and Humanities



Celebrating the liberal arts spirit of the university, the Department of English and Humanities (ENH) aims to cultivate creativity alongside the analytical and communicative skills of its students along three major academic streams: Literature, ELT & Applied Linguistics, and Media & Cultural Studies. With the addition of a Minor in History programme, the first of its kind in Bangladesh's private universities, the students can now expect to add another contextual dimension to their scholarship.

At the core of the department is the Literature concentration, which presents to the students a diverse range of literary writing in English from different historical periods and regions, with the aim to instil in them a strong analytical orientation, encouraging the students to contextualize literary works in relation to their historical and cultural realities. A critical and analytical focus is fostered through interactions with theoretical materials and writing exercises.

The ELT & Applied Linguistics concentration offers the students a chance to gain in-depth understanding of language, both as an acquired skill and a socio-cultural phenomenon. They are also trained to consider language as subject to analysis and research by introducing them to different theories of language and their application in everyday life for English language teaching and beyond.

An interdisciplinary approach is a key element of the Media and Cultural Studies concentration, where students are equipped with knowledge of the origin and evolution of "media". Alongside this

they gain familiarity with cultural theories and develop an understanding of the power-plays and world politics that bring all of these components together, enabling them to interpret the ever-changing cultural traditions and gain insights into global events as well as universal or personal experiences.

The undergraduate programme culminates in the final year in a dissertation or report of the internship done in a relevant organization, through which students can showcase the breadth of their learning in a focused and organized manner. This exercise helps students gain confidence in applying their knowledge and training to the production of a quantifiable piece of research.

The postgraduate programme for the MA in English degree has two streams: Literature and ELT & Applied Linguistics. The Literature concentration exposes students to a wide variety of specialized topics such as postcolonialism, feminism, postmodernism and the many dimensions of contemporary literature, making it a unique literature programme in Bangladesh. The ELT & Applied Linguistics concentration inculcates the students with a deep understanding of English as a language and the different approaches that are being adopted toward English teaching.

The introduction of the Minor in History has given the Department of English and Humanities an interactive multidisciplinary student body since it encourages students from different departments to take various relevant courses in history. An exciting dimension of this programme is the development of

an advanced history course organized and conducted in collaboration with Tufts University in Boston. The first of its kind in Bangladesh, the course provides a unique opportunity to experience learning alongside students from Tufts University, facilitated through a digital classroom where real-time classes are taken using tele-conferencing. The students attend live and recorded lectures by some of the best acclaimed historians and academics in the world.

To ensure the best possible utilisation of writing potential, the department has a writing centre where dedicated teachers provide guidance to students of the department.

One of the hallmarks of ENH is its active student body and faculty. As we begin a new year after sending our graduating students to experience newer horizons, we also welcome a fresh crop of young, enthusiastic students into the buzzing environs of ENH. In keeping with the established tradition of practical involvement, 2014 also proved equally momentous for the department.



Highlights

The highlights of the year included several activities and events: a poetry workshop conducted by Catalan poet Josep Almudéver Chanzá, which culminated in an event titled “Languages at Play: A Poetry Reading”, where poetry in different languages was recited and appreciated by guests, students and faculty members alike. ENH's contribution to the university-wide English Campaign also centred around a lively poetry recitation and interpretation competition amongst the students.

Later in the year, a round table discussion was led by Dr. Jon Wilson, Senior Lecturer in British Imperial and South Asian History at King's College London University, titled “Who Do Historians Write For? Reflections on Guldi and Armitage's History Manifesto”. The discussant panel included Professor Perween Hasan, Vice-chancellor of Central Women's University; Professor Riaz P. Khan from the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University; and, Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, Associate Professor in the Department of

History at Dhaka University. It was moderated by Thomas Newbold, visiting faculty member and researcher in ENH.



ENH Lecture Series

The year also saw the continuation of the ENH Lecture series, with both local and international speakers, on topics ranging from Literature, History and Culture to Film Studies and Art. Amongst the speakers was noted historian and professor from Rice University Ussama Makdisi, a nephew of renowned theorist Edward Said. Makdisi discussed the colonial origins of present Middle-Eastern conflicts in a talk titled “The Historical Roots of the Current Sectarian Crisis in the Middle East”. Another distinguished guest was UCLA Fulbright Scholar Dr. Esha Niyogi De, who spoke on how women filmmakers from the subcontinent were breaking social, creative and cinematic boundaries.

Among the local speakers were prolific historians such as Iftekhar Iqbal and Afsan Chowdhury, who both spoke about the different dimensions of the Indian Partition in 1947. Syed Manzoorul Islam, a popular fiction writer of our country and also the coordinator of the MA in English programme at ENH, discussed the representation of partition in literature of East and West Bengal. There were also presentations and talks by faculty members such as Dr. Riaz Khan, who presented a critical reading of Kant's geography and the politics of memory of Lashkars.



The Hay Festival 2014



ENH was well-represented at the 2014 Hay Literary Festival, the biggest international literary festival held in Bangladesh. Professor Firdous Azim engaged in a stimulating conversation with internationally acclaimed author Zia Haider Rahman in the session “The Impossibility of Knowing” at the Festival. It spanned topics such as Rahman's personal history, his transition from a banker and human rights lawyer into a fiction writer, and his observation of the writing process. Rukhsana R.Chowdhury also appeared as a speaker for the session titled “Fault Lines”, with panellists Professor Niaz Zaman and Mahrukh Mohiuddin from University Press Limited (UPL). The discussion focused on a collection of short stories on 1971 by Niaz Zaman and Asif Farrukhi, during which Rukhsana spoke about the 1971 perspective in Pakistan and the Urdu speaking community in Bangladesh.

International Collaborations and Exchanges

The most exciting academic project of the year was entitled “Bay of Bengal: Flows of Change”, the first BRACU-Tufts University collaboration. Exploring the digital paradigm for learning purposes, the Department of English and Humanities successfully concluded this digital course which took the students through the history of the Bengal



delta, and its links through trade, migration and social and political movements with countries situated around the Bay. These classes were video-conferenced, so while students in Dhaka attended an evening class (7.30 to 9 pm) the students at Boston had an early morning class (8.30 to 10 am). The lectures had been pre-recorded and archived. Not only were these lectures heard by all participants, but are also available as transcribed text along with the video lecture in a site called Corpora housed at Tufts University, so that while listening to the lectures, students can scroll through the transcript and cite from the lectures as well. This creates a space where knowledge is imparted and shared, where ideas are engendered and debated, and where a social bonding takes place. Teachers and students come together to form friendships which take the learning process far beyond the classroom.

This year also saw the inception of an academic partnership between BRAC University's ENH Department and the Umeå Center for Gender Studies at Umeå University in Sweden. Professor Dr. Firdous Azim and visiting Associate Professor Dr. Shuchi Karim traveled to Sweden between 29th September and 3rd October to discuss the establishment of a student and teacher exchange programme between the two universities. This exchange has been contracted under the Linneas-Palmer Collaboration Programme, which is managed by the Swedish Council for Higher Education and financed by Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. This collaboration will culminate in a teacher exchange in 2015-2016 and then a student exchange in 2016-2017. The programme hopes to go digital in the year 2017.

In Conversation with Zia Haider Rahman



The Department of English and Humanities was proud to present BRACU students and teachers with the opportunity to listen to Zia Haider Rahman, the charismatic speaker and the acclaimed writer of *In the Light of What We Know*, who engaged in a spirited conversation with Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam in November of 2014. Discussing the art of creative writing, with reference to his emotional investment in the writing experience, he mentioned dedicating over four years to creating this novel and completely relishing the opportunity to immerse himself in this work. He also elaborated on the contribution that his scientific knowledge made to his striking literary style. The discussion was followed by a lively Q&A session where invited guests, faculty members, and students got the chance to interact with the author.

Fruits of the Loom: Khaadi and the Tagore-Gandhi Debate



On the 21st of December, the Department of English and Humanities was proud to host a lecture titled “Fruits of the Loom: Khaadi and the Tagore-Gandhi Debate” delivered by Dr. Poulomi Saha, Assistant Professor of English, University of California, Berkeley. In the Q&A session, Dr. Saha gave her own thoughts on some of the intriguing questions that the audiences had about Tagore and Gandhi. Her area of interest is the late 19th century decline of British colonial rule in the Indian Ocean through to the Pacific and the rise of American global power and domestic race relations in the 20th century.

Faculty Contributions

The faculty members have also made their presence felt through contributions, publications, and participation in international conferences:

- Professor Firdous Azim was one of the speakers at the 2014 SAARC Literary Festival.

She was also a panel discussant in the inaugural discussion on “Beyond the Native Informant”, which was part of the Bengal Lights Literary Conclave held in May 2014.

- Ms. Mahmuda Akhter presented her research on Just in Time Teaching (JiTT) and Flipped Classroom concepts in ELT at the 19th Nepal English Language Teachers Association International Conference held in Kathmandu in March 2014.
- Ms. Asifa Sultana, who is currently doing her Ph.D., outlined her work on Bangla-speaking pre-school children at the Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders in Wisconsin in June of the same year.
- Later in the year, Rukhsana R. Chowdhury introduced her current research on the largely unexplored topic of Urdu poetry in our country in a talk titled, “History, the Language Debate and Urdu Literature in Bangladesh”.
- In November, Sabreena Ahmed presented her paper titled “Incorporating Study Trips in a Composition Course” at the International Conference *Inspire to Write*, which had been organized jointly by the Department of English, University of Dhaka and the University of Manchester.
- In the same month, Md. Mahmudul Haque participated in a 5-day-long workshop on Bangla to English Literary Translation. The events was developed and conducted by Dhaka Translation Centre and the British Centre for Literary Translation, working in partnership with Commonwealth Writers and English PEN. He also participated in a conference titled “The 21st Century Classroom: Directions, Issues, and Changes” hosted by University of Liberal Arts, Dhaka in August. He conducted a talk “E-xploring E-discussion” alongside Hamim Al Hasan.

Publications

Professor Firdous Azim collaborated with Professor Parween Hasan, Vice-Chancellor of Central Women's University, on two papers. The first, titled “The Construction of Women in Late Nineteenth Century and Early Twentieth Century Bengal: The writings of Nawab Faizunnessa Chaudrani and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain”, was published in February of 2014 in the *Routledge*

Handbook on Gender in South Asia, edited by Leela Fernandes, Professor of Gender Studies in University of Michigan.

Azim, F., & Hasan, P. (2014). The construction of women in late nineteenth century and early twentieth century bengal: The writings of nawab faizunnessa chaudrani and rokeya sakhawat hossain. In L. Fernandes (Ed.), *Routledge handbook on gender in south asia* (1 ed., pp. 28-40). New York: Routledge.

The second paper, titled “Language, Literature, Education and Community: The Bengali Muslim Woman in the Early Twentieth Century”, was published in *Women's Studies International Forum*.

Azim, F., & Hasan, P. (2014). Language, literature, education and community: The bengali muslim woman in the early twentieth century. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 45, 105-111.

Rukhsana R. Chowdhury's paper, “The Mother Complex of Martha Quest” has been published in the October issue of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*. It is indexed and

available in international databases such as, EBSCO, LLBA Database of ProQuest, J-Gate etc. She has also published another paper on Dickens and the essay “Night Walks”.

Chowdhury, R. (2014). The mother complex of martha quest. *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, 4(10).

Chowdhury, R. (2014). Reading dickens romantically: "night walks". *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, 4(6).

Ms. Mahmuda Akhter's paper, “Challenges and Possibilities of Computer Assisted Language Teaching in Higher Education: Bangladesh in Focus” was published in *Harvest: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Language and Literature*, Volume 29.

Akhter, M. (2014). Challenges and possibilities of computer assisted language teaching in higher education: Bangladesh in focus. *Harvest: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Language and Literature*, 49.

Inspiring Excellence

Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences



Introduction

Apart from offering courses for its own students both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) is also offering various courses to the students of other departments of BRAC University.

Academic Programs

The MNS started offering its own major Bachelor's programme in Physics in Fall 2005. It was the very first initiative of its kind taken by a private university in Bangladesh. The effort was highly lauded by UGC and renowned scholars. Though the number of students in Physics has not been large, the department has produced some of the finest graduates over the past few years.

The Master of Science (MS) in the Biotechnology programme began in Spring 2007. It has seen successful academic cooperation and collaboration with distinguished scientists and researchers of renowned academic and research institutions of the country from the beginning of its journey. The programme has achieved excellence through research initiatives undertaken by the students under the supervision of eminent and experienced scientists.

The undergraduate programme in Applied Physics and Electronics, which started in Spring 2010 with a small number of students, was yet another effort to support studies in basic sciences.

In Summer 2010, the department initiated two new undergraduate programmes—the Bachelor of

Science in Biotechnology and the Bachelor of Science in Microbiology. These two life sciences programmes attracted many promising students from their inception. The department has well-equipped labs to provide hands-on experience. Bachelor of Mathematics programme was launched in Spring 2012 semester.

Student Support/Mentoring/Advising

Faculty members are available for consultation whenever required and some are assigned for first-year advising and counseling. Tutorial classes in physics and mathematics are available for the students who need further academic help.

Research Activities

Since research is the key to acquiring new knowledge, the MNS always encourages its faculty members to carry out quality research. The following major research projects have been carried out in 2014.

- The research programmes of microbiology include isolation and characterization of different organisms in collaboration with the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR,B.), Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and the Microbiology Department of University of Dhaka. There exists good research collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Research & Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM) which includes studies regarding

statistical analysis of some characteristics of diabetic patients and the association of Diabetes Mellitus to obesity.

- The “Fermentation and Industrial Biotechnology” project is being done in collaboration with BCSIR. The other current projects in biotechnology are “Establish Micro Propagation and Transformation Protocols to Produce Various Transgenic Agricultural Crops”, and “Isolate and Characterize Several Salt Tolerant Genes”. There is another project in progress on “Developing Salinity Stress Tolerant Transgenic Tomato Variety” under the Bangladesh Academy of Science-United States Department of Agriculture (BAS-USDA) Endowment Fund.
- Theoretical research on plasmas around pulsars, neutron stars and black holes are being carried out with a modest goal of developing a plasma astrophysics laboratory. The late Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed initiated the research project with a financial grant from the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh.

Synergy between BRAC & BRACU

A Memorandum of Understanding exists between BRAC and BRACU for cooperation and collaboration in the field of biotechnology. Under this agreement BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Centre (ARDC) will make its laboratory and field facilities available to the biotechnology students of BRACU.

The Department of MNS is hoping to play a vital role in developing the curricula, text- books, delivery and evaluation procedures for the 'BRAC Education Program' (BEP). E-learning modules for open and distance learning for mathematics and other basic science subjects may also be developed.

BRACU Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC)

BUNSC was started in Spring 2006 to promote student activities in different fields of basic sciences. The club has arranged a number of visits to research organizations and scientific institutions in Bangladesh. It also arranges fairs and topical seminars.

Future Programs

The Department is also planning to establish the following programmes:

- MS in Nuclear Science and Engineering,
- M. Phil and MS in Physics,
- MS in Microbiology,

- BS and MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
- PG Diploma or M. Phil in Microbiology,
- PG Diploma or MS in Medical Physics, and
- BS in Bioinformatics.

Highlights

Pohela Baisakh Celebration

A potluck lunch party was organized by the MNS Department in April, 2014, to celebrate the Bengali New Year. April 17, 2014 happened to be the last day of classes for Spring 2014 Semester. The faculty members brought a variety of delicious items for the lunch which was also attended by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, and Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Joint Registrar of the university.

'Vice Chancellors Visit to MNS Department

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-chancellor of BRACU, visited the Department in August, 2014. He shared his vision, future plans and strategies about the university. He talked about bringing a number of constructive changes to BRACU during his tenure so as to make the university one of the best in the region. During his speech he mentioned the need for cooperation from all the members of MNS, for quality research conducted by the faculty members and the importance of publications in reputed journals for improving BRACU's research ranking. Research should go hand in hand with teaching, he opined. Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed also shared their views with the Vice-Chancellor. Finally, the Vice Chancellor thanked all and promised to visit the department again to engage in similar interactive sessions in future.

Degrees Awarded to the Graduates from the MNS at the Ninth Convocation

The Ninth Convocation Ceremony of BRACU was held in November, 2014 at the Army Stadium,





Dhaka Cantonment. Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid graced the occasion as the Chancellor of the university and Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, Honourable Minister from the Bangladesh Ministry of Education, was the special guest.

A total of 23 students from the department graduated, including two students from the Biotechnology programme, six from the Microbiology programme, one from Applied Physics and Electronics programme and fourteen from the MS in Biotechnology programme. Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal for attaining the highest CGPA in her Master's results in the entire university. She also received the Vice Chancellor's Medal. Ms. Sreoshee Rafiq of BS in Biotechnology, Ms. Shafaque Rahman from BS in Microbiology, Ms. Sayeda Mayesha Azim of BS in Applied Physics and Electronics and Ms. Sadia Ahmed from MS in Biotechnology were also awarded the Vice Chancellor's Medal for having the highest CGPA's in their respective programmes.

Conferences, Symposia and Workshops etc.

Faculty members of the MNS have participated in various national and international conferences, symposia and workshops. The department has also conducted several seminars which are relevant to its programmes throughout the year.

Inaugural Ceremony of the "Tenth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications"

The Inaugural Ceremony of the training course was held at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AECD). The training course was organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) with financial assistance from the Bangladesh Ministry of Science and Technology. Architect Yeafesh Osman, the Honourable State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, who is also the Vice-Chairman of NOAMI, presented the welcome address elaborating on the objectives of the training course. The chief guest

lauded the role of NOAMI in promoting the study of oceanic sciences in the country. The Chairman of NAOMI Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad gave a brief review of the activities of NOAMI since its inception in 1978 with specific emphasis on the training course on oceanography. The ceremony was attended by the participants of the course, resource persons, NOAMI members, academicians and distinguished guests.

Training Workshop on "Developing Research Communication Skills and Ethical Considerations"



Dr. Aparna Islam participated as a resource person on a three-day training workshop entitled 'Developing Research Communication Skills and Ethical Considerations', which was jointly organized by Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) and INASP/ Author AID (UK). Dr. Islam spoke about the ethical issues involved in research publication. At the end of the workshop certificates were presented to the participants by Dr. Md. Kabirul Islam Khan, Dean of Veterinary Medicine at CVASU.

Visit to Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE)

A group of nineteen students and two faculty members from the Physics and Applied Physics program of the department visited the nuclear radiation and health physics facilities at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) located at Ganakbari, Savar. They were greeted by the scientists there and taken to visit the various research facilities. The team came back with a renewed hope for the advancement of research and development in science and technology in the country.



Visit to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory

Forty students of the biotechnology and microbiology programmes, along with two faculty members and one Lab Technical Officer (LTO) visited the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) in Dhaka Medical College. The visiting team came to know how different crime cases have been investigated successfully, such as the Sagar-Runi murder case, the Rana Plaza tragedy, alongside learning about forensics in rape cases, identity tests etc.



Annual Picnic of the MNS Department

MNS organized the Annual Picnic at Sonargaon in February 2014. The 150 participants included faculty members, staff and students. The students enjoyed a lot throughout the day. They visited the old buildings of Panam City and the Folk Arts and Crafts Museum.

Appointment of New Faculty Members

Three new faculty members joined the department. They are: Mr.Md. Akhter Hossain in chemistry, Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam in biotechnology and Ms. Namista Islam in microbiology. Three more faculty members joined MNS in May 2014: Mr. Mohammad Hassan Murad and Ms. Maria Akter in mathematics and Mr. A. B. M. Hasan Talukder in applied physics and electronics.

Presentation of Undergraduate Dissertations



Four final year students, Ms. Shafaque Rahman, Ms. Monisha Datta, Ms. Trina Hasan and Mr. Chinmoy Pramanik gave presentations about their experience undergoing industrial training at Incepta Labs. Their presentations focused on different aspects of their work.

MS Theses Defense in Biotechnology Program

Three students of MS in the biotechnology program defended their theses in April 2014. Ms. Sadia Ahmed presented her work entitled "Temperature stability study of killed, bivalent, oral cholera vaccine, Shanchol in Bangladeshi adult participants" under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Firdausi Qadri, Director for Centre for Vaccine Sciences at ICDDR,B. Mr. Raba Mahdi was supervised by Dr. Aparna Islam for his work on the "Identification of synchronized role of transcription factors, genes and enzymes in Arabidopsis thaliana under four abiotic stress responsive pathways". Mr. Armanul Naser presented his work entitled "Isolation and characterization of yeasts from local fruit varieties for bioethanol production, using sugarcane molasses" under the joint guidance of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Mahboob Hossain.

Seminar on Genome Sequence

In April 2014, a seminar titled 'Sequencing a Genome' was held at the department. The speaker of the session was Mr. Ehtesham Mofiz, a Ph.D. candidate at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research at University of Melbourne, Australia. He first spoke about the importance of genome sequencing in the field of personalized medicine, an advanced concept based on genomics which might help in the treatment of chronic diseases in the near future and then discussed different technologies of genome sequencing.

The Fourth Congress of the Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh (Young BB)

The Fourth Congress of the Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh was held in April 2014 at the Senate Bhaban of University of Dhaka. Some faculty members, an LTO and students of the MNS attended the Congress. Biotechnology and genetic engineering students of different universities of the country presented their research ideas and findings during the Congress. Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain worked as an evaluator of the oral presentations in the seminar. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was the chief guest in the closing ceremony and distributed prizes among the young biotechnologists for the best posters and biotech business ideas presentations.

The 27th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists

The above-mentioned conference was held in April 2014 at the Department of Microbiology in University of Dhaka. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain attended the Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Microbes and Industrial Development: Bangladesh Perspectives". Minister Yeafesh Osman was the chief guest and Professor A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of University of Dhaka was the special guest during the inaugural ceremony. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury chaired the plenary session of the conference in which two keynote presentations were made. A good number of scientific papers outlining research findings were presented during the Conference by the scientists and academics of different research organizations and universities. Dr. Mahboob Hossain was elected as a member of the Executive Committee for 2014-2015 at the annual general meeting of the Society.

'Professor S. B. Nimses Visit to the Plasma Astrophysics Laboratory



Professor S. B. Nimse, Vice Chancellor of the University of Lucknow in India and the General President of Indian Science Congress, visited the Plasma Astrophysics Laboratory of the MNS in May 2014. He met the Vice Chancellor of BRACU and the Chairperson of the department.

'Closing & Certificate Awarding Ceremony of NOAMIs Tenth Training Course on "Oceanography: Principles and Applications"

The Closing and Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the above-mentioned training course was held at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre Dhaka (AECDC) in May 2014. Architect and State Minister Yeafesh Osman graced the occasion as the chief guest. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, gave the welcome address. Fifteen participants representing different R&D organizations, departments and also the Bangladesh Navy were awarded certificates by the chief guest. Yeafesh Osman, in his address, lauded the efforts of NOAMI towards promoting the study of oceanography in the country. The Chairman of NOAMI, Professor Dr. A. A. Z. Ahmad, presided over the function and gave a brief review of NOAMI's activities. He then thanked the University of Dhaka for opening up the Master's degree programme in oceanography, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Grant Awarded for Cancer Research

Dr. Mohammad Sarowar Hossain has been awarded a research grant of Tk. 500,000 by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council to carry out a research project related to the molecular analysis of prognostic markers of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients. This is a collaborative project undertaken by BRACU, ICDDRDB and National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital. It is expected that the ongoing molecular study will contribute to the development of molecular cancer diagnostics in the country and, as a result, the treatment and management of acute leukemia patients will improve. Molecular profiling of acute leukemia in the environmental context of Bangladesh would also contribute to the fundamental research of hematological malignancies worldwide.

TUBA-AASSA Workshop on "Women in Science & Technology"

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the TUBA-AASSA Workshop on "Women in Science and Technology" held in May, 2014 at Ege



University in Izmir, Turkey. The workshop was organized by the TUBA (Turkish National Science Academy) and AASSA (Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia). The aim of the event was to sum up the last two workshops held in 2012 and 2013 and to draw concrete recommendations and action plans. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Candeger Yilmaz, Vice Chancellor of Izmir University. Professor Choudhury had been invited to give a talk on “Women in Science and Technology for Development- Bangladesh Perspective” and chaired the first session.

The Eighth Meeting of the Biosafety Core Committee (BCC)

The above-mentioned meeting was held at the Paribesh Bhavan in Agargaon, Dhaka in July 2014. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, a member of the BCC, attended the meeting. The BCC is responsible for presenting recommendations to the National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) on all aspects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) work in Bangladesh. The meeting considered applications from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) for their research studies. The risk management protocol of confined field trial of golden rice followed by the BRRI was also considered. The meeting decided to recommend the applications to the NCB for approval, subject to the directives of the national biosafety guidelines of Bangladesh and the utmost care taken in the trial experiments so as to avoid any risk to environment and health. Regarding formation of field level biosafety measures monitoring committee, the meeting suggested inclusion of representatives from the Bangladesh Department of Environment (DoE) in all such committees.

MS Thesis Viva Examination

Five students pursuing MS in biotechnology degree presented their theses in August 2014. Ms. Sultana Rownok Jahan presented her research work on the “Immune response of oral cholera vaccine, Shanchol in Bangladeshi recipients”. Ms. Nazia Rahman presented her work entitled “Optimization of immune dot blot assay for diagnosis of typhoid and paratyphoid fever using the TP Test for comparison”. Both the research studies were conducted at icddr,b under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Firdausi Qadri. Mr. Md. Shah Jalalur Rahman Shahi, who carried out his research at Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), presented his work entitled “Surveillance of low pathogenic avian influenza in Dhaka district”. It was conducted under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Md. Giasuddin, Senior Scientific Officer at BLRI. Mr. S. M. Shahriar presented his thesis entitled “Study on sod1 gene +35A>C polymorphism in impaired glucose regulation patients of Bangladeshi origin”. His work was carried out at BIRDEM under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Liaquat Ali, the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Health Science. Finally, Mr. Faisal Bin Rashed presented his thesis work entitled “Comparison of lipopolysaccharide specific IgA and IgG avidity maturation between Vivotivaccines and naturally infected enteric patients”. He carried out his research at *Icddr,b* under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Firdausi Qadri. The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Professor Firdausi Qadri, Dr. Md. Giasuddin and Dr. Aparna Islam.

Public Lecture on Addressing the Climate Challenges in Asia: Role of Finance++

Dr. Aparna Islam and Mr. Asif Rahman attended the public lecture on the recently launched document “Addressing the Climate Challenges in Asia: Role of Finance++”. The function was organized by Center for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) in August 2014. Professor Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus at BRAC University, introduced the speaker Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, Vice-President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila, the Philippines. Dr. Lohani spoke about the role of finance and answered numerous questions raised by participants from different R&D institutions from both home and abroad.

Stakeholder Workshop on the Finalization of Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Engineered Plants



Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury, Ms. Zubaida Marufe Islam, Ms. Namista Islam, Ms. Shahana Chowdhury, Ms. Anamika Datta and Mr. Iftekhar Mahmood Chowdhury attended the above-mentioned stakeholder workshop. The event was jointly organized by the DoE, and South Asia Biosafety Program. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury chaired the inaugural function and made valuable comments on the importance of the guidelines document. Mr. Solaiman Haider, Deputy Director of DoE, spoke about the journey towards developing the “Guidelines for the Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of Genetically Engineered Plants”.

The scientific session was moderated by the country co-ordinator Professor Imdadul Hoque. The scientific session accepted the final draft of the

document with some modifications. It was attended by a large number of scientists, academicians and policy makers. In the closing session Dr. Andrew F. Roberts, Deputy Director of Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) thanked all the participants for their active involvement in making the workshop a success.

Research Paper Presentation

In August 2014, Ms. Moushumi Zahur presented a paper entitled “Environmental and Socio-Economic Aspects of Solid Waste Recovery and Recycling in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City” at the Annual Seminar Program organized by the Center for Urban Studies (CUS) at the Bangladesh Asiatic Society.

Biotechnology and Microbiology Internship Viva Examination

Six students in the BS in biotechnology and microbiology programs presented their internship reports in September 2014. Ms. Jerin Isnat Abedin, Mr. Asif Afsar, Ms. Samina Kabir Chowdhury and

Ms. Monisha Anindita carried out their internships at Incepta Pharmaceuticals in Savar, while Ms. Maisha Mosharrat Chowdhury and Ms. Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury completed their internships at Asiatic Laboratories in Dhaka under the supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury. The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Mahboob Hossain and Dr. Aparna Islam.

BS Thesis Viva Examination

Five students in the BS in microbiology programme also presented their theses in September 2014. Ms. Shafaque Rahman, Mr. Ashif Afsar, Mr. Chinmay Pramanik, Ms. Trina Hasan and Ms. Monisha Dutta presented their research work. They worked in multidisciplinary sectors of microbiology. They

conducted their research at the department under the supervision of Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Dr. Zeenat Jahan, Dr. Sarowar Hossain and Ms. Fahareen-Binta-Mosharraf. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury coordinated the research studies. The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Mahboob Hossain.

Project Work Presentation

Syeda Mayesha Azim, a student of BS in APE programme, presented her project work in September, 2014. The title of her work was "Development of a Low Cost MPPT Circuit for Solar Panel". This work was carried out at the AERE in Savar, under the joint supervision of Mr. Mahbulul Hoq, Director of Institute of Electronics at AERE and Mr. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman of MNS. The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Mr. Mahbulul Hoq and Mr. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman.

QAP-IQAC Proposal Writing Workshop

Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad attended the QAP-IQAC Proposal Writing Workshop at the auditorium of the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) in September 2014. Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head of Quality Assurance at Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) gave the welcome address. Professor Kabir and Professor Sanjoy Adhikari of UGC also gave their addresses. The workshop was attended by participants from different public and private universities of Bangladesh.

Second Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference 2014

Dr. Aparna Islam attended the Second Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference held in September 2014, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 22 participants from both public and private sectors, including policy makers, academicians and researchers from Bangladesh, attended this

conference from Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Chapter discussed in details their capacity and research activities in various fields of biotechnology, especially in adaptation to climate change. They also shared their achievements in GM crop research and application of biosafety regulations. Dr. Aparna Islam presented a poster entitled "Preparing for Transgenesis in a Cleistogamous Crop: Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)".

Promotions of Faculty Members

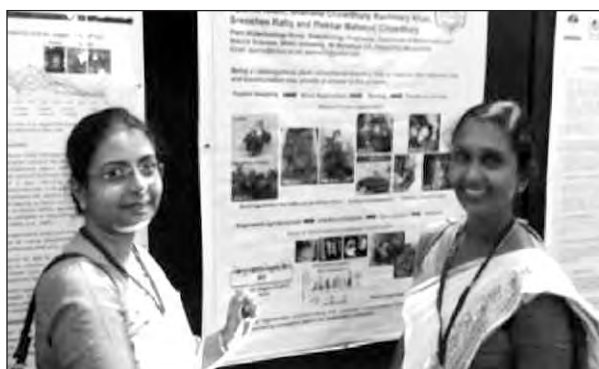
Thirteen faculty members from the MNS Department were promoted in October 2014. Dr. Hasibun Naher, Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury and Mr. Mahabobe Shobahani were promoted to positions of Assistant Professorship while Mr. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer. Moreover, Ms. Mehnaz Karim, Ms. Sabrina Shahrin Sharna, Ms. Fahareen-Binta Mosharraf, Mr. Mohammad Mosaddidur Rahman, Ms. Shagufta Gaffar, Mr. Asif Rahman, Mr. Nikhil Chandra Sarkar and Mr. Mohammad Mastak Al Amin were promoted to Lecturer III. Mr. Rausan Atik Jewel was promoted to the post of Lecturer II.

MS Theses Presentation

Two students pursuing MS in biotechnology presented their theses in October 2014. Ms. Shahana Choudhury presented her work entitled 'Determination of an efficient regeneration protocol for Bangladeshi peanut varieties (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)'. Later Ms. Fahima Akhter Mukta delivered a presentation on her research work entitled 'Study of *in vitro* regeneration and transformation parameters for the development of transgenic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon* L.)'. The research study was funded by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and USDA Endowment Fund. Both the research studies were carried out under the guidance of Dr. Aparna Islam. The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam. Professor Rakha Hari Sarker from University of Dhaka was the External Expert.

Seminar on "A Study on Land Installed Marine Power Energy Transformer (LIMPET) to Generate Wave Power Practical Demonstration Along the Coastal Belt of Bangladesh"

National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute arranged the above-mentioned seminar held in October 2014. The project director, Mr. Abdul Matin Mondal and Professor Md. Kamrul Alam Khan,



associate investigator of the project, were the keynote speakers. The objectives of the study were:

- To generate electricity from ocean waves,
- To design and fabricate different types of prototype turbines for electricity generation from waves and tides, and
- To demonstrate the prototype wave power generation device

The speakers presented their results on the prototype turbines that have been fabricated. The presentation was followed by a lively question-answer session.

10th Meeting of the Biosafety Core Committee (BCC)

The above-mentioned meeting was held at the Conference Hall of DoE at Agaragon, Dhaka, with its Director General presiding. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury attended the meeting as a member of the committee. The agenda of the meeting included application of the Cotton Board for contained trial of Bt Cotton, application of BRRI for import, research and contained greenhouse trial of provitamin A enriched Golden Rice GR2-E BRRI Dhan29, along with application from BARI for contained field trials of two new varieties of transgenic potato and working paper for the next meeting of the National Biosafety Committee (NBC). The meeting gave provisional approval to all the applications and advised the applicants to follow all the provisions of the biosafety rules when working with the transgenic crops.

Visit to the University of Melbourne

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed visited the University of Melbourne in Australia in October 2014. This is ranked as one of the leading universities in the world. Professor Ahmed visited the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and the Department of Physics. In the Physics Department he met with Associate Professor Andrew Melatos whose research area is theoretical astrophysics (neutron stars, gravitational waves, plasma physics, superfluids). In the meeting possibilities of joint collaborative research was discussed.

29th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council for Science and Technology (ECNCST)

The meeting was held in October 2014 in the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). State minister Yeafesh Osman presided. Professor

Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the meeting during which those gathered discussed at length the implementation of the decisions of the 21st meeting of the ECNCST held on in May 2012 and the 7th Meeting of the National Council for Science and Technology (ECNCST) held in October 2012 with the Honorable Prime Minister presiding. At the meeting it was announced that, in the light of the decisions of the 21st Meeting, a project with Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences for Bioequivalence Studies and Bioassay Research has been undertaken by BCSIR. In regard to proposal on an Institute of Renewable Energy and Environment (IREER), a project on a low cost solar panel is under implementation from January 2012. ICT training for the disadvantaged group is also under implementation by the ICT Ministry. Regarding formation of the National Engineering Research Council a seminar was organized by the MoST at the DRICM Auditorium in May 2014 and some recommendations of the seminar were discussed during the meeting. The participants we also informed that based on the National Science and Technology Policy 2011, an Action Plan for short, medium and long term implementations of the recommendations of the policy document has been formulated by a core committee.

International Seminar on Cellular and Molecular Biotechnology

Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering at Jahangir Nagar University organized the above mentioned seminar at Zahir Raihan Auditorium's Seminar Hall. Professor Paul A. Millner, the Head of School of Biomedical Science and from School of Molecular and Cellular Biology of the University of Leeds in UK attended the seminar. Professor Stonehouse focused on the future of antibiotics and how they could be replaced by modified DNA/RNA called Aptamers while Professor Millner talked about a more modified form of the biosensors Aptamers and their uses in the near future especially in cardiac function and oncology. A group of undergraduate biotechnology students from the MNS participated in the seminar. The seminar also included some Bangladeshi researchers.

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury appointed Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA)

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury has been appointed the Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA), in effect from

November, 2014 for a period of three years. BAERA is the competent authority for all radiological and nuclear practices in the country. It plays the key role in formulating, implementing and amending BAERA Act (2012) and NSRC Rules-1997 in order to strengthen nuclear regulatory control and implement effective regulations throughout the country.

Visit to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL)

A group of students from biotechnology and microbiology programs along with Dr. Mahboob Hossain and Ms. Romana Siddique visited the NFDPL in November 2014.

The 6th International Botanical Conference

A four-member team from the department attended the above mentioned conference in the Department of Botany at University of Dhaka. Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Shahana Chowdhury, Ms. Manzur-E-Mohsina Ferdous and Ms. Anamika Datta, participated in this two-day conference. Ms. Datta presented a paper entitled “Influence of growth regulators and selection agents on regeneration response of five tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) varieties from Bangladesh”. The work carried out at the MNS Department under the BAS-USDA PALS Endowment Fund was appreciated by the foreign and local scientists and researchers.



MS Theses Presentation

Six students of MS in biotechnology programme defended their theses in December 2014. Ms. Anamika Bhowmik presented her work entitled “Development of Cost Effective Medium for Enhanced Production of *Bacillus Thuringiensis* δ -endotoxin”. She worked under the joint guidance of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Mozammel Hoq of the University of Dhaka. Md. Mahmuduzzaman Mian presented his work on the “Optimization of Alkaline Protease Production by *Bacillus Licheniformis* MZK05M9 in Batch Culture

using Response Surface Methodology”, carried out under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Mozammel Hoq. Ms. Asma Aminul Haque, who worked under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Syed Md. Akram Hussain of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, presented her work on the “Association of Comorbidities with the Survival of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer”. Ms. Asma Binte Afzal presented her work entitled “Microbiological Qualities of Some Foods Sold in the Street and in the Mid-level and High-level Restaurants” which was jointly supervised by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain. Ms. Salma Khatun presented her work on the “Evaluation of *Helicobacter pylori* Stool Antigen Detection Tests”, and worked under the joint supervision of Professor Jalal Uddin Ashraf and Dr. Khandaker Shadia of Ibrahim Medical College in BIRDEM. Finally, Ms. Farhin Rahman presented her thesis work, carried out under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Choudhury Rafiqul Ahsan of the Department of Microbiology at University of Dhaka. Her paper is entitled “Identification of Stress Proteins in *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus* and Detection of Their Antigenic Properties.”

The viva-voce examination was chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain. The external members present were Professor Choudhury Rafiqul Ahsan, Dr. Khandaker Shadia and Professor Syed Md. Akram Hussain.

Publications

Papers Published in Journals

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Chowdhury, S., & Islam, A. (2014, March). *Comparison of regeneration response of two explants in six peanut (Arachis hypogaea L.) varieties from Bangladesh*. Paper presented at the 7th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Datta, A., Ferdous, M., & Islam, A. (2014, December). *Influence of growth regulators and selection agents on regeneration response of five tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) varieties from Bangladesh*. Paper presented at the 6th International Botanical Conference, Dhaka.

Ferdous, M., Datta, A., Razzaque, S., Seraj, Z.I., & Islam, A. (2014, March). *Transformation of tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) with antiporter gene following optimization of transformation factors*. Paper presented at the 7th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Khan, K., Rafiq, S., Chowdhury, I. M., & Islam, A. (2014, March). *Analysis of factors influencing successful Agrobacterium-mediated genetic*

transformation in three peanut (Arachis hypogaea L.) varieties from Bangladesh. Paper presented at the 7th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mahdi, R., Razzaque, S., & Islam, A. (2014, March). *Identification of synchronized role of transcription factors, genes and enzymes in Arabidopsis thaliana under in four abiotic stress responsive pathways*. Paper presented at the 7th International Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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Seraj, Z. I., & Islam, A. (2014). *Perspective on the South Asia Biosafety Conference*. South Asia Biosafety Program Newsletter. 11(10):1.

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Inspiring Excellence

Department of Pharmacy

Introduction

The Department of Pharmacy has grown significantly since its establishment in July 2010. Aiming to provide “Quality Pharmacists Quality Medicine Quality Health Service”, the mission of the Department is to prepare students for leadership in the pharmaceutical arena with a focus on drug manufacture, formulation, quality control, marketing and research. The department generates and disseminates knowledge to promote safe, clinically effective, and cost-efficient manufacture and use of medications for better health care of the nation.

The 4-year B. Pharm (Hons) integrated course of total 164 credits has been divided into eight consecutive semesters and is affiliated by Bangladesh Pharmacy Council. Since Pharmacy is a multi-disciplinary subject, the syllabus covers all relevant subjects including: Pharmaceutical Technology, Manufacturing, Pharmacology, Clinical & Hospital Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry, Microbiology, Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutical Engineering, and Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs. In order to inspire research activities, project work has also been run by the final year students.

Student support/mentoring/advising

Alongside 370 students, the department currently has 19 full-time and 4 part-time faculty members, one teaching assistant, and four office staff. The faculty is a blend of teachers with PhD or Master's degrees from foreign universities, along with years of teaching and research experience both at home and abroad. There are 5 well-equipped laboratories for the students with sophisticated instruments including High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Ultra-Violet Spectrometer. Faculty members have already started research and have included students and their junior colleagues in their endeavors. In this short time, some of the research findings have already been published in reputed international journals.

BRAC University Pharma Society (BUPS, Bangladesh)

BUPS, a student wing of the department guided by the faculty members, has been established in

September 2011 with the aim to provide students with a platform for advocacy in the healthcare sector, to participate in different fields of research, as well as campaigns and grooming for professional activities in the pharmaceutical world both nationally and globally. After its inception, BUPS Bangladesh has conducted many public health campaigns, study tours, industrial tours, seminars, poster competitions as well as promoted participation in different national and global events.

BUPS has been a member of the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) since 2012, after being approved that same year by the 58th IPSF General Assembly in Egypt. Representatives of BUPS have attended the 58th and 59th IPSF World Congress in Hurgadha, Egypt and The Netherlands respectively. Furthermore, members of BUPS Bangladesh have been working in different important subcommittees of IPSF, such as the Constitutional Working Committee, Pharmacy Education Committee, Motions Committee of the 59th IPSF GA and Policy Committee.

Educational and Other Academic Activities

Industrial Tour

In December 2014, the Department availed an amazing opportunity to visit the manufacturing plant of Sanofi Bangladesh Limited, located at Tongi. A group of 37 students along with 6 faculty members visited Sanofi, one of the leading multinational pharmaceutical companies in the world.

The Department was cordially welcomed by the Director of Industrial Affairs Md. Muin Uddin Mazumder, and his coworkers. They divided the students into two groups and they were shown the antibiotic and non antibiotic manufacturing units, along with the warehouses and quality control units. It not only gave the students an overview of how pharmaceutical companies carry out their daily production of different dosages available in the market but also provided them with a sense of what might be expected from them as pharmacists employed by a reputed pharmaceutical company.



Departmental Seminar

Since Department of Pharmacy has just started its journey, it is very important to introduce the students to the real pharmaceutical market. In working towards this goal, the department and BUPS organizes seminars on a monthly basis. So far, the department is honored to have had speakers from different national and multinational pharmaceutical companies as well as researchers from academia. Mr. Azizul Huq, who is the Head of Marketing at Glaxosmithkline, and Dr. Sayma Ali, the Head of Manufacturing at Renata Limited, have spoken to the students about the different issues related to the prospects of pharmacy in the fields of business, management, quality control, research, formulation and development.

The department has also invited as a speaker Professor ABM Faroque, who is a national

figure as one of the health care policy makers of Bangladesh. His talk highlighted his findings on "Food Adulteration Scenario in Bangladesh". Another set of health related pharmacological and clinico-epidemiological research findings were presented by Dr. Sharmind Neelotpol, Assistant Professor from the department. The last seminar for the summer semester arranged by the department was on 'Pharmaceutical Marketing: Current Perspective in Bangladesh', and presented by Mr. M Mosaddek Hossain, the Managing Director of UniMed and UniHealth Manufacturers Limited. After each seminar, an interactive question and answer session took place, where the audience exchanged their views on various issues related to the scopes of pharmacy and the study findings.





Spring Carnival

In an attempt to establish culture and festivity alongside their professional activities, BUPS become the first to celebrate the coming of spring in the university in a grand manner. The Spring Carnival included a glamorous cultural show, food bonanza and many other events. These efforts were met with enthusiastic response throughout the university.



Annual Picnic

Every year BUPS organizes the Annual Picnic for the department. This year they arranged a trip to Nuhash Polli in Gazipur. Different games, cultural performances and other activities were organized by the enthusiastic students. Around 200 students and faculty members attended the event.



Study Tour

The department also organized a study tour to India for the first time since its establishment. Fifteen senior students along with three faculty members (Professor Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali, Mahmud Tareq Ibn Morshed and Imon Rahman) participated in the tour. The group left Bangladesh in November 2014 and visited four major cities: Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Goa. On this occasion, the study tour committee also published a retrospective titled *Praromvik*, to commemorate their study tour. The group returned back to Bangladesh on 24th November with an excellent set of treasured memories.



Highlights

Awareness Program on Hepatitis B

The department, with the help of BUPS, had organized an awareness program on Hepatitis B in association with GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh in October 2014. The objective of the programme was to spread awareness about Hepatitis B, the silent killer which has become a major global health problem and is affecting many people in Bangladesh.



Attending IPSF World Congress

Mr. Samin Huq, a final year student of the department, has participated in the 60th International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) World Congress, held in Porto, Portugal from July 31st to August 10th 2014. He attended the event as the official delegate of BUPS Bangladesh and a Member of IPSF. Huq has also been working directly with IPSF in the IPSF Policy Committee 2013-14 as a member responsible for development policy statement. He was involved in providing guidelines for implementation of the policy statements for IPSF at a global scale as well as for the advocacy of global healthcare in general. A presentation was also delivered by Samin on “IPSF: A Platform of Advocacy” in September 2014.

Distribution of Blankets

The department, with the help of BUPS, distributed warm blankets to underprivileged people at the Gulshan Central Mosque in December 2014. Hopefully in the future such initiatives will be taken on a larger scale to help the poor living amongst us.



Launch of the First Newsletter

The department and BUPS have successfully launched the first monthly newsletter called *Pharma Highlights* on November 2014. The newsletter covers all the departmental activities such as seminars, conferences and social services initiated by the department. It also highlights health and drug related information. *Pharma Highlights* provides a platform for the students to receive updates about current health related issues.

Conclusion

All the faculty members are working hard to produce quality pharmacists for the national and international market. Through collaboration with academics and pharmaceutical companies, the department is trying to establish an advanced research laboratory to provide access to advanced technology for all graduate and postgraduate students, industry professionals and researchers from the national and international arena.

Inspiring Excellence



Inspiring Excellence

INSTITUTES

BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)
BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)
BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)



Inspiring Excellence



BRAC Institute of Educational Development

The BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED) works through capacity development, research and advocacy to develop education in Bangladesh from multiple angles. BIED particularly 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 well being 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, BIED's major activities of 2014 place a large emphasis on incorporating innovative paths to 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 borders to include mental health within its findings.

BIED 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 BIED's largest donor partner.

Supporting the Public Sector

MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management

IED's popularly established and nationally recognized 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.

In 2014, 14 participants were enrolled in the MEd fifth Cohort in the day session. The majority of the First Cohort participants of evening MEd successfully completed their thesis by March 2014. A total of eight theses were approved by the lead faculties and 12 second cohort students of evening MEd completed their 27 credit course work.

Short Courses

IED is also involved in the capacity development of government officials and teachers through its provision of short courses and trainings. Performed in partnership with the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), over 500 head teachers and government officials have received these short courses.

This partnership engendered new training opportunities with the World Bank-funded Reach-Out-of-School-Children (ROSC) Project-II. In 2014, four more trainings were completed successfully. Foundation training (TOT) for the Training Coordinators (TC's) and Training Resource Persons (TRPs) was implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education with the view to providing education for children outside of the schooling system. For this project BIED is also working with the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, to train the selected participants.

Textbook Development

BIED 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, BIED 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. Major achievements in 2014 include successful material development of Grade 1, 2 & 3 Bangla and English books along with teacher's guide and Grade 3 Bangladesh and Social Studies book. The materials have already been published by the Bangladesh Government and reached every school.

Large-Scale Research

ECD Research

As a research institute, large-scale educational research initiatives are an inherent component of BIED. Adopting a new angle on understanding deeper aspects of overall wellbeing, BIED has now

delt 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'. Along with these interventions, the Global Rating of Environments for Bangladesh (GROE for Bangladesh) focused on children's essential care, needs and development to measure quality of ECD programmes in Bangladesh. The research on emotional well-being has also reinforced the importance of the need to address children's emotional needs. A recent report has been published to highlight the findings. BIED has also conducted a pilot study with BRAC Education Programme to explore the effects of a centre based Comprehensive Child Development Program (CCDP) on overall development of children and to create awareness about a child friendly environment.

The Research and Development unit also implemented monitoring and quality assurance to supervise the ongoing interventions of research. 2014 includes interventions such as baseline and endline survey of SSCOPE programme as well as Nobodhara school project and urban adolescent's needs assessment survey. The Research and Development Unit also engaged in Skills Study with Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), which was a study of skills development knowledge, critical policy and operational concerns. The objective to improve quality education was also ensured through collaboration with National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE), to explore the possibilities of better quality pre-primary education.

Early Childhood Development

Diploma/MSc in Early Childhood Development

The Masters of Science in Early Childhood Development (ECD) offered by BIED is the first Masters of its kind in Bangladesh. It offers options

to end the programme with a Certificate, Diploma or Master's Thesis. Developed in conjunction with Columbia University, USA, the programme looks towards creating a greater number of professionals in the ECD field in Bangladesh. 2014 saw the 7th batch of students as well as 10 students of the 6th batch complete their postgraduate diploma in ECD. This year, BIED will embark on a new project which focuses on the 'play model' as an integral part of early childhood development.

School Model Design

Expanding its scope into new areas of work, BIED is engaged in designing and piloting new school models that study dynamic and alternative educational methods. They aim to serve the respective communities and students in the areas where 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 potential 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 outreach and underprivileged adolescents. The programme initially began with the goal of addressing several student dropout cases, and providing a medium for them to have a second chance at education.

2014 saw an expanding equitable access in terms of operation and management. At present, SSCOPE is operating 33 schools in 9 different urban areas where all learners have successfully completed grade VI and are on the road to completing grade VII. SSCOPE also empowered the learning domain of students through instructional materials and capacity building of teachers to increase motivation, engagement and interest in learning. These initiatives have created a child friendly and secure environment as well as boosting confidence. Additionally, the introduction of art therapy in this project has had a positive impact and has thus been replicated in all SSCOPE centres.



Students at SSCOPE

BRAC Nobodhara School

The second school model piloted by BIED is a fee-paying quality education model called the BRAC Nobodhara School. Developed at the request of BRAC, the model has high aims and expects to increase the quality of mainstream education by emphasising student-centred learning and the holistic development of learners in a sustainable, replicable and scalable way. The model includes Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education, along with Early Learning and Childcare centres.

In the course of 2014, two pilot schools were opened in Banasree and Uttara with grades 1, 2, 3 and 6 along with the pre-primary, early learning and childcare centres. BIED collaborated with NCTB to develop curriculum, materials and assessments for the students and teachers to improve professional development along with teacher's guides and other supplementary materials. After months spent on

the vast amount of research on quality, material development, school designing and teacher trainings invested in this school, the BRAC Nobodhara School has finally been launched this year.



Art camp at the BRAC Nobodhara School mela

Emotional Wellbeing and SRHR

Emotional wellbeing and SRHR are increasingly important issues that BIED has been advocating and developing for adolescents and workers in the private sector. BIED 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 better preparation for trauma, disaster management and psychological first aid. Additionally, in a project with Nuffic, Netherlands, BIED has begun developing short courses regarding SRHR and emotional wellbeing.

Inspiring Excellence

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development



As a Centre of Research and Academic Excellence, the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) (formed through a merger of the Institute of Governance Studies and BRAC Development Institute) at BRAC University is devoted to research on the entire range of governance concerns as they relate to development while also conducting research on a range of development issues centered mainly on Bangladesh.

BIGD is also a resource centre for promoting research and creating knowledge in areas of governance, economic growth, political economy, urbanisation, gender issues, sustainable development, and regional studies. For the BIGD, the concept of governance is best defined as the sum total of the institutions and processes by which society orders and conducts its collective or common affairs.

Earlier, when the need for an exclusive institute equipped with recent innovations and practices in public policy and management of the contemporary world for the future leaders of Bangladesh became obvious in the 21st century, BRAC University established the then "Centre for Governance Studies" in 2005 (from July 2007, the 'Institute of Governance Studies'). It was a pioneering institute on governance in Bangladesh, offering a post graduate degree, professional training, and undertaking research in areas of governance and development, and BRAC

Development Institute (BDI) in 2008 that promoted research and develops knowledge on practical solutions to issues of poverty, inequity, gender issues and social injustice.

In 2013, the BRAC University Board of Trustees merged the two prestigious institutes into BRAC Institute of Governance and Development with a view to transforming the institute into a regional centre of research on governance and development issues and to provide a space for academics and practitioners to come together to raise critical questions on development; to make a better and unified institute as governance and development are interrelated; to provide lessons on good practices; to advocate for pro-poor policies; and undertake robust research initiatives in areas of governance and development.

The year 2014 marked numerous achievements for the BIGD. The Research division of BIGD produced benchmark and cutting-edge research outputs in a number of landmark research projects and publications highlighting the country's challenges and likely responses in areas of economic growth, sustainable development, economics, governance, democracy, politics, gender studies, urbanization, and regional studies. Through its world-class postgraduate courses like MAGD, MDS, MPSM, MCIPS, and a number of certificate and training courses, the Academic side of BIGD produced top-class post-graduates who continued to excel in their line of work.

Academics

The BIGD produced 115 post-graduate students through its Masters programmes and 237 graduates with diplomas and short courses on different governance and development related issues.



With the new formation of the BIGD, the number of graduate courses offered has now increased to four:

1. Masters in Governance and Development
2. Masters of Development Studies
3. Masters in Procurement and Supply Management
4. Masters in Development Management and Practice

Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD)

In order to enhance the capacity of the government's civil servants so that they can serve as advocates and catalytic agents of change, the BIGD offers MAGD, a residential programme exclusively for the civil servants of Bangladesh. It is a one year, fully residential scholarship programme funded by BRAC, the largest NGO in the world. In 2014, 28 students received the MAGD certificates. The 6th Batch of the MA in Governance and Development program started in 2014 at BRAC Centre for Development Management BCDM, Savar with 25 different public sector officials.

Study Tour/Visits: Students of the MAGD Batch 5 visited the National Academy of Public Administration, Vietnam, in May 2014. During the visit, the students participated in a "Public Management" workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to give the participants exposure to Vietnam's governance and management knowledge and experience as well as their development model. After Vietnam, the MAGD students visited Malaysia, where they attended capacity building workshops on "Negotiation on Public Management" for one week in the Institute of

Professional Development of Open University Malaysia.

Masters of Development Studies (MDS)

The BIGD offers the MDS which 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 67 students, and 55 students received their Masters degrees.

Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP)

The 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 nine students are enrolled in the programme and 16 students have completed the course and have been excelling in their professions.

Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM)

BIGD offers MPSM course in collaboration with Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply CIPS, UK to sensitize and build up the capacity of officials of public sector, NGOs as well as officials and executives from the private sector in procurement and purchasing and supply management issues. The main purpose of the MPSM programme is to enhance the understanding of the procurement issues and sharpen decision-making capabilities. In 2014, 16 students received MPSM degrees, and 84 students are currently continuing the course.

"CIPS Qualifications (Diploma) in Purchasing and Supply Chain Management

BIGD is the first study and only exam centre of The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK in the Asia region since 2009. CIPS in partnership with BIGD, BRAC University offers Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Professional Diploma in procurement and supply chain for Bangladeshi supply chain professionals (from both Public and Private sector). In 2014, 47 from Public sector and 7 from private sector, in total 54 professionals completed CIPS Diploma qualifications."

Certificate Courses & Training

Environmental Management and Governance (EMG)

BIGD offers the Certificate Programme on EMG jointly with the Centre for Natural Resource Studies of the University of Manitoba, Canada. The main purpose of the certificate programme is to sensitize and enhance the capacity of participants on key environmental governance issues related to natural resources and environment management. In 2014, the 6th Batch has started in September with 15 students.

Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)

BIGD offers a three-month postgraduate certificate course to government officials, private sector land developers, and development practitioners to design, implement, and develop resettlement and rehabilitation strategies based on global best practices. In total, seven students graduated MLARR in Fall Semester from 2014; previously, 79 students successfully completed the course.

In addition, BIGD offers two-day workshops, a five-day training courses, and sixteen-week distance-learning courses in variety of development and governance related specialised courses. Seventy 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 so far.

Study Collaborations

In 2014, the BIGD has established partnerships and collaborative programs with the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Centre for Policy Dialogue and other local think tanks as well as external think tanks/universities such as the Korea Development Institute, the National University of Singapore, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Lahore University of Management, and Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). It is gaining momentum and has established its collaboration this year with leading academics in Manchester, Manitoba, Monash University and Columbia University, University College London (UCL).

Research in BIGD

The BIGD has developed a strategic research agenda to guide its work over the next five years

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

On-Going Research

The State of Governance (SoG) in Bangladesh Report

To provide a critical and analytical investigation of the governance situation of Bangladesh, the Institute conducts research on state of governance in Bangladesh each year. This analytical work allows the Institute to compare and assess and document changes over time. The results of this on-going research are articulated mainly in the form of annual report named 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh'. This report is the flagship publications of the BIGD and from 2006 to 2014, seven reports have been published.

The State of Cities

Urbanization has become a powerful force in developing countries, as the population shift in from rural to urban areas occurs. Reevaluation of the economic importance of cities and a reaffirmation of the significance of local institution building for development have become significant factors for consideration in light of this mammoth shift in the context of current development literature. In this backdrop of rapid urbanization, urban governance has become an important approach to evaluating cities' growth, development and performance. Thus; the State of Cities report aims to provide a diagnostic of the country's urban governance. Since 2011, three reports have been published based on three different cities: Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Chittagong.

Labor Markets, Industrial Policy and Growth: The Case of Bangladesh

The BIGD has collaborated with the RAND Corporation (USA), an internationally-recognized policy research organization, and the University of Sussex (UK) on two different research projects examining labor markets and industrial policy in Bangladesh.

Making Aid Effective

In the light of the three aspects of aid (based on empirical literature on country experiences), the aim of the research is to assess the effectiveness of aid in Bangladesh, and within that context, discuss how aid can be made more effective in the future.

Municipal Finance in Bangladesh

The study aims to facilitate informed decision making in directing the municipal governments in mobilizing resources and providing public goods in their jurisdictions as well as in designing intergovernmental grant schemes. In addition, this study aims to understand why residents of municipalities are reluctant to pay tax.

Research on Income inequality

This study aims to analyze the relationship between income inequality and growth. The main intent of the study is to find evidence for the Kuznet's curve based on cross-section data across countries.

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST)

The BIGD also houses a specialized center, CGST that undertakes research and advocacy work on women's empowerment and how positive changes in everyday lives and larger social transformation in gender roles take place. Many of the research projects and advocacy programs of this cluster are undertaken by this Center. The Centre is housed at the gender and social studies cluster of the BIGD.

Internal Women Migration

The aim of the study on internal women migration is to understand the circumstances under which the rural poorer women migrate to big cities, the conditions of their existence, and their survival strategies in unfamiliar urban settings. This research also tries to identify possible areas for BRAC to provide program intervention.

Wage Indicator Survey

In the last decade, the concept of living wage has received renewed international attention. The Wage Indicator Living Wage attempts to provide globally comparable estimates of living wage for a large number of countries. The BIGD is working as a partner with WageIndicator foundation, which is helping to conduct the WageIndicator survey for Bangladesh.

Study On Institutional Relationships And Linkages Among Local Government Institutions

The research aims to map and analyze the institutional-relational factors, i.e. formal and informal linkages, between Upazila Parishad (UZP) and Union Parishad (UP). Linkages refer to administrative, financial, legal and accountability relations between the institutions. The study also plans to explore the nature of relationships that exist between actors within each institution.

Study on Social Accountability

The principal objective of the research is to explore the nature and extent of space available to citizens to directly engage with the Upazila and Union Parishad (UP) administration. The study will particularly look at the spaces for exacting direct accountability (social accountability) opened up for the citizens at the UP level due to the enactment of 2009 UP Act (Ward Shobha, Open Budget, Standing Committees, Project Committees).

Improving the Quality of Social Provisioning within Competitive Clients list Context: A Comparison between Bangladesh and Ghana

A two-year comparative research with Ghana exploring the politics of education reform, the project examines the make up of the political actors behind education reform and how bargaining between different social groups over reform shapes the quantity and quality of educational provisions.

Baseline Perception Study of Access to Justice for the Marginalized and Excluded Through Community Legal Services

The project "Access to Justice for the Marginalized and Excluded through Community Legal Services" has been initiated to scale up and support Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST)'s existing Community Legal Service (CLS) program to expand the outreach to the ultra poor and hard to reach areas to ensure community support.

Baseline Survey of the Journey for Advancement in Transparency, Representation and Accountability (JATRA) Project

CARE Bangladesh has been awarded a grant by the World Bank through the Global Partnership for Social Accountability to implement JATRA project. This project focuses on accountability and transparency of the Union Parishad (UP) budget cycle. The overall objective of this research is to provide accurate baseline information that will be used as a foundation for the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Programmes

Local Governance Programme Sharique – III

The programme aims to contribute 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.

Sharique Sub-Grant: The sub-grant agreement between HELVETAS Swiss Inter cooperation (HSI) and BIGD is exclusively tailored based on the consortium agreement and in light of the agreement between the consortium and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC to effectively implement the Outcome 1 - *Research, Innovation, Knowledge Management and Advocacy* component - of the project. The duration of the sub-grant contract is from 1 April 2014 to 31 August 2016.

NUFFIC Capacity Building for Promoting Governance:

The NUFFIC-funded “*Capacity Building for Promoting Governance*” project is a joint collaboration of the BIGD and the Bangladesh Public Administration and Training Centre (BPATC) in Bangladesh in partnership with MDF, ISS-EUR, and CIS-VU in the Netherlands. There are six activities of the project: a. course and curriculum skill development workshops; b. TOT (strengthening teaching/training capacity) workshops; c. working group meetings to ensure cooperation between the BIGD and BPATC and with other institutions; d. institutional procurements; e. Special missions for gender responsiveness and labor market relevance studies; f. Project review and evaluation missions.

Community of Practice on Government Performance Management System

The Institute also hosts the secretariat for the community of practice (COP) on performance management. This South Asia regional COP has the two specific objectives of helping mainstreaming and strengthening of performance management across SAARC countries as critical governance reform for better service delivery; and fostering peer learning among practitioners on performance management as an adequate tool for policy dialogue.

Transforming Leadership

'Transforming Leaders' is the new initiative that is bringing cutting edge insights from global leadership development to Bangladesh and applying them to the culture and political context of 21st century Bangladesh. Developed under the working title of 'Bangladesh Leadership Challenge', the BIGD works with established leaders from across government, the private sector and civil society by creating opportunity to engage together to explore their role and identity as leaders and to work together to explore new solutions to individual, organisational and societal challenges.

Highlights of 2014

The State of Governance Bangladesh (SOG) Bangladesh 2013 Report Launched

The BIGD's annual flagship research report titled “The State of Governance Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics”, was launched in December 2014, at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka.

The Report analysed partyarchy and political underdevelopment inside political parties; scruples and practice, political violence in Bangladesh; district level evidence for 2008-13, politicians in the parliament, inclusive democracy; engendering political parties, political party finances; and norms and practices.



The State of Cities (SoC) Launched

Another of BIGD's annual research reports titled “State of Cities: Governance for a Liveable Chittagong” was launched in December, 2014 and received huge response and media coverage. The SOC report also looked at the status of urban governance in the second megacity of Bangladesh - Chittagong. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the economic and political dynamics which shape various facets of urban governance in Chittagong and aims to provide solutions in addressing the mounting problems that the policymakers face as far as urban governance is concerned.



Municipal Finance in Bangladesh

A book titled *Municipal Finance in Bangladesh*, by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, was published after vast research. The study aimed to facilitate informed decision making in directing the

municipal governments in mobilizing resources and providing public goods in their jurisdictions as well as in designing intergovernmental grant schemes.

Exhibition on 'Images of Caring Men'

The National photo exhibition on 'Images of Caring Men' with 97 photo images was organised at the Dhaka Art Center, in August 2014, followed by publications of one edited special section on methods in an international refereed journal; two refereed journal articles; seven book chapters in international volumes (peer reviewed); two working papers in international series; and several reports in 2014.

BIGD International Conference 2014 Held



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

Human Development Report 2014 Launched

The BIGD launched the Human Development Report in South Asia 2014 titled *Urbanization: Challenges and Opportunities*, published by the Pakistan-based organization Mahbub-ul-Haq



Human Development Centre in November, 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka.

Roundtable Discussions



A Roundtable held on 'Women in Parliament and Politics in Bangladesh' with 40 participants including women MPs and civil society member was organized by the South Asian Regional Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians (SARSWAP), the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BIGD. Two Roundtable Discussions on State of Cities in participation with local stakeholders, experts, civil society members, journalists and academics and researchers were held in February and September, 2014.



Seminars

In total, nine seminars were organized by BIGD:

- "Governance in Primary Education and Health Sector in Bangladesh";
- "The Export Diversification Challenge in Bangladesh";
- "BIGD National Seminar on Social protection"
- "Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor";
- "Religion, Minority and Trust: Evidence from Bangladesh and India";
- "The Politics of Foreign Policy Making in India: Importance and Implications of Constituent Diplomacy";

- “Increasing Tax Compliance through Social Recognition in Bangladesh”;
- “Gender Equality and Productivity in the Bangladeshi Garment Industry Evidence for Action”; and
- “Clientelism and Politics and Economic Development in Bangladesh”.

Talks

BIGD organized two Talks with prestigious former Chief Election Commissioner Mr. S.Y. Qureshi and former Chief Justice Mr. Altamash Kabir, both of India, to acquire knowledge and learned experience for the BIGD staff, stakeholders, academics, and researchers.



Workshops/Meetings

BIGD organized 11 workshops/Meetings in 2014 with successful output on a. Designing and Implementing Government Performance Management Systems, b. Policy Communication Strategy Development, c. Impact Evaluation in Education, d. Finalise the Framework for Citizens' Engagement in Public Procurement, e. National Sharing on Unpaid Care Work, f. Curriculum Design Workshop on Organisational Development, g. Gender Dynamics in the Labour Market in Bangladesh, h. Advocacy Strategy, i. Masculinities, Care Work & Art, j. Impact Evaluation of DFID's Nutrition & Livelihood Interventions in Bangladesh, k. Executing Procurement Plan, and l. Formulation of Communications Strategy.

BIGD hosts International Growth Centre (IGC) in Bangladesh

The Institute also hosts IGC of the London School of Economics and University of Oxford. This affiliation provides the opportunity for the Institute to collaborate on research projects and open itself to a wider research community regionally and internationally. In 2014, BIGD coorganized number of seminars, workshops and conference.

Community of Practice on Government Performance Management System

A workshop on “Government Performance Management” for senior officials (Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries) and another workshop on “Government Performance Management for Secretaries to the Government of Bangladesh” were conducted under the CoP project by BIGD in collaboration with the Cabinet Division of Government of Bangladesh in November 2014.

Advocacy/Policy Engagement

CGST of BIGD, was contracted by United Nations development Program and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to provide technical advice and specific input on gender equality issues relevant to twelve agreed upon background papers for the 7th Five Year Plan being prepared by the general Economics Division of the Planning Commission. CGST and BIGD identified, engaged, and coordinated leading experts with experience in the gender equality issues in the specific sectors by theme. The objective was to provide technical inputs to ensure that the background papers produced by the UN address relevant issues of gender equality in the background, analysis, and recommendations.

Completion of network, advocacy and policy support work as a Secretariat for South Asian Women MPs (SARSWAP). CGST, BIGD completed the task through organizing a roundtable on 'Women in Parliament and Politics in Bangladesh' as a completion activity in March 2014.

Publications

Books & Reports

BIGD. (2014). *State of cities: Governance for a liveable Chittagong*. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University.

BIGD. (2014). *The state of governance: Democracy, party, politics*. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University.

Nazneen, S., & Sultan, M. (2014). *Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*. London, UK: ZED Books.

Rahman, S. H. (2014). *Municipal Finance in Bangladesh*. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD Dhaka.

Book Chapters

Huq, S. (2014). Islam in Urban Bangladesh: Changing worldviews and reconfigured sexuality. In C. Periera (Ed.), *Changing narratives of sexuality*, London, UK: ZED Books.

Kabeer, N., & Huq, L. (2014). The power of relationships: Money, love and solidarity in a landless women's organization in rural Bangladesh. In Cornwall & Edwards (Eds.), *Feminisms, empowerment and development*. London: ZED Books.

Mahmud, M., & Wadud, S. N. (2014). Delinking of local and international prices: Exploring competition in the Bangladesh rice market. In M. K. Mujeri & W. Mahmud (Eds.), *Adjusting to global economic volatility: The case of South Asia*. New Delhi, India: Academic Foundation.

Nazneen, S., & Sultan, M. (2014). Reciprocity, distancing, and opportunistic overtures: women's organizations negotiating legitimacy and space in Bangladesh. In A. Cornwall & J. Edwards (Eds.), *Feminisms, empowerment and development*. London: ZED Books.

Nazneen, S., & Sultan, M. (2014). Well-chosen compromises? Feminists legitimizing voice in Bangladesh. In S. Nazneen and M. Sultan (Eds.), *Voicing demands: Feminist activism in transitional contexts*. London: ZED Books.

Nazneen, S., & Mahmud, S. (2014). Gendered politics of securing inclusive development. In S. Hickey et al. (Eds.), *Does politics matter for inclusive development?* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Nazneen, S., Ehsan, I., & Hasan, B. (2014). Exceptional women: Reserved councilors in municipalities in Bangladesh. In M. Tadros, (Ed.), *Women in politics*. London, UK: ZED Books.

Rahim, S., & Priyadarshani, A. (2014). 'Women watching television: Surfing between fantasy and reality. In A. Cornwall & J. Edwards (Eds.), *Feminisms, empowerment and development*. London, UK: ZED Books.

Journal Articles

Chowdhury, S. J. (2014). "The race for dominance in Indian Ocean: Is there a danger for smaller nations?" *Peace and Security Review*, 6(12).

Mahmud, M., Najnin, N., Arman, S., Abedin, J., Unicomb, L., Levine, D., ... Stephen, P. L. (2014). "Explaining low rates of sustained use of siphon water filter: Evidence from follow-up of a randomized controlled trial in Bangladesh". *Tropical Medicine & International Health*, (epub).

Mahmud, S., & Tasneem, S. (2014). "Measuring 'empowerment' using quantitative household survey data" [Special issue]. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 45.

Nazneen, S., & Sultan, M. (2014). "Positionality and transformative knowledge: Conducting 'feminist' research on empowerment in Bangladesh" [Special issue]. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 45.

Niaz Ahmed, K. "Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal: A sentimental appraisal". *Foreign Affairs Insights and Reviews*, Dhaka: 2(3).

Niaz Ahmed, K. "On the Question of Future of Madrasa-Students", *Foreign Affairs Insights and Reviews*, Dhaka: Volume 2, Number 2.

Niaz Ahmed, Kazi, "Relations between Bangladesh and West Bengal against the Backdrop of India", *Foreign Affairs Insights and Reviews*, Dhaka: Volume 2, Number 1.

Niaz Ahmed, Kazi, "The War with Spain, in American Diplomacy (1900-1950)", *Foreign Affairs Insights and Reviews*, Dhaka: Volume 2, Number 3, pp. 34-35.

Talukdar, M. R. (2014). "A study on micro-credit in Bangladesh: Situational and impact analysis". *UDYUKTA-International Journal in Management and Economics*.

Ulla, K. M. (2014). "Urban green and water ecosystem services in Dhaka city: A brief overview". *CUET URP Day 2014*, pp. 61-63.

Edited Special Issue Journal

Nazneen, S & Darkwah, A., Sultan M (2014). "Researching women's empowerment: Reflections on methodology by southern feminists" [Special Issue]. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 45. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2014.03.003>

Working Papers, Articles & Op-Eds

BIGD has published six Working Papers: 1. A Review of Village Courts in Bangladesh, 2. Gendered Politics of Inclusive Development, 3. Political Settlement Dynamics in a Limited Access Order, 4. Indexing Social Sector Performance in Bangladesh in the Context of South and Southeast Asia, 5. Political Economy of Tax Reform in Bangladesh: Political Settlements, Informal Institutions and the Negotiation of Reform, and 6. Citizen Participation in Union Parishad's Procurement: A Study on Dhulihor and Nagarghata Union Parishad, Realpolitic.

Articles/Op-Eds: In 2014, BIGD staffs have published 36 newspaper articles and Op-Eds in national daily mainstream newspapers.

BRAC Institute of Languages



The BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), only the third language institute in Bangladesh, was approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on July 2, 2012. BIL is the product of the aspirations, vision, dedication, and innovation of its pioneer and Director, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, along with her team. BIL initially started as a language programme, EL-Pro, in August 2005, then became the Centre for Languages (CfL) in 2008. Since then, it has been making substantial achievements in teaching English language courses to the undergraduate students, academic English to graduate students, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) to professionals.

BIL's aim is to assist students in developing the language skills they need to be successful in graduate school and in their professional lives. The institute focuses on implementing student-centred, creative language teaching techniques by developing modules based on students' proficiency levels. This not only eliminates the

possibility of mixed ability classes, but also ensures small classes with excellent interaction between teachers and learners. Additionally, BIL is committed to the field of academic language teaching and research, with a clear focus on creative and forward-thinking teaching methodology for diverse learner groups.

MA in TESOL

The MA in TESOL degree, which was started in January 2013, is intended for aspiring and practicing teachers of English to upgrade their professional skills and classroom practice. The programme focuses on facilitating the development of teaching expertise by encouraging the acquisition of pedagogical knowledge and competence in modern teaching English methodology. The programme is offered in three stages. The first stage is the certificate semester while a diploma can be obtained upon completion of the second semester. Finally, completing the third semester will give students the option of graduating with a Master's degree.



First Batch Graduates

Since its inception, more than 60 students have enrolled in this course and in November, 12 students graduated. While many other MA programmes are offered in ELT by various universities in Bangladesh, the programme at BIL is unique in many different ways: the course is very practical in nature, so while students are taught the methods of language teaching, they have to demonstrate the appropriate methods and techniques in the classroom as well as in their own materials and lesson plans. Additionally, it gives students six credit hours (two courses) of Teaching Practicum where they get the opportunity to observe classes of different English courses at BIL. Another unique feature is that the students get assigned to supervisors (faculty members of BIL), which offers students the opportunity of obtaining in-depth knowledge and understanding of different English language teaching techniques and strategies as well as different groups of learners.

Workshops for TESOL Students

In April 2014, a four-hour workshop focusing on teaching speaking to ESL (English as a Second Language) students was conducted by Jimalee Sowell, English Language Fellow and instructor at BIL for the MA in TESOL students. The workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session was on lesson planning and the logical progression of a speaking class while the second session focused on interactive speaking activities.

Modern Languages

BIL also offers several modern language courses such as Bangla, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and French. Nowadays, with the huge demand for foreign languages such as Chinese and French in the corporate world, students will not only benefit, but also remain one step ahead of other job seekers in today's competitive market. Therefore, these courses are available to all students as open elective credit courses and can be taken by students who opt for these to fulfill their elective course requirements. The modern language courses are also available to professionals. In 2014, BIL offered Arabic, French, Chinese and Korean language courses.

BIL hosts a Chinese New Year Celebration

February 2014 witnessed a great Chinese New Year celebration programme at the Indoor Games Room of the university. The programme was organized and hosted by BIL in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.



Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Pro-Vice Chancellor; Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed; Mr. Chen Shuang, Cultural Councillor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh, along with faculty members of BRAC University, officials of the Cultural Council of the Chinese Embassy, faculty members and students of Chinese language programme from Dhaka University and CRI-SMF (China Radio International and Shanto-Mariam Foundation) Confucius Classroom, and Chinese businessmen (who are representatives in Bangladesh) attended the programme.

Language Development Facilities

In 2014, BIL was actively involved in the English Language campaign on both the Mohakhali and Savar campuses. To continue the efforts of the English Campaign, the speaking club of BIL introduced several weekly activities on different languages (English, French, and Chinese) for students' academic development.

Seminars and Discussions

Round-table Discussion

In March 2014, BIL held a round-table discussion, titled, "The Necessity of Learning English: Home and Abroad". In attendance were 33 faculty

members, students, and staff. The discussion was led by Ms. Farrah Jabeen, Senior Lecturer of BIL and Ms. Jimalee Sowell, English Language Fellow of BIL. To begin the discussion, special guest Bilal Faruqi, Cultural Affairs Officer from the American Center branch of the US Embassy, gave a brief talk about the importance of learning English and the opportunities available to Bangladeshi students.



“Meet the Writer” Session

In April, 2014, the Writing Centre, in association with BRAC University Communication and Language Club (BUCLC) arranged a session titled “Meet the Writer”. The writer invited to participate was Dr. Kaiser Haq, a prominent writer of Bangladesh. Notably, this programme was a part of the English Campaign launch at Mohakhali.



Dr. Haq started with a short talk on his life, career, and success as a writer. This was followed by a question-answer session where the students and teachers took part. Dr. Haq inspired the students to write and gave some valuable advice on how to be a good writer. Then, he distributed prizes among the winners of an essay competition, whose essays he selected prior to the programme.



Commemoration of Russian Painter and Poet Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov

On the occasion of the 200th birthday of Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov, an exhibition of many of Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov's paintings was organised in October 2014, followed by a seminar on his life story. This session was arranged in collaboration with BRAC University Communication and Language Club (BUCLC) and the Russian Centre of Science & Culture (RCSC). The seminar was attended by Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed and members of the Russian Centre of Science & Culture namely, Mr. Alexander P. Demin, Head of RCSC in Dhaka; Dr. Irina Shebanova; Ms. Ekhakova Irina; and Ms. Cherenkova Belita from Tully State Teachers Training University in Russia. The host of the seminar was Mr. Shams Ud Duha from BIL.

BIL Workshop Series

A unique opportunity for teachers is the “BIL Workshop Series,” which was launched in 2013 and continued in 2014. This series organizes English language teaching workshops with an aim of bringing together English language facilitators and specialists from all around Bangladesh and the globe to share ideas among Bangladeshi teachers of all levels of education regarding effective ways to teach English.

The series also offered English language practitioners a common platform to discuss current approaches, methods, and strategies of language teaching and to present research findings. In 2014, BIL successfully organized four workshops, the sixth to the ninth in the series, on diverse interests of language teaching that were conducted by national and international English language practitioners, specialists, and fellows namely Jimalee Sowell, Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, and Dr. M. Obaidul Hamid.

6th Session

In March 2014, a workshop was conducted by Jimalee Sowell titled “Process Writing & Formative Assessment for Writing”. The session focused on



the process of organizing ideas and creativity through text and was useful for all skill levels and forms of writing - academic as well as non-academic. The workshop aimed to familiarize the participants with the steps and functions of process writing and formative assessment, so that they may apply it in their classroom context.

7th Session

“Are We Ready to Give Feedback?” was the title of the 7th session of the BIL Workshop Series, facilitated by Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, Senior Lecturer of BIL, and currently a graduate assistant and PhD student in the Literacy and Learning Department of the University at Albany. On the morning of June 21, 2014, a group of ELT practitioners from different teaching levels gathered to discuss the prospective changes and adaptations of feedback techniques that can be incorporated into different ranges of ELT classrooms. Notably, the interactive and lively involvement of the participants took the BIL Workshop Series a step closer to achieving its goal of creating a stronger collaboration between the ELT practitioners all around Bangladesh.

8th and 9th Session

Two workshop sessions were conducted by Dr. M. Obaidul Hamid in December 2014, respectively titled “Steps and Process of Doing Research and Getting Published in International Peer-Reviewed Journals” and “Norms and Variations of English and the Role of Micro-Level Agency”.

Faculty Development Workshops

Workshops on Rubric and Assessment

A workshop on rubrics was conducted by Dr. Sharmin Khan for the faculty members of BIL at the end of December. The session was essentially a continuation of workshops conducted by Dr. Khan last year. Dr. Khan teaches at the Department of Linguistics & Language Development of San Jose State University. She has obtained her Ph.D. in Language and Literacy from the University of California, Berkeley.



Workshop by Dr. M. Obaidul Hamid

In December, a workshop titled “The Process of Writing a Proposal for PhD” was conducted by Dr M. Obaidul Hamid, lecturer at the School of Education at the University of Queensland, Australia. The session aimed at familiarizing the participants with the basic requirements and techniques that are associated with successful PhD proposals.

Workshop by Dr. Andy Curtis



In August 2014, Dr. Andy Curtis, President-Elect of the TESOL International Association, conducted a workshop titled “Teacher Talk” at BRAC Center Inn. The workshop was jointly organized by BIL and BELTA. The participants of the workshop largely consisted of faculty members of BIL, members of BELTA, the students of the MA in TESOL programme of BIL, and teachers from different schools, colleges, and universities. Also present in the workshop were Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed and Dr. Arifa Rahman, President of BELTA.

Workshop for Rural ELT Teachers

Mohammad Rejaul Karim of BIL conducted a workshop with 13 high school English teachers from rural areas of Bangladesh at the Savar

campus in August, 2014. The workshop was titled “Working in Low Resource Classrooms” and the facilitator shared a number of techniques he had learnt from Hornby Regional School in Kathmandu, Nepal. All of the participating teachers were experienced English teachers coming from different districts of Bangladesh.

Professional Courses

Several need-based professional courses for different governmental and non-governmental organizations are also designed and conducted by BIL. The first of these is the Development Professionals Course (Dev-Pro) which focuses on developing English communication skills, business communication, professional grooming, manners and etiquette, presentation skills, and conflict management skills. BIL has been successfully offering this course since 2006 and has trained approximately 350 government and corporate staff and 700 development workers who are now working at home and abroad to date. Under the BRAC Primary School teacher training programme (BPS), around 2,300 primary school teachers have been trained as well. BIL also designs and develops English for Specific Purpose (ESP) courses for different national and international organizations such as ILO, UNICEF, BRAC, the Bureau of Non Formal Education (BNFE), the Regulatory Reform Commission (RRC), and the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) among others. In 2014, the institute was involved in the development of English language modules for all government technical training centres, ESP courses for midwifery and nursing students and migrant workers of Bangladesh.

Completion of 32nd DevPro Batch



The certificate-giving ceremony for the 32nd batch of the Dev-Pro course was held in July 2014 in the presence of Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL; Mr. Sadequr Rahman Khan, Programme Coordinator, BRAC Learning Division; and Mr.

Masum Billah, Programme Manager of the Post-Primary Basic And Continuing Education in the BRAC Education Programme, BRAC).

BIL's Contribution to “mEducation”

BIL has taken the initiative of providing basic education support using mobile phones. In this regard, the BRAC Education Programme (BEP) has been working in collaboration with BIL in a project called 'mEducation' since December 2013. In the pilot phase, we are working in six upazillas for tutoring English from class five to class seven students. Five students from BRAC University and seven Dhaka university students are engaged in teaching the outreach children. BIL is providing the support on training facilitation and developing resources for this intervention, and BRAC is providing technical support.

Developing Communicative English Language (DCEL)

For community-level learners, BIL developed a 36-hour basic language course called DCEL in collaboration with the BRAC Learning Division. At present, the course is continuing in the three districts of Dhaka, Chittagong and Bogra. The learners' enrollment rate of this course is highly satisfactory, and in 2014, seven batches of students completed the course in three districts.

Training of Subject-based Trainers

BIL trained 19 subject-based trainers working with secondary-level teachers to develop their facilitation and instructional skills as well as enhance their ability in subject-related project-based learning.

Conferences and Paper Presentations

National ELT Conference, Dhaka University

Mohammad Aminul Islam and Kazi Mafizur Rahaman, faculty members of BIL, attended the National ELT (English Language Teaching) Conference 2014 at Dhaka University in March.



They presented a paper titled, “Teaching English through Media: Pedagogy and Practices in Bangladesh”. In their presentation, they emphasized how initiatives are being taken to use media in ELT practices and what pedagogy lies behind these initiatives for teaching English in Bangladesh. Notably, the conference, titled “ELT Programmes, Pedagogy and Research: Issues and Challenges” was organized jointly by the Institute of Education and Research (IER), Dhaka University, the Open University, UK, and English in Action. The programme was inaugurated by Professor A. A. M. S. Arefin, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University at the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Hall, Dhaka University.

IATEFL Conference, UK



BIL faculty member, Mohammad Aminul Islam, Senior Lecturer attended the 48th IATEFL Conference (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) held in Harrogate, the United Kingdom in April, 2014. The conference, the biggest of its kind, was attended by 2,500 delegates from all over the world. Mohammad Aminul Islam presented a paper titled “Blending Reflective and Dialogue Journals to Leverage Professional Skill Development”. In his presentation, he discussed how BIL has introduced both 'dialogue' and 'reflective journals' in the

teacher training programme to close the existing gap between theory and practice. He also shared how this concept has resulted in sustainable and continuous professional development of English teachers.

Conference Organized by Asia TEFL and MELTA

Asek Amin Miraj, Lecturer of BIL, presented a paper titled “Teaching English through Mobile Devices in Distance Learning” at an international conference jointly organized by Asia TEFL and MELTA (Malaysian English Language Teachers Association). The conference, named “Developing Sustainable Quality in English Language Education: Evolving Policies, Innovating Practices, and Transforming Learning”, was held in Kuching, Malaysia in August 2014. Notably, the objective of the conference was to bring together education policy makers, practitioners, and scholars to engage and collaborate with colleagues from around the world to solve key problems in the world of ELT and education as well as to develop sustainable professional networks focused on the long term advancement of ELT-related research and knowledge.

Inspire DEWS International Conference, 2014

Debashismoy Dutta, Mehetaz Chowdhury, and Md. Abdullah-Al Mamun, faculty members of BIL, presented their papers at the “Inspire DEWS International Conference” 2014 held at the University of Dhaka in November. The papers presented were “Blending Wiki Platform to Develop Professionals' Writing Skill” by Mr. Dutta; “Pen beyond Drawing Board” by Ms. Chowdhury; and “An Innovation in the Existing Teaching System: Using Wiki in Teaching Writing” by Mr. Mamun. Notably, the conference was arranged under the tripartite collaboration of Dhaka University's Department of English, the British Council, and the University of Manchester.



International Conference ICT for Language Learning

Kazi Mafizur Rahaman presented a paper titled “Exploring the Possibilities of Teaching English through Community Radio in Bangladesh: A Qualitative Survey on Radio Pollikontho-99.2FM” at the “International Conference ICT (Information and Communications Technology) for Language Learning” held in Florence, Italy in November. The paper was based on a research project on the community radio of BRAC-CEP programme in Moulavibazar district.

11th Asian EFL Journal International TESOL Conference

Prabal Das Gupta presented a paper titled “Facilitating the Learning of Shy and Tacit Learners through Web-based Class: a Devnet Perspective” at the 11th Asian EFL Journal International TESOL Conference, Pampanga, Philippines. The conference was held from 28-30 November, 2014.

Publications

- Chowdhury, Q. H., & Sultana, A. (2014). English mixing in the TV commercials of West Bengal, India and Bangladesh. *The Journal of the Institute of Modern Languages*, 24(2), 65-82.
- Haque, M. S., & Mohiuddin, M.G. (2014). Armed forces register: A study of high frequency English lexis in Bangladesh Army. *Panini: The North South Studies in Language and Literature*, 6, 1-4.
- Hyder, E., & Khanom, H. (2014). Students' involvement in the making of rubrics and learner autonomy: An undergraduate case study. *The Journal of the Institute of Modern Languages*, 24(2), 105-120.
- Khanom, H. (2014). Error analysis in the writing tasks of the higher secondary level students of Bangladesh. *GSTF Journal on Education*, 2(1), 39-45.
- Miraj, A. A. (2014). The principles of teaching and learning vocabulary in second language (English) acquisition: An empirical study from Bangladesh perspective. *Expression*, 2, 72-89.
- Miraj, A. A., & Islam, M. A. (2014). *Teaching English through mobile: A new bridge between teacher and students in distance learning*. Paper presented at the meeting of Asia TEFL and MELTA Conference, Kuching, Malaysia.

Rahman, S., & Mohiuddin, M.G. (2014). A study on register used by the transport workers in Bangladesh. *The Journal of the Institute of Modern Languages*, 25, 45-64.

Highlights

Chinese Government Scholarship Winners

Every year BIL recommends qualified students of the Chinese course to apply for the Chinese government scholarships. So far, more than 20 students have won the scholarships through the BIL Chinese language course. In 2014, the scholarship winners were Md. Nigran Islam Mizan and Takbirul Islam, who was accepted at the Southwest Jiaotong University (Chengdu); Suprio Ranjan Nath, who is going to the Beijing Language and Culture University; and Shebly Sadik Shemul, who received admission to the Beijing Jiaotong University.



Training of Teachers (ToT) on “English Language for Midwives”

In 2014, BIL developed five English language modules for the Diploma in Midwifery Programme under the School of Public Health and conducted a two-week Training of Trainers (ToT) on “English Language for Midwives” for the trainers of the Midwifery Programme under BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH). The course started in January and ended in February. Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin and Julhas Uddin, faculty members of BIL, conducted the training sessions. The objectives of the course were to impart language teaching pedagogy and to introduce the English modules developed by BIL. It is to be noted that the participants of the ToT will conduct English Language sessions for the Midwifery Programme – a three-year-long modular course for midwives.



Training for Migrant Workers

BIL has developed trade-based audio-visual language modules for migrant workers in collaboration with the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and International Labour Organization ILO. The modules were prepared both in English and in Arabic. Almost 90 instructors from 47 technical training centres (TTCs) received ToT for teaching English in their respective institutes. The trades included electrical, housekeeping, care giving and construction work.

The training consisted of four two-day ToT sessions at Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre (BKTTTC) in July. These modules have been designed for the limited-English-proficiency migrant workers of these four trades. The project, developed under a service contract with the ILO started with the signing of the agreement by all the concerned parties in November 2013 and was



completed in July 2014. Notably, this is the first project where BIL has worked with both ILO and BMET.

Workshops on Research Skills by Dr. Obaidul Hamid

Two workshop sessions were conducted by Dr. M. Obaidul Hamid in December respectively titled “Steps and Process of Doing Research and Getting Published in International Peer-Reviewed Journals” and “Norms and Variations of English and the Role of Micro-Level Agency”. The session largely consisted of English language educators from different schools, colleges, public and private universities, and students of the MA in the TESOL programme. Also present at the workshop were Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed and Dr. Sayeedur Rahman, Academic Coordinator, MA in TESOL at BIL and Associate Professor, University of Dhaka.



Notably, Dr. Hamid is a lecturer at the School of Education, University of Queensland, Australia. His field of interest includes English as a second/foreign language; English and English-in-education policy in the context of national development; social perspectives on second language acquisition; and the sociology of English learning and language and migration. Previously Dr. Hamid had worked as an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, University of Dhaka. He has published over 30 articles and book chapters in local and international peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes including *TESOL Quarterly*, *the ELT Journal*, *The Language Learning Journal*, *Current Issues in Language Planning*, *World Englishes*, *Comparative Education*, and *Teacher Development*.



Inspiring Excellence





Inspiring Excellence

CENTRES

Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER)
Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Centre
Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC)



Inspiring Excellence



Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research

The Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) was founded by the Board of Trustees of BRAC University to establish synergy between the world's largest NGO, BRAC, and the top academic institute, BRAC University. The Centre has a multidisciplinary pool of professionals from the disciplines of environmental science, geography, disaster management, water resources engineering, and urban and regional planning, as well as economics and business. With a holistic and integrated approach, C3ER explores the issues and possibilities interrelated with climate change and the environment.

Since its inception, C3ER has been conducting a series of cross-sectoral research projects on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate change education, environmental impact assessment, and ecology and sustainable development in direct collaboration with different departments of the university. The Centre has a vision of developing partnerships with additional national and international organizations. Resources and expertise offered by the departments, schools and institutes of the university have been mobilized in the fields pertinent to adaptation and mitigation. Particular attention is given to conduct research on adverse impacts of climate change on health, food security, poverty and livelihood, displacement and migration, loss and damage assessment, renewable energy, negotiation process, technology transfer, and education and awareness. Additionally, the Centre establishes synergy between BRAC University and BRAC, especially with Research and Evaluation Division (RED), Disaster Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), in the field of climate change and other environmental issues. 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. The Centre focuses on the following areas:

- Understanding the physical science of climate change and generating climate change scenarios for Bangladesh at local level;
- Sea level rise and storm surge modeling for coastal zone protection against sea level rise and storm surges;
- Bio-physical modeling for assessing the impact of climate change on environment;
- Integrated adaptation planning and environment-friendly infrastructure design;
- Economics of adaptation to climate change and investment need identification;
- Mitigation through emission reduction, with particular focus on renewable energy options;
- Comprehensive disaster management in a changing climate;
- Application of biotechnology research at field level for the development of climate-resilient cropping systems;
- Community-based adaptation and awareness raising at local level;
- Education curricula development for students and the training of local people, civil society, and professionals;
- Gender and climate-induced migration, including population dynamics and displacement;
- Natural resource management to prevent degradation and preserve ecologically critical areas;
- Water supply and sanitation, pollution control, and environmental governance;
- Conservation of endangered flora and fauna to protect them from human invasion; and
- Policy formulation for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in sectoral strategy and plan options.

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 research design and implementation as well as effective information dissemination through policy mainstreaming should be the focal point. C3ER works to bring researchers and policy makers together in order to improve on protection, adaptation, and mitigation programmes. Additionally, the Centre works to increase institutional capacity, enables institutions to address environmental and climate issues. C3ER strives to ensure the availability of knowledge and learning for all stakeholders to better empower local people and researchers.

Working Domains of C3ER

Physical Science: Physical science will form the backbone for research in the following six 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 to help communities understand and deal with environmental hazards, along with possible future changes, using adaptation planning in the health, safety, and livelihoods sectors, and thereby increasing community resilience. C3ER is also making efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning and find 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 and lowers gas emissions and increases carbon sequestration. C3ER also researches renewable and alternative energy options and increasing energy efficiency.

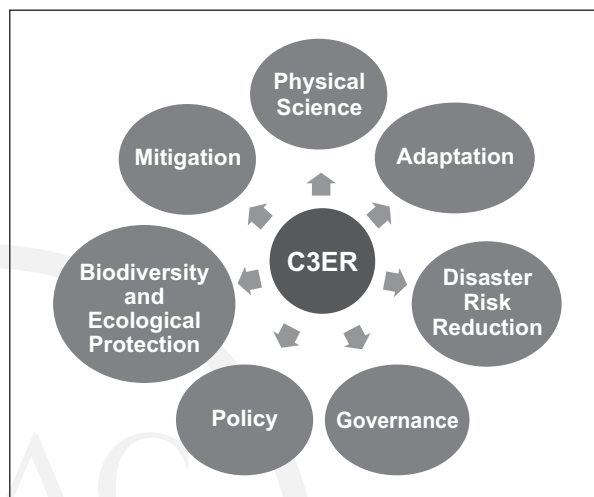
Disaster Risk Reduction: C3ER works in improving and creating disaster forecasting and early warning systems with local communities in mind, as well as making infrastructure changes that will be useful both now and in the future. C3ER also works to identify the gaps in current practices, and uses modeling to predict future disaster patterns.

Biodiversity and Ecological Protection: C3ER recognizes the importance of the local ecology. C3ER works to protect and restore Bangladesh's local ecology and resources from damage and pollution, including the wetlands of Bangladesh and its carbon-dense forests.

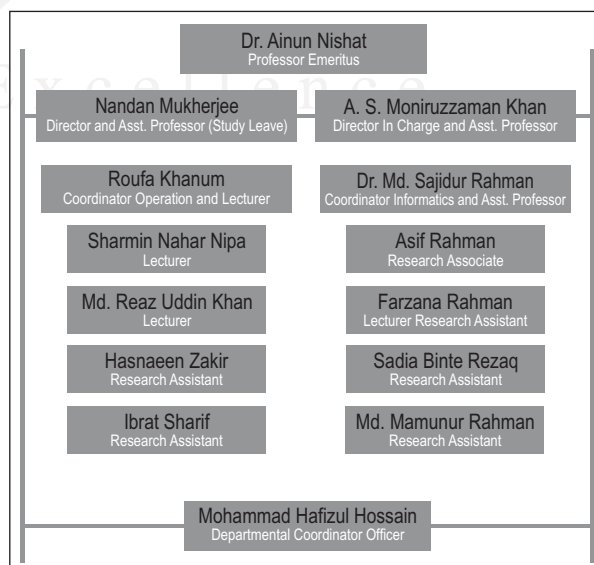
Policy: C3ER reviews and revises government policies to ensure that they take climate change and environmental degradation into account. C3ER also analyzes what the stated duties of the Government of Bangladesh are towards its people and towards the environment, by analyzing the constitution, studying 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 to increase 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.



C3ER Team



Completed Research Projects

Pro-Poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP) Environmental Assessment Framework;

Client: National Housing Authority and The World Bank, Duration: 12 Months

The Pro-Poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP) has been initiated by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) with financial support from the World Bank. The project aims to improve the quality of life and overall living condition of the poor and underprivileged. The C3ER of BRAC University prepared the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) for this project.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: First Environmental Management Framework (EMF) in urban housing sector

Multi-Hazard Risk Atlas for 10 Selected Upazilas in Bangladesh;

Client: Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), Duration: 3 Months

The major hazards of Bangladesh are floods, cyclones and storm surges, flash floods, droughts, tornadoes, riverbank erosion, and landslides. The main focus of the project was to prepare the multi-hazard risk atlas for selected 10 upazilas in Bangladesh. The project was carried out through conducting the area-specific climatic hazard identification and analysis, exposure analysis, multi-hazard risk analysis, risk map preparation and Vulnerability Profile identification and assessment.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: While carrying out this project, C3ER for the first time prepared Integrated Risk Maps in Bangladesh.

Moving Towards Climate Smart BRAC: Strategies and Action Plans in District Level;

Client: DECC, BRAC, Duration: 12 Months

The future impacts of climate change may hinder BRAC's goals for sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In response, BRAC involved the Centre to assess the climate sensitivity of its programmes to make them more resilient.

This study focused on BRAC's programmes at district level with the objective of making these programmes "Climate Smart". The study assessed the climate sensitivity of existing BRAC programmes at the district level; identified the adaptive approaches and mitigation measurements through participatory action

research by involving vulnerable community representatives and BRAC's staff working at the district level; and developed a district-level action plan with particular focus on the coastal region of Bangladesh.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: Mainstreaming climate change in different programmes

Access to Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh;

Client: WASH, BRAC, Duration: 6 Months

The overall objective of this project was to develop a clear understanding of access to safe drinking water in coastal areas of Bangladesh. The definite objectives were to identify the source of the water supply in the selected districts representing the coastal areas of the country, assess the pattern of water use from different sources, identify the impacts of anthropogenic actions on water quality, identify the obstacles of access to safe drinking water, identify any unique cultural practices in relation to water use and its change over time, assess ecological significance of the water use regime along with its implication on long-term sustainability of water supply, and disseminate information for micro and macro level water management and awareness building.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: Reversed gender roles

Roadmap for setting up the policy, legal and institutional framework in mainstreaming climate change adaptation on the national planning trajectory;

Client: Islamic Relief Bangladesh, Duration: 6 Months

The main objective of this research was to prepare a national roadmap for framing up appropriate legal, policy, and institutional arrangements to mainstream climate change in the national development process. In the process, the study tried to answer three questions: (1) What shall be the transformative inclusions in the key sectoral policies for mainstreaming climate change adaptation? (2) What shall be the overall role and specific directives of the national legislations for implementing the climate change adaptation at national level? (3) What will be the institutional mechanism for coordinating and implementing individual and cross-sectoral adaptation initiatives?

NEW KNOWLEDGE: Mainstreaming climate change in different planning sectors

Legislative Gap Analysis – Water in Bangladesh;**Client: World Wide Fund for Nature, Duration: 3 Months**

This project has the core objective of developing a clear understanding of water governance in Bangladesh and uses this analysis to improve governance.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: Gap identified between planning and community levels

Ongoing Research Projects**Participatory Factory Mapping,****Client: C&A Foundation, Duration: 4 Months**

The main features of the project are to identify and understand the needs of the Bangladeshi garment industry; understand the supply chain in order to build a steady and sustainable industry; comprehensive mapping of the universe of export-oriented RMG factories in Bangladesh; develop mutually-aligned action plans that create sustainable livelihood options for the workers; and improve the productivity of the factories.

NEW KNOWLEDGE: A reconvening remediation strategy for RMG Sector.

Water Sources Census in Tala Upazila,**Client: WASH, BRAC, Duration: 4 Months**

Access to safe drinking water, especially in the coastal area, falls critically short of the WHO standards due to salinity intrusion, sea level rise, indirect climate change, and inundation by storm surges which have been accelerated by frequent cyclones. The overall objective of the project is to understand the current drinking water options in the Tala Upazila in Satkhira district. The water census data will assist in identifying the most vulnerable and scarcity areas of Tala Upazila. Based on the results of this pilot-based project, BRAC will further their development initiative in coastal zone.

Publications

Faculty of C3ER are actively involved in publishing scholarly research materials. These materials are published in journals, conference proceedings and training manuals.

Book Chapter

Mukherjee, N., Jahan, N., & Rahman, F. (2014). "Strategies and Practices for Enhancing Public Knowledge and Awareness on Climate Change." In *Training Manual on Environmental NGO's Activities Responding to Climate Change*. Asia Climate Change Education Center: South Korea.

Journals

Mukherjee, N. (2014). "Floods in Bangladesh - Retrospective perspective on history and climate change" in *Flood Situation Report*. IUCN Bangladesh

Mukherjee, N., & Mondal, M., S. (2014) "Hydro-climatic hazards for crops and cropping system in the chars of the Jamuna River and potential adaptation options" in *Natural Hazards*. Springer Journal Publication.

Nishat, A., Ali, S.S., Khanum, R., Khan, A.S.M., Rahman, S., & Mukherjee, N. (2014) "Ground evidences of climate change induced rural to urban migration from the coastal region of Bangladesh" in *Climurb: Poverty and Climate Change in Urban Bangladesh*. Manchester University, UK.

Conference Proceedings

Jahan, N., Khan, M. R. U., and Ahmed, M. F. (2014). Adaptation gaps in agriculture, health and water supply and sanitation: Empirical findings from coastal Bangladesh. International Conference on Climate Change and Social Issues, International Center for Research and Development, 30-31 July 2014, Sri Lanka.

Rahman, S., Mukherjee, N., & Khanum, R (2014). "Climate Induced Land Use Change and Its Associated Impact on Coastal Communities and Sundarban Ecosystem" in 5th International Conference on Water and Flood Management

Khan, M.R.U., Nishat, A., Mukherjee, N., Khan, A.S.M., Khanum, R., (2014), "Reversing Gender Role for Drinking Water Collection in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh" in The Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change

Akter, T., Rahman, F., Ahmed M.F., Khan, A.S.M., and Mukherjee, N., (2014), "Shifting of Seasons: Perception of Local Community in Southern Bangladesh" in The Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change

Mukherjee, N., Khanum, R., Moumita, D., F., Rahman, S., Roan, J., Nishat, A., (2014), "Changes in Weather Seasonality and Its Effect on the Environmental Flow" in The Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change

Research Reports

C3ER, 2014. Multi Hazard Risk Atlas for 10 selected upazilas in Bangladesh. BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: CDMP.

C3ER, 2014. Environmental Assessment Framework: Pro-Poor Slum Integration Project (PPSIP). BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: NHA. World Bank.

C3ER, 2014. Access to Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh. BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: BRAC.

C3ER, 2014. Climate Smart BRAC - Strategies and Action Plan for Five Selected Programmes of BRAC. BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: BRAC.

C3ER, 2014. Roadmap for setting up the policy, legal and institutional framework in mainstreaming climate change adaptation on the national planning trajectory. BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: Islamic Relief.

C3ER, 2014. Legislative Gap Analysis – Water in Bangladesh. BRAC University, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). Dhaka, Bangladesh: World Wide Fund for Nature.

Highlights of 2014

Dr. Ainun Nishat Awarded “Nature Conservation Award 2014”



Water resource and climate change specialist Professor Ainun Nishat has received the Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and Channel i “Nature Conservation Award 2014” for his contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, environment, and nature of Bangladesh. At an award ceremony held on November 08, 2014 at Channel i Bhaban, Honorable Minister Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh gave the award to Dr. Nishat.

Dr. Nishat Chaired a Discussion Forum of IUCN

A regional discussion forum organized by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) was held at Amari Dhaka, Gulshan December, 2014. The topic of the forum was “Ecosystem, People and Shared Learning: Experiences from Bangladesh-India Civil Society Dialogue”. Professor Nishat was the chair of the session titled “Action on the Ground – Sharing Experiences on Community Based Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS)”.

Field Visit for Development of “Ensuring Safe Drinking Water” Project

Mr. A. S. Moniruzzaman Khan, Director in Charge of C3ER, along with the research team from BRAC attended two field visits in December at Satkhira. The field visit was for developing the project “Water Source Census of Tala Upazila” for BRAC's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme. The first visit was arranged to understand the overall situation of drinking water situation and environmental problems of the upazila. The second visit was provided hands-on training to the local enumerators on GPS reading and questionnaire surveys. The objective of the visit was to ensure the optimum level of authentic data.

Dr. Nishat at South Asian University Conference

A conference regarding “Draft Assessment and Promotion Policy” for teaching and non-teaching staff was held in South Asian University on Friday, 12th December, 2014. The organizer invited Dr. Ainun Nishat as a resource person for the meeting, to provide his valuable advice and expertise related to the conference topic.

Final Dissemination Workshop of “Climate Smart BRAC” Project

BRAC, DECC and C3ER jointly organized a dissemination workshop of “Climate Smart BRAC” project on 25 November, 2014 at BRAC Centre. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson and Interim Executive Director of BRAC inaugurated the session. Afterward, Dr. Ainun Nishat presented project findings, strategies and recommendations to the audience. Other honorable guests were Mr. Mahabub Hossain, Advisor to the Interim Executive Director; Mr. Asif Saleh, Senior Director, Strategy, Communication and Empowerment, BRAC and BRAC International; Md. Akramul Islam, Director, WASH & DECC, BRAC; A.S. Moniruzzaman Khan, Director In-Charge, C3ER.

Professor Ainun Nishat Lead Team Developing Roadmap for Preparation of National Adaptation Plan

Dr. Ainun Nishat has led the team who prepared the roadmap for the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Bangladesh. NAP is a national obligation of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as a signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoEF) hosted the initiative where C3ER faculty, Ms. Taslima Akter and Mr. Minhaz Farid Ahmed, attended a dissemination workshop on 29th October, 2014. Professor Nishat inaugurated the session stating the urgency of NAP preparation. One of the key recommendations was to establish linkage with the existing national policies (e.g. the Seventh 5-year Plan).

C3ER Joined the Research Consortium on Non-Economic Loss and Damage

C3ER signed a contract with the Asia Pacific Network (APN) on non-economic loss and damage. Dr. Ainun Nishat leads the C3ER team for conducting the research. Professor Nishat attended the methodology finalization workshop in Bangkok, where he gave a lecture showing the ground evidence for non-economic loss and damage resulting from salinity intrusion in the coast of Bangladesh. Mr. Yohei Chiba from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan is currently leading the global consortium for this assignment.

Public Lecture by Mr. Bindu N. Lohani, Organized by C3ER

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Vice President, Mr. Bindu N. Lohani, gave a public lecture titled "Addressing the Climate Challenge in Asia: Role of Finance++" in August at BRAC Centre. The lecture was jointly organized by C3ER, BRAC University, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Independent University. The session was started with the welcome speech of Dr. Ainun Nishat. Afterward, Mr. Lohani talked about the climate change challenge in Asia and the Pacific and how the ADB is helping its developing member countries transition to low-carbon and climate resilient growth. He shared ADB's strategic priorities until 2020 on climate change.

Director, C3ER is on Study Leave

Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, Director, C3ER is on study leave as of September, 2014 to pursue his Ph.D. degree from the University of Dundee in Scotland. His Ph.D. topic is "Dispute Management Related to Trans Boundary Waters, of Relevance to Scotland". It will focus on integrated river basin management framework under the lens of loss and damage.

Consultation Workshop for Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation

C3ER, BRAC University organized a workshop on "Roadmap for Setting up the Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework in Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation on the National Planning Trajectory" in August. The event was moderated by Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests. Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, Director, C3ER, was the key note presenter. A number of government officials from different ministries attended the workshop.

Dr. Ainun Nishat in Launching of IPCC AR5

The Switzerland-based organization, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched the report "IPCC's AR 5: How Bangladesh Translates Climate Change and Its Vulnerabilities" at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla in August. The programme was hosted by The Planning Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Ministry of Disaster and Relief, the IPCC, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), and Nature Conservation Management (NACOM). The technical session was chaired by Dr. Ainun Nishat. The key presenters were the authors Dr. John Church, coordinating lead author, Dr. Mizan R. Khan, lead author, and Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, lead author of the IPCC AR5.

2nd Steering Committee Meeting of C3ER

The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the C3ER was held on July 03, 2014. The meeting was chaired by Professor Ainun Nishat and moderated by Mr. Nandan Mukherjee. The other members of the committee are Ms. Sheeba Hafiza; Dr. Monoranjan Mondal; Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir; Professor Syed M. Hashemi; Professor Fuad H. Mallick; Dr. Rizwan Khair; Dr. Erum Mariam; and Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid from BRAC, BRAC University, Green University and IRRI. They reviewed C3ER activities since its

establishment, shared their views and appreciated the activities. They gave their valued opinions on strategic moves and future planning. Overall, the presence of all members and their discussion made the meeting successful and will lead the Centre in the right direction.

C3ER's meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

Development pioneer Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson of BRAC, had a meeting with the C3ER team on July 08, 2014. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson and Interim Executive Director of BRAC was also present. After introducing the employees of C3ER, Dr. Ainun Nishat shared the overall progress and future plans of the Centre. Sir Abed appreciated the achievements of C3ER. In addition, he suggested some future initiatives to expand the Centre's portfolio.



Dr. Ainun Nishat joined C3ER as Professor Emeritus

Professor Ainun Nishat, Ph.D., Water Resource and Climate Change Specialist, former Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, joined C3ER in July 2014 as Professor Emeritus. Before joining BRAC University as Vice Chancellor, Dr. Nishat served as a Professor of BUET and was the country director of IUCN. He is credited as a pioneer of water resource management in Bangladesh and has traveled around the world attending different seminars and conferences.

Training on Climate Change & Health

C3ER and the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH), BRAC University, jointly organized a short training session on "Climate Change & Health" in June in the BIGH office. The course advisors were Professor Ainun Nishat and Professor Sabina F. Rashid. The course was designed as an intensive participatory learning experience through theories and practices. A mix of knowledge-transfer

methods such as lectures, case studies, lab exercises, and critical incidents were used to make the course effective. Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, Asst. Professor & Director of C3ER, and Ms. Roufa Khanam, Lecturer of C3ER moderated the program on behalf of C3ER.

CDMP Presentation in Khulna

A four-member team from C3ER including Nandan Mukherjee, A. S. Moniruzzaman Khan, Roufa Khanam and Asif Rahman attended a workshop on "Sharing and Learning of Upazila Risk Atlas and Disaster Management(DM) Plan & LDRRF Activities" at the Khulna Divisional Commissioner's Office in May. Additional Divisional Commissioner Khulna organized the workshop on behalf of the Commissioner. In the workshop, Md. Abdul Qayyum, National Project Director, CDMP II, gave his valuable speech as the chief guest and Nandan Mukherjee, Director, C3ER delivered his presentation on the Upazila Risk Atlas.

C3ER Team Visited Barind Multipurpose Development Authority in Rajshahi

Engineer Ahsan Zakir, Executive Director of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) invited Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Advisor of the C3ER, Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, Director of C3ER, and Dr. Sajidur Rahman, Coordinator – Informatics of C3ER to visit Barind project and its innovative activities. The team visited BMDA from February 27, 2014 to March 01, 2014. A seminar was held there on the activities of Barind where Professor Ainun Nishat shared ideas regarding water management. BMDA, the largest state-owned irrigation providing organization in the country's northwest region, has taken on the initiative of wide-ranging promotion of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) irrigation method.

Mr. Nandan Mukherjee Attended "Knowledge Sharing and Planning Workshop on Water Integrity" in Delft, the Netherlands

Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, Director of C3ER, was invited by the Water Integrity Network (WIN) to participate a workshop titled on "Knowledge Sharing and Planning Workshop on Water Integrity" in Delft, the Netherlands from 19th until 20th of February, 2014. As part of the workshop they invited Mr. Mukherjee to share his knowledge and experience on water integrity and good governance issues

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 so since 2006. The Centre is equipped with air conditioned, soundproofed Video Conferencing and multimedia rooms to facilitate a comfortable learning environment. Around 40 people are able to participate at a time. The centre is open from Sunday to Saturday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 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 Catolica of Peru. The mission is to bring the world together to facilitate learning to contribute in local and global development. Our services include e-Learning courses, online training, workshops, meetings, interviews, consultation and teleconferences.

GDLN AP Regional Meeting in Thailand

The Global Development Learning Network Asia Pacific (GDLN AP) Regional Meeting was held in December 2014 and hosted by the Office of Academic Resources in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Regional meeting provided the venue for members and partners to discuss the programmes

that are underway and explore collaborative opportunities. Delegates of GDLN Centers in the Asia Pacific Region and World Bank representatives gathered to discuss how to further augment GDLN's effectiveness as a global learning and knowledge exchange platform. About 30 participants from 16 countries in the Asia Pacific region gathered to share their ideas & make plans for future progress of GDLN projects. Md. Aminul Islam, Manager of GDLN & IT, represented Distance Learning Center (DLC), BRAC University in the Asia Pacific face-to-face regional meeting. GDLN affiliate countries include Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Timor Leste and USA. At the end of the programme, participants attended the excursion to explore the historic city of Ayuthaya, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Center.

BRAC University partnered with TUFTS University, Boston, USA

Geared toward the articulation and diversification of the knowledge sharing, the successful implementation and completion of the HST410: Bay of Bengal Flows of Change played a very significant role in the history of BRACU-GDLN Centre. BRAC University was one of the proud facilitators of this course. Pedagogically, the course was designed to be a semester long course as opposed to the typical short courses and workshops conducted at the centre. BRAC University partnered with TUFTS University in

Boston, connecting via Video Conferencing, Learning Management System and E-Portfolio system. The course duration was January – April, 2014 and used the technological features of the centre to the fullest. The advanced video conferencing facility of the centre delivered appreciable seamless service.

KDI School e-Learning Course on Public Policy and Management, Korea

Knowledge sharing for sustainable development



and global prosperity is one of the key motivations behind establishing the KDI School of Public Policy and Management. The KDI School understands the valuable role the GDLN can play as an effective tool for knowledge sharing and learning. As part of GDLN Korean Center's designated knowledge exchange initiatives, the KDI School is launching blended learning programs that focus on Korea's successful development experiences.

KDI School of Public Policy and Management hopes to shape global leaders who can lead the world towards positive change and prepare potential future leaders to face global challenges. GDLN offers excellent opportunities for sharing knowledge and learning among GDLN participants so as to foster critical thinking about development issues through hands on learning. Participants from public and private universities, as well as the General Education Cadre from the Bangladesh Ministry of Education, enjoyed 10-VC sessions,

focusing on personal and professional skills development through sharing knowledge & stimulating critical thinking. Two selected participants were given the opportunity to attend a seminar in person in Seoul, Korea.

KDI School Program on Climate Change, Food Security and Development II

The Global Leadership Program was co-hosted in July 2014 by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Korea Development Institute (KDI) School of Public Policy and Management. The objective of the programme is to enable participants to enhance their contributions towards reaching G-20 development goals set forth at the Seoul Summit and push towards implementing action plans so that continuity is established with each subsequent G-20 Summit. These lectures review the main issues that arise in this context, examine how they will be influenced by climate change, and discuss policy options to meet the food needs of a growing and more prosperous world population. The Program was moderated by Yun Haiyoung, Assistant Dean of the Capacity Building Center at KDI School of Public Policy and Management, with participation from government officials, researchers and experts particularly from EAP and South Asian countries in the field of food security, representatives from private firms, academia, NGO, etc and speaker Mr. David Roland-Holst, Adjunct Professor, and University of California at Berkeley.

Asian Productivity Organization e-Learning Courses

Asian Productivity Organization of Japan (APO) and National Productivity Organization of Bangladesh (NPO) jointly organized Video Conference (VC) based e-Learning courses. BRAC University GDLN



Centre has facilitated all its programmes from its inception in the year 2014, different types of courses were delivered in association with 20 countries, each of which are members of APO.

Courses in e-learning are offered by the APO in a variety of formats: video-conferencing, Web (Internet)-based platforms for live sessions, and self-learning e-courses. e-Learning courses provide dual advantages. Firstly, they broaden APO's outreach. Secondly, they identify participants with outstanding performance, who are then selected for multi-country, face-to-face advanced training courses to consolidate their learning. The following courses were offered this year:

- a. Risk Management of food borne Pathogens.
- b. Green Productivity
- c. Production and Certification of Organic Food for Greater Market Access
- d. Service Sector Innovation.

The selected participants included government and non-government officials, academics, researchers and experts, etc.

Video Conference on Violence against Women and Girls: Lessons from South Asia.

The World Bank's South Asia Region has recently launched a multi-faceted program in September 2014 to address gender-based violence in its operations, analytics, and collaborative work. One of these activities is a regional report on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in South Asia. This

report takes stock of the types of violence perpetrated against women and girls in South Asia throughout their lifetimes, analyzes drivers of this violence, and documents work undertaken by hundreds of actors in the region to address the problem of VAWG. The report also provides good practice examples and recommendations for policy and programming regarding VAWG that can inform the government, private sector, NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders working on VAWG issues in the region.

The programme describes the extent of violence against women and girls in South Asia. It compares attitudes toward violence and prevalence of violence types. It discusses social, economic, and demographic changes in South Asian countries. It also tackles the complex issue of addressing violence against women and girls. It presents lessons learned from research findings, and offers recommendations for action that stakeholders can adopt in the region.

International Associations and Collaborations

BRACU GDLN collaborates with the following organizations:

<http://www.worldbank.org>

<http://www.apo-tokyo.org>

<http://www.kdischool.ac.kr>

<http://www.tufts.edu>

<http://mftot.jointokyo.org>

<http://www.teriin.org>

<http://www.globalclassroom.us>



Teaching and Learning Centre



Established in 2006, the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) promotes excellence in education through the shared understanding and practices of teaching and learning. In collaboration with faculty members, students, and staff, we strive to build an engaged and creative environment of pedagogical research and development that fosters innovation and collegiality across the university. The Centre strives to keep the campus community updated with pedagogical developments, coordinate teaching and learning resources, support professional development of faculty and staff, and contribute to successful student learning within a liberal arts tradition.

From group events to personalized attention, the TLC encourages and supports measurable effectiveness in faculty and student development, course instruction and assessment, scholarly research, and innovation in education technologies. Our expanding activities and services include orientations, workshops and seminars, individual consultations, pedagogical research, and programme design and support. The TLC works closely with the academic departments, Office of Student Affairs (OSA) programmes such as First Year Advising Team (FYAT), Academic Success Workshop (ASW), Probation Advising & Support Services (PASS) and other academic and administrative partners who promote the educational mission across the BRAC University campus.

Faculty Development

Excellence in teaching is central to the university core mission of liberal arts education and student development. The TLC provides opportunities for

the faculty members to reflect on the current knowledge and practices of effective teaching and learning through dialogue, assessment and research. The TLC hosts group workshops and individual consultations for the faculty to develop and share their experiences and explore creative pedagogic methods and resources for different settings and outcomes of student learning. The Faculty Orientation Program, Instructional Skills Workshops, Faculty Conversations and individual consultation services are designed to provide continuous support to BRAC University faculty members in their efforts to hone their teaching skills and instructional efficiency. Our aim is to promote a campus-wide excellence in teaching which enhances student learning and supports the professional development of new faculty members in their early career.

Faculty Orientation Program

Each semester, the TLC hosts the faculty orientation program to introduce new faculty members to the teaching and learning goals at BRACU and to provide an early start to successful teaching careers. During the programme, the participants meet with senior faculty members and administrators, take a short tour of the campus and main offices, gain familiarity with the university's culture and curriculum, and participate in intensive workshops on the goals, techniques and outcomes of teaching, learning and assessment. The workshops introduce new faculty members to a variety of topics, including course design, active and interactive teaching methods, collaborative learning, student profiles, learning outcomes and rubrics, classroom assessment techniques,



advising and learning initiatives at the university. The workshops end with panel discussions that enable the participants to meet and discuss teaching issues with senior faculty members and chairpersons of different departments. The 12th and 13th Faculty Orientation Programmes were held from 22-23 January, 2014 and 6-8 May, 2014 at the Mohakhali campus.



After the successful completion of the 12th Faculty Orientation and several follow-up workshops titled "Faculty Conversation", the 28 participants of the workshop were awarded with certificates on the 29th of April, 2014. The certificate awarding ceremony for the 11th TLC Workshop was held on the 26th of February, 2014. Prior to the certificate presentation, the participants were addressed by the Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Fuad H. Mallick, and Professor Zahidur Rahman, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.



Faculty Conversations

With the goals of reflection, dialogue and innovation in mind, the TLC arranges Faculty Conversations that bring together faculty members of all ranks to share their views on teaching and learning, including the expectations, challenges and opportunities that inform teacher-student interactions. The participants have the opportunity to interact with senior faculty members, education specialists, and other experienced facilitators, and exchange views on innovative and effective pedagogies based on scholarly research and classroom practices. The TLC organized a Faculty Conversation on Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs) on the 10th of April 2014 for the participants of the 12th Faculty Orientation Program and other faculty members. During the interactive session, faculty members shared their experiences of teaching at BRAC University and explored a variety of assessment techniques to enhance student learning.



Instructional Skills Workshops

As a continuation of the topics introduced at orientation, the semester-long instructional skills programmes offered regular workshops to explore specific issues of teaching, learning and assessment, and provided a forum for dialogue on innovation in education. These resources applied current literature on educational development supplemented by our own research into student learning, classroom dynamics, cognitive processes, and learning outcomes at BRAC University. In addition, the workshops also explored the opportunities for the integration of technology and other high impact practices to enhance teaching and learning, and discussed scholarly approaches to teaching, course design and class management.

Pedagogy Portal: An Online Forum on Teaching and Learning

As a part of the Faculty Development Program, the TLC launched 'Pedagogy Portal' as a means of enhancing the scholarship on teaching and learning at BRAC University. The portal will include a series of online modules on topics related to Course Design and Preparation, Teaching Methods and Instructional Strategies, Creative & Critical Thinking, Collaborative Learning & Small Group Discussion, Feedback & Assessment, Evaluating Student Performance, Teaching Portfolio & Faculty Development. Over time, the TLC hopes to deploy this portal as a platform to offer different courses on theories, practices, research, and other resources on teaching and learning. As a first component, TLC is preparing to launch a course on "Basic Pedagogy of Teaching and Learning" which will offer online presentations and discussion forums for new faculty to enhance their teaching effectiveness, familiarize themselves with both concepts and research on student learning, and get their teaching careers off to an early and successful start at BRACU.

Student Development

Fostering significant, long-lasting student learning is our primary goal and the metric of success at BRAC University. In collaboration with other offices and departments, the TLC was actively engaged in the design, facilitation and assessment of student advising and learning programs that foster successful outcomes of student learning.

Learning Program Support

The TLC in collaboration with the Counseling Unit and OSA offered the ASWs and Probation Workshops for both the general student population as well as at-risk and probation students. The TLC

faculty members prepared the contents and methodologies of the workshops, with topics ranging from effective and lifelong study skills, exam preparation, self-assessment and goal setting, and other related topics. As a part of the student learning support services, the TLC also coordinated selected 100-level course tutorials in collaboration with the academic departments.

Advising Resource Development

In addition to their active involvement in the design and evaluation of the first-year advising programme, the TLC faculty offered briefing sessions for academic advisers, prepared advising resources and manuals, and participated as first-year advisers in the programme. Likewise, the TLC had taken a lead role in the design and continuous evaluation of the probation-advising programme. The TLC also offered advising and logistic support to the Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR) and the Office of Co-curricular activities (OCA).

Quality Assessment and Research

The assessment and research initiatives are the third major component of TLC activities. In line with its mission to provide innovative and effective support to faculty and students, the Centre is committed to scholarly research and regular assessments of teaching and learning indicators. In addition to the continuous enhancement of the new OSA programmes, the quality assessment and research components also focus on the documentation, research and analysis of the extensive student information generated by the integration of existing and new student services.

Other Workshops/Seminars organized by TLC

TLC organized seminar for 'Teach for Bangladesh'

TLC organized a short seminar on the 27th of February, 2014 which was facilitated by the members of 'Teach for Bangladesh', a non-government organization working for educational development. The programme was attended by 22 faculty members from different departments of BRAC University.





Follow-up Workshop at Savar Campus

A day-long follow-up workshop was organized for the 12th TLC workshop participants on 6 March, 2014 in BRAC University Savar campus. 16 participants took part in that workshop where the session was facilitated by the TLC members focusing on 'Teaching Methodologies'. The session was designed in an interactive mode based on discussion and group work, which was subsequently followed by presentations by the participants. After the session, the participants were taken on a tour around the campus and familiarized with the different facilities & services.

Team Building Workshop for the staff of the Registrar's Office

TLC designed a two-day team building workshop in BRAC Centre for Development Management, Savar for the Registrar's office from 19-20 June, 2014 titled "Operational Effectiveness in High-Performance Workplace", which was facilitated by the TLC in collaboration with the Counseling Unit. A total of 16 participants attended this workshop from the Registrar's office.

RS Faculty Workshop on "Enhancing Effective Student Learning in General Education Courses"

The TLC organized a workshop on "Enhancing Effective Student Learning in General Education Courses: An Interactive Session with RS Faculty" on 23 December, 2014 at the Mohakhali Campus. This workshop was divided into two interactive sessions which were facilitated by Professor Riaz P. Khan, Dean of Student Affairs & Director of TLC, and Professor Syed M Hashemi, Chairperson of Department of Economics and Social Sciences.

The topics of the sessions focused broadly on promoting reading habits & note taking strategies, collaborative learning, learning objectives and outcomes in General Education Courses. During this session, the Residential Semester Faculty members shared their experiences regarding students learning habits, which was concluded by devising strategies for improving student learning in the general education courses and other general issues regarding teaching.

Participation in Workshops and Training

Professor Riaz P. Khan, Director and Muhammad Foyzal Mubarak, lecturer, TLC attended a three-day workshop from 15-17 June, 2014, which was jointly organized by University Grants Commission (UGC) and British Council on 'Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL): Strengthening Teaching and Learning Capacity in Higher Education Sector of Bangladesh'. Later, the consultants from UGC also visited the TLC, BRAC University.

Raquib Quasem and Md. Solaiman Jony, Lecturer, TLC and OSA attended a day-long workshop on Research Ethics on June 16, 2014 at James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH). Dr. Richard Cash, Faculty and Professor, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA and JPGSPH, BRAC University, and Dr. Malabika Sarker, Professor, JPGSPH, BRAC University facilitated the workshop.

Muhammad Foyzal Mubarak attended a one-week intensive training course on "The Role of Higher Education in the Knowledge Economy" from 21-25 September, 2014 jointly organized by the COMSTECH (a Ministerial Standing Committee on

Scientific and Technological Cooperation) Center for Policy Research and Training, Islamabad, Pakistan and Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University.

Raquib Quasem and Tanjia Afrin Turin attended a day-long workshop on “Bridging the Gap: Facilitating Student-Centered Learning”, which was jointly organized by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and U.S. Embassy Dhaka on November 1, 2014.

Md. Solaiman Jony and Muhammad Foysal Mubarak participated in a training course on Quantitative Research Methods. It continued for five days starting from 9-13 November, 2014. The training was organized by the JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Transitions in TLC

Professor Riaz P. Khan was appointed as the Director of TLC in addition to being the Dean of Student Affairs since 2013. Raquib Quasem, Md. Solaiman Jony, Fatema Israt Jahan and Tanjia Afrin Turin joined TLC and OSA as Lecturers. Hamim Al Ahsan joined TLC as the Assistant System

Programmer. Sanzida Pias was transferred from OSA to TLC as the Assistant Administrative Officer. On the other hand, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer and Tasnova Rahman, Assistant Administrative Officer left BRAC University.

Upcoming Events of the TLC in 2015

In addition to the regular programmes, TLC will offer the following events in 2015:

- The 15th, 16th & 17th TLC Faculty Orientation
- Launch of a course on “Basic Pedagogy of Teaching and Learning”
- Several Faculty Conversations on teaching, learning & research
- Several Workshops on students learning and development
- Team building workshops for Administrative Staffs
- Leadership building workshops for the club leaders
- Seminar and conference on teaching and learning related issues

Highlights TLC Program Statistics at a Glance

FACULTY ORIENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 FACULTY ORIENTATION • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 42
FACULTY CONVERSATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 FACULTY CONVERSATIONS • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 85
INSTRUCTIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 INSTRUCTIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOP • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 23
SEMINAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 SEMINARS ON 'TEACH FOR BANGLADESH' & 'PARENTING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS' • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 98
RS FACULTY WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 RS FACULTY WORKSHOP • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 13
TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS • TOTAL NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 16



Inspiring Excellence





Inspiring Excellence

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Ayesha Abed Library
BRAC University Administration
Counseling Unit
Finance and Accounts Department
Human Resources Department (HRD)
Medical Centre
Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR)
Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA)
Office of the Registrar
Office of Student Affairs
Procurement Department
Public Relations Office (PRO)
Relationship Management Office (RMO)
Residential Semester (RS)
Partners in Education
9th Convocation, BRAC University 2014
Committee
Auditor's Report



Inspiring Excellence



Ayesha Abed Library

The Ayesha Abed Library at BRAC University aims to become a world-class knowledge resource centre and provide innovative services and collections to support the academic and research activities of the university community.

In 2014, Ayesha Abed Library continued to strengthen and expand its collections and its services by purchasing and subscribing to print and electronic resources and to developing and maintaining the required technical infrastructure for accessing these resources. It has been a significant year for the library.

The library was able to extend the range and depth of the collection by subscribing to thousands of e-journals and databases. In 2014, 959 printed books and over 10,000 e-books were added to the main collection. Additionally, the total number of other documents (Theses, Dissertations, Internship Reports, Annual Reports, and others) uploaded into Dspace was 1001 (<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd>).

The library conducted 55 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 several training and workshops in order to improve their professional and technical skills. The library conducted training programs on Koha (an Integrated Library System), MARC 21 (Machine-Readable Cataloging), and Dspace (an institutional repository software) for the Librarians and IT staff of the British Council Library, the Bangladesh Parliament Library, and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, helping them to establish their own Integrated Library System (Koha) and Institutional Repository (Dspace).

New Services in 2014

Turnitin@BRACU

In 2014, BRAC University library subscribed to Turnitin, online anti-plagiarism software available



for faculty to use with their classes. This web service allows instructors to check

students' work for potential plagiarism by comparing it against the world's largest comparison database. An instructional manual has also been prepared for using Turnitin, available at - <http://library.bracu.ac.bd/main/turnitin-instructor-manual>

Training/Workshop Conducted in 2014



Training on Koha and MARC 21 for Bangladesh British Council librarians, May 2014



Training on Dspace for Parliament Librarians, May 2014



Training on Discovery Tool for System Librarian, St. Paul's University, Kenya under Next-Generation Library Leaders grants programme of INASP, February 2014



Inauguration Ceremony of e-Library, Ministry for Disaster Management and Relief, July 2014 supported by BRAC University Library

Staff Training, Development, and Conference Participation

Training is a critical element of excellent staff performance. Library staff participated in the following workshops, seminars, and conferences during the year.

- Ms. Hasina Afroz, University Librarian, BRAC University visited University of Malay Library as invited guest in May 2014, sharing her experience about the implementation of digital library technologies at BRAC University library..



Seminar at University of Malaya conducted by University Librarian, Ms. Hasina Afroz

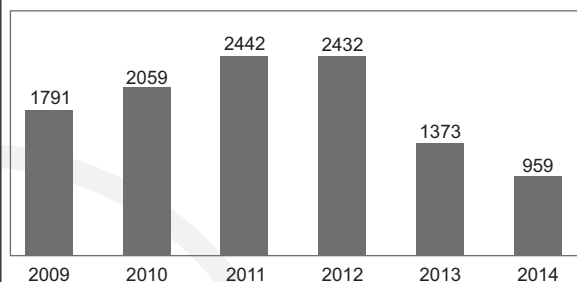
- Ms. Asma Khatun, Senior Assistant Librarian, and Mr. A. N. M. Sabbir, Assistant Librarian, attended the training programme on “Advanced Certificate Course on Modern Library Practices Management” from July 30th to September 23rd 2014 at the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chennai, India. This training programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). They also participated in a Conference on Digital Libraries in India and presented papers.

- Ms. Asma Khatun and Mr. A. N. M. Sabbir attending the Training Programme on Advanced Certificate Course on Modern Library Practices Management, India

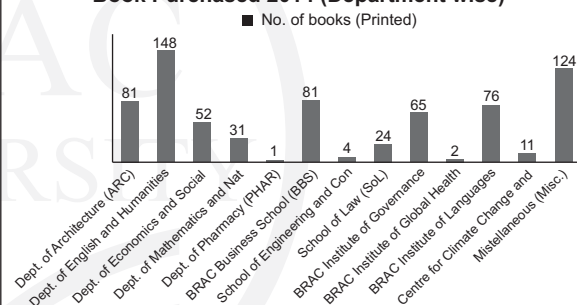
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Purchasing Summary

Book Purchased (Printed) 2009-2014

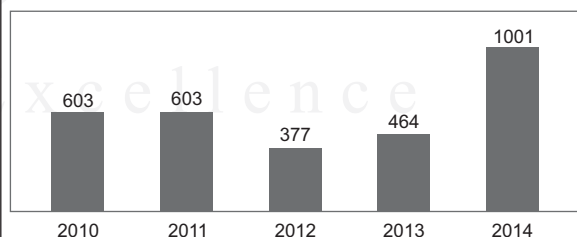


Book Purchased 2014 (Department wise)

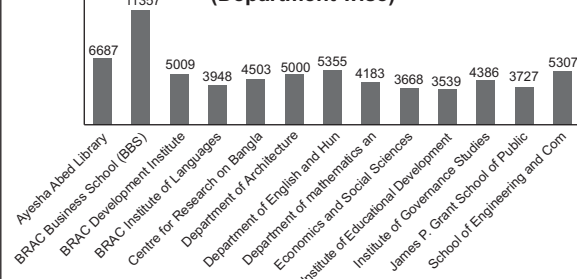


Institutional Repository Statistics

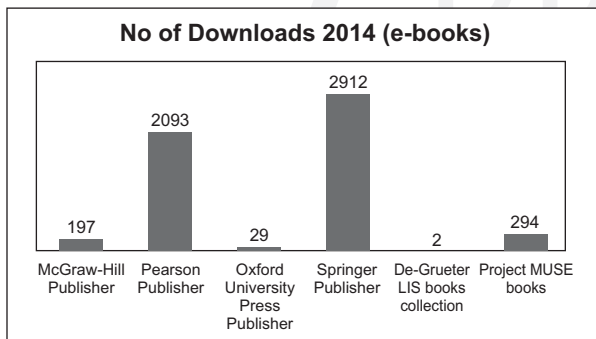
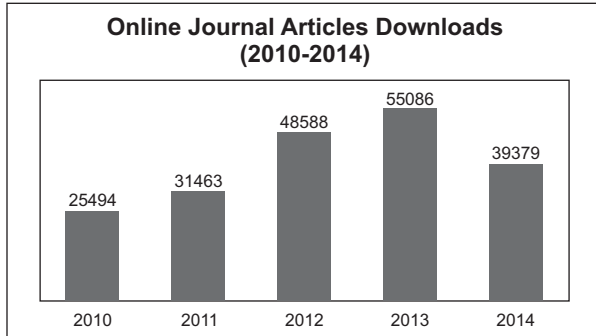
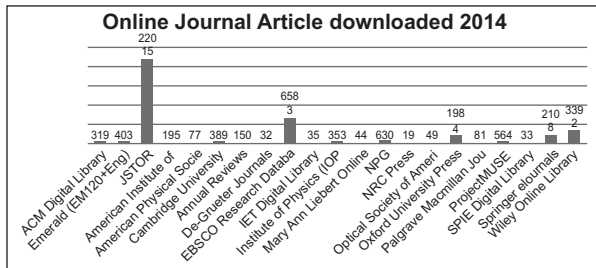
Number of Items uploaded into dspace (<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd>) (2010-2014)



No of items viewed 2014 (Dspace) (Department wise)



Online Journal and e-Book Statistics



Circulation Statistic

Loans and Borrowing Activity 2011-2014				
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Loans	5962	9204	10320	11433
Total Renewals	19368	38736	51640	59061
Total Holds	441	860	917	1246

Information Literacy Classes: Statistics

Information Literacy (2010-2014) (Training in using library and information resources)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sessions	51	71	91	95	55
Participants	1255	1500	2400	2565	1415

Number of Visits to Ayesha Abed Library Website (Google Analytics): <http://library.bracu.ac.bd>

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Page Views	4195	12343	11494	7462	4713	9206	6603	5174	5549	8208	7144	5721
Users	1378	2314	3119	2273	1583	2208	1853	1659	1538	1727	1944	1760
Returning Visitors	44.20%	46.80%	48.60%	44.60%	47.20%	47.60%	45.40%	39.20%	42.80%	41%	44.30%	41.90%
New Visitors	55.80%	53.20%	51.40%	55.40%	52.80%	52.40%	54.60%	60.80%	57.20%	59%	55.70%	58.10%

BRAC University Administration

Overview

BRACU Administration plays a crucial role by providing administrative and logistical support to facilitate academic and other related activities of the university.

Core Functions of Administration

The Administration Office has a wide-ranging number of core functions which are integral to the smooth running of the university. Below are some of its core functions and responsibilities:

- Provide logistical support to ensure smooth running of all academic and nonacademic activities
- Provide support to the admission process
- Look after all fixed and variable assets
- Ensure maintenance of all assets
- Provide logistical support across the university
- Ensure high-level safety and security

- Ensure successful completion of any event of the university
- Ensure cleanliness of the university
- Provide and maintain transport facilities for faculty, staff, and students

Highlights 2014

- Successfully completed 9th Convocation with many kinds of logistical support
- Provided logistical support for admission tests every semester
- Provided support for conducting classes and exams
- Provided logistical support for all workshops, seminars, and conferences across the university
- Met all administrative requirements as established by the higher authorities of the university

Infrastructure and Assets of the University

Assets and Resources	Break down	Remarks
Total Rented Buildings 07	BRAC Buildings 02	Total space- 245,054 sft
	Others 04	
	Girls' Hostel 01	
Total Rooms 524	Classrooms 66	
	Computer Labs 25	
	Architecture Studios 08	
	Electrical and Electronic Engineering & 11	
	Electronic and Communication Engineering	
	Listening & Writing Lab 01	
	Faculty & Staff Rooms 413	
Other Fixed Assets	ACs 499	
	Furniture for Classroom for Students 3100	
Total Vehicles 26	Buses 02	
	Jeeps 03	
	Micro Buses 13	
	Avanza 03	
	Cars 05	
Staff Working Under BRACU Administration	Drivers 26	
	Office Assistants 95	
	Maintenance Staff 36	
	Telephone Operators 01	
	Gardeners 02	
	Security (BRAC) 93	Including RS & BIGD
	Cleaner (Out sourced) 42	

Counseling Unit

“Knowing others is Wisdom, knowing yourself is Enlightenment”- Lao Tzu



The college years bring with them rapid personal changes and important transitions in the lives of students. These experiences can be both exciting and daunting as students face a variety of challenges in personal development, academic performance and adjustment to university life. Many students experience life events or academic pressures that leave them feeling anxious, confused, lonely, angry, depressed or overwhelmed. In these situations, the students turn to many sources of support including family, friends, teachers, academic support, and professional counseling. With counseling support, students can learn to manage personal problems and situational crises, strategies to adjust to campus life and cope with academic stress, and develop self-awareness, personal responsibility, and skills for life-long learning.

Recognizing the importance of mental health support in students' development and wellbeing, BRAC University has been offering counseling services since 2002. Following an extensive assessment of counseling needs in 2005, the Counseling Unit was formally established in the same year and extended to include the Residential Campus at Savar in 2008. Currently, the Counseling Unit of BRAC University is a vital part of the co-curricular programs and services offered by the Office of Student Affairs to support and guide the students throughout their university years.

In response to the growing need for counseling support, the Unit now includes ten professional counselors, supported by external consultants, and working under the supervision of the Dean of Student Affairs. The counselors are professionally trained specialists, with the rank of faculty member, and have developed a wide range of expertise in working with students and other members of the university community. The counselors provide a

wide range of support services and educational programs at the Mohakhali Campus, and in the Residential Campus at Savar.

The mission of the Counseling Unit is to create an environment that fosters personal development and psychological wellbeing through counseling, education and prevention. The counselors assist students in their adjustment to university life and help them to take full advantage of the academic and social environment at BRAC University. The Counseling Unit is committed to a holistic, student-centered approach that focuses on the development of the individual student as a whole person and strives to overcome barriers to student success in academic and personal growth. The counselors are committed to foster a non-threatening and non-judgmental environment in which strict confidentiality and ethical guidelines are maintained and individual and cultural differences are respected.



Psychosocial Services

Counseling Service

The Counseling Unit offers individual, paired, and group counseling to students and parents, as well as to the faculty members and staff of BRAC University according to the counselee's need. In such types of interpersonal interactions, individuals get an opportunity to deal with problems and issues and also to deepen and enhance personal growth and development. In the year 2014, the Unit provided such services to total six hundred and five clients where most of the clients were self-referred and some were referred by the BRAC University authority. And the total numbers of sessions were sixteen hundred and twenty five.

Workshop/Training

Every semester, the Unit also offers a variety of workshops and educational programs on mental



health issues, healthy lifestyles, preventive measures and positive habits on campus. In 2014, along with other regular topics (*Stress Management, Anger Management, Exam Anxiety, Mindfulness and Meditation, Acceptance and Goal Setting*), the Counseling Unit offered workshops on new and motivational topics for the students such as Effective Relationship Skills, Self Love and Self Respect, and Emotional Intelligence. Designed on the basis of the needs of the university community, these workshops were highly effective in providing wide range of psycho-education and promoting positive mental health awareness. In addition, under the coordination of the Office of Student Affairs of BRAC University, the Counseling Unit facilitated series of *Academic Skill Workshops* exclusively for first year students to help them to explore the importance of mental wellbeing for academic performance. The Unit also reaches out to other stakeholders of the university community through counseling sessions, educational programs and workshops for members of the faculty and administration at BRAC University. In 2014, the Unit arranged workshops on *Team Building, Meditation, and Stress Management, Effective Communication Skills* with the faculty members and staff to enhance the collaborative and sound work environment inside the university.

Seminar

One of the biggest challenges facing the Mental Health Movement is the lack of awareness among community regarding mental health. Therefore, raising community awareness about services and facilities available for mental health issues and



promoting the importance of psychological well-being, the Counseling Unit organizes seminars on different psychosocial issues where the focus is on prevention rather than cure. With this motto, the Counseling Unit organized a seminar on *“Positive Parenting Skills”* on 3 May, 2014. In addition, this unit also arranged a seminar and workshop on *“Parenting for Student Success and Wellbeing”* on 13 December, 2014 in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, BRAC University. Members of the Unit also facilitated three seminars on *“Awareness on Drug Dependency”* at the Residential Campus to educate youth about the negative consequences of drugs on 14 February, 13 June, and 27 September, 2014 sequentially.

The Counseling Unit of BRAC University arranged World Mental Health Awareness programs throughout the month of October, 2014. Awareness campaign included two workshops and a seminar. The Counseling Unit hosted the seminar to observe *“World Mental Health Day”* on 16 October, 2014 in collaboration with the Institute of Educational Development of BRAC University and the Gender, Justice and Diversity Program of BRAC. The focus was on 2014's theme *“Living with Schizophrenia”* along with other overall mental health issues. The speakers at the seminar included a psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, a counselor and the departmental coordinators of the Counseling Units of BRAC University and BRAC. Distinguished guests from BRAC University, BRAC and other organizations attended the occasion.



Additional Activities inside BRAC University

In 2014, the counselors also worked in close collaboration with other offices and programs, by facilitating a session in faculty orientations with the Teaching and Learning Centre, hosting short sessions on Parenting both in Mohakhali and Savar's Residential Semester, advising students of First Year Advising Team (FYAT) programs, conducting classes in Introduction to Psychology (PSY 101) and Psychology for Architecture (PSY 421) offered by the Department of Economics and

Social Sciences. In addition, the Unit conducted a number of promotional activities such as class visit, updating website, publication of the Counseling Unit Newsletter and so on to promote mental health awareness inside the campus. On need basis, the Unit also assisted and participated in various activities of the Residential Semester, such as BRAC Visit Program, Social Learning Lab, Parents Meeting, and Public Health Orientation Seminar.



Extended Support

The members of the Counseling Unit are also actively involved in a variety of training initiatives, educational programs, collaborative efforts, and outreach campaigns outside the university. From last four years, the Unit has been facilitating motivational session for the students of Medha Bikash Program and RAI Foundation scholarship recipients under the BRAC Education Program (BEP), BRAC. In 2014, the Unit conducted three sessions for the RAI Foundation scholarship recipients and thirteen sessions for three hundred and sixty eight participants of the Medha Bikash Program.

Of 2014, another flagship program in which the Counseling Unit and the Institute of Educational Development of BRAC University worked in collaboration to train psychosocial helpers who will provide mental health support to street children, under BRAC's Urban Street Children Program



titled *Skill Development: Project 'Urban Street Children Program'*. The counselors of BRAC University worked in developing Training of Trainers (ToT) modules and session-based modules. The counselors also facilitated five days of training with the psychosocial helpers from May 04-08, 2014.

Community Service

The Counseling Unit of BRAC University is dedicated to sharing its collective mental health expertise, building collaborative opportunities, and providing education and leadership at the university and local and national levels.

Professional Skills Development

BRAC University highly appreciates and encourages the personal and professional development of its faculty members and staff. In the year 2014, members of the Counseling Unit attended different trainings and workshops including *"Multi-Level Learning"*; Introductory, Diploma and Advanced Courses on *"Transactional Analysis"*; training on *"Psychotraumatology and Stabilization, EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)"*; training on *"Training of Trainers on Counseling Standards and Protocols"*; workshop on *"Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction"*; Expert Workshop on *"Drafting a Curriculum for Counselors in Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Gender (SRHRG)"*; workshop on *"Heart Centered Play Therapy"*.



Finance and Accounts Department

The BRACU Finance and Accounts Department operates under the supervision of the Treasurer, who is directly appointed by the Chancellor (President-Government Republic of Bangladesh). The Finance and Accounts Department receives tuition, admission, and other fees from the students as well as 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 Statements, Scholarship Reports, Provident Fund Financial Statements, and Donor Reports as well as reports related to taxation

activities in respect to the university and its faculty and staff.

The Finance and Accounts Department also maintains the accounts and finance-related activities of more than 25 donor-funded projects as well as student 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 analysis and reports to the management and assists in the policy and decision-making process of BRAC University.

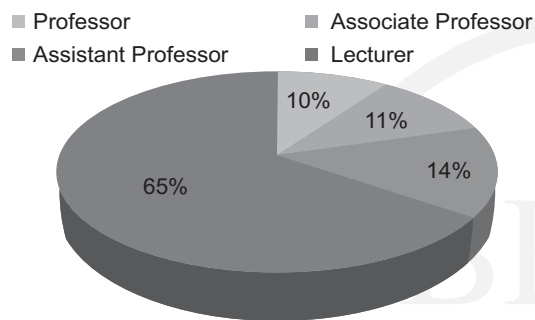


Inspiring Excellence

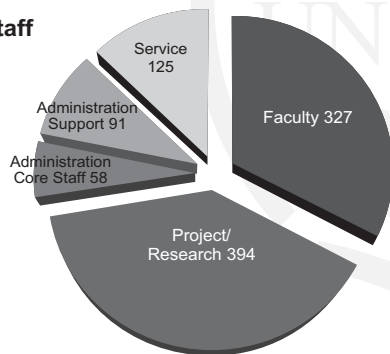
Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department (HRD) at 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 build a culture that respects all of its members and celebrates their diversity and contributions as well as valuing their integrity, creativity and accomplishments.

Faculty Member Designation Ratio

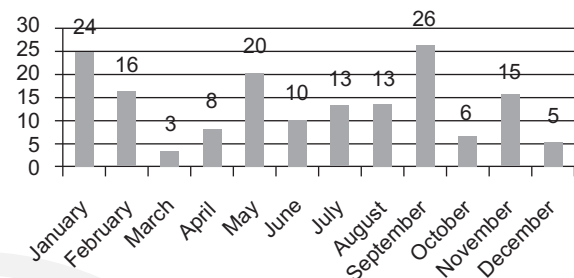


Total Staff



The department also works towards achieving the objective of making BRAC University a Centre of Excellence.

Monthly Joining Report



The HRD is practicing core HR functions towards the goal of human resources development. BRACU HRD covers the general HR functions: a) recruitment and selection, b) training and development, c) compensation and benefits, and d) performance appraisal.

HRD follows the University Grants Commission guidelines to shape its recruitment policy with the objective of recruiting talented faculty members and administrative staff. In 2014, a total of 159 employees joined in BRAC University as faculty, admin staff, project staff, and service staff.

There are separate human resource policies for academic and non-academic staff. These policies include all the issues pertinent to human resource management at BRAC University. A code of conduct on sexual harassment is in place and followed by all employees working at BRAC University.

Medical Center

BRAC University Medical Center provides various medical services to its students, faculty and staff. The center is well equipped to provide necessary emergency medical services, advice and referral services to the University community. There are two medical centers: one on the main campus of Mohakhali and the other on the residential campus at Savar. Both the Medical Centers have qualified and professional doctors and nurses.



Main Campus, Mohakhali



Residential Campus, Savar

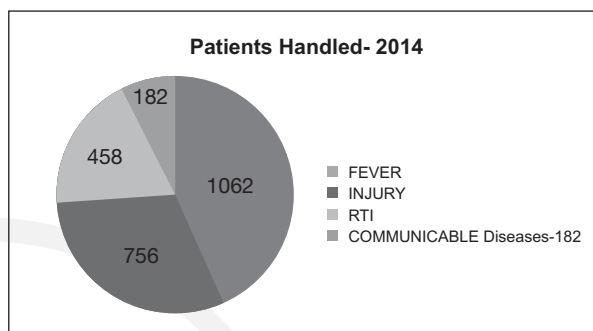
Main Campus, Mohakhali Residential Campus, Savar

Highlights

The year 2014 was a busy year for the medical team. Major activities are listed below

- A total of 6,003 patients (3,525 from main campus and 2,478 from the residential campus) attended and received prescriptions

and/or medical advice from the medical team. Of these, 3,827 (64%) patients were students and 2,176 (36%) were faculty or staff members.



- The most common complaints (1,062) were viral fever and the common cold. Other issues were respiratory tract infections (458), trauma and burn injuries (756), enteric fever (69), viral hepatitis (57), chicken pox (41), conjunctivitis (56), and others problems (3,404).
- Vaccines were provided against tetanus, hepatitis, and cervical carcinoma to 61 patients.
- The Medical Team also: Organized awareness programs on different seasonal and common diseases on the university premises such as prevention from winter diseases, summer diseases
- Organized anti-smoking campaign
- Prepared health profiles for 2,224 freshmen
- Provided general health check-ups for 3,524 newly admitted students as well as students who attended the residential semester and
- Ensured acceptable standards of Public Health and Sanitation at the university campuses and hostels by collecting drinking water samples from every building and testing them twice in a month. The microbiological testing was done at the MNS department of BRACU/ icddr, b to ensure WHO-standards of drinking water.

Office of Career Services & Alumni Relations



Having begun its operation in 2004 the Office of Career Services & Alumni Relations (OCSAR) is poised to consolidate and expand its range of services for students, to ensure their optimal preparedness for the world of work and their induction as active members of a revamped, democratically mandated alumni body.

The core programmes of the OCSAR include:

- career counseling
- CV writing
- interview skills
- the Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP)
- mock interview sessions
- career clinics
- individual advising
- internships
- workshops and seminars
- on-campus recruitment events
- job placements and work experience opportunities
- the Community Service Internship Program (CSIP)
- the English proficiency campaign across BRAC University
- the Leadership Program; and
- strengthening and enhancing relations with the Alumni Association of BRAC University and championing the objective of maintaining strong associations between departments and their alumni through the development of democratic alumni networks.

All of the OCSAR' services and programs are continuously reviewed, with a view to creating a sharp and updated focus on developing the precise skill sets that are necessary for graduate students to excel in the job market. Furthermore, through the workshop and seminar sessions which are organized as an integral part of the OCSAR offering, graduates are given a strategic understanding of the employment market and key issues that impact on it.

The proposed consolidation and expansion of the OCSAR will propel the career services function of BRAC University to national prominence as we begin consolidating our objective of establishing a robust industry-university platform. Through intensive preparatory work on all aspects of resume writing and presentation and interview skills, coupled with one-to-one advisory sessions for every graduating student and a range of other support services and career events, this office is set to evolve the foremost career services in the country and one which compares favorably with the best career services globally.

Apart from dealing with these core issues, the OCSAR is engaged with a range of related strategic activities that are important for both graduating students and the University as a whole. These include:

- a) the Career Fair 2014, organized in conjunction with Prothom-alojobs, paved the way for the Career Fair to become an annual event; departmental career fairs will commence in 2015
- b) the redesign of the BRACU website which was done in conjunction with the Registrar's Office;
- c) the improvement of academia-industry collaboration;

- d) the extension of aspects of the Savar curriculum to the Mohakhali campus; and
- e) the coordination of international sponsorship opportunities

The Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), our flagship 13-week modular course is a unique, intensive course dedicated to preparing final year students for the world of work. The curriculum of the new PSDP goes beyond CV writing skills, job search skills and interview skills, also providing essential guidance to students on issues such as self-assessment, career exploration, the job search process as well as valuable exposure to further education and graduate school programmes. All of these are strengthened through systematic individual advising and career clinics. 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 seeking interns and employees. The mock interview process encourages and fosters academia-corporate relationships which the OCSAR has been actively developing with a view to constructing partnerships between the university and major employers across the economic sectors.

In order to provide students with maximum assistance regarding career choices, job search, and academic counseling, OCSAR has introduced an individual advising programme officially effective from summer 2013. This advising is not restricted to career services and academic help, but also goes beyond that to help students explore their strengths, interests, weakness and transferable skills. Students can seek help for personal issues too, especially if these, as often is the case, impact on their academic grades and general performance. The facilitators and advisors, who are the core staff of the OCSAR are trained to guide students to understand themselves; their passions and motives and rationalize their choices to pursue suitable career paths. The advisors will always be open to assist students, as well as encourage and motivate them in all that they pursue professionally and personally when required.

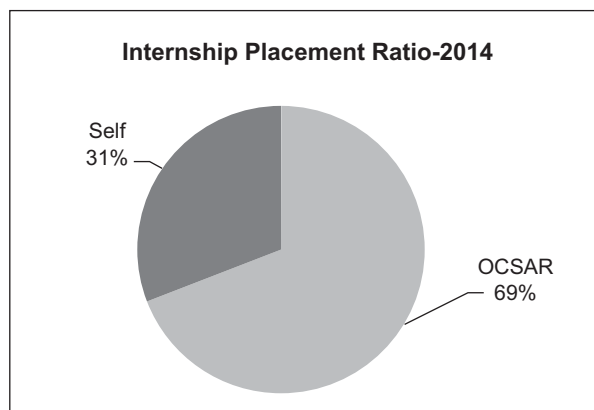
The BRAC University English Campaign is an initiative of the OCSAR & BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) in response to the need for English

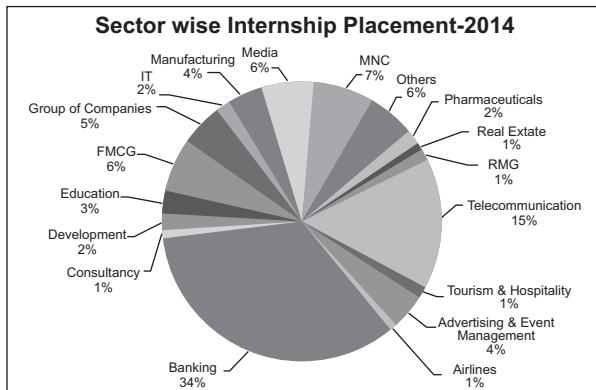
proficiency in an increasingly globalized world. True to its growing reputation as a reputable English Institution, BRAC University has designed the 'English Campaign' to improve the use and standard of spoken English at both its Savar and Mohakhali campuses. From students and staff, to faculty and non-academic departments, the Campaign is designed to be as enjoyable as it is productive.

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. Of these, 50 have completed the beginner level course and the remaining 50 staff attended the elementary level course. Further English Language courses for faculty and administrative staff are in planning. Other events like academia-industry debates, poetry recitals, English dramas, song performances, and writing competitions are designed for the students.

In the year 2014, OCSAR arranged internships for more than 300 Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) students and 130 Master of Business Administration (MBA) students. An additional 12 students from Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), 20 from English and Humanities (ENH) and 12 from Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) were placed in a variety of organizations according to their preferred choice of industry i.e. banking, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, advertising and event management, education, and other areas.

For these internships, 69% of the students were placed by OCSAR, and 31% of the students arranged internships by themselves in the year 2014, as illustrated in the following chart.





OCSAR is also keen to develop and strengthen the ethical foundation of our graduating students so that they enter the professional world with a real understanding of the nature of poverty, inequality, and injustice and also develop an inclination to make things better and assume some level of collective responsibility for the state of the nation and society. The program is about students embracing the notion of equality and dignity of labor and the intrinsic worth of every human being, which underpins our approach to community service. As part of this initiative, OCSAR in partnership with BRAC and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) has embarked on an important initiative of Community Service Internship Program (CSIP), which is a means of formalizing and prioritizing the importance of experiential learning through effective community engagement.

In this regard, the OCSAR hosted a vibrant dialogue session among the students on CSIP on 4th December, 2014 in conjunction with BRAC University Community Service Club (BUCSC). Representatives from VSO and BRAC emphasized how CSIP can add value to a student's CV while they can also serve the community and get a real picture of Bangladesh. OCSAR has recently placed a number of students from the BRAC Business School in VSO Bangladesh.

On 22nd December 2014, the OCSAR met with key organizations of the BRAC family with a view to generating collaborative work on the progression of BRAC University graduates in the professional world. The idea was to discuss and agree on initiatives amongst ourselves that can facilitate employment opportunities for BRACU graduates whilst fulfilling the talent needs within BRAC entities. Human Resource heads from BRAC Bank, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage, BRAC ITS, and bKash joined the meeting.

The OCSAR put emphasis on identifying ongoing trends of the current job market and accurately assessing the talent requirement needs of employers. The OCSAR also asked for general assessment regarding BRACU graduates and their overall performances in the work arena as employees and interns within the BRAC family.

All heads and HR personnel who attended the meeting were enthusiastic and eager about building long term, strong relations, particularly within the BRAC 'family'. They proposed to continue such meetings, at least once each semester. They pointed out some specific sectors where joint initiatives can be taken. The director of OCSAR welcomed all of their suggestions and assured them of continuing such meetings in order to strengthen bilateral relationships.

OCSAR is working with Corporate Social Responsibility Centre (CSR) and the United Nations Global Compact Network (UNGCN) Bangladesh to generate a discourse on CSR and the higher education sector and, particularly, the use of CSR to foster academia-industry collaboration in the career progression interest of graduating students. OCSAR is in discussion with CSR Centre to assess the impact of (CSR) on the education sector and consider strategic use of CSR to impact undergraduate unemployment.

In order to keep all graduates connected to the University, the OCSAR along with BRAC University alumni are working together to track all graduate students. By maintaining ties with students who graduated as far back as the University's inception, the OCSAR 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 OCSAR and the priorities of BRAC University.

OCSAR's future objective is to facilitate the reconfiguration of the Alumni Relations as a democratic, inclusive and effective champion of the graduating student in particular and at the same time foster BRAC University's broader aspirations of achieving global excellence. We expect to have a general meeting of the Alumni and a comprehensive election process early in 2015 to elect a new executive committee to carry forward the objectives of the association and evolve as one of the most active and vibrant alumni bodies of any university in the region.

Major Highlights



BRAC University Prothom-aloJobs Career Fair 2014

With the aim of tackling graduate unemployment through academia-industry collaboration, the OCSAR in cooperation with Prothom-alojobs organized a major career fair on April 04-05, 2014 at the Westin Dhaka.

Other Important Events



Mock Interview Sessions, final component of the PSDP.

The purpose of this career fair was to establish and foster a long term relationship between industry and academia by connecting employers and applicants so that graduating students get an idea of job prospects in a range of professional areas while employers can get an idea of the supply of the students from different sectors. The two-day event engaged around 50 employers from all key sectors of the economy and involved all departments and institutes of the university as well as a host of corporate and public sector leaders and key entrepreneurs and captains of industry.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG, Founder & Chairperson of BRAC and the Board of Trustees, BRAC University, inaugurated the event along with other respected guests. He also graced the event with his presence on the second day as he visited each of the stalls.



Dialogue Session on "Community Service Internship Program", 4th December, 2014.



Seminar on "Practices of Equal Opportunity Employment in Bangladesh", 3rd October, 2013.



Roundtable Discussion on "Tackling Graduate Unemployment: The Need for University-Industry Cooperation", 16th November, 2013.



Job Placement in Job Tessio; A Japanese Company, 14th August, 2014.



Recruitment opportunity in Therap Services organized by the OCSAR, 20th September, 2014.



Inspiring Excellence

Office of Co-curricular Activities

BRAC University's mission is to achieve excellence in well-rounded education. The components of any well-rounded education, that is learning, development and identity formation, are interactive and add to each other. The students can experience all of these by participating in co-curricular activities along with regular studies. Dr. Aparna Islam (Director); Mr. Amir Ebn Sharif (Assistant Director); Mr. Shazzad Hossain (Student Affairs Officer); Ms. Sharmistha Das (Department Coordination Officer) are the members of Office of Co-Curricular Activities (OCA) who are always supervising the activities of clubs and forums to make the co-curricular arena of the university vibrant and student oriented.

The OCA emphasizes the wholeness of the university experience through synchronized development of body, mind and spirit. The main objectives of the OCA are to create an environment for students' spontaneous participation in co-curricular activities, create leaders for future, and provide opportunities for community service activities. The OCA provides full support in this respect by supervising, assisting, facilitating, encouraging activities of student clubs and forums. Furthermore the OCA enforces the teacher-student relationship and liaises with other universities, organizations and student bodies at national and international levels.

Clubs and Forums

The co-curricular arena of the university is 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 OCA supervises the activities with the help of an assistant director and student affairs officers. The 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 who have major contribution to the activities 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.

There are 37 student clubs and forums in different categories: Cultures/Films; Debate/Moot; Business/Economics; Heritage/Arts; Social welfare/Community services; International; Entrepreneurial; Subject-related; Sports; Science; Adventure/Environment.

Highlights of Events and Achievements

The university's cultural activities are done under the supervision of the OCA. Some of the highlighted events and achievements are as follows.

- The BRAC University Club in association with BRAC highlighted many issues through events and activities. The programmes included an Art Competition for Street Children, a seminar on Children's' Rights chaired by Adv. Sultana Kamal, and a Women's Day celebration.
- The Adventure Club organized a Study Tour, Club Fair and a Cycling & Hiking programme as well as a Seminar termed "Tourism: A Pathway to Economic Development and Magazine Publishing" (Adventure Bangladesh)
- BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) organized a seminar on 'Innovative Strategies in a Rapidly Changing Environment.' It also held a face-to-face fresher's orientation in the Club Fair.



Seminar on "Innovative Strategies in a Rapidly Changing Environment"

- The Communication & Language Club invited Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed for a talk show on Bangla language.
- The Computer Club held seminars on Career Guidance and the National Celebration on International Software Freedom Day as well as a workshop on Android and Google I/O with Google Developer Group of Dhaka.

- The Cultural Club arranged an Annual Cultural Competition, Rhythm Revive in the Fresher's Orientation, an inter-music competition named Music Grunge, and the annual Jolsha, which is a talent hunt competition.
- The groups from the Debating Club participated in a Debate Tournament, the World Debate Championship, and the China British Parliament Debate



BRAC University becomes World Debate Champion

- The Drama & Theater Forum held Induction for the Fresher's Orientation, organized Dramatic - a Drama Show & competition that occurs each semester, and went for a study tour.
- The Film Club organized a weekly movie show, Da Circle for the Fresher's Orientation, and a film festival. They also arranged an Intro-View session, hosted a film celebrity evening with Ananta Jalil as the chief guest, and went for a study tour.
- The Heritage Forum arranged an experience sharing session with Nishat Majumdar, a club fair, and celebrations of National Victory Day, Pitha Utshob, International Mother Language Day, and National Independence Day.



Visit to Shaheed Minar by the Heritage Forum.

- The International Association Business & Communicators (IABC) arranged a short tour to Jamuna Resort, IABC Insight, and BU Global Model United Nations at Savar campus.
- The Robotics Club arranged a RMA ROBORACE ROBOTIC competition and WALT app marathon. They also held a discussion on project management on robots.
- Robot fights competition in the history of Bangladesh robotics on 27th November, 2014 at the Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET). BRAC UNIVERSITY got 2nd & 3rd Position there. Both Teams are from Robotics Club of BRAC UNIVERSITY. Team "BRAC SESTO ELEMENTO"- 1st Runner-up (left) & Team "BRAC BACK BENCHERS"- 2nd Runner-up (Right). Team members of SESTO ELEMENTO include Md. Shadman Sakib & Tahmid Rashid.
- BRAC University sent the student representatives of ROBOTICS club from Bangladesh to the 2nd UNISEC-Global Meeting, which took place at the Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan, from 18 November – 20 November, 2014. UNISEC-



Visit to Sriti Soudho by the Heritage Forum

Global is an international non-profit organization of university students facilitating and promoting practical space development activities at university level, such as designing, developing, manufacturing, launching, and operating micro/nano/pico satellites and rockets, including their payloads. There, they presented the conceptual model of a nano-satellite, which BRAC University wishes to build in Bangladesh. They are the Researchers of Robotics Club of BRAC University [ROBU]. Abdulla Hil Kafi is the fourth President of ROBU and Maisun Ibn Monowar is Head of its the research & development section. Now they are researching nano satellites at Kyusyu Institute of Technology, Japan as special audit students and the members of Horyu-4 satellite team.



Team of "BRAC SESTO ELEMENTO" from Robotics Club BRAC University

2nd UNISEC Global meeting

- The Moot Court Society of BRAC University was the Champion in National Rounds of the 10th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition, 2014, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

10th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition 2014, Regional Rounds, Tehran, Iran



Price Media Law Moot Court Competition 2014, South Asia Rounds, New Delhi, India.

- The BRAC University Natural Science Club (BUNSC) organized a Seminar on Cancer Awareness on the 3rd December, 2014 at the

Indoor Games of BRAC University. The chief attentions of the seminar were Dr. Muhammad Tawfique, Consultant Pediatrics and Pediatrics Hematology and Oncology, Square Hospital and Dr. Rajesh Balakrishnan, MD, DNB Clinical Oncology and Radiotherapy, Square Hospital.



BRAC University Natural Science Club (BUNSC) organized a Seminar on Cancer Awareness

- The Three Club Fair celebrated by the student of BRAC University under the supervision of Office of Co-Curricular Activities in 2014



Club fair organized by the students of the BIZBEE club (summer 2014), the Film Club (Spring 2014) in collaboration of Heritage Forum with Art Society (Fall 2014)



Office of Co-Curricular Activities celebrated the Pahela Baishak - 1421 on the university premises.

Office of the Registrar

The Registrar's Office supports the academic mission of the University by providing management and administrative support and assistance to the academic community. This is achieved in accordance with academic policies and procedures established by the Private University Act 2010, rules and regulations formulated by the Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission, the Board of Trustees, Syndicate and Academic Council. The Registrar's Office participates and plays a key role in the review, development and enforcement of the goals and objectives of the University.

The Office serves as the 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 decentralised environment.

It offers a wide range of academic and administrative services associated with admissions, records, registration, advising, graduation services, academic space management and scheduling for students, faculty, and staff. It is also responsible for the compliance with rules and regulations, policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

The Office is divided into three operating Units:

1. The Admission Unit
2. The Program and Registration Unit
3. The Examination Unit

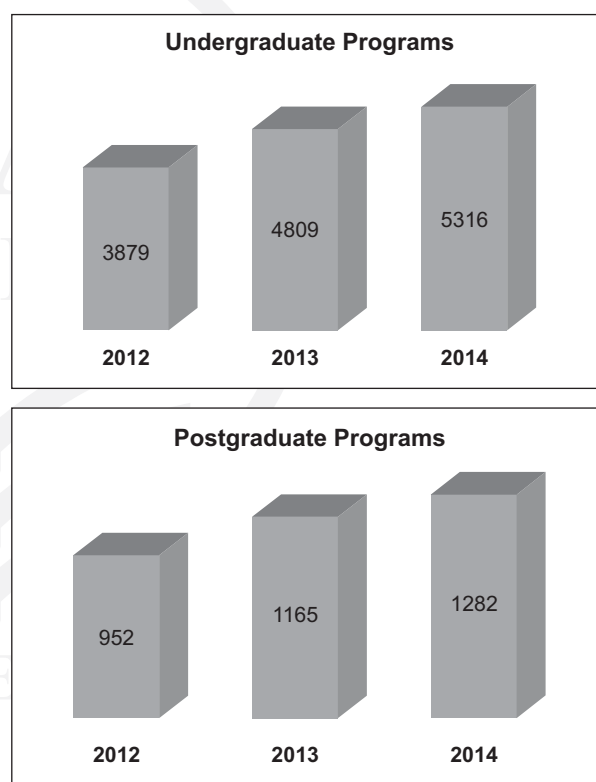
ADMISSION UNIT

At the outset of BRAC University in 2001, Admission Unit started its activities for student enrollment under Registrar's office. This Unit plays an important role of admission process efficiently. This section fulfills all requirements of students, guardians and visitors regarding admission.

The table below shows an overview of registered students of the years 2012 to 2014.

Year	Undergraduate			Postgraduate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2012	2232	1647	3879	596	356	952
2013	2815	1994	4809	697	468	1165
2014	3173	2143	5316	723	559	1282

A comparison overview of registered students of the years 2012 to 2014



PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION UNIT

The Program and Registration is an important unit of the Registrar's office. This unit is dedicated primarily to the service of faculties and students' through scheduling, registration, planning academic calendar, reporting as well as assisting the deans, chairpersons, directors and other administrative offices.

BRAC University 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh		YEAR PLANNER 2014											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January 2015
Sunday			30			1	Sunday	31		30			
Monday			31			2	Monday		1		1		
Tuesday				1		3	Tuesday	2		2			
Wednesday	1			2		4	Wednesday	3	3	3			
Thursday	2			3	1	5	Thursday	4	4	4			1
Friday	3			4	2	6	Friday	5	5	5			2
Saturday	4	1	1	5	3	7	Saturday	6	6	6	1	6	3
Sunday	5	2	2	6	4	8	Sunday	7	7	7	2	7	4
Monday	6	3	3	7	5	9	Monday	8	8	8	3	8	5
Tuesday	7	4	4	8	6	10	Tuesday	9	9	9	4	9	6
Wednesday	8	5	5	9	7	11	Wednesday	10	10	10	5	10	7
Thursday	9	6	6	10	8	12	Thursday	11	11	11	6	11	8
Friday	10	7	7	11	9	13	Friday	12	12	12	7	12	9
Saturday	11	8	8	12	10	14	Saturday	13	13	13	8	13	10
Sunday	12	9	9	13	11	15	Sunday	14	14	14	9	14	11
Monday	13	10	10	14	12	16	Monday	15	15	15	10	15	12
Tuesday	14	11	11	15	13	17	Tuesday	16	16	16	11	16	13
Wednesday	15	12	12	16	14	18	Wednesday	17	17	17	12	17	14
Thursday	16	13	13	17	15	19	Thursday	18	18	18	13	18	15
Friday	17	14	14	18	16	20	Friday	19	19	19	14	19	16
Saturday	18	15	15	19	17	21	Saturday	20	20	20	15	20	17
Sunday	19	16	16	20	18	22	Sunday	21	21	21	16	21	18
Monday	20	17	17	21	19	23	Monday	22	22	22	17	22	19
Tuesday	21	18	18	22	20	24	Tuesday	23	23	23	18	23	20
Wednesday	22	19	19	23	21	25	Wednesday	24	24	24	19	24	21
Thursday	23	20	20	24	22	26	Thursday	25	25	25	20	25	22
Friday	24	21	21	25	23	27	Friday	26	26	26	21	26	23
Saturday	25	22	22	26	24	28	Saturday	27	27	27	22	27	24
Sunday	26	23	23	27	25	29	Sunday	28	28	28	23	28	25
Monday	27	24	24	28	26	30	Monday	29	29	29	24	29	26
Tuesday	28	25	25	29	27		Tuesday	30	30	30	25	30	27
Wednesday	29	26	26	30	28		Wednesday				26	31	28
Thursday	30	27			29		Thursday				27		29
Friday	31	28			30		Friday				28		30
Saturday		29			31		Saturday				29		31

The major tasks of this office includes the publication of semester course offerings, class and final examination scheduling and invigilation, classroom allocation for courses and admission test, ad hoc reporting to the management and fulfilling requests for students' information, coordinates university-wide course enrollment and registration using University Student Information System (USIS).

In 2014, total 1348 students attended Residential Semester (RS) among those 780 were boys and 568 were girls. The Residential Semester registration process was primed through this unit. Moreover, the support to more than seven thousand students' registration into courses in each semester had been completed 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 the students' record and academic information.

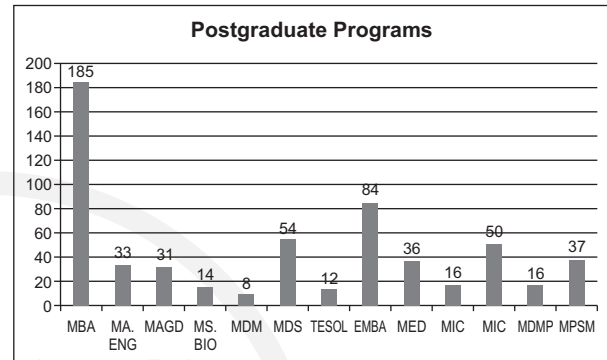
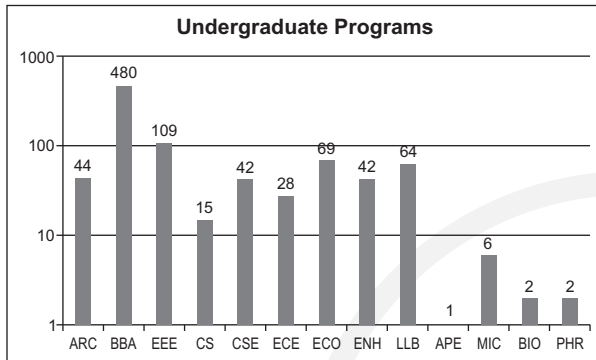
Examinations are conducted every semester during the period indicated in the academic calendar. The examination time-table are displayed on notice boards and the BRAC University website. The university views academic malpractice seriously and does not condone plagiarism or cheating in examinations. A 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 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 supported by the Examination Unit is the Convocation. In 2014 the 9th Convocation was held in Bangladesh Army Stadium. A total of 1495 students (904 from undergraduate, 576 from post graduate and 15 from diploma level) were awarded the degree on the event presided over by Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid,

Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRAC University. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh attended the Convocation as Special Guest. In total, approximately 5000 guests attended the function.



Students Status -9th BRAC University Convocation 2014

Inspiring Excellence

Office of Student Affairs



The learning experience at BRAC University extends beyond classrooms, lecture halls and textbooks. The university experience and life unfold in campus activities, club events, field tours, the residential campus, community service, internships, and career planning. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at BRAC University offers a wide complement of academic and co-curricular programmes to promote the core mission of liberal arts education and student development. Established in July 2013, the OSA houses essential student services and campus resources that provide academic, personal, and professional support to the students, facilitate teaching and learning, and augment university life.

The OSA brings together five autonomous offices into a system of student services framed by a holistic approach to academic and student support. These include the Counseling Unit, the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC), the Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR), the Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA), and the Relationship Management Office (RMO). In addition, the OSA offers several new services that support student learning and development, such as the first-year advising teams, academic and learning workshops, and targeted services for at-risk and probation students. The mission of OSA is to enhance the teaching, learning, and mentoring of students and to promote a culture of collegiality, creativity and leadership in the university and community.

The services of the OSA reach out to all stakeholders of the university community, from the students and parents to faculty and staff. The OSA works closely with academic departments, the

Registrar's Office, and faculty and staff members across the university to foster and support the academic success, personal wellbeing, and professional development of students.

Student Advising and Learning Support

The student advising and learning support services are designed to help students become independent and successful learners by improving their study skills and self-confidence, encouraging a positive attitude toward education, and preparing them for lifelong learning. At OSA, the faculty and staff intentionally engage students in a holistic program of development to provide support in the core areas of academic advising, instruction in academic skills, and remedial support. The Student Advising and Learning Services at OSA include the following.

First Year Advising Teams (FYAT)

The first year of university is trying for students as they encounter new opportunities, responsibilities, and expectations in an unfamiliar environment. For students entering the university with a diversity of educational backgrounds and experiences, the factors that can affect academic performance include the choice of major, course selection, faculty contact, personal motivation, study habits, quality of effort, peer culture, and campus life. The success or ease of transition into the campus culture and curriculum can also affect academic performance, especially in the early semesters. BRAC University's first year advising programme provides individual attention and group support to guide the academic progress and personal development of new students throughout the first year.



Following a pilot study in Fall 2013, the OSA formally launched the First Year Advising Teams (FYAT) in January 2014. The FYAT program is an integral component of the OSA's student-centered approach to informing, assessing, and mentoring all students during the first year at BRAC University. As a part of the freshman orientation programme each semester, new students are assigned to a FYAT, consisting of a Faculty Adviser and Peer Student Mentor, who facilitate their transition to the academic curriculum and university life. Each FYAT provides individual and group advising support to new students, and mentors their academic progress and personal development during their first three semesters. In this developmental advising approach, the advisers and mentors reach out to students, meet with them, identify the issues and situations contributing to their academic difficulty, set short and long term goals, and guide them in academic planning. By bringing together faculty and students (new and returning) from different departments within personalized and small group settings, the advising teams enhance faculty-student interactions and promote a sense of belonging and community across the university.

FYAT-DAY at Freshman Orientation



The FYAT Day is held as a part of the Freshman Orientation Program at the beginning of each semester. Held on the second day of orientation, the FYAT Day provided an opportunity for all new students to meet and interact with Faculty Advisers, Student Mentors, and other new

students in small group settings. The day-long event included group sessions with FYAT members, student presentations on the academic requirements and student services at BRACU, and an informal cultural session conducted by each of the FYAT group of new students. During 2014, the OSA organized the FYAT Day for Spring Semester on 1st February, Summer Semester on 17th May, and Fall Semester on 12th September 2014.

Briefing for FYAT Advisers and Mentors

Prior to each FYAT Day, the OSA conducted brief orientation sessions for the FYAT advisers and student mentors. During the sessions, the faculty advisers and student mentors from different departments had the opportunity to meet each other, learn about the aims and procedures of the FYAT program, and share advising techniques and tips. The 2014 briefing sessions were held on 31st January, 15th May and 11th September.



Meeting with Parents at Freshman Orientation

As a part of the Freshman Orientation Program each semester, the OSA arranges an interactive session for parents and guardians with senior members of the university. During the session, the Dean of Student Affairs introduces the student services and campus resources that support student learning and development at BRAC University. The session is also addressed by the Director of BIL, who speaks about the first-year curriculum and residential semester. In addition, the representatives of the various Student Affairs offices provide detailed overviews of their respective programmes and services for students. In 2014, the "Meeting with Parents" sessions were held in conjunction with the Spring Orientation on 26th January, Summer Orientation on 11th May, and Fall Orientation on 8th September 2014.

FYAT Residential Semester DAY

The month of June started with the FYAT Residential Semester Day for the Spring 2014 students, arranged by the OSA. It took place on the

7th of June where a selected group of advisers went to the Savar Campus to meet FYAT advisees who were in their Residential Semester. From the Spring 2014 students, 18 groups were identified and addressed in that programme.



FYAT Mentor Appreciation Day

The OSA organized FYAT Appreciation Day at the end of Fall semester 2014. The programme was mainly organized to thank the student peer mentors who had been involved with FYAT since Spring 2014 for their hard work throughout the year, assisting the first year students in their transition to the university life and providing valuable support to the faculty advisors. The peer mentors were honored with crests and certificates from the Vice Chancellor and the Dean of Student Affairs.

Academic Success Workshops (ASW)

BRAC University is committed to the academic progress and success of its students. Recognizing the diverse academic backgrounds, skills, and habits of the students, the OSA introduced a campus-wide programme of learning support services in January, 2014. Originally designed for academically struggling students, the learning skills workshops were expanded in May 2014 to serve undergraduate students throughout the academic year. These workshops are a semester-long series of instructional classes that prepare students for academic success at BRAC University. Open to all students, the workshops specifically target the freshman class in order to introduce new students to the rigors and requirements of higher education. Topics include academic expectations at BRAC University, developing successful academic skills and habits, midterm exam preparation, evaluating midterm performance, and final exam preparation strategies. Offered multiple times daily, each ASW installment runs for 2-3 weeks.

OSA also offers a special series of ASWs conducted by the Counseling Unit. Topics include increasing self-confidence, managing stress and exam anxiety, gaining confidence in public speaking, acceptance and goal setting. Apart from these, OSA is planning specialized ASWs to meet the specific needs of the students in the Pharmacy Department. To help the students in 100-level courses, the OSA also coordinates tutorials for departments such as for Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Computer Science and Engineering, and the School of Law.

Probation Advising and Student Support (PASS)

As a part of the BRAC University's commitment to academic standards and student success, the OSA launched a dedicated program of probation removal and retention efforts in May 2014. The Probation Advising and Student Support programme (PASS) offers a range of departmental and general academic support to assist students in removing their probation status and embarking on the path to academic success. In addition to meeting with their departmental and first-year advisers, all probation students are required to regularly meet with probation advisers throughout the semester. Located in the OSA, the probation advisers provide individual advising sessions to assess student needs, monitor academic performance, and refer them to the appropriate resources. As a spin-off from the ASW series, the OSA also offers semester-long PASS workshops that provide targeted attention to probation and at-risk students. The topics of the workshop series include reasons for failing and strategies to improve performance, preparing for-midterms, evaluating mid-term performance and planning for the remedial, and tips for final exam preparation. The OSA works in close collaboration with academic departments and the Registrar's Office to identify at-risk and probation students, coordinate departmental tutorials, and refer students to the appropriate advising and learning services.

Seminar and Workshop on Parenting for Student Success & Wellbeing

The seminar and workshop "Parenting for Student Success & Wellbeing" was organized by OSA in collaboration with FYAT, the Counseling Unit, and the TLC. The programme took place on December 13, 2014. The interactive sessions were designed to explore the challenges and supports for both

students and parents at BRAC University. The main objectives of this seminar were to gather information from the parents about the academic progress and personal wellbeing of their son/daughter during the first year of university life and to promote and convey the importance of parents' contributions to student development, particularly during their first year at the university. The speakers at the seminar and workshop included the following individuals: Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL); Professor Riaz P. Khan, Dean of Student Affairs, and; Ms. Farida Akhtar, Psychologist and Consultant of the Counseling Unit. In addition, the interactive sessions were moderated by the faculty members of the OSA.



Participation in Workshop/Conference/Forum

Professor Riaz P. Khan, Dean Student Affairs & Director of TLC, was invited to the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) held in Doha, Qatar from November 4-6, 2014. The topic of this year's summit was "Imagine-Create-Learn: Creativity at the Heart of Education."

Professor Khan was a discussant at the "Speaker's Forum: Secularism and Faith-based Development" organized by BRAC University and Georgetown University, on November 22, 2014.

Professor Khan presented a lecture on "Political Conflicts and the History of Caretaker Governments in Bangladesh" during a two-day training program for the UK High Commission held on November 24 and 30, 2014.

Raquib Quasem and Md. Solaiman Jony, Lecturers TLC and OSA attended a day-long workshop on Research Ethics on June 16, 2014 at James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH). Dr. Richard Cash, Faculty and Professor, Harvard

School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA and JPGSPH, BRAC University, and Dr. Malabika Sarker, Professor, JPGSPH, BRAC University facilitated the workshop.

Raquib Quasem and Tanjia Afrin Turin, Lecturers attended a day-long workshop on "Bridging the Gap: Facilitating Student-Centered Learning", which was jointly organized by University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and U.S. Embassy Dhaka on November 1, 2014.

Md. Solaiman Jony participated in a training course on Quantitative Research Methods. It continued for five days starting from 9-13 November, 2014. The training was organized by the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University.

New Faces at OSA

Mr. Raquib Quasem joined the OSA and TLC as Lecturer III on May 2014. He completed his Bachelor of Law with Honors from the University of Wolverhampton, UK and Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from BIL at BRAC University. He started his career as an Executive Director at Quasem Textile Mills Limited. He has also served as a Physical Instructor at Pledge Harbor School & Sports Academy during his tenure. Prior to joining BRAC University, he was employed at the American Standard International School as the Academic Coordinator and Instructor of English Language Arts and Social Studies.

Md. Solaiman Jony joined the OSA and TLC as Lecturer II in May 2014. He completed his Bachelor of Education and Master of Education from the Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University. He started his career as a Research Associate in National Academy for Educational Management, and, prior to joining BRAC University, he worked on a project for the Ministry of Education, Bangladesh, called Secondary Education Quality Access and Enhancement Project (SEQAEP) as a Resource Teacher.

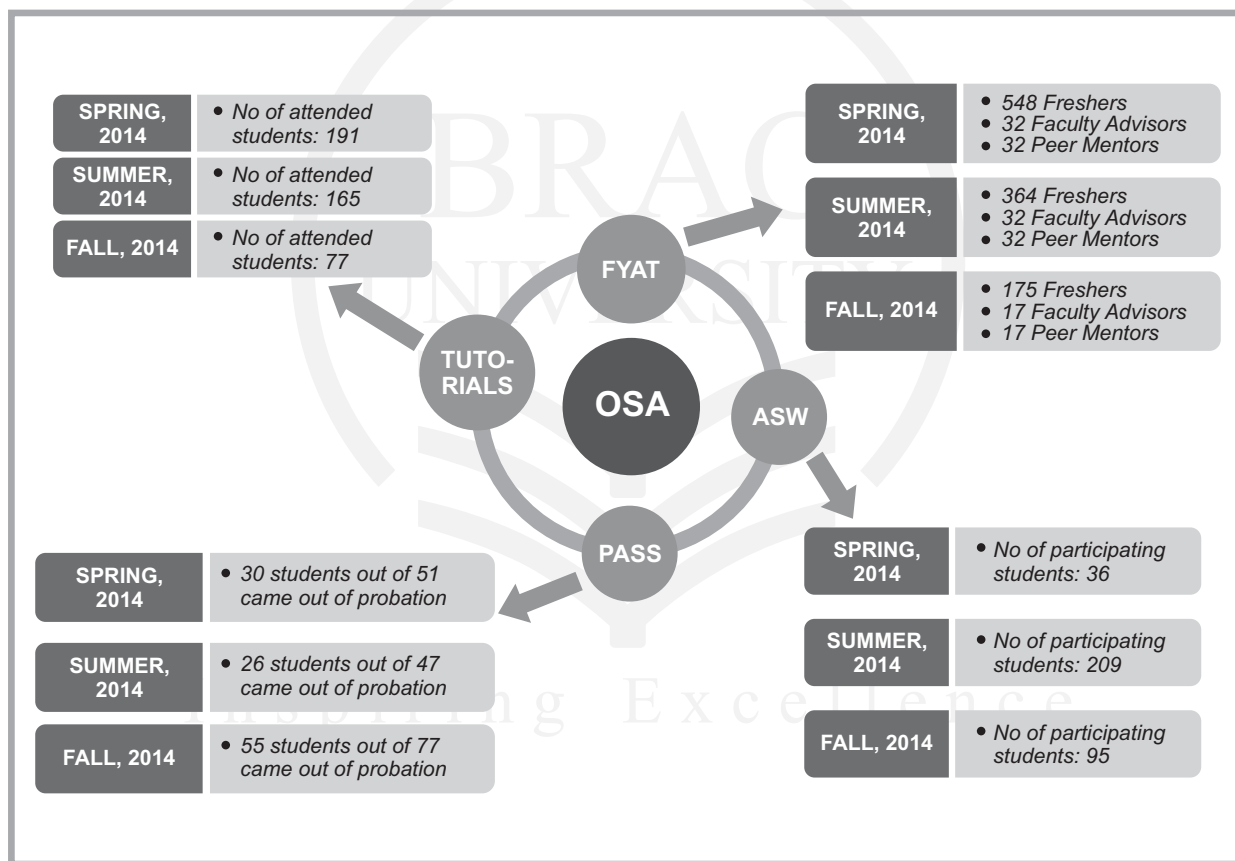
Fatema Israt Jahan joined the OSA and TLC on September, 2014 as a Lecturer I. She completed her Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education from the Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University. Previously, she

worked at Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University as Intern. She also taught at the Azimpur Agrani School.

Tanjia Afrin Turin joined the OSA and TLC in October 2014 as a Lecturer I. She completed her Bachelor of Arts from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and is completing Master of Arts in TESOL at BRAC University. She started her professional career as a Teacher at Maple Leaf International School. She is also taking German language courses from Goethe Institute in order to become a German language instructor.

Fariba Aziz joined OSA on November, 2014 as the Department Coordination Officer (DCO). She completed her Bachelor of Science in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from North South University and is pursuing Master of Business Administration at BRAC University. She started her professional career as a Management Trainee at DNS Software Limited. Subsequently, she taught as an English Language Teacher at Mastermind School.

Highlights OSA Program Statistics at a Glance



Procurement Department

Today different organizations employ various management techniques to carry out the efficient functioning of their departments. Procurement management, a process of identifying and obtaining goods and services, is one such where goods and services are acquired from different suppliers or firms, which helps an organization to save a significant amount of money when purchasing quality goods and services from outside.

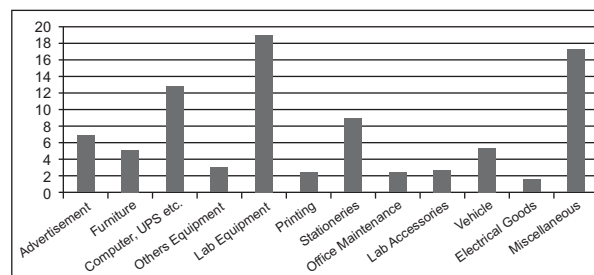
Efficient procurement implies a system that is operated in a timely manner with a minimum number of steps/layers while being responsive to the needs of the end user, leading to fulfillment of the organization's goals. BRAC University is required to procure a huge number of goods, equipment, and related services. For that, BRAC University has a separate unit for procurement which has been operating independently since April 2006. As procurement has been increasing in value and volume, the requirement of compliance with global and domestic procurement norms and standards has become important for BRAC University. That is why the department is adapting new strategies on a daily basis and operating under the Procurement Procedure for Goods and Services that was prepared in July 2007.

Moreover, every procurement activity is facilitated through electronic means, i.e. email, fax, and phone. The department is also distributing products or commodities in collaboration with a spacious warehouse where these items are stored.

Table: Major Procurement Category Data – 2014

Sl No	Category	Amount (in millions)
01	Advertisement	7.00
02	Furniture	5.124
03	Computer, UPS etc.	12.80
04	Others Equipment	3.00
05	Lab Equipment	19.00
06	Printing	2.50
07	Stationeries	9.00
08	Office Maintenance	2.50
09	Lab Accessories	2.685
10	Vehicle	5.387
11	Electrical Goods	1.60
11	Miscellaneous	17.276
Total -		87.872

Value Chart – 2014



Moreover, in 2014, the department procured goods and services equal to BDT 28.197 million for two institutes of BRAC University: the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). In 2014, the departments received a total of 1909 requisitions across the university.

The following activities are accomplished regularly in the fulfillment of procurement procedures:

- receiving requisitions from all departments, schools, institutes and then identifying needs
- checking completeness of needs, i.e. verifying specifications that meet users' needs
- checking cost reasonability by examining the market
- verifying the budget for needs
- verifying approval by the respective authorities
- determining globally acknowledged purchasing methods i.e. sole sourcing, open tendering method, limited tendering method, quotation method (formal quotation and spot quotation)
- planning of procurement, i.e. whether purchase are to be on cash or credit or tender
- identifying suppliers, i.e. single supplier or multiple suppliers based on procurement type and action
- evaluating existing suppliers' performance regarding products and services as well as verifying new suppliers' overall capability in association with the management team
- communicating with suppliers, i.e. advertising requests for quotation, requests for proposals, requests for information, or requests for tender as well as directly contacting the suppliers
- references for product/service quality are consulted

- forming different committees for procurement, i.e. the purchase committee, the procurement committee, the tender committee, the technical evaluation committee, the selection committee
- preparing comparative statements for evaluation and selection
- negotiating price, availability, delivery, and contract terms and customizing possibilities
- placing purchase orders and reorders and following up the vendors for quick delivery of materials
- requirements for follow-up services including installation, maintenance, and warranty are investigated
- managing returns and rejections professionally and promptly with suppliers
- reconciling supplier statements periodically and resolving vendor payments as well as disputes
- managing project-based logistics
- maintaining continuous rapport with all concerned departments regarding their needs

- planning strategy and transportation of products
- managing framework contracts with major suppliers
- exploring new vendors
- conducting market surveys
- maintaining proper documentation for further need

BRAC University's procurement department is staffed by four professionals with the requisite knowledge and skills to ensure that procurement decisions are made in the best interests of the university and in compliance with the university's policies. The university warehouse is staffed with two people responsible for storing and distributing consumable products and/or commodities to the end users.

The procurement department is dedicated to provide maximum services and is taking initiative in developing advanced software for procurement. The policy is also being reviewed to better fit to the changing needs of BRAC University.

Inspiring Excellence

Public Relations Office



The role of the Public Relations Office is to communicate the university's strategic messages to its key stake holders, which include the campus community (faculty, staff, and students at the University), prospective students, alumni, donors, the business community, and media throughout the nation.

The office serves as liaison between members of the media and campus constituents. The office provide services to place positive activities from the university community into key media markets, respond to requests from the media, and assist campus administrators, faculty, staff, and students with coordinating media requests.

The office maintains effective communication with various ministries, the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Board of Investment (BoI), travel agencies, embassies, and other offices to assist university staff on official tours and foreign students/faculty with relevant issues.

The scope of work at the PRO applies to BRAC University faculty and staff, and in some cases students, as they communicate with external individuals or organizations in the areas of

- governmental relations
- media and public relations
- international relations
- donor and alumni relations
- obtaining sponsorship of on-campus activities
- sponsorship of external activities, and
- product and vendor endorsements of advertising agencies.

Highlights

The office operate in cooperation with various offices and departments on campus to maintain the University's overall website. Currently, the Public Relations Office supports the Web Team in managing the Facebook pages as well as the YouTube and Twitter accounts of BRAC University.

The Public Relations Office also assist departments in accomplishing the university's goals of developing and implementing the strategic communications, public relations, and branding campaigns that increase public awareness and support of the university's programs and activities, as well enhance the rapport between the university and its key stakeholders.



The Public Relations team and organizers of BRAC University Prothom-alojobs National Career Fair 2014 with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson of BRAC and BRAC University's Board of Trustees.

Relationship Management Office

The Relationship Management Office (RMO) at BRAC University (BRACU) is the primary source of all university-related information and is considered a very essential part of BRACU as it is committed to the continuous improvement of the students' academic phase at BRACU. Our model for continuous improvement of student learning is based on four repetitive steps: plan-do-check-act.

One of the main responsibilities of the RMO is to manage the Scholarship/Financial Aid Program of BRACU. Since 2001, from the inception of BRACU, it has awarded scholarships and financial support to meritorious and needy students. As the number of students is increasing, the Board of Trustees of BRACU has decided to explore establishing an endowment fund. There have been additions to the growing list of endowments. In an effort to make the process of applying for scholarships easier and more

effective, RMO started an online scholarship application process.

The BRACU Scholarship/Financial Aid Program finances students of high ability to study and complete the Undergraduate and Graduate programs at the university. A total of 576 students from Undergraduate and Graduate programs were granted full/partial tuition waiver in the 2013-2014 year. The financial need for each applicant is assessed by the Scholarship Committee

Additionally, RMO assists BRACU female students to secure accommodation in the Female Hostel. The RMO is in-charge of overall supervision of the female hostel. Two full-time female hostel supers are directly guided by the RMO.

The RMO strives to continuously improve upon the comments/suggestions made by students and maintains an open-door policy.

BRAC University Scholarship/Financial Assistance

The following table identifies the several categories of scholarships that can be availed by BRACU students.

Sl. No.	Scholarship/ Financial Aid Category	Eligibility	Minimum GPA/CGPA	(%) of Tuition Fee Waiver
Scholarship				
1.	Performance- Based Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student taking 12 credits and above. Student from Pharmacy Department will have to take at least 18 credits. Completion of 30 credits. ** 	3.70	10%-100%
2.	Merit-Based Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who obtained GPA of 5.0 (without 4th subject) in SSC and HSC from Science, Arts & Commerce groups. Have 7 'A's in 'O' Level (in one sitting) & 3 'A's in 'A' Level. 	3.50	Up to 100%
Financial Aid				
3.	BRACU Regular Staff and Faculty Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any permanent faculty or staff member of BRAC University who wishes to study at BRACU can apply for up to 50% staff fee waiver. For further details please contact BRACU HRD. 	3.25	50%
4.	Children of BRACU Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular employees & faculty members can apply for tuition fee waiver for their two dependent children. *** 	3.25	50%-75%
5.	Siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second child irrespective of Gender. 	3.00	50%
6.	BRAC Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economically disadvantaged and orphans whose family's monthly income not more than Tk. 15,000.00. Scoring a GPA of 4.00 (without 4th subject) in SSC and HSC from Science, Arts & Commerce Group. 	3.00	100%
7.	Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' monthly income not more than Tk. 20,000.00 Completion of 9 credits. 	3.25	Up to 100%
8.	Physically Challenged Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically challenged students will receive special fee waiver at various rates to be determined by the Scholarship Committee on case-by-case basis. 	3.00	Up to 100%
9.	Children Of Freedom Fighter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children of Freedom Fighters will be eligible for tuition fee waiver as per the instruction from UGC. 	3.25	Up to 100%
10.	Spouse, Offspring i.e. Father-Son/Daughter, Mother-Son/Daughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any one of the mentioned members who gets enrolled in BRACU later will get tuition fee waiver. 	3.25	50%

****Performance Based:**

CGPA	≥3.70 - 3.84	≥3.85 - 3.89	≥3.90 - 3.94	≥3.95 - 3.99	4.00
Tuition Fee waiver	10%	25%	50%	75%	100%

***** BRACU Regular Staff and Faculty member**

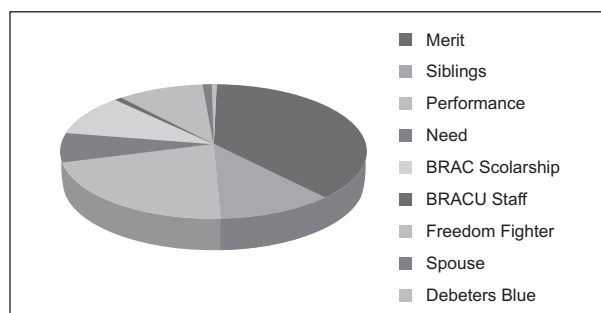
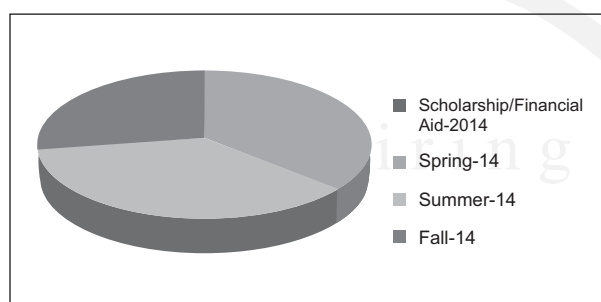
Regular staff/faculty member can apply for a 50% to 75% tuition fee waiver for their two dependent children provided they fulfill the normal student enrollment process to obtain a place in a program.

Regular Faculty Member	Regular Employee	% of tuition fee Waiver
50%	Grade I - V	75%
(Assistant Professor and above)	Grade VI - X	50%

The table and chart show the activities of BRACU in the year 2014.

Details of Scholarship Disbursed in 2013–2014

Description	Amount in Taka
Full Tuition Fee Waiver	12,125,560
Partial Tuition Fee Waiver	31,987,098
Full Tuition Fee Waiver with Living Allowance (BRAC –Scholarship Endowment Fund)	5,086,993
Total	49,199,651

Disbursement of Scholarship/Financial Aid in Spring, Summer, and Fall 2014**Freshman Orientation Program**

Throughout the year, RMO organizes the 'Freshman Orientation Program' three times a year, with more than 1000 students and parents in each occasion. The RMO also assists in organizing Vice Chancellor's programs with students in every semester.



Vice Chancellor at the Orientation Program – Fall 2014



Orientation Program – Spring 2014



Alumni in the Orientation Program - Summer 2014

BRACU Promotional Activities

BRACU Booth in 'Admission Fair 2014 - 2015 at Oxford International School

The RMO manages and works closely with student volunteers. Volunteer Services provides a variety of programs to help students as they face

challenges. Whether they are looking for a volunteer opportunity on campus, in the city, or around the world, BRACU helps students connect to groups and organizations who could use their help.



Students Volunteers for 9th Convocation Ceremony - 2014



Vice Chancellor's 'Meet the Students' Program in Fall 2014

Inspiring Excellence

Residential Semester

The Residential Semester (RS) at BRAC University is a unique experience in university education in Bangladesh. All students are required to attend the Residential Semester, usually after completion of their first semester at the main campus. What makes the programme exceptional is that for the first time students must live in a communal atmosphere and function as a team. They must not only take responsibility for their own learning and actions, but must also support their peers and at times, lead their teams. Through interactive classes and planned activities, they develop the collaborative and leadership skills needed to help their teams reach its goals. The curriculum, which was designed by a group of educational experts, includes English, Bangladesh Studies and Ethics and Culture. These classes help the students to become global citizens, with an awareness of the needs of their country, their communities and their fellow students. Therefore, the following overall objectives have been set for the RS students:



RS team

- improve English language skills;
- develop leadership skills and identify the ethical guidelines and responsibilities of a leader;
- experience community living and develop the skills to live cooperatively;
- respect the many forms of diversity;
- analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the country;
- identify the social responsibilities of a good citizen of their country and community.

Course Integration

One of the major focuses of the RS is to foster integration between academic and experiential learning. In the academic area, the teachers use materials from the Bangladesh Studies and the Ethics and Culture courses as topics for discussion in the English classes. The teachers also apply the learning from the experiential learning activities (ELAs) to class discussions. For example, students may discuss the positive leadership qualities they need on the day they run the campus, and then compare these qualities to the ones needed when they are employed or to the qualities needed by their country's and communities' leaders.

The goal of these courses and activities is to have the students develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills they can use in the real world. For example, they can use these skills when dealing with problems related to roommates, classmates and friends. Studies 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 materials and lesson plans of the English, Bangladesh Studies and Ethics and Culture courses. They conduct 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 this day-long orientation programme is to introduce students to the teachers and staff, explain the purpose of the RS and outline the curriculum. Of most importance 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 are more inclined to practice and reinforce them during their stay in the RS.



Semester Orientation Programme

Experiential Learning Activities (ELA)

The ELAs are activities designed especially for the students of RS. Under the guidance and support of the instructors, the students take part in group work, presentations, simulations and self-discovery experiences. In the ELAs, the students learn by doing. The most successful ELA is the Social Learning Lab (SLL) where the students take over the campus for a day. They take over the roles of not only the administrative staff, but also the people who do the everyday tasks. This experience allows students to preview the employment world and teaches them the invaluable lesson that jobs may look simple but are difficult and complex.

To encourage students to broaden their interests and learn different skills, the RS organizes a variety of extracurricular activities. It is mandatory for each student to sign up for at least one activity. The students present the outcome or product of their activity or arrange an exhibition. Every semester, the students of RS participate in the following activities:

- Wall magazine
- Chinese Language
- Korean Language
- Know the Country and Culture
- Quiz Competition
- Debate
- Spelling Bee
- Creative Writing
- Hydroponic Vegetable Cultivation
- Gardening
- Project Based Presentation
- Traditional Bangla Music
- Yoga and Meditation
- Recycling
- Drawing and Sketching
- Happy Reading Competition
- Social Learning Lab
- Lalbagh and Liberation War Museum visit
- BRAC Programme visit

New RS Activities in 2014

In 2014, several new RS activities were introduced in the Residential Semester which are as follows:

- presentation skill
- chess
- script writing and film making
- English songs
- English poetry recitation
- TV news presentation
- newspaper reading and writing article
- dancing

The following activities are also offered in the RS:

- Sports
- Cultural activities
- Leadership building activities
- Historical events
- Seminars and workshops

Some Unique Activities

Hydroponic Vegetable Cultivation

The main objective of this activity is to make students familiar with this method with practical implementation. Hydroponics is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solution in water. The plants roots develop in water and take essential nutrients from the solution.



Hydroponic Vegetable Cultivation

Recycling

The activity focuses on innovative ways in which the students can recycle. Through research and decision making on the methods and applicability of recycling on campus, the students gain an awareness of how to create a green society. They then discuss how these methods can be applied to their home, community and country.

Project Based Presentation

This activity creates awareness among students about different social, moral and environmental problems that surround us. It enhances students' practical knowledge about the world. In this activity, students try to identify the major problems of the society and try to find solutions to these problems.

Yoga and Meditation

In the residential semester, students have the opportunity to participate in yoga and meditation sessions which are conducted by an expert. Yoga is widely considered a mind-body type of complementary and alternative medicine practice. It helps to get the physical and mental disciplines in shape in order to achieve peacefulness of body and mind, helping one relax and manage stress and anxiety.



Yoga and Meditation

Script Writing & Film Making

The purpose of this activity is to learn about film and television screenplay structure, analyze dramatic strategies in film and television, learn and apply correct script form, and creatively engage in the various stages of original scriptwriting. The assignments include the writing of scenes, a treatment and a 5-minute script, with special emphasis on the steps leading toward creating a final screenplay. Students who participate in this activity also attempt at making a 5-minute short film from the screenplay.

TV news presentation

This course broadly aims at honing students' presentation skills. It introduces the future newscasters to the newsroom and its equipments. Moreover, it acquaints students with all the steps related to news casting. In addition to this practising script writing for better presentation suited to individual capability helps upgrade the students' skills in this field. Finally, this activity helps sensitize

the news presenters about correct pronunciation as well as creates news sensitivity.



TV news presentation

Newspaper Reading and Writing Article

Newspaper Reading and Writing Article is an activity to enhance students' general knowledge and writing skill. The specific objectives are to make students develop the habit of reading newspapers, to teach some news writing techniques, to develop their writing skills and to expose them to contemporary global issues.

Seminars and Workshops

There are a number of mandatory seminars and workshops that are organized for all the students. These seminars and workshops are conducted by experts in their respective fields and allow students to listen to and converse with experts who can help them gather valuable advice and knowledge from the real world.

Seminar on Drug Abuse

To educate youth about the negative consequences of drug addiction, Counseling Unit organized a seminar titled, "Awareness on Drug Dependency" on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at the Savar Campus. Renowned Psychologist Ms. Farida Akhter, Consultant of the Counseling Unit, facilitated the entire seminar using interactive and participatory methods. One of the guest speakers Mr. Zahid Iqbal, Programme Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, discussed the concept of drugs, when, why and how people become addicted to drugs, negative impacts of using drugs on individuals, family and society. He also shared his personal experience of how he recovered from drug addiction. Ms. Farida Akhter gave a speech on how students can protect themselves from taking drugs and some tips on prevention as well. At the end of the seminar, all the students took an oath on "Say no to Drugs".



Seminar on Drug Abuse

Story of BRAC

As part of the Bangladesh Studies course each semester, the seminar “The Story of BRAC” was organized. The session aimed at informing students about BRAC, the largest NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) in the world prior to their BRAC programme visit. Mr. Mohammad Abdur Rahman, an eminent NGO activist, conducted the session. He discussed the rationale behind the birth of the organization and the shifts of the activities of BRAC from the rehabilitation approach to the development approach to address different constraints and to get the expected outcome. Later, he also talked about the motivation behind this initiative. Through some video clips, he shared the success story of BRAC and rationale behind the establishment of BRAC University. Mr. Rahman motivated students to become 'functional elite': the core objective of BRAC University.



Story of BRAC

Grooming and Etiquette

The session was facilitated by Ms. Raqshinda Haque, Executive, Career Service Office and Alumni Relations (OCSAR) on September 27, 2014 where around 450 RS students participated. This session mainly focused on simple etiquette techniques that are often overlooked by young people. The etiquette instruction covered social

and workplace manners. For grooming, personal hygiene, appropriate attire, hairstyle and body language were also discussed. This session helped to prepare students for the appropriate behaviour they will need in employment or graduate school environments.



Grooming and Etiquette

Social Emotional Evening: An Evening with a Freedom Fighter

The session is a part of the experiential learning activity of the Bangladesh Studies Course and it was organized on July 10, 2014. The purpose of this session is to give students an understanding of this important time in history. The last session was successfully facilitated by Major (Retd.) Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan, a gallant freedom fighter. The speaker shared and described unforgettable incidents during the Liberation War, and this information deepened the students' feelings for their country and the war heroes. 450 RS students took part in the session with great enthusiasm and they asked several questions regarding the liberation war and also conversed with the speaker.

Five Decades of Development

As part of the Bangladesh Studies course, a combined session was arranged on November 27, 2014 on the development of Bangladesh since independence. Around 450 students took part in the session. 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. Therefore, Bangladesh's progress on the Millennium Development Goals was discussed. Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Director of BRAC Development Institute, facilitated the session. As a follow up to this session, groups of students are assigned to do an in-depth research study to understand the progress of their nation. Topics of the study include health, education, income and employment, agriculture, industry, gender and the role of NGOs. The student groups then prepare a presentation.



Five Decades of Development

Public Health Seminar

This programme is designed so that students can learn about health and nutrition, as well as about sexual and reproductive health. Therefore, on November 15, 2014 a session was organized for RS students. The session included topics such as basic hygiene; the adverse effects of junk food, smoking and drug abuse; and sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS. Students get the information they need to stay healthy and make health care decisions. The session is presented in two parts. The first part is for all the students and is on general health education, and the second part is on sexual issues, with the boys and girls in separate sessions. The session is conducted by a team of senior faculty members from the James P. Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University.



Public Health Seminar

Museum Visit

As part of the Bangladesh Studies course, students of all RS semesters in 2014, visited Bangladesh Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum). Students visited different galleries of the museum and took part in a quiz competition organized by the museum, and were awarded prizes. Bangladesh Studies instructors and other staff accompanied the students.

BRAC Visit

Like other semesters, in 2014, BRAC programmes visit were organized for all RS students. In the BRAC programmes visit, students were divided into seven groups and each group was assigned a BRAC Project to review and report on. The programmes were Micro-Credit, Health, Education, Legal and Human Rights, Enterprise, Wash Programme and Social Development. Students were taken to a village and had the opportunity to explore rural life and interact with the rural people. They saw the struggle of poor people, and learnt how the BRAC programmes support them in becoming independent and informed workers. Students recognized the importance of rural people for national development and the negative impact of class structure. They also observed the positive impact of the BRAC programmes to free these people from poverty.

Social Learning Lab (SLL)



Social Learning Lab

As in all semesters, the Social Learning Lab programmes were also arranged in all semesters of 2014 in the Savar campus. It is a unique experience of university education as a part of the Ethics and Culture course. This activity exposes students to real life situations and challenges. Another objective of SLL is to make students realize and experience the reality of different professions and professionals which are very important to uphold human dignity. On the social learning lab day, students take part in handling the responsibilities of the whole RS campus in all sectors such as the administration, the laundry, the kitchen, security, cleaning, and dining. Each lab is followed by a reflection session where participants share their feelings, learning and ethical development that resulted from this unique exercise. For instance, in the last semester, students who played the role of cook, waiter and dishwasher shared the respect they learned for these people who are seldom

noticed or thanked for their efforts. It also helped them gain respect for a diverse group of people and professions as well as develop their leadership skills with moral values, which are one of the main goals of the residential semester.

Parents' Day

Parents' Day was observed in all semesters in the year 2014. Parents came to visit the campus and spend time with their children. All the staff and faculty members were present and met the parents, and the Vice Chancellor visited and talked to the parents as well. The parents gained an appreciation for the programme and their children's experiences.



Parents' Day

RS Drama

Drishwapat Theater Group staged "Socrateser Jobanbondi" on November 7, 2014 for the RS students. At the beginning of the drama, one teacher of the 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 invited students to share their interpretation of and reflections on the drama.



RS Drama

Ekushey February

In line with the spirit of Amar Ekushey, students observed Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day. Students and staff took part in

Probhat Ferry (Morning Procession) and placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar on February 21, 2014. The teachers facilitated 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 on November 1, 2014 where all 450 RS students took part to showcase the glorious 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 where they continued the learning of their course.



Drama on the History of Bangladesh

Highlights of the Residential Semester

Session on 'Political Development (1971 - Present)'

An integrated session on "Political Development of Bangladesh (1971 - Present)" took place at Markuli Hall on 24 July, 2014 as part of the Experiential Learning Activity of the Bangladesh Studies course. The purpose of this session was to give students an idea on the political development of Bangladesh, its dynamics and discourse (Bangladesh perspective), and its achievements and challenges since 1971. The main focus of the session was on the political scenario and the political culture of Bangladesh based on different regimes that ruled Bangladesh since 1971. The session was facilitated by Professor, Dr. Manjur Karim (Piash Karim), Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences Department, BRAC University. The students participated in the session with overwhelmed enthusiasm.



Session on 'Political Development (1971 – Present)'

Session on 'Planning for your Future'

The session was held on October 19, 2014 which was facilitated by Sayed Taher Ahmed, consultant, Learning and Development of Enroute Career Development Center. Around 450 students participated in the session. The main objective of this session was to create awareness in the minds of students about the challenges after graduation, change the mindset to think and be positive and start preparation for the next level of their lives.



Session on 'Planning for your Future'

Reading for Pleasure

“Reading is a great passion and also a great hobby” is the slogan of this activity. Throughout the semester in 2014, students read at least one English story book. A large number of English story books are available in the library and from these large collections; each student chose his/her favourite book to read.

English Course for Services Staff

A unique activity 'English for Service Staff' was introduced in the year 2014 for the service staff at the Savar campus. Around 75 service staff from different levels such as office assistant, cook, dishwasher, room service attendant, electrician, gardener and so on participated in this basic English language course where they were taught how to interact with students, teachers and management staff in English at the work place.

Student Mix of 2014 (Spring, Summer and Fall Semester)

Since 2003, a total of 7,117 students have completed the RS. In 2014, a total of 1,348 students attended the RS semester.

Semester	Male Students	Female Students	Total
Spring	263	188	451
Summer	261	191	452
Fall	256	189	445
Total	780	568	1,348

Inspiring Excellence

Partners in Education

Over the years, BRAC University has partnered with the following reputed academic and research institutions around the world to enhance our 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

James P Grant School of Public Health

National

- BRAC- Health, Training, & RED & BRAC International
- icddr,b
- Research, Training and Management (RTM) International
- National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM)
- HOPE Foundation, Bangladesh
- Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB)
- Partners in Health and Development (PHD), Bangladesh
- Garo Baptist Convention Christian Health Project (GBC-CHP)
- SHIMANTIK
- Friends in Village Development, Bangladesh (FIVDB)
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
- Institute of Public Health Nutrition
- Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
- Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP)
- Power Health
- Social Marketing Company Ltd (SMC)
- Local Government Division
- Dept. of Epidemiology and Research
- National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute
- Dhaka Medical College & Hospital (DMCH) BIRDEM
- Bangladesh Nursing Council (BNC)
- Obstetric & Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB)
- Directorate of Nursing Services
- National Institutes of Health

International

- 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, Netherlands
- Berlin School of Public Health - Charite, 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

Department of Architecture

- 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

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand
- Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM)
- Katmandu University, Nepal
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Northumbria University, UK

CSE

- Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan
- Ethics Advanced Technology Ltd (EATL), Bangladesh
- Pi Labs, Bangladesh

ENH

- Tufts University
- The Centre for Gender Studies, University of UMEA, Sweden

MNS

- BRACARDC, Gazipur, Bangladesh
- BIRDEM, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- CNRS, CEA, Grenoble, France
- ICDDR, B, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)

- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland
- VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University, The Netherlands
- Natural Resource Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Government of Bangladesh (CPTU, IMED, Ministry of Planning), Bangladesh
- London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
- University of Oxford
- University College London, UK
- Overseas Development Institute (ODE) UK
- The Carter Centre, Atlanta, USA
- Basel Institute of Governance, Basel University, Switzerland
- George Mason University, USA
- Griffith University, Australia

- Monash University, Australia
- University of Manchester, UK
- Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK
- University of Ottawa, Canada
- American University of Cairo, Egypt
- Colgate University, New York, USA
- Columbia University, USA
- Hohai University, Nanjing, China
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), UK
- Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda
- Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of Western Cape, South Africa
- Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, UK

BIL

- The University of Queensland, Australia
- The British Council, Dhaka
- The American Center, Embassy of the United States of America
- Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- Embassy of the Republic of Korea
- World Vision
- International Labour Organisation
- BRAC Learning Division
- BRAC Education Program

IED

- Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA
- BRAC Education Programme (BEP)
- Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
- Centre for British Teachers (CfBT)
- Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Bangladesh
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN)
- Institute of Education & Research (IER), Dhaka University
- National Curriculum & Textbook Board (NCTB), Bangladesh
- Nuffic
- Phulki
- Porticus
- Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
- Teach for Bangladesh
- Underprivileged Children's Education Program (UCEP)
- World Bank

9th Convocation, BRAC University 2014

9th Convocation of BRAC University took place at the Army Stadium on November 20, 2014. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRAC University was present as the

Chief Guest and presided over the ceremony. Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP, Hon'ble Minister of Education was the Special Guest. Emeritus Professor Anisuzzaman graced the occasion as the Convocation Speaker.



This much anticipated event saw the formal graduation of 1495 students with Shirleen Manzur (ESS) and Zubaida Islam (MS-Bio) receiving the Chancellor's Gold Medal and a further twenty-nine achievers (15 graduates and 14 post grads) from different departments receiving the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal.

The rich mix of sharp blue and vivid green gave the entire venue a vibrant, celebratory ambience as some five thousand guests including graduating students and their parents/guardians were joined by staff, faculty, distinguished guests and media representatives. The entire convocation was transmitted live on Channel I TV.



Beaming graduates: the smiles say it all!



The Convocation procession led by the Marshall with guardians looking on

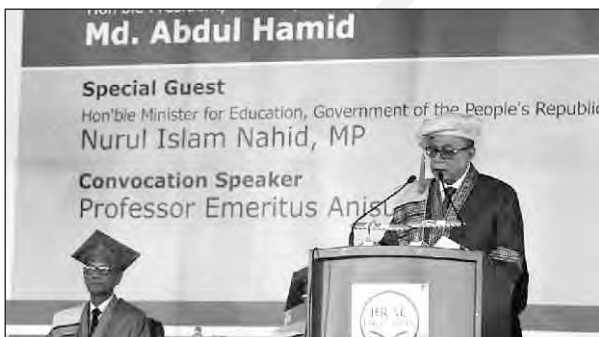


The Honorable Chancellor shaking hands with Vice Chancellor, Professor Andaleeb as Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (Chair, BoT) looks on approvingly.

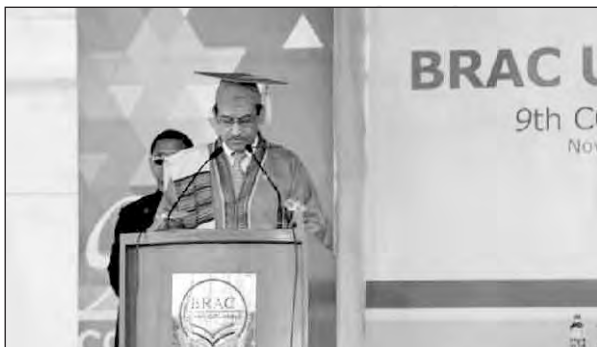


The Chancellor joined the Convocation Procession after greeting members of Board of Trustees, Syndicate and Academic Council.

As the Honorable Chancellor assumed his place on stage, the national anthem was played and the formal declaration of opening of the 9th Convocation was made by the Chancellor.



Address to the Convocation by the Honorable Chancellor and President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Hon'ble President lauded the achievements of BRAC University in these words, “ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য মানসম্মত ও যুগোপযোগী শিক্ষা পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ, পেশাগত উন্নয়ন, জ্ঞান চর্চা ও দক্ষতার সমন্বয় সাধন, গবেষণার বিষয় ও ক্ষেত্র সৃষ্টি, দেশের বহমান উন্নয়নে সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ এসব বিষয়গুলি নিশ্চিতকরণে বিশেষ নজর দিয়ে থাকে।”



Address of welcome by Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb.



Address to the Convocation by the Honorable Education Minister. Hon'ble Education Minister congratulated BRAC University for, “দেশে মান সম্মত শিক্ষার জন্য যারা লড়াই করে যাচ্ছেন তাঁদের অন্যতম হচ্ছে ব্র্যাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। এই অসামান্য অবদানের জন্য ব্র্যাক পরিবারকে জানাই আমার আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।”



Address to the Convocation by the Convocation Speaker Emeritus Professor Anisuzzaman. Convocation Speaker recognized the contributions of BRAC University by stating, “ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি বাংলাদেশের একটি বিশিষ্ট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। আন্তর্জাতিক বিদ্বৎজনসভায় পরিচিতিলাভের বিরল গৌরব তা ইতিমধ্যেই অর্জন করেছে।”



The Chancellor awarding gold medals to the proud recipients.

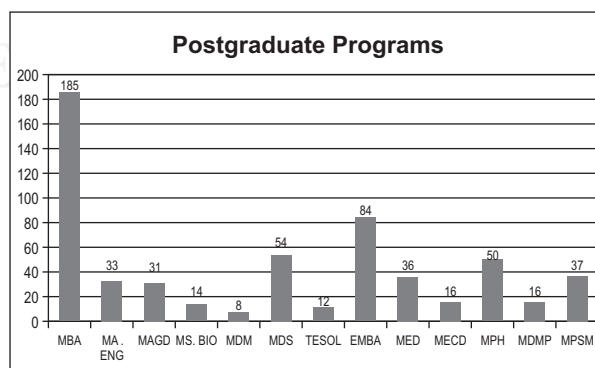
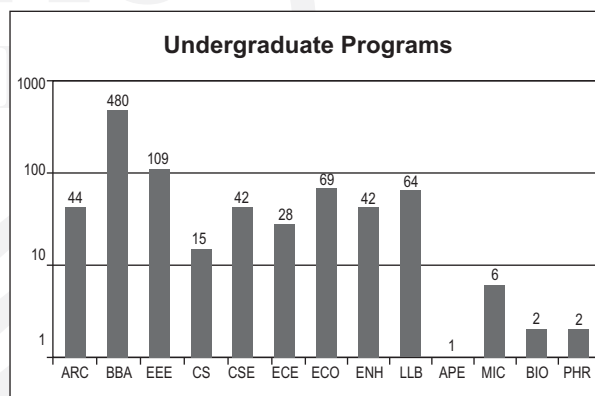
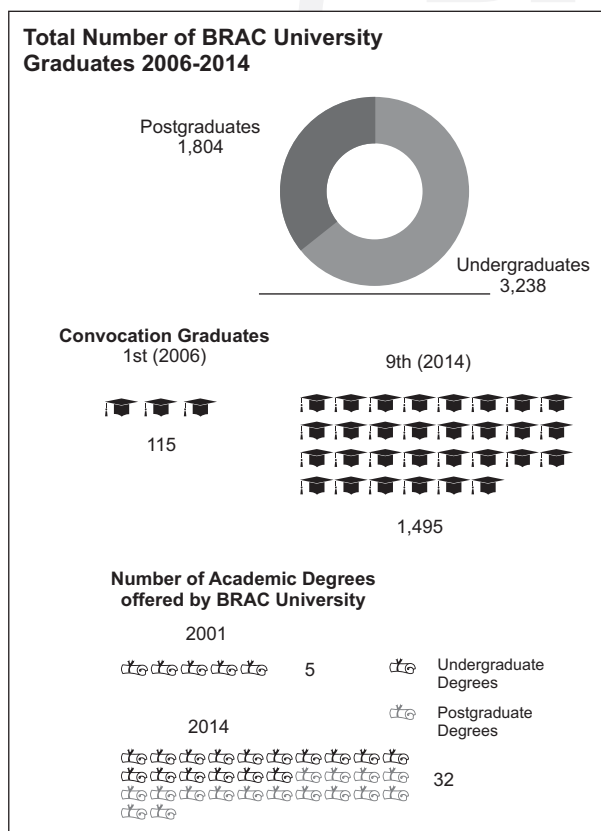


Exchange of crests between Chancellor and Chair, BoT.



Chancellor exchanging pleasantries with students and guests.

CONVOCAION STATISTICS



Students status 9th BRAC University CONVOCAION 2014

Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee formulates the draft Annual Budget of the University and refers the same to the BoT through the Syndicate, for approval. The Finance Committee also advises the Syndicate and BoT on all financial matters; both operational and strategic.

Chairperson

Dr. Mahabub Hossain

Advisor to Interim Executive Director
BRAC

Members

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor
BRAC University

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.

Pro-Vice Chancellor and
Chairperson, Department of Architecture
BRAC University

Advocate Sultana Kamal

Executive Director
Ain o Salish Kendro (ASK)

Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury

Chairperson, BRACNet Ltd
and Member, BRACU BoT

Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar

Treasurer, BRAC University

Mr. S. N. Kairy

Chief Financial Officer
BRAC and BRAC International

Member Secretary

Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, ACA

Director, Finance and Accounts
BRAC University

MEETINGS

Three meetings of the Finance Committee took place on March 13, June 18 and December 14, 2014.

FACULTY SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Faculty Selection Committee shall review all applications for faculty appointments, interview the applicants and recommend the appointments of all faculty members.

Chairperson

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor

BRAC University

Members

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.

Pro-Vice Chancellor and

Chairperson, Department of Architecture

BRAC University

Professor Anisuzzaman, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Dhaka University

Member, Board of Trustees & Syndicate

BRAC University

Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury

Chairman

Delta BRAC Housing

Member, Board of Trustees & Syndicate

BRAC University

Head or Chairperson of the concerned Institute/School/Department

One External Member for Concerned Institute/School/Department

MEETINGS

Five meetings of the Faculty Selection Committee took place on January 07, April 27, September 10, December 18 and December 21, 2014.

Inspiring Excellence

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee is charged with ensuring student discipline in all fields of university activity; both academic and non academic. The committee reviews all discipline cases referred to it and recommends appropriate administrative actions against the violators of discipline and reviews broader policy implications of these cases.

Chairperson

Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury

Chairperson, BRACNet Ltd
and Member, BRACU BoT

Members

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor
BRAC University

Professor Riaz P. Khan, Ph.D.

Dean, Student Affairs
BRAC University

Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Ph.D.

Chairperson,
Dept. of Mathematics and
Natural Sciences
BRAC University

Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood

Head, Undergraduate Program
School of Law
BRAC University

Co-opted Members

Dr. Seuty Sabur

Assistant Professor
Dept. of Economics and Social Sciences
BRAC University

Ms. Afsana Akhtar

Assistant Professor
BRAC Business School
BRAC University

Ms. Nazmus Sabeka

Senior Assistant Registrar
BRAC University

Mr. Mohammad Shamim Azad

Assistant Registrar
BRAC University

Member Secretary

Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid

Joint Registrar and Director
Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR)

MEETINGS

Six meetings of the Disciplinary Committee took place on April 3, May 15, June 30, September 7, September 25 and November 16, 2014.

Inspiring Excellence

Auditor's Report

**Rahman Rahman Huq****Chartered Accountants**

9 Mohakhali C/A (11th & 12th Floors)
Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh

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Fax +880 (2) 988 6449
E-mail dhaka@kpmg.com
Internet www.kpmg.com/bd

**Independent Auditor's Report
to the Board of Trustees of BRAC University**

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of BRAC University ("the University") which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2014, and income and expenditure statement, and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles as mentioned in Note 2, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 our 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, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view 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 evaluating 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 the Company as at 30 June 2014, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles as mentioned in Note 2.



Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants

Other matter

The financial statements of the University as at and for the year ended 30 June 2013 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 9 December 2013.

Dhaka, 19 March 2015

RAM

Rahman Rahman Huq

BRAC University
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2014
 University Grants Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (3)

<i>In Taka</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>As at</i> 30 June 2014	30 June 2013
Assets:			
Fixed assets	4	3,225,645,961	653,792,051
Long term investment	5	95,000,000	50,000,000
Current assets	6	1,185,852,954	923,682,117
Current liabilities	7	493,065,741	438,144,119
Net current assets		692,787,213	485,537,998
Fund employed		4,013,433,174	1,189,330,049
Financed by:			
Reserve fund	8	50,000,000	50,000,000
General fund	9	56,958,186	55,309,908
Special fund	10	3,524,290,036	792,367,224
Accumulated depreciation fund	11	283,774,136	220,290,418
Total fund		3,915,022,358	1,117,967,550
Long term liabilities	12	80,008,543	56,729,096
Deferred liabilities	13	18,402,273	14,633,403
Total liabilities		98,410,816	71,362,499
Financed by		4,013,433,174	1,189,330,049

The notes and annexures on pages 6 to 37 are an integral part of these financial statements.

 Treasurer	 Member of Board of Trustees	 Chairperson of Board of Trustees
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As per our report of same date

Dhaka, 19 March 2015





Auditor

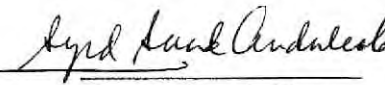
Rahman Rahman Huq
Chartered Accountants

BRAC University
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2014
 University Grants Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (1)

<i>In Taka</i>	<i>Note</i>	For the year ended	
		30 June 2014	30 June 2013
A) Income - Academic			
Admission income	14	13,048,555	15,179,086
Academic income	15	1,038,655,521	864,855,819
Total income - Academic		1,051,704,076	880,034,905
B) Expenditure - Academic			
Academic expenses	16	724,880,026	650,230,967
Admission expenses	17	16,627,011	16,677,683
Academic research expenses	18	4,989,662	2,759,619
Publications expenses	19	1,319,455	1,356,948
Total expenses - Academic		747,816,154	671,025,217
C) Excess of income over expenses – Academic (A-B)		303,887,922	209,009,688
D) Income - Non-academic			
Non-academic income	20	473,735,548	420,236,493
E) Total operating income (C+D)		777,623,470	629,246,181
F) Expenditure - Non-academic			
Non-academic expenses	21	221,550,737	112,970,084
Non-academic research expenses	22	394,221,348	406,448,281
Total expenses - Non-academic		615,772,085	519,418,365
G) Excess of income over expenses - Operating (E-F)		161,851,385	109,827,816
H) Financial income-interest income/profit from investment	23	100,412,321	71,847,169
Less: financial expenses	24	524,386	2,070,489
Excess of financial income over expenses		99,887,935	69,776,680
I) Net excess of income over expenses (G+H)		261,739,320	179,604,496

The notes and annexures on pages 6 to 37 are an integral part of these financial statements.


 Treasurer


 Member of Board of Trustees


 Chairperson of Board of Trustees

As per our report of same date

Dhaka, 19 March 2015





Auditor

Rahman Rahman Huq
 Chartered Accountants

BRAC University
Cash Flow Statement (Indirect Method)
For the year ended 30 June 2014
 University Grants Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (2)

<i>In taka</i>	For the year ended	
	30 June 2014	30 June 2013
A) Cash flow from operating activities:		
Excess of income over expenses (Note 25)	288,558,644	200,913,436
Non cash expenses	94,958,122	73,109,443
Change of working capital	210,437,087	(134,657,461)
Net cash flow from operating activities	593,953,853	139,365,418
B) Cash flow from investing activities:		
Purchase of fixed assets/ investments	(404,513,705)	(103,387,003)
Less: Sale proceeds of fixed assets/investments	450,500	1,386,100
Net cash flow from investing activities	(404,063,205)	(102,000,903)
C) Cash flow from financing activities:		
Increase of finance/loan	10,916,486	9,491,697
Decrease of finance/loan	-	-
Net cash flow from financing activities	10,916,486	9,491,697
Cash surplus/(deficit) for the year (A+B+C)	200,807,134	46,856,212
Cash and bank balance at beginning of the year	269,411,579	222,555,367
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	470,218,713	269,411,579

