

June 2011

BRAC University Turns 10



On 25th June 2011, BRAC University celebrated its 10th anniversary at its main campus in Mohakhali.

The master of ceremonies of the event Prof. Mumit Khan asked Prof. Zainab Faruqui Ali, the Director of Student Affairs, BRAC University to give her welcome address on this occasion. The Chief Guest of the programme and the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG mentioned how the university has been playing a big role in higher education of Bangladesh.

Special Guest Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, the first Vice Chancellor of the university, shared his experience. Prof. Ainun Nishat, the present Vice Chancellor of the university emphasized how BRAC University faculty members and students are concentrating on research. He mentioned that the university has expanded over the years to have four schools, seven departments and three institutes, one centre at present. It is planning to open a new department of History and Department of Media and Journalism by the next year as well.

A few BRAC university students shared their success stories with the audience while some others performed songs and dances. Among the other guests Mr. Faruq Ahmed Choudhury shared his experience of being one of the advisors of BRAC University in its initial years.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University. Afterwards, the program-plaque with the inscription "BRAC University 10 Years" was unveiled by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, Prof. Ainun Nishat and Prof. Jamilur Reza. The program ended with cutting of a cake to celebrate the birthday of the university.

Architecture Updates

Students win awards at "The \$300 House" competition

Ishita Alam Abonee, Mahmuda Alam, Shareq Rauf Chowdhury, three students from the Department of Architecture with Azit Roy and John Arnold received an award (the 4th position) in the competition, "The \$300 House" organized by Vijoy Govindarajan and Christian Sarkar, in partnership with an internet based community "Jovoto". The students are working on developing low-income housing options with the people of a slum in Dinajpur town under the guidance of Azit Roy and John Arnold from a local NGO, SAFE.

Here is the link of the competition and the award:

<http://www.jovoto.com/contests/300house/ideas/12816#commentbox>

Their approach was to suggest a range of affordable design improvements based on existing building techniques in Dinajpur. These would strengthen and improve parts of the house that are particularly weak and vulnerable to the local climate. The students have completed building one house and preparing to build nine more with participation of local people. All houses will be of different types depending on the needs of user groups and the context.



Students win in Treasure Hunt

Two teams from the Department of Architecture win in Treasure Hunt, a game show arranged by Escapade Organization on June 3 and 4, 2011. Radio Today, Channel I, Rong and Ritu, Diamond World, were the sponsors of the event. The winning team was "LAM" with team members Zerin Tasnim Khan, Mahmuda Alam, Mohshin Shamsheer Aranna. Another team "JHIRI" stood second where the team members were Tashdid Rezwana Mugdho, Anika Hoque, Tasnim Ferdous. They all are junior II students. The students won a diamond ring each.

Voluntary participation of students

A group of students of the Department of Architecture voluntarily participated to decorate the interior walls of workspace of hospital and blood bank of the Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation. BTF is a nonprofit organization helping and supporting Thalassaemia patients in Bangladesh. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, lecturer of the Department of Architecture was the team leader of this activity.

The team picked a weekend and painted the walls inside with colorful animals, trees and birds. They turned the dull large space into a garden-like environment. The young patients, administrators and doctors liked the new decorations very much. They are eagerly waiting for seeing more activities from the students. It should be mentioned that a couple of semesters back, the students did a similar decoration work in the interior of Aarong daycare unit under the supervision of Nafisur Rahman.

BBS Updates

Brainstorming session on "visibility of EMBA program"

BRAC Business School introduced EMBA program in 2011 and currently it has around fifty students. A brainstorming session was arranged on Thursday June 23, 2011 at BRAC Business School with the Heads of HR from some reputed corporate houses in order to receive their views and ideas on how to create more awareness among the target group and also how to make the EMBA program more real world oriented. Mr. Syed Tanvir Husain, Head of HR, Bharti Airtel, Ms. Sheifita Anwar, Head of HR, Sanofi Aventis, Mr. Kazi Islam, Ex-CEO, GP IT, Mr. M. Zulfiquar Hussain, CEO & Lead Consultant, Grow N Excel, (Ex-Head of HR, Nestle), Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRAC University, Mr. Mamun Rashid, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRAC University, Mr. Shawkat Kamal, Asst. Professor & Coordinator, EMBA program were present during the session.

Mr. Shawkat Kamal initiated and the session was followed by other discussants. The Pro-VC mentioned about the existing problems which are: 1) 5 years of work experience was one of the requirements for qualification. However, it has now been reduced to four years which should bring more potential applicants. 2) Since a lot of them come from a complete Bengali medium of education background, they cannot properly articulate in English. He also touched on using case studies in the class and pointed out that one has to know the art of using case studies if they want to use cases properly as a teaching tool. Mr. Tanvir suggested to have sessions with various corporate officials, HR personnel and to have a road show. This will generate interest among them. In terms of experiences of the faculty members, he mentioned that there has to be a healthy balance between academic and professional experiences. Mr. Zulfiquar suggested that the Curriculum should include case studies. In the end, Mr. Rashid appreciated all of their valuable ideas and assured that the business school will work for arranging case studies. He requested everyone to provide feedback on this regard.

Dialogue on "state of the economy and challenges ahead"

A dialogue on "state of the economy and challenges ahead" was held on Monday June 6, 2011 at 5pm at BRAC Business School, 66 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka. The welcome note was presented by Mr. Mamun Rashid, Professor, BRAC Business School and the session was chaired by Professor. Syed M. Hashemi, Director BRAC Development Institute. The key note presentation was made by Mr. Alamgir Morshed, head of global markets, Standard Chartered Bank and an adjunct faculty at BRAC Business School. The distinguished guests of the session were Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam, Former adviser, ministry of finance and planning, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Zahid Hussain, Senior Economist, The World Bank, Dr. Binayak Sen, Research Director, BIDS and other discussants were Ms. Parveen Mahmud, President ICAB, Mr. Adeb Khan, Partner Rahman Rahman Huq, Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Vice Chairman, EPB and Shameem Raihanuddin, Management Consultant.



Mr. Alamgir Morshed talked about the steady GDP growth as well as macroeconomics and policy stability of the country during his presentation. Among the economic challenges- Mr. Morshed mentioned low FDI, supply constrain, shallow capital market, narrow revenue are creating barriers to higher economic growth. Managing inflation, food security; growth of employment, image and infrastructural development were mentioned as the key success factors of the economy in his speech.

During the panel discussion Dr. Islam expressed different opinion regarding the GDP growth of 6.7% in current fiscal year. However, Dr. Binayak Sen, stated this growth of 6.7% is expected. Dr. Islam also mentioned that there is miscalculation in the growth rate of GDP provided by BBS. Although in recent years the ratio on investment in GDP has been the same, he raised questions on the growth of production. He added that the statistics provided by BBS cannot be relied upon. Dr. Islam again stated that Government investment has declined this year and annual development program has been reduced in size. Compared to high export rate, tendency to import is still higher. Moreover foreign remittance has declined which led to decrease in consumer demand. Hence he raised questions regarding the growth rate of 6.7% in such situation. On the other hand, Dr. Sen stated that this rate is rational due to increase in investment and female labor force participation. Along with Mr. Islam, he raised observations on the data of CPD provided by BBS. He added that there has been large investment in the country in past few years and there has been remarkable investment in the current year. All these led to higher growth rate, stated Dr. Sen. However he expressed that this growth is not stable. He also mentioned that strong infrastructure and proper governance which are required- do not exist in the country.

Among the other discussants, Mr. Zahid Hussain, Senior Economist, The World Bank said that "we have good strategy but we do not implement." He also mentioned that pressures are emerging on foreign exchange reserve. There has to be speed up in public infrastructure, electricity and the growth should come with employment generation, he also added. Ms. Parveen Mahmud, President ICAB stated that food security is a challenge at the moment and there should be cold storage in the Northern areas of the country. She suggested that quality of education is a must and that knowledge is not disseminating in the field. Adeeb Khan, Partner Rahman Rahman Huq talked about the legal protection of the country: there are barriers to entry, barriers to operate and obstacles to exit- hence bottlenecks at all levels. In addition he mentioned that there is severe harassment on honest tax payers.

Dialogue on "Business Process Outsourcing: Next Possible Jump for Bangladesh" at BRAC Business School



A dialogue was arranged by BRAC Business School on "Business Process Outsourcing: Next Possible Jump for Bangladesh" on Thursday June 9, 2011 at 5 pm at BBS conference room, 6th floor, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali C/A,

Dhaka. The distinguished guests were Mr. Kazi N. Islam, Former CEO of Grameenphone IT Ltd., Mr. Gurojit Singh Khalsa from WorldBridge Int'l, A USA based company with extensive experience in the BPO industry, and Mr. Ahmadul Hoq, President of Bangladesh Call Centre Association. The ex-president of BASIS later joined the session as well. The session was chaired by Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Director, BDI. Mr. Mamun Rashid, Professor, BRAC Business School, was present during the dialogue and played a pivotal role in organizing the dialogue in the first place. During the session, the discussion was that Bangladesh is being thought of a very lucrative destination considering the lack of social conflict, acceptable security condition, and a huge population with sizeable educated young people with exposure to the language English. There are some obstacles such as lack of awareness and motivation amongst the educated youths who might be employed in this sector, and social taboo regarding women working at night (as many of the tasks handled by BPOs require the employees to follow the US time zone as far as working hour is concerned, and many of the jobs are by nature 24/7 ones). But the experts believe that with the right amount of investment, these obstacles should not prove as serious bottlenecks. It was a very successful dialogue. The program in overall was coordinated by Ms. Shahneela Naheed, EA, CED, Mr. Jabir Al Mursalin, Lecturer, BBS and Mr. Javed Rasel, DCO, EMBA.

Dialogue on "Bangladesh Defense Budget" at BRAC Business School



A dialogue was held on "Bangladesh Defense Budget" on Wednesday June 29, 2011 at 3:30pm at GDLN Center (18th floor), BRAC University Building, 66 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka. The welcome note was presented by Mr. Mr. Mamun Rashid, Professor, BRAC Business School and the session was chaired by Dr. Mahbub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC. The key note was presented by Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury. The chief guest of the dialogue was Mr. Faruk Khan, MP, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Govt. of People's Republic of Bangladesh and some of the distinguished guests and discussants were Maj Gen. Amjad Khan Choudhury (retd.), CEO, PRAN Group, Mr. M. Humayun Kabir, Former Ambassador & VP, BE, Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, Planning Commission, Lt. Gen. Zahir, Lt. Gen. Mahbubur Rahman (retd.), Mr. A. K. Azad, President, FBCCI, Brig. Gen. Md Abdul Halim, Director, Budget, Bangladesh Army and Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. During the discussion the focus was on whether the defense expenditures are managed efficiently and that the expenses have to be transparent. In reply of these- Mr. Faruk Khan, MP, Hon'ble Commerce, Minister said that we can be proud that the defense budget has been very well spent and the country has been well secured for the last 40 years. He also said that one thing is proved that budget is required for defense but the dilemma still exists that how much should be allocated for this sector. Internal security is assured- e.g. Chittagong hill tracts were protected in the last several years, it did not affect Dhaka let alone Chittagong city. Mr. Khan also mentioned that our country is ranked number 1 for UN peace keeping forces- in total contingents; also graded number 1 in women contingents. Moreover he said that every border in the world has border killings and no doubt that there are problems in our border killings. Lastly the Hon'ble Minister said that defense has always been a matter of restricted discussion and this is how it is in the rest of the world.

BRAC Business School faculty members participated at HR Summit 2011

Bangladesh Society for Human Resource Management (BSHRM) and Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) jointly organized the HR Summit 2011 on 25 June 11 at Winter Garden, Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. Renowned national and international HR professionals participated and shared their valued opinions in the summit. BRAC University sponsored Ms.Kohinur Akhtar and Md. Tanvi Newaz, HR faculties of BRAC Business School, to take part in that day long summit. This was the first HR Summit held in Bangladesh where current HR practices and strategic role of Human Resource Management were given emphasis.

Seminar on Supply Chain Management

A Specialty Topic Seminar on "Supply Chain Management-for Competitive Advantage" was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 (Tuesday), 5.00 to 7.00 PM at BRAC University, UB 0223. Resource Person was Mohammad Ejazur Rahman who is the MD and Lead Consultant of Mind Mapper Ltd and the CEO of ISCEA- Bangladesh. Mind Mapper Ltd is a promising new generation management consulting service whereas ISCEA, the International Supply Chain Education Alliance is the world's leading supply chain education, certification and recognition body with its headquarters in the USA. Mr. Ejaz served as the Chief Corporate Services Officer at Sanmar group, Supplier Chain Director at Coats Bangladesh, Supply Chain Director at Coats Thread Lanka, Sri Lanka. During his over 15 years career journey at home and abroad, he received various local and international training and exposure in Operations & Supply Chain Management and management best practices. Almost 150 students and few faculties attended the speech which was admired later on. The organizer of the seminar was Mimnun Sultana, Lecturer and few students of BBS.

BRAC Business School students and faculty members participated at Dr

Kotler's Marketing 3.0 seminar

Dr Philip Kotler, an idol in the academic arena for the revolutionary Four P's of Marketing, visited Dhaka for the first time on an invitation from Bangladesh Brand Forum in June 2011. The 80-year-old professor at JL Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University USA is acclaimed for writing textbook and broadening the idea of marketing. In this visit- Dr. Kotler advanced his take on Marketing 3.0 as a synergistic process to customers as multidimensional, values-driven people, even as budding associates, moving on from the preceding, conventional schemes of Marketing 1.0 and 2.0, which are product-based and consumer-based, respectively.

He took part in a number of sessions with the media, academics, young marketers and corporate leaders here. 100 students, with marketing background, were selected from BRAC Business School, to attend Dr Kotler's Session for students at Mirpoor Indoor Stadium on June 8 2011. On June 9 2011 - Pro-VC Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir and Professor Mamun Rashid, BRAC Business School, alongside 8 Faculty Members from BBS, attended the day-long Professional Certified Master class 2011, for the marketers of the corporate world at Radisson Water Garden Hotel.



In both these sessions- Dr Kotler reinforced the importance of two categories - youth and women for modern marketing. Youth is imperative because of their prospects and skills that they can attain. Women are the driving force of any growing economy as a result of greater economic emancipation and greater participation. These are the very two sectors BRAC and BRAC University are both dedicated to develop to their full potential.

These two sessions were munificently sponsored by Summit Group, the leading conglomerate of Bangladesh in power generation, property development and construction. Simultaneously, Professor Mamun Rashid & Assistant Professor Suntu Kumar Ghosh, from BBS should be attributed for leading and organizing this enlightening initiative for both the students and faculty members.

Promotion and Joining of BBS Faculty Member

Mr. Probal Dutta has been promoted the BRAC Business School to as an Assistant Professor.

Ms. Tasneema Afrin has joined the BRAC Business School as a Junior Lecturer. She completed her Bachelor of Business Administration from Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka and Master of Business Administration from Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.

CfL Updates

Masters in TESOL at the Centre for Languages

The Centre for Languages has decided to start a Masters program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, TESOL. Along with the core courses the program is going to include English for Specific and Academic Purposes, ELT Leadership and Management, Sociolinguistics, and Psycholinguistics as the elective subjects. It will also offer a two month practicum that will enable students to apply their theory and class work to a real classroom. The program is believed to be unique as it will work jointly with Institute of Education and Research, BRAC, and Institute of Development Studies, BRAC University. This program, as a whole, will enable TESOL practitioners to improve their ability as teachers by learning about philosophy of teaching; to learn about advancements in the techniques and trends of teaching; to improve their careers with new pedagogic excellence; and to undertake research in all aspects of their learning. CfL believes the program will be launched in Spring semester, 2012.

CfL at TOT on Social and Emotional Learning



Two faculty members of Centre for Languages (CfL), BRAC University, Mr. Quazi Mosiur Rahman and Ms. Syeda Farzana received a five day TOT, Training for trainers on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) facilitated by American Institutes of Research (AIR), USA. BRAC organized the residential training from 12th -16th of June at Training and Resource

Centre (TARC), Gulshan. More than twenty five senior officials from different programs of BRAC and BRAC University participated in the training. The objective of this SEL training was to explore and enhance the social and emotional competencies of BRAC employees towards fulfilling the organizational Goals. The training session was conducted by the chief trainer and vice president of AIR, David Osher and his co-facilitator Trina Osher. During the session emotional intelligence, self-awareness and self- management, social- awareness and managing relationship by making good decisions were elaborately discussed. After the successful completion of the training, certificates were awarded to the participants in recognition of their participation in and contribution to the training program on Social and Emotional Learning.

Peer Observation Workshop by Edward Leffew

In keeping with its recognition of bringing value in professional development, the Centre for Languages arranged a series of workshops on Peer Observation as a tool for improving teachers' skills in the classroom. The goals for the workshop were to create an understanding of the importance of observation feedback in helping teachers improve their professional skills and, to demonstrate the use of the concepts of peer feedback in their own situations.

Edward Leffew, our Senior Language Fellow, conducted the first workshop on June 6th, followed by a second one on Sunday June 19th. Finally, a workshop was conducted for the teachers at our Savar campus on Monday night June 20th. Effective classroom observation was examined as a 3 stage process, by watching actual observations presented on video. The three stages were followed by the actual observation, and finished by a post-observation feedback stage. The whole discussion emphasized on how best to translate what teachers learned in their classrooms.

Beth Trudell Conducted a workshop on Facilitation Skills

Beth Trudell, a former English language Fellow from America conducted a workshop on Facilitation Skills on June 4, 2011. The workshop was arranged by CfL as part of its regular activities. Here Beth brought the dynamics of facilitating learners in classrooms, and beyond, while she also discussed about how learners learn and face challenges in learning. The purpose of the workshop was to create a bridge between teachers and learners towards achieving the expected outcome at the end of the semester. Actually, faculty members of CfL have been practicing this; however, the workshop reinforced their practice.

IGS Updates

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) - Global was officially launched in Manila during June 27-28, 2011. The launch was followed by the first Global Partnership Panel meeting. ANSA Global has been functioning from the Institute of Governance Studies since 2009 and under that three grants have been provided, which has resulted in the incubation of two regional ANSAs, in the Middle East and North Africa Region and the Latin America and Caribbean Region. The Global Partnership Fund secretariat based at the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, is going to produce three novel knowledge products in collaboration with Association for Stimulating Know-how to generate knowledge, add to the existing discourse on social accountability and inform the work of the practitioners. For the purpose of developing the knowledge materials the GPF has organised a Brainstorming workshop from June 20-22, 2011 at the Civic Inn, Dhaka. The expert consultation has identified key building blocks for defining the content and operational guidelines for developing the knowledge materials. Representatives from Public Affairs Centre, India, Samuhik Abhiyan, Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development (IPID), Association for Stimulating Know-how and Water and Sanitation Programme, World Bank were present in the workshop.



IGS is rolling out the CIPS study support classes to the private sector participants for obtaining CIPS qualifications in Bangladesh. IGS teamed up with Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, UK in 2010 to offer CIPS training programme to public sector participants of Bangladesh Government under the World Bank funded PPRP-II project. Now IGS is rolling out the CIPS training programme to fee-paying private participants. As an evening programme, IGS will start with Level-4 courses to prepare participants to sit for CIPS examinations and will later offer Level 5 and 6 courses. The CIPS qualifications are given by CIPS, UK and the role of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) as an approved study and exam center of CIPS, first of its kind in Bangladesh and South Asia, is to facilitate the learning process and to assist students to successfully pass the CIPS exams with support classes.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) is a UK based international organisation serving the purchasing and supply profession. CIPS exists to promote and develop high standards of professional skill, ability and integrity among all those engaged in purchasing and supply chain management. CIPS assists individuals, organisations and the profession as a whole. CIPS ♦ladder♦ of qualifications provides benchmark education programmes for the purchasing and supply profession throughout the world.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, the Director in charge of IGS, visited Kathmandu, Nepal from 29-30 June to participate at the international conference on ♦In Search of Better Governance: Challenges and Prospects♦ organized by Central Department of Public Administration of Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Department of Public Administration & Organisation Theory of Bergen University, Norway. Dr. Khair presented a paper titled ♦The Complementary of Politics and Administration in Developing Countries: A Theoretical Paradox♦. The Director also visited Maldives from 13-15 June to join at the international conference on Government and Opposition- Roles, Rights and Responsibilities, organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

IED Updates

Research and Development

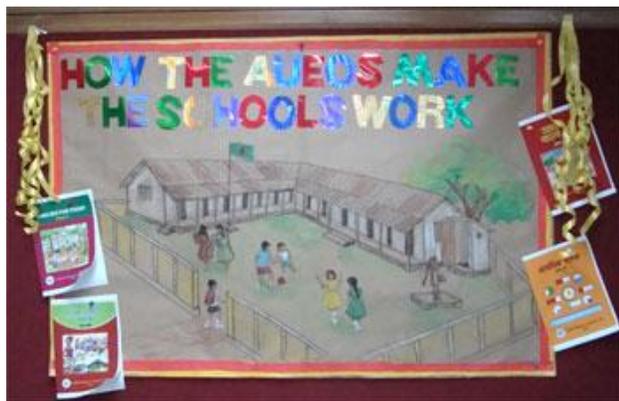


Danielle Caldron, an IED-BRACU consultant conducted a five day training workshop for both head office staff and research assistants from various districts within Bangladesh. The training took place from May 29-June 2 and again from June 5-June 9. The objective was to engage with theory and practical application on how ethnographic research

methods could be utilized within educational contexts in Bangladesh.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Team has been busy preparing for the 2nd batch training of the AUEOs which starts from 2nd July - 7th July 2011. This will be the fourth training (two Head Teachers and two AUEOS) under the Public Private Partnership.



Ms. Anisa Haq, Senior Professional of IED participated in the Asia-Pacific Education Deans workshop 2011, which took place in the Hong Kong Institution

of Education (HKIE) on June 7 - 9, 2011. This Workshop was co-organized by UNESCO, HKIE and Microsoft. The purpose of this workshop was to provide a regional platform for various stakeholders in education, including policymakers, deans of education faculties, teacher educators, public organizations and private corporations to discuss and share effective use of technologies in pre-service teacher education.



Ms Anisa Haq also attended a workshop arranged by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education to finalize 'The National Plan and Strategy for Primary Teacher Education & Development' on 22nd of June, 2011. This provided an opportunity for IED to make valuable contributions in the national teacher development strategy at primary level.

Curriculum Research and Development



Newly designed Grade III - V government textbooks

As per the request and agreement with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the curriculum research and development group of IED designed, illustrated and made all Grade III, IV and V textbooks (27 textbooks for Bangla version and 21 textbooks for English version) into four colors for the academic year 2012. These books will be published and used by the mainstream children of Bangladesh next year.

This needs to be mentioned that the unit had designed, illustrated and made Grade I and II textbooks of NCTB into four colors last year for both Bangla and English version students for the academic year 2011 which are currently being used by all the children of Bangladesh following the national curriculum. The opportunity surfaced as a result of the unit having a good alliance with the NCTB; as well as NCTB having adequate trust in the institute's capability that is being developed and maintained consistently.



Some of the cover pages of Grade VI and VII textbooks

Furthermore, the unit has also designed and developed the cover pages of all Grade VI and VII government textbooks into four colors (30 textbooks) for the academic year 2012.

MEd. in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management

Research studies for Masters Thesis of MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management of the second cohort are currently being carried out where 28 participants are collecting data in different parts of Bangladesh. Prior to this the last MEd course titled EDU503: Creating Learning Organizations: Leadership, Planning and Management had been completed in June.

Early Childhood Development and Resource Centre

A workshop was organized between June 20 and 21 on logical evaluation of the draft pre-primary curriculum developed by NCTB. IED as one of the technical core group members participated in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to collect feedback from the technical group members as well as from the experts in the field of ECD. The Minister of Primary and Mass Education of the Government of Bangladesh and State Minister of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education were present at the opening and the closing day of the workshop. It is to be mentioned that the draft curriculum designed by NCTB is based on a curriculum framework developed by the technical core group. This pre-primary curriculum developed by NCTB has recently been approved by the Ministry.

ENH updates

ENH launched lecture Series

ENH launched its lecture Series on 2nd June 2011 with the first lecture by Nausheen Naz Eusuf, Lecturer, ENH. Her talk, titled "The Ekphrastic Paragone in Louise Bogan and Marianne Moore," was a part of her master's thesis. She has recently completed an MA in English from the University of Georgia, USA .



HUM101 Study Trip

Students of HUM-101 went on a study trip to visit the remnants Buddha Bihar of Paharpur and Mahasthangar in Bogra from 9th -11th June. The Buddha Bihar was established by Raja Dharmapal the king of Pundra (presently known as Bogra). Mahasthangar existed in the 2nd Century BC which was the capital of Pundra. The students also visited the historical Behular Basorghor which is a part of Indian mythology. It existed before the 2nd century BC. Prof. Samina Sultana, the course teacher and Ayrin Ahmed , the Teaching Assistant of the course accompanied the student to the trip. Mr. Shahidul Islam, Personal Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, BRAC University helped to organise the trip.



ENH Lecturer Attended a day long workshop

On 18 June, Ms. Asifa Sultana, lecturer of the Department of English and Humanities attended a day long workshop titled "Working with Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs" organised by Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation and facilitated by Ms. Claire Leadbeater, a speech language therapist from the UK. The workshop's ultimate goal was to discuss how to aid children with autism through therapeutic interventions, while it also shed light on the prerequisites for 'normal' language development, characteristics of autism and assessment of communication skills of the autistic children. Ms. Asifa Sultana's current research involves exploring the nature of language acquisition among the impaired Bangla-speaking children. As an exposure for her research, she participated in the workshop and communicated with the practicing therapists, neurologists and doctors.



Lecture Series

On 22nd June 2011, ENH held the second session of its lecture series. In this session, Sohana Manzoor, Sr. Lecturer, ENH presented her paper titled When the Woman Speaks: A Reading of Christina Rossetti's "Repining" and "Autumn" as Responses to

Tennyson's "Lady of Shalott". The presenter is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, USA.

ENH Chair Acts as Respondents

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson ENH was one of the respondents to the paper titled "Contemporary Bangladeshi Poetry" delivered by Prof. Khondakar Ashraf Hossain of Department of English, University of Dhaka at the International Literary Conference 2011 organised by the Bangla Academy on 26th June 2011.

ESS Updates

Seminar Organized by ESS Department

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS Dept.) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) jointly organized a seminar on National Budget on June 16 (Thursday) 2011 at BRAC University. The title of that seminar was "Budget: 2011 - 2012, Reflections on the Macroeconomic Challenges." Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was the keynote speaker.



Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Registrar Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhuri, Prof. Syed M Hashemi, Prof. S. R. Osmani, Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury, other faculty members and students of BRAC University were also present there.

Faculty's Publication in International peer reviewed journal
Dr Farzana Munshi's article "Offshoring and occupational wages: Some empirical evidence" published in The Journal of International Trade and Economic Development (Published by Routledge) in April 2011.
The article is about offshoring (outsourcing) of electronically traded services from high-wage to low-wage countries, how such trade affect wages and income distribution of participating countries. Empirical analysis of a panel of 13 countries for 1990-2003 period show, among other findings, that increased outsourcing is associated with higher relative wages in outsourced occupations. The article is the first in providing empirical evidence on this issue, and has important policy implication for developed and developing countries.

MNS Updates

HECAP Seminar on Biotechnology, Chittagong University, June 2011

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury presented a keynote address in a one day seminar on biotechnology at the auditorium of the Biological Faculty, Chittagong University. The seminar was arranged under the HECAP project on capacity building in biotechnology at Chittagong University. He spoke on recent developments in biotechnology research and applications and outlined national efforts in this regard. Professor SK Bhadra, Department of Botany, CU and

Professor Al Forkan, Chairperson, Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, CU, were discussants in the seminar. A large number of faculty members and students of science and biological science faculties participated in the seminar and took active part in discussion.

Participation in Seminar

Ms Moushumi Zahur of the MNS Department participated in the seminar titled Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific (Distance Learning Seminar Series 2011) in partnership with Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES, Kyoto University). The seminar was held on June 26, 2011.

Participation in Workshop

Ms Moushumi Zahur of the MNS Department took part in the International Training Workshop on Science Education for Sustainable Development held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from June 27-28, 2011.

Seminar on National Biotechnology Policy Action Plan 2011, Dhaka, 29 June, 2011

Dr. Aparna Islam of the MNS Department attended the half-day long seminar on National Biotechnology Policy Action Plan 2011 at the Dr. Anwar Hossain Auditorium of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) on 29 June 2011 organized by the Natural Institute of Biotechnology. The seminar was conducted in the light of the "final draft" of the National Sciences and Technology Policy document to draw up the action plan. The inaugural function, chaired by Engr. Md. Muzammel Haque, Chairman, BAEC was attended by Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, GoB and Mr. Dilip Kumar Basak (ndc), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Science and ICT as Chief Guest and Special Guest, respectively. Following the opening session, technical session was held which was presided by Professor Rakha Hari Sarker, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Dr. Md. Saidul Islam, DG of NIB presented the draft action plan in the seminar. Group discussions and took place in plant biotechnology, medical biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, environmental biotechnology. The seminar identified the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) were identified. A good number of suggestions and comments were made by the participants. Professor Sarker was requested to incorporate the suggestions and comments as far as practicable. The seminar was attended by about more than 100 participants from different ministries, academic and research organizations in the public and private sectors, NGOs and media representatives.

SoL Updates

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan of the School of Law attended the Fletcher Summer Institute on the Advance Study of Non Violent Conflict, organised by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, from 19 - 24 June 2011. This was a certificate course on the issue of law, human rights and the principles of non violence. She was awarded funding to attend the Summer School by the International Centre on Non Violent Conflict in Washington.

RS Updates



Parents Day
 In the afternoon of 3rd June, 2011 BRACU Savar Campus observed "Parents Day" with the parents/guardians of the residential students of summer 2011. Almost 500 parents/guardians came to see their wards.

Social Learning-Lab Exercise



The first phase of Social learning-Lab of the Residential Semester was conducted on June 04, 2011. A total of 127 students took part in this unique exercise. The students performed the duties of the University and TARC officials and staff from the Campus Superintendent down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a good deal of enthusiasm and experiences among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

Lalbagh Fort & Liberation War Museum visit by the Students Savar Campus

Around 97 Residential Semester students visited Lalbagh fort and Bangladesh Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) on June 04, 2011. While visiting, students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the historical perspectives, archeological evidences and importance of Lalbagh Fort during Mughal period. Students visited different galleries of the museums and took part in a quiz competition organized by Liberation War Museum. Three students were awarded with prizes. Course Instructors of Bangladesh Studies and staff of Savar Campus accompanied the students during the visit.

BRAC Programs Visit

As part of Extended Learning Activities (ELA) of Bangladesh Studies course, students of Residential Semester at TARC, Savar visited BRAC programmes in Manikganj and Gazipur on June 04, 2011. Students visited BRAC's Education, Health, Microfinance, Enterprise and Human Rights and Legal Service/ Social Development Programmes.

Meet the Cultural Personality



Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, noted singer and Professor, Department of Music and Theatre, Dhaka University has given a lecture on the "Bangla Music" in the evening on 10th June, 2011 at Markuli Hall, Savar Campus. The lecture was followed by a musical soiree where singers Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty and his team rendered various genres of Bangla songs.

Reflection on BRAC visit and Presentation on Social Learning Lab was held on June 11 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

A Freedom fighter at TARC



As a part Extended Learning Activities and knowing Bangladesh, an experience sharing event was arranged on 11th June 2011 on behalf of DEV course where freedom fighter Maj. Kamrul Hasan Bhuyian (Retd.) shared his experience of the battle field during the Liberation war. Students and the other audience were spell bounded by the audacious tales of the Freedom fighter in his own voice.

Movie Show

On 24th June a movie named "Shamol Chhaya" was screened from 7:30pm - 9:00pm at Annandopur as a part of the Extended Learning Activities (ELA) of DEV101 course.

Midterm Exam

Mid-term exam was held at Savar Campus on 28th and 29th 2010. After midterm Savar Campus was closed for three days.

SECS Updates

CARG Update



Control and Applications Research Group (CARG) of Electrical and Electronics Department is proud to inform that this month, one of its members, Raska Urzoshi, participated and presented her paper on "Micro controller based ECG simulator", in the 5th Kuala Lumpur International Conference on Biomedical Engineering. The International Conference was held in the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. This conference was in conjunction with 8th Asian Pacific Conference on Medical

and Biological Engineering which held on the 20th to the 23th of June 2011 at Berjaya Time Square Hotel located in the city heart. It was organized by the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Malaya.

This was a great event which brought together academics and practitioners in Engineering and medicine in this ever progressing field. Around two hundred paper was published in the event. Among them fifty percent was international. The conference had a fantastic start with a inauguration speech by Dr. Michael R. Neumann on 'Sensors and Instrumentation to meet clinical needs'. After that the oral session started. There were all together four hall rooms for oral sessions. Each session were chaired by experienced professors such as M. R. Neumann, F. Ibrahim, and W.A. B. Abas and so on. There were paper presentations starting from undergraduate level to PhD level. Different category papers were presented. Some were on Bio-signal processing, Biomedical Instrumentation, Bio-nanotechnology and so on. People from different countries like Malaysia, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and India were participating.

IEEE BRAC UNIVERSITY STUDENT BRANCH

The month of June comprised of mass amounts of preparatory work for the month of July. It started off with procedures of sending IEEE BRAC University Student Branch Chairperson Rumman Huq to the IEEE Region 10 Student/GOLD/WIE Congress Auckland 2011. He is currently in Auckland attending the congress and we all would like to wish him all the success to bring home to our proud branch.

This month we also took up the responsibility of creating public awareness about IEEE BU SB by putting up information about all our tours, and seminars and other prominent events on the IEEE notice board on the 12th floor of Aarong House building, right outside the SECS (School of Engineering and Computer Science) department.

Additionally distinguished members of IEEE BU SB, along with the support of EB members are working on developing a newsletter on behalf of this branch which will be put forward for publication.

SPH Updates

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAMME

The 'Health Systems' module was held during June 5 - June 30, 2011. The course was coordinated and taught by the Dean of the School, Dr. Tim Evans. Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman and Ms. Nuzhat Chowdhury worked as 'Teaching Fellows' for the course. Both theoretical and experiential learning methods were adopted to teach Health Systems to the students. The students were taken to various field sites as part of their experiential learning in addition to in house lecture sessions.

FIELD VISITS

On June 25, 2011, the MPH students visited 'Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceutical Limited' and 'Gonoshasthaya Hospital' at Savar to observe how medicine is produced at the plant level and how it reaches to the customers. They also learned about the financial aspects of the health facility, about HR and MIS practices and how services are delivered to the people at facility level.



MPH students visited Beximco Pharmaceutical Limited at its Tongi plant on June 29, 2011 as a part of their experiential learning for the 'Health Systems' course. Students also visited SQUARE Pharmaceutical Limited at Kaliakoir, Gazipur to learn about the role of medicine in public health on June 29, 2011.

MPH students visited the DGHS MIS Department in Mohakhali on June 21 where they learned about how telemedicine works in Bangladesh.

Students were in the MIS Auditorium at DGHS, Mohakhali on June 21 where they listened to a lecture by Prof. Dr. Azad, Director, MIS, DGHS.

Students were also taken in groups to Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute at Shahbagh, Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) Hospital at Mirpur, Gazipur Sadar Hospital and Kaliakoir Upazila Health Complex on June 27, 2011. Through these field visits, they got the opportunity to learn how health facilities work from the primary level to the tertiary level and gathered



information on the different building blocks of the health system.

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES

Mr. Carel de Rooy, Country Representative of UNICEF in Bangladesh, provided a lecture on 'Multiple

Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS): Methods and Results' to the MPH students on June 20, 2011 from 03.30 to 05.00PM at the Savar CDM campus. He talked about how MICS was introduced in Bangladesh and how it compares to the Demographic Health Survey (DHS). He then led an audience discussion on the importance of MICS and UNICEF's contribution in Bangladesh and other developing countries. Dean Evans and other faculty members were present in the seminar.

Dr. Muhammod Abdus Sabur, currently working as the Team Leader of the Programme Support Office (PSO) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, presented on 'Human Resources in Bangladesh Health Sector' on June 20, 2011. Dr. Sabur talked about the complexity of Bangladesh health sector and the challenges faced in Human Resources. He elaborated on the mal-distribution, HRH skill-mix imbalance and other issues within the health sector.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Taufique Joarder, Lecturer and Lead Researcher of the 'Revitalizing Health for All' Project commonly known as the CPHC project, attended the 'Final International Meeting of Revitalizing Health for All' Project that took place in Ottawa from June 12-17, 2011 and presented the findings to other researchers from 17 different countries and to the IDRC representatives.

TLC Updates

A TOT on Gender and Ethics: Why Gender matters? was held on 25th of June 2011 at BBS Conference room, BRACU Mohakhali campus.. Sheepa Hafiza, Director, Gender Justice & Diversity, BRAC, has facilitated the two hours session. This was a practical session designed for the Hum course: Ethics and Culture for residential semester (RS). Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRACU, Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, CS, Sasvar Campus, the course coordinator and faculty members of Ethics and Culture course, faculty members and psycho-social counselors from TLC and faculty members from CfL, altogether 13 people attended the session. The session started with an ice-breaking video clip (Who sees the Gorilla?) followed by a pre and post course assessment. Next a power point presentation on the topic Gender and Ethics: Why Gender matters? was presented with relevant and practical examples. A seven minutes video clip, titled 'Is changes possible?' was shown at the end of the presentation. The TOT was ended-up with an individual exercise on "Time Audit of Gender Role".



Student Affairs Updates

"Reflection" - The orientation program of BUEEC

BRAC University Electrical and Electronic club organized fresher's orientation program "Reflection". It is a program by which the interaction among the club members increases a lot. Mainly the events of this program are designed for the newly signed up members.

In the semester Summer 2011 near around hundred engineering students signed up for membership. 6th June 5:00 pm in the second floor of university building students gathered. The hosts welcomed everyone in the reflection. The advisor of BRAC University Electrical and Electronic Club Amina Hasan Abedin emphasized on the importance of club activities in her speech. Our co-advisor Rumana Rahman introduced with the new members and thanked the organizers for organizing this type of orientation program.

Then a documentary on Electrical equipments was shown to the members. After that the introductory part begins by which everyone introduced himself to the existing members. Most importantly is the friendly environment of the club which made them feel free to share their expectations towards the club. The game show magic box really entertained them a lot. After that a quiz on questions from all fields held, where the participants participated with much interest. The new members were surprised to see Oyon, Junaid, Anik the "BRACU Chondroboat" team members who went for the lunabotics competition in NASA. The audience was inspired by the words from the participants of Chondroboat. Electrical and Electronic club called for new engineering projects from the students and assured for all possible help from the club.

In the end former president Miraz shared his thoughts with the audience. Then acting president of the club K.U. Nahid announced new proposals and outline of semester activities to the members. At last on behalf of the organizers president thanked the new members and assured them for a successful and funny club life experience.

Career Services Updates

The Internship Recruitment Session by Unilever

An Internship Recruitment Session was held on June 19, 2011 at BRACU. The program was jointly organized by Unilever Bangladesh and BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO). The purpose of the program was to select Interns from BU for the company. Around 100 students from BBS participated in the program. The participants were the students of Fall 2011, Spring 2012 and Summer 2012. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar - BRACU opened the session with few words of encouragement to the students.



The whole program was divided into two parts. In the first part, the key speaker of the session, Ms. Tanvira Choudhury, Leadership Development Manager of Unilever delivered an overview on Unilever Bangladesh followed by the whole internship recruitment process of the company. Four interns from BRAC University currently working with Unilever also shared their experience with the company. The second part was designed for Group Discussion with case studies where every group consisting 10 students were formed. Based on their aptitude to understand the scenario of the cases 07 students were short listed for the formal interview on June 23, 2011 at the Head office, Unilever.

Ms. Arifa Sultana, HR Executive, Unilever Bangladesh, Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head of Relationship Management Office and Career Services Office, Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi Ahmed, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator, BBS Department and Ms. Sanjida, CSO were also present at the session.

Advanced Microsoft Excel Training (AMET)

Career Services Office (CSO), BRAC University (BRACU) inaugurated the Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET) Program on Thursday, June 16, 2011. This is the 4th AMET program since Summer 2010. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), BRACU was the key speaker of the session. A total of 80 students showed their interest to attend the Training Program. Considering the number of students two sections had been formed for this semester. Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Assistant Professor, CSE and Mr. Farazul Haque Bhuiyan, Lecturer, CSE of BRAC University will conduct the courses from July 16, 2011.