

2011/april

## Making money out of rubbish

Oikos Dhaka organized an educational tour to Waste Concern in Roopganj near Dhaka, with some 40 students, under the supervision of Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Associate Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Science in BRAC University.

They learned how organic wastes are converted into sources of renewable energy and traded with carbon credits. Students saw firsthand how organic wastes from the markets of Dhaka are brought into the plant, treated and monitored carefully into compost before being packaged. Syed Zubaer Ahmed (Jubilee), Plant Manager, was quoted saying, "What seems to be waste to others, is resource for us". The output, which is finely grounded compost, is used in the production process of other factories and plants. Students also learned about the commercial viability of this kind of environmentally friendly business. Later students were taken to Sonargaon Museum and Panama City for recreation where they got to explore some of our valuable heritage and the charm of the old capital.

## ARC Updates



### Prof Fuad Mallick participated at the "Post Award Seminar"

Professor Fuad Mallick was invited to be a panelist at the "Post Award Seminar" of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China on 1st April.

The seminar was a follow up of the 2010 award cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Prof. Mallick was a technical reviewer for the award cycle and the "Bridge School" in Fujian, China reviewed by him was one of the 5 projects that received the award. Prof. Xiaodong Li the architect of the project was amongst the panelists along with Prof. Zhang Li, Prof. George Kunihiro, Prof. Laurence Liawau and Architect Kevin Low.

## Critique Week



Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques were held this spring 2011 semester from 7 April to 13 April, 2011. Ar. Shamsul Wares, Ar. Ryaad, Ar Asaduzzaman, Ar. Monjour Morshed, Ar Rafiq Azam were present as guest critics in different critique sessions.

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

The students of the final design studio presented their graduation projects on 13 April 2010. The projects included Westin Hotel, Chittagong; Media Complex, Bashundhara; Mohammadpur Town Hall, Mohammadpur; School of Drama, Purbachal; Merine Research & Aquarium Complex, Cox's Bazar; School of Everything else, Panthapath; Architectural Intervention in Urban Spaces\_Revlopment of Bakushah, Nilkhet; Recreational Centre, Purbachal; ART Institute, Rajshahi; News Museum, Agargaon. Ar. Monjour Morshed, Ar. Mahbubur Rahman and faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique.

### **ICCCAD Short Course**

Tahmina Rahman, Research Assistant of Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management attended a short course on Urban Adaptation to Climate Change during April 2 -8, 2011 offered by International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in partnership with Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Independent University, Bangladesh. The course was facilitated by David Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow in the Human Settlements Group, David Dodman, Senior Researcher in the Human Settlements and Climate Change Groups both at IIED, Saleemul Huq, Director of ICCCAD and Senior Fellow at IIED, and Terry Cannon, Visiting Director of studies at ICCCAD. Participants from ten different countries working for government, NGO and academic fields attended the course.



Source: Star weekend magazine, the daily star April 08, 2011

## BBS Updates

### Research work of BBS Faculty member

1. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor "Predicting Labour Unrest Through the Lenses of Theory of Planned Behavior: Cases from BEPZA" BRAC University Journal, Vol. VII, Nos.1 & 2, 2010 (Published in 2011), pp.23-32 (ISSN 1811-3079).

2. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor "Measuring general Consumer's Perception about bottled mineral water exists in Bangladesh" has been accepted for presentation and publication for Global Business and Social Science Research Conference to be held on 20-21 June, 2011 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Beijing, China.

## CfL Updates

### CfL organized Community Service Program

CfL successfully accomplished Community Service Program for the semester, Spring 2011. Being a member of BRAC University is not a privilege but a responsibility. This belief has convinced the Centre for Languages (CfL) to initiate a community service program- CfL to Community (CtC) involving the learners. The vision of the program is - Creating a sensitive generation who will be willing to take responsibility and work for the wellbeing of the society.

To rationalize it, university students worked for the improvement of the lives of underprivileged children in terms of literacy, hygiene, nutrition, recreation and so on. First, students were divided in groups to collect disadvantaged children from the nearby areas and conducted sessions on the aforementioned issues. However, as part of the program CfL introduced all the students of Eng-091 to the systems and dynamics of BRAC Primary schooling at Karail slum area of Mohakhali vicinity. Hence, observing these kids, the students of BRAC University were highly inspired as well as they realized their responsibilities. Palash, a student working in this program, said- "We were virtually confined within the so called sophisticated cages in the apartments from where this real world was invisible. We had not been given the scope to understand with close tie and empathetic feelings about these children who deserve to have all amenities as human beings. Now we feel ourselves responsible to work for them." In fact, these words reflected the realization of the youths who visited BRAC schools at Karail.



The sessions were conducted through games, songs, recitation and fun activities where snacks and drinks were provided for the participants for refreshments. Aarong helped this venture by providing chocolate milks. At the end of the semester it was observed that the students of 091 became highly motivated, inspired and empathetic towards the deprived of the society.

## Beth Trudell Conducts Workshops at CfL

Beth Trudell, the former English Language Fellow at CfL, is currently facilitating workshops and discussion groups for the faculty. At first, she conducted workshops on Critical Thinking and Facilitation for the new faculty members. Most recently, she also assisted a group discussion on new methods of teaching grammar and providing feedback on students' written work. The session was very successful as it promoted spontaneous participation of the faculty members. Next she is planning to conduct further workshops on Pronunciation focusing segmentals, stress and rhythm, and intonation.

## BRAC-CfL Collaboration



On 3rd April 2011 BRAC Education Programme (BEP) launched two interactive educational CDs for General Science and General Mathematics for the secondary schools of Bangladesh. Mr Md. Golam Jamil, a faculty member of the Centre for Languages (CfL), talked on the 'Prospects of Incorporating Technology in Education in Bangladesh' at the occasion. He elaborately discussed about how CfL is contributing in the education sector of Bangladesh by initiating some unique projects to reach the greater community. In this regard, he mentioned about CfL's engagement with BRAC in developing and reviewing the Computer Aided Learning (CAL) materials of English for the students. The speaker, along with Ms. Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, a faculty member of CfL,

is developing CAL English materials jointly with BRAC Education Programme.

Among the distinguished guests Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Dr. Mahabub Hossain, the Executive Director of BRAC, Lady Sayeda Sarwat Abed, the Director of CfL and Prof Noman Ur Rashid, Director General, Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary, were present at the programme.

## ENH Updates

### Celebrating Shakespeare



ENH students of English 217: Shakespeare course, under the supervision of Ms Rukshana Rahim Chowdhury, had organised a phenomenal performance to commemorate the 447th birthday of the Bard on 13th April 2011. The students acted out a few selected scenes from Shakespearean tragedies Hamlet and Julius Caesar and comedy As You Like It. A unique dramatization of his famous Sonnet 144: "Two loves I have of comfort and despair" was presented by the students as well. All these presentations were part of the course's graded task that aims to help students know technical aspects of staging a Shakespearian play. The course teacher Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Sr. Lecturer of ENH was the organiser of this programme. Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury,

Registrar of BRAC University were present on the occasion.

### Launching of Resonance

"ENH is proud to present the first online creative writing journal of BRAC University Resonance." said Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Sr. Lecturer of ENH in her welcome address. She mentioned that the

magazine was the outcome of two creative writing workshops conducted by Tarfia Faizullah, a Bangladeshi-American Fulbright scholar and creative. The first segment of the launching ceremony consisted of readings from Tarfia Fazullah and a few students' poems and short stories published in the magazine. Prof. Ainun Nishat, the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University launched the magazine. In his speech he pointed out the fact that reading literature has changed its dimension in this new era as digital books are available on the internet in this tech-world.



The second part of the programme started off with noted author Syed Manzu Islam's reading from his novel *Song of Our Swampland*. This latest creation of the author is based on the theme of the Bangladeshi Liberation War. Manzu Islam has retired as a teacher of English literature from the University of Gloucestershire, UK last year. His books are available for sale at a discount rate at the ENH office.

### **Thesis and Internship Report Presentations**

BA and MA students of ENH have presented their final theses and internship reports on 28th April 2011.

#### **B.A. Thesis and Internship Report Presentations**

A list of the BA students and their thesis topics of Spring 2011 semester is given below:

##### *English Literature*

Tonima Hossain

(Thesis) Civilization VS. Human Nature: The Treatment of Violence and Aggressive Behavior in Three Contemporary Novels

Shabrina Huq

(Thesis) The Female Persona in the Victorian Literary Imagination

Linguistics and ELT

Mavinur Laila

(Internship report) Revisiting the Techniques Used in Different Language Teaching Methods

Rashida Ferdousi

(Internship report) Teaching Experience at South Point School: Reviewing the established Language Teaching Method

Media and Culture

Subarna Sharika

(Internship report) From Theory to the Real World: Working at The Daily Star

Debesree Saha

(Internship report) A Practical Experience of Journalism with the Daily Star

Jinat Arefin

(Thesis) Change of Language of advertisements in Bangladesh: Result of the Alternation of Youth's Language and Social Impact

#### **M.A. Thesis Presentations**

Reefat Munmun of English literature has presented her MA thesis on *The Post Modern Turn in Visual Culture* this semester.

### **ESS Updates**

## Joining of New Faculty

Two faculties, Serajes Salekeen and Tanveer Reza Rouf joined the ESS department as a lecturer on the 3rd of April 2011.

Serajes Salekeen completed his M.Sc. in Economics from Lund University, Sweden in 2011 and undergrad from Jonkoping International Business School, Jonkoping, Sweden in 2009.

Tanveer Reza Rouf concurrently completed two masters degrees in Economics and Sociology from Utrecht University in the Netherlands in 2010. Before that, he completed his BSS in Economics from BRAC University.

## IED Updates

### Research and Development



The group was involved in developing contents on Early Childhood Development for the women leaders to deliver in the community. Three issues have been identified which are: a. Nutrition and child development, b. children learn through playing and c. child growth and development. A listening workshop took place where the contents and process of three identified issues were shared with the women leaders to listen to their views and opinions. After finalization of the content this will be piloted through training to the field level staff. Another listening workshop was held during this month with the Head Teachers (HT) of

Registered Non Government Primary Schools (RNGPSs) in Rangpur on two broad issues related to 'classroom organization & management' and 'school readiness'.

### Professional Development

The Professional Development Group has provided delivering a 10 days Short Course on 'How the Head Teachers Can Make Schools Work' to Assistant Upazila Education Officers (AUEOs) at BRAC, Centre for Development Management (CDM), Savar from 24 April - 4 May, 2011. Twenty -five AUEOs participated in this course. The course was targeted for whole school development. So far the responses that have been received from the AUEOs are very much encouraging which creates an enabling ambiance for both the parties to share experience, knowledge and skills.

### Curriculum Development and Research

#### Curriculum Research

One of Curriculum Research and Development Group's mandates is to carry out some research work prior to curriculum development and other initiatives. NCTB's (National Curriculum and Textbook Board) primary curriculum wing had a draft work plan for existing primary curriculum review and development of the new curriculum. Primary curriculum wing shared the work plan with IED's authority and curriculum group. The group showed its keen interest in research on curriculum implementation status, availability of resources and needs analysis. The group has done a thorough literature review of research papers, survey reports, policy papers on primary education sector. The review document has been submitted to NCTB authority. The group in collaboration with NCTB, is involved in the process of designing research on situation analysis and need assessment. Meanwhile, as a part of internal activity, a research is being designed on school and classroom contract hour and instructional time in primary education. Collection of data has begun from mid-March of 2011.

## Textbook Designing and Illustration



Few snaps of illustration work of Grade I and II GoB text books

One of the major achievements of The Curriculum Research and Development Group is to be able to get the opportunity to design, illustrate and make all Grade I and II textbooks of national primary education system into four colors. This opportunity surfaced as a result of the group having a good alliance with NCTB; as well as NCTB having adequate trust in the institute's capability that the group has been developing and maintaining consistently. In order to undertake the task, IED received a letter of permission from NCTB as well as permission from other relevant departments and ministry dealing with primary education. The group was given only two months to complete the task of designing, illustrating and making altogether 8 textbooks of Grade I and II into four colors. These textbooks are currently being used by all children of government primary schools and children of other schools following the national curriculum both in Bangla and English versions. A small research has been carried out to measure the acceptance of these textbooks among students and teachers. Furthermore, as per the request from higher officials of NCTB the group has been currently designing, illustrating and making 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. Besides, the group is also designing the cover pages of all grade VI and VII textbooks (30 textbooks).

### **MEd. in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management**

The group visited four types of organizations as part of the Educational Measurement and Evaluation Course to observe different educational programs. Different schools were visited e.g. Government Primary Schools (GPS), RDRS, Caritas and BRAC with a focus on how to evaluate a program. The group visited Ananda School (ROSC Project), Stipend Program and School feeding program of Government Primary School, RDRS to see their Quality Improvement program with GPS.

### **Early Childhood Development and Resource Centre**

The course of diploma ECD 529: Research Methodology was held from 5 - 28 April. Ms Seema Zainulabdin Lasi, Aga Khan University, Pakistan, Dr. Kamal Uddin, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Dhaka University, Dr. A S M Atiqur Rahman, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare, Dhaka University and Dr. PC Sharker, VC of Prime University were the external faculties who took the course.

### **IGS Updates**

#### **Fourth PPSC meeting held**



The fourth Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) was held on 17 April 2010 at the NEC Conference Room II of the Planning Commission Campus in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.



The Honourable Minister for Planning and the Chairperson of the Committee, Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker presided over the meeting. Dr. GopaKumar K. Thampi, Chief Operating Officer of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) based in IGS and Engineer Shafiqul Alam Bhuiyan, President, Bangladesh Association of Construction Industries (BACI) presented two papers in the meeting. A case styled "Public Procurement in Bangladesh: A study of legal compliance" was presented in the meeting by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of IGS.

The PPSC was formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project - II (PPRP-II) to devise a third party monitoring mechanism

for public procurement in Bangladesh. It consists of representatives from academic institutions, business community, think-tanks and civil society organisations along with government officials. The Committee will evaluate the broad impact of the Public Procurement Act and Rules on country's actual procurement practices, and put recommendations to the Government to make appropriate changes in Procurement Act and Rules. The Committee will also discuss some cases of irregularities and successes in government procurement and make recommendations in this regard. IGS provides technical assistance to the Committee in association with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning.

### **Brainstorming Session on the draft Civil Service Act**

IGS organised a brainstorming session on 23 April 2011 at Dhaka to solicit comments and recommendations on the draft Civil Service Act 2011 from practitioners' perspective. Sixteen civil servants across the country participated in the session. Dr. Rizwan Khain, Director in-Charge of IGS facilitated the session. Based on the comments of the participants, IGS provided the Government of Bangladesh a report on the draft proposed Civil Service Act.

### **IGS Research Team Retreat**

IGS arranged a retreat for its research team from 7-9 April 2011 at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center in Savar. In the retreat IGS researchers presented their respective chapters under the State of Cities (SoC) Report and Dr. Geof Wood, Emeritus Professor of the University of Bath provided comments and suggestions. Dr. Ipsita Basu, Research Head of IGS facilitated the retreat.

### **Training on Storytelling for Women Journalists**





Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organised a three-days training on Storytelling for women journalists from 5-7 April, 2011 at JATRI premises. 21 aspiring women journalists participated in the training. The objective of the training was to strengthen the quality of news writing/reports and introduce them with alternative, more creative forms of storytelling that attract readers, viewers and listeners. Mr. Nadim Qadir, Editor of ATN News, Mr. Anisul Hoque, Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo & Mr. Zahirul Alam, Chief of correspondent of NTV conducted different sessions.

### **ANSA Field Visit**

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region, based at the Institute conducted field visits to two of its grantees in April 2011. The field visits are as much for monitoring as it is for informing the work of ANSA SAR. With the ANSA SAR funds, CREDA, based in Mirzapur, India is implementing a project on raising awareness on the entitlements of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, a safety-net scheme in India. The other project visited was in Dewas, India being implemented by Jan Sahas Development Society on conducting community score cards on the health and education services in two districts. The visits presented the opportunities to speak with beneficiaries directly and discuss with the staff on ways to maximize the impact of the projects. Detailed field visit reports for both will be available on the website once completed. ANSA SAR, over two has given small to medium sized grants to 22 organizations in the region and similar visits have been made to six already.

### **SPH Updates**

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

##### **MPH PROGRAMME**

MPH 521 Biostatistics 1 module was taught by Dr. Loretta DiPietro, Dr. Sangeeta Mookherji, Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra and Md. Tanvir Hasan.

Students visited field sites in order to understand how statistical measures are used in monitoring and programme management of a health facility/center. The field sites were Savar upazilla health complex and Dhamrai upazilla health complex.

#### **CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

##### **PAY FOR PERFORMANCE (P4P)**

The pilot study for Pay-For-Performance (P4P) Approach to Increase Utilization of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services in Bangladesh is currently on implementation phase. Performance Assessment of MNCH services at three study areas (Jamalpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha districts) is one of the major activities of this implementation phase. The School is responsible to organize and facilitate the second Performance Assessment activities at four public facilities (Islampur UHC, Bakshigang UHC, Melandah UHC and Jamalpur District Hospital) of Jamalpur district in April 2011. Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Project Coordinator, along the P4P team conducted four individual Performance Assessments in four study sites ( three upazilas

and Jamalpur sadar) from April 3 - 5 and 17, 2011. The team is now preparing the Performance Assessment Report.

### **BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)**

A meeting was organized on April 10, 2011 with BHW authors, editors. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the concluding remarks (recommendation / conclusions) for the chapter on Universal Health Coverage. The coordinating group also discussed the launch date of the report.

### **COE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE**

#### **Inauguration of CoE Universal Health Coverage**

James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University inaugurated a Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage on April 7, 2011 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B.

Ms. Judith Rodin, President, Rockefeller Foundation was the Guest of Honour at the event. Other speakers include Mr. Prasanta Bhushan Barua, Joint Chief, Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Mr. Mridul Chowdhury, CEO, Click Diagnostics; Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Deputy Executive Director, ICDDR,B; Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University; and Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, School of Public Health, BRAC University, and Mr. Ishfaq Illahi Choudhury, Registrar.



Dr. Judith Rogan unveils the Universal Health Coverage plaque

Dr. Judith Rogan and Dr. Tim Evans pose with the current MPH students

According to the World Health Organization, universal coverage of healthcare means that everyone in the population has access to appropriate promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare when they need it and at an affordable cost.

With the release of the World Health Report 2010 on Universal Health Coverage, countries including Bangladesh are accelerating efforts to achieve universal health coverage. The Government of Bangladesh has begun discussion on comprehensive health insurance and is actively exploring pilot mechanism in social insurance and voucher schemes linked to its ambitious plans for universal coverage of community clinics. The private sector too including NGOS such as BRAC and Sanjida Foundation has been piloting micro-health insurance schemes.

The School through the creation of the Centre of Excellence on Universal Health Coverage aims to generate essential evidence, train appropriately skilled workers, and foster learning through knowledge sharing. The Centre will, also, act as a co-secretariat for the Global Task Force on Universal Health Coverage ensuring strong Southern leadership and facilitating communication and exchange of knowledge between the work in Bangladesh and efforts towards universal health coverage regionally and globally.

The Centre has been established with generous support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

### **FACULTY NEWS**

Dr. Taufique Joarder, Lecturer, participated in the Roundtable Discussion on the Findings and Recommendations of the Global Independent Commission on Health Professional Education for the 21st

Century. The discussion was organized by the newly inaugurated Department of Public Health and Informatics, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Dr. Lincoln Chen, President of China Medical Board shared a presentation on this issue and Dr. Tim Evans, Dean of SPH initiated the discussion. The event took place on April 06, 2011.

Ms. Tisa Muhaddes, Research & Communication Officer, attended CREA's Count Me In conference in Nepal from April 15-19, 2011. At the conference, she presented the research findings of the Violence against Marginalized Women in Bangladesh project.

## **MNS Updates**

### **BRAC University in Interuniversity Math Olympiad 2011**

Eight undergraduate students of different departments of BRAC University participated in the Interuniversity Math Olympiad 2011 held at East West University on April 01, 2011. Mr. Mohammad Maruf Ahmed, Senior Lecturer of Mathematics and Natural Sciences led the team as an instructor.

### **Science Articles in the Daily Star**

A scientific article written by Md. Riajul Hossain, Lecturer in Biotechnology was published on 12 April, 2011 in the "Tuesday's Science and Life Section" of the Daily Star. The article titled "Intuition and the Subconscious" explained two states of mind, the conscious and the subconscious and their interaction to help one take decisions about career, health, relationships and other issues of life. The article described the immense importance of intuition, which is the product of the subconscious state of mind, in successful decision making.

### **Inaugural Ceremony of the Training Course in Oceanography**

The inaugural ceremony of "The 7th Training Course in Oceanography: Principles and Applications" was held at the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AECD) Auditorium on April 17, 2011. The Honourable State Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology, GOB graced the function as its Chief Guest. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad presided over the function attended by Rear Admiral (Retd) M. H. Khan, Founder Chairman of NOAMI, participants in the course, resource persons and NOAMI members.

### **MOU Between BRACU and BAEC**

BRACU envisages to start postgraduate programmes in nuclear science and engineering at the MNS Department leading to higher academic degrees.

An MOU between BRACU and BAEC was signed on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 for collaboration between BRACU and BAEC for facilitating this. Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat, Vice-chancellor of BRACU and Mr. Muzammel Haque, Chairman (current charge), BAEC signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Under this MOU, BAEC will allow the use of its laboratory facilities by postgraduate students of BRACU & faculty of BRACU for practical classes and research work in the field of nuclear science and engineering. It will also accept postgraduate students of BRACU in the said field for research work to be carried out in BAEC under the joint supervision of BAEC scientists and engineers and BRACU faculty. BAEC scientists and engineers may also serve as part time faculty of BRACU and can take up joint research work. They will also be able to use the relevant BRAC facilities including the university library.

The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro Vice-chancellor, BRACU and Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of the MNS Department and Mr. Md. Ali Zulquarnain, Mr. Mohammad Abul Khayer and Dr. Shafiqul Islam from BAEC.

### **The Daily Star Round Table**

A number of faculty members in the biotechnology and microbiology programs of the Department of

Mathematics and Natural Sciences attended the Daily Star Round Table on " Biotechnology in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects" held on 30 April, 2011 at the Daily Star office in the city. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator of the two programs, was the moderator for the whole program which was divided into two sessions. In the first session entitled " Biotechnology in Agriculture and Medicine", the keynote paper was delivered by Professor M Anwar Hossain of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka (DU). This was followed by two lectures on "Medical Biotechnology" and "Agricultural Biotechnology". The speakers were Mr. Abdul Muktedir, Managing Director of Incepta Pharma and Professor Zeba Islam Seraj of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, DU respectively. The second session was to address "Industrial Biotechnology, Environmental Biotechnology and Biosafety Issues". In this session the keynote paper was presented by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury. This was followed by a lecture on "Environmental Biotechnology and Biosafety Issues" by Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Deputy Director, Department of Environment, GOB. A number of faculty and researchers from different public and private universities and from various research organizations were present in the program. Dr. Aparna Islam, Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Ms. Jebunnesa Choudhury and Mr. Md. Riajul Hossain were present from BRAC University. The program ended with the acceptance of a useful set of recommendations and suggestions from the participants.

## CSO Updates

### Final Assessment, Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP); Semester: Spring 2011



Career Services Office of BRAC University has successfully organized "The Interview Session" of Semester: Spring 2011. CSO organizes this event every semester as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) aiming to provide insight on facing actual interview boards. In this semester eight renowned organizations have participated namely: Bextex, Grameenphone, Robi Axiata Ltd.,

Novotel, Standard Chartered Bank Ltd., HSBC, Unilever and BRACU (CSO). A number of 144 students have participated in the event for assessment and total 12 interview boards were there. A detailed feedback has been received on every interviewed candidate, indicating strengths and areas of development. Welcome speech was given by Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge of Career Services Office, BRACU and Professor Mamun Rashid, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship Development has inaugurated the event with an insightful speech. Enthusiastic support from student volunteers and CSO-Team has helped to roll the event smoothly till the end. As a fruitful outcome of the event a number of 25 students have got an on the spot placement offer for jobs and internships.

### Robi Future Leader Campus Activation and CSO Time Out

On April 10, 2011 Robi Axiata Ltd. came to BRAC University for the event CSO Time Out. CSO Timeout is introduced as a motivational event for students willing to explore various industries for employment. In this event the team of HR from Robi Axiata Ltd. and joined with CSO with a corporate presentation on Robi launching their Future leader program which started at 5:20pm. Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar of BRACU made the welcome speech. In the following session Robi explained the recruitment process of Robi and working environment. They also talked about their coverage in Bangladesh and shared their future recruitment plan. Most of the team members from HR of Robi were present at the event; namely Mr. Mafiul Islam Nowshad, Chief HR Officer; Mr. Rizwan Qureshi, VP, Organization Development; Mr. Faisal Mahub, VP, Employee Relation; Mr. Tauhid Alam, VP, Competence Development; Mr. Babor, VP, Corporate Affairs; Ms. Afina, General Manager, Culture and Ms. Sharmin Sultan, General Manager, HRD. On behalf of Career Services Office Ms. Shabrina Shahidullah, In- Charge, Career Services Office was present at the event. After an interactive and insightful presentation, Robi arranged a small quiz competition for students where exciting gift for the winners were distributed. The session folded with a question and answerer round at 7:00pm.

### Rahimafrooz initiated the "Norm Group" for BBS students

Rahimafrooz being one of the most successful businesses operating in the country makes a large number of recruitment every year. As a part of their recruitment process and to select the talented fresh graduates they have introduced the "Norm Group" formation. Among many used recruitment tools the Ability Test is a significant one, which is recognized as the single best method of predicting job success. The formed group by Rahimafrooz will be kept in their priority list, when the turn comes for recruitment. To roll the process, Rahimafrooz selected BRAC University to create 'Norm Group' from the BBA program. The test took place on April 12, 2011 at UB 0124 with the support of BRAC University Career Services Office. A number of 53 students attended the test for Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd. Ms Lamia Zoha, Sr. Officer, HR, Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd was present there along with her team of HR to take the Ability Test.

### **Internship Orientation Program Semester: Summer 2011**

Internship Orientation of Spring, 2011 was held at 04:00 pm, Wednesday, April 13, 2011 in Indoor Games Room. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office conveyed the entire process of successful internship completion process to the prospective interns. A number of sixty undergraduate students from BRAC Business School, twenty-eight from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, one from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, two from the Department of Economics and Social Science, one from the Department of English and Humanities and five post graduates from BRAC Business School have registered for semester: Summer 2011.

### **Orientation Program of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Semester: Summer 2011**

Orientation for Professional Skill Development Program (PSDP) was held on April 13, 2011. A number of 141 students registered for summer 2011 and 91 student from the registered students participated at the orientation program. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU was the key speaker of the session and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office of BRACU made the closing note after giving out



the successful completion guideline to the participants. The Summer 2011 batch is going to start the training from May 21, 2011. Resource persons from Robi Axiata Ltd., Grameenphone, Novotel Ltd. And BRACU will be conducting the training for the semester.

### **Job Update, April 2011:**

Raihan E Rabbi | Territory Manager | Unilever Bangladesh  
Shahrin Bashir Aurin | Officer | BRAC Bank Ltd.