

2011/march

## Architecture Update

### ***WOHA at the Department of Architecture***

WOHA, one of the Southeast Asia's best known architectural firms was founded by Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell in 1994. Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell visited The Department of Architecture, BRAC University from 26-28 March, 2011. The department is the first of its kind to be honored by the visit of such globally famous and internationally acclaimed architects who spent their entire tour here. They conducted a design charrette, met some important Bangladeshi architects and delivered an ANGAN lecture.

### ***ANGAN Lecture***

An ANGAN lecture was delivered by Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell, founder members of WOHA on 28 March 2011 at 5.30pm in Indoor Games room of BRAC University. In this lecture, the architects discussed some of their projects. WOHA's architecture is notable for its constant evolution and innovation. WOHA has won a number of architectural awards for their works. They received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2007 for their project, Moulmein Rise, they collected two awards in the RIBA International Awards of 2010 for The Met and Bras Basah MRT Station, and they won the International High-rise Award 2010 for The Met. A great number of students from BRACU and other universities, faculty, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and practicing architects were present at the event.



## ***Design Charrette***

Department of Architecture, BRACU organized a design charrette on 27 March, 2011. 16 students from different design studios of the Department of Architecture participated in this workshop. The idea of that charrette was to think up an architectural concept to accommodate "The sea level rising, the earth is submerging". As the member of Urban Renewal Authority (URA) design advisory panels of Singapore, Wong Mun Summ and Richard Hassell shared their insights and experiences with the students. After this session, participants were asked to conceptualize the future architecture in Bangladesh to adopt with sea-level rise issue. Within few hours of brainstorming, students came up with new ideas and finally in the critic session their designs were highly appreciated by the jurors. Certificates were given to all participants followed by a small photo session.



## ***Post Training Follow Up Sharing***

Ar. Shajjad Hossain, lecturer, Department of Architecture participated in the "Post Training Follow Up Sharing" with respected fellows who participated in the international training courses on URWHS and DEWAT held from 24 to 27 October 2010 and 12 to 15 December 2010 at Savar BCDM. The event held at Savar BCDM from 27 to 28 March 2011.

## **BBS Update**

### ***Residential Weekend Program: Spring 2011***

The residential weekend program for EMBA students took place on the 17th and 18th of March 2011. A total of 16 students participated in the program. The program was designed and conducted



by Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRAC University, and Ms. Samina Anzum, Lecturer, TLC. Overall coordination of the program was done by Mr. Javed Rasel, DCO, EMBA Program, under the Guidance of Mr. Shawkat Kamal, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School. The program was broadly divided into three parts. It started with a socialization session on the evening of the 17th. On the 18th, the morning session covered the module "Seven Habits of Effective People". In the afternoon, the participants watched a documentary on BRAC. Later in the session, the Pro-VC answered various queries from the participants regarding BRAC and its activities.

***BRACU students and faculties attended Harvard World Model United Nations Conference 2011 in Singapore***



Five students from BRAC University along with two faculty members Suntu Kumar Ghosh and Anup Chowdhury from BRAC Business School attended Harvard World Model United Nations Conference 2011 which was held from 14th march to 18th march 2011 in Singapore. Around 2500 delegates from 65 countries, 225 international universities attended World Model MUN 2011 in Singapore. The

program was divided into different committees e.g. SPECPOL, WHO, WTO etc. Ratul Dev and Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury attended Special, Political, and Decolonization (SPECPOL) Committee. Jahirul Islam Asif attended WHO committee. Shabab Ahmed Mahfuz and Md. Tanjim Ferdous attended Historical General Assembly (HGA) Committee: Apartheid in South Africa, 1977. They had to present their position papers and negotiate among different countries during five days. SPECPOL committee was chaired by Dominik Nieszporowski. At the end of the days every committees had to pass their own resolution paper after a robust voting and negotiation. SPECPOL committee passed their bill for creating a transparency framework for sovereign wealth fund. Ratul Dev worked as head delegate for the BRACU team. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by the Foreign Minister of Singapore at National University of Singapore. Furthermore, UN Secretary's advisor shared his experience at opening ceremony which was a remarkable speech at World MUN. Besides, BRACU delegates attended panel sessions on ASEAN.

Faculty members advised the students to negotiate and perform in each committee. In addition, faculty members had to attend several meeting with the other advisor and head delegates. BRACU delegates received certificates for their successful delegation.

***Seminar on Marketing***

A seminar titled "Marketing Possibilities" was organized for students by Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of BBA Program on March 24, 2011 at BRAC University. The speaker of the program was Mr. Tim Steel who is the Advisor of Tiger Tours.

He talked about the importance of introducing Hospitality Management Training in Bangladesh. Students also got an idea about trade and business of the ancient civilizations of the world, and the marketing strategies used then. The students were inspired when Tim acknowledged that he was optimistic about Bangladeshi



youth and their role in the development of our country through effective business strategies. He particularly stressed on learning through practical marketing experience, and being bold and courageous when implementing ideas. Mr. Tim Steel further described to students the benefits of choosing Marketing as a major in students' academic lives. Lastly, an interactive question-answer session was conducted.

The seminar was a great platform for an expert marketer like Tim to disseminate his knowledge to some eager minds!

### ***Seminar on Entrepreneurship***

BRAC Business School is always proactive to bridge between the academic world with the corporate sector. As part of this initiative, BBS invites renowned personalities who can inspire the students. The purpose is to give the students opportunity to interact with them, to learn how the theoretical concepts are applied in real world and to prepare themselves for the future. In February-March, we had two guest speakers - Mr. Asif Saleh, Director Communication, BRAC and Ms. Sonia Bashir Kabir, Director, Business Development (South East Asia), Microsoft. Mr. Saleh talked about E-Commerce, how Bangladesh is opening up to it and the entrepreneurial opportunities in this sector. Ms. Kabir discussed about Entrepreneurship and encouraged students to leap up and bring out the best in them. Both the sessions were very interactive with spontaneous participation by students. Both the speakers were gracious to offer their guidance to the students and encouraged students to be in touch with them. These sessions were arranged by BBS Faculty Ms. Mahtab Faruqui for her students of Entrepreneurship course (BUS\_321) of section 002.

### ***Japanese Students visited to BRAC University***



Two students from Japan- Akira Iwamizu from the University of Tokyo and Tomomi Sugimoto from the Rikkyo University paid a visit to BRAC University on March 30, 2011. They were received by Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the BBA program. BRAC University

was represented by Athina Shaolin Audity, student of BRAC Business School and Iffat Zahan, student of the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. The visit lasted approximately for three hours and the students demonstrated a strong interest in the programs run and opportunities facilitated by BRAC University. During the visit they also expressed their interest and pleasure visiting Bangladesh and conveyed their appreciation the initiatives undertaken by

BRAC and BRAC University and also expressed their aspiration to expand their learning in the development programs conducted here.

### ***Prize Giving Ceremony of Indoor Games Competition 2011***

The prize giving ceremony of "Indoor Games Competition 2011" for MBA students had been held on 10th March, 2011 at 6:00pm in UB 0521. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, PhD, Pro-VC BRAC University was present as chief guest and distributed the prizes among participants. Professor Mojib U Ahmed, Director, MBA Program and Patron MBA



Forum, Professor Jaghangir Alam, Dr. Abdus Sattar, Dr. Ahasan Habib, Mr. Anup Chowdhury, Mr. Intisar Alam, Mr. Jabir Al Mursalin and Mr. Saif Hossain were also present at the program. At the end chief guest and patron of the MBA Forum gave speech to the students.

### ***Research work of BBS Faculty member***

Professor Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mohd. Aminul Karim, "Human Resource Development in Bangladesh: Strategic Perspective" has been published in Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (biiss), Vol 31, No 4, 2010. (ISSN 1010-9536)

## **BDI Update**

### ***Third Global Graduation Meeting Organized***

BDI along with CGAP and the Ford Foundation, organized the third Global Graduation Meeting on March 24-25 2011, in Paris. This event was funded by the MasterCard Foundation. The CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation Program is a global effort to understand how safety nets, livelihoods and microfinance can be sequenced to create pathways for the poorest out of extreme poverty, adapting a methodology developed by BRAC in Bangladesh.

Since 2006, CGAP and Ford Foundation have adapted BRAC's experience to other countries and contexts. Ten graduation pilots are underway, in Haiti, India in three places (with Bandhan, SKS, and Trickle Up), Pakistan, Honduras, Peru, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Ghana. The 10 pilots involve diverse institutional forms, economic contexts, and cultures. The pilots are implemented through partnerships between financial service providers, nongovernmental organizations, and government units.

Learning is a crucial part of the program and impact assessments and/or qualitative research are being implemented in all sites. With five pilots "graduated" and starting to scale up, some mid-way into the program and one just starting, the Global Graduation Meeting was a unique opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the more advanced pilots and discuss challenges of ongoing implementation. This meeting was a step towards continuing to build our practitioner network around the graduation initiative.

## ***Pakistan/Bangladesh/India: Building a Field of Scholarship and Dialogue on 1971***

BDI organized a workshop on Pakistan/Bangladesh/India: Building a Field of Scholarship and Dialogue on 1971 on March 16-17, 2010 at the BRAC Centre, Dhaka.

The year 1971 witnessed a unique event that can be described in many ways: as the Bangladesh Liberation War, as the implosion of Pakistan, as the largest genocide in South Asian history, as the first break-up of a postcolonial state, as the triumph of an autonomy movement, as a shift in Cold War alliances, as the next stage in the Partition of India, and so on. Not surprisingly, 1971 continues to reverberate heavily in contemporary politics in South Asia and in the personal lives of millions of people in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. A generation later, however, the study of what actually happened in that fateful war remains stunted.

In between two extremes forms of representations - the ultra nationalistic history in Bangladesh and the self serving volumes by ex-military officers in Pakistan - there have been very few academic or semi academic efforts to explain the political events leading up to and beyond the 1971 crisis. The workshop aimed to allow for exchange and help break down intellectual and social boundaries between researchers from a variety of perspectives and national backgrounds, facilitating a more smooth transition toward future research and even network formation on a theme that continues to reverberate in contemporary South Asia.

### ***Developing a Course on Citizenship, Democracy and Development***

The Teaching and Learning Group under the DRC on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability is one of the ways through which the Citizenship DRC is continuing to use the research outputs it has developed over the last ten years. All DRC partners based mostly in the Global South are affiliated to a university and many of these universities have already developed courses or course materials using the case studies on citizenship and rights. Through the Teaching and Learning Group, case studies of citizen participation, citizen mobilization and action, creation of democratic spaces, processes of deepening democracy in countries such as Mexico, Angola, Nigeria, South Africa, Bangladesh and India are now being taught in classrooms as a way of disseminating the research findings and enriching theories.

The Bangladesh Citizenship research team is now in the process of developing such a course. With this aim in view, a one-day workshop titled 'Developing a Course on Citizenship, Democracy and Development' was held at the BRAC Centre on March 15, 2011. Dr. Bettina Von Lieres, Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto came to Dhaka to jointly develop the course with Simeen Mahmud and conduct the workshop. The workshop was held with the intention to get feedback on the course from teachers and students of both public and private universities. New teaching methods to enhance student participation were also demonstrated at the workshop. Furthermore, the Bangladesh research team was also interested in gauging the interest of different departments of local universities to adopt the new course.

Fifteen participants including both teachers and students from Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, North South University and BRAC University participated in the workshop. They represented a variety of disciplines including Political Science, International Relations, Gender Studies, Anthropology and Public Administration. Based on the feedback, the new

course on 'Citizenship, Democracy and Development' is now in the process of being finalized.

### ***Urban Poverty Process Documentation Research***

Data analysis of the baseline surveys conducted by the Urban Poverty research wing of BDI is currently being undertaken, as is the writing of a report based on the findings of the research. Five intervention slums have recently been visited to collect information on the intervention process being implemented. All the information thus far collected has been documented and the design for a process documentation research has been prepared. Six researchers are currently conducting the process documentation research of the five intervention sites.

### ***Second Field Visit for MDMP Students***

In the month of March, 2011 MDMP students had their first mid terms and went on their second field visit to Khulna. The trip, attended by nine students and four members of faculty, aimed to give students a practical understanding of the impacts of climate change, the urbanization of Khulna and urban poverty. Students were taken to the Sundarbans to visit sites affected by cyclones SIDR and Aila. They also visited the Urban and Rural Planning Department of Khulna University, the Khulna Metropolitan Area, a local slum and a renowned NGO, Rupantor, where a cultural program was arranged for their benefit.

### ***Presentation of First Chapter of Cultural History Book***

On 14 February, 2011, Firdous Azim, Lead Researcher, and Perween Hasan, Co-Lead, of the Cultural History of Bengali Muslim Women Project at the Pathways Programme, gave a presentation on the introductory and first chapter of the proposed book that will be published from this research. The exchange of views and suggestions will help refine these chapters and feed into future research.

### ***Book "Ogni o Jol: Rupantorer Golpo" Published***

Ogni o Jol: Rupantorer Golpo, a collection of short stories about the journeys of change in women's lives has just been published. The book contains 11 stories by writers such as Selina Hossain, Audity Falguni, Shahanaz Munni, Jharna Rahman, Papree Rahman, Moni Haider, Tanvir Malik, Munasir Kamal and many more. The collection is unique not only due to the diversity of writers who have contributed to the book, but also because of the different ways each of the authors has transformed the real life stories of women into fiction. The writers of this book had taken part in the Stories4Changing Writing Project, which was a series of creative writing workshops where writers were provided research case studies from the Pathways Programme which they successfully spurned into fiction. The collection is edited by Shamim Azad, poet and writer, and jointly published by Mowla Brothers and BRAC University Press. The book is available for sale from Mowla Brothers at Tk. 200.

### ***Research Booklet Set Published "Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth"***

A set of six Bangla booklets titled Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth has been published by BDI. The reports in this booklet present a variety of research topics that the Pathways Programme at BDI is engaged with: changes in the discourses on women's empowerment among different actors, women health workers, women in local government, changes in donor funding policies and their impact on women's rights organisations, media production in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the debate between Nazrul and Rabindranath on the usage of the

word 'khun'. The individual booklets are available for TK. 40 each, and the whole set can be bought at Tk. 200 from Pathak Shamabesh, Aziz Super Market.

### ***Book Launching Ceremony at Dhaka University***



A launching ceremony to launch the books "Ogni o Jol: Rupantorer Kotha" and "Narir Khomotayon: Poribortoner Gotipoth" was held on 12 March, 2011 at Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University. The books were launched by Ruby Rahman, poet and Member of Parliament and Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. Dr. Syed M. Hashemi, Director of BDI, spoke on the occasion. The 11 writers who contributed to Ogni o Jol were present at the book launch. Younger writers shared their experiences of being part of the Stories4Change project, and Selina Hossain, writer, shared her personal reflections on the journey from turning research findings to fiction. The ceremony featured story-telling performances, prose and songs, as well as visual clips of the creative writing process that produced these stories.

### ***Pathways Consortium Management Meeting***

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of the Pathways Programme at BDI, attended the management meeting of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Consortium at IDS, Sussex in Brighton, UK from 23-25 February, 2011. At the meeting, the Hub Convenors from the different hubs discussed pending work for the final months of the Pathways Programme and shared their plans for the remaining months of the programme. They also strategized on future plans beyond the Programme timeline.

### ***Publication of "Mobilizing for Women's Right" Workshop Report***

The final country report of the research on "Mobilizing for Women's Rights" which was conducted by the Pathways Programme in Ghana and in Bangladesh has been published. The report is based on an analysis of case studies of women's rights organisations in Bangladesh with respect to how they mobilise resources for their agendas and the impact that the restructuring of aid has had on them. It also presents the donors' perspectives from interviews conducted with in-country representatives of donors of the case study organisations. The report was distributed at the conference titled 'Effects of external financing on organizing for women's rights' was held from 21-22 March, 2011 in Amsterdam.

### ***Participation in Conference on 'The Effects External Financing on Organizing for Women's Rights', Amsterdam, 21-11 March 2011***

Maheen Sultan and Sohela Nazneen attended an international conference organized jointly by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam and the Pathways Programme in Amsterdam. The conference titled 'Effects of external financing on organizing for women's rights' was held from 21-22 March, 2011. Participants discussed the strategic implications for women's rights organizations as well as for the organizations funding them concerning the effect of external financing on organising for women's rights. Representatives from the following Women's Rights Organisations: Banchete Shekha, Doorbar Network, BOMBA and Kormojibi Nari- along with representatives from two donor organizations- Manusher Jonno and CIDA- also attended the conference. The conference debates and conclusions will be integrated into the final synthesis report for this project.

### **CfL Update**

#### ***Pre-university students 'Say No to Eve Teasing'***



Pre-University students of BRAC University organized an open discussion entitled "Eve teasing a social curse and its socio-political perspectives" on 24th March, 2011, Thursday where the representatives from four sections presented different views on this concern. The open discussion was a part of their mentoring programme, aiming to develop awareness on this social evil through providing an opportunity to practice their language skills. Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed,

director to the Centre for Languages (CfL) as the Chief Guest, graced the programme with her presence and shared valuable insights about the issue after the vibrant discussion. The huge success of the programme inspired the pre-university team to organize similar programs in future.

#### ***Centre for Languages (CfL) arranges a seminar with Farida Akhtar***



CfL organized an open seminar, especially for the Pre-University students for making them aware of psychosocial problems students usually face in their initial semesters at the university. The seminar held on 10th

March, 2010, Thursday at the Indoor Games room was a part of their enhancement class where Ms. Farida Akhtar, the consultant of the Psychosocial Counseling Unit of BRAC University spoke as the key speaker. The programme brought an enormous success as the students enjoyed greatly and participated in the discussion. Director to the CfL, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed inspired the gathering with her presence.

#### ***Effat Hyder from CfL attended TESOL Convention in USA***

Effat Hyder, a faculty member of CfL successfully attended the 45th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit organized by TESOL from 16th to 19th March 2011 in New Orleans, USA. She went to many workshops and academic sessions for example, Teaching English as Something Other than Language, (Re)conceptualizing Grammar in the Writing Classroom, English as a Lingua Franca: Challenging the "Standard", Books That Motivate Adult Students to read and Develop Fluency, Interactive Academic Language Instruction in the ESL Classroom, Five Practical Activities for a Great Writing Class etc. There she also explored into a large exhibition center with vendors of renowned publications and resources for academic purposes. Effat will be conducting some workshops on what she learned from the conference and sharing the new and exciting ideas with her colleagues in CfL, BRAC University.



### ***Former Fellow Rejoins for a Semester***

Beth Trudell, a former English Language Fellow has rejoined to BRAC University for a semester to work with the faculty members at CfL. She will be working, especially with the new teachers, by conducting workshops on facilitation, critical thinking and effective practices in classrooms. During her previous tenure she helped design the Pre-University Programme run by CfL. Recently she has also co-authored an article titled "From Passive Learners to Critical Thinkers: Preparing EFL Student for University Success" with Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila, another faculty member of CfL, which was published in English Teaching Forum.

## **ENH Update**

### ***Public Speaking event***

ENH student Risana N.Malik participated in the national finals of the International Public Speaking Competition 2011 organised by the English Speaking Union on 5th March 2011. This event took place at Kobi Sufia Kamal Hall of the National Museum, Dhaka. The two other finalists of the event Ratib Mortuza and Abedin Kader from the department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRACU will participate as representatives of Bangladesh to the International Public Speaking Competition to be held from 23-27 May 2011 in London. The eventual winner of this competition gets to go to Buckingham Palace to receive the prize from HRH Prince Philip and will be invited to dine with the Queen! Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Sr. Lecturer, ENH and an alumnus of the English Speaking Union has been mentoring all these three finalists through the process and shall remain with them through the different stages of the competition in London.

The English-Speaking Union is an international organization which runs programmes to encourage the effective use of English as means of international communication, as well as a variety of current affairs and cultural activities aimed at improving international understanding.

### ***Guest Lecture***

On 3rd March 2011, Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju, Associate Professor of Department of Media and Communication, Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) came as a guest lecturer in Eng 331: Cultural Studies Theory and Practice. His lecture on Popular Bengali Cinema was about the history of Bangladeshi film production and

its present state. Starting from the story of the first ever movie makers of the world, he took the students on a substantially guided tour across the past century as he talked about the transformations and revolutions in film production in our country. The lecture also covered the hurdles the pioneer film makers had faced. He also talked about the influence of the films on the audience and vice versa. In the end there was a lively discussion between the students and the guest on his informative lecture and the probable future of the film industry of Bangladesh.

### ***Meet the Writer***

On 13th March 2011, ENH invited Saleha Chowdhury for sharing her experience as a Bangladeshi writer who has been living in the UK for the last 30 years. Saleha Chowdhury has won the Ananya Award Literature in 2009 for her short stories. Saleha Chowdhury has also translated many English books and essays into Bangla.

ENH students acted out her short story *Ekjon Punk O Gulshan Ara* taken from her collection of short stories *Shatagalpa*. A reading of her Bangla story *Attoja* and its English translation titled *The Daughter* was also presented by the students of ENH.



ENH students performing *Ekjon Punk O Gulshan Ara*.

Saleha Chowdhury

The writer talked about her recent translation of the speeches of twelve female Nobel laureates' which were compiled into a book titled *Sahittyee Barojon Nobel Bijoyee Nari*.

### **Study Trip to Mahasthangar and Paharpur**

On 11th March 2011, fifty four students of Hum101: World Civilization and Culture course went on a study tour to Mahasthangar and Paharpur (Shompur Bihar) in Bogra. Professor Samina Sultana, the course teacher and Ayrin Ahmed the Teaching Assistant accompanied the students on the trip. The students saw the remnants of the ancient Civilization of Bengal of the Gupta Era. Mahasthangar is one of the historical places of Bangladesh which shows a well planned city of the 2nd century BC. Paharpur on the other hand is the



marvelous Buddhist Bihar of Raja Dharmapal of the Pal era of the same period and one of the biggest Buddhist Bihars of the world. Shahidul Islam, PS to the Vice Chancellor of BRACU and Ahsan Kabir, the Department Coordination Officer of ENH organised the accommodation and transport for the trip.

## ESS Update

### Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty



Ms. Lutfun Nahar Lata, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, presented a paper on "Poverty and Sanitation Practices among the Urban Poor" at the Fourth Annual Poverty and Protection Conference in Thailand on March 02, 2011.

### ESS Students Achievements

The Bangladesh chapter of UK-based English Speaking Union (ESU) selected two Bangladeshi students for an international public speaking competition to be held in London in May this year where Ratib Mortuza Ali, student of ESS was selected as the best speaker of Bangladesh.

Shabab Ahmed Mahfuz, a senior student of the ESS department recently attended the 2011 Harvard World Model United Nations conference in Singapore. It was a five day conference, held from 14-18 March, joining students from around the world where Shabab represented Guinea Bissau under the Historical General Assembly.

ESS students Adnan M. S. Fakir and Sardar Mohammad Imrose initiated a social environment development project named "Project Renewal" through the club "House of Volunteers" this semester (Spring 2011). The project combines an academic research to find the demand for cleaner lakes from the Korail settlement and the nearby apartments in the Banani-Gulshan area with the idea to provide incentives to the govt. and other private organizations to clean the community lakes, along with promotion of self-made recycled paper from Kochuripana (water hyacinth) and subsequently setting up of a social business using the recycled paper by the women in Korail settlement

## IED Update



### Research and Development

A 10 days training on Research Methodology was held at Savar Centre for Development Management (CDM) where 25 participants from National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE), National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM), Upazila Resource Centre (URC) and Institute of Educational Development (IED) were present. Dr. Mainus Sultan, University of

Massachusetts Amherst facilitated the training.

IED has long been involved with NAPE strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of common interest. Recently, NAPE has shown interest to undertake a research collaboratively with IED on pre primary education.

### ***Curriculum and Research***

An international consultant Dr. Upali Sedere visited IED from March 5 - 17, 2011 to support and guide National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Primary Wing in the process of the national curriculum review and development. It is to be mentioned here that IED is one of the members of the working committee of the NCTB curriculum review.

### ***Professional Development***

The Professional Development Group delivered a 10 days in-house Short Course to Head Teachers (HT) of Dhaka Division at Savar, BRAC U Campus from 5th March to 15th March, 2011. Twenty - five HTs participated in the Short Course titled - 'How the Head Teachers Can Make Schools Work'. The course was targeted for whole school development and as such, modules that were included were: Teaching Learning



Methods, Academic supervision, Managerial Functions, Curriculum, Textbooks, Assessments, Effective Communication, Belief and Assumptions about Teacher/Child, Difficulties and Challenges and How to Address them, Critical Thinking, Leadership & SLIP, Materials and Activities, School Readiness, Community Mobilization and Making Own School Plan. It was an overwhelming event whereby the Head Teachers got the opportunity to share their own experiences, knowledge and skills and gathered experiences from field visits.

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

One staff from Early Childhood Development and Resource Centre (ECDRC) attended a short course on 'Project Monitoring and Evaluation' in Thailand which was organized by Dhurakij Pundit University from 1 - 17 March 2011

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



Under the MEd course EDU 508 Educational Measurement and Evaluation, the students of MEd 2nd cohort visited Government Primary Schools, RDRS, CARITAS and BRAC Educational Programmes in Rangpur and Dinajpur areas to see how well the programme goals and objectives for quality, equity and inclusion in education are being achieved. A framework for programme evaluation was developed to look at the context, issues and problems faced by the underserved and marginalized groups and how the programmes were addressing these issues and problems. Later, the evaluation findings and analysis was presented by the students through a creative and colorful 'Mela' on 'Equity and Inclusion' held on March 30, 2011 at BRAC University Campus. Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor and Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor BRAC University were present at this event along with faculty and students of IED.

## IGS Update

### ***Certificate for 'Environmental Management and Governance' Course***



The four months Certificate Programme on 'Environmental Management and

Governance' ended with a Certificate awarding ceremony at the BRAC University on 31st March, 2011. Professor Ainun Nishat, VC of BRAC University was present at the occasion and distributed certificates among the students. The course was attended by professionals from both the NGOs and corporate sector. The course was jointly organized by IGS and Natural Resource Institute (NRI), University of Manitoba, Canada.

### ***JATRI organized training on 'Interviewing and Source Development Techniques'***



Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS organized a training on 'Interviewing and Source Development Techniques' at the JATRI Training Room during 21-23 March, 2011. 21 Working Journalists participated at the training. Senior Journalist Ms. Shahnaz Munni facilitated the program while she shared her own work experiences with the participants. The program ended with another short session by Ms. Farhana Islam, Training Manager of JATRI, on the 'Power of Silence'.

### ***ANSA Chief conducted training in Colombo***

Dr. Gopakumar K Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR conducted a half day training session for the staff of the Applied Research Unit of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Colombo, Sri Lanka on The use of qualitative and quantitative techniques for M&E focusing on service delivery projects. The presentation was followed by a discussion session. In addition to the staff present the entire session was also webcast to other UN offices globally.

## **MNS Update**

### ***Publication of Article***

An article titled "Dissecting the matrix of knowledge based economy and society" by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of the MNS department was published in 'The Independent' on March 11, 2011. In this article the author stressed on the knowledge based economic development of Bangladesh, which is stable, self-sustained and ever growing on a solid foundation. The experience of India and the countries of in the 'Confucian Belt' like China, Japan, Korea and Singapore are incorporated in this article.



### ***New Appointments***

Mr. Md. Sazib Hossain and Mr. Touhid Hossain joined the Department of MNS on March 13, 2011 as junior lecturers in mathematics.

### ***BRACU MS Biotechnology Students Visit BRAC Dairy***

A group of students of MS Biotechnology programme,

BRAC University visited the BRAC Dairy, Gazipur on 14 March, 2011. It was a twenty-eight member group of students and faculty members from MNS Department. The group was led by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury. The team was warmly received by the BRAC dairy officials. The visiting team was then around the different laboratories, production floors and the powder milk production plant. The visit was ended by refreshment offered by the Dairy officials. The visiting team thanked BRAC Dairy officials for their warm reception and organized demonstration of different laboratories and the powder milk production plant.

### ***A visit to BRAC ARDC, 21 March 2011***

A team of 14 students led by Dr. Aparna Islam visited BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Center (BRAC ARDC), Gazipur on 21 March 2011. To explore the possibilities of collaborative research at the Masters level the team was enriched by the presence of presence of six more faculty members from the MNS Department, namely, Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain, Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, Ms. Farzana Ahmed, Ms. Farhana Musarrat and Mr. Md. Riajul



Hossain. The team was welcomed at the BRAC ARDC by Dr. Mahbub Hossain, CEO, BRAC and Dr. Javier Zapata, Consultant, BRAC ARDC. Then the visiting and the host team exchanged a brief introduction of their respective members. The scientific session started with the presentation with the enormous research and development projects that were being done in the field of breeding and biotechnology. The presentations were made by Dr. Modal and Dr. Zapata. Following the presentations the team was led to visit the plant tissue culture labs and also the low cost environmentally friendly culture room facilities. The second facility was indeed an eye opening experience away from the traditional setup of plant tissue culture laboratory system. The team was given an overall view of how the labs were arranged and how the work was carried out step by step. At present the institute is engaged in tissue culture of several vegetable and flowering plants, namely, potato, banana, strawberry, stevia, carnation and gerbera etc. From the huge cultures rooms the plantlets are taken to the equally large green houses for acclimatization. Finally these plantlets are packed for selling at the market. After going through the plant biotechnology research facility the team was taken to the field to see the breeding programme in several crop species including rice, red long beans, red okras, egg plants, chilies etc. The students were shown to identify the hybrid and analyze the characters in the field. The total visit enabled the students to correlate the theories learnt in the class room with the real life and open-up venues of research with commercially important crops to contribute to the country's economy.

### ***Editorial Member of the PTC&B Journal***

Dr. Aparna Islam was made a member of the Editorial Board of the Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Journal published by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (BAPCT&B). The biannual PTC&B journal is being published since 1991. Online publication of the journal at the BanglaJOL started in 2006. At present the journal is indexed in Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Preview, Elsevier Bibliographic Database, DOAJ, SCOPUS, Google scholar, etc.

### ***Seminar held at the MNS Department***

A seminar was held on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 10:00 am in the MNS Conference Room (UB1521). The seminar entitled, "Biopesticides: Introduction, prospects, and promises" was presented by Mr. Mahbubul Hasan Siddiquee, Lecturer of Microbiology, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRACU. The abstract is given below:

Biopesticides are certain types of pesticides derived from naturally occurring biological agents. Microbial pesticides consisting of microorganism, plant-incorporated-protectants (PIPs), and biochemicals are three of its major classes that can serve significantly to improve agricultural production and environmental safety. In 2001, about 5.05 billion pounds of pesticide active ingredient were used worldwide in agriculture containing approximately 888 million pounds of active ingredients and 600 different chemical compounds that are reported to pose considerable risks ranging from irritation to cancer. On the other hand, biopesticides are usually inherently less toxic than conventional pesticides and often are effective in very small quantities that decompose quickly, thereby resulting in lower and, most notably, safer exposures. Thus, biopesticides may serve to reduce conventional pesticide applications through their effective use.

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

One scientific article written by Md. Riajul Hossain, Lecturer in Biotechnology was published on 29 March in the "Tuesday's Science and Life Section" of the Daily Star. The article titled "How is the mind shaped?" described the role of genes and environment in shaping the human mind and concluded that not only nature, but nurture also played very important role in shaping mind throughout the development of a human being.

### ***Plasma-Fusion and Space Science Research at the MNS Department***



A research project on Plasma-Fusion and Space Science has been initiated at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of BRACU on March 31, 2011. The project is financed by the Ministry of Education, GOB under Grants for Advanced Research in Science of worth Tk. 10,000,00 (Taka Ten Lac only). The first installment of the grant Tk 5,80,000 (Taka Five Lac Eighty Thousand only) has already been received by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, the Principal Investigator of the project. The research program is opened by a simple function at the MNS Department by cutting cakes followed by discussion. All faculty and staff of the Department were present at the function.

### ***Departure for Higher Studies Abroad***

Mr. Md. Jakir Hossain, senior lecturer in mathematics left for Australia for higher studies. He will be pursuing his Ph.D. work with an Australian Government scholarship at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

## **SPH Update**

### **Courses**

#### **Qualitative Research Methods (MPH511)**



The Qualitative Research Methods (MPH511) module took place during February 27 to March 10, 2011. Professor Dr. Alayne Adams coordinated the course. Mr. Mujibul Anam Labib, Mr. Hasanur Rahman and Dr. Taufique Joarder took classes. Dr. Taufique Joarder organized the module as Teaching Fellow as well. In the second half of the module students conducted two qualitative researches in groups. One group explored the nutritional practices of the rickshaw pullers and the other group explored the occupational hazards of the garment workers.

#### **HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES**

Dr. David de Ferranti, President of The Results for Development Institute (R4D), was invited to give a lecture to the MPH students on March 17, 2011 at BCDM Savar. His lecture title was on "The Next 25 Years in Global Health: What to Expect and What to Aim for". Students and course faculty members attended the seminar. Dr. David de Ferranti's firm works with African, Asian, and Latin American countries to find and apply practical solutions, particularly on health, education, innovative finance, and governance policies.



At the World Bank, he headed up its vice-presidency for health, education, and other social services programs in developing countries. He has served in the U.S. government and led research at Rand. He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University.

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

During March, the following activities took place under BHW :

- follow up on BHW authors' write-up for the upcoming report 2010
- Meeting on March 28 at School with working group committee members to discuss the launching of the report 2010 and also confer upon the theme for the next BHW report
- Chapter 3 (disease burden and financing) final complete draft sent to the editor
- Carrying out the activities as part of the academic team overseeing the cluster responsibilities in the MPH course modules

### ***ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS***

Academic Study Group (ASG) is organizing a series of biostatistics review session for in-house faculty. For more information, please contact Dr. Enam Hasib, SRA/Lecturer of JPGSPH (ext. 4162).

An online meeting between Harvard School of Public Health and JPGSPH was organized by ASG on March 9, 2011 to discuss climate change, its impact on Bangladesh and public health aspects.

ASG also organized a seminar on Verbal Autopsy at the conference room of JPGSPH in this month.

### ***Working Group meeting- GFATM-913 (RCC)***

GFATM-913 project of James P Grant School of Public Health, BU has been developing two national BCC guidelines for Injecting Drug User and Sex Worker interventions of CARE Bangladesh, Padakhep, Bangladesh Women Health Coalition (BWHC) and Durjoy Nari Shangha (DNS). For this purpose two Working

Groups have been formed for detailing out the strategic framework and contributing to the development of draft BCC guidelines with the experts from government, national and international organizations. Two meetings of Working Group for BCC for Sex Workers and Injecting Drug Users were held on 16th and 20th March 2011 respectively at James P Grant School of Public Health, BU. The agenda of the meeting included sharing of draft strategic framework and find out strategies for making the framework comprehensive and strategic.

### **Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting- GFATM-913 (RCC)**



A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting was held at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BU on 31 March 2011. The TAG have been formed at the beginning of the project (GFATM-913) mainly to advise the consortium members on development of guidelines and manuals. The TAG reforms on the basis of project requirement. During RCC period a total of 14 members from NASP, UNAIDS, UNODC, FHI, Save the

Children USA, NIPSOM and Padakhep, CARE Bangladesh, Bangladesh Women Health Coalition (BWHC) and Durjoy Nari Shangha (DNS) consortiums have newly included in the TAG. The meeting was chaired by the Senior Project Director and Team Leader (GF 913) of JPGSPH. The findings of need assessment study for Developing Tools and Guidelines for Effective Implementation of HIV/AIDS Programme among Most at Risk Population (MARP), draft national strategic framework of BCC guidelines for Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and Sex Workers (SWs) interventions were the main agenda of the meeting. The members provided their technical know-how on the issues presented in the meeting which will immensely contribute to developing standard BCC guidelines for the MARP.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Observance of International Women's Day 2011 by the MPH Students**

MPH students celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) in recognition of the successes of women's movement around the world. The students decided to put a few minutes aside to celebrate 'women' on IWD. The programme started with a song by Westlife "You raise me up" dedicated to all the women who rose up in the fight for justice and equality. Ms. Miatta Zenabu Gbanya from Liberia discussed about the four key movements in the fight for equality. Dr. Ziagul Isfandi from Afghanistan described the meaning of the colors worn on that day. Then all the males pinned the ribbons and described one good thing about one female classmate. Dr. Rumana Yusuf from Bangladesh gave a short speech on the theme of the day. This was followed by words of wisdom by the faculty Dr. Alayne Adams, Mr. Mujibul Anam Labib and Dr. Taufique Joarder. The day was concluded by a slideshow based on the experience of one of the students (Miatta) highlighting the issues women are faced with around the world specifically in conflict or fragile states which prevents them from reaching their full potential in life.

## **FACULTY NEWS**

Dr Timothy Evans, Dean, delivered 'Professor M A Quadri Memorial Lecture' at the scientific seminar of 19 Annual General Assembly of Bangladesh Medical Association on March 12, 2011. Dr. Evans was awarded with a gold medal by the Honorable Minister for Health and Family welfare of the Government of

Bangladesh, Dr. A. F. M. Ruhul Haque for his outstanding contribution and continued support to the health systems of the country. Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed and Dr. Enam Hasib of JPGSPH also attended the seminar.

Dr. Enam Hasib, a Senior Research Associate / Lecturer, presented a poster at the 13th Annual Scientific Conference (ASCON) of ICDDR,B held on March 14-17, 2011 at hotel Sonorgaon. The title of his poster was 'Ignored Nursing Staff to Deliver Better Health care Services in Bangladesh'.

A paper by Dr. Taufique Joarder, Lecturer, was accepted in the ASCON XIII Conference which was held in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel during March 14 to 17, 2011. The paper titled 'Achieving Universal Healthcare: State of Community Empowerment in Bangladesh' had been accepted for oral presentation in the session on 'Equity in Health Systems'.

## **TLC Updates**

### ***A session on: Personal Development***

Habits of Highly Successful Students had been facilitated on 13th March, 2011 at BRACU Savar Residential Campus. This session had been designed under the HUM Course; Ethics and Culture for the students of residential semester and had been organized and facilitated jointly by TLC and Residential Semester. Six Faculty members took all six different sections with a total number of 200 students. The session was facilitated through Colloquium method followed by a short power point presentation on the topic. The facilitation team were: Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC & Director, TLC, BRACU (Sec-01), Mr. Farid Ahmed, Faculty member, RS (Sec-02), Mr. Ahammad Ullah, Faculty member, RS(Sec-04), MS. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Faculty member, TLC (Sec-05), Ms. Arifa Rahman, Faculty member, RS (Sec-07) and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-charge, CSO, BRACU(Sec-08)

### ***A two-day Workshop on Professional Development***

Exploring New Horizon of Learning was held on 17th-18th March 2011 at Savar TARC. The workshop was designed for the EMBA students of BRACU as a Residential Weekend Program: Spring 2011. The workshop was organized jointly by TLC and BRAC Business School (BBS) and was facilitated by Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC & Director, TLC, BRACU, and Ms. Samina Anzum, Lecturer, TLC. The workshop was coordinated by Mr. Javed Rasel, DCO, EMBA Program, under the Guidance of Mr. Shawkat Kamal, Assistant Professor, BBS. The workshop was facilitated into two sessions. The first one was on Professional Development: Habits of Highly Effective People and the next session was on BRAC: Learning from BRAC programs & activities. The workshop had started with Social gathering evening on 17th and ended-up with the cultural evening, (organized and participated by the students) on 18th. A total of 16 students participated in the workshop. Most of the participants felt that it was a great platform for them to express their feelings and thoughts freely. And the workshop will not only improve her/his skills to interact with others within the organization, but would enhance this skill beyond the organization context as well.

2nd TLC Follow-up Workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU was held on 19th March 2011 at UB 0223. The workshop was organized by Teaching Learning Center (TLC) and was designed for the faculty members of BRACU who participated the TLC workshops (Jan'2010 to Jan'2011) on Teaching and Learning at BRACU. It was a follow-up workshop where the participants shared their teaching experiences at BRACU and tried to find out to what extent and how the

they could apply those learning they had from previous TLC workshops. The workshop was conducted through Colloquium method, followed by VIPP approach. A short session on Managing Disruptive Students' Behavior: Role of the Teachers added extra learning insights to the participants. A total number of 25 faculty members participated the workshop. The workshop was Facilitated by Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC & Director, TLC, BRACU, Ms. Farida Akhter, Counselor & consultant and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer, TLC.

## **CSO Update**

### ***On-Campus Interview by Navana Petroleum Limited***

The on-campus interview was organized by Career Services Office for Navana Petroleum Ltd. For their MTO recruitment and a number of 7 students were interviewed and one candidate has been selected for the position.

Interviewee: Mr. Faisal A. Chowdhury, Country Director, Navana Petroleum Ltd and Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf, Engineer-System and Admin, Navana Petroleum Ltd. and Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office.

### ***Unilever biz learner competition at BRACU campus and workshop on Case Presentation***



Date: March 15  
Speaker: Ms. Tanvira Coudhury, Leadership Development Manager, Unilever Bangladesh Limited and Ms. Munira, Brand Manager, Rexona, Unilever Bangladesh Limited. A case competition was held for the students and 6 teams competed. One team from BRACU has won the case

competition. The winning team members were Fouzia Sultana:ID: 08104134, Brijita Roy; ID: 08104134 and Mohana Talukder; ID:08104160. Speaker on Presentation Skills: Adnan M. S. Fakir a final year student of ESS Venue: GDLN Conference Room, AH 18th floor.

### ***Workshop on Basic CV Writing***

A workshop has been organized for the students looking for employment. This initiative was taken to guide them constructing an effective CV for their employment purpose.

Speaker: Ivan Shafaat Bari, Coordinator, Center for Languages  
Venue: BBS Conference Room

### ***Job Update, March 2011***

1. Md. Mozahidul Islam|Navana Petroleum Ltd.
2. Muhaimin Al Avir|United Leasing Company Ltd.
3. Sanjana Farah Chowdhury|HSBC
4. Tahsin Rahman| Uninagel (Trade Forwarding Company)
5. Asif Faisal Rummy| ACI Limited
6. Md. Saifur Rahman|Flora Telecom
7. Radiah Noor Ahmed|HSBC
8. Shahriyar Hasan| OTOBI Limited
9. Sayma Ahmed| MARICO Bangladesh

## RS Update

### **A group of Japanese students visit Savar Campus**



15 Japanese students have Visited Savar Campus on March 1-2, 2011. The aim of the visit was to strengthen relationship between Bangladesh and Japan through cultural exchanges. They took part in Volleyball and Sumo Wrestling with our students in a mixed group. They presented their country and gave a vivid picture

of their country through a power point presentation followed by question answer session. We also showed them our country presentation.

### **Cultural Program**

The Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students of RS on 1st March where the Japanese students also performed their traditional fashion show and dances.



### **Social Learning Lab, APON and BRAC Program Visit**

Social Learning Lab, BRAC Program, Liberation War Museum & Apon Visit was held on March 12, 2011. Fifteen Japanese students, who came to visit Savar campus, participated in the Social learning lab and cultural program with our students.

### **Popular Theater**



As part of extended learning activity of Ethics and Culture course, Popular Theater titled "Somoyer Dabi" - is on good governance was held in Savar Campus on March 16, 2011 by BRAC popular theater group, Jessore. The program started at 6:40pm and continued till 8:55pm. It was held at Duronto play

ground. Some students along with resident faculty members, staff of BRACU, BRAC and BRAC trainees enjoyed the show. Arrangement of the drama was up to the mark but students participation was not that much satisfactory as we expected to be. From the program students have got the message about the importance of good governance and how to aware themselves to be effective citizen for the country.

### ***Muktijuddher Kotha***

On 18 March, 2011 a lecture on Liberation war was held in BRAC University savar campus. The lecture was given by Major Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan (rtrd) a veteran freedom fighter and chairman and research head in the centre for Bangladesh Liberation war studies. Prior to the program, he inaugurated the Wall-Magazine of RS activity. On that day parents of the students also attended the program as the scheduled parents day was observing in the campus. However, Mr. Bhuiyan



shared his very experience and memories of liberation war. His emotive speech, vibrant voice left audience enthralled. Parents also enjoyed and took part on the discussion. Their proposals were to go on with such program in future. At the end he put some proposals for the new generation to uphold the spirit of liberation war.

### ***Meet the Employers career counseling session***



'Meet the Employers', a two hour semi-formal session on career counseling for the students of Savar Residential Campus, was held on March 19, 2011. The session intended to provide some essential guidelines to the participants on deciding their future career and also for taking necessary

preparations regarding that.

The guests gave small talks on the issues related to the present job market and answered the questions from the audience. The students of BRAC University Savar Residential Campus participated in the session actively and came up with a good number of queries during the question/ answer session. Mr Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, the Campus Superintendent, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

### ***Observing Independence Day***

Observance of Independence Day was held at Savar Campus on 26th March and on the eve of the Day, students, staff and faculty members of RS organized a program at the Residential Campus. The program started at 8:30am with a rally of students, RS staff, faculty members and other staff of BRAC. They placed a flower wreath at the replica of



National Memorial at TARC, Savar. After that Deshi sports (cock fight, dariayabandha, dori tanatani, bouchi, harivangha) were also arranged and students and faculty members participated in the sports.

### ***Walking through the memory lane***



"Walking through the Memory Lane" a program on the reflection of residential semester activity of BRAC University was held on 30th March, 2011. at BRAC CDM auditorium in Savar. This program was organized by the students and the faculties of residential campus of BRAC University to showcase the activities, experiences and fun the students had, during the residential semester. The parents of the students were invited to see these activities of their children. Before the formal inauguration a group of young students were singing a song named "RS potro" in a style of rural "puthi paat." Since it was a rainy day guests were enjoying the song having a cup of hot smoky tea in their hand. Sharp at 3:10 pm the inauguration program was started. At the beginning the welcome speech by Director CfL, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed was read by Campus Superintendent. The whole program was being presented in a news presentation style where two of the RS students acted as the news presenters. The inauguration started with the speech of the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir. He talked briefly about all the activities of residential semester and their implications. After his inauguration speech the program started with its own stream.



There were lots of performances by the students such as drama, Chinese song,

sharing experiences by the students etc. Moreover, the program had become so lively with the cordial participation of the parents and the students. The aim of the program was to showcase all the events and activities of residential semester to the parents, and it was done successfully. In the end the program was dragged to an end by the speech of the Vice Chancellor Professor Ainun Nishat and a parent of a student. There were several exhibitions of RS thoughts, knowing country and culture, wall magazine and many other activities done by the students. Parents were so happy to find their children with so much potentials and leadership skills. On behalf of faculty members Mr. Ahammad Ullah and Ms. Mousumi as a representative of House Tutor spoke to the session. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Rehan Ahmed, Students Affairs & Campus Management Officer of RS.

## **Student Affairs Update**

### ***BUCC organized Top BRACU Programming Contest***

On 12th March 2011, Tuesday, UB 11th floor computers were filled with students with ambition who love solving problems, puzzles, using mathematics and computer programming as their tools. In the several hour long contest, the first prize was won by Anik Momtaz, followed by Mahbub Zaman Ananda and Md. Raduanul Islam won the third prize. Prizes were 320 GB Portable HDD, 8 and 4 GB pendrives.



Special thanks for volunteering in this successful event goes to Muhammad Imtiaz Uddin Choudhury, Tasmia Tabassum, Mafruzul Murshed Bhuiyan, S.A.M Martuza Jalal, Abdul Ahad Monwar Badhon, Khandaker Ashraf-UI-Mahmud, Pritom Chowdhury, and Christy Bernadatte Gonsalves. Among the faculty members, Sarwar Alam, Hammad Ali, Muhammad Abdur Rahman Adnan, Imran Ahmed, Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman and Annajiat Alim Rasel were present.

### ***BUCC arranged Seminar on Linux***

On 15th March 2011, Tuesday, this seminar welcomed the students to the exciting world of open source Linux OS (Red Hat). The seminar intended to provide a guideline in networking field and overall idea of system configuration. This seminar gives the students exposure to and opportunity to become a System Administrator & to take challenges in job market. In this few hour long seminar students were shown how to install and configure Linux Operating System. Supplementary materials for further study were handed out. The seminar was organized in collaboration with Triangle Services Ltd.

### ***BUCC team joins BUPL***

Computer Club (BUCC) team had a very good start in BRACU Premier League (BUPL) organized by Cricket Club. Before bidding, players to be bought from the pool were decided by arranging a meeting. Afterward, we arranged another introductory meeting for the players so that they can get to know each other. As a team, several days of practice took place at Mohakhali T.N.T. School ground right after player's classes. Three practice matches were played against with BIZ BEE, BUCUC and the other one with local players of Mohakhali T.N.T. School

ground. In weekends, practice matches were played against external teams from Khilgaon. This is how BUCC is building hope and gaining confident to win this tournament.

### ***BUDTF Adda***

On the 11th of March 2011 (Friday), another event of BUDTF was held at 11:00 in the morning that went by the name BUDTF ADDA. Members piled into the university from early in the Friday morning to prepare for this event. By 10:30 pm the preparations were complete and the wait began for the celebrities to arrive. At around 11:10, Giasuddin Salim, Tanvin Sweety and Kenny Kelvin Blake walked into UB0223 to attend the program. At first, they were greeted with flowers and shown to their respective seats on stage. The program began, with an introduction to BUDTF, basically to let them know what the club was all about - who we are, what we do and how we do it. They seemed quite impressed with the level of work done and expressed their excitement at finding out the extent of our work and dedication.



After that they shared their experiences one by one, told us a little about how they got started and the journey they had undertaken to get where they are today. It was then time for another production from BUDTF - a digital drama by Amiya Aziz and Syed Salman Anik which they thoroughly appreciated. They bestowed their comments and praise for BUDTF once again after which they were provided with refreshments and tea. They, then began to get ready to leave for it was time for another match of Bangladesh in the World Cup. Before they left at 2:30, they left their comments to make their visit truly memorable to us. And to make equally memorable to them, they were provided with gifts and souvenirs. In return, they gave us their valuable advice to make ourselves even better, their content at being at the event and their promise to return again soon to be with us and join the fun that is BUDTF.