



## BRAC University Bulletin

2012/April

### ARC Updates

#### Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques were held this semester from 8-12 April, 2012. Architect **Naim Ahmed Kibria**, Architect **Foyezullah**, Architect **Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad**, Architect **Bashirul Haq**, Architect **Marina Tabassum**, Architect **Shamsul Wares**, Architect **Zakiul Islam**, Architect **Ziaul Islam**, Architect **Naushad Ehsanul Haque**, 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 11 - 12 April 2012. The projects included River Life Museum, River Brahmaputra, Mymensingh; Metro Rail Station, Farmgate Dhaka; Bidrohee Bangla: Memorial for Rebels of Bengal; Chittagong Department of Photography and Videography, Dhaka University Campus; SOS Children's Village (Orphanage), Rangamati; Medical Convention Center, Shahbagh, Dhaka; KEPZ Technical University, KEPZ, Chittagong; Breaking the Binaries, Rayer Bazar, Dhaka; The guest critics included Architect **Nahas A. Khalil**, Architect **Ehsan Khan**, Architect **Farida Nilufer**, Architect **Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad**, Architect **Jalal Ahmed**, Architect **Haroon Ur Rashid**, Architect **Mustafa Amin**, Architect **Marina Tabassum**, **Prof. Zainab F. Ali**, faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique.



#### PPDM Director and Faculty attend a workshop in Hue, Vietnam

**Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Director and **M Aminur Rahman**, Senior Lecture for the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM), along with **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager, Center for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) and **Ms. Amina**

**Bilkish**, a member of the local level (Satkhira) partner NGO, attended a 2-day workshop held in Hue, Vietnam from 14 to 15 April, 2012. This workshop was part of an ongoing research project titled "Assessment of Climate Change Risks

and Adaptation Options for Secondary Cities in Southwestern Bangladesh and Central Vietnam". This project is funded by the Asia Pacific Network (APN) for Global Change Research and is led by the RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. This project aims to develop and test a methodology for the assessment of climate risks in the context of secondary cities of vulnerable regions in Bangladesh and Vietnam with a view to informing adaptation guidance through the promotion of links between governmental and non-governmental organisations, and facilitate local capacity building as well as regional cross-learning.

The workshop was organized by the Centre for Social Research & Development (CSRD), Hue, Vietnam and the Southern Institute of Sustainable Development (SISD), VASS, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam --- the two Vietnamese partner organizations for this research project. The Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWF) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is the other Bangladeshi organization working on this project in collaboration with the PPDM, BRAC University.

Experts from all the partner organizations from Australia, Bangladesh and Vietnam participated in the workshop to share the findings from the piloting of the climate change risk assessment toolkit in Sakhira in Bangladesh and Hue in Vietnam. The final dissemination workshop of this project will be held in Satkhira in July, 2012.

### **Faculty Rejoining**

In the beginning of April 2012, **Dr. Tariq Mahbub Khan** has resumed his job as a faculty at the Department of Architecture after coming back from four years' study leave. During the study leave he completed a PhD program on Urban Engineering with a focus on Urban Design, and also a Certificate of International Environmental Leadership of Asian Program for Incubation of Environmental Leaders from the University of Tokyo, Japan. As a requirement of his PhD he carried out his research work on Urban Morphology and title of his dissertation is "Study on the Spatial Structure and Process of Transformation in the Pre-Mughal area of Old Dhaka through Socio-physical interactions". His study was fully funded by the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT - Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology) Scholarship Program. At the same time he was involved in different research projects in the Urban Design Laboratory and also received research assistance from the Global Centers of Excellence (GCOE) at the University of Tokyo.

### **BBS Updates**

#### **Integration Day at BRAC Business School**

BRAC Business School launched a new initiative, "Integration Day", for its internship students on 21 April 2012. The main objective of the program was to bring corporate HR people and the recruited interns of the university into a common platform so that more value can be generated for both parties through the internship process. The business school hopes that this is the beginning of a continuous series of programs to be held during every semester for the betterment of its intern students. The program was attended by all the BBA

students who are doing their internship in the spring 2012 session. In addition to the student participants, the program was also attended by high level representatives of local and multinational corporate houses who are engaged in the Human Resources Division of their respective organizations, and the faculty members of BRAC Business School. **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School was the Chief Guest, and he also facilitated a very interactive session where all the attending HR specialists shared their valuable insights. The overall organization and coordination of the session was done by **Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi**, Senior Lecturer and Internship Coordinator, BRAC Business School.



The various activities of the program included the award giving ceremony of the three best performing interns from the previous semester, and an enlightening and motivating speech by one of the alumni of the Business School, **Mr. Shihan Sajid** (who currently works for Nestle Bangladesh). **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Service Office (CSO), discussed about the various initiatives taken by the CSO. The most important contributions came from the HR experts who spoke about the aspects that need to be taken care of during the Internship period. All of the discussants reiterated the need for having a positive attitude, the usefulness of becoming culturally fit with the organizations where the interns work, and a desire to create a difference while doing the internship. The distinguished panel of HR experts included **Ms. Rumana Rahman**, Head of HR, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, **Mr. Nowshad Motiul Islam**, Chief HR Officer, Robi Axiata Ltd, **Mr. Ziaur Rahman**, Head of HR (Whole Sale Banking), Standard Chartered Bank, **Mr. Noor Mohammad**, Chief HR Officer, Airtel Bangladesh, and **Mr. Azhar Chowdhury**, General Manager, HR, Alliance Holdings Limited.

### **Professor Jaideep Prabhu talks about Frugal Innovation at BBS**

**Professor Jaideep Prabhu** gave a very interesting talk at BRAC Business School about Frugal Innovation dubbed 'Jugaad Innovation' which is about creating more with less. The distinguished professor explored on the power of frugal innovation in the 21st century, drawing largely on his recent book with several fascinating case studies of innovators in emerging markets. **Professor Prabhu** is Director of the Centre for India and Global Business at the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. His research interests are in marketing, innovation, strategy and international business. The seminar took

place at the Conference Room of BRAC Business School (UB 0630). BRAC has been hosting Professor Prabhu's lectures here in Bangladesh and BRAC Social Innovation Lab is the co-host. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BBS, teachers and students from BRAC Business School attended the session.

### **Guest Lecturer: International Business**

On April 3rd, 2012, **Dr. Mohammad Mujahidul Islam** was invited as guest lecturer for the students of BUS 301 (International Business) for section 03. The purpose of the lecture was to give an idea of the overall pharmaceutical industry of Bangladesh and its prospect globally. **Dr. Mohammad Mujahidul Islam** is the General Manager Marketing of Eskayef Bangladesh Limited, which is a flagship enterprise of Transcom Group and one of the top leading pharmaceutical companies of Bangladesh, having the prestigious recognitions from UK-MHRA, TGA-Australia and VMD-UK for its 1st world standard high quality medicines.

### **Guest Speaker: International Finance**

**Mr. A.K.M. Abdullah** took a session of International Finance (FIN-425) class as a guest speaker. **Mr. Abdullah** is currently working at World Bank as Financial Sector Specialist of South Asia region. The session was on "International Financial Flow and Role of International Financial Institutions in Bangladesh". The session was highly interactive and helpful for the students. The objective of the session was to give the students a real life exposure to international financial system in Bangladesh.

### **Guest Speaker: Principles of Management**

**Mr. Ashfaque ur Rahman**, Managing Director, Novartis Bangladesh Limited gave a talk on Situational Leadership in Principles of Management class on 7 April 2012. **Mr. Ashfaque ur Rahman** is leading the foremost Swiss global pharmaceutical companies operating in Bangladesh: Novartis Bangladesh since July 2002. Under his stewardship Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited with annual 2011 turnover of over 4 bio BDT (55m USD), has continued to successfully strive as a leading pharmaceutical company and has established itself as an authentic and credible business company of the country. He used different tools to discuss various issues of leadership in his lecture. Students enjoyed this interactive session.

## **BDI Updates**

### **Seminar held titled "Towards a Public Policy on Microfinance in Bangladesh"**

**Professor Syed M Hashemi** was a designated discussant at a seminar on "Towards a Public Policy on Microfinance in Bangladesh" organized jointly by Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) and the Institute of Microfinance (InM). The seminar was held on April 5th at PRI. The keynote paper was presented by the chief guest, **Dr. Atiur Rahman**, Governor of Bangladesh Bank. Other discussant included **Dr. Hassan Zaman**, Bangladesh Bank and **Professor Baqui Khalily**, Dhaka University.

## Paper on "Rural Livelihood and Gender" got published

Lead Researcher Sohela Naznin's technical background paper on "Rural Livelihood and Gender" for the 2010 Asia Pacific Human Development Report (APHDR) Background Paper Series has been published. This paper focuses on the gendered aspects, dimensions and gender impact of rural livelihoods in the Asia-Pacific region; how these aspects and dimensions are (or not) changing; and the impacts of these changes.

## 3ie-LIDC Seminar-"Reaching the Poorest: Lessons from the Graduation Model"

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and CGAP were invited by 3ie-LIDC to present on lessons from the Graduation Model as part of their seminar series on 'what works in international development?' **Syed M Hashemi**, Director, BDI presented on the conceptual design of the Graduation Model and the need for transformative pathways for the poorest by linking safety nets to access to financial services. **Aude de Montesquiou**, Microfinance Analyst, CGAP highlighted the key findings from the randomized control trials in Graduation two sites in India. **Anasuya Sengupta**, Senior Research Associate, BDI discussed the characteristics of the extreme poor and the factors which lead to a change in the trajectory of programme participants drawing on qualitative research findings from Graduation sites in Ethiopia, Haiti, India and Pakistan.

## Training on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)

A three days training on MLARR from April 10-12, 2012 and a two days session thereafter on Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted at professional developmental center of NESPAK House, Lahore, Pakistan. The training was successfully carried out by one international trainer, the Academic Coordinator of BDI, **Ferdous Jahanand** and two national NESPAK representatives. The training audience was selected from different institutions involved in Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR), covering government departments, consultants, academia etc. The primary objectives of the programme involved introducing the evolution of Resettlement and Rehabilitation

(R&R) and providing hand on training related to resettlement planning and implementation.



## MDMP Field Trip

The MDMP students had a six-day long field visit to the district of Rangpur from March 31 to April 5, 2012. A total of 12 students including 3 exchange students from University of Ottawa attended the field trip.

During the trip the students visited various projects such as TUP of BRAC, Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) Project, Share Cropper project of BRAC as well as projects undertaken by RDRS and CARE. In-depth interviews with the programme officials and beneficiaries of the different projects enabled students to gather practical hands-on learning about how theoretical development concepts are implemented, how programmes are managed, and how the livelihoods of the socio-economically disadvantaged people are improved through project activities.

### **Department for International Development (DFID) Meeting**

On April 25, **Syed M. Hashemi**, **Aude de Montesquiou** and **Karishma Huda** were invited by the Social Protection team at DFID, London, to present on the CGAP- Ford Foundation Graduation Programme. **Syed M. Hashemi** presented on the components of the Graduation Model, **Aude de Montesquiou** highlighted the key findings from the quantitative research, and **Karishma Huda** presented on qualitative research conducted by BDI in Haiti, India, Ethiopia and Pakistan. DFID conferred in their social protection and livelihood teams based in the UK, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and South Sudan.

### **Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) Activity**

**Maheen Sultan**, the Deputy Coordinator of CGST and the Research Programme Coordinator of BDI, attended the 12th Association of Women in Development (AWID) Conference that was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 19- 22 April, 2012. **Maheen Sultan** was a facilitator in one of the sessions of the conference titled "Connecting Contours: Sexuality, Economic Power, and Development," run by CREA. The research on "Mobilizing Resources for Women's Rights: The Role of Resources" of Pathways Programme was also presented in the conference.

### **Meetings with WFP and IFAD**

On April 23, 2012, **Syed M. Hashemi**, Director, BDI was invited by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome to present on the CGAP- Ford Foundation Graduation Programme that **Hashemi** started and is still co-coordinating. The Graduation Programme seeks to create pathways for the poorest through linking safety nets, livelihoods support and access to financial services, using the BRAC Targeting the Ultra Poor programme as a model. The Programme is piloting the model in ten sites in eight countries in Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

In Rome **Hashemi** also held meetings with the rural finance team at International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IFAD is keen on replicating the Graduation model in Kenya and other countries and is seeking Hashemi's advice.

### **CfL Updates**

## **CfL arranged workshop for EIS improvement**



Centre for Languages (CfL), BRAC University arranged a workshop with the aim of generating ideas for EIS pages (English in Schools) with a group of undergraduate students of the university on 3 April, 2012. The workshop was facilitated by a team of CfL teachers. The students gathered and in groups developed a demo EIS page with layout and content using poster papers and stationeries. Very enthusiastically students have

worked for about two hours and shared their ideas. The session ended with a lot of constructive ideas while the participants also made commitment to work further for the improvement of the EIS pages.

It is worthy to mention, English in Schools (EIS) is an English learning project for secondary schools of Bangladesh that is jointly run by The Daily Star and Robi, a telecommunication company. CfL, BRACU prepares the contents for those pages.

## **CfL facilitated training for STAR English language tutors**

BRAC University Centre for Languages facilitated 6-day-long 'Training of Trainers (ToT)' for fifty-seven tutors of Skills Training for Advancing Resources (STAR) programme. Thirty of the participants received training from 7th April to 12th April, 2012 and the others received it from 21st April to 26th April, 2012.



STAR is a collaborative skills building programme of BRAC and International Labour Organization (ILO) which focuses on the 'hard to reach' school students and school-dropout adolescents. They are being trained in ten different trades. Trade-based English Language course is a soft-skill component of this programme and BRACU - CfL is responsible to prepare the ESP (English for Specific Purpose) module for students and tutors, and to facilitate ToT for the tutors who will later conduct the language classes at the field-level. BRACU - CfL conducted a survey on the sample students and prepared the module. Later on,

material testing was done in two different phases and the module got its current shape. This 36-hour English language module will be delivered in the field in six months - one ninety-minute class each week.

Most of the ToT participants were under-graduate-level and graduate-level students at different universities of the country and a few of them were 'Local Resource Persons (LRPs)'. They were highly motivated and enthusiastic about the language course. They appreciated the course, its delivery process and the teaching techniques of CfL faculties and demonstrated a marked eagerness to perform well in their microteaching sessions. Just after receiving the ToT each of them will be deployed by BRAC for field locations. CfL will visit eleven field locations so as to have an idea of field delivery and would later arrange 2-day-long refreshers programme for these tutors. It is worthy to mention, this pilot programme will include in total one thousand participants.

## ENH Updates

### ENH faculty joins Stockholm University as a visiting researcher

**Professor Firdous Azim**, Chairperson, ENH has been invited as a guest researcher by the Forum for Asian Studies, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, Sweden. **Professor Azim** will be staying there for a month to conduct her research under the sponsorship of Stockholm University.

### Publication by ENH Faculty Members

**Mushira Habib** and **Sabreena Ahmed**'s papers titled "Black Desires, White Beaties" and "The RJ Style: Brought to you by Bangladeshi FM Radio" respectively, have been published in the Stamford Journal of English Volume-6, (Summer 2011).

### Thesis and Internship Report Presentations

BA and MA students of ENH have presented their final theses and internship reports on 26th April 2012.

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

A list of the BA students and their theses' topics of Spring 2012 semester are given below:

English Literature	
STUDENT NAME	TOPICS
<b>Anika Mariam Ahmed</b> (Thesis)	Women in Limbo: The Dichotomy of Nationalism and Modernity in the Image of the Bengali Woman
<b>Audity Nowshin</b> (Thesis)	Transition from Tradition to Modernity: A Reading of Ashapura Debi's Novels
<b>Durba Islam</b>	The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde and The



(Thesis)	Gain of Suffering
<b>Sifat Zaman</b> (Thesis)	Reviewing the Transition from Tradition to Modernity through Satyajit Ray's Film
<b>Linguistics and ELT</b>	
<b>Shabnam Mehtab</b> (Thesis)	Difficulties and Challenges in Implementing CLT in Bangladesh
<b>Media and Cultural Studies</b>	
<b>Sharjita Islam</b> (Internship Report)	Talk-Show of Bangla Vision: in the Notion of Power-Play
<b>Afroz Jahan</b> (Internship Report)	An Experience with Ekushey Dupur
<b>Anika Belal</b> (Internship Report)	A Walk through Talk Shows
<b>Fatema-Tuz-Zohora</b> (Internship Report)	Programs of BanglaVision: The Inside Story

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

Following M.A. students of English and Humanities have presented their theses this semester.

<b>Linguistics and ELT</b>	
<b>Bargee Chakma</b> (Thesis)	Teaching Techniques of EFL Classroom in Rangamati Schools
<b>Faraha Binta Islam</b> (Thesis)	Implementation of Learners Receptive Skill in the Traditional ELT Classroom: Bangladesh Context

## **IED Updates**

### **Needs Assessment of Adolescent Girls and Boys in Bangladesh**

In collaboration with the Population Council, the IED-BRACU's Research & Development Group began designing the above titled study. Through investigating the needs of adolescent girls and boys, the study aims to develop an intervention aimed at helping this age group develop the skills they most require to retain in schools, madrasas and degree colleges. The Group developed a draft concept note to guide the study. The note was formed through compiling previous IED experience, literature review and informal discussions carried out by IED during the month. The literature review in the field of education focused on school dropouts, adolescent mental health and social and emotional learning. Informal discussions were carried out with 12 female and 5 male students from 2 SCOPE centres in Kamrangirchor. The discussions aimed to uncover their education and career aspirations, whether they suffered from harassment and eve teasing, their reproductive health knowledge, how they manage their emotions, and the learning strategies followed in classrooms that they feel

support their emotional wellbeing. Informal discussions were also held with stakeholders in education and research including: BRAC University councillors, BRAC Education Programme's educational professionals who work with adolescent development, and a mental health specialist from BRAC Research & Evaluation Division. The stakeholders expressed their activities, achievements, lessons learnt, experiences and the areas where gaps exist in the field of adolescent development. The discussions allowed the Research & Development Group to develop further its concepts and focus in on specific adolescent needs in the 21st century.

### **Skills Development in Bangladesh: Status and Prospects**

Working in collaboration with Education Watch, IED-BRACU's Research & Development Group piloted and finalised research instruments for the above mentioned study. Through a nationwide household survey of 23,610 young people (aged 10-24 years), the study aims to explore their access to, and participation in, general and occupational skills development activities, employment and formal and informal apprenticeships, as well as their expectations and needs with regards to skills development. Through piloting instruments for the study, necessary changes were made to the research instruments in order to make them more suited to the study sample with regards to the study aims of preparing a skills profile of the age group, exploring their demands and expectations, examining adequacy and efficacy of current programmes and policies on skills development, and providing future policy recommendations.

### **Short Courses for the GoB Officials**



IED has been providing capacity building short courses to the government officials since 2011. This is a partnership programme with the Directorate of Primary education (DPE) of GoB. DPE selects the participants for the short courses and IED with its own professionals facilitates the short courses. As a continuation of this, 2 short courses have been provided during this month to the Head Teachers & Assistant Upazila Education Officer (AUEOs) on 'How Head Teachers and AUEOs can make schools work' in two batches each of 6 days of duration. Besides, Assistant District Primary Education officer (ADPEO), Primary Teachers' Training Institute (PTI) and Upazila Resources Centre (URC) Instructors have also been provided with a short course on 'Pre Primary' for 5 days. Twenty-five participants were present in each of the short courses. Director (Training)

and Deputy Director (Dhaka division) of DPE attended in the inaugural sessions.

## IGS Updates

### Orientation Program" for the 4th batch of Masters in Governance and Development Program

An "Orientation Program" was held for the 4th batch of Masters in Governance and Development program on 1 April, 2012. **Dr. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director-in-Charge of the Institute of Governance Studies and a few other IGS staff members attended the program. **Dr. Ainun Nishat** gave a speech addressing the students of the course in this orientation program.



### Module Development Meeting for Right to Information Training

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) of IGS organised a meeting with Journalists on the "Right to Information Act 2009" in April, 2012. The Right to Information Act (RTIA) is a unique tool through which journalists will be able to produce outstanding quality news which is different from the typical stories that are usually produced.

### Conference on "Global Organisation for Parliamentarians Against Corruption" Chapters



From 22-23 April a conference was held on Global Organisation for Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) Bangladesh chapter in collaboration with ANSA SAR. The conference was hosted by the two teams and held in Westin and Bangladesh National Parliament respectively. In the conference, the following were discussed: GOPAC Global Task Force (GTF), lessons that have been learned by each of the chapters in the South Asian region, peer to peer learning

initiatives and opportunities in the parliamentary oversight and United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Global Task Force (GTF) areas. Members of Parliament of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh including the team members of ANSA-SAR participated in the conference while **Nuzhat Jabin**, Program Manager of ANSA-SAR, IGS made a presentation on social accountability tools and how elected representatives can use these tools to fight corruption and increase accountability.

### **Workshop on "Public Sector Accountability for the fulfillment of Maternal Health Commitments"**

On 21 April a workshop titled "Public Sector Accountability for the fulfillment of Maternal Health Commitments" was organised by JATRI in collaboration with White Ribbon Alliance, Bangladesh at JATRI conference. The workshop was facilitated by Barrister **Manzoor Hasan**, Adviser of IGS and **Nuzhat Jabin**, Program Manager of ANSA-SAR, IGS made a presentation on "Potentials of using Community Score Card as a means of increasing Public Social Accountability".

### **2 District level workshops held on "Engaging Citizens in Public Procurement"**



As part of technical assistance to Public -Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) under PPRP-II project, IGS organised 2 district level workshops. The first workshop was held on 2 April 2012 at the conference room of Narayanganj Club while the second one took place on 19 April 2012 at Capsicum Party Center in Comilla. Participants of the workshop include representatives from local public administration, public procuring agencies, local government, bidder's community and civil society organizations. The workshops were facilitated by a team from IGS that included **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manger, **Ekram Hossain**, Senior Program Officer, **Zohora Farzana Ahmed Bipasha**, Communications Associate and **Nazmul Arifeen**, Research Assistant. The purpose of the workshops was to engage and exchange views on public procurement from these participants where the first working session of the workshop comprised of highlighting the problems and prospects of public procurement while the second session focused on participants' experiences related to existing practices of third party engagement and last working sessions explored opinions and recommendations on how to engage third party in public procurement.

### **Capacity Building for Promoting Governance (NUFFIC): First Working Committee held**

The NUFFIC supported 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance' project organised its first working committee meeting on 9 April 2012. The meeting was held in Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) attended by **Mr. Md. Mahmudu Hassan**, Joint Secretary and MDS, PATC, **Dr. Martin van Asseldonk**, Senior Consultant, MDF, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, IGS and other working group members from IGS and BPATC. In the meeting, an action plan for next one year was developed and endorsed by the committee.

### **Review of IGS' Evaluation System**

In April 2012 **Dr. Martin van Asseldonk**, reviewed IGS' existing training and academic evaluation system through evaluation of the current academic training programs operating in IGS and through consultation with IGS Director, Senior Program Manager, Academic Coordinator and Academic Training Manager. This evaluation was done on behalf of NUFFIC project requirements.

### **Lecture on "Role of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the Economic Development of Bangladesh"**



A group of IGS staff members attended an open lecture on "Role of International Monetary Fund in the Economic Development of Bangladesh" on 26 April 2012 at BRAC University Vice Chancellor's office. The lecture was delivered by **Dr. Eteri Kvintradze**, Resident Representative, IMF and **Dr. David**

**Cowen**, Mission Chief for Bangladesh, (IMF).

The session was jointly organized by the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University.

### **Round Table Discussion organised by "The Daily Star"**

**M. Shahidul Islam**, Research Coordinator of IGS, participated as a panelist at the roundtable discussion on "Regional Economic Hub Challenges," organised by the Daily Star, on 7 April 2012 at Chittagong Chamber House.

### **Lecture Conducted by the Director**

**Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director-in-Charge of IGS conducted a lecture on Policy Analysis for the Senior Staffs at Public Administration Training Centre in April 2012.

## Field Visit of the EMG 3rd Batch Students

As a part of the certificate programme on the Environmental Management and Governance (EMG), students of the 3rd batch of the course went on a daylong field visit to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment on Garment Industry. They visited the M/S. EchoTex Garment Limited, at Chandra in Gazipur on April 5, 2012. During their visit they observed water quality, air quality, noise quality, impact on biodiversity, in-process liquid wastage, solid wastage etc. Based on the visit, they prepared a report and presented in the class.

## MNS Updates

### Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed delivered a talk at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

**Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of BRAC University delivered a talk titled 'Astrophysics of White Dwarfs, Pulsars and Black Holes' at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on 21 April 2012. Former UGC Chairman and President of the Society **professor Nazrul Islam** chaired the session. Members of the Society, officials, journalists and interested persons attended the talk. The abstract of the talk was 'Our Galaxies are populated by billions of white dwarfs, a few hundred million pulsars and probably by a few hundred thousand black holes. These are astrophysical compact objects. Only a very tiny fraction of them has been detected so far by astronomical instruments. These objects are the endpoints of stellar evolution. A star shines due to a nuclear process called nuclear fusion through which light nuclei fuse to heavier nuclei producing tremendous amount of energy in the form of heat and radiation. When a star exhausted all its nuclear energy, the gas pressure of the hot interior can no longer support the weight of the star and the star collapses to a denser state- forming a white dwarf or a pulsar or a black hole depending on its initial mass. A white dwarf is dense, a pulsar is superdense. The interior of a black hole is very enigmatic. Its surface is formed by a kind of semipermeable membrane forbidding any classical emission from its surface. The very source of gravitational field of a black hole is a kind of curvature singularity, which is hidden behind this membrane. Supermassive black holes and quasars are also harbor at the centers of galaxies. The astrophysics of these gravitational compact objects and our research on this topic are discussed in this talk in a scientific popular way'. The talk was delivered in Bangla for almost two hours duration with



a power point presentation along with several video clips and active participation of the audience.

### Meeting on Biotechnology Guideline

On 5 April, 2012 BRAC University and Ministry of Industries, GoB jointly organized a meeting at BRAC University with an aim to initiate the activities for industrial biotechnology guideline development in the light of

National Biotechnology Action Plan. Chaired by **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme, MNS Department, the meeting was attended by more than 30 scientists representing various public and private universities, institutes, research organizations, and government organizations. From MNS Department **Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain, Dr. Aparna Islam, Mrs. Jebunessa Chowdhury, Mrs. Farzana Ahmed, Mr. Fazle Rabbi, Mrs. Romana Siddique, Mrs. Sadia Sayeed, and Mrs. Asma-UI-Hosna** attended the meeting. In the inaugural session **Mr. Tapan Kumar Nath**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Industries, GOB, informed the meeting that Biotechnology Action Plan has been approved by National Taskforce for Biotechnology chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister which is an outcome of a series of similar meetings that took place at BRACU last year. **Mr. Nath** handed over a copy of the approved document to **Professor Choudhury**. For implementation of action plan, at this moment it is important to have a guideline. The Chair advised formation of a new committee to work on industrial biotechnology guideline with **Dr. Mahub Hossain** (BRACU), as convener, and **Dr. Amzad Hossain** (BSRI), **Dr. Nazir Hossain** (Ichiban Life Tech Solutions Ltd.), **Dr. Aparna Islam, Dr. Mainul Haque** (RU), **Dr. Shahedur Rahman** (JU), **Mr. Mustaq Ibn Ayub** (DU), **Mr. Md. Riajul Hossain** (DU), **Mr. Abdullahel Baque** (Sher-e-Bangla Agri. University) as members. **Mr. Nath** informed the meeting that already a committee had been formed comprising several government officials. The Chair suggested that the two committees might be merged to complete the task. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRACU was present at the closing ceremony. He reiterated on behalf of BRACU his help and cooperation in the Government's activities to strengthen biotechnology study and research in Bangladesh.

### International Conference on Environmental Risk Assessment



**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam, and Mrs. Sadia Sayeed** of the MNS Department attended a three day long International Conference on the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Plants. The Conference was jointly organized by South Asian Biosafety Program (SABP) and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). It was held on 15-17 April 2012 at BRAC Center, Dhaka. **Professor Choudhury** was the Chair of

the Steering Committee, while **Professor Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque**, Country Coordinator, SABP was the Organizing Secretary of the conference. The conference was inaugurated by Architect **Yeafesh Osman**, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB while **Mr. Mesbah ul Alam**, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoB and **Dr. Wais Kabir**, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) were special guests. In the inaugural function the Chief Guest informed the participants about the recent activities of the government in promoting

biotechnology study and research in Bangladesh. About 100 participants including 30 participants from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and other countries attended. Speakers from home and abroad gave lectures and participated in the panel discussions. In this Conference topic like issues of environmental risk assessment under Cartagena protocol and functions of various international organizations in this regard along with experience of different countries where GE plants were under commercial production was discussed. Eminent scientists **Dr. Swapan K. Datta, Dr. Raymond Layton, and Dr. Martin Gibson** talked about the science of GE plants and results of various assessments and managements. Distinguished policy makers, regulators and lawyers **Dr. Sally McCammon, Dr. Ariel Alvarez Morales, Dr. Michael Wach, Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Dr. Joe Smith and Dr. Andrew Roberts** talked about the issues related to policy with special emphasis on the legislations of countries where GE plants were already in the market. In the closing ceremony chaired by **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Mr. Monowar Islam**, Director General, Department of Environment (DoE), MoEF, GoB was present as the Chief Guest. In the concluding session **Dr. Andrew F. Roberts**, Deputy Director, Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) presented the Conference outcomes and future plans. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** assured the SABP of all help in enhancing knowledge regarding risk assessment of genetically modified plants. The event ended with thanks from **Professor Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque** for active participation of all in this conference.

### **A talk at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh**

**Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences delivered a talk titled 'Astrophysics of White Dwarfs, Pulsars and Black Holes' at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on 21 April 2012. Former UGC Chairman and President of the Asiatic Society **Professor Nazrul Islam** chaired the session. Members of the Society, officials, journalists and interested persons attended the talk. In his talk **Professor Ahmed** said that the Galaxies are populated by billions of white dwarfs, a few hundred million pulsars and probably by a few hundred thousand black holes. These are astrophysical compact objects. Only a very tiny fraction of them has been detected so far. These objects are the endpoints of stellar evolution. A star shines due to a nuclear process called nuclear fusion through which light nuclei fuse into heavier nuclei producing tremendous amount of energy in the form of heat and radiation. When a star exhausts all its nuclear energy, the gas pressure of the hot interior can no longer support the weight of the star and the star collapses to a denser state- forming a white dwarf or a pulsar or a black hole depending on its initial mass. A white dwarf is dense, a pulsar is superdense. The interior of a black hole is very enigmatic. Its surface is formed by a kind of semipermeable membrane forbidding any classical emission from its surface. The very source of gravitational field of a black hole is a kind of curvature singularity, which is hidden behind this membrane. Supermassive black holes and quasars are also harbour at the centres of galaxies.

### **SECS Updates**

**Prof. S. Shahnawaz Ahmed**, a Visiting Faculty in the Dept. of EEE, BRAC University, delivered two lectures titled "Energy Efficiency in Buildings" and "Applications of Demand side Management in Hot and Humid Climates" in a

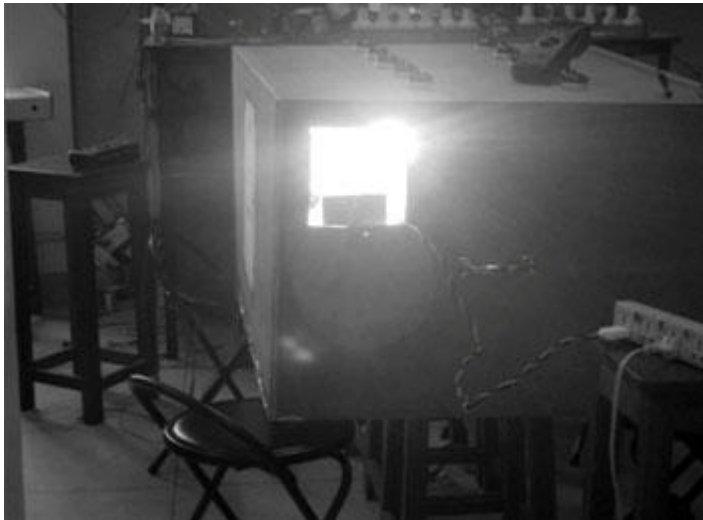


seminar held at King Abdulaziz University (KAU), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 25 April 2012 as an invited Speaker of Saudi Electricity Company Chair for Demand Side Management and Energy Efficiency at KAU. More information can be obtained at the link <http://www.kau.edu.sa/Pages-Third-DSM-Workshop.aspx>

## **CARG Updates**

### **IDCOL's Approval for Solar Home System Component Testing**

CARG of EEE department recently obtained the approval from IDCOL to test solar home system components. According to their approval, BRAC University will now have the authority to test and certify solar home system components. Starting from May, we will begin battery, charge controller and load testing. It should be mentioned that, along with BRAC University, only three private universities have the authority to test and provide certificate for solar home system components



### **Solar Panel testing Under Synergy program between BRAC Solar and CARG, EEE Department**

CARG has been testing BRAC Solar's panels under the synergy program between BRAC solar and CARG. Up till now, we have tested and performed comparative studies for twenty nine panels using our custom made solar simulator. We recently started testing their home system components

specifically designed for rural areas. Our in-depth testing scheme will include each and every component of the home systems, including loads, cables, panel structure, etc.

## **IEEE Updates**

### **IEEE Technical Tour 2012, Atomic Energy Research Establishments (AERE)**

As part of IEEE's technical tour, on 10th April 2012 at around 12.30 PM the IEEE student member team accompanied by a faculty from Electrical and Electronics Department visited Bangladesh Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Gonokbari, Savar. With an aim to get an idea of the ongoing activities in AERE, the tour was mainly focused on the R&D activities likes Research Reactor, Isotope Production Lab, Isotope Hydrology Lab, Chemistry Lab, Cobalt-60 Irradiator, Waste Management Facility, Tandem Accelerator and Electronics Lab and Tissue Banking carried out in the different labs of AERE.



Warmly greeted by the librarian of the research centre, the students were briefed through a video presentation about the various activities and facilities in AERE and their employees. The tour commenced with a visit to the Electronics and Tissue Banking Fabrication Lab. The students were amazed at how the trees such as rubber trees surrounding the institute are used for tissue banking. Next

the IEEE team was taken to the 'Clean Room' where the Integrated Chips (IC's) are fabricated using VLSI technique and were provided with a terse description of the process by one of the staffs.

Since all the AERE operations are very crucial and deal with harmful radiations, for the safety of the workers a radiation detector is used to measure the amount of radiation a person has in his/her clothes and body. Afterwards the students explored another part of the centre which provides the wastage management facility where wastages containing radioactive materials are treated separately to be preserved and recycled later. The students finally had the opportunity to get a splendid sight of the massive tandem accelerator, one of the main attractions of the tour. In this accelerator ions are accelerated by applying electrostatic field at a high voltage in the middle of the accelerating tube. The final outcome is applied mainly in the analysis of the elemental composition of metals and for ion injection, two operations that are carried out in separate rooms, Irradiation room 1 and 2. The result is viewed through a software monitoring system outside the lab. A visit to the Isotope production and hydrology labs which serves many renowned hospitals in Dhaka with Iodine isotopes were also a significant part of the study tour followed by a visit to the chemistry lab, Cobalt-60 radiator. Gamma rays from this lab are used to detect Arsenic in human hair and other atoms in human blood. Other radiations are used as a test material to treat cancer cells. The experimental process use dummies as a replica of human.

Another spectacular highlight of the tour, towards the end, was the student's visit to the Nuclear Reactor 3MW. Shortly after the independence of Bangladesh, the centre expanded its research and development facilities in order to produce low power nuclear reactor which is to be used for several academic, training, research and industrial purposes, facilitating the production of radioisotopes. The students were briefed on the applications of the radioisotopes in medical science and industries. At 2:30 PM, the students were provided with lunch and the tour marked its ending inducing enthusiasm in the students filled with the basic knowledge on Atomic Energy.

The day long IEEE technical tour helped to enlighten the students with many remarkable techniques and interesting facilities in AERE for which the IEEE team is truly grateful to **Professor A A Ziauddin**, the chairperson of Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, without whose support, the study tour would not have been possible.

## SPH Updates

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

This year the Biostatistics course was taught from April 01, 2012 to April 26, 2012. Two faculties (**Dr. Sorina Eftim** and **Dr. Sangeeta Mookherji**) from George Washington University and one faculty (**Mr. Md. Tanvir Hasan**) from JPGSPH, BRAC University were involved in teaching the module. Beside them some guest lecturers (**Dr. Mahbub Latif** from Dhaka University, **Dr. Hashima-e-Nasreen** from BRAC Research and Evaluation division, **Mr. Yushuf Sharker** from icddr,b and **Mr. Jaynal Abedin** from icddr,b) also took some sessions. In Bio I students got the opportunity to learn basic Biostatistics and in Bio II they learned advanced Biostatistics. The students used the Statistical software STATA to conduct data analysis.

### EVENTS

#### Dissemination Workshop on Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2011



A dissemination workshop on Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey, 2011 was held at JPGSPH, BRAC University on April 19, 2012. In the workshop, **Laurie Liskin**, Senior Advisor for Communication, MEASURE DHS Project, ICF International gave an overview on ICF International and DHS tables. **Mr. Subrata Kumar Bhadra** from NIPORT also gave a

presentation on findings of DHS report. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University chaired the session.

#### Academic Study Group (ASG)

ASG or Academic Study Group is an initiative to develop internal capacity of JPGSPH. The objective of such activity is to keep our junior and mid-level faculties informed and well-aware of what is happening on public health around the globe. It also addresses to scale up the theoretical knowledge of the faculties as well. ASG was initiated in the middle of 2008. During the month of March the following activities took place under ASG.

## Talk by Professor Mumit Khan, Chairperson of Department of Computer Science & Engineering, BRAC University on Moodle software

Talk by **Professor Mumit Khan**, took place on April 25 at the JPGSPH Dean's Conference Room. The talk was attended by the **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH, staff and faculty.



Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is an e-learning software platform also referred to as Course Management system (CMS), Learning Management system (LMS) or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It has a range of features which are considered typical of an e-learning platform and all these features makes it perfect for using in education, training and development.

Some typical feature features of Moodle are:

1. Content upload and download
2. Discussion forum
3. Grading
4. Instant Messaging
5. Online calendar
6. Online news and announcement
7. Online quiz
8. Wiki

This software is being used on trial basis in undergraduate program of BRAC University and can be a huge resource for JPGSPH specially for the faculty members who regularly have to deal with the students regarding their assignment, grades, announcements notice etc,



Slum dwellers and TB research team members of JPGSPH, BRACU taking part in PRA social mapping and listing of service providers in Sattola slum

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### Activities performed under TB research in April, 2012

To identify different health service providers regarding TB related services PRA social mapping and listing of health service providers done in the remaining

project site, i.e. in three slums of pallabi. To collect relevant and required information from health service providers as well as community people including TB patient's quantitative and qualitative data collection tools i.e. questionnaire, guideline were developed and translated into Bengali in the reporting period.

An orientation on qualitative data collection methods and tools were organized as on 18th April, 2012 for the SPH TB research team members majorly who are involved with data collection at the field level. The orientation was facilitated by renowned experts on qualitative methods **Mr. Hasan**. Followed the orientation the TB research team members field tested and finalized the data collection tools. Then both the qualitative and quantitative data collection were carried out from the service providers at one project site i.e. Sattola slum. A total of 24 service providers were interviewed with short survey questionnaire and 10 in-depth interviews were carried out till 30th April.

### **List of TB research Team Members of JPGSPH, BRACU**

**Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Program, **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, MPH Coordinator, **Dr. Malabika Sarker**, **Professor Dr. Enam Hasib**, Senior Research Associate & Lecturer, **Md. Tariq-Ul-Hassan Khan**, Research Associate, **Asiful Haidar Chowdhury**, Data Management and Analysis Specialist, **Maliha Bassam**, Research and Communications Officer, **Mr. Akhtar Hossain**, Senior Research Assistant, **Nayna Ahmed**, Senior Research Assistant, **Shoraban Tohura Ethar**, Research Assistant, and **Sharmin Khan Luis**, Research Assistant

### **Health Professional Education Situation Analysis (HPE-SA) Project**

#### **Panel proposal acceptance in the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Beijing October 31- November 2, 2012**

Session Title: Assessing the performance of health professional education in 5 countries of Asia

The panel proposal was submitted by the study team of Health Professional Education Situation Analysis (HPE-SA) at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. It included 4 abstracts including authors from Bangladesh and 4 partner countries, i.e., India, China, Thailand and Vietnam. The abstract titles are as follows:

1. A common protocol for assessing health professional education performance across 5 countries (5-C) in Asia [**Dr. Tim Evans** (lead author) and **Dr. Nasima Selim** as a co-author];
2. Results of the 5-C national-level situation analysis of health professional education [**Md. Nuruzzaman** as a co-author]
3. Results from the 5-C institutional-level assessments of health professional education [**Dr. Kawkab Mahmud** as a co-author]
4. Results from the 5-C student and graduate assessments of health professional education.

#### **Panel proposal acceptance in the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Beijing October 31- November 2, 2012**

Innovative models of community engagement to improve health equity in urban slums (5 panelists), Chair: **Lynn Freedman JD MPH**

The panel proposal was submitted by the Centre for Urban Equity and Health

(CUEH) at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. It included 5 abstracts including authors from Bangladesh and the USA:  
Social exclusion of the urban poor, and the failure of urban health governance (**Sabina F. Rashid**, PhD)

Promising community-led health initiatives to increase the responsiveness of health and health-related service provision in urban slums in Bangladesh: lessons from UNDP's Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPR) (**Prea Gulati**, PhD).

Building social networks for maternal, neonate and child health in the urban slum: the case of BRACs Manoshi in Bangladesh (**Alayne Adams**, PhD)

Community engagement in the urban slums helps to improve early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding (**Sabrina Rasheed**, PhD)

Media portrayals of health systems change in urban slums: Learning from Manoshi (**Lynn P. Freedman**, JD MPH, **Saroj Sedalia**, MPH, **Asif Saleh**, MBA, **Kaosar Afsana**, MBBS PhD)

### **Meeting with RTM International**

A meeting with the collaborative partner, RTM International was organized by the study team of HPESA project on April 26, 2012. **Dean Dr. Timothy Evans** and President RTM International **Dr. Ahmed Al Kabir** along with the other team members attended the meeting and discussed the various activities of the project.

### **Short Training on Qualitative Data Analysis with Atlas.ti**

A short training on "Qualitative Data Analysis with Atlas.ti" took place at James P Grant School of Public Health. 27 participants working in different research teams at JPGSPH and ICDDR,B received the training on April 28 and May 2, 2012. Training sessions included: Qualitative vs. Quantitative research methods, Analyzing and interpreting qualitative data, Case illustration, Basic operations of Atlas.ti. The trainers included **Rasheda Khan** (Senior Research Investigator, icddr,b) as the Master Trainer, **Dr. Nasima Selim**, (Senior Lecturer, JPGSPH), **Prof. Malabika Sarker** (Professor, JPGSPH) and **Prof. Alayne M. Adams** ( Professor JPGSPH & Senior Social Scientist, icddr,b). **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, Senior Research Associate at JPGSPH and the HPE-SA project team members organized and participated in the training.

### **FSNSP**

The Project Manager and two Analysis and Reporting Officers from FSNSP participated in the "South Asian Regional Conference on Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding", 28-30 April 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

FSNSP also had a poster presentation titled "Factors associated with wasting of less than two years old children in Bangladesh, FSNSP 2011".

The Data collection for Phase-II of Round 7 started on 1st April and will be completed by 3rd of May 2012.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS**

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH Country Research Coordinator of the study team, along with Project Coordinators, **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, and **Md. Nuruzaman** as part of a larger Bangladeshi delegation, attended the "Five-Country Regional Workshop" of the 5--C networks in New Delhi, India from April 4 - 6 2012. The network is undertaking a cross-national study on the performance of health professional training institutions. Over two days, participants reported on preliminary results from their national assessments and discussed issues related to further improving the study instruments for the institutional and student/graduate assessments.

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean JPGSPH was invited to attend a WHO regional consultation on Universal Health Coverage from April 16-17. He moderated introductory discussion of core concepts of UHC.

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean JPGSPH, with Professor **Sabina Rashid**, MPH Coordinator and participants from Vietnam, India, China and the United States, an effort was made to take stock of the current state of public health education. After two days of discussion at "Four-Country Landscaping Exercise on Public Health" there was strong interest in engaging in an agenda of public health education reform. JPSPH will host a meeting on this topic in June 2012 as a follow-up.

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH along with **Md Nuruzaman**, two proposals were represented on April 19, 2012.that had been short-listed for support by the Asian Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health. Over two days, participants 12 countries in Asia developed two joint protocols on the health workforce. One proposal is focused on better understanding the supply and demand for private sector health professional training. The second proposal concerns the effectiveness of policies and strategies for rural retention of health professionals. PGSPH is leading both proposals as part of a Bangladesh team working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

An abstract titled "Treatment practices and business strategy of drug sellers in the informal medical markets in Bangladesh" has been accepted for presentation in the Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, to be held in Beijing from October 31, 2012 to November 03, 2012. **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, MPH Coordinator and **Md. Tanvir Hasan** from JPGSPH along with their icddr,b colleagues (**Dr. Shams El Arifeen** and **Nabeel Ashraf Ali**) have written the abstract.

**Dr. Nasima Selim**, Trainer, Qualitative Data Analysis with Atlas.ti training at JPGSPH on April 28 and May 2, 2012

A joint abstract titled, with the Dean, JPGSPH, **Dr. Timothy Evans**, Dean JPGSPH as lead author and **Dr. Nasima Selim**, Senior Lecturer as co-author was accepted for the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research" in Beijing from October 31 to November 2, 2012.

**Dr. Selim** received the DAAD fellowship and works part-time in April-May. She will be on study leave from June 2012 to pursue a PhD degree in Medical Anthropology at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie University, Berlin (Germany).

We wish her all the best and continued success.

**Ayesha Dastgir**, Communication and Knowledge Manager, has been nominated from JPGSPH to be part of the Editorial Committee for the BRAC University Annual Report 2011.

**Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, Senior Research Associate at the School, organized the Atlas.ti training at the School on April 28 and May 2, 2012. A joint abstract titled, Results from the 5-C institutional-level assessments of health professional education, with **Dr. Mahmud** as co-author was accepted for the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research" in Beijing from October 31 to November 2, 2012.

**Md. Nuruzzaman**, Research Associate at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University attended a protocol development workshop organized by the Secretariat of Asia Pacific Action Alliance for Human Resources for Health (AAAH) on April 18-19, 2012 in Bangkok. Representatives from total 8 countries met and finalized the two protocols on HRH Production/Employment and Rural Retention. A joint abstract titled, Results from the 5-C national-level assessments of health professional education, with **Nuruzzaman** as co-author was accepted for the 2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research" in Beijing from October 31 to November 2, 2012.

### **New Staff at JPGSPH**

**Dr. Nahid Ahmed Chowdhury**, Sr. Academic & Support Coordinator, MPH Program. **Dr. Nahid Ahmed Chowdhury** is a doctor, with an M.Phil in International Community Health, University of Oslo, Norway. She will be responsible for providing support to the smooth functioning of the MPH program at JPGSPH. She has 8 years of experience in working in public health, in planning, implementing, and monitoring of health, gender and HIV projects in different international organizations. She has worked closely with government, UN agencies, donors and other national and international organizations.

**Dr. Setara Rahman**, Sr. Technical Advisor in the Midwifery project, **Dr. Setara Rahman** is a medical graduate having two post graduate degree in obstetrics & gynecology and taken up Diploma in Reproductive Health (DRH) from Liverpool School of tropical Medicine. She is a public health professional with 28 years of experience in primary and preventive care, with expertise in Maternal/Reproductive Health and Quality Assurance in clinical service delivery in different International and UN Organizations. She has International Consultancy experience with WHO, UNICEF, European Commission, DFID and UNFPA. She has presented different papers on RH issues in FIGO, APCRS and other international conferences.

**Dr. Md. Jahid Hasan**, Research Associate, Health Professional Education Situation Analysis Project. **Dr. Hasan** is a graduate from Dhaka Medical College with one year internship and one year training in Internal Medicine from Dhaka



Medical College Hospital. He is interested to work in public health especially in Research and Development sector. He worked with a project of FHI 360 named "Modhumita".

## Student Affairs Updates

### Club and Forum Updates

#### BUCC arranges a seminar on Cloud Computing

A seminar on Cloud Computing titled as "A new way of Computing" was organized on April 8 at GDLN Conference Room with the presence of **Professor Dr. Mumit Khan**. The session was conducted by **Md. Imran Hossain Shaon** (08101025) who is an undergraduate student from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of BRAC University, and the only Bangladeshi to work with the project team members of world's most widely deployed cloud computing software Eucalyptus. Throughout his session the speaker explained the use of cloud from his experience.



At the beginning of the session he spoke about what cloud computing is, the technical sides of a cloud, and how to use cloud. IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service), PaaS (Platform as a Service), SaaS (Software as a

Service) had come up to his speech. Then the speaker discussed about the deployment models of cloud computing. He explain a little bit about the difference between public, private, community and hybrid clouds and how each of this works. To describe the benefit of cloud, he used a common example of an ordinary server, which collapses at a certain time when it faces huge hits from its users but cloud computers are not vulnerable like this. It is robust in nature as at the time of heavy load it can share its work with other computers. At the same time it is safe and secure, and fast solution as well. In his talking he answered few of the frequently asked questions like the difference between private and public clouds and who should use what. A lot of other significant things came up to his speech.

On request of the speaker, **Mr. Aminul Islam Ripon**, System Administrator of BRAC University also shared few of his knowledge and experience regarding networks. The event had a very interactive question answer session. From IT Systems, **Mr Aurongojeb, Mohammad Rezaul Islam, Md Sadat Mursalin Chowdhury, Md. Abdur Rouf Sarker, Md. Rajib Hasan** and **Md Shariful Alam** were also present.

At the end of the session the advisor of BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC), **Mr. Annajiat Alim Rasel**, had explained the session briefly by giving a real life

example of load management during pre advising session of BRAC University. He also announced a good news of a follow up upcoming DIY session on cloud computing. Faculty members **Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Dr. Amitabha Chakrabarty, Ms. Dilruba Showkat** and the co-advisor of BUCC **Md. Shamsul Kaonain** were also present in the seminar alongside thirty-five students of SECS.

### **BUCC joins Conference on the use of ICT in Anti-Corruption**

On the 3rd of April, 2012 a video conference was held at GDLN center on the 18th floor of BRAC University. The session agenda was use of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in Anti-Corruption Efforts. East Asia and Pacific Regional Governance Hub arranged this videoconference (VC). Faculty members **Assistant Professor Matin Saad Abdullah**, and **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, advisor of BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) were present at GDLN. Besides Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Korea, and Mongolia participated in the VC. Two presentations were presented by speakers from India and Indonesia. **Mr. T. R. Raghunandan**, Founder of [www.ipaidabribe.com](http://www.ipaidabribe.com) and former Indian Administrative Service Officer, India, focused on experiences and challenges in anti-corruption movements and the role of ICT in anticorruption efforts. And **Mr. Agung Hardjono**, Deputy of the Presidential Delivery Unit, Indonesia talked about the application of ICT from the perspective of their country experience. BUCC EB members, **Dipankar Chaki Joy** (09101017) and **Tanvir Roushan** (09201006) attended the videoconference.

### **CSO Updates**



#### **Seminar on Career Planning "Meet the Employers" held at BRACU**

BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) organized "Meet the Employers" career planning seminar at Savar Residential Campus (TARC) on 7th April, 2012. The seminar on MEET the EMPLOYERS was a semi-formal session where the leaders of various job sectors met 323 BRAC University 2nd semester students and answered different career related queries. The session

intended to provide some essential guidelines to the students for their future career, and take necessary preparations in this regard. The corporate personnel's were **Mr. Tanzim Samad Choudhury** (BRACU Alumni), Senior Executive of Save the Children, **Mr. Waleed Morshed**, Chief Executive Officer, NGGL GROUP LIMITED, **Mr. Dean Sam Yu Sum**, Supply Chain Manager, GILDEN, **Mr. Syed Ghulam Moinuddin**, Supervisor EH&S HRAD, GILDEN, **Mr. Quazi Mortuza Ali**, First Vice President & Head of Alternative Delivery Channel, BANK ASIA, **Mahbub**

**Alam**, Head of Learning & Development Human Resources Division, BRAC BANK,  
**Mr. Muntasir Mynuddin**, Asst. Manager, Employee Relations & Talent  
Management Group HR, VIYELLATEX Group.

**Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director of Career Services Office delivered the welcome speech and explained the role of Career Services Office. The most insightful question sparked between students was: how has their education preparing them for their career? Answer was: don't study just theory, but also its practical applicability. Practical applicability of university learning can be understood from reading non-text books, talking with people who are in service, family, teachers and friends. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive Career Services Office, **Mr. Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, the Campus Superintendent, and faculties of Savar campus also attended the program.

### **Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET), Spring 2012**



Classes for Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET) program has ended for Spring session. Two sections were introduced for AMET. A total number of 70 registered students attended this program. Applied Microsoft Excel Training (AMET) focuses on Excel Basic, Working with Functions and Formulas, Advanced Topics and Managing Table,

Introduction and Developing to Macros, Working with Multiple Worksheets and Performing Calculations. **Dr. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Assistant Professor and Mr. Farazul H. Bhuiyan**, Lecturer, Computer Science Department were the resource personnel for this two sections.

