



BRAC University Bulletin

2012/may

UGC Nepal team visits BRAC University

A team of Nepal UGC visited BRAC University on Thursday, 17 May 2012. The team comprised with 8 persons consisting of professors and management executives from UGC Nepal and Universities of Nepal. The objective of the visiting team was to learn from the experiences of the universities of Bangladesh and UGC Bangladesh and develop a strategy to reform in the management of higher education institutions in Nepal.

Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Pro-Vice Chancellor **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, and Registrar **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** extended their warm welcome to the UGC Nepal team. They discussed about the nooks and corners of the history of the private universities in Bangladesh. They also shared the history of BRAC University, vision and experiences to the pathway of its success. The team was also informed about the situation and trends of the private Universities in Bangladesh. The team also visited UGC Bangladesh, University of Dhaka, and National University while their journey in Bangladesh.

Vice Chancellor visited Harvard Kennedy School of Government, USA

Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** recently visited Harvard Kennedy School of Government while visiting USA from last week of April till 1st week of May. During his visit in the Harvard Kennedy School, **Prof. Nishat** was invited to participate in an international seminar entitled "*Disaster Responses: The Military's Role from Japan to the Gulf*". Leaders, army personals and experts from all over the world gathered there to participate on that seminar.

Vice Chancellor participated in the Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany

Professor Ainun Nishat Attended the UNFCCC's Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany as a core member of the Bangladesh Government's Negotiation Team. It was the 36th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), the seventeenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) that took place concurrently from 14 to 25 May, 2012. Apart from this, **Professor Nishat** also attended a side event on work programme for loss and damage assessment held in the United Nations University, Bonn. His presentation included the range of approaches for addressing the risk of loss and damage due to climate change, which is also an ongoing research carried out by the C3ER, BRAC University.

46th Meeting of the Academic Council held on 29 May

The 46th meeting of the Academic Council held on 29 May 2012 at 3:00 PM in the Conference Room at the Office of the Vice Chancellor. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Pro-VC, Registrar, and Head of all Departments



/Schools/ Institutes were present as members of the Council. The Council discussed different academic problems, review of the course curriculum, and update of the academic activities in that meeting. Academic professionals from different academia were also present in the meeting as members.

2nd Consultation Sessions of BRACU Strategic Plan



BRAC University is currently designing its Strategic Plan for 2013-2022. In this process an initial consultations was held in April, 2012 in the Mohakhali Campus. Then the University had organized the 2nd Consultation in the Markuli Hall in University's Savar

Campus. The 2nd Consultation was held on 12 May 2012. Heads of all departments / School /Institutes, Senior Faculty Members, and Senior Administrative Staffs were gathered in Savar to provide valuable inputs in the process. Pro-Vice Chancellor **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** led the consultation while **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor was present as an advisor of that initiative.

3rd Consultation Sessions of BRACU Strategic Plan

The 3rd Consultation of BRACU Strategic Plan was held on Thursday in the BRACU Auditorium in Mohakhali on 31 May 2012. Heads of all departments / Schools / Institutes, Senior Faculty Members, and Senior Administrative Staffs were present in the



Consultation to provide their valuable inputs. With this Strategic Plan, the University will find out the issues that will require improvement or work on to reach its goal to become a World Class University on Broad Based Education. Pro-Vice Chancellor **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** led the consultation while **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor was present as an advisor of that initiative.

ARC Updates

Certificate Course on Disaster Management for BRAC Staff



The Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) organized a Certificate Course on Disaster Management for 20 BRAC staff from different divisions. The 30-hour Certificate Course started on 5th and continued till 12th May, 2012. The primary objective of this certificate course was to

familiarize BRAC staff with the basic concepts of disaster risk management as part of an ongoing capacity building initiative by the Disaster, Environment and Climate Change Program of BRAC.

A range of issues including the basics of hazards and disasters, community based approaches, disaster response and recovery strategies, tools and techniques in disaster risk management and organizational and policy contexts of disaster management were covered. Beside the BRAC University regular faculties, a pool of experts were invited to deliver lectures on specific topics.

The certificate awarding was held in on 13th May, 2012 where the participants received their certificates from the honorable Vice Chancellor, **Professor Ainun Nishat**. **Dr. Babar Kabir**, Director of BRAC WASH and DECC programs and

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director of the PPDM were also present.

BBS Updates

The orientation session for the EMBA students



The orientation session for the EMBA students joining in summer 2012 semester was held on the evening of May 18th, 2012 at the BBS conference room. Around 30 students attended the program. **Mr.**

Shawkat Kamal, Assistant Professor, BRAC University and the EMBA Coordinator, welcomed and presented a brief overview of the structure of the program for the participating students. Registrar, **Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** joined the program and made a presentation on BRAC University and its various aspects. The director of BRAC Business School Professor **Mamun Rashid** was also present at the session and talked about the EMBA Program and its unique features. The session was an interactive one where the students could share their views and expectations of the program. The overall coordination was done by **Mr. Javed Rasel**, DCO, EMBA.

Third session of "Entrepreneur Speaks"

Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) and Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) of BRAC University arranges an entrepreneurial session called "Entrepreneur Speaks" since CED was inaugurated in April 2012. On 24th May 2012, the third session of "Entrepreneur Speaks" was held. The session was sponsored by Prime Bank Ltd. and the guest speaker of the session was **Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad**, Chairman of Nitol Niloy Group Ltd.



At the beginning of the session, **Mr. Fazley Elahi Chowdhury**, Senior Lecturer

of BRAC Business School, talked about the purpose and usefulness of the session. Followed by him, **Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad** shared his experiences, wisdom, the way he works and his role as a leader with the audience.

Mr. Ishfaq Elahi Chowdhury, Registrar, BRAC University talked about his views and opinions about the entire session and later, **Mr. Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School ended the session with a short overview by himself. The entire session was very informative and effective and it is hoped that the future leaders of Bangladesh will be benefited by sessions like these. BRAC Business School plans to continue sessions like these in the future.

BBS Master Class IV - Understanding Balance Sheets

The fourth installment of the Master Class, organized by the BRAC Business School was held on the 31st of May, 2012 at BRAC University Mohakhali Campus. It was sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited. The guest speaker for the event was **Mr. Sabbir Ahmed**, FCA, who worked at KPMG Australia before becoming a partner at **Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Company**, the member firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in Bangladesh. **Mr. Sabbir** spoke enthusiastically about the



many uses and benefits of the balance sheet in the world of accounting.

He started from the ground up, explaining to the students present at the Master Class, the core

components of the balance sheet and how each of the elements differ for different entities. **Mr. Ahmed** further discussed the several purposes of the balance sheet and how different stakeholders use this accounting statement to evaluate a firm. Special attention was given when discussing the Ratios used in Balance Sheet appraisals, as these helps to evaluate the strength, liquidity and efficiency of a business.

Mr. Sabbir Ahmed mentioned that it is possible to know a lot about a business by only looking at the Balance Sheet alone. However, he ended his class by shedding light on the limitations of the Balance Sheet, explaining that this form of a financial statement is based a lot on estimates, and might not show the absolute picture in complete detail. He also mentioned how the non financial aspects of a business are never shown in the Balance Sheet and the one's that are shown, such as goodwill, are only estimated values.

The speaker for the event interacted with the large number of students present at the event, answering all of their questions to the best of his abilities, using real life situations to help everyone understand the concepts better. The BRAC Business School organized the Master Class and **Ms. Afsana Akhtar**, Asst. Prof, BBS and **Mr. Saif Hossain**, lecturer, BBS, supervised the entire event. A large number of students showed up to participate in the event, which depicts the

enthusiasm for accounting in the students of BRAC University.

C3ER Updates

Visit from the University of Dundee, UK

Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) attended a meeting on April 26, 2012 at the University Grant Commission (UGC) to welcome Professor John Rowan who is the Director of the Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience (CECHR), Reader in Geography, School of the Environment University of Dundee, UK. **Professor Rowan** was also accompanied by **Professor Colin Palmer, Professor of Pharmacogenomics**, in the Biomedical Research Institute in the University of Dundee. The meeting was to discuss about research that is being done at CECHR, particularly on the topic of climate change impacts on health. Possible collaboration between institutions and Rowan's research were explored, and the complexity of health and climate change were addressed. Possible areas for further research involved the relationship of arsenic exposure on diseases which are assumed to be genetic. **Professor Fuad Hasan Mallick**, Chairperson of School of Architecture and **Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar of the BRAC University gave a brief introduction about academic and research activities of the University. **Professor Mallick** also briefed about ongoing research activities carried out by C3ER. After the meeting at the UGC, Professor Rowan visited BRAC University and promised seamless cooperation from CECHR on potential partnership in different areas of research on climate change and academic excellence.

Counseling Updates

Anger is Healthy!!!

Anger is a Fact of Life. I know what needs to be changed in my life and only I can make powerful changes that will moves me in a more positive direction in my life. This time students participate on Anger Management workshop from their own responsibility.



One of the most important first steps of anger management is admitting and realizing that I have anger. We all have anger. Anger is a normal, healthy human emotion.

There are and always will be things in the world that make us angry. It's normal! What may not be so normal is how I chose to react to my anger.

From that perspective Counseling Unit organized Anger Management workshop on Thursday 29th May, 2012 from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. It was a student need based workshop. Objective of this workshop was:

- To create preliminary ideas of anger
- Identify own triggers and cues of anger
- Realize when to seek professional help
- Learn to manage anger.

Group work, sharing, relaxation and question answer section made this workshop participatory. Finally checklist and their evaluation confirmed us that their awareness increased much more than previous.

CSO Updates

Seminar on Higher Education in France & Internship Orientation



Career Services Office organized Seminars on "Higher Education in France" and "Internship Orientation

Summer'12" on Thursday, May 24, 2012 in the BRAC University Indoor Games Room. The Seminar on Higher Education in France was for an hour. It provided information on potential and prospects of higher studies in France needed preparations for final semester students. **Air Cdre (Retd) Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC University opened the session.

Mr. Arnaud LOIZEAU, Attache for Culture and Cooperation, Embassy of France in Bangladesh was the key speaker in the seminar. He focused on the opportunities of higher studies in every field and all levels in post graduation and PhD and to the options of pursuing a career with one of the many French companies operating across the globe. He also highlighted possibilities of financial assistance for higher education. **Ms. Asma Banu**, explained information before planning for of higher studies. At the last part of the seminar, the final year students of BRAC University participated in the question, answer session most enthusiastically.

Ms. Banu discussed the process of internship for semester Summer'12 during the Internship Orientation Session. Registered students from BRAC Business School, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Department of Economics and Social Science and the Department of English and Humanities were present in the session.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), Spring 2012

Classes for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) commenced from 2nd May.

Ms. Asma Banu, Sr. Asst. Director, Career Services Office is the core facilitator of this program. The course is designed to encompass up-to-date office skills to improve employment and self-development opportunities.

Mode of Teaching:

Presentation, Handout, Interactive Session (group

discussion, role plays, and real life examples). Two sections have been opened for PSDP, Spring 2012. A total number of 140 registered students are doing this Program.



The purpose of this program is to enhance the abilities and confidence of diverse students by creating and delivering innovative career development, job search and experiential education support in their pursuit of career success.

To get practical experience CSO invites different personal in this program. **Mr. Sufi Faruq Ibne Abubakar**, ICT Consultant, CEO, AMS, Former Head of IT, AKTEL (ROBI) and **Mr. Waleed Morshed**, Chief Executive Officer, NggI Group Ltd, gave their lectures focusing on emerging IT sector in Bangladesh. **Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed**, Talent Acquisition Specialist of Standard Chartered Bank, gave her lecture on current financial aspects as well as the 'Trends in the workplace, Success at work; Net working, Interpersonal skills, etc. **Professor Mumit Khan**, Chairperson of Department of Computer Science & Engineering, BRAC University gave his lecture on how a student should take preparation for facing the real job market. What measures should they take in order to achieve their dream job? Finally, students are preparing themselves for the Mock Interview session which is 2nd June, 2012.

ENH Updates

New Faculty Members join ENH

Sheikh Khalid Aurindam joined ENH as a Lecturer in May 2012. He has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of East Anglia. For his undergraduate dissertation, he had analysed the political and post-colonial aspects of **Salman Rushdie's** Shame, as a historical narrative. He completed the M.A. in Colonial and Postcolonial Cultures (2011) from the University of Sussex. His M.A. dissertation, titled Dialectic of Subjectivization: **Beckett's Molloy, Malone Dies & The Unnameable** was supervised by the noted critical theorist **Daniel Steure**. He has also attended a month long training at the British Association of Psychoanalysis, on theoretical psychoanalysis in 2010. **Aurindam's** research interests

include studies in critical, Marxist and Psychoanalytical theories. **Aurindam** is an aspiring film-maker as well.

Mahmuda Akhter joined ENH as a Lecturer in May 2012. Her B.A. in Linguistics and ELT is from the same department. Her undergraduate thesis was titled Influence of Peers' Feedback on the Students of Tertiary level in Second Language Learning. **Akhter** completed her M. A. in English Language Teaching (ELT) from East West University where her thesis was on Computer Assisted Language Teaching (CALT) in Bangladesh at the tertiary level. Her research interests include Teacher Education and Development, Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Leadership in Education.

Teaching Assistant joins ENH

Anami Kabir joined ENH as a Teaching Assistant on 3rd May 2012. Her B.A. in English Literature is from the same department. **Kabir's** undergraduate dissertation title was "The Story So Far: Drawing the Map of Children's Literature through Harry Potter". She is an M.A. student at ENH. Her ongoing M.A. dissertation is on "Interpreting Interdisciplinary Education in Children's Literature through Coraline".

ESS Updates

Seminar Organized by ESS

1. On May 13, 2012, ESS organized a seminar by **Dr. Delwar Hussain** on "Everyday life at the Coalface: The Coal Trade on the Bangladesh/India Border". The talk explained **Delwar's** dissertation research and upcoming book was held at the conference room of VC's floor.

Delwar Hussain is a writer and anthropologist focusing on the contemporary Indian Sub-Continent. He was educated in London and Cambridge from where he recently gained a doctorate in anthropology.

2. On May 21, 2012, ESS organized a seminar by **Dr. Nazli Kibria** at BRACU Indoor Games room. The discussion was

based on **Professor Kibria's** book titled "Muslims in Motion: Islam and National Identity in the Bangladeshi Diaspora". **Professor Kibria** is a Professor of Sociology at Boston University.

3. ESS arranged a film show titled "United Red Army" on May 27, 2012 at the BRACU Indoor Games Room. It is a 70 minute documentary directed by **Naeem Mohohaiemen** based on 1977 Japanese Red Army hijacks JAL 472. Destination Dhaka.

Faculty facilitated TLC workshop at BRACU Savar Campus

1. From 7-10 May, 2012, **Dr. Seuty Sabur** was the convener of BRACU TLC forum. She facilitated session on "Developing course syllabus and lesson plan" in 7th TLC workshop.

2. From the April 4-7, 2012, **Dr. Samia Huq** attended a weeklong

capacity building workshop in Bali, Indonesia, organized by Musawah, which is a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. **Dr. Huq** is coordinating the Bangladesh country study as part of **Musawah's** multi-faceted research project on the concepts of qiwamah (male authority over women) and wilayah (male guardianship of women and children) . The expected outcomes of the life stories project is to generate a new understanding of qiwamah and wilayah in line with contemporary notions of justice, equality, ethics, individual freedoms, and dignity, as well as the lived realities of Muslim families today.

Publication by ESS Faculty

Dr Farzana Munshi's coauthored paper "Offshoring and Occupational wages: Some Empirical Evidence" published in the Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Volume 21, Issue 2, 2012 . Publisher Routhledge.

Appointments/Arrivals/Departures

1. **Ms. Wakia Faruque** joined the ESS Department as a Lecturer in May 2012. She completed her Masters from City University, London in Business Economics. Before that she completed her BSc in Economics from North South University.
2. **Ms. Farzana Islam** joined the ESS Department as a Lecturer in May 2012. She did her BSc (Hons.) and Masters in Economics from the University of Dhaka.
3. **Tanvir Sobhan Tanmoy** joined the ESS Department as a Lecturer in May 2012. He completed his Masters from Simon Fraser University, Canada. Before that he did his BSc in Economics from the University of Dhaka.
4. **Ms. Salina Siddiqua**, Lecturer of ESS left the Department of Economics and Social Sciences in May, 2012 and joined as a Lecturer at the Department.

Faculty's blog post

ESS shares Assistant Professor, **Dr. Samia Huq's** blog post on "The politics of religious freedom: Secularism and the freedom to transform lives" which is being posted in the academically reputed SSRIC blog on Secularism, Religion and the Public Sphere.

<http://blogs.ssrc.org>

IED Updates

Needs Assessment of Adolescent Girls and Boys in Bangladesh

A meeting was held with **Dr. Sajeda Amin** (Population Council) during which a concept paper was shared on the proposed adolescent study. In order to hear from the adolescent population themselves, researchers on separate occasions sat with 6 madrasah students (3 female; 3 male); 9 adolescents studying filmmaking and journalism (3 female; 6 male); 10 urban adolescents enrolled in secondary schools at Grades 9 and 10 (5 female; 5 male); and rural adolescents who are SCOPE centre graduates in Gongachara (including 6 girls aged 14-16 years). The purpose of the discussions was to investigate the perspectives and needs of the adolescents. A discussion involving 15 mothers of adolescent children was also held to gather information on the perspective of parents. To further aid with the design and development of the study, **Dr. Kazi Golam Rasul** (Marie Stopes) was consulted on the sexual reproductive health problems of adolescents and the services currently available to them, and **Dr. Nishat Fatima Rahman** was consulted on the prevalence of substance abuse in Bangladesh. Based on the findings of the above discussions with adolescents and professionals, a concept paper was further modified on a study which proposes to develop adolescent journalists to track and gather information on the needs of rural SCOPE centre graduates.

Skills Development in Bangladesh: Status and Prospects

Following research instrument development and piloting of instruments in the previous month, in May the research instruments were finalised and presented to the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) for their feedback and approval. Thereafter, Field Research Assistants were recruited and trained in 2 batches on their roles in conducting the research. Field Research Assistants subsequently began collecting data through a nationwide household survey of 23,610 young people (aged 10-24 years). The survey aims to help build a skills profile of the participants and explore their demands and expectations.

An Evaluation of IED-BRACU's Action Research Programmes on Registered Non-Government Primary Schools

A pilot test of the research instruments to be used in the evaluation study was conducted in Kaliganj, Lalmonirhat. Following this, the research instruments were finalised and a 3-day orientation was held for Field and Community Researchers on data collection techniques. The process of data collection began at the end of May.



Short Courses for the GoB Officials

As a continuation of providing the short courses to the government officials, one batch of six-day short course on **How Head Teachers and AUEOs Can Make Schools Work** has

completed on 12 May to 17 May 2012. This is the ninth batch of the training programme which is a joint collaboration of Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University (IED-BRACU). Twenty Five participants (Head Teachers and Assistant Upazilla Education Officers) have participated in the training. Deputy Director (Rajshahi division) of DPE attended the inauguration session.

IED, BRAC U's involvement in government's curriculum and textbook development initiatives

The Government has undertaken new initiatives to design curriculums and textbooks in light of the Education Policy 2010. National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is carrying out this great responsibility with the help of its own professionals as well as the professionals and practitioners of other government and non-government organisations in the country.

IED, BRAC U has been directly involved in this curriculum development and textbook writing activity. Two IED specialists have been involved from the beginning-one in developing English primary and secondary curriculums and textbooks and the other in making illustrations, layout and graphic designs for English primary textbooks. They are still continuing their work. Two other professionals from IED, BRAC U had also been involved in this activity-one evaluated the draft curriculum and the manuscript of a primary Bangla textbook and the other evaluated the manuscript of a primary Maths textbook.

IGS Updates

New office of IGS

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) moved from Gulshan- 2 to Mohakhali (near to the main campus of BRACU) in May 2012. The full address of the new office is: SK Center (5th and 6th Floor), GP, JA-4, TB Gate, Mohakhali, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. The contact numbers both landline and cell remains unchanged.

CIPS Examination Held

Examination of the Foundation Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Graduate Diploma of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) was held from 14 to 18 May. A total number of 17 participants both from private and public sector attended the examination. The results were published on 23 May.

Masters in Governance and Development Program

A number of special sessions were held in May for the MAGD 4th batch students. Sessions were conducted on "Economics for Public Leadership" by **Professor Nurul Haque**, Jahangir Nagar University, "Good Governance" by **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, BRAC University, "Innovations in Government" by **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**, Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister.

ANSA Workshop on the Right to Information

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) of IGS organised a workshop on the Rights to Information (RTI) on 12 May 2012. The workshop was conducted by the Maasranga television. This was the first workshop of a series conducted on this topic. 13 reporters and editors including Maasranga Chief Operations Officer **Syed Fahim Munaim** were present at the event. The reporters and editors of Maasranga television were provided with RTI Guide book and posters which were developed by ANSA-SAR. The event was jointly moderated by **Ralph Frammolino**, a former Los Angeles Times reporter and currently a media development consultant and **Golam Kibria**, a former Daily Prothom Alo reporter and journalism trainer.

Workshop on 'Role of Community Radio as a Means for Social Mobilisation'



ANSA-SAR in collaboration with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) hosted a workshop on 'Role of Community Radio as a Means for Social Mobilisation' at IDB Conference Room on 16 May 2012. 14 community radios from all over Bangladesh participated in the event and shared their working experiences and the problems that are usually faced while performing official activities.

Third and Fourth District Level Workshops on PPSC Program

The PPSC project of IGS organised its third and fourth District Level Strategic Workshops on third party engagement in public procurement which were held on 17 May 2012 in Patuakhali district and 31 May in Moulvibazar district respectively. A total of 66 participants, 38 in Patuakhali and 28 in Moulvibazar which included Deputy Commissioners, Administrators of District Council, Mayors of the respective Pouroshavas, representatives from local administrations, LGED, WDB, REB, RHD, Union Parishad, media, NGO, and other civil society organisations attended these workshops. The objective of the workshop was to collect inputs from respective stakeholders for development of a strategy on engaging third party in public procurement. The workshops were facilitated and assisted by **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manger; **Ekram Hossain**, Senior Project Officer; Zohora Farzana Ahmed Bipasha, Communications Associate; **Sultan Mohammed Zakaria** and **Nazmul Arifeen**, Research Assistants of IGS.



MNS Updates

Meeting with Dr. Abed Chaudhury

A meeting between BRACU and the eminent scientist **Dr. Abed Chaudhury** to develop collaborative research in the field of Plant Biotechnology was organized by **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury** on 27 May 2012 at BRACU. The meeting chaired by **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice-Chancellor, BRACU was attended by personnel of both BRACU and BRAC. **Dr. Mahabub Hossain**, Executive Director, BRAC; **Dr. Javier Zapata**, Consultant, BRAC ARDC; **Mr. Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRACU and **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**; **Dr. Mahboob Hossain**, **Dr. Aparna Islam**, **Ms. Farzana Ahmed**; **Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury**; **Ms Sadia Sayed**; **Ms Romana Siddiq** and **Ms. Tamanna Akhtar** the MNS Department were present in the meeting. Several aspects of research in the field of Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Genetics were discussed. At the end of the meeting **Abed Chaudhury** visited the Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology lab facilities of the MNS Department and met the MS Biotechnology students engaged in plant biotech research.

The 33rd National Science and Technology Week

On the occasion of the 33rd National Science and Technology Week, a seminar was held on 28 May 2012 on "Food and Microorganisms" was organized at the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) Bhaban, Agargaon. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** gave a seminar talk on "Food and Microorganisms" at the auditorium of NMST. The seminar was chaired by **Mohammad Saidur Rahman**, DG, National Museum of Science and Technology. A large number of students and guardians from different schools and colleges across the country attended in the seminar and asked questions on food and microbe relationships. **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** and **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** from the MNS Department were present in the seminar.

RS Updates

Session on Seven Habits

A session on Seven Habits to become highly effective and successful students An integrated session on 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students' was held on 24 May 2012 at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Campus. The session is an extended program of the Ethics and Culture course. The first part of the session was conducted by **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University with a lecture focusing on how to get used to the seven habits as students. The lecture incorporated the main themes of 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People', one of the influential and bestseller books written by **Stephen R. Covey**. For the second part, the students were divided into 14 groups to partake in a plenary session to discuss and share their learning insights as well as their reflections obtained from the themes of the 7 habits. Faculty members facilitated these plenary sessions to help students explore the strategies and possible challenges of exercising the 7 habits in their practical life. During the group activity, the students cited examples from their life and in the end, evaluated the whole session.

SPH Updates

James P Grant School of Public Health opens new premises

The James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) formally opened its new premises in icddr,b's main campus in Mohakhali on May 8, 2012. The JPGSPH at BRAC University was established in 2004. where each of the three partner institutions BRAC, BRAC University and icddr,b, supports the school's objectives to foster education, research and leadership. The School's name honors the late **James p Grant**, former Executive Director of UNICEF, whose relentless pursuit of a global revolution in child survival in the 1980s is a legacy we aim to promote for global health for the 21st century. JPGSPH's impact on public health was recognized by The Bulletin of the World Health Organization in 2007 when it was selected as one of six of the world's most effective institutions for promoting innovative higher public health education.



BRAC's Founder and Chairperson **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, KCMG as chief guest said, "I am sure this collaboration will be fruitful as well as mutually beneficial for both icddr,b and SPH. From inception in 2004, SPH has come a long way." He formally inaugurated the school during a ceremony held at the school's premises on level six of icddr,b building. The inauguration was followed by a tour of the school's new premises.

The 8th batch of the flagship Masters of Public Health (MPH) program of JPGSPH gave a brief presentation. Special guests included BRAC University's Honorable Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** and icddr,b's Executive Director **Dr Alejandro Cravioto**. **Dr. Cravioto** highlighted many additional benefits which the joint venture between icddr,b and BRAC University as the school utilizes the vast expertise of icddr,b's 15 faculty members, each of whom are accredited professors, associate professors and guest lecturers. Furthermore, he noted that scores of MPH graduates went on to join icddr,b after successfully completing JPGSPH's intensive 12-month program. **Dr. Cravioto** said, "This joint venture has created a good opportunity for our researchers to share and disseminate their extensive knowledge in research and experiences in public health through their teaching at the JPGSPH. This knowledge can be transmitted worldwide." Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** congratulated JPGSPH on the occasion. He went on to mention that BRAC University is having its own campuses build and looks forward to further the relationship.

During his address, JPGSPH's Dean **Dr. Timothy G. Evans** said, "We're

inaugurating the new premises of the JPGSPH. It is allowing the school to align with the vision and insights of its founders. He further elaborated that when plans were being drawn up for the school in 2003 - together with icddr,b, BRAC and BRAC University-jointly planned for the school to be based on the campus of icddr,b as part of expansion of icddr,b campus in 2004. We started with one classroom with a maximum capacity of 30 students. From today we have new premises and the capacity to accommodate over 300 students at any time.'

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, MPH Coordinator gave the vote of thanks. She acknowledged the critical role of core institutional pillars (BRACU, BRAC and icddr,b and collaborating partners, development, faculty and students who have contributed to maintaining its excellence. The Master of Ceremony for the program was **Anuradha Hashemi**, Researcher.

Student volunteers from BRAC University helped as ushers for the program. They are seen here in the picture with the Dean and members of the Inauguration Coordination Committee.

Farewell to George Washington University students

The inauguration ceremony on May 8, was followed by a farewell party to the George Washington University MPH students for this year.



Since the inception of the flagship MPH program in 2005, the school has had 258 students from 22 countries participating in the program. The program is now in its 8th year.

Walking the streets of Berlin: Farewell for Dr. Nasima Selim



A farewell party was held for **Dr. Nasima Selim**, Senior Lecturer on May 23 in the Dean's Conference Room. The farewell was an

opportunity for everyone to say a few words about their long term association with **Nasima**. It was attended by everyone including the Dean, Senior Management Committee members, faculty and staff. The farewell ended with a photo presentation of her years at the school and cutting of a cake in the shape of a book. **Dr. Selim** has taken a sabbatical leave to pursue her PHD in Berlin, Germany. She has been with the school for the last six years and has been

working as a member of the Senior Management Committee and teaching as Senior Lecturer. She was a student of the second batch of the MPH program. SPH wish continued success in her future endeavors.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOP

A maternal health perspective on health systems strengthening in South Asia

The Dean of the JPGSPH invited everyone at SPH to a seminar on "A maternal health perspective on health systems strengthening in South Asia" on 27 May at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b. It was presented by special guest, **Dr. Quazi Monirul Islam**, Director Health Systems Development, WHO/SEARO, Delhi Office, India

Dr Islam is a public health specialist from Bangladesh and now the Director of the Health System and Development since March 2012 and before that the Director of Family Health and Research Department in WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia. He received his medical degree (MBBS) from Dhaka University in 1979 and received MPH from Amsterdam University. He was awarded FRCOG by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UK (2007). **Dr Islam** visited and provided policy and strategic support to 75 countries in Asia, Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Pacific and in Latin America. He has number of scientific articles published in peer reviewed journals including the Lancet and authored chapters in various globally reputed Medical and Public Health Text books. He has extensive working experience with Multi-Lateral Organizations e.g. UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, ILO, UNHCR, World Bank, Asia and African Development Bank, various donors, Institutions, NGOs and professional bodies and well known personality globally in public health.

Health Governance Research at the Public Health Foundation of India

The Dean of the JPGSPH invited everyone at SPH to a seminar entitled Health Governance Research at the Public Health Foundation of India. May 30, 2012 at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b. The special guest was **Dr Kabir Sheikh**, Head of the Health Governance Hub - the Public Health Foundation of India.

Dr Kabir Sheikh is the Head of the Health Governance Hub - the Public Health Foundation of India's interdisciplinary program of health governance research, research capacity-building and advocacy. He has a PhD in public health and policy from the LSHTM, and former training in social medicine (University of Delhi) and infectious disease epidemiology (LSHTM). His career has encompassed research, teaching and training, health systems strengthening and policy development in 15 states of India, Sub Saharan Africa, the Asia Pacific, Bangladesh, Brazil and globally through assignments with WHO HQ, DFID and AUSAID research consortia.

In 2011, he led the technical team (citizen and private sector participation) for the Government of India commissioned report on Universal Health Coverage. **Dr Sheikh** is a Bellagio scholar (2011) and an Aga Khan Foundation international scholar (2003-06). He has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, and is editor (with Asha George) of the volume: 'Health Providers in India: On the Frontlines of Change' (Routledge 2010). His current interests focus on health

stewardship and regulation, health workforce policy, community action in health, and health policy & systems research methodology.

PROJECT UPDATES

GFATM_TB

Course on Public Health Management for Tuberculosis Program Managers - May 2012

JPGSPH offered a course titled 'Public Health Management for Tuberculosis Program Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Program, BRAC Learning Division and icddr,b from 19 May, 2012 to 31 May, 2012. The course was attended by 23 participants from the following 12 districts: Bhola, Bogra, Chittagong, Comilla, Dhaka, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Kurigram, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Rangamati, Sylhet.

Participants included area managers, consultants, deputy project managers, district managers, health managers, program officers, regional managers, senior district managers, senior medical officers and senior sector specialists and from BRAC and 4 partner organizations including Damien Foundation, Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB), National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) and Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service Bangladesh (RDRS).

The course was inaugurated on Saturday, 19 May, 2012 by **Dr. Md. Nuruzzaman Haque**, Deputy Director MBDC & Program Manager-TB, Directorate General of Health Services, **Dr. Kaosar Afsana**, Director, BRAC Health Program, **Dr. Aftab Uddin**, Senior Manager, Technical Training Unit, icddr,b and **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University. A highly qualified resource pool of 25 resource persons from governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations was developed. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of tuberculosis programs, covering topics such as health systems requirements, human resource management, health care financing and governance and leadership skills.

The course ended on Thursday, 31 May, 2012 with a certificate giving ceremony. **Dr. Md. Ashaque Husain**, Director MBDC & Line Director-TB/Leprosy National TBs Control Program (NTP), DGHS, Dr. Md. Akramul Islam, Associate Director, BRAC Health Program, **Dr. Aftab Uddin**, Senior Manager, Technical Training Unit, icddr,b and **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University attended the certificate giving ceremony.

UNICEF MNH Review

The UNICEF MNH review team piloted the tools (survey questions for the relevant actors) in Mymensingh, from May 20- May 23, 2012. The research team was split into 3-4 member groups, and took interviews of the relevant actors from the community level (community women, community health workers) to the district level (district manager, UNFPO, UNICEF field staff). In between interviews, the JPGSPH professors leading the review, **Dr. Alayne Adams**, Professor and **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor and MPH Coordinator led discussions to improve

questioning so that more relevant information could be gained from it. In addition, the research team worked on improving the questions and relevant probes so that they were more tailored to the interviewee for each tool.

FSNSP

The 7th round of data collection for the Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) which started on 21 February 2012 was completed during the first week of May. During this round 9,024 households were covered in 89 upazilas.

The Mid-term review of EU- funded "Food Security component" of which Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project is a part in progress. The review team has met with key personnel of the project a number of times and also visited field to monitor the data collection process.

The Training Officer and 8 Quality Control Officers from FSNSP provided a day-long training on 14 May 2012 to 21 Regional Statistical Officers from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics on anthropometric measurements.

Refresher training for Round 8 data collection was held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium from 27 May to 31 May 2012. 8 Senior Monitoring Officers, 14 Quality Control Officers, 8 Field Coordinators and 64 Data Collection Officers attended the training which was facilitated by the Field Managers and the Training Officer. Training was imparted on Anthropometric Measurements and data collection questionnaire.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean JPGSPH Authors' Workshop, Bellagio Center, Italy, May 1-2. Dr. Evans presented a draft chapter on health development that reviews the past and projects forward in the post-MDG period. The chapter is part of a volume commissioned by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) that is bringing together about 50 chapters reviewing development thinking and practices. As part of the meeting, a 2 hours video-conference was held with the recently appointed President of the World Bank, **Dr. Jim Kim**.

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean JPGSPH, MicroInsurance Academy (MIA). Together with **Adib Hossain** and **Fatema Rasul** of the bHIP team, spent a day at the MIA in Delhi learning about their standardized approaches to micro-insurance in India, Nepal and Vietnam. **Adib** and **Fatema** stayed on to visit field sites in Bihar.

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean JPGSPH as the principal investigator of the MOVE-IT Bangladesh project attended a regional consultation of MOVE-IT partners in the Asia region. There are MOVE-IT projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand hosted by the Health Metrics Network (HMN) of WHO. Presentations were made to the Technical Advisory Committee of the HMN. The MOVE-IT Bangladesh project received very good feedback from the Technical Advisory Group and other country partners of MOVE-IT. MOVE-IT Bangladesh will be invited to present at the special session of the Statistics Committee of the Asia

Pacific in Bangkok in December.

Dr. Timothy Grant Evans, Dean JPGSPH, and **Professor Malabika Sarkar** were lead faculty for the Asia Network for Health System Strengthening (ANHSS) short-course on strategies to engage the private sector in primary health care held at the Asia Institute of Management in Manila from May 13-19, 2012. Approximately 40 students from 12 countries attended the meeting including 7 participants from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Professor and MPH Coordinator is an Adjunct Visiting Professor at the Charite, Berlin School of Public Health, Germany since 2007. In May 2012, she was invited again to teach in the Masters program on "international gender, health and society" from May 29-June 1, 2012. **Dr. Rashid** has been a visiting teaching faculty and teaches an intensive module on 'Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights' for MPH students each year in the program.

JPGSPH faculty **Md. Tanvir Hasan** taught the Biostatistics module in the Internship program for Advanced Research Methods at the Centre for Control of Chronic Diseases (CCCD), icdd,b This was a 2 week course which started on May 06, 2012 and ended on May 21, 2012.

Anuradha Hashemi, Researcher presented on JPGSPH's work in sexuality rights in Bangladesh at a workshop on "Building Gender Excellence" at Dhaka University on May 9th. The presentation focused on the experiences of the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS as it seeks to create a platform for sexuality and rights in Bangladesh through research, advocacy, and capacity-building activities. The Centre's experiences highlight the potentials, possibilities, and also the challenges of working in this field. The workshop was organized by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Gender Research and Diversity of the University of Kiel in cooperation with the Department of Women and Gender Studies of Dhaka University from May 07 - 14. The workshop was funded by the DAAD for alumni of German Universities from Bangladesh and India.

Md. Nuruzzaman, Senior Research Associate has been working as Teaching Fellow for the course "Health Systems Management" which has been ongoing since May 27, 2012 and will continue till June 21, 2012. He has also provided a lecture on "Result based Performance Management in Improving Working Environment" for the short course on "Public Health Management for Tuberculosis Program Managers" at JPGSPH on May 23, 2012.

New Staff

Dr. Tasrina Rahman has joined as Program Implementation Specialist in community Midwifery Education Program (CMEP) of JPGSPH, BRAC University on 2nd May, 2012. She has been working in this development sector for 16 years. After completion of her graduation from Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) she did her MPH from National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM). She has experiences to work with couple of National and International NGOs, namely Plan International, Save the Children, USA. Concern Women for Family Development (CWFD), Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) etc.

Muhammad Tariqul Islam, has joined as Project Resource Manager for 'GFATM-TB' project. He was the Chief Accountant of CHEMONICS International Inc. which is implementing an USAID funded vast health program in Bangladesh namely Smiling Sun Franchise Program. Smiling Sun Franchise Program is providing the total maternal health and child care to about 20 million of people through 325 Surejer Hashi Clinics and above 8,500 Satellite Clinics all over Bangladesh.

Student Affairs Updates

Club and Forum Updates

Seminar on Transformer Oil organized by BUEEC (BRAC University Electrical and Electronics Club)

A seminar on Transformer Oil organized was took place on 31st May 2012 in UB0223 at 11am. The keynote speaker was **Mr. Narayan Chandra Roy**, Ex-GM, PGCB (PowerGrid Corporation Bangladesh). Student and faculty members were present . **Professor Quamrul Ahsan** introduced the speaker and **AKM Azad**, Associate professor, EEE Dept. and all advisor and co-advisors of the club were present

Industrial Visit of BUCC to Marine Academy of Bangladesh Navy and Cox's Bazaar

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) arranged their annual study tour this May after the semester final examination of Spring 2012. Sixty-six BRAC University students joined the industrial visit to Bangladesh Navy facilities at Chittagong, Radar Station, and Beach and Mineral Exploitation Centre at Cox's Bazaar. It was a four-day long study tour from 1 May to 5 May. Five faculty members **Annajiat Alim Rasel** Advisor of BUCC along with his wife, **Md. Shamsul Kaonain** Co-Advisor of BUCC, **Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed**, **Sanjida Hossain Sabah** form School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) and Sabrina Ahmed from the department of English and Humanities (ENH) accompanied the students in the tour.



On 2nd of May, we reached the Marine Academy of Bangladesh Navy around seven in the morning. Students were escorted to the auditorium of the School of

Marine Warfare and Tactics (SMWT). A brief presentation was given on the history, mission, training objectives, aim, research, and development of SMWT. The mission of SMWT is to protect the sovereignty of internal water and territorial sea. SMWT aims to prepare officers with better skills and responsibility in warfare, provide a knowledge platform of warfare, approach, and ship handling.

Students visited the dockyard, took a grand tour on the flagship of Bangladesh Navy, BNS Bangabandhu. Every student received a souvenir cap on behalf of Bangladesh Navy. Officers explained the function of the equipments to the visitors. Rest of the day sixty-six students and faculty members of BRAC University cruised over the Bay of Bengal on the offshore patrol vessel BNS Bijoy. Everyone on board had to wear the life jacket. We were advised not to go too close to the shipside.

Next morning a tour to the Meteorological Radar Station at Cox's Bazaar was arranged. The officials in charge explained the functionality and working procedure of the radar station. Then we all moved to the Beach Sand Mineral Exploitation Center situated near the radar station. Our sea beach is not only the longest beach of the world the sand contains five commercially useful chemical compounds. These compounds are separated and made commercially available in this sand exploitation center.

Everyone went to the beach, splashing water and playing beach ball. Lunch at KFC was a bonus next day. Students were given some time to shop at the Burmese market. We packed our bags and headed to Dhaka at 11 pm. We reached Dhaka the next morning at 10 am.

The whole tour wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and endless effort of **Tasmia Tabassum** President BUCC, **Mafruzul Murshed Bhuiyan** Director of Event Management BUCC, along with deputies **Israt Jahan Shanchary** and **Mohammad Oliur Rahman**, Onishim Hasdak Director of Creative Department BUCC, alongside deputy **Javed H. Ahmed** and **Chowdhury Farsad Aurangazeb**, **Syed Chowdhury Shaashwato** Director of Finance & Accounts of BUCC, with his deputies **Farah Nazifa** and **Sa-adat Arifin**, **Amit Kumar Dey** Director of Contests, and his deputy **S. M. Rakibul Hasan**, as well as **Fahim Al Hasnaeen**, **Dipantar Chaki Joy** and **Tanvir Roushan**. Not to forget the continuous support of faculty members Lecturer, Department of CSE **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, and Advisor of BUCC, Lecturer, Department of CSE **Md. Shamsul Kaonain**, and Co-Advisor of BUCC, Lecturer, Department of EEE **Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed**, Lecturer, Department of EEE **Sanjida Hossain Sabah** and Lecturer Department of English & Humanities **Sabrina Ahmed**. Without their assistance, the tour would not have been successful. Finally thanks to everyone who made the event possible with his or her presence in the tour.