



## BRAC University Bulletin

2012/june

### BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) starts its journey



BRAC University Centre for Languages has transformed into BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL). University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the institute on July 2, 2012. This is the third language institute in Bangladesh. The visions of this institute are to create knowledge, convene experts, explore new ideas, advocate policy and develop ELT materials.

BIL inaugurated its journey with a celebration on the July 4, 2012. Present to witness this celebration were the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, the Pro Vice Chancellor, **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, the Departments Heads, Head of Accounts, Assistant Registrars, HR Officials, Director of BIL, **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** and BIL faculty members. **Lady Abed** thanked the Vice Chancellor, the Pro Vice Chancellor, the administration and the faculty members of BIL for the great success. The Vice Chancellor gave an encouraging and inspiring speech on the occasion. The celebration reflected the excitement felt by the faculty members.

Following an evolutionary progression, BRAC University started a language program, EL-Pro in August of 2005. Then, in 2008, it became the Centre for Languages. From then on, it has been making substantial achievements in terms of teaching English language courses to the undergraduate students, academic English to graduate students, and the ELT professionals. In addition, CfL has had involvement in government projects and partnerships with other agencies in the field of ELT and research. Apart from offering French, Spanish, Bengali, and Arabic languages, CfL has also been working in partnership with the Chinese and Korean governments to teach their languages to both students and general public in Bangladesh so that they could avail academic scholarships and job opportunities in these countries. Moreover, CfL has been acclaimed for the Pre-University course at home and

abroad, for its unique approaches. All of these endeavours have created the pathway for CfL to become a language institute at BRAC University.

Under the new institute, a masters program in TESOL will be offered from Spring-2013 in addition to the undergraduate credit courses in Bengali, French, Spanish and Chinese besides the existing programmes.

### **Workshop on "Future Search for BRAC University"**



BRAC University has recently initiated to draw a road-map for the future of the University. A workshop entitled "Future Search for BRAC University" to this effect held from 25-27 June in BCDM, Rajendrapur. Prof. Sohail Inayatullah, an international expert on "Future Thinking and Strategy Transformation" had undertaken the "Future Search" exercise. The goal was to draw a road-map for Vision 2030 of BRAC University and prepare strategies to facilitate the processes for achieving the vision. Then the workshop designed several scenarios based on different factors for possible outcomes. Selected Members from BRAC University and BRAC were participated in that workshop. Vice Chancellor **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, and **Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** and **Dr. Mahabub Hossain**, Executive Director, BRAC were present in the Workshop.

### **Vice Chancellor Participated in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) was held in the last week of June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More than 40,000 people - including parliamentarians, mayors, UN officials, chief executive officers and civil society leaders - attended Rio+20 summit. The event followed on from the Earth Summit in 1992, also held in Rio de Janeiro, during which countries adopted Agenda 21 - a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection. **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor participated in the Conference as an anchor member of the Bangladeshi delegates.

The outcome of the Conference called for a wide range of actions, such as detailing the use of the green economy as a tool to achieve sustainable development; strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP); promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures; taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country; developing a strategy for sustainable development financing; and, adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production. It also focused on improving gender equity; recognizing the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development; and stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy; among other points.

### **World Education Congress 2012 awarded Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC, BRAC University for outstanding contribution in Education**



The World Education Congress 2012 was held during 29-30 June at Mumbi, India. The major focus of the Congress was "Learning in the 21st Century: Rights and Access to Education". Hundreds of Educational Leaders from 88 different countries around the world gathered in the congress. The Congress selected and awarded educational leaders from these countries that made significant contribution in different areas of education. **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC of BRAC University was awarded a Trophy and a Citation for his outstanding contribution in "Teaching and Learning". He also presented a paper on "Building a Vision for Higher Education: The Experiences of Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at BRAC University" in the Congress. **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid**, Honorable Minister of Education, Bangladesh, **Dr. David Richard Namwandi**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Namibia, and **Mr. Lyonpo Thakur Powdyel**, Minister of Education of Bhutan was also among the awardees for their outstanding contribution in Education.

### **Nigerian Government and NGO Officials Visited BRAC University**



A high powered Nigerian team composed with Government and NGO officials visited BRAC University on 27th May 2012. The visit was part of the Delegation for weeklong visit to BRAC and its various enterprise and affiliations. **Air Cdre. (Rtd) Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar BRAC University welcomed the delegation and gave them brief of the ongoing activities and future plans of the BRAC University. The brief was followed by question-answer session where delegates showed aspiration for more Nigerian students coming to BRAC University on various courses. They also showed keen interest for active collaboration between BRAC University and various Universities of Nigeria.

## **BBS Updates**

### **Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus Speaks on "Social Business" at BRAC University**

Nobel laureate **Professor Muhammed Yunus** visited BRAC University on July 12, 2012 and shared his thoughts on "Social Business". The session was chaired by **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, BRAC Business School. **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School & Director Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, at BRAC University, was also present along with many distinguished guests and foreign dignitaries. This memorable event was organized by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Entrepreneurship Development Forum of BRAC University.



**Professor Muhammad Yunus** mentioned how the concept of "shareholder wealth maximization" in the business world failed to bring about equity and justice in the world. Rather the gap between haves and have-nots kept on widening. Wealth became concentrated in the hands of a few, turning the lives of the majority into a continuous debt trap from which few had the opportunity to get out of. The new generation of entrepreneurs who have more access to information and new communication technology are no longer motivated by self enrichment alone. Social Business offers to the world a new concept through which they can work not only for themselves, but society at large. He mentioned how the western world that is facing massive unemployment and economic devastation, have started taking note of social business as the possible remedy for their crisis. Entrepreneurs have a great opportunity to eradicate poverty and to create a world where poverty can be a thing of the past that will be displayed in museums for the future generations to see.

**Professor Yunus** spoke about how science followed the visions of writers of the past and developed new technological breakthroughs. Similarly he felt the need of books to be written which imagines a world free of poverty and inequality. Soon man's creativity will follow and implement these visions into reality.

In his inspirational speech he encouraged entrepreneurship and self-reliance among the people of Bangladesh. He envisions a poverty-free world where every individual will be able to achieve their full potential and not only take care of themselves but also contribute to the well-being of the world as a whole.

### **A presentation on Bangladesh Poultry Industry: Prospects and Challenges**

"Bangladesh Poultry Industry: Prospects and Challenges"- A presentation was held at BRAC Business School on 28 June 2012 on the topic "Bangladesh Poultry Industry: Prospects and Challenges" conducted by **Mr. Mashiur Rahman**, Managing Director, Paragon Group. Faculty members and students of BBS were present in the occasion. The speaker talked about various prospects and problems of the poultry industry along with the ways to overcome those problems. The presentation was followed by a participative discussion.

## **BDI Updates**

### **Second Arab Development Symposium**

**Professor Syed M. Hashemi**, Director, BDI was an invited speaker at the Second Arab Development Symposium, a joint initiative of the World Bank and the Arab

Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). The keynote speeches were made by the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors, AFESD and the Vice President, Middle East and North Africa region, World Bank. The Symposium took place in Kuwait between June 18 and 19, 2012. The focus of the seminar was on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and it aimed at shedding light on ways to activate the developmental role of SMEs in the Arab countries.

### **Workshop on 'Unpaid Care Work, Care Economy and National Development'**

The Center for Gender and Social Transformation, BDI, organized a workshop on 'Unpaid Care Work, Care Economy and National Development' on June 21 at BDI. The workshop included feminist scholars, economists, and development practitioners. The aim of the workshop was to map out relevant stakeholders, policy and knowledge in this area and develop plans for the three year program to be implemented with Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, lead researcher, BDI.

### **National Microfinance Conference 2012**

On May 30th, 2012, a day-long National Microfinance Conference was held in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), organized by Credit and Development Forum, Bangladesh. **Professor Syed M. Hashemi**, Director, BDI was a designated discussant at the conference. The chief guest of the opening session was Honorable Finance Minister **Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith MP**, and the session was chaired by **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, KCMG-Founder & Chairperson, BRAC. Honorable Food and Disaster Management Minister **Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque** was the chief guest for the closing session, which was chaired by ASA President **Mr. Shafiqul Haque Choudhury**.

### **Research Planning and Methodology Workshop**

**Dr. Mirza Hassan**, lead researcher, BDI, was in Manchester, UK from June 11 to 15, 2012, for the Research Planning and Methodology workshop organized by the Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Program Consortium, of which BDI is a research partner institution. The consortium is coordinated by IDPM, University of Manchester, UK and has partner universities and institutes in India, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda and USA.

### **Progress of the Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior Research**

The ongoing research - Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior- conducted the data entry of household survey throughout June. In terms of the qualitative research, institutional mapping reports were completed. Thematic structuring and synopsis of in depth case studies are in the process of being prepared for preliminary analysis.

A meeting was held with the Executive Director and the Director of Knowledge Management and Research department of Institute of Microfinance (InM) to plan activities for the interim phase, starting July 2012. The discussion topics of the meeting included exploring expected outputs and organizing a dissemination seminar.

## Three day training on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)



BDI in collaboration with the Social Development Unit of World Bank, Dhaka, organized three day training on MLARR from May 29 - 31, 2012 at BRAC, CDM, Savar. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, academic coordinator, BDI, facilitated the training program. Different sessions were conducted by **Md. Kamal Uddin Talukder**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, **Sabah Moyeen**, Social Development Specialist, World Bank, Dhaka, and **Md. Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI. A wide range of participants from various government organization attended the training including - Ministry of Land, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Labor and Empowerment, Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., Gas Transmission Company Limited, Dhaka Water and Sanitation Authority, Jolshiri Housing Project, RAJUK, BEPZA and World Bank.

## BIL Updates



### Orientation of Book Reading Competition, Summer 2012

Centre for Languages, BRAC University, has collaborated with British Council to run a Book Reading Competition every semester since Fall 2011. The main

objective of the whole program is to enhance the reading habit among the students, and in doing so to improve on the four skills in English. The books that are assigned for the students are the abridged versions of famous novels by well known authors.

The orientation program for the competition for Summer 2012 was held on 21 June.

In the one hour orientation program, a total of 50 students from Pre-University section enrolled for a further reading competition. The program was conducted by **Sarwat Masuda Reza**, Resource Centre Manager and **Aleja Ferdous**, Assistant, Resource Center Officer, The British Council, with the assistance of Pre-University faculty members of BRAC University Centre for Languages. Throughout the second half of the semester, the students will read two books. The students will be assessed on their reading of the texts throughout the rest of the semester. At the end of the semester, the participants who will score 20% and above in the assessment will get Certificates, and those with a score of 35% and above will get books as gifts from The British Council. Also, those students who will take the position from 2nd till 6th will get one year free membership to The British Council Resource Centre while the highest scorer in the competition will receive a Smart Phone as a gift from The British Council. Such a rewarding competition is very encouraging for the students who willingly participate and in doing so enhance their reading skills.

### **Workshop on reading strategies held**

On 24th June 2012, Centre for languages, BRAC University arranged a workshop on "Reading Strategies: From Passive to Active Readers" facilitated by **Pankaj Paul**, Lecturer, Centre for Languages amid the presence of other faculty members. The aim of the workshop was to share the concept of "Interactive Reading" and strategies that can ensure interactive reading at different stages of reading. At the very beginning of the workshop the facilitator shared the present research finding on the reading strategies. Then, a practical orientation session has been arranged for the participants; which was followed by the participants sharing on the feasibility of the discussed reading strategies for the real language teaching situations.

### **Contract renewal with the Daily Star: CfL to prepare materials for two years**

BRAC University Centre for Languages (BU-CfL) and The Daily Star has agreed to renew the contract for two years amid the presence of **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, director of BU-CfL and **Mahfuz Anam**, editor and publisher of The Daily Star on June 7, 2012 at The Daily Star premise.



It is to be noted that the faculty members of BU-CfL has been preparing English language teaching materials for grade VI-X students of Bangladesh under the programme named English in School, and this contract renewal revitalized the bond of BU-CfL, The Daily Star and telecom operator Robi.

Participants in the programme emphasized the importance of English language in our country and **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** in her speech said "BRAC always wants to work for the development of the country."

BU-CfL Academic Coordinator **Shafaat Bari Ivan**, its visiting **Prof Dil Afroze Quader** and its some other faculty members, Robi General Manager **Shayaka Sharmin** and its Manager **Faruq Hossain**, and a number of The Daily Star officials were also present at the programme.

## First intake completes TESOL Certificate Course successfully

"Learning by doing"-with this motto, the BRAC Institute for Languages (formerly Centre for Languages) launched its first ever Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) programme at BRAC University. The course started on the 10th of February, 2012 with a short get-together of the candidates, and some teachers of the Centre. The candidates are successfully completing the programme of theoretical and practical sessions of two semesters of three months each. Two academic modules were taught during the first semester, concluding on the 28th of April. The second semester started from 12 May, will end in July. The modules are practice oriented, where the theory of language teaching and other aspects of pedagogy come together with the experience of teaching it. This practical application is the unique feature of the course at BIL, in all modules, while the micro teaching module in real classrooms gives students the experience of teaching a variety of real students at different age and proficiency levels, another unique feature possible only at BRACU.

## Second Certificate in TESOL

While the first course continues, BIL has started the process of recruiting students for the second course in August, to end in December. The interesting points is that this certificate course that combines learning the theory as well as the practice of teaching it, can lead to an MA in TESOL, to be offered by the same BRAC Institute for Languages (BIL) from next year, 2013. Successful students may be allowed to pursue the MA in TESOL with waivers for some courses done now.

Members involved with the TESOL program request BIL members as well as BRACU members to inform people who may need to do this program for professional enhancement of skills.

## Sharing conference papers

**Ms. Tamanna Maqsood** and **Ms. Sunjida Afrin Khan**, faculty members of CfL, had a session of sharing their papers on June 30 2012. These papers, **Ms. Maqsood's** Protecting Linguistic Diversity of Indigenous Community through Implementing Education in Mother Tongue and **Ms. Khan's** Linguistic Chauvinism constraining Linguistic Right of Indigenous Children in Nation States: Cases of Bangladesh and Australia, were presented in 2011 in the Canberra Langfest Conference of 2011 and Free Linguistic Conference, respectively. The sharing met with much appreciation and a lively discussion.



## Responding to a humanitarian cause

The unfortunate, yet terrible incident of launch capsizing of March 12, 2012 claimed the lives of **Nayeem Kashem Khan**, a young student of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) department of BRAC University, and his father. The students of English 091 and

their course instructor **Roxana A. Chowdhury** collaborated with the students and faculty members of the EEE department and raised a fund of Tk. 70,000 and handed over the cheque to **Nayeem's** family.

BRAC University prays for the departed souls to rest in peace and for the bereaved family to find strength to bear the irreparable loss.

## Career Services Updates

### "Internship Recruitment" - An Engagement Session by Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.



Career Services Office arranged "Internship Recruitment" - an engagement session by Unilever Bangladesh Ltd on June 24, 2012 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium. The objective of the program is to provide the top students of leading universities an opportunity to experience working with Unilever. More than 120 students from BBS

participated in the program. The participants were the students of Fall 2012, Spring 2013 and Summer 2013. The program started with the speech of Air Cdre (Retd) **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar - BRAC University and welcomed by **Asma Banu** Sr. Asst. Director of Career Services.

Unilever Bangladesh divided this whole program in two different parts. In the beginning of the program **Ms. Tanvira Choudhury**, Leadership Development Manager of Unilever discussed the internship recruitment process of Unilever Bangladesh Limited and how it works. Students of BRAC University who performed their internship from Unilever Bangladesh Limited were present in the program and shared their experiences. In the second part of the program, students were asked to carry out a written test provided by Unilever Bangladesh Limited for preliminary screening process.

**Ms. Marufa Tabassum**, Talent Specialist, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** and **Ms Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, CSO were also present at the session.

### Day long information and counseling session

BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) and International Education Counseling Centre (IECC) Ltd jointly organized a day long information and counseling session on higher education on June 24th, 2012 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, introduced IECC and gave the welcome speech for the program.

**Md. Touhidul Alam**, Technical Director, International Education Counseling Centre (IECC) Ltd opened the session and discussed their experience and knowledge to guide students all over the world to achieve their higher education.

**Ms. Tahsina Rasul**, Assistant Manager - Business Development, International Education Counseling Centre (IECC) Ltd gave an complete presentation describing

the procedures to be followed by students who are interested in applying for higher education. Topics discussed in the seminar were, How to choose the right University and also to look for the right course / subject for Bachelors / Masters / Phd Degrees, Academic / Career Counseling, Application Processing, Tuition Fee Structure, Scholarship, etc.

### **PSDP Mock Interview - Spring 2012**



Career Services Office (CSO) organizes "Mock Interview Session" event every semester as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) aiming to provide the prospective graduates the insight on facing actual interview boards. On 2nd June "Mock Interview Session" of Spring 2012 semester twenty renowned organizations have participated namely: Robi Axiata Limited, BRAC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Reckitt Benckiser, Augree Wireless Broadband Bangladesh Limited, MGH Group, Unilever Bangladesh Limited, Airtel Bangladesh Limited, Save The Children, Bank Asia, Westin Hotel, Parkway Health, Lanka Bangla Finance Limited, Genetic Limited, Ezzy Group, Green Delta Insurance, Viyellatex Group, Midas Financing Limited, Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited and NGGL Group. A number of 135 students have participated in this event for interview assessment and total 20 interview boards were there.

A detailed feedback has been received on every interviewed candidate, indicating strengths and areas of development. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director of Career Services Office of BRAC University inaugurated the event.

## **Counseling Updates**

### **Counseling Unit conducted three workshops in June**

Workshop is a helpful way to offer people psycho education and making sure you're communicating what you think you're communicating.. From that point of view Counseling Unit organized three workshops for both students and staffs of BRACU which were conducted on both Mohakhali and Savar Campus.

Two workshops were conducted in Savar Campus; one for house tutors and the other for students.

The workshop Pleasant Personality: Building Positive Relationship was arranged for the house tutors with the objectives to make the participants able to

- Understand the rules and barriers of communication
- Have idea about building positive relationship with students
- Recognize self strength and areas of improvement during communication

- Understand the potential negative impact of disruptive or inappropriate behavior

Using participatory methods this workshop focused on different factors related to the effective dealing with students at RS. and covered many important areas like communication barrier, building positive relationship, active listening, empathy, acceptance, assertiveness, self management and disruptive behavior management. Different check lists were given to the participant for self assessment. CS, CMO, Members of Counseling unit, Library, medical staff, and all HT were present in the workshop. All the participants were extremely delighted as this type of workshop was conducted after a long time in Savar Campus.

Manage anger properly is a skill that has to be learned, instead of something we are born knowing how to do instinctually. From that perspective a workshop on Anger Management was organized for the R.S. students. The objectives of that workshop were

- To create preliminary ideas about 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.

### **Accept your Emotional Limits & Set your Goals**

When we get caught in struggles with difficult thoughts and feelings, we tend to lose contact with what's important to us. Acceptance (not the same as approval) of how things are, without evaluation or attempts to change it, is a skill that is developed through Mindfulness exercises.

Goals are in our mind, bothering us, whether we are aware of them or not. We worry, we stress out, we are unhappy or depressed. We complain a lot. Our mind is telling us: "There is something that needs fixing."

On this perspective Counseling Unit prepared a workshop called "Acceptance & Goal Setting" on 25th June Monday from 3pm to 5pm at Indoor Games. The Objectives of this workshop were to experience the process and learn the techniques of acceptance of emotional limits and to know and understand the techniques for setting goals.

It was a wonderful session and students enjoyed a lot. Here are some feedbacks of them:

"A very nice workshop. I have never done this kind of workshop. It's my 1st participation and it is awesome feelings. Thank you so much for arranging a nice

workshop."

"Now I think I will be able to control my emotion. I will be more goals oriented and all those will be possible because of this seminar."

"Excellent work! Very informative and let's one reveal his or her true self".

"Too much informative and long time consuming".

However this workshop was a great achievement for students as well as counselors of counseling unit.

## ENH Updates

### Poetry Reading Session



On 14th June 2012, **Nausheen Eusuf**, Senior Lecturer of ENH read the poems from her first collection of poetry entitled What Remains. This collection of poetry has been

published recently by Longleaf Press of Methodist University, U.S.A. She also read from her recent unpublished poems. **Eusuf** has been teaching at BRACU since 2004. She is currently on leave pursuing a PhD in English Literature at Boston University. She holds an M.A. in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University, and her poems have appeared in various journals in the USA, UK and Bangladesh. The reading was well attended and lively.

### ENH Lecture Series

**Sohana Manzoor**, Senior Lecturer of ENH delivered a lecture titled The Rustics of William and Dorothy Wordsworth on 21st June 2012 which shed light on the portrayal of rural poor folk in Wordsworth's poetry. Currently **Manzoor** is pursuing her PhD in English Literature at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA. Her research focus is nineteenth century British Fiction by women writers.

### Workshop on Research Methodology in Social Science



The Institute of Educational Development (IED), The Department of Economics and

Social Sciences (ESS), and the Department of English and Humanities (ENH) hosted a week long intensive workshop on "Interpretive Strategies in Social Science" from 16th to 20th June 2012. **Professor Chua Beng Huat**, the Head of the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS) conducted the workshop with the assistance of **Dr. Firdous Azim** and **Dr. Seuty Sabur**. **Professor Huat** holds a joint appointment as the Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster Leader, at the Asia Research Institute at NUS. Around 24 young academics from BRAC University IED, ESS, ENH, BDI and a few selected public and private universities participated in the workshop. The workshop sessions were intensive, encouraging participants to engage directly with the texts. Certificates were distributed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** of BRACU on 20th June 2012.

### **Workshop on Media and Journalism**

ENH is hosting two media workshops on Media and Journalism conducted by Fulbright scholar **Dr. Uche Onyebadi**, an Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, U.S.A. The first workshop titled Investigative Reporting & Media Ethics was held from 24th to 27th June 2012. Many young journalists from different national dailies and T.V. channels participated in this workshop. The contents of the workshop covered media ethics and techniques of investigative reporting.

**Dr. Uche Onyebadi**, a Nigerian-American holds a Ph.D. in Journalism from the University of Missouri, U.S.A., with specialization in Political Communication.

### **Conference on Charles Dickens**

The Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University organized a day-long conference titled "Remapping Dickens for the Contemporary World" on 28th June, 2012 to celebrate the bicentenary of birth of the author. This conference was the culmination of a series of activities including a writing and photography competition of students of different universities. **Professor Anisuzzaman** - Professor Emeritus of Department of Bengali, University of Dhaka was the chief guest of the inaugural session. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University delivered the speech of the special guest of the event while **Ms. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury** welcomed the audience as the convenor of the conference. **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chairperson of ENH presented the keynote paper titled "Remapping Dickens". This paper traced critical reading of Dickens from social reality to post-colonialism. The second session of the conference comprised three papers titled "Out of the Ruined Garden: Concluding Great Expectations" by **Nausheen N. Eusuf**, Sr. Lecturer, ENH; "Reading Dickens through Hegel: The Night of the World in A Tale of Two Cities" by **Khalid A. Sheikh** Lecturer, ENH and "Dickens as a Neglected Feminist Icon" by **Professor Deena P. Forkan**, Chairperson of the Department of English, North South University (NSU). This opened new ways to approaching and analysing Dickens. **Professor Razia Sultana Khan**, Chairperson, Department of English and Department of Modern Languages of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) was the moderator of the session.



After lunch the conference resumed with students' readings. **Professor Kaiser Haq**, from Department of English, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh chaired this last session which reflected Dickens' ideas resonating in contemporary Dhaka. Resonance the creative writing journal of BRACU had organised a writing and photography competition on the street children of Bangladesh from April 2012. The competition was open for students of all universities. The winning entries of the students' writings were read out by the writers themselves in this session. There was an exhibition of the photographs of the participants in the conference venue. **Naushin Nazifa Islam** (BRACU), **Enamul Haque**, **Muhammad Towhidur Rahman** were announced the winners of first, second and third prize of Bengali fiction writing competition. On the other hand, **Quazi Mustabeen Noor** (Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls' School and College), **Aysha Mahjabeen**, **Zerin Tasnim** (BRACU) were the three winners of the English fiction writing competition respectively. The first three positions of photography competition were won by **Maisha Samiha**(BRACU), **Kaysar Al Nahian** (University of Dhaka) and **Sadia Afrin Arin** (BRACU) respectively. **Professor Kaiser Haq** and **Din Muhammad Shibly**, a tutor of Pathshala-South Asian Institute of Photography were the judges of the writing and photography competition respectively. They awarded the winners with certificates and prizes at the end of the session.

Moreover, representatives from "JAAGO Foundation", "UNICEF-Bangladesh" and "Empower Energy" were invited in this session to share their experience of working for the betterment of the street children of Bangladesh. A student of JAAGO Foundation informed the audience how her life improved after she became member of the foundation. **Jamil Hasan**, the Child Protection Specialist of UNICEF talked about a open air school for street children situated near the railway tracks. **Mukit Anis** of "Empower Energy" showed photos of a school at **Matwail landfill**. This organization aims at giving basic education to children who collect papers from landfills to earn their living. The audience appreciated the way the conference reflected Dickens' relevance in the contemporary world and society.

## ESS Updates

### Workshop organized by ESS Department on Interpretive Strategies in Social Science

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences along with the Department of English and Humanities and the Institute of Educational Development organized a week long intensive workshop on Interpretive Strategies in Social Science" from 16-20 June 2012. The week long intensive seminar focused on a series of strategies of

interpretation commonly used by social scientists in their research write up. Close reading of original texts on Weberian interpretation of social action, Freudian interpretation of dreams, Barthes's structural semiotics, Foucauldian analysis of discourse, Habermasian Critical Theory and Garfinkel's Ethnomethodology was done during the workshop. Short practical exercises were conducted using the strategies to interpret data throughout this period.



**Professor Chua Beng Huat** facilitated the workshop with the assistance of **Professor Firdous Azim** (ENH) and **Dr Seuty Sabur** (ESS). He is the Provost Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore since 2009. He also holds a joint appointment as the Cultural Studies in Asia Research Cluster Leader, at the Asia Research Institute at NUS.

Twenty five young academics from BRAC University (IED, ESS, ENH and BDI), Dhaka University, Jahangir Nagar University, Jagannath University, East West University and Eastern University participated in this workshop. They were given certificates by the Pro Vice Chancellor **Professor Golam Samdani Fakir** in a formal closing ceremony. **Professor Firdous Azim** was the master of this ceremony. Speeches were given by **Professor Syed M Hashemi** and **Dr Erum Mariam**. Finally, **Dr Seuty Sabur** ended the ceremony with vote of thanks as the convener of the workshop.

### **Workshop attended by ESS Faculty**

**Dr. Wahid Abdallah** attended a workshop on Poverty Assessment on June 26, 2012. It was held at the World Bank and was chaired by **Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Chair, Economics Research Group and Chair, Institute of Microfinance.

### **ESS Faculty Promotions**

1. **Dr. Farzana Munshi** promoted to the position of Associate Professor.
2. **Dr. Shahidur Rahman** promoted to the position of Associate Professors.
3. **Ms. Sarah Salahuddin** promoted to the position of Lecturer - III.
4. **Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman** promoted to the position of Lecturer - III.

### **IGS Updates**

## Visit to Cape Town

From 18-20 June **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS and Barrister **Manzoor Hasan**, Institutional Adviser, IGS attended the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Think Tank Initiative Exchange Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting was attended by participants (Executive Directors and Key Researchers) from 50 Think Tank grantees of IDRC from across the globe.

## Other Activities of the Director

On 3 June **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director-in Charge of IGS attended a workshop on Curriculum Development which was organised by the University Grants Commission at its premises. The workshop was attended by stakeholders from public and private universities. He also attended a meeting organised by the National Defence College (NDC) to serve the role of an adviser for the research papers of NDC course participants.

## IGS Curriculum Development Team visited the Netherlands for Curriculum Development Training



A four member team of IGS: Senior Research Associates, **Syeda Salina Aziz** and **Kazi Nur mohammad Hossainul Haque** and Research Associates: **Mohammad Sirajul Islam** and **Md. Harun-Or- Rashid** and five members of the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) visited the Centre for International Cooperation of the VU University of Amsterdam from 4-8 June 2012. This visit was part of the NUFFIC supported project where training was organised to create an in-house curriculum development body of IGS and the BPATC. The key resource persons of the training were **Dr. Wim Kouwenhoven**, Senior Adviser, **Dr. Marinus Kool**, Senior Education Adviser, **Ms. Lieke Stoffelsma** and Education Adviser from CIC of VU University Amsterdam.

## First Training of Trainers held under NUFFIC Project



From 17-21 June the first Training of Trainers (ToT) was held under the NUFFIC project of "Capacity Building for Promoting Governance" at Regional Public Administration Training

Centre (RPATC). 20 trainers were selected in total: 10 from IGS and the rest from BPATC. The course was designed and facilitated by MDF Director, Ineke Pitts and Senior Trainer and Consultant **Dr. Martien Van Asseldonk** and coordinated by Deputy Director, BPATC, **M. Arifur Rahman** and Senior Program Manager, IGS, **Munir Uddin Shamim**.

At the end of the training program a certificate awarding ceremony was held where **A. Z. M. Shafiqul Alam**, Rector, BPATC and Secretary of Bangladesh Government and **Dr. Mahmudul Hassan**, Joint Secretary and Member Direction Staff of BPATC were present as Chief Guest.

### **Seminar Attended by Research Coordinator**

On 9 June **M. Shahidul Islam**, Research Coordinator of IGS, participated at a seminar titled: 'Banking in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges' as a discussant at Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) organised by Policy Research Centre Bangladesh (PRC BD).

### **Presentation on the Findings of Bangladesh Youth Survey**

On 10 June a group of research staff of IGS presented their findings on the Bangladesh Youth Survey (BYS) before the United Nations Development Program (UNDP): one of the principal sponsors of BYs project at UNDP premises. Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

### **Workshop held in Kathmandu**

From 4-6 June a 3 day regional Knowledge Action workshop on "Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process" was held in Kathmandu, Nepal which was hosted by ANSA-SAR in collaboration with the World Bank Institute (WBI) and Program for Accountability in Nepal (PRAN). Social Accountability tools with regard to budget analysis and dissemination, budget execution, procurement monitoring, performance of service delivery and the entire budget cycle was discussed in the workshop which was attended by Civil Society and Government Officials from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.

### **Workshop on Right to Information**

From 14-18 June ANSA-SAR held 3 workshops on Right to Information (RTI) one in Jessore and the rest in Dhaka at the Dainik Spandan, a newspaper based in Jessore and the rest two at United News of Bangladesh which is a private wire service and at Independent TV, a television station. More than 50 reporters and editors participated in the workshop and were given RTI guidebooks and posters which will guide them in filing for the RTI request.

### **Workshop in Bogra**

From 29-30 June a two day workshop on "Citizen's Involvement in Budget Preparation" was held in Bogra at Cozy Caf♦ and Red Chilli Restaurant respectively. This is one of the seven workshops which are going to be held all throughout Bangladesh to make the public aware of their rights in the budget decision making

processes of the state with the aid of the Citizens Budget Guide Book that has been developed by ANSA-SAR. The participants of the workshop were Upazila Chairman, Deputy Commissioners, Councillors and others.

### **Published Article**

The Daily Star: "Bringing Child Sexual Abuse Out of the Closet" by **Rubayet Hamid**, June 13, 2012

### **MNS Updates**

#### **AGM of NOAMI and Election for the Board of Governors**

The Annual General Meeting of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) was held on June 2, 2012 at 4 pm at the NOAMI office in Eastern Plaza. The AGM was followed by the election for different posts of the Board of Governors. The meeting elected all the office bearers unanimously. **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad** and **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** were elected Chariman and Vice-Chairman respectively for a two-year term.

#### **Sensitization Workshop on Medical Biotechnology at the DG Health's Medical Biotechnology Centre**

**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** participated in the Sensitization Workshop on Medical Biotechnology held at the DG Health's Medical Biotechnology Centre on 9-14 June 2012. The Workshop covered different aspects of medical biotechnology like modern biotechnology in prevention, diagnosis and cure of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, public private partnership in medical biotechnology, curriculum development in medical courses for inclusion of medical biotechnology at the undergraduate medical education etc. **Professor Choudhury** presented a lecture on biotechnology for human welfare-global and local perspectives. The seminar was inaugurated by the Additional Director General, Health, **Professor Abul Kalam Azad** and attended by large number of academics from different medical colleges, medical professionals from public and private sector organizations. The workshop covered topics on.

#### **Meeting of the National Committee for Guidance and Monitoring of the Roopur Nuclear Power Plant**

The second meeting of the National Committee for guidance and monitoring of the Roopur Nuclear Power Plant was held on 14 June at the Meeting Room Chameli House in the Prime Minister's office. Hon'ble Prime Minister presided. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** attended the meeting as a member of the National Committee. The meeting updated the Prime Minister about the progress on implementation of the project, Some issues discussed included financing of the project, , Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Act-2012, civil liability for nuclear damage, environmental impact assessment, site safety study, mode of establishment of the nuclear power plant , government to government bilateral agreement, formation of Nuclear Power Cell , human resource development etc . The meeting emphasized the need for rapid implementation of the project and requested the Ministry of Science and Technology to take some active programmes

for creating mass awareness about nuclear power. **Professor Choudhury** emphasized the need for utilizing the expertise of the nuclear scientists of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission particularly those involved in operation and maintenance of the 3 MW Research Reactor at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Savar for running the academic programmes in nuclear engineering at different universities. He mentioned that no university had any physical facilities for giving the academic degree on nuclear engineering and technology and as such bilateral agreements should be made by the public universities initiating degree programmes in nuclear engineering with the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. The Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Science and Technology to take necessary action in this regard.

### **Study Tour of the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) and Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Savar**



Thirty five students of biotechnology and microbiology programmes along with **DR. Mahboob Hossain**, and **Mr. Fazle Rabbi**, visited the National Institute of Biotechnology and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Savar, Dhaka on 14 June 2012. They visited

various departments of the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) and discussed the programmes and activities of the Institute with the scientists working there. The NIB is well equipped with many modern sophisticated instruments such as DNA sequencer, HPLC, fermenter etc. and has a very well developed tissue culture laboratory. The students were then taken to the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology, AERE and saw activities related to radiation preservation of food, medical sterilization, food microbiology and food technology etc. They also visited Tissue Banking and Biomaterial Research Centre in the same campus. The Centre is involved in sterilizing amniotic membranes and bone chips for treatment of burn wounds and rehabilitative surgery respectively. The team also was briefed about process and importance of detection of pesticide residue level of food and also process of tissue banking and its applications.

### **Seminar on Food Safety Laboratory to Support the Food Processor to Produce Safe and Quality Food at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**

**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** attended the Food Safety Seminar organized by the BCSIR as a Guest of Honour and presented the keynote paper on Food Safety Global and Local Perspectives. Architect **Yeafesh Osman**, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. A large number of scientists and researchers from different research and development organizations, food industries, NGOs and representatives of the different ministries were present. **Professor Choudhury** in his keynote paper mentioned that food safety was a global problem and in Bangladesh the problem had aggravated

because of lack of awareness and sometimes unethical practices in food processing. Food adulteration has been occurring at an alarming rate and it needs concerted efforts on the part of all concerned including the processors, retailers, consumers and the relevant ministries. He emphasized the need for modern food analytical laboratories capable of detecting contamination at ppm and ppb levels for ensuring safety of processed foods. He mentioned that the modern analytical facilities available in the BCSIR and BAEC should be utilized by the food processing industries to ensure safe processed foods locally and to ensure safety of the processed foods being exported.

### Visit of BRAC ARDC, Gazipur



**Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** along with **Dr. Aparna Islam, Dr. Sarwer Hossain, Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury** and **Ms. Tamanna Akhter Jahan** and some students of MS in Biotechnology programme visited BRAC ARDC at Gazipur on 28 June, 2012. The visit was aimed at knowing the on going and future plans for research and development activities of BRAC ARDC and

looking through the opportunities to identify research areas for collaborative programmes. **Dr. Zapata Arias** of BRAC ARDC introduced the visiting team with the two streams of research that are going on at BRAC ARDC. First, the conventional breeding techniques and plant biotechnology to raise hybrids and disease-free plantlets for commercialization. BRAC ARDC which works towards achieving food security is very much active in hybrid development. **Dr. A. Salam** and **Dr. Md. A. Haque** gave a brief on on-going R/D work in rice breeding while **Dr. S. C. Biswas** presented the work on the various vegetables. For the second area of research, the team was taken to plant biotechnology lab. **Ms. Maksuda Khatun** and **Mr. Asadul Haque** showed the work on micropropagation of potatoes, bananas, cassavas, stevia etc. BRAC ARDC is the pioneer in gerbera in vitro culture. At present they are working in developing in vitro technique for exotic flower, China Rose etc. Though it is the commercial producer of many crops but still research is going on to develop low cost lab to make the in vitro material more cost effective. The in vitro farm was an experience in this regard. Later green house facility and vegetable fields used in hybrid development were shown to the team. Afterwards, both the teams sat to discuss future plans. Led by **Prof. Choudhury** the meeting decided to take this visit further and arrange a half day long seminar at BRACU by the experts of BRAC ARDC. Possibility of research by the post-graduate biotechnology students at the BRAC ARDC with joint supervision will be explored. BRAC ARDC scientists will also be invited to give lectures in the post-graduate courses.

## "New faces in campus" and " Leaving us"

### New Faces

**Mr. Md. Rokibul Hasan**, graduated from School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRACU

**Mr. Riaz Mahmood**, graduated from School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRACU

**Mr. Mukul Ahmed**, graduated from School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRACU

### Leaving us

**Dr. Ashik Mosaddik** Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy

**Ms. Farhana Nur Malik**, Lecturer, BRAC Business School

**Ms. Afifa Sultana**, Lecturer, Department of Economic and Social Sciences

**Mr. Md. Jahed A. Patwary**, Lab Technical Officer

**Mr. Md. Ridwan Abir**, Lab Technical Officer

**Mr. Parag Barua**, Lab Technical Officer

## RS Updates

### Workshop on Anger Management at BRACU-RS campus

A workshop on anger management has been conducted by psychosocial counselors **Ms. Zinnatul Borak**, **Mr. Saleh Siddique** and **Mr. Shami Shurid** on June 17th, 2012 at BRACU Savar Residential campus. Through different segments the counselors engaged the participants in the process of anger management. The best parts of the workshop were introducing the students with anger meter, causes of anger, myths of anger and ways of dealing with anger.

### Drama staged at BRACU-RS campus

"Socrates er Jobanbondi", a popular drama, was staged by the theatre group Drishyapath at Savar Residential Campus on June 8th, 2012 as a diverse learning activity of Ethics and Culture course. The performance of the drama was followed by an interactive reflection among the students and teachers. The objective behind staging drama was to let the students know about the thought, diction and ideology of the great philosopher, Socrates.

### Happy Reading Orientation Program

Manifesting the slogan-"Reading is a great passion and also a great hobby", an orientation program "Book Reading Competition" was held on May 31st, 2012 at BRACU Savar campus. The program started with an introduction by **Mr. Golam Kader Zilany**, Lecturer, CfL, BRACU, and was carried on by **Ms. Aleja Ferdous**, Assistant Resource Centre Officer at British Council. First, the students watched a video clip, which was followed by a short quiz exam on that video. Sixteen students scored twelve out of twelve and they were awarded. The session effectively encouraged students to develop their reading habit.

It is worth mentioning that, in order to improve the reading habit of the students, Centre for Languages, BRAC University has been arranging reading program for the last three semesters (in the form of a competition) under the title of Happy

Reading. The competition is arranged in collaboration with the British Council.

### Lecture on the Liberation War



As a part of the extended learning activity of Bangladesh Studies course, a lecture on the 'Liberation War of Bangladesh' was facilitated by Major (Retd.) **Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan** on June 15th, 2012 in the Markuli Hall of BRAC University Residential Campus. This session aims to give the students a clear idea about the movement of independence from a freedom fighters point of view, to expose them to the true sense of patriotism. This in term is expected to instill a feeling of patriotism in them as well. The students

were, notably, seen to become very emotional with patriotic zeal during and after the session.

### Meet the Cultural Personality

On June 16th, 2012 a music evening was arranged at Markuli Hall, BRAC University Savar Residential campus. The purpose of this session was to introduce students with the evolution of Bangla music as a part of their experiential learning of the Bangladesh Studies course. The prominent cultural personality, **Azizur Rahman Tuhin**, Rabindra Sangeet singer and a faculty member, Drama and Music



Department, University of Dhaka University facilitated the session. He discussed about the evolution of Bangla songs through power point presentation. He performed songs from old phases, 'Kirton angik', and Pancha Kabi such as **Rabindranath Tagore, Dweejendralal Roy, Rajanikanta Sen** and **Atul Prasad Sen**. Then, **Lutfunnahar Panna**, the music teacher of a renowned organization performed songs of our national poet **Kazi Nazrul Islam**. She also performed some popular folk songs and some songs from modern phases. The persons who especially made the program successful performing with the instruments were **Dipak Paul**, Senior Demonstrator, Music Department, University of Dhaka, **Sawrup Hossen**, Asst. Professor, Govt. Music College, and **Dalim Kumar Barua-Keyboardist**. The students had the opportunity to enjoy some band music through video clips. The students were very enthusiastic and participated spontaneously.

### SECS Updates

#### Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders Competitions

**Tanvir Roushan** and **Dipankar Chaki** of the CSE Department won the first prize

in the Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders CCNA Bangladesh 2012 Competition that was held June 28, 2012. The Competition was sponsored by Cisco Systems International B.V., Amsterdam. 15 universities of Bangladesh (AUST, AIUB, BUET, CUET, Daffodil, DUET etc) participated in the competition.

Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders Competitions are a great opportunity for students and alumni in Asia Pacific to showcase their networking abilities in the growing ICT and networking field. Individual countries run a national competition for students taking Cisco CCNA courses.

The winning team will have the opportunity to represent Bangladesh and compete in the Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders International Competition on October 25, 2012.

### **Online Engineering Photo Contest - 'Engineering in Life'**

From 17th June to 25th June 2012, IEEE BRACU SB opened an opportunity for students of all departments from BRAC University to portrait their notion of engineering through photography. The objective of the photo contest was to capture the essence of engineering in our daily life in a still frame that will depict the significance of technology all over the world. This may be an engineering concept in action, future engineering or engineering as a whole. Students were given a time span of 9 days to prepare their photos and on 25th June the photos went through a selection process for winning the first, second and third position. The judging panel comprised of five faculty members of the EEE Department- **Dr. AKM Azad**, Associate Professor, **Dr. Tarem Ahmed**, Senior Lecturer, **Ms Marzia Alam**- Senior Lecturer, **Ms Farzana Shabnam** and **Ms. Sanjida Sabah**- Junior Lecturer. Based on the decision of the judges 'The Engine of a Bus' by **Md. Saidur Rahman** won the first prize, ' Shomapto Opekkha' by **Abdullah Al Noman** won the 2nd position and 'Smart Card' by **Tanjina Islam** won the 3rd position. The winner, 1st runner-up and 2nd runner-up were later awarded prize money of 3000 Tk, 2000 Tk and 1000 Tk respectively by the Chairperson of EEE Department, **Dr. Sayeed Salam**.

### **Seminar on Demand Side Management in Smart Grid Perspectives**

In collaboration with Control Application and Research Group (CARG), IEEE Student Branch 2012 successfully organized its very first Seminar of its working year on 27th June, Wednesday at 3:30 pm. The seminar commenced with the prize giving ceremony of the online photo contest where the three winning photographs were awarded prize money by the department head **Dr. Sayeed Salaam** followed by a brief description of the photos by **Dr. AKM Azad**, Associate Professor, EEE Department. After prize distribution, **Dr. S Shahnawaz Ahmed**, Research Professor of the department of electrical and electronics engineering, gave a 60 min presentation on demand side management (DSM) in smart grid perspectives. His articulate presentation covered the various objectives and benefits of DSM, its relation with energy efficiency, demand response and smart grid, the various tariff and technology based programs for DSM and few comments on payback time. His discussion also included suitable DSM programs for developing countries like Bangladesh. Finally it was concluded that although a complete smart grid system could not be yet achieved, the evolution from the current status of smart grid to the final target should be steady. The seminar ended with a question and answer session and refreshments for all.

## **CARG Updates:**

### **CARG Member Attended ICIAS'2012 Conference**

**Marzia Alam**, one of the research member of CARG as well as a faculty of EEE department, attended a three days long International Conference on Intelligent and Advanced System (ICIAS'2012) from June 12th to 14th in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She was invited to present her paper "Time Delay Analysis of Biomedical Signal Analyzer in Hard Real-Time Linux Environment". The conference was organized by University Teknologi Petronas (UTP), one of the leading Universities in Malaysia. Control Application Research Group (CARG) of BRAC University had submitted one of their research papers and to the consequence of that, **Marzia Alam** had the privilege to attend that conference and present the paper. ICIAS'2012 conference is mainly sponsored by IEEE Malaysia Signal Processing Society with a joint collaboration with University Teknologi Petronas (UTP) to provide an excellent platform to share the advanced technological expertise and development for knowledge exchange between researcher, scientist, academicians and engineers. **Marzia Alam** was the only participant from Bangladesh other than people coming from India, Iran, Ghana, Singapore and UK. The opening of the ICIAS'2012 was chaired by **Professor DR. Micheal A Celia**, Princeton University, USA.

### **CARG Arranged Seminar On Smart Grid**



CARG and IEEE student branch jointly arranged a seminar entitled "Demand Side Management in Smart Grid Perspectives", which was presented by **Dr. S. Shahnawaz Ahmed**, Visiting Research Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

In this seminar, **Dr. S. Shahnawaz Ahmed** discussed the state-of-the-art overview of various programs being used for DSM (Demand Side Management) with special focus on

the recently merging vision for a Smart Grid and their potentials for a developing and energy starved country in terms of ease of implementation, sustainability, affordability and acceptability among common people.

### **CARG Member Going Abroad For Higher Studies**

Our CARG project engineer, **Tahsin Faraz**, is going abroad to study in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Programme in Environmental Pathways for Sustainable Energy, under an Erasmus Mundus Master's Course Category A scholarship. The programme is a joint degree initiative between the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden (KTH), Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands (TU/E), Technical University of Barcelona, Spain (UPC), Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy (PoliTo), Instituto Superior Técnico in Portugal (IST), Aalto University School of Science and Technology in Finland (Aalto) and AGH University of Science and

Technology in Poland (AGH). The master's programme offers advanced education in the field of sustainable energy systems for the future, namely solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydro, fuel cells etc.

## **SPH Updates**

### **MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

The MPH 530 course on Health Systems Management was held from 27 May, 2012 to June 21, 2012. The course was taught **by Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH. **Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman** and **Ms. Nuzhat Chowdhury**, Senior Research Associates from JPGSPH, were the Teaching Fellows.

The MPH students visited the production sites of three pharmaceutical companies on June 11, 2012 as part of the course. The companies are Square Pharmaceuticals Limited in Kaliakoir, Gazipur, Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals Limited in Savar, Dhaka and Ziska Pharmaceuticals Limited in Shafipur, Gazipur.

### **WORKSHOP ON 'REFORMING MPH TRAINING IN THE 21ST CENTURY'**

A workshop on 'Reforming MPH Training in the 21st Century' was held from 28-30 June 2012 in BRAC-CDM, Savar organized by JPGSPH, BRAC University. The workshop brought together experts and academics from diverse disciplines and institutions in the North and the South. The workshop focused on reviewing experience at strengthening public health education, identifying priority content areas for MPH training in the 21st century, identifying promising pedagogic innovations, and agreeing on an agenda for MPH reform.

This workshop represented the culmination of a five-year collaboration amongst European and Asian institutes interested in strengthening public health teaching capacity.

At the end of the two-day workshop the content for MPH reform agenda was decided and the steps were discussed with the experts. A Savar-Statement will be developed that will be a vision and guideline to go forward with reforming MPH education locally, regionally and globally.

### **COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM (CMEP)**

With support from DFID, the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University is leading the Community Midwifery Education Programme (CMEP), the first of its kind in Bangladesh, to produce competent and compassionate midwives who are able to provide quality maternal and child health services at the doorstep of women and families in underserved areas. Running from May 2012 to June 2016, it aims to produce 1200 Community Midwives (CMWs), 40% of the 2015-target committed by the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh at the UN General Assembly Special Session in September, 2010.

The CMEP is a competency based community midwifery program with an International Confederation of Midwives standard curriculum. Students will be recruited from under-served communities with high reproductive health needs with pre-deployment commitments to work in their respective communities upon

graduation.

A draft training curriculum for 2 years of midwifery training has been prepared with consideration to the learning process, the learning environment, the preparation of teachers and classrooms, selection of clinical sites, the availability of learning resources, and the preparation of a simulated practice environment. A series of meetings were held with the Bangladesh Nursing Council (BNC) regarding the finalization of the curriculum in the month of May and June. A Faculty development plan is under preparation to build the capacity of faculties to effectively implement a quality Community Midwifery Education Program in Bangladesh. A total of nearly 60 faculties will be developed through this Plan in two phases. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK will provide their technical assistance for the faculty development training.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed and sent to potential Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs), which along with the JPGSPH, will be conducting the midwifery. These five organizations have been selected preliminarily from the North, Northeast, South and Southeast of Bangladesh as the program has a focus on underserved areas with high Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

### **BRAC HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS PROGRAMME**

b-HIP (BRAC Healthcare Innovations Programme) which is a joint effort of the BRAC Health Program (BHP) and James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC University is currently at its design phase which began in November 2011 which should produce a detailed operational design by October 2012.

Recently, **Mr. Kasir Iskandar** who is an Actuary visited from Indonesia to meet with the technical group of b-HIP at JPGSPH and BRAC Centre. The objective of his visit was to familiarize with the b-HIP project especially the b-HIP Financial model and discuss the scope and opportunities for Actuarial involvement in b-HIP project. Meanwhile, the research and service provisioning team has been working on service provider mapping, service availability and capacity assessment of providers in Mymensingh. B-HIP's IT System Analyst also visited Shusasthya Upgrade in Gazipur to observe Automation requirement at the pathology, pharmacy, accounts and scope for electronic health record system.

### **FOOD SECURITY NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROJECT (FSNSP)**

The 1st phase of Round 8 data collection of FSNSP took place from 4 June to 23 June 2012. During this phase, food security nutritional data was collected from 3,072 households in 33 upazilas in 17 districts. 10 percent of the total households covered were revisited by FSNSP Quality Control Officers to revalidate and counter check the data collected by the Data Collection Officers.

During this month the Project Manager **Dr. Akram Hussain** and the Project Coordinator **Dr. Enamul Hasib** held a meeting with **Mr. Karar Zunaid Ahsan** of South Asia Human Development Sector of World Bank to discuss about FSNSP's role in nutritional surveillance in the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP) of the Government of Bangladesh. The FSNSP management also had a fruitful discussion with **Dr. Akhter Ahmed**, Chief of Party,

Bangladesh Policy Research and Strategy Support Program, International Food Policy Research Institute regarding the use of FSNSP data for policy dialogue in Bangladesh.

**Dr. John L Newman**, Lead Economist, Economic Policy and Poverty Sector, South Asia Region of World Bank visited the JPGSPH on 26 June and made a presentation on a Multi-Sectoral Tool (MST) prepared by utilizing FSNSP data set. The MST is designed to inform policy and decision makers on designing intervention through use of food security nutritional data.

During this month the planned transition of the Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project from Helen Keller International- Bangladesh to JPGSPH, BRAC University has taken place. As part of the transition process most of the project staff have been transferred to BRAC University from HKI-International and the project office will now be housed in JPGSPH campus.

### RESEARCH ON TUBERCULOSIS FUNDED BY THE GLOBAL FUND



GFATM TB Research team member conducting in-depth interview with a drug seller at a pharmacy of Pallabi slum

To collect quantitative data, a short survey was carried out with all available 24 service providers from the sampling frame from three sub slums (namely Gudharaghat, Beguntilla and Tekerbari) of Pallabi slum. Those service

providers were selected

for interviews from the sampling frame prepared earlier during PRA social mapping and FGD PRA matrix ranking. In the short survey quantitative information was collected regarding perception, knowledge, role, treatment practice, local level partnership, etc.

To collect qualitative data, in-depth interviews of 11 service providers were carried out. Those service providers were selected from the list of popular service providers reported by the community people during FGD and PRA matrix ranking sessions and also from their duration of experience of service delivery as different types of service providers. Detailed qualitative information was collected regarding perception, knowledge, role, treatment practice, service delivery mechanism, local level partnership, challenges faced in delivering services, training experience and further training needs, detailed job description of NGO service providers, etc.

In-depth interviews were also carried out with 11 TB patients to collect detailed qualitative information regarding perception, knowledge on TB related issues, source of information, detailed health care seeking behavior with faced challenges, opinion towards received services etc. The TB patients were selected from the list of TB patients reported by the community during the FGD and PRA matrix ranking sessions.

Besides data management, entry, cleaning of collected quantitative data, transcript writing, identifying gaps and editing of transcripts and translation of transcripts of qualitative data were also carried out in June 2012.

### **COURSE FOR TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM MANAGERS FUNDED BY THE GLOBAL FUND**

JPGSPH offered a course titled 'Monitoring and Evaluation for Tuberculosis Program Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Program, BRAC Learning Division and icddr,b from 2 June, 2012 to 14 June, 2012. The course was attended by 22 participants (6 women and 16 men) from the following 17 districts: Dhaka, Manikgonj, Munshigonj, Tangail, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Chittagong, Chandpur, Sylhet, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Norail, Barisal, Patuakhali, and Bhola.



Participants included area M&E Officer, Sr. Sector Specialist Sr. Medical Officer, Sr. District Manager, Regional Manager, District Manager and Medical Officer from BRAC and 5 partner organizations including UTPS, BAPSA, Light house, PSTC and KMSS.

The course was inaugurated on Saturday, 2 June, 2012 by **Dr Mirza Nizam Uddin**, DPM (Admin), 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. 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, 14 June, 2012 with a certificate giving ceremony. **Dr. Md. Ashaque Husain**, Director MBDC & Line Director-TB/Leprosy National TBs Control Program (NTP), DGHS, **Dr. Md. Nuruzzaman Haque**, Deputy Director MBDC & Program Manager-TB, Directorate General of Health Services, **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam**, Associate Director, BRAC Health Program, **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University and other personnel of GFATM-TB project of JPGSPH attended the certificate giving ceremony.

### **SHORT COURSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH**

A five-day short course on 'Climate Change and Health' was conducted at the JPGSPH from Sunday, June 17, 2012 to Thursday, June 21, 2012. The course covered topics such as the environmental impact of climate change, the impact of climate change on health, methods for assessing health impact, case studies from different regional and socio-cultural settings and mitigation and adaptation

strategies and policy.



Sessions were held from 9.00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and were attended by 12 participants, including faculty members from BRAC University, young researchers with background in Environmental Science, researchers from the University of Chicago and interested staff members with relevant backgrounds from JPGSPH. The course was facilitated by the following resource persons **Cordia Chu**, Professor, Griffith School of Environment, Griffith University, Australia, **Rainer Sauerborn**, Professor, Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg University, Germany, **Valarie Louis**, Environmental Scientist, Heidelberg University, Germany, **Fuad Hasan Mallick**, Chairman, Dept. of architecture, BRAC University, **Aminur Rahman**, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Architecture, BRAC University, **Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager at Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, **Dr. Mohammad Zahirul Islam**, Training Physician, icddr,b and **Golam Rabbani**, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies.

The objective of the course was to equip participants with the ability to recognize the linkages between climate change and health and provide them with methods and tools to manage the impact of climate change on health. Examples were drawn from both developed and developing countries. Throughout the course, participants discussed the basis of anthropogenic climate change and its dynamics and worked in groups on case that focused on their specific regions of interest. The course ended with a certificate giving ceremony on Thursday, 21 June, 2012.

### **WHO'S HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH POLICY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL (PIAT)**

A draft report of the WHO PIAT report has been submitted by **Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman**, Senior Research Associate, JPGSPH to the GHWA Secretariat on June 30, 2012.

#### **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (HPE-SA)**

A training session was arranged on 'Public Health Data Collection Tools and Techniques' for the field investigators of the HPE-SA project on June 13, 2012. All members of the JPGSPH research team and RTMI and partner organizations attended the meeting. The training was conducted by **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud** (Coordinator, JPGSPH team) and **Ms. Dipika Paul** (Team Leader, RTMI). It was followed by a debriefing session held on June 26, 2012 held at RTMI focusing on the data quality assurance and possible strategies for improvement of data collection.

A draft report on national level assessment has been prepared and shared with

partner organization RTMI.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS**

**Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman**, Senior Research Associate, JPGSPH, was involved in teaching and organizing the course MPH 530: Health Systems Management from May 27 - June 21, 2012. He also took part in the International workshop on "Reforming MPH Training for the 21st Century" at BRAC CDM, Savar, Dhaka organized by JPGSPH from June 28-30, 2012.

**Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, Senior Research Associate, JPGSPH, has participated in the workshop on 'Reforming MPH training in the 21st century' held on June 27-30, 2012 at BRAC CDM, Savar, Dhaka as a core committee member of the team. This international workshop aimed at further development of MPH curriculum with valuable contribution from the academics and researchers from different countries of the world.

## **TLC Update**

### **New Convener of TLC Forum**



TLC Forum had its second meeting on June 14th, 2012. The agenda of the meeting was i. Discussion on the content of the next TLC workshop, scheduled during September 10-13, 2012. ii. Discussion on the Advance Level of TLC workshop (TLC Module #Two), iii. Reviewing and giving constructive feedback on the draft of TLC Newsletter 'Reflection' and iv. Opening of TLC website d. Constructive sharing on the Innovation in Teaching at BRACU and e. Selecting the new CONVENER of TLC Forum. The forum had some general discussion on the last (7th) TLC workshop ,was held on May,7-10 and some constructive suggestions were made for the next TLC workshop will be held on Sept10-13,2012. The TLC Forum members present on the meeting selected **Ms. Mushara Habib**, Lecturer, Dept. of ENH as the new Convener of TLC Forum.

### **TLC Newsletter 'Reflection'**

TLC Newsletter 'Reflection' (Issue-I, volume-1) has started its journey in June. It is a quarterly newsletter will be published in each Semester after the TLC workshop titled 'Teaching and Learning at BRAC University'. The Editorial Team includes **Mr. Jamil Ahmed**, **Ms Samina Anzum**, **Ms. Evita Amin** and **Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury**. **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** will act as an Advisor over the team.

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