

Architecture Updates

Participation in the Regional Workshop for Community Artisans and Architects

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, participated in the Regional Workshop for Community Artisans and Architects. It was organized by CAN (Community Architects Network) and ACHR (Asian Coalition for Housing Rights) and hosted by Hunnarshala Foundation in Bhuj, India, from 2 December to 9 December, 2012. The theme of the workshop was, "Sustainable cities, dignity for all".

It was highlighted in the discussions that conventional housing process isolates people. And the process of community-led housing could be the core of development.



Artisans and architects from nine countries shared their "learning by doing" knowledge and experiences of various community-led initiatives. The scale of the initiatives varied from small community level to nation-wide level. Kabir shared his experiences on how the Department of Architecture, BRAC University, is addressing community-led architecture through curriculum development and action researches where community people and students are in the centre of the process. He has been active in facilitating design studios for community led housing projects and also been working on disaster resilient housing projects in Bangladesh and in Haiti.



Ar. Sajid-Bin-DOZA, Assistant Professor of Department of Architecture presented a paper in the 3rd International Architectural Conservation Conference 2012 in Dubai. The event was held from 17 December till 19 December, 2012 in the International Conference Hall of World Trade Centre of Dubai. The

programme was organized by the Dubai Municipalities, the Government of Dubai. The topic of his paper was River Fort Architecture of Bengal: Form, expression and functional meaning of Mughal fort architecture and policies for conservation in the delta (Bangladesh)". Fort architecture in the subcontinent is 'huge intelligent

structure' built by the Mughal Heroes. It was the process to prevent and to secure a city as well as the territory from any kind of disruption and disintegration through the fortified walled profile. The strategies, approach and positioning of those forts were governed by the contextual specification. All different forts of Mughals had different notion of accomplishment. Fort architecture in the subcontinent was initially developed by the Mughals to protect the territory from the enemy. Later those forts became huge and complex. The planning approach and the morphology of the fort architecture were justified according to the relative factor. The Mughal Fort is a Medieval-era building. It is the Indian unique building, replacing the Castle. The Mughal Fort improves the city's defensive strength and provides some culture every turn. Building Walls is a prerequisite for building the Mughal Fort. The paper focused on the policies for the conservation of river fort in the deltaic region.

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through fifth year were held this semester from 8 December to 13 December, 2012. **Dr. Hamidul Haq, Kondoker Niaz Rahman, Shaila Joarder, Ashik Iqbal, Naim Ahmed Kibria, Suja UI Islam , Dr. Mohammed Zakiul Islam, Atiqur Rahman** were present as guest critics in different critique sessions. All members of the faculty and students of the department attended the jury as well.

BBS Updates

"21st Century Colonization - How Asia is Taking Over the West" seminar held in BRAC University

A favorite theme in international debate nowadays is whether Asia's rise signifies the West's decline. Some even say this will be the Asian Century. Keeping this mind BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA), on 24th December, 2012 organized "21st Century Colonization: How Asia is Taking Over the West", a seminar meant to inform the students about how Asian culture and values are gradually spreading throughout the world via social media and other mass communication medias.

Attending the seminar were some of the most successful personalities of the local and global business world. **Mr. Toffael Rashid**, Planning Director-Asia Pacific of Leo Burnett, one of the biggest and leading advertising agencies in the world and **Mr. Asif Iqbal**, Executive Director Marketing of Meghna Group of Industries were the keynote speakers and special guest respectively. The seminar was chaired by Dr. **Md. Tareque Aziz**, Assistant Professor of BRAC Business School & Program Manager, Center for Business Excellence.



The seminar started off with **Masrur Rahman**, the founder and president of BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA) giving the welcome speech. After his welcome speech the special guest, **Mr. Asif Iqbal** gave a very short speech about the marketing achievements and importance of Asia for the whole world. Then came the man of the hour **Mr. Toffael Rashid**. **Mr. Rashid** always wanted to incorporate the Asian values in advertising and marketing. In his words, "the Europeans colonized the world through "hard power", whereas the Asians will colonize the world through "soft power" i.e. the power of influence, value and customs."

Following **Mr. Rashid's** brilliant presentation **Dr. Aziz** started the Q&A. The seminar finally ended with BRAC University Marketing Association's advisor **Mr. G.M. Shafayet Ullah** giving the closing remarks and presenting bouquets to the esteemed guests.



Indian Institute of Management (IIMS- Shillong) is one of the pioneers in management education in India. IIM certificates are recognized all over the world. Recently a delegation from IIMS visited BRAC University. The team comprised of their Director **Professor Dr. Keya Shengupta** and Associate Professor **Dr. Basav Roychoudhury**. This high level delegation from IIMS was with us for two days and they attended several meetings with

our Honorable Vice Chancellor **Dr. Ainun Nishat**, Pro Vice Chancellor **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Director and **Professor Mamun Rashid** of BRAC Business School (BBS) and Assistant Professor and Program Manager of Center for Business excellence (CBE) **Dr. Md. Tareque Aziz**. BBS and IIMS have discussed on possible collaboration and exchange programs in graduate and post graduate levels. Center for Business excellence (CBE) is anticipating joint collaborative programs with IIMS in the areas of leadership development, crisis management, project management, capacity building and resource management. BBS is proud to mention that, this is for the first time any Bangladeshi University has been able to tie up with one of these

premiere Indian institutes of academic excellence.

Seminar on Chinese Economy and China-Bangladesh Relations

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF), BRAC University organized a seminar on Chinese Economy and China-Bangladesh Relations. This seminar was held at BRAC University on Thursday, 6th December 2012.

The Chief Guest at the seminar was the ambassador of the People's Republic of China, **Mr. Li Jun**. Other guests of honour at the seminar were **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School (BBS), **Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur**, Executive Director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh and **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed**, Editor of The Daily Star and ex Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. **Dr. A B Mirza Md Azizul Islam**, Former Adviser to Interim Caretaker Government of Bangladesh was the Chair to the session

After an introductory speech by **Prof. Rashid**, members of the Entrepreneurship Development Forum gave an eloquent and insightful presentation on China, covering its ancient history, its political structure and leadership and the emergence of modern China as an economic superpower. They also covered the key reforms that Chinese government is undertaking and provided coverage of the bilateral trade between Bangladesh and China while highlighting the advantages China could expect to have by investing in Bangladesh.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed -who recently spent 3 years in China- spoke of the unique nature of the Chinese economic miracle and how it was achieved by incorporating the best of the capitalist and socialist economies. He spoke of the challenges modern China is facing and referred two books.

Dr. Ahsan Mansur spoke about how China will soon face an aging population with a labour market deficit of 40 million workers. He gave a comprehensive analysis of how China would benefit from filling this void with Bangladeshi labour and why China should relax its immigration policies with Bangladesh and improve transport links.

Ambassador Li Jun then gave a witty and entertaining speech regarding his experience in Bangladesh, addressing the issues raised by the presentation and previous speakers. He conceded the need for more investment and easier flow of people between the two nations and highlighted his efforts to that end.

The seminar was followed by a question/answer session with the Ambassador and the BRAC U students present.

Seminar on "Venture Capital for Entrepreneurship Development in Bangladesh"



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) and BD Venture Limited jointly organized a seminar on "Venture Capital for Entrepreneurship Development in Bangladesh" at GDLN, BRAC University on December 10, 2012. The seminar was chaired by **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, School of Business, BRAC University and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, Bangladesh. **Mr. A. B. M. Khorshed Alam**, Managing Director, SME Foundation was also present as Guest of Honor. **Mr. Shawkat Hossain**, Managing Director, BD Venture Limited presented the keynote paper. The discussants were **Mr. Arif Khan**, Member, Securities & Exchange Commission, **Mr. Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui**, Ex-Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank, **Mr. A F Nesaruddin**, FCA, FCS, **Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co.** The seminar covered various topics like sourcing fund, eligibility of getting bank loan and features of venture capital.

Workshop on Beauty Parlor Management



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) organized a day-long workshop on "Beauty Parlor Management" for adolescents on December 20, 2012 at Auditorium, BRAC University. The adolescents attending this workshop had been part of BRAC's

Adolescent Development Program (ADP). ADP trained many adolescent girls as beauticians and beauty parlor crew so that they could employ themselves by starting up a beauty parlor or find work in an existing beauty salon. While the technical training in applying makeup, beauty care, and bridal makeup application was very useful, the target group lacked basic Management skills that were also important in making the businesses a success. This workshop aims to bridge that gap. Twenty five

adolescent girls, who are the owner of beauty parlors in different regions of the country attended the workshop. The program was inaugurated by **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. The whole session was conducted by **Ms. Abida Ali**, CEO of Figurina Beauty Parlor and also Adjunct faculty at BRAC Business School. The workshop covered issues including effective beauty parlor management, book keeping process, loan application process and sourcing of materials. Some senior officials from BRAC Education Program (BEP) were also present at the workshop.

BRAC Business School celebrated the 42nd victory day

BRAC Business School celebrated the 42nd victory day at BRAC University Auditorium on 15th December 2012. The discussion session was chaired by **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, BRAC Business School and former advisor to the Caretaker Government. Former Ambassador **Anwar ul Alam**, commander of the Tangail Mukti Jauj, was the special guest, shared his experiences of 1971 with students, faculties, and guests of BRAC University. His experiences of being a freedom fighter were encouraging for the students.

Chief Guest of the program was eminent economist **Professor Rehman Sobhan**, Chairman, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He shared his experiences of pre 1971, his role and his contribution in freedom fight. He explained how he became a key organizer and was involved in drafting six points program, which became the basis for the struggle of autonomy in the then period. He shared how disparities lead a nation for the independence of Bangladesh in his hour long speech.

The discussion session was concluded by **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan's** speech. After the discussion session was over, Pro Vice Chancellor **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** gave flowers and Vice Chancellor Professor **Ainun Nishat** gave gift to the discussant.

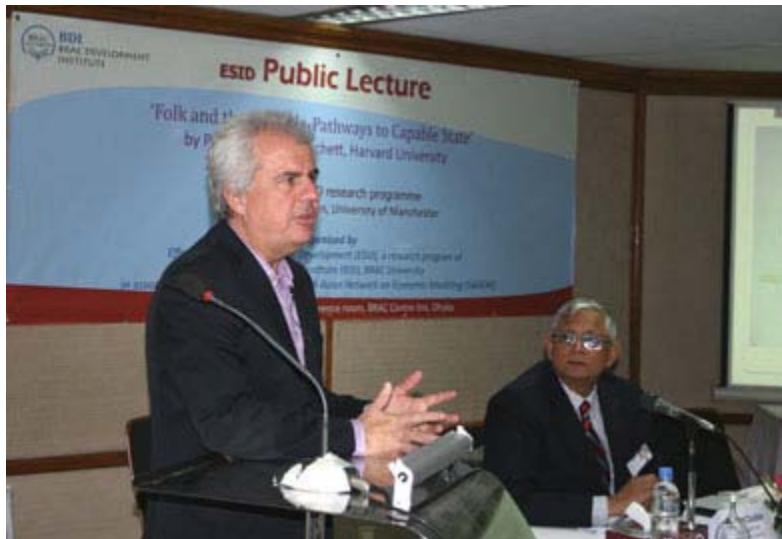
The discussion session followed by a cultural program by Bizbee Students and by Sufiband Aswad from Chittagong, and by Bizbee students. The entire program supported by Transcom Foods Ltd, and the media partner of the program was Ekattor Television

Below is the list of my recent publications:

1. "Growth-investment nexus: lessons for Bangladesh from cross-country experience" in The Daily Star (29 November 2012).
2. "acroeconomic management in Bangladesh", in Abdul Bayes (editor), Bangladesh at 40: changes and challenges (A.H. Development Publishing House, December 2012).
3. "Remittance itibachak: biniyoge hatasha", Banik Barta (7 January 2013).

BDI Updates

Public lecture event on 'Evolution of State Capacity in a Challenging Governance Environment'



Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID), a research program of BDI, BRAC University in association with The Daily Star and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) organized a public lecture event on 'Evolution of State Capacity in a Challenging Governance Environment.'

The lecture event took place at BRAC Center on December 2, 2012. The lecture was delivered by Professor Lant Pritchett of

Harvard University, an eminent economist, currently involved with the ESID research program. The event was moderated by **Mahfuz Anam**, Editor, The Daily Star. On the whole, the program was coordinated by **Dr. Mirza Hassan**, Lead Researcher, BDI and Country Coordinator, ESID program.

Professor Lant Pritchett, in his lecture, "Folk and the Formula-Pathways to Capable State" argued that development needs a state that can carry out its responsibilities -- formulating effective policies, delivering the mail, educating children, enforcing law and collecting taxes. He also stated that success in building state capability typically comes from a struggle to replace bad institutions with good, based on learning from experience-and not from imposing a rigid formula unsuited to local condition. Another brief presentation on "Politics of Economic Growth" was delivered by **Professor Kunal Sen** of University of Manchester. **Professor Sen**, in his lecture observed that miracle growth can take place in a country without properly functioning institutions, including effective courts, but to maintain a sustainable growth institutional reforms are a must. **Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar of BRAC University delivered the welcome address at the lecture program. Many prominent academics and development practitioners were present at the event.

Participation at Collaboration for Research and Democracy (CORD) workshop

Simeen Mahmud, Lead Researcher, BDI and **Lopita Huq**, Research Fellow, BDI attended the CORD Network workshop hosted by Centre for Policy Research (CPR) from December 9-14, 2012 at New Delhi. They have presented their draft chapter on 'Development organizations in Bangladesh: Mobilizing and Mediating' at the workshop. The CORD Network arose out of the earlier Citizenship DRC project that involved universities and research institutes across the globe of which BDI had been a partner organization. After the DRC came to a close, several partners along with new partners set up the CORD Network to continue collaborating on research, teaching methods, etc and to maintain the networks and relationships that had been built over the course of ten years.

Course on 'Financial Services for the Poor: An Introduction'

BDI once again organized a one-week course on "Financial Services for the Poor: An Introduction" from December 2 - 8, 2012. This was the eighth edition of the course, which is targeted mostly to an international audience with little or no knowledge of microfinance. It was grounded in the experience of Bangladesh but also provided a broad global picture of the state of microfinance, its emergence and challenges, the diversity of financial products on offer and the need to have a strong poverty focus.

The course was team taught, using different pedagogical methods, and included extensive field visits to BRAC, TMSS, BURO Bangladesh and SafeSave. The course was attended by 18 participants from Japan and Kenya.

Writeshop on Methodological Lessons of Researching Women's Empowerment

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of BDI, BRAC University organized a writeshop on 'Methodological Lessons of Researching Women's Empowerment' from December 18-20, 2012 at BRAC-CDM Rajendrapur, Dhaka. This

writeshop reflected specifically on the various methodologies for studying women's empowerment used in different research done by Pathways Programs. Pathways of Women's Empowerment RPC, a large five year multi-country research program (with partners in Brazil, Egypt, Palestine, Ghana, Bangladesh, Pakistan), explored how positive changes happen in women's lives in developing country contexts. Participants from different



countries shared lessons learnt from the use of qualitative, quantitative and participatory methodologies used by the researchers. The write-shop was aimed at producing articles for a special issue of an academic journal based on Pathways RPC work that would explore some of the challenges and dilemmas in researching women's empowerment from a feminist perspective. Participants from five different countries attended the workshop.

Regional workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR)

World Bank, Dhaka office organized a Regional MLARR Workshop at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, on December 12-13, 2012. MLARR team from BDI attended the workshop under the leadership of **Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator, BDI. Among other participating countries, participants from Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Punjab University and National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) limited from Pakistan, Tribhuvan University and Himalayan Resources Foundation from Nepal were also present in the workshop. **Chauhua Zhang**, Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank was the moderator of the workshop. **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI made a brief presentation on the academic and research activities of BDI. Also, **Saidur Rahman**, BDI spoke about the contribution of BDI in conducting MLARR activities at home and abroad. The two day long workshop aimed at fulfilling two broad goals - to share country specific experiences of MLARR activities and to outline programs for the upcoming year 2013.



Field trip to Jamuna Resettlement Site, Sirajganj by MLARR students

On December 22, 2012 students of Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) went to visit Jamuna Resettlement Site, Sirajganj as part of their course work. 17 students participated in the field work led by Deputy



Academic coordinator and MLARR faculty, **Alamgir Kabir**. The team had an informative discussion with chief site engineer **Abul Kalam Azad** about various aspects of the resettlement site. In the site, students interviewed project affected people of Jamuna Bridge. The objective of the visit was to compare pre and post project conditions including economic, social and cultural dimensions

of lives of resettled people.

Global class of Sustainable Development ends successfully



BDI offered a global course titled 'Global Issues in Sustainable Development' in fall 2012 semester for its MDMP and MDS students. This Course was interdisciplinary in nature, whereby students from around the globe participated to address the challenges of sustainable development. The concluding session of the course was addressed by Professor Jeffery Sachs, head of the Earth Institute at Columbia

University who is an advocate for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He talked about the recent change of events in the world including food security problems, rising natural disasters among others.

BIL Updates

BIL faculty members' received certificates from American Centre

Three faculty members of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) have received certificates from Fife MacDuff, the Regional English Language Officer of US State Department for the successful completion of 10 weeks online teachers' training course with US Universities.

All three faculty members, **Roxana A. Chowdhury**, **Farid Ahmed** and **Golam Kader Zilany** were respectively enrolled in 'Critical Thinking', 'Building Teaching Skills through Interactive Web' and 'English for Specific Purposes' with University of Oregon, Linguistics Department, American English Institute (UOAEI).



This is to be noted that this training course had been made possible by a tuition scholarship from the U.S. Department of State as part of the E-Teacher Scholarship Program.

Paper Publication



The paper titled 'Innovative Practices, through Language Learning and Teaching, to make a difference: One of Bangladesh Perspectives' by **Farrah Jabeen** and **Effat Hyder** has been published in GSTF (Global Science and Technological Forum) Journal of Law and Social Sciences in Singapore

(Vol 2) in December 2012.

This paper highlights diverse needs for teaching and learning English in Bangladesh and how innovative methods are put into practice to fulfill these needs and at the same time creating a space for effective learning and teaching. A background research on this issue is conducted here to point out different scholarly views regarding language teaching and learning. The teaching methods, practiced in BIL to provide language proficiency, are also evaluated here to find out how these methods are planned to introduce a new dimension enhancing teaching and learning and eventually to have an impact in the society.

BRAC Devpro Batch 30 finishes the Course



On 27 December the closing ceremony of BRAC Devpro Batch-30 was arranged at Devpro building, Neketan. Area and Regional Managers of BRAC Education Programme (BEP) attended this 8 month course where they were introduced with basic English, cultural relativism, manners and etiquette, business communication and lessons on IT.

In the closing ceremony, the Programme Manager of BRAC-PACE, Masum Billah was present as the special guest while the relevant faculty members of BIL were also present. In the ceremony three representatives from the participants delivered their speeches. After observing the level of aptitude of the learners Mr. Billah praised them highly.

Celebrities inspire Medhabikash students at Devpro



Recently, several renowned Bangla musicians have attended several sessions at the BRAC Devpro Centre to inspire and motivate the BRAC Medhabikash students (under privileged, meritorious students of BRAC schools who now study at HSC level). The students were enthusiastic and overwhelmed learning about music which can play a

role in making life composed and enjoyable. The celebrities were **Sadi Mohammad**- a living legend of Rabindra Sangit, **Indramohan Rajbongshi**- one of the leading folk singers , **Shabnam Mushtari**- a renowned singer of Nazrul Sangit, **Rafiqul Alam** - a marvel of Bangla modern songs and some others.

Study tour arranged for Medhabikash students



Recently Medhabikash students have gone for a short but inspiring study tour in different sites of Dhaka city. During this tour, they visited National Parliament area, National Museum, National Shaheed Minar, Dhaka University campus, Dhaka Medical College and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). It is worth mentioning that this is first time in the Capital City for most of these meritorious students as they are from very remote areas of Bangladesh. This tour has tremendously inspired the participants to build a better vision of life. A study tour is arranged for every Medhabikash batch that attends an english course under BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL).

C3ER Updates

Participation in the Doha UNFCCC Conference of Parties

Professor Ainun Nishat, VC, BRAC University and **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager of *Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research* (C3ER), BRAC University, attended the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP18) in Doha from November 26th to December 8th, 2012.



Professor Nishat attended COP18 as a lead negotiator in the Bangladesh delegation. Particularly he followed the Cartagena Dialogue where 42 member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are joined to strengthen their vision on the urgency of pushing legally binding commitments to address climate change for the 194 countries attending

the upcoming UN Conference of Parties (COP). Moreover, he represented Bangladesh delegation in the Adaptation Committee where the COP approved a set of guidelines to develop National Action Plans (NAPs). In addition, the COP approved the three-year work plan of the Adaptation Committee, which promotes coherence between various adaptation negotiation streams.

Mr. Mukherjee took part in the meeting on "Approaches to Loss and Damage" where the COP agreed for continuation of the existing work programme (decided in COP 16 at Cancun) as well as exploring an institutional mechanism by the 19th Session of the Conference of parties (COP19) in Europe next year.

Moving towards a "Climate-Smart" BRAC



C3ER has completed a research study titled "Moving towards Climate-Smart BRAC", engaged by BRAC's Disaster, Environment & Climate Change Programme. The main objective of this exploratory study was to propose appropriate recommendations for mainstreaming climate change considerations in BRAC's programmes and activities.



On December 19, 2012, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of C3ER, BRAC University, presented C3ER's findings on the study.

Professor Nishat spoke about the specific impacts of climate change in the sectors in the sectors in which BRAC is presently working. C3ER identified several areas where BRAC can expand its disaster programmes, as well as new initiatives BRAC can take to recast its work in a more climate-smart way.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed was the chair of the session. **Dr. Mahabub Hossain**, Executive Director of BRAC, **Dr. Babar Kabir**, Senior Director, DECC & WASH Program, **Dr. Kaosar Afsana**, Director, Health, **Mr. A.I.M Monsoor**, Director, Construction & Maintenance, **Mr. Sudhir Chandra Nath**, Director, Agriculture & Food Security are actively participated in this meeting and gave their valuable opinions. From BRAC University, the C3ER team was in attendance, including **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, **Dr. Sajidur**

Rahman, Mr. Ershadul Kader Faruki, Ms. Roufa Khanum, Mr. Tahmid Huq Easher, and Ms. Aniqua Hasan.

This study can be treated as flagship collaboration between BRAC and BRAC University, for creating synergy through knowledge transfer and technical cooperation.

CSO Updates

Seminar on Higher Education "Canadian University Application Center"

Career Services Office (CSO) organized an informational seminar on higher education "Canadian University Application Center" on 29th November, 2012. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, opened the session with her welcome speech. **Mr. Shawn Swallow**, CHRP provided necessary information regarding the admission process for an international student.

In his presentation **Mr. Shawn Swallow**, CHRP Manager Career Services Graduate Programs - Canadian University Application Center gave in-depth information and discussed the facts and benefits that they provide for an international student.

Topics discussed in the seminar were, choosing the right course / subject for Bachelors / Masters, Academic / Career Counseling, Application Processing, Tuition Fee Structure, Scholarship and other student facilities etc. Students of Professional Skills and Development Program Fall 2012 graced the seminar with their huge presence by sharing their valuable thoughts.

At the end of the seminar Mr. Shawn Swallow, CHRP took part in a Q&A session with the students.



Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Special CV Writing Class

To get practical experience about perfectly formatted CV, CSO invites different personnel in this Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP). Special CV Writing Class has been organized by Career Services Office on 13th December, 2012 in order to cater the needs for students of Professional Skills and Development Program Fall 2012. **Ms. Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed**, Talent Acquisition Specialist of Standard

Chartered Bank, was invited as Guest Lecturer in this special session.

Ms. Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed gave her lecture on CV writing, interview approaches and current financial aspects. In her presentation she mentioned valuable tips on 'Trends in the workplace', 'How to be successful at work', 'Networking', 'Gesture-Posture', 'Interpersonal skills', etc.

This session helped students in preparing themselves for the Mock Interview session which took place on 29th December, 2012. At the end of the special class **Ms. Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed** took part in a Q&A session with the students.



Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Mock Interview Session - Fall 2012

Career Services Office (CSO) organizes "Mock Interview Session" every semester as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) aiming to provide the prospective graduates insight on facing actual interview boards. "Mock Interview Session" for Fall 2012 students took place on 29th December, 2012.

Twenty renowned organizations have participated namely: BRAC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Airtel Bangladesh Limited, Save The Children, Bank Asia, Quader Chambers, Citycell, Data Edge, Apex Adelchi, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, BRAC, Robi Axiata Ltd, Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) Limited, Viyellatex Group, Habib Bank, Parkway Health, MGH Group, HR Connections, Beximco Limited (Textiles & Apparel Division), and The Westin Hotel.



A number of 180 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. **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRAC University was the key speaker of the session. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Career Services Executive, explained the interview process for conducting the Mock Interview Session. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC University shared his valuable knowledge and words on encouragement in the session. **Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, Career Services Officer, and other team members of CSO helped and coordinated in order to make the session a successful one. With the help of student volunteers the event rolled smoothly till the end.

Counseling Unit Updates

Motivational Session for Medha Bikash

For last two years and Counseling Unit of BRAC University has been visiting the Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a motivational session for the students coming from deprived families. The session generally is divided into two segments. In the first segment, the expert Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where common psychosocial issues are discussed. In this segment, students share their problems and also the good things happening in their lives in a large group. The second segment covers mainly the individual counseling sessions for the students who express their need for individual session.



The latest visit for the Medha Bikash group was held on 5th, 15th and 19th of December 2012. As usual, it was a three day session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background. This

time 91 students have participated in the session. The session was conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The content of the session was different kind of psychosocial and motivational issues, especially focusing on self confidence. The discussion could motivate and inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to. It was participatory and inspiring as well. After the class, individual counseling sessions were done with the students needed that.

IED Updates

SCOPE expansion and teacher recruitment

IED (Institute of Educational Development) is currently expanding its non-formal secondary education action research programme titled Schooling and Counselling for the Children of Post-Primary Education (SCOPE). Under the expansion, the new SCOPE centres will have the existing interventions embedded with some additional interventions e.g. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Counselling provisions. To this end, the SCOPE team has recruited 75 teachers. The recruitment process will be continued till January, 2013. The team also organised several parents meeting at different locations of Dhaka urban to select students for the SCOPE centres. SCOPE is intended to open about 40 centres in Dhaka urban which will be opened by February, 2013.

Attending a workshop on GO-NGO collaboration Guideline and Implementation Plan for Universal Pre Primary Education in Bangladesh

A four member team from IED attended a workshop on 'GO-NGO Collaboration Guideline and Implementation Plan for Universal Pre Primary Education (UPPE) in Bangladesh' at LGED Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka on December 19, 2012. It was jointly organised by Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) in collaboration with Directorate of Primary Education (DPE). Director, Policy and Operation, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and Additional Secretary, Development, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) made presentations on 'GO-NGO Collaboration Guideline for Universal Pre Primary Education.' The specific areas of collaboration are policy, planning & coordination, achieving universal access, capacity development of pre primary education personnel, curriculum and material development, community mobilisation, supervision, monitoring & reporting and resource mobilisation. Eligibility of NGOs for collaboration was also discussed. Chairperson of BEN wrapped up the session with closing speech.

Attending a conference in Pune, India

A team of eight members from BRAC Education Programme, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRACU and Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University attended an academic conference in Pune, India from 7 - 9 December, 2012. It was organised by 'Bhaashaa', a Pune based voluntary non-profit organisation that works for preservation and enhancement of regional languages with the cooperation of Symbiosis International University as their academic partner. As one of its major endeavours, Bhaashaa organises "Katha Yatra" - an annual story festival in Pune. Organising conference over the past few years has been a major part of Katha Yatra. This year the conference was based on the theme 'Regional Stories,

Colours and Textures'.

The 'Katha Yatra' academic conference aimed to reevaluate the fabrication of regional stories through research papers discussion, interaction, demonstrations and workshop. Near about 100 participants from different regions of India and also participants from Bangladesh, USA and Nepal attended the conference. A research paper was presented on the second day by one of the IED team members on 'The effect of Preschool Dialogic Reading on Vocabulary among Rural Bangladeshi Children' on behalf of the authors.



The team has gathered a rich learning experience from the conference. On the whole, it was a nice opportunity for the team to learn the different dimensions and the essence of globalization of story telling extracted from different researches and experiences.

ENH Updates

Study Trip



The students of Eng 401: Editing, were taken to the Daily Star office 6th December 2012 for a guided tour of the newsroom. They were given details about how the various sections of the newsroom like page design and make up, typography, and the culture section work. Senior assistant editor **Mr. Madan Shahu** gave the students a guided tour of the newsroom. **Ms. Roohi Huda**, the course teacher accompanied the student in the trip.

Conference Presentations

Rukhsana R.Chowdhury, Sr. Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities and

Hamim Al Ahsan, Officer-in-Charge, BRACU Media lab presented a paper in the two-day conference, The Influence of Shakespeare organized by the North south University in Dec 14-15, 2012. Their paper integrated the study of Shakespeare with technology and was titled, "Teaching 'Shakespeare' in the Modern Classroom Using MOODLE".

Attending Thesis Examination abroad

On 11th December 2012, **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chair, ENH was an external examiner at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erusmas University Rotterdam (EUR), Netherlands for a PhD thesis entitled "Living Sexualities: Negotiation Heteronormativity in Middle Class Bangladesh". It is to be noted that the candidate **Ms. Shuchi Karim** used to be a faculty member of ENH earlier.

ENH Student presents in a conference

Farzana Sharmin Liza, an ENH student presented a paper titled "Evaluation of Testing English Language: The Secondary Examination of Bangladesh" at the Second National Seminar on Language Literature & Education organised by International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) on 29th December 2012. This paper was a part of her undergraduate thesis, supervised by Shenin Ziauddin, Senior Lecturer, ENH.

Thesis and Internship Report Presentations

BA students of ENH presented their final theses and internship reports from 29th to 30th December 2012 for the semester of Fall 2012 . The list of the students' names and their theses' topics are given below:

Applied Linguistics and ELT

Name of Student

Zarin Tasnim

Abdullah Al Mamun

Md. Rubayet

IJosephine Roy

Tausif Sanzum

Untara Rayeesa

Sarah Habib

**Md. Saimoom Sabir
Nazua Tohin**

Thesis

Using Error Correction Method in Bangladeshi Context:
Teacher's Preference, Beliefs and Challenges

Popularity of Code Switching in Private Universities of
Bangladesh

Influence of L1 Literacy in Learning L2 on The Students
of Secondary Level in Bangladesh

Influence of L1 Literacy in Learning L2 on The
Students of Secondary Level in Bangladesh

Literature

Identifying Women's Position: Exploring Time, Space
and Sexuality in Amitav Ghosh's Novels

Walcott and Brathwaite: Caribbean Modernity and "the
detritus of the past"

The "In-Between": Caribbean and the White Creole in
Jean Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea and Phyllis Allfrey's
The Orchid House

Media and Cultural Studies

(Internship Reports)

Sports Journalism: Behind the Curtain At New Age
Advertising Agencies: Creators of New Trends

Following MA students presented her thesis for the Fall 2012 semester:

Name of Student	Thesis
Fatema Johera Ahmed	Literature The Formation of the African American Community in the United States
Subeh E Sawgat	Applied Linguistics Better Classroom Management Practices in Preschool Interactive English Classes in Bangladesh
Sailo Nabila	Dialects of Brahmanbaria and Sylhet: A Linguistic Analysis

ESS Updates

International Conference on Urbanization, Sustainability and Governance



Lutfun Nahar Lata, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, has attended and presented a paper titled "Changing Youth Culture in Dhaka City: A Case Study of Gulshan" in the International Conference on Urbanization, Sustainability and Governance in Dhaka, from December 05 to December 06, 2012. She also presented another paper titled, 'Cultural Capital, Social Class and Higher Education: How Institutional Cultural Capital Shapes Educational Choice in Bangladesh' in the Bi-Annual Conference organised by the Bangladesh Sociological Association, held from 21-22 December, 2012 at the University of Dhaka.

Lutfun Nahar Lata also presented another paper titled, 'Cultural Capital, Social Class and Higher Education: How Institutional Cultural Capital Shapes Educational Choice in Bangladesh' in the Bi-Annual Conference organised by the Bangladesh Sociological Association, held from 21-22 December, 2012 at the University of Dhaka.

ESS faculty presented paper

Action Aid Bangladesh organized a seminar on "Safe City for Women" on 8th of December, 2012 at BRAC Inn. Dr Shahidur Rahman, Associate Professor of ESS, presented a keynote paper which was the outcome of his recent research on safe cities for women living in poverty. The country Head of Action Aid in Bangladesh, MP Meher Afroz, Director of Women Affairs and other activists working in different national and international organizations participated in that seminar.

Dhaka University organized an international conference titled "Urbanisation, sustainability and Governance" on December 4-5, 2012. Dr Shahidur Rahman presented a paper on conceptualising the indicators of safe city for women in Narayangonj slums. Professor Micheal Humphrey of Sydney University was the keynote speaker at that conference.

Seminar organized by ESS Department

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized a seminar on Monday, December 10th, entitled, "Cross Border Labor Mobility- A Critical Assessment of GATS Mode 4 of WTO vis-a-vis Regional Trade Agreements" presented by Dr CAF Dowlah, Professor of Economics at the City University of New York and visiting U.S. Fulbright Scholar at BRAC University. Dr. Dowlah obtained his PhD in International Political Economy from the University of Southern California. Before joining City University Dr Dowlah taught at several universities in the United States, Japan, Russia and Bangladesh, and worked for the World Bank and the United Nations.

MNS Updates

4th International Symposium on Global Climate Change-Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation

The 4th International Symposium on Global Climate Change-Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation, organized jointly by the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association and sponsored by the Japan Society for Promotion of Science was held on 01 December, 2012 at the **Dr. Anwar Hossain** Auditorium, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Agargaon, Dhaka. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, the President of the Association presented the keynote paper on Global Climate Change-Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation- Bangladesh Scenario. He highlighted the key impacts of climate change associated with the climate related parameters of sea level rise, changes in the intensity, timing and spatial distribution of precipitation, changes in temperature and the frequency, intensity and duration for extreme climate events such as droughts, floods, tropical storms, excessive rainfall etc. He outlined different programmes and activities of the government to face the challenges of climate change, like the National Adaptation Plan of Action (BAPA) covering different sectors like forestry, biodiversity, agriculture, fisheries and livestock; natural disaster and health, livelihood, food security; industry and infrastructure etc. The Government of Bangladesh has mobilized 300 million U.S. dollars in creating Climate Change Trust Fund. This fund is being used for implementing adaptation and mitigation programs. Government intentions are articulated in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) covering all the major sectors which will be impacted due to climate change. Six pillars of BCCSAP include comprehensive disaster management; infrastructure, research and knowledge management; mitigation and low carbon development; capacity building and institutional strengthening. The other keynote paper was presented by **Professor Shunsuke Koshio**, Kagoshima University, Japan on Trends in World Agriculture and Aqua Feed Development. **Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque**, MP, Minister for Food, GOB was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. More than 200 JSPS Fellows and scientists from Japan and Bangladesh participated in the Symposium.

New Opportunities in Rice Genetics

To ensure food security it is necessary to improve crop production. As rice is the major staple crop of Bangladesh it is important to improve rice production. For the improvement of rice yield it is important to know the genetics of rice. With this consideration Biotechnology Programme, MNS Department organized a seminar entitled "New opportunities in Rice Genetics". Main speakers were **Professor Dr.**

Abed Chaudhury, Adjunct Professor, Biotechnology Programme, BRACU; **Professor Dr. Zeba Islam Seraj** Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka and **Dr. Ming Luo** CSIRO Plant Industry, Australia. **Professor A.**

Chaudhury talked about the opportunities of bioinformatics and the future of hybrid rice seed production in the villages of Bangladesh. He also mentioned the importance of restoring land races of rice in Bangladesh. **Professor Zeba I.** discussed about the present scenario of the researches going on stress tolerant rice and updated the status of salt tolerant rice that is about to finish the field trial phase in Bangladesh. Dr. Ming highlighted the importance of Illumina sequencing of imprinting genes of rice endosperm.

BS Thesis Defence

Physics major students, Kazi Shudipto Amin on 5 December, 2012 and **Sunitra Hawlader & Tehsin Farida Choudhury** on 26 December, 2012 successfully defended their theses in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physics.

Seminar on "Concept of Cancer Screening"

A seminar entitled "Concept of Cancer Screening" was held on Thursday 6, December, 2012, at MNS Department, BRAC University. The key note speaker of the seminar was **Dr. Md Habibullah Taukder**, MBBS, MPH, Associate Professor and Head of Cancer Epidemiology, National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka. The faculty members of the MNS Department, some students of the biotechnology, pharmacy and microbiology also attended the seminar.

1st International Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Developing Countries

The First International Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Developing Countries was held at the TSC Auditorium. Organized by the International Centre for

Diarrheal Diseases, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) and the University of Dhaka, the Conference was attended by a large number of scientists from home and abroad.

Professor Naiyym Choudhury delivered the keynote lecture on Biosafety and Biosecurity- Bangladesh Perspectives in the inaugural ceremony. He highlighted the importance of biosafety in microbiological work at the laboratory and industrial levels and the causes for emerging infections; the growth of hospitals in endemic areas; creating sites for disease distribution; blood borne infection and antibiotic resistance; and the internationalization of the food supply, industrialized feed lots, and processing with variable amounts of control and regulation. Advances in

biotechnology including the ability to manipulate organisms, an increase in the number of laboratories, internet access to information, advances in the science of aerosolization, and the growth of independent fanatic groups have changed the situation today. National and international organizations in Bangladesh are working in collaboration with US CDC teams investigating outbreaks of many infectious diseases. So to establish the biosafety & biosecurity policy, protocols, and procedures in these

laboratories and necessary training and retraining of all the workers have become the most essential task to protect the laboratory workers, fellow neighbors, and the surrounding environment. **Professor Dr. Syed Modasser Ali**, Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Health and Family Welfare Affairs, GOB was the Chief Guest and **Professor Dr. Pran Gopal Datta**, Vice Chancellor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University was the Special Guest at the inaugural ceremony.

18th Diabetes and Endocrine Conference

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 18th Diabetes and Endocrine Conference held at the Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences jointly organized by the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Endocrine Society. A good number of medical professionals and bioscientists from different organizations and representatives of some local and multinational pharmaceutical companies attended the conference. **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid**, Hon'ble Minister for Education, GOB was the Chief Guest and **Professor Dr. Pran Gopal Datta**, Vice Chancellor, BSMMU, was the Special Guest at the inaugural ceremony presided over by **Professor AK Azad Khan**. **Professor Choudhury** was the Chairperson of the Invited Lecture Sessions V held on 11 December, 2012., **Professor Yvonne Alexander**, Faculty of Medical & Human Science, University of Manchester was the invited speaker and delivered her lecture on "Biomarkerkers in diabetes: could sharing east-west biobanks facilitate drug development and guide personalized medicine?" She highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing in designing new drugs and stressed the importance of biobank with appropriate clinical information of patients for proper design of drugs. **Professor Choudhury** in his round up of discussion, requested the speaker to undertake collaborative research and training programmes for the relevant scientists for work in this new and emerging field and BIHS and now called Bangladesh University of Health Sciences would be an appropriate organization for undertaking such collaborative programme.

MS Thesis Defence

Four students of MS in Biotechnology Programme, Ms. Mahmuda Sultana, Dr. Morshed Bilquis, **Mr. Shawrav Mahmud Rashid** and **Mr. Sanjoy Chandra Bhattacherjee** had their research thesis project defence on 24 December 2012. Ms. Sultana and Dr Bilquis worked at BCSIR while **Mr. Rashid** and **Mr. Bhattacherjee** worked at BIRDEM and BLRI, respectively. Under joint supervision of **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr Monzur Morshed Ahmed** (BCSIR) two MS students Ms. Sultana and Dr. Bilquis worked at BCSIR with detection of harmful bacteria present in shrimp culture and in hospital wastes. **Mr. Rashid** worked with diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus under joint supervision of **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Prof. Liaquat Ali** (BIRDEM) and **Dr. Md. Omar Faruque** (BIRDEM). **Mr. Bhattacherjee** worked with foot and mouth disease under joint supervision of **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr. Md. Giasuddin** (BLRI). **Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad**, **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, **Dr.M. Mahboob Hossain**, and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, were present .

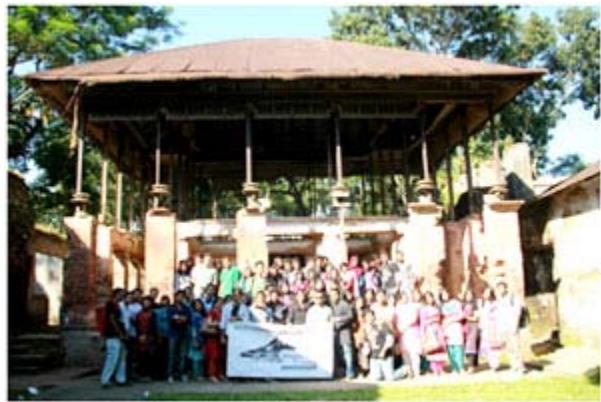
National Conference on Physics for Technology Development

Bangladesh Physical Society (BPS) arranged the above-mentioned conference at the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka on 27-28 December, 2012. The inaugural ceremony was held on December 27, 2012. Emeritus Professor of Chittagong University,

Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and **Mr. A. S. M. Firoz**, Chairman, BAEC was the Special Guest. The function was presided over by **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad**, President, Bangladesh Physical Society. **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad** also chaired a technical session on Theoretical Physics.

Students' Affair Updates

News: 1



Brac University Heritage Forum organized a short tour to 'Muktagacha Raj-bari' and 'Joynul Abedin Memorial' on 16th November. Members of Heritage Family were relieved and excited when they got the chance to grasp some fresh air after the tiresome mid-terms. Almost 80 students went to the tour. Reaching Mymensingh we first went to the ruins of 'Muktagacha Raj-bari'. A guide from the department of Archeology showed us around the complex and mesmerized us with the stories of how that place used to be.

Dating 3 centuries back when this region was ruled by the Mughals, a zamidar named **Raja Shashi Kanto** built his palace named 'Binod-Bari' in the region of Mymensingh.

It used to be a luxurious palace and the road leading to it was meant only for the zamidars and elites. The road that lead to the palace ended before the majestic gates of the palace, one could get into the palace only after passing two such guarded gates. Beyond the gate was a hallway with grooves which showcased mommy of elephant heads and two huge seven feet Royal Bengal Tiger. In both side of the hallway there were the judiciary room and a library. After passing a courtyard the complex consists of many other buildings, ie, a museum, office room, puja rooms, vault, ballroom, trial-room, prison and the living complex of the lords.

News: 2

BRAC University Debate Club recently participated in the Chittagong University Intervarsity Championship 2012. The English championship was held from November 30 to December 1, 2012.

BRAC University, consisting of **Ratib M Ali** and **Aaqib F Hossain**, made it to the Finals, and became First Runner Up.

Ratib M Ali was chosen the Speaker of the Tournament. **Arghya Dev Biswas Aryan** accompanied the contingent as an adjudicator to the



tournament.

News: 3



Brac University Heritage Forum planned to rejoice "VICTORY DAY" by bowing our head before the National Memorial in the respect of our Miters of The Liberation War, 1971. Though our finals were on the head but it has been a tradition for heritage forum to celebrate this day by heading to selves to The National Memorial since 2007. However we were interested as well express our devotion to the honor those who sacrificed their lives for our country and our freedom that we are enjoying.

We invited people from university through Face book page of our Heritage Forum to join us and make the event more powerful. Nearly 80 students responded to join the event. We started from university nearly about 8 o'clock. Then we had our breakfast in the bus and enjoy the journey. It took about 1.5 hours to reach the destination.

We took a big bookee of flower and devote it before the National Memorial for the respect of the miters with our head bow also holed a large placard with the name of our University and event. After that we spend sometimes nearby the honoring place and then started back to Dhaka around 1 pm.

News: 4

IBA Invitational Debate Championship 2012 was an invite-only tournament that BRAC University was invited to participate. Two teams from BRAC University took part. One team, **Aaqib** and **Ratib**, made it to the Grand Final and became Champions. **Ratib** was the best speaker of the final. BRAC University also sent one adjudicator to the tournament. The tournament accentuated the good name of BRAC University in the national debating circuit.

SECS Updates

BRAC University Robotics LAB



BRAC University Robotics LAB established on January 2012. A number of Researches and activities done by this laboratory became very popular in National and International arena. Beside the achievement of Chondrobot-2 four technical papers published in different International Journal and Conferences and an Engineering paper is prepared for NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition. A Robotics club named "BRAC University Robotics

Club (ROBU)" was established under the direct supervision of BRAC University Robotics LAB.

Chondrobot-2

BRAC University had sent a robot named Chondrobot-2 to NASA for competing NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition on May 2012. "ChondroBot -2" a robotics team from the School of Engineering and Computer Science of BRAC University received the

Asia's Best title in the recently held NASA`s third "Annual Lunabotics Mining Competition (LMC)" in USA. This year three (03) teams from Bangladesh and top 55 teams from around the world took part in this annual mining competition including Harvard University, Virginia Tech, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Embry

Riddle Aeronautical University, and McGill University etc. All three teams from Bangladesh successfully completed different stages of the competition and took part in the final mining stage. ChondroBot -2 team from Brac University was the only university from Bangladesh which was successful to collect samples by their lunar excavation device in mining stage and also discharge those in the designated place.

The team also received best position in "Joe Kosmo Award of Excellence" segment which eventually helped ChondroBot -2 to secure 12th among all the teams around the world. Mobile Phone operator Robi Axiata Limited was the co-sponsor of Chondrobot lunar excavation device of this tour to NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA.

International Publication of Robotics LAB

- 2GCSS: Embedded Car Security System will be publish in International Conference on Embedded Systems and Intelligent Technology (ICESIT), 2013
- Chondrobot-2: A Simple and Efficient Semi-Autonomous Tele-Robotic Lunar Excavator published in 15th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology, ICCIT-2012
- A Simple Tele-Robotic Lunar Excavator published in International Conference on Advanced Computer Science Applications and Technologies -ACSAT, 2012
 - Eagle i-Bot: An Eye-controlled System published Journal of International Organization of Scientific Research (IOSR) 2012
- Engineering Paper on CHONDRBOT-2 prepared for NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition, 2012

Activities and Achievements

BRAC University Robotics Club (ROBU) was established on Fall-2012 at the event of club fair. This club has been working on to motivate students to learn about the different sectors of engineering and merge them into the unified field of Robotics. Being part of several national and international events and organizing several events at BRACU campus, this club has not only achieved immense popularity among BRACU students but also club members have owned awards at national and international events.

Participation in KUET TechFiesta, 2012

TechFiesta-2012, organized by EEE Association of Khulna University of Science and Technology held on September 28-29, 2012. Universities from all over the country participated in this big event of showcase of engineering. BRAC University Robotics Club members have participated there with three projects which are Project: Control Scheme Revolution, Ropon Robot and Line Follower Robot. BRACU Project: Control Scheme Revolution was chosen as first runner up while the entire project was highly appreciated by different universities and faculty members.



Participation in 1st Global Sanitation Hackathon, 2012

Global Sanitation Hackathon 2012 is an international event, organized by World Bank held on November 2012 at Holet Ruposhi Bangla simultaneously with twenty other countries. This 72 hours hacking marathon was intended to develop a sustainable hack or solution which will solve the problem of sanitation. Around 350 contestants including students of different universities and professionals of different IT Companies participated there. Among 60 projects, only six best projects were selected as the best hacks of the events and two of them were from BRAC University. BRAC University Robotics Club members formed one of these teams. This event helped BRAC University to earn clear attention because of the huge success of the teams at International platform.

Participation in Digital Word-2012



BRACU Robotics club members along with the Teams of BRAC University Chondrobot-2 team participated on the biggest national event on IT of 2012, Digital World, held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). Several Projects from BRAC University Such as Chondrobot-II, Project Control Scheme Revolution, Intelligent Military Vehicle and Scorpiobot was invited there at the experience zone along with different attractive projects by BUET, KUET, CUET, RUET and other renowned universities. This three days long event was a big showcase for BRACU as students showcased their innovative engineering projects in front of people and also national

leaders and foreign diplomats. Students also participated in different seminars on IT on this event.

Organizing Seminar on Project Management

Seminar on project management was held at BRAC University, organized by BRAC University Robotics Club. **Mr. Md. Masudur Rahman**, Faciliator, Knowledge-Reef conducted this great event where students go to learn the different factors of project management. Over 50 students participated on this spontaneous event share their ideas of project management and were enlightened with better way to conduct project using different interactive media, games and quiz.

Workshop on Micro-Controller

BRACU Robotics Club organized Workshop on micro-controller, conducted by **Insan Arafat Jamil**, Founder and President of Andromeda Space and Robotics Research Organization and Research Assistant at Chittagong University of Science and Technology. This event gained amazing popularity among students of BRAC University as this provided a nice starting guideline for startup with micro controller based projects. More of these workshops will take place in coming semester.

Robot Exhibition



BRACU Robotics Club organized a Robot Exhibition on 29th December at BRAC University Campus. It was a Robot show that was built in Fall-2012 Semester under a course named "Robotics and Intelligent System". Each group of students had to design, build and show their project at the end of the semester. On that semester they were able to build six very interesting robots: "Android and Motion Controlled Rescue Robot", "Suction based grid following Robot", "Hexabot", "A goal following Robot that can detect and avoid the obstacles in its way", "CNC for drilling and drawing" and

"A partial Robotic implementation of house mate". **Dr. Md. Sayeed Salam**, Head of EEE Department handed over the crests to the best teams.

BRAC University Robotics Club was established just few months ago but by participating in a number of national and international events, this club was proven to be a promising productive home for creative students. This club will continue the journey with more activity on coming time.

TLC Updates

Case writing workshop on December 1st

Considering the emerging needs of both teaching and writing cases on home based

business enterprises, an initiative on Writing and Teaching Cases (specially in business discipline) has been taken jointly by BBS (CED) and TLC. This will a seven month project with series of workshops and initially funded by TLC. The very purpose of these workshops will be to establish a Case Writing Unit in BRAC University and developing a community of case writers who will be committed to work further in developing cases once the formal workshop is over. The first workshop was held on December 1st, titled as 'Case Writing: Engaging in Case Research and Writing'. The workshop was designed to help BRACU and BRAC faculty members to have better exposure on case writing tools and techniques and to prepare them to writing cases effectively. A total number of 26 case writers both from BRAC (BLC) and BRAC university (BBS, CED, BDI, BIL, and TLC) attended the workshop. The facilitation team includes, **Prof. Syed Ferhat Anwar**, IBA, DU, **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Mr. Shawkat Kamal, Mr. Shamim Ehsanul Haque, Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Ms. Afsana Chowdhury and Ms. Samina Anzum.

Workshop with BRACU Management & Admin Staff on December 22nd



TLC organized a day-long workshop, titled as Organizational Behavior in the Workplace: Strengthening the Positive Impact of 5Cs' for BRACU Admin and Management staff. The focus of the workshop was to strengthen the behavioral competencies on communication, cooperation, coordination, collaboration and commitment for improving the organizational performance.

There were a number of presentations followed by exercises on the focused topics; as: Impact of organizational Behavior on Organizational performance, Communication: Interpersonal & Organizational, 3Cs: The Role of 3Cs, Managing stress, and commitment: The Role of Individual Motivation and Level of Confidence. A total 33 staffs participated the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by TLC and Counseling unit of BRACU.

Attending Workshop/ Seminar/Training/Conference

Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Sr. Lecturer, TLC attended in a training course, titled as 'Trainer Training for English Teachers' from December 9-13 at the Platinum Suites, Banani, Dhaka. The training course was organized by British Council, Dhaka and the total Participants were 18. The Focus of the training course was: Pedagogical aspect of training, planning training sessions, observation and feedback techniques and

micro training. The training course was facilitated by **Neseh Ansari, Zohray Shariati** and **Behnush Ghassemi Tari**, all from British council, Iran.



Human Resources and Local Development (SG3) International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Lecturer-III, TLC participated in a training program titled as, SPSS and Applied Statistics at Institute of Statistical research & Training, University of Dhaka (ISRT, <http://www.isrt.ac.bd>) during November 27 to December 13, 2012. The training was designed mainly for the professionals, researchers and who are involved in teaching and learning process. A total 48 professionals participated in the training. Total number of classes was 11 including two Trouble Shooting sessions. were sessions both on Theory and Computing classes. The training program was conducted by the faculty members of ISRT.



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