

## **BRACU e-Bulletin**

### **2013/ January**

#### **Bangladesh World Champion in Debate: Success story of BRACU Students**

**Ratib Murtaza Ali** (ESS) and **Aaqib Farhan Hossain** (BBS) win the 33rd World Universities Debating Championship!



**Ratib Mortuza Ali** from ESS along with **Aaqib Farhan Hossain** from BBS represented BRAC University in the 33rd World Universities Debating Championship, held in Berlin in January, and won the 2013 title in the English as a Second Language (ESL). There were a total of 400 groups of participants from 82 countries who participated in this event.

#### **Architecture updates**

##### **Students met Additional Director General (Infrastructure) of Bangladesh Railway for project information**

Students of studio VII, Department of Architecture, have met Additional Director General (Infrastructure) **Md. Amzad Hossain** of Bangladesh Railway at Rail Bhaban, Dhaka. They came to know important facts about Railway and Dhaka, through a discussion. The discussion was



arranged as a part of the study of urban design issues, with a title "City and the

Rail: Understanding the dialogue between Rail and Dhaka city", conducting in the design studio ARC: 401. **Md, Quamrul Ahsan** Director Engineering, Bangladesh Railway and studio teachers **A.K.M. Sirajuddin, K.H.Kabir** and **F.H. Khan** were also present in the discussion.

### **Study Tour at Tanore, Rajshahi**



Department of Architecture arranged a study tour at Tanore, Rajshahi on 28 - 31 January, 2013 under the course ARC 402: design studio VIII. 22 students participated in this event. The objective of the tour was to study rural spatial arrangement and house pattern. It was carried out through participatory learning- understanding the rural living style, study the rural construction system and material use. After coming back, students documented the rural housing pattern and presented their findings at the class. **Tahmina Rahman** and **Sajid Bin Doza** were accompanied with the students.

### **BBS updates**

#### **Research Work of BBS Faculty Member**

**Prof. A. B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam** "Twists and Turns in the World Economy: Implications for Bangladesh" has been published in Market Pulse, Issue 71, December 2012 (Dhaka, Lanka Bangla), pp 61-63.

#### **Bangladesh Tour of Young Entrepreneurs from USA**

A team of young US entrepreneurs visited Bangladesh from January 4 to January 14 on an exchange program. This is a jointly managed program by Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), BRAC Business School. The program is a U.S. Department of State supported exchange program under their Professional Fellows program. The team led by **Professor Joe Foote**, Dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Oklahoma, and **Elanie Steyn**, Assistant Professor of the Gaylord College.

## **BRAC Business School Student's attended at EMINUN**

Two members from BRAC Business School, **Mohammed Tanjim Ferdous** and **Sharif Tousif Mustafa**, attended the largest model United Nation of UAE called the "Emirates International Model United Nations" aka EMINUN. **Tanjim Ferdous** was a delegate of India in the United Nation Peace Building Community, discussing the way to help Congo rebuild its nation after the second Congo war. While **Sharif Tousif** was in the Human Rights Committee as the delegate of Italy discussing whether street camera upholds security or breaches privacy. The conference was held in ENGECON building of Dubai



Knowledge Village from 30th Jan to 2nd Feb. They represented BRAC as well as Bangladesh in an international meet where students from all over the world came to get their perspective on the matter as the delegate of different countries.

## **BDI updates**

### **MDS Orientation: Spring 2013 Semester**

BDI has arranged an orientation program for the new MDS students of Spring 2013 semester. The Master of Development Studies (MDS) is an evening program offered by BDI. The orientation event took place on January 9, 2013 at BRAC University. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator, BDI presided over



the event along with **Professor Rashed Uz Zaman**, Adjunct faculty, BDI. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan** coordinated a lively session with the students-guiding them how to choose their elective subjects in future. A question & answer session was also catered at the end.

### **Designing an MA in Gender, Culture and Development: teaching, research and activism**

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) of BDI and Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University jointly organised a workshop on

"Designing an MA in Gender, Culture and Development: teaching, research and activism" at BRAC Centre from January 10-12, 2013. Academicians and researchers from The Asian Studies Centre of University of Stockholm, Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) of University Kebangsaan Malaysia, National University of Singapore, University of Delhi, National Central University of Taiwan, The Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Jahangirnagar University and Dhaka University, who are knowledgeable in designing and teaching such an MA course, attended the three-day intensive workshop. The main objective of the workshop was identifying the core competencies of the offered MA course and creating a syllabus for submission.

### **New Directions in Asian Feminism(s)**

CGST of BDI, The Department of English and Humanities and Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University jointly organised a panel discussion on "New Directions in Asian Feminism (s)" on January 13, 2013 at BRAC University auditorium. **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chair, Department of



ENH moderated the discussion. **Dr. Rashila Ramli**, Director, Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) of the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), **Professor Naifei Ding**, member of the Center for the Study of Sexualities, Department of

English at the National Central University Taiwan and **Dr. Vineeta Sinha** associate Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore participated in the panel discussion.



### A limited publication of Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) manual

In Bangladesh, management of land acquisition and resettlement has always been challenging. It is more difficult for the institutions involved in development projects to operate effectively. However, BDI of BRAC University has taken an initiative to mitigate the gaps between the theoretical and practical knowledge through its MLARR course. This team took the lead to make the course more effective by preparing and publishing 10 modules: Displacement, Equity and Development; State, Politics, Ethics and Rights; Policy, Law and Practices; Project cycle and Avoid-Minimize-Mitigate Framework; Impact Assessments; Consultation, Communication and Conflict Management; Resettlement Action Plan and Livelihood Restoration Plan; Data Management and Geographic Information System; Resettlement and Rehabilitation Programs Implementation and Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

The World Bank Bangladesh office, DFID and AusAID have provided financial and technical support to BDI throughout the course of this project. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator and a core faculty member of MLARR courses, BDI has led the MLARR team. **Md. Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI and a core faculty of MLARR Course also contributed to the development of MLARR Manual. The MLARR team is comprised of **Md. Saidur Rahman, Sharif Abdul Wahab, Ripon Chakraborty, Anika Binte Kasem and Anindita Hridita**.

## **BRACU hosts GDLN Asia-Pacific regional meeting**



BRAC University is the one and only affiliates of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) in Bangladesh. GDLN Centre of BRAC University hosted the GDLN Asia Pacific (GDLN AP) Regional meeting held on 8-11 January, 2013. The delegates of GDLN Centers in the Asia Pacific Region and the World Bank representatives gathered to discuss how to further augment GDLN's effectiveness as a global learning and knowledge exchange platform. In the inaugural session held on the morning of 8th January, **Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury**, Chairman (State Minister), of UGC Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. **Ms. Ellen Goldstein**, Country Director Bangladesh & Nepal, The World Bank was present as the Special Guest. **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University chaired the inaugural session. During the inaugural session BRAC University formally joined Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) launched by UGC with funding from World Bank. This is the first time BRAC University organized this type of regional meeting with the collaboration of World Bank.

## **BIL updates**

### **BIL Workshop by Eric Dwyer**



BIL faculty members participated in a workshop on 19 January, 2013 conducted by **Dr. Eric Dwyer** in two sessions. The topics covered in the workshop are "Starting with Our Students' Stories" and "Building Our Own Libraries". **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL; **Fife MacDuff**, U.S. Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for South Asia; **Raihana Sultana**, Cultural Affairs Assistant, American Center; and other members from the American Center were also present in the workshop.

It is to be noted that **Dr. Eric Dwyer** is an Associate Professor in Modern Language Education at Florida International University. **Dr. Dwyer** has been presenting or conducting teacher-training workshops in more than 20 countries, since 1996.

#### **US Regional English Language Officer Conducted Workshop with BRAC Primary School Teachers**



**Fife MacDuff** conducted a workshop on "Interactive Language Learning Software" with the BRAC Primary School (BPS) teachers on 22 January, 2013 at BRAC DevPro Centre, Gulshan. **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) and some other faculty members were also present at the workshop. These BPS teachers have been participating in a three-month English training course under BIL.

During the workshop, Fife ran the software named Trace Effects and showed all the teachers the major features of this software for learning language. It was particularly wonderful to see Fife's motivation and patience with the BPS teachers who were all first-time computer users. All in all, the teachers participated very well and were inspired by the workshop.

**Fife MacDuff** is the current U. S. Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for South Asia, covering Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. He has been employed in the fields of teaching English and international education since 1975, engaged in instruction, teacher training, and/or program administration in 16 countries.

## **BIL Workshop Series**



The second workshop of the BIL Workshop Series was successfully conducted on 26 January 2013. This presentation was conducted by **Nazua Idris**, one of the participants from the first workshop that was held on 23 December, 2012. The topic of this workshop was "Using Screen Adaptations to Improve Critical Reading". The session was successfully completed with very enthusiastic participation from all the members present. It is to be noted that **Nazua Idris** is a Lecturer in the Department at English of Stamford University, Dhaka.

The next workshop will be conducted on 9 March 2013 by an Elizabeth Platt, who is a visiting English language fellow.

## **BIL faculty members presented papers at 6th BELTA International Conference**



Eight faculty members of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) presented papers at the 6th BELTA International Conference, Dhaka from January 18-20, 2013. Roxana Ahmad Chowdhury presented a paper titled "Incorporating Drama for Adult Learners through Co-generative Dialogues". The research focuses on setting up different contexts for using the learned language as a means of communication. It also proposes to explore the effect of drama to strengthen co-generative dialogues, cultural awareness and connect people.

**Mohammad Aminul Islam & Prabal Das Gupta** presented a paper titled "Extending Effective Language Class with Web Tools: A Devnet Perspective". This session reflected on how adult learners from diversified ages and backgrounds were given a space through Devnet, an online interactive forum. It also demonstrated how their engagement with the session helped them control their effective filters and give them the impetus to communicate, negotiate and solve problems using English language.

**Md. Mokarrom Hossain & Debashismoy Dutta** presented a paper titled "ESP for underprivileged TVET learners: Challenges, Innovations and Perspectives". This paper particularly identified the ways 'English for Specific Purposes (ESP)' was immersed in technical education for underprivileged Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) learners.

**Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin** presented a paper titled "Yes, Your Body Can Speak in Your Class". This paper showed how body language or Non Verbal Code (NVC) makes a class interesting, interactive and responsive.

**Kushal Das** presented a classroom research titled "Classroom activities that promote students' awareness of 'linking words'". This study showed that data-driven teaching - noticing, discovering, and constructing own rules from reading texts - might be more effective classroom activities in teaching linking words and other language components than providing explicit explanation, isolated examples and meaning in L1.

**Sefat Irine Mou** presented a paper following 'Multiple Realities of English' on the title "Questioning the Validity of IELTS from Bangladeshi Perspectives". This paper questioned the legitimacy of IELTS (International English Language Testing System) from Bangladeshi perspectives. This research also tried to put forth some recommendations which are believed to be contributing in the spectrum of World Englishes.

## Career Services updates

### BRAC Bank Road Show on "Management Trainee Officer Recruiting"

BRAC University, Career Services Office recently arranged road show on "Management Trainee Officer Recruitment" for BRAC Bank Limited on January 23, 2013.



Ms. Asma Banu, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, opened the session with her welcome speech. Ms. Tahniyat Ahmed Karim, Head of Human Resources, BRAC Bank Limited

conducted the seminar. She gave an in-depth overview on BRAC Bank and talked about their recruitment process and recruiting functionalities. Through the Management Trainee Officer Recruitment session BRAC Bank Limited ensure the people they recruit have the ability to find their niche and excel in a challenging business environment.

As a part of the presentation, a group of Management Trainee Officers came along and shared their own experience of working at BRAC Bank. A good number of students and job-seekers attended the program.

In the end, BRAC Bank Limited took part in Q/A session with the students and collected job application from interested candidates. Among others Ms. Asma Banu, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office and Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, Career Services Executive attended the program.



### **8th Convocation Photo Session**

Career services Office (CSO) has arranged the 8th convocation photo session for the convocation brochure from 17th December, 2012 to 29th December, 2012. A number of about 650 photos were taken of prospective graduates of 8th Convocation from all the departments.

### **Counseling Unit updates**

#### **Motivational Session for Medha Bikash**

Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a motivational session for the students coming from insolvent 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 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th of January 2013. As usual, it was five day session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background. This time 121 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, goal setting etc. 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.

### **C3ER updates**

#### **Regional Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand**

**Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager of the Centre for Climate Change

and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, attended the Catalyst Project Regional Workshop for South and Southeast Asian Region from January 23rd through January 25th, 2013, held in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of communities to deal with current and future natural water hazards and their consequences. The workshop was anticipated to foster a mutually beneficial transfer of knowledge, through identifying themes of key relevance for the disaster risk reduction strategies in South and Southeast Asia.

#### **MOU between DECC and C3ER**

**Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, and Chairperson of the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), signed a Memorandum of Understanding between C3ER and Disaster Environment and Climate Change Programme (DECC), BRAC University on January 24th, 2013. C3ER agreed to aid with a research project which aims to measure the gendered effects of climate change and explore alternative livelihood opportunities for different disaster prone areas as an adaptive measure to climate change. C3ER will provide the following outputs: explore the challenges in the geographical context, explore possibilities for protecting the livelihoods from the impact of climate change, identify the alternative and context based livelihood options, and explore the process of implementing those livelihood options. The Memorandum of Understanding is effective till February 28th, 2013.

#### **Multi-stakeholder Consultation on International Capacity Building Center for Community Based Resilience, Alternative Technologies & Low Carbon Solutions**

**Ms. Aniqua Hasan**, Research Assistant at the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, attended a multi-stakeholder consultation meeting on January 28th, 2013, regarding the development of an International Capacity Building Center for Community Based Resilience, Alternative Technologies, and Low Carbon Solutions (ICCCB), held by Bread for the World. Thomas Hirsch, Development Policy Representative from Bread for the World, briefed the stakeholders on the concept for the center, stating that they aim to support Civil Society organizations and other stakeholders in a manner that is sustainable, in order to have a pro-poor, climate resilient, and low carbon development pathway, with a focus on community centered approaches. The consultation participants gave their recommendations to the group on how to best move forward with the center. They came from the following organizations: (BCAS), (BIDS), (CNRS), (CPRD), (CCDB), (CDP), (COAST), (CASA), (RDRS), BAPA, Think Ahead Limited , International Process, ActionAid, Maleya Foundation, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity, GIZ, Asian Development Bank, HEKS, Switzerland, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Local Environmental and Agricultural Research Society, NABOLOK, Network on Climate Change, Bangladesh, Christian Aid, and Bread for the World.

#### **Towards Post -2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). BRAC

University, is supporting the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), under the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, in a new project to develop a framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in light of the Hyogo Framework for Action nearing its conclusion in 2015. This project is being facilitated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). For the development of the new framework, C3ER will work to integrate the methods of Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Sustainable Development.

## ENH updates

### Workshops and Seminars



Department of English and Humanities (ENH) jointly with Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute (BDI) organised a three day workshop titled "Designing an MA in Gender, Culture and Development Teaching, Research

and Activism" from 10-12 January 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn. The Forum for Asian Studies at the University of Stockholm, and a group of transnational feminist scholars from Malaysia, Taiwan, India and Bangladesh participated in the discussions of planning this new and innovative MA in Gender, Culture and Development. The workshop was very useful to obtain feedback on the draft materials prepared and learnt from the experiences of others who have designed and teach in such MA courses in different Universities across the world.

### Conference Presentations

**Mahmuha Akhter**, Lecturer of English and Humanities and **Hamim Al Ahsan**, Officer-in-Charge, BRACU Media lab presented a joint paper titled "Flipped classroom: Where the screen becomes the teacher" at the 6th International Conference of Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) titled "The Multiple Realities of English: ELT and Beyond" held from 18th to 20th January 2013 at the National Academy of Educational Management (NAEM), Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

**Bargee Chakma**, alumnus of ENH presented a joint paper titled "An Evaluation of Teaching Techniques of EFL classrooms in Rangamati" at the same conference. Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer, ENH has co-authored this paper which she had was a part of Chakma's M.A. thesis titled "Teaching Techniques in EFL Classrooms of Rangamati Schools (2012)" under her supervision.

## **Postgraduate Certificate Course on Broadcast and Cross Media Journalism:**

Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University, in collaboration with PATHSHALA South Asian Media Institute have started the first ever postgraduate certificate course on Broadcast and Cross-Media Journalism from 13th January 2013. This four-month-long programme aims to brush up both the academic and empirical skills of the media personnel.

Erasmus University, Rotterdam of Netherlands is actively participating in every aspect of this programme; starting from designing the curriculum to providing assistance in running the courses. The first batch of the course consists of twelve students who were selected through the process of a written test followed by an interview. The subjects covered in this course are , International Journalism , Practical Journalism, Media Ethics and Visual Literacy.

## **ESS updates**

### **Major and Minor in Anthropology starts at BRAC University**

Starting from Spring 2013, Department of Economics and Social Sciences is offering two new programs for undergraduate students - Major in Anthropology and Minor in Anthropology. **Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Dr. Piash Karim, Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Dr. Samia Huq, Dr. Seuty Sabur, Kamrul Hasan, Lutfun Nahar Lata and Meheri Tamanna** form the core team teaching Anthropology and Sociology at the ESS Department.

### **VISITING FACULTY MEMBERS AT ESS**

The ESS Department is proud to introduce three new visiting professors, who come with years of academic scholarship.

**Dr. Sajjad Zohir** had his schooling at Jhenidah Cadet College and Dhaka College before studying economics at Dhaka University. He was later awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete his MS with distinction from Dalhousie University and a PhD in economics from University of Toronto. Most of **Dr. Zohir's** career had been spent in economic and policy research - largely at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies - till he resigned to establish with others a not-for-profit research institute called the Economic Research Group (ERG). He has worked as adviser/consultant in several countries in Asia and collaborated with researchers at IFPRI (Washington, DC), IDS (Sussex), LEI (the Netherlands), etc.

**Dr. Zohir** taught advanced microeconomics in his early years, but spent much of recent past in developing and offering short courses from ERG in collaboration with universities and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. He has joined ESS as a part-time Professor in economics with a view to promote alternative methods of classroom learning. He intends to remove dependence on single textbooks and make classroom learning more interactive. He will be engaging mostly with freshers in ESS.

**Dr. Dina Mahnaz Siddiqi** joined ESS department as a visiting professor of Anthropology for a year. She was previously a Visiting Associate Professor at Hunter College. **Dr. Siddiqi** holds a Ph. D. in Anthropology from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She obtained her B. A. degree in Anthropology and Economics from Wellesley College, Massachusetts from which she graduated magna cum laude and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

**Dr. Siddiqi** has extensive research experience in the areas of gender, labor and globalization; Islam and informal justice systems; and human rights in Bangladesh. Her publications cover a broad spectrum: Islam and transnational feminist politics; gender justice and non-state dispute resolution system; the cultural politics of nationalism; sexuality and rights discourse; and women worker's rights. Her current research examines the intersections of sexuality, law and culture in relation to globally circulating discourses of rights, feminism and Islam.

**Dr. Shamim Shakur** is a senior lecturer in International Economics at Massey University, New Zealand. He joined there in June 1994. Prior to that, he taught at the Okanagan University, Brock University and the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. **Dr. Shakur** obtained a Bachelor's degree with honors in economics from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, and then he moved on to the United States to undertake postgraduate studies on a Fulbright Scholarship. After finishing a postgraduate diploma at DePaul University in Chicago, he went on to complete an MA and a PhD degree in economics (with concentration in international economics) from Boston College, Massachusetts.

His areas of research are International Trade, Agricultural Policy and Development Economics. He has had many publications in renowned Journals such as - Journal of Sustainable Development, International Journal of Business and Social Science, International Journal of Economics and Finance, International Research Journal of Finance and Economics etc. In 1997, at the height of the Asian Crisis, **Dr. Shakur** was contracted to offer an economics module to the MBA programme at Jakarta Institute of Management Studies. In that capacity, he was the module presenter in Trade at the Mekong Institute in Thailand. The programme brings together government and business executives from six Mekong Delta countries to train them in operation of market economies. He then developed course material and led in the delivery of an MBA elective module on International Competitiveness during 1999-2000. Since 2002, Dr. Shakur has been the course controller of this module.

### **Seminars organized by ESS**

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences along with the Department of English and Humanities and Centre for Gender and Social Transformation of BRAC Development Institute organized a panel discussion titled "New Directions in Asian Feminism(s)" on 13th January 2013. The Key Discussants at the event were - **Dr. Rashila Ramli**, Director as well as Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Occidental Studies (IKON) at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Malaysia; **Professor Naifei Ding**, member of the Centre for the Study of Sexualities, and teacher at the Department of English at National Central University, Taiwan;

**Dr. Vineeta Sinha**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NSU), and is currently Deputy Head, Department of Sociology and Head, Department of South Asian Studies, NSU.

The Anthropological Collective of the Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized seminar on January 7. **Professor Ali Riaz** from the Department of State and Politics at Illinois State University, U.S.A presented a discussion entitled "Immutable Islamists?". **Professor Riaz** offered an analysis of Islamiist politics in South Asia within the context of the global Islamist trends.

### **MNS updates**

#### **Annual Botanical Conference, Dhaka, 5 January, 2013**

Three students of MS in Biotechnology program, **Shahana Chowdhury, Kashmery Khan and Rabab Mahdi** attended a day-long Annual Botanical Conference on 5 January 2013 held at the University of Chittagong.

Theme of this year conference was "Plant to face climate change". In light of this theme **Shahana Chowdhury** presented a paper on micro propagation of oil seed crop, peanut which also can play an important role in nitrogen fixation in the coastal area. The paper was entitled "Determination of an efficient regeneration protocol for peanut (*Arachis hypogaea L.*)". The research study is being carried out by **Shahana Chowdhury, Kashmery Khan and Dr. Aparna Islam**. The paper was highly appreciated by the audience.



#### **Annual BSBMB Conference, Dhaka, 12-13 January, 2013**

**Samsad Razzaque**, Research Associate under BAS-USDA PALS project in the MNS Department attended a two-day long Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BSBMB) Conference 2013, organized at the University of Chittagong on 12-13 January 2013. He presented a paper titled "Cloning of Na+/H<sup>+</sup> antiporter gene and establishment of in vitro regeneration protocol of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon*) to develop salinity stress tolerant variety". The research is of great importance in the light of nutritional security in the era of climate change challenge in Bangladesh. The work is funded by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and United States Agricultural Development (BAS-USDA) Endowment Fund for Priority Agricultural and Life Sciences Fields and jointly supervised by **Professor Zeba Islam Seraj**, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, DU and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, MNS Dept., BRACU.

#### **Defence for MS Theses**

Six students of MS in Biotechnology Program defended their theses on 14 January, 2013 at the Conference Room of MNS Dept. The examination was

chaired by **Prof. A.A. Ahmad**, Chairperson of the MNS Dept. **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology Programs, **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** and **Dr. Aparna Islam** along with the external supervisors were present in the thesis defense. **Manzur-E-Mohsina** presented her thesis entitled "Hormonal effect of in vitro plant regeneration in potato (*Solanum tuberosum L.*)". Her work was funded by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and United States Agricultural Development (BAS-USDA) Endowment Fund for Priority Agricultural and Life Sciences Fields and jointly supervised by **Professor Zeba Islam Seraj**, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, DU and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, BRACU. **Md. Azizul Hoque** presented his work titled "Establishment of in vitro regeneration and transformation protocol to develop salinity stress tolerant tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum M.*)". This work was jointly supervised by **Dr. Ekramul Hoque**, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, BRACU. Two research studies were conducted on biofuel. **Md. Ariful Islam** presented his research work entitled "Isolation, characterization and process optimization of stress tolerant yeast for ethanol production". The work was carried out at the BCSIR labs under the joint supervision of Prof. **Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr. Monzur Morshed** of BCSIR. The second research work on biofuel done by Abu Kayes, entitled "Biogas technology and its prospective in Bangladesh" was supervised by **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**. **Md. Sera Jum Monir** presented his thesis work entitled "Isolation and characterization of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* organisms from river sources around southern part of Bangladesh". The research was conducted under joint supervision of Prof. **Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Prof. C. R. Ahsan**, Dept. of Microbiology, DU. **Yakut Bint-e-Sadek** presented her work on phytochemistry entitled "Photochemical and biological investigation of leaf extracts of *Carissa carandas*". This research work was jointly supervised by **Dr. Mahboob Hossain**, and **Md. Shahriar**, University of Asia Specific.

#### **Publication Award for MNS Faculty**

**Mr. Nikhil Chandra Sarkar**, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in BRACU has been selected for the publication award by IUBAT (International University of Business Agriculture and Technology) for his paper entitled as 'Deflection of Cyclone Track in Bay of Bengal'. The paper was presented at the ICETCESD International Conference on Environmental Technology and Construction Engineering for Sustainable Development held in Sylhet on 10-12 March 2012. This Conference was organized by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. Storm surges associated with intense tropical cyclones originating in the northern tip of the Bay of Bengal are responsible for major devastation along the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Most of the severe tropical cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal due to its complex geometrical shape and shallow bathymetry along the coastal zone. These types of natural disasters have a significant impact on our lives as well as our environment. In order to quantify the impacts of such disasters, the author analyzed the cyclone track considering the time duration of cyclones. Results obtained from the model are in good agreement with the reported data.

#### **3rd Bangladesh Physics Olympiad, Dhaka, 24 January, 2013**

The Final Competition of the 3rd Bangladesh Physics Olympiad was held at the

Eastern University, Dhaka on January 24, 2013. It was sponsored by Dutch-Bangla Bank. The participants were categorized in three group age wise. The first twenty in each group were awarded certificates at the Prize Giving and Certificate Awarding Ceremony where the Minister for Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.** was the Chief Guest. **Professor A.A.Z Ahmad** along with **Professor M. Ali Asgar, Professor Md. Zafar Iqbal, Professor Ahmad Shafee, Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Professor M. Kaykobad** and a few others spoke at the occasion as Special Guests.

### **New Faculty Appointed**

Eight new faculty members have joined the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. **Dr. Md. Firoze H. Haque** has joined the MNS Dept. as Assistant Professor, while **Asif Rahman, Mohammad Mostak Al Amin, Md. Shohel Rana, Nikhil Chandra Sarkar , Aubhishek Zaman, Mandira Samadder** and **Chitra Das** as lecturers.

### **The 4th National Graduate Math Olympiad, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet, 24 January, 2013**

A team of twelve consisting of nine students of different disciplines of BRACU, two faculty members and the DCO of the MNS Department of BRACU attended the 4th National Graduate Math Olympiad organized jointly by the Bangladesh Mathematical Society and the Mathematics Department of SUST held at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on January 26, 2013. It was a very useful experience for the students for sharing different ideas and concepts on mathematics.

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

#### **New faces at BRACU**

#### **ESS**

**Dr. Sajjad Zohir** joined as a Professor and **Dr. Shamim Shakur** as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences from January 2013. After completing his M.A. in Economics both from Dhaka University and Dalhousie University, **Dr. Zohir** obtained his Ph.D from University of Toronto, Canada. **Dr. Shakur** did his B.S.S with honours in Economics from University of Dhaka. He completed his M.A. and obtained his Ph.D from BOSTONCOLLEGE, Chestnut Hill.

#### **Anthropology**

**Dr. Dina Mahnaz Siddiqi** joined as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology from January 2013. She obtained her B.A. degree from Wellesley College, Massachusetts and holds a Ph.D from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

## **ENH**

Two new faculty members joined ENH as Lecturers on 8th January 2013.

**Sharlene Nisha Alam** has completed her M.A. in Literature from the Department of Literature and Language, University of Amsterdam. Her M.A. thesis was titled "A Mission to Rescue T.S. Eliot's Early Poems from Religious Interpretation." She completed her B.A. in English Literature and Philosophy from the Department of Fine Arts, Rutgers University, U.S.A. **Ms. Alam** was previously a Lecturer at the BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL).

**Nawshaba Ahmed** completed her B.A. and M.A. in English from the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University. Her concentration was in Literature and Cultural Studies. **Ms. Ahmed's** thesis titles of B.A. and M.A. degrees were respectively "Constructive Violence in N'gugi Wa Thiongo's Petals of Blood" and "Cinematic Asian; Stereotype, Multilation and Trauma: How Hollywood Determines How we see Colourism".

## **CSE**

**Mr. Md. Risul Karim** joined as a Lecturer in the Computer Science and Engineering Department from January 2013. **Mr. Karim** completed his B.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering from BRAC University.

## **EEE**

Three new faculties, **Mr. Anamul Hoque**, **Ms. Ahmed Hosne Zenan** and **Ms. Sanjana Ahmed** joined as a Lecturer in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department from January 2013. All three faculties completed their B.Sc from BRAC University.

## **C3ER**

**Ms. Sharmin Nahar Nipa** joined as a Research Associate in the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research. She completed her B.Sc and M.Sc from Jahangirnagar University.

## **CSO**

**Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid** joined as Advisor in the Career Services Office from January 2013. He completed M.A. from The Central School of Planning and Statistics (SGPiS), Warsaw, Poland.

## **Admin**

**Ms. Farhana Ferdausi** joined as a HR Officer in Human Resources Office from January 2013. She completed her B.Sc and M.Sc from National University. Afterward she did her MBA from BRAC University.

### **Left from BRACU**

**Mr. Mamun Rashid**, Director of both BBS and CED left BRACU in January 2013. **Ms. Shamima Akhter** served as Lecturer in BIL and also **Mr. Tonmoy Kumar Bhowmick**, Lecturer from EEE Department left in last January.

### **SPH updates**

#### **36 awarded MPH this year**

The eighth Graduate Forum ceremony of the James P. Grant School of Public Health was held on January 20, 2013 at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b, Dhaka on the occasion of the successful completion of the Eighth MPH Programme. The graduates' forum marks the end of our year-long master of public health program which began in January of last year. It is a day of celebration for the students, the faculty and the school. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest with **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean of JPGSPH as the chair. **Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury**, Vice Chairperson of BRAC and **Dr. Abbas Bhuiya**, Interim Executive Director of icddr,b were also present as Special guests. **Dr. Jon Rohde**, an international public health expert, delivered an inspiring key-note speech on contemporary public health. **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor and Associate Dean, JPGSPH introduced the best MPH dissertations by the students. In this forum, five graduating students made presentations based on their dissertations and students with outstanding performance received awards.



#### **Awards for the students were:**

1. Allan Rosenfield Award for Best Overall Performance: **Mirak Raj Angdembe**
2. **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed** Award for Leadership: **Sayed Obaidullah Sadat**
3. W.B. Greenough III Award for Best Dissertation: **Mirak Raj Angdembe**
4. Richard Cash Award for Best Poster: **Fatima Durrani Shah**
5. Richard Cash Award for Best Poster: **Win Htike**
6. Richard Cash Award for Best Poster: **Kyaw Zayar Aung**

## Awards for Faculties and Teaching Fellows:

1. **Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain** Teaching Excellence Award: **Professor Alayne M. Adams**
2. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Fellow Award: **Anuradha Hashemi** Speaking on the occasion, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, said that the university just creates interest of learning in students. The real learning begins after graduation and at workplace. He congratulated all the local and international graduates from the School of Public Health and expressed his hope that they would become an ambassador of the School across the globe.



In his key-note speech, **Dr. Jon Rohde** said that the graduates now have learned the skills to manage the tools of public health - the appropriate use of new technologies, building health manpower teams incorporating the best of social as well as health sciences, the linkage between good research and

meeting the needs of the poor. "It is up to you to use the new communication, "knowledge management", and other technologies to fast track equity in health. You are the admirer of a new network of ideas and experience - share with us and with others as we learn together how to make this world a place of decency, of good health, of equity and of peace."

Total 36 students have passed this year among which 19 were international and 17 were national students.

## RS updates

### Session on 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students Held at Savar Campus



On 26 January, 2013 the "Ethics and Culture course", Savar campus arranged a session on "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students" which was conducted by

the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**. The session has enriched the Ethics & Culture course by motivating learners to practice the 7 habits in their personal life. The audience remained spellbound throughout the session.

### Seminar Conducted on Drug Abuse



On 24 January 2013 a seminar on drug abuse was held at the Savar campus addressing the effects of drug abuse, and information regarding rehabilitation mechanism. The seminar was conducted by Brother **Ronald Drahozal, CSC**, Executive Director of APON, a drug addicted rehabilitation centre. In the session, two

recovering youths and one adult from APON shared their experiences of drug-infused sufferings and learning of staying at a rehabilitation centre. **Mr. Hasibur Rahman** an official of APON, also spoke on the occasion. Students of Spring-2013, faculty members, members of Counseling Unit and House Tutors were present in the seminar.

### Session on Grooming & Etiquette



On 24 January, 2013 BRACU the Savar campus arranged a session on 'Grooming & Etiquette' at Markuli Hall to address the issues of enhancing self image, personality, individual life-style, self confidence and required skills in the corporate world to help students prepare to fit themselves in the sophisticated job market and urban life styles.

**Ms. Farrah Jabeen** along with two other facilitators, BRACU faculty member, Ms. Mitali, and the guest speaker, **Mr. Kumar Morshid**, facilitated the session. Elaborating on a simple etiquette concept that people tend to overlook in daily life like personal appearance and hygiene, **Ms. Jabeen** included wardrobe basics, proper dressing and attire norms in terms of carrying oneself in a social environment. She also brought the issues of ensuing fit-colour synchronization, acceptable body language, makeup, hairstyle, accepted dining etiquette as well as workplace etiquette and so on.

## **R S Activity Exhibition at BRAC University, Mohakhali**



BRAC University Residential Semester is unique for its different types of co-curriculum Activities. In fall'12 semester students took different types of activities along with their academic classes. There were 12 different RS activities such as Wall magazine exhibition, Hydroponic vegetable cultivation, Wastage Recycling, Old home visiting, Learning about countries and culture, Quiz arranging, Debating, Music and recitation, Sketching and Drawing and so on.

After attending all the classes, students arranged an exhibition to display their creative products. For the first time the outcome of the activities through an exhibition was displayed at Mohakhali campus from 10 to 31 January, 2013. In the Exhibition, 13 wall magazines, 80 recycling products, 75 sketching, 25 creative writing magazines were displayed.

The Exhibition was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Professor Ainun Nishat**. All faculty members of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) and management staff of Residential semester were present in the ceremony.

## **Happy Reading Orientation Program**

On 17 January, 2013 the Book Reading Orientation Program was held at the BRAC University Savar Campus. This program has been on sprint for the last couple of semesters with the aim of improving reading habits of BRACU students. Keeping the slogan "Reading is a great passion and also a great hobby" in mind, 'Happy Reading' course has been introduced in collaboration with the British Council. In the occasion, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed** and **Mr. Shishir** gave inspirational speeches for the future readers.

## Parents' Day at Residential Campus

On 19 January 2013, a Parents' Day was celebrated at the BRAC University Savar Campus. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was present in the session and spent time with students and parents.

Generally, parents visit residential campus to meet their children while they stay for a semester. This allows students to share with their parents the experiences of staying in the Savar campus. All the staff and teachers, in particular BIL faculty



members meet parents, exchange views, listen to them and also share information about BRACU, residential activities and campus discipline. This, without any doubt, contributes to enhance the relationship among the university authority, parents and community.

## Semester Orientation Program



On 12 January, 2013 the Orientation Program for 32nd Batch of Residential Semester was held at Markuli hall, BRAC University, Savar Campus. The programme was facilitated by Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU, **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**; Savar

campus Superintendent **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**; Senior Lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**; and Assistant Campus Superintendent **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**.

The whole session was divided into three major parts which included welcoming students, ice breaking, group forming among students, enjoying group presentations, sharing RS objectives and so on.

## **RS Activity Orientation Program**

On 17 January, 2013 the 32nd batch of RS Activity Orientation was held at Markuli hall, Savar Campus. The program started with a short introduction by the Campus Superintendent and later, the rest of the session was facilitated by **Ms. Mitali** along with other faculty members of Savar Campus.



The whole session was divided into two major parts. One focuses on the issues of attaining excellence in academics as well as extra-curricular activities. The other session brings the issues about objectives of RS activities, expected achievements of the students, class hours, and so on.

## **Students Affair updates**

### **Law Club**

BRACU law club, with support from the organisation banglacraft, hosted a seminar on geographical indication and the law in Bangladesh to bring home the urgent message that Bangladesh craftsman, crafts and agricultural products need locality and area wise legal recognition and that the government must immediately pass the bill into law.

### **Cricket Club**

Cricket Club BRAC University had started the annual tour on 1st January, 2013. Destination was Khulna to play cricket matches against Khulna Crira Chokro & Doulatpur Cricket Academy. Both were Khulna 1st division team. We played 2 T20 matches & one 35overs' match there. One was against Khulna Crira Chokro & the rest two was against Doulatpur Cricket Academy. Cricket BRACU played well & the boys showed the fighting capability against unknown teams, unknown conditions, unknown wicket & outfield. On 5th January morning Cricket BRACU started their journey towards Sundorbon & back in the evening. After having dinner, Cricket BRACU started again journey for Dhaka at 9pm & reached in Dhaka in the morning, at 6am, 6th January, 2013.



## BIZ BEE



Leaving all the tension and exhaustion behind, BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) arranged a short trip to the most stunning and gorgeous island named St. Martin. On 2nd January, in a freezing misty climate at 8:00 pm, a bus of Shyamoli Paribahan, consisting of 35 Students along with one faculty, started the journey towards Teknaf. After reaching there we hired a

medium shaped ship named "KEARI SINDBAD". After some hours finally we smelled the fragrance of the soil and realized, we are in our dreaming place. St. Martin is also called as 'Narikel Jinjira'/'Coral Island'/'Daruchini Island' as well. It was so attracting that we could not resist ourselves to jump over the water forgetting all tiring moments!! After that, on the other day we went another pleasant place name "Chhera Dip". The corals are clearly viewed under crystal clear water. We enjoyed a lot over there. After that, we got delight from the Bar-B-Q Chicken, Parota, Vegetable, Salad, soft drinks and also the DJ party on the night. Quietly time flew away without knowing anything. At last on 7th January we ended up with the vacation and started the journey towards Dhaka. St. Martin is just like a place where everyone wants to go again and again, if anyone takes the taste at least once. And truly, Bangladesh is blessed with natural beauty. But before going, make sure you have chosen a co-operative circle, necessary medicines, and last but not the least, an appropriate season!

## BUHF



As the semester went by with major stress and overload of study pressure, all everyone needed was an escape. Syhlet is what comes to mind when paradise on Bangladesh is thought off. This semester after all our final exams, BUHF planned a trip to the mesmerizing scenic beauty Sylhet. It was a three days planned packed trip. A group of 40 students went together. They started

their journey on 2nd January at mid-night, though it was mid night but the excitement of reaching paradise was commendable. They explored many beautiful natural beauties. Jaflong. Madhab kunda, lala khal was just to name a few.

As everything has to end at some point, after a long three days which seemed like a flash of hour, the trip ended. Trips like these tell us how the country has so much to offer but it's our duty to preserve it.

### **Winter Mayhem at BRAC University**

BRAC University Adventure Club (BUAC) organised a fair titled 'Winter Mayhem' on university premises on Sunday, says a press release.

**Dr. Md Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro- Vice Chancellor of the university, inaugurated the fair. BUAC had fixed a theme 'Raise your voice to stop women violence' and set up a comment box for students to contribute their opinion about this issue.

A cultural programme organised by BRAC University Cultural Club and drama was staged 'Khalnayak' performed by 'BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum'.

**Md Shamsul Kaonain**, Lecturer of Computer Science and Engineering of the university, is the adviser of the club. **Musa Ibrahim**, mountaineer is the external adviser of the club.

### **IABC**

On 30th January 2012 IABC| BRAC University organized the event 'The Art of Diplomacy: National Model United Nations Workshop' for over 235 participants from 25 institutions which includes many renowned universities, schools and foundations all around Dhaka. The Workshop was divided into two sessions; the first session was conducted by **Dr. Piash Karim**;



**Karim**; Professor of Economics and Sociology, BRAC University where the guest speakers were **Professor Ataur Rahman**; Researcher (Politics and Government), **M. Humayun Kabir**; Former Ambassador to USA and **Brigadier General (Retd) M. Sakhawat Hussain**; Former Election Commissioner & Security Analyst. In this workshop, they discussed that today since we live in a global village where we need the cooperation of other countries to come up with any required solutions to the world problems, United Nations is needed to achieve this. They all spoke about how many challenges are faced by the UN which are maintaining peace and security in different countries, fighting poverty where many countries are suffering due to an unequal world where only some countries hold the resources of the world, then another challenge is the constant technological change where underdeveloped nations cannot adapt to a lifestyle based on availability of information and practical implementation of it and the final challenge is to overcome the fear of globalization. There were also much discussion about Bangladesh and the UN relationship and how Bangladesh benefits from the UN. The second session was conducted by **Sharmeen Alam**; Co-President Harvard World MUN. She has attended 12 conferences globally as a

delegate, chair and organizer. She discussed about Model United Nations as a culture that aims to educate its participants about current events, topics in international relations and diplomacy. IABC Founder and President, **Ratul Dev** initiated on the continuation of the MUN culture in BRAC university after having attended MUN in Singapore at the NTU MUN in 2010 as the first Bangladeshi with three others as their team leader. His own experience led him to believe that MUN can be a very popular, fun and a learning culture for many and thus this workshop gave the future participants a highlight of what is waiting in MUN for them. The MUN conferences where IABC|BRACU members have participated are Nanyang Technological University Model United Nations (NTU MUN), Harvard World MUN, Bangladesh Model United Nations (BANMUN), Bangladesh International Model United Nations (BIMUN), International Model United Nations (IIMUN) and Dhaka University Model United Nations (DUNMUN).

## TLC updates

### 9th TLC Workshop on 'Teaching and Learning for Teachers (TLT)



Preparing well Grounded Educators' was held during 7-10 January 2013 at BRACU. The Major focus of this workshop was to strengthening the art of effective teaching through, creating effective learning environment in the classroom. This four-day workshop was opened through a welcoming speech by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC and Director, TLC at BRACU Mohakhali campus on January 7th. It was continued with series of presentation on BRACU rules and regulation by **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhry**, BRACU Accounts and HR policy by **Ms. Rosy Sharif** and **Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha**, information on BRACU Library by **Ms. Hasina Afroz** and discussions on BRAC as a learning laboratory of BRACU by **Mr. Asef Saleh**. The session on "Plagiarism" by **Prof. H. M. Hashemy** was to prepare the instructors for taking appropriate measures in preventing plagiarism by the students and also providing the students a clear perception of what constitutes plagiarism.

The day #1 activities were wrapped up by the comments of **Prof. Ainun Nishat**,

VC of BRACU. The following day (January 8th, 2013), the participants were taken to BRACU Savar campus and rest of the workshop was resided there.

The workshop was continued with a number of sessions on different pedagogical teaching-learning aspects. The Counseling Unit led an interactive session providing insights on students' learning behavior based on transactional analysis. Relating to this session another session on "Managing Students disruptive behavior: The role of the teachers" was conducted by **Ms. Anisa Haq**. The session on Critical and Creative Thinking in Teaching by **Ms. Samina Anzum** led the participants think more analytically and help the instructors to add more creativity in their lecture and classroom teaching-learning.

The session on the Art of Questioning by Prof. **Md.**

**Golam Samdani Fakir** and **Ms. Sabrina Syed** helped to prepare the instructors on four questioning level of thinking hierarchy: cognitive-memory, convergent, divergent and evaluative. In addition to the independent thinking skills, the Facilitation Skills: the Direct and Indirect Instructional Strategies

session by **Prof. Samdani**

and **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** was designed to support the instructors in establishing a positive learning environment. The session on Preparing Course Syllabus and Lesson Plan helped the instructors to have better understanding about the ways and means of preparing quality course syllabus and lesson plan. Again, the session on Formative and Summative Evaluation of students' academic performance made the new instructors feel comfortable in grading the students' assignment fairly. The session on Exploring Personal Blind Areas exposed the instructors to know their unknown areas of strengths and weaknesses through Johari Window. Moreover, the sessions on How to start the first class, PowerPoint & Beyond PowerPoint and Micro-teaching were designed and conducted such a way to help the new instructor more confident in their teaching-learning at BRACU. A total fifteen faculty members participated in this workshop. The workshop was wrapped up through Cob-web method, where each one had the chance to share personal reflection about the whole workshop and wishing for the peer colleagues. The four day workshop was closed by giving certificates to the participants.



#### **TLC gave support in the students' Orientation program of BRACU 32nd batch of Residential Semester ( Spring 2013) on January 12**

TLC gave support to BRACU RS in designing and facilitating the orientation program, held on January 12, 2013. **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRACU started the program with a DREAM, an opening song and welcomed all the 400 students to RS spring semester 2013. The students were introduced according to their departments, dormitories and religions. The session was continued through a dialogue method describing briefly on the background, objectives and activities of residential semester. Later all the course teachers

from HUM, Dev and Language courses, all the house tutors, counselor, admin, medical, library, and computer lab support team introduced themselves to the students. However, after a short health break, the students were sent into all fifteen separate sections along with their section teachers to develop their social capitals, the ground rules. After lunch break, the group leaders from all those sections presented their social capitals for others' approvals. Beside Prof Samdani, the faculty members-**Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Ms. Samina Anzum**, and **Ms. Sabrina Syed** from TLC gave support in the whole program.

#### **TLC gave support into the session on Personal Development**



Habits of Highly Successful Students on January 26th at BRACU Savar campus: Alike every residential semester, TLC gave support to the 32nd batch of RS, spring 2013 for facilitating the session on Personal Development: Habits of Highly Successful Students This session has been included to the Hum course: Ethics and culture. The session had two parts. In the first integrated part, all 400 students with all faculty members from RS and TLC gathered at Markulli hall. The integrated part was facilitated by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRACU. He started the session with an opening song and was continued through a power point presentation and lecture-discussions on seven habits. There was a small role play on how Habit forms and a slideshow was shown on the story of Tortoise and Hare. After his presentation, the students were divided into fifteen sections and were sent with the section assigned faculty members into different class rooms. There a group discussions and question-answer session on seven habits took place, followed by Colloquial method. The session was wrapped up by taking reflections and feedbacks from the students.