

2010/november

Public Discussion of Role of Media in Climate Change Negotiation



A public lecture has held in JATRI on the Role of Media in Climate Change Negotiation on 11 November 2010. World Renowned Environmentalist and Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Ainun Nishat delivered this lecture for the Journalists following the upcoming World Conference on climate change to be held in Cancun from 29 November 2010. In his speech Professor Nishat discussed the international and national context of climate change issues on a different aspect and emphasized to accelerate adaptation process of Bangladesh to meet the climate change challenges. He stressed the need for more agricultural researches to invent climate- tolerant crop varieties to address the challenges of food crisis in near future because of climate change. Due to the climate change, food production will drastically fall in near future resulting severe food crisis across the globe as well as in the country. He urged those journalists who will cover the Cancun climate conference scheduled to start in Mexico on November 29 to know about the procedure of negotiation and disseminate objective information. He also mentioned due to climate change, saline water of the Bay of Bengal has already started to enter into the country's inland fresh water posing threat to bio-diversity of fishes, he mentioned. He shared to press people that the journalists who will go to cover the program in Cancun should aware about the different groups meeting, side-by side meetings, agenda and know the key negotiators of the Conference. Professor Nishat also meet question and answer session.

Former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury and journalist Quamrul Islam Chowdhury among others attended the lecture.

Following recommendations have made in this discussion

- journalist by developing a guidebook who will attend Cancun conference;
- JATRI can work secretariat role to facilitate the climate change discussion on different aspect;
- JATRI can also organize series lectures on various aspect of Climate change issues;
- JATRI can organize a roundtable following the post Cancun conference.

A large number of journalists from print, electronic and online media attended in this lecture. The chief of JATRI Jamil Ahmed moderated the session.

Constitution Day celebrated at BRAC University



The Moot Court Society of BRAC University (MCS-BU) observed the Constitution Day of Bangladesh by publishing a book on the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: "Amader Shongbidhan" on 7th November 2010 at the University.

Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, was the chief guest in the

ceremony. Presided over by BRAC University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat, the function was also addressed by eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Acting chairperson of Bangladesh Law Commission Dr Shah Alam, National Human Commission Chairperson Dr Mizanur Rahman and BRACU Law department Director Dr Shahdeen Malik.

This is a book for common people interested in understanding the basic elements of the Constitution of Bangladesh. The book is in Bangla and as such, it has been written in simple language so that anyone with at least primary educational background can follow the meaning and content of the Constitution.

The book, Amader Shongbidhan, is written by the student members of the MCS-BU under the guidance of a Faculty Advisor. The book has been reviewed by Justice Ghulam Rabbani, former justice of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Prof. Dr. Shah Alam, Acting Chairman, Law Commission-Bangladesh; Prof. Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director, School of Law, BRAC University and Dr. Ridwanul Hoque, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Dhaka University.

Architecture Update

Department of Architecture awarded a Strategic Partnership Grant under the British Council's INSPIRE program

Department of Architecture has been awarded a Strategic Partnership Grant Award under the British Council's INSPIRE program for 3 years. Department of Architecture, BRAC University and other three public Universities of Bangladesh has got this award. This award is in the category of "Institution-to-Institution Strategic Partnerships (SPs)". BRAC university and Loughborough University, UK will be working as partners and conducting research on "Climate Change". The research title is "Adaptable and Resilient Urban Built Environments for a Changing Climate in Bangladesh (ARUBE)". Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, chairperson of Department of Architecture is the Team leader of BRAC University and Dr Monjur Mourshed, assistant professor of Civil and Building Engineering is leading the Loughborough University team.

Participatory workshop on building safer habitat in AILA affected areas in Bangladesh

A participatory workshop was organized during 3rd to 6th November, 2010 by the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and BRAC for the community was to develop appropriate building-for-safety options for building safer houses and landscape as a pilot project to develop a climate/disaster resilient habitat in AILA affected area. It was attended by a group of nine community people comprising of carpenters, masons, house owners, persons with good knowledge on local plants, earth workers and community leader. It was coordinated by Professor Fuad H Mallick, Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Tahmina Rahman from the university and Azit Roy from Dinajpur. Risal Ahmed, Nahid Sharmin and Nazila Mehnaz helped as student volunteers. A group of young civil engineers from House Building Research Institute and J. A. Architects Ltd also attended the workshop and shared their knowledge. Representatives from BRAC University organized another design workshop with the community in Shatkhira as part of initial study in January 2010.



Design workshop with the community in Shatkhira in January 2010



Design workshop with the community at BRAC University in November 2010



Local builders from the AILA affected community and professional from BRAC University



Trained engineers and the local builders are designing together.

Faculty attended an international conference in Venice

Sajid-Bin-Doza, Senior Lecturer of the Department was selected by the Scientific Committee of the International Conference, theme based on 'Colour and Light in Architecture.' The two days International Conference was organized by University of Venice IUAV, Italy. The two day International Conference (November 11-12, 2010) and three days workshop explore the opportunities of Colour and Light in Architecture through different disciplines and resources with innovative research works. Mr. Doza was invited to make an oral presentation on his research paper 'Terracotta Mosque of Bengal: Making Dialogue with Colour and Light.' The research tried to identify the light, texture and colour that create the 'rhythm of spontaneity'. The quality of light, shade and shadow impulses the entire red terracotta mosque with magical ray of luminance both for the interior and exterior surface. Bengal is scattered with varieties type of terracotta mosques and they are identical in patterns. The study focused on the quality of light that plays uncommon feature guided by orientation, morphology and settings of mosques. Colour and texture of superstructure that creates dialogue with the shininess and continue drama with nature. The study also tried to identify the shadow pattern, vocabulary of spatial dimension enhanced by flashing and material incorporation on the pavilion type structure as well as the on the mosque. Finally the paper explained the figure-ground pattern of shade-shadow in different situation of sun-path and the impact of lighting on humans. The paper appears in the published proceedings of the conference.



Sadij Bin Doja is presenting his Paper.

BBS Update

BIZ TALK

These sessions were conducted by the advisor of Biz Talk Dr.Ahsan Habib, Assistant Professor of BBS.

1st session (1st Week)

The session was a great success, it was raining cats and dogs but nothing could stop the participants from joining Biz Talk. Everyone was dressed formally and there were about 65 students and every one had smile on their face. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, the Director of BBS encouraged the participants to ask questions so that they can get rid of their shyness. Some of the participants asked question which made the session very lively and interactive.

2nd session (2nd Week)

In second session we were lucky to have Ian Morrison (Canadian) Project Director, Bangladesh Legal Reform Project. He discussed about the law of legal support to poor women of Bangladesh. After he left the participants were asked to come up with different cases which occurred recently and to describe those cases using law terms. It was really interesting as participants could come up with new words and they shared their opinion with others and got to learn many terminologies. By this our second session of Biz Talk ended.

3rd session (3rd Week)

Our Biz talk participants were happy to have Lily Lapenna (Italian) among them. They asked many questions regarding "MY BNK" and showed their tremendous interest in her organization. Lily's Power Point presentation was an awesome one. During this one and a half-hour presentation, participants kept their eyes fixed to Lily. After the presentation Lily went to each and every group and answered their questions, which allowed the participants to get a clear idea about her organization. Overall it was a great session and students liked it so much that they will be happy to have Lily among them again.

4th session (4th Week)

It was a review session where all students were asked to give their opinion about Biz Talk. It was amazing when everyone together said they love Biz Talk and they want it to continue forever. They also write their comments and submitted it to Biz Talk Team and it was handed over to Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of BBA program. They wait for this session throughout the week. Biz talk team (Javed Faruk, Abdullah Al Mashud and Ziaul Ahsan Chaowdury) tried their best to keep the participants in good mood throughout the sessions and personal thanks goes to Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director of BBS and the Biz Talk Team, without their help it was not possible to organize all the sessions.

Research Work of BBS Faculty Members

- Anup Chowdhury and Suman Paul Chowdhury "Impact of capital structure on firm's value: Evidence from Bangladesh" have been published the Business and Economic Horizons Journal(ISSN: 1804-1205) Volume 3, Issue 3, October 2010
- Shawkat Kamal "Survival During Economic Shock: The Role of Firm Experience" has been published the Journal of SUB (State University of Bangladesh), 2010

CfL Update

Meet the Employers career counseling session held at Savar semester



'Meet the Employers', a two hour semi-formal session on career counseling for the students of Savar Residential Campus, was held on 6th November 2010. The session intended to provide some essential guidelines to the participants on deciding their future career and also for taking necessary preparations regarding that. Besides, it aimed to create the synergy between BRAC and BRAC University by sharing the information about the programmes of both the organizations. Mr Muhammad A. (Rume) Ali, Managing Director of BRAC Enterprises; Mr Jishu Tarafder, Chief Executive Officer of CORPORATECOACH and Ms Tahmina Zaman Khan, Executive Committee Member of BRAC University Alumni Association were the special guests at the event.

The guests gave small talks on the issues related to the present job market and answered the questions from the audience. Additionally, Mr Muhammad A. (Rume) Ali focused on the concepts and operational aspects of BRAC's various enterprises and encouraged students to value their commitments to the society. In this regard he emphasized on the need for having more social entrepreneurs in the country. The students of BRAC University Savar Residential Campus participated in the session actively and came up with a good number of queries during the question/ answer session. Mr Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, the Campus Superintendent, concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

'Seminar on 'Grooming and Etiquettes'



A seminar on 'Grooming and Etiquettes' was held at Savar Residential Campus on 25th November 2010 and facilitated by Kazi Sarmad Karim, Lecturer of CfL. The session was informal in nature and the discussion was mainly focused on three aspects: how students' appropriate appearance, self-esteem and basic mobile

phone manners help create a positive learning environment, boost confidence and maintain social etiquettes. Some videos on both European and American styles of dining were also shown to acquaint students with basic dining etiquettes in formal situations. At the end, Mr. Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, the Campus Superintendent, concluded the session by sharing some of his personal anecdotes contrasting the eating habits in Bangladesh and the rest of the world.

ENH Update

1. A Special issue of the BRAC University Journal (Special Issue No.1, Fall 2010) was published by ENH. Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH and Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Coordinator, ENH have edited this special issue. This issue of BU journal comprises of nineteen articles by Bangladeshi scholars and practitioners. Topics cover a wide array, ranging from issues pertaining to Literature, Applied Linguistics and ELT, Media and Cultural Studies that reflect how English studies encompass many fields and areas of study. Copies of the journal are available at ENH, BRAC University and the BRACU Library.

2. Ms. Sabreena Ahmed, a Lecturer of ENH presented a paper entitled "Interpreting Bangladeshi and Australian Print Advertisements" at the 10th International Literature, Language and Stylistics Symposium 03-05 November, 2010 organized by Gazi University of Ankara, Turkey.



3. On 04 November 2010 the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University arranged a literary afternoon entitled Liberation as Inspiration: Poems and Short Fiction based on '71 . The program began with the recitation of poems of the well known international poet of our country Prof. Kaiser Haq. Md. Mahmudul Haque, Lecturer, ENH read a Bangla short story which was on the theme of atrocities of the liberation war. A Fulbright Fellow Ms. Tarfia Faizullah read out her poems on Birangana and informed the audience about her plans to set up a creative writing journal based in ENH. BRAC students will contribute their creative writings to this bilingual journal.

4. Ms. Tarfia Faizullah is an American Bangladeshi, temporarily based in Dhaka. She is interviewing the surviving Biranganas of Bangladesh Liberation War.

5. ENH organised a daylong conference "Working Strategies: Linguistic Approaches and English Language Teaching in Bangladesh" on the 25th of November, 2010 as part of their seminar series on English Studies. Chair of the Dept. of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Prof. ZiaUddin Ahmad was present at the inaugural session as a special guest. Professor Arifa Rahman of the Institute of Modern Languages, Dhaka University, was the keynote speaker of the conference. The title of her paper was "An Analysis of Core Linguistic Theories and their Ramifications in the Teaching and Studying English".



Dr. Shamsad Mortuza of Jahangirnagar University was the moderator of the 1st session of the conference. The presenters of this session were Hakim Arif of the Dept of Linguistics Dhaka University, Dr. Shahriar Haque of the Dept of English, East West University, Bijoy Lal Basu of the Dept of English Dhaka University, Sadia Afreen Mallick of The Daily Star and Ms. Sabreena Ahmed of ENH, BRAC University.

The second session chaired by Dr. Fakrul Alam of the Dept of English, Dhaka University included papers by Professor Golam Sarwar Chowdhury, Dept of English, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh, Ms. Shaila Shams-who did her MA in Applied Linguistics with TESOL from the University of Sheffield, UK , Ms. Fatima Tuz Zahra, Lecturer of ENH BRAC university. The last two speakers of the session were Ms. Nashida Ahmed of BRAC Education Program and Mahmuda Akhter who is an alumna of Enh, BRAC University. ENH faculties, Ms. Asifa Sultana and Ms. Shenin Zia Uddin were the coordinators of this conference. The conference was appreciated by all for its liveliness because it broke out of the norm of only theory based Linguistics seminar in general. It combined research papers of people from a variety of fields of English Language Teaching (ELT), Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and Education.

ESS Update

ESS Organizes a Seminar by Former Governor of Bangladesh Bank

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) organized a seminar on November 4, 2010 entitled "Global Financial Crisis and Impact on Bangladesh" presented by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the former governor of Bangladesh Bank. At present he is Professor of the School of Business at North South University, Dhaka. This was the last ESS seminar of the Fall' 2010 session.

Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Senior Counselor, Department of ESS attended a daylong workshop on "Child Rights in Higher Academia" at the UGC auditorium held on November 23, 2010. The workshop was organized by the Save the Children (Sweden-Denmark) in collaboration with the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC).

ESS Student Achievement

Mr. Shabab Ahmed Mahfuz, Senior Student of ESS Department, participated at the Thirteenth International Convention of Students' Quality Circles from November 1-3, 2010 at Kathmandu, Nepal. This conference aimed at identifying and improving student quality of primary to 12th grade over the world. Professor Dinesh P. Chapagain, Chairman, Quest Nepal and Dr. Jaganish Gandhi, Chairman, World Council for Total Quality and Excellence in Education (WCTQEE) was present at the conference as well.

MNS Update

Conference on English Language Teaching in Bangladesh held at BRAC University, 25 November, 2010

The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) of BRAC University arranged a day-long conference titled "Working Strategies: Linguistic Approaches and English Language Teaching in Contemporary Bangladesh" on 25 November, 2010. Professor Arifa Rahman of the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, presented the keynote paper at the inaugural session of the conference chaired by Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson of the ENH Department of BRACU. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad, Chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of BRACU gave an address in the inaugural session.

Publication of Books by faculty members of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department

Two faculty members at the MNS Department of BRACU have authored a book each. Mr Iftekhar Mohammad Shafiqul Kalam authored the book titled GLIMPSE on Child Labor: A Study on Child Labor Situation in Dhaka City Corporation, ISBN 978-3-8433-5951-1.

While Ms Moushumi Zahur authored the book titled Private Apartment Housing: A Study on Affordability of the Middle Income People of Dhaka, Bangladesh, ISBN 978-3-8433-5920-7. Both the books have been

published by LAMBERT Academic Publishing.

Science Article in the Daily Star by MNS Faculty Members

One scientific article on a life science topic written by Md. Riajul Hossain, Lecturer in biotechnology of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences was published in "Tuesday's Science and Life Section" of the Daily Star. The article titled "How to keep food safe" was published on 9 November, 2010 where the writer described the ways to keep food safe and to remain healthy from food related diseases. The aspects of food safety according to different food types and the different stages of food production were discussed. In fact, food safety is a major issue to be taken under consideration for maintaining good health.

Another scientific popular article titled "Bridging Universes" was published in the aforementioned daily by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed on November 16, 2010. The abstract of the paper is as follows:

'Baby Universe' is connected to its 'Parent Universe' by a bridge known as the Einsetin-Rosen bridge. It is a short-cut path in spacetime which is called a wormhole. The physics of this wormhole is presented here.

3rd Meeting of the Biosafety Core Committee, 24 December 2010

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury attended the 3rd Meeting of the Biosafety Core Committee (BCC) of the Department of Environment, GOB held on 24 December 2010 at the Chameli Hall Room of the DoE. Professor Choudhury is a member of the BCC formed by the National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) of the Government of Bangladesh. The meeting discussed issues related to field trials of some selected GMOs which included application by a local company named Viola Vitalis for permission for field trial of an arsenic detection kit developed with genetically modified E.coli by the Helmohts Centre for Environmental Research (UFG), Germany, field trial of late blight resistant transgenic potatoes developed by BARI and Bt brinjal by BARI and a private company. The Meeting showed concern about the field trials of the arsenic kit by a local company using GMOs and asked for further information about the facilities available with the company and its linkage with the relevant national laboratories and also about the disposal of the GMO at the field level in remote areas proposed by the company for field trials. The company was advised to give a comprehensive plan of work following the biosafety guidelines of the DoE and relevant facilities for testing the kit. Alternatively water samples may be sent from proposed locations for testing at the German laboratory. Regarding second year field trial of the late blight resistant potatoes by BARI, the Meeting was informed that the National Technical Committee on Crop Biotechnology has given permission for the field trial and the BCC members visited the field trial stations and found experiments being conducted in compliance with the biosafety guidelines. Similarly the field trial experiments of Bt brinjal are being carried out by BARI following the biosafety guidelines. The Meeting noted the matter with satisfaction and advised the Institute to take every precaution to prevent contamination of other crops. The Meeting advised all institutio! ns under taking genetic engineering experiments to fill in the formats given in the biosafety guidelines and submit to BCC for evaluation. This would ensure proper handling of the GMOS.

Sol Update

1. The Moot Court Society of the School of Law, with the help of BRAC Printers and BRAC University published a book titled 'Amader Shongbidhan, with chapters written by four students of the Society. The Book was launched at a grand ceremony on 07 November at the indoor games room, with the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs presiding. The book was edited by Dr. Tureen Afroz, Associate Professor, School of Law and Adviser to the Moot Court Society.

2. On 25 November Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Associate Professor, School of Law, made two presentations at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong on the issue of violence against women. One presentation was with the AUW faculty as part of their Voices of Scholars series and one was with the entire university at the AUW's Lecture Extravaganza (TALE) programme. She also gave a talk on 'Torture and International Law' in the Human Rights class, as a guest speaker.



3. Prof. K. Shamsuddin Mahmood has been designated Legal Adviser to BRAC University. Prof. Mahmood is Head of the Undergraduate Programme of the School of Law.

SPH Update

Academic Programs

Mph program

Courses

Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (MPH 620) was taught by Dr. Stephen Luby and Dr. Richard A. Cash, and Asif Kashef served as the Teaching Fellow. The course took place from October 25 - November 11, 2010.

Field visits



MPH students posing with villagers



MPH students interviewing villagers

As part of the MPH 620 course, students) visited the ICDDR,B Matlab Sites, Kamlapur ICDDR,B site and Mohakhali ICDDR,B for data collection.

Health and Development Seminar Series

Ground Water Arsenic Contamination

A seminar on Ground Water Arsenic Contamination by Dr. Yan Zheng was organized on October 26, 2010. She talked about the hydro-geological basis for the arsenic problem and its implications. Dr. Yan Zheng is a

Water and Environmental Sanitation Specialist, UNICEF and a former lecturer at Cornell.

Centres and research initiatives

centre for health systems studies

Comprehensive Primary Health Care Model for Bangladesh/ CPHC Project:

Draft report of CPHC project has been shared with Dr. Thelma Narayan, Regional Coordinator of CPHC Asian Teams and with Dr. Ron Labonte, International Coordinator of all CPHC teams. The report is currently under review. The findings have been presented by Taufique Joarder in the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreaux, Switzerland on November 18, 2010 in the concurrent session 'Revitalizing Health for All- A global project of new research on comprehensive primary health care'.

Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS

One Day One Struggle



Sabina F Rashid introducing the filmmaker and documentary

In order to mark the One Day One Struggle international campaign on sexual and reproductive rights on November 9, 2010, the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS, School of Public Health, BRAC University hosted a screening and discussion on SRH issues. Additionally, the Centre also sponsored a Hijra-rights based event organized by Shomporko Naya Shetu.

The Centre screened a documentary titled A Mother's Lament by acclaimed international filmmaker Yasmine Kabir. The documentary explores issues of sexual violence, gender discrimination, custodial abuse, and other pivotal issues.

A Mother's Lament recounts the tragedy of 16-year-old Shima Choudhury, a young garment factory worker, who was picked up by the police while travelling with her boyfriend. She was later gang-raped in police custody and sent to prison for 'safe custody', where she died under mysterious circumstances. Shima's case has become a landmark issue in the Bangladeshi women's struggle against institutional oppression and abuse of power. The film explores the sense of disempowerment and hopelessness the family undergoes as it struggles to cope with the girl's death. Interviews with the family and a cross-section of people widely expose the pathetic state of human rights in Bangladesh.

After the screening, a discussion on the current state of sexual, body, and reproductive rights of women in Bangladesh took place between the filmmaker and audience. Social, legal, political, gender, and patriarchal issues were highlighted. The audience included academics, human rights activists, researchers, and representatives from the LGBT community.

School events and other activities

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

The BHW Consultation meeting took place on November 23rd, 2pm at JPGSPH. It was presided over by Dr. Abbas Bhuiya (DED, ICDDR,B) and attended by Sabina apa, Dr. Masud Ahmed (RED-BRAC, Dr. Jahangir Khan (Health Economist, ICDDR,B), Dr. Atonu Rabbani (Assistant Prof., Dhaka Univ.), Dr. Rumana Huq (Assistant Prof., Dhaka Univ.) and Dr. Prea Gulati (GWU).

The agenda was to align the contributions of above mentioned individuals in the next report of Universal Health Coverage of BHW. The lead author issue of each chapter was assigned and the editorial panel was also formed who would be involved with the feedback/comment for initial drafts of the chapter outline and contents.

Academic study groups (ASG)

Demography Workshop and Seminar on Australian Aboriginal Health Academic Study Group (ASG) of JPGSPH organized a one day workshop on Demography on November 24, 2010 followed by seminar on 'Australian Aboriginal Health' on November 25. Dr. Ann Larson, Associate Professor of Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health and partner at Social Dimension, Australia conducted the workshop and presented paper at the seminar.

Dr. Ann Larson is a Demographer and Public Health Researcher with extensive consulting and teaching experience. Dr. Larson has been working with government, commercial and not-for-profit organizations to improve the impact of their services on improving health and well-being. Dr. Larson is a partner at Social Dimensions which is a research institution undertaking rigorous social research. She is also a Board of Trustee member of ICDDR,B.

MPH student activities

On November 14, 2010, MPH students presented their thesis proposals. After incorporating feedbacks from the faculty members they submitted their revised proposals on November 15.

Faculty news

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, chaired the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Montreux, Switzerland from November 16 - 19, 2010.

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, was a guest speaker at a seminar on violence against women on November 25, 2010. The seminar was organized by the Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh (PHFBD).

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, was a member of the commission launching a global independent report on health professional leadership in the 21st century on November 30, 2010 in United States.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, was asked to present a lecture on Sensitizing Civil Society members on Marginalized Populations, organized by UNAIDS on November 3, 2010. Sabina Rashid presented on "sexuality and rights" where she discussed heterosexuality and its impact on broader understandings of health, well-being and rights in communities.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, facilitated a workshop for Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) on "Social Exclusion: gender, sexuality and rights" lessons for Programmes, on November 4, 2010.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor & MPH Coordinator, attended the Montreux meeting and was on a panel 'Intervening in the Informal Sector' and presented a paper on 'Informal Market for SRH Services in Bangladesh, on November 16.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Tisa Muhaddes and **Anuradha Hashemi** attended the SR Coalition meeting on November 6, 2010 at Naripokkho.

Dr. Enam Hasib, a Senior Research Associate/Lecturer, presented a paper and a poster at the Canadian Conference on Global Health, Ottawa, Canada held on October 31-November 3, 2010.

Dr. Taufique Joarder, Lecturer, attended a training session on scientific writing and effective presentation in the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium following his winning the international scientific essay competition 'Emerging Voices 2010'. He presented his essay in the 52nd Annual Colloquium of Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium during November 8-10, 2010. He, along with 50 other 'Emerging Voices', presented his essay in an innovative format called 'pecha kucha presentation'. His presentation has been selected again for further display in front of a greater audience in Antwerp and the following First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreaux, Switzerland.

Dr. Joarder presented his essay titled 'Achieving Universal Health Coverage through Community Empowerment: Comprehensive Primary Health Care Approach in Bangladesh' in the concurrent session at First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreaux, Switzerland on November 15, 2010. He

also presented his poster titled 'Socio-cultural dynamics in an upazila health complex: An exploration' in the Symposium. He also presented his findings of his CPHC research project in another concurrent session 'Revitalizing Health for All- A global project of new research on comprehensive primary health care'.

New faculty and interns

Mary D'Alimonte joined JPGSPH as an intern from September to December 2010, working with the Food Security and Nutritional Surveillance Project. Mary is completing her undergraduate degree in Human Biology, specializing in Global Health, from the University of Toronto and aims to continue her education in the field of Public Health.

Saadia Rahman joined as an intern under communications and research at BRAC University's JPGSPH from December 2010 to January 2011. She is currently an undergraduate student enrolled in the Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

CSO Update

6th Convocation Photo Session

Career Services organized photo session for the 6th convocation participating students from November 2 - November 6, 2010; 10:00AM - 4:30PM. 339 students from different departments took pictures in the photo session for the upcoming convocation. Students, who have missed last time, are called for photo session on December 11, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

On Campus Assessment Test for BRAC EPL

BRAC EPL recruiting interns & fresh graduates for entry level position. Career Services office collected CVs & arranged an assessment test of 19 students on November 29, 2010; from 3:00PM - 5:00PM. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, Career Services Office along with Mr. Tanzim Samad Choudhury one of the BRACU alumni working in Save the Children (UK) as Administrative Officer took interview for initial screening for BRAC EPL.

Job update: November 2010

1. Nadia Ahmed Nestle
2. Radiah Noor Ahmed HSBC
3. Raisul Nabil BAT,B
4. Farhan Monzur Khan Unilever
5. Md. Shorab Hossain TK Group
6. Shahid Md. Shahed Therap BD
7. Mirza Shah Noorie Eastern Bank Ltd.
8. Md. Saifur Rahman Flora Telecom

Residential Semester Update

Lecture on BRAC

A session on BRAC was held on November 9, 2010 at 6:00 pm at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Semester. Mr. Abdur Rahman, Senior Faculty Member from BRAC Training Division facilitated the session which continued till 7:40 pm. All the students and staff of RS attended the session.

At the beginning of the session, a short documentary on BRAC named "New Horizon" was screened which introduced BRAC very comprehensively within twenty one minutes. Soon after that the speaker started the session showing the picture of Sir Abed mentioning that how a man's vision can bring about a revolutionary change in Bangladesh and in many other countries of the world. This time the session was very participatory where the students could ask questions to the speaker in every few minutes. Many students came up with very good questions which helped other students

understand BRAC clearly. It is mentionable that the students were drawing information from their visit of BRAC Programmes while asking questions. During the question-answer session, the Campus Super, along with the speaker of the session, also took part and clarified some the obscurities of the students.

Cultural Program

The Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students of RS on November 10, 2010. The cultural program started with a recitation by Adnan Fakir followed by impeccable performances by others. The next performances were a few stunning performances by some of the best performers of RS. The show moved on with the stage set on fire with another ground breaking dance. The audience enjoyed music, dance, fashion show and drama.



Theatre at TARC

Drishyapat's "Socrates er Jobanbondhi"

Theatre is a major tool for disseminating awareness and knowledge to a variety of people - and students constitute a major portion of this "people." TARC's humanities course delves into this by introducing both stage and local theatre to circulate concepts related to the course, each performance leading to taking steps in embedding simple thoughts in students to become the ideal man.

Probably the most remarkable and engaging of the performances shown in TARC's 25th batch fall '10 semester was that of Drishyapat's Socrates er Jobanbondhi. It was a play that portrayed segments of Socrates' life and how he chose to take hemlock and end his life for pursue of truth and truth only in its purity. The play relied much on comedy and shrewd snide thought provoking remarks that were remarkably executed to draw audience's attention. The first half of the play depicted how normal civilians named and called themselves "Socrates" just to tide real Socrates away. Finally we see that Socrates surrendered to the authority himself.



Socrates was portrayed as a happy go lucky old man with shiny white bread and a charismatic presence that never fails to convince people, and as one who never feared to speak the truth with plain and simple

logic. The second half of the play ended in tragedy as they portrayed how false accusations had failed to logic and blind religious fundamentalism had rejected logic without reason forcing Socrates to take hemlock. The play wonderfully displayed how a simple man can stay steadfast to truth and what a silent revolution, later envisioned and picked up by Mahatma Gandhi, means. In one word, the play was brilliant.

Popular Theater

A. ZOAR

As part of Extended Learning Activity, Popular Theater titled "ZOAR" - is on BRAC Programs & Activities was held in Savar Campus on November 03, 2010 by BRAC popular theater group, Mymensing. The program started at 6:10pm and continued till 7:15 pm. It was held at DURANTO field and for that a beautiful stage was built there. Students along with faculty members (Mr. Ahammad & Mr. Reza), staff of BRACU, BRAC and BRAC trainees sat on three sides of the stage and enjoyed the show to the fullest. The content of the show included all BRAC programs and activities such as BRAC Education Program, BRAC Health Program, BRAC Microfinance, BRAC Advocacy etc. They have presented all activities and program through role play.



B. SHABDHAN

Again on 28th November "Shabdhan" or Warning comprised of a fictional storyline that depicted the adverse effects of using drugs on daily life and how it can lead to a person's demise and family's sufferings by BRAC popular theater. The play wonderfully showed how peer pressure and rural politics can tie in with drug dealing and how lack of knowledge and awareness is easily exploited. The execution of the short play was intentionally very harshly comical, excessively loud, and extendedly dramatic, which is appropriate considering it is catered to spread awareness to the rural population. The topic was also very relevant for the students, as many in this age tend to be victims.

Overall, the messages delivered were well received and acknowledged by the students. How much of it will actually be practiced, let alone be promoted, is certainly debatable but the seeds of inquiry has certainly been engraved. All is taken now is the properly environment and food for thought for them to growth.

Social Learning Lab - the Communal Experiential Learning at TARC

Social Lab is one of those very intriguing "inventions" in TARC that every student rants about, bickers and enjoys invariably - they dread it as much as they love it. It is a day when most of the laborers and administrative staff get to sleep in, rest from their monotone tasks and hand over their tedious duties to the students. It is a day when students get a taste of the laborers sweat and the staff's often chaotic runabouts. Even if for a day putting themselves in another's shoes enable the first years to be more sympathetic towards those not as privileged. Some gain more respect for them, while some learn to appreciate the lives they lead and some acknowledge both. TARC's 25th batch of fall '10 had its social lab in two segments - while half of the students went for a village visit, the other half managed the campus for the day. The second of this Social Lab took place on Saturday 27th, 2010 while its orientation took place on Friday the 26th. Who gets to do what was determined in the orientation via lottery where everyone rooted for others (except him or herself) to be a laundry person. It was so fabled that every laundry man comes back with an

aching back and contracting muscles, wiser with more experience and miser for sleep with also too much experience. Choices of duties included cook (better not mess up!), dining dish washer (soap fights are inevitable), accountant (one who gets to go shopping), campus super (involves a lot of walking and signing leaves), waiters (gets to wear awesome white hats), gardeners (mud, mud and more mud) and grass cutters (with giant sized scissors) to name a few. Without a doubt, the students loved the physical turmoil over reading pages of Aristotle's virtue ethics. But the amazing thing is, they end up practicing exactly that. Irrespective of minor injuries and necessary illness by the more "not so physically" fit students, the social lab communal experiential learning is one that ensures an experience not to be forgotten; one that is bound to instill deep rooted morality with further reflections. By the end of this learning and the end of the day, TARC seems to become pretty empty and quiet. The loudest noises lie in the snores of the tired workers about to become students again, with more experience and optimistically better persons.



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