

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Bangladesh Needs to Ensure Inclusiveness, Independence, Accountability, Efficiency and Effectiveness of Institutions

### Speakers Stressed at a Seminar on SDG 16



*Dr. Badiul Alam Majumder, Barrister Sara Hossain, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman and Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed are seen at the seminar (from left)*

To ensure strong institutions, four things are needed -- inclusiveness, independence, accountability, and efficiency, said Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University at a seminar on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16 of the SDGs), held on 24 August 2016 at BRAC Centre Inn in the capital. Citing the preamble of the Bangladesh constitution, he mentioned that it is high time for the stakeholders to find the obstacles in strengthening institutions. He mentioned Parliament, Election Commission, Public Service Commission, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) as institutions of accountability and the judiciary and law enforcement agencies as institutions of the rule of law. Dr. Badiul Alam Majumder, Secretary of Citizens for Good Governance (SUJAN) and a panellist of the seminar said that the country requires statutory institutions to be more active to stop corruption. He also highlighted the role of non-state institutions, including political parties and civil society, in reducing corruption effectively.

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner of Anti-Corruption Commission, highlighted the weakness of public institutions in ensuring transparency and accountability of the government offices, in combatting corruption and in protecting the people's rights. According to him, simplification and digitalisation of the government's services are required to ensure that the people are getting proper services from the public offices.

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), moderated the seminar, while Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Executive Director of South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies, co-chaired the event. Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director of Bangladesh Legal Aid & Services Trust (BLAST) and Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) also attended the seminar as panellists. The seminar was also attended by representatives from civil society, academicians, political scientists, government officials, NGOs, INGOs, development partners and the media.

**All Project Related Documents will be in Bangla, with English Translations, says Planning Minister**

**10th PPSC Meeting Held**

'We are committed to ensuring the welfare of the citizens of this country, and therefore, our activities, however small or big, should reflect that dedication in serving the people,' said A.H.M Mustafa Kamal FCA, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Planning, and Chairperson of Public Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) in its 10th meeting on 28 August 2016 in the NEC Conference Room, Planning Commission, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar of the capital. He further added that all project related documents will be in Bangla going forward, with English translations available in case foreign individuals are involved in any project. The meeting was organised by BIGD and hosted by the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU).



A.H.M Mustafa Kamal FCA is delivering his speech at the meeting

The meeting was also attended by other members of the PPSC, which included high officials from LGD, LGED, ERD, PWD, and BPDB.

BIGD is providing technical assistance to the CPTU, IMED to help design and implement the social accountability mechanism that aims to institutionalise and develop a third party monitoring system in the public procurement process in the country. Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General, CPTU, moderated the meeting.

**IGC-BIGD Seminar Addresses Policy Issues of RMG Industry in Bangladesh**

The International Growth Centre (IGC) and BIGD jointly hosted a seminar titled 'Readymade Garments Industry: Informing Policy with Evidence Based Research' on 17 July 2016 at Lake Shore Hotel, Dhaka.

Professor Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University; Lead Academic, IGC Bangladesh programme, and Achyuta Adhvaryu, Assistant Professor of Business Economics and Public

Policy, University of Michigan made two presentations in the seminar titled 'Growth in Garment Sector Jobs, and Impacts on Education' and 'Soft Skills Training for Garment Workers in India: A Randomised Evaluation' respectively. The objective of this event was to disseminate the findings of the two research papers on readymade garments industry to the relevant stakeholders in Bangladesh.



Mr. Hedayatullah Al-Mamoon, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce chaired the seminar. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, ED, BIGD, and Country Director, IGC Bangladesh gave the opening remarks along with Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Senior Advisor, IGC Bangladesh, and advisor to the former Caretaker Government. Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director, UNDP was the discussant on the papers presented.

**Divisional Workshop on Public Procurement Held in Rangpur**

A divisional workshop titled "How to Engage Citizens and Ensure Social Accountability in Public Procurement" was held on 19 July 2016, at RDRS Bangladesh, Rangpur, jointly organised by BIGD and Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IME Division of Planning Ministry. The objective of the workshop was to increase awareness amongst citizens and receive feedback from the local level on the Third Party Engagement piloting program.

Md. Faruk Hossain, Director General of CPTU, was present as the Chief Guest. Md. Rahat Anwar, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur presided over the workshop. Md. Shafiqul Alam, Communication and Social Awareness Consultant of CPTU, delivered the welcome remarks at the event. Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukder, Senior Program Manager of BIGD spoke at the event about the dimensions of accountability and citizen's involvement in the public procurement process.

Md. Azizur Rahman, LGED Officer, Rangpur and Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow, BIGD and Team Leader of the Social Accountability Component of PPRP-II, delivered a





Dr. Mirza Hasan, Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukder, Md. Rahat Anowar, Md. Faruk Hossain, Md. Shafiqul Alam and Md. Azizur Rahman are seen at the workshop (From left)

brief overview of how BIGD is facilitating the dissemination of information regarding the project and shared the field experiences in relation to mobilization of the citizen committees.

### Speakers Stressed on Remedial Measures to Resolve Shortcomings of Local Government Institutions

#### BIGD - SHARIQUE Dissemination Seminar

While a lot of functions have been given to the Union Parishad (UP), these have not been complemented by adequate authority and capacity to raise local revenue. Moreover, although the service delivery departments at local government level are linked with Upazila Parishads (UZP) through committees, these linkages do not ensure any real transfer of power and authority to the UZP in terms of utilisation of departmental funds. Regarding women's political empowerment, various social norms and prejudices prevent local women from joining local politics. These findings were shared from three qualitative action researches conducted under the local governance programme SHARIQUE III on (i) Revenue Mobilisation in Union Parishads (ii) Women's Representation in Union Parishads and (iii) State of Accountability of the Transferred Departments at the Upazila Parishad and its Consequences for Allocation and Utilisation of Resources: A Study of three Departments, in a seminar organised by BIGD in cooperation with HELVETAS Swiss Inter cooperation (HSI) on 30 July 2016 at Dhaka.



(From left to right) Melina Papageorgiou Trippolini, H.E. Christian Fotsch, Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Sultana Kamal and Nasiruddin Ahmed at the seminar

Advocate Sultana Kamal and H.E. Christian Fotsch, Ambassador of Switzerland attended the seminar as Chief and Special Guests respectively. Among others Dr. Badiul Alam Mazumder, Secretary, SUJAN, Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ms. Melina Papageorgiou Trippolini, Programme Manager of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), academicians, journalists, development practitioners and elected representatives from SHARIQUE project areas also attended the event.

### SHARIQUE-BIGD Seminar on Ward Shabha Operational Guideline Held

Strong political will is needed to improve the poor functioning of Ward Shabhas. To make it more effective, authority needs to be transferred to the local government institutions to ensure democratic participation of citizens, said Dr. Salimullah Khan, political analyst and Professor, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), at a BIGD seminar. He was addressing the event as a panellist. BIGD organised the seminar to disseminate the Ward Shabha Guideline among its stakeholders, prepared under the Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE, on 30 August 2016 at the capital. The operational Guideline was prepared to assist UP elected representatives with practical suggestions for efficient and effective operations of the Ward Shabha.



(From left) Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Mr. Ershadul Haque, Dr. Salimullah Khan, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Mr. Kaspar Grossebacher, Mr. Azizur Rahman Siddique, Mr. Swapan Kumar Sarkar are seen at the seminar

Mr. Kaspar Grossebacher, Country Director, Helvetas Swiss Inter Cooperation delivered the opening remarks at the event. Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow and Team Leader of SHARIQUE, BIGD delivered the keynote speech and presented the issues and also proposed the Guideline related to Ward Shabha.

The Guideline highlights different issues for making Ward Shabha functional, including the need to draft agenda for Ward Shabha, documenting its proceedings, making appropriate public announcements etc.

### Stakeholder Workshop Held on Changes in Governance in Global Garment Supply Chain after Rana Plaza Disaster

BIGD organised a stakeholder workshop on Changes in Governance in Global Garment Supply Chain after Rana Plaza Disaster, on 31 August 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium. The workshop presented an overview of a three-year research project initiated by BIGD in collaboration with the London School of Economics, UK, the University of New South Wales, Australia, the Freie University, Germany and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Mr. Mikail Shipar, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as Chief Guest. Mr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, President of BGMEA and Mr. Mohammad Hatem, Vice President of Exporters Association of Bangladesh (EAB) and former Vice President of BKMEA attended the event as Special Guests. Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head of the Gender Cluster of BIGD, chaired the workshop.

Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, provided the welcome speech at the workshop. Professor Naila Kabeer, Gender Institute/International Development, London School of Economics (LSE), UK gave an overview of the workshop.

### Divisional Workshops on GPMS Held in Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka

The Cabinet Division, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and BIGD jointly hosted six workshops on Government Performance Management System (GPMS) on 4 & 5, 16 & 17, and 20 & 21 August 2016 at Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka respectively. The government has introduced Annual Performance Agreement (APA) at field level offices from 2016-17. APA is a record of the people's mandate which is represented by the Minister and Secretary of the Ministry/Division who are responsible for implementing this mandate. Moreover, it is a monitoring system to ensure mobility and transparency of the work of the different ministries/divisions. The purpose of the workshop was to orient and train 50 officers from different departments at the district and divisional levels on indicator-based performance targets in 2016-17.

In the open discussion and lecture sessions, participants shared their challenges.

### Stakeholder Workshop for 'Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE)' Project with CSOs and Donors

The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST)

at BIGD carried out the Bangladesh launching of the 'Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE)' project on 22 August 2016 at the GDLN Centre, BRAC University. The project is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) in partnership with Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK. In Bangladesh, the GAGE research work is being managed and conducted by the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), the James P. Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University, Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC, and Innovations for Poverty Action. It is a nine-year mixed methods longitudinal research and evaluation programme that will generate and share evidence on good-practice programmes and policies to help adolescent girls in the Global South reach their full potential.



Participants are seen at the workshops

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, ED of BIGD inaugurated the event and welcomed the participants comprised of civil society members including women's rights activists, researchers, academicians, legal experts, program staff from BRAC and other experts working on education, skills development and with adolescents.

A similar workshop was held separately with the Donors on 24 August 2016. Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Lead Researcher and Coordinator, CGST, BIGD welcomed the participants comprised of representatives from development partners including UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID, DFID, SDC, DFAT Australia, Global Affairs Canada and programme staff from projects funded by the Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands. Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and Thematic Lead, Policy and Legal Analysis, GAGE made a presentation on the key components of GAGE. Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow, BIGD facilitated the workshop and Mr. Sahil Tandon, Senior Technical Associate, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) thanked the participants at the closing ceremony. The participants shared their views on the key issues that need to be addressed concerning the state of adolescence in Bangladesh, major blockages in bringing about change and on the extent to which knowledge and evidence is necessary for policy making and programming. They also identified interventions that brought about change in areas such as prevention of child marriage, social norms on marriage, psychosocial counselling and knowledge on reproductive health rights.

### Workshop for BIGD Staff on Communicative Writing

As part of its capacity-building measures, BIGD organised a day-long workshop on "Communicative Writing" on 5 September 2016 at Hotel Bengal Canary in Dhaka.

BIGD staff from Research, Programme and Communications units participated in the workshop. The objective was to expose the participants to the tools and techniques of communication with a focus on translating research/program outcomes into briefs/key messages for a diverse audience.



Participants are seen at the workshop

The workshop began with an introductory session where participants were asked to present themselves in an innovative way, and feedback on each individual presentation was reviewed by the team. Participants were then introduced to the basic definitions and types of communication. As research and evidence-based best practices need to be communicated to decision makers in the government, emphasis was given on writing policy briefs. Participants were introduced to writing methods for various communication materials including communiqué, press releases, journal articles, donor visits and event reports and were advised on the use of infographics and data to support decision-making and policy action. They were further engaged in a free-hand writing exercise, where each individual output was evaluated as part of a team.

### Dr. Shanawez Hossain Presented 'Informal Settlements in Bangladesh' at the Side Event of UN Habitat PrepCom3

Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow and Head of Urban, Climate Change and Environment (UCCE) Cluster, BIGD delivered a presentation on "Informal Settlement in Bangladesh: Social Capital Context", at the side event of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (UN Habitat PrepCom3) held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 24 - 28 July 2016. The side event, titled "Small towns and informal settlements: Can they learn from each other?" took place on 26 July. In his presentation, he highlighted service delivery issues in informal settlements and the role of civil societies and social capital in this context.



(From left to right) Dr. Khairul Islam, Country representative, Water Aid Bangladesh; Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, BIGD; Dr Mukta Naik, Senior Fellow, CPR India; Dr Gopa Samanta, Professor University of Burdwan, India; and Dr Valérie Clerc, Research Fellow, Institut de recherche pour le développement are seen at the event

Dr. Hossain also participated in all the sessions of the Conference and in a number of field visits organised by Surabaya City Government to observe sustainable urban management practices. The three-day conference was attended by more than 4000 participants from more than 140 countries of the world. The conference came up with a draft New Urban Agenda which will be adopted in the UN Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador to be held on 17 - 20 October 2016.

### Meeting with GIU on Training Programme Held

BIGD held a meeting with the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the Prime Minister's Office at the BIGD Conference Room to discuss potential collaborative training titled "Mainstreaming SDGs in the work of key development ministries for implementation of national plans." To enhance the knowledge base of the policy makers and officials of key development ministries, the proposed training shall offer comprehensive knowledge about the goals and indicators of SDGs, sessions on project management, problem analysis (problem tree), logical framework analysis, financial and social/environment impact assessment tools, monitoring and evaluation system, among other things.

### ED Provides Lecture at Monash Business School

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman visited the Centre for Global Business (CGB) at Monash Business School and give a lecture on "Unpacking the Bangladesh Growth Story: Does Governance Matter?" at Caulfield Campus, at a panel discussion titled "South Asia: Economic and Political Challenges" on 8 September 2016 organized by the South Asia Research Network (SARN) in collaboration with the Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability (CDES) at the Monash University Asia Institute, South Asia. He also participated in other one seminar and held several meetings to strengthen collaboration between BIGD and Monash University. The lecture was followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session. The program was chaired by Prof. Sisira Jayasuriya, Director of CDES.



**BIGD Staff Attended the Training on Malaysian Transformation Programmes and Its Methodology**

Recently, a delegation from Bangladesh comprising government officials and BIGD researchers attended a workshop held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19 - 22 September, 2016 under the COP II project. The workshop was hosted by the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) - a unit under the Prime Minister's Department, tasked with the implementation of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), which are currently being undertaken by the Government of Malaysia. The workshop intended to demonstrate the Malaysia National Transformation Programme and the methodology that has been applied. Among the delegates, there were 16 participants from the Government of Bangladesh including the Cabinet Division and various other Ministries. From BIGD, Coordinator of the COP II project, Mr. Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury attended the event, along with Mr. Ashikur Rahman and Ms. Reasat Nijhum.

**BIGD Researchers Presented Papers in Urban Poverty Conference**

BIGD researchers presented their papers during a two-day conference on Urban Poverty: Challenges of Perspectives and Action, held on 24 - 25 September 2016 in Dhaka. The conference was organised by the Power and Participation Research Center (PPRC) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), in partnership with The World Bank and the UNDP. During the conference Ms. Kaneta Zillur and Ms. Farhana Razzaque, Research Associates, BIGD, presented their paper titled 'Coping with Uncertainties: Trust Dynamics, Fluid Networks and Poverty Traps' and Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate, BIGD presented his paper, 'Urban Poor and Politics in Dhaka: Participation, Autonomy and Dividends'. Ms. Zillur

and Ms. Razzaque highlighted the use of 'fluid' social networks by the urban poor in coping with the many uncertainties of living in an urban setting. Mr. Islam highlighted that the urban poor had been passive towards politics in the city and they maintained strong rural connection for benefits by casting votes in local government elections.

The session was chaired by Professor Nazrul Islam, Center for Urban Studies and included panellists, Professor David Hulme, Manchester University and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, PPRC.

**Researchers Other Activities**

- \* Md. Mahan ul Hoque and Raihan Ahamed, Research Assistant of BIGD participated a Capacity Building Workshop on Urban Research with special focus on Urban Poverty, organized by PPRC and BBS on 28-29 September, 2016.
- \* Md. Nahid Ferdous Pabon, Research Associate of BIGD attended the training program organised by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) on "Cutting Edge Methods in Applied International Trade" from 5 - 8 August 2016 at Cox's Bazar.

**Study Tour of MAGD Held**

A foreign study tour for the students of Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme was held, where participants visited Vietnam and Malaysia on 7 - 19 August 2016. The purpose of the tour was to visit the under-developing and developed countries and learn about their governance policies. Participants visited National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), Vietnam and Open University Malaysia (OUM) and learned about topics on the role of the Government in economic

development in the context of regional and international integration, the country's public administration reform, anti-corruption measures, local governance and innovation of public service delivery, among other things.

Nineteen students including one from Afghanistan and three from Myanmar participated in the tour led by the Academic Coordination, BIGD.

**Study Tour of MDMP Held**



BIGD arranged a study tour for the students of the "Development Research: Concepts, Methods and Appraisal (MDP 628)" course under the Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP) on 21-23 July 2016 in Sylhet. Dr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed, faculty of MDMP led the 20 students of the course. During the tour, the students learned the techniques and how to design a viable research. They also gathered knowledge regarding participant observations, ethnographic interviews, focus group discussions and formulation of a research problem and how to write a successful research report based on that identified problem.

**Certificate Giving Ceremony of EMG Held**

The certificate giving ceremony of the short course on Environment Management and Governance (EMG) was held at BIGD on 8 September 2016. The purpose of this certificate programme is to sensitize and enhance the capacity of participants on key governance issues related to natural resources and environment management. In line with this aim, this year BIGD offered its 7th batch



certificate course which ended in August. In the award giving ceremony Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head of Gender Cluster & CGST, BIGD awarded the certificates and discussed the various issues about environmental governance in Bangladesh. The ceremony was coordinated by the course coordinators Mr. S.M. Arafat and Mr. Raihan Ahamed.

### Australia Tour Cohort-6

Twenty eight participants coming from various government departments of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) professional course went to Australia for a seven-day study tour on 18th September, 2016. BIGD conducts this course for public sector officials, in collaboration with CIPS, UK. This Study tour provides a unique opportunity for the education and professional development of participants, academics and professionals seeking to internationalise their qualifications.

The tour objective was to gain an intimate knowledge of the procurement and supply systems of a different and developed country setting. Participants visited different Australian government offices and met with officials to observe and learn their supply and procurement practices more closely. Participants in these tours are kept



limited so that participants can be given focused attention and learning potential is maximized. The participants also visited the CIPS study centre in Australia.

### Visitor from Abroad



*Shreyashi Dasgupta*  
Visiting Fellow, BIGD

"I am a PhD student affiliated to the Centre for Development Studies, University of Cambridge. As part of my ongoing PhD research, I am working on the politics and governance of informal settlements in Mumbai and Dhaka. It is an honour to join BIGD as a visiting researcher and interact closely with its faculty, staff and researchers working on myriad urban issues. BIGD has a wealth of expertise and knowledge in the field of urban development and governance. Their body of work is extremely useful for scholars from other countries, keen to build understanding of urban affairs in Bangladesh. The BIGD family has been very hospitable in ensuring my well-being here. Thanks to them my maiden visit to Bangladesh begins on a promising note. I am also grateful to the Executive Director who gave me the opportunity to work with this prestigious institution. I am eagerly looking forward to learn more about Dhaka's urban planning and governance through my fieldwork".

### Publications

**\* Policy Note: e-Government Procurement: Towards an Efficient and Transparent Procurement Management at the Local Level**

By Dr. Mirza Hassan, Muhammad Ashikur Rahman, Md. Mahan Ul Hoque

### Key Messages

- The e-GP implementation is progressing at a faster rate
- Both bidders and procuring entities have to build capacity on technical issues
- Infrastructure to facilitate the full penetration of e-GP at the local level is still not up to the mark
- Some level of deficiency in integrity of some relevant officials is prevalent

The purpose of the policy note is two-fold: a) to provide an empirical assessment of the experiences (benefits derived, process related challenges, governance issues, capacity/proficiency factors) of both state officials and business community, in using Electronic Government Procurement or e-GP at the local level; and b) to offer a few policy recommendations which will contribute to the relevant policy development in this area.

**\* PPSC Newsletter: Public Procurement Watch (August 2016, No. 16)**

**\*\* Policy Notes and PPSC Newsletters can be found at <http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd>**

## Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in the third quarter of 2016 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues of BIGD. Dr. Rahman met with Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning; Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration; Md. Mahiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division; Professor S R Osmani, Ulster University, UK; Nagesh Kumar, Head, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia; Mr. Altaf Hossain Sheikh, Deputy Secretary; Franziska Korn and Professor Bach of the FES Bangladesh

and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC. He also had meetings with Mr. N. M. Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination & Reforms) regarding the progress of Community of Practice on Performance Management in South Asia (COP II) project; Ms. Melina Papageorgiou, Programme Manager, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) regarding a project advancement; Mr. Mamun Rashid, managing partner, PwC Bangladesh and Vice President of MCCI regarding collaboration of work; Mr. Hasan Mazumdar, Country Representative, Asia Foundation regarding Urban Governance project; Mr. Mahiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, (Reforms) of Cabinet Division regarding MAGD's New Opportunities and Community of Practice project; ADB's Skill

Development Project with Finance Division, Ministry of Finance; Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Mushtaq Khan, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, SOAS, University of London. Dr. Rahman also met Mr. Md. Hamidur Rahman, DG, Department of Agricultural Extension and had a discussion on SRI Food Technology Policy.

Dr. Rahman attended a Monetary Policy Consultation Meeting organised by Bangladesh Bank. He also participated in several workshops on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) organised by the GIU of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and National Governance Assessment Framework Finance Workshop (NGAF) on National Indicators organised by UNDP & GIU.

## Media Contributions

- The Daily Samakal : জলাভূমি: ভবিষ্যৎ ও টেকসই জীবিকার জন্য By Raihan Ahamed, Research Assistant, BIGD on August 05, 2016
- Daily Star: Do Political Parties Support Women's Political Empowerment? By Nazneen Ahmed, Program Officer, BIGD on August 08, 2016

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