

Quarterly Newsletter

July - September, 2017 Vol: 7 Issue: 24

Content

BIGD Co-Organised Public Policy and Governance in South Asia Conference in Nepal	01
Nutrition Governance Seminar	02
Administrative Decentralization Required to Make Dhaka city Livable	03
International Symposium on Women's Labour Market Participation	04
Mobile Banking Improving Rural Economy	04
BIGD Co-Organised Public Hearings of ACC	05
BIGD Signed MoU with BRAC-UDP	05
BIGD is Now the Approved Centre of CIPS	06
MDS Field Visit	06
Visitors	06
BIGD Researcher Attended GAGE Learning Exchange	07
BIGD Research Fellow Co-Facilitates Article Writing Workshop	07
Certificate Award Ceremony of Training on Strategic Sourcing in Procurement	07
Researcher's Other Activities	07
Executive Director's Activities	08

BIGD Co-Organised Public Policy and Governance in South Asia Conference in Nepal



Participants at the public policy conference

Public policy, which tends to change the society, needs to be public in process and outcome. Although there are less opportunities of studying public policy in South Asia but there are some hope also. The academicians, researchers and policy makers need to be involved in public policy and coordination among organizations of South Asian countries, experts said at a policy conference in Nepal.

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC); Niti Foundation, Nepal; The Asia Foundation, Nepal; Institute of Public Enterprises (IPE), India; and Think Tank Initiatives (TTI), India jointly organized "Policy Discourse and Research Conference on Public Policy and Governance in South Asia" on July 10-11, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"There is a huge demand of studying public policy but the opportunities are limited in Bangladesh. However, the optimism lies in the fact that there is a growth in recognition at the central policy quarters about the importance and utility of studying Public

Policy" said Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director (ED) of BIGD while presenting his paper along with Ms. Sumaiya Kabir Talukdar, Research Associate of BIGD at a session titled Building academic strength in public policy making in South Asia. The session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Shiva Lal Bhusal, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University.

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow & Head, Urban, Climate Change and Environment cluster of BIGD presented his paper titled, 'Governing cities: the challenge of providing transport services to burgeoning urban populations of Dhaka' at a session on Public Sector Governance. The session was chaired by Mr. Kedar Bahadur Adhikari, Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Nepal and Dr. Prakash C Bhattarai, Professor University of Kathmandu was a discussant.

"We must make public policies both public in process and public in outcome" said Dr. Samar Verma, Senior Specialist of

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) at the Inauguration of the conference. "Policies are made to bring changes in the society" said Dr. Tirtha Khaniya, Vice Chancellor of Tribhuvan University at the session. Mr. Bhola Thapa, Registrar, Kathmandu University stressed on the necessity of involving academia in the policy making.

This academic discourse and conference brought scholars,

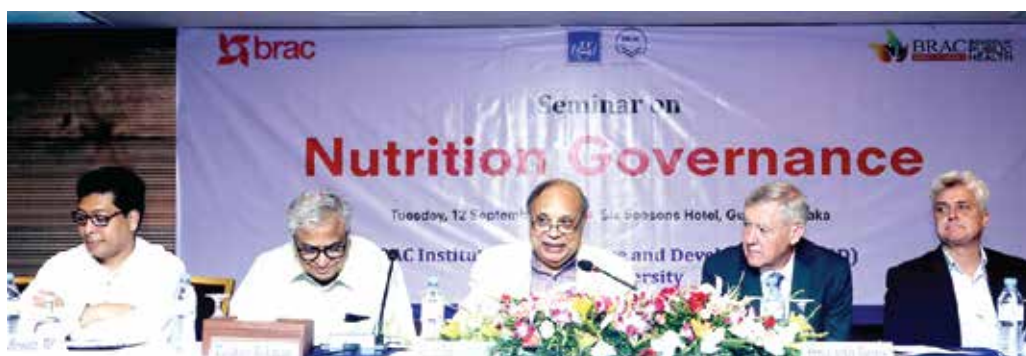
policy makers and emerging researchers in a forum to initiate discussion and to share experiences on how South Asia should strengthen its institutional capacity in policy making and governance. Researchers and policy makers from Bangladesh, India and Nepal presented papers in sessions on Public Sector Governance, Corporate Governance and Public Finance, Issues in Public Policy, Accountability and Socio-political Issues.

Nutrition Governance Seminar

Good nutrition is linked with social and economic development of the country says experts

Maximum importance should be given to children and pregnant mothers in order to eliminate the malnutrition of the country and to make a country's nutrition programme successful, said

regular consumption of zinc can reduce different common infant morbidities like diarrhoea, pneumonia and stunting, he said.



Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Advisor Dr. Moshir Rahman at a seminar on Nutrition Governance. He also emphasised on the diversification of crops and the spread of social security programmes. The government must work to ensure nutrition for children which is a prerequisite to attain its mission to achieve SDGs by 2030. The seminar was organized by the BIGD, BRAC University at a city hotel in Dhaka on September 12, 2017.

"Agriculture is the centre of the discussion on nutrition since the agricultural policies affect the national health of a country" said Food Laureate and co-winner of World Food Prize 2016 and founding director of HarvestPlus, Dr. Howarth Bouis, while presenting a keynote paper titled 'Agriculture's Primary Role to Provide Nutritious Diets for National Health'. He suggested that bio-fortification in agriculture would be cost-effective to arrange nutritious food varieties for the poor families.

Adequate zinc consumption is a must to ensure nutrition for all as deficiency of the essential mineral is one of the major barriers to the country's progress in nutrition indicators, he added. Zinc is essential for the function of many enzymes and metabolic processes, and the

Citing a recent study, Howarth said approximately 70 percent people of Bangladesh suffer from zinc deficiency. The Government needs to promote the crops containing nutrients to improve dietary quality, said Howarth.

Good nutrition is linked with effective intellectual capacity and higher productivity - this is critical for the social and

economic development of the country, said Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, the country representative of UNICEF Bangladesh. He also said the period of vulnerability to nutritional deficiencies starts from when a child is in the mother's womb, and it continues until the child is two years old, when brain develops significantly.

Although the country has made a significant progress in the past decade in reducing chronic malnutrition, one in three children are stunted which accounts for nearly 5.5 million of them being deprived of their right to survival and development, said Edouard.

70 percent people of Bangladesh suffer from zinc deficiency

Ms. Anuradha Narayan, nutrition section chief of UNICEF Bangladesh, said child stunting affected school readiness and performance as well as impacted the country's economic productivity. She said the impact of nutritional deficiencies in food

intake could reduce adult earning of the country by up to 15 percent.

BIGD Research Fellow Dr. Shanawez Hossain said a collaborative effort is needed to solve problems in reaching remote areas with nutrition projects and in detection of acute malnutrition. Chaired by BIGD's ED Dr. Rahman, the seminar was also addressed by parliament member Mr. Farhad Hossain, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition director Professor Sandy Thomas, Brac Health, Nutrition and Population programme head Mahfuza Rifat, James P Grant School of Public Health Professor Dr. Malay K Mridha and Dr. Md. Tanvir Hasan, Bidyanondo Foundation Finance Secretary Mr. Jakir Hossain.



Administrative Decentralization Required to Make Dhaka City Livable

Administrative decentralization is necessary to reduce pressure on Dhaka and make the city livable. Many people will relocate from Dhaka if they get different facilities including good educational institutions, healthcare services and employment opportunity in other districts, said urban experts and economists in a roundtable.

rising middle class, and the efficient supply and sustainable management of public services, especially utilities, associated with rapid migration. He said that Bangladesh experienced faster urbanization than South Asia as a whole between 2000 and 2010 and according to a prediction urbanization will be 45 percent by 2030 and 55 percent by 2050.



Prof. Venables has offered evidence from his work on why coordinated public policy is essential in addressing interrelated constraints to affordable urban housing.

Executive Director of BIGD and Country Director of IGC, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman moderated the round table in the presence of Dr. Hossain

The roundtable titled "Migration, Spatial Planning and Housing Pressure in Asian Mega Cities: Lessons for Dhaka" was jointly organized by International Growth Centre (IGC), a2i project under Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and BIGD on July 20, 2017.

Forty four percent of country's formal employments are in greater Dhaka, which is only one percent of country's territory. Thirty-six percent of the country's urban population also lives in Dhaka, said Prof. Tony Venables, CBE of the University of Oxford while presenting a keynote paper titled "Migration, Spatial Planning and Housing Pressure in Asian Mega Cities: Lessons for Dhaka", at the round table.

In his lecture, Prof. Venables spoke of the most challenging urban issues in Bangladesh – land use, planning and its enforcement, 'livable' and affordable housing in the wake of a

Zillur Rahman, former caretaker government adviser; Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, renowned economist; Professor Emeritus of BRAC University Dr. Ainun Nishat; Professor of geography and environment, Department of Dhaka University Dr. AQM Mahbub and other urban experts and economists.

Bangladesh experienced faster urbanization than South Asia as a whole between 2000 and 2010 and according to a prediction urbanization will be 45% by 2030 and 55% by 2050.



International Symposium on Women's Labour Market Participation and Gender Norms: the Cases of India and Bangladesh

Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BIGD, in collaboration with British Academy and Manchester University organized an International Symposium on Women's Labour Market Participation and Gender Norms: the Cases of India and Bangladesh on 30 August 2017 at a city hotel in Dhaka.

The Symposium presented findings of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded research project on 'Gender norms, labour supply and poverty reduction in comparative context: evidence from rural Bangladesh and India'. The research examined how poverty programmes have affected peoples' lives in rural Bangladesh and India, focusing on women, work and attitudes to women's work. The study was a

collaboration between the University of Manchester, UK, Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi, India and BIGD.

The symposium consisted of three sessions titled Women's Labour Market Participation Trends: Research Findings, Methodological Innovations for Assessing Labour Force Participation and Labour Market Participation and Changing Gender Norms. BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman; Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM and Dr. A T M Nurul Amin, Chair, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University chaired the sessions respectively.

Mobile Banking Improving Rural Economy

The economy of Bangladesh has grown at a rapid rate over the past years, driven by the remarkable growth of the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. Mobile banking puts an immense impact on the economy of rural households through its fast and affordable money transfer options. To keep pace with the growing economy, vocational training programmes in such growing sectors can reduce skill gaps and improve income and employment potentials, experts said at a conference.

Mobile banking improved the economy of rural households and reduced borrowing, increased savings and saw gains in health, education and agricultural productivity, said Prof Jonathan Morduch of New York University at the conference titled "Seeds of Change in the Garment Industry". The conference was jointly organized by International Growth Center (IGC), Innovations for Poverty Action and BIGD, BRAC University on July 16, 2017 at a city hotel.

"Rural People also saved more and were less likely to be poor. Overall, the results suggest that mobile banking has an insurance function. It increases the welfare of rural households but has mixed effects on the welfare of migrant workers," said Prof Morduch while presenting his paper titled "Poverty and Migration in the Digital Age: Experimental Evidence on Mobile Banking in Bangladesh".

According to a recent study of Prof Christopher Woodruff of the University of Oxford, titled "Overcoming barriers to female managers in the RMG sector", more than three-quarters of sewing operators are women but at the same time, percentage of female sewing supervisors is only five percent.

Three other papers titled 'On-The-Job Training Increases Employment for Rural Poor in the Manufacturing Sector:



Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh' by Prof Abu Shonchay of the New York University, Monitoring and Improvement in Physical Working Conditions: Evidence from The Accord Initiative in Bangladesh by Dr. Atonu Rabbani of the University of Dhaka and 'Consequences of Imperfect Information about building safety and garment workers and factories' by Laura Boudreau of the University of California, Berkeley were also presented at the conference.

BIGD Co-Organised Public Hearings of ACC

To ensure accountability, Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has been conducting public hearing at Upazilas across the country. In this effort, BIGD is co-organizing and assisting ACC financially under the banner of Think Tank Initiatives in four public hearings at four selected Upazilas. Three hearings were conducted at Paikgacha Upazila, Khulna, Lohagara Upazila, Chittagong and Ishwardi Upazila, Pabna in July and September 2017.

On July 5, 2017 the public hearing of ACC was organized in Paikgacha Upazila Parishad. With the help of Upazila Anti-Corruption Committee and under supervision of Upazila administration, 9

Office, Sub-register Office, Polli Bidyut Office, Health Complex, Accounts Office, National Housing Authority, Project Implementation Office, Social Welfare Office and Education office.

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Commissioner of ACC attended all the events as chief guest. The hearings in Khulna and Pabna were moderated by Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts. Other participants in these events included, Director and Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Commission, Khulna, Director of Anti-Corruption Commission, Pabna, Presidents and Secretaries of Anti-Corruption Committees of the three districts, Upazila Chairmen, Mayor and



BIGD Signed MoU with BRAC-UDP

BIGD, BRAC University and Urban Development Programme (UDP) of BRAC signed a MoU to work on issues related to urban dynamics and challenges in the context of achieving SDGs, SENDAI Framework, HABITAT III New Urban Agenda etc. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the ED of BIGD and Mr. Asif Saleh, Senior Director-Strategy, Communication and Empowerment,



service providing agencies participated in this hearing. About 91 complaints were registered against these 9 sectors by individual citizens.

The next public hearing took place at Lohagara Upazila auditorium on July 24, 2017. Again, with the help of Upazila Anti-corruption Committee and Sotota Songho and under supervision of Upazila administration, the hearing was participated by 8 service providing agencies, against which about 50 complaints were registered by individual citizens.

The public hearing in Ishwardi Upazila happened on September 24, 2017. More than 90 complaints, addressing issues of bribery, harassment and poor service delivery, were placed by citizens.

The most common sectoral offices that faced charges in all these public hearings included, Upazila Land Office, Settlement

representatives from the press, respective Upazila Nirbahi Officers. Dr. Sultan Hafez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD attended the Lohagara Upazila public hearing as a special guest while Mr. S M Gubair Bin Arafat and Ms. Nazneen Ahmed represented BIGD in the public hearings of Paikgacha and Ishwardi respectively.



সমঝোতা স্মারক স্বাক্ষর

ব্র্যাক-ইউডিপি ও ব্র্যাক ইনস্টিটিউট অফ গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট (BIGD)

BRAC and BRAC International signed the MoU. Researchers from Urban, Climate Change and Environment (UCCE) cluster of BIGD and BRAC-UDP also attended the ceremony held on August 17, 2017 at BIGD.



Orientation of Master of Development Studies (MDS)

The orientation programme of Master of Development Studies (MDS) of Fall 2017 semester was held on September 10, 2017 at the BIGD conference room.

I joined BIGD in July 2013. From the beginning, I was aware of the importance of obtaining a PhD degree for my career progression. With that in mind, I always tried to avail every opportunity the institute offered to its researchers, particularly the mid level ones, for their professional development. In addition to regular work, participation in seminars, workshops, training programmes and conferences organized by BIGD and its partners immensely aided me to stay updated on the contemporary world affairs with a diverse range of perspectives. I was lucky to have been immersed in a multidisciplinary environment where I

was able to work with people of different backgrounds and skills. What I particularly admired at BIGD is the feeling of positive, friendly and warm vibe from seniors from whom I tried to learn research from its core. This exposure and the learning experience provided my application for the PhD with additional strength and I believe played a vital role in securing the scholarship at the University of Leicester, UK. I am sure this is going to be a major stepping-stone of my professional life. I am deeply appreciative of BIGD management for allowing me study leave to pursue my doctoral studies. I am eagerly looking forward to return to BIGD after successful completion of my studies at Leicester.

Muhammad Ashikur Rahman
Research Associate
and currently PhD Student

BIGD is Now the Approved Centre of CIPS

BIGD was recently awarded the certificate of approved study centre of The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), UK and ranked up from 'registered study centre' to 'approved study centre' authorized by CIPS. Till now BIGD is the one and only examination centre of CIPS in Bangladesh. BIGD applied for the study centre approval in 2016. Now BIGD is an approved study centre in Bangladesh for providing Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Professional Diploma of CIPS. CIPS has a network of almost 100 study centres in the UK, and more than 150 centres worldwide.

After two years as an approved study centre, BIGD will be able to apply for an upgrade to 'Centre of Merit' and following a further two years of continuous demonstration of meeting additional criteria, BIGD will also be able to achieve 'Centre of Excellence'.



MDS Field Visit

Students of Master of Development Studies (MDS) programme visited Manikganj of Dhaka Division, on July 17, 2017, to observe the Targetted Ultra Poor (TUP) programme of BRAC, as an integral part of a course on Rural Development. A key element of the course involves a field visit (practicum), designed to provide an opportunity to the students for learning a practical aspect of development interventions. The field tour included 17 students in total and was moderated by Professor Taiabur Rahman, course faculty, MDS programme, along with Ms. Farheen Khan, Head of Advocacy and External Relations and Ms. Upoma Mahbub, Manager, Global Advocacy, TUP, BRAC.

The students conducted two FGDs - one with the Specially Targetted Ultra Poor (STUP) members and another with the Other Targetted Ultra Poor (OTUP) members of the TUP programme - in order to know about their views on the process, the benefits and problems associated with the TUP initiative. The students heard about the success stories directly from the beneficiaries who have graduated from ultra-poverty level to BRAC's mainstream development activities. Meetings were also held with the members of the Gram Daridro Bimochon Committee (GDBC) to learn about their roles in the TUP programme. Finally, one key Informants Interview (KII) was conducted with a field staff to know his/her role in the TUP initiative and the challenges that he/she faces in implementing TUP in the field.



**Visitor
Nazmi Ahmed**
Intern

I am a student in the Master of Sustainable Development Practice Program at the University of Florida, USA. As part of my program, I came to Bangladesh to not only fulfill the 10-12 week field practicum requirement but also to get in touch with my roots. It was an honor to join BIGD as an Intern and to interact closely with its faculty, staff and researchers. I was lucky to be able to attend the Equitable Economic Growth conference held in Sylhet as well as the Seeds to Change in the Garment Industry conference. In the time span I was also able to complete my fieldwork regarding the Urbanization and Equitable Service Delivery of the water supply of Korail Slum, Dhaka. With proper planning, I was able to complete 50 semi-structured interviews with Korail Slum Dwellers and interviews with 5 stakeholders involved with bringing legal water connections to Korail Slum. I would like to thank Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain who was my research adviser for the time, guidance, and support that helped me complete my fieldwork. I am also grateful to Executive Director who gave the opportunity to work with this prestigious institution. Thank you all for making me feel welcomed and part of the BIGD Team. Because of you all I am looking forward to the next time I come back to Bangladesh.

BIGD Researcher Attended GAGE Learning Exchange

Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, Gender Cluster and Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST); Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow and Ms. Sahida Khondaker, Research Associate of BIGD attended the 4 day Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Learning Exchange programme which was an innovative knowledge building initiative that will be the primary forum for generating innovation and learning, in relation to evidence-based programming, research and evaluation methodologies, knowledge-sharing and capacity-strengthening – within and beyond GAGE from July 18-22, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ms. Mahmud presented country level findings from the GAGE Policy and Legal Analysis (PLA) study completed in 2016 where Ms. Maheen shared country level findings from the GAGE Formative Qualitative Work (FQW) completed in 2016. Ms. Khondaker attended a session on Data Management where the tools of research and problems of uploading data management were discussed.

BIGD Research Fellow Co-Facilitates Article Writing Workshop

BIGD Research Fellow Dr. Shanawez Hossain co-facilitated a workshop on Article Writing for Publication, organized jointly by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The workshop was held on August 23, 2017 in Dhaka. Dr. Naveeda Khan, Professor, Johns Hopkins University was the main facilitator.

The aim of the daylong workshop was to discuss and exchange views on publishing academic papers in journal and books. Beside analyzing and discussing different parts of an academic paper the workshop also shed light on selection of journals for publishing, submitting a paper for publication and process of addressing reviewer's comments.

Certificate Award Ceremony of Training on Strategic Sourcing in Procurement



Certificate award ceremony of a day-long training on Strategic Sourcing in Procurement was held on August 19, 2017 at BIGD. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, ED of BIGD awarded the certificates. 14 participants from BRAC, BRAC University, Embassy of the United States of America, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ibna Sina Pharmaceuticals attended the daylong training. Mr. Mainul Hasan Rumun, MCIPS conducted the training.

Publication by BIGD Staff

Heinz, James and Kabeer, Naila and Mahmud, Simeen (2017) Cultural norms, economic incentives and women's Labour market behaviour: Empirical insights from Bangladesh. Oxford Development Studies. ISSN 1360-0818.

Media Contributions

Dhaka Tribune: Animal Rights, Environment and Sustainable Development by Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer, BIGD, BRAC University on July 28, 2017

Researcher's Other Activities

- Dr. Shanawez Hossain attended the meeting of 1st Training Management Committee (TMC) held on July 15, 2017 at BIGM Campus, Dhaka. He also attended the international conference titled "Towards Great Dhaka: International Conference on Development Options for Dhaka Towards 2035" held on July 19, 2017 at

a city hotel in Dhaka. Dr. Hossain also attended the Stakeholder Consultation meeting of Metro Dhaka Transformation Platform and the Sharing meeting on "Urban Disaster Preparedness and Response: A Synthesis Review of Public Documents in Bangladesh" held on September 27, 2017 at the city.

- Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head of Gender Studies Cluster, BIGD chaired the launching ceremony of the sixth Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2016 titled 'Non-Communicable Diseases in Bangladesh: Current Scenario and Future Directions' on August 10, 2017 at a hotel in the capital.

- Ms. Nuzhat Sharmeen, Research Associate of BIGD attended the Summer School hosted by Methods@Manchester, a faculty-funded initiative, highlighting Manchester's strength in research methods in the social sciences from July 3-7, 2017 at The University of Manchester. She received training on NVivo and fsQCA software used for qualitative data analysis. She also presented a paper titled "Sustaining the Urban Poor-Evidence from Bangladesh" at the 19th Association for Heterodox Economics (AHE) Conference 2017: Sustainable Economy and Economics, Dalton Ellis Hall, The University of Manchester, UK on July 12, 2017.

- Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research Fellow of BIGD presented a paper titled Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: Public Awareness and Attitudes at The RESOLVE Network's 2017 Annual Forum on Confronting the Next Wave of Violent Extremism, hosted by the US Institute of Peace held on September 27, 2017 at Washington, DC. Ms. Syeda Salina Aziz, Senior Research Associate of BIGD also presented a paper on Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh: Surveying Support at the event.

Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had of meetings in the third quarter 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson, BRAC; Mr. Imran Matin, Director, IGC; Professor Asadul Islam, Monash University, Professor Mustaq Khan, SOAS University of London, Mr. Atiqur Rahman Khan, Director General and Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner of ACC; Mr. Mohammad Anis, Senior Energy Specialist at The World Bank Dhaka regarding an upcoming research project on rents and investment in the power sector; Mr. Tony Venables, CBE of University of Oxford, Member of ICG's Steering Group; Dr. Moshir Rahman, Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister regarding research partnership with Prime Minister's Office; Mr. Shahidur Rashid, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), regarding a research collaboration; Dr. Fouzul Kabir, Managing Director,

Keystone Consultant Ltd.; Ms. Mafruz Khan, Director, Bangladesh Country Programme, Porticus, Mr. Hasanuzzaman Zaman, Outreach Manager, Copenhagen Consensus Center, regarding a research collaboration; Laura E. Boudreau, PhD Student of Business and Public Policy at the Haas School of Business of the University of California, Berkeley regarding collaboration between BIGD and Berkeley University; Dr. S. R. Osmani, Professor of Development Economics at Ulster University in the United Kingdom and Mr. Daniel Rakove, Political Advisor, US Embassy in Bangladesh. Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist and Mr. Masud Mozammel, Senior Communications Officer of World Bank regarding Public Procurement Reform Project; Ms. Sufia Askari, Children's Investment Fund Foundation; Mr. Peter D'souza, Senior Economic Adviser, Mr. Mashfique Ibane Akbar, Private Sector Development Advisor, Mr. Issam

Mosaddeq, Economic Advisor of DFID; Ms. Rokshana Kader, Additional Secretary and Mr. Ruhul Amin, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC); Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, Dr. Ramiz Uddin, Head of Results Management, Ms. Rumana Sharmin, Results and Knowledge Management Expert, Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Prime Minister's Office; Ms. Hasina Mushrofa, Director, Urban Dept Program (UDP), BRAC; Austin Davis, Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer, Yale University regarding Rohingya refugee work; and Prof. Dr. Jaap M. de Heer, Team Leader, Bangladesh Delta Plan regarding formulation of Project Delta Plan Bangladesh -2100.

ED also attended a Forum meeting on International Education for Global Citizens, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN); a roundtable of HELVETAS; and the second annual RESOLVE Network forum in Washington, DC organized by U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). He also attended a meeting hosted by USAID Mission Director to meet the Chief Economist of USAID Dr. Loiuse FOX.

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University is a centre of policy and academic excellence. BIGD is devoted to research on a range of governance and development concerns, as well as the nexus between the two. BIGD's research is aimed at contributing to public policy as well as supporting its academic and training programs. It does not limit knowledge creation to being an end itself but rather to advance the pursuit of a just and prosperous society. It also plays an advocacy role to give voice to contemporary governance, political and economic issues. As an institute of BRAC University, BIGD works closely with the university motivated by its motto: 'inspiring excellence'. BIGD also has the unique advantage of being associated with BRAC, the world's largest NGO through its work. It is inspired by BRAC's values in shaping its institutional work and professional standards.

Editor	: Sultan Hafeez Rahman, ED
Executive Editor	: Shahrukh Safi, Senior Manager-Corporate Affairs
Content Writer	: Mahmudul Alam Rasel, Communications Associate
Layout & Illustration	: Mamun Islam, Communications Officer



BRAC Institute of Governance and Development

BRAC University

SK Centre (Basement, 3rd - 7th & 9th Floor), GP, JA-4, TB Gate
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

Tel +88 02 5881 0306, 5881 0320, 5881 0326, Fax: +88 02 883 2542

Email: info@bigd.bracu.ac.bd



Inspiring Excellence



<http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd>



facebook.com/BIGDBRACUniversity



twitter.com/BIGD_BRACU



[BIGD, BRAC University](https://www.youtube.com/BIGD_BRACU)