



BRAC University Bulletin

2011/September

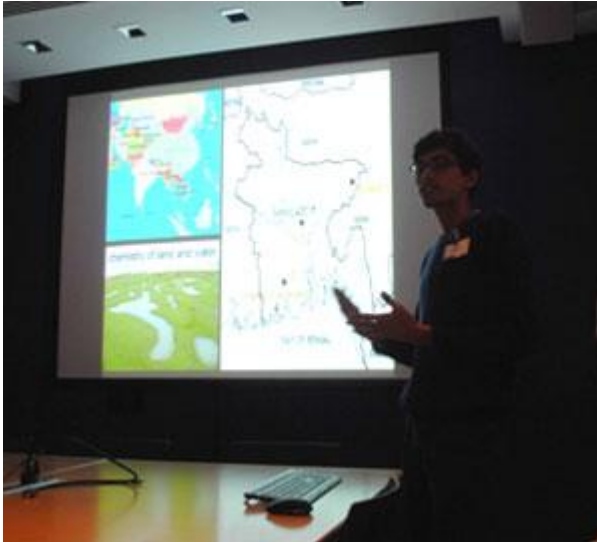
Vice Chancellor's speech on Climate Change Challenges



"Hopefully some significant decisions of the climate change issues might come in the upcoming Conference of Parties, CoP-17 in Durban" said **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor in his speech on "Climate Change Challenges: From Bali to Durban and Beyond" at **Sasakawa Auditorium** of ICDDR, B on 25 September, 2011. The session was jointly organized by James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) of BRAC University, BRAC, and ICDDR, B. In his speech **Professor Nishat** explained the challenges the world is facing, the process of climate change negotiations in the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), the layers of the negotiation process, and politics of the negotiation process. "In the world of climate change negotiation voting is not an option, to make a decision the whole world need to come into conscientious" he said. "Hopefully by 2015 the whole deal of the negotiation will be finalized, when the 5th IPCC (Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change) report will be published". He also highlighted the impact of climate change on health in his speech. Students and faculties from BRAC University School of Public Health and Department of Architecture, members of ICDDR, B, and civil society representatives were present. The session was chaired by **Dr. Timothy G. Evans**, Dean of JPGSPH.

Architecture Updates

Architecture faculty shared experiences in the UK



Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, senior lecturer, Department of Architecture presented a paper in a conference organized by the Department of Landscape, Sheffield University, UK on 7 - 10 September 2011. The theme of the conference was 'Aesthetics and Ethics' in landscape architecture. In his paper **Kabir** argued about 'Aesthetics of Development' taking case of a small urban garden of Bangladesh. The title of his paper was, "Understanding aesthetics through sowing seeds, not only in the soil: a homestead garden in an urban "slum"". On the 22nd of August 2011

he participated in a meeting at the University of Manchester presided over jointly by **Professor Fuad H Mallick**, chairperson of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and **Professor Simon Guy**, Head of School of Environment and Development, the University of Manchester. The objective of the meeting was to discuss about the educational link between two architecture departments. **Dr Manoj Roy** and **Huraera Jabeen**, research fellow and PhD student respectively, participated in the meeting too.

During the visit he shared landscape design experiences of Bangladesh in the landscape office of ARUP in London. He shared 'design with the community' experiences with a group of Bangladeshi migrants organized by Paara, a community organization in London.

Architecture students in Hands-on Building Workshop



Eight students from the Department of Architecture, BRCA University participated in a hands-on construction workshop in a village of Dinajpur. The workshop was organized jointly by Housing and Hazard (H&H) group of UK and SAFE, a CBO of Bangladesh. In the workshop the students worked with local builders and with engineers and architects from UK. The outcome of the workshop was a house built with mainly using compressed cement-stabilized mud blocks. After the workshop the students, **Dr Robert Hodgson** of H&H and **Azit Roy** of SAFE shared their experiences with other students and faculties at the Department of Architecture, BRAC University on the 26th of September 2011.

Faculty attended a workshop



Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana, senior lecturer and **Md. Shajjad Hossain**, lecturer, Department of Architecture attended a International Workshop titled "[Re] visiting Ramna/[Re]mapping the place" from 11-14 September ,2011 at BUET. The workshop was jointly organized by

Katholieke University Leuven, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB). Thirty Participants from Belgium, Srilanka and Bangladesh attended the workshop.

Angan Travel Sketch

Sajid Bin Doza, assistant professor, Department of Architecture delivered a lecture in Angan travel sketch on 20 September, 2011. He shared his experiences of his Rome and Florence tour with the students and the faculty of the department.

Faculty leaves for higher studies

Md. Shajjad Hossain, Lecturer left for doing his Master of Human Settlements in Katholieke University Leuven, Belgium. He received VLIR scholarship to carry out the program in KU Leuven.

BBS Updates



Entrepreneur Speaks at BRAC Business School

Centre for entrepreneurship Development (CED) at BRAC Business School organized a seminar titled "Entrepreneur Speaks" jointly with and Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) on 26 September 2011. This program was

supported by Prime Bank Limited. **Ms. Geeteera Safia Choudhury**, former Adviser to Interim Caretaker Government and Chairman & Managing Director, Adcomm Limited, was present there as Guest of honor. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University gave the welcome speech. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRAC university was also present at the seminar. In her inspiring speech, **Ms. Geeteera Safia Choudhury** shared her entrepreneurial stories with the students and presented the obstacles she faced as a woman entrepreneur in the society. More than one hundred and fifty students attended the seminar.

CfL Updates

MoU between CfL and KOICA



The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Republic of Korea and Centre for Languages, BRAC University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15th September, 2011. The MoU desires to promote bilateral exchanges by providing KOICA volunteers as Korean native instructors with opportunities for learning, training and gaining practical experiences with Bangladeshi learners. Accordingly, the two parties will work to promote Korean language education and Korean culture introduction among the students of BRAC University and exchange information with cooperative relations. **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, CfL of BRAC University and Lee Jung-Wook, Resident Representative of KOICA, Bangladesh signed the MoU on behalf of the respective organizations.

King Sejong Institute and CfL Signed an Agreement

CfL of BRAC University and King Sejong Institute (KSI), Korea have signed an agreement under which the later will provide CfL with a number of teachers of Korean Language with a view to teach Korean to Bangladeshi learners. This language program will not only include regular students, teachers and professionals but also the Bangladeshi labourers who intend to work in Korean organizations. Accordingly, three teachers have already been appointed and the program is believed to be in operation from November 2011.

It is worth mentioning here, King Sejong Institute is a brand name that the Korean government launched in order to comprehensively provide Korean learners and teachers with the integrated study information service. KSI has been working in many Eastern, Middle Eastern and North American countries, however this is the first time KSI is working with a Bangladeshi Institute. KSI has been named after the fourth King of the Joseon Dynasty of Korea, Sejong (1397-1450). He is the creator of Hangeul, the Korean language. He was at the forefront of a great period in the history of Korea where culture and language thrived.

Papers Accepted at TESOL Conference, Philadelphia, USA

Two papers by CfL faculty members have been accepted at the TESOL Conference to be held on March 2012 at Philadelphia. **Mohammad Aminul Islam** and **Md. Golam Jamil** will jointly present their paper 'Social capital' and the aspects of marginalized female English teachers'. This research aims to interpret 'social capital' by recognizing and measuring the life skills, social recognition and economic productivity of the vulnerable female English teachers of rural Bangladesh. The empirical study results unfold the intertwining impacts of the gained capacity of these teachers within their family and community

contexts. In addition, the other paper Transforming struggling students to successful students is a collaborative work of **Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila** and **Beth Trudell**. This research focuses on facilitators' attempt to keep students constantly motivated in class. It tends to explain an experimented teaching procedure that resulted in confident students at the end of the course that had been both challenging and unconventional. It is to be mentioned here, TESOL is the largest organization focused exclusively on English language teaching for speakers of other languages. Every year TESOL hosts an international convention including a large body of presenters from all over the world. The key speakers of Philadelphia Conference will be renowned linguists and educationalists from all over the world, including **Alberto M. Carvalho, William Labov, Kurt Kohn and Heidi Byrnes**. This is worth sharing here, this time TESOL Conference has accepted only 24 percent of the total number of papers submitted from different parts of the globe and two are from CfL.

Mosiuir Rahman Opted for a Fulbright Program



Quazi Mosiuir Rahman, a faculty member of the Centre for Languages (CfL), BRAC University has been selected for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program 2012 in the United States. Accordingly, he has to study regular English courses, assist foreign language teaching and work as the cultural ambassador of Bangladesh in a renowned American University. The nine month program starts in August 2012.

Certificate Awarding at Devpro



A week long BRAC Primary Teacher Training Program ends with a certificate awarding ceremony at BRAC Devpro Conference Room on 29 September, 2011. As the second intake for the year 2011, this program continued at four different venues- Bogra, Comilla, Faridpur and Dhaka. However, **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, CfL was present in the ceremony and distributed certificates among the participants who exhibited satisfactory performance throughout the training. Earlier they used to take English classes in Bangla but after the training they feel confident to conduct those classes in English. At present around two hundred BRAC primary teachers are under this training program.

Parents' Day Celebrated at Savar Campus



The Residential Semester at Savar celebrated a Parents' Day on 24 September 2011, inviting the parents of all the students staying at Savar campus for the semester, Fall -2011. The parents began to arrive at just before three in the afternoon. They, accompanied by their children toured around the campus, occasionally speaking to the people involved in the Savar activities such as faculty members, administrative officers, service staffs and others. The parents enquired about the holistic wellbeing of their children, and were much impressed at, as well as, reassured of their wards' safety and significant experiences. The aim of celebrating the day was to inform parents about the importance of the residential semester and simultaneously motivate them to discourage their children to visit home during their stay at the campus. The day was a very successful event.

CfL Collaborates with British Council to Run a Book Reading Program

Centre for Languages, BRAC University, has collaborated with British Council to run a Book Reading Competition in the semester, Fall-2011. The orientation program, conducted by Sarwat Masuda Reza, Resource Centre Manager, British Council, with the assistance of CfL faculty members, was held on the 19th of September, in the Indoor Games Room of BRAC University. The program intends to enhance the reading habit of the students, and in doing so to improvise on the four skills in English. During the orientation, Ms. Masuda Reza conducted a minor assessment activity for the students. Following the activity, the Pre-university students were distributed with the Macmillan edition of a text titled Daisy Miller, authored by Henry James. Each student was also provided with a membership card so that he/ she can borrow and return books further. However, the students will be evaluated on their reading of the texts throughout the whole semester and accordingly awarded with certificates and attractive prizes from British Council. Especially, the prizes include free English Language classes at British Council for the highest scorer and free membership of the Resource Centre in British Council for the next five best scorers.

Besides, the Reading Program has also been launched for the students of the Residential Semester, Savar on Tuesday, 20 September, 2011. The orientation was held in Markuli Hall and was conducted by **Ms. Liza Reshmin**, Senior Lecturer of CfL in presence of **Ms. Sarwat Masuda Reza** and **Ms. Eliza** from British Council.

ENH Updates

New faculty members join ENH

Two new faculty members have joined the Department of ENH on 4th September

2011:

Mahruba Tasneem Mowtushi joined ENH as a Lecturer this month. She has a B.A. in English from Queen Mary, University of London. Her B.A. dissertation titled *Of Food and Power: A Critical Analysis of the Discourses of Identity and Consumption in the works of Chinua Achebe and Ayi Kwei Armah* was the winner of the Graham Rees Prize for the best English dissertation of the year in 2010. **Mowtushi** did her M.A. in English on Writing in the Modern Age from Queen Mary, University of London. Her M.A. dissertation is titled *Print in Malgudi: The Politics of Publishing and Literary Culture in the works of R.K. Narayan*.

Mushira Habib, a BRACU graduate joined the department as a Junior Lecturer. She completed both her B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from the Department of ENH and also worked there as a Teaching Assistant from January 2010 to August 2011. Her B.A. thesis titled *Memoirs or The Recounting of the Growth of the Artist's Mind*, is a reading of autobiographies of notable writers like Rabindranath Tagore, **Edward Said**, **Orhan Pamuk** and **Shamsur Rahman** and an inspection of their personal and artistic development. Her M.A. thesis titled *Deconstruction and Reconstruction in Early Twentieth-Century America in the Short Fiction of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner* looks at the short stories by Hemingway and Faulkner and contextualizes them as representatives of the American ethos.

ESS Updates

Faculty joined international summer school

Tanveer Reza Rouf, lecturer at the Economics and Social Science Department, attended the highly selective International Summer School in Applied Environmental and Regulatory Economics (ISSAERE Edition - XIV) from the 1st to the 20th of September 2011 in Turin, Italy. 20 candidates were selected from 350 applications from 67 countries to attend this funded summer school which offered a two weeks "full immersion" course in regulation of local public services (e.g. waste, water, public transport, district heating, sport facilities). The school was organised by Fondazione per l'Ambiente T. Fenoglio Onlus in partnership with University of East Piedmont - Faculty of Political Science. The school was supported by Campagna di San Paolo, one of Europe's most important private foundations.

Faculties' paper accepted

The paper titled "Is Real GDP per Capita Stationary for Bangladesh" co-authored by **Haydory Akbar Ahmed**, Lecture of Economics and Social Sciences Department of BRACU, with **Gazi Salahuddin** and **Dr. Ilhan Ozturk** is accepted for publication in the Journal of Actual Problems in Economics, February 2012 issue.

Dr. Wasiqur Rahman Khan, Associate Professor of Economics and Social Sciences Department of BRACU, and **Haydory Akbar Ahmed**, Lecturer of Economics and Social Sciences Department of RBACU, jointly co-authored the paper titled "Dynamics of Foreign Earnings, Assistance and Debt Servicing in Bangladesh" which is accepted for publication in the International Journal of

Development Issues.

Faculties left for higher studies

Meheri Tamanna, lecturer of Economics and Social Sciences Department of BRACU, has gone to International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, Netherlands on the 1st week of September. She is doing masters in Development Studies (specialization in Governance and Democracy). It is a one year program. **Lutfun Nahar Lata**, lecturer of Economics and Social Sciences Department of BRACU, has left for the University of Manchester, the UK on mid September. She is doing MSc in Sociological Research there.

IED Updates

Research and Development

Inclusive Education Training at field level



Teacher training on Inclusive Education at upazila level has been started from 17th September at Bhanga of Faridpur and Purbodhola of Netrokona districts. A total of 89 teachers from Government Primary School (GPS), Registered Non Government Priamary

School (RNGPS) and secondary schools have been participating in this training. The training has been conducted by the teachers (GPS, RNGPSs and secondary school) and Field Researchers (IED field level staff) who received ToT on Inclusive Education. Local education authority have been supporting by providing the venue and other technical assistance as part of partnership with IED. Local education officials have also been attending the training and appreciate this initiative of collaboration between IED and GoB.

Professional Development

The DPE (Directorate of Primary Education) has selected 100 officials consisting of ADPEOs, PTI and URC Instructors to be trained in pre primary and IED has been given the task of designing and delivering a 5 day Short Course on Pre Primary Education under PPP (Public Private Partnership).



The training is being implemented in phases and in four batches. The first training was launched on 30th September, 2011 and will end on 4th October. **Dr. Mahfuzul Islam**, Deputy Director, (Dhaka Division) DPE was the chief guest in the opening ceremony. The group has created a Trainers Pool of 12 facilitators for this purpose.

Curriculum Development and Research



Dr. Dennis Malone and Dr. Susan Malone visited IED from 3rd to 8th September, 2011 to provide support and guidance to the curriculum group to design two 6 days long short courses on 'Primary Language Education'. It is the continuation of the previous visit in the year 2009. The team has been concentrating on designing two short

courses on language education development - principles and practices for those who work in language curriculum, material development, teacher training programmes and who oversee language curricula implementation process by identifying content, process, implementation, modality and scaling up to see the impact. Other than the curriculum group, professionals from the Research and Development and Professional Development Group were also present in these sessions.

MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management

The third cohort of the MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management has been enrolled during this month. This programme has been operating under a public private partnership where most of the participants are from the government for the one year course. A day long orientation session was held on the 11th September, 2011



where IED senior management, faculty members and 31 participants of the course were present. The government participants are mostly Upazila Education Officers (UEO), Assistant Upazila Education Officer (AUEO), Upazila Resource Centre (URC)/ Primary Teacher Training Institute (PTI) instructors. Other than the government participants there are 6 non government professionals and one foreign student from Nepal.

Early Childhood Development and Resource Centre

Enrollment of Fourth Cohort

The fourth cohort of the MSc. in Early Childhood Development started classes from the 20th September, 2011. The first day started with a brief orientation session where the Vice Chancellor, BRAC University was present and provided his valuable speech.

IGS Updates

ANSA field visits in India

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region, based at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University conducted field visits to two of its grantees in September 2011. The field visits are as much for monitoring as it is for informing the work of ANSA SAR. With the ANSA SAR funds, ADHAR, based in Bolangir, India is implementing a project on promoting social accountability through community initiatives for the activation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Public Distribution System to ensure food and livelihood security of the targeted families of Balangir district of Orissa state in India. The other project visited was in Berhampur, India being implemented by Youth for Social Development on enabling community monitoring of bidding process of rural road projects (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) in Ganjam and Gajapati districts of Orissa, India. The visits created the opportunities to speak with beneficiaries directly and discuss with the staff on ways to maximize the impact of the projects. Detailed field visit report will be soon available in the ANSA-SAR website (www.ansa-sar.org).

Renowned American journalist Amy Herdy in JATRI



Amy Herdy, the famous American journalist and media consultant visited the Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) based at IGS on the 25 September 2011 to conduct a session on "Investigative Journalism: Past, Present and Way Forward." The session was held at JATRI premises in Kawran Bazar. The program was jointly organized by the American Center, US Embassy and JATRI. In her lectures, Ms. Herdy talked about the past and present investigative techniques of journalism and proposed future techniques to make journalism transparent and highly informative. In her session she has discussed storytelling

techniques, worthy storytelling practices, ways to interview, breaking news and trauma reporting.

Ms. Patricia Hill of the American Center Press Section gave welcome remarks and **Jamil Ahmed**, Chief Executive of JATRI moderated the session. Senior journalists, media professionals and representatives of leading print and electronic media were the participants.

IGS Director gave lecture at PATC

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director (in-charge) of IGS, delivered two lectures at the Public Administration Training Center (PATC) of the Government of Bangladesh under its Senior Staff Course (SSC) on September 2011. The topics of the lectures are public sector reform and public policy. The SSC caters Joint Secretaries of government.

IGS researchers participated in the TLC Workshop

A group of four IGS researchers/faculties participated in the 5th Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) Workshop of BRAC University. It is a capacity building orientation for the university faculty. The IGS participants are: Research Fellow **Dr. Elvira Graner**, Senior Research Associate **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque**, and, Research Assistants **Mahboob Elahi Akhter** and **Jannatul Fardosh**. The curriculum of the 5th TLC included basic concepts of learning and teaching, critical thinking, classroom conduct and decorum, teacher performance, micro-teaching, instruction strategies, managing disruptive behavior and student performance evaluation.

MNS Updates

Visit of MNS Department by the Vice-chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor of BRACU, **Professor Ainun Nishat** and Pro Vice Chancellor, **Professor Golam Samdani Fakir** met the faculty members of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences(MNS) on Thursday, 15 September 2011. The Chairperson of MNS, **Professor A A Ziauddin Ahmad** and Coordinator of Biotechnology and Microbiology programs, **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and other faculty members and staff of the department were present at the meeting. The Vice-Chancellor discussed some important matters regarding the course curricula for different programs, research and publications of the faculty members. He also talked about the new campus of BRACU. He informed the meeting about the current status of shifting to the permanent campus of BRACU. He said that 4.88 acres land has been acquired for the new campus and a well reputed architect has already been assigned for designing the infrastructure including campus buildings, classrooms and other physical facilities.

The Vice Chancellor suggested some techniques for the teachers to conduct a class keeping in mind different categories of students in the class. He also urged them to complete their Ph.D. degrees and told them to carry out research, because without research no new knowledge can be added. He also talked about the environmental issues that both the students and faculty members should be aware of and about including more extra departmental courses beside the core courses in a program. Some of the faculties raised the issue about different time duration of the final exams for courses from different programs. The Pro-VC explained the matter to the faculties in his reply. The Pro-Vice Chancellor also discussed about the TLC (Teaching Learning Centre) program and asked the recent TLC graduates to give feedback on their TLC course.

Stakeholder Consultation on Preparation of the 2nd National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to CBD

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Stakeholder Consultation on Preparation of the 2nd National Report as per article 33 of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to CBD, on the status of Implementation of different articles of the Protocol, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and held at the Chameli Conference Hall, Paribesh Bhabhan, Agargaon, on 20 September 2011. **Mr. Mesbah ul Alam**, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was the Chief Guest of the occasion. The Technical Session was chaired by **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and the draft report along with the country status on different articles of the Protocol was presented by **Mr. Mohammad Solaiman Haider**, Deputy Director, Department of Environment. The consultation involved participation of delegates from different universities, research organizations and other relevant organizations in public and private sectors in order to ensure a participatory and transparent approach to the preparation of the report and accuracy of the information given. The participants discussed at length the different filled in questionnaires (185 in all) dealing with different articles of the Protocol and modified some of the answers in the draft document to be consistent with the existing situation. Finally the Meeting approved the modified report and requested the Ministry to send the report to the CBD.

New faculty members joined Department of MNS

A total of eight new faculty members joined MNS Department on 4 September, 2011 in different disciplines. Among them **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** and **Ms. Fahareen-Binta-Mosharraf** joined in microbiology, **Mr. Zulfiqar Hasan Khan** joined in physics, **Ms. Amel Chowdhury** in applied physics & electronics, **Mr. Md. Rajib Arefin** and **Ms. Mehnaz Karim** in mathematics, **Ms. Romana Siddique** and **Ms. Sadia Sayed** joined in biotechnology.

5th TLC Workshop, September 5-8, 2011, Savar, Dhaka

The 5th TLC workshop was held on September 5-8, 2011 at TARC, Savar. The new faculties of the MNS Department who attended the workshop are: **Md. Lutfor Rahman, Amel Chowdhury, Fazle Rabbi, Zulfiqar Hasan Khan, Md. Rajib Arefin, Mehnaz Karim, Fahareen-Binta-Mosharraf, Romana Siddique** and **Sadia Sayed**. It was quite a new experience for all the participants. The Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat** inaugurated the workshop. In his inaugural speech he said that teaching should be taken as a passion, not as a profession. Pro-Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir** mentioned that once a teacher entered the classroom, he should forget about all his personal problems and should only concentrate on teaching. He gave a list of ten commandments (instructions) to be followed by a teacher and acquainted the participants with different teaching methodologies which would enrich their teaching capacity. The participants greatly benefited from the workshop.

Science Article in the Daily Star

A scientific article written by **Md. Riajul Hossain**, Lecturer in Biotechnology was published in the Tuesday's "Science and Life" Section of the Daily Star on 20 September 2011. The article titled "Microbial universe within us" describes how our body is equipped with an enormous number of microorganisms and how they

are associated with different bodily functions and diseases. Hence, it can be a good topic to research on for our healthy living.

International Training Workshop, Beijing, China

Moushumi Zahur, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environment at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences participated in the International Training Workshop on "Regional Climate Change and Its Impact Assessment", held from September 26-29, 2011, at Beijing, China organized by CAS-TWAS-WMO Forum on Climate Science. She presented a paper entitled "Monitoring the Impacts of Climate Change: Exploring Framework in the Context of Bangladesh". She also participated in the open discussion session and shared her ideas and views with others participants from different countries.

Pharmacy Updates

Department of Pharmacy organized a seminar on "Advances on Cancer Research" on 14th September, 2011 at UB 0223 seminar room for the first time. The key speaker of the seminar was **Abdullah Al-Amin**, research scientist of Karolinska Institute, Sweden. **Professor A.A. Ziauddin Ahmad**, Chairperson, MNS, **Professor Dr. Ashik Mosaddik**, Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy, **Dr. Malabika Sarker** from MPH, **Dr. Selina Akther** from BRACU medical centre and faculty members and students of Pharmacy and MNS department were attended in the seminar. The Department also invited **Dr. Kaiser Ali Talukder**, Senior Scientist, ICDDR,B and **Dr. Shamin Iqbal** in the seminar to enhance the research collaboration between Pharmacy Department, BRACU and ICDDR,B. **Mr. Tareq Ibn Morshed**, lecturer, Pharmacy Department was conducted the seminar.

Pharmacy Department has launched a Department based club named "BRAC University Pharma Society" (BUPS). This is the 9th Department based club of the University. The club has officially started its journey from 25th September, 2011 with advisor **Professor Dr. Ashik Mosaddik** and co-advisor **Shahana Sharmin**. BUPS also participated smartly in the club fair at fall semester-2011.



Of late, Pharmacy Department also makes an arrangement with Center for Excellence, University of Dhaka to conduct some research work on compositional analysis of herbal preparation and pharmaceuticals.

RS Updates

Residential Semester Fall 2011 started

The Residential semester commenced on 16 September, 2011 with BBS, CSE, ECE, EEE, ESS, LAW, ENH, MIC, PHY and ARC students. Among them 104 are female and 172 are male. This 13 week semester will end on 15th December.

Semester Orientation



A daylong orientation program for the newly enrolled students of RS was held at Markuli hall on September 17, 2011. The session was facilitated by **Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC of BRACU and **Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Campus Superintendent of Savar Campus, **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Sr. lecturer, CfL where all the staff and teachers of Savar Campus introduced themselves to the students. In the second session CS gave a briefing on RS and Savar Campus. Course teachers of three basic courses of RS (Bangladesh Studies, Ethics and English) gave short briefings of their courses. In a session students worked in groups to make some campus responsibilities which they themselves would follow during their stay at Savar Campus.

Seminar on Drug Abuse



A seminar on drug abuse was held on September 29, 2011 at 02:00 pm to 04:00pm. It was moderated by **Brother Ronald Drahozal**, CSC, Director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash). He explained how APON is working to provide drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation services and makes them readily available and accessible for the drug addicts. One of those persons who got recovery from

addiction with the help of APON was present in the seminar to share his experiences. All the students of RS as well as some staff and teachers were present in the seminar. The audience got a real picture of drug abusing practices in Bangladesh through the session.

BRAC Orientation

A session on BRAC was held on September 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Semester. **Mr. Abdur Rahman**, head of BRAC Learning Division facilitated the session which continued till 9:00 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 them understand BRAC clearly. During the question-answer session, the Campus Super, along with the speaker of the session, also took part and clarified some the obscurities raised by the students.

An Evening with a Freedom Fighter



As part of extended learning activities and knowing Bangladesh, an experience sharing evening was arranged on 1st October, 2011 from 3:00pm-5:00pm on behalf of Bangladesh Studies course where renowned Freedom Fighter **Major(Retd.) Quamrul Hassan Bhuiyan** shared his experiences in the battle field during the Liberation War with the new generation. He basically talked about the role of women in The Liberation War, how the people of Bangladesh were motivated to take part in the war, the role of the sector commanders etc. Students and the other audience were spell bounded by the tales of the Freedom Fighters in his own voice. During the question-answer session students raised different thoughtful questions like why the military people only got the gallantry awards, why the country is suffering now, what contribution they can make now and so on. Later they tried to know about the history of liberation war more in detail, how they can take part in the total development process of the country etc. **Quamrul Hassan Bhuiyan** was so impressed to see the depth of their questions, kind of patriotism and emotions and response from this generation especially from the Private University students! Therefore he ended his speech with hope and promised that he would love to come here again if needed to fulfill students' queries.

ENGLISH WEEK

A week long program on "English Week" was observed from 25 - 29 September to reinforce English Practice in the campus.

On top HANG PEOPLE penalty were the most interesting activity where each and everybody was watched from nine to five and hanged if found speaking in Bengali. Everyday, at 6:00pm hanged people attend a session named 'Cobweb' as penalty where they took part in some activities conducted in English. English Week left a real impact on students and they will feel more at home in, while speaking in English in future days.

SECS Updates

Faculty attended in International Conference

International Aegean Conference on Electric Machines and Power Electronics & Electromotion Joint Conference ACEMP 2011 was held on 08-10 September 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. Ms. Amina Hasan abedin, Senior Lecturer, EEE Department had presented two papers in the conference. Ms Abedin was the only Bangladeshi who had presented paper.

IEEE Updates



This was the first time ever that IEEE BRAC University Student Branch participated in the Club Fair of BRAC University. The purpose of this Club Fair was to introduce ourselves to the fresher and interested candidates from other levels as well. The club fair allowed us to bring our activities closer to the students, give them an understanding about IEEE and IEEE BRACU section and how a professional organization membership like IEEE membership can benefit them during their student and academic life. The interested candidates could also interact with existing members and had their queries answered during the club fair.

On the 29th of September, 2011, Thursday, BRACU hosted the Club Fair of Fall 2011. IEEE BU SB had planned this for quite some time, and finally this month took part by setting up a booth for registration of student members for the academic year of 2012.

BRACU Students were made aware of IEEE BU SB activities and opportunities, videos were played and brochures made by IEEE BU SB were distributed to all students at the club fair. It was quite a successful event with a mass total of 40 sign ups for the year 2012, we look forward to incorporating them into our community and working with them as we have till now.

SoL Updates

MCS Participated in the Henry Durrant Moot Court Competition

The Moot Court Society (MCS) of the School of Law (SoL), BRAC University is taking part in the Henry Durrant Moot Court Competition. The national rounds commence on 30 September 2011, at Dhaka University.

Faculty News

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Associate Professor, School of Law attended a 3-day legal experts consultation meeting on criminal law and torture organised by the Asian Legal Resource Centre in Hong Kong. She presented a paper on the need to criminalise torture in Bangladesh, and chaired a session on 'Combatting Torture in South Asia - Ways to Move Forward'. The meeting was from 23 - 25 September 2011.

SPH Updates

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

MPH 681 Ageing and Health module was held from September 4, 2011 to September 15, 2011. **Dr Zarina Nahar Kabir** was the course coordinator while **Mr Kuhel Faizul Islam**, Research Associate, was the teaching fellow.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the MPH 681 course, students visited Probin Hitoishi Sangha: Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institution of Geriatric Medicine and Sir William Beveridge Foundation, Bangladesh. The purpose of the field visits was to sensitize the MPH students with the institutional care for the elderly in a low income country setting.

EU -ASIA LINK PROJECT: BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER HEALTH

The final workshop on EU-Asia Link Project: Building Partnership for Better Health was held on 17-18 September, 2011 at the BRAC centre in Dhaka. The workshop was attended by the representative from Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh and the partners of this project; University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Karolinska Institute, Sweden, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, India while London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine unfortunately could not attend due to scheduling conflicts. James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University is the lead partner of this capacity development project. **Dr. Tim Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH, chaired the two-day workshop. All the activities done during the project period were discussed focusing on how the future of the partnership among the partner organizations that has been strengthened throughout this project. It was decided in the workshop to apply for another year of no cost extension so that the partners can implement the remaining activities and utilize the funds effectively.

FOOD SECURITY NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM (FSNSP)

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) launched its first ever special study 'Baseline Study of the European Union funded School Feeding Programme' in September, 2011. The European Union has requested that FSNSP conduct a baseline study prior to project implementation. FSNSP is a joint EU funded initiative of James P Grant School of Public Health, Helen Keller International and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In addition to collecting nationally representative surveillance data on nutrition and food security, FSNSP is also tasked to undertake special studies like the aforesaid 'baseline study' given its technical expertise and logistic capacities to implement large-scale research. The objective of the Study is to assess the nutrition status of younger school-going children prior to the initiation of a school feeding programme.

Study methods will include a structured survey questionnaire delivered to teachers, school children, and their mothers; in-depth interviews/focus groups with teachers, community members and NGO implementers; data abstraction from school records; anthropometric and cognitive measures of all primary school students and biological measures on a sub-sample of children.

Project Director of FSNSP, **Dr. Tim Evans**, decided to appoint **Professor Malabika Sarker** as Interim Project Manager of FSNSP. She starts working from October till FSNSP finds a fulltime PM.

GFATM - 913 PROJECT

A 3-week course on 'HIV/AIDS related Issues, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation' (3rd batch - RCC) was organized by the GFATM-RCC project of James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University. The project titled 'Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners' is part of the Expanding HIV Prevention program in Bangladesh.

The course took place from 9 to 29 September, 2011 at the BRAC Learning Center (BLC), Uttara, Dhaka. A total of 20 participants including eight females and twelve males from 20 project districts participated in the course. The participants were staff members of GFATM-funded NGOs as well as members of the STI/AIDAS Network of Bangladesh. The main purpose of the course was to contribute to better management and quality implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention program in the field level through developing the capacity of the mid level managers.

The training course encompassed three important areas and the framework of the course consisted of: HIV/AIDS related issues for 8 days (52 hours) covering basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS, ways to prevent, most at risk populations, care and support etc.; Management for 2 days (13 hours) including ways to manage projects/activities, team management, effective communication, problem solving and decision making, etc; and Monitoring & Evaluation for 6 days (39 hours) including monitoring and evaluation concept, indicator setting, data collection methods/ techniques, monitoring & evaluation, report writing and preparation, etc.



Selected resource persons/experts from training resource pool were invited to facilitate different sessions of the course. Besides, internal resource persons (GF-913) facilitated the sessions. The 3 week course was started with a welcome address by **Dr. M. A. Waheed**, Line Director, National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP), **Abu Yusuf Chowdhury**, Chairperson of STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh, and Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader & Sr. Project Director of JPGSPH, BRAC University. A formal concluding session was held at the end of the course. The participants were awarded with certificates for successful completion of the course.

MOVE-IT

After the successful completion of the MOVE-IT Workshop held in April 2011 at BCDM, Savar, the project has been proceeding according to its five stage work plan. The MOVE-IT working group has worked through stages 1 and 2 activities which involved developing a strategy for MOVE-IT registration as well as designing the content for data collection. Several one-on-one and group meetings with stakeholders and MNCH experts supported by extensive literature and document reviews were carried out during the month of September. The two main consultation meetings were held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 for the MOVE-IT Registration and Unique Identification and on Wednesday September 28, 2011 for Developing the Content for Data Collection. For both meetings, expert and stakeholders from both GOs and NGOs were invited to provide their opinions and recommendations on our work to date. The JPGSPH team is currently working on incorporating this feedback to achieve a consensus on registration procedures and content.

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)

There was a meeting of the authors of the forthcoming Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) report to discuss the concluding chapter written by Dr. Tim Evans, held at the large conference room of the School on September 29, 2011 at 3:00 PM. The meeting discussed some amendments to the concluding chapter and how to take the report forward with printing. The authors also shared their views on the executive summary of the report that will be concurrently published with the actual report.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

Dr Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, presented a talk on Vipassana Meditation titled, 'Body, Mind and Self Care: Ethnographic 'Evidence' on Vipassana Meditation' based on her master's thesis in the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands at the ASG on September 28, 2011.



INTERNS

Every year JPGSPH hosts interns from the Graduate School of International Health Development, Nagasaki University, for about three weeks. This is the fourth year that they visited the School. The internship is coordinated by **Dr Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed**. The visit dates ran from 3rd to 24th September. During the three week period, they visited intervention sites of BRAC, icddr, NGOs and some Government facilities. With respect to the conclusion of field trips, a presentation was also made by the students of their experience from field visits.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Tim Evans, Dean, James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University attended the Lancet Special Series on Japan launch symposium, "Restructuring Japan's Healthcare System: Beyond the March 11 Disaster." The symposium took place on September 1, 2011 at the United Nations University in Tokyo. In addition, he also attended other invitations such as a meeting arranged by the Director General of International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and a meeting arranged by JICA and World Bank.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, joined JPGSPH in September, 2011 after one year of study leave. She completed her master's in medical anthropology in the **University of Amsterdam**, the Netherlands.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, presented and participated in a short course in Indonesia from September 18-23, 2011. The flagship course was on Equity and Health Systems. She presented the Bangladesh Case Study on Reproductive Health Inequity in Bangladesh at Ciawi, West Java, Indonesia. The event was organized by the Institute of Health Policy, Sri Lanka in collaboration with the World Bank Institute, UNICEF Indonesia and EQUITAP.

Student Affairs Updates



Club fair is one of the most precious programs of BRAC University. In every semester it is organized by one of the 32 clubs of BRAC University. In fall 2011 it is organized by BRAC University Drama & Theatre Forum which is one of the reputed clubs of BRAC University. The name of the club fair was "RONGDHONU". This club fair was inaugurated by our honorable .V.C.sir at 11 am. After inauguration he visited all the stalls of the club. After visiting all the stalls he gave a speech for the students. During the time of club fair the whole university wore a festive mood. There were colors in everywhere. Organizers

arranged free pop-corn, candy falls and free mehendi . The club fair ends at 2 pm. and after that a dazzling cultural show was arranged by BRAC University cultural club in which BRAC University Drama & Theatre Forum performed a drama.

TLC Updates

5th TLC Workshop on Teaching and Learning: BRACU owned more 34 TLC Graduates

5th TLC Workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU was held during September 05-08, 2011 at BRACU Savar Campus. The workshop was designed for the newly recruited faculty members of BRACU. Few experienced faculty members who has been teaching in BRACU for years, were also very generous to join this workshop as to exchange and contribute their teaching and learning experiences with the new instructors. The total number of the participants' was 34. The facilitators were **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Md. Shawkat Kamal, Ms. Liza Reshmin, Ms. Farida Akhter, and Ms. Samina Anzum.** A visit of Vice Chancellor **Professor Ainun Nishat** and sharing his insightful speech with the participants in the very first day of the workshop was really precious and inspiring one. The workshop was resided at Savar campus and the participants were made presence there by Sept. 04, with a warm welcoming and ice breaking session through Social Gathering Evening. The workshop started with creating the Social Capital: The Honor Code of the workshop on September 5; and had continued with one after another sessions on Synergy between BRAC and BRACU.



BRACU Professional Guidelines (code of conducts), Why students behave the way

they do, and the Residential Semester of BRACU. The sessions on Critical Thinking in Teaching, How to start the First Session, Direct and Indirect Instruction and Microteaching sessions were few more participatory sessions with debate, team work, walk about, demo class-lectures etc. Through these sessions the faculty had a chance to polish their teaching efficiency reflecting themselves as the Effective Performers of BRACU. The sessions on The Art of Questioning ,Students Grading and How to manage Students' Disruptive Behavior were few more effective sessions, led them prepare to be more confident and fair in grading and in managing students' disruptive behavior effectively. Finally the session on Personal Development: Habits of High Performing Teachers was a new-eye opening session focusing on own habits relating with teaching competences. The performance of BRAC Popular show on 6th and the Cultural Evening (organized by the participants) followed by a special dinner on 7th was really entertaining and added extended-learning experience. The closing session of the workshop was on 8th with Cob-web, where each of the participants and the facilitators got a chance to share personal reflection about the whole workshop and wishing for peer colleagues. The workshop was wrapped up by 6.30 with thanks giving and distributing certificates among the new 34 TLC Graduates.

Integrated session at RS on Personal Development: Habits of Highly Successful Students

TLC organized and supported the integrated session on Personal Development: Habits of Highly Successful Students for the 28th (Fall) residential semester students of BRACU. It was held on September 24th at BRACU Savar campus. The facilitation team was **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Farid Ahmed, Samina Anzum Chowdhury, Arifa Rahman, Ashik Sarwar, Mahbubur Rahman, Farrah Jabin, Sayeedul, Shoshi, Rumana Sharmeen and Shami Suhrid.** 'Personal development is a hard work. It takes time, consistency and pertinence.' The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, written by Stephen R. Covey (1989) embody many of the fundamental principals of human effectiveness. This session focused on the learning those principals through practical ideas to make the important changes in the students lives, both big and small so that they can get their lives on track and start living up to the potential (**Dr. F. G. Samdani**).

The session started with a seven habit song followed by the power point presentation and lecture on seven habits. There was a small role play on how Habit forms and a slideshow was shown on the story of Tortoise and Hare. The beginning part of the session was facilitated by **Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir.** After his presentation, the students were divided into the nine sections and sent with the respective faculty member where there was activity based more discussion on seven habits. Colloquium method was applied for the panel discussion and question-answer session. The



session was wrapped up by taking feedback from the students.

Career Services Updates

Internship Placement-Fall'11

Internship Placement of the semester Fall'11 has been started in the month September, 2011. 35 BBA students are placed by CSO for internship in September, 2011. These students will conclude their internship in December, 2011. All of them are working as an intern in renowned organizations such as- Aamra Management Solutions, Aarong, Artisti Collection, Bangla Trac Ltd., Bank Asia Limited, BRAC Bank Limited, Chevron Bangladesh, Dhaka Bank Limited, Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, Exim Bank Limited, GrameenPhone Limited, Grow N Excel, IFIC Bank Limited, Incepta Pharma, Mutual Trust Bank Limited, Naas Apparels Limited, NCC Bank Limited, Nestle Bangladesh Ltd., Prime Bank Limited, Southeast Bank Limited, Spellbound Advertisement Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd., Unilliance Corporation Ltd. and Viyellatex Group. Most of the internship placement among these has been done by the Career Services Office.

Inter University Competition "BizMaestros" by Unilever Bangladesh Limited



Unilever Bangladesh Limited (UBL) and BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) jointly organized a corporate presentation on September 19, 2011 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. The program was launched by **Tanvira Choudhury**, the Leadership Development Manager,

Unilever Bangladesh Limited.

In her presentation, **Tanvira Choudhury** explained the background, objectives, vision and employment opportunities of Unilever Bangladesh Limited. Around 65 students of the final semester from BBS Department participated in the program. The inter university "BizMaestros" competition is a prestigious event, where 7 of the leading universities would compete against each other for the winning position comprised of attractive prizes.

Ms Tanvira also explained about the world of difference that Unilever Bangladesh Limited has created through manufacturing various useful products. Unilever is one of the few companies in the world which is concerned with the sensitive issues of maintaining ecological balance and focusing on profit maximization at the same time. Over the the last four decades, Unilever Bangladesh has been constantly bringing new and world-class products for the Bangladeshi people to remove the daily drudgery of life. Over 90% of the country's households use one or more of their products.

At the end of her presentation, **Tanvira Choudhury** introduced the CSO team with her colleagues of UBL. The 2nd part of the presentation contained interactions with the participants where **Tanvira Choudhury** took part in a Q&A session with the students. She advised the participating students to form a group of five members each. She then handed one topic to each group and asked them to brainstorm some ideas about their assigned topics.

Copyright © BRAC University, All rights reserved.