



BRAC University Bulletin

2011/august

Meeting of the Syndicate

The 3rd meeting of the BRAC University Syndicate held on 21 August 2011 in the conference room of the Office of the Vice Chancellor at 3:00 pm. All academic and administrative issues were discussed in the meeting and acknowledged by the members of the Syndicate. Renowned



professionals and entrepreneurs were present as members in the meeting. Pro-Vice Chancellor **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** was present as member and **Registrar Air Cdre. (Rtd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** was present as member secretary of the Syndicate. **Vice Chancellor, Professor Ainun Nishat** was chaired in the meeting.

Academic Council Meeting



The 43rd meeting of the Academic Council (AC) of BRAC University held on 17 August 2011 in the conference room of the Office of the Vice Chancellor at 3:00 pm. All heads of the Departments, Schools, Institutes and Centre were

present in the meeting. Different academic problems, review of the course curriculum, update of the academic activities were taken up and discussed in that meeting. Academic professionals from different academia were also present in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University.

Architecture Updates

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques were held this semester from 7 September to 11 September 2011. **Ar. Mustafa Khalid Polash, Ar. Salauddin, Ar. Ripon, Ar. Foyezullah, Ar. Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad, Ar. Bashirul Haq** were present as guest critics in different critique sessions.

Final Year Thesis Project Critique



The students of the final design studio presented their graduation projects on 10 and 11 September 2011. The projects included

Shanto Mariam University Creative of Technology, Shenabaho, Gazipur; Pragoti Automobiles Assembly Plant, Barabakunda, Chittagong; Center for contemporary art, Sher-e-bangla nagar; Cox's Bazar International Airport, Cox's Bazar; Artscape, Sector 25 Purbachal; 5 Star International Hotel, Inani Bay; National Complex For the Differently able Children, Tejgaon; International Cricket Stadium, Cox.s Bazar; Manipuri Cultural And Heritage Centre, Kumargonj , Sylhet; International Bus Terminal at Motijheel; Central Jail For Undertrial Prisoners at Keranigonj Under Dhaka District, Keranigonj; National School of Drama, Bijay Sarani Dhaka; School of Music And Performance Center, Gazipur Uttara; International Museum & Research Center for Alternative Energy, Agargaon; Dhaka Neural Network, Dhaka. Karwan Bazaar; Ayrvedic Healing Home, Joydebpur; Bangladesh Textile College, Kalighati , Tangail; Butterfly Conservation & Research Center, Sylhet; Zainul Abedin Art Institute, Maymansing; The guest critics included Ar. Nahas A. Khalil, Ar. Ehsan khan, Ar. Uttam Kumar Saha, Ar. Ahsanullah Mojumder, Ar. Imamuddin, Ar. Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad, Ar. Prof. Zainab F. Ali, faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique.

Faculty attended a Training program

Ar. Hasibul Kabir, and Ar. A.K.M. sirajuddin Raju, senior lecturers, Department of Architecture were awarded fellowships to attend a training program on "Urban Rain Water Harvesting" from 8-12 September, 2011 at BRAC-CDM, Savar. Water Aid Bangladesh, in collaboration with Center for Science and Environment -CSE (INDIA) organized the program. There were thirty five participants from different government departments and other universities.

BBS Updates

BBS Launches "Entrepreneur Speaks" Program

BRAC Business School (BBS) launched its premier program "**Entrepreneur Speaks**" recently in an informal ceremony. The entire program is supported by **Prime Bank Limited**, one of the leading scheduled banks of the country. In the "**Entrepreneur Speaks**" sessions, renowned entrepreneurs from all sectors of business, from micro-credit to large corporate: local and foreign, will be invited to

share their stories of entrepreneurial achievements with the **BBA, MBA** and **EMBA** students of BRAC Business School.

BRAC University's Vice Chancellor, **Professor Ainun Nishat** was present at the ceremony and he mentioned that entrepreneurial activities should be given more credence and recognition. Programs like these heighten the important role that entrepreneurs play in advancing our economy and nation. **Mr. M. Ehsanul Haque**, Managing Director of Prime Bank Limited was the special guest where he added that entrepreneurs get success through their rigorous effort, hard work, sincerity and commitment. He added that business accomplishments are attained by entrepreneurs not only through assuming risk but also by sheer focus and labor that they put in.



Pro Vice Chancellor **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** and **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development at BRAC Business School also spoke at the ceremony along with **Ms. Rahnuma Ahmed**, Lecturer of BRAC Business School and Coordinator of BBS "Entrepreneur Speaks". The senior officials from Prime Bank Limited were also present at this inaugural occasion. The Managing Director of Prime Bank Limited giving speech at the launching ceremony of BBS "Entrepreneur Speaks" program at BRAC Business School.

CfL Updates

CfL organizes Design for Change projects



CfL, BRAC University successfully organized the Design for Change (DfC) program as part of its "enhancement classes" for the pre-university students. Following the motto "I Can" Pre University students worked on different projects. The whole process went through four stages Feel, Imagine, Do, and Share. Accordingly, the learners identified various social problems, came up with innovative solutions, designed the work plans and implemented those to bring better changes and, finally, presented their works on August 18, 2011 at Indoor Games Room, BRAC University. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was present as the chief guest. The program started with the welcome speech by **Lady Syeda Sarwat** Abed while Professor **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and **Ms. Anjana Anand**, a social development and communication expert and also the chief facilitator of DESIGN FOR CHANGE in Bangladesh were present in the program to encourage these young learners.

It is worth mentioning here, DESIGN FOR CHANGE (DfC) is a global movement intended to give children an opportunity to express their own ideas for a better world and put them into action. The Bangladesh chapter of this global movement of social change is unique in the sense that for the first time it is being implemented with University Students.

CfL collaborates with British Council

Centre for Languages, BRAC University has collaborated with British Council to run a Book Reading Competition. CfL has been convinced that motivating students to read will help them build vocabularies, develop a habit that will enrich, inform, entertain and lead them towards long time achievement. The competition will be implemented during the Fall-2011 on three levels where the students of Mohakhali Campus, Savar Campus and Pre-university will take part. In the assessment part, the students who score above forty percent at the end of three months will get attractive prizes and certificates.

CSO Updates

Internship Orientation Fall-2011

Internship Orientation of the semester Fall, 2011 was held at 10:30 am, Wednesday, August 10, 2011 in Indoor Games Room. The registered students for the course were present in the session. **Ms. Ismat Shereen**, Head, Career Services Office (CSO) conveyed the entire process of internship to the prospective interns. She discussed about the rules and regulations one has to

maintain while continuing an internship.

There were Seventy-seven undergraduates from BRAC Business School, nine from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, six from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, one from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, one from the Department of Economics and Social Science, four from the Department of English and Humanities and four post graduates from BRAC Business School in the Fall, 2011 semester.

The program ended with a question and answer session where students asked several questions regarding the administrative process and rules of the Internship course. **Ms Sanjida**, CSO Admin and **Ms. Shereen** answered their queries and concluded the session with an anticipatory note of success for the forthcoming interns.

ENH Updates

Meet the Writer: Lijia Zhang

On 8th August 2011, Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University organised a discussion of the book titled "Socialism is Great!": From Rocket Factory Girl to International Media by **Lijia Zhang**. The discussion consisted of Zhang's personal experience of change in China over the past three decades, and

her thoughts on China's position in the world.



Lijia Zhang is a factory-worker-turned writer, journalist, social commentator and TV talk show host based in Beijing. Her articles have appeared in many international publications, including The Independent, The Observer, The Newstatesman, Far Eastern Economic Review, South China Morning Post, Japan Times, Newsweek, Asian Wall Street Journal and New York Times. She is a recipient of the prestigious International Writers' Programme at University of Iowa, USA in 2009. She is a regular speaker on the BBC, Channel 4, CNN and National Public Radio in America.

Faculty Members leave for higher studies:

On 10th August 2011, Nausheen Naz Eusuf, Lecturer, ENH, has left BRACU on study leave to attend a fully funded PhD program in English Literature at Boston University (USA). She has previously earned M.A. degrees from Johns Hopkins and the University of Georgia, and has been teaching at BRACU since 2004.

Fatima Tuz Zahra, Lecturer, ENH, has been awarded the first-ever **PennGSE-UNESCO** International Fellowship to pursue her MEd. in International Educational Development at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. She has left to attend the program on 14th August 2011. She is also the Aga Khan International Scholar for 2011-12 from Bangladesh.

On 14th August 2011, Mohammad **Mahmudul Haque**, Lecturer, ENH, has left on study leave for two years M.A. in Teaching English to the Speakers of other Languages (TESOL) at the American University in Washington on Fulbright scholarship for 2011-2012.

Thesis and Internship Report Presentations:

- *B.A. Thesis and Internship Report Presentations:*

B.A. students presented their internship reports and theses from 20th -25th August 2011. The following list illustrates their names and title of thesis/internship report.

Student's Name	Title of thesis/internship report
Literature	
Mahia Nowreen (Thesis)	Identity Dilemma of Women: A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective
Robina Rashid Bhuiyan (Thesis)	The 20th Century Zeitgeist in Doris Lessing's Fiction: A Reading of the Children of Violence series
Applied Linguistics and ELT	
Lumma Maisha Hasan (Thesis)	Culture Sensitivity and Language Learning: A Tertiary Level Scenario
Umme Atia Siddiqua (Thesis)	The Affect of Multiple Intelligences on Second Language Teaching and Learning
Zahin Antara Zishnu (Thesis)	An Evaluation of the Tasks of IX-X Textbook "English for Today": An Empirical Study
Arifah (Thesis)	Grammar Teaching vs. the Use of English in Different Contexts
Tasnia Talukder (Internship report)	Classroom Interaction: Influencing Factors for Enhancing STT (Student Talk Time)

- *M.A. Thesis Presentations:*
The following M.A. students have presented their theses from 20th -25th August 2011 in ENH.

Student's Name	Title of thesis/internship report
Literature	
Mushira Habib	Destruction and Reconstruction in early Twentieth-Century America in the Short Fiction of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner
Rashida Ahmed Islam	In Between Cultures and Identities: Reflections on Multiculturalism in Diaspora Literature
Applied Linguistics and ELT	
Shabnam Jahan	Teaching Organization of Essays and paragraphs: A Tertiary Level Scenario
Pankaj Paul	Use of Language Learning Strategies: An Investigation of the Use Pattern of Language Learning Strategy of Bangladeshi Learners and its Correlation with the Proficiency Level

ESS Updates

Joining of ESS Faculty

Kamrul Hasan joined the Department of Economics and Social Sciences after the end of his study leave. He has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts in Development Studies (with Distinction) and all requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He was a recipient of the Asian Development Bank-Japan (ADB-Japan) Scholarship. His Masters thesis "Power and Quality of Primary Health Care: Narratives from Rural Bangladesh" examined the role of professional power on the quality of primary health services in rural Bangladesh. He presented a paper titled "Knowledge, power and health care: The effects of professional power on the quality of primary health care in Bangladesh" at the Aotearoa New Zealand Development Network (DevNet) Conference 2010 held at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Before leaving for higher studies **Kamrul Hasan** was working as a lecturer in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRACU from September 2005 to November 2008.

GDLN Updates

A Videoconference Dialogue on South-South Knowledge Experience Exchange on Strengthening Local Governance in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Uganda and Tanzania

A three and half-hour multi Country Global Dialog on "South-South Knowledge Experience Exchange Strengthening Local Governance" was held at BRAC University on Aug 10 2011. This South-South Experience Exchange Facility (SEETF) within the World Bank has provided the South Asia Urban and Water Department (SASDU) to organize a knowledge exchange between the Government of Bangladesh, the Government of Kerala in India, the Government of India, the State of West Bengal, the Government of Uganda and the Government of Tanzania.



The objective of this knowledge exchange was to share ideas, innovations and challenges in implementing local governance and decentralization reforms among participating countries. The exchange was brought together potential delegates from Bangladesh, Uganda, Tanzania, India and Nepal, to discuss and set the agenda for the knowledge exchange workshop. The participating delegates got to know each other, identified and agree on the format of the week long workshop to be held in September, including the topics to be covered.

Among others, Honorable member of Parliament, Engineer Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, Mr. Syed Mahboob Hasan, Additional Secretary, LGED, Khairul Islam, Country Director, WB, Mrs. Aroma Dutta, Executive Director, Prip Trust, Abdu Muwonge, Economist, WB, took part in the discussion.

IED Updates

Research and Development

A course named 'Data Analysis in Qualitative Research' was held from 31st July - 2nd August, 2011. The objective of the course was to generate knowledge and understanding on data analysis for the qualitative research. It was a follow up session of the short course 'Qualitative Research' that was held in February, 2011. **Dr. Mainus Sultan** Adjunct Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA conducted the course. Sixteen participants (9 from NAPE - National Academy for Primary Education, one from URC - Upazila Resource Centre and 6 from IED) attended the course.

A listening workshop was held with the Upazila Education Officer (UEO), Assistant Upazila Education Officer (AUEO) and Upazila Resource Centre (URC) Instructor on 8th August, 2011 at IED-BRACU. The objective of the session was to explore views of govt. primary education officials regarding education interventions undertaken by IED and to assess needs for further interventions to improve education quality with equity of 100 Registered Non-Government Primary Schools (RNGPSs). All the stakeholders expressed that mothers' forums led and managed by the Women Leaders, the Learning Centres and the teachers' education courses for capacity building of RNGPS teachers are meaningful initiatives to address the needs of virtual exclusion of children from primary schools. They further illustrated that since teaching competence of RNGPS teachers are lower than that of GPS teachers, training in a wide range of areas should be provided to the RNGPS teachers to advance their subject-based knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and beliefs. They also suggested for revisiting pedagogic approaches so that underprivileged students of RNGPS, mostly first generation learners, can learn lessons with joy, fun and discovery. They all offered IED to develop Master Trainers from RNGPS teachers in collaboration with URC to build competence of

all the teachers of RNGPS and community schools. Finally, since no initiative has been taken to train RNGPS teachers on pre-primary education, they suggested IED to provide the training so that teachers can meet learning needs of learners when the pre-primary course starts to operate in RNGPS.

Professional Development

The professional development group along with two other IED professionals presented their experience and findings of the study tour to Sri Lanka on the 3rd August 2011 at IED-BRACU. The presentation had two parts - one was on the exotic sights of Sri Lanka whilst the other was focused on the study tour to different types of schools/college (rural school, semi-urban, urban, Mahaveli College of Education), Teacher Training Institute and learning from



those schools/institute. The presentation also included information about their visit to the Provincial Department of Education (western province), Zonal Office in Denuwra.

The professional development group attended a workshop on 'Qualitative Research' conducted by Dr. Mainus Sultan, international consultant, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA from 7th - 8th August, 2011 at IED-BRACU. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the participants' knowledge related to undertaking any qualitative research.

MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management



The participants of the second cohort presented their theses between 22nd and 24th August, 2011. A farewell function was organised for the MEd. participants on the 25th August, 2011 at IED-BRACU. Pro Vice Chancellor, BRACU was present on the occasion. The programme included experience sharing by the participants and faculty members. Participants showed their own creative

work in the form of documentaries and poems. The programme also included songs and poetry recitation. This was also a celebration of the fact that the entire group conducted individual research studies and completed their theses.

IGS Updates

Fifth PPSC Meeting held



The Fifth Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meeting was held on 17 August 2011 at the NEC Conference Room II of the Planning Commission Campus at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Honorable Planning Minister and Chairperson of the Committee, Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) A K Khandker presided over the meeting. Mr. Zikrul Hossain, Executive Engineer, Road & Highways Department, Mr. Iftekhar from Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Mr. Md. Shahidur Rahman, Additional Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) presented papers on third party engagement in the public procurement in the respective organizations.

The PPSC was formed under the auspices of Public Procurement Reform Project - II (PPRP-II) to devise a third party monitoring mechanism for public procurement in Bangladesh. It consists of representatives from academic institutions, business community, think-tanks and civil society organizations along with government officials. IGS provides technical assistance to the Committee in association with the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the IME Division of the Ministry of Planning.

ANSA Workshop on Social Accountability Tools

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- East Asia Pacific (ANSA-EAP), in collaboration with the Global Partnership Fund (GPF), housed at the Institute of Governance Studies, hosted a workshop on 'Social Accountability Tools' for its partner organizations from 3-7 August 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to promote social accountability approaches and tools among citizen groups in the region. The activity was aimed at facilitating a regional learning and capacity building event to strengthen ANSA-EAP's network partners' capacity to monitor government performance by using citizen report cards (CRC) and community scorecards (CSC). Dr. Gopakumar K Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR was the key resource person of the event. Twenty-three social accountability practitioners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia,

East Timor, and the Philippines participated in the workshop.

ANSA COO visited Sri Lanka

Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR, gave a presentation for the members of the Sri Lankan Evaluation Association (SLEvA) on 20 August 2011 at the Sri Lankan Institute of Development Administration on the theme: "Interrogating Evaluation: Moving beyond the 'technique' to 'politics'. SLEvA was established in 1999! to address a long felt need for establishing an evaluation culture in the Sri Lankan society and the membership includes a wide cross-section of professionals from academia, international agencies, public, NGO and private sectors. The presentation profiled existing critiques and challenges to the concept and praxis of evaluation and proceeded to highlight the emergence of an 'audit society'. The presentation drew upon examples and case studies from social accountability tools and approaches and made out a case for integrating these within traditional frameworks of evaluation.

Dr. Thampi also gave a presentation to the staff of the World Bank Office in Colombo on the activities of ANSA. The presentation focused on ANSA SAR's current work in Sri Lanka and explored ways of integrating some of the tools and approaches into the Bank's operations in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Thampi trained citizen report cards (CRC) Implementation Team on the methodology and approach of Citizen Report and also helped The Asia Foundation Sri Lanka's (TAF-SL) to draft a CRC Roll-Out Strategy. The CRC Implementation consists of faculty from Colombo University, TAF-SL representatives and a senior representative from the Ministry of Local Government.

IGS Director delivered Lectures on Public Sector Reforms

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director In-charge of the IGS, delivered two lectures on 'Public Sector Reforms' in the Advanced Course for Administration and Development (ACAD) and the Senior Staff Course (SSC) in August 2011. ACAD is offered for Deputy Secretaries and SSC for Joint Secretaries of the Government by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC).

MNS Updates

20th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Science and Technology (ECNCST)

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 20th Meeting of the ECNCST held on 23 August, 2011 in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Science and ICT, GOB. Presided over by Architect **Yeafesh Osman**, State Minister of the MOSICT, the meeting discussed at length different programmes and activities based on the decisions of the 6th Meeting of the NCST held on 27 June 2010. The meeting was informed that the National Science and Technology Policy 2010 had been approved by the Cabinet. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Member of the ECNCST and Convener of the Committee and his team were profusely thanked for their hard work for preparation of the policy document. The policy document can be found in the website of the ministry. The meeting decided to form a

committee to formulate an action plan with short, medium and long term perspectives for implementation of the NCST Policy. **Professor Choudhury** was made Advisor to the committee. The meeting was also informed that the Honorable Prime Minister has already allocated a land for construction of the National Science and Technology Building at Agargaon, Dhaka and the project work would start soon. The building will provide space to different scientific societies and associations of the country including the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

Science Articles in the Daily Star, 9 and 30 August 2011

Two scientific articles written by **Md. Riazul Hossain**, Lecturer in Biotechnology was published in the Tuesday's "Science and Life" Section of the Daily Star on 9 August and 30 August 2011. The article titled "Belief, scepticism and the brain" published on 9 August explains how our brain acts as a belief engine and controls our perceptiveness on certain matters. The other one titled "Bacteria to eradicate dengue!" published on 30 August 2011 describes a fascinating discovery made by some Australian researchers to lessen the occurrence of dengue fever. The scientists used a particular bacterium to make dengue resistant mosquito and hence lower the risk of transmission of the disease.

SECS Updates

SYNERGY Program between EEE Department, BRAC University and BRAC Solar



We inform you with great pride that in August, CARG (Control & Applications Research Group) undertook the first synergy assignment in collaboration with BRAC Solar and completed the project within one week. For the purpose of this assignment, BRAC Solar provided CARG with fourteen solar panels from three different companies, in order to determine the

performance of each panel. The power rating of these panels varied from 40W to 85W. In order to complete this project, we created a testing environment in our electronics lab. The testing environment consisted of a sun simulator, which is a box was wrapped with aluminium paper from inside. Instead of using sun light, bulbs were installed inside the box. The sun simulator is used as a light source to provide incident radiation (100,000 Lux) to excite the solar panel. Other equipments such as a 2KW power supply, lux-meter, multi-meter etc were also used to complete the experiment. After taking the data for all panels, we submitted a full scale report along with I-V characteristics curve, P-V characteristics curve for each panel and also a comparative study of all the Solar Panels. The project was successfully completed, and we hope that in future we will have more opportunities to work in such projects with BRAC Solar.

SPH Updates

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

MPH 690: Principles of Health Communication: Theory and Application module was organized from July 31 through August 4, 2011. It was the first module of the MPH 7th batch in the ICDDR,B campus. **Mahrukh Mohiuddin** was the Course Coordinator, while **Taufique Joarder** was involved with the module as Teaching Fellow and Faculty.

MPH 691: Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Health Programmes module was organized from August 7 through August 11, 2011. It was taught by Andrew Jenkins, and **Anuradha Hashemi** was the Teaching Fellow.

MPH 660: Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights module was organized from August 14 through August 25, 2011. It was taught by **Dr Sabina Faiz Rashid** and **Dr Malabika Sarker** while **Anuradha Hashemi** was the Teaching Fellow.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the MPH 690 course, students conducted a field study on insight hunting for developing health communication strategy. Field sites involved BRAC, BRAC University, ICDDR,B, Karail slum, mPower, AED and BSMMU.

For the MPH 691 course, students went to the Alive & Thrive project in Shivalaya to see the Monitoring and Evaluation of a nutrition project.

For the MPH 660 course, students went to five different field sites. They learned about government provision of maternal health services and which services are offered, communication materials, referral networks, etc at the Maternal and Child Health & Training Institute in Azimpur. They went to the Urban primary healthcare project, Shimantik to learn about NGO provision of maternal health services. They visited Manoshi, BRAC Health to learn about NGO provision of maternal health services to women living in urban slums. They visited BAPSA MR clinic to learn about the provision of services in the Menstrual Regulation program. At Breaking the Silence, they learned about the organization's work with combating sexual violence and abuse of children in our communities.

JAMES P GRANT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE FAIR 2011



James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University organized its annual Knowledge Fair for the students of the Master of Public Health program, academic year 2011-12 on August 11, 2011 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B. The purpose of the fair is to acquaint students with potential thesis supervisors who will guide their two-month long independent field study culminating in their graduate

thesis at the end of the MPH program.

The honorable Vice Chancellor, **Professor Ainun Nishat** attended as the chief guest and the honorable Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Samdani Fakir attended as the special guest. The Dean of the JPGSPH chaired the function. After the inauguration of the event by the Dean of the School, Dr Timothy Evans and the special guest, **Dr Samdani Fakir**, **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor, addressed the audience with her short presentation on the objectives of Knowledge Fair.

The MPH students were invited to introduce themselves by stating their educational backgrounds and fields of interest. Following their introductions, respected faculty members and potential supervisors were requested to come to the podium and introduce themselves. A total number of 25 potential thesis supervisors from different academic and professional backgrounds kindly attended the programme with the students and made the fair successful. The fair ended with a speech from the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, who offered advice to the students on writing their theses.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

Nuzhat Chowdhury, Research Associate, attended a short course on Mixed Methods research during the months of June-July at the University of Heidelberg. As part of the continued effort at JPGSPH of conveying intellectual information, **Ms Chowdhury** made a presentation on the very topic at the ASG on August 1, 2011. Her presentation included mixed methods research design, epistemology, typology, sampling, reliability & validity, etc.

On August 24, 2011, Wit Wichaidit, a research assistant at the Epidemiology Unit of Prince of Songkla University in southern Thailand presented on R Software with a demonstration using a readily available dataset from the food outbreak in Oswego, New York, in 1940. The demonstration included descriptive statistics of the study population (cases and non-cases), how to create a population pyramid, how to compare odds ratios, control for confounders using the Mantel-Haenszel method and determine possible source of food outbreak and how to create a graph showing exposure time and onset of symptoms. Mr Wit Wichaidit is currently on a 10-month assignment under Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB), a local NGO with an initiative against avoidable disablement, where he works with IFB on building their health research capacity. The exchange is under the

Fredskorpset Norway's South-South exchange programme. He received a B.Sc. in Biology from Kasetsart University, Bangkok, in 2006 and an M.Sc. in Tropical Medicine (Epidemiology track) from Mahidol University, Bangkok, in 2010.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Timothy G. Evans, Dean, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and **Md. Nuruzzaman**, Research Associate of the same School attended a 3 days workshop on "Health Professional Education for 21st Century: Situational Analysis of 5 Countries Network (Bangladesh, China, India, Thailand and Vietnam)". The workshop was organized by the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kean University in Khon Kean, Thailand from August 15-17, 2011 and funded by the China Medical Board. The main purpose of the meeting was to develop a common protocol to conduct a similar study to analyze the situation of health professional education (i.e. medical, nursing and public health education) in 5 countries both at public and private level. Dean Dr. Evans led the Bangladeshi team and chaired an entire day of the meeting.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Associate Professor and MPH Coordinator, completed her Fulbright as a Visiting Scholar (February-August 2011) at the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and Health, Socio-medical Sciences Department, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA. She spent the fellowship period writing research articles, and conducted a qualitative study on Bangladeshi immigrants' health and well-being in New York, USA. She rejoined the School on August 5, 2011.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer II, completed an advanced masters in medical anthropology with cum laude (honours) from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Her Masters dissertation was titled, "Doing body, doing mind, doing self: Vipassana Meditation in Everyday Life". She had been on study leave for one year to pursue the degree with a NUFFIC scholarship and joined the department on September 4, 2011.

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