



## BRAC University Bulletin

2012/november

### Architecture Updates

#### Conference in Milan, Italy

**A.K.M. Sirajuddin**, senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, has attended and presented a paper titled "Context in Urbanism, addressing the intrinsic aspirations for strategic urban design in small cities in Bangladesh" in the conference 'Cities to be tamed, Standards and Alternatives in the Transformation of the Urban South' in Milan, Italy from November 15 to November 17, 2012. The conference was jointly organized by the Department of Architecture and Planning, Politecnico Di Milano and Laboratorio Di Cooperazione Internazionale, Milan Italy.

#### Bagerhat City -Study Trip

As part of the series of study on 'Urbanism and Urbanization of Secondary and Small Cities in Bangladesh', students of studio 401 which is dedicated for 'Urban Design' have visited the Bagerhat city. While 'The Mosque City of Bagerhat' is declared by UNESCO as 'world heritage' it is a subject to the issue of 'Climate Change' due to its increased salinity and sea level rise is under threat as well. Keeping these 'world heritage' and 'climate change' issues in focus, during the five day visit from October 15 to October 20, 2012 students have studied the spatial arrangement, socio-economical features, heritage as well as the environmental issues by rigorous field studies. Discussions were arranged with city mayor and many other responsible persons regarding the issues of the city's history, present status and future development. Learners have documented the city through mapping and analyzing the findings. Consequently they are preparing strategic designs for Bagerhat city with a vision of development for future. Studio teachers **A.K.M. Sirajuddin**, **K.H.Kabir**, **F.H. Khan** along with **Tahmina Rahman** from PPDM guided the field study.

#### Search for Ancient North: a study visit

Department of Architecture arranged a study tour entitling 'Search for Ancient North'. The two days long study visit was compiled with intense observation and identification in the Northern part of Bangladesh. ARC 327: History of Art & Architecture of Bengal course were partially executed on the site with assignment, documentation, sketches, lectures and preliminary identification process of historical building. The Varind Track that is Pundrabardhan-Bogura, Paharpur-Nawgaon, Rajshahi, Choto Sona Mosque, Darasbari, Shah Niamatullah mosque complex at Shibgonj and Puthia Temple complex were the focal points of the site study tour. The study tour was conducted by Sajid-Bin-Doza, Assistant Professor of Architecture Department. The study tour was executed on November 8, 2012 till November 10, 2012.

### BBS Updates

**"US-Bangladesh Relationship"**  
**Organized by BRAC University Business Club, BIZ BEE**



In order to have an experience of the real business world, BRAC University Business Club or BIZ BEE in short- organized an event on "US Bangladesh Relationship" on 18th November, 2012. The chief guest was **Mr. Dan W. Mozena**, US Ambassador to Bangladesh and the guest speakers were **Mr. Anisur Rahman Sinha**, Chairman of Sinha Group and **Dr. Mustafizur Rahman**, Executive Director of CPD. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University was the chair of the session and **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School (BBS), inaugurated the seminar with a warm welcome speech. **Mr. Amir Khasru**, former minister for Commerce, **Mr. Mirza Azizul Islam**, former Advisor of care-taker Government, **Mr. Aftabul Islam**- President and **Mr. A Gafur**- Executive Director of AMCHAM, **Mr. Shartaj Bhuiyan**- Director, Planning and Strategy of GE Bangladesh, **Islam Mohd. Amirul Tuhin**, Resident coordinator, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies and representatives of many different American companies operating in Bangladesh were also present in the seminar.

The seminar started with the welcome speech of **Prof. Mamun Rashid**, who highlighted the topic of discussion. The main topic of this event was the relationship between USA and Bangladesh-the dimensions, challenges and prospects of this relationship focusing on Aid, FDI, Remittance, Export and Import. Two groups of BRAC Business School students, who were also members of BIZ BEE, presented their findings.

**Dr. Mustafizur Rahman** admitted USA as a major partner of Bangladesh. Subsequently, **Anisur Rahman Sinha** talked about the success factors and achievements of Bangladesh and added that Bangladesh has to be more competitive to be more successful in export.

Finally, the chief guest **Dan W. Mozena** shared his experience of USA-Bangladesh Relationship. According to him, the relationship between these two countries is admirable, ever growing and the economic contribution of USA and Bangladesh is promising. **Mr. Mozena** encouraged the students of BRAC

University to be successful entrepreneurs.

### Entrepreneur Speaks at BBS

It was an honor to hear the success story from **Sufi Mohammad Mizanur Rahman**, the Chairman of the PHP Group, who has been in the business for more than three decades. In his words, "Divine blessing mixed with hard work and backed by good intentions can make miracles".

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) and Center for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) of BRAC University jointly organized the event, "Entrepreneur Speaks", on the 8th of November, 2012.

**Mr. Mizanur Rahman** gave the students the "Five Medicines/Tablets" which he believes are the lasting foundation for an Entrepreneur. These are; "Hard-working", "Doing job with excellence", "Being humble and maintain punctuality in work", "Good character, and "Divine Blessings. The seminar concluded its session through a fascinating sharing inspiration at around 6:30pm.

### Workshop on "e-Business 2.0: Looking over the New Horizon"



Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) organized a workshop on "e-Business 2.0: Looking over the New Horizon" for the students of BRAC Business School on 17th November, 2012 at 10.00 am in UB 0223. The guest speaker of the session was **MR. R H Syed**, acting Managing Director, ClickBD.com, the largest e-commerce website in Bangladesh. **Mr. Syed** delivered a lecture on today's e-business issue, opportunities of doing e-business in Bangladesh and success history of clickbd.com. Two distinguished faculties from BRAC Business School, **Dr. Md. Fazley Elahi Chowdhury** (Assistant Professor) and **Mr. Jabir Al Mursalin** (Senior Lecturer) also delivered a valuable and informative lecture on "e-Business 2.0 Models". At the end of the session students asked questions to the guest speakers on various issues related to e-commerce. CED Program Manager **Ms. Afshana** was also present at the whole session and performed an important role to make the session successful.

### BBS Master Class V-Business Ethics by Fatima Momin



To be sustainable, a business needs to practice ethics. This was the theme of the Master Class organized by BBS and IABC BRACU on 10th November, 2012 at BRAC University Mohakhali campus. It was supported by Dhaka Bank Limited. The speakers for the event were **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, a former caretaker Government adviser and **Mr. Latifur Rahman**, CEO of Transcom Group. **Prof. Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School, gave a brilliant welcoming speech where he mentioned that the prerequisite for a successful operation of business is applying ethics in business.

**Dr. Akbar Ali Khan** stated that Bangladeshi companies should strictly adopt ethical behavior so that there would be a strong demand for ethics and each company should have an ethical code of conduct.

**Mr. Latifur Rahman**, who received the Business for Peace Award 2012 for his outstanding contribution in business, mentioned that ethics and business are not contradictory. He said that the organizations to be ethically responsible, should have to open and transparent accounts and their products should be qualitatively best. He also quoted "Ethics is treating others the way you treat yourself."

**Mr. Saif Hossain**, Coordinator, BBS Master Class and Lecturer, BBS thanked the distinguished speakers and the audience for making the event a success. (The writer is a student of BBS, BRAC University & member of IABC.)

**Internship Integration Day Fall 2012**





BRAC Business School (BBS) of BRAC University is trying to nourish its graduates students to achieve a global competent in applying for job applications with its "Internship Integration Day" (IID), where the program aims to engage corporate executives with the recruited interns to achieve a comprehensive in-depth value from the internship process.

This time the IID focused on the apparel industry of Bangladesh, which therefore bought in the big guns of the apparel industry; **Mr. Atikul Islam** (Director of Islam Group), **Mr. Shujaat Ali** (Country Head of Target in Bangladesh), **Mr. Mosabbir Chowdhury** (HR Head of Avery Denison), **Mr. Mehedi Mahbub** (Consultant to Chairman of Youngman Corporation in Bangladesh), and **Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Mahmud** (Executive Director of Bitopi Group) and **Mr. A. Gaffur** (Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh). Other notable guest speakers were **Dr. Mirza Azizur Rahman** (Former Advisor of Caretaker Government and Visiting Professor of BRAC Business School) and **Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan** (Professor and Chairman of Development Studies of Dhaka University), and. **Professor Mamun Rashid** (Director, BRAC Business School) chaired the event.

The program was held on Thursday, 24th November 2012, in BRACU auditorium. Hosted by **Mrs. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi** (Senior Lecturer, BRAC Business School), the show started by awarding the best internship performers of Spring 2012, **Salsabin Chowdhury**, **Umme Habiba Farhabi** and **Farhana Karim** for their outstanding internship reports. The achievers were handed crests by **Professor Mamun Rashid** and **Dr. Mirza Aziz** respectively.

According to the recent McKenzie report, Bangladesh is now one of the major focuses for apparel demand by USA and other developed nations. It is currently having a market share of \$19 billion out of the \$400 billion and it is expected to double its potential by 2015. Since it is still growing impressively, career opportunities in this sector therefore remain paramount.

**Tour to Shine Pukur Ceramic Factory and Baliati Rajbari**

The curious and excited faces of everyone's declared that something enjoyable would happen when they started to step up on the bus at 8.30am on 30th November, 2012. It was all about our short tour that was organized by BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE), where we visited the "SHINE PUKUR CERAMIC FACTORY" and "BALIATI RAJBARI". There were two buses full of BIZ BEE members along with our honorable advisor **G.M. Shafayet Ullah**.

The area of Shine Pukur is about two hundred acre with many facilities including medical and rest house. The In-charge of the factory showed us the variety of product which was displayed in big hall room.

As we know, at present Shine Pukur Ceramic is the highest exporter ceramic factory which produces two types of ceramic called BONE CHINA and PORCELAIN product. European countries are the main buyers of them and they also export in USA, NORWAY, ITALY, POLAND, EGYPT and many other countries. They have a showroom in New York and their SHINE PUKUR ceramic stall was took place in international fair in 2011. Shine Pukur Ceramic got 'National Export Trophy' in 2000-2001, 2005-2006, 2009-2010 and 'National Gold Export Trophy' in 2002-2003.

Our next destination was to visit BALIATI RAJBARI. The Baliati Rajbari is situated about 35 miles North West of Dhaka and five mile east of Manikganj district headquarters. The vast complex of the Rajbari occupies an area of over 20 acres of land approximately and comprises over two hundred apartments of varying sizes and shapes. This 19th century palace was built by Govinda Rain Shaha. We got the inner satisfaction from the tour which made us fresh and more energetic for upcoming activities.



### **Professor Hafiz G A Siddiqui speaks on 'Building a Respectable Business School in Bangladesh'**

**Professor Hafiz G A Siddiqui**, the most distinguished business professor of our time and the former Director, IBA, Dhaka University, former VC, North South University and an esteemed teacher with almost 50 years of teaching experience home and abroad, visited BRAC Business School to speak on 'Building a

Respectable Business School in Bangladesh' at BBS conference room. In his speech, **Professor Siddiqui** emphasized on three things to be a good university: brilliant students, high profile teachers and best employers. He mentioned that in Bangladesh we still do not have comprehensive university which covers high quality teaching, research, and public services. Research is yet to be standard research, and the concept of public service is still not there in many universities. **Professor Siddiqui** focused on quality assurance and to have it broadly identified five areas (he mentioned it may change to many more variables, but broadly five variables) like designing the academic program (to create employment opportunity even in the international market), highly educated and experienced faculties, quality of students (he mentioned that university needs to have enough tools to attract brilliant students, can do so by providing more scholarships for students), infrastructure (tools like OHP, MM, connectivity, etc.) and best management practices and good governance. **Professor Siddiqui** broadly explained the above points with different examples and also answered questions from the teachers and students of BBS.

## BIL Updates

### BIL Workshop Series begins its journey



BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) begins its Workshop Series on 24 November, 2012. This workshop series aims to establish a platform for English language practitioners to share their knowledge, research and experience of language teaching in their respective classrooms, and thus reciprocate ideas and learning.

The BIL Workshop Series initiated with a workshop on "Reading Strategies: From Passive to Active Learners" facilitated by **Pankaj Paul**, Lecturer, BIL, assisted by Subarna Sarkar, Lecturer, BIL. The facilitator shared the recent research findings on reading strategies. The aim of the workshop was to share the concept and strategies of 'Interactive Reading' to ensure the transformation of passive readers into active ones. The active participation of the English language practitioners present in the session made it a success.



## BDI Updates

### Consultation between Women Parliamentarians and Civil Society on Gender Responsive Budgeting

A consultation between women parliamentarians and civil society organizations on gender responsive budgeting and priorities for the health and education budgets of 2013/14, was held on 15 November, 2012 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka. The consultation was organized by Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BRAC Development Institute (BDI), under Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP) program implemented by The Asia Foundation in partnership with the State University of New York Center for International Development (SUNY-CID) and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UKaid. The consultation was chaired by Honorable **Meher Afroz Chumki**, Chair, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children. **Simeen Mahmud**, Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher, BDI made the welcome remarks. Also, **Maheen Sultan**, Deputy Coordinator, CGST and Lead Researcher, BDI, made a speech on Gender Budgeting. The vote of thanks was presented by **Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researcher, BDI.



### Review Workshop on Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR) Manual

A two-day workshop was organized by BDI to review the Manual of Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR). The workshop was held at BDI on 20 and 21 November, 2012. Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Academic coordinator, BDI facilitated the workshop. Among the experts, **Professor Hafiza Khatun**, University of Dhaka, **Sabah Moyeen**, Social Development Specialist, World Bank, **Mohammed Akhtaruzzaman**, Consultant, World Bank and Resettlement Specialist Kh. **Khairul Matin** from Knowledge Management Consultants were present in the workshop. The Deputy Academic Coordinator, **Alamgir Kabir**, BDI and the MLARR team of BDI also took part in the workshop.

### Masters in Gender, Culture and Development

A meeting was held at BDI Conference room on 13 November as a part of



planning meeting for MA course in Gender, Culture and development. CGST/BDI in collaboration with ENIT has decided to formulate a new MA on Gender Culture and Development with an aim to see gender as a holistic issue with historical and cultural ramification rather than to see it as part of sociology, anthropology and literature course. A total of 8 participants were attended the meeting. The participants were: **Professor Firdous Azim**, Department of English and Humanities (ENH); **Maheen Sultan**, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST)/BDI, BRAC University; **Sohela Nazneen**, International Relations, Dhaka University and CGST/BDI/BRAC University; **Samia Huq**, Anthropology, BRAC University; **Perween Hasan**, History, Central Women's University; **Rukhsana R.Chowdhury**, English and Humanities, BRAC University; **Sheuty Sabur**, Anthropology, BRAC University; **Simeen Mahmud**, CGST/BDI BRAC University; **Lopita Huq**, CGST/BDI, BRAC University. The objectives of the meeting were to develop syllabus and course outline, a concept note on overall approach and to prepare for the upcoming course development workshop.

### **The book 'New South Asian Feminisms - Paradoxes and Possibilities' has been published**

**Sohela Nazneen**, Leader Research, BDI and **Maheen Sultan**, Research Program coordinator, BDI jointly wrote a chapter of this book. The chapter is called 'Contemporary feminist politics in Bangladesh: taking the bull by the horns.'

## **C3ER Updates**

### **Loss and Damage Work Programme: Approaches and Policy Recommendations**



**Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Program Manager of the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, participated in the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop entitled "Loss and Damage Work Programme: Approaches and Policy Recommendations" on November 17th, 2012, at the Spectra Convention Centre. Here, **Mr. Mukherjee** delivered a presentation entitled "A Range of Approaches to Address the Risk of Loss and Damage".

The workshop presented the outcomes of a number of Loss and Damage related research projects, which looked at the risks or loss and damage, as well as approaches to address them. The goal of the work programme was to deliver a set of policy recommendations on the elements of a decision to be taken at the UN Climate Change Conference at Doha (COP18). **Mr. Mesbah ul Alam**, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, was the chief guest, while **Mr. Mohammad Abdul Qayyum**, Additional Secretary and National Project Director, CDMP II, was the special guest. **Dr. Saleemul Huq**, Executive

Director, ICCCAD, presided over the workshop.

### **Field Visit to Satkhira to Facilitate Focal Group Discussions for Migration Project**

Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University, organized a field visit from November 8th through 15th, as part of their project entitled "Role of Governance in Climate Change Induced Migration". The goal of the visit was to gather information on the state governance in Satkhira, and to assess how much migration was occurring. The C3ER team facilitated several group discussions in Gabura and Munshiganj with members of different livelihoods, and filled out scorecards with them regarding various institutional services and their response to climate change. The C3ER team also completed a major survey in Gabura and Munshiganj to assess how many people had migrated, and gathered details regarding their migration.



Major findings of the trip include the fact that more permanent migration came from Munshiganj, while more temporary migration was seen in Gabura, and that migration seems to be occurring for a number of interacting reasons, including problems with governance, livelihood issues, and climate change events. To conclude the visit, the C3ER team also met with members from different institutions (Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Local Government Engineering Department, Department of Fisheries, Department of Forest, Department of Agricultural Extension, and different NGOs) to see how they scored their own services and how they felt they could improve.

## Counseling Updates

### WORKSHOP ON "HAPPINESS"

Most people place conditions on their happiness. "When (fill in the blank) happens, then I'll be happy." The key to happiness has always been right under your nose. Having a mind is like having a beautiful grand piano. There's a lot of potential there, but it's not very pleasant unless and until it's mastered.



You CAN master your mind!  
You can master happiness in your life. Happiness is a learnable skill. Happiness is about Cultivating and Appreciating a good life. From this view Counseling Unit organized a workshop "Happiness" on 29th November 2012 from 3 pm to 5pm. It was wonderful and participants were very happy to be there. Here some of the

feedback of them:

"I get to realize that being happy depends purely & solely on myself. I am thankful to the counselors for arranging this courage. I'm taking back myself respect; I want to know about how to respect myself. The whole of you, the counselors have done a Great job."

"It gives me the assurance that I am in the right way and I will overcome may be. It was really very effective. I want to attend this kind of seminar in future. More joyful video clips and soft songs could take place."

"I have learn how learned from today's workshop that being happy is all about me and way I utilize my daily objectives. I have not been really happy in a while so I will start from now on!"

"I am confident that I will be happy. Because it doesn't cost and hard at all."

"I have learned how I should be happy without depending on other for happiness. This program should be arranging frequently more."

### Motivational Session for Medha Bikash

For last two years Counseling Unit of BRAC University has been visiting the Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a motivational session for the students coming from deprived families. The session generally is divided into two segments. In the first segment, the expert Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where common psychosocial issues are

discussed. In this segment, students share their problems and also the good things happening in their lives in a large group. The second segment covers mainly the individual counseling sessions for the students who express their need for individual session.



The latest visit for the Medha Bikash group was held on 20th and 21st November, 2012. As usual, it was a two day session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background. This time

30 students have participated in the session. The session was conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The content of the session was different kind of psychosocial and motivational issues, especially focusing on self confidence. The discussion could motivate and inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to. It was participatory and inspiring as well. After the class, individual counseling sessions were done with the students needed that.

## CSO Updates

### 'Certificate giving Ceremony' of Professional Skills Development Program

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) 'Certificate Giving Ceremony' was an overwhelming success of Career Services Office held on 22 November 2012. Allmost 400 students got certificate of all departments and come to close each other in this event.

**Zinat Fatema**, was the master of the ceremony welcomed all the students. The ceremony commenced with a welcome speech by **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office,

**Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive (CSO) introduced the students (Alumni's). Each student from respective department shares his experience about (PSDP). "This program is definitely an eye opener, very informative. I feel very privileged to have been chosen to participate in the function, the speakers were on point and overall it was a fun, networking experience," said **Mehedi Hasan Tusar** alumni from EEE department. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar gave his speech of encouragement and also suggested that the students should have good network among themselves in order to form a stronger Alumni Association.





At the end of the event, **Mrs. Banu** spoke about the mission of BRAC which works for under privilege people. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of the program, and said, 'Developing countries need to educate and train more of their university citizens so that they can cope with the complex demands of the modern world'. Her special emphasize was on volunteering. She congratulate all outgoing students for their

Achievement, and her message was "As someone privileged to have enjoyed the benefits of higher education you have to shoulder part of the burden of helping those who are less fortunate".

**Ms. Ismat Shereen**, Head, Relationship Management Office, **Ms. Rosy Sharif**, Assistant Director, Human Resource Office, attended the certificate giving ceremony. **Shanzida Shahab Uddin** CSO team members and all student volunteers helped to make the event successful.

### **Nestle - 'Blue Tie Challenge'**

Nestle - 'Blue Tie Challenge' road show in BRAC University was organized by Career Services Office (CSO) on November 11, 2012, with the support of BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA). The finalists from the BRAC University Business Case Competition, "Blitzkreig" with their mentor Ms. Kulsum Poppy along with other students who were interested to get an internship or a job in Nestle Bangladesh, showed up with their (CV).

The competition named 'Blue Tie Challenge' is designed to create a platform for the students to participate in the case study and apply their learning in real life business situations. Students from top ten universities are participating in the competition to win the title. Each team consists of four members nominated by the authorities of their university.

**Mr. G. M Shafayet Ullah**, Co-Advisor of BUMA started off the road show by giving the opening speech. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, introduced Nestle Bangladesh and gave motivational speech encouraging BRACU students for participating in this prestigious competition. Afterwards, the representatives of Nestle Bangladesh gave a presentation on different aspects of working in Nestle Bangladesh and how the final competition was to be held.

During the question/answer session Nestle Bangladesh team addressed the queries of the students, cleared their doubts and helped them in understanding the complete process. **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive Career Services Office thanked everyone for attending the road show and wished the finalist team Blitzkreig success for the finale of the Nestle Blue Tie Challenge 2012.



### Seminar on Higher Education "University of Missouri - Kansas City"

BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) and Relationship Management Office (RMO) jointly organized an informational seminar on higher education at "University of Missouri - Kansas City" on November 15, 2012. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, BRACU opened the session with her welcome speech. **Ms. Jamie Mariko Kanki**, International Students Admission Coordinator - UMKC provided necessary information regarding the admission process for an international student.



In her presentation **Ms. Jamie Mariko Kanki**, International Students Admission Coordinator - UMKC gave in-depth information and discussed the facts and benefits that UMKC provides for an international student.

Topics discussed in the seminar were, choosing the right course / subject for Bachelors / Masters / Phd Degrees, Academic / Career Counseling, Application Processing, Tuition Fee Structure, Scholarship, etc. **Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, MNS Department, BRAC University graced the seminar with his presence by sharing his valuable thoughts of encouragement.

At the end of the seminar Ms. Jamie Mariko Kanki took part in a Q&A session with the students. Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head, Relationship Management Office, Mr.

Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, Executive Career Services Office and all student volunteers helped the event to roll smoothly till the end.

### **Career Seminar by 'CITY Bank' "DREAM, DARE, DO"**

Career Services Office of BRAC University, organized a grooming session on Career Planning titled- "Dream! Dare! Do!" by HR Team of The City Bank Ltd, on November 21, 2012. Ms. Asma Banu, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, BRACU opened the session introduced the guest with her welcome speech.

**Reenat Akhter**, Head of Organization Development & HR Strategy, The City Bank Ltd. **Nazmus Sadat Zia**, Manager, Talent Management Organizational Development & HR Strategy, The City Bank Ltd. and **Anandi Kabir** (BRACU Alumni), Associate Manager, Organizational Excellence OD & HR Strategy, The City Bank Ltd. gave an overview of how The City Bank Ltd. operates its recruitment process.

This particular Career Planning Workshop was designed mainly for the final year/semester students and fresh graduates. The workshop is presented by The City Bank Ltd. and was facilitated by emc (enroute management consulting). Being the core facilitator **Mr. Syed Taher Ahmed**, Consultant, Learning and Development, emc, begin the workshop with his informative presentation. All the students participated actively in this workshop.

**Ms. Seefat Jahan**, Consultant, Learning and Development, emc, focused on the techniques that should be followed by a final year/semester student for creating a good Resume/CV. **Miftah Zaman** (BRACU Alumni), Executive, Learning and Development, emc, shared his professional experience of getting a job and building a desired career.

The City Bank Ltd. HR Team and **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive Career Services Office took part in the question answer session and answered all the queries from the participants of this event. Students who attended this workshop received a self development guide and A Certificate for their participation.

### **ENH Updates**

#### **Attending International Conference**



**Sabreena Ahmed**, Lecturer, English and Humanities, BRAC University presented her paper titled "The Use of Response Papers in Composition Class" at the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia National Conference (ALAA)-2012, held from 12th November to 14th November 2012 at Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

#### **Guest Lecture**

**Professor Muhammad Ibrahim**, Department of

Physics, Dhaka University delivered a special lecture entitled "Science, History and Social Interaction" on 21st November 2012 a part of ENH Lecture Series. He is currently a visiting Professor of History at ENH.

### Participation in Students' International Exchange Programmes

**Nujhatul Kubra**, a 5th semester student of ENH went to Japan on an exchange programme titled "SAARC Kizuna (Bond) Project-2012" held from 5th-19th November 2012. The main aim of this project was to demonstrate different ways of coping with natural disasters to the youth of SAARC countries. The project also included sessions where participants could share different aspects of their cultures with one another.



**Tani Farhana Islam**, a student of M.A. in Literature at ENH was one of the six Bangladeshi young artists to attend an art camp titled "Workshop of Bangladeshi Young Artists in China 2012" held from 3rd October to 13th November 2012. The art camp was organised jointly by Bangladesh China Friendship Centre and the Chinese Embassy of Bangladesh. The main aim of the camp was to strengthen the friendship of China and Bangladesh through sharing view on the participants' artworks. The final exhibition of all the artworks were displayed in an exhibition held on 13th November 2012 in Beijing.

### ESS Updates

#### One Young World Summit 2012



**Farah Iqbal**, a student in her 7th Semester from ESS department, has attended the "One Young World Summit 2012" which was held in Pittsburgh from October 18 - 21. 1,300 delegates from 183 countries attended the summit. The Opening Ceremony featured a keynote speech by President Bill Clinton. In her speech, **Farah Iqbal** who represented Bangladesh at the Summit, addressed the issue of "Leadership and Governance" with her focus on Youth Leadership.



## IED Updates

### Training on 'Know Thyself and Classroom Management'

A five days training on the aforementioned topic held at IED with the aim to address the teachers' stress in class conduction. The training was the outcome of a research which includes class observation (SCOPE centres - an action research project with the secondary students) to identify the needs of the teacher as well as the students, designing and conducting research, developing training modules and sharing of the module. The training was provided to the teachers of class VI of SCOPE centre and imparted in three parts namely Knowing Self, Classroom Management and Effective Communication.

### Meeting with the field staff

In November 2012, SCOPE has organised a one day discussion session with the field operation officers for further expansion of SCOPE centres in next year. This discussion session was intended to share and discuss ideas regarding location selection, students' selection, teachers' selection and establishment/ rent of houses. The training venue was set at IED-BU, where 11 field operation officers participated in the discussion process along with SCOPE team members.

### Short courses to the actors of mainstream education - a series of capacity building initiative



As a continuation of the short courses provided to the government officials, a six days short course on 'How Head Teachers and AUEOs Can Make Schools Work' has been provided to the Head Teachers and Assistant Upazilla Education Officers (AUEOs) in two batches. These were the thirteenth and fourteenth batches who received the training. A total of fifty participants participated in these training. The short courses have been provided to the government officials hoping that this would bring positive changes in classroom teaching, learning and management in the government run schools.

### Workshop on Bullying: Awareness & Prevention

A one day workshop on 'Bullying: Awareness & Prevention' has been conducted on 10th November 2012 with twenty teachers of an English medium school. It was a tailor made workshop for that particular school. From the workshop it has been revealed that there is a need of such kind of awareness workshop as teachers or other school management staff have to deal with different kinds of problems in their everyday work. The awareness regarding bullying helps the school staff to equip them with skills to understand bullying, different forms of bullying, how to develop school policy on bullying and how to handle the situation.

## IGS Updates

### Commencement of the 4th Batch of Environmental Management and Governance Classes

The 4th batch of Environmental Management and Governance course has commenced from 1 October, 2012. A total of 10 students have been enrolled in this course this semester.

### Marketing Strategy Workshop at IGS

On 10 October, 2012 a marketing strategy workshop was held at IGS. Netherlands based MDF Consultant and Trainer **Ms. Hanneke Spaans** moderated the workshop and has talked about the different marketing strategy approaches that IGS can undertake to appeal to its various stakeholders. She has specifically focused on the need of a more illustrative and to the point informative website comprising the products and services of IGS as the first step towards successful marketing.



The workshop was comprised of role playing games, presentations and practical demonstrations on marketing strategy on behalf of the staff participants of IGS. The staff comprised of the research, communication, administration, programme, information technology and training coordination team of IGS.

### IGS Holds Public Lecture III



IGS Public Lecture III was held on 15 October 2012 at Vice Chancellor's Conference Room, BRAC University. The public lecture was delivered by Dr. Des Gasper, Endowed Professor, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, The Netherlands. The program was jointly organised by the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC

Development Institute (BDI) and Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) of BRAC University.

The title of the lecture was "Climate Change and International Organisations (IOs): A comparative analysis of the Human Development Report of UNDP and the World Development Report of World Bank."

In his lecture, Professor Gasper spoke about the relationship between UNDP's Human Development Report (HDR) 2007/8 and World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2010 in terms of climate change and development. He argued that HDR and WDR provide very different perspectives in diagnosis, of what is perhaps the largest question that faces humankind and is certainly a major issue for Bangladesh. The lecture was followed by an open discussion participated by the members of the audience. They were faculties from various schools and departments of BRAC University including IGS, BDI, C3ER, Economics, Social Science, and Law; programme personnel of NGOs working on climate change; and relevant government officials.

### 3rd party Monitor Selection Meeting

IGS has provided assistance to the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning, Bangladesh in implementing a project titled "Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP)-II." This project is funded by International Development Association of the World Bank. The main objective of this piloting is to examine the possibility of the third party engagement in public procurement, to identify, accumulate and disseminate lessons learned from field level experience.

The first meeting on this 3rd party Monitor Selection was held in October at Rupganj, Narayongonj where Dakarkhali Community Prathomik Biddaloy was taken as a project of this third party engagement in public procurement. School Monitoring Committee (SMC) secretary and its members, corruption prevention committee's secretary and member, Head Teacher, NGO activists, LGED Engineer, concerned contractor, Assistant Upazilla Education Officer, teachers, guardians, UP members and IGS representatives **Munir Uddin Shamim, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Farhana Razzaque** and **Jannatul Ferdous** actively participated in this meeting.

The strengths and weaknesses of the school were presented in the meeting and recommendations have been made in overcoming the weaknesses. Guardians were requested to voice their opinions on the improvement of the school while **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manager of IGS emphasised the importance of third party engagement i.e. the guardians' involvement in projects such as these.

### IGS General News

**Mr. Henrick van Asch**, First Secretary, Political Affairs, Netherlands Embassy Bangladesh and **Ms. Heather Cruden**, Canadian High Commissioner, Canadian High Commission Bangladesh paid a casual visit to IGS on 7 and 10 October, 2012 respectively.

**Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Institutional Director, attended an International workshop on "Controversial Democratic Spaces: Land, Environment, and Human Rights in Bangladesh" which was jointly organised by the Department of Law, University of Dhaka and Bielefeld University, Germany on 16 October at Dhaka University. He has also conducted lectures on Public Policy to the Foundation Training Participants at The Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) Savar, Dhaka.

## **Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) Policy Roundtable on 'Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process'**



Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) in collaboration with the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) held a half-day policy roundtable entitled "Advancing Public Participation and Accountability in the Budget Process" on 1 October, 2012 at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, Dhaka. A number of parliament members,

government/non-government high officials, members of parliamentary standing committee, civil society representatives, and journalists attended this policy roundtable. They discussed about different issues regarding budget process, its bottlenecks, and ways of effective implementation of budget in Bangladesh and ways in encouraging people from every sphere to take part in the budgeting to ensure a stronger accountability in the budget formulation and implementation process.

**Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir**, MP and honorable minister of Home Affairs of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh was present in the roundtable as chief guest and gave his valuable speech. The policy roundtable was chaired by Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Institutional Advisor, IGS BRAC University moderated the event.

## **Visit to Katiadi, Kishoreganj for the observation of BRAC Community Empowerment Programme**



ANSA-SAR team visited Katiadi Kishoregonj from 9th Oct to 11th Oct to observe BRAC Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) implemented Polli Shomaj Participatory Budgeting training and popular theatre programme. The Union Parishad Chairman, Ward members and citizens of the Union Parishad attended this programme. The objective of

the training is to sensitize the citizens of the ward to actively participate in ward budgeting meeting. The popular theatre session was inaugurated and concluded by the remarks of the citizens to participate in the ward budgeting meeting and the proclamation from the Chairman and members to arrange a ward meeting with at least 25 percent attendance of the entire ward citizens.

## **Meeting On "Review of Institutionalization of Civil Engagement in Development And Implementation of Budget"**



A discussion on "Review of Institutionalization of Civil Engagement in Development and Implementation of Budget" was held on 21 October, 2012 at Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The discussion was organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Shangha (BNPS).

The programme was moderated by **Ms. Rokeya Kabir**, Executive Director of BNPS. Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, **Ahmed Ataul Hakeem**, Auditor General, **Rokeya Deen**, Director of Trust Bank & Former Assistant Auditor General, Joint Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat **A S M Mahbubul Alam**, MP, **Dr. Abdul Mannan**, MP, **Dr. Murad Hasan**, Member of the Governing body of Bangladesh Bank, **Dr. Hannana Begum**, Professor of Economics Dept. Dhaka University, **Dr. Saayma Hoque Bidisha**, Researcher, Women for Women, **Rowshan Jahan**, Programme Manager of ANSA-SAR of IGS, **Nuzhat Jabin**, Economist, **Dr. Kaniz N Siddique**, **Dr. S M Morshed** of Finance Ministry, and **Nazrul Islam**, Researcher Unnayan Sommonnay actively participated in the discussion.

The meeting identified some focused strategies and actions to enhance accountability and oversight on budget formulation and implementation.

## MNS Updates

### Population-Based Cancer Research Initiatives by BRAC University

The actual cancer status is unknown in Bangladesh due to lack of population-based cancer registry system. However, the incidence of cancer is obviously increasing at a faster rate. According to National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NIRCH, the only government-run cancer hospital), 5000 patients were registered in 2005, while the number was 18000 in 2010. Our country is facing a high burden of breast and cervical cancer among women. To monitor the status and trend of these devastating cancers, population-based studies are the prerequisites.



In fact, findings from these studies would help in the decision making at policy level and defining the priorities in cancer prevention and care. As an effort to initiate population-based cancer research, **Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain** of MNS Department, discussed with **Dr. Laura Reichenbach**, Director, Centre for Reproductive Health, ICDDR, and **Professor Louis Niessen**, Director, Centre for Chronic Diseases, ICDDR. They have shown strong interest to work with BRAC University as collaborative research partners in order to study the population-based cancer epidemiology.

### Meeting on Chronic Diseases at ICDDR

**Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain** of the MNS Department, attended the Meeting of Technical Advisory Group organized by the Centre for Control of

Chronic Diseases, ICDDRDB on November 27, 2012 as an invited expert on cancer biology. High profile chronic disease experts in Bangladesh, professionals NGOs working on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) participate. The meeting was divided into two sessions: plenary session and working group discussion session. The discussion in the 'Working Groups' specifically concentrated on cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, cancer, mental, rheumatology and poverty. Once cancer was considered the disease of developed countries, but now cancer is becoming a heavy burden for the developing countries as well. According to WHO, more than 55% of the 12.7 million cancer cases in 2008 were estimated in developing countries. By 2030, developing countries (Low and middle income countries) will bear the burden of an estimated 27 million new cancer cases and 17 million cancer deaths. At the backdrop of such a menacing scenario, this cancer-related impending public health problem is not taken seriously both at research and policy level in our country. There is no national cancer registry system in Bangladesh. Therefore, we do not have idea about cancer epidemiology such as different types of cancers, diagnostic & treatment status and survival & mortality rate of cancer patients. That might be the reason why policy makers are not giving priority on this fast growing problem. The urgency of estimating cancer burden, early screening, setting up of population-based cancer registry system was discussed in the cancer working group meeting in order to tackle this serious public health concern.

### **Annual Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference 2012, SUST, Sylhet**

**Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury** of the MNS Department, BRAC University, attended the Annual Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology Conference 2012 titled "Application of Biotechnology in Achieving Food Security in Bangladesh". The Conference was held at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST), Sylhet from 30 November to 01 December, 2012. MS. Chowdhury presented a paper titled "Comparison between the regeneration responses of five different explants of local mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek) varieties regarding ten different media". The paper is co-authored by **Dr R H Sarker** and **M. Imdadul Haque**, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka.

### **Selection Board Member of Jagannath University, Dhaka**

**Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed** of the MNS Department has been appointed a member Specialist of the Selection Board of Jagannath University.



### **RS Updates**

#### **5 Decades of Development at Savar Campus**

As part of the extended learning activity of Bangladesh Studies Course, a lecture session on the Development of Bangladesh since Independence took place in

Markuli Hall on 11 November, 2012. The purpose of this session was to inform the students about the achievements of Bangladesh since 1971, to make them belong to the pride and to inspire them to think and work for the development of the country. The focus of the session was mainly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG'S). The whole session was facilitated by **Prof. Syed M Hashemi**, Director of BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and Acting Chairperson of ESS Department, BRAC University. The lecture ended with a question-answer session. The students participated spontaneously in the programme.

### Session on "Climate change"



Climate change has already started to bring changes into the lives on Earth, and at present, it appears to be one of the burning issues discussed all around the world. To alert the students about the dynamics of climate change, BRAC University Savar Campus organized a session on "Climate Change" (CC) on 3 November 2012 at Markuli Hall. **Dr. Ainun Nishat**, the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and a specialist on climate change and water resource engineering, spoke on the occasion as the chief guest. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar of BRAC University, formally inaugurated the session. **Dr. Nishat** mainly talked about the global scenario of CC, addressing the shifting of seasons, the erratic changing temperatures, and the rising of sea levels among other issues. He also talked about the nations responsible for climate change, and as a victim what Bangladesh should do to fight against climate change and improve its condition. During the question-answer session in the end, the students came up with innovative questions regarding climate change. The Campus Superintendent, **Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury** concluded the session with vote of thanks and also urged the students to come up with innovative ideas to combat against the climate change.

### A Parliamentary Debate on Present political Situation of Bangladesh

A parliamentary debate session was held at Residential Semester, BRAC University on 15 November 2012 at Markuli Hall. Students participated in this debate as a part of their experiential learning activity of Bangladesh Studies Course. The topic of the debate was "This house believes that the Caretaker Government system should not be re-introduced constitutionally." Both the Government and Opposition placed strong arguments in favour of their opinions.



**Mr. Ashik Sarwar**, Lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) acted as the Speaker of the House.

## SPH Updates

### Tanahashi Round highlights supply and demand bottlenecks



The first meeting of the Tanahashi Rounds, a joint initiative by the James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University and UNICEF, was held on November 11, 2012 at JPGSPH, BRAC University. The objective of the Tanahashi Rounds was to share new knowledge on cross-sector application of the Tanahashi model in the context of Bangladesh.

At the first Tanahashi Round, UNICEF presented five thematic examples (health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection) of the application of the Tanahashi model in selected unions in Bangladesh. Tanahashi model was introduced by AusAid.

The participants highlighted that assessing supply and demand bottlenecks that constrain effective and equitable coverage of essential services and practices is of critical importance to claim holders and duty bearers alike. Actions needed to correct identified bottlenecks, usually relate to three major pathways: i) use of information and evidence to develop enabling policies, strategies and budgets, ii) extent to which enabling policies, strategies and budgets lead to effective coverage of essential services and practices, and iii) extent to which good



practices and lessons learnt are documented and used to adjust policy formulation and implementation processes.

### Course on Monitoring and Evaluation for Malaria Program Managers

James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) recently signed with BRAC Health Programme for conducting courses on public Health Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation for Malaria Programme Managers from BRAC and its partner organizations. As part of activities, JPGSPH offered a course titled 'Monitoring and Evaluation for Malaria Program Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Programme, BRAC Learning Division and icddr, from 17 November, 2012 to 29 November, 2012. The course was attended by 23 participants (2 Female and 21 male) from the following 9 districts: Dhaka, Khangrachori, Moulobi-Bazar, Chittagong, Rangamati, Satkania, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet. Participants included area M&E Officer, Sr. Program Specialist, Sr. Sector Specialist, Regional Manager, Sr. District Manager, District Manager and Medical Officer from BRAC and 5 partner organizations including VARD, Ekata, ACLAB, GHARONI and Mukti. The course was inaugurated on Saturday, 17 November, 2012 by **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University



A highly qualified resource pool of 12 resource persons from governmental, non-governmental, national and international organizations was developed. The course provided critical insight into health systems strengthening in light of Malaria programs, covering topics such as health systems requirements, health care financing and governance and leadership skills, Program Evaluation, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan etc.



The course ended on Thursday, 29 November, 2012 with a certificate giving ceremony. **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH, BRAC University. **Prof. Be-Nazir Ahmed** Director, Disease Control & Line Director, CDC, DGHS, MOHFW, Dhaka, **Dr. Md. Akramul Islam**, Associate Director, BRAC Health Programme, **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director Programs, JPGSPH, BRAC University and other personnel of GFATM-Malaria project of JPGSPH were attended the certificate giving ceremony.

### Students affairs Updates

Program: 1 "Alapon"



The BRAC University Communication & Language Club (BUCLC) organized a successful discussion session "Alapon" on the history and modern day use of the Bengali Language. Prominent educationist **Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed** was the chief guest at the event. The discussion was held at the BRAC University Auditorium on 19th November. The

Director of BIL (BRAC Institute of Languages) **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** and Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** were also present at the event among other distinguished guests. The main agenda of this discussion session was to create awareness about the Bengali language & its wealthy background among university students. **Professor Sayeed** conducted the session in an informative and enjoyable way. At the end of the ceremony, President of BRAC University Communication & Language Club (BUCLC), **Aneeka Nawar Fatema** along with other members of the club presented a crest to the chief guest. With the help of sessions like this, BUCLC hopes to create awareness about Bengali language as it is our own medium of communication. To conclude, it was the hard work and combined effort of all the members that made the event a huge success.

### Program: 2 : US-BANGLADESH Relationship by BIZ BEE

In order to have an experience of the real business world, BRAC University Business Club or BIZ BEE organised an event on 'US Bangladesh Relationship' on November 18, 2012. The chief guest was **Dan W Mozena**, US Ambassador to Bangladesh and the guest speakers were **Anisur Rahman Sinha**, Chairman of Sinha Group, and **Mustafizur Rahman**, Executive Director of CPD. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, was the chair of the session and **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School (BBS), inaugurated the seminar with a warm welcome speech. The dimensions, challenges and prospects of relationship between USA and Bangladesh focusing Aid, FDI, Remittance, Export and Import were highlighted in the discussion.

### Program: 3: Inter University Football Tournament



Two teams of BRAC University Football Club participated in the Inter University Football Tournament. One of our teams became runner-up and another one ended up the tournament as semifinalist. It is the

biggest achievement of Football Club of BRAC University history.

#### Program: 4

BRAC University Electrical and Electronics Club (BUEEC) have secured the title of Champion in Season 3 of BRAC University Premier League (BUPL3) by defeating BizBee by 10 runs. The tournament was successfully organized by BRAC University Cricket Club. There were 8 teams in total, each representing the most active clubs of BRAC University.



Man of the final was Britto for BUEEC and man of the Tournament was Imran Sharif for BUIGC. BRAC University Electrical and Electronics Club was runner up in the last season and unbeaten champion this time throughout the tournament.

#### Participation in Microsoft Hackathon

On November 3rd, Saturday, BUCC representative Amit Kumar Dey along with two Member **Atef Haque** and **khan Hafizur Rahman Riad** participated a day long app development event titled "Microsoft Hackathon" at IIT Dhaka.

#### BUCC and SECS collaborated for Therap Java Fest

Therap is one of the most leading software companies in Bangladesh. With the collaboration of BRAC School of Engineering and Computer Science and BRAC University Computer Club, Therap has organized their final round in GDLN on 14th November (Wednesday). The main objective of this program was to bring out the talent in the field of programming and interest them to explore the world of possibilities that Java opens up for them.

Therap Java fest was not only a competition but it was also a training ground for new java programmers. They have shared important resource and tutorials throughout the festival so that new programmers can learn new things so that they can implement something new as final project. Therap programmers also assisted the participants with feedback and answers to participants' questions through facebook, forums, and also by provided useful learning materials. The festival was structured so as to give its participants a taste of a full software development lifecycle. Interested participants registered individually and took a preliminary screening test designed to evaluate their basic programming skills.

Among various type of software the winner was an Appointment Manager app which was programmed by Team 'Three By Zero'. The members of the team were **Rafi Kamal** and **Md. Shamim Hasnath**, both from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology). 1st runner up team was 'Void which was comprised of **Shihab Rahman** and **Rifatul Islam**, both from University of

Dhaka. Their app was Hutbazar, an online mega shop.

BRACU School of Engineering and Computer Science and BRACU Computer Club always welcome and encourage this kind of program to happen for the bright future of its students. BRACU is glad to be a part of this kind of educative event.

### **Nascenia workshop on Ruby on Rails**

Nascenia IT is the first and experienced IT solution company in Bangladesh which started working with Ruby on rails for web development. With collaboration with Nascenia IT with an aim to promote the great facilities of Ruby On Rails, BUCC has organized a workshop on Ruby on Rails on Sunday, November 18th.

In real world most of the programming languages has been designed thinking from the perspective of Machine friendliness but Ruby is one of the few languages which is designed thinking of from the perspective of developers. Object Oriented Programming concept is strictly being maintained in Ruby where everything is considered as object. But at the very beginning of ruby it was not that much popular until Ruby on Rails came out. Ruby on rails is a framework for Ruby developed by David Haerinman & hanson.

Ruby on Rails is an Open source Full stack web application framework where anyone can contribute and fix a bug on github. Since everything is pre configured on Rails using Ruby on Rails one can connect to database very easily. Ruby libraries are called Gems and different Ruby Gems are already available for different purpose. Another great feature of it is Domain specific language(DSL). Ruby On Rails is industrial programmer friendly because it has its build in test case which helps to ensure software lifecycle.

Most common Ruby on Rails example can be github, twitter, GROUPON, Shopify. As local example akhoni.com, KhanAcademy Bangla is mentioned by the guests. As IDE, Ruby Mine is being suggested by the experience presenters.

A simple blog is also being demonstrated using Ruby on rails during the workshop. At the end of the workshop Nascenia showed their interest recruit from BRACU and to pay visit to share more about Ruby on Rails.

### **Participation in World Bank Sanitation Hackathon**

A number of BUCC representative and members along with BUCC advisor Annajiat Alim Rasel participated on a 36 hour long event on Sanitation Hackathon sponsord by World Bank. The event was held during 30th November to 1st December.

### **TLC Updates**

### **Workshop with BRACU Club Presidents on 17th at Savar Campus**





TLC organized a day - long workshop with the Club Presidents and Vice-Presidents of BRACU on November 17th at BRACU Savar Campus jointly with BRACU Students' Affairs Office (SAO). At present there are 39 potential clubs are actively working in different aspects of socio-cultural,

information-technology and community services inside and out-side BRACU. Moreover, for leading those activities, the knowledge and practices of leadership skills are required. From this point of view TLC and SAO had an informal meeting with the presidents of BRACU Clubs on October 9, 2012. The discussion was facilitated by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRACU and **Prof. Zainab Faruqui Ali**, Director, BRACU Students' Affairs. There are 22 major activities undertaken by the presidents of the clubs were mentioned and 26 competencies were identified by the Club presidents. Based on the discussion of the meeting, a decision has been taken to organize a Leadership Capacity Development Workshop (focusing on the list of the required competencies identified by the Clubs' presidents) in every semester for the presidents of the club. The first Leadership Capacity Development Workshop was held on 27 November, 2012. The workshop was designed focusing on theoretical and practical exercises on Social skills, Leadership principles and Habits of High performing Leaders. Each of the club leaders had to prepare their activity and achievement posters and had to display it in the Markuli hall. Later, there was a gallery visit on it. There was a jury board who selected five clubs as "STAR AWARDEES" , Summer 2012, after a thorough assessment. BIZBEE got the first "Star Award" for their ongoing activities and achievements. The last session was on sharing from the leaders regarding their club's goals, objectives and future strategic plan. The Workshop was wrapped up by giving Star Awards and certificates to the leaders. The facilitation team were- **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRACU, **Ms. Samina Anzum**, **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali** and **Nasreen Sultana Mitu**, from TLC .A short visit of **Dr. Tureen Afroz**, Director, SAO and the presence of **Md. Mahfizul Islam**, Asst. Director, SAO

added extra values to the workshop.



### Session on PPT for BRACU Faculty on 27th

Teaching & Learning Center (TLC) of BRAC University has decided to offer a series of short courses (2 hours) on the areas of various teaching -learning topics for

BRACU Faculty, Staffs and Students. However, the first short course on -Effective use of PowerPoint in classroom teaching-learning has been organized on November 27, 2012 at BRACU. A total 28 faculty and admin staff attended this advanced level course, titled as "PowerPoint & beyond PowerPoint". The session was opened by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC & Director, TLC and was facilitated by **Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Lecturer-III, TLC.

### **Attending Workshop/Seminar/Conference**

**Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Lecturer-III attended a day-long workshop on School-Bullying on November 10, 2012 at BU-IED. The workshop was organized by the Training unit of BU-IED and was facilitated by Training unit, Counseling and research unit of BU-IED. A total of 20 teachers and academics from Sir John Willsons Schools participated in the workshop.