

## BRACU e-Bulletin 2013/ February

### 8th Convocation of BRAC University



BRAC University celebrated its 8th Convocation in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 17 February 2013. The centre became a beautiful exhibition of colors where graduating students and faculty members wear blue and green color gowns. **Professor Alauddin Ahmed**, Advisor to Prime Minister on Education, Social Development and Political Affairs was presided over the ceremony as Chief Guest while social activist and Indian film actor **Mr. Rahul Bose** was present as Convocation Speaker and **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, BRAC University as Special Guest.



The ceremony commenced with **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) delivered the welcome address. A total of 742 students from undergraduate and postgraduate programmes graduated in this year's convocation whereas eight of them were awarded Chancellor's Gold Medal and 19 of them were awarded Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal. The recipients of the Chancellor's Gold Medal were: **Athina Shaolin Audity, Rachaen Mahfuz Huq, Sadika Amreen, Ahmed Hosne Zenan, Mirak Raj Angdembe, Supriyo Shafkat Chowdhury, Maruf Ahmed Chowdhury** and **Sunita Shrestha**.

**Professor Alauddin Ahmed** confirmed the degree of the graduating students, congratulated them and wished them every success in life. **Mr. Rahul Bose** delivered an inspirational speech before the graduating students. In his speech, **Mr. Bose** suggested all graduates to find their true features and work hard to become a world class product. He also praised BRAC's efforts at alleviating poverty not only in Bangladesh, but in many countries around the world. **Sir Fazle Hasan** Abed in his speech expressed his hope that the BRAC University would continue to play its role in dispensing quality education in the country and the graduates will carry forward the ideals of service to the society and the nation.

**Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University in his speech congratulated all graduates, described the progress of the University so far made and outlined a plan for the future.

### **BRACU World Champion Debaters met Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**



On February 24, BRAC Chairman Sir Fazle Hasan Abed met with World Champion debaters **Mr. Ratib Mortuza Ali** and **Mr. Aaqib Farhan Hossain** at BRAC Center to celebrate their triumph at World Universities Debating Championship 2013 in Berlin, Germany. Vice Chairperson of BRAC, **Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury** was there with **Sir Abed**. Together with the club's adviser **Mr Rezaur Razzak**, six members of the debate club discussed their experiences in Berlin, general activities of the debate club as well as strategies to maintain BRAC University's supremacy in the international arena.

Sir Abed congratulated the world champions and the university for such accomplishment. He also shared some of his experiences with them. Vice Chancellor **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Pro-Vice Chancellor **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Registrar **Mr Ishfaq Choudhury** and Chairman (Acting) of Economics **Prof. Syed M. Hashemi** were also present in the event.

### **Vice Chancellor Visited China**

Vice Chancellor **Prof. Ainun Nishat** visited China last month. It was an academic exchange programme with "Hainan Institute for World Watch". During his visit, **Prof. Nishat** was invited to participate in a workshop and share his wisdom and experience on tackling climate change. He was accompanied by his wife Prof. Samina Sultana, faculty member of English and Humanities Department of BRAC

University.

## Pro Vice Chancellor visited John Moores University, Liverpool



Pro Vice Chancellor of BRACU visited John Moores University (JMU), Liverpool last month from 25 February to 1 March 2013. A 7 members group comprised with academics from private and public universities of Bangladesh visited and attended a 4 day workshop entitled "Strengthening Leadership Capacity in Higher Education". In this workshop, **Prof. Samdani** mainly focused on "faculty development". Both Bangladeshi delegates and JMU academics shared and exchange their experience on the way and tools of faculty, staff and students development. The event was initiated by British Council as a part of joint programme of University Grants Commission (UGC) and British Council. **Dr. AJM Shafiul Alam Buiyan** (Dhaka University), **Dr. M Shahadat Hossain Khan** (Patuakhali Science & Technology University), **Dr. Abdur Rahim Mollah** (Ahsanullah University of Engineering and Technology), **Prof. AK Fazlul Hoque** (Khulna University), **Dr. Md. Shahidullah** (Rajshahi University), and **Prof. Dr. Mahbubur Rahman** (Rajshahi University) were also accompanied **Prof. Samdani in this visit.**

## Meeting

### Board of Trustees (BoT)

Board of Trustees of BRAC University met last month on 13 February 2013 at the Vice Chancellor's Office in their 7th meeting. The meeting was chaired by **Sir Fazole Hasan Abed** KCMG, Chairperson of BoT of BRACU. In this meeting, the BoT welcomed **Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, Vice Chairperson of BRAC as a new member to the BoT. The BoT discussed various academic and administrative issues and took important decisions. The members also provided their valuable guidance to the management of the university. The BoT also discussed the future plans for the University and reviewed the progress so far

made. Vice Chancellor Prof. Ainun Nishat was present as a member and Registrar **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** was present as secretary of the BoT.

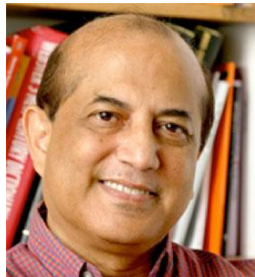
### **Syndicate**

The 8th meeting of the BRAC University Syndicate held on 7 February 2013 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 external members in the meeting. Pro-Vice Chancellor (In-Charge) **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Designate) **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick** and Treasurer **Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar** were present as members and Registrar Air Cdre. (Rtd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury was present as member secretary of the Syndicate. Vice Chancellor, **Professor Ainun Nishat** chaired the meeting.

### **Academic Council**

The 48th meeting of the Academic Council held on 31 January 2013 at 4:00 PM in the Conference Room at the Office of the Vice Chancellor. The meeting was chaired by **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Pro-VC, Registrar, and Head of all Departments/Schools/Institutes were present as members of the Council. The Council approved results of the graduating students who would participate in the 8th Convocation, discussed and reviewed different academic problems, course curriculum, and academic activities in that meeting. Academic professionals from different academia were also present in the meeting as members.

### **Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury joined as a new member of the BoT, BRACU**



**Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**, the newly appointed Vice Chairperson of BRAC has been appointed by the Governing Board of BRAC as a new member of the Board of Trustees (BoT), BRACU. In the 7th meeting of the BoT, all members welcomed **Dr. Chowdhury** to the meeting. Previously **Dr Chowdhury** was the senior advisor of health at the Rockefeller Foundation, based in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to joining the foundation, he was deputy executive director of BRAC in Bangladesh, where he set up and directed its research and evaluation division. He was the founding dean of the James P. Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University.

## Architecture Updates

### Street painting to celebrate 21st February and International Mother Language Day



31 BRACU first year architecture students transform a street into a walking gallery celebrating the alphabets of the various languages of the world



It was a class project. For three days, an entire street was handed over to 31 students of the 1st year of the Department of Architecture. The 370 feet long street in front of BRACU building 3, 4 and 5 was transformed using nothing but vivid colours and constructive imagination.

Under the guidance of

**Shams Mansoor Ghani, Dr. Tariq Mahbub Khan and Tanzil Idmam Shafique**, the studio instructors, the students were allotted a plot measuring 10 feet by 15 feet on the road, upon which they painted an abstract composition inspired by a word, in Bangla and its translation in one of the major languages of the world. Hence, if one walks down the road and comes across designs on the street vaguely resembling Japanese, Chinese or Hebrew letters, it is a deliberate attempt to capture one's mind and celebrate the International Mother Language Day.

The project completion evening was inaugurated of by the Pro-VC of BRACU, **Dr Fuad H Mallick**. As he wrote his name in Bangla, students, teachers and local people poured on to write theirs on to a bed of red paint allotted for this purpose.

### **Study Trip at Sylhet City**

Students from department of Architecture of studio 401 have visited the Sylhet City from 04 February to 10 February, 2013. A field study was organized in Sylhet city as part of their design exercise on 'Urbanism and Urbanization of Secondary Cities and Small Towns in Bangladesh'. The field study was jointly operated with a group of other twenty students from department of Geography, department of Anthropology and department of Architecture of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SAUST) as an interdisciplinary approach for the study of urbanism. During the five day visit, students have studied the spatial arrangement, culture and tradition, socio-economical features, as well as the climatic and environmental issues by rigorous field studies. Presentations and Discussions were arranged with **Professor Dr. Sharif Sharafuddin** (Head, Geography), Assistant Professor **Avik Sobhan** (Arch) and other faculties of respective departments, 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 Sylhet City for the present and future. Studio teachers **A.K.M. Sirajuddin, K.H. Kabir, F.H. Khan** guided the field study.

### **David Adjaye OBE visited the department of Architecture**

British architect **David Adjaye** OBE visited the department of Architecture on 24 February 2013. He is the principal architect of Adjaye Associates, an architectural consulting firm based on London and visiting professor at Princeton University School of Architecture, New Jersey, United States. He received the title of OBE from the British Queen in 2007 for services to British architecture, RIBA – Bronze Medal (1993), Design Miami/ The Designer of the Year Award (2011), Power list: Britain's Most Influential Black Person (2012) etc. His impressive project profile includes Moscow school of Management (2010), Moscow, Smithsonian NMAAHC, Washington DC and many more.

Recently he has been invited to Dhaka as the keynote speaker of CAA Dhaka 2013 Conference. **Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Pro VC and Chairperson of Department of Architecture were the convenor of the conference. In this connection next day of the conference, **Mr. Adjaye** visited different Design and Graphic studios of the department of Architecture and had a very close interaction with students.

## BBS Updates

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between BRAC Business School and Marie Stopes Bangladesh



BRAC Business School and Marie Stopes Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 14th February, 2013 at BRAC University Campus. As part of the MoU, the resources (students and Faculties) of BRAC Business School will look into the existing marketing strategy of Marie Stopes Bangladesh and will suggest a comprehensive and sustainable strategy which fits to the local market requirement. BRAC Business School, being one of the well reputed education institutions here in Bangladesh, recognizes the value of industrial affiliation to provide hands-on market experience to the students. At the same time, BRAC University is also committed to shape up the ethical values of its students to contribute in producing responsible corporate citizen for the future of the nation. Marie Stopes Bangladesh, a not for profit Organization providing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services with high quality to the poor and vulnerable people of Bangladesh since 1988. Currently with its operating 132 clinics, Marie Stopes strives to reach to the people where they don't have access to the conventional health facilities. As part of the project, the resources of BRAC Business School will visit different health facilities of Marie Stopes and in the process students will not only obtain real market exposure but also learn how as a responsible citizen compromises short term profit to contribute to the bigger interests. In the signing ceremony, **Professor Ainun Nishat** (Vice Chancellor), **Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** (Registrar), **Mohammad Rezaur Razzak** (In-Charge, BRAC Business School), **Md. Tamzidul Islam** (Faculty, BRAC Business School), Senior faculties and students from BRAC University and **Anil Prabhakar Tambay** (Country Management Consultant) and **Dr. Kazi Golam Rasul** (Senior Director Programme Development) from Marie Stopes Bangladesh were present on the occasion.

## Research Work and Book publication of BBS Faculty Member

**Prof. A.B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam** " Financial Sector Reforms", Bank Parikrama, Journal of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, Vol XXXVII, December 2012, pp 5 - 15.



**Prof. Dr. Akbar Ali Khan** "Ajab o Jabar-Ajab Arthoniti" has been published on 19th February, (Tuesday) 2013 at the Bengal Art Gallery . Prothoma Prokashan has been celebrated the publication ceremony. **Mohammad Habibur Rahman** (Chief Justice of care taker Government) was chief guest along with **Binayak Sen** (Economist), **Zillur Rahman Siddiqui**, **Salma Khan**, and **Oahiduddin Muhammad**.

## Entrepreneurship Development Forum

1. On February 15, 2013, Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) held the fresher's orientation titled "Prelude". In the orientation, the fresher's were first introduced to the club and the activities of the club. Followed by the introduction, **Ms. SohanaWadud Ahmed**, advisor to the club, welcomed the students to the orientation. The former President, **Md. NazmulHoqueBhuiyan** and the former General Secretary, **AKM ShihabUzzaman** were bidden farewell. The orientation included many dance performances, game shows, and ice breaking sessions in order to get to know the new members of the club.

2. On Friday, the 8th of February, 2013 the Entrepreneurship Development Forum of BRAC University arranged a field trip, to a national park located in the district of Sylet called 'Satchari National Park'. The picnic started with the bus leaving sharp at 7:15 am from BRAC University. Several students of many different departments went to this trip and were accompanied by the advisors of the club.

The students reached the park at around 1 pm and they explored the park which entailed a thick belt of forest with different types of trees, and other greeneries. The forest also had mountains and the students took up the adventure to climb it. Later the students had lunch and soon after visited a tea garden which was nearby. After exploring the tea garden, the students and teachers departed for BRAC University and reached the campus at 9 pm.



## BIL Updates

### New MA in TESOL launched at BRACU by BIL



BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has successfully finished two certificate courses in TESOL during 2012, while it was waiting to get permission to become an Institute.

Immediately afterwards, the first course for MA in TESOL started, with 21 students. Since the MA course is divided into three sections:

Certificate, Diploma and the MA degree, students can enter and leave at different points. This is why there are students now doing two different levels, the Certificate, and the Diploma level.

### BIL Faculty Member presented paper on Oriana Fallaci

Sefat Irine Mou, Lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages, BIL presented a paper titled "Searching the Soul in Solitude". The paper was presented at the Seminar Series of, English Department, East West University. This paper is a review work of the book Letter to a child Never Born by Oriana Fallaci. This work of Ms. Mou endeavors to explore into the soul of womanhood, motherhood and humanity following the book. The discussion of the paper began with a feministic approach having contemplation on psychoanalysis, existentialism, abortion dynamics, and moral issues with humanity, and to some extent, critics' opinions.

### BIL faculty members' paper published

Five BIL faculty members' papers have been published in NELTA Proceeding 2012. This is to be noted that all five faculty members from BIL presented papers in the 17th NELTA (Nepal English Language Teachers Association) International Conference on "Beyond Binaries: Sharing ELT Practices and Creating the Future" held in Katmandu, Nepal from 18 to 20 February, 2012.



The paper titled "Drama: proven essentials of BRACU BIL to create competent learners" was prepared jointly by Roxana A. Chowdhury and Golam Kader Zilany, while two other faculty members from BIL, **Effat Hyder** and **Hasna Khanom's** paper was on Engaging Students into Developing Rubrics to Ensure Learner Autonomy. Moreover, **Ashik Sarwar's** paper was on The interior of EFL

classroom and the tertiary learners in Bangladesh.

The conference was a tremendous opportunity for ELT practitioners to exchange experiences about English language teaching across the globe, since 90 working papers were presented by 65 representatives from 17 different countries.

## **BDI Updates**

### **The seventh BDI working paper has been published**

The seventh BDI working paper "Diverging Stories of Son Preference in South Asia: A Comparison of India and Bangladesh" has been published. It was authored by **Lopita Huq**, Research Fellow, BDI, **Simeen Mahmud**, Lead Researcher, BDI and **Professor Naila Kabeer**. This paper has explored the hypothesis that improvement in child sex ratios in Bangladesh is due to a shift in parental preferences about sex composition of families in a society undergoing rapid socio-economic change.

### **The first meeting of the South Asian Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians - CGST**



The first regional meeting of the South Asian Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians was held from February 25-27, 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Network was set up in July 2012 at the Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Bangladesh to promote a stronger role for women in national governance in South Asian nations. The regional meeting was organized by the South Asian Regional Secretariat of Women Parliamentarians (SARSWP) housed at the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BDI. SARSWP is supported under the USAID & UK aid funded Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP) program implemented by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the State University of New York, Centre for International Development

(SUNY/CID).

### **The participating women parliamentarians**

This meeting discussed regional priorities of the Network concerning women's political participation, violence against women (VAW), and implementation of all UNSC Conventions related to VAW. The three-day long meeting brought together more than twenty Women Parliamentarians from six countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs **Sumedha Jayasena** graced the meeting with her presence. **Dhammika Dassanayake**, Secretary General of the Parliament of Sri Lanka gave a special address at the opening session. The MP from Bangladesh, **Honourable Rasheda Begum Hira**, was elected as one of the spokespersons of the Network on violence against women. The honourable MP focal points from the South Asian region also adopted the Colombo Declaration on Women's Political Participation. The Declaration reflects the consensus of the South Asian Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians on the importance of further strengthening women's political participation and collaboration, both within countries and across countries in the South Asia region. Details on the Declaration can be accessed at <http://www.bracu.ac.bd/academics/dept/course.php?code=CGST>

### **Consultation between Women Parliamentarians and Civil Society on Implementation of the Sri Lankan Women Parliamentarians National Action Plan - CGST**

A consultation between women parliamentarians and civil society on implementation of the Sri Lanka Parliamentary Women's Caucus: Country Action Plan was organised by the South Asian Regional Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians (SARSWP), CGST, BDI. This meeting followed the first meeting of the South Asian Regional Network of Women Parliamentarians which was held from February 25-27, 2013 in Colombo. The consultation meeting was supported by Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP) program implemented by The Asia Foundation and its partner SUNY/CID and sponsored by USAID and UK aid. It was facilitated by the Women and Media Collective and held at the Hotel Hilton, on February 28, 2013, at Colombo.

The Country Action Plan recognises the commitments made to women's equality articulated in the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the Women's Charter, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Parliamentary Women's Caucus aim to guide and monitor the actions necessary to achieve the results set out in plan. This meeting was an opportunity for the Women' Caucus



to receive feedback from civil society and secure their support in its implementation. The initiative was appreciated by civil society members and a commitment was made to continue to work together to finalize the plan and begin its implementation.

### **Certificate distribution of Social Communication Short Course**



The certificate giving ceremony of the short course "Communication for Social Development and Commercial Marketing Including Brand Value Expansion" to the inaugural batch took place on February 7, 2013. 25 professionals from commercial and Non-profit organizations participated in the course. The Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, graced the certificate distribution event with his presence. **Dr. Iftekharuzzaman**, Transparency International, **Professor Syed M Hashemi**, Director, BDI, **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator, BDI and **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI were also present in the event. The event was moderated by the course instructor **Afsan Chowdhury**, Senior Advisor (Communications) of BRAC.

### **Master of Development Practice (MDP) Summit 2013**



Senegal hosted the fifth Annual Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Summit from February 27 to March 1, 2013. The 2013 Summit, held at University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD/Dakar, Senegal), provided the opportunity to not only review past year's accomplishments, but to discuss and plan for the future. Participants hailed from 17 countries, representing 21 of the 24 MDP academic institutions in the association. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, BDI MDP Coordinator and **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Coordinator attended the summit.

Participants spent most of their time networking and partnering with one another, sharing best practices, and contributing to the plans for the first joint Global Association of MDP Programs' Sustainable Development Solutions Network Conference that is scheduled for September 6-8, 2013. In addition, sessions were organized on various topics including a discussion on the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the MDP field training programs, and MDP online courses and modules. **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Director of the Earth Institute, Columbia University, participated in both days of the Summit.

## Counseling Unit updates

### Motivational Session for Medha Bikash:

For last two and half 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 insolvent 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 13th and 19th of February 2013. As usual, it was five day session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background. This time 32 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, goal setting etc. 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

### Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) Orientation Session Spring 2013

Orientation Session for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) was held on February 7th, 2013 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. Out of 200 registered students, a number of 175 attended this program.

**Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRAC University was the key speaker of the session. After introducing the team members of both Career Services Office and Teaching & Learning Center, **Professor Samdani** spoke about how students should prepare themselves and take necessary actions while searching for a job in their particular field of expertise and facing interview boards.

By discussing the topic plan flow chart, **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director of Career Services Office delivered a presentation on the rationale of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP). Her presentation involved step by step explanatory on how PSDP will be conducted and how students will gain knowledge and get familiar with the world of work. The second part of the orientation program contained interaction with the students by introducing exercises where participants are asked to find out their major strengths and weaknesses and discuss it in their groups.

At the end of the seminar all the team members of Career Services Office and Teaching & Learning Center, BRAC University took part in a Q&A session. **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor, Career Services Office, **Zinat Fatema**, Intern, Career Services Office, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Senior Lecturer, Teaching & Learning Center, **Samina Anzum Chowdhury**, Faculty member, Teaching & Learning Center, **Sabrina Syed**, Lecturer-II, Teaching & Learning Center, also attended the seminar. With the help of student volunteers and Career Services Office team members the event rolled smoothly till the end.



## ENH Updates

### Discussant at the Launch of a Journal:

On 13th February 2013, **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chair of ENH attended the launch of the first issue of Chaos, a journal brought out by the Department of English, Independent University Bangladesh. The journal has a combination of research articles on English Literature, Linguistics and creative writings.

A discussion on Unfettered, the English translation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's Bandhonhara, published by Nymphaea and sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, was held at Indira Gandhi Cultural Center on 16th February 2013. Professor Firdous Azim was one of the



discussants at this event organised by The Reading Circle (TRC). The other discussants of the event were **Professor Rafiqul Islam**, **Professor Fakrul Alam**, **Professor Razia Sultana Khan** and former ambassador **Mahbulul Alam** who talked about various aspects of the book.

### Conference Presentations:

**Sharlene Nisha Alam**, Lecturer, ENH presented her paper titled "The Admired and the Abhorred in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness" at the conference hosted by the Itihash Academy of Dhaka University on 8th February 2013. The conference was sponsored by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

### ESS Updates

**A. M. Tanvir Hussain** (Assistant Professor, ESS) will join the Faculty of Sustainability, Leuphana University of Luneburg (Germany), as post-doctoral researcher from April 29, 2013. He will work in the project COMTESS ("Sustainable Coastal Land Management: Trade-offs in Ecosystem Services"), which is funded through a grant from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research BMBF. He will be employed for a period of two years and three months and will be on study leave from BRAC University.

### IED Updates

#### Expansion of the 'Schooling and Counseling for the Children of Post-Primary Education (SCOPE)' initiative

SCOPE, the non-formal secondary education initiative has been expanded in new areas of Dhaka urban. Thirty three new SCOPE centres have been opened in those areas with the aim to assist the underprivileged children by providing them with the opportunity to continue their studies. A total of 1,215 secondary school dropout children admitted in these centres in Grade VI. Alongside for academic studies, the students will be receiving information on Sexual Reproductive Health

and Rights (SRHR).

### **Positive and Effective Parenting in Early Years**



With the primary objective to develop strategies on 'Positive Parenting' in early years for future direction, initiate a research study as well as eventually develop a course for the Masters students, the core group comprised of ten members have had the first consultation session in the month of February for 4 days

with Dr. Faith Lamb Parker, an international educationist from the USA in Early Childhood Care and Development. The group along with the consultant developed the strategies for IED for future direction; initiated the ground work for the research study; and decided on the modules for the course.

### **Training for the Head Teachers and the Upazila Education Officers (AUEOs)**

The Professional Development Team has passed another month of collaboration with the Directorate of Primary Education as the team provided training to the Head Teachers of Govt. Primary Schools (GPS) and Assistant Upazilla Education Officers (AUEO) came from different districts of Bangladesh. It



was the 16th batch where fourteen participants participated in the 6 days training course on 'How can we make the school work'.



## **Global Rating of Environments for Bangladesh (GROE for Bangladesh)**

IED, BRACU is developing the Global Rating of Environments (GROE) for Bangladesh with the collaboration of two International consultants (Dr. Faith Lamb Parker and Dr. Virginia Casper from Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA). This tool will be a culturally meaningful ECD environment scale and will measure the quality of ECD programmes across Bangladesh.



Two consultants along with the advisory group members visited the preschool programmes of Plan Bangladesh and Day Care centres of Phulki on 10th February 2013 which has been chosen as the field site for this study. Dr. Virginia conducted an 'Introductory Training on GROE' from 11-14 February 2013 at IED. All GROE team members

including the advisory group members received this training. Pilot testing of the tool is going on. To this end, the GROE team members visited pre-primary programme of Directorate of Primary Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 13th February 2013.

GROE team members also visited day care centres of Phulki, preschool programmes of Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children and BRAC for pilot testing of the tool. Research team members will also visit preschool programmes in March and April 2013. Field test for GROE will be conducted in June- July 2013. Before that, training will be conducted by the International Consultants on the final version of GROE.



## **IGS Updates**

**Roundtable discussion on Alternative Path to Good Governance: Insights for Bangladesh**



Although the concept good governance has emerged with a highly intuitive and genuine appeal, the advocated paths to achieve it have come under increased scrutiny and criticism in recent times. Alongside the renewed "good-enough" governance discourse, there is a growing voice whether it is time to explore any "alternative path" to attain good governance. To

attempt to answer some of these vital queries, and to suggest policy options, the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has organised a roundtable discussion entitled "Alternative Path to Good Governance: Insights for Bangladesh" on 13th February, 2013 at GDLN Conference Room, BRAC University, to share and disseminate the primary research findings from literature reviews and to invite comments from leading experts, academicians and researchers in this field.

**M Hafizuddin Khan**, Former advisor to the Caretaker Government, **Ryuji Kasahara**, advisor, JICA, **Mark Ellery**, WSP specialist of The World Bank, **Rustam Pulatov**, Programme Specialist, UNDP, **Mahmudur Rahman Manna**, Convenor, Nagorik Oikya, **Md. Forhad Siddique**, Development Programme Specialist, KOICA, **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, BRAC Development Institute, IGS lead researcher **Ashikur Rahman**, and **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, participated in the programme.



### **IGS Team Meeting with Social Impact-Bangladesh**

A coordination meeting with the Social Impact-Bangladesh was held on 17 February 2013 at IGS conference room. On behalf of IGS, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, and **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manager, attended the meeting. **Ms. Sandra Basgall**, Chief of Party and **Mr. Saiful Isalm**, Deputy Chief of Party represented the Social Impact-Bangladesh. Different bi-lateral issues were discussed in the meeting. It also focused on how both of the partners could contribute towards implementation of the project activities in a better coordinated way.

### **Training on Strategic Sourcing**



A training programme, titled Strategic Sourcing was organised by IGS on 15-17 February 2013, at the Institute's Conference Room. As part of core activities of IGS, this training course was offered to enhance the capacity of the supply chain professionals. The Strategic Sourcing course was attended by 14 participants from different organisation.

**Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, awarded certificates among the participants on the last day of the course in an unostentatious ceremony. The course was conducted by the training wing of IGS.

### **IGS Consultative Meeting on Citizen's Involvement in Public Procurement**

IGS organised a consultative meeting with the third party monitoring group of Daktarkhali Community Primary School in Rugganj, Narayanganj on 23rd February, 2013 at the school. As part of citizens' engagement in Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) - II and formulation of a strategy on how to engage citizens in public procurement, the daylong meeting discussed the process of monitoring by the group thoroughly. The Secretary of the School Managing Committee (SMC), other members of the committee, guardians, Secretary of Rugganj Upazilla Anti-Corruption Committee, BRAC Education Officer and IGS representative **Munir Uddin Shamim**, **Mohammad Sirajul Islam**, **Arafat Gubair** and **Jannatul Fardosh** actively participated in the meeting.

### **Review Visit by IDRC-TTI At IGS**

On 11th February, 2013 an independent evaluation team consisting of Mr. John Young and **Professor Kuldeep Mathur** from International Development Research Centre-Think Tank Initiative (IDRC-TTI) conducted an assessment at IGS. During the visit, the team focused on IDRC-TTI's contribution to build institutional capacity of IGS as a member of IDRC-Think Tank Initiatives. The focal meeting segments were: research, organisation management, advocacy and media and outreach relations.

The Independent Evaluation team covered individual review meetings with the research, management and finance team of IGS. Following that, a wrap up session was attended by **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, IGS Director, **Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed**, Research Coordinator and **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manager.

### **Lecture by IGS Director at BCS Admin Academy**

On 14th February, 2013, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, delivered a lecture on "Public Sector Reform in Bangladesh" at BCS Admin Academy in Dhaka. The lecture programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Civil Service Admin

Academy and Yamaguchi University, Japan. The core subject of the lecture was "Intermediate Course on Public Administration and Public Finance".

### **CIPS Cohort-2 Certificate Awarding Ceremony At the British High Commission**

On 12th February, 2013 CIPS Cohort-2 certificate awarding ceremony took place at the British High Commission, Dhaka. Public Sector Cohort-1, Cohort-2 and private sector students attended the event. 14 participants from Cohort-2 were awarded with MCIPS completion certificates through PPRP II by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS). H.E. **Mr. Robert Gibson**, British High Commissioner, Andrew Coulcher, Director of Business Solution, CIPS, UK, Paula Steele, Global Public Sector Manager, CIPS, UK, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, IGS, **Mr. Amulya Kumar Debnath**, DG, Central Procurement Technical Unit of IME Division of the Planning Ministry and other guests were present in the ceremony. IGS Staff involved with CIPS programme were also present at the programme.

### **ANSA-SAR Arranged Community Score Card Training in Jamalpur**

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR), in collaboration with the PRIP Trust, arranged the second phase of the training programme on Community Score Card (CSC) in different government primary schools and community clinics at Adharvita Union of Jamalpur from 1st to 15th February, 2013. The CSC phase II project was carried out at the local community level for bringing together service users and providers which will eventually help to promote citizens' participation for ensuring accountability in the project area. This programme was carried out by the local facilitator, trained by ANSA-SAR.

### **ANSA-SAR Visits the Gulf of Mannar for reviewing the ANSA supported Public Affairs Center's Project**



ANSA-SAR team has visited Gulf of Mannar, South India on 25th February, 2013 to review an innovative ANSA supported programme "Enhancing Community - Centred Governance in Climate Change Affected Coastal Areas for Policy Advocacy and Reforms". The programme was implemented by Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore, India, a member of ANSA network. Through this visit, PAC has designed an innovative social accountability tool called Climate Change Score Card (CCSC), which enables citizens to monitor the impact of climate change in their locality. ANSA-SAR team has interacted and held community meeting with the representatives of Fishermen and Palmyra Tapper communities,

at their respective villages, and also participated in the meetings of District Level Platforms. **Mr. Naimur Rahman**, Chief Operations Officer and **Nujhat Jabin**, Programme Manager participated in this visit.

## **MNS Updates**

**Ninth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications, Dhaka, February 7, 2013** The Inaugural Ceremony of the above-mentioned course organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) was held at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka at 10 am on 7 February, 2013. **Architect Yafesh Osman**, State Minister for Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the ceremony presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmed, Chairman, NOAMI. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Vice-chairman, NOAMI gave the welcome address. The Chief Guest **Architect Yafesh Osman** addressed the audience and inaugurated the training course of about three months duration. After the presidential address by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmed and a vote of thanks by the General Secretary of NOAMI, **Dr. Abdur Rahim** the function ended. The audience included the trainees, resource persons, NOAMI members and others including scientists and engineers of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission.

## **MNS Department Annual Picnic**



The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences organized the Annual Picnic on Friday, 8 February, 2013 at the Fantasy Kingdom, Ashulia, Dhaka. More than 140 participants including faculty members, staff and

students belonging to the MNS Department enjoyed all the activities throughout the day. Such an event could bring a breath of fresh air to the day to day routine life for everyone and help in strengthening bonds between the teachers and students. This was the first departmental picnic of the MNS Department. BRACU subsidized the expenditure by a substantial amount for this departmental picnic.

## **Obituary Reference to Professor Padma Kant Shukla (1950-2013)**

A talk entitled, "Remembering **Professor Padma Kant Shukla (1950-2013)**" was delivered by **Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, on 14 February 2013 at the conference room of the MNS Department. It was attended by teacher, students, and staff members of BRACU. As a mark of respect to the departed soul one minute silence while standing was observed by the participants. **Professor Padma Kant Shukla**, a renowned Plasma Physicist died from a heart attack in New Delhi, India on 26 January, 2013. **Professor. Shukla** had travelled to India to receive the prestigious Hind Rattan Award from the Prime Minister **Dr. Manmohan Singh** for his outstanding contributions to his research area.

**Professor Padma Kant Shukla** was born in Tulapur, India in 1950. He moved to Europe when he was 21 years old. He had worked at the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy at the Ruhr-Universität., Germany. With great commitment and outstanding enthusiasm he researched at the interface of astrophysics and plasma physics. He published his results in high ranking scientific journals and contributed to more than 1,400 publications. During the past years, he received numerous awards. He was the elected member of the Physics Division of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Physics Division. As a member of the Academy he advised the Nobel Prize Committee. **Professor Padma Kant Shukla** was the mentor, colleague and friend of plasma physicists in Bangladesh. He had a keen interest to visit Bangladesh to develop plasma science in the country.

### **Microbiology Workshop, ICDDR, Dhaka, 16 February, 2013**

American Society for Microbiology (ASM) organized a workshop, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. It was held on 16 February, 2013 at Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, Dhaka. The theme of the workshop was "Promoting Scientific Research in Biomedical Science". **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** was the Chief Guest at the workshop. **Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain** acted as



the Chair of one scientific session. The ASM Country Ambassador, **Dr. Firdausi Qadri**, Senior Scientist, ICDDR, Dhaka coordinated the Scientific Writing Session. **Dr. Sorowar Hossain** presented a paper entitled 'Nuts and Bolts of Scientific Writing'. **Dr. Mohammed Mahboob Hossain** and **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** and some final microbiology students including **Asif Afsar**, **Trina Hasan**, **Monisha Datta** Trisha and **Nowshin Shyara Sharar** of the Microbiology Program were among the participants at the workshop.

### **Award of degrees to the MNS Department Students at the Eighth Convocation of BRACU**



The Eighth Convocation of BRAC University was held on 17 February, 2013 at the Bangabondhu International Convention Centre. This year from the MNS Dept three students received their BS degrees in Physics while ten students received their MS degrees in Biotechnology. **Sunitra Hawlader** received the Vice Chancellor's gold medal for her results at the BS examination while **Sanjoy Chandra Bhattacharjee** received High Distinction and Vice Chancellor's gold medal for his results at the MS examination.

### **Medical Biotechnology Workshop, Dhaka, 23 February, 2013**

A workshop on the policy and importance of medical biotechnology was held at the Institute of Public Health on 23 February, 2013 at Auditorium of Management Information System and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dhaka. Three MNS faculty members, **Mr. Fazle Rabbi**, **Ms. Fahareen-Binta-Mosharraf** and **Mr. Aubhishek Zaman** attended the workshop. This workshop offered a comprehensive view on "Medical Biotechnology" and its applications in Bangladesh. In the light of this theme noted researchers from different fields shared their views with informative presentation. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** presented paper on Biotechnology for Human Welfare. **Dr. Firdausi Qadri** and Professor Md. **Imdadul Huq** gave talks on diverse aspects of biotechnology. The workshop was highly appreciated by the attendees

### **Publications**

**Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, BRACU and **Mr. MR Amin**, East West University published a research article in the Journal of 'Astrophysics and Space Science' on 14 February 2013. The research paper focused on nonlinear propagation of electrostatic modes in ultrarelativistic dense electron-positron gravito-plasma at the polar cap region of pulsar magnetosphere.

**Mr. Nikhil Chandra Sarkar**, Lecturer in Mathematics published a research article titled "A Numerical Simulation of Severe Cyclone SIDR-2007" in the Journal of Bangladesh Mathematical Society (ISSN 1606-3694), Volume 32, January 2013, pp 43-54.

## RS Updates

### Drama on History

On 14 February 2013 BRAC University residential campus arranged a drama related to the historical events of Bangladesh. The drama was staged as the part of the Bangladesh Studies course which tried to locate the students' learning on the History of Bangladesh since ancient period. The drama addressed sociopolitical condition of ancient periods, Pala dynasty, Sena Dynasty, Muslim Rule, Battle of Palasy in 1757, British colonial Bengal, Resistances against the British Colonial Rule i.e. Faraizi Movement, Tevaga Movement, Sepoy Movement; Partition of India in 1947, Pakistan Period and Rise of Bengali Nationalism, Language Movement in 1952, United Front Election 1954, Students' Movement in 1962, Six-point Program of 1966, Mass Upsurge in 1969, General Election of 1970, Operation Search Light and Liberation War and the independence of Bangladesh 1971. The drama ended with the national anthem of Bangladesh. Campus Superintendent **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Assistant Campus Superintendent, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, respective faculty members and house tutors were present on that occasion.

### The Deposition of Sorates at Savar Campus



On 8 February 2013 a drama titled "Socrates-er Jobanbondhi" was arranged under Ethics and Culture course, Savar campus. The drama was staged by Drishyapot, a theater group and it was directed by **Ali Mahmood**. This drama acted as a value addition in terms of the enhancement of Culture and Ethics course. The message of this drama was, in order to get legal

democracy people at first have to ensure public reasoning. The spectators remained spellbound throughout the session.

### Seminar on Public Health

On 9 February 2013 BRAC University residential campus arranged a seminar on "Public Health". The program is designed with a view to familiarizing students of Spring 2013 to the issues of health and wellbeing as well as some basic understandings over sexual and reproductive health. Campus Superintendent inaugurated the session. As an expert of Public Health **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud** and **Prof. Malabika Sirkar** conducted the sessions. Later, a documentary film on reproductive health was screened separately for boys and girls.



## Anecdotes of Liberation War shared

On 8 February 2013 a session on Glorious Liberation War, 1971 titled Muktiyuddher Katha was held at Savar Campus under the extended activity of Bangladesh Studies course. The objective of this session was to share witnessed experiences of Liberation War among the students so that they can grasp an empathetic understanding on 1971

towards holding the essence of patriotism. **Major (Rtd.) Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan** a veteran Freedom Fighter and a sub- Sector Commander shared very heartrending episodes of the Liberation War. Campus Superintendent, **Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury** was also present in the session.

## Student Affairs Updates

### BUCC organized a workshop on Python

From its beginning, BUCC always try to encourage BRACU students regardless of his department to get into programming. As a continuation of this approach BUCC has organized a hands on workshop on pyhton which is facilitated by the president of this club, **Mahbub-Uz-Zaman** who is a final year student of this university. The response from the students was remarkable. Above 100 participants was present in the workshop.



In general python is being used by in different influential software and web application like Google, Youtube, Journyx, Ironport, etc which has made this language more desirable to learn. Basically python a general-purpose, high-level programming language whose design philosophy emphasizes code readability. Python's syntax allows for programmers to express concepts in fewer lines of code than would be possible in languages such as C or java and the language provides constructs intended to enable clear programs on both a small and large scale. Python supports multiple programming paradigms, including object-

oriented, imperative and functional programming styles. It features a fully dynamic type system and automatic memory management, similar to that of Scheme, Ruby, Perl and Tcl and has a large and comprehensive standard library.

**Mahbub-Uz-Zaman** has showed almost all the key features of the python. BUCC will always remain grateful to **Mahbub-Uz-Zaman** for his relentless voluntary work for the university. To make this event successful BUCC is also thankful to **Amit dey, SM Rakibul Hasan, Javed H. Ahmed, Junayed Hasan, Muhammad Oliur Rahman**. As per students desire BUCC has promised to take this workshop again.

### **BUCC organized a workshop on Ruby**

BRAC University Computer Club has arranged a seminar on 'Ruby' on Sunday, 3rd Feb 2013. The seminar was held at 18th floor GDLN conference center, the presenter of this event was **Mr. Fazole Taher**, who is one of the rising young entrepreneurs of Bangladesh. He is a co-founder of NYStartupLab. He motivated BRAC Universities student developer to go through a highly paid and highly demanding field of creative programming. He has carried on the discussion from his industrial experience of working with Ruby.



At the beginning of his speech he has given a brief description of his personal and professional achievements then he has shared few of his real life experiences he has achieved in his long programmer life. He discussed about the technologies of today's and future, and focused on a comparative study of different platforms and programming languages. At that point of his speech he discussed few other programming languages like java, javascript, ruby etc and then he explained why he does prefer ruby as a developing tool. He has mentioned that some special feature of ruby programming languages that includes its dynamic, natural, flexible, multi-paradigm and truly more object oriented than any other languages.

He has mentioned that, "Ruby is simple because it is really complicated in the back end". He showed how this language can be an efficient tool for rising developers and how it ease the task of programming and how it shortens the software development time.

The most fascinating part of the session was that when he showed a prototype of an app instantly for the beginners. In fact he has almost re-developed ruby-conf.

website using Ruby, BackboneJs and other tools.

He ends his speech through some motivational words. He says, "Today what we have tried to do is to inspire you to learn ruby" and thanked the presence. In the seminar, the BUCC President **Mahbub Uz Zaman** was present with his team, and a number of BRAC University students were present as well and enjoyed the seminar till the end.

### **BUCC organized Microsoft Imagine Cup Boot Camp at BRAC University**

BRAC University Computer club has arranged the first boot camp of imagine cup 2013 in Bangladesh on 6th February. The camp was formed at BRAC University mohakhali campus and was facilitated by BUCC executives and Microsoft Student Partners of the university.

The key speaker of the camp was **Tanzim Saqib**, the eventologist of Microsoft, Bangladesh. He delivered a very energetic speech to motivate the young students present in the camp. He mentioned Imagine cup 2013 as the 'IT Olympic' of the world.



Mentioning the world-wide acceptance of imagine cup as a glorious platform, **Tanzim Saqib** shared a brief highlights on the previous year imagine cups, specially the imagine cup 2012. He shared few outstanding successes of Bangladeshi students in imagine cup of previous few years, this time the students in audience seems to be much more interested and confident to face the upcoming world challenges.

After the inspiring speech of **Tanzim Saqib**, a person from government's project of cheap laptop (DOEL) shared their experience of mutual work with Microsoft, Bangladesh. He also shared few words about the challenges and overcomes of doing a hard and innovative task like introducing local made laptop.

The presence of **Professor Mohammad Zahidur Rahman**, the honorable Dean of Computer Science and Engineering department added an extra dimension to the camp. He thanked Microsoft people to select BRAC University for their inspirational activity and wished the organizers to arrange such kind of programs in future as well.

The advisor of BUCC **Annajiat Alim Rasel** was also present in the camp and thanked Microsoft to come BRAC University. In the program, the president of BUCC **Mahbub uz Zaman** was present with his team and he thanked everyone to come and to be a part the camp.

There was an arrangement of open quiz and prizes. The students, organizers and related everyone enjoyed the camp till the end with excitement and refreshments.

### **A group of 10 BUCC members get Industrial Android development training by Datasoft**

Datasoft is one of the most topmost development firm which mostly develop mobile application. Android posses the largest market share of smartphone. Statistics showed that within this short span of its creation it has already possessed 33% of the market share. On 17th February, Datasoft has trained a selected group of 10 people on Android development from the perspective of industrial application development in Android. They showed how to develop an application from top to bottom in and industry. How to code in a collaborative environment and how debugging is being done. They has put great emphasis on benchmarking and quality ensuring. They has showed different type of testing that a software go through. BUCC members are grateful to achieve such an wonderful interactive industry level experience.

### **BUCC celebrates "Matrivasha dibosh programming protijogita"**

To show respect to the martyr of 1952's language movement BUCC has organized "Matrivasha dibosh programming protijogita" also known as Mother Language Day Programming Contest. Where for the first time in BRACU the provided question set was in Bangla. The programming contest has started on 21st February through the rising of the sun and lasted for one day. **Junayed Hasan Sunny** has gained the honor of being the winner of the contest. **Shihab** and **Rajkin** stood as first and second runners up respectively. To make this event successful BUCC thanks **Mahbub-Uz-Zaman, Raduanul Islam, Tanjina Micky, Md. Sadaf Noor** and Univerity ACM chapter.

### **BUCC has welcomed above 150 new members at the Orientation**

BUCC has welcomed its above 150 new members to its family. BUCC is one of the most technology based influential club which always try to inspire not only its member but also all the university students toward technology. As a motivation today it has reached today's position. Now it is being considered as second top most club of BRAC University. In the welcoming session, the advisor **Annajiat Alim Russel** and co-advisor **Shamsul Kaonain Noman** was present. Both of them ware also students of BRACU. Their inspiring story always motivates fresher. At the ice breaking session different game has been played with the fresher. A technology based quiz was also another fascinating part of the orientation. The fresher has also earned their prize by winning each of the games.



At the end of the session one of successful presidents and alumni of BRACU, **Eftekharul Islam Rain** has shared his experience of working with BUCC. He has shared how this club activity has helped him to reach at today's position. To make this event successful BUCC is thankful to **Amit dey, SM Rakibul Hasan, Javed H. Ahmed, Junayed Hasan, Muhammad Oliur Rahman, Abu Sufian, Sayeda Nurjaha Azim, Muhammad Rezaur Rahman.**

### **A group of selected members of BUCC get Industrial oracle database training by Datapark for free**

A selected group of 30 members from BUCC has achieved an industry level code learning experience from Datasoft. Datasoft is one of the top most company of Bangladesh which also organize paid oracle certification course which is one of the expensive certification course on database. BUCC is proud to achieve such an experience.

Basically oracle is one of the best database which supports multiplatform. It can handle huge data such as much as 120 PB. though it is expensive but yet people still use it because it ensures high security. In industry companies like Grameen Phone are using this database. To make this event successful BUCC is thankful to **Amit dey, SM Rakibul Hasan, Javed H. Ahmed, Junayed Hasan, Muhammad Oliur Rahman.**

### **SPH Updates**

#### **Tanahashi third round discussion**

#### **Value for Money (VFM) and Attribution of Results: What can Tanahashi analysis contribute?**

The Center of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC) at James P Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University and icddr, organized the third meeting of the Tanahashi Rounds on 26 February, 2013 at JPGSPH Teleconference Room on Value for Money. The objective of the Tanahashi Rounds is to share new knowledge on cross-sector application of the Tanahashi model in the context of Bangladesh. Prof. Timothy G. Evans, Dean of JPGSPH and Dr. Pascal Villeneuve, UNICEF Representative acted as the co-chair.

'Value for Money (VfM)-term used to assess whether or not an organisation has obtained the maximum benefit from the goods and services it acquires and/ or

provides, within the resources available to it'. Panels of presentations were held focusing VfM and its application, feasibility and challenges for managing in the Tanahasi model. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion among the participants.



**Mr. Peggy Thorpe**, First Secretary (Development), CIDA talked about 'attribution on the context of a SWAp-promise and pitfalls' (talk-1). **Iftekhhar Hossain**, Economic Advisor, DFID discussed 'Value for Money (VfM): what is it and why it matters?' In this light he discussed the framework of DFID's 3'Es framework, core economy of VfM, the major challenges to attain this and some instructions to get economic appraisals. **Isa Achoba**, Chief, Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation (SPME), UNICEF analyzed how Tanahashi analysis can illuminate VfM and attribution assessment, using immunization as an example. In this regard he shared the success stories of immunization and remarked the way forward.

Dr. Evans moderated the session and the discussion. The closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Villeneuve.

## SoL Updates



On 26 February, keeping the forthcoming International Women's Day in mind, the BU Law Club organised a lecture programme within the School of Law, by **Ms. Bushra Khaliq**, Executive Director, Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE) based in Lahore, Pakistan. Her 90 minute

lecture was on the social and legal position of Women in Pakistan, the discrimination they face regarding property rights and in the private domain, biased laws and the social movements created by women for social and legal reform. The lecture ended with a question and answer session.

**Dr. Tureen Afroz**, Associate Professor of the School of Law and Director of Student Affairs, has been appointed to the Prosecution Team of the War Crimes Tribunal in February 2013. **Dr. Afroz** is well versed in International Laws and the Law of Warfare, and is also the Law Secretary

of the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee. The School of Law wishes her all success.

**Ms. Taslima Yasmin**, Senior Lecturer and **Dr. Saira Rahman Khan**, Associate Professor of the School of Law have both had research papers published in the Journal of the Chevening Society of Bangladesh, Vol.1, Issue 1. The official launch of the Journal will be on 03 March 2013.

## **TLC Updates**

### **8th TLC Follow-up workshop on "Personal Development: Habits of Highly Effective Teachers" held on February 7th at UB#2.**

This follow-up workshop was organized for the faculty members, who participated in the 9th TLT workshop, held during January 7-10, 2013. A total nine faculty members participated in this follow-up workshop. The focus of the workshop was-

- Visiting the application of learning from 9th TLC workshop on TLT: Preparing well-grounded Educators and
- Discussions on Personal Development: Habits of Highly Effective Teachers

This half-day long workshop was started after lunch. The beginning session was on the- sharing the application of learning experiences of classroom teaching from the participants of 9th TLT workshop. The next session was on - Exploring the habits of highly effective teachers in BRAC U teaching-learning. The sessions were facilitated by **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Director and **MS. Samina Anzum**, Lecturer-III, TLC. The workshop was wrapped up by sharing feedback.

### **Second Case writing workshop with BRACU and BRAC Faculty members was held on February 14th at BRAC business school.**

Fourteen case writers attended the workshop. The first session was on Case Teaching in Business School, facilitated by Ms. Maria May, Program Manager of BRAC's Social Innovation Lab. The following discussions was on Case Writing facilitated by **Prof. Syed Ferhat Anwar**. The workshop was wrapped up by giving feedback and fixing an appointment with **Prof. Ferhat** for individual case writing discussions, to be held on March 5th.



**PSDP orientation program on February 14**

BRACU Teaching and Learning center (TLC) has been giving support to BRACU Career Service Office in planning and facilitating PSDP course, spring and summer semester 2013. In continuation to this, the PSDP course has been redesigned and some



changes was made in facilitation process. The students were divided into two major areas- business and non-business and two facilitation teams have been assigned to conduct the sessions. **Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Director TLC took the major lead to redesign the course and seven broad areas of topic have been identified. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Sr. Asst. Director and **Mr. Kumar Murshid**, Consultant, CSO also add their valuable consent and ideas identifying the topics. These topics will be covered in total twelve classes/lessons. From TLC, **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, **Ms. Samina Anzum** and **Ms. Sabrina Syed** are working in the Facilitation (resource) team. The PSDP Orientation program was held on February 14, 2013 at BRACU auditorium.

### **TLC second short Session on " Facilitating Interactive Learning Session Through Lecture and Beyond Lecture" was held on March 19th**



Teaching & Learning Center (TLC) of BRAC University has decided to offer a series of short sessions (60-80 min) on the areas of various teaching - learning topics for BRACU Faculty, Staffs and Students. The second session, titled as "Facilitating Interactive Learning Session through Lecture and Beyond Lecture" was held on February 19th at UB# 02-1310. This one hour session was designed especially for the Faculty members of BRACU. Nine faculty

members from different departments attended the session. The session was conducted by **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, Senior Lecturer, TLC.

### **Attending Conference**





TLC faculty members attended an International Conference on "Inclusive Education: Meeting the Challenges of Inclusive Education" , organized by: Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE), Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was held during 15-17 February 2013 and the venue was LGED Building, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The key note speakers were- **Professor Roger Slee**, Director of The Victoria Institute for Education, Diversity and Lifelong Learning, Victoria University, Australia, **Professor Chris Forlin**, Department of Learning Science, Hiroshima University / Hong Kong Institute of Education, Hong Kong and **Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhury**, Former Member, United Nations Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), UN. The conference was enriched by the involvement of around 300 participants including 30 international delegates. From TLC **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali**, **Sabrina Syed** and **Samina Anzum** attended the conference.