

# BRACU e-Bulletin

## 2013/ August

### Architecture Updates

#### Critique Week



Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through final year were held this semester from August 15 to August 22, 2013. **Bashirul Haq, Khondokar Neaz Rahman, Asadur Rahman, Shujaul Islam, Naim Ahmed Kibria** were present as guest critics in different critique

sessions. All members of the faculty and students of the department attended the jury as well.

#### Final Year Thesis Project Critique

The students of the final design studio presented their graduating projects on 21 and 22 August 2013. There were twenty projects. The projects included Child rehabilitation center, Gazipur; In the Shadow: a study for utilization of space under flyover in Dhaka; Practical and Theoretical research centre for Universal Philosophy; Puthia : Proposal for master Planning, for the sake of Tourism; Eco- resort at Sundarban; Cox's Bazar International Airport; Rhythm of soil & Soul (Santal Cultural Complex); National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam



Complex; Barapukuria coal mine Village: Model for a culturally sustainable Community; International trade Fair Complex At Purbachal: An event Platform for branding a new city Artery; An art for the Artisans craft interpretation centre; Children's creativity Museum, a place for Imagination and Innovation; Oceanographic Research Institute and Aquarium; War peace Centre; Art Museum, Finding Opportunity by bridging the bank of Buriganga; A centre for promotion of local Technology and local Resources of rural areas of Bangladesh.

**Bashirul Haq, Mohammed Foyez Ullah, Naim Ahmed Kibria, Atiqer Rahman, Tanzim Hasan Salim, Marina Tabassum** were present as guest critics. Members of the faculty and students of all design studios were present at the critique.

## BDI Updates

### The Paper "Political Settlement Dynamics in a Limited Access Order: The Case of Bangladesh" Got Published as ESID Working Paper

"Political settlement dynamics in a limited-access order: The case of Bangladesh" authored by **Dr. Mirza Hassan**, Lead Researcher, BDI has been published as ESID working paper no. 23 by the Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Center (ESID) research program consortium based at the University of Manchester, UK.

### Panel Discussion on Implementation of Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) Bangladesh



BDI organized panel discussions on 24th, 26th and 31st August, 2013 at BRAC Centre regarding the implementation of Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF). Funded by World Bank, LGAF is a diagnostic tool that assesses the status of land governance at national level through a participatory process - draws systematically on local expertise and existing evidence. It focuses on 5 key thematic areas that have traditionally often dealt with in separation from each other, which are: Rights recognition and enforcement; Land use planning; Land management and taxation; Management of public land; and Public provision of land information and dispute resolution and conflict management with optional modules for other topics. These issues are divided into 7 panels - land tenure typology and institutional framework, urban land use planning and development, rural land use and land policy, land valuation and taxation, public land management, and land registry and dispute resolution. The panels were introduced by the Country Coordinator, **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator & Administrator, BDI. The opening remarks were given by **Sabah Moyeen**, World Bank and **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Academic Coordinator, BDI. Experts on different genre of land issues from institutions such as - Land Appeal Board, Land Ministry, UNDP, Registration Directorate, RAJUK, Ministry of Railways, and Supreme Court had participated in the dialogues and shared their valuable insights.

### Seminar on "Feasibility Studies on LIMPET (Land Installed Marine Power Energy Transformer) for Use in Coastal Belt at Cox's Bazar under the Wave Climatic Conditions of the Bay-of-Bengal", Dhaka, 3 August 2012

The above-mentioned seminar was held at the office of NOAMI at 10/8 Eastern Plaza (9th floor) Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh on 3 August, 2013 at

5 pm. The key note speakers in the session were **Mr. Abdul Matin Mondal**, Former Director of BIWTA and **Dr. Kamrul Alam Khan**, Professor of Physics at Jaganath University. **Rear Admiral (Retd) M. H. Khan**, Founder Chairman of NOAMI was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by **Professor A. A. Z Ahmad**, Chairman, NOAMI. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Vice-Chairman, NOAMI gave the welcome address. Then **Mr. Mondal** and **Professor Kamrul Alam Khan** made a power-point presentation of their talk. The project has been financed by the Ministry of Science & Technology, GoB. The speakers talked about the prospect of harnessing wave energy for generation of electricity in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The seminar was attended by NOAMI members and other guest.

## **BIL Updates**

### **BIL Faculty Member Attended Training Session**

**Pankaj Paul**, Lecturer, BIL, attended a training session on Analytical Thinking Skills organized by LogicMills, Singapore, from 29 July, 2013 to 2 August, 2013. **Dr. Mark Nowacki**, CEO and Co-Founder of LogicMills, conducted the session exclusively for the participants from BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) and Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University. In collaboration with LogicMills, BRAC University has initiated a customized program for the students of BRAC University to significantly improve academic performance, effective communication and problem-solving skills. It is to be noted that LogicMills is the only MoE (Ministry of Education) registered school in Singapore that provides Analytical Thinking Skills (ATS) programmes. They apply the HAVIT method to improve reasoning ability, analysis and the quality of overall decision making.

### **Faulty on Leave for PhD**

**Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila**, Senior Lecturer of BIL Graduate Assistant-ship to pursue her PhD at State New York, Albany. For her PhD, she will work closely the reading difficulties, which is now believed to be cause of writing and speaking difficulties for students.



has received University of to minimize the root struggling

It is worth mentioning that **Ms. Shaila** has worked with BIL for seven years. During her long tenure, she has significantly contributed to the development of the different English courses of BIL. She has, especially, worked very extensively with the Pre-university programme.

### **MA in TESOL Students' Trip to the Savar Campus**



The students of MA in TESOL took a weekend trip to the BRAC Savar campus on the 29th and 30th of August, 2013, where they attended their regular classes and participated in some entertaining activities. The occasion was made more special with a visit from **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed**, honourable Chairperson of BRACU Board of Trustees and **Lady Sayeda Sarwat Abed**,

Director of BRAC Institute of Languages. **Sir Abed's** inspirational words motivated and encouraged the students. MA TESOL academic coordinator **Dr. Sayeedur Rahman**, and faculty members **Ms. Neelima Akter** and **Mr. Zohur Ahmed** were also with the students during this trip.

## Counseling Unit Updates

### Follow Up Workshop on "Team Building"



BRACU, counseling unit conducted team building workshop "Group Counseling process-1" that was held on 1st, August 2013 from 12.45 pm to 02.30 pm at Savar campus. Overall eighteen participants attended the session including all House Tutors (HT),

selected faculty from Hum and Dev, management staff, library and IT persons etc. The whole process went through a participatory method by using different techniques. All participants shared their reflections on after-effect of the teambuilding workshops. Participants also suggested some significant points to improve working environment to work in a team more efficiently.

## CSO Updates

### CSO Current and Future

The redesigned PSDP will continue with individual advising in the upcoming semesters too. This time CSO plans to expand it to a two semester program. This means the advisors will deal with /advise students from both Fall and Spring semesters. The purpose of this is to ensure students and advisors get a chance to interact before they register with PSDP so that advisors can get an idea of the students' needs beforehand and help them accordingly during PSDP.

Internship is compulsory for the BBA, MBA and ENH students at BRAC University, though only BBA and ENH students earn credits for undertaking an internship

program. Internship for MBAs, CSs, CSEs, Economics and any other departments are non-credit. Last semester CSO placed 121 BBA students, 6 ENH students and 43 MBA students successfully into 61 organizations. Registration for the semester Fall'13 is already completed. The 'mock interview' component of the Professional Skills Development Program will take place on September 14, 2013 and CSO will invite over 100 organizations who are interested to take interns from BRAC University. The invited organization will run the session and 'interview' graduating students.

With the aim of "tacking graduate unemployment" CSO is collaborating with Prothom-alojobs to organise a major national Career Fair to be held in the Westin Dhaka on October 26 and 27, 2013. As lead in events to the fair, so far three successful seminars on i) The Development Sector as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges, ii) BRAC as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges and iii) The RMG Sector as a Career Choice: Prospects and Challenges; and two workshops on i) Packaging, branding and selling self to potential stakeholders" and ii) Career Clinic have been conducted. We intend to organize another seminar on "Practices of Equal Opportunity in the Workplace" on October 03, 2013 at Indoor Auditorium, BRAC University and another workshop on Students' Interpersonal Skills on October 10, 2013 at Indoor Auditorium, BRAC University prior to the main event.

The two day career event is expected to engage all key sectors of the economy and involve all departments and institutes of the university as well as a host of corporate and public sector leaders and key entrepreneurs and captains of industry. The event will conclude with a high powered dinner with leading employers and the good and the great of BRAC and BRACU.

In order to keep all previous graduates connected to the university, CSO and Alumni Association of BRAC University have collaborated together to track all graduate students. An office space has been allotted for carrying out Alumni Association activities in Siddique Tower. The CSO will work with a core of 'alumni volunteers' to organise a major gathering of the alumni in which a new democratic structure will be put in place and a number of priority activities will be agreed on in line with the stated objectives of the Alumni Association. A coordinator will in due course be appointed by the CSO to take forward the work of the Alumni Association.

## ENH Updates

### Final presentation of thesis and internship reports

BA students of ENH, Summer 2013 semester, presented their final theses and internship reports from 29th August to 1st September 2013. The list of the students' names and their theses' topics are given below:

	Name of The Student	Title of the Thesis/Internship Report
		English Literature
1.	Moon Moon Shiryia Thesis	"Women's Resistance Portrayed In Toni Morrison's Novel Beloved ,The Bluest Eye and Sula"

2.	Mashira Khan Pritoma Thesis	"Exile Literature : Identity Formation of Diaspora "
3.	Samira Noor Thesis	"The Futile Struggle for Self-Determination In Naipaul 's Protagonists"
4.	Mehrana Hussain Thesis	"Nationalism and Socialism Portrayed in the Novels of the Indo-Anglian Novelists Trio: Raja Rao, Mulk Raj Anand and R.K Narayan "
5.	Kazi Farzana Shoily	Myth and Meaning in Ulysses: Homer, Tennyson and Joyce
		Applied Linguistics and ELT
6.	Naushin Nazifa Islam (Thesis)	"A Study of The Communicative and Linguistic Impairments Of The Autistic Children"
7.	Syeda Dishari Basrin (Internship)	"Productive Skills : Teaching Beginners In English Medium School"
8.	Shegufa Eram (Thesis)	" Classroom Monitoring : Degree of Implementation In Schools of Bangladesh"
9.	Sadia Afrin (Thesis)	"A Study On the Listening and Speaking Skills in English at H.S.C level : Challenges and Possible Solutions"
10.	Nashra Hussein (Thesis)	"Effectiveness Of Teacher Talk In English And Bangla Medium Schools Of Bangladesh : A Comparative Study "
11.	Shafinaz Sikder (Internship)	"A Teaching Experience and A Survey On Methods Of Teaching Speaking Skills"
		Media and Cultural Studies
12.	Md.Nazmul Islam (Intership)	"How Television Commercials Are Made"
13.	Nobanita Sen (Internship)	"Knowing Stories Through Review Reports: An Experience At the New Age Working At The Star Magazine"
14.	Akash Mahmud (Internship)	"Practical Experience of working at The Star Magazine "

MA students of ENH, Summer 2013 semester, presented their final theses from 29th August to 1st September 2013. The list of the students' names and their theses' topics are given below:

	Name of The Student	Title of the Thesis/Internship Report
		English Literature
1.	Farheena Sharmin	"Imperialism in the novels of Aphra Behn, Jane Austen and Jean Rhys : A Reading of Oronoko , Mansfield Park and Wild Sargaso Sea"

		Applied Linguistics and ELT
2.	Tanjila Ferdous	"Use of English beyond the Classroom Wall : A Study of Undergraduate Students' Out-of -Class English Learning Activities"
3.	Rummana Tasneim	"A Contrastive Analysis of ELT Methodology Of Schools In Bangladesh : An Observation
4.	Numaiya Nimat	"An Investigation Of English Language anxiety- Experiences of Undergraduate Students In Bangladesh "
5.	Ishtiaque Ahmed	"Importance of Group work of ESL students In Bangladesh : A Tertiary Level Perspective "
6.	Nazmun Naher Nila	"Implementation of CALL in the EFL Classroom : Teachers' Perspectives and Attitudes in Developing CALL- based Classroom
7.	Zafrin Mahzabin	"Piaget's Pre-operational Stage and the Role of Social and Cultural Development of a Child Psychology in Bangladeshi Context "

## IED Updates

### Working with the Garments Industry

Exploring new opportunities of working with the garments industry, in August 2013, a team from the Institute of Educational Development (IED) visited Ananta Casual Wear Ltd. (ACWL) in Gazipur, Dhaka, to conduct a needs assessment of the workers, the Workers Welfare Committee (WWC) and the management of the factory. The team observed a 3-day training programme delivered to new recruits at ACWL, and followed this with informal discussions with the trainees in order to build understanding of the existing capacity building process of the workers. The training content consisted of a range of areas, including: work related technical skills; the roles and responsibilities of workers, the WWC and the Workers Participatory Committee (WPC); HR & Compliance; fire and first aid management, and; safety and security issues.

The findings of the needs assessment have helped to reveal certain needs of garments factories, including: the need for a transparent and healthy workplace relationship between workers and the mid-level management, a higher retention rate of the



workers, communication and stress management skills, gender sensitivity, workplace values and commitment. The team intends to further elaboration of their understanding and involvement in the upcoming months through conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with workers, revisiting the training module used to train workers in order to incorporate necessary pedagogical and conceptual changes, and eventually piloting a new module and a Training of Trainers (ToT) at ACWL to create a more effective process of capacity building

that strives towards the holistic development of workers.

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



Global Rating of Environments (GROE) is a tool used to measure the quality of ECD programmes. Working in collaboration with international consultants **Dr. Faith Lamb-Parker** and **Dr.**

**Virginia Casper** from Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA, IED is helping to adapt the GROE tool for the context of Bangladesh.

At present IED is conducting pilot testing to finalise the GROE tool. As a part of the pilot test, training was conducted by the consultants from 26-29 August 2013. All GROE Team members, including advisory group, participated in the training. A meeting for experts' opinion on GROE for Bangladesh was also organised on 28th August 2013. Experts from different organisations working in the field of ECD participated at the expert opinion session. The GROE Team will collect the final in October and November 2013. After finalising the English version of the tool, the team will translate it into Bangla (GROE for Bangladesh-Bangla Version).



### **Course on Positive and Effective Parenting**

IED is working on developing a course on "Positive and Effective Parenting". This course will be running as one of the courses of IED's ECD Academic Programme and will consist of 3 credits. To support in designing the course, Dr Faith Lamb-Parker, Faculty, Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA, was consulted. With IED faculty members, she engaged in a discussion to finalise the content of the course on 28-29 August 2013. IED is also planning to develop a parenting manual to offer sessions to parents in the future.





### **World Organization for Early Childhood Education**

A team of 5 IED professionals attended the 65th OMOP (World Organization for Early Childhood Education) world conference in Shanghai, China from 11-13 July 2013. The theme of the conference was stated as, "Enhancing the Development of Early Childhood

Education: Opportunities and Quality". IED members participated in the conference from Bangladesh along with participants from 72 countries. There were 2 keynote speakers from the University of Gotenburg, Sweden and the University of Waikato, New Zealand. IED presented the findings of a research on Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Emergency, conducted by IED's ECD Unit as a part of a global research.

### **Developing Analytical Thinking Skills**



A team of 6 from IED attended a "Teacher Certification Program for Analytical Thinking Skills" in Singapore from 29 July to 02 August 2013. The training was organized by LogicMills, the Thinking Academy, Singapore. Participants from Singapore and Bangladesh participated at the training programme together, which aimed at helping participants understand how they could develop the analytical thinking skills of children of various age groups. In particular, IED is hoping to implement Analytical Thinking Skills in its BRAC Nobodhara School programme.

## IGS Updates

### Proposal Writing Training Course For IGS Researchers



IGS Research Associates **S M Gubair Bin Arafat** and **Saika Nudrat Chowdhury** and Research Assistants **Afrina Islam, Nabila Zaman** and **Kazi Niaz Ahmed** completed a seven-day training course on Proposal Training held between 29 July-1 August and on 18, 21 and 22 August

2013. The training programme was conducted by **Ineke A Pitts**, Branch Director/ Course Director of MDF South Asia, Training & Consultancy. The training was held at IGS Conference Room.

### Certificate Awarding Ceremony of Environmental Management and Governance Course



The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the 5th batch of Environmental Management and Governance Course was held on 7 August 2013 at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room, BRAC University. **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, handed over the

certificates among the 7 participants who have successfully completed the course. IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** and the Course Coordinator and the Research Associate of IGS **S M Gubair Bin Arafat** were also present at the ceremony.

## IGS Sr. Finance Officer Participated in a Training in Malaysia

IGS Senior Finance Officer Mohd. **Nurul Hyder Bhuiyan** participated in a 5-days training programme on FM1: Practical Financial Management to NGOs: Getting the Basics Right held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19-23 August 2013. The training programme was organized by Management Accounting for Non Governmental Organizations (MANGO), an UK-based organization. Around 10 participants from India, Thailand, Germany, Malaysia and Bangladesh participated in this training.



## Training of Trainers Refreshers Course



IGS organized an 8-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Refreshers programme for Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) Level 4 and 5 trainers, which was held on 24 August to 1 September at BRAC University. Paul Robinson from CIPS, UK conducted the training sessions. Around 25 Procurement Trainers from different government and non-government organizations attended this training programme.

## Publications by IGS Staff: Newspapers Articles:

The Daily Star: Political violence: Serious threat to human security by **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**, 25 August 2013

The Daily Star: Egyptian tragedy and lessons for Bangladesh by **Manzoor Hasan**, 22 August 2013

The Daily Star: Dealing with foreign exchange reserves by **M Shahidul Islam**, 21 August 2013

The Daily Star: Egypt: Where political wisdom is a far cry by **Sultan Mohammed Zakaria**, 3 August 2013

Policy Note:

**M Shahidul Islam**, Research Fellow, Dealing with Foreign Exchange Reserves, August 2013

### **Selection Test and Induction Held For CIPS Cohort 3 & 4**



IGS organized an Induction programme for the selected participants of CIPS Cohort 3 & 4 on 31 August 2013 at the BRAC University Auditorium. 50 Participants out of 118 candidates from different government organizations were selected for this course through a selection test that was held on 24 August 2013 at BRAC University. Among Others, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick**, Lead Procurement Specialist of The World Bank, Dhaka Office, **Dr. Zafrul Islam**, Director General of Central Procurement Technical Unit, IME Division, Amullya Kumar Debnath and Head of International Development of CIPS, UK Sheila White and IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** attended the programme.

### **Admission Test for MPSM held**

An admission test for the fall semester 2013 of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) was held at the BRAC University on 31 August 2013. IGS Training wing facilitated the test.

### **Lecture/Discussions/Field Visit**



**Dr. Gowher Rizvi** in discussion during a session with the participants of MAGD Programme

As part of the Masters in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme, a number of lectures/discussions were held during the month of August 2013. All of these sessions were organised by IGS.

Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Professor Ainun Nishat** spoke on Climate Change and its Protocol during a session held on 25 August, 2013 at the BRAC University Conference Room.

A panel discussion was held on 27 August 2013 at the BRAC Business School conference room for the students of MAGD Programme. As panel discussants, Advisor to the Prime Minister **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**, IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, **Professor Nika Salveti** and PS to Prime Minister's Advisor **Devabrata Chakraborty** spoke on the matters of Governance, Innovative Governance, Participatory Governance and CSR at the session.

### **Field Visit to Savar**

A field visit of MAGD students was organised on 20-22 August 2013 as part of the activities of MAGD Programme. During the field visit, the students had the opportunity to visit different BRAC projects situated in Savar area. They also visited the Akran Village of Savar Upazilla as part of their visit. IGS Academic Coordinator **Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam** and **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed** supervised the field trip.

### **MNS Updates**

#### **Seminar on Randomness and Computability, MNS Department**

On 19 August 2013, a seminar titled 'Randomness and Computability' was held in

Room UB21511 of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS). The speaker of the session was **Mr. Mushfeq Khan**, a PhD student in Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. The speaker while introducing his lecture said that in 1936, within months of each other, Alonzo Church and Alan Turing provided the first known descriptions of problems that were probably 'incomputable': Church with his proof of the undecidability of the lambda calculus, and Turing with his formulation of the Halting Problem. Church and Turing had provided a formalism for what it meant for something to be computable, or more crucially, what it meant for something to be incomputable, thereby giving birth to the field of 'computability theory', the branch of mathematical logic that concerns itself with analyzing the varying degrees of incomputability that can arise in mathematics. By that time, mathematicians such as Richard von Mises had already begun to think deeply about what it meant for an infinite sequence of 0s and 1s to be random, or for one sequence to be more random than another. Von Mises suggested that for a sequence to count as random, all 'reasonable' subsequences should satisfy the law of large numbers (i.e., have the same proportion of 0s and 1s in the limit). It was Church again who filled in the missing formalism. He posited that a 'reasonable' subsequence should be obtained by a computable selection rule, making the first explicit connection between randomness and computability, and setting off a long and fruitful investigation into the interplay between the two fields, one that continues to this day. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of the MNS Department.

### **Video-Seminar on Astrophysics of White Dwarf Pulsar & Black Hole, BRACU, Dhaka**

BRACU conducted a video-seminar on "Astrophysics of White Dwarf Pulsar & Black Hole" on Thursday, 29 August, 2013, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. It was organized in collaboration with the Department of MNS and BRACU-GDLN Centre along with University of Indonesia, Tribhuvan University, Nepal (NREN VC Center) and Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), Japan.

The video-seminar was presented by **Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed**, an eminent plasma astrophysicist. He has been working on plasmas around pulsars, neutron stars and black holes for over 25 years. **Ms. Fahima Khanam**, Assistant Director, ITSO, BRACU acted as the moderator. **Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BRACU was present along with a good number of faculty members and students of BRACU. The discussion was focused on space, birth of stars, formation and evolution of astrophysical compact objects like white dwarfs, pulsars, black holes and super-massive black holes etc. The basic principles of modern cosmology, expansion of the universe, different astrophysical observations were also highlighted and supported by some video pictures.

**Professor Mofizuddin Ahmed** dedicated his speech to the reputed mathematical physicist, cosmologist and educationist, **Professor Emeritus Jamal Nazrul Islam** who recently passed away. He began his talk with the famous Einstein-Tagore discussion in 1926 at Einstein's house in Berlin where they exchanged their own ideas about universe and harmony of nature. **Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed** continued, "A star is born from a proto-star and then evolves to a red giant. And from a red giant two ways of evolution occur,

the black dwarf and the black hole, which depend on the initial mass of the star. This limiting mass is known as Chandrasekhar Limit which is of the order of 1.4 times the solar mass. If the mass is below this limit, it becomes a black dwarf and if it is higher, it becomes either a neutron star or a black hole." He showed a video on Crab-pulsar formation during the delivery and mentioned about his work on gravitational waves related to pulsars. He also mentioned about a modest scale laboratory of glow discharge plasma set up at the MNS Department. A lively discussion followed participated by not only BRACU faculty members and students but also enthusiasts from Indonesia and Nepal.

## "New Faces in campus" and "Leaving Us"

### New Faces at BRACU

Pharmacy: **Mr. Ashis Kumar Podder** joined as a Lecturer-I in the Department of Pharmacy in August 2013. Mr. Podder did his B. Pharm in Pharmacy from University of Dhaka.

Management & Admin: **Ms. Tasnova Rahman** joined as an Assistant Admin Officer in the Teaching Learning Center (TLC) in August 2013. She did her B.A. (Hons.) in Arts from East West University, Bangladesh.

### Left from BRACU

**Mr. Md. Shawkat Kamal**, who was serving as Assistant Professor in BBS resigned and left BRACU in August 2013. **Dr. Dil Afroze Quader**, Visiting Faculty, BIL, resigned in last August 2013. Another two faculty members from BIL. **Mr. Hasan Ashraf Mahmud** and **Mr. Sharif Hossen Saimum** who were serving as Lecturers in BIL also left BRACU in August 2013. **Mr. Md. Lisul Islam**, served as Lecturer in CSE Department resigned in last August 2013. **Ms. Takrima Sayeda**, Lecturer from ESS department left BRACU in August 2013.

## SPH Updates

### JPGSPH Staffs Offer Warm Welcome to Dr Sadia

The staff members of the James P. Grant School of Public Health offered warm welcome to **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury** on 20 August 2013 at JPGSPH. Dr. Sadia has joined the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) as Executive Director. Prior to joining BIGH, **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury** was the Lead and Focal Point at the World Bank on Reproductive / Maternal and Child Health. She was also the Director, HNP at BRAC from 1992-1998.

**Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean of JPGSPH introduced Dr. Chowdhury to the staff members and the staff members in turn introduced themselves. Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Sadia** said that the JPGSPH has achieved a stable and credible status through the efforts of all and it is this cooperation that she seeks to ensure that the BIGH can be established with credibility and effectiveness. Among



others, Prof. Malabika Sarker, Director Research, Ms. Ismat Ara Bhuiya, Director, Midwifery Program and Prof. Syed Masud Ahmed, Coordinator of UHC also spoke on the occasion.

### **MPH Students Rejoin the Programme with Aging and Health**



After a two week vacation MPH students of James P Grant School of Public Health rejoined the programme with Aging & Health Course. Scheduled to take place from August 18-29, 2013, the course module would include

field visit along with didactic lecture sessions. Under field visit students would look at geriatric services and cares provided in the context of low and middle income country. Along with their course activities, MPH students are also involved in the activities under Independent Field Study such as developing their one page summary of the concept notes and first round full concept note. Under this students have already submitted their one page summary concept note and first round full concept note. It is worth mentioning that students would be working on their concept notes for three rounds with feedback from the reviewers before they make final draft research proposal.

### **MPH Students Visit Old Homes**

The 9th batch MPH students had an opportunity on 27 August 2013 to visit home-based and institution-based care services for elderly as part of the ongoing module of Aging and Health in MPH program. The students first visited the Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) at Agargaon in Dhaka. Students received orientation on the elderly care provided in the old home by an adjacent health facility that provides certain tertiary health services to the aged. They visited different medical wards in the hospital and have candid discussions with some elderly persons residing in the old home. The students also visited the project area of Sir William Beveridge Foundation - Bangladesh in Dhaka. They visited different households where there are care givers from this institution who offer elderly health services by staying with them during certain time of the day. The students got acquainted with the care givers to understand the health service provision and also the students interacted with some service recipients to understand their perspective about the services.

### **MPH students participates in Knowledge Fair-2013**

Students of Master of Public Health (MPH) vibrantly participated and shared their ideas in the Knowledge Fair





that took place on August 01, 2013 at Classroom 1. As part of the regular programme activity, James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) organizes Knowledge Fair every year to facilitate an enabling gathering where MPH students get the opportunity to meet faculty, public health experts and researchers and share their ideas and have interactive discussion on their thesis topics and conduct their independent thesis.

It is worth mentioning that Knowledge Fair is a great opportunity for the MPH students to learn from renowned public health experts like you working in the area of public health field, who can provide supervision and/or guidance to MPH students on emerging public health issues that need to be looked at from research perspective. Facilitated by **Prof. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, JPGSPH, the knowledge Fair brought together a good number of public health researchers, academicians and practitioners from icddr,b, BRAC, UNICEF, Dhaka University, Population Council, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), National Heart Foundations, CIPRB etc. Among others, **Dr. Mahbub Elahi Chowdhury, Emily Gurley, Dr. Akramul Islam, Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Sohel Reza Chowdhury, Dr. Richard Cash, Prof Syed Masud Ahmed, Prof Malabika Sarker** and **Atanu Rabbani** participated from different organizations.

Potential supervisors shared their areas of interest and experience in the Knowledge Fair. Students, on the other hand, also expressed their concepts and ideas with the renowned public health researchers and experts.

### **UHC Signs MoU with UNICEF to Continue Tanahashi Rounds**

The Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE- UHC) at JPGSPH signed an agreement with UNICEF on 05 August, 2013 to establish a long-term Collaboration between UNICEF and JPGSPH. As part of this agreement JPGSPH would organize Tanahashi rounds discussion monthly. The centre is looking for next series of topics and presenters for the rounds. In this regard, the Project Coordinator CoE-UHC and the Senior Research Associate of CoE-UHC held a meeting with Dr. Peter Kim Streatfield, Director, Population, Urban, Climate Change HDSS-Dhaka. He was proposed to present 'Resolving the Denominator challenge for increasing Effective Coverage of Urban Health and related Programmes' in the next Tanahashi round. The date and time for the upcoming round would be fixed shortly.

The sub-agreement process from Abt-Associates for the project Market surveys using a discrete choice experiment in Bangladesh had been sent to the review board of USAID. CoE-UHC is working on a summary report on literature review in order to assess facility attributes that influences demand for primary health care in Bangladesh, or South Asia more generally. Pathfinder would share relevant literature available with them.



### **JPGSPH Offers Short Course on Malaria**

JPGSPH organized a course on 'Public Health Management for

Malaria Programme Managers', in partnership with BRAC Health Nutrition and Population Programme, National Malaria Control Program, BRAC Learning Division and icddr,b. The second batch of the course for Malaria Programme Managers had been started on 17 August, 2013 at the James P. Grant School of Public Health. Twenty two participants from BRAC Health and its partner organization attended at the 12-day-long residential course.

### **CMDP Organises Faculty and Preceptor Development Training**



The Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program (CMDP) organized a Faculty and Preceptor Development Training at the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) in Dhaka from 6 July to 21 July, 2013. This bi-annual training on pedagogic methods and curricular contents is part of an ongoing effort to build the

capacity of midwifery faculty based at the six Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs) of the CMDP and contribute to develop a national pool of competent midwifery faculty.

The training included sessions on effective teaching skills; modules of the Diploma in Midwifery Program; training skills, knowledge update and clinical skills standardization. **Dr. Nasratullah Ansari**, Afghanistan Country Director of Jhpiego and **Prof. Dr. Latifa Shamsuddin**, President of the Obstetrics and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and members from the OGSB network including, **Prof. Dr. Farhana Dewan** and **Dr. Rokhsana Ivy** from Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, **Prof. Dr. Iffat**, **Dr. Noor Sayeeda**, **Dr. Rowshan Hosne Jahan** and **Dr. Rashida** from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and **Dr. Hasina Banu** from the Institute of Child and Maternal Health and Technical Advisors and the Communications Officer of the CMDP facilitated the sessions.

The 2-week training was attended by 45 participants including doctors, nurse-midwives and preceptors, from BRAC University and the 6 IPOs of the CMDP.

### **Jhpiego Afghanistan Country Director Visits BIGH**

**Dr. Nasratullah Ansari**, Country Director of Jhpiego Afghanistan, visited the BRAC Institute of Global



Health from 10 June to 19 June 2013 to facilitate sessions on effective teaching skills (ETS) for the faculty of the BRAC University Diploma in Midwifery program, conduct preceptor development training for preceptors and orient the BRAC University Diploma in Midwifery program team on Standards Based Management and Recognition (S-BMR). Prior to the ETS sessions, **Dr Ansari** spent half a day orienting the BRACU midwifery team on Modified Computer-Assisted Learning (ModCAL) and supported them in completing the course. ModCAL is a self-paced, interactive knowledge update for training skills. Within a week, all 13 members of the Technical Assistance Team based at BRAC University completed the ModCAL course and obtained certificates. **Dr. Ansari** has over a decade of clinical, training, programmatic, and managerial experience, having held technical leadership positions in multiple health programs serving vulnerable and underserved populations in Afghanistan.

### **Bangladesh Health Watch Team Meets on Forthcoming Report**

A meeting of Bangladesh Health Watch team held on August 19th at BRAC Centre to discuss about the next steps with the publication of the forthcoming report on Urban Health Challenges. The authors for the report are in the process of submitting the first draft of the already submitted chapters' outline. The meeting was presided over by **Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury** (Vice Chairperson, BRAC) and was attended by **Dr. Yasmin Ahmed** (Former Country Head, Marie Stopes International) who will be joining BHW soon, **Dr. Syed Masud Ahmed** (Professor-JPGSPH and Project Coordinator- UHC, ICDDR, B), **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid** (Dean, JPGSPH) and **Kuhel Islam** (Lecturer II and Internship Coordinator, JPGSPH).

### **Interns from Nagasaki University Visits JPGSPH**



A group of 10 interns and two faculty members from Nagasaki University, Japan have started their short term internship program. The program is jointly coordinated by JPGSPH, ICDDR,B and BRAC. The students received an orientation about JPGSPH on 19 August 2013 at the school. They also had an interactive session with the current MPH students. The students will also receive orientation of the BRAC health and education interventions and visit Matlab to understand icddr, b's health initiatives at the field level.

### **MOVE-IT Launches Pilot Project in Rangpur**

The pilot launching ceremony of MOVE-IT project was held on 25 August 2013 at BRAC Learning Centre, Rangpur, aiming to register all pregnant mothers and their children in Bangladesh in a unified electronic information system by leveraging a multi-stakeholder collaborative framework.



Representatives from all the key stakeholders, including DGHS, mPOWER and Health Nutrition and Population Program (HNPP) and BRAC were present at the launching ceremony.

The main objective of the meeting was to make the key stakeholders aware of the project timeline and the variety of activities that would take place during the pilot. Deputy Divisional Director, Health, Rangpur, **Dr. Md. Sheikh Fazlul Haque** inaugurated the pilot launching with **Dr. Md. Shamsuzzaman**, Deputy Program Manager of the Government's EPI program in the chair. **Professor Malabika Sarker** from James P. Grant School of Public Health presented the overall project status and scope of the pilot of MOVE-IT project. **Mr. Zihad**, Project Director of mPOWER Social Enterprises presented some of the technical aspects of the software. **Dr. Md. Mozammel Hossen**, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Rangpur made the welcome speech while **Mr. Afzal Aftab**, Senior Research Associate, James P. Grant School of Public Health, hosted the program. MOVE-IT team incorporated the feedback from the stakeholders and made necessary changes to make the project better and successful. MOVE-IT project will continue up to June 30, 2014 at Durgapur and Mirzapur Union of Mithapukur Upazilla of Rangpur District.

### **Go4Health Updates on Community Consultations**

A meeting recently took place among Go4Health regional hubs [JPGSPH (Asia), CEHURD (Africa) and CEGSS (South America)] in Washington DC for updates and discussion on progress with community consultations and steps forward in analysis and reporting of preliminary findings. **Dr. Sabina F. Rashid**, Dean of JPGSPH and **Ms. Sameera Hussain**, Project Coordinator, participated in this meeting. The Go4Health team is currently engaged in report writing for communities consulted in Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

### **Joint Action Learning Initiative (JALI)**

As part of the JALI Steering Committee JPGSPH will leverage the support of Partners in Population Development (PPD) to gather information to conduct a short survey around JALI's core research question: "how do we develop a treaty that elevates health rights?" in order to define a global health framework. Discussions with PPD on steps forward will be underway in the coming weeks.

### **Second Phase of FSNSP Round 11 Begins**

Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) has completed data collection of Round-11, Phase-1 and the 2nd phase of round 11 is set to start from September 1, 2013. As a part of routine exercise, FSNSP field staffs are being offered a one-day refresher training to refresh their knowledge on questionnaire and also acquaint them with the minor changes. As such, a refreshers training has been scheduled on 31st August, 2013 for the field staff. FSNSP is the only source of seasonal, nationally representative estimates of food security and nutrition in Bangladesh. Using state-of-the-art methods and indicators, the FSNSP system provides up-to-date information on the food security and nutrition of women and children to support the design, implementation, and evaluation of national strategies and assess progress towards development targets.

### Discussion on KAP on TB at Academic Study Group

**Dr. Antora Khan**, a Research Coordinator at the school presented the findings of a study titled 'Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) on Tuberculosis (TB) and BRAC TB Control Programme at the ASG seminar on August 27, 2013 at the video



conference room of JPGSPH. The study was conducted by the JPGSPH TB research team during March - June, 2013. The ethnographic findings and the qualitative parts of the study as well as the results were mainly highlighted in the presentation. A number of constructive feedbacks came out from the audience which prompted the researchers for further investigation on the issue. **Prof. Malabika Sarker**, Director Research of the School, was present during the feedback session.

### NUFFIC Team Participates in Annual Planning Meet



As part of project's inception activity, partner institutions from Bangladesh, India and Netherlands participated in Annual Planning Meeting in Netherlands from 15th August to 21st August. This meeting was organized by the 'MDF Training and

Consultancy B.V., Netherlands, the lead partner institution of the Dutch Consortium. Professor Sabina Rashid, Dean and the Director of the project, Suborna Camellia, Project Coordinator and **Tariqul Islam**, Finance Manager represented the JPGSPH, the local lead institution of the Bangladesh Consortium. The team also visited partner institutions office in Netherlands such as Institute of Gender Studies of University of Radboud, Rutgers and MDF to learn about their activities and sharing experiences.

### GFATM TB Team Completes First Field Work

The first field work for the GFATM Tuberculosis-Diabetes Mellitus Comorbidity study completed on 27 August 2013 in Barisal. The team members have collected data on diabetes status of Tuberculosis patients currently under treatment in BRAC TB Program. They also collected blood samples to measure fasting blood glucose level to detect diabetic status. They are doing a small survey to measure the prevalence of diabetes in Tuberculosis patients. The team members will begin a similar study in Sylhet soon.

### JPGSPH Hosts Second Meeting of Mental Health Network

The second meeting of the Bangladesh Mental Health Network (BMHN), an

advocacy forum, was held at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, on 20 August 2013. The objective of BMHN is to share information among institutions, organizations, groups, associations and individuals working for mental health as well as explore collaboration opportunities among them.

**Monira Rahman**, Adviser of Acid Survivors Foundation as well as the Convener of the network chaired the meeting. They discussed about digital archiving of the resources related with mental health, Resource Mapping, draft Mental Health Act, and observation of World Mental Health Day in October. Among others, **Dr. Sadia A. Chowdhury**, Executive Director of the BRAC Institute of Global Health, **Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean of JPGSPH, **Prof. Malabika Sarker**, Director Research at JPGSPH, **Dr. Faruque Alam** of the National Institute of Mental Health, **Khondoker Shariar Shakir**, an Advocate of Supreme Court, **Ms. Sophia Newman**, a Fulbright and **Md. Kamruzzaman Mojumder** of the Dept. of Clinical Psychology, DU were present. **Ms. Nasima Selim**, Sr. Lecturer, JPGSPH joined the meeting on Skype.

## TLC Updates

### Need Assessment Session with Students of School of Law (SoL)



TLC had conducted a need assessment session with a group of students of School of Law. TLC members were suggested earlier by the faculty members of SoL to conduct a session to explore the learning difficulties of the students and assess their learning needs. On the basis of the suggestions, this session

was conducted on 1st August, 2013. With the objective of revolving the actual needs of students, the moderators conducted a group discussion using an interview schedule in this session. The session was facilitated by **Ms. Sabrina Syed**, and **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, TLC. Considering the findings of the assessment TLC is going to organize sessions on different learning topics for the students of SoL. Duration of the session was one and half an hour. A total number of 14 students participated who belong to different semesters of the Undergraduate Program.

### Workshop to review proposed Education Act 2013

A day long workshop on "Addressing the Values of Inclusive Education in the Proposed Draft



Education Act 2013" was held on August 24, 2013, at the auditorium of Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE) organized this workshop in Collaboration with Plan International Bangladesh. The Key presentation was made by **Mr. M. Tariq Ahsan**, Associate Professor, IER, University of Dhaka. After the presentation a thorough review was done in the form of group activities on the proposed Draft Education Act 2013 document. Around 70 participants from 50 organizations including the representatives from the Govt. and public institutions such as DPE-MOPME, NCTB, IER-Dhaka University, BRAC University (TLC, IED), some other major development partners and a notable number of renowned NGOs participated as well as contributed in the review process. Based on the workshop findings a compiled Recommendation report was submitted to the Government by the organizers. **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**, Lecturer, TLC had participated in that workshop.