

BRACU e-Bulletin 2013/ Octobor

Architecture Updates

Field Study



The students of Design studio 401 (dedicated for urbanism and urban design) had visited Waste Concern Group on 3 October, 2013. Waste Concern Group is a Social Business Enterprise (SBE) concerns about waste recycling, environmental improvement, renewable energy and sustainable development. The student met **Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha**, Co-founder & Executive director of Waste Concern Group who is a professional urban planner and architect. In the session **Mr. Maqsood** discussed about their works related to waste recycling and environmental improvement. The visit was the part of the field study of "Urban Agriculture" project. Studio teachers **A.K.M. Sirajuddin**, **Rubaiya Sultana** and **Nandini Awal** were also attended the meeting.

BBS Updates

CED official completes training at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI)



Shamim Ehsanul Haque, Senior Researcher at CED, recently completed a training course on 'Social Entrepreneurship' from Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), Ahmadabad. The 6 week training program, which ended on 12th October 2013, covered the basic tenets of Social Entrepreneurship as an emerging concept and discussed its potentials to solve various socio-economical problems in developing countries. Social Entrepreneurship, an idea pioneered by Nobel Laureate **Dr. Muhammad Yunus**, is highly regarded in Bangladesh, and is increasingly being very popular in India. This training involved project visits in Ahmadabad and other cities in the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Government of India's Ministry of External Affairs sponsored the program under their Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) 2013-14. 24 participants from 19 different countries attended the training on Social Entrepreneurship. **Mr. Haque** represented Bangladesh with another Bangladeshi participant who is a government of Bangladesh official working for the Ministry of Social Welfare.

BDI Updates

CGST Updates

Participation in Panel Discussion "Who Cares: Unpaid Work, Poverty and Women's Human Rights"

Simeen Mahmud, Coordinator, CGST, **Maheen Sultan**, Deputy Coordinator, CGST, **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researcher, CGST and Lopita Huq, Research Fellow, CGST, BRAC University participated in a meeting and panel discussion on "Who Cares: Unpaid work, poverty and women's human rights" organized jointly by Action Aid international, IDS, University of Sussex and Oxfam on October 07-08 in London. UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, **Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona** presented a report where unpaid care work was positioned as a major human rights issue. **Simeen Mahmud** reported on CGST's current work on unpaid care work at the workshop. Activists and researchers from different countries and UN agency workers participated in the panel discussion. The discussion focused on women caregivers, particularly those living in poverty, and participants argued that heavy and unequal care responsibilities are major barriers to gender equality and to women's equal enjoyment of human rights. Participants also discussed strategies to place unpaid care on human rights and other development agenda.

Simeen Mahmud and Dr. Sohela Nazneen Invited as Panelists in "Women's Economic Empowerment: Who Cares"



Simeen Mahmud, Coordinator, CGST and **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researcher, CGST participated as panelists in another seminar on "Women's economic empowerment: who

cares?" at IDS, University of Sussex on 10 October, 2013. This seminar brought

together researchers from the SMERU Research Institute in Indonesia, the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) at BRAC University, Actionaid International and IDS to discuss their work on trying to raise the visibility of unpaid care work in development policy.

Panelist from BRAC Development Institute (BDI) BRAC University discussed why unpaid care does not feature get on the national development agenda in Bangladesh and how to get unpaid care into the development policy agenda. Deepta Chopra (IDS), Rachel Nurbani (SMERU), Widjajanti Isdijoso Suharyo (SMERU), Rachel Moussie (ActionAid) and Naomi Hossain (IDS) were other panelists in the seminar. A two-day planning meeting on October 11-12 was held at IDS to discuss and formulate the future activities for the project on unpaid care work in the year 2014.

BIL Updates

BIL Faculty received an ELT Teacher Trainer certificate from the British Council



Mohammad Rejaul Karim, Lecturer, BIL had been certified from the British Council as an ELT Teacher Trainer. He underwent a Training of Trainer course (ToT), Peer observation programme, and finally a One-week certification assessment. All these phases took place between December 2012 and August 2013.

DevPro-31 Certificate Giving Ceremony

The certificate-giving ceremony for the 31st batch of the Development Professional (DevPro) course was conducted on October 9, 2013 in the presence of **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL, BRAC University, **Air Commodore (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi** Choudhury, Registrar, BRAC University, **Sadequr Rahman Khan**, Program Coordinator (BLD-BRAC) and **Masum Billah**, Program Manager (PACE-BEP-BRAC).



The course started on March 18, 2013 with 16 participants (designated as Senior Area Manager, Area Manager, and Branch Manager) from the different segments of the BRAC Education Program (BEP).

It is to be noted that this course aims at developing the English Language

communication skills, the business communication skills, professionalism with an expanding knowledge of the development issues of the world and the computer skills for everyday official work of the participants so that they are able to promote the different programs of BRAC International.

BIGH Updates

CMDP Celebrated Midwifery Open School 2013 across six regions



The first annual Midwifery Open School 2013 was celebrated across the region on 21 September 2013 with the financial support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program (CMDP) is being implemented by the Department of Midwifery at BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University in collaboration with six Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs) at Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh and Sylhet.

A total of 180 students were recruited from nearly 70 underserved upazilas to build their capacity through a 3-year Diploma in Midwifery program and deploy midwives in their respective communities upon graduation. The program aims to improve the health status of communities by contributing to the reduction of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality and to increase coverage of quality maternal and neonatal health services through the development of competent and compassionate community-based midwives who live and practice in underserved rural and urban areas.

The Midwifery Open School, the first of its kind, is a day-long knowledge-sharing advocacy event organized by the Department of Midwifery at the BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH), BRAC University in the underserved communities in Cox's Bazar, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh and Sylhet where the Diploma in Midwifery program is currently being offered. The Midwifery Open School aims to promote midwifery as a discipline by sharing knowledge gained by students with members of the community, as a profession by showcasing their potential to contribute to maternal and newborn health as well as to increase deployment prospects of midwives who will be graduating from the program by introducing them to a network of potential employers.

The event was attended by over 900 participants across the six IPO sites, which include the Garo-Baptist Convention- Christian Health Project (GBC-CHP) in

Haluaghat, Mymensingh, Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), **Khadim nagar** and Shimantik in Sylhet, Hope Foundation for Women and Children in Cox's Bazar, LAMB in Parbatipur, Dinajpur and Partners in Health and Development (PHD) in Khulna.

MPH Students Visited BCCP and BITOPI

Under the 'Principles of Health Communication' course MPH students undertook a one day field visit to Bangladesh Centre for Communication Program (BCCP) and BITOPI, two leading organizations contributing in the field of social and health communications.

The objective of this field visit was to appreciate the process of designing the health communication interventions. It was also meant to introduce students with the successful health communications designed by these two organizations. The other specific objective was to understand the role of research in designing the communication interventions.

At BCCP, students were oriented with how BCCP has been contributing in the field of health communication since its emergence. Facilitated by **Dr. Kapil**, Lead Researcher, BCCP, this session also brought attention to the role and scope of research in designing health communication interventions. **Dr. Kapil** also brought light to the successful health campaigns designed by BCCP. After that, students took a short visit to BCCP's media centre and the repository of communication materials that have been used in different health communication interventions by BCCP.

At BITOPI, students were introduced with designing campaign strategies on a particular health issues. Most importantly, students closely looked at the communication process and the strategic selection of media for effective communication.



The Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (COE-UHC) at the James P Grant School of Public Health at BRAC Institute of Global Health and UNICEF jointly organized the 7th Tanahashi Rounds on 02 October, 2013 at the Video Conference Room of BIGH. The topic for the round was "Vision Bangladesh and Delivering Eye Care Solution across the Country: What can the Tanahashi framework contribute?" **Dr. Md. Bazlur Rahman**, National Consultant, National

Eye Care Directorate General of Health Services, mainly highlighted the Eye Care Situation in Bangladesh. **Md. Rafiqul Islam**, Senior Programme Officer, Sight Savers Bangladesh, spoke on the Vision Bangladesh Model and **Ms. Anita Sharif Chowdhury**, Senior Research Associate in Research and Evaluation Division in BRAC, shared the study findings on cataract surgery patients highlighting the Tanahashi process of health service provision. The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) and **Dr. Pascal Villeneuve**, UNICEF Country Representative.

CoE-UHC to Work with Abt Associates on Primary Health Care Services

The CoE-UHC at JPGSPH signed a five years sub-agreement with Abt Associates- a for-profit organization located at USA. A meeting was held in this regard with the donor on 3 October 2013 at JPGSPH to discuss about the first year work plan. During the first year, the school had been assigned to work on a project entitled as 'Market surveys using a discrete choice experiment in Bangladesh'.

The objective of this activity is to identify which health service attributes are most likely to influence demand for services at USAID supported NGOs offering primary health care services. It aims to identify ways in which Pathfinder and the partnering NGOs may best alter their services in order to maximize client flow. The relative importance of attributable factors in rural vs. urban settings and amongst the poor vs. non-poor will also be assessed.

JPGSPH disseminates findings on 'Health Professional Education'



The James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC Institute of Global Health, BRAC University and RTM International co-hosted a meeting on 8 October, 2013 at the MIS Auditorium, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), to disseminate the findings of the study 'Health Professional Education in Bangladesh: Situation Analysis'. The objective of the meeting was to

inform the policymakers about the findings of the study aiming to formulate recommendations for strengthening Medical, Nursing and Public Health Professional Education of the country. Dr. **Subhash Kumar Shaha**, Additional Director General of DGHS attended the meeting as the chief guest with **Professor Dr. A B M Abdul Hannan**, Director of Medical Education and HMPD and Country Coordinator of the study as the **chair**. **Dr. Ahmed AL-Kabir**, President of RTM International welcomed the audience while **Ms. Dipika Paul**, Deputy Director-Research at RTM International and **Dr. Kawkab Mahmud**, Project Coordinator at JPGSPH, BRAC University discussed about the Methodology of the Study and the Findings of Health Professional Education respectively. Among others, **Prof. Dr. Latifa Shamsuddin**, President of Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh, **Ms. Ismat Bhuiya**, Director of the Department of Midwifery, BIGH, **Professor Syed Masud Ahmed**, Coordinator,

Centre of Excellence for UHC, JPGSPH, BRAC University were also present at the meeting.

FSNSP Organizes Roundtable on Nutrition

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) organized a roundtable discussion on "Monitoring to Scale-up Nutrition" at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital on 8 October 2013. The event was chaired by **Dr. Sadia Chowdhury**, executive director of BRAC Institute of Global Health while **Golam Mostafa Kamal**, Director



General of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics was present as the chief guest. **Erica Roy Khetran**, Country Director of Helen Keller International Bangladesh, Nancy Haselow, and Vice-president for Asia Pacific of Helen Keller International made presentations on nutrition surveillance in Bangladesh. **Dr. Nasreen Khan**, Deputy Program Manager, National Nutrition Services, Institute of Public Health Nutrition talked about public sector commitment to surveillance. Besides, **Dr. Ruksana Haider** discussed the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in Bangladesh.

The round table discussion was followed by a "Technical Seminar for Monitoring and Evaluation Professionals". FSNSP technical personnel including, **Md. Abdul Kader**, **Nasrin Sultana** and **Nayna Ahmed** presented on "Estimating a Child's Age without Birth Records". Another presentation on "Data Quality Control" was led by **Md. Mizanur Rahman**, **Syed Auranghajeb** and **Gopesh C. Das**. The final presentation of FSNSP titled "Maternal and Child Double Burden of Malnutrition: Prevalence and Risk Indicators" was presented by **Dr. Sabiha Sultana**. BBS also made a presentation on "Data Quality Control: Role of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics". Jillian Waid of HKI gave an overview of the presentations, while **Syed Shabab Wahid** of BRAC's Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, facilitated the proceedings.

Mirak receives 'Nepal Bidhya Bhusan' award

Mirak Raj Angdembe, a student of the eighth batch of MPH at the James P. Grant School of Public Health, recently received "Nepal Bidhya Bhusan" award, a state honor for academic excellence in Nepal. President **Dr. Ram Baran Yadav** conferred the medal to Mirak along with others on the occasion of the National Education Day and the International Literacy Day, on 08 September 2013. Students of higher education received the Nepal Vidya Bhushan at a function organized at the office of President, **Sheetal Niwas**.

Earlier Mirak received Chancellor's Gold Medal at BRAC University for the year 2013 for his outstanding academic performance at masters' level. Professor Alauddin Ahmed, adviser to the prime minister on education, social development and political affairs, handed over the medal to Mirak in the 8th convocation of

BRAC University at Bangabandhu Conference Centre on 17 February, 2013. Mirak scored CGPA 4.00 in the scale of 4.

GFATM TB Project Completes Screening TB Patients

The GFATM TB (Research) project had completed data collection in Barisal, Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka for the TBDM-Comorbidity study. It is a collaboration project between JPGSPH and BRAC TB control programme. In total, 602 TB patients had been identified and tested whether they have diabetes through Oral Glucose Tolerance Test. Primary analyses of data are being conducted at the moment. Currently, data collection is going on in Gazipur, Noakhali, Comilla, Dinajpur and Bogra. Data collection was com 10 October 2013.

The first picture showed TB patients waiting at the waiting area of a diagnostic centre. The second showed blood glucose test of a TB patient.

GFATM Team Reviews Courses on TB M&E and Public Health Management



The GFATM team at the BRAC institute of Global Health organised review meetings on 'Monitoring and Evaluation for TB Programme Managers' and 'Public Health Management for Malaria Programme Managers' on October 1, 2013 and on October 2, 2013 at JPGSPH.

Dr. Md. Mojibur Rahman, National Program Consultant, NTP, DGHS facilitated the review sessions for Monitoring and Evaluation Course and **Dr. A. Mannan** Bangali, National Professional Officer, World Health Organization (WHO) facilitated the review sessions for Public Health Management Course.

Participants of TB and Malaria Program from BRAC and partner organizations who have received the course attended the meetings and shared their learning from the courses. They highlighted topics relevant to their job and useful in their working area along with the topics not so useful or relevant to their job. There were suggestions for improving the course. The discussions and suggestions from the participants and facilitator will be reviewed by concerned JPGSPH and BRAC HNPP staff for revised versions of the two courses.

CSO Updates



Workshop on "Communication and Interpersonal Skills"

CSO in cooperation with Prothom-alojobs organized their third workshop titled "Communication and

interpersonal skills" on October 10, 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Campus. **MR. Kumar Murshid**, Advisor, CSO gave an opening speech and **Ms. Humaira Sharmeen**, Head of Operations Prothom Alo conducted the event.

She conducted a discussion on some important guidelines for communicating assertively and effectively in the professional sphere. The primary focus of this seminar was to give students an idea about communication and interpersonal skills required for different job sectors. This was a very interactive session through which the hidden creativity and communication skill of student's got an opportunity to be expressed. Moreover through several interesting games, Ms. Sharmeen helped to develop the communication and interpersonal skills of the students who attended the workshop. She ended up with an open question-answer session for students which encouraged their participation and led to a better understanding of the importance of communication and interpersonal skills in the world of work.

Other members present at the event were **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** Executive CSO, **Ms. Shanzida Shanzida Shahab Uddin** Officer CSO, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq** Officer CSO **Ms. Reachel Jeana** Gomes Intern CSO, and **Ms. Sadia Rahman** Intern CSO along with colleagues from Prothom Alo and Prothom-alojobs.

Seminar on "Direct Recruitment in Commissioned Rank, Bangladesh Navy"



Career Services Office, BRAC University in collaboration with its Computer Club (BUCC) arranged another seminar on "Direct Recruitment in Commissioned Rank, Bangladesh Navy" on 10th October, 2013. This is for the first time Bangladesh Navy came to the university premises to encourage students to join their team and introduced the varied career opportunities in Bangladesh Navy. The guest speakers, **Captain M Zamshed Ali**, **Commander Saiful Islam** and **Lieutenant Commander Tania Sowgat**, shared their thoughts one after another and the Registrar, **Ishfaq Ilahi Chudhury** and CSO Advisor, **Kumar Murshid** moderated the session. A large number of students and in-house staff were present at the occasion.

The officers of Bangladesh Navy inaugurated the seminar showing "Navy Life" of as an Officer as well as the facilities available in this profession. During the seminar the BN team focused on career opportunities in Bangladesh NAVY. Through their speech they motivated the students to pursue the Bangladesh Navy as career choice. As they believe being a part of Bangladesh Navy means

"Living with Pride and Dignity". Furthermore, it was made clear that the Bangladesh NAVY is open for students of all departments and it also encourages female candidates to see this sector as a career choice. BN opened new window for fresh graduates of BRAC University by providing them a direct recruitment opportunity in commissioned rank in BN. Finally, They concluded by illustrating the importance of building a world class Navy and highlighting the Importance of the Sea as a great source of natural resources.

Seminar on "Teach for Bangladesh"



BRAC University Career Service Office (CSO) in collaboration with Teach for Bangladesh successfully conducted a seminar on 24th October, 2013 at BRAC University Indoor Campus on the volunteer recruitment and fellowship program in Teach for Bangladesh. Mr. Kumar Murshid, Advisor, Career Services

Office delivered the opening speech and CSO members, Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir, **Ms. Shanzida Shabad Uddin** and **Ms. Rakshinda Huq**, supervised the entire event. Current PSDP registered students of both Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 semesters and other in-house staff were present at the occasion.

It was an informative event where **Ms. Mashrifa Islam**, Associate, Talent Recruitment and Selection, Teach for Bangladesh, conducted the session and encouraged the young students to join and take the challenge of serving the country through the volunteering profession. Through the informative session she expressed that their Fellowship Experience includes leadership development fellowship, teaching core subjects such as English, Science and Mathematics in low-income primary schools in urban Dhaka. The program came to an end with question-answer session. House of Volunteers; BRAC University also played a role in making the event successful and their president also spoke in the occasion.

Counseling Unit Updates

10th October is the World Mental Health Day and this year's theme is "Mental Health and Older Adults"

To observe this special day, Counseling Unit and Institute of Educational Development (IED) of BRAC University had jointly organized a seminar on October 2, 2013 at BRAC Centre Inn from 10:00am to 11:30am. The main objective of the seminar was to make people aware about mental health, its importance and support services.

The seminar covered contents like: developmental crisis of childhood, adolescent period, old age and women etc. The discussion also covered facilities for older citizens in Bangladesh, mental health and gender.

Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University welcomed the guests by clearing the objective of the seminar.

A touchy Slide show on this year's theme "Mental Health and Older Adults" was presented at the beginning of the seminar.

One guest from Old Home shared his experience and feelings regarding old age and life style in Old Home.



Dr. A S M Atiqur Rahman, Secretary General of Bangladesh Association for

the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM), and Professor of Institute of Social Welfare, University of Dhaka described different facilities for older adults in Bangladesh. He emphasized and motivated audience on financial and psychological preparation and plans for old age.

Dr. Mehtab Khanam, Psychologist and Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University of Dhaka explained psychological aspects of adulthood & old age and also gender perspective.

Renowned Psychologist **Ms. Farida Akhtar** facilitated the seminar as a moderator and emphasized on mental health of children and adolescent. She described how a person's mental health build up, crisis in childhood & adolescence, how to overcome these crisis.

At the end of the seminar, a question answer session was held. One of the guests appreciated the initiative of arranging such program on Mental Health and shared his feelings regarding Middle age crisis such as difficulties in parenting in our changing society. With this issue, **Dr. Mehtab Khanam** described some crises that are encountered in middle age. Another audience asked mental health difficulties for disabilities and guest speakers discussed about the issue. And the last question was taken regarding mental health among poor people. **Dr. Mehtab Khanam** shared her personal experience and feelings on this issue.

Guests from BRAC University, Institute of Educational Development (IED) of BRAC University, BRAC were present in the seminar. Also, guests from different universities and non government organizations (NGO) attended this occasion. **Ms. Farida Akhtar** closed the seminar with closing remarks.

ENH Updates



On the 3rd of October, the students of History 301, along with the professor of the course, paid a visit to Bangladesh National Archives. As a requirement of the course, they explored the ways in which history students can do research in the facility.

On the 5th of October, students of Eng 101 and Eng 115 were taken on a bookshop visit. They went to Words & Pages at Gulshan 1 and Friends Book Corner at Nilkhet, Dhaka. The students explored how a bookshop functions and how to locate a specific book for any course. Later they submitted a response paper on the bookshop trip.

Syed Badrul Ahsan, Executive Editor of the Daily Star, spoke to Eng 401 students on the 23th of October. He talked about yellow journalism, ethics in journalism, headline writing, the editorial department and libel.



On October 24th ENH honored the legacy and mourned the sad demise of a beloved poet **Seamus Justin Heaney**. **Professor Firdous Azim**, the Chair of ENH, said that the department was using the memorial

ceremony to celebrate the work of the Irish poet and to inculcate a love of poetry in the students. **Professor Fuad Mullick**, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, said that despite being a small department, ENH is rich in literary activities. In his keynote address, **Syed Manzoorul Islam**, a professor of the Department of English of Dhaka University, talked about Heaney's poetic lineage and his use of poetic techniques. "He is a poet of my heart" said **H.E. William Hanna**, the Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, recounting his experience of meeting the poet and subsequently keeping a track of all his later works. Kathryn Kelly, English language Advisor of the British Council, conducted an interactive session for the audience. **Sharlene**

Nisha Alam discussed how Heaney's work focused on language as the bearer of cultural history, sound, and rhythm. **Rukhsana R. Chowdhury** ended the session by thanking everyone involved in making the programme a success.

ESS Updates

Professor Shamim Shakur presented his research titled "New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement: A Numerical Analysis," at World Business and Social Science Conference held 24-25 October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. **Professor Shakur** also chaired a session on Accounting and Economics on 25 October at the same conference.

Conference Report October, 2013:



Dr. Seuty had successfully completed a conference tour in USA this October. She presented her first paper "The 'Family' Extended: Friends, Social Network and Power of the 'Middle Class'" at a one day workshop titled 'Contested Past, Competing Futures: Bangladesh four Decades', organized by South Asia Institute, The university of Texas at Austin. This was held on October 13, 2013. There were exciting papers presented by scholars who have been working on Bangladesh for past decades. This workshop was organized to produce an edited volume on aforementioned issue. Her paper was well received and will be part of this edited volume. After the workshop **Professor Kamran Asdar Ali**, director of South Asia institute (associate professor of Anthropology), once again expressed his interest to initiate an exchange program as well as set up a global class room between University of Texas (Austin) and Anthropology Programme, ESS, BRAC University. Later a formal meeting took place in Madison where **Samia Huq, Dina Siddiqi, Kamran Asdar Ali** and **Ms Meheri Tamanna** were present.

Dr. Seuty was invited to participate in the 42nd Annual Conference on South Asia, held from October 17-20, 2013. This was hosted by the 'Center for South Asia' at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where 650 scholars participated this year. Her article 'Post Card from Shahbag' in International Sociological Association e-journal drew attention of activists-social scientists who have been working on similar issues. They included her paper titled "Shahabag, the Secular Congregation: Women-Religion-Class Question" in the main conference panel titled as '1971, Shahabag and the open veins of History: Bangladesh at cross roads'. Dr. Seuty had also been invited to the AIBS pre-conference 'Forty Two years of Bangladesh: Identity, Culture, Economy and Politics' to present **Ms Meheri Tamanna's** paper titled "Shahabag, Trance and the Magic of Nation". Sage publications showed interest in publishing the edited volume coming out of this preconference, where our papers will be included. She met **Sanchita Saxena**, Associate Director, Center for South Asian Studies, UC Berkley during the preconference. **Sanchita Saxena** also expressed her interest in initiating a summer course/exchange program with us during our meeting.

IED Updates

Working with the Garments Industry

The Research and Development Team of IED conducted Focus Group Discussions with the existing workers of the garments factory of Ananta Group. The existing training modules of the workers were revisited for incorporating some pedagogical and conceptual changes. A pilot of the new module took place on October 26, 2013. The new module has been developed consisting of the following content: work related technical skills, roles and responsibilities of workers, Welfare team, Workers Participatory Committee (WPC), HR & Compliance, rules and regulations regarding employment, fire and first aid management, and safety and security issues. Concepts of effective communication, coping strategies, work stress, understanding and listening, patience, discipline, honesty, planning for future, commitment have been integrated in this module along with an interactive pedagogical delivery process. A Training of the Trainers (ToT) is scheduled in December 2013 for participants from Ananta Group in order to help creating a more effective process of capacity building of the workers to ensure a holistic development.

Thesis Dissemination and Poster Presentation at IED



Current research is being conducted on various topics required for partial fulfillment of the Master of Education (MEd) in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management. The participants of the 4th batch are mostly government educational leaders (e.g. ADPEO, PTI Instructor, UEO, AUEO, URC Instructor, serving for the development of primary

Education at district and Upazila level).

The Institute of Educational Development (IED) took part through organizing a thesis dissemination followed by a poster presentation session on 3rd and 4th September, 2013 respectively. Participants presented studies on diversified topics such as – education initiatives for children in Geneva Camp; technology based distance education; collegial interaction of teachers; linking literacy to empowerment, sex education in secondary schools and teachers' job satisfaction.

Joint secretary, Director of Training, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) was the chief guest at the thesis dissemination session, where senior management representatives of IED were also present at the program. The members present at the program appreciated the findings and welcomed suggestions for further dissemination of the studies for stakeholders to get better benefit from these researches on such educational issues in Bangladesh. The presentation also helped participants to visualize their studies more clearly and holistically. It is expected that the thought-driven questions from peers, faculties and guests as well as their feedback will play an important role for further improvements

toward the final thesis report.

IGS Updates

IGS Organised a Seminar on "China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints"



The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University organised a seminar titled "China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints" on 9 October, 2013 at the AS Mahmood Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre, Dhaka.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh **H.E. Mr. Li Jun** was the Chief Guest, while IGS Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** chaired the seminar. The panel discussants of the seminar included Former Ambassador **Mr. Munshi Faiz Ahmad**, Chairman of BIISS, **Prof. Dr. Amena Mohsin** and **Prof Dr. Delwar Hossain** of International Relations Department, Dhaka University, **Mr. Sun Binghui** and **Mr. Lin Yongliang** of China Centre for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) and **Dr. Moinul Islam Mahmud**, Chairman of Equity Property Management Limited, Chittagong.

Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, Research Fellow of IGS and **Dr. Hu Hao**, Research Fellow and Deputy Director of CCCWS presented keynote papers at the seminar, which followed an open discussion session along with the audience. Among others, Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, President of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Ambassador **Humayun Kabir**, **Syed Muhammad Ibrahim**, President of Bangladesh Kallyan Party and Air Cdre (Retd.) **Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar of BRAC University spoke at the discussion. Distinguished guests from diplomatic missions, academia, NGOs and INGOs, mass media, political parties, business community and civil society also attended the seminar.



Launching Ceremony of the Mahbub ul Haq Centre's Human Development in South Asia 2013 Report Held

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC

University organised the launching ceremony of the Human Development in South Asia 2013 report titled Water for Human Development, published by Pakistan-based **Mahbub ul Haq** Human Development Centre. The Launching Ceremony was held on 21 October 2013, at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium in Dhaka, which was first time in Bangladesh.

Professor Nazrul Islam, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), was the Chief Guest, while **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, chaired the function. **Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**, Distinguished Fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was the Special Guest of the ceremony. **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director of IGS, delivered the welcome speech, while **Mr. M. Syeduzzaman**, former Finance Minister; **Mr. AMM Nasir Uddin**, former Secretary, Ministry of Health; **Ms. Qamrun Nahar Khanam**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources; and **Dr. M. Azaharul Haq**, Former Managing Director, WASA also spoke at the discussion. Academics, researchers, experts, politicians, representatives from think tanks and donor organisations, civil society members also attended the programme.

The report looked at different aspects of transboundary water resource management, impact of climate change, water for people's well-being and economic development and other relevant issues in South Asia. The event was widely covered and broadcasted by the mainstream media.

MAGD News: Courses in October



During October, MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme ran with 4 major courses, namely: Development Economics, Leading Issues in Governance, Public Project Management, Research Methodology and Dissertation. The faculties for these courses included, **Professor Akbar Ali Khan** of BRAC Business School, **Barrister Manzoor Hasan**, Institutional Advisor of IGS, **Professor Reazul Haque**, **Professor Abu Eusuf**, **Professor Salauddin M. Aminuzzaman** of Dhaka University and **Dr. Mohd. Zohurul Islam**, Academic Coordinator of IGS. The MAGD students have also submitted their dissertation topics to their respective course tutors and course management this month.

Press Launching of IGS Annual Research Report STATE OF CITIES: Re-thinking Urban Governance in Narayanganj

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, has released its one of

the main, annual research report STATE OF CITIES titled Re-thinking Urban Governance in Narayanganj through media on 28 October, 2013.

This is the second report of its kind published by IGS. This year's report focuses on Narayanganj city and it has been produced by a BDI-IGS Research team led by Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Professor of the Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University. The report takes a holistic approach to understand the existing process of urban governance and service delivery. It analysed the city government: contextualising the concept, service provisions: actors and factors, fiscal strength of City Building and urban land use and social space. In the conclusion, the report comprehends the present state of efficiency and effectiveness of services provided and recommends the areas for possible reforms at Narayanganj City Corporation. The report will be widely disseminated among the relevant policymakers, academicians, researchers, urban experts, city planners, real estate executives, architects and environmental activists.

The State of Cities Report can be accessed on IGS official website:

<http://www.igs-bracu.ac.bd/research/state-of-cities>

Publications by IGS Staff:

Newspapers Articles:

- The New Age: Universal health coverage: Where does Bangladesh stand?, Nabila Zaman, 23 October, 2013
- The Daily Star: Funding of political parties, Faiz A. Chowdhury, 13 October, 2013
- The Daily Star: South-South Award: Celebrating Bangladesh's success, Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, 9 October, 2013.

JATRI Updates

The Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) works to strengthen and enhance the skills of journalists and media professionals by providing training and support to accomplish their roles of communicators and facilitators of public discourse. Some of the recent activities of JATRI are as follows:

Colloquium with Media Leaders



JATRI organized Colloquium with Media Leaders. Media leaders/gate keepers, chief reporters, news editors, planning editors, assignment editors attended the workshop.

Sarkar Kabiruddin, renowned Media Personality and Broadcast Journalist of Voice of America (VOA) facilitated this workshop. Participants discussed about the role of media to publicize parliamentary policy reform agenda and how to build relationship between media and parliament among others. Registrar

of BRAC University **Air Cdre (Retd.) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** and JATRI Chief **Mr. Jamil Ahmed** were present.

Public Dialogue with Important Stakeholders

JATRI organized public dialogue with important media stakeholders. The objective of this event was to share the research report on "Media Research on Parliament Affairs: Practice and Pattern". This dialogue stimulated public discussion on challenges of parliamentary democracy effectiveness of parliament and participation of MP's on parliament and standing committee meetings. This workshop was attended by different stakeholders including representative of parliament secretariat, journalists and media professionals from a number of print & electronic media , NGO's and civil society.

Workshop on Understanding Social Cost of Violence Against Women: Role of Media

Violence at the domestic level can inflict social costs, intangible physical and mental health costs, time costs and finally monetary costs. These costs can be incurred at the individual level, family level, community level, greater community level and at the state level. To measure the economic cost, CARE Bangladesh commissioned a study, which focuses on social cost to



provide better insights on social costs of violence against women. The objective of this workshop was to disseminate the study findings and to understand the social cost of violence against women and to find out the way how the journalists and media professional can portray the social cost of violence against women to the general people thorough print and electric media. Journalists from different media attended in this workshop. This workshop was facilitated by renowned journalist **Mr. Muzamail Hossain Monju** and CARE Consultant **Dr.Kaniz Siddique**

JATRI Chief Facilitated BNNRC Media Dialogue :

JATRI Chief, Mr. Jamil Ahmed facilitated a dialogue on "Role of community radio in English language teaching". This Event was jointly organized by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio Communication Center (BNNRC) & US Embassy. Representative of community Radio, Government, Civil Society and Print /Electronic Media attended.

"New faces in campus" and "Leaving us"

New faces at BRACU

The Department of Architecture added two new members in their team. Both **Dr. Mohammad Habib Reza** and **Dr. Mohammad Faruk** joined as

Assistant Professors in the Department of Architecture in last October 2013. **Dr. Reza** obtained his Ph.D degree in Architecture from Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham. Earlier he did his Bachelor of Architecture from Khulna University. **Dr. Faruk** obtained his Ph.D degree in Built Environment from Salford University College of Built Environment, UK. Before that he completed his M.Sc in Urban Planning from The University of Hong Kong. Earlier he did his Bachelor of Architecture from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Left from BRACU

Ms. Tanzila Afrin served as Lecturer in the Centre for Climate Change and Environment (C3ER) left BRACU in October 2013. **Mr. Chowdhury Shahreaar Ekram** served as Senior Lecturer in BRAC Business School left BRACU in last October 2013. **Mr. Rumon Talukder**, Lab In- Charge, BRACU Campus, Savar also left in October 2013.

RS Updates

Meet the Employers



A session on Meet the Employers was held on October 5, 2013. The guests present in the session were **Stawb Peter Halder**, Total Remuneration Advisor at Chevron; **Tahmina Zaman Khan** from Capital Adequacy Management, Basel II Implementation, Risk Management Division of BRAC Bank; and **Mir Zaiuddin**, Business

Development Manager at Compuage Infocom(S) Private Limited. They talked about how to choose a profession, and how to build a successful career. The session ended with a question-answer session.

The session was facilitated by **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Senior Lecturer, BIL in the presence of the CS, the ACS and other faculty members.



Grooming and Etiquette Session

A session on Grooming & Etiquette was held on October 10, 2013 at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Campus. **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Campus Superintendent inaugurated the session and **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Senior Lecturer, BIL facilitated it.

During the session **Mr. Farid** from BRAC, CDM presented a demo how to use



cutlery. Besides, a few videos were shown to acquaint the students with some basic behavior.

The session focused on reinforcing the students' knowledge about the manner and etiquette appropriate for public places, such as the dining and for community living. It attempted to

enhance students' self-esteem for creating a positive learning environment and to boost up their confidence in maintaining social etiquettes.

Session with Freedom Fighters

As a part of Experiential Learning Activity of the DEV-101 Course, a session on Muktijuddher Kotha was held on October 11, 2013 at Markuli Hall. The session was facilitated by **Major Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan (rtrd)**, a veteran freedom fighter and Chairman and Research Head in the Centre for Bangladesh Liberation War Studies. He shared his experience during the nine months of the Liberation War. The session ended with a question-answer session.

SECS Updates

IEEE Day 2013

The IEEE day 2013 was aimed at celebrating the anniversary of the first time engineers gathered to share their technical ideas in 1884. As part of the worldwide celebration, the IEEE Bangladesh section organized a day long festival on the 4th of October 2013, held at the East West University Campus. The IEEE BRACU student chapter seized this opportunity to build up a sense of solidarity with the members of all the other IEEE organizations in the country, by actively participating in the event. The executive body tagged along with some student

members to represent IEEE BRAC University chapter in the festival.



The program started with an introduction of the events of the day, soon to be followed by a rally around the campus with all the guests present. The rally showcased posters and banners made by the IEEE EWU members, which added color to the event and ended with the release of

balloons hoisting IEEE banners. The guests, all adorned in IEEE day t-shirts, then gathered around for a group photo with the IEEE student body chairperson, **Dr. P K Saha**, who graced the event and led the trademark cake cutting ceremony shortly after.

After the short ceremony, the next part of the day's events began, which comprised of a few presentations by renowned personalities in the industry.

Engr. M. Ali Zulquarnain (Member, P&D, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC)) started the day's presentations with his talk on, "Prospect of Nuclear Energy in Bangladesh", where he discussed the various possibilities of nuclear energy in Bangladesh along with its pros and cons. Putting into context the disasters that happened in Japan a few years back, M. Ali outlined how the use of nuclear energy has proliferated over the years and how it has affected mankind. The second presentation was on "Women in Engineering" (WIE) Invited Talk: Career Development, which was presented by two speakers. The first segment was delivered by **Prof. Shamima Karim Choudhury** (Department of Physics, Dhaka University) who emphasized the role of women in both academia and in the industry, while the second speaker, **Sadequa Hassan Sejuti** (Founder, Amar Desh Amar Gram) discussed the activities of her organization

and urged engineers and engineering students present to serve humanity with their knowledge.



This was followed by a talk on "Current and Next Generation Biometrics for Security", presented by **Dr. Shaikh Anowarul Fattah** (Associate Professor, Dept. of EEE, BUET & Secretary, IEEE Bangladesh Section). He introduced the importance biometrics field in the modern age and how it can be useful

in the security systems applications. He also talked on how the biometric security systems can replace the inefficient security checking systems and replace it with a more efficient system.

The festival finally ended with a speech from the CEO of Muspana (Filament

Engineering Limited), the sponsors for the event, who encouraged everyone to go for entrepreneurship rather than looking for jobs, as a larger technical industry could provide find work for more engineering graduates.

CARG Updates

CARG Director, **Prof. AKM Azad** attended the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC), Silicon Valley, California, USA:

Dr. AKM Abdul Malek Azad had attended the GHTC 2013 this October where he had presented the latest research results on the "Low Cost Cylindrical Lumen Testing Procedure" project. **Dr. Azad** was presented with a certificate by the IEEE GHTC 2013 Chair, Keith Moore following which he had a meeting with the Chair discussing about the future prospects of participation in the GHTC from Bangladesh.



CARG has been a participant of the GHTC since 2011, when GHTC was first launched and has been an official reviewer of the GHTC and has reviewed over 20 papers for the conference.

Approval of CARG SIGHT (Bangladesh)



It is a great pleasure to let everyone know that CARG SIGHT (Bangladesh) had been approved by IEEE SIGHT. The group is now officially recognized and has been given permission proceeding with the planed project under IEEE SIGHT supervision.

Mr. Peter Steaker, IEEE president handed over the SIGHT Fellowship award to **Dr. Azad**. The fellowship was awarded as an appreciation towards the contribution that CARG has towards the GHTC. During his visit to the US, **Dr. Azad** also met with the Steering Committee about the future projects planned for the CARG SIGHT Bangladesh.

In recent years, IEEE has placed great emphasis on Humanitarian Technology Activities, instituting the Humanitarian Ad Hoc Committee (HAHC) in 2011. As

part of a strategic effort toward member engagement, HAHC has instituted a program called Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT).

Participation in AB Bank IUT 5th National ICT FEST 2013

Eight teams consisting of twenty-four students from Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) applied for participation at the programming contest, a key part of AB Bank IUT 5th National ICT FEST 2013. Due to massive national response, organizers had to gradually reduce number of teams that can participate from each university. Finally, four teams could be accommodated by the organizers consisting of twelve students and four coaches. The team BRACU EAGLES consisted of members, **Raduanul Islam, Sk. Wasif Ahmed, Md. Ahsanul Karim** and team BRACU Thunderbolt, consisted of members, **Dipankar Chaki, Onishim Hasdak, Tanvir Roushan**. Coach of both of the teams is **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III, CSE Department. The third team BRACU Prime consisted of the members, **Javed Nayeem, Amit Kumar Dey, Zafor Iqbal**, and coach, Md. **Shamsul Kaonain**, Lecturer II. Finally, team BRACU Supercalifragi had **Abul Ahsan Mahmud, Adib Mosharrof, Yeasir Hossain Leon** as members and Abu **Mohammad Hammad Ali**, Lecturer III as the coach. BRACU EAGLES solved two problems and obtained 24th position among 98 teams from different universities. All other teams solved at least one problem. The mock test took place on October 4th; Friday followed by the actual programming contest on October 5th, Saturday at Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Board Bazar, Gazipur.

Participation in 5th Brainstorming Session on Theoretical Computer Science
A day-long workshop was held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) which was the fifth Brainstorming Workshop on Theoretical Computer Science and Engineering (TCSE). Among participants from different universities and organizations, there were **Abu Wasif, Asst. Prof.**, CSE BUET, **Nova Ahmed, Asst. Prof.**, CSE, NSU, **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III, CSE Department, BRAC University, and **Farah Nazifa**, senior student, CSE, BRAC University, **Abu Reyan Ahmed, Md. Mizanur Rahman**, and many others.

While welcoming the guests to the stimulating workshop, **Prof Dr. M. Kaykobad** of CSE, BUET conveyed his feelings of coming up with more innovative ideas and building national level projects which will grab the interest of more researchers and experts as only a handful of researchers and experts are there to work in these fields. He started to focus on Graph as the time progressed. Later he ended his session of discussion with a Graph problem to all the participants which was to verify with mathematical and theoretical approach the out-degree of (V^2) is at least double of out-degree (V).

Soon after the session began with **Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman** began with his session how to write thesis paper and research papers. As most people make trivial mistakes while writing those important documents, he guided in a way that could help all the participants be enriched with the proper way of writing the papers which could be published later on. Nearly at the end of the session, he shared his interest on fields, Graph Drawing and Graph Partitioning and gave another problem to solve on Graph.

All the participants were divided into groups for brainstorming on the topics. Through group-work, teams came up with remarkable results for the problems. Each group presented their presentation before **Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman**. He was impressed with the coordination and dedication of each group's performance and complete participation. He was delighted to get the optimized results of the problems and suggested better ways of optimization of the problems.

All the participants were thoroughly inspired and motivated by **Prof Dr. M. Kaykobad** and **Prof Dr. Md. Saidur Rahman** who assisted the participants to come up with the solution of critical thinking. Participants were encouraged to build their research culture at their own institutions and organizations. The workshop took place as a part of University Grants Commission's (UGC) HEQEP sub-project.

ACM-ICPC Preliminary Mock: Flavor of Programming

ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest (abbreviated as ACM-ICPC) is an annual multi-tiered competitive programming competition among the universities of the world. To help the enthusiastic student programmers of BRAC University in getting a taste of a renowned contest, Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized a mock ICPC Preliminary Contest in collaboration the Computer Club (BUCC) on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the university premise. There were about 12 teams and 3 members in each team.

The event started at sharp 10 AM with the participants eagerly waiting to get a hold of the challenging questions. **Md. Moin Mostakim**, faculty member of CSE department, prepared the problems for the contests. He briefed the questions and procedures to all the participants before they began with the mock. Though the standard rules for the contest was to allow one computer per team of three members. For individual assessment in the preliminary mock, every participant was allowed to use one computer liberally.

Participants brainstormed till they came up with efficient algorithm to solve the problems. Amit Kumar Dey, President of Computer Club along with **Zafor Iqbal**, Director of Marketing monitored the whole event.

Soon after the contest came to an end, **Md. Moin Mostakim** explained how to solve the problems and evaluated all the participants. With an inspirational speech, words of wisdom and bringing self-esteem upon oneself, he wished good luck to all the participants for the annual ACM-ICPC contest. It was a six-hour long programming contest which apparently ended at 4 PM with half an hour lunch break during the contest.

The whole event was made successful by the spontaneous participation of the students and the voluntary works done by **Amit Kumar Dey, Zafor Iqbal, Chowdhury Farsad Aurangzeb, Farah Nazifa, Nahid Kamal, Syeda NoorJaha Azim and Abu Sufian**.

CloudCamp BD Innovation Forum Launch

CSE department in collaboration with computer club (BUCC), have teamed up with CloudCamp Bangladesh to organize the launch event of "CloudCamp BD Innovation Forum". The event aims to initiate the target of building "Million App Developers" in Bangladesh Information Technology empowers us with the opportunity to become a globally recognized brand. With the 110 million mobile users with 65% of the 160 million populations under 25, Bangladesh is believed to be the perfect breeding ground of innovation of the next generation apps. After initial inspiration from CSE department chairperson, **Prof. M Zahidur Rahman**, the event was planned through multiple meetings and discussions throughout the month of October. CloudCamp Bangladesh is expected to be launching its journey on Friday, November 29 in Dhaka at BRAC University, and continuing on November 30 in Chittagong along with the third one in Dhaka. About 40 volunteers from BRAC University will be helping in the event. The event will include networking opportunities, introduction to CloudCamp Bangladesh, Discussion Panel, Idea Forum etc. CSE department faculty members, **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III and **Md. Shamsul Kaonain**, Lecturer II will assist students in organizing the event. Mr. Amit Kumar Dey, senior student of CSE department along with his team will be coordinating with countrywide sites, volunteers, students and prospective participants. People interested to attend the event may apply for a ticket from eventbrite.com/event/9194128887

Registration for Preliminary Contest of ACM ICPC 2013 Dhaka

CSE department had been registered for the ACM ICPC 2013 Dhaka Site. This year there were staggering 568 teams from 66 different institutes registered for the contest. As a part of these teams CSE department of BRAC University represented a significant portion of it. Twenty teams consisting of sixty students and twenty faculty members as their coach had registered for the online preliminary round contest.

This year, the Dhaka Site event comprises two different rounds - An online preliminary contest succeeded by the onsite main event. In order to qualify for the final on site event, students are required to participate and perform commendably in the online round. The online preliminary took place on November 16th during 3 to 8pm. In order to help the students get accustomed to this new environment, a mock contest to the online preliminary held on November 15th during 3 to 8pm. **Md. Shamsul Kaonain**, Lecturer II assisted other faculty members and the students with the registration of most of the teams, and personally followed up. The registration was coordinated by **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III serving at the same department. Both of them had been acting as coaches themselves and have their own teams at the contest.

Other faculty members serving as coaches included **Dipan Lal Shaw, Nabila Naushin, Amitabha Chakrabarty, Lubaba Tasneem, Farzana Rashid, Md. Khaledur Rahman, Moin Mostakim, Hossain Arif, Masudur Rahman, Risul Karim, Muhammad Abdur Rahman, Tahsina Hashem, Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali, Rubel Biswas, Suraiya Tairin, Matin Saad Abdullah, Tahrima Hashem, and Aniqua Nusrat Zereen**. The List of team members along with their coaches is available at <http://icpc.baylor.edu/regionals/finder/dhaka-preliminary-2013>.

SoL Updates



The first edition of the undergraduate seminar series of School of Law, BRAC University was held in BRAC University auditorium on 7th October 2013. The programme inaugurated by **Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**, Head, Undergraduate Programme of

the School of Law. Three speakers presented their legal research papers in the seminar. Dhruba Brata Das presented his paper entitled 'Cyber Law and Freedom of Expression'; **Yasir Adnan** on 'A Critical Legal Analysis of Freedom of Press in Bangladesh' and **Md. Zamil S. Khan** on 'The Discretion of Tax Authority in the Light of Administrative Law'. The presentations were followed by a vibrant question and answer session. **Dr. Shahdeen Malik**, Director of the School of Law shared his insights and delivered his closing remarks. The event was attended by faculty members and students of various public and private universities of Bangladesh. **Farhaan Uddin Ahmed** and **Farzana Shashi** anchored the event. This seminar was co-organized by **Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam** and **Ms. Tanjina Sharmin**, faculty members of the School of Law.

Student Affairs Updates

iOS App Developers Meet Up Bangladesh 2013



BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) arranged a workshop based on iOS on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at BRAC University premises. A small group of iOS programmer conducted the workshop. iOS (iPhone Operating System) is the world's most advanced mobile operating system. They were at the campus to encourage the students in making them believe that it is no longer a dream to work as an employee at Apple.

Babul Mirdha, a senior software engineer at LeadSoft Bangladesh Limited and Founder at meetnar.com, began conducting the workshop at 10 AM. He briefly discussed about the iOS programming language, C, C++, Objective C, iOS SDK and Xcode IDE which makes it easy for the developers to create innovative apps. He elaborated about the steps and motivated students to become an IOS developer.

Amit Chowdhury, another iOS developer, shared a speech about the policies of application development for iOS. He expressed how to advertise free app, paid app and make profits by means of advertising their product. An apple account is needed for selling the apps by submitting it online. He mentioned how developers could analyze the cost of each app before making it or upgrading it. **Mr. Amit** boldly said that making the customers happy is their only motto.

The volunteers of the event were **S. M. Rakibul Hasan, Md. Ismail Kiron, Navila Alam, Munshi Md. Alimushwan**, and **Kamrun Nahar**. Leaving behind high anticipation among the students, the workshop ended by 2 PM.

New Pearls Ready to Adorn BUCC

Computer Club, a prominent club in the University is attracting a lot of students to join the club. Awesome and educative events, excellent environment to share knowledge and experience are driving the new comers to university, to join the club.



As a procession of fetching new members, an interview session was conducted on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 for the selection of new faces. The event started at 5 PM. The directors and senior executives were divided into three separate groups for the interview session. The freshers who signed up in the club fair held on Tuesday, October 1st, 2013 were interviewed. The Question-answer round aimed at knowing the students' willingness to work, their curiosity, their prior knowledge, and expertise level.

The president, **Amit Kumar Dey**, the Directors, **S. M. Rakibul Hasan, Farah Nazifa, Chowdhury Farsad Aurangzeb, Md. Oliur Rahman, Javed H. Ahmed, Ibte haz Shawon** and the Senior Executives, **Tajul Islam, Abu Sufian, Arafat Habib, Sanjida Akter** and **Munshi Md. Alimushwan** were present in the event. Interviewers were amicable to the interviewed students. The session ended at around 6.30 PM, inviting the freshers to the orientation program to be held after the Eid Vacation. BUCC family is proactive to welcome the freshers and to explore the talent they hold towards a brighter future.

Training on Windows Phone App Development

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 BRAC University Computer Club organized Training session on Windows Phone App Development at BRAC University premises in presence of 60 attendees. **Mr. Sheikh Abdullah Al Jubair** acted as the guest trainer who is currently an Intern at Microsoft Bangladesh Ltd.

The session began at sharp 2.30 pm. **Mr. Jubair** introduced DreamSpark to the students. DreamSpark is a Microsoft program to provide students with software design and development tools at free of cost. He shared his experience as a student while working with the Microsoft tools and then his experience as an

intern at Microsoft Bangladesh. He explained how to get an account in DreamSpark and what benefits students can get from it.

In the second round of the session, **Mr. Jubair** started with a web application named Windows Phone App Studio. This web application helps in making apps easily and in short time. A small app needs ten minutes to be built. All the participants managed to build their own app with the guidance of the conductor. It was one stimulating event for the participants.

The volunteers, **Amit Kumar Dey, Israt Jahan Shanchary, Chowdhury Farsad Aurangzeb, Farah Nazifa, Zafor Iqbal, Javed H. Ahmed, Ibtehas Shawon, Nahid Kamal and Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury** were present in the event and cooperated with the guest. **Mr. Jubair** concluded the session discussing about the compulsory rules of how to submit the app in the Microsoft Apps Store. Lastly, a short yet exciting training session came to an end with a small photo session and some refreshments for everyone.

TLC Updates

Faculty Conversation at BRAC University

To ensure an effective teaching and learning environment at BRAC University, TLC has been organizing training sessions for faculty members on a regular basis. The latest was- "A Faculty Conversation on Different Teaching Methods" at BRAC University, Mohakhali Campus. Twenty one faculty members from different departments attended this conversation.



The conversation started with the teachers sharing the challenges they face in classroom teaching. In groups, the teachers discussed the different teaching methods and techniques they use to work with these challenges, and then shared their ideas with the entire group. It was an active discussion. Because of the positive participation, TLC plans to continue with another session on different teaching-learning issues. Such conversations are expected to promote best teaching practices in BRACU.

The facilitator of this conversation was **Ms. Beth Trudell**, who is an English Language and Faculty Development Consultant. She has worked with both BRAC University and BRAC from 2006-2008 as an English Language Fellow. The mood of the session was further uplifted by our PRO-VC **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick's** presence and was concluded by his inspiring guidelines.

TLC supports in facilitating PSDP (Professional skills Development Program) sessions- Fall 2013

This course of PSDP has been designed for the students of BRACU who have enrolled in their last semester of graduation. The focus of this course is to enhance the abilities and confidence of students by providing professional support in their pursuit of career success. These participatory sessions follow several activities like presentation, group discussions, and real life examples etc. The sessions focus on how a student should take preparation for facing the job market, how they can organize their ideas and thoughts in appropriate way to represent the qualities, what measures should be taken in order to achieve their dream job. **Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Ms. Sabrina Syed** and **Mr. Muhammad Foyzal Mubarak**, faculty members of TLC are facilitating three of these sessions in collaboration with CSO.