

December 2013

## BIGH Updates

### BIGH poster won 1st runner-up prize at the Social Science Conference in Singapore



The James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) at BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) presented a poster at the Health Systems in Asia Reform conference, 2013 in Singapore as part of IDRC's activity of disseminating research locally as well as globally. The poster titled "Mobilizing demand for primary health care among the urban poor in Bangladesh" won the 1st runner

up prize at this social science and Medicine conference. The conference was attended by **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean and PI of the project, **Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly**, Research coordinator and lead author of the poster from JPGSPH. The conference helped raise awareness and share on a global scale, quality research work that is being conducted in this area.

The participants gave a lot of feedback and showed interest with opportunities for networking built through the process. The conference was held from 13th - 16th of December, 2013 in Singapore.

### MPH Students participates in Data Analysis Workshop

The MPH students at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC Institute of Global Health participated in Data Analysis Workshop on December 20, 2013. The main objective of this Data Analysis Workshop was to guide students on how to do data analysis of their Independent Field Study as per the research objective or question. The other objective was to give feedback to those students who have already analyzed data and interpreted in thesis report.



The workshop was comprised of didactic lecture on data analysis as per the research method followed by a one to one feedback session. The quantitative and mixed method session was facilitated by Showkat Gani and **Dr. Enam Hasib** while the qualitative session was taken by **Prof. Sabina Faiz Rashid**.

After the didactic lecture session, students shared their data analysis and findings and invited their feedback to their work. It is worth mentioning that as per the requirement of the MPH Programme, students are required to conduct an independent field study on a particular public health issue.

### **FSNSP completed round-12 data collection**

The Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP) successfully completed data collection of round-12, phase-1 on 25th November, 2013. Total 51 thanas including both Chittagong hill tracts and plain lands were covered in this round. Like all other previous rounds, data were collected using PDA and paper copy questionnaires in this round. FSNSP collects data on three major seasons in Bangladesh which are: the post-aman harvest period (February-April), monsoon period (June-August) and the post-aus harvest period (October-December) in a year. Due to unavoidable circumstances it had been decided to keep this round short. In the meantime, FSNSP has published its latest bulletin on the findings of round 10 (February-April 2013). The bulletin reveals that food insecurity as measured by Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (34%), Food Deficit Scale (10%) and Food Consumption Score (28%) was lower during Round 10 than the previous round (9).

Prevalence of child under nutrition also decreased in terms of underweight (27%), wasting (8%) and MUAC z-score (3%) compared to that of round 9. The bulletin is available at: <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/>

### **CoEUHC published newsletter on Bangladesh Health Watch**

The Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage at JPGSPH of BIGH, BRAC University published a newsletter on Bangladesh Health Watch. It highlighted the UHC themes and Bangladesh preparedness for achieving UHC. Along with the theoretical concepts of UHC, the launching of Bangladesh Health Watch Report on UHC and the Lancet Series on Bangladesh: Innovation for Universal Health Coverage has been reported in this newsletter.

The first round deliverables for the project i.e. Market Survey on Discrete Choice Experiment had been shared with partner organizations based upon the consensus among the partners.

An internal meeting was held among the members of CoE-UHC on 22nd of December, 2013 at the North Meeting room of BIGH. The meeting discussed issues like the status of the projects under UHC, upcoming events, deliverables and deadlines.

The CoE-UHC members would organize and take part in a symposium entitled 'Human Resources for health in Bangladesh: current Scenario and Promising Innovations' in the 4th Regional Public Health Conference organized by BUHS.

## **BIGH held quarterly review meeting**



The BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH) organized a quarterly staff meeting on 21 December, 2013 at the Video Conference room of BIGH. The objective of the meeting was to review organizational and project

updates as well as to introduce with new staff members of the institute. All the staff members of BIGH and its projects participated in the meeting. **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**, Executive Director of BIGH, coordinated the meeting. The meeting also introduced the members of the Senior Management Committee (SMC) and clarified their roles and discussed about the work plan and upcoming deliverables.

## **CSO updates**

### **Career Fair 2014**

While the CSO along with Prothom-alojobs have since made the decision to move the Career Fair to April 2014 (keep your eyes posted for the latest updates), progress in December was in full swing; with member's directing their thoughts and efforts towards addressing some of the priorities raised at the Career Fair's lead in roundtable, 'Tackling Graduate Unemployment: The Need for University-Industry Cooperation' (November 13, 2013).

One such priority is to overcome the common misconception that sees only certain national industries as 'top notch' and thereby saturates and limits opportunities in them. In a concerted effort to break this 'spell', CSO members visited many organizations from different industrial sectors, encouraging their participation, to truly enrich industrial representation at the Career Fair. By opening a window into the opportunities available in their sectors, organizations can encourage students to pursue their genuine interests, rather than just following 'protocol'.

Some of the organizations visited included: Betopi (Advertising) Epillion Group (RMG), Bangla Cat (Energy), bti (commercial property) and Robi (telecommunications).

Departmental enthusiasm for the Fair also came to the fore in December, with plans for seminars flowing in. Many of these aim to convey ways to further departmental-industry collaboration, to realize the expectations and career aspirations of existing (and future) students.

### **PSDP Update for Fall 2013**

Despite unavoidable circumstances, the CSO has managed to successfully carry out the PSDP classes for Fall 2013. Although the regular classes and individual advising sessions could not be held, advisors gave students take-home

assignments and provided supervision by e-mails whenever necessary.

Students who really needed to speak with an advisor, nonetheless managed to visit CSO during the official closure and got their CV's checked/completed individual advising with CSO.

The CSO is currently waiting for a convenient time to conduct the newly developed career clinics and the regular mock interview for the students.

### Internship Update for Fall 2013

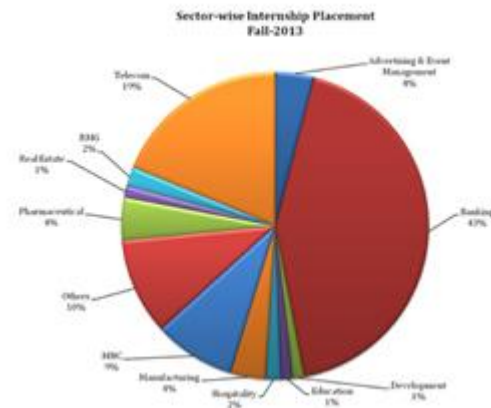
"Real world" experience is a key component of any career plan, which is why the CSO helps students secure internships and develop valuable networking opportunities that build confidence and help define realistic career goals.

This semester the CSO has arranged internships for more than 100 Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) students and 40 Masters in Business Administration (MBA) , 4 Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), 6 English and Humanities (ENH) and 2 Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) students in a variety of organizations, according to their preferred choice of industry.

72% of the students were placed by CSO and 28% of the students arranged internship by themselves in the semester Fall' 2013, as shown in the chart.



In Fall'13, the highest number of students were placed in the banking sector (43%), with 19% placed in telecommunications. On the other hand, less than 10% were placed in, multinationals, advertising & event management, the pharmaceutical, manufacturing, RMG, hospitality, education, development and real estate sectors.



The CSO through the Career Fair and other services like career advising aims to address this disparity and create a platform where future job-seekers will not be restricted to the 'most popular' sectors only, but will pursue their careers in other industries too.

Since the CSO is increasing representing more sectors, less students will remain jobless after their graduation as result of greater opportunities. Students can also

pursue careers in sectors that suit their interest and not just be restricted to banking or telecommunication sectors, as shown by the chart above.

## Counseling Unit Updates

### Sessions for Medha Bikash students:

Counseling Unit of BRAC University had been visiting the Medha Bikash, a program run by BEP (BRAC Education Program), to conduct a motivational session for the underprivileged students coming from rural and at the same time very successful academic background for last four years.

The session is usually divided into two segments. In the first segment, the expert Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where particular psychosocial issues are discussed. In this segment, different psychological issues like: Self confidence, acceptance, goal setting, developing positive attitude and motivation are covered. The second segment covers mainly the individual or group counseling sessions for the students who express their need for individual session.

The latest visit for Medha Bikash group was held on 25th December, 2013. This time 51 students had participated in different session. These sessions were conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The session could inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to, motivated towards goal wise life setting. It was participatory and inspiring as well. After the class, group counseling sessions were done with the students needed that.

## ESS Updates

### International Conference on Globalization and Trade organized by ESS



The Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) Department of BRAC University organized a day-long conference on "Globalization and Trade: Prospects and Challenges for South Asia" on Friday 20 December 2013. The conference brought together some of the active researchers in the field from universities, think-tank

institutes, and policy makers to brainstorm trade policy issues and challenges from globalization to regional economies. **Shamim Shakur** from Massey University in New Zealand, currently Visiting Professor of Economics, and **Farzana Munshi**, Associate Professor, organized the conference along with the ESS Economics faculty.

**Professor Syed M Hashemi**, Head of ESS department at BRAC University welcomed delegates in the morning. A total of 14 research papers were presented in four thematic sessions, namely: (1) Globalization and Trade in South Asia, (2) Globalization and Income Inequality, (3) Financial Aspects of Globalization and Trade and (4) Trade Policy in Bangladesh. The sessions were chaired, respectively, by **Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya**, (CPD), **Dr. Quazi Shahabuddin**, (BIDS), **Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri**, (BIDS) and **Professor Fahad Khalil** (University of Washington, USA). All papers were selected by a blind-review process from a larger pool of economics researchers from Bangladesh, India, Sikkim, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In his keynote presentation delivered in the afternoon, renowned economist and former adviser to the caretaker government **Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud** emphasized cooperation among South Asian countries towards making a global trade agreement.



The conference ended with a lively panel discussion session on the conference theme, chaired by **Dr. Mustafa K Mujeri**, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. Other members of the distinguished panel included **Dr. Mozibur Rahman**, Chief Executive Officer at Bangladesh Foreign

Trade Institute and **Professor Mustafizur Rahman**, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University was among 60+ enthusiastic attendees at the conference.

### Guest lecture

Professor Mustafizur Rahman from Center for Policy Dialogue delivered a lecture titled "World Trade Organization: Guiding Principles, Decision making Process and Bangladesh's Concerns and Interests in the Context of Ongoing Negotiations". The lecture was organized by **Dr. Farzana Munshi** as a part of the International Trade course (ECO308).

2. **Dr. Sajjad Zohir** wrote a post- editorial on

" শিক্ষাব্যবস্থা অধোগতির ধারা পরিবর্তন কি সম্ভব "in 'Bonikbarta' published in 11th

December 2013. For more details please use the link: <http://www.bonikbarta.com>

A research paper was to be presented by **Dr. Zohir** at the IGC-ERG workshop on policy research held in Dhaka on 27 December. The title of the paper was- "An ex ante assessment of wealth/property tax in Bangladesh".

## ENH Updates

### Discussant at Anannya Literary Award Ceremony

Anannya, a women's magazine, awards a woman writer every year. This year the award was given to **Professor Niaz Zaman** for her literary endeavors, including translation activities.

**Firdous Azim**, Chair of ENH, was a discussant at the award-giving ceremony held on the 6th of December at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. **Professor Azim**, in her address, emphasized the importance of translation, and the difficult path that women writers have to traverse as they manage to juggle work, family, creativity and a male-dominated literary universe. Other speakers included writers **Selina Hossain** and **Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam**. The ceremony was presided over by **Tasmima Hossain**, editor of Anannya, and attended by writers and litterateurs. Everyone spoke highly of **Niaz Zaman's** literary output.

## Leaving us

### Left from BRACU

**Air Commodore Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, (Rtd)**, served as Registrar of BRACU left us last December 2013. **Professor Shamim Shakur** who was serving as a Visiting Professor in the ESS department left BRACU in December 2013. **Ms. Pratima Dev** and **Md. Jubair Iqbal** who were serving as Department Coordination Officers in the ESS and Pharmacy departments respectively also left BRACU in December 2013. Sr. System Administrator, **Mr. Mohammad Hossain** after completing his tenure at BRACU left us last December 2013. Another admin staff **Ms. Lovely Akter** from Savar Campus, worked as House Tutor resigned in December 2013.

## IGS Updates

### IGS Launched its Annual Research Report The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2012



The launching of the State of Governance in Bangladesh 2012, the annual flagship publication of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, was held on 26 December, 2013, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka. **Dr. Hossain Zillur** Rahman, Executive Chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director of IGS-BDI chaired the event. **Dr. Manzoor Ahmed**, Senior Adviser, Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University; **Mr. Zafar Ullah Khan**, former Secretary to the Ministry of Health and **Professor Ataur Rahman**, President of Bangladesh Political Science Association were the panel discussants of the programme. **Dr. Jens Stanislawski** and **Dr. Ashikur Rahman**, both Research Fellows and **Syeda Salina Aziz**, Senior Research Associate of IGS, presented the key findings of the report titled, The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2012: Regions, Representation, Disparity. **Dr. Mahbub Hossain**, Executive Director, BRAC; **Dr. Tofail Ahmed**, local government expert & UNDP Consultant; **Dr. Ahsan H Mansur**, Executive Director of Policy Research Institute; **Mr. AMM Nasir Uddin**, former Secretary to the Ministry of Health and **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, IGS also spoke at the programme. Academics, researchers, experts, politicians, representatives from think tank and donor organizations, civil society members also attended the event. The report assessed power concentration, parliamentary representation, health and education governance at the district level through a quantitative approach. The event was widely covered by print and electronic media.

### **MAGD News: Courses in December**

MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme ran with Public Private Partnership, Public Policy Analysis and a wrap up discussion on governance issues in Bangladesh during December. The semester final examinations have started in this month and MAGD students sat for examinations of two modules. Public Policy Analysis cases were presented by IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair**. Simultaneously, dissertation is being carried out and topic-wise supervisor was assigned by IGS Academic Coordinator **Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam**.

### **IGS Staff attended Training Sessions on Grant Management Essentials**

**Md. Nurul Hyder Bhuiyan**, Senior Finance Officer and **Narayan Chandra Das**, Finance Officer of IGS, attended a two-day training programme on FM8: Grant Management Essentials: How to Keep Your Donors Happy, held at Hotel Lake Castle, Dhaka on 1 & 2 December 2013. The training programme was conducted by UK-based Management Accounting for Non Governmental Organizations (MANGO). This training included sessions on responsibilities and routines, assessing and complying with grant terms and conditions, donor reporting and managing relationships. The training was attended by representatives from different national and international organizations such as GIZ, Orbis International, WaterAid, Swisscontact, Rupantor, RDF and many others.





### **Exhaustive Training Course on BRAC Procurement Guideline and Implementation Procedure**

A three-day long Exhaustive Training Course on BRAC Procurement Guideline and Implementation Procedure (BPGIP) was held on 4, 5 and 7 December 2013 at the BRAC Centre. A total of 31 participants

from different departments of BRAC, who are involved with procurement, participated in this training course. IGS faculties **Mr. Rashed Morshed** and **Mr. Zikrul Islam** conducted the training.

### **IGS Researchers attended International Conference in New Delhi**

IGS researchers attended the 10th International Conference of the Network of Asia Pacific Schools and Institutes of Public Administration and Governance (NAPSIPAG), held in New Delhi, India from 7th to 9th December, 2013. The conference



was organized by the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. The theme of the conference was "Locked in Growth Patterns: Rethinking land management and disasters for the post-2015 development agenda for the Asia Pacific". IGS Senior Research Associate **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque**, Research Associates Farhana Razzaque and **Faiz Ahmad Chowdhury** presented 3 separate papers at the conference. The title of **Kazi Nurmohammad Hossainul Haque** and **Faiz A Chowdhury's** papers were respectively "Citizen Enthusiasm vis-à-vis Government Inertia in Responding to New Forms of Urban Disaster: the case of Rana Plaza disaster" and "Tidal River Management (TRM): A Community Response to Climate Change in South West Bangladesh".

### **BRAC Institute of Governance and Development Retreat Held**

As part of the recent merger of IGS and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) under the new header of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), a retreat for the senior management staff members of the two institutes was held on 23 and 28 December 2013. The first round of the retreat was held in BDI Conference room on 23rd and the second round on 28th December at IGS conference room. The meeting agenda included BIGD objectives and vision, core research priorities, staffing structures and organogram, consulting services and financial issues. The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed**, the former Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University.

**Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director of BIGD, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of IGS, Research Fellows **Dr. Jens Stanislawski**, **M. Shahidul Islam**,

Senior Research Associate, **Syeda Salina Aziz**, Programme Manager, **Nuzhat Jabin**, Research Assistants, **Nabila Zaman** and **Afrina Islam**, Senior Manager, **Salahuddin Mahmud** and Admin Manager **Nahid Waliul** from IGS attended this programme. **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, **Simeen Mahmud**, **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, **Mohammad Kamruzzaman**, **Alamgir Kabir**, **Dr. Mirza M. Hassan**, **Maheen Sultan** from BDI also attended the retreat.

### **Admission Test of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management held**

The admission test of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM), spring 2014, was held on 27 December 2013. This is the 5th batch of MPSM. A total of 13 participants from different organizations took part in this admission test and the class will commence from mid January 2014.

### **IGS-BDI Executive Director Attended a Seminar on "Development Ideas: Linking Research to Policy"**

A day-long seminar on "Development Ideas: Linking Research to Policy" was jointly organized by International Growth Centre (IGC) and Economic Research Group on 27 December, 2013 at the Conference Hall of the Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Among others, **Dr. Atiur Rahman**, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, **Dr. Shamsul Alam**, Member General Economic Division, Planning Commission, **Mr. Mahub Ahmed**, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, **Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Chairman of Economic Research Group, **Professor Salim Rashid**, Professor Emeritus of University of Illinois, USA, **Dr. Minhaj Mahmud**, Research Fellow of BIDS, **Dr. Fahad Khalil**, Professor of Economics, Washington University were present at the policy sessions at the seminar. **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Country Director of IGC Bangladesh Research Programme and Executive Director of IGS-BDI, chaired the seminar.

### **IGS-BDI Executive Director held Meetings with Prominent Academics**

Executive Director of IGS-BDI **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** held several meetings with some prominent academics of Bangladesh regarding the merger issue of IGS and BRAC Development Institute (BDI). Among others, he had meetings with **Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud**, Chairman of Economic Research Group, **Professor Salim Rashid**, Emeritus Professor of University of Illinois, USA, **Dr. Fahad Khalil**, Professor of Economics, Washington University, **Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman**, Executive Chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre, Mr. AMM Nasir Uddin, former Secretary to the Ministry of Health, **Mr. Fazlul Kabir Khan**, former Secretary of Government of Bangladesh, **Mr. Siddiqur Rahman Osmani**, University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. These meetings were took place between 22 to 28 December 2013.



## IGS Research Fellow attended The 3rd Bangladesh-China Cooperation Dialogue in China

The 3rd Bangladesh-China Cooperation Dialogue, jointly organized by Yunnan Development Research Centre (YDRC) and Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), was held on 30-31 December, 2013 in Kunming, China. The theme of this dialogue was Pragmatic Cooperation on Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) Growth Corridor. IGS Research Fellow M. Shahidul Islam

presented two papers at the dialogue on 30 December, 2013 namely: "China-Bangladesh Connectivity" and "China-Chittagong Industrial Cooperation".

### Publications/Op Eds by IGS Staff:

The Daily Star: Saving a Southern promise by **M. Shahidul Islam**, 5 December, 2013

The Independent: Searching for a breakthrough in the political stand-off by Md. **Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, 15 December, 2013

The Daily Sun: Amended act fades the success of anti corruption initiatives by **Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar**, 21 December, 2013

Newsletter: Public-Private Stakeholders' Committee (PPSC) Newsletter titled: 'Public Procurement Watch'- 15th edition.

### RS Updates

On 7th December, 2013 RS exhibition and RS night were held in BRACU, Savar campus. The exhibition started at 11.00 am at Markuli Hall. The program started with a short welcoming speech by one of RS students. Later, **Farrah Jabeen**, Senior Lecturer, BIL, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintend, **Mr. Shamsuddoha**, Coordinator, Bangladesh Studies, **Mr. Sayeedul Islam Khan**, Coordinator, Ethics and Culture, **Mr. Istiaque Hossain Molla**, RS activity coordinator inaugurated the exhibition. The other faculty members, House Tutors and management staffs were also present in the occasion. There were visual presentations of 4 RS activities including community awareness (school based), gardening, project based presentation and community services (old home). From each activity one student gave a reflection about the program that what they learnt from this and its impact in their life. At the end of the program, **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintend, gave a vote of thanks to Director (BIL) Madam, all the faculty, Activity Coordinator, management staff, BLC staff and all the students of RS, Fall-34.

Later, RS activity products were displayed in Shulla. Students' presence was vibrant; they attended the exhibition willingly and enjoyed a lot along with the

teachers, house tutors and the other staffs. There were activity stalls for recycling, spelling bee, creative writing, debate, recitation and articulation, hydroponic vegetable cultivation, dance, drawing and sketching and photography.

## SECS Updates

### CloudCamp Bangladesh Innovation Forum Starts Its Journey Aiming to make Bangladesh a land of million App Developers,

From December 2013, CloudCamp Bangladesh Innovation Forum has officially started its journey with BRAC University as the co-founder. It is a result of a very long effort of CSE Department starting back in 2011 through organizing e-Asia 2011, getting involved with cloud related ventures and visionary offering of undergraduate courses on Programming for the Internet, Mobile Computing and gradually, Cloud Computing. Since then CSE Department with the volunteers from Computer Club (BUCC) have regularly organized multiple events per year to attract people from industry, government as well as young minds. Faculty members guided towards a greater engagement with cloud computing combined with mobile applications to utilize the cloud following its launch event in last month on 29th where they welcomed techno-developers of the country. CSE Department students have already taken participation in mobile application development and cloud related event and had won prizes. Participating students were mesmerized to have the company of Nazrul Islam Khan, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MoICT). They were enthralled not just by his presence but by his attentive words to dream, to stabilize ones aim in life, to focus, to be confident and to be the leader is what it takes to succeed.

**Mohammad Mahdee-uz Zaman**, Co-founder at CloudCamp Bangladesh began with a very thoughtful question, what is CloudCamp Bangladesh? A networking and learning pit for audience-generated content held around in 130 countries around the globe. On elaborating how CloudCamp actually is held, forwarded the reason why to organize such an event in Bangladesh. How many of us actually were aware that our country has around 110million cell phone Sims in use? That too 50% of the population being under 25 and Android phones starting with just BDT 6,000! For any free app, a successful floor indeed!

To aid in elaborating the objective of "Develop One Million App Developers in Bangladesh," **Mr. Zaman** invited the 1st panel on the stage, the panelists being Masrur Hannan, Co-founder at Bonolota UX Designs, **Arif Nezami**, Manager of Google Developer Group, Sami Ahmed, representative of Prime Minister's Office, **Muktadir Hussain**, Student at United International University and **Md. Umar Khaiyam Bin Alam**, Consultant of WSP, World Bank. The aim of the panel mainly focused on the "Ideas and Problem" of app development and involvement of students in it with the participation of audience.



The 2nd panel consisted of **Professor Zahidur Rahman**, Chairperson of CSE Department BRAC University, **Tanzim Saqib**, Technical Evangelist at Microsoft Bangladesh, **Sayma Rahman** from Marketing department of GrameenPhone, **Ashfaq Hussain**, Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Saidur Mamun Khan, Country Manager Bangladesh at Elance, **Nazimuddin Milon** from G&R and **Mr. Zaman himself**; emphasizing what students should do in order to get ease into jobs along with the facilities the companies can provide them.

Md. Hasan Uz Zaman, CEO of CGD, took the opportunity to thank BRAC University, all the panelists, **N I Khan**, all the sponsors, CSE department of BRACU and all the volunteers who helped in organizing the grand event. In the end, **Annajiat Alim Rasel**, Lecturer III of CSE Department and advisor of BUCC said about the involvement of BRAC University with CloudCamp. **Md. Shamsul Kaonain**, faculty member and co-advisor of BUCC was present. At the end, the opener himself inspired each and every participant to come forward, learn, and bring Bangladesh to hold the title of Land of Million APP Developers. Other guests included **ATM Mahbububul Alam**, Chairman Wintel Limited, **Numayer Mahbub**, CEO of Unicom, **Saddam Azad**, CEO of Dugdugi, **Zubair Siddiky**, CEO of OScom, **Nazmul Ahmed Najim**, CEO of Ennovision, **Raisul Kabir**, CEO at Brain Station-23, **Altaf Uz Zaman**, Chief Investment Officer at SEAF, **Gaushey Shahriar**, CEO of ParrotInMotion, **Wasek Sazzad**, Junior Production Manager of the same, and **Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury**, Chairman and Director, BracNet.

Enthusiastic students who volunteered included **Proma Mrittika, H R Anim, A K M Rashedul Haque Arif, B P Tamal, Subrato Saha, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Dhrubo, Md Didarul Islam, Saad Ziaul Hasan, Md Shaown Ali, Nahid Kamal, Rafee Mizan Khan Chowdhury Niloy, Saddat Hasan, Rozin Tanvin Khan, Md Moniruzzaman Moon, Md Shafiqul Islam, Rashidul Hasan Junayed, Syeda NoorJaha Azim, Sadia Afrin, Shaifur Rahman, Amit Shuvro, Oliur Rahman, Sumit Saha, Zafor Iqbal, Javed H Ahmed, Israt Jahan Shanchary, Farah Nazifa, Abu Sufian, Arafat Habib, Tazul Islam, Junayed Hasan Sunny, S M Rakibul Hasan, Md Didarul Islam, Nafis Hasan Siddique, Biswajit Paul, A K M Nivrito, Nahid Kamal, Chowdhury Farsad Aurangzeb, Ibtehad Shawon, Amit Kumar Dey, and Sanjida Akter.**

### **CSE Students Participate at National Mobile Application Development, Wins Best Participant Award from Secretary of MoICT**



From December 21st to 26th, students of CSE department participated in the National

Mobile Application Development: Awareness and Capacity Building Program. First-ever five day daylong event on Android App Development Technical Training was held at United International University (UIU) which was organized by the Ministry of ICT. This training had the goal of helping the youth of Bangladesh

connect to the international mobile applications market and to create 2000 android app developers all around the country. Though it was organized and undertaken by Ministry of ICT, the implementing Partner was MCC Ltd & EATL and Associate Partners of this event were BASIS, Microsoft, GDG Dhaka, SolQuest, Grameenphone, Robi Axiata, Symphony and NOKIA.

Six students from BRAC University **Mahbub Uz Zaman, Amit Kumar Dey, Mohi Us Sunnat, Israt Jahan Shanchary, Chowdhury Farsad Aurangzeb** and **Md. Nigran Islam Mizan** along with 54 students of 15 renowned public and private universities of Dhaka including Jahangirnagar University, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, American International University Bangladesh, Independent University Bangladesh, North South University and East West University. All the participants who participated in the training session had to take an online assessment on java before they got selected.



Two Mobile apps development experts, **Jahangir Kabir** and **Nury Kabir** and two guest faculties **Sabirat Rubya** and **Lisul Islam Rizve** of UIU provided five daylong training to the learners creating awareness and capacity building on Android Applications Development. They covered basic knowledge of Java, Android UI, Database and Google Map. During this program, **Nazrul Islam Khan**, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MoICT) was present at the event to encourage the participants.

The Vice Chancellor of UIU, **Prof. Dr. Rejwan Khan**, Head of Computer Science Engineering (CSE) of UIU, **Prof. Dr. Hasan Sarwar**, General Manager of Wintel Rana, **Abul Basher** and Mobile Apps Development Project Director, **Dr. Abul Hasan** motivated all the participants during the training sessions. On the last day of the event, Secretary, **Nazrul Islam Khan**, Joint Secretary, **Susanto Kumar Saha** and all the Heads of Symphony, Grameenphone, BASIS, MCC, EATL, Robi and SolQuest came for the certificate giving ceremony. **Mohi Us Sunnat** from BRAC University was announced as the best participant and was awarded by Symphony. The program ended with a wonderful inspiring speech by Joint Secretary, **Susanto Kumar Saha** who motivated for the practice of Android applications to be beneficiary for the society and ultimately to the world.

## Student Affairs Updates

### Computer Club Serving as Ambassador at Premier of Startup Dhaka



On 13th December 2013, the premier of startup Dhaka took place. It is a documentary film which featured the prominent business startups of present Dhaka. The director of Marketing, Computer Club (BUCC), **Zafor Iqbal** attended the event as an ambassador.

Within Dhaka's 16 million populations, an exciting community is brewing, and it's led by a very small group of people. By forging a startup community and by using the power of Internet, they are out to prove that despite many problems they are building new and exciting businesses. The film was based upon this theme. The Startup Dhaka team featured this story through a crowd funded "not for profit" film which showed these amazing people who are working as startup founders, investors and mentors in Dhaka. The Startup Dhaka team wanted to share their experiences with the common mass, and tried to find out the entrepreneurs' thought about the future. Through this short documentary (approximately 30 min), the team wanted to inform that startup founders are experimenting with ideas like chaldal in grocery shopping, newscred in news media, urban launch pad in transportation and so on. To help the community, organizations like EMK, Shetu, Google business group, 1 Degree Initiative and others have created places for exchanging ideas. The film can be viewed from the link below:



<http://youtu.be/EID2fBc1JAI> . More details can be found from [startupdhaka.org](http://startupdhaka.org) and <http://facebook.com/StartupDhaka.org>

### BUCC Members Inspiring Others towards Tech Entrepreneurship

**Amit Kumar Dey** is the co-founder of a startup App

developing company called Rupantor Inc (rupantor.com). He has been actively responsible in leading BRAC University ACM Student Chapter, Microsoft Student Partner Program, CloudCamp Bangladesh Program, and Firefox Club of BRACU. He has actively been involved with Google Business Group Dhaka, Google Developers Group Dhaka, Mozilla Bangladesh, PHP Experts Group, CloudCamp Bangladesh. **Amit Kumar** is a hardworking, enthusiastic entrepreneur who started as a junior executive of BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC), gradually earning the well deserved position of the President of BUCC. He maintains liaison with the tech industry and is now enabling younger ones to stay connected to the industry.

**Zafor Iqbal** is an enthusiastic Blogger and an Application developer. He has been actively contributing to the tech community starting from e-Asia 2011 till today as an active learner and promoter of cloud computing. He is currently serving in Microsoft Student Partners Bangladesh, Firefox Student Ambassador, ACM Student Chapter, Rupantor Inc., BRAC University Film Club and as Director of Marketing at Computer Club. As a compassionate Computer Science student, he also shares his knowledge with the tech community in his free time.

**Amit Kumar, Zafor Iqbal** and many others are leading hundreds of students, mentoring projects and inspiring others. **Mr. Amit** along with **Mr. Zafor** has previously been highlighted at <http://startupbashbd.com> as they served as the ambassadors of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) which is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. To light the fire in the Dhaka startup ecosystem, there were a week full of talks, workshops and networking events under the banner of Startup Bash BD to celebrate GEW, to inspire the youth and help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators. A long week of events took place in NewsCred Office at Banani, British High Commissioner's Residence at Baridhara, EMK Center at Dhanmondi, and American Club.

### **Microsoft Recognizes BUCC Member as Top Ten Tech Elite Asia**

Microsoft has been providing opportunity for the students to shine and show everyone that they are the experts. The more students learn with Microsoft Virtual Academy ([www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com](http://www.microsoftvirtualacademy.com)), the more points they earn, and may end up in the Top 10 Tech Experts of their respective country. Zafor Iqbal of Computer Club (BUCC) have grabbed the chance to help advance his career, obtain limited edition t-shirts and to become one of the top 10 Tech Elite Asia for the 2nd time. Microsoft acknowledged him as an application development expert in Bangladesh.